

£ US\$1.597
 €1.180
 ¥156.745

\$ £0.626
 €0.739
 ¥98.100

TOURIST RATES

Australia (A\$).....	1.60	Poland (zloty).....	4.35
Canada (C\$).....	1.58	Singapore (S\$).....	1.86
Euro (€).....	1.12	South Africa (rand).....	14.91
New Zealand (NZ\$).....	1.80	US (\$).....	1.52

FTSE 100
 6430.49
+92.58

FTSE 250
 14896.61
+258.61

CAC-40
 4218.11
+91.06

DAX
 8685.77
+169.08

DOW
 15126.07
+323.09

Self-starter: She set up her chocolate business with a mere £7,000 but life is sweet for Amelia Rope. The London-based entrepreneur has started selling her premium 100g bars in Fortnum & Mason, Selfridges, Liberty and several branches of Whole Foods. Ms Rope, 43, said: 'I was trained as an aromatherapist and I use my palate and gut instinct to blend the chocolate.'

PICTURE: LUCY YOUNG



300 jobs for new Haribo sweet plant

HARIBO has revealed plans for a new £92million factory in Britain that will produce 48,000 tonnes of sweets a year. The confectionery giant will create nearly 300 jobs by building the plant in Castleford, West Yorkshire, which is expected to be finished by April 2015. The company faces competition from America as it seeks to tempt sugar fans – in a modern-day War of the Roses. Hershey is to launch a caramel bar called Lancaster, its first new line in 30 years. It will be unveiled simultaneously in the US and China.

Switch and fix or your energy bills will send a shiver

SWITCH and fix your energy provider now to avoid spiralling prices, experts are warning.

The first of the major suppliers increased their tariff yesterday and more are now expected to follow in the 'domino-effect' energy market this winter.

SSE announced it was putting its prices up by 8.2 per cent, or £111, for a dual fuel gas and electricity bill on November 15.

'This has kicked off the inevitable domino effect of energy price rises that we have come to expect at this time of year, and it's now just a case of when, rather than if, the rest of the "big six" will follow

by **CHERYL LATHAM**

suit,' said Jeremy Cryer, energy spokesperson at gocompare.com.

'If people want to ensure that they don't spend more than they need to on the energy they use this winter, they should shop around now to find what the best tariff is for their region and energy consumption.

'And if you're concerned about the rising cost of gas and electricity and would like to have some control over how much you spend for a longer period, consider switching to a fixed deal.'

If you've never switched before and are not signed up to a dual fuel,

online, direct debit tariff then changing provider could save you up to £310 a year, according to Energyhelpline.com.

Fixed deals, which are expected to disappear in the coming weeks, could be the best option. EDF Energy and Npower are currently offering deals to fix energy bills until March 2017.

Ann Robinson, of uSwitch.com, said: 'This is the grim reality we face as the cost of energy spirals ever higher.'

'I strongly urge consumers not to take this on the chin, but to fight back. You don't have to watch your energy costs soar.'

£50m boost for WHSmith investors

SHAREHOLDERS will see a £50million return on their stakes in WHSmith after cost-cutting helped annual profits rise by six per cent. The retailer is expanding abroad, with 80 stores open and more than 60 being planned. The chain, which has about 1,200 stores here, shrugged off falling sales in its high street and travel outlets to grow profits to £108million in the year to August, up £6million from last year. Chief executive Steve Clarke said: 'We're planning cautiously in an uncertain environment – however we are a resilient business and well positioned for growth.'



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