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Issue No. 1716 24 - 30 May 2018

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Prank sparks blaze

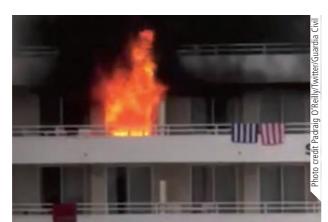
'Drunk' Brits held over €200,000 hotel fire

by Matt Ford

FOUR 'drunk' British holidaymakers held in connection with a major hotel fire in Magaluf have had their passports seized in the wake of a court appearance.

Georgia James and Lauren Smith, both 19, were seen handcuffed together as they were marched into the Palma





HOLIDAY INFERNO: Scenes from the dramatic incident and one of the suspected culprits after being held.



Rapper 'flees'

A MUSICIAN due to begin a sentence today (Thursday) on monarchy slander and glorifying terrorism charges could have fled the country.

Josep Miguel Arenas, also known as Valtonyc, may have taken advantage of free movement allowed as part of his bail conditions to evade jail, said the Guardia Civil.





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NEWS EXTRA

Cigarettes can fag off

MORE than 75 per cent of Spaniards want to outlaw smoking in cars, with 64 per cent in favour of a ban in public spaces, according to a new study by the national Society of Family and Community Medicine.

Jet say no

LOW cost Irish airline, Ryanair said in a statement by CEO Michael O'Leary that it is not expecting - but refused to rule out - new strikes or disruptions as talks for the carrier to recognise pilot trade unions continue.

Ruff strike

VIDEO footage of an animal rescue worker kicking a dog in the head during a live television interview on a local channel in A Coruña, Galicia, sent social media into meltdown and sparked outrage across Spain.

Benidorm death probe

Family blow as judge rules out meeting

A SPANISH judge probing the case of Kirsty Maxwell, the Scottish woman who plummeted from a hotel balcony while holidaying on the Costa Blanca, has refused to meet with her family.

It comes as her grieving relatives and ex-police officer. David Swindle, a private detective working on their behalf, asked for a meeting with Ana Isabel Garcia-Galbis.

But the official said she would be unable to comply with their request in order to remain impartial.

The 27-year-old newlywed from Livingston, who was in Benidorm for a hen-do, tragically fell from the 10th floor of the Apartmentos Payma complex in Benidorm last April.

It is believed the bank worker plunged from a room on the floor above her own which was occupied by five British

bodybuilders from Nottingham, who remain under inves-

A written statement from the judge said: "It is not appropriate for investigation of the facts and the impartiality of the investigating judge to hold a private meeting with one of the parties [involved in the case] and their investigators."

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She continued that the family should "provide any evidence or information they deem appropriate to clarify the facts '

Spanish detectives have so far been unable to track down any witnesses and are said to be working on the assumption that Kirsty slipped and fell, with a lack of new clues meaning the case could soon be closed.

The five suspects were quizzed by Spanish investigators before returning to the UK, while her clothes were controversially destroyed without proper DNA testing.

Her family are convinced her death was not an accident, and in March Scottish National Party MP Hannah Bardell raised the case in the House of Commons.

And at the beginning of

April it emerged that Kirsty may have been mistaken for another woman who has not yet been traced

A website (www.kirsty maxwell.com) with messages from her family and details about the case was launched to mark a year passingsince she died, after her friends visited Benidorm in a new appeal for witnesses.



FRUSTRATION GOES ON: A lack of new evidence could see the case closed.

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Terror deaths remembered

SPAIN'S Interior Minister said the central government would continue with its anti-terrorism stance while attending a ceremonv in Calvia to commemorate the deaths of Mallorca Guardia Civil officers. Juan Ignacio Zoido laid a wreath for the officers who died after an ETA bomb planted on their patrol car exploded in Palmanova in 2009

Flight halts

A FLIGHT from Manchester bound for Mallorca was forced to divert and make an emergency landing at Stansted airport yesterday (Wednesday). The Jet2-operated Boeing 737-800 aircraft was due to arrive in Palma but had to turn around when it reached the south coast of England for reasons that remain unclear.

Bike death

A 52-YEAR-OLD motorcyclist has died after crashing into a sign on the road to Sineu. The rider was reportedly found lying motionless on the ground by a motorist at kilometre 2.3 of the MA-3011, with the accident believed to have resulted from him not taking a diversion away from road

Drugs bust

A WOMAN who allegedly led a gang which trafficked cocaine into Mallorca has been arrested by Guardia Civil officers in Albecete. Authorities flew the suspect along with her husband and son, also detained, from Valencia to Palma on Saturday, with officers claiming they previously fled the island during a police operation

Garage blaze

FIREFIGHTERS were called out to Esporles after a fire swept through an underground car park, with emergency services alerted after locals saw plumes of black smoke billowing from the site. The blaze is believed to have been caused by someone leaving their keys in a van, the engine of which then caught fire.

Note threat

A REPORTER from a Catalanlanguage news broadcaster posted a note on social media left on her company car branding her a 'coup plotter.' Margalida Solivellas, of the TV3 channel, found the note which told the driver of her car to not park on 'my street' and that laws were still 'respected' there



POLLUTION SOLUTION: The campaign aims to change the way consumers use plastic.

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Tourism 'out of control'

ANTI-MASS tourism campaigners have said they are gearing up for more demonstrations ahead of the peak of Mallorca's summer season.

Arran, a leftist protest group, told British media holidaymaker numbers were "out of control" and tourists who had no respect for the island were causing environmental and social problems.

"Tourism here is focused on partying and it attracts all kinds of people who leave the places they visit in a state that nobody can then enjoy," a member of the group said.

Visitor numbers to Mallorca have increased by around four million since 2010 to 13.8 million last year, Locals number around 1,000,000.

Sea creatures spotted

EL MOLINAR beach was closed this week after the first Portuguese Man O' War specimen found in Mallorca was spotted.

A live creature was found in the town, near Palma, yesterday (Wednesday). The remains of a Man O' War were found on Tuesday in the same area.

The sea creatures, capable of delivering painful stings, are reportedly believed to have been carried into the Mediterranean from the Atlantic by water currents.

Sightings of Man O' Wars have been reported in Spanish mainland's southern Costa del Sol and east in Costa Blanca.

Do you have news for us?

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

The total number of news and features which appeared in Issue 1715 of the Euro Weekly News Mallorca edition, including 77 local stories.





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WED YOU KNOW IT?: Surprising relations.

Heir's the story

IT was a groundbreaking and modern Royal Wedding with nods to the new Duchess of Sussex' mixed race heritage.

But while much has been made of American actress Meghan Markle tying the knot with Prince Harry, the ancestry of his own forefathers is itself far from quintessentially British.

And perhaps the most surprising example has its roots in southern Spain.

Abu al-Qasim Muhammad ibn Abbad was the first independent Muslim ruler of Sevilla in the Al-Andalus region - which covered most of the Iberian Peninsula - until his death in 1042.

The bloodline of Zaida, a princess often said to be his grandson's daughter but most

likely an outsider who gained access to the family's inner circle by marriage, reached England after she later became engaged to Alfonso VI, king of Leon-Castile.

Their descendant Isabel Perez of Castile was in the 14th century sent to Britain to marry Edmund Duke of York. son of King Edward III

And their grandson, Richard Duke of York, led the rebellion against King Henry VI which became the War of the Roses, before his second son Edward ascended to the throne in 1461.

The lineage has recently created UK tabloid headlines backed by respected sources, including Burke's Peerage, which suggest that current monarch Queen Elizabeth II is related to the Prophet Muhammad himself, and by extension other figures the supreme leader of Iran, Ayatollah

But historians now argue that this is not the case given unanswered questions surrounding Zaida's origins and even her name, which is now thought to have come from the Arabic sayyida, the title by

> blood were known. She appears to have been widowed during an attack on Cordoba in 1091, later seeking asylum at King Alonso's court before be-

which all ladies of noble Muslim

coming his concubine, converting to Christianity and taking the name

POLL OF THE WEEK

Will you be supporting England or Spain in this year's World Cup finals?

LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Following reports that a Spanish airport is infested with cockroaches, do you think the country's airports are unhygienic?

No 50%

EWN online this week

156,601 Page views





RYANAIR: Slashing online check in times.

11,716 Ryanair slashes online check in time before flights

10,249

Stranded young Scot trapped in southern Spain

4.878

Brit armed robbery fugitive held on the Costa del Sol

Budget airline flies new routes from Midlands to Spain

4,090

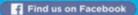
Three-metre long shark alert off Costa del Sol beach

*For week 14 - 21 May 2018

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LETTERS PAGE

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editorial@euroweeklynews.com

STREET TALK

Monsters in the Med?

A THREE-METRE blue shark recently sparked panic off a Spanish beach, while bad weather has seen scores of stinging Portuguese man o'wars hit the Mediterrean. But are beachgoers scared of swimming in the sea in the wake of the sightings?

• Jill Ashfield, 65, on holiday from Shropshire

"Yes, I'd still swim in the sea after the shark sighting. I'm sure it would be far more interested in other things than in me. But I was stung by a jellyfish once in Campomar. It was not pleasant so I'd probably avoid going for a dip with the Portuguese man o'war

• Jess Wolfsberg, 38, Swedish dad-of-two on holiday with family

"It would not stop me. Blue sharks are not known for attacking humans. I've been coming to the Costa del Sol for 10 years and as far as I know there are no dangerous sharks in the Med. Of course, I'd prefer not to be stung by a Portuguese man o'war. You are more likely to be hit by a car though!"

• Sarah Page, 47, on holiday from Lincolnshire with husband Harvey

"I knew about the shark before arriving but it didn't stop me going for a dip. I landed at lunch-time and I was in the sea by 3pm. When you're on holiday you've got to enjoy yourself. If you worried about everything you wouldn't leave the house!"

• Tanya Mooney, 37, on holiday with friend Keily Mcalister from Derry, **Northern Ireland**

"I'm more scared of the jellyfish really. If you got stung it would hurt pretty bad. I'd have a heart attack if I saw a shark though. But



with the weather this bad we won't be swimming any-

• Sam Church, retiree holidaying from Loughborough

"The jellyfish wouldn't stop me. I'd just go further on down the beach and try to avoid them. You just have to be careful and keep a lookout. I used to dive, so I know what's dangerous or not and the blue sharks are harmless."

• Alan Hayler, 81, holidaymaker and fisherman from Kent

"It's quite exciting really! I think the blue sharks are a beautiful animal. I actually caught one once whilst on a fishing boat in Cornwall (United Kingdom). The fisherman hung it up in the town as a sort of prize catch. "They don't like them because they eat their catch. You'd better steer clear of the Portuguese man o'war though!"



Seeing red!

SHE'S the Sky Sports news presenter who reportedly romped with comedian Jack Whitehall at a recent London event.

And Kirsty Gallacher, 42, put on another painful-looking display as she showed off her sunburn after slipping into a white bikini top in Ibiza.

The Scot was on the party island for a luxury fitness retreat for a week with Footballers' Wives actress pal Susie Amy, 37.

FEELING THE BURN: Kirsty Gallacher in Ibiza (inset).

Raheem's dream jet

HE'S the speedy winger who has just won the Premier League with club side Manches-

And Raheem Sterling, 23, showed he knows how to celebrate in style after hiring a private jet to fly to Ibiza with fiancée Paige Millian, before the pair headed to his native

The forward is due to join the England

team as they gear up for the World Cup when he returns from his break.



CASH STERLING: From left, Raheem, Paige and pals in Ibiza.

High Gere

THEY became man and wife

And Spanish publicist Aleiandra Silva, 35, has revealed that new husband and Hollywood star Richard Gere, 68, left her stunned after breaking out in Spanish song during the Flamenco-style first dance at their low-key wedding. She added: "The ceremony was beautiful... it was very emotional."

Gilliam's masterpiece hits big screen at last

IT has taken 25 years, but Terry Gilliam's epic movie homage to Miguel de Cervantes' Don Quixote has finally hit the big screen.

The former Month Python member's film The Man Who Killed Don Quixote has been beset by funding issues, legal battles and bad luck.

Dedicated to the memory of original cast members John Hurt and Jean Rochefort, who died before it could be completed, it stars Welsh actor Jonathan Pryce and Star Wars' Adam Driver.

Before the world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival, the director said: "I was the victim of Don



TILTING AT WINDMILLS: Terry Gilliam (right) and Adam Driver filming The Man Who Killed Don Quixote.

Quixote, he wouldn't leave me alone. He stalked me for 24, 25 years.

"I's not the film I set out to make, it's a much better film. The film I set out (to make) was just not a patch on what this film is. It's taken all those years of marinating in my life to get there," he

No tears for Tyrone

CORONATION STREET actor Alan Halsall has been enjoying a boozesoaked lads' holiday in Spain after splitting from wife and co-star Lucy-Jo Hudson for the second

It comes after Lucy, 35 reportedly deleted all tweets to her estranged husband, who has played Tyrone Dobbs on the Manchester-based soap for 20 years.

But Alan, 35, appeared ready to drown his sorrows after posting a



snap of himself with a giant glass of beer during his break in Barcelona.

He captioned the image: "Nice small one to

> He and Lucy - who played Katy Harris on the show from 2002-2005 - have been married for nine

> > **CORRIE BLIMEY:** Alan, Lucy, and (inset) tucking into a huge beer in Spain.







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4 Brits appear in court

hearing followed by 21-year-olds James Brown and Brandon McCahill.

It remains unclear where the women are from, but the men are believed to hail from Consett in County Durham.

They must between them stump up a €30,000 fine before being allowed to leave the island, a court official confirmed.

Local media said the quartet claimed they had been on the balcony smoking and drinking when the blaze broke out.

But investigators said the revellers were in the room with a fifth unnamed pal, who they tried to prank by setting fire to his feet after he fell asleep on the bed, but only succeeded in setting fire to the mattress.

The dramatic incident saw tourists running for their lives after flames ripped through two rooms at the BH Mallorca hotel causing an estimated €200,000-worth of damage after more than 100 guests were evacuated from two floors.

Seven people trapped on balconies were rescued by firefighters using ladders as thick black smoke billowed from the build-

In video footage others can be heard screaming "Get out" as glass breaks in the background.

No-one was seriously injured but several





PASSPORTS SEIZED: Brandon McCahill, left, and James Brown.

people, including three police officers, were treated for smoke inhalation.

Detectives continue to probe the circumstances surrounding the fire, which was extinguished after an hour, a statement said.

British guest Hazel Bromley, from Chorley in Lancashire, tweeted: 'Literally in shock that this happened at our hotel # bh-

The building on Avenida de las Palmeras

is owned by Grupo Cursach, of which the owner and nightlife kingpin Tolo Cursach is currently being investigated for alleged bribery, extortion, threats, tax fraud, money laundering, homicide, and possession of illegal weapons, among other charges.

The hotel is popular with young sunseekers and made headlines in 2016 when a video clip of three Britons being beaten by security guards emerged online.

OUR VIEW

Brit holidaymakers are truly a different breed

THE summer silly season is truly upon us.

As holidaymakers start to descend on Spain in ever-increasing numbers, the stories of Brits behaving badly are beginning to flood, rather than trickle, in.

And it seems that no matter what new measures the Spanish authorities introduce, British revellers will find new ways of causing havoc.

Just what is it about our country?

Prank sparks blaze – page 1

Wine prices set to spike

SPAIN is the world's biggest wine exporter, so why does the country continue to sell its plonk so cheap?

The booming state of the industry should be great news for winemakers, but the industry is struggling after offloading exports for a quarter of the price of French rivals

Many buyers associate a low price with a dip in quality, but an unlikely saviour could be at hand.

Climate change has this year ravaged Spanish vineyards, with production down to its lowest levels for 60 years.

And the result is costlier wine, with prices up by around 45 per cent in Spain since the turn of the year.

Price war sees bubble burst - page 23

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Expat fugitive held

Alleged fraudster tracked down

by Matt Ford

A BRITISH mum-of-three suspected of conning holidaymakers by advertising fake holiday rentals on the Costa del Sol has been held in northern Spain.

Paula Louise Neale, 44, who bragged of being a Bollywood actress in an online reality show, allegedly made thousands of Euros from the

She is believed to have placed the bogus lets on Facebook under a series of aliases before taking money from her victims via Pavpal.

The London-born expatriate vanished from her home in Calahonda near Marbella last year.

At the time of her arrest in Burgos she was getting into a hire car reported missing from Malaga which was carrying stolen French licence plates, before falsely identify-



MANHUNT OVER: The stolen hire car

ing herself using a fake British passport.

Investigators launched a covert surveillance operation after spotting that a rental firm sticker did not match the vehicle's brand.

The original number plates were found in the boot, police said in a statement.

She is thought to have fled

she claimed to be a hairdresser and offered 'blow dries and eyebrow tidying.'

Neale has reportedly been bailed on account of her young children in the wake of an initial court hearing.

The Guardia Civil said it had "arrested a 44-year-old British national in Spain whose initials are PLN as part



Paula Louise Neale.

Grounded

A TOTAL of 55 Balearic island flights were cancelled due to air traffic control strikes in France earlier yesterday evening.

There were 53 planes grounded in Palma, including 36 Ryanair charters and 17 from other

Vueling and Eivissa each had a Menorca flight affected.

Three French unions representing 5.7 million state workers led the third round of strikes against president Macron's plans to reform public sector labour laws.





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NEWS EXTRA

Locals takeoff

MORE flights between the Balearic Islands and the Spanish mainland have been announced to meet projected demand increases after resident ticket prices were reduced by 75 per cent, media reports.

Surprise gig

BRITISH rapper, Craig David has performed a surprise gig in Palma for 1,200 staff from the TUI holiday company at its Marella Explorer cruise ship launch party, according to sources.

Pope promo

POPE FRANCIS plans to make Luis Ladaria - the $archbishop\ of\ Mallorca$ - acardinal, making him one of the most senior priests, the pope said during prayers this week.

Bag job

PALMA City Council reportedly said recent court measures against plastic bags are 'insufficient' because they fail to fix a minimum price so shops are charging too little to make a difference.

Sex and violence

'Knife-wielding prostitutes' target Brits

BRITISH holidaymakers in Mallorca are being targeted by prostitutes who are enticed with offers of cheap sex before being robbed at knife point.

The women are described as 'mostly foreign' and are believed to be singling out drunk revellers as they head back to their hotels after partying in Magaluf.

And reports suggest the gangs are luring the victims with promises of sex for €10 before they are led down dark alleyways and held up after being surrounded.

An unidentified Scottish teen alleges that he had € 500 stolen, as he told UK media: "I was so drunk I didn't really know what I was doing.

"They grabbed my arm and led me down this alleyway.

"Once I was there a few of them appeared and robbed me blind."

A 24-year-old holiday rep added: "It's like running the gauntlet back to your hotel now - all the women wait at the end of the strip to pick people off.

"They're increasingly aggressive and don't take no for an answer."

Dad-of-two Michael Taylor, 28, was last year approached by a group of African women before being stabbed in the leg and knocked unconscious.





He woke up in hospital with eight stitches to find that his mobile phone and €200 in cash were missing.

He said at the time: "Ten African women came out from behind some trees.

"They were trying to get me to pay for

"When I refused one of them stuck a knife in my thigh. They were stronger than men and remorseless. It was terrify-



WISH YOU WERE FEAR: Drunk revellers have been warned.

A volunteer from charity Street Angels. a Christian organisation set up to help people in trouble on nights out, three years ago told told the Belfast Telegraph: "There are a lot of muggings that go on in Magaluf, but it's usually African women who prey on drunk male tourists.

"There can be quite a lot of them and they just loiter around waiting for boys on their own and then they link arms with them and pretend they are helping them back to their hotel or whatever before mugging them."

Sun sets on Club 18-30

THOMAS COOK PLC will no longer run its Club 18-30 holidays in Mallorca and a host of other classic holiday locations.

News comes as millennials now opt for glitzier-looking holidays which provide material for their social media profiles.

Budget prices and the offer of sex, sun and sangria drew generations of Britons to the package holidays in the 80's and 90's.

Club 18-30 adverts could be controversial. One slogan read: 'discover your erogenous zones' placed on island backdrops of Corfu, Ibiza, Mallorca, Rhodes and Tenerife.

The 175-year-old British tour operator is now focusing on new Club Cook holidays.

Fifteen hotels will offer poolside DIs, street food and cocktails next year, creating an 'alternative kind of atmosphere,' Thomas Cook Chief Executive Officer. Peter Fankhauser said.

Let law bites Airbnb

Airbnb has lost 50 per cent of its Palma listings in the wake of harsher regula-

ONLINE holiday let giant

It is now illegal to list apartments in multi-family builds on rental websites.

Breaking the new law

could land owners with a fine between €20,000 and €40,000 and cost online platforms between €40.000 and €400,000 if caught.

Online heavyweights,

Airbnb and TripAdvisor have already been sanctioned € 300,000 for illegal holiday postings.

Just as the law came into effect Airbnb had 3,700 listings in Palma, but by April the figure was halved to 1,800, media reports.

Palma authority figures show only 645 of 11,000 online lets are legal. That means 94 per cent of all of the capital's rental supply is illegal, a media source said.







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Please quote: Euro Weekly News Mallorca



EWN Media Group at British Embassy to celebrate Royal Wedding

by John Smith

THE British Embassy in Spain joined in the celebration of the Royal Wedding between Prince Harry and Ms Meghan Markle by hosting a party in the residence of the British Ambassador to Spain Simon Manley.

Whilst the EWN Media Group headed by Michel and Steven Euesden were hosting a party for expatriate residents of the Costa del Sol, long-serving staff writer John Smith who has recently become more involved with RTN newspaper travelled to Madrid to attend the British Embassy Royal Wedding party.

Accompanied by his wife Ophelia who has spent more than 30 years working in British media and was a former presenter on Gibraltar TV, they were delighted to meet so many old friends who had also travelled to

Through the award of a diploma, the Ambassador has acknowledged the invaluable work of community organisations throughout Spain who do so much for Britain and also picked out for recognition were established news outlets such as the EWN Media Group, Costa Blanca News, and SUR in English and this newspaper wishes to add its congratulations to its two peers.

The Ambassador Simon Manley was ever present making sure he chatted with all his guests and John was able to spend time talking to him about the video recording sent to British communities around Spain which had been inspired by the EWN Media Group wedding party.

With TV screens both inside and outside the residency, the 200-plus guests were assured of an opportunity to watch the wedding as it was transmitted by the BBC.

His daughter bravely sang the opening chorus of God Save the Queen to much applause and seen at the event were numerous visitors from Costa del Sol including Ali Meehan of Costa Women, Charmaine Arbouin, British Consul in Malaga and her charming daughter, a number of representatives of Talk Radio Europe and many others.

The Ambassador said "This wonderful event today illustrates the enormous breadth and depth of the contributions made by British people working with our local partners in almost every corner of Spain.

"For example, we have community groups that work with the elderly and the unwell, the Royal British Legion, church groups, community groups, British schools representing the 55,000 children who study in









Left to right: Ophelia Smith with Elena Valdeon and Katy Reid of the British Embassy.

British schools in Spain, and of course, our local partners, from town halls and our Honorary Con-

"It has been an honour to meet such a huge range of inspirational people today, and celebrate this Royal Wedding together.'

Simon Manley CMG is a career civil servant who joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in 1990 and has served in a number of different posts mainly within the FCO in London and on an overseas posting in New York to the United Nations.

He was appointed British Ambassador to Spain, one of the more important diplomatic postings, in 2013 and has played an important part in promoting British trade with the country as well as handling discussions with the Spanish government.

Due to the volume of British passport holders resident in Spain and the huge number of tourists, a number of regional offices have been set up around the country and these are known as British Consulates, managed

by Consuls such as Charmaine Arbouin who is based in Malaga, but has responsibility for the whole of Andalucia as well as the Canary Islands.

In many cases, the Consulate is the first port of call for those who fall foul of the law, lose their passports, are robbed or need advice on life in the country generally.

The FCO, with its main office just across the road from the Houses of Parliament and almost next door to Downing Street is responsible for representation of the UK throughout the world, appointing Ambassadors or in the case of Commonwealth Countries High Commissions and overseeing the implementation of government policy.

Britain enjoys a very close relationship with Spain and plays an important role in its economy, but does differ quite dramatically in its views of the status of Gibraltar which is to a great extent self-governing although the British government appoints a governor to work alongside and oversee the role of the elected government there.

All present left proud to be British.









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Vineyard visit

ON Friday June 8 Age Concern Mallorca will be holding a visit to the monastery and vineyard in the Tramontana Mountains.

There will be a guided tour of the vineyard followed by a food and wine tasting session. Tickets are €38 and places are limited.

For more information, please call Jackie on 678 352 040 or email mallorca@agecon cern.org.es.

'Nice try you tool!'

A LANCASHIRE lad, who says he's never been abroad, has set up a fundraising page so he can go on holiday to Spain.

Aiden Dugdale, 19, asked on his Facebook page: 'Why can people on benefits go on all inclusive five-star hotel holidays abroad and I can barely afford a night out in Burnley???'

He then announced: 'I have created a page so people can help pay for a holiday."

With a target of £1,000 he has since raised more than a quarter of the money.

Roxanne Marie Nadin donated a fiver and said: 'Proper I hope you raise your target???

And an anonymous donor chipped in another £3 and wished Aiden 'good luck.'

Amjad Ali donated £2 and said: 'There you go... this will get you a bus to station!'

But, after the story went viral, another anonymous person has stumped up a whopping £100 with the message: 'Have a great time, be nice to everyone and enjoy life.'

However, the Burnley lad has come in for some stick on social

Fellow Lancastrian Marc Pre-

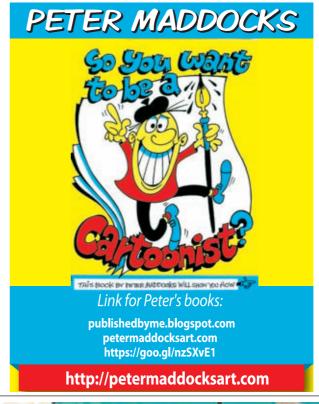
save up like other people and if a holiday is that important to you fund it yourself. us people pay tax and other bills, we don't get sh*t for free so why

'Nice try you tool!' added an-

And Lucas Jones posted: 'Are u taking the p*ss - save up if u wanna go on holiday.'



COSTA BE KIDDING: Aiden Dugdale (inset) wants to raise £1,000 for a holiday to Spain.



NEWS EXTRA

Catalan fixation

THE Balearic Civil Society (SCB) said Palma City Hall has an 'obsessive illness with Catalan' after it demanded municipal cemetery workers speak a high level of the language, according to re-

Rain stops

A CURTAIN of rain fell on Manacor this week bringing motorway drivers to a standstill due to the extremely poor visibility and risky conditions it caused, according to reports.

Prison cards

MES PER MALLORCA - a political coalition formed by Mallorca's Socialist Party - has reportedly launched a campaign to send postcards to Catalan political prisoners and offer their support.

Dig deeper

THE Manacor Town Hall is reportedly negotiating the purchase of 15,000 square metres of land to increase the study areas of the ancient Son Pereto paleo Christian Roman

Not letting

MARRAXTI and Llucamajor have reportedly limited tourist lets in multi-family buildings to 60 days per year and totally banned them in the S'Arenal area due to nearby hotel alternatives for holidaymakers.





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The amount that unemployment benefits will cost the Spanish state this year, around half that paid out annually between 2009 and 2013, according to the Ministry of Employment.

FINANCE business & legal

€43bn weapons sales set record

SPAIN has beaten its own record for weapons exports for the second year in a row.

It comes after the country sold €4.3 billion-worth of military equipment last year, a year-on-year rise of 7.3 per cent

It was the world's seventhlargest supplier in 2016, according to a report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, with Saudi Arabia the biggest client outside the European Union, which accounted for 72.6 per cent of

Spanish exports plummet

THE export of Spanish goods to the UK has ground to a halt after five consecutive years of growth.

A report by the Bank of Spain claims that sales plummeted by 6 per cent last year, with uncertainty over Brexit blamed as the value of the pound plunged.

And exports to the European Union rose by 8 per cent during the same period, suggesting that the UK's looming withdrawal from the bloc is negatively affecting Spain's foreign trade.

Data from the Office of the State

Secretary of Commerce shows that 7 per cent of all Spanish exporting companies trade with the UK, and their growth dropped by 0.8 per cent

"This drop has been higher than what we have seen for other destinations," the bank's study said.

But while 85 per cent of firms doing business in Britain are classed as small-to-medium-sized, the vast majority of sales are made by large companies which are "on average bigger, more productive and more geographi-

cally diversified than those which export to the main countries within the monetary union," therefore limiting the potential Brexit effect.

The UK is Spain's fifth-biggest trading partner, accounting for 7 per cent of all exports and 4 per cent of

But while Britain's gross domestic product increased by 0.6 per cent last year, the European Commission has forecast that growth will slow down due to low rates of savings and salaries remaining below the inflation

Repsol pledge to walk on sunshine

SPANISH oil firm Repsol is refocusing its strategy towards renewable energies.

President Antonio Brufau announced during a general meeting of shareholders that the multinational is ready to join the fight against climate change.

"The group is analysing alternatives to fight the increase in global temperature, betting on an effective strategy with the lowest possible cost for citizens," the company said in a statement.

Other energy providers to recently express similar commitments include Shell, Total and Eni.

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Ryanair profits soar despite flights farce



STILL FLYING: Ryanair and (inset) CEO Michael O'Leary.

BUDGET airline Ryanair, Europe's biggest low-cost carrier, has racked up record returns despite grounding almost 40,000 flights.

The Irish company saw profits soar by 10 per cent to €1.45 billion over the last financial year, while the number of passengers leapt by 9 per cent to 130 million, with Spain, Italy and Germany the three largest growth markets.

CEO Michael O'Leary said

in a statement: "We are pleased to report a 10 per cent increase in profits, with an unchanged net margin of 20 per cent, despite a 3 per cent cut in air fares, during a year of overcapacity in Europe.

He added that the boost had come in the face of rising fuel prices and compensation payments after 700,000 customers were disrupted by cancelled flights last September and Octo-

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Hive got a bad feeling

A WAVE of beehive thefts across eastern Spain saw profits in the honey sector plummet by around € 140,000 in 2017 and sparked calls to ramp up security, according to a report by the Spanish Beekeeping As-

War of words

THE foreign ministers of Spain and China say they want free trade and will battle import duties amid disputes with the United States over potential tariffs, after Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Madrid for

Pump it up

OIL prices have risen to a fouryear high due to tensions in Iran and Saudi Arabia, and motorists are suffering the consequences with petrol now costing more than €1.30 per litre in many Spanish provinces, RAC

Hotel prices hit margins

TRAVEL company Thomas Cook has warned that soaring Spanish hotel costs are harming profits.

The operator has been forced to shift its focus elsewhere, with an 80 per cent boost in bookings to Turkey, with demand for Greece and Egypt also

But Spain remains its biggest market, attracting 1.3 million customers in the six months to March 31.

The group also revealed that its airlines are performing well after several rival carriers collapsed last year, with profits rising 7.8 per cent to almost €3.7 billion over the period.

Chief executive Peter Fankhauser said: "The work we've done in the past two years to improve customers' experience of our flights and our holidays is bearing fruit."







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

LONDON - FTSE 100

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% Снд.	NET VOL	
Anglo American	1,809.50	-50.50	-2.72	26,467.72	
Associated British Foods	2,580.00	-170.00	-6.18	21,668.12	
Admiral Group	1,973.50	46.00	2.39	5,596.57	
Ashtead Group	2,265.00	-32.00	-1.39	11,266.77	
Antofagasta	1,064.50		-1.75	10,662.04	
Aviva	547.00		-0.55	21,941.27	
AstraZeneca	5,175.00	-66.00	-1.26	67,700.50	
BAE Systems	636.00	-12.40	-1.91	20,535.33	
Barclays	210.48		1.44	35,752.98	
British American Tobacco	3,797.50		-0.07	87,502.85	
Barratt Developments	518.20	-38.20	-6.87	5,668.23	
Berkeley Group Holdings (-0.70	5,607.75	
British Land Co	692.00		-0.14	6,850.51	
BHP Billiton	1,705.00	-33.00	-1.90	36,952.81	
Bunzl	2,634.00		16.04	7,542.21	
BP	584.00	-2.30	-0.39	116,482.89	
Burberry Group	1,930.00	-2.00	-0.39	8,064.43	
BT Group	205.50	2.25	1.11	20,305.17	
Coca-Cola HBC	2,602.00		0.70	9,470.27	
		18.00 157.00			
Carnival	5,080.00		3.19	10,203.12	
Centrica	145.90		0.86	8,071.24	
Compass Group	1,578.00	-13.00	-0.82	24,910.35	
Croda International	4,615.00		-0.65	6,089.81	
CRH	3,010.00	223.00	8.00	23,011.85	
DCC	7,375.00	0.00	0.00	6,647.03	
Diageo	2,709.00	10.00	0.37	66,702.63	
Direct Line Insurance Grou	•		1.10	5,153.50	
Evraz	467.50		-6.91	7,226.14	
Experian	1,701.00		-6.51	16,559.63	
easyJet	1,740.00		-0.26	6,957.10	
Ferguson	5,738.00	-6.50	-0.11	13,979.59	
Fresnillo	1,239.50	-35.00	-2.75	9,369.60	
G4S	266.00	-1.50	-0.56	4,127.24	
Glencore	379.50	-0.85	-0.22	57,388.83	
GlaxoSmithKline	1,474.50		-0.92	73,913.45	
Hargreaves Lansdown	1,901.00		-2.51	9,206.53	
Halma	1,295.00	-15.00	-1.15	4,988.49	
HSBC Holdings	723.50	-9.40	-1.28	146,552.82	
International Consldtd Air	s Grp 688.70	6.10	0.89	14,078.99	
InterContinental Hotels Gr	rp 3,943.00	-861.00	-17.92	9,112.12	
3i Group	957.70	-31.30	-3.16	9,499.42	
Imperial Brands	2,757.00	-15.00	-0.54	26,299.30	
Informa	765.80	0.00	0.00	6,297.05	
Intertek Group	5,142.00		0.00	8,237.51	
ITV	173.65		2.39	6,817.03	
Just Eat	820.00		-1.56	5,610.27	
Johnson Matthey	3,507.00		0.78	6,856.89	
Kingfisher	299.90		2.04	6,324.27	
			-0.26	7,067.60	
Land Securities Group	955.00	-2.50	-() /()	/ Un / nu	

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% Сно	
Lloyds Banking Group O	RD 66.15	0.12	0.18	47,606.69
London Stock Exchange	Grp 4,528.00	0.00	0.00	15,652.44
Micro Focus Internationa	1,305.00	-58.00	-4.26	5,885.28
Mediclinic International	704.50	40.10	6.04	4,946.91
Marks & Spencer Group	290.00	-1.70	-0.58	4,830.42
Mondi	1,975.00	-101.00	-4.87	7,583.52
Melrose	218.45	-18.35	-7.75	10,986.18
Morrison (Wm) Superma	rkets 235.50	-19.00	-7.47	5,998.05
National Grid	860.50	-21.60	-2.45	29,000.59
NMC Health	3,704.00	4.00	0.11	7,647.89
Next	5,784.00	16.00	0.28	8,196.18
Old Mutual Group	218.20	-27.80	-11.30	12,317.14
Paddy Power Betfair	7,612.50	-987.50	-11.48	7,115.08
Prudential	1,908.50		-1.32	49,787.68
Persimmon	2,850.00		1.32	8,710.34
Pearson	882.50		-3.02	7,189.96
Reckitt Benckiser Group	5,850.00		-1.68	41,590.17
Royal Bank of Scotland (-1.50	35,417.67
Royal Dutch Shell	2,687.50		-1.05	125,501.81
Royal Dutch Shell	2,705.00		-3.53	105,079.63
RELX	1,477.50		-8.77	16,775.48
Rio Tinto	4,332.00		-0.18	58,004.57
Royal Mail	584.50		7.13	5,550.00
Rolls-Royce Group	856.50		-0.08	15,615.29
Randgold Resources	5,803.00		-0.19	5,461.98
RSA Insurance Group	659.00		-0.08	6,747.88
Rentokil Initial	327.80		-0.02	5,990.83
Sainsbury (J)	256.20		-16.14	6,752.82
Schroders	3,575.50		3.88	7,795.51
Sage Group (The)	632.50		-5.65	7,248.48
Segro	627.00		-2.58	6,510.15
Shire	4,165.25		-0.80	38,546.57
Smurfit Kappa Group	2,955.00		-0.44	7,035.28
Sky	1,320.00		-2.58	23,464.59
Standard Life Aberdeen	371.45		0.66	10,943.28
Smith (DS)	544.80		-1.77	5,838.95
Smiths Group	1,556.00		-8.47	6,686.31
Scottish Mortgage Invstr			4.54	7,191.37
Smith & Nephew	1,370.00		3.59	11,620.84
SSE	1,400.00		-1.20	14,308.80
Standard Chartered	750.00		-0.04	24,944.85
St James's Place	1,217.25		1.06	6,317.78
Severn Trent	1,915.50		-5.59	4,798.31
Tesco	241.75		-1.65	24,223.99
TULAG	1,689.50		-5.56	10,593.52
Taylor Wimpey	204.00		0.25	6,628.36
Unilever	4,112.50		-0.62 17.00	50,317.54
United Utilities Group	929.50		17.90	5,362.37
Vodafone Group	194.24		0.55	52,295.92
WPP Group	1,232.00		-7.02	16,744.24
Whitbread	4,135.00	-24.00	-0.58	7,659.09

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3M	198,960	-0,70%	-1,400	118.132,89
AMERICAN EXPRESS	100,9900	-0,23%	-0,2300	86.879,38
APPLE	186,310	-0,36%	-0,680	915.739,36
BOEING CO	351,230	+2,06%	7,090	204.662,15
CATERPILLAR	155,710	+1,31%	2,020	93.148,61
CHEVRON	127,86	-1,24%	-1,60	244.354,45
CISCO SYSTEMS	43,210	-0,58%	-0,250	208.164,91
COCA-COLA	42,18	-0,28%	-0,12	179.572,08
DOWDUPONT	67,57	-0,87%	-0,59	156.832,96
EXXON MOBIL	81,30	-0,71%	-0,58	344.401,26
GENERAL ELECTRIC	14,9700	-0,40%	-0,0600	130.236,64
GOLDMAN SACHS	237,00	-0,88%	-2,10	89.519,19
HOME DEPOT	187,4200	+1,13%	2,0900	216.007,62
IBM	144,08	-0,29%	-0,42	132.329,72
INTEL CORP	53,5000	-2,39%	-1,3100	249.691,32
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	111,1300	-1,62%	-1,8300	378.577,15
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	124,2400	+0,31%	0,3900	333.552,17
MC DONALD'S CORP	160,9800	-0,20%	-0,3300	126.444,97
MERCK AND CO. NEW	59,14	+0,12%	0,07	159.091,12
MICROSOFT	96,360	+0,19%	0,180	741.952,05
NIKE	71,32	+0,54%	0,38	91.520,19
PFIZER	35,6400	-0,20%	-0,0700	208.712,69
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	73,450	-0,69%	-0,510	184.760,20
TRAVELERS CIES	129,85	-0,67%	-0,87	35.115,05
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	125,19	+0,47%	0,58	100.207,45
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	244,64	+0,69%	1,68	235.171,33
VERIZON COMMS	47,74	-0,23%	-0,11	197.381,11
VISA	129,93	+0,00%	0,00	232.147,71
WAL-MART STORES	83,6400	-1,01%	-0,8500	246.812,44
WALT DISNEY CO	103,9300	-0,39%	-0,4100	154.992,07

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DEALING PRICE	PRICE MOVEMENT
£1.1514	£0.0018
€1.0629	€0.0014
£1.3318	£0.0089
€1.2156	€0.0078
£1.5015	£0.0173
€1.3780	€0.0155

Remaining Elite Fund prices available on request

Prices correct as at 16/05/2018

NASDAQ

LOSING PRICES MAY 21

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
Quotient Limited	\$ 6.05	1.36 ▲ 29.00%
Mannatech, Incorporated	\$ 19.50	3.60 ▲ 22.64%
Evolus, Inc.	\$ 15.38	2.44 ▲ 18.86%
T2 Biosystems, Inc.	\$ 8.20	1 ▲ 13.89%
Alpine Immune Sciences, Inc.	\$ 9.95	1.14 ▲ 12.94%
Westport Fuel Systems Inc	\$ 2.99	0.27 ▲ 9.93%
Tandem Diabetes Care, Inc.	\$ 12.83	1.14 ▲ 9.75%
TransGlobe Energy Corporation	\$ 2.23	0.19 ▲ 9.31%
LexinFintech Holdings Ltd.	\$ 18.23	1.54 ▲ 9.23%
GDS Holdings Limited	\$ 37.77	3 ▲ 8.63%
Calyxt, Inc.	\$ 16.50	1.28 ▲ 8.41%
Most Declined		
Opko Health, Inc.	\$ 3.99	0.89 ▼ 18.24%
Eiger BioPharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 13.90	2.90 ▼ 17.26%
Ultra Petroleum Corp.	\$ 2.125	0.275 ▼ 11.46%
Baidu, Inc.	\$ 253.01	26.67 ▼ 9.54%
GoPro, Inc.	\$ 5.42	0.57 ▼ 9.52%
Raven Industries, Inc.	\$ 38.15	4 ▼ 9.49%
SMART Global Holdings, Inc.	\$ 42.83	4.32 ▼ 9.16%
Ichor Holdings	\$ 24.32	2.25 ▼ 8.47%
DAVIDsTEA Inc.	\$ 3.30	0.30 ▼ 8.33%
Applied Materials, Inc.	\$ 49.51	4.45 ▼ 8.25%
Editas Medicine, Inc.	\$ 34.85	3.13 ▼ 8.24%

Price war sees bubble burst

WINE MAKERS STRIVE TO POP CORK ON CAVA SALES

PRODUCERS of cava, Spain's sparkling wine, are planning to boost its image to improve disappointing sales.

"The problem with cava is perception, not quality," says Josep Puig, CEO of Sumarroca winery in Cataluña, where 95 per cent of the country's fizz is made.

It comes after the UK sparkling wine market grew by 37 per cent between 2012 and 2016, but in the latter year it bought only two million cases of cava compared to seven million of Italian rival prosecco.

And a survey of Brits revealed that 64 per cent chose Champagne, 22 per cent prosecco and only 14 per cent cava when it came to quali-

Winemakers believe that the tendency for large cava houses to sell their product cheap is the issue, and some have now broken away, calling their drink 'classic penedes.'

Josep Maria Albet i Noya is among them and stopped producing cava four years ago, when he says you could pick up a bottle in the su-



BARGAIN BUBBLY: Producers believe cava has been sold too cheap.

permarket for less than €1.

"Cava's image doesn't allow us to earn any money. It's OK for the big producers but it's impossible for the smaller wineries to compete at such low prices," he told the BBC.

"You can't earn anything with that, when your margins are so

small you have to squeeze everybody. Your product will reflect this in low quality - I don't think that's the way forward," he added.

In April six other producers formed a second splinter group and are calling their sparkling wine cor-

Albert Puig is a cava expert from the wine-producing Penedes region near Barcelona, and he said: "If you do good things you can have the high price - but if you compete on quantity then you're lost."

Pere Bonet from Freixenet, the biggest cava house, agreed as he added: "For the brands, the low cost is dead... our objective now is to have a better image."

To do so, the company has introduced a new premium category called cava de paraje calificado, for which strict guidelines include the use of vines at least 10 years old from a specific vineyard, at least three years of ageing and restrictions on grape yields.

But Josep Puig thinks marketing

"If you ' promote something you'll find young people start thinking cava is something strange and they'll go for prosecco instead," he

"You need a unique selling proposition; and you need money to have a unique selling proposition."

TV bosses face likely legal rap amid ad claims

A SPANISH government watchdog is probing the country's two biggest television net-

The Comision Nacional de los Mercados y la Competencia (CNMC), an agency investigating unfair business practices, has revealed it has launched an enquiry into alleged anti-competitive advertising deals signed by Mediaset and Atresmedia.

Media and advertising agencies claim they were forced to invest in the pair's less popular products in order to advertise on their mainstream channels which include Telecinco, Antena 3 and La Sexta.

But such quotas and joint commercialisation of advertising packages are illegal since they restrict free competition, according to reports.

The two companies control around 83 per cent of the television advertising market in Spain, according to the latest CNMC figures.



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Politicians in the dock canda

From faking qualifications to taking backhanders, Spain's government officials have been caught up in countless political scandals in recent years. David Noon takes a look at the dishonourable deeds of the past and present that have caught politicians in their tracks

HE brown envelope is as synonymous with Spanish politicians as the beach is to the Costa del Sol.

Be it for housing projects, policy proposals or tax dodging purposes, Spain's government (local and national) just can't seem to keep itself out of trouble.

The latest scandal to rear its ugly head has seen Madrid regional premier Cristina Cifuentes dragged through the mud for faking qualifications.

Cifuentes - alongside congressman and deputy secretary of communication for the PP Pablo Casado - were disgraced after national newspaper El Diario revealed that the pair had obtained faked Masters degrees in order to progress their political careers.

The fall from grace for Cifuentes could not have been more dramatic.

A thriving politician within the PP party, Cifuentes' 30-year political career had seen her tipped as the favourite to succeed Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy when he decides to step away from the hot seat.

In the space of three decades, Cifuentes rose through the ranks from regional deputy, to government delegate, to premier of Madrid.

Now, however, Cifuentes' career will be remembered as nothing more than a scandal, and a disgrace, after she fraudulently obtained a master's degree from Madrid's King Juan Carlos University in 2012.

Clinging on to her position for weeks following the El Diario article, Cifuentes refused to budge and was left defiantly - and undignifiedly - spitting in the face of what appeared to be defeat when many were calling for her head.

Unwilling to accept she'd been caught out - like so many politicians before her - Cifuentes held onto her political seat for as long as she possibly could.

However, an old video leaked to OK Diario (heavily linked with the PP), proved to be the final straw.

In the video, dating back to 2011, Cifuentes was seen shoplifting from

her local supermarket, and that proved enough for the Madrileno to finally admit defeat.

Pocketing a jar of face cream from her local Eroski, the only thing left on Cifuentes mug at the end of this saga: egg.

But the actions of Cifuentes are not the only cause for concern.

As the saying goes 'the fish rots

from the head' and Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's silence throughout the whole scandal speaks volumes

Of course, the PP leader has faced - and continues to face - his fair share of political scandal. It remains to be seen how the country's leader will emerge from the

BELT TIGHTENING:

of the Gurtel case.

Correa is at the heart

ongoing Gurtel

proceedings (see rap sheet), but his name has been sullied more than once during criminal investigations into the underhand dealings of the ruling party.

Yet while Rajoy remained tightlipped over Cifuentes' actions his peers did not. The parade of support and acclaim from PP senior officials for Cifuentes at the party's recent convention in Sevilla - just hours before her resignation - demonstrates a new low for the country's ruling elite.

Likewise, the complicity of university professors to falsify the documents then openly lie to defend Cifuentes demonstrates that the stain of corruption runs throughout Spanish institutions - even those which

> are supposed to hold the government to account.

> > And finally, the way in which Cifuentes was disposed of wreaks of underhand tactics.

Conveniently dredging up and leaking an incriminating video from 2011, implies that Spain's political parties are sitting on all kinds of dirt, waiting to air it as a political missle when it suits their agenda to do so.

Madrid's branch of the PP is now perhaps only rivalled by its colleagues in Valencia as the most rotten and corrupt in the country.

For while Valencia continues to be hit by the kickbacks-for-contracts

> Gurtel case, this is just the latest scandal to be laid

Rap sheet THE list of political scandals currently making their way through the legal system is as long

Here are just some of the most compelling cases currently ongoing:

ERE

The ERE investigation has put the PSOE Junta de Andalucia under the microscope. Accused of corrupt practices and embezzlement of funds between 2001 and 2010, the accused include former Junta presidents Manuel Chaves and Jose Antonio Grinan. As many as 20 former officials including six ex-ministers are caught up in the scandal that is currently making its way through the court system.

Brugal

Some 12 years after the Brugal investigation got underway and its main defendants are finally in the dock. Deliberations started in February into alleged bribes to public officials worth millions of euros over waste contracts. in Orihuela, Alicante.

Millionaire businessman Angel Fenoll is facing 37 years in prison for his role in the scandal, while former PP mayors Jose Manuel Medina and Monica Lorente are staring at 12 years jail terms if found guilty.

Gurtel

The Gurtel case has the potential to bring the PP toppling down from the top. Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has already appeared as a witness in the kickbacks-for-contracts case, and in doing so he became the first sitting PM to appear in Spanish court.

Centred around businessman Francisco Correa, the Gurtel case looks at alleged bribes worth € 350 million to party officials between 1999 and 2006 in exchange for public contracts. In total 37 politicians and business people face prosecution with everyone pointing the finger at someone else in a bid to drag the whole system down with them.

One of Spain's most high-profile

scandals, the Cursach case saw Mallor-

ca's nightclub owner Bartolome 'Tolo'

Cursach

Cursach sentenced to 33 years for 16 charges relating to bribing, threatening and coercing public officials. However, Tolo's sentencing is far from the end of this saga with a number of public officials allegedly paid off to turn a blind eve to dubious goings-on at a number of his 30 nightclubs, including alleged illegal prostitution. A number of the public officials themselves were paid off in the form of free attendance to illegal sex parties at the nightclubs making the Cursach case one of Spain's seediest

scandals.



A right, royal, ruckus

WHILE Spain's politicians are held to account for their bent practices, the country's monarchy hasn't been behaving much better.

In a case that was anything but regal, Princess Cristina found herself in the dock on charges of tax evasion, fraud and bribery.

The King's sister was acquitted and spared an eight-year jail term, however her husband Inaki Urdangarin was given a six-vear sentence for his role in the infamous Noos scan-

The first royal to face prosecution since the monarchy was reinstated in 1975, Cristina was forced to pay €265,000 in 'civic responsibilities' for benefiting from the crimes of her husband and his associates.

The royal couple were among 18 defendants tried on a whopping 89 charges ranging from money laundering to trafficking of influences

Former Olympic handball star Urdangarin was in fact found guilty of using his position within the royal echelons to win inflated contracts to host sporting events before siphoning off the proceeds to fund a lavish lifestyle.

In total Urdangarin and his former business partner in

crime Diego Torres were found guilty of embezzling a cool €6 million in public money.

And while Cristina was acquitted her reputation has been knocked

from pillar to post. During the trial itself she responded 'I don't know' 188 times and added 'I don't remember' a further 55 times (make what you will of that).

The royal family itself was rocked during the course of the six-year investigation. The royal cause was done no favours when King Juan Carlos came up against a public backlash for partaking in an expensive hunting trip to Botswana in the middle of Spain's financial crisis.

Juan Carlos paid the price and abdicated the throne and despite being found innocent in court, Cristina has too faced the consequences of her misjudgement.

Absent during King Felipe's ascension to the throne, Cristina has subsequently been stripped off her royal duties as the new King attempts to repair the damage caused by his father and sister.

If this were Denmark, we would say there was something very rotten indeed.

KING OF THIEVES: Juan Carlos was slammed for hunting trip.

at the door of Madrid's local government branch.

The most notable case of political wrongdoing in Madrid's PP branch is the Púnica case - a bid-rigging scheme that involved at least €250 million in public contracts.

That scandal led to the imprisonment of Madrid's regional premier Ignacio González and the former PP secretary general Francisco Grana-

The disgracing of Cifuentes is unfortunate but not unsurprising.

The denials and attempts to hide the mess under the carpet is in keeping with a political landscape that cheats and then buries its head in the sand when it is caught out.

The institutional acceptance and support for this form of political behaviour adds a whole new level of corruption that must be stamped

Cifuentes' demise comes at a crucial time for the PP which is emblazoned in political scandal from top to bottom and risks losing its 23year grip on the country when the regional elections get underway

Change must come from the top and if this latest scandal is not enough to change the minds and actions of Spain's politicians then lit-

Yet with each new scandal, the loss of respect for the country's policymakers will one day be too much



Corruption charter

SPAIN claimed the 41st position on the latest instalment of the Corruption Perception Index (CPI).

The recognised authority on global corruption, the CPI total Spain's corruption cost to the public coffers at €203 billion.

With a score of 58 (0 being highly corruptible and 100 being squeaky clean), Spain's is tied with Brunei and Costa Rica when it comes to corruption levels.

It is in fact the worst-ever outcome for Spain who has fallen from being the 20th

most corrupt-free national to the 41st in the space of two decades.

Denmark and New Zealand both scored 90 to top the list, followed closely by Finland and Sweden, which scored 89 and 88 respectively.

At the other end of the scale Somalia claimed the unwanted title of the world's most corrupt nation for the 10th year in a row, with a score of just 10.

Meanwhile, the UK came in as the eighth least corrupt country in the world.

Ramadan and Labour Live



TEN years ago, your average Brit in the street wouldn't have had a clue as to the meaning or origins of Ramadan.

This year you would have to be a recluse in a moon cave to miss out on what is actually the most important Muslim celebration of the year. In fact, it now comes in as the UK's third biggest religious event after Christmas and Easter.

Apparently some four million Muslims will be fasting this month, and consequently the news has been carried on just about every media outlet you care to mention.

There has been a positive deluge of programmes on TV, explaining the custom and how it affects its followers. Programmes have shown special diets. Times to eat and sleep, and even a series of exercises designed to help the followers get through, what can obviously be an extremely taxing period.

I did slightly twitch at one exchange however when the interviewee suggested it would be thoughtful if non-Muslims could try and avoid eating openly in front of anyone close by who was obviously Muslim! Well I'm afraid I draw



'LABOUR LIVE': Jeremy Corbyn at last year's Glastonbury Festival.

the line there. The idea of hiding yer actual ice creams or fish and chips, because you may 'offend' someone who is fasting, is just a step too far. Sorry about that. I actually spent eight years in a Muslim country, and consequently saw the festival completely close up as it were.

I do remember one fellow Brit walking through a supermarket in the day during Ramadan, scoff-

ing bananas and telling me he couldn't care less because he wasn't actually a Muslim himself. I did feel this somewhat disrespectful, as we were guests in their country, but frankly being asked to refrain from eating openly in my own country because it may offend someone, is, in my opinion, a total liberty and is the sort of inflammatory remark that does nothing to improve understanding and acceptance of other people's beliefs whatso-

Incidentally, I do remember, during my experience of those far off Saudi days, the whole month being great fun for those of the privileged elite (which meant most of them) who would simply party it up all night and sleep all day. Nice work if you can get it!

Despite being on sale for two months, I see the 'Labour Live' leftie Glastonbury Festival has only sold 1,800 tickets out of 20,000 available.

Labour is set to lose 600,000 sterling. Ah well that's what you get when arrogant politicians seek to become self-appointed gurus endeavouring to ensnare the young, who, it appears, are not quite so gullible as they previously thought.

I also see that Corbyn announced he would not have time to watch the Royal betrothal because he was attending a 'state of the economy' conference organised by Labour on the day of the wedding.

Well I wasn't too interested either, but a 'state of the economy' conference? When practically the whole country was celebrating and enjoying themselves? Come on. Does anyone really want this miserable party of gloomy incompetents leading us into their idea of any future whatsoever? No thanks.

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.

TECH FOR THE TIMID



THESE days the only reason some of us still have a landline phone is so we can find our mobiles by calling them.

Remember when the phone was a black bakelite lump with a frayed cable, squatting solidly atop a pile of well-thumbed directories on its own sacred telephone table?

The subsequent march of the mobile has been unprecedented in human history: from the first portable call back in the mists of history (1973), to the first true smartphone just 17 years ago, to nearly five billion mobiles today and rising. Now just about everyone has a smartphone. Except my

Why would she possibly need one? That's exactly what she said when we gave her a gran-proof Nokia 110 for Christmas. She was expecting bath products.

Given that she's never understood why new-fangled cash-dispensing contraptions won't give her exactly the amount she wants (precisely 28 eu-



Terence Kennedy argues for a cell-by date for seniors

last time she tried and failed), persuading her that a smartphone could enrich her life is about as hopeful as convincing her that the royals are alien lizards or Charles put out a hit on

If this rings (or buzzes) true in your own family, there are in fact a few of what marketers like to call USPs unique selling points - vou might use to drag any ageing techno-luddite into this brave new world.

Always having a camera in your pocket, for one. Indispensable for snapping those precious pix of the grand-sprog's first steps, second steps. third steps and on into an infinity of hell for anyforced to view them.

Not having to stay at home specifically to catch The Archers when the latest episode is always on tap as a podcast in your pocket or handbag. Not having to get lost downtown (or four doors down...) thanks to Google Maps (assuming you've got your glasses).

There's Facebook for family news what we used to call 'Hatched, Matched and Dispatched' in the newspaper business.

Voice dialling and text readers are two more innovations invaluable to dexterous users.

And the games, all those games with no need to colonise the entire dining-room table for a 5,000-piece jigsaw of Harry and Meghan. From Candy Crush to Angry Birds, it's now the so-called 'silver surfers' becoming so happily addicted to online games on computers and phones.

Then here's the clincher for all of us nearing our best-by dates: the instant ability to look up today's latest ailment. AND the ability to email or text it for the full enjoyment of all the fam-



Senior cell-ulitis

THE world's smallest cellphone is barely bigger than a matchbox. It's exactly what most older folks don't need.

Search 'cellphones for seniors' and you'll be inundated with large, chunky mobiles, usually sporting big keyboards and uncluttered screens.

But smartphones at their simplest make even those concessions unnecessary. Almost all let you pump up the on-screen text size, in much the same way as e-readers have become an absolute boon for those with lessthan-perfect peepers.

If on-screen keypads are still too fiddly, a couple of euros buys a stylus to tap any touchscreen.

And of course there are those indispensable and unlimited alarms, just the thing to remind us to take our next tranche of tablets. But was it the green or the blue ones?



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24 MAY	5:30pm Hardball 6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News at Six 7:30pm BBC London News 8:00pm Factorial	6:15pm 7:00pm Eggheads 7:30pm Great British Railway Journeys Back to the Land with Kate Humble Flower Show 2018 10:00pm Million Pound Menu 11:00pm The League of Gentlemen	6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm ITV News London 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Tonight 9:00pm Emmerdale 9:30pm Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs 10:00pm A&E Live 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	6:30pm Buy it Now 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 8:55pm The Political Slot 9:00pm Kirstie and Phil's Love it or List it 10:00pm Humans 11:00pm First Dates 12:05am Mo Salah: A Football Fairy Tale 1:05am Nightmares USA	7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News Tonight 8:00pm Cricket on 5: England v Pakistan 9:00pm Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords 10:00pm The Trouble with M&S 11:00pm Murdered by My Daughter 12:05am Murdering the Mother-in-Law	9:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 10:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 11:00am Cricket 8:00pm Cricket 8:30pm Live Super League 11:30pm Live PGA Tour Golf 1:00am European tour Highlights 2:00am Sky Sports News 3:00am Sky Sports News
FRIDAY 25 MAY	5:30pm Hardball 6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News at Six 7:30pm BBC London News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2018 9:00pm EastEnders 9:30pm The Button 10:00pm Have I Got News for	7:30pm Great British Railway Journeys 8:00pm Wild Escapes 8:30pm Extreme Wales with Richard Parks 9:00pm RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2018 10:00pm The Bridge 11:00pm Frankie Boyle's New World Order 11:30pm Newsnight	5:00pm 6:00pm 7:00pm 7:30pm 8:00pm 8:00pm 8:30pm 9:00pm 9:30pm 10:00pm 11:00pm 11:00pm Tipping Point The Chase ITV News London ITV Evening News Emmerdale Coronation Street Countrywise 10:00pm 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	4:00pm A Place in the Sun 5:00pm The £100k Drop 6:00pm Four in a Bed 6:30pm Buy it Now 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 8:30pm Unreported World 9:00pm How to Get Fit Fast 10:00pm Natural World 11:00pm Friday Night Dinner	6:00pm 6:30pm 7:00pm 7:30pm 8:00pm 8:00pm 6:30pm 7:30pm 8:00pm 8:00pm 6:00pm 7:30pm 8:00pm 8:00pm 6:00pm 7:30pm 8:00pm 8:00pm 6:00pm 7:30pm 6:00pm 7:30pm 8:00pm 7:00pm 8:00pm 6:00pm 7:00pm 7:00pm 8:00pm 7:00pm 7:00pm 8:00pm 8:	9:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 9:30am Rugby Union 11:30am Cricket 8:00pm Cricket 8:30pm Live Super League 11:30pm Live PGA Tour Golf 1:00am European tour Highlights 2:00am Sky Sports News 3:00am Sky Sports News
SATURDAY 26 MAY	6:05pm Ready or Not 6:35pm BBC News 6:45pm Regional News 6:50pm Weather 6:55pm Pointless 7:45pm Ed Sheeran at the Biggest Weekend 8:45pm Who Dares Wins 9:25pm Casualty 10:15pm All Round to Mrs Brot 11:15pm BBC News	7:00pm 7:45pm RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2018 8:45pm Emeli Sande and Clean Bandit at the Biggest Weekend 10:00pm Sam Smith at the Biggest Weekend 11:00pm Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds at the Biggest Weekend	7:00pm 7:15pm Regional News and Weather 7:30pm 8:30pm Ninja Warrior UK Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule 9:00pm 10:15pm The Keith and Paddy Picture Show The Keith and Paddy Picture Show The Keith and Paddy Picture Show	1:55pm Formula 1 4:45pm Car S.O.S 5:45pm A Place in the Sun 6:30pm The Secret Life of the Zoo 7:30pm Channel 4 News 8:00pm Grand Designs 9:00pm The Queen's Lost Cousin 10:00pm Identity Thief Bad Neighbours	6:05pm 6:10pm 5 News Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away! 7:05pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away! 8:00pm Cricket on 5 8:55pm What Happened Next 10:15pm Queen Victoria and Her Tragic Family 11:15pm 6:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away! Que't New Ill Take it Away! Reit Away! Since it Away! Elizabeth I	11:15am Cricket 2:00pm Live Monaco F1 GP: Quali Pre-Show 2:55pm Live Monaco F1 GP: Qualifying 4:45pm The F1 Show 5:05pm To be Announced 8:30pm Live Pro 14: Final 9:30pm Live PGA Tour Golf 12:00am European tour Highlights
SUNDAY 27 MAY	5:10pm Points of View 5:25pm Songs of Praise 6:05pm The Coronation 7:05pm BBC News 7:20pm Regional News 7:25pm Weather 7:30pm Countryfile Royal Spee 8:30pm Taylor Swift and Palor Faith at the Biggest W 10:00pm A Very English Scanda 11:00pm BBC News	na 10:00pm Florence + the Machine at the Biggest Weekend	6:00pm The Chase: Celebrity Special 7:00pm Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule 7:30pm ITV Evening News 7:45pm Regional News and Weather 8:00pm Little Big Shots Info not available ITV News 11:20pm Peston on Sunday	2:45pm Formula 1 5:30pm Formula 1 6:30pm Grand Designs 7:30pm Channel 4 News 8:00pm Escape to the Chateau 9:00pm Bake Off: The Professionals 10:00pm 11:10pm The Handmaid's Tale 1:55am The Family	12:50pm 1:50pm 3:35pm 5:25pm 7:55pm 8:00pm 9:00pm Agatha Christie's Crooked House 11:05pm 12:50am Police Interceptors Five Children and It Madeline The Parent Trap 5 News Cricket on 5 9:00pm Agatha Christie's Crooked House 11:05pm Top of the Box 1989 The 80s: The Best of Bad TV	11:00am Cricket 3:05pm Live Monaco F1 Grand Prix 5:30pm Live European Tour Golf Final Rnd 7:00pm Indian Premier League Final 9:00pm Info not available 10:00pm Live PGA Tour Golf 12:00am European Tour Highlights Sky Sports News
MONDAY 28 MAY	7:00pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News at Six 7:15pm BBC London News 7:30pm The One Show 8:00pm RHS Chelsea Flower Sho 9:00pm EastEnders 9:30pm Antiques Roadshow Coronation Special 10:30pm Peter Kay's Car Share 11:30pm BBC News at Ten 11:50pm BBC London News	5:30pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is 6:15pm Antiques Road Trip 7:00pm Richard Osman's House of Games 7:30pm Curious Creatures 8:00pm Eric and Ernie's Home Movies 9:00pm Springwatch 10:30pm King Lear 12:25am Brideshead Revisited	7:30pm 7:45pm 8:00pm 8:30pm 8:30pm 8:30pm 8:30pm 10:00pm 10:30pm 10:30pm 10:30pm 11:00pm 11:00pm 11:20pm 11:20pm 1:05am Jackpot247	7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 8:30pm Travel Man 9:00pm Jamie's Quick and Easy Food 9:30pm Tricks of the Restaurant Trade 10:00pm 24 Hours in Police Custody 11:00pm Gogglebox	6:00pm Home and Away 6:30pm Neighbours 7:00pm Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights 8:00pm Cricket on 5: England v Pakistan 9:00pm Police Interceptors 10:00pm Paddington Station: Windsor Wedding Special 11:00pm Most Shocking Talent Show Moments	10:00am Cricket 11:00am Cricket 11:30am Cricket 3:30pm Info not available 6:30pm Info not available 7:30pm Live Netball Superleague 9:45pm My Icon 10:00pm Sky Sports Tonight 11:00pm Sky Sports News at Ten 12:00am Sky Sports News
TUESDAY 29 MAY	4:00pm Flog It! 4:45pm Garden Rescue 5:30pm Hardball 6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News at Six 7:30pm BBC London News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm EastEnders 9:00pm Holby City 10:00pm The Split 11:00pm BBC News at Ten	6:15pm 7:00pm Richard Osman's House of Games 7:30pm 8:00pm Wexico: Earth's Festival of Life 9:00pm 10:00pm 11:00pm 11:30pm Antiques Road Trip Richard Osman's House of Games Curious Creatures Mexico: Earth's Festival of Life Springwatch Grammar Schools Later Live with Jools Holland Newsnight	3:00pm 4:00pm Judge Rinder 5:00pm 5:00pm Tipping Point 6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm ITV News London 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Britain's Got Talent Live Show 10:00pm Coronation Street Britain's Got Talent Results	4:00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun 5:00pm The £100k Drop 6:00pm Come Dine with Me 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm Food Unwrapped 10:00pm The Battle for Britain's Heroes 12:00am 24 Hours in A and E	6:00pm 6:30pm 7:00pm 7:30pm 8:00pm 8:00pm 9:00pm 10:00pm 11:00pm 6:30pm 5 News at 5 Neighbours Home and Away 5 News Tonight Britain by Bike with Larry and George Lamb The Yorkshire Vet All New Traffic Cops: Drug Bust Special Most Shocking Moments in Sport	10:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 11:00am Premier League Daily 12:00pm Sky Sports News 2:00pm Sky Sports News 3:00pm Live RL One Day Cup 11:00pm Sky Sports News at Ten 12:00am Sky Sports News 1:00am Sky Sports News 2:00am Live WWE Late Night
WEDNESDAY 30 MAY	4:45pm Garden Rescue 5:30pm Hardball 6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News at Six 7:30pm BBC London News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm Panorama 9:00pm The Big Crash Diet Experiment 10:00pm The Doctor Who Gav Drugs BBC News at Ten	5:30pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is 6:15pm 7:00pm Antiques Road Trip Richard Osman's House of Games 7:30pm Curious Creatures 8:00pm Mexico: Earth's Festival of Life 9:00pm Springwatch Love in the Countryside 11:00pm Detectorists	5:00pm 6:00pm 7:00pm 7:30pm 8:00pm 8:00pm 8:30pm 8:30pm 10:00pm 10:30pm 10:30pm 10:30pm 11:00pm 11:00pm 11:00pm 11:00pm 11:00pm	5:00pm The £100k Drop 6:00pm Come Dine with Me 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm The Secret Life of the Zoo 10:00pm 24 Hours in A and E 11:00pm Carry on Brussels 12:05am Gogglebox 1:05am Friday Night Dinner 1:35am High and Dry	3:15pm 4:15pm 6:00pm 6:30pm 7:00pm 7:30pm 8:00pm 8:00pm 9:00pm 9:00pm 10:00pm Pompeii's Final Hours: New Evidence 11:00pm Celebrity Five Go Barging My Husband is Missing 5 News at 5 Neighbours 1 News Tonight Police Interceptors 9:00pm Pompeii's Final Hours: New Evidence 11:00pm	11:15am To be Announced 11:30am Premier League Daily 12:00pm Sky Sports News 2:00pm Sky Sports News 3:00pm Live RL One Day Cup 11:00pm Sky Sports News at Ten 12:00am Sky Sports News

A British wedding, an affair and a Handmaid's Tale



by Adam Whalley-Lewis

I PROMISE not to dwell on the numbers, but it seems a lot of us tuned in to watch the BBC and ITV coverage of the Royal Wedding last week.

I was in a take it or leave it place right up until Harry and William arrived at the Chapel, but once they did, those flags from last week came out and we raised a glass or two watching the sunshine in Windsor.

I really don't understand the swipes about the dress not fitting properly or Fergie arriving with only one glove. I do understand two people in love and thought it was lovely. Just a final wedding thought, the gift bags given to people invited to be in the castle grounds selling for £20K at an online auction, really...

The second offering of The Handmaid's Tale started on Channel 4 on Sunday and it wasn't an easy watch. Series one was framed around the



THE ROYAL WEDDING: 'They had me at the uniforms.'

novel of the same name by Margaret Atwood. The story is set in a future society where women are forced to have children for a ruling class who are anything but Christian, despite what they might profess.

Elizabeth Moss is back playing the lead amongst a cast of stellar performers for season two. The first episode showed us more of how we arrived at the present, with a series of flashbacks which are adding even more depth to the storyline, even if some of the lines

are uncomfortable to hear. Ann Dowd returns as Aunt Lydia and if the opener this time around is anything to go by, will give Elizabeth a run for her money in the acting stakes.

Praise hasn't been universal and if you haven't seen season one, you might want to find it on catch up before you delve in, but as dark as it is, I will be watching this time around just as intensely as I did for season one.

If you did see the first episode last week, could you help me with a couple of (literally) burning questions firstly, when Offred burned her clothes and her hair in that disused factory, just how long did they keep burning? It seemed an age, and second, did you realise Joseph Fiennes plays Commander Waterford? I missed that one, too focused on the burning red dress.

A very English Scandal started a three part run on BBC1, Sunday and charts the rise and fall of Jeremy Thorpe in the 60's and 70's. Hugh Grant plays Jeremy and Ben Whishaw is

NOT AN EASY WATCH: Elisabeth Moss (right) as Offred in The Handmaid's Tale.

Norman Scott. We probably all know the story and how it pans out, but Hugh Grant's acting is the stuff of BAFTAs and Ben should be on the awards radar too. Amongst the serious story line there is some humour, delivered expertly. You can catch the first episode on BBC iPlayer now.

Looking ahead, BBC2 has extensive cover of the Chelsea Flower Show this week; for an easy to watch movie, Identity Thief is the Saturday night Film on Channel 4 and Bradley Walsh shows us some backstage secrets from The London Palladium this weekend (Sunday evening, ITV).

Happy viewing!

Political correctness



OK so I try and be grumpy about something different every week but this week's a bit of a continuation of last week's rantings. That was basically about all the blithering idiots that tell me what is allowable or offensive and the 'PC' thing to do.

The two that have done my nut in this week are firstly, the Eurovision Song Contest, which by the way I don't watch for many reasons. That was on Saturday night and was won by Israel which, if I'm not mistaken is in the Middle East, not Europe. Anyway Israel won and that should be it - well done, let's forget about it for another year.

But no, all of a sudden I start hearing and seeing stuff about the winner. Not anything about the song or the quality of it but what the singer was wearing. The singer wore her take on a traditional kimono dress with her hair up in two buns and performed in front of two walls of Japanese maneki-neko cat figurines and therefore was apparently guilty of appropriating Japanese culture with her performance. So who was complaining? Japan, as a country? Japanese people around the world? No, of course not. It

was some bloody PC idiot that I'm sure is just seeking publicity.

This has got to stop. What next? Should we ban the Village People because of they are appropriating cowboys, red Indians, policemen, builders etc all in one go?

Then I just saw the most ridiculous thing ever. Are you ready for this? Some nutter is saying that parents should seek their baby's consent before they change their nappy as it teaches how to set up a culture of consent in their homes. Obviously, the baby can't answer the question -'I'm going to change your dirty nappy, is that ok?' So the advice is to wait a moment and look for some sign of consent (whatever that might be).

OK, so you wait and you don't see one. What do you do? Do you leave the baby in the dirty nappy and how do you ask the baby in the first place? In an adult, consenting, sort of way like, 'Would you like a nice cup of tea?' or the cutie, wooty voice you use when talking to your baby? Where does it stop? Can I bath you? Can I cuddle you? Can I lie on the bed and just stare at the miracle that you are?

Here's the deal you bunch of crazy lunatics (not you my lovely readers) - our babies do not need to give us their consent because, do you know what, 99.99999 per cent of all parents would never do anything ever, ever that would harm their child. In fact, it's the total opposite. IDIOTS!!

mikesenker@gmail.com



Your paper - your voice - your opinion

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Be careful as there are thieves everywhere

HAVE just read your article on thieves targeting drivers - I had my tyres slashed while stopped to get directions in Valencia. Followed up with offers to help to change it. Although we did not realise this was a scam, luckily we had breakdown cover so did not fall victim.

The Spanish lady I was speaking to saw the young man do it and screamed for the police. As in your article, the police said it happens thousands of times!

However a week later at a large supermarket In Estepona I was targeted and followed back to my car and while unloading, my handbag was stolen from the boot as I turned my back to pick up the shopping, they were so close to me!

Since then other tactics have been tried by often foreign gangs and despite taking all precautions, I have been robbed again just walking along the port at Cabopino and my broad Glaswegian husband was with me and did not notice their technique!

Anne Geddes, Costa del Sol

Boozy flights

TOTALLY agree with no alcohol on flights! Our outbound flight to Malaga

Not so much just beachy as simply beastly

SPAIN deservedly wins a number of accolades, but I read the latest with incredulity ('Just beachy,' front page, Issue 1714).

Spain may have 'the most blue flags on the planet' according to ADEAC, but are any of its representatives familiar with the beautiful but sometimes filthy coastline from Marbella to Nerja?

We are all too aware of the slicks of sewage floating close to our beaches as it continues to be pumped untreated into

With this in mind the 590 strips of clean beaches, wherever they are in Spain, seem an irrelevance to the Costa del Sol and Axarquia.

David R Worboys, El Capistrano Village



UNPLEASANT: The polluted sea off Nerja.

was at 5.45am and there were groups of golfers and hen parties who were obviously out to have a good time, but really do they (a) need to drink that early and (b) inflict their raucous behaviour on fellow passengers? Save it till you land and behave badly in your own hotel or bar, then people have a choice to avoid you, not be trapped in a plane with you!

Corinne, Malaga Province

iRate

LAST week I purchased an iPhone 8

I had previously had an iPhone 5 and was extremely pleased with it. On arriving home and setting it up I suspected a microphone problem as people were unable to understand my conversation.

I returned to the shop with the phone only to be told that they don't exchange faulty phones, instead I had to go to the Apple shop in Palma where they would send it off for repair.

Apparently there are many problems with the iPhone 8. I was led to believe that by law, you had up to 15 days to return faulty goods and be given a replacement. So I'm very disappointed.

Jenifer Parkhouse, Son Xotano

HAVE YOUR SAY

All letters by email or post should carry the writer's address, NIE and contact number though only the name and town will be published.

Readers who have missed correspondence can see all letters - which can be edited before publication - posted on: www.euroweeklynews.com.

Outrage after men mistreat sick bull

I don't understand how this still goes on...

Harming/killing animals for entertainment = animal abuse... which is a crime. I just don't understand why if Joe blogs kills a dog for fun he goes to jail (albeit a pathetic sentence, but that's another topic)... yet when a bull is killed in the ring for fun it is OK.

I don't understand and I never will.

Zara Mária

This is a disgusting and barbaric practice, Spain needs to hang its head in shame time to stop it.

Pat Ward

EU threatens action over protected bird hunting

Wild birds in captivity should be illegal. Like gold finches in very small cages just to sing!!!!

Rob Whaley

Birds need a lot more protection, the laws are there, they just need enforcing. A lot of evil practices going on that will rob us all of these beautiful creatures in the near future.

Marcus Tipa

Comments from EWN online

About time too! It makes me want to weep seeing these macho men hiding in the bushes and trapping these beautiful souls.

Sandra Russell

Scandalous this still goes on in Santa Pola. Evil

Peter Rice

Youth sets up fundraising page to pay for holi-

Well, mate, what you have to do, is grow a pair, work at least two jobs if not more, as I did, because if you want to do anything in life or get anywhere you have to work for it - not beg for it! So get on with it!! Stop begging!!

Marv Naismith

If people knew what they were paying for... Well

Sharmain Marie Wadsworth

Call for tourist carriage ban after horse death

I have had horses all my life, the problem is the time they work with no food or water. If the horses worked a morning/afternoon/evening rota then people could still enjoy the horses and the horses would not suffer.

They must have water at their waiting stations all the time and then fed before work and after work. The reason they do not give them water and food is to stop then weeing and messing in the streets. It's all about horse management.

Sean Sharon Applin

Stop it, they are not cared for properly, left to stand in boiling heat. The owners of these horses do not care about welfare, just cash. Tourists should stop using them.

Such cruelty to these beautiful horses. It is outdated and barbaric. Yes, it's time to stop this now.

Jan Andersen-Page

Motorhomes debate

A FEW weeks ago Messrs May wrote concerning the number of motorhomes wild camping in La Marina, a subject I also wrote to Euro Weekly News about last year as I am a motorhome owner and also a property owner.

Last week, Dave from Turre, a motorhome owner, wrote to express his annoyance at the letter stating that visitors to Spain don't have to pay for rubbish clearance or water. I think he'll find that visitors paying to stay in hotels, apartments, or campsites, will have this cost factored into their charges. As a property owner, I'd also like to remind him that water bills in Spain are high and we all pay for rubbish removal

There are some countries where wild camping is permitted for a few days ie Portugal and even Scotland. In residential areas of Spain, it isn't. Perhaps when I return to the UK in my motorhome I should park up for a few days outside his home, empty my water tank, put up my TV satellite, fill my tank from his water supply, put my rubbish in his bin.

If by some miracle the weather is warm, I'll set up my chairs on the pavement outside the motorhome to read my paper whilst my washing is drying on the rack! That should be OK providing I nip to the local shops for my supplies.

B Metcalfe, Pinar de Campoverde

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Cryptic

Across

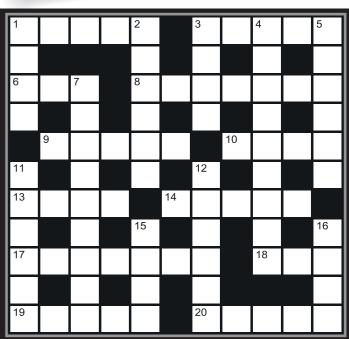
- 1 Some exotic horizontal sausage
- 5 Suppose guests lose time (5) 8 A criminal I got surrounded by the force's leader (5)
- 9 Wishes of French parents (7) 10 A slip, perhaps, if backing into tree
- 11 Nothing evil about Popeye's girlfriend (5)
- 12 A baler is destroyed to make the land ready for cultivation (6)
- 14 Released and spread around (6)
- 17 Scruffy togas for Capricorns (5) 19 Escort a damaged ship (7)
- 21 Greed displayed by girl taking pudding (7)
- 22 Saint gets everything to come to a standstill (5)
- 24 A point to a story, kept too long (5) 25 Its diet is unusual but most neat (7)

Down

- 1 Stop filming a share of the profits (3)
- 2 Cop in estate car traps suspect (5)
- 3 Non-believer at home gets filed away (7)
- 4 Official instructions for religious groups (6)
- 5 In August one has enthusiasm (5) 6 Nobleman, one with the Queen previously (7)

- 7 Sure, spend liberally for an elastic strap (9)
- 10 Hybrid language or slang with fair translation (9)
- 13 State in which a Buddhist priest entertains a bishop (7)
- 15 Penny's up to be commended (7)
- 16 A Canadian's first coin, in a manner of speaking (6)
- **18** Turbulent times for pound (5)
- 20 Calling the exchange (5)
- 23 Agree to a court decision (3)

Quick



Across

- 1 Collection of maps in book form (5)
- 3 Moderately warm (5)
- 6/18 Weapon that fires pellets (3,3)
- 8 Not strict (7)
- 9 Group of eight performers (5)
- 10 Honey producing insects (4) 13 Unpleasantly cool and humid (4)
- **14** Start (5)
- 17 Portending evil (7)
- **18** See 6

SSWOR

- 19 Sugary (5)
- 20 Soft or heavy with water (5)

Down

- 1 Partly open (4)
- 2 Soft white precious metal (6)
- 3 Heavily armoured fighting vehicle (4)
- 4 Existing or coming before (9)
- 5 Dislike intensely (6)
- 7 Restore friendly relations between (9)
- 11 Unequivocally detestable (6)
- 12 Playing in opposition to (6)
- 15 Young male horse under the age of four
- 16 Covetousness (4)

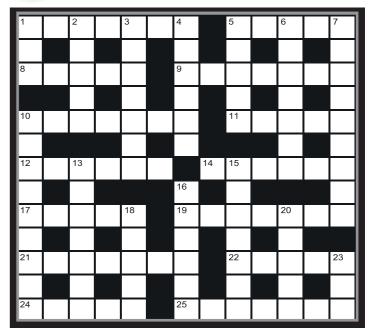
Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 4 represents C and 6 represents R, so fill in C every time the figure 4 appears and R every time the figure 6 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.

12	18	18	1		21	20	5		9	2	6	26	1	12	10	25
6		22		9	9		15		14		5		3	3		3
26	7	5	2	2	25		4	17	5	6	12	20	1	13	3	7
1		6		4	4		5		17		26		5	5		16
1	26	14	. 4		10	3	6	12	5		14	5	6	6	22	5
17		17					2		14		25					6
5	17	5	13	3 (5	7	25		14	9	6	2	3	}	14	14
		5		2	25			!			3		2	22		
4	3	2	14	4 2	26	11	5		23	18	6	19	3	3	6	1
3				8	8		7		17				1	17		6
21	26	24	. 18	8 9	9		25	6	3	7	14	17	3	3	25	5
3		3			5		6		7		3		7	7		14
6 R	3	4	C 5	2	25	6	3	4	16		17	26	4	ļ	16	14
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25	3	14	. 14	4 !	5	17	14		6	5	1	10	5	5	3	1
1	2	(3	4 (5 C		⁶ R	7	8	9	10)	11		12	13
14	15	T	16	17	18	8	19	20	21	22	23	3	24		25	26

English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Nothing else (4,3)
- **5** Prensa (5)
- 8 Sustantivos (5) 9 To repeat (7)
- **10** Fourteen (7)
- 11 To ring (telephone) (5)
- **12** Against (6)
- 14 Cebollas (6) 17 Behind (at the back) (5)
- 19 Atrasos (financiero) (7)
- **21** To shave (7)
- **22** Cuellos (5)
- 24 Nickname (5)
- **25** Poppy (7)

Down

- 1 Monja (3)
- 2 Duda (5)
- 3 To show (7) 4 Pantalla (cine) (6)
- 5 Tuberías (5)
- 6 Tobacconist's shop (7)
- 7 Sorpresas (9)
- 10 Spoonful (9) 13 Norwegian (7)
- **15** Orange (7)
- **16** Homeland (6)
- **18** Place (5)
- 20 Wide (street, river, trousers) (5) 23 Mar (3)

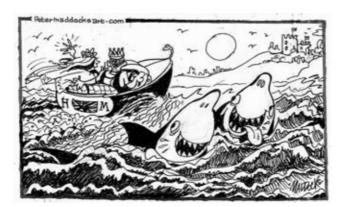
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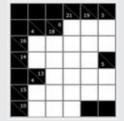
ADDOCK



THAT'S THEM ON HONEYMOON -THE TASTIEST COUPLE ON THE PLANET! '

Kakuro

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



Nonagram



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

TARGET:

- Average: 10 Very good: 20
- Good: 14 • Excellent: 25

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

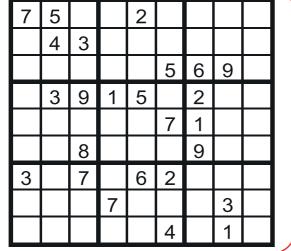
cert coot cote curt cute foot fort fret reft root rort rote rout tofu torc tore torr tour tref true turf court croft cruet cuter eruct fetor forte outer recto retro rotor route truce truer curter footer rector rooter router torero tourer crofter FORECOURT

Sudoku

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

ENGLISH-SPANISH

1 Bolsa, 4 Sitting, 8 Singers, 9 Pipes 10 Upstairs, 11 Topo, 13 Acabar, 15 Cadena, 18 Soap, 19 Jubilado, 22 Large, 23 Pulgada, 24 Surname, 25 Santo

- 1 Báscula, 2 Lunes, 3 Amenazar, 4 Sastre, 5 Tipo, 6 Improve, 7 Gusto, 12 Palillos, 14 Agarrar,
- 16 Avocado, 17 Purple, **18** Sells, **20** Again, **21** Leña.

1 Recant, 4 Regain, 9 Elusive

10 Yacht, 11 Ewes, 12 Contrive, 14 Impel, 16 Gaunt, 20 Observer

CRYPTIC

21 Teal, **24** Abide, **25** Emerged, 26 Overdo, 27 Allege.

1 Reeled, 2 Crude, 3 Nail,

5 Egyptian, **6** Auction, **7** Nutmeg, **8** Venom, **13** Befriend, **15** Massive,

17 Potato, 18 Defer, 19 Pledge,

22 Eagle, 23 Heel.

QUICK

1 Choose, 4 Cede, 8 Cormorant, 9 Earl, 10 Unless, 13 Totter, 15 Fair, 18 Stalemate, 19 Boss. 20 Cactus.

1 Comment, 2 Occur, 3 Sure, 5 Evade,

6 Eat, 7 Found, 11 Surplus, 12 Beret, 14 Traps, 16 Alert, 17 Data, 18 Sob. CODE BREAKER

B³N⁴Q⁵S⁶U⁷W ¹⁰P

UK NATIONAL







22)

(26)

BONUS BALL

(2)

12

(3)

6

(22)

(4)

(28)

RONUS RALI















EL MILLON: CSB02014





















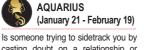
KAKURO



CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

There is sensitivity in your chart. It is possible to overlook someone who needs your time and consideration.

OUR STA FOR NEXT 7 DAYS



casting doubt on a relationship or plan? Something is going on so make sure that you have all the facts. It would be gullible of you to take everything at face value. You have good supportive colleagues and may seek their advice. Be optimistic as the weekend comes and remember your sense of humour.



PISCES (February 20 - March 20)

Showing confidence means others see you as being very much in control. They need to see that you can be trusted. If a plan is not going in the right direction, be prepared to change tack. Changes should not be made to financial plans until you are sure of your ground. Romantically, you are being admired.



ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

It is all go for you at the moment. Not only will you be particularly clearthinking but your intellect will be sharp as a knife. Your enthusiasm spills over from your business life to personal rs, leading to a hectic and eventful time all week. When it comes to romance, a positive and dynamic approach stands you in good stead.



TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

It is now important that you are clear about the person you wish to spend your time with because you may have more than one option. Plans that you started last week are now showing progress. Keeping the pace growing is essential to beat rivals. It is not an easy week by any means but it should



GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

A tendency to be emotional because of a setback should be avoided. When you feel the pressure rising, remember that nothing is worth risking your health for. Sound out friends and colleagues to avoid over-reacting. It is a week when you realise how someone close is able to be a great help. The question is, can you accept it?



You are not a mind-reader and they may not directly seek your help. Be aware, then, of how others are faring.



LEO (July 24 - August 23)

When someone asks you this week where you are going, will you know the answer? You will make progress if vou do. If vou're not sure, then there is no point in going full steam ahead. This is a week to consider your options on all fronts, particularly in business.



VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)

A personal decision needs to be made. No major changes are necessary so long as you have a firm plan. It is not so much that caution is required, rather more that you should give yourself time to consider. In the longer term, you may see this week as a turning point



LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)

This is a week of planning and making changes. Some things click into place and you realise that you are on your way to completing an ambition. The trick is to manage it without upsetting people on the home front.



SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)

Are you putting off a decision affecting others? This is a good time to take the bull by the horns. Keep an eye on finances involving younger people. Sometimes, you are better able to help in other ways, perhaps by giving encouragement or advice.



SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)

Your activities this week may seem to be ones best done alone. To a certain extent this is true. However, if you wish to make others feel important and gain their support in the future, you should involve them. You don't have to take advice which is given but be diplomatic when not acting on it.



CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)

Are you feeling less positive than usual? We all do at times. If energy is low get out for a long walk in a relaxing place. Perhaps watch a film that raises your spirits. There is about you a kind of regret and fondness for the past, but there is nothing wrong with sentimentality so long as it does not cloud your picture of the future. That can be bright indeed.

QUIZ: TV QUIZ SHOWS AND PANEL GAMES

- 1. Which quiz show that originally ran from October 1971 to November 1983, billed itself as 'live from Norwich - the guiz of the week'?
- 2. Which former tennis star is the current host of BBC's A Question of Sport? 3. What was the title of the bizarre BBC2 quiz show with two teams of celebrities who were asked, often
- nonsensical, questions by hosts Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer? 4. Michael Barrymore's long-running quiz Strike It Lucky was renamed what in December 1996?
- 5. Who was the original host of BBC1's Ask The Family?
- 6. What did all the losing contestants receive as a prize in Blankety Blank?

- 7. With which quiz show would you principally associate the phrase: 'I'll have a P please Bob'?
- 8. In which panel game did two teams of three celebrities try to hoodwink each other over the meaning of bizarre words from the dictionary?
- 10. In Big Break, which snooker player was presenter Jim Davidson's assistant?

9. In which quiz show did the unsuccessful contestants receive a 'bendy Bully'?

Not a lot of people know that... Countdown was the first programme ever broadcast on Channel 4, and

Richard Whiteley was the first face to be seen.

1. SALE OF THE CENTURY,
2. SUE BARKER, 3. SHOOTING
STARS, 4. MICHAEL
BARRYANGES STRIKE
(accept STRIKE IT RICH),
5. ROBERT ROBINSON - it was
revived 1999 hosted by Alan
Titchmarsh, 6. BLANKETY
BLANK CHEQUEBOOK AND
PEN Statuette,
7. BLOCKBUSTERS, 8. CALL
MY BLUFF, 9. BULLSEYE,
10. JOHN VIRGO.

Answers:

Mixed reviews for TripAdvisor's coverage of Britain's top spots

Nora Johnson Breaking Views



THERE'S just no pleasing some people. The UK's got World Heritage Sites, a vibrant and cultured capital city and great landscapes. But not all visitors are im-

pressed. As some recent less-than-glowing TripAdvisor reviews reveal.

Take Stonehenge for instance. An acknowledged wonder of the ancient world and Unesco heritage site? Not so for one reviewer: 'Just a bunch of rocks.' For another: 'The definition of a tourist trap. Miles and miles of travelling to arrive at a park where you are given an audio guide to some really uninteresting rocks.'

Surely the white cliffs of Dover, the first glimpse of Britain for many visitors, would fare better? Not exactly: 'Except for the historical significance, there isn't anything exciting about the cliffs as they are today. Glistening white? They're more like a



STONEHENGE: 'Just a bunch of rocks' for one disgruntled visitor.

dingy brown.

Maybe the other end of the country -Land's End. Cornwall - would cut it? Hardly! 'Went out of our way to visit while camping in Cornwall and wished we hadn't bothered. The landmark has all the charm of a really bad service station, everything seemed overly commercialised and overpriced. We left after half an hour.'

London wouldn't come in for so much stick, eh? Wrong! Trafalgar Square's 'too noisy' and Leicester Square's 'hell on a stick. Bars rammed full of tourists and the square full of kids trying to nick

What about the prestigious British Museum? Well, for one reviewer it's 'coma inducing.' For another: 'We really tried to like the exhibits but it was just so utterly

And Scotland? Forget it! Ben Nevis is 'too steep and too high' and Loch Ness ('just a regular lake') is hardly worth the

TripAdvisor - by the people, for the people - is a site that encapsulates the internet conundrum. Its benefits to the paying public are obvious but its misuse can be devastating. Undoubtedly a useful tool, it's obviously only as good as the reviewers. Aim to get corroborating information from other travel sites... or, better still for this year's holidays, simply use your own judgement.

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.norajohnson.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

Is CGT plusvalia?

You wrote in the May 3-9 issue that if one is over 65 and tax resident in Spain for three years, one will not be obliged to pay Capital Gains Tax (plusvalia). This is misleading as everyone, regardless of age, must pay the municipal plusvalia tax to the town hall where your property is located. It is the main government plusvalia that one avoids after the age of 65. I am over 65 and I sold my main residence in Benalmadena last year and I was obliged to pay nearly \in 10,000 to the town hall. I feel the article is confusing.

LH (Costa del Sol)

GOOD point. There are two

David Searl You and the Law in Spain

taxes the seller pays. • Capital Gains Tax,

charged on the profit from the sale. This is a national Tax Agency tax.

• The 'plusvalia' is a municipal tax based on the rateable value (IBI) of the property and the time that has passed since it last changed hands.

It is indeed confusing. In your question you combine the two. Don't do that. They are similar but not the same. CGT is national and plusvalia is municipal.

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

A right royal treat is out there



IN a week where Prince Harry and Meghan tied the knot, why not maintain a royal theme and explore some of Spain's very own perfect matches?

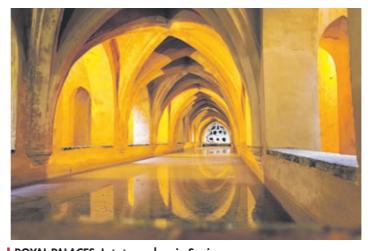
The royal palaces of Alhambra, Granada and Alcazar in Sevilla, each display a magnificent marriage of architectural prowess from bygone ages. If you've yet to visit these UN-ESCO World Heritage sites, it's a good time to go and avoid peak season crowds and temper-

Did you know that the Royal Alcazar in Sevilla, is the oldest royal palace still in use in the whole of Europe? Originally a Moorish fort built in the 10th

century by the first Caliph of Andalucia, it's a breathtaking blend of Christian and Mudejar architecture.

Since 913, it's undergone 11 centuries of home improvements, all of which have left their mark, including Islamic, Gothic. Renaissance and Baroque features. Perhaps the most extravagant were by King Pedro, in the 14th century, who added the lavish Palacio de Don Pedro. Alcazar remains in the roval limelight and featured in the fantasy epic, Game of Thrones. TV series.

The Alhambra, with its renowned red hue, framed by the dramatic Sierra Nevada peaks, offers a majestically elaborate display of Moorish architecture. It's the only preserved palatine city from the Islamic period and is a fortress, palace and walledcity rolled into one. Famous for being the opulent seat of Grana-



ROYAL PALACES: Lots to explore in Spain.

da's Nasrid emirs, it's among the finest Islamic buildings in Eu-

With its origins first referenced in the 9th century it offers a unique window into Spain's rich history spanning from the Nasrid dynasty to Charles V. The Alhambra Park even incorporates a dense wood of English

elms planted by the Duke of Wellington in 1812.

If you fancy a peek at a palace further afield, our favourites include the spectacular renaissance architecture of Chateau de Chambord, in France https://www.chambord.org/en/, the Royal Palace, Stockholm, https://www.kungahuset.se, or Palatzo Pitti in delightful Florence

https://www.ufnbfizi.it/en/pittipalace.

If travelling beyond your home country, remember to buy reliable travel insurance that covers unforeseen mishaps. Globelink can get you covered up to the age of 89, with free cruise cover and 50 pre-existing medical conditions covered as standard, including high blood pressure, diabetes, gastric reflux, hypertension and more. Wherever you chose to travel, visit the FCO website on health and safety abroad, www.gov.uk/trav

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Feasting on Nordic

A RECENT World Health Organisation (WHO) study has concluded that the Nordic diet is as effective as the Mediterranean diet when it comes to losing weight and staying healthy.

And although eating like a Viking might never have crossed your mind before, it would seem that it has many health advantages.

Studies have shown the diet to reduce the risk of cancer, cardiovascular disease and Alzheimer's.

It has also been proven to reduce pain and relieve inflammation produced by rheumatic diseases, arthritis and osteoporosis.

The Nordic diet refers

RICH IN PROTEIN: The WHO suggests we should all be eating Nordic

to food from countries such as Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Iceland.

It was created by a group of nutritionists in 2004 to try to fight worldwide obe-

Its benefits lie in the fact that it contains less sugar and fat than Western diets and has a lot of fibre and fish, such as herring, mackerel, salmon

It also encourages meat

in small quantities, such as veal, lamb and pork.

Cheese and eggs are also acceptable in moderation but sugar, processed meats and fast and precooked food is a no-go.

And just because it's from the north doesn't can't be hot and spicy.

Dishes can be seasoned with dill, thyme, cinnamon and ginger to give them that extra kick. So why not be adventurous and try something new from the north?

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Sparkling in spectacles





AUSTRALIAN pop star Kylie Minogue has launched her second collection of glasses.

And for a woman about to blow out 50 candles this Monday she looks as sexy as ever.

Each new pair in the Kylie Minogue eyewear collection takes its name from one of her classic tracks, including All The Lovers and Spinning

According to Kylie, the collection can be defined as 'reinterpreted retro.'

It features a chic mix of rose gold, soft pastels and classic monochrome, adorned with delicate Swarovski crystals - and her unmistakable

Kylie says she introduced the sparkle detail so the glasses can easily switch from 'daytime wear to nighttime'or vice-versa, so vou won't have to return home to change once the sun starts to

Her collection of six new styles are exclusively available now in British firm Specsavers Opticas stores in Spain.

So, why not indulge yourself and dare to look like a di-

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

PABLO LOPEZ will be performing tomorrow night in the Trui Theatre in Palma at 9pm.

The concert is part of his 'Santa Libertad' tour, which he is presently performing throughout Spain.

In this tour, Pablo Lopez showcases his new album 'Camino, Fuego y Libertad.' He has so far played to sell-out audiences, thrilling them from his opening song *El camino*.

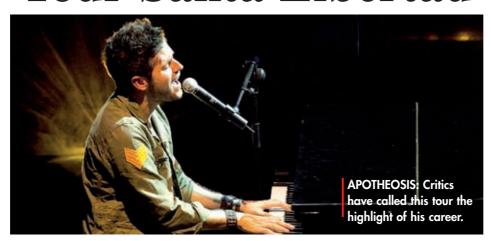
Before his tour kicked off at the start of the month, Pablo said, "I'm really excited about everything I've done this year and a half to reach this moment." And it's not just him who is excited.

At all his concerts to date, the audiences have spent more

AFTER two seasons in front of packed houses in London's West End, and two successful tours throughout the UK, the musical adaption of the blockbuster classic, Dirty Dancing has just arrived to the Palma Auditorium in Palma de Mallorca.

This exciting story about Baby and Johnny is full of passion and romance, with show-stopping music and spectacular dance routines.

Tour Santa Libertad



time singing and dancing on their feet than seated. Pablo has a voice which is full of emotion and which fuses with his piano accompaniment.

His two-hour concert includes a number of hit songs from his most recent album and his classics from previous

He closes his concert with the heart-wrenching El Patio

Grey and Patrick Swayze to the big

The productions belts out fantastic and memorable songs like Hungry Eyes, Hey Baby, Do You Love Me? and the ultimate classic (I've Had) The Time of My Life.

The musical has just opened and will run until June 3.

To purchase tickets, please visit www.auditoriumpalma.com.

which he performs as a solo, accompanied only with his piano. Several musical critics at his concerts have called this moment the 'apotheosis' of his career. This is certainly an event not to be missed.

For tickets call *971 783 279* or visit www.culturalpalma.com.

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Eat Well to Live Well by Andrew Harding

EVERY chef or cook has a signature dish

It was originally a Rick Stein recipe but, I modified it to my taste. The original one is featured here with my changes detailed in the tips.

I like them both, the changes are for the sauce only.

Seared Tuna with Salsa Verde

Serves Two

For the Salsa Verde:

3 tablespoons parsley, washed and chopped

- 1 tablespoon mint, washed and chopped
- 1 tablespoon capers
- 6 whole anchovy fillets
- 1 whole garlic clove, finely chopped

3 tablespoons coriander, washed and chopped

1 tablespoon chives, washed and chopped

1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

Tip: This is 'my' salsa verde:

1 whole lemon juice

1 tablespoon capers

200ml olive oil

Eat well to live well!



Dirty

Dancing

The musical, which has broken records

all over the world, manages to successful-

ly recreate the nostalgia of the 80's with

all the emotion that brought Jennifer

GREEN STUFF: There is more than one way to make a salsa verde.

200ml olive oil

1 teaspoon salt

For the Tuna:

1 Tablespoon of olive oil

Two tuna steaks, about 125 grams each Salt and freshly ground black pepper to

An accompaniment

12 ounces mixed salad greens and baby

Salt and freshly ground black pepper to

- 1. First make the Salsa Verde. Put all the ingredients into a food processor and blend until liquidised. Spoon into a bowl and set aside.
- 2 Brush the tuna steaks on both sides with a little olive oil and season. Heat a ridged cast iron griddle (or a heavy base frying pan) over a high heat. Drizzle a little oil on to it, add the tuna steaks and sear for 1-2 minutes on the first side. Turn them over and cook for a further two minutes. This will leave the middle of the steaks almost raw; cook for longer if you prefer
- 3. Place the tuna steaks on four warmed plates and spoon some of the salsa on to each steak. Toss the salad leaves and tomatoes with a little olive oil, salt and pepper and pile them alongside the tuna.

Put all the ingredients into a food processor and blend until well mixed together. Spoon into a bowl and set aside.

Tip: Look at the middle of the tuna steak from the side to check if





6 whole anchovy fillets it is cooked to your taste. 2 whole garlic cloves, finely chopped **Tip:** The Salsa Verde freezes well and does not deteriorate even 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard when defrosted more than once. More than three times I would not recommend! 1 whole lemon juice and grated zest Tip: Use extra virgin olive oil for a better taste and consistency. Mob 664 813 333

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Leftist leader's € 600,000 pad

THE leader of a far-left political party has come under fire after it emerged he bought a €600,000 home despite criticising other politicians for buying similarly-priced properties.

Pablo Iglesias, leader of the Podemos party and a representative for Madrid in Spain's Parliament, will move into the 250 square-metre home with his partner and colleague Irene Montero. The couple reportedly took out a € 540,000 mortgage between them. They will pay back € 270,000 each over the next 30 years in around € 1,600 a month instalments.

The home sits on a 2,000 square-

metre plot and features a swimming pool. It is in Galapagar, a town northwest of Madrid which was reportedly chosen because it is near a school known for its alternative learning methods. Iglesias and Montero announced they were expected twins on March 31. The couple also have three dogs and said they wanted a family home with a garden.

The purchase has caused controversy due to Iglesias' comments criticising former economy minister Luis de Guindos for buying a €600,000 penthouse in August 2012

Podemos sources said the cases could not be compared because Guindos bought the home as an investment

A video from 2015 of Iglesias criticising politicians who 'isolate' themselves in their homes has also resurfaced online.

Montero wrote on Facebook that their salaries as public servants had enabled them to buy the house.

"We know that many Spanish families cannot afford a mortgage like this and that is why we understand it is so important to defend decent wages for everyone," she said.



UNDER FIRE: Pablo Iglesias leads the far-left Podemos party.

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

Ref 3117, Vallgornera, 170,000€

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



Ref 3059, La Rapita, 189,000€

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



Ref 3115, Son Bielo, 268,000€

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



Ref 3112, Campos, 1,060,000€

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



Ref 3118, Llucmajor, 106,500€

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



Ref: 3104, Algaida, 160,000€

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



Conor McGregor escapes furore with € 1.5 million Spanish pad



LAP OF LUXURY: McGregor can await his court ruling in style.

CONOR MCGREGOR has a perfect new place to get away from his troubles after splashing ≤ 1.5 million on a luxury villa in Marbella.

The Dublin-born MMA star, 29, has reportedly snapped up a property in an exclusive development on the La Resina country club estate.

The €17 million gated community boasts uninterrupted views over the Mediterranean, and is known as the 'Superstars Cul de Sac.'

McGregor's neighbours will include Danish former goal-

keeper Thomas
Sorensen, Spurs' up and coming midfielder Harry Winks,
and Kiwi ex-golf champion
Michael Campbell.

Villas in the development are fully attuned to modern living, combining the latest smart technology with a lift, a wine cellar, outdoor fire pits, home spa and swimming pool.

The properties open out onto

the La Resina Golf Course, which is in the heart of the Golden Triangle, between Estepona and the luxurious port of Puerto Banus.

An automation system in the house controls lighting, air conditioning and entertainment systems, and McGregor is likely to make use of the option to have a customised gym fitted.

Last month,

McGregor was caught on camera throwing a trolley at a bus full of MMA fighters, smashing one of its windows and injuring one of them in the process.

The colourful but controversial character turned himself into the police after the incident, and if he is convicted he could face several years in prison.



21 **1**1

Lifestyle Properties

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1 45m²

€225.000 🚝 2



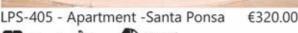


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1 1 70m²





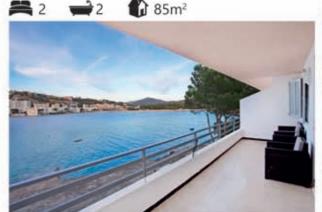


€320.000 LPS-335 - Villa - Nova Santa Ponsa €2.950.000 LP-1960 - Apartment -Santa Ponsa 55m²

1505m²



2 54m²



82m²



LPSC-325 - Apartment -Santa Ponsa €350.000 LPSC-411 - Penthouse - Santa Ponsa €450.000 LPSC-410 - Apartment -Santa Ponsa €133,000 **3** → 3 157m²



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Cheering up your garden space with marigolds

GRAEME TYRRELL

GARDENS make a great ambience to feel re-

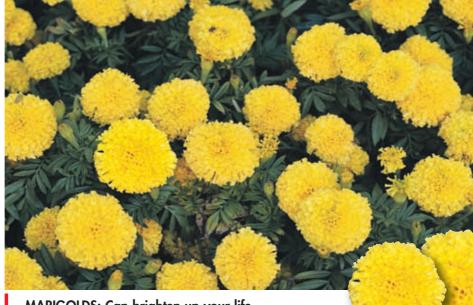
The greenery alone is enough to put you at greater ease but there is also the scent, colours, fascinating forms and structures of flowers or the useful production of plants for the kitchen and potpourri that can be very rewarding.

It is always great to enhance the garden with at least a few special flowers that will add something more to a garden. This year I have chosen marigolds to brighten up my vegetable garden.

Some friends eagerly helped me to plant out rows of tomatoes, capsicum, various types of colourful specialty lettuce, onions interplanted to deter some pests, aubergines, beets, beans, various herbs throughout and many more vegetables.

It looked fantastic to see all the plants I had grow from seed finally in the soil surrounded by various other plants from the local nurseries. The nice neat rows were all weed free from tilling the soil and with the unseasonal quantity of rain in the warm May weather everything is thriving.

The one thing missing was enough colour.



MARIGOLDS: Can brighten up your life.

I had planted some mystic roses to help keep the tomatoes healthier but they were not in flower yet. It needed something more.

That is when I saw the marigolds at a Sunday market stall. Perfect. I bought only half a dozen and took them home.

Next morning I took them to the vege garden and just put one in each of the centre rows. The effect was stunning as the marigold in flower contrasted so brightly with the rest of the garden. They caught the eye even just approaching the garden. Just these few plants brought the vege garden to a new height of attraction.

They are very easy to grow and flower over most of summer. Being in the vegetable garden with its enriched soil and regular watering meant that there was little additional work to grow them. They are also attributed to be beneficial in repelling many garden pests including soil-born nematodes, slugs and some flying insects.

Marigolds come in a small range of colours from bright yellows to golden bronze and coppery colours. I chose three different shades to add variety as all are attractive. There are also a few different varieties.

The African marigold is the taller one I used in the vege garden as they will grow up tall with the tomatoes and capsicum and the flowers are generally larger and brighter whilst the French marigold is shorter and per-

fect for borders and containers such as window boxes. They are prolific at flowering if given plenty of nutrients other than too much nitrogen. Nitrogen will give good growth but fewer flowers.

There is also the signet marigold that has a simpler flower and is often used in rockeries as it is very hardy. Some people use the flowers from this to add to salads and as decoration on food plates as it is edible.

What ever way you chose to grow marigolds you can be sure that they will brighten up your growing space.

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Practising permaculture

AS people become more conscious of the part they play in caring for the planet and using resources more wisely a certain approach to gardening is becoming increasingly popular.

Permaculture is an approach to producing food without destroying, polluting or depleting natural resources. Its philosophy aims to create a sustainable system, which is ecologically healthy and economically viable.

A very simple example is the indigenous practice of planting corn, beans and squash together.

Corn requires very fertile soil and depletes nutrients during its growth. Beans add nitrogen to the soil, thus feeding the corn and feeding nutrients into the soil. However, beans require a structure to grow against, and this is provided by the corn stem. Both benefit from the pump-

kin that covers the soil, conserving moisture and preventing the growth of weeds.

This is how permaculture design is mutually beneficial. It takes advantage of the maximum space available to achieve high production, whilst protecting and promoting diversity.



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THE world's most prestigious flower show is presently in full swing in the UK. The Chelsea Flower Show began on Tuesday and will close on Saturday. Each year, the event attracts over 150,000 visitors who come to see some fabulous gardens and take some ideas home.

In case you can't attend this year's event, here are a few design ideas offered by the show's garden designers for those with a petite garden.

If planting space is tight, consider laying chunky wooden planks, such as railway sleepers, on the ground to create a

RHS Chelsea **Flower** Show

raised planting area, as demonstrated in Fancy a Brew? Take a Pew. Remember, these raised beds can double up as seating when required.

And when the flower beds are full, consider using walls and other raised areas to house yet more plants. The low rendered wall in Youth Workz Garden was built with a shallow planting trough inset along the top.

You can also give the impression of bringing water into the garden without actually needing to install pumps and lin-

In The Drought Garden, designer Steve Dimmock used smooth cobbles within a curved channel lined with rough stone to define the dry stream bed.

So don't be restricted by your small space. For more information and ideas about the gardens, or even to book last minute tickets for the show, visit www.rhs.org.uk.



Clicker training

AS we looked at last week. the primary means of controlling dog behaviour has been with a collar and lead, even though most pet dog owners do not have the strength and skill required for proper con-

However, there is another form of dog training based on the system used by Karen Prvor, pioneer marine mammal trainer who developed the 'Clicker' for dolphins and whales. The training of dolphins is based on positive reinforcement - a reward for doing what is required, usually a bucket of fish.

Pryor's experiences planted seeds in the minds of many dog trainers and behaviourists. They figured out if marine mammal trainers can control 600-pound sea lions without shouting and force, then why couldn't they adopt a similar technique for dog

Marine mammal trainers use whistles and clickers because before they can even say the word 'Good' the mammal has disappeared under the water or jumped 30 feet into the air. As soon as a mammal reaches the highest part of a jump, it knows that unless it hears a click it will get no fish.

The mammal has learnt that if it obeys a command, it hears a click and gets a food reward. No click, no reward.

I believe that the more we talk to our pets in training the less they understand. It is important to try and shorten praise words to one word like 'Good' rather than 'Now that's a clever boy'.

With a clicker, there are no words. Good behaviour is rewarded with a click, then a treat. If any dog knows you have a treat it will sit. When it does so, click and treat.



When the dog is getting up, say 'Up', click and treat.

If the dog lies down, just as it does so, say 'Down', then click and treat. When the dog comes to you, then say 'Come', then click and

You will be amazed at how

quickly the dog will understand simple one-word commands that are followed by the click and treat. Remember the dog only gets the click after it has carried out the required command.

The American behaviourists Karen Pryor and

Gary Wilkes have popularised this method with dog trainers using a small box clicker as a bridge. The click is always followed by a reward. The reward can be anything the dog desires although it is usually food, a treat or toy.

Enthusiasts of the method say its benefit over other methods are that the dog understands clearly what is wanted, as the click is far more distinct than any verbal marker, and it can be used on behaviours at a distance from the handler, such as sendaways and retrieves.

The clicker is only a training tool. Once a behaviour has been thoroughly learned and randomly rewarded, the clicker is no longer required.

When you are sure the dog will do what you want, start giving the cue as the dog does it. Try using a word to cue it. If this fails, go back to saying it as it happens.

Once the response is on cue, start varying how often you ask the dog to do it before clicking and rewarding. Click sometimes twice, sometimes once, sometimes three times and so on until eventually you can fade out the click altogether.

Stop rewarding the dog if what you require is done without a cue so that it only happens when you ask for it.

Pet care is an important issue

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At HouseSitMatch.com we use Trustpilot to manage and authenticate our customer reviews. Here is a recent review from a homeowner in Alme-

I am a house-sitter with HouseSitMatch. I find Lamia and the team very helpful. Lamia always seems to be on the phone to help whatever time it is, even weekends. I have enjoyed doing the house/pet-sits.

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Aga! I would recommend this company, it is like being part of a family. Liz Edge

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> To find a house or pet-sitter go to www.HouseSitMatch.com call Lamia on 00 44 (0) 777 214 2742 or email admin@housesitmatch.com

Cool as a cat

WITH the temperatures beginning to rise, your feline friend might begin to feel a bit hot under the collar.

Cats do have a slightly better natural coping mechanism to avoid dehydration than dogs or humans do, but they can still die from not having enough water. So to ensure your four-legged friend stays in purr-fect shape, look out for the following signs.

If your cat is struggling in the heat, it will pant heavily. Its tongue or gums may turn red, and it might drool or even vomit. It might also appear restless in its search to find a cool spot and it may stumble or appear dizzy.

To keep your top cat in tip-top health, always make sure it has access to fresh water. Trim your cat's coat and brush it, as it tends to shed more hair in the heat.

Try to keep a fan or airconditioning on around the house and always ensure there's a cool, shaded place within your home. If it seems to be struggling, pat it down with a wet cloth and move it somewhere cool.

Remember that like dogs. cats may lose their appetite in hot weather. So, don't be too concerned about this unless they cease eating or begin to vomit regularly.





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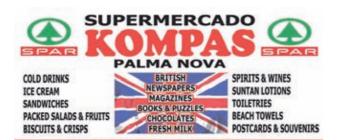


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The water cabs boast 'captain-less' technology



WET RIDE: Passengers could hail a Bubble via an app.

FUTURISTIC flying water taxis are reportedly due to hit the market this month.

The contraptions are called Bubble and produced by a French firm SeaBubble, which said it aims to be the 'Uber of water taxis,' emulating the ride sharing

Bubble was designed to reduce road traffic by zipping along rivers in major European cities. But the boats could also, reportedly, half commute times.

Once the boat reaches 12km/h it starts to glide on the surface of the water allowing the movement of the water to go unnoticed.

This makes it suitable for those who usually suffer from seasick-

Its battery powered motor is emission free and gives the vessel a range of 100km.

The Bubble uses driverless - or in this case 'captain-less' - technology, in keeping with its futuristic appearance.

SeaBubble has said it plans to release a mobile phone application so riders can arrange a pick up from wherever they may be.

A company official said: "The Bubble is autonomous during its rides and charges while people are getting in and out, while stationed at the dock.

"People can enter from the side door, with the help of a hostess, and take their seats in the Bubble.

"When reaching 12km/h the Bubble will start flying above the water, preventing any seasickness from sudden movements or waves rolling.

"Once the ride is over, the Bubble slowly comes back to the water level to reach the dock, letting its passengers out and waiting until the next ones are ready

And the forward-looking enterprise is currently testing the new technology in a five-week trial in Paris ahead of its planned market launch later this month.

Taxi splash | Huge and powerful new Yamaha engine

EVERY so often, something special appears that changes the rules

According to manufacturers, Yamaha, this new engine revolutionises the standards in all aspects: from the use of previously unattainable technologies, to the improvement of the user experience in a way that previously seemed impossible.

The new Yamaha V8 XTO Offshore 5.6 litre engine fits this description as among the features that appear for the first time in the sector and are direct injection and an integrated electrical steering system.

This engine has been designed to take Yamaha's highquality brand image to the next level. Something it achieves thanks to a huge power and thrust, unparalleled strength and reliability, unprecedented system integration and precise control, and maximum levels of comfort and customer ser-

Yamaha has achieved this by rethinking the outboard concept and its related systems, applying entirely new technologies in the sector, and, of course, leveraging its longstanding specialised expertise in outboard technology and production for which Yamaha is famous throughout the

To achieve the brute force necessary to 'push' the larger



YAMAHA: The size and power of the new engines are ideal for all styles of craft.

and heavier offshore vessels, in addition to luxury semi-rigid inflatable boats, very robust gearboxes and the most powerful motorised heads ever produced, combined to drive large propellers are needed.

In this case, the XTO Offshore is already unique, as it is the first four-stroke engine in the sector with direct injection. The injection of high pressure fuel directly into the combustion chamber significantly improves atomisation and increases the efficiency of fuel consumption to achieve maximum power and efficiency.

Missing yacht found

A YACHT that is normally rented to holiday makers at €990 per day, the Virgen del Mar II was at the centre of a major search when it seemed to have disappeared.

The owner had advised the marina that he would be taking it out for no more than half a day but when he did not return, his family became worried and alerted the authorities to its apparent disappearance.

Officers discovered that the owner had fuelled up before setting off for what was to be a

local trip but it appeared that he had left his two mobile phones in Mallorca rather than taking them with him.

Maritime Rescue became involved sending messages to the yacht without any response and although no emergency signal had been set off, officers worried that there had been an accident at sea and as the sailor was unaccompanied that he may have been unable to call for help.

As well as sending out rescue boats in the

general vicinity of where he had last been seen, aircraft flew on the route between Mallorca and Menorca in case his yacht could be sighted.

In the event, the Algerian National Coast Guard Service alerted the maritime arm of the Guardia Civil to the fact that his vessel had been found in Algerian waters and that the 46-year-old was fit and well.

As yet, the reason for his disappearance remains unexplained.



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The most expensive speeding ticket ever cost €1,000,000, issued to a Swedish driver who was clocked driving his Ferrari at 290kph.

BMW has revealed that its X8 SUV is likely to be its most pricey model when it is launched around 2020.

It is reportedly being designed to rival the Range Rover and upcoming Audi Q8, and when kitted out with extras could tussle with the Bentley Bentayga, Lamborghini Urus and Rolls-Royce Cullinan.

The German carmaker's head of development, Klaus Fröhlich, confirmed that the firm's most expensive model was under consideration.

"The sector is growing fast, so there will be opportunity," he said. "It is early to talk about the X8, but one of the first decisions I made when I worked on product strategy was to take the X5 and make the X6.

"Everyone said it was not necessary, but it worked. Now we have the X2, X4 and X6. They are emotional and sporty

Dream beamer

X8 takes aim at high-end market



derivatives that work for us.

"There is room for X8 - especially in markets like China - but there are no decisions yet. Each car must have a distinct character, and these are the sort of areas that take time to evaluate."

Talks are reportedly centred on whether the new model should be a coupe version of the X7, which is set to go on sale later this year, or a longwheelbase version.

It is likely to have the option of four or five seats in two rows, rather than the X7's seven seats across three configuration, with emphasis on luxurious rear-seat travel, since many owners will be chauffeur-driven.

The sales focus is likely to be China, Russia and the Middle East, meaning a V-12 engined version powered by the 592bhp, 590lb ft, 6.6-litre unit found in the 7 Series is strongly possible.

ROAD TEST

IT is hard to think of a better blend of power and practicality than the Audi Avant RS4, a sporty estate model which can transport a chest of drawers while showing you what Gforce you are experiencing!

Elegantly styled and beautifully built, the Avant RS4 can lay claim to being the best estate car in its class, embracing everyday domestic or business use with near-supercar performance

The RS4's heart is a superb 2.9-litre six-cylinder petrol unit with twin turbochargers delivering a hefty 444hp. The 0-100kph time is just 4.1 seconds, top speed limited to 250kph (155mph). Fuel economy is 11.3kpl (32.1mpg) combined and emissions 200g/km.

Power delivery is via a smooth eight-speed tiptronic gearbox, with permanent fourwheel drive.

The RS4 Avant is laden with too much equipment to even shortlist, and prices start at \in 70,573 (£62,175). There are plenty of options too - my

Audi Avant RS4



test model included larger alloy wheels, leather interior with heated front and rear seats, carbon inlays, upgraded technology features including a G-force indicator and a Dynamic Package which boosts top speed to 174 mph. All that took the price to €79,233 (£69,810).

The exterior of the Avant RS4 has subtle styling which still shows enough potent aspects to ensure its performance pedigree is evident the vast air intakes and huge twin exhaust outlets for instance.

Underway, it feels eagerly

fast and flexible, with a sporty undertone to refined urban driving and relaxing motorway cruising. Handling is beyond reproach, well-planted on twisty roads yet in city driving modes quiet and docile.

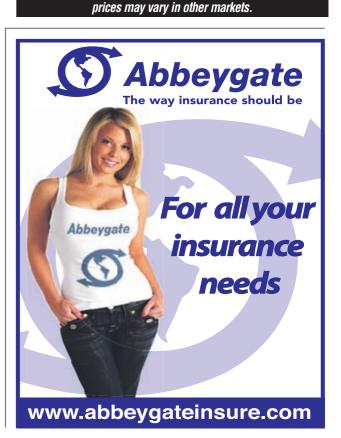
The premium cabin is superbly crafted with controls thoughtfully designed and located. Seating five adults with ease, the Avant has one of the largest boots in the sector, 505 litres, and with seats folded offers 1,500 litres of space. The tailgate is powered and has a low lip for easy loading.

This Audi has rivals, most notably from other German marques, but the RS 4 Avant's er and practicality, plus Audi's indefinable ultra-cool image puts it at the head of the pack.

Model tested is UK-specifi-

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





■ Model: Audi Avant RS4 ■ Engine: 2.9-litre turbo-petrol

250kph (155mph)

■ Emissions: 200g/km

■ Transmission: 8-speed tiptronic

■ Economy: 11.3kpl (32.1mpg)

■ Performance: 0-100kph 4.1 seconds, top speed

Model tested was UK-specification and equipment levels and

World Cup 2018

by Staff Reporter

SPAIN have announced their 23-man World Cup squad, and there is no place for Chelsea striker Alvaro Morata.

Teammates Cesc Fabregas and Marcos Alonso, plus Arsenal defender Hector Bellerin have also been left out, but Premier League stars David De Gea. David Silva. Cesar Azpilicueta and Nacho Monreal all get the nod from coach Julen Lopetegui.

Barcelona legend Andres Iniesta is included after his emotional farewell at the Nou Camp, while fellow stalwarts Gerard Pique, captain Sergio Ramos, Jordi Alba and Sergio Busquets also made the cut, and Diego Costa sealed his comeback with a spot on the plane

Former Liverpool striker Iago Iaspas and Valencia's Rodrigo Moreno are the other strikers.

But 25-year-old Morata has been axed after an underwhelming season at Stamford Bridge since joining from Real Madrid for around €65 million last

After the squad was announced he tweeted: "Lots of luck in the World Cup! As of now I'll be supporting and encouraging until the end as al-

Speaking at the squad announcement in Madrid, Lopetegui said: "This is the best and most beautiful competition in the world but at the same time

No Spain no gain

No Chelsea hitman axed from squad



MOR'S THE PITY: Blues striker Alvaro Morata has not been included in the Spanish squad.

Spain squad

Keepers: De Gea, Kepa and Reina

Defenders: Carvajal, Odriozola, Pique, Ramos, Nacho, Azpilicueta, Alba, Monreal Midfielders: Busquets, Saul, Iniesta, Thiago, Koke, Silva Forwards: Isco, Asensio, Lucas Vazquez, Diego Costa, Rodrigo, Aspas

Kane is able

STRIKER Harry Kane will captain England at the World Cup finals after manager Gareth Southgate paid tribute to his 'outstanding personal qualities.'

The Tottenham Hotspur star, 24, netted 41 goals in all competitions last season and has 12 goals in 23 caps for the

He first captained the national side during a 2-2 World Cup qualifying draw with Scotland, when he equalised in stoppage time, and has since worn the armband on a further

"I'm so excited for the World Cup, I can't wait to be there and experience it." he said

"To lead the lads out, it's going to be special."

Kane's club teammate Eric Dier and Liverpool midfielder Jordan Henderson have also skippered the team recently.

the most difficult as you only have three initial games to prove

"We've chosen the players we think are the best and feel that we have the ingredients to challenge for the title."

The 2010 winners will start the competition in Group B alongside European champions Portugal, Iran and Morocco, four years after they crashed out at the group stage but in the wake of a flawless qualifying campaign.

Spain, Germany and Brazil are the current favourites to win this summer's tournament in

Gossip column

WITH the English and Spanish football leagues now wrapped up, this new weekly column will look at who is in, who is out, and who is most wanted at clubs in both countries.

Paris St-Germain's Brazilian striker Neymar, 26, has told the board he wants to move to **Real Madrid** this summer. just a year after joining the French champions. (Goal)

Barcelona are plotting a summer move for Spurs' 17-yearold English forward Reo Griffiths, with midfielder Riqui Puig, 18, set to move in the opposite direction. (Star)

Manchester United have struck a € 40 million deal with Atletico Madrid for Croatian right back Sime Vrsaljko, 26. (Calciomercato)

Spanish coach Unai Emery is set to take over at Arsenal after leaving Paris St-Germain. (BBC)

Chelsea have made Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski, 29, their top summer target, with the Polish forward set to cost the Blues more than €110 million.

Manchester City have reignited their interest in Leicester winger Riyad Mahrez, 27, after missing out on the Algeria international in January. (Manchester Evening News)

Chelsea flop Alvaro Morata could be heading back to Italian champions Juventus after manager Massimiliano Allegri expressed an interest in the Spanish striker. (Gazzetta dello Sport)

French forward Antoine Griezmann moved a step closer to Barcelona after being booed by a section of Atletico Madrid fans in last weekend's final league game. (Marca)

Rumoured Liverpool target Max Meyer, 22, has reportedly agreed to stay in Germany with Hoffenheim after leaving Schalke 04 on a free transfer this summer. (Leipziger Volk-

Fitting finale

THE final weekend of La Liga brought emotional tributes to two of its most-celebrated stars.

Barcelona legend Andres Iniesta said goodbye after a 1-0 home win against Real Sociedad, with the midfielder lifting his ninth league title in the wake of a glittering 16-year, 669-game, 32-trophy career.

The 34-year-old was left in tears by the outpouring of gratitude by fans and players alike, and was later pictured sitting in his kit in the centre of the pitch until

In the capital, Fernando Torres brought the curtain down on his Atletico Madrid career by scoring two goals in a 2-2 draw with Eibar before breaking down during a farewell speech.

It comes in the wake of last week's Europa League victory over French club Marseille which saw the 34year-old win his first trophy with his boyhood club.

Atletico finished the season in second place as Real Madrid and Valencia occupied the other Champions League places.

Villareal and Real Betis will play in next season's Europa League, while Deportivo La Coruña, Las Palmas and Malaga were relegated.



LEGENDS: Andres Iniesta, above, and Fernando



SPANISH LA LIGA 2017/18 TABLE



							_
TEAM	Pts	PI	W	D	L	F	A
1 • Barcelona	93	38	28	9	1	99	29
2 • Atlético	79	38	23	10	5	58	22
3 • Real Madrid	76	38	22	10	6	94	44
4 • Valencia	73	38	22	7	9	65	38
5 • Villarreal	61	38	18	7	13	57	50
6 • Betis	60	38	18	6	14	60	61
7 • Sevilla	58	38	17	7	14	49	58
8 • Getafe	55	38	15	10	13	42	33
9 • Eibar	51	38	14	9	15	44	50
10 • Girona	51	38	14	9	15	50	59
11 • Espanyol	49	38	12	13	13	36	42
12 • R. Sociedad	49	38	14	7	17	66	59
13 • Celta	49	38	13	10	15	59	60
14 • Alavés	47	38	15	2	21	40	50
15 • Levante	46	38	11	13	14	44	58
16 • Athletic	43	38	10	13	15	41	49
17 • Leganés	43	38	12	7	19	34	51
19 • Deportivo	29	38	6	11	21	38	76
19 • Las Palmas	22	38	5	7	26	24	74
20 • Málaga	20	38	5	5	28	24	61

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WE

LIONEL MESSI has won the European Golden Show winner for a fifth time after scoring 34 league goals for Barcelona, beating Liverpool's Mohamed Salah with 32 and Tottenham Hotspur's Harry Kane, who netted 30.

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SPAIN'S Adrian Otaegui is aiming for a Ryder Cup debut after winning his second European Tour title.

It comes after the 25-year-old saw off France's Benjamin Hebert in the final of the inaugural Belgian Knockout in Antwerp.

The Basque birdied four of the last six holes to beat his rival by two shots at the Rinkven International Golf Club, to add to his victory in last year's Paul Lawrie Match Play event in Germany.

"I'm very happy, very relaxed now after those last nine holes against Ben that were very tight," Otaegui told Sky Sports. "I think we both played very good golf and I'm just very proud about my week.



Otaegui targets Ryder Cup spot

And when asked about his chances of qualifying for the European Ryder Cup team, which will be captained by Dane Thomas Bjørn in Paris, Otaegui quipped: "Thomas, if you're looking at me, I like

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"There's still a lot of season to go, obviously the good events coming now with the Rolex Series and lots of points. The season is still very long but yeah, I'm looking for the Ryder Cup in a few months."



Marc leads

SPANIARD Marc Marquez won a third race on the trot after claiming victory in the French MotoGP at Le Mans.

The 25-year-old Catalan rider extended his lead to 36 points at the top of the championship table as he chases a fifth world title.

"The race was tough because the pace of everyone was close. This victory is important," said the Honda rider, after Italians Danilo Petrucci and Valentino Rossi finished

Home favourite Johann Zarco slid out on lap seven after starting on pole, while Britain's Carl Crutchlow finished eighth after a crash in qualifying saw him hospitalised.

DEFENDING CHAMP: The Honda star claimed his third straight victory.



Full Monte

MERCEDES expect to trail behind Red Bull and Ferrari in this weekend's Monaco Grand

Defending Formula 1 champion Lewis Hamilton - who is currently 17 points ahead of his rivals - last season finished seventh at the iconic street circuit.

And the British driver stormed to victory in

Barcelona in the last round

But Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff said: "We don't head into the weekend as favourites.

"Red Bull are strong in the slow-speed corners and where straight-line speed is less important, while Ferrari dominated last year."

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