

# On the campaign trail

WELL, the various local election machines this week kicked into overdrive. Roundabouts are gleaming, workmen are everywhere and the mug shots of a multitude of candidates flutter from lampposts throughout the land. The other day members of one particular party were actually outside the twins' school distributing free sweets to the children. Wow, that's a real vote catching exercise! Did they really believe a move like that would procure votes? The mind truly doth boggle. Ah, well, good luck to 'em all I say.

As far as my own area of Calvia is concerned, to even consider any other party than the one that has completely transformed most of the constituency over the past four years would be total madness, but then politics is politics as they say. All we can do is stand up and be counted and hope for the best.

At the time of writing, still no sign of little Madeleine McCann. I find it difficult to believe, and indeed somewhat ominous, that a reward of over two-and-a-half million pounds has not produced some form of result. Her poor mother is beginning to look like a walking



skeleton. Let us all pray for a favourable outcome, but the longer it all goes on the less the chances, I fear.

Still more carnage on the roads of Mallorca this week. More theories abounding as to why this should be. Well, I'll tell you the reason. The main problem is that the standard of driving is appalling. Drivers have little consideration or respect for other road users. Many in fact do cause problems simply to chastise and have a go. Speeding up whilst you're overtaking is one such dangerous ploy. 'Course most of 'em can't stand to actually have another vehicle go past them, rather like severing their manhood. The majority have absolutely no idea whatsoever of lane positioning and, because of this, cut you up on roundabouts and turnings with monotonous regularity, shaking their fists at you as they do so.

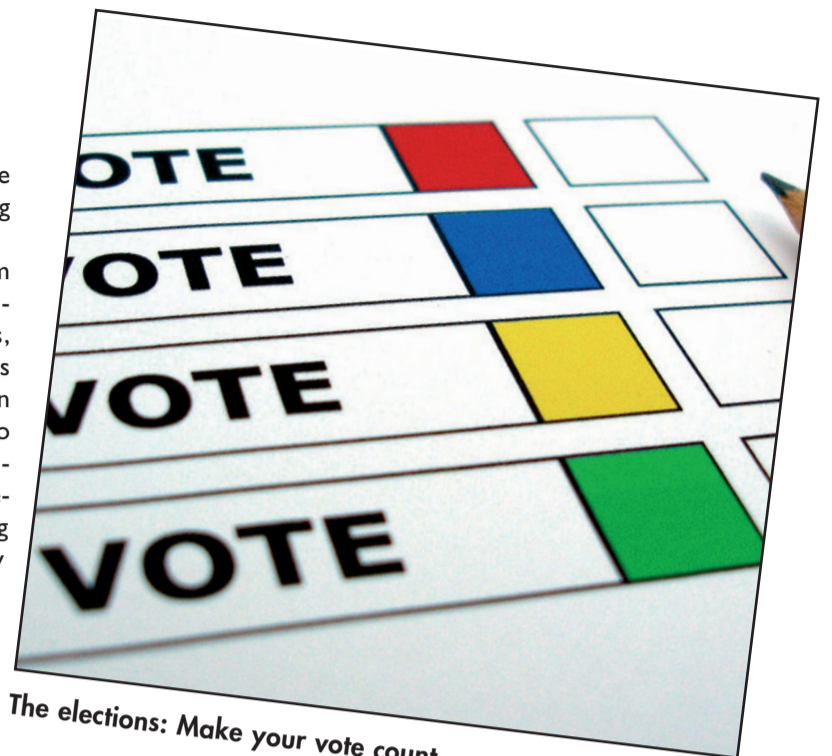
Once again, it's mainly the young drivers who are being cut down.

The vast majority of them have learned to drive on machines in amusement arcades, where after each horrendous crash the press of a button brings everything back to gleaming normality. Unfortunately, this is not the case in real life and many are learning this lesson in the hardest way possible.

Another fact that is also painfully clear is that a large number of accidents occur with no other vehicle involved.

These are almost without exception young, inexperienced drivers who simply lose control of their vehicles, generally trying to emulate Schumacher or the like. Personally, I don't think any of them should be allowed on the roads unaccompanied by an experienced driver until they're at least twenty-one. The problem is that any party bringing in a law like that would lose the votes of millions of youngsters. Can't win, can you?

Many thanks this week to the gentleman, who on reading my royalty woes last week, emailed me to inform me he had



The elections: Make your vote count.

browsed an American website that unearthed unclaimed royalties, and whose name popped up? Yep, the old Leaper. Now that really would be a touch. Mind you, being familiar with Leapy's law, it'll probably turn out to be a dollar ninety-five. I'll keep ya posted.

And that just about brings this week's lacklustre jotting to a close. Promise to be back to my old rollicking and rucking self next week. Have to be, in fact. In a couple of weeks I have been invited to a regular Tuesday phone-in slot with Vince The Prince on radio OCI.

Better give everyone something to have a go at me for. I understand some folk are actually beginning to like me. Well, that'll never do, will it? How about a little taster when I tell you I believe a woman's place is in the home? Whoa, gals, I can feel the bristling from here.

Till the demise of the next seven, keep a smile on the 'boat' and keep a glint in the 'peepers'. And, whatever ya do, always-

*Keep the faith.*

*Love Leapy.*

*leapylee.co.uk*

## Pantoja performs in Roquetas

ISABEL PANTOJA, one of Spain's most famous singers, who began her career at the age of seven, thrilled her audience in a recent performance in Roquetas de Mar. The artist thanked her fans for their support and for standing by her during the 35 years of her professional career.

The artist from Sevilla gave a performance which captivated the audience. During the show, while Pantoja changed her dresses, the dance troupe offered a magnificent performance.

The artist, who was arrested at the beginning of May accused of money laundering in the Malaya case and later set free, was visibly touched by the cries of 'Guapa!' which could be heard throughout the performance.



Pantoja: In concert.

## Summer camp in Spain... and it's free!

DO you consider yourself a fun and social person? Do you like meeting new people? Are you between the ages of 14 and 18, and a native English speaker? Then Pueblo Ingles wants you!

Pueblo Ingles is an English immersion programme for Spanish students to practise English without having to travel abroad. We bring native English speakers from around the world to live and converse with them. In return for your time and input, Pueblo Ingles picks up the tab for your full room and board in a modern four-star rural resort during your stay in Spain. Also included is transportation to and from the resort from Madrid, and medical insurance coverage during your stay with us.

The Teen Pueblo Ingles eight-day immersion programmes, which begin and end on Fridays, include a cast of 35 Spaniards, 35 English speakers from all over the world, a Master of Ceremonies to provide

entertainment and a Programme Director to enforce our main rule: No Spanish Allowed!

A team of counsellors keeps you busy 15 hours a day, for seven days straight, by organising all sorts of activities such as sports, group games, theatre, arts and crafts and tons of conversation. Without fail, at some point during the week, the Spanish teens will find themselves chatting away in English without having to stop, think and translate anymore.

This is a 'talkathon', and you're here to talk and listen. There's no list of compulsory topics. As long as you can keep the Spaniards talking or listening with interest for 50 to 60 minutes at a time, you'll be just fine. If you particularly enjoy English history or football, then you can fire away at your Spanish friends on the subject, as long as you maintain their interest.

You are also more than welcome, and actually encouraged, to bring material with you that

will help you make conversation. We also have a book at Pueblo Ingles with helpful conversation tips, games and activities.

If you're looking for a once-in-a-lifetime cultural experience, then check out our website at [www.puebloingles.com](http://www.puebloingles.com) for more information, and to register. You can also email us at [teens@puebloingles.com](mailto:teens@puebloingles.com). We have openings through the month of July, and you can stay for one week or two weeks.

A special note to parents: The Pueblo Ingles team is committed to ensuring the safety of your son and daughter. Special procedures are in place to make sure your child has a safe, yet enjoyable stay. There are a series of rules by which our teen members are expected to live, and they are enforced. You can check out our security measures at [www.puebloingles.com](http://www.puebloingles.com). Click on the button labelled "Are you a native English Speaker?", then "Teen Programs", then "Parents' Page."