Spring clean your home and finances

Spring is the perfect time of the year to get down to those jobs you have been putting off before we can all enjoy the long warm days of summer.

Traditionally it is in the springtime that we clear away the cobwebs that may have accumulated during the winter and cross off those jobs that get left at the bottom of the list. Open the door to a tidy home...

First impressions really do count. There’s nothing more dispiriting than stepping through your front door into chaos. Start by cleaning the floor and tidying up the hall area and ensuring you have storage solutions for shoes, coats and bags, so none of that clutter reaches your rooms. Once done, you’ll feel more motivated about tackling the rest of the home.

If you are looking for some extra motivation then according to American research, every year you burn on average 3,000 calories as you walk around your home tidying and cleaning!

You don’t need expensive products to make a real difference in the home. You can freshen up a microwave by placing a couple of lemon wedges in a bowl of water and turning the microwave to high for three minutes. You leave to stand for five minutes keeping the door closed, then open and wipe thoroughly inside.

Another great home cleaning hack to remove pet hair from furniture, is to rub a damp rubber glove over your furniture. It acts as a pet hair magnet, and when it comes to cleaning floors, for best results mop in a figure of eight shape, moving the mop towards you as you mop to ensure you get up all the dirt.

Spring cleaning your finances may sound like a slightly more daunting task but it really doesn’t have to be, especially if you contact an expert for some advice and assistance. In Portugal there are many tax incentives and benefits available for residents and an expert can help you to make the most of these.

Take a look through this home and finance special supplement to find out more about making the most of your home, garden and finances this spring with help from the very best professionals – here to make your life easier. TPN/PA
Vernon – A reputation for property success

As one of the longest established real estate agencies in the Algarve since the 90’s, Vernon Real Estate is able to provide both buyers and sellers with an unrivalled level of service - every step of the way.

Based in Carvoeiro, the multi-lingual team draws on their years of experience in the industry to provide a holistic approach to buying and selling property in the Algarve, covering all elements from finding an ideal property to handing over the keys and beyond.

The wide portfolio of villas, apartments and plots of land listed with Vernon enables the team to be able to find the perfect property solution for every buyer, no matter what their budget or requirements, with properties on the books ranging from sea view apartments to countryside plots and luxury villas.

For those looking to sell their Algarve property, the team is able to use their wide network of longstanding contacts to find the right buyer and the right price. Working across various marketing platforms both nationally and internationally, you can be sure that your property will reach the right audience for a swift and stress-free sale.

Vernon Real Estate has built a strong reputation for a bespoke service to meet the needs of every client, with the professional, reliable and friendly team available to help buyers and sellers with their Algarve property today.

Contact the team to find out more about properties for sale, to list your Algarve property for sale or to find out more about the many fiscal and lifestyle benefits of investing in property in Portugal.

Contact Mobile +351 912 511 631 T +351 282 357 109 info@vernonalgarve.com

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As a well-established, reputable Property Management company we offer a 'one-stop' service for both Property Management and Holiday Rental Bookings.

Client Testimonial

*My wife and I were introduced to Destination Algarve via our Real Estate agent when we purchased our Villa in 2015. We needed a reliable, efficient company to take care of the property on our behalf as we live and work in Dubai, UAE. Given the distance (and time difference) we were looking for peace of mind that our investment was being looked after efficiently in our absence. We had no idea of the depth of service we were about to receive . . .

We met the owners Carol & Sean and immediately struck up a rapport with them. Nothing was too much trouble and apart from day to day care, they began to make suggestions on improving the property and its efficiency (including financial efficiency).

They introduced us to Fiona who initially looked after the day-to-day maintenance. She also took personal responsibility for our rental guests, providing a “meet and greet” service and personal contact in case of need during the duration of guests’ stay.

Anybody owning property overseas will tell you that regular maintenance is a key feature and over the last three years Destination Algarve have introduced us to Gardeners, Pool companies, Security and alarm advisers, Heating and insulation experts, architects, builders and many more. All these individuals came “road tested” by Destination Algarve, probably the subject of rigorous testing before recommendation. I can honestly say that, without exception, all these local tradesman have added value and are totally reliable. In any event, we just didn’t have the time to undertake the research ourselves so this has been invaluable. Of course, these tradesman needed access to the Villa in order to quote for the work, execution of the service and appropriate follow-up. Fiona is always on hand to facilitate this personally on our behalf as part of her daily schedule.

Eighteen months ago we made the decision to build a second storey on our Villa. This journey began with engaging local architects and builders and whilst we were able to orchestrate an element of the formalities via email and telephone calls, again Destination Algarve introduced us to a member of the team to add even more value. Helena speaks fluent English and Portuguese and was able to act as a conduit between us and the local builder and building regulation department.

Helena attended site visits with us and the builder, and also made helpful suggestions on parts of the building (refurbishment (she has experience in building and design). In other words, Destination Algarve didn’t just look after our Villa, they acted as project managers too!

As the extension began to take shape, Fiona even took photos (weekly) and sent them to us so we could observe progress from three and a half thousand miles away. We always looked forward to Fridays and Fiona’s emails . . .

I think you can clearly see that Carol, Sean and the team have really gone beyond the call of duty in the three years they have looked after us and we both really don’t know what we would have done without them. We plan to move in to the Villa permanently later this year, and whilst we are not likely to be customers any more, we are already personal friends.”

Ian and Karen Street
Warm up your Pool...

The cheapest and most effective way to heat up your swimming pool is with an Aqua Pura 500 Solar Bubble Cover. An AQP500 cover alone can extend your swimming season and as an added bonus, will also cut down on your pool water evaporation by up to 95%. This in turn will lower your water bill by reducing the amount of water needed to top up your pool, as well as lower the costs associated with chemical consumption.

Aqua Pura’s covers are engineered specifically for the warmer temperatures of the southern region of Portugal. Our covers are treated with a special coating of UV protection as well as a chemical attack protection which is crucial due to the gases released by the chemicals used to treat swimming pool water.

Aqua Pura has been covering pools throughout the Algarve for over 30 years. Our personalized pulling system makes it easy for anyone to use. Our rollers are one piece heavy-gauged aluminium rather than the standard 3-piece telescopic rollers which are unsteady and become wobbly.

AQP500 pool covers are manufactured locally allowing for quick delivery and installation. Prior to any installation, an AQP technician will visit your property to confirm all of the necessary measurements to guarantee a perfect fit. Our covers can be made to fit most pool shapes and sizes.

Visit our site at www.aquapura.com.pt or contact us at 918 143 491 for a quotation and reap all the benefits that an Aqua Pura pool cover offers.

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The good weather is coming and with it comes the time to enjoy your garden. Visit our Bricomarché store and get to know our range of products to make your outdoor space smiles with your friends.

Bricomarché is a one-stop shop for all your home DIY and garden needs with the large store in Portimão offering everything you need to make your building dreams come true.

The Portimão branch of Bricomarché first opened in 2009 and is part of the larger Grupo os Mosqueteiros, which also includes the Intermarché supermarket chain, and follows the company ethos of providing high-quality products at everyday low prices - all year round.

Covering a total area of 1,415 square metres, with 274 of these dedicated to gardens and building materials, the Portimão Bricomarché offers clients more than 20,000 products divided into five different areas: DIY, decoration, building materials, gardens and the pet shop.

The wide range of products available makes Bricomarché the only brand in Portugal to offer products across all five areas under one roof.

The impressive reputation of Bricomarché is reflected in the professional and personalised service provided by the team, who are able to offer a range of services including technical assistance, custom wood and material cutting, customer support, free quotes, financing solutions, home delivery, after-sales service, assembly and installation, painting and gift certificates.

Open 7 days a week from 9am until 9pm in Cabeco do Mocho, Lote 1, the team of specialised professionals are available every day to help and to work with you to make your projects come to life. - Bricomarché. Advert on page 1.

M2M Blinds proving bigger is not better

One of the Algarve’s best known business names, M2M Blinds have in 2018 had their best start to any year. With a successful 11 years in business, they give their clients extra peace of mind and security that they are dealing with a long-established company.

M2M are a small enterprise, but with a big reputation for the best quality, service and prices. As the saying goes: “In life you get what you pay for”, but what M2M have managed to achieve is to give you the better products without paying top prices. This philosophy has paid off for them with countless returning clients over the years and many more recommendations that continue to come every week.

With the best product ranges of internal window blinds, mosquito screens, awnings and external blinds, Upvc windows and doors, glass curtains, electric radiators and towel rails, M2M can help you improve your lifestyle and home in a multitude of ways. All the above comes with the M2M “I CARE” personalized service that will make clients choices as less stressful as possible, with help and guidance from Denny from start to finish. There are no middle-men or installation teams to talk to or deal with. You will have a guarantee of a clean and pleasant installation and a product that you will be able to enjoy for years to come.

Is bigger better? M2M think not. They believe that the personal service they provide is the key to the success over the years, with many customers now being friends. You do not get this from larger companies.

Jane and Denny Bird, owners of M2M explain: “We always give our clients a finished job that we would have in our own home, and that makes a big difference going the extra mile to finish a job off correctly. We would also like to thank all our clients over the years for help making the business what it is and also a thank you to The Portugal News with whom we have been with from the very first week.”

If you are considering home improvements with one or more of the products M2M supply, then feel free to contact them for a free, no obligation quotation and let them help you improve your property and lifestyle. M2M will once again be attending their 12” year at the International Algarve fair in June please feel free to visit their stand. Visit our website: www.m2mblinds.com or email us: m2mblinds@hotmail.com, or alternatively call us on 286 5 18 059 / 932 894 709

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- Boat cleaning and detailing
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Richard and Dan from Quinn Services and Maintenance said: “After being in the Algarve for more than 10 years and working for various local companies, it became apparent that there was a growing demand for a reliable, trustworthy and professional service to meet the needs of clients.”

Based in Lagos with a wide client base, the team at Quinn Services and Maintenance recognise that every client is an individual with their own unique and specific needs. They work to meet these needs on a case by case basis. Every project or job undertaken by Quinn Services and Maintenance uses top quality products sourced from local businesses and the company has grown through demand to now offer painting and decorating services, project management of small renovations such as kitchens, bathrooms, balcony sealing and resurfacing, as well as a broad range of general maintenance services.

From internal and external painting, garden maintenance, window cleaning and car valeting to boat cleaning and detailing, general repair work and much more, contact Quinn Services and Maintenance.

With their wide knowledge of trusted local tradesmen, Quinn Services and Maintenance can provide every client with everything they need, every step of the way.

For further information or a free quote, please call Quinn Services and Maintenance on 936 563 256 or 913 428 725, email quinnservicesandmaintenance@gmail.com or visit their Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/quinnservicesandmaintenance
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The ONE team is here to inform: Market Insights 2018

2017 was a strong year for the real estate market across Europe, and Portugal and the Algarve were no exception. With 300 days of sunshine, stunning coastal scenery, a reasonable price of living and a vibrant local culture, the area remains a popular spot for both permanent expats and investors.

One of the key takeaways from 2017 was investors’ desire to acquire property in areas they identify as safe. This is a developing concern as security is threatened by uncertain political change in all corners of the globe. Luckily, Portugal and villas in the Algarve consistently meet this need, providing buyers a safe, financially stable, high-end resort lifestyle.

With an international airport 15 minutes away, security, competitive food and beverage pricing as well as government incentives such as the Golden Visa and National Habitual Residency (NHR), interest in this area of Portugal is set to continue into the next year and beyond.

The Golden Visa gives non-EU nationals residential status in return for investment and continues to attract buyers from Asia and the Middle East, while the tax benefits from the NHR are seeing more European buyers choose Portugal. Both are expected to remain in place in the foreseeable future, bolstering an already strong market.

Of course, 2017 was the year when ‘Brexit’ was on top of people’s minds across Europe. While the ongoing negotiations have left UK buyers less certain about investing, this has led to growth from other European countries. We continue to see high interest in luxury property in the Algarve particularly from Germany and France. In short, while Brexit uncertainty continues, we don’t expect it to impinge on property sales in Portugal.

It’s not just investors who should be feeling confident about the year ahead, property owners will also continue to see the benefits of 2017 well into the next few years. The Algarve represented 50% of Portugal’s real estate profit last year, and remains one of the country’s top three property investment markets, with demand continuing to outstrip supply.

Homeowners looking to sell are in an excellent position, and we predict values will stabilise this year after a slight rise in 2017. The area is also a popular holiday destination for visitors from Portugal, Europe and beyond, which is good news for rental income. We saw a lot of new rental customers in 2017, and expect to see them return now that they have experienced what the Algarve has to offer.

In short, 2018 is shaping up to be an exciting year, whether you are looking for an exclusive property in Portugal, or hoping to enjoy the benefits of your existing home.

- One Select. Advert on page IX

What Wellness Dreams are made of!

Wellness Dreams let their work do the talking for them, by providing the best quality hot tubs in the Algarve and supporting customers with excellent service throughout, and Thomas Grunewald from Wellness Dreams would like to thank his customers for another fantastic year.

Recent product line changes at Wellness Dreams, including new products from Villeroy & Boch Hot Tubs as well as the Swimspas, have proved to be very successful with clients. The Villeroy & Boch spas incorporate new technology and jetpacks that allow customers to customise their personal jet configuration, while the Riviera Hot Tubs from Germany have successfully managed to meet both modern contemporary design demands and the highest levels of manufacturing.

Most would agree that these hot tubs are very stylish and boast a completely new design and appearance alongside renowned German quality throughout. Riviera Hot Tubs are far more than just a hot tub, they are also an eye-catching piece of furniture and art, which is a necessary fixture in any luxury home. One of the features of the Riviera Hot Tub is the daybed which can be used to cover and convert a hot tub into a sun lounger. While a normal covered hot tub can lead to a loss of space when it’s not in use, it can now be a functional area at any time of the day, even when the hot tub is not in use itself.

A new holding system stores the cover while in use and disappears into the side of the tub when the cover is on. This means no more lifting of covers and is just another exciting feature of these exceptional hot tubs.

The swimspas have also come to be hugely popular because there is no need for property owners to gain a license for the swimspa, yet they are still able to have all of the enjoyment of a larger pool thanks to it coming complete with an underwater bicycle, and it being able to absorb the force of the body while still providing a great workout.

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**“Architecture Is Everyone’s Business”**

And ‘out of the box’ is this studio’s state of mind.

Studio Arte is one of a kind. Once you enter their atelier, in downtown Portimão, you’re immediately drawn to some amazing details around the place: a huge Saint Mary, a chair with a lamp that falls above your head, a shiny orange canary singing; in short – the home of the creators. But who are they, and what do they do?

Let’s call it a platform. Joana Dalmau Pinto and João Carrico are the main architects, working side by side with various junior architects. Georgia de Vlieger takes care of the interior design, and Arnold Aarssen is the one who leads the team with his concepts and creative/project direction. The platform works with other important partners, so it offers a large range of services.

For them, architecture is much more than just walls and spaces. It is a whole concept and the reflection of a lifestyle and someone’s needs, such as natural elements or light. Rather than creating hyper tech houses, they prefer the eco-way and finding more organic (yet efficient) solutions.

For the studio, it is essential to keep up with new economical building techniques, from wood to light weight structures, all cleaner and smarter solutions.

Rehab projects in city centres see old buildings transform into cozy shelters in their hands. Like CASA XAROCO (Carvoeiro) or CASA LILA (Silves), never losing the sophistication that characterises their work. It adds a huge value to the properties and investors are more than interested in these projects. But if you are looking for other projects, then you must meet CASA CAPRICÓRNIOS (Carvoeiro) or CASA XYZA (Ferragudo), among many others. Clients are happy and so are they, mostly because the final result fits their needs, and importantly, their budgets too, which can go from A to Z, because as they say: “Architecture is everyone’s business”.

New exciting projects coming soon, like the redevelopment of the old Feitoria building, which will be transformed into a luxurious 50 boutique apartment and hotel facility - by Marta Nobre, StudioArts. Advert below.

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**Good Life Spas**

Whether you need a simple hot tub spa at an affordable price, or a complete wellness area: Sauna, Steam, Shower, Spa and loungers, trust Good Life Spas to deliver quality and service, every time.

Now in their 10th year of supplying wellness solutions throughout Portugal, to both private customers and professional spa areas, they work closely with clients and architects to ensure each project is delivered on time and to their own high standards.

For the studio, it is essential to work closely with clients and architects to ensure each project is delivered on time and to their own high standards. And ‘out of the box’ is this studio’s state of mind. Home & Finance Supplement
Architectural Decorative Outdoor Projects

Out of all the garden centres in the Algarve, Natura is unique. Owner Jean Claude Defrance loves nature and has tremendous respect for, and understanding of, the environment, and this permeates his company. Its philosophy and approach is totally geared towards caring for the environment and this is reflected in the design and creation of gardens which not only look beautiful, but are also in harmony with their surroundings.

Every client receives personal attention, each garden Jean Claude designs is an individual project, a living work of art rather than an “off-the-shelf” standard design with lots of expensive shrubs to maximise profit.

One of Natura’s main themes is the use of native and Mediterranean plants rather than exotic ones. “They are much better adapted to the climate.” He points out the trees, shrubs and flowers that can cope with the extreme heat without wilting: they can give colour and decoration all year round, without needing much water, which has become an increasingly valuable resource; and Jean Claude encourages his clients to take this into account when planning a garden.

To him, planning, creating and maintaining a garden - whatever the size, whatever the budget - is a work of art, and his teams all feel the same way. “We are dealing with living plants, not inanimate objects. We are creating something that will grow, mature, and reproduce over the years. We encourage people to come and look around our garden centre, to ask questions, to see what plants look like when they have matured.” - Natura.

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With over 40 years of experience, Norberto Pools is a licensed and insured builder, confident that we have the knowledge and skill required to understand and execute your individual needs, desires and functionality with regard to your swimming pool venture. Deciding on the size, style and shape of your pool can be a daunting task. With so many options available, it’s good to have someone with experience and know-how to guide you through the entire process.

As with any project, planning is the most important step to ensure that you’re getting the best available option for your investment. Planning is also vital for scheduling purposes to ensure that your project is carried out in a timely manner. This is of utmost importance, especially today with Portugal going through an economic boom, making it more and more difficult to find an experienced, quality, legitimate contractor. So let’s get ready for the warmer days ahead! Visit our website www.norbertopools.com.pt or contact us today to schedule an on-site visit. Norberto Pools 916 982 085 / 919 974 966.

-Norberto Pools Advert below.
Cape Gardens - Beautiful gardens are their business

You don’t need to have green fingers to have a beautiful garden thanks to Cape Gardens, a team of experienced professionals who are here to make your garden look its very best.

The team at Cape Gardens are garden enthusiasts who love to see nature at its best. Founded by South African Hamish Rumball, who had more than 25 years of experience, the company is now headed by his sons John and James and run by the dedicated, skilled and experienced staff of the company.

Cape gardens offers professional and personal landscaping and gardening services, bringing together the perfect blend of knowledge and inspiration to create beautiful spaces to meet the needs of every client using their gardening and landscape architect skills.

The company has built a strong reputation for working closely and effectively with clients, making every effort to turn garden dreams into a reality by listening to clients and understanding exactly what their wishes are.

Cape Gardens are able to craft Mediterranean gardens that make the most of the Algarve light and climate in either a formal or informal style. The team are also able to create low water gardens without losing the aesthetic quality of the design to keep costs low, to help protect the environment and to also look stunning for the ultimate in style and sustainability.

Cape Gardens are also able to build or fix features including water features, pergolas, trellises, cicada and much more.

Whether you are considering building a gazebo, pergolas, garages or completing deck or fencing works in wood, Progescom can help you every step of the way.

Choose the level of assistance they require to meet the individual needs of a project.

You don’t need to have green fingers to have a beautiful garden thanks to Cape Gardens, a team of experienced professionals who are here to make your garden look its very best.

Progescom – Wood for you

Wood is one of the most versatile materials in the world and with Progescom, you can transform wood into beautiful decks, buildings, pergolas, furniture and much more.

Now under new modern and professional management, the Progescom team brings their knowledge and experience in the world of wood, and wood derivatives, to clients across Southern Portugal and Spain.

The company specialises in imported woods and exotic woods with a permanent stock available to start making your wood construction dreams become reality today.

Cape Gardens makes wood work for you. Contact the team today to find out more about their services.

Tel: 934 231 923

Tel: 2893 97165 - Cape Gardens. Advert on page XIV
Casa Têxteis - Bigger Stores, Better Quality, Choice and Value

Summer will soon be here and as always we have some fantastic new introductions. If you are renting out or refurbishing your property this year look no further, we have everything you need under one roof with ranges to suit all budgets in sheets, towels, duvet covers, bedspreads, curtains and cushions to totally refurnish your home or rental property.

There are some fabulous new editions to our duvet covers this year with subtle designer looks in high quality cotton, others with beautiful embroidery and some in the latest on trend colours of grey and yellow.

We stock several brands of cotton including our superior Belledorm brand of Egyptian cotton sheets, duvet covers and pillowcases in 200TC cotton percale and 400TC cotton sateen.

A line we have run for years now is our lovely CL Home Portuguese-manufactured 200TC soft-spun cotton sheets and pillowcases. We have now added duvet covers to match in all sizes and a new size of 160 x 220. Obviously we also have the duvets to fit this size, and they are a much better size for single rental beds that adults sleep in.

Easycare bedspreads are a must in the summer so they can be washed and dried quickly with little or no ironing, and we have a wide selection of designs and colours in stock.

Mattress and pillow protection are a necessity; ours are super quality at a very competitive price in all sizes, up to a massive 200x200 with a 30cm depth.

Pillow protectors, including anti-allergy, quilted, 100% cotton and waterproof, are available in a variety of sizes.

We believe the brands of towels we have kept for several years are the best quality and value available, starting with our hotel quality 100% cotton 500g towel (only available in white) and starting at just €4.00 for a hand towel, €8.00 for bath and €12.00 for a bath sheet are second to none. Mats, guest and face are also available. Our long standing 600g cotton towels in 13 colours are fantastic. We have sold this towel since 2007 and it always results in great feedback from our customers.

Sampedro is a famous name for textiles in Portugal and at present we have 8 colours in their very soft, luxurious towels and Sampedro high quality towelling and waffle bathrobes in white.

Email us for a quotation: hometextiles@sapo.pt
-Casa Texteis. Advert on page XV
For Comfort & Quality

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Maximise the use of your swimming pool

Swimming pool specialists Pure Pools will help you make the most of your pool all year round, with pool heaters, automatic and manual covers, safety fencing and spas; all of the highest standard.

With 25 years' experience in the market, Pure Pools choose only the best quality materials for their products, ensuring purchases are long-lasting and have the desired effects.

Being specialists in pool heating and safety, Pure Pools have high quality titanium heat pumps which provide constant heat due to the super efficient heat transfer technology they possess, transferring free heat from the outdoor air into the swimming pool. These high performance pumps have a low-power consumption, ensuring your bills won’t go through the roof, unlike some types of pool heater. For every kilowatt of energy consumed, the titanium heat pumps transfer up to six kilowatts of heat into your pool water. These pumps are easy to install and are designed to fit into your current pool’s filtration system. With thousands of units sold since starting the business, you can rely on Pure Pool’s professionalism and experience for an adequate system for your pool. Their customer service is also second to none. In order to further lower energy consumption, maximise savings, and to protect the environment, they always recommend installing a cover to a heated pool. They supply a comprehensive range of bubble covers and automatic slat covers (with child safety protection conforming to French Safety Standard NFP 90-308).

Another area where Pure Pools excels is safety fencing. With the possibility of new laws being implemented to increase safety around pools, it is time to think about installing a safety fencing system around your own. The fencing consists of a strong ‘securtex’ mesh. It keeps children safely out of pools in the event of the carer being distracted and does not ruin the aesthetics as the mesh is 99% transparent. The non-rigid top edges also prevent children from climbing over the fencing, providing added safety. Based in Lagos, behind Intermarché, their showroom is open weekdays from 09h00 to 18h00 and their team of technicians are always available. Please contact 282 760033, 919517868; email: info@purepools.com or visit www.purepools.com