

## New report slams Polish prisons

### No improvement in Polish jails since 2004

A leading human rights organisation has accused the Polish police of using torture and warned of overcrowding in the country's prisons.

In a bleak assessment of the criminal justice system the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture said that it had been made aware of two cases of torture being used against suspects. The report says the victims were subject to beatings and electric shocks to the genitals "lasting more 30 seconds". Other detainees were subject to physical intimidation.

Andrew Cutting, a spokesman for the Council of Europe, the body which had commissioned the report, said the incidents of torture were surprising as demands for improvement made after the last report appear to have fallen on deaf ears.

"What shocked members of the delegation is that after the last visit in 2004, during which recommendations were made, in many cases absolutely nothing appears to have changed.

The report also found that on many occasions prisoners had less than the recommended four square metres of living space, and spent their time in overcrowded, dilapidated and unsanitary conditions, and having to eat poor quality meals.

Foreigners, the committee also found,



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The report noted two cases of severe torture by prison guards

were often unaware of their rights owing to a lack of interpreters.

In response Krzysztof Kwiatkowski, the justice minister, said that he would only make a full comment once the report has been made public, but added that the authorities were making determined efforts to solve the problem of overcrowding.

The report shoved the issue of institutionalised violence back into the spotlight. Allegations of violent treatment at the hands of the police often make the press, indicating that a problem exists.

"I was knocked around by a policeman for a few minutes, and it was a very scary experience," one man who experienced police violence first-hand told NPE, on condition of anonymity. "My hands were tied behind my back. It wasn't a huge beating but I was scared. It was also humiliating and made me very angry."

Piotr Kladozyczny from the Warsaw office of the Helsinki Foundation said that a "culture of impunity" appears to surrounds the police and prison staff when it comes to violent conduct.

#### NATIONAL

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##### Tickets to drive

Polish drivers are racking up record numbers of speeding tickets abroad as they make their way across the highways and byways of Europe. Official figures reveal that more and more Poles face fines for excessive speed and other driving misdemeanours. In 2009 the combined number for 10 European countries came to around 10,000 tickets issued to Poles, but last year the figure jumped to close to 13,000.

#### REGIONAL

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##### Ticking time bomb

One hundred residents evacuated from their homes in Gdansk-Wrzeszcz after a UXB was discovered had to wait until the next morning because bomb disposal squads only work until 3pm. Residents reported the finding of a 100kg artillery shell at 5.40pm on Tuesday, but sappers only arrived at the scene at 9am on Wednesday morning.

#### SPORT

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##### Poland's snooker sensation

Kacper Filipiak, a fifteen year old prodigy, has taken the snooker world by storm in only his second major tournament, the World Cup, registering wins over Marco Fu, Stephen Maguire and current world champion John Higgins. In Poland's match with Scotland, Filipiak set the cat among the pigeons by defeating the four-time world champion John Higgins 76-3 in one frame, including a nerveless break of 69.

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**From the editor**



As some of the world's greatest musical performers have pointed out, what a difference a day makes. Or in this case, a few days.

Whereas one week ago Poland's EU presidency looked as if it would be shrouded by political mud-slinging and petty squabbles, those sitting in the country's hot-seat seem to have realised they can use this well-timed opportunity to both bolster their election campaign and promote Poland in a positive light.

This week saw PM Donald Tusk share a beer with European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso in a Warsaw beer garden while discussing such issues as the EU's long-term budget plans. A simple gesture perhaps, but certainly one which will go down well with those looking for a bit of political humility.

In another well-orchestrated piece of PR, President Komorowski was snapped walking bare-footed along Jurata's beach with Angela Merkel in a scene that looked as if it was ripped right out of a glossy gossip mag or celebrity website Pudelek.

As staged as these two events may have been, even Jaroslaw Kaczynski's most staunch defenders would have to admit that had he been at the helm, such mouth-watering paparazzi moments would not have been high on the agenda.

No, the presidency would have been a much more hostile affair with strained, forced relationships as embarrassing to onlookers as the recent 'White Book' debacle.

Whatever happens in October's parliamentary elections, Poland should be thankful that, for the time being, it is being represented by a party that can at least extend a warm, genuine hand of friendship to those nations it has to currently work with.

**Quotes of the week**

*"This isn't an argument between Jacek Kurski and Civic Platform. This is an argument and protest by the husband of Monika Kurska against Director Zelewski who isn't fit to be a director."* Jacek Kurski on the 'mobbing' of his wife by her Director at the Pomorskie Development Agency.

*"Perhaps the report points the finger at specific officials and now there's a lot of horse trading going on, who to save and who to sacrifice."* Jaroslaw Sellin of PiS (Law and Justice) on why the Miller report into the Smolensk tragedy is taking so long to publish.

*"Prime Minister Kaczynski - time for a bold decision."* the PiS party's new billboard campaign.

**Have Your Say**

**Re: Dutch to deport unemployed Poles?**

These Dutch neanderthals are the tip of a wave of racism where people are looking to blame Poles and other Central Europeans for the crisis brought on by the greed of investment banking, not simply by genuine people seeking a better life in a foreign land.

Before the Dutch permit these proposals, I suggest they visit the Polish War Cemetery in Breda and reflect that Poles gave their lives for the liberation of Holland.

These proposed policies are no better than those of the BNP's in Britain. If the Dutch allow this, I suggest they walk, from now on, with bowed heads. That is the price they should pay for xenophobia.

*For your freedom and ours - Lodz, Poland*

It has long been one of the weaknesses of the EU that when people perceive they are losing control of their country's internal affairs due to EU institutions that are not directly accountable, then scapegoats will be found and there will be a return to nationalism. It is this that could cause the EU to implode and be its lasting legacy.

*Lyn Atterbury - Pila, Poland*

**This week in history**

**1961** - The communist government removes religious education from schools. While religion was never officially outlawed in Poland, the Catholic church was seen as a direct rival to the communist regime and was heavily suppressed.

**1974** - The clock on Warsaw's Royal Castle is restarted. After the devastation caused by the Nazis, the castle took years to restore and it wasn't until 1980 that it was registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**1989** - Poland resumes diplomatic relations with the Vatican. Following years of difficult negotiations, Poland announced restored relations after a 44-year rupture and was the first nation in the Warsaw Pact to do so.

**The NPE weekend QUIZ**



In this week's competition corner we've got one double invitation to give away for the fabulous Globaltica festival in Gdynia's Kolibki Park.

The festival takes place between July 29-31 and is aimed at showing a wide variety of multicultural events from a number of different traditions and religions.

While the main focus is on music and concerts, there will be plenty of other things going on to enjoy such as literature events, art displays and films.

To be in with a chance of winning, just tell us which Polish Voivodeship Gdynia is situated in.

You know the drill by now, send in your answers to: editor@newpolandexpress.pl



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## Vaccines versus onions

People who refuse to vaccinate their children are liable to be fined PLN 550 per child despite increasing opposition from parents who contend the injections do more harm than good.

The law dictates that new-born babies are given a string of compulsory injections to protect them against diseases such as TB, polio and hepatitis B, and that parents who refuse to accept their administration face a fine.

But more and more parents are refusing to have their children injected, launching internet campaigns, and even petitioning the health ministry to be given the right to decide what vaccinations their children receive.

In Poznan, for example, some 600 families have now refused to comply with the law.

But in a recent ruling the Supreme Administrative Court said that while proceedings were broken on that particular occasion the principle of forced injection should be upheld.

The ruling came as some parents argued that injecting children with remedies such as onion syrup are more preferable as they have no side effects.

But the folk cures, many dating back centuries, have been criticised by medical experts. Doctor Pawel Grzesiowski from the Department for the Prevention of Infectious Diseases described people who used them as living in the eighteenth or nineteenth centuries.

## Palikot in deep water

Political maverick Janusz Palikot found himself under the eagle eye of the anti-corruption agency following allegations of "irregularities" in his declaration of assets.

A former Civil Platform (PO) MP, Mr Palikot left a meeting with the CBA fuming over what he considered as the "incompetency" of the agency as it investigated whether the politician had omitted key assets in official declarations.

Mr Palikot rounded on his ex-PO colleagues Donald Tusk and Grzegorz Schetyna claiming they were waging a vendetta against him in revenge for him quitting PO after a high-profile spat to form his own party.

"This is a political action," he said. "In August I said I was going to leave PO and in September the CBA began to investigate me. This is a typical PO operation."

"The CBA collects materials in order to oppress me. Who will run checks on Tusk, or Schetyna? Who will check their statements?" he continued, taking time out to call the prime minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski's "hamster".

Mr Palikot, a rich man, also dismissed allegations that he had failed to declare a plane and a car as assets, and claimed the CBA had little understanding of shares and the stock market. He added that he would like

to see the official in charge of the investigation punished.

But undaunted by the tirade Jacek Dobrzynski, spokesman for the CBA, stuck to the agency's guns.

"The audit discovered irregularities that are actually far more important than the plane and the car referred to by the former member of parliament," he said, although he preferred not to elaborate.

The investigation comes as blow to one of the most colourful and controversial personalities in Polish politics. Never one to shy away from the limelight Mr Palikot once appeared at a press conference brandishing a sex aid and toy pistol, and has been a withering critic of Law and Justice leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski.

His own party, the Janusz Palikot Support Group, has happily thrown down a gauntlet to the protectors of Catholic mores and traditional Polish values by calling for crosses to be removed from all public buildings, liberalisation of the abortion law and promoting gay civil unions.

Despite this, or perhaps because of it, so far the party has struggled to make an impression on the electorate, garnering little more than a single percentage point in opinion polls. If nothing changes from now until the autumn general election the party will fail to get enough votes to earn it seats in parliament.



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## Tickets to drive Tornadoes strike heart of Poland

Polish drivers are racking up record numbers of speeding tickets abroad as they make their way across the highways and byways of Europe.

Official figures published in the newspaper *Rzeczpospolita* reveal that more and more Poles face fines for excessive speed and other driving misdemeanours. In 2009 the combined number for 10 European countries came to around 10,000 tickets issued to Poles, but last year the figure jumped to close to 13,000.

Popular destinations for bad driving appear to be Austria and Germany with 2,177 and 1,975 cases reported respectively. In contrast in the Czech Republic only 122 Poles faced some form of driving sanction.

Speeding fines for the careless or fearless range from about EUR 120 to a EUR 375 fine in Germany.

The problem has reached such a level that the interior ministry has set up a special office to co-ordinate requests from other European countries to fine drivers for speeding.

The new office comes as part of a wider EU operation to streamline the issuing of speeding tickets. In the past, unless a driver was pulled over by the police and fined on the spot, they could treat tickets and speed cameras with disdain, but now Brussels wants to stop that, and is pushing through a system which will result in speeders getting their fine through the post, even if they live a country different to one where the offence took place.

Poland has two years to get the new system up and running.

But those determined not to pay can take heart. While the ministry can forward on a ticket to the culprit the onus is on the foreign police force to pursue any non payments, and given the costs this might involve they may well refrain from chasing non-payers.

The increasing numbers of Poles being caught for speeding abroad will re-enforce Poland's sad reputation as a country of poor drivers. It has become common knowledge in Europe that Poland has some of the most dangerous roads in Europe, and poor driving skills are often cited as a key reason for this. Now as Poles become increasingly mobile in Europe the lack of skills appears to be an export commodity.

Strong winds and torrential rain caused massive damage across central Poland this Thursday, tearing off roofs and smashing trees like matchsticks. In some places small tornadoes even appeared. The districts of Bialaczow, Zarnow, Paradyz (which means Paradise) and part of the Opoczno area were worst hit.

### "We have the funds to help the victims of this cataclysm." PM Tusk

PM Tusk was among the first to view the damage, visiting Kolonia-Sady, where he held an impromptu press briefing, declaring, "We have the funds to help the victims of this cataclysm. We shall apply a range of forms of

assistance." The PM emphasized that regardless of whether a house was insured or not, those affected would be able to seek assistance from the public purse. He also said an emergency unit had been set up specially to deal with the destruction.

In Mazowsze as many as fifty fire units were occupied dealing with the effects of the violent electrical storms. "The damage is enormous," commented the duty officer of the Opoczno Fire Service. He estimated as many as 300 buildings in the district had been either damaged or destroyed. So far, though, no fatalities have been reported.

Meteorologists say the region could still be hit by further storms.

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## IN BRIEF

**Laying down the law**

Two brothers came to the aid of a policeman who was being beaten by a drunk this week. The brothers, Sebastian and Lukasz Szczepanik, saw the officer being attacked by a bigger and stronger man as they drove home. Despite being surrounded by a group of onlookers nobody had gone to the policeman's defence until the brothers arrived. First they tried honking the car's horn but when that failed to work they took direct physical action, pushing their way through the crowd to apprehend the assailant.

"I think anyone would have done the same," said Sebastian. "Today a policeman was attacked, tomorrow it could be me, and if no one responds then it could end in tragedy."

**She loves you... no, no no!**

A drunk man who wanted to woo the love of his life by serenading her with a few Beatles hits ended up being arrested, and now faces either 30 days behind bars or paying a PLN 1,000 fine. The 54-year-old from the small town of Choszczno had hoped the medley of hits from the famous Liverpool band would win the heart of the chemist, who was 25 years his junior. Alas, she and the other staff at the chemists took a dim view of his romantic efforts and called the police, who charged him with disturbing the peace.

**Yellow means speed**

Speed cameras across Poland will soon be decked out in a bright, high-visibility livery of yellow as opposed to their current colour of dull battleship grey. The change comes following complaints that the boxes could not be seen and therefore failed to have a deterrent effect with drivers continuing to speed. The first ones to turn yellow will be in accident blackspots. The number of active speed cameras will also increase from the current figure of 75 to over 300, according to the General Directorate of Road Transport.

**Polish Fritzl condemned**

The supreme court upheld a 12-year gaol sentence handed down to a man convicted of fathering two children with his daughter. The ruling means that the man Krzysztof B., known as the Polish Fritzl owing to similarities with the notorious case of Austrian Josef Fritzl, will have to serve out his sentence. Krzysztof B. had subjected his daughter to years of physical and sexual abuse from when she turned 13 in 2003 till his arrest in 2008. After his first trial he was sentenced to 10 years, but this was later extended to 12 on appeal. But after his daughter withdrew some abuse allegations the convict had appealed against his conviction, but the supreme court rejected his appeal.

His wife, who was aware of the abuse, remained a passive witness to his crimes. The two daughters he fathered were adopted and have not been told of the circumstances surrounding their birth.

## Trawny eviction nears end

The conclusion of the long-running Trawny eviction case is imminent, with the Moskalik family facing a deadline of Sunday at midnight to vacate the property they've lived in since the mid-1970s. "Together with my immediate family, I'm staying in Narty to the bitter end," Jadwiga Moskalik told reporters. So far, there are no signs of any of the family of six Moskaliks preparing to move out.

The house was abandoned by Agnes Trawny and her family forty years ago in the face of repression of the German-speaking minority in communist Poland. Once the Polish People's Republic fell, she set about recovering the property she left behind, for which she received PLN 191,500 in compensation from the Polish government. But her old house was occupied by two families, the Moskaliks and Glowackis.

After a lengthy battle, the Supreme Court decided in 2005 that the house was to be returned and since then the Moskaliks have steadfastly refused to leave. The Glowackis moved out last March. Jadwiga Moskalik told reporters that her family have nowhere to go, describing the council housing offered her as unfit to live in, damp and in need of repair. "Just last Friday I asked Mrs Trawny to let us stay here a few weeks more, but she just told me to speak to her solicitor," said Mrs Moskalik.

The case became a cause celebre among populist politicians who accused Agnes Trawny of being another Erica Steinbach and portraying her as a greedy German stealing poor Polish people's homes. Now, though, if the Moskaliks fail to move out of their own will by Sunday, then the bailiffs will be writing to inform them of the date on which they will be forcibly evicted.



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## WITHOUT RHYME OR REGION



**W**irtualna Polska is a lively website that offers a range of services, including free email and news. This week

their 'Bloke' section provided some remarkable insights into the British male tourist, under the headline, "[They're disgusting](#), and they're invading Poland."

Among other things, the Brit abroad was accused of such heinous crimes as leering at waitresses, speaking loudly and wearing

t-shirts with slogans on them – I kid you not! There was the usual snide dig at the great British breakfast and indignation at the ugly baring of male torsos and heavy drinking.

Now, I freely admit that anyone staggering unawares into a resort jam-packed with young, male holidaymakers from the UK could rapidly form a jaundiced view of my compatriots. But what purpose is served by a popular website printing this kind of one-dimensional, prejudicial nonsense a mere twelve months before thousands of British football fans are liable to

arrive here? This kind of gibberish could provoke a riot.

I love Poland, and I love the Poles, mostly, but this article was a disgrace. I'm not surprised it contained no sources and no author, because it was based on pure prejudice and the writers were probably too ashamed to put their names to it. People bandy the word racism about too freely, but regardless of how we categorise this article it was as boorish, ignorant and insulting as the image of holidaying Brits it tried to portray. Shame on you WP.

## MAZOWIECKIE

### Fourth man held



**P**olice this week arrested a fourth man involved in the murder of a 59-year-old woman in Ursynow this January. Forty-six-year-old Grzegorz F. was

arrested at work and charged with acting as a go-between, setting up the paid killing.

It was on Jan 18 this year when the woman's son, concerned by a lack of contact, discovered his mother's body in the bathroom of her flat. She had been involved in a long-standing conflict with her ex-husband, Andrzej L., with whom she still lived, but in a separate section of the flat under lock and key.

Her estranged husband was arrested on suspicion of commissioning the killing, for which he is suspected to have paid Stanislaw K., arrested in Lublin in June, PLN 15,000. Another man was paid PLN 5,000 for helping set the deal up. Grzegorz F. faces up to 25 years in prison for his role in the crime.

### Exploding mint

**A** 35-year-old laboratory assistant was hurt in an explosion at the Polish Mint on ul. Pereca this Thursday. Fire officers were called to the scene, but decided it was not necessary to evacuate.

Grzegorz Trzeciak of the Warsaw fire service told TVN24 that the woman had suffered second degree burns to the face and

hands in the incident. The explosion was caused by an alcohol used in the printing process. Two other people in the laboratory at the time escaped without injury.

### A big hole

**A**nyone driving along ul. Swietokrzyskie in the capital after Friday will need to look out for a 27m deep hole being excavated to accommodate the deepest station on the city's second underground line. A [section of the road](#) from Czackiego to Nowy Swiat will be closed off this Friday evening as work begins on the Nowy Swiat underground station.

The Nowy Swiat station will be twice as deep as the deepest on the first line – Centrum at only 15m deep, and will take as long as two minutes to reach on escalators. The depth is necessitated by the steep slopes in the vicinity, as the track cannot descend too sharply.

Frustrated drivers face no relief, as in a few weeks time a further stretch of Swietokrzyskie will be closed in order to build a ventilation shaft for the new line.

### Bones on the tracks

**W**orkers constructing a temporary tramline on ul. Jagiellonskiej unearthed human remains this Wednesday. "We called police who secured an area of about 10m2 from where the soil had been excavated. Work was not halted, as we moved labourers to another part of the site," explained Michal Powalka of Warsaw Tramways. The remains included a skull and several other large bones, probably from the Second World War.

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## DOLNOSLASKIE

## More election shenanigans



Wrocław has been hit by yet another electioneering scandal following revelations that some of the signatures of support gathered by the Civic Platform

(PO) candidate, Roman Szelemej, have been faked. The city's presidential elections are being repeated after the initial victor Piotr Kruczkowski (PO) was proved to have engaged in vote purchasing and dismissed. Now the electoral committee has discovered irregularities in the lists of supporters of Mr. Szelemej, throwing the elections into chaos.

Electoral committee member Ewa Makowska-Prochera told reporters, "It was immediately clear that three of the lists had been filled in by the same person. After checking, we established that the people on them didn't exist. We've informed prosecutors."

The information has led to both main candidates accusing one another of dirty tricks. Szelemej's main rival, Mirosław Lubinski of the Democratic Left Alliance (SLD) said, "After the last elections where PO cheated, their candidate should be like Caesar's wife." Szelemej, for his part made light of the events, pointing out that at most 60 out of 6,500 signatures had been faked.

It turns out that all three lists of names were gathered by a 16-year-old, Michał M., who is not officially connected to Szelemej's team. The teenager told reporters that the lists of faked signatures were given to him by the SLD candidate, "Two men came up and gave me the lists, I signed them like I was supposed to. One of the men was Lubinski, the other one I don't know."

"That's total nonsense and a perfidious slander," Lubinski commented. "I won't be surprised if my opponent one day soon turns around and says I stole a lollypop from a nursery school pupil."

## Dog defenestrated by drunk

A 44-year-old woman was arrested in Wrocław this Monday for throwing her dog from a third-floor window. "We were called at 4pm and informed that a small dog had been thrown from the window of a tenement on ul. Daszynieckiego. Unfortunately the animal didn't survive the fall," Magdalena Kruaze of Wrocław police told reporters from TVN24. The dog's owner was drunk at the time, having over 0.1% of alcohol in her blood. She was held in police cells while sobering up, but could be facing a further two years behind bars.

## MALOPOLSKIE

## Booby-trap bomb blast



A 35-year-old man was injured this week when he disturbed a booby-trap device planted by his front door this Thursday. The man returned home

and discovered the device by his door and reached down to pick it up, setting it off. Police arrived rapidly at the scene, the man was taken to hospital and ten other people were evacuated from the building. The man's mother, who was at home when the device went off also required medical treatment, but decided she didn't want to go to hospital.

A neighbour who claimed he saw the bomb described it as, "a small metal box, about 10cm by 12cm, and there seemed to be a piece of paper coming out of it, stuck to the door. I didn't touch it, because I had no idea what it might be." The man added that he thought the family had earlier been "terrorised" by somebody.

Shortly after the incident police spokesperson Mariusz Sokolowski told reporters, "Police experts are making sure there's no further threat. The evacuated people will be able to return home as soon as we're certain they're in no danger." By noon, everyone had been allowed home.

Immediately, suspicions arose that the incident might be connected to the nail bombs that were planted in Kraków recently

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[see NPE 26/127]. Katarzyna Cisko, a press officer for the police said it was too early to tell and that the main similarity between the events was that they had taken place at all. "We've not had to deal with explosions in Kraków before. However, this occurred in another district and I suspect officers will work on the assumption that the incidents are not linked." Police have offered a PLN 20,000 reward for information concerning the June attacks.

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## POMORSKIE

## Ticking time bomb



One hundred residents evacuated from their homes in Gdansk-Wrzeszcz after a UXB was discovered had to wait until the next morning because bomb disposal squads only work until 3pm. Residents reported the finding of a 100kg artillery shell at 5.40pm on Tuesday, but sappers only arrived at the scene at 9am on Wednesday morning. "I didn't even have time to pick up my house keys, the order was to get out immediately," one resident commented on the evacuation.

The sappers were clearly in no rush, though, claiming regulations prohibit them from working after dark. Only in emergencies are they permitted to respond in the night. According to the 16 Sappers Battalion in Tczew, the Gdansk tenement didn't constitute an emergency. "The rules state that an urgent call concerns educational and cultural establishments, railway stations or major traffic junctions," explained Marek Antonowicz for the sappers, before adding, "We have to operate in accordance with the law."

The army also believes the police over-reacted and that the evacuation was unnecessary. "All they needed to do was station a patrol there," claimed Antonowicz. However, Magdalena Michalewska for Gdansk police refuted this, stating that the bomb disposal squad were told of the evacuation on Tuesday evening and that if the UXB team had arrived and secured the site, it might have been possible to avoid the evacuation.

## Windsurfer swept away

A 58-year-old windsurfer died in Puck Bay after getting caught in bad weather this Wednesday. A desperate search and rescue operation was launched after the man went missing, having set off from Chalupy at 7pm. A boat and helicopter both had to be withdrawn overnight, due to deteriorating conditions. The helicopter had to battle against winds up to 4 on the Beaufort scale, high seas and hail.

When the search was renewed on Thursday morning, the man's board was found near Puck and then at 10am, two miles away, the search helicopter spotted the body. Coastguard sped to the scene and fished the man out of the water, but attempts at resuscitation failed.

Puck Bay is extremely popular with windsurfers, as it is usually protected from severe weather by the Hel peninsula. The man was an experienced surfer.

## LODZKIE

## Ex-cop murder charge



Lodz prosecutors this week charged an ex-policeman, Janusz T., with suffocating two of his children, a 4.5-year-old girl and 7-year-old boy. The man has confessed to the crime, claiming he wanted to get back at his wife.

The tragedy occurred last December, when a friend of the family called police after receiving disturbing text messages from Janusz T. suggesting he had harmed his children. Police arrived at the flat on ul. Szpitalna to find the two children's dead bodies. A post-mortem discovered the death to be due to strangulation. The children's mother, a 31-year old police officer was out at the time of the incident.

The 43-year-old father was arrested at the scene. He was severely drunk, with over 0.2%

alcohol in his blood. He told officers he had decided to kill the children the day before and had intended to then kill himself. The murders were carried out systematically, collecting his son from school and taking him home before killing him, then doing the same with his daughter, picking her up from nursery school.

He explained that he wanted to take revenge on his wife, as he was sure she was about to leave him and emigrate. The family also had financial difficulties and the husband was a heavy drinker. He retired from the police several years earlier. Eleven years ago, he was awarded the Cross of Merit after rescuing two small children from a blazing tenement.

## A2 subcontractor protest

Subcontractors owed millions by the failed Chinese A2 contractor COVEC met this week in Zyrardow to work out how to get their money. The companies say they will block access to the site or chain themselves to machinery. "Nobody will get rid of us from here," they told reporters.

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## Frankly alarming

The Swiss frank hit record highs this week sending tremors through the estimated 700,000 households in Poland that have mortgages paid in the currency. The frank sky-rocketed off the back of news that Moody's had dropped the Republic of Ireland's credit rating and speculation over possible difficulties for Italy.

The soaring frank means real difficulties for those homeowners that took out mortgages three years ago when the frank stood at a mere 1.8 zloty, compared to the current rate hovering around 3.5 – meaning their capital debt has almost

doubled and monthly repayments have increased.

Politicians are already arguing over whether or not to assist those caught between the rock of negative equity and the hard place of arrears. The main idea proposed by the government is to limit profits on the spread in foreign currency. While some banks only have a 4% spread between the price they purchase the frank for and the price at which they sell to the mortgagee, others charge a whopping 12%. Meanwhile the only advice from economists to those struggling is – grin and bear it.

## Russkies nuke Polish cukes

Polish farmers are still facing an embargo on sales of vegetables to Russia, leading some here to cry foul. This week the Rospotrebnadzor, the Russian Consumer Affairs Authority, lifted bans on Greece and the Czech Republic to add to earlier concessions to Belgium, Holland, Spain and Denmark, but Poland has yet to convince its giant neighbour about the safety of its cucumbers. On June 2 Russia blocked all imports of fresh vegetables from EU countries in response to fears over the wave of EHEC poisonings in Germany.

Last Friday agriculture minister Jaroslaw Wojtowicz said at a press

conference in Moscow that he hoped the import embargo on Polish vegetables would be lifted this week, once the relevant clarifications had been provided. The Russians are demanding information concerning the organisation of the Polish laboratory network and a declaration that Poland will only issue certification for Polish produce, thereby making so-called re-export impossible. Wojtowicz said he had been promised that as soon as the relevant paperwork was ready, exports could begin again. By the time NPE went to press, there was no sign this had happened.



### Von Bismarck's Logic

With the demonstrations by public sector workers in the UK recently, I thought it would be a good opportunity to review the history behind state sponsored pension programs.

Proposed changes in the pension system were the reason for the demonstrations. Of particular concern was the planned change in the statutory retirement age which would mean civil servants having to work for a few years more in order to receive maximum benefits.

The statutory retirement age of 65 was first introduced by the Germans in 1916. It had originally been set at 70 by Chancellor Otto von Bismarck in the late 19th century when, as a way of avoiding civil unrest, Germany became the first nation to introduce a social insurance program.

The fact that life expectancy at the time was less than 60 was one of those little details that so often gets overlooked when the 'good news' comes out.

The Americans subsequently adopted the 65 rule in 1933 when their own average life expectancy was 62.

And here we are a few decades later. As a result of medical progress, better diet, not working in coal mines etc, we have been able to raise our life expectancies to around 78.

The net effect of this is that governments can no longer realistically afford to pay people a retirement income for an average of 13 years (and then some as life expectancies increase further).

The demonstrators should be grateful that von Bismarck isn't still in charge. Based on his logic, we would be retiring at 88.

**ROSS IS A UK FSA QUALIFIED FINANCIAL ADVISER. TO CONTACT HIM DIRECTLY OR TO FOLLOW HIS BLOG, CLICK [HERE](#).**

### BUSINESS IN BRIEF

#### COVEC go to court

The Chinese COVEC consortium that recently lost the contract to construct large sections of the A2 motorway between Lodz and Warsaw is challenging the appointment of the new contractors through the courts. Rzeczpospolita reports that the Chinese company thinks that by not putting the contract out to tender the GDDKiA road authority broke the rules governing public contracts. The GDDKiA directly appointed Eurovia and Warbud to pick up where COVEC left off, citing the necessity of implementing the contract immediately.

#### Shale gas hitch?

The European Commission has ordered a report into the regulations governing large scale drilling for shale gas. "The extraction of shale gas is a new issue and it needs to be looked into," commented Joe Henon, press officer for the EU's environmental commissioner. "This report is just the start in weighing down shale gas extraction projects within the EU in regulations and red tape so that exploiting the reserves of it in Poland doesn't pay," declared Law and Justice MEP Konrad Szymanski.

### NBP OFFICIAL CURRENCY RATES 15/07/2011

Currency	Symbol	Mid-rate
Canadian Dollar	1 CAD	2,9712
Czech Koruna	1 CZK	0,1646
Danish Krone	1 DKK	0,5410
Euro	1 EUR	4,0343
Hungarian Forint	100 HUF	1,4894
Japanese Yen	100 JPY	3,6012
Norwegian Krone	1 NOK	0,5132
Pound Sterling	1 GBP	4,5930
Russian Ruble	1 RUB	0,1014
Swedish Krona	1 SEK	0,4373
Swiss Franc	1 CHF	3,4909
US Dollar	1 USD	2,8545

### IN NUMBERS

#### 4 in 7 years

The number of people that have taken advantage of tax relief deferring payment interest free for five years for new businesses, because the criteria are almost impossible to meet.

#### 0.4%

The drop in inflation compared to May last year signalling a possible end to spiralling prices.

## SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND from In Your Pocket

## inyourpocket

## ESSENTIAL CITY GUIDES

**G**dansk In Your Pocket had the pleasure this week of meeting a man called Stefan Paliwoda, a British man of Polish descent, who had travelled to the Tri-city to visit amongst other things, the Polish WWII destroyer *Blyskawica*. Stefan had more interest in this particular sight than most tourists as the purpose of his visit was to confirm that his Polish father had been a crew member of the destroyer during the war.

Now for those unfamiliar with the story of this remarkable ship you can read about it [here](#).

Famous in part for the role it played in the defence of Cowes on the Isle of Wight, *Blyskawica* is regarded in Poland in somewhat the same light as the British might regard HMS Victory. The ship has been honoured on the island and efforts are currently underway apparently to bring it over to the UK in the future on a visit. What interested us in particular about Stefan's story was his quest to discover his Polish roots and the story of who his father was as a young man and what had brought him to Britain in the first place. Stefan's father (also named

Stefan) had been born close to the city of Lwow (Ukrainian Lviv) in 1919. Having been sent to Siberia and then released to General Ander's army when Russia joined the western Allies against Hitler, Paliwoda Snr found himself in Britain (via Palestine, Iran and North Africa) where he was posted to the *Blyskawica*. Having seen action in the Atlantic and Mediterranean, Paliwoda was demobbed via the Polish Resettlement Corps and settled first in England and subsequently in Tenby in South Wales. His story thereafter is like many of the thousands of Poles who could not return to their homeland once hostilities had ceased. Treated with suspicion by the country's new rulers here and with contempt by some of the British people there, Paliwoda did what the vast majority of his countrymen did. He settled into British life, worked hard, raised a family and never spoke about his experiences during WWII. He died in 1978, still a relatively young man of 58.

Stefan Jnr., while aware of his Polish roots, grew up like many children of his generation without contact with the language, Poland or with little knowledge of who and what his father had been in his earlier life. And like many of this generation, he started

to look into his father's life in later years. Stefan was surprised, sometimes shocked but more often than not amazed at what his father had witnessed and



experienced. Paliwoda Snr, like many of his compatriots, lived his life with an incredible amount of humility and pragmatism not complaining about his lot and with a resignation that the country of his birth was lost and that his new family would be British. In a world where it is now common for people to want recognition and fame or sympathy for what must appear to the older generation as trivial achievements or problems, it is a humbling and fascinating story.

We contacted the *Blyskawica* this morning and the extremely friendly and accommodating sailors there have organised a private tour for him this afternoon. They told us they will be proud to show Stefan around the ship and try to throw a little more light onto his father's lost but not forgotten story. A nice story to end the week we're sure you will agree.

**Krakow****15.07 Friday - 24.07 Sunday**

Festival of Polish Music

tel. (+48) 55 647 09 02 ▶ Full schedule available at [www.fmp.org.pl](http://www.fmp.org.pl). Tickets 20-200zł. Available at City Information Point, ul. Św. Jana 2 (Open 10:00 - 18:00).

**Sopot****17.07 Sunday - Ariel Ramirez**

Pick&Roll, ul. Zamkowa Góra 3-5, tel. (+48) 58 555 85 23, [www.pickandroll.pl](http://www.pickandroll.pl) ▶ Concert starts

at 19:30. Tickets 35/50zł. Available at Aquapark Sopot's box Office, ul. Zamkowa Góra 3-5 (Open 09:00 - 20:00).

**Warsaw****19.07 Tuesday - Pepsi Rocks! presents Kuśka Brothers and Normali**

Hard Rock Cafe, ul. Złota 59 (Złote Tarasy), tel. (+48) 22 222 07 00, [www.hardrockcafe.pl](http://www.hardrockcafe.pl)

▶ Concert starts at 21:30. Tickets 10/15zł. Available at Hard Rock Cafe (Open 09:00-24:00) and [www.eventim.pl](http://www.eventim.pl).

**15.07 Friday - Roxy Festival**

Sowiński Park Amphitheatre, ul. Elekcyjna 17 (Wola), tel. (+48) 22 222 07 00 ▶ Event starts at 19:00. Tickets 100-200zł. Available at EMPIK, ul. Nowy Świat 15/17 (Open 09:00 - 22:00, Sun 11:00 - 19:00).

**Wroclaw****21.07 Thursday - 31.07 Sunday**

U18 European Basketball Championships tel. (+48) 22 831 22 40, [www.u18men.fibaurope.com](http://www.u18men.fibaurope.com) ▶ Tickets 15-25zł. Available at [www.biletin.pl](http://www.biletin.pl).

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## Malbork

**21.07 Thursday - 24.07 Sunday**

Malbork Siege

Castle, ul. Starościńska 1, tel. (+48) 55 647 09 02, [www.oblezenie.zamek.malbork.pl](http://www.oblezenie.zamek.malbork.pl)

After their victory at the Battle of Grunwald where the Poles broke the power of the Teutonic Knights forever, the action moved to the order's headquarters at Malbork. Unable to capture the castle the Poles ended up buying it and basically paying the remnants of the Teutons to go elsewhere. Come and see historical reconstructions which run from 21st to 23rd July at 22:00. Last year was a big anniversary and about 100,000 people watched re-enactments of the Malbork Castle siege, reconstructions of the fighting with archery, crossbow and fencing contests, fireshows and shopping at a medieval-like market. That could be most Polish country markets, but I think they mean they have got lots of old-style fare on offer. This year the crowds won't be quite as big, but it's still a great day out. ▶ Reconstructions start at 22:00. Tickets 45-66zł. available at [www.bilety.zamek.malbork.pl](http://www.bilety.zamek.malbork.pl) until 20:00. It's close to the event now so tickets won't be sent by post, but available to collect at the Castle Museum's box office (Open 09:00 - 18:30). After 20th July tickets from the office only.

## Warsaw

**03.07 Sunday - 31.08 Wednesday**

Złote Tarasy Summer Stage

Złote Tarasy, ul. Złota 59, tel. (+48) 22 831 22 40, [www.letniascena.pl](http://www.letniascena.pl)

The summer music stage on the plaza in front of Złote Tarasy shopping gallery is back for another season. Surrounded by restaurants, the Złote Tarasy website calls this event, ho ho, a 'fresh bite of culture'. Hmm... Anyway, concerts start about 20:00 and there are lots of different genres of music: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays it's jazz, funky and r'n'b, Friday is Electronic Waves day and on Saturday it's time for the Star of The Week. What's new this year are the live radio shows. On Sunday it's 'Etnofaza' and Monday is 'Mariusz Adamiak Presents'. The programme of looks like this:

15.07 - Mathias Nova, Xanadu

16.07 - Me Myself and I

▶ Concert start at 20:00. Admission free.

## Poznan



**15.07 Friday - 21.07 Thursday**  
Animator Festival - 4th International  
Animated Film Festival

This will be the fourth time fans of animated films will gather in. The programme includes animated movies and short films, animation for children, workshops, a number of concerts and other performance arts and most importantly - the competition.

**International Animated Film Competition**

70 films have been selected for competition from a total entry of over 500. Each is up to 30 minutes long and the Grand Prix of 60 000zł will be decided by a jury included Amy Kravitz, Silvia Bazzoli, Piotr Dumala, Gerben Schermer and Jarosław Kapuściński.

**Animations and Music**

This section is focussed on the links between music. There will be projections accompanied by live music by, amongst others, Jarosław Kapuściński.

**Premiers**

The festival includes two premiers *Goodbye Mr. Christie* and *Piercing I*. The first is a full-length Phil Mulloy. The second title is considered the first independent Chinese production

**Midnight Cinema**

Projections at midnight on every festival day at midnight in the Pasaż Kultury, Stary Rynek with Shane Acker's *9* and Adam Elliot's *Mary and Max*

**Master Retrospectives**

Here we can enjoy works by Moustapha Alassane, Ryszard Czekala, Piotr Dumala, Arthur Lipsett, Amy Kravitz and Steven Subotnick

**Japanese Animation**

This retrospective comprises pieces by Kihachiro Kawamoto, Yoji Kuri and Atsushi Wada

▶ Full schedule available at [www.animator-festival.com](http://www.animator-festival.com). Cinema pass for 10 movies - 50zł. Full festival pass 130zł. Available at [www.animator-festival.com](http://www.animator-festival.com).

## Poznan

**15.07 Friday - 17.07 Sunday** - Jarocin Festival  
Jarocin, Festival Field, ul. Maratońska, tel. (+48) 55 647 09 02, [www.jarocinfestival.pl](http://www.jarocinfestival.pl)

The history of this venerable festival goes back to 1970 and even in those old communistic days proceedings were relatively uncensored, perhaps to give the younger element a safe way of letting off steam. For many acts Jarocin was also a baptism of fire: you could expect a shower of rotten tomatoes, mud and stones, especially if you were regularly on TV and therefore aligned with the regime. That's the history, this year the line-up is quite rich and includes the top names of the Polish rock stage, Myslovitz, Acid Drinkers, Moskwa, Happysad, R.U.T.A., Piotr Rogucki and the Deriglasoff Band, as well as international acts like Bad Religion, The Subways and Anti-Flag. ▶ Tickets 89zł. Pass 130zł. Available at Cultural Information Centre, ul. Ratajczaka 44 (Open 10:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun).

## Sopot

**03.07 Sunday - 31.07 Sunday**

Open Culture SPA

Sopot, tel. (+48) 58 555 85 23

The idea of the Open Culture Spa is a chance to have a look at Sopot's artistic and cultural tradition, to look at where it is now and where it is going. It's all about developing and tapping into the town's artistic potential and one feature will be the transformation of the bus line 187 into the special ARTbus. All along the route, all the participating art venues of OCSA will be contributing to this unusual outdoor gallery. The 10 bus stops will become the venues of events organized by various artists and art groups, who should be preparing something suitably arty for us to enjoy. As well as this there will also be other attractions spread along this route. All the 187 line buses will be decorated with reproductions of paintings and graphics by Tri-City's artists and the timetable won't be changed so it should be straightforward enough to find and catch a bus. It will be possible also to watch things going on actually from inside the bus as it moves along its art route. For July Sopot will open its doors to young and upcoming artists and they will be busy creating original projects, so come along - there will be something for everyone, the artier, the better.

## Wisla's meagre Riga win

Wisla Krakow completed the first half of the first step in their mission to qualify for the Champions League group stages, defeating a poor Skonto side 1-0 in Riga on Wednesday night. Fears remain over the second leg due to Wisla's inability to capitalise on massive superiority, akin to Jagiellonia's flop in the Europa league, with one major difference – the Cracovians play the return match at home.

Right from the outset, it was clear how limited Skonto's ambitions were. Despite being the home side and coached by former top striker Marians Pahars, the Rigans parked the bus and were never going to offer anything more than the occasional lightning counter. So it was up to Wisla to break down the lines of red and the packed penalty area.

It's hardly surprising that Wisla's play was a little disjointed at this stage of mid-summer, but slowly the White Star gathered steam and began using the wings to good effect. In the 39 minute Wisla got their reward. A wicked ball whipped in from the right by Michael Lamey caused panic in the six-yard area, and Renars Rode sliced into his own net. The first half ended with Wisla camped round the Riga box, but no further goals arrived.

The second half was much the same, Wisla's dominance numerically increased in the 83 minute when Juris Laizans collected a second yellow card for a senseless elbow. Immediately after, Wisla's best player, Maor Meliksson, who demonstrated fine touches throughout, was felled for the umpteenth time, breaking a finger in the process. If he is forced to miss the return, Wisla will be severely weakened.

Right at the death a hopeful punt upfield was dealt with comically by Wisla's central defender Jaliens and Riga nearly scored an entirely undeserved equaliser. It is precisely that kind of blunder that the Krakow team have to avoid next Tuesday if they are to progress.

"The only thing that was missing was more goals," Wisla's Dutch manager Robert Maaskant commented after the game, before adding, "We did a good job, winning here, but we know we've still got a lot to do. The team that won today was almost the same as last season, with the exception of Iliev and Lamey. So it's basically the same group that won the Polish title. I'm satisfied with the result." Skonto showed nothing to suggest that they can pose any kind of threat in Krakow next Tuesday, so if Wisla fail to advance, it will mean they truly shot themselves in the foot.

## Poland's snooker sensation

Kacper Filipiak, a fifteen year old prodigy, has taken the snooker world by storm in only his second major tournament, the World Cup, registering wins over Marco Fu, Stephen Maguire and current world champion John Higgins. In Poland's match with Scotland, Filipiak set the cat among the pigeons by defeating the four-time world champion John Higgins 76-3 in one frame, including a nerveless break of 69. Poland now stand a very good chance of qualifying from the group stages.

Filipiak, though is taking it all in his stride. "There was no pressure on me in the match with John. It was a frame like any other." Higgins was generous in defeat, though, stating, "He's probably the best player of the tournament so far. He didn't look like missing." Equally impressed was Ronnie O'Sullivan, who was watching the match at home in the UK. The Rocket tweeted immediately after the match, "Tip for you all, just seen this 15-year-old from Poland, he will be world champion."

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### SPORTS BRIEFS

#### Bronzed off... finally!

Poland's men's volleyball team took their first ever medal at the World League tournament which took place in the Ergo Arena in Gdansk last week, defeating Argentina three sets to nil in the third-place playoff. The performance capped a successful event that saw the Poles defeated in the semis by eventual winners Russia, and did something to erase the pain of two previous defeats in bronze medal matches, in 2005 and 2007. Ten thousand fans went wild as the unfancied Poles, missing some of their best players, overcame the

South Americans in straight sets. "Don't let anybody tell you it's easier playing at home. It's not true. It's easier to win abroad, because there's not such enormous pressure," commented a relieved Lukasz Zygadlo after the match.

#### Ready or not

Lechia Gdansk have been forced to ask the Ekstraklasa to rearrange their opening fixture against Polonia Warszawa on July 29 as their new stadium won't be ready in time. The latest estimates say

the PGE Arena will be completed by July 18, but Lechia are not prepared to take the risk of arranging matches and selling tickets that then have to be cancelled. Even after the stadium is handed over, there will be seven days of technical inspections to be carried out in the stadium before a report is drawn up listing eventual remedial work that needs to be carried out. The delays mean a planned match against FC Porto, winners of last season's Europa League, has had to be ditched and the inaugural match will now be against Cracovia on August 12.

# Classifieds: Place your free ads and community news here. Email [editor@newpolandexpress.pl](mailto:editor@newpolandexpress.pl)

## Apartment for lease

Large, well appointed, furnished apartment for lease in Ursynów (Kabaty). Floor area 126m<sup>2</sup>, incl. large living/dining room, fully appointed kitchen (built-in oven, cooktop, microwave, coffee machine, two fridges plus wine fridge), 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms plus separate guest toilet. Large balcony/terrace accessible from living/dining room and bedrooms with views overlooking the Kabaty forest. Located on the 4th floor (top floor) in a new, 24 hour secured complex within walking distance to the Kabaty metro station. Convenient and very amenable area with all necessary facilities for family life (schools, shops, local market, restaurants, cinemas, etc). Telephone & broadband internet connected. Rent: 4700 per month (incl. admin. fees) + outgoings. Available early August (owners moving overseas).  
Contact: [stevejones@op.pl](mailto:stevejones@op.pl) or Antonina 608 648 546.

## WOMEN'S FASTPITCH SOFTBALL

The Warsaw Diamonds train 2-3 times per week year-round in Mokotow and play in league games across Poland on weekends from Apr-Jun and Sept-Oct. The team is currently in 2nd place in the league and is planning a week-long tour through CZ or HU to play club teams in spring 2012.  
Contact Coach Christopher at 601317432 or [coach@softball.pl](mailto:coach@softball.pl) for details.

## Flat to let

Flat to let on Wyzwolenia street. Four min walk to metro Politechnika, off street parking, fully modernised 60 square metres, 3 rooms, bathroom and kitchen. Situated in a quiet area and in the heart of Warsaw. 2700 Pln per month (ono).

For photos please e-mail [michael.lutherdaves1@gmail.com](mailto:michael.lutherdaves1@gmail.com) for further info please call 0048 601818170. English owner.

## Searching for flat or room

Looking for small flat or room to rent for the summer. Will consider house sitting situation. Must have internet. Please call: 692.931.278.

## Krakow apartment for sale

Walk straight in!  
Krakow apartment 380000zł\*  
59 m<sup>2</sup> Two rooms – kitchen, dining, living area, one double bedroom, bathroom. Also secure cellar storage and small garden. Available for sale completely furnished and well equipped. Close to public transport (buses, trains and trams), 15 minutes from centre of Krakow.  
\*includes furniture, white goods and kitchen equipment.  
Email Chris: [cmwbell@gmail.com](mailto:cmwbell@gmail.com) for more information.

## Looking for room to rent

I am looking for an apartment or room to rent from June 20th for one month in the centre of Warsaw or not too far from it.  
Please email me [edyta007@hotmail.com](mailto:edyta007@hotmail.com) or call me after 5pm: 609-016-596

## Recreational lot

1/2 hour drive from Warsaw, in Pomiechówek, Brody Parcele, Serocka Street 3, 3720m<sup>2</sup>, Old trees. Has access to all media: water, sewer, electricity. Close to train station and shops. 3km from the Modlin Airport. Can be used for semi-industrial purpose or subdivided into 4 single family lots.  
Call: 660384 603 or mail: [iga9@hotmail.com](mailto:iga9@hotmail.com)

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Warsaw, City Center, Wiejska Street near Sheraton and parks, sunny 60m<sup>2</sup>, 3 rooms, huge loggia, fully furnished and equipped, 2200zł.

Call: 660 384 603 or email: [iga9@hotmail.com](mailto:iga9@hotmail.com)

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Entry available early April 2011  
For further information, please contact: Donald Blair: [blairdon@hebrides.net](mailto:blairdon@hebrides.net) +44 7930 164 013

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This is an exciting opportunity for the right candidates to join a select financial services group who lead the international marketplace in financial services.  
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For more information, please e-mail [warsaw@aesfinance.com](mailto:warsaw@aesfinance.com)

## FOR SALE

- Weber Genesis Silver C gas grill, with many accessories, including all weather cover
- Weber Chill. Mobile fridge for use indoors and out.
- Teak garden table, 8 chairs, cushions and blankets (All high quality)

If you are interested please either call (601-366855) or mail on [jt90@wp.pl](mailto:jt90@wp.pl)

## Warsaw Apartment for rent

Fully furnished apartment for rent on Wiejska 20 (next to Sheraton). 60 sq. m, 3 rooms: 2 bedrooms and living room. Large balcony/loggia, attached to kitchen. Separate bathroom and WC. Located on the second floor with an elevator. Award winning building with beautiful inside yard. Rent: 2500 PLN / month  
Contact: [jspeur@hotmail.com](mailto:jspeur@hotmail.com) or [iga9@hotmail.com](mailto:iga9@hotmail.com)

## Polish speaking foreigners wanted

I'm looking for foreigners speaking Polish to complete a short interesting questionnaire about expressing emotions in Polish language.  
Please email me: [ernominee@gmail.com](mailto:ernominee@gmail.com)

# Community Groups: Place free listings for your community groups here. Email [editor@newpolandexpress.pl](mailto:editor@newpolandexpress.pl)

## Free conversation lessons

Free conversation lessons take place at KLUB DIALOGU, Krakowskie Przedmieście 13/156 (entrance from Tokarzewskiego) every Saturday at 11:00 am and 12:10 pm.  
Please call: 22-498-1010  
or email us: [info@klubdialogu.pl](mailto:info@klubdialogu.pl) if you are interested

## Church of England in Poland

We welcome Anglicans, Episcopalians and all others interested, to celebrate the Eucharist every Sunday morning at 10.30 am. Join us for light refreshments after the service to learn more about the activities of our church.  
Place: Res Sacra Miser Chapel, ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 62, Warsaw.

## The Sikh Community

The Sikh Community of Warsaw meets each Sunday at the Sikh Gurudwara in Rashyn, Ul Na Skraju 56. All are welcome. Kirtan starts at midday and langar is served after the Bhog at about 1400. For more information contact 22 868 4541. The Sikh faith is about equality, honesty and standing up to oppression. Anyone visiting the Guru's house is welcome, in return for due respect and consideration of the Sikh faith.

## Role Playing Game in Warsaw

International English-speaking group in Warsaw, mostly foreign professionals, play tabletop Dungeons & Dragons fortnightly. No experience necessary but fluent English proficiency is required. Have a good time. Play some games. Meet new friends. Open your imagination. More info: Facebook group: <http://tiny.cc/zaffa> or [CreativeCowboy\[at\]yahoo\[dot\]com](mailto:CreativeCowboy[at]yahoo[dot]com)

## Poland Tartan Army

A new Poland Tartan Army Facebook group has been created. If you are a fan of Scottish football and our national team please join the group by visiting Facebook and conducting a search for Poland Tartan Army. If anyone, who is not a part of Facebook, is interested in this idea then please email [murraymaw@hotmail.com](mailto:murraymaw@hotmail.com) to register your interest.

## HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

We are a Polish and Expat social group who organise a walk/run in a forest, park or around the city, followed by a few beers (or whatever takes your fancy!). We meet at the Marriott hotel on alternate Saturdays at 2pm. "Hash House Harriers" is an international group, which was originally established in Malaysia 70 years ago. All are welcome. For details, call Martin at 502-052-958. Email [warsawh3@gmail.com](mailto:warsawh3@gmail.com) or [www.warsawhash.pl](http://www.warsawhash.pl)

## International Women's Group

Meetings are held twice a month on the SECOND Monday at 10.30 (for location see our newsletter or website) and on the FOURTH Monday of the month at Restauracja Tapa y Toro located in the Zlote Tarasy Shopping Mall (ul. Zlota 59) from 10:00 - 11:00.  
For more information see [www.iwgwarsaw.eu](http://www.iwgwarsaw.eu) or contact us at [iwgwarsaw@yahoo.com](mailto:iwgwarsaw@yahoo.com)

## International Rotary Club

International Rotary Club - Warszawa Wilanow is the only English speaking Rotary Club in Warsaw. Visiting Rotarians are warmly welcomed to join the weekly meetings held at the Polonia Palace Hotel, Al. Jerozolimskie 45. Tuesday's at 12:00, except the last Tuesday of each month when the meeting is at 19:00. For more information: +48 601 897 731

## Gospel Baptist Church

Services are held in Polish and English languages: Sun. 11:00, Thurs. 19:00. For more information contact: Pastor Paul Sock, mob. 0500-270-990, e-mail: [paulesock@yahoo.com](mailto:paulesock@yahoo.com) [www.gbc-ekb.com](http://www.gbc-ekb.com).

## GAA in Warsaw

Cumann Warszawa.Poland's first and only GAA club is up and running and is looking for players of all levels, all nationalities and both sexes. We offer weekly training, competitive games and regular social events as well as fresh oranges at half time.  
Contact Eoin at 0518-425-587 or [cumannwarszawa@gmail.com](mailto:cumannwarszawa@gmail.com)

## Expat meetings

Meeting English speakers in Warsaw just got a whole load easier. We don't teach you Salsa, we make you pay for your own drinks, but we do promise to give you the premier multi-cultural event of the week at Warsaw's very own Professional Wednesday Meetup.

Contact - [asamu@sniper-rook.co.uk](mailto:asamu@sniper-rook.co.uk) or 691535566

## Toastmasters club

Toastmasters club (Polska) invites all to its weekly meetings. Toastmasters is the international organization for learning the art of public speaking and enhancing leadership skills. Meetings every Wednesday at 19.00 at the Palace of Culture 12th floor (premises of Collegium Civitas) - entrance from ul. Marszałkowska side. For more details visit [www.toastmasters.org.pl](http://www.toastmasters.org.pl) or call Etan at 696-292-451

## Poznan International Church

Every Sunday at 10:00  
Contact details: [www.international.pl](http://www.international.pl). It's simple at P.I.C.. Come and experience God through current music and relevant teaching. Grow in your relationship with God and others by making friends and joining a small group. Serve God and people by being generous with the gifts God has given you. Go and make a difference in the world by sharing the love of Christ.

## CFM (Christian Fellowship Ministries)

Kościół Chrześcijański (evangelical/Pentecostal)  
Location: Aleja Prymasa Tysiąclecia 74B (Wola, Warsaw)  
Services in Polish and English:  
Wednesday 19.30 hrs and Sunday 11.00 & 18.30 hrs  
Every Saturday evening at 20.00 hrs: Film, Concert & Drama or other activities  
Website: [www.thedoor.pl](http://www.thedoor.pl)  
Phone: 784 653 666 (Pastor Jan-Willem van Dam)  
Email: [info@thedoor.pl](mailto:info@thedoor.pl)

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