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Sandro inspires back-to-back victories for Malaga

The Blue and Whites have turned a corner and secured La Liga status for another year **P64&65**



These paintings by Paula Rego are among those brought to Malaga from the Tate, London.

by SALVADOR SALAS



THE TATE SENDS FREUD AND BACON TO MEET PICASSO

The latest exhibition at the MPM comes thanks to a new alliance with the London gallery. **P36&37**

Costa del Sol races to rebuild its beaches after latest battering

A year's supply of sand is needed to repair the damage caused by stormy seas at the end of last week

Machinery has reappeared on the Costa del Sol's beaches after they suffered their worst storm damage in 22 years at the end of last week. Authorities calculate that to get the coastline back to tip-top condition

for the peak tourist season they will have to deliver the same amount of sand that is normally needed to top up the beaches in one year. The central government is to spend 4.6 million euros on emergency works. In

Marbella dredging has begun where sand banks had built up partly blocking access into Marbella harbour. The sand obtained will be used to replenish La Fontanilla beach while councils in Malaga, Torremolinos and Torrox, among others, work to remove rocks and cover exposed pipes. More unstable weather is forecast for today, Friday, with yellow weather warnings issued for rain and rough seas. **P2&3**



Lux Mundi in Fuengirola appeals for more volunteers to help in its soup kitchen **P4**

Unicaja bank heads for the stock exchange following green light from shareholders **P16**

Catalonia's corruption saga continues as former president Pujol's son is held without bail **P20**

Benalmádena schools take on the Daily Mile challenge to tackle child obesity **P42**

Missing Torrox woman located in Turkey after flight from Dubai

María Jimena fled with her partner as father reported their homosexuality **P5**



From robots to the cherry blossom, Tokyo features in our Travel special

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Work is under way to repair some of the beaches which suffered damage from strong winds. :: SALVADOR SALAS



Accumulated sand at Guadalmar. :: SALVADOR SALAS

A year's supply of sand is needed to repair latest storm damage to Costa del Sol beaches

IGNACIO
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The regional and coastal authorities, in conjunction with local councils, will be working from now until 20 June to return the coast to optimum condition

MÁLAGA. It is going to take about 200,000 cubic metres of sand to return the beaches of Malaga province

to optimum condition in time for the peak tourist season. That is almost the same amount that is normally used for a whole year, but the recent wind and bad weather has caused the worst damage to the sand in 22 years, so emergency measures are having to be put into effect.

The environment ministry's coastal authority, together with the central government office in Malaga and councils of municipalities along the coast, will be working flat out from now until 20 June to replace the vast quantity of sand that was lost at the end of last week.

This will be possible, they say, because before Easter the reprofiling works were carried out with the sand that was already on the beaches, but

no extra sand was added. During Easter week the Junta de Andalucía authorised the removal of sand from riverbeds, so it can be used as a replacement in the areas most in need.

The government representative in Malaga, Miguel Briones, gave a report on the situation earlier this week and promised that everything would be ready for the start of the peak tourist season. He said the 4.6-million-euro budget that the government had assigned will all be used, plus whatever else is necessary.

The areas that were worst hit by last week's stormy seas were Malaga city, Torrox (Ferrera beach), Vélez-Málaga and Torremolinos. In Malaga, the Sacaba and Guadalmar beaches suffered the most damage, as two

walls were demolished by the force of the waves.

Briones said he would be prepared to request help from the Ministry of the Environment in case more money is needed, although "at present it looks as if the amount we have been assigned will allow us to do a great deal". He pointed out that during the storms the waves moved parallel to the seafront promenades at times; this meant that sand collected beside the breakwaters, and this can be used to repair some nearby areas.

The Guadalmar, San Andrés and Baños del Carmen beaches in Malaga have been reduced considerably in size and large rocks have been exposed on them. Several beach restaurants have been seriously affected

and there are now steep drops, more than 50 centimetres, from what used to be their terraces.

In the Pedregalejo district some of the breakwaters that protected the bays have also been destroyed and the beach at Los Baños del Carmen is now tiny in comparison with its previous size.

Malaga council assigned more than 200 municipal workers earlier this week to remove sand and stones from the seafront promenades that were invaded by waves.

As the cleanup continued, forecasters warned that more severe weather warnings for wind and waves would be in place across the Costa del Sol and its beaches today (Friday) and into the weekend.

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Emergency works in Nerja. :: EUGENIO CABEZAS

Torrox, Nerja and Torremolinos, worst-affected in the province

■ SUR

MÁLAGA. The Costa del Sol is going to need time, money and large quantities of sand to repair the damage after the storms.

In Torremolinos, which was one of the worst-affected resorts, about two to three weeks of work will be needed, especially in La Carihuella. The council is considering asking for breakwaters to be installed in that area, which is something the tourism sector has been proposing for years.

The local authority will arrange for the sand to be redistributed and flattened in the areas where the sunbeds are placed, but the most serious damage will have to be repaired by the national coastal authority.

Rincón de la Victoria suffered general damage along several kilometres of coast from Torre de

Benagalbón to La Cala del Moral, although the worst-affected beach there is the one by the San Diego residential development.

In Torrox, the Ferrara beach has lost about 300 metres of its width, despite a semi-submerged breakwater being installed last year.

In Nerja, the most serious problems occurred on the eastern side of La Torrecilla and El Chucho beaches. Here water got up as far as walkways and 'chiringuito' beach bars, removing sand. The council has already contracted equipment to carry out initial urgent repairs in order to have the beaches in an acceptable condition for the start of high season.

i Contributors to this article: **Alberto Gómez and Eugenio Cabezas.**

Sand dredging from Marbella marina to replenish worst-hit beaches

The local council hopes to obtain 12,000 cubic metres of sand by dredging the port entrance, also enabling larger boats to enter the harbour

■ MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. In Marbella, efforts are being made to get back to normal as soon as possible. The most affected beaches were those in the town centre, La Venus and La Fontanilla, where the sand which was replaced before Easter has disappeared completely.

The high waves have left huge depressions and ridges on the beaches, and the equipment which was used to repair them a few months ago will now have to be brought back. One of the immediate tasks will be to remove a large quantity of stones from La Bajadilla

beach.

The council has decided to take this opportunity to kill two birds with one stone, and dredge the entrance to the town's port to obtain extra sand for nearby La Fontanilla beach and also enable larger boats to enter the harbour. It is hoped that 12,000 cubic metres of sand can be obtained in this way, and the dredging work is already being carried out.

Experts have recommended that, instead of transferring the sand directly onto the beach, as has been done in the past when the ports of

Cabopino and Puerto Banús were dredged, it should be laid two metres offshore to create a barrier. The sand will then be washed onto the beach naturally and will withstand the effect of erosion for longer.

This is the first time in six years that the port entrance has been dredged, and the accumulation of sand has been causing problems for users because only one entrance and exit channel remained open. It also meant that larger yachts could not access the port at all. These works are expected to cost Marbella council about 60,000 euros.

Hotels and other tourism-related businesses are anxious for the beaches to be in top condition before the main tourist season begins, but the government's representative in Andalucía, Antonio Sanz, has reassured them that everything will be ready on time and that the most important works are already being carried out.

The accumulation of sand at the entrance to the port in Marbella left just one navigation channel open



The boat which will dredge the port entrance, off Marbella's La Fontanilla beach. :: JESÚS PRIETO

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Lux Mundi seeks volunteers to help the homeless in Fuengirola

The soup kitchen serves hot meals every Monday to people of different nationalities who are living on the town's streets

by TONY BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. The Lux Mundi ecumenical centre is appealing for volunteers to help with the daily running of its facility in Fuengirola.

The Christian charity, which has been serving people of all nationalities for more than 40 years, maintains its centre thanks to the daily efforts of its volunteers, friends and benefactors. It is currently struggling, however, to cope with the upkeep and is appealing to the public for help.

Lux Mundi offers a range of services to the homeless and people in need, and one of these is to provide a warm meal for around 30 people every Monday lunchtime.

The charity also supplies a take-

away packed lunch on a Thursday.

In order to keep up this service, Lux Mundi relies on people to collect food from supermarkets and local suppliers, prepare and cook the meal, organise tables and serve the food and clean away after the dinner is over.

"We offer a hot meal on a Monday and we distribute takeaway sandwiches and snacks to people on a Thursday, and so we need people to help out with all aspects of this service," explained Gloria Uribe, the centre's director and a volunteer for more than 25 years.

The charity particularly needs people to help out during the summer months, as this is a time when many of the regular volunteers return home.

The soup kitchen mainly caters for Spanish, British and Scandinavian people who come from varying broken backgrounds.

Lux Mundi also supplies the homeless and the underprivileged with



Lux Mundi relies on the solidarity of its volunteers. by T. BRYANT

clothes, shoes and toiletries. During the colder winter months, it provides sleeping bags, blankets and warm clothes, and volunteers are also needed to organise and help out with this side of the operation.

When the soup kitchen began around ten years ago, the centre

would cater for about 50 people every Monday. Today, these figures have dropped, although the volunteers never actually know how many will turn up.

"The homeless problem was at its worst at the beginning of the crisis and we were serving more people

compared to today. This is good news, because it means that some of these people have possibly found work and are beginning to sort themselves out," Fedder Lund, organiser of the soup kitchen, told SUR in English.

Lux Mundi needs volunteers who can speak a little Spanish, in order to help out with deliveries and collections. They also need people who are familiar with the organisation and running of a working kitchen.

Fedder Lund has been with Lux Mundi for six years. He is dedicated to the work he undertakes at the ecumenical centre and he understands the great necessity of the local underprivileged people.

Meeting point

"I firmly believe that there is a certain percentage of people in every country who are not able to look after themselves and I believe society has to look after them," Ledder said with conviction.

The charity has recently benefited from the generosity of the La Cala de Mijas Lions Club, but it is still in need of donations of money, dried and tinned food, clothing and shoes.

"This centre is a meeting point for people who are on the streets and for those who have difficulties. In order to continue to help these people, we need the support of those who are able to offer a little of their spare time," Gloria Uribe concluded.

More information :
www.lux-mundi.org
Tel. 952474840.

Insider Tips

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Couple found safe in Turkey after terrifying cross-border pursuit

Torrox woman María Jimena Rico and Shaza Ismail have been located in a deportation centre after fleeing Dubai where they had been reported by the latter's father

■ EUGENIO CABEZAS

TORROX. A 28-year-old woman from Torrox has been found in a deportation centre in Turkey with her partner after a supposedly terrifying international pursuit involving her partner's father.

María Jimena Rico lost touch with family on the Costa del Sol on Monday while crossing Turkey. She is travelling with her girlfriend, 22-year-old Shaza Ismail, of Egyptian origin.

María's family in Torrox reported the women missing on Tuesday when they failed to make contact. María had previously told her family how Shaza's father had dramatically travelled from his home in Dubai to confront the pair at the airport in the Georgian capital, Tbilisi, threatening to kill his daughter for her sexuality.

In a WhatsApp message sent from Georgia, María said to a friend, "The father tried to take her by force, the family is mad... Seriously they're going to kill us."

María left Torrox four years ago to work in London. Having recently met Egyptian-born Shaza on a trip to Dubai, where Shaza's parents live,



María Jimena Rico and Shaza Ismail. ■ SUR

they both returned to London, only to be summoned back suddenly, on the pretext that Shaza's mother was ill.

On arriving back in Dubai on 15 April, according to María's family, it was clear that the illness was a ruse and Shaza's father had reported his daughter to the authorities for her sexual orientation, as homosexuality is illegal in the UAE.

The couple fled Dubai immedi-

ately to stay with friends in Georgia, but while waiting at Tbilisi airport to fly back to London last week, María told how Shaza's father suddenly appeared, made his threat and ripped up their passports.

Georgian police were called and when everyone was released, the women fled overland by bus towards neighbouring Turkey, where the nearest Spanish consulate is.

After a few attempts to cross the

border, including being held for twelve hours as suspected terrorists, the couple succeeded in entering Turkey.

Contact lost on Monday

At 9.38am last Monday morning they spoke to a friend in London and said they had reached Istanbul. On hearing nothing from their daughter afterwards, and following her instructions to go to police if they lost contact with her, the family reported the disappearance to the Guardia Civil in Torrox on Tuesday morning.

Speaking in Torrox, María's mother, Teresa Montero, 65, said on Thursday, "Someone has got to be holding them captive, [María] was always on the phone, every day, she knows our numbers by heart."

María's family had managed to make contact with the father of Shaza, who claimed that he was still in Georgia, had not done any harm to the women but also said that he had no idea where they were.

On Thursday afternoon the women were located in an Istanbul deportation centre, where they had been sent after being arrested in the Turkish city of Samsun for not carrying passports.

Spanish ambassador to Turkey, Rafael Mendivil Peydro, said, "Fortunately, everything has sorted itself out". María has been in touch with home, saying she has had no water or means to contact family and is waiting to be returned to London with Shaza.

112 REPORTS

British paedophile held on Costa del Sol

MALAGA

■ **EFE.** A man, believed to be one of the most wanted paedophiles in Wales, has been arrested.

The British detainee has been on the run since 2006, said officers from the Guardia Civil.

The arrest on the Costa del Sol marks the end of several months of difficult investigation, as the man allegedly made concerted efforts to hide his identity and there was no record of him locally. On arrest, he tried to destroy a mobile storage device with 80,000 images of abuse, police said.

Two detainees break out of police patrol car

MARBELLA

■ **H.B.** Marbella's local police force were left red-faced on the Tuesday evening before Easter when two prisoners escaped from a patrol car parked outside the main police station, on the eastern outskirts of the town centre.

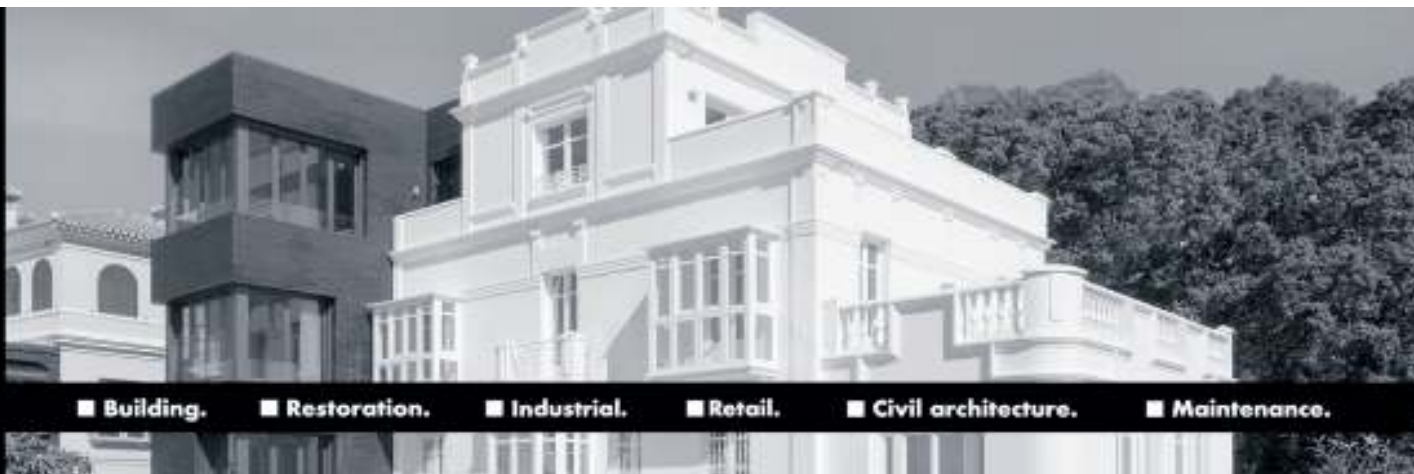
The two men had supposedly been involved in an affray and were waiting in the locked car while an officer went inside the station. Video recordings show one of the detainees breaking the car window, slithering out with difficulty and running back towards Marbella. A police guard on duty by the station unsuccessfully gave chase. Thirty seconds later the second detainee also fled the car. Both men were picked up again later.

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Population drain threatens Malaga's

Nearly 30 per cent of municipalities in Malaga are losing inhabitants despite measures to prevent it

Residents of these villages with fewer than 1,000 inhabitants have to live with insufficient services and very few opportunities for work

:: E. CABEZAS / V. MELGAR. In early 2015 Montecorto (640 inhabitants) and Serrato (503) became the 102nd and 103rd municipalities in Malaga province. Paradoxically, however, this has not prevented them from joining the list of villages with fewer than 1,000 inhabitants that are trying to survive in the face of a declining and ageing population. The problem is also affecting another 26

places, mainly in the Genal valley and La Axarquía, as well as Carratraca, in the Guadalhorce region.

The people of these 28 villages have to live with a shortage of basic services such as health centres, schools, chemists and banks. The loss of population is starting to become a serious problem in the inland regions of Spain, especially in provinces such as Soria, Salamanca and León, where more

than 90 per cent of villages have fewer than 1,000 inhabitants.

The Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP) has asked the government to take urgent measures and as a result a new "commissioner" has been appointed to tackle this "demographic challenge".

Although the problem in Malaga has not reached the alarming levels witnessed in other provinces of Spain,

there are still some areas that run the risk of becoming deserted, despite the province's attraction as a tourist destination.

Those who have chosen to continue living in these 28 villages praise the quality of life and the tranquility, but they do need more help from the authorities and job opportunities, as there is little work to be had. "We want to start a 'baby cheque'



Judith Mena, with the 'cathedral of the Serranía' behind her. :: V. M.

ALPANDEIRE

"Our children would not be able to grow up like this in a town or city"

Judith Mena, 33, lives in Alpendeire and admits that she had her second child, among other reasons, so that her first son would have company

:: V. MELGAR

RONDA. Judith Mena and her husband, Ildefonso Cózar, like village life and that is why they decided to live in Alpendeire, in the Genal valley. Judith, who is 33, was born in this village that is most famous for being the birthplace of Friar Leopoldo, and as such a place of pilgrimage. The couple have two sons, one aged three and the other 20 months old. She admits that they decided to have a second child so that the first one would have company, given the decreasing population of the village. Fortunately, there are now several other children of a similar age there.

"We decided to live in a village because of the quality of life. Our children wouldn't be able to grow up like this in a town or city. We eat vegetables which are grown by my parents, or friends," she said. She pointed out that it would have been easier to move to Seville, where her husband has a permanent job.

"We both like the village, though, and we organise sports events here," she said. They run the Club PurAventura Genal which, among others, is behind the famous 'Gran Vuelta' of the Genal valley in October.

"There are a lot of disadvantages. We don't know what the future of Alpendeire and villages like it is going to be. I think it's possible that people will start coming back to these villages in some way," she said, pointing out that there is huge potential, still unexplored, from the natural environment of the Serranía.



Lina Sánchez, in the main street in Atajate. :: V. M.

ATAJATE

"There is no life whatsoever in Atajate... there are only 80 of us"

Lina Sánchez runs the only shop and bakery in Atajate, the village which has the lowest population in Malaga

:: V. MELGAR

RONDA. Lina Sánchez lives in Atajate, the village with the lowest population in Malaga province. She runs the only bakery, which is also a grocery shop, in this tiny village beside the Ronda to Algeciras road.

Like the other residents, she is worried by the drop in population, because "a lot of people have left" in recent years.

"There is no life whatsoever in Atajate. There are only 80 of us," she said, and in her street, which is the main one in the vil-

lage, only 11 properties are occupied. "Four people live in the square, and generally everyone is elderly. The young people have gone because there's no future for them here," she said, sadly, in her shop where she makes almond cheese, a traditional local speciality.

"The bakery isn't going to close. My son works here with me, but when I retire I don't know whether I'll stay," she explained. She also owns another house in Arriate. "A lot of people are wondering what's going to happen when our older residents pass away," she said.

One of the advantages of living in Atajate is that it is very quiet. "There's no traffic, and there are no robberies here," she said. A doctor visits the village three times a week, and so does a pharmacist.



Manuel Zorrilla, at the entrance to

ÁRCHEZ

"The foreigners have brought a bit of life to the village"

Manuel Zorrilla, 80, was a labourer in France and Switzerland and worked in a factory in Malaga, but believes "life is better here than anywhere else in the world"

:: E. CABEZAS

ÁRCHEZ. He was a labourer in France and Switzerland and worked in a furniture factory in Malaga, but 80-year-old Manuel Zorrilla has always come back to Archez, "because here life is better than anywhere else in the

smallest villages

scheme, in addition to the assistance from the provincial government, and we want to restore housing so families can live here for a cheap rent," said the mayor of Salares, Pablo Crespillo. With only 181 people on the population register, this is the second smallest municipality in the province after Atajate, in the Genal valley, which has a population of 171. Árchez, with 428 residents, also wants to turn its situation around and the mayor, Mari Carmen Moreno, is hoping to create affordable hous-

ing by restoring run-down properties. In the Serranía de Ronda, depopulation has been worrying councils for years. They have introduced measures such as the 'baby cheques' to try to increase the birth rate in Cuevas del Becerro and Cartajima, among others. It was Cartajima that hit the headlines last year when the local authority put out a call for families with school-age children to move there because otherwise its own school would have had to close. They

offered work and low-rent accommodation, and received more than 3,000 applications from all over Spain. The school now has eight pupils and, for the moment, it can stay open. "This is the start of what we're hoping to do. We hope two more families will be coming to live here soon," said the mayor of Cartajima, Francisco Benítez. In the Serranía, the scarce population has left some villages, like Atajate, with no chemist (a pharmacist visits the village several days a week instead) and no bank, and in Alpandeire a bus service has been laid on so elderly people can travel to Ronda to carry out their banking transactions. Despite all this, only Atajate, Faraján and Pujerra have managed to avoid their population figures dropping during the last year.



Árchez. :: E. C.

world." He is proud of the village in which he was born, at number 20 Calle Trinidad. "I remember when I used to walk to Jayena (Granada), carrying 12 kilos of raisins on my back to sell them and make a living," he said. He is married to Francisca Moreno, who is 79. They have two children, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, but none of them live in Árchez. "It's a shame that none of my children stayed here, but I can understand it because the work is elsewhere. They come every weekend, though, and they love the village," said Manuel, who takes long walks every day and looks after his two plots of land where he grows subtropical fruits and vines. "This blue sky we have in Árchez, you'll never see it anywhere else," he stressed. He believes foreigners (who represent 20 per cent of the 428 residents) have brought "a bit of life" to the village in recent years. "A lot have bought houses in the centre of Árchez, and some in the countryside. We get on very well; they're nice people. Life here is very peaceful," he said.



Obdulia Puertas, outside the Town Hall. :: E. C.

SALARES

"We have an apartment in Malaga, but we wouldn't want to leave our children"

Obdulia Puertas lives with her family in this small village, which has fewer than 200 inhabitants

:: E. C.

SALARES. Obdulia Puertas, 59, admits that in terms of population Salares is about the same as any medium-sized apartment block of which there are thousands on the coast. With just 181 inhabitants, this municipality in the Alta Axarquía region, between Árchez and Sedella, is fighting to retain its population, which has dropped by 26 in the past decade. "I hope my son and my daughter have children soon, so I have grandchildren and the population goes up," said this housewife, who returned to Salares in 1977 after spending 11 years in Switzerland, where she had moved in search of

a better life. "I came back because my mother was ill, and I stayed. I got married and I have been here ever since," said Obdulia, who is worried that there is very little work for young people. "My children have occasional work with the council, but not much more than that," she said. Her husband, Plácido Ramos, who is 64, is a farmer and about to retire. "Sometimes I have thought about moving to Malaga to live, because we have an apartment there, but we wouldn't want to leave the children. Also, my daughter-in-law, who is from Barcelona, loves Salares. She says it is the ideal place to live because it is so lovely and so quiet," she added. In this village, everybody knows each other. There are only nine children at the school, and four of them are the children of one of her nieces. "Let's hope my children get on with it and increase the population soon," she said enthusiastically.

Registered population by municipality

	1 January 2016	Variation 1 year	Variation 10 years		1 January 2016	Variation 1 year	Variation 10 years
Alfarnatejo	405	-58	-43	Faraján	265	0	-24
Algatocín	795	-39	-147	Genalguacil	424	-32	-78
Alpandeire	246	-11	-39	Igualeja	793	-23	-155
Árchez	428	-8	1	Iznate	874	-25	15
Atajate	171	13	29	Jimera de Líbar	409	-6	-12
Benadalid	232	-21	-26	Jubrique	634	-4	-131
Benalauría	456	-14	-12	Júzcar	228	-10	35
Benarrabá	493	-28	-45	Macharaviaya	461	-16	76
El Borge	960	-3	-75	Parauta	230	-19	4
Canillas de Albaida	773	-69	-40	Pujerra	305	11	-11
Carratraca	750	-25	-137	Salares	181	-26	-10
Cartajima	241	-6	-10	Sedella	625	-67	-21
Cútar	598	-7	-44	Totalán	707	-3	0

Source: Review of municipal population registers at 01/01/2016. INE. Serrato and Montecorto are not included.



Antonia Suárez, with the Sierra de Carratraca behind her. :: SUR

CARRATRACA

"We want more children to come, but in the end the school will probably close"

Antonia Suárez is the village librarian and head of the parents' association of the school, which has only ten members

:: FERNANDO TORRES

CARRATRACA. Antonia Suárez, 47, runs the public library in Carratraca. She loves her village, and has taken part in several projects about its history. She is also the president of the parents' association at the local school. "In my daughter's class, there are only three pupils," she said. That has its advantages and disadvantages. "They are almost like private classes, and when a decision has to be made, it's very easy." However, education is her main concern because she is sure the chil-

dren will have to continue their schooling in another village in the future. "We have seen a reduction in the number of pupils," she said, worriedly. Secondary school pupils already have to go to other municipalities, but Antonia believes the time will come when the junior school has to close. "This year, for example, there has only been one new pupil," she added. For Antonia, life in Carratraca is "peaceful, with no rushing around". And she does have something to compare it with. "I've worked in Malaga and Torremolinos," she said. She admits that she does miss the city sometimes, "but only for a day; the rest of the time we're fine." People in Carratraca need a car to go to the beach, the cinema or the theatre, but there are simpler tasks, "like buying a button", that also require a trip to Álora or Ardales.

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Fire brigades' ladders are too short to reach the upper floors of over 1,500 tower blocks

Firefighters around the province are unable to reach residents on the tenth floor or above in hundreds of Costa del Sol tower blocks as their ladders aren't long enough

✚ FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

MÁLAGA. Following the fire in Málaga's Ciudad Jardín area last week, in which a 50-year-old man lost his life, it emerged that the province's fire brigades do not possess aerial ladders long enough to reach the upper floors of more than 1,000 tower blocks around the province of Málaga.

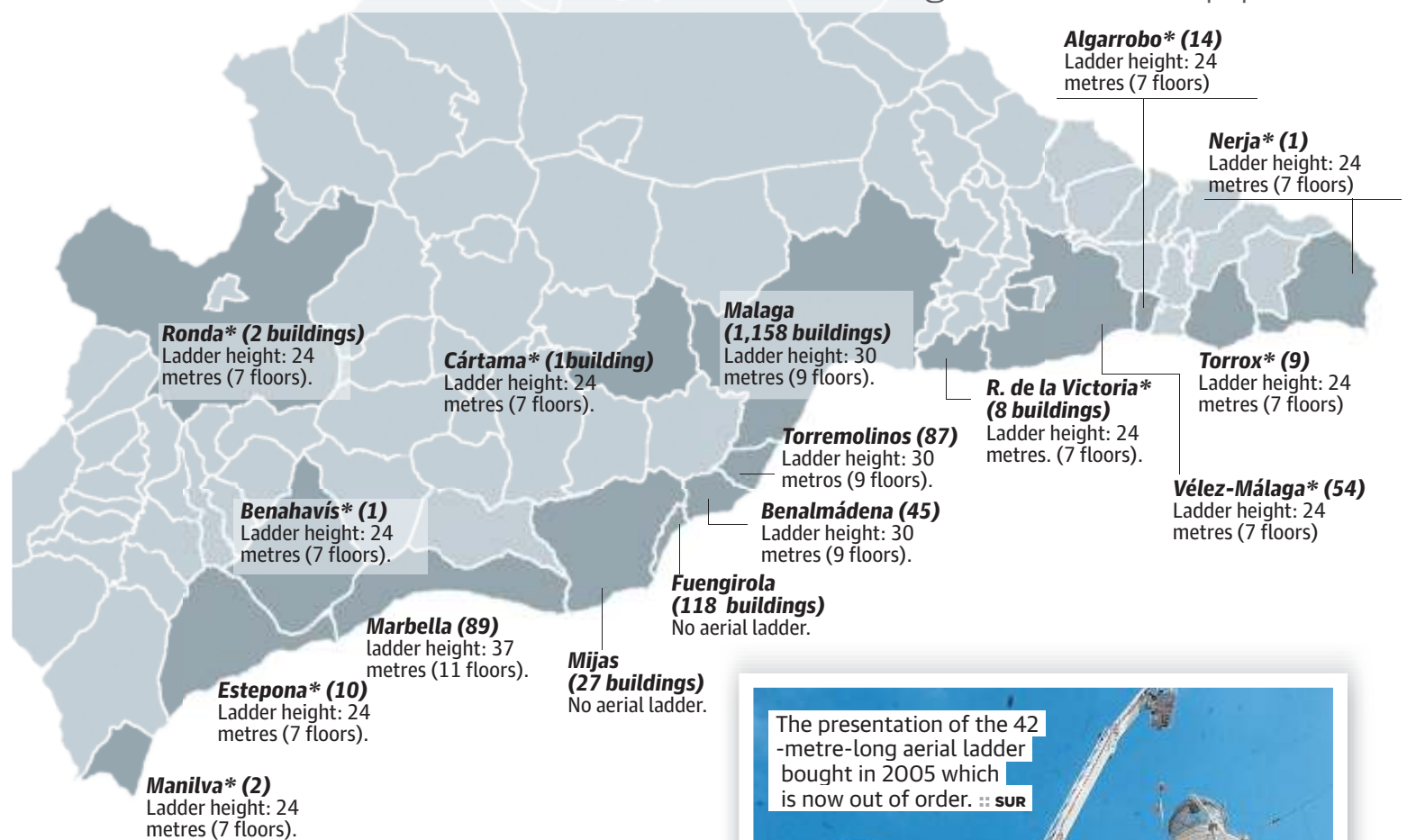
There are 1,158 blocks of flats in Málaga city alone that have 10 floors or more, however the city fire brigade's longest aerial ladder is only able to reach the height of nine floors (30 metres). This shortfall by the council was made even worse by the fact that the aerial ladder platform capable of stretching up to 13 floors, bought for 900,000 euros in 2005 with great pomp and ceremony, has been out of order for over 18 months.

Residents in Málaga are not the only ones who could be seriously affected by their local fire brigade's lack of equipment. Approximately 500 other blocks of flats around the province are also at risk of being out of reach in the case of a fire. For example, in Torremolinos and Benalmádena the longest available ladders also only reach up to nine storeys. However, these municipalities have only 132 tower blocks with more than nine floors between them.

More remarkably, Fuengirola and Mijas, two of the biggest Costa municipalities, do not even own a fire engine equipped with an aerial rescue ladder, and in the case of an emergency they would have to wait for one to come from Benalmádena, Marbella or Torremolinos.

The issue is a great cause of concern for many, as residents living on the tenth floor or above could not be easily evacuated through a window or from a terrace. What's more, even when the ladders are long enough they are only capable

Number of tower blocks with more than 10 floors and height of available equipment



(*) Municipalities included in Provincial Fire Fighting Consortium. This provincial council-run organisation has five main stations (Vélez, Estepona, Antequera, Ronda and Coín) which each have a ladder of 24 metres.

of reaching their maximum height if there are no cars, gardens or closed-off areas obstructing the fire engine.

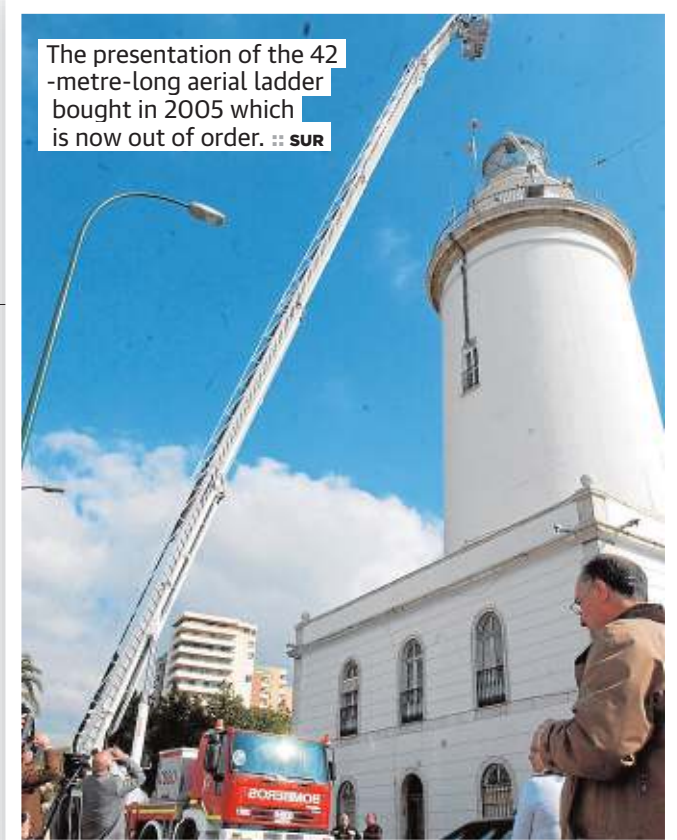
Marbella fire brigade owns the longest aerial ladder in the province, capable of reaching an eleventh storey, however this is still insufficient as the town's tallest building has 14 floors. However one manager from Marbella fire brigade explained why longer ladders also have their inconveniences.

"Evidently we need to have a longer ladder, however longer ladders are not the most practical as they take up more space at the base," he explained. The manager also added that although the ladders are limited in height "there are always

other alternatives". However one of these alternatives involves the fireman and the victim having to abseil down the side of the building, a much slower and more dangerous manoeuvre for both.

The events in Ciudad Jardín last week, when the victim's mother was able to be rescued by the firefighters as they lived on the eighth floor, have forced the local brigades to consider what would have happened if the fire had been two storeys higher.

Fuengirola council has now announced that it is currently in the process of buying a mechanical ladder, and Mijas council has said it intends to do the same.



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Four ways to prepare as the clock ticks down to Brexit

By Chris McCann, Partner, Blevins Franks

With Article 50 triggered, Britain is on track to leave the EU in under two years, on 29 March 2019. The surprise June UK general election is unlikely to change this, as the two key parties have committed to honour the referendum result.

While we still have no certainty about how Brexit will affect expatriates in Spain, there are steps you can take today to future-proof your financial planning.

1. Consider securing your residency

The two-year countdown is underway for current residency and freedom of movement rules. While we can expect a fresh reciprocal agreement between Spain and the UK to protect expatriates in each country, the new rules may be less favourable than today. So if you are still a UK resident but want to live permanently in Spain, take steps now to secure your position.

Once resident here, you secure the same tax treatment as other Spanish residents. Non-residents, however, may face higher taxes after Brexit. When it comes to income tax, for example, Spain charges more for

non-EU and non-EEA residents. Also, non-EU or EEA residents may not qualify for the generally lower rates offered by the regional autonomous communities for wealth, succession and gift taxes.

Regardless of residency, UK-source income remains taxable according to the UK/Spain double tax treaty, which is unrelated to the EU and therefore unaffected by Brexit.

2. Review your pensions

As things stand, Brexit should not affect how you can access or transfer UK pension funds. However, the UK's new 'overseas transfer charge' indicates things may change post-Brexit.

Until recently, all UK pensions transferred to a Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Scheme (QROPS) were free of UK taxation so long as the combined value of pension savings came under the lifetime allowance limit (currently £1 million). Since 9th March, however, a 25% tax applies to pension funds transferred to a QROPS based outside the European Economic Area (EEA), unless you

live in the same jurisdiction. While liability lingers for five tax years after the transfer date, transfers made before 9th March 2017 are exempt.

Currently, expatriates in Spain transferring to an EEA-based QROPS (including Gibraltar) avoid this tax. But many think the UK government could use Brexit as an opportunity to recoup revenue from UK nationals abroad with further 'exit taxes' on pension funds. They may also change the rules to make it harder to take advantage of today's high transfer values for 'defined benefit' (final salary) pensions. So consider acting now, under current rules, before the tax-free window of opportunity closes.

However, it is crucial to carefully explore your options and use a regulated provider to avoid pension scams and establish the right solution for you.

3. Diversify, diversify, diversify

When it comes to investing, many expatriates favour British assets, like UK bonds or FTSE shares. Not

only could this approach overlook opportunities available in Spain and elsewhere, it can generate overexposure to UK assets. While markets have proved quite resilient to Brexit news so far, we cannot predict how the UK economy will continue to react. In uncertain times like this it is more important than ever to have a well-diversified portfolio.

You should minimise risk by spreading investments across countries, currencies, regions, asset types and market sectors. By limiting your exposure in any one area, you are better placed to ride out market turbulence – Brexit-related or otherwise.

4. Look for currency flexibility

With the fortunes of the pound and euro so tied up with Brexit developments, it is a good idea to reconsider the best currency mix for you. Living in Spain, ideally you should receive some income in euros to limit your dependency on exchange rates.

One solution is to use structures that allow you to hold investments in multiple currencies. You could, for example, invest in sterling now and

switch to euros when rates are favourable, with flexibility to choose the currency of your withdrawals.

In any case, you should regularly review your affairs to ensure your assets and investments remain suitably diversified and tax-efficient for your unique situation. Not only can your circumstances change over time, uncertain times like this can also unlock opportunities.

The ticking of the Brexit clock offers one more compelling reason to fine-tune your financial planning. As an expatriate it is essential to understand the cross-border implications and be fully prepared so you can continue enjoying your life in Spain, whatever Brexit brings.

The tax rates, scope and reliefs may change. Any statements concerning taxation are based upon our understanding of current taxation laws and practices which are subject to change. Tax information has been summarised; an individual should take personalised advice.

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Choirs from around the globe come to celebrate the international choir festival in Malaga. :: SUR

Malaga hosts third international choir festival

:: SUR

MALAGA. 26 choirs from eight different countries flocked to Malaga on Wednesday for the beginning of the third international choir festival held by the city, entitled 'Malaga canta en primavera'.

Choirs from Argentina, Slovenia, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Turkey,

Estonia and Spain will all give performances around the city until next Sunday.

The main venues for the performances are the Cervantes theatre, the Sagrado Corazón church and the cathedral, as well as open public spaces such as Plaza de la Constitución and the Teatro Romano.

HERE AND THERE

Ex-mayors of Mijas told to explain high staff pay

MIJAS

:: I. G. Three former mayors of Mijas have been called before a judge suspected of overpaying some staff up to a total of 100,000 euros a year.

The case centres on extra payments made to employees at the 'Patronato de Deportes', a municipal-owned company running sport operations in the area, between 1986 and 2014. Prosecutors allege that staff were paid extra money year after year for doing work that was part of their normal duties.

In the dock are former PSOE mayors, Antonio Sánchez and Agustín Moreno, as well as the town's former PP mayor, Ángel Nozal. Other town officials are also to appear.

Nozal has stated that he cannot be blamed as he inherited a system of almost 30 years and his actions ended the system.



A firefighter with Iglesias. :: A.C.

Firefighters protest with Podemos leader's support

MALAGA

:: SUR. Some 4,000 people took to the streets of Malaga last Sunday in support of better conditions for the city's firefighters. The fire brigade has been in a dispute with the city council, which funds the service, over security, investment in new equipment and working hours.

Firefighters want the council to agree to new conditions, claiming they work longer hours than in most other cities. As well as the firefighters and their families, politicians took part in the rally, which was headed by the national leader of the radical left-wing Podemos party, Pablo Iglesias.

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Latest census shows another fall in Costa's British population

According to the end of 2016 statistics, the number of UK nationals in Malaga province was down by about 4,000 on the previous year

■ NURIA TRIGUERO

MALAGA. The number of Britons registered as residing in Malaga province went down by approximately 4,000 people in 2016, according to the latest figures published by the Spanish national statistics institute (INE).

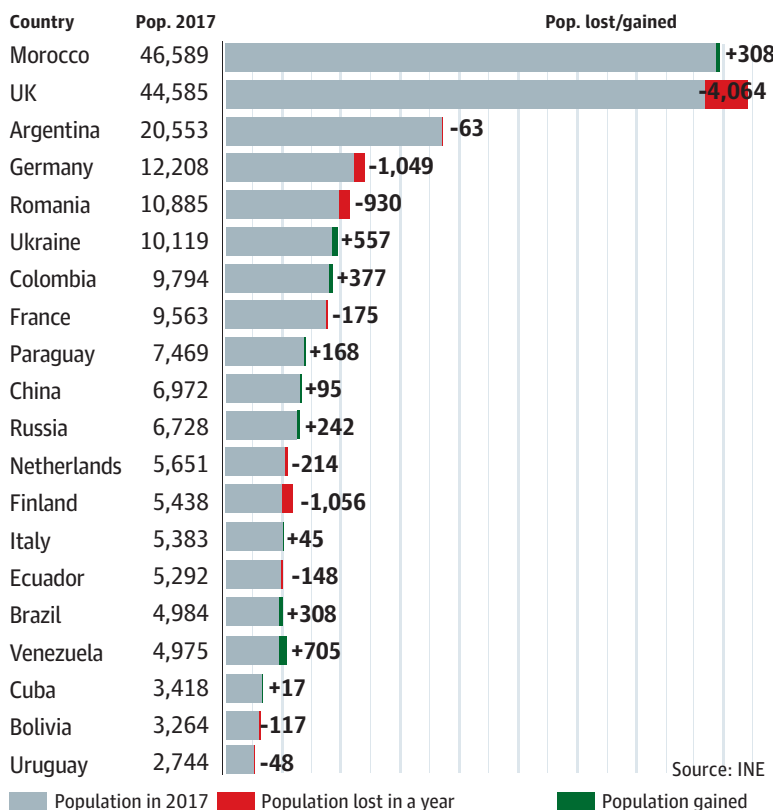
The latest fall in the province's British population is part of an overall decrease of 40 per cent over the last four years. That is to say, after a decrease of 4,064 British residents in 2016, only 44,585 were

registered at the end of the year compared to the 73,447 residents that were registered in 2013.

In total, Malaga's foreign resident population (according to country of birth) decreased by 10,708 last year, as the German, Finnish and Romanian populations also each decreased, by an average of 1,000 people.

It is possible that the economic pressures of the years following the 2008 crisis have had a negative impact on foreign residents' purchasing power, which may be one reason for the fall in numbers, as residents opt to return home. Another possible cause for the general trend could be that residents have died or simply not registered themselves on the census, as is required every five years, and therefore go unaccounted.

Malaga province's population according to country of birth (after Spain)



From next year Qatar Airways will offer twice-weekly flights from Malaga to Doha

■ PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. From May 2018, it will be possible to fly directly from Malaga airport to the Qatari capital, Doha, according to an announcement at this week's Arabian Travel Market.

The Costa del Sol airport is one of nine new additions to Qatar Airways' extensive list of flight destinations, and is the third Spanish airport to be included, after Madrid and Barcelona. Regional councillor for Tourism, Francisco Javier Fernández, has thanked the airline for helping to improve Andalucía's connectivity to the Middle East.

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Full house for Cudeca's 25th anniversary classical concert

■ DARYL FINCH

MALAGA. Cudeca's 25th anniversary year celebrations got off to a flying start as Malaga's Cervantes theatre filled out for a celebration of classical music on Tuesday night.

Recognising the work of the cancer hospice over the past quarter of a century, hundreds of people from far and wide came together in Malaga to mark the occasion.

Directed by Salvador Vázquez, the Provincial Symphony Orchestra of Malaga performed a classical concert featuring the music of Beethoven and Mozart before the orchestra was joined in the second half by Malaga soprano, Berna Perles, Chilean tenor, Rodrigo Orrego, and Malaga pianist

Cristina Alba Padial for a segment dedicated to opera.

The orchestra and individual performers have waived their fee so that every penny raised from ticket sales and donations at the concert went directly to Cudeca.

The concert was sponsored by the city hall and the provincial government of Malaga, both of which sent representatives to congratulate the hospice on its "tremendous work for the benefit of Malagueños".

Malaga mayor, Francisco de la Torre, congratulated Cudeca on their work, thanking members, and especially founder Joan Hunt OBE, for the care that thousands of people have received since the hospice's foundation.



A standing ovation for the performers at the end of the concert. ■ D. FINCH

HERE AND THERE

Costa del Sol Hospital extension still on hold

■ MARBELLA

■ **H. B.** The Junta de Andalucía is to wait for a settlement in a 40-million-euro legal dispute before restarting the construction of the extension of the Costa del Sol Hospital. The extension was halted in 2010 when the private company it had charged with building and operating it claimed it wasn't going to be entitled to promised revenue from hospital parking to fund the scheme due to a Marbella council objection.

Start draws nearer for Estepona hospital

■ ESTEPONA

■ **L. P.** The contract to build a new 15-million-euro local hospital in Estepona is expected to be signed in May. The new facility will be built by a consortium called Ogenza-Helopav after the contract was put out to tender in February. Although the hospital is part of the Junta de Andalucía's district CHARE hospital programme, unusually, the construction will be paid for by the town hall, in a deal reached last year.

Estepona district gets better beach facilities

■ ESTEPONA

■ **L. P.** Councillor for beaches in Estepona, Susana Aragón, has confirmed that work is under way on new toilet, shower and lifeguard stations on several of Estepona's beaches. Cristo, El Padrón and La Rada beaches have already seen the work start and from next week Arroyo Vaquero and Isdabe beaches will start to get lifeguard and first aid facilities for the first time. They are expected to be operational by 1 June. The council also hopes to contract a sea-cleaning boat.

Provincial government approves plan for pathway linking the Guadalhorce valley

A new 50-kilometre-long pathway will connect the area's towns with the estuary of the Guadalhorce river and the Caminito del Rey

■ **FERNANDO TORRES**

COÍN. At a provincial government (Diputación) meeting held in Coín on Monday, the president, Elías Bendodo, announced the unanimous approval of the installation of a new pathway in the Guadalhorce valley, which will link up many of the province's towns.

In his speech, Elías Bendodo described the pathway as "a green corridor" through the "agricultural paradise" that is the Guadalhorce valley, which will connect the river estuary near Malaga with the Caminito del Rey near Álora.

When complete, the 50-kilometre-long route, which will be



Elías Bendodo. ■ **F. TORRES**

built by rural development groups hired by councils, will take in the municipalities of Ardales, Álora,

Pizarra, Coín, Alhaurín el Grande, Cártama and Alhaurín de la Torre, in addition to Malaga.

The provincial councillor for environment, Marina Bravo, had the task of presenting the detail of the project at the meeting. Bravo defined it as a "revitalising addition" to the towns through which it will pass, and described how the pathway will "bring together the province's garden with the city of museums", in reference to the Valle del Guadalhorce-Malaga connection. Bravo also stressed that the project was "a development that is also compatible with environmental conservation", before presenting an informative video which explained how the pathway would benefit the environment as well as tourism.

Other important issues for the region were also raised at the meeting, such as possible infrastructure improvements and the need for a new water treatment system.

Mijas council plans to spend over one million euros on long-awaited road improvements

■ **IVÁN GELIBTER**

MIJAS. The Mijas councillor for Infrastructure, José Carlos Martín, has announced that the council plans to begin three major road improvement projects and has put out to tender three contracts, worth approximately 1.8 million euros in total.

The first improvement, which residents have asked for on numerous occasions, will be carried out on the Paseo de Andalucía in La Cala. At the moment the road is a safety hazard as its current drainage sys-

tem does not drain water fast enough in times of heavy rain, leaving the road flooded. However, with a 689,000-euro investment, the council hopes to have resolved the problem within four months.

With the same objective, a second set of roadworks will take place in Las Lagunas. The council will spend 890,000 on installing rain collectors to prevent excess rainfall flooding the roads in Río Darro and Molino de Viento too.

On Tuesday, José Carlos Martín added that a third contract, worth



José Carlos Martín. ■ **IVÁN GELIBTER**

315,134 euros, has also been put out to tender for the remodelling of Calle Kennedy, Calle Jaén and Calle Miguel Márquez in Las Cañadas.

IN BRIEF



Bird's eye view of the new hospital and the surrounding roads. ■ **O. A.**

Pedestrian access to new hospital will be improved

RONDA

■ **V. MELGAR.** President of the provincial government, Elías Bendodo announced on Tuesday that 200,000 euros will be spent on the construction of a new underground passage under the road

that connects Ronda with Gaucín that will give pedestrians better and safer access to Ronda's new hospital, the Hospital de la Seranía.

Bendodo, however, also stated that the 200,000 euros will only cover half of the cost and that the Junta de Andalucía will also need to contribute funds in order for the construction to go ahead.

Torremolinos to hire 22 lifeguards for summer

TORREMOLINOS

■ **A. GÓMEZ.** Torremolinos council has begun to hire lifeguards needed for the high season.

Applicants will have to pass a series of tests in order to fill one of the 22 vacancies. The fitness tests include swimming 100 metres and running one kilometre within the time limits set by the selection committee, which differ according to the applicant's gender.

Applicants will then have to do a translation test and an interview.

Sierra Bermeja wants National Park status

ESTEPONA

■ **L. PAVÓN.** A petition posted on change.org that asks for Sierra Bermeja to be named the third National Park in Andalucía has accumulated over 14,000 signatures in under a week.

The petition is aimed at the Autonomous Organisation for National Parks (OAPN) and the Junta de Andalucía's environmental office, which both have a say in which nature reserve receives the distinction.

Ten bin bags of dog remains are discovered

TORREMOLINOS

■ **A. GÓMEZ.** An investigation has been launched in Torremolinos after ten bin bags full of dog corpses and bones were discovered in an old lime kiln in Los Pinares.

A number of animal protection associations have already pointed to the Parque Animal dog pound,

located nearby, as a possible source, after its president was recently sentenced to four years in prison for the illegal sacrifice of thousands of cats and dogs.

Others believe that the owners of packs of dogs used for hunting could have been responsible, after the Guardia Civil found many hunting dogs kept in appalling conditions in Torremolinos in recent years. However nothing has yet been confirmed by local police.

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HERE AND THERE

Adrián Martín sings
'Invictus' for charity CD

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

:: **A. P.** Adrián Martín, the young singer from Vélez-Málaga who was born with hydrocephalus, is to appear with Basque musician Tontxu at a presentation in the Maristas school in Malaga on 2 May of a CD and book aimed at raising awareness of and improving education in Africa. Adrián and Tontxu sing the

poem 'Invictus' on the CD. Written in 1875 by English poet, William Ernest Henmley (1849-1903), it was the poem which inspired Nelson Mandela during his 27 years in prison on Robben Island. Behind the CD is Spanish missionary, Aurelino García, who spent nine years in Ghana and through the CD, wanted to "break the stereotypes" that "Africa has been given in the last few years". The CD, 'Los Tambores Hablan' (the drums speak) is available via the website of Spanish NGO, SED, and costs 15 euros.



Aureliano García and Adrián Martín with the CD. :: AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

Torrox approves plan to
register pets

TORROX

:: **E. C.** Mayor of Torrox, Óscar Medina, has announced plans for a municipal dog register, with a view to controlling dog ownership and in particular the number of potentially dangerous dogs in the town. The plan was approved at the last council plenary meeting earlier this week, along with a campaign to encourage human residents to register at the town hall 'padrón'.

Third Axarquía town set to
introduce fines for 'beach hoggers'

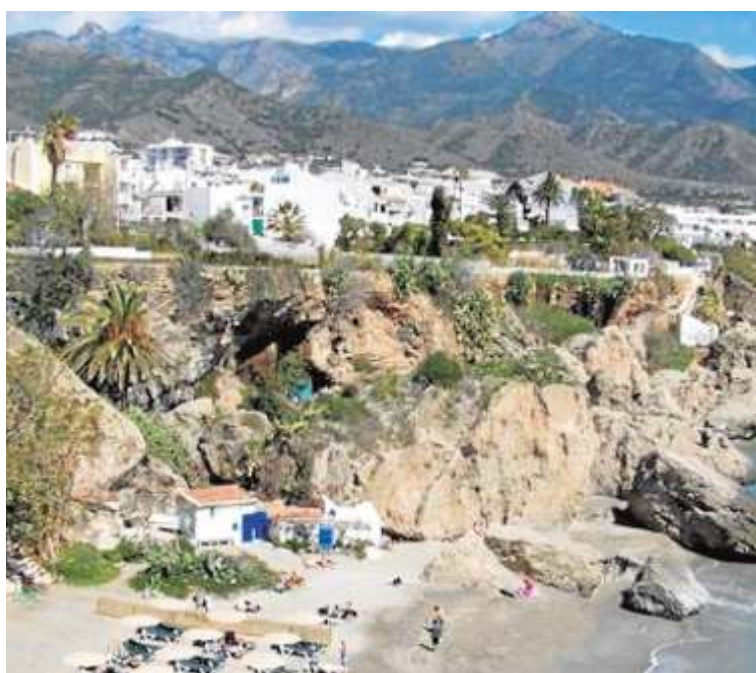
Nerja town hall has produced a consultation document, available for residents to read online, with a view to setting a beach bylaw

:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

NERJA. Nerja looks set to be the next town in the Axarquía to impose fines for 'beach hoggers,' according to a consultation document published by the town hall.

The proposal, which forms part of a list of 35 suggestions currently out to consultation, would see two inspectors employed to control the town's beaches for signs of early morning 'reservations'. A fine of 30 euros would be given to anyone caught leaving items such as parasols, chairs and towels to reserve a spot early in the morning.

Torrox Costa was the first town in the Axarquía to introduce such measures in 2014, attracting the attention of the international press. It was followed by Algarrobo Costa the following year. In 2016, Torrox town hall reported removing items from thirty suspected 'beach hoggers.'



'Beach hoggers' would be fined 30 euros under the bylaw. :: SUR

Nerja councillor for beaches, Cristina Fernández, told SUR on Tuesday: "It is inconceivable that in a tourist town like Nerja a beach bylaw still doesn't exist." Fernández added that such a document "exists in many Andalusian towns".

Other suggestions included in the

document are the prohibition of bonfires and camping except on authorised days such as 23 June which is San Juan night.

The document is available for consultation on the town hall website (www.nerja.es) until 12 May under 'Participación Ciudadana.'

Towns count the cost of
wax on roads after Easter

Vélez-Málaga is looking into ways of reducing the problems and accidents caused by candles during Holy Week processions

:: A. PELÁEZ / J. RHODES

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Councillors at Vélez-Málaga town hall are looking into ways of reducing the problem of wax left on the town's roads after the Easter week processions.

Every year Vélez-Málaga, like other towns, spends vast amounts of money and has to put up warning signs to vehicles and pedestrians warning them of the slippery pavements and roads that the processions leave. Furthermore, traffic is restricted to a 20kph in the town centre.

Environment councillor, Marcelino Méndez-Trelles announced on Tuesday that he is working with local police and the association of brotherhoods in Vélez-Málaga to find a solution to the problem for next year. "We are in favour of traditions, but when the traditions become problems we have to find solutions," he said.

The first meeting between the



A sign warns of wax. :: A. P

three groups is expected to take place next week.

According to the town's police chief, José Andrés Montoya, a number of accidents have already occurred this year because of the slippery surfaces.

In Almuñécar a cleaning company specialising in the removal of wax from roads and pavements is expected to continue working until Sunday - two weeks after the final processions took place.

The town hall has apologised for any inconvenience caused by the cleaning.

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Green light from shareholders for Unicaja to join the stock exchange

The company, which saw profits of 142 million euros in 2016, will add 625 million euros to its share capital but no date is set for the launch yet

by NURIA TRIGUERO

MALAGA. Unicaja Bank has received permission from its shareholders to become a publicly-listed company on the Spanish stock exchange.

The Malaga-based former savings bank is now one of Spain's biggest financial institutions following mergers and is 86.7 per cent owned by the Fundación Bancaria Unicaja - a legacy of when it was a non-profit-making society.

Last week this holding foundation approved the move to sell shares publicly in the company for the first time and so it was a mere formality at the annual general meeting of the group on Wednesday to vote on giving a final green light. In the end, the board secured 100 per cent of shareholders' votes to carry out their plan.

Unicaja Bank will now make plans for a public listing with 625



Unicaja board members present to shareholders on Wednesday. :: SUR

million euros of new, one-euro shares, which will be aimed at national and international institutional investors.

The company will become the first Malaga-based organisation to secure a stock exchange listing. Although no date for the launch has been set yet, it is felt that, as the stock market is strong, it will be sooner rather than later. The board has one year to make its move and has the option to increase the

amount of shares available by 10 per cent if it sees sufficient demand. The offer price has not been discussed at this stage.

The move will see the group's share capital increase to 1.55 billion euros, and the 'Fundación Bancaria' will continue to hold 51.7 per cent of the shares.

The meeting also discussed the annual accounts and announced profits in 2016 of 142.1 million euros, a return on equity (ROE) of 4.9 per cent.

More jobless and less work in first three months of 2017

by LUCÍA PALACIOS

MADRID. Unemployment in Spain rose slightly from January to March of this year and there were less people working, according to data from the government survey of the active population (EPA), released on Thursday.

In the first three months of 2017, there were 17,200 more unemployed

in Spain, a rise of 0.41 per cent on the end of 2016. This is the biggest increase in this period since 2013.

There were also 69,800 less people actively working, some one per cent more than in the first three months of 2016.

On the Costa del Sol, unemployment levels rose 10,700 compared to the last quarter of 2016. The Easter

tourist season, bringing seasonal jobs, fell later, in April this year. Andalucía overall, however, saw the biggest fall in Spain over the first three months.

Across Spain, the number of households where all members who are able to work are out of a job rose by 6,900 from January to March to a total of 1,394,700.

Making adjustments for seasonality, the top-line jobless figures are slightly better. Using this measure, the number of unemployed in Spain fell by 3.02 per cent compared to the previous three months and employment grew 0.70 per cent.

MARK NAYLER
markanayler@gmail.com



THE EURO ZONE

A NUMBERS GAME

Is Spain's economy actually growing at the publicised rate? This is the question asked by several leading Spanish economists in a letter recently sent to Jeroen Dijsselbloem, president of the Eurogroup. The letter, which was passed to me by a journalist in the UK earlier this week, says that negligence on the part of the European Commission and its statistics agency Eurostat makes the two bodies "accomplices in the generation of a gigantic bubble of debt [...] that will ruin the next generation of Spaniards for no less than 50 years".

Their scathing attack on the European Commission was sent to Brussels just days before Luis María Linde, governor of the Bank of Spain, announced this Tuesday that Spain would post the predicted growth figure of 2.7% in 2017. Linde also said that GDP expansion in the first quarter of this year may exceed the 0.7% of 2016's final quarter.

Yet the economists' letter aims to reject such a rosy picture, arguing that if Eurostat were doing its job properly it would have already detected Spanish politicians' "scandalous manipulation" of their country's GDP figures and halted a practice in which "revenue figures are improvised every year to match the deficit target indicated by Brussels".

This hefty accusation, though, is slightly undercut by the fact that Spain has consistently failed to meet the budget deficit reduction targets set by Brussels - a failure which the economists define as a "flagrant breach" of the EU Growth and Stability pact.

Why would Spain "improvise" figures or targets and then publicly announce its failure to meet them? In their letter, the economists write that "the Spanish government raised 100 billion euros less than budgeted and spent 240 billion more" between 2008 and 2015.

Dijsselbloem has yet to publicly react to the economists' misgivings, so it will be interesting to hear his response to the charge that the EU has given excessive budgetary leniency to Spain over the last nine years.

All he can really point to here is the fact that last July the Commission did in fact consider fining Spain for its repeated failure to meet Brussels' targets. In the end, though, it made a mockery of itself by deciding on a "symbolic" fine of precisely 0 euros and extended the country's deadline for bringing its budgetary deficit below the EU maximum of 3% of GDP.

The economists' letter highlights the dangerous absurdity of trying to impose a blanket deficit ceiling on all EU member states and the Commission's inability or unwillingness to act when its fiscal targets are breached.

The strongly-worded document concludes with the profound point that there is a growing chasm between the "actual economic situation of Spain" and the situation as described by GDP growth statistics. Dijsselbloem should agree to the Spanish economists' request for a face-to-face meeting in Brussels, because theirs is an important argument that needs to be heard.

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HERE AND THERE

Liberty Seguros opens new San Pedro office

MARBELLA

Insurance firm Liberty Seguros opened its new office in La Colonia shopping centre in San Pedro with an event at the end of last week. Guests, including numerous clients, attended the function and enjoyed refreshments as well as the chance to talk to experts from the firm.



The new office in San Pedro. :: SUR

BCC to host leadership and strategy lunch

MARBELLA

The British Chamber of Commerce is joining forces with easyJet for its Leadership and Strategy Lunch to be held at the Da Bruno Sul Mare restaurant in Marbella on 17 May. Javier Gándara, the airline's director for Spain and Portugal, will speak about the current challenges faced by aviation as well as the innovation in the industry in the last 20 years. Contact 951 203 094 for more information.

Dsquared2 fashion lands in Puerto Banús

MARBELLA

The international fashion house Dsquared2 has recently opened its first boutique in Marbella. Located in Puerto Banús, the store covers 130 square metres on one floor. Dsquared2 was founded by Canadian designer twins Dean and Dan Caten in the nineties. They opened their flagship store in London in 2015 and since then have expanded around the world.

Plaza Mayor starts work on extension project

MALAGA

J. HINOJOSA. Work has started this week on the extension to the Plaza Mayor shopping and leisure centre in Malaga. The first stage of the scheme involves the demolition of Plaza Bravo, a zone that once housed bars and nightclubs, to make room for the construction of the future Designer Outlet Center. The entire project is expected to cost 75 million euros.

Costa del Sol journalists glimpse the Torremolinos of the future

The town's mayor was invited to discuss the municipal regeneration project during last week's meeting of the Costa Press Club

TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. Members of the foreign media sector on the Costa del Sol learned more of Torremolinos council's plans and expectations for the future at a social forum held in the town last week.

The meeting, under the title of 'Torremolinos, rebirth of an icon', was organised by the Costa Press Club. Journalists, photographers and communications experts of several different nationalities gathered to listen to the mayor José Ortiz, who emphasised the importance of the "recovery of the essence of a glorious past".

During his speech, Ortiz stressed that the recovery of the old part of the town was one of his team's main priorities and he pointed out the importance of enhancing local trade in the town.

He also discussed the construction of the proposed Intu Leisure Centre, claiming that this would bring much work and revenue to the province.

Finally, Ortiz outlined his plans concerning cultural and sports tourism, claiming that the council's new focus on the mountains behind Torremolinos added value to



The Mayor of Torremolinos with members of the press club. :: SUR

the "traditional offer of sun and beach".

However the mayor pointed out that the proposed changes cannot be undertaken in a hurry: "Although these projects are under way, they will need between five and eight years to develop completely."

Jesper Sander Pedersen, president of the CPC, applauded the sincerity of the mayor, saying: "Our members are very satisfied with the visit and the explanations of the mayor. Any preconceptions we may have had have now been changed."

Following their meeting with the mayor, held in the Matahambre restaurant, the group embarked on a stroll through the pedestrianised area of the town.

Led by two guides from the Torremolinos tourist office, members of the press club visited the Plaza Costa del Sol, the Plaza La Nogalera, the old town hall, which will soon become a gourmet market, and the house of María Barrabino, an emblematic building that the council is currently trying to acquire.

They also visited the Pimentel tower, or Torre de los Molinos, which will soon be renovated and opened to the public.

The Costa Press Club, which currently boasts more than 50 members from nine different countries, is a social forum that organises activities for resident foreign journalists in Spain. The association will be celebrating its fifteenth anniversary in June.



Rod will follow the coast road for the majority of his walk. :: SUR

Pensioner attempts 84km walk for Cudeca

Rod Andrews is no stranger to challenging walks. In 2015 he walked from Malaga to Sabinillas in aid of Cudeca

T. BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. British pensioner Rod Andrews is to embark on an 84 kilometre walk in order to raise funds for Cudeca. The sponsored walk, the equivalent of a double marathon, will begin in Benalmádena today (Friday) and Rod aims to complete the journey in just 24 hours. In order to do this, he will walk non-stop throughout the night.

Rod, 72, will be undertaking the journey alone, although his wife will be keeping an eye on his progress at different points along

the route.

Cudeca has arranged a special send off from the hospice in Benalmádena at 12pm today. Rod will follow the coast road for the majority of his journey, only heading inland for a few kilometres at San Pedro, before returning to the coast in order to complete the walk by 1pm on Saturday.

Cudeca has organised a bus, with pick up points in Benalmádena and Fuengirola, to take people to Sabinillas on Saturday to cheer Rod over the finishing line.

Rod is no stranger to charity walks. In 2015, he walked from Malaga to Sabinillas and raised more than 3,000 for Cudeca.

www.cudeca-eventos.org
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Dogs take to the promenade for Triple A

Animal lovers gathered in Marbella on Sunday morning for the fifth annual Dog Walk which raised 1,700€ for the association



RACHEL ARMSTRONG

MARBELLA. Locals were invited to walk their own dogs or volunteer to walk a Triple A dog that is up for adoption. The walk started at Manuka restaurant on the Paseo Marítimo in Marbella where organisers were taking donations from 10am. Participants received a doggy goody bag and enjoyed a small breakfast from the beachside eatery who sponsored the event, before the walk got under way.

Organisers were delighted with the turn out which saw over 100 walkers take part in the walk along the seafront, with lots of different nationalities and ages getting involved. There were around 15 dogs from the Triple A as well participants' own furry friends, some of which were previously adopted



Participants wore green T-shirts to raise awareness of the need for new homes for shelter dogs. :: R. A.

from the association.

The idea of the annual walk is to show people how "loving" and "beautiful" dogs from the shelter can be, explained Lily van Tongeren, a Triple A volunteer who has five dogs herself - three adopted and two fostered. She hopes the event helps to dispel any "preconceived ideas" that people may have about shelter dogs as they see how happy those that have adopted are.

Lily said they normally get at least

one adoption after each event and it is hoped that this year will be no different. "A lot of people have come, wondering what's happening, which is good to raise awareness."

Speaking to SUR in English, Lily stressed the fact that their work is not only for the animals, but also for the community.

"Many years ago we wouldn't be able to sit in a restaurant without being bothered by stray cats and there would be dead dogs on the road all the time. We have saved



A banner was carried . :: R. A.

thousands of dogs and sterilised thousands of cats in the last few years and the streets [of Marbella and San Pedro] are cleaner because of the work that we do."

The local animal association currently has around 300 dogs and 100 cats at the shelter and work goes on despite the ongoing court investigation, which saw some members of the association arrested for questioning last year. The judge in charge of the investigation, which involves several allegations connected with the shelter's work, must decide whether or not to take the case any further before 11 October.

Jan Weima, the only founder member of Triple A who is still active, said, "In the meantime [our] work continues as it has done so over the last 26 years to take care of the abandoned animals in the area, our ultimate goal being to find them a 'forever home'."

Lily van Tongeren said the accusations have not affected the rate of adoptions as the number of animals currently in the shelter is significantly less than this time last year. "The people who know us, what we do or have adopted from us, all know the truth and continue to support us. We are there for the animals and that's all we're focusing on."

The next Triple A event is on Sunday 14 May when their Open Day will give people the chance to visit the shelter which is located behind La Cañada, on the Ojén Road.

More information :
www.tripleamarbella.org

Walkers to cover five kilometres at 5am to raise awareness of suicide prevention

Michael O'Halloran is encouraging locals to join him on Saturday 6 May for a 5K walk/run to help promote global awareness of suicide and self-harm prevention

:: R. ARMSTRONG

ESTEPONA. Darkness into Light is an annual fundraising event organised by Pieta House, an organisation in Ireland that provides aid to people at risk of suicide. In ex-

cess of 130,000 men, women and children around the world covered the five kilometre distance at the break of dawn last year.

This year the walk will be taking place in Estepona thanks to the initiative of campaigner Michael O'Halloran. Walkers will set off at 5am next Saturday morning, starting at the Palm Beach chiringuito on the Paseo Marítimo of Estepona. Adult participants are encouraged to make a donation of 20 euros, students are asked for a donation of 10 euros and under 16s can take part for free.

Michael, who is originally from

Dublin but now spends about six months a year on the Costa del Sol, became involved with the organisation following the loss of his son and two nephews to suicide.

The 74-year-old said: "There is still a big stigma attached to suicide and self-harm and people are suffering in silence. Unfortunately, quite a lot of people are very uncomfortable if suicide or self-harm comes into conversation; it is still whispered about. This must change."

It is hoped that events such as Darkness into Light can help to bring the taboo subject out into



Michael O'Halloran. :: SUR

the open and offer assurance that help is available.

Last year Michael organised the walk in San Pedro with 20 people taking part. With a licence from the town hall and Police, he is hoping to have closer to 100 participants this year.

Pieta House is a recognised service that offers free support to people experiencing suicidal thoughts or who are engaging in self-harm. They have helped over 29,000 people in distress to date.

Darkness into Light, their main fundraiser, will celebrate its ninth birthday this year as people unite across the world, in over 150 venues on four continents.

Readers interested in taking part in the walk in Estepona are invited to register by email (michael.nu-ala.dil@gmail.com) or on the day.



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Scandal deepens around family of former leader of Catalonia

Jordi Pujol, revered leader of Spain's wealthiest region from 1980 to 2003, and his wife and children are facing increased pressure over alleged corruption

:: SUR

BARCELONA / MADRID. Jordi Pujol Ferrusola, son of the former leader of Catalonia, Jordi Pujol i Soley, was held indefinitely without bail on Tuesday after a judge decided that he was at risk of continuing to commit offences and destroying evidence.

With so many large corruption scandals rumbling on in Spain, it has been easy to forget about the case started in 2014 against the Pujol family in Catalonia. However this week's



Pujol junior arrives in court. :: EFE

detention of Jordi Pujol junior has brought the web of allegations back into the national spotlight.

After being held, Pujol junior was whisked off to Barcelona to be in attendance while properties linked to

the Pujol family were searched.

Jordi Pujol senior ruled Catalonia for the nationalist CDC party for 23 years from 1980 to 2003 and is an iconic figure across Spain.

In July 2014, Pujol senior admitted that the family had hidden a vast fortune in neighbouring Andorra. He claims the base of the fortune was an inheritance, however prosecutors believe much of the money was acquired through political corruption. Pujol's wife and seven children have been drawn into the investigation with Jordi junior, the eldest son, accused of managing 30 million euros of money hidden outside Spain.

The investigation is ongoing, however the decision to remove bail from Jordi junior comes as investigators claim that a network of fake companies is still operating worldwide to help hide the family fortune.

Aguirre quits Madrid PP role after arrest of Ignacio González

:: NURIA VEGA

MADRID. The former head of the Madrid region has resigned her current role, as leader of the PP opposition on Madrid's city council, following last week's arrest of her former number two in the regional government, Ignacio González. He was held over a suspected black hole of 60 million euros in public

finances.

Esperanza Aguirre led the Madrid region from 2003 to 2012, and during some of that time Ignacio González was her number two. Her resignation comes after days of pressure, even from her own party, to make a political gesture. Aguirre, in her resignation speech, said she felt betrayed by her former protégé.



Aguirre, after resigning. :: EFE



ANTONIO'S PRIZE FOR AMERICAN LINKS

Malaga-born Hollywood actor, Antonio Banderas, received an award from King Felipe on Wednesday for his role in promoting stronger ties between Spain and the USA. The 'Camino Real' prize is awarded annually by the Instituto Franklyn, a school of American studies at the University of Alcalá, near Madrid. In his acceptance speech, Banderas thanked America for giving him "permission to dream".





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Shadow foreign secretary pays a fact-finding visit to Gibraltar

Emily Thornberry held meetings with Fabian Picardo and Dr Joseph García, and stressed that the Labour Party is committed to Gibraltar

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. The UK's shadow foreign secretary, Emily Thornberry, arrived in Gibraltar for a fact-finding visit on Wednesday, at the invitation of the government. On Thursday morning she called on chief minister Fabian Picardo and deputy chief minister Dr Joseph García, and attended the Workers Memorial Day service in the Alameda Gardens.

Dr García, who holds the Brexit portfolio in Gibraltar, later gave her a detailed briefing on the potential impact on Gibraltar of the UK leaving the European Union.

After the meeting, the deputy chief minister said: "The government is delighted to formally receive Emily Thornberry in Gibraltar. There are a number of UK politicians who have expressed an interest in coming here in order to declare their support and to learn more about the impact of Brexit. There is nothing like visiting Gibraltar in or-



Emily Thornberry with Dr Joseph Garcia. :: SUR

der to obtain a full understanding of the situation here. This is part of the strategy of our government to engage with opposition parties in the United Kingdom, as well as with the government. In the briefing, I explained the importance of frontier fluidity for residents, workers and tourists."

Thornberry said that she had reinforced the message that the Labour Party remains unequivocally committed to protecting the sover-

eignty of Gibraltar and the right of its people to self-determination.

"We are also determined to protect Gibraltar's economy and ensure that its government can continue to create jobs and prosperity in the years to come," she said. "Under a Labour government, those principles will never be subject to compromise, bargaining or trade - whether in the Brexit negotiations or beyond - but will instead remain as solid as the Rock itself."

IN BRIEF



Barbary macaques live in Gibraltar. :: SUR

Gibraltar celebrates Macaque Week

GIBRALTAR

Next week, from 1 to 7 May, is International Macaque Week and on Monday the AWCP will be holding its second Macaque Awareness Open day at the park from 2

to 5pm, celebrating the 23 species of macaque in the world.

There will be free entrance to the park for all, raffles, bouncy castle, refreshments, crafts and more, to raise funds in aid of the Barbary macaque awareness and conservation charity. There will also be macaque-themed workshops throughout the week.

'Hillsides' dementia care facility opens

GIBRALTAR

A new residential facility for Alzheimer's and dementia sufferers was officially inaugurated this week. 'Hillsides' is on the site of the old Royal Naval Hospital, near the Bella Vista Dementia Day Centre. It caters for 52 patients who need full-time specialist care.

All bus routes covered by tracking facility

GIBRALTAR

The real-time bus tracking service now covers all routes in Gibraltar, as the Night Bus which runs on Fridays and Saturdays from 9pm to 2am has now been added to the facility. Anyone with a smartphone or internet access can see a map showing where any bus in Gibraltar is at any time.

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Axarquía residents urged to make sure their "house is in order" ready for Brexit

The deVere Spain group hosted a meeting in Frigiliana with Brexpat in Spain to provide information about tax and legal matters

by JENNIE RHODES

FRIGILIANA. A group of British residents in the Axarquía area attended a Brexit seminar hosted by deVere Spain at the Villa Frigiliana hotel on Wednesday.

Representatives from the financial advice company were joined by members of the organisation Brexpat in Spain, who provided an update of their activity as well as a reminder to participants of the importance of making sure that residence and 'padrón' papers are up-to-date.

British solicitor, Victoria Westhead, who helps Brexpats in Spain with legal matters, spoke about making wills and gave advice on inheritance tax.

Milada Fitzgerald spoke on behalf of deVere about tax in general and the different laws that apply in Spain and the UK. She highlighted the fact that in a digital world, it is "easy for banks and governments to trace people, wherever they are", suggesting



Milada Fitzgerald from deVere Spain explains tax laws. by J. RHODES

that even those foreigners who have not taken up residency in Spain may still be tracked by the tax authorities if necessary.

Although no one knows exactly what the final outcome of Brexit negotiations will be, neither globally nor on a bilateral basis, the main message coming from the meeting was that Britons living in Spain should take the opportunity now to make sure that their "house is in order", meaning that all legal and tax paperwork is up-to-date.

The key concerns from the mainly retiree audience were pension rights and healthcare post-Brexit. Despite this, of the residents who attended the meeting, none said that they were considering leaving Spain. Craig Webb from deVere commented that he believes "far more people are moving to Spain from the UK than the other way round" and added that he hadn't "heard of any cases of people selling up and returning home".

British residents attend Brexit seminar organised by Manilva town hall

by L. PAVÓN

MANILVA. Around 100 British residents attended the second Brexit seminar last weekend organised by the Foreign Residents Department at Manilva town hall. Councillor Dean Shelton spoke of the concerns of the local British population due to the uncertainty of the outcome

of the Brexit negotiations and how this will affect residents in Spain and Gibraltar.

Shelton was joined by the mayors of Manilva, Mario Jiménez, and Casares, Pepe Carrasco, as well as British consul Charmaine Arbouin and Derek Langley of the British Chamber of Commerce in Spain.



Councillor Dean Shelton speaks at the seminar. by SUR

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THERE IS A PRIZE FOR THE BEST
CONTRIBUTION TO THIS PAGE
SO PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR ADDRESS

Other sports

How many sports are there? We can be forgiven for thinking that there's only one because people only talk about football. It seems that football is the only sport, but it isn't...

There is a huge variety of sports that involve a great deal more risk and effort, and nevertheless they are considered inferior: cycling, handball, rock climbing... are just a few. What's more on one side we've got the men's teams, which come off best in terms of salary and media attention. On the other side, however, are the women's teams - but what do we hear about them? Being women does not mean that we have less ability to excel in sport. That idea shows the lack of progression in the mentality of human beings today. In our opinion, there is injustice both for less recognised sports and for women. Do you really think it should be like that?

ANDREA MARTÍNEZ
BY EMAIL

Beachfront security

Given that pollution from diesel engines is killing us, and that terrorists have learnt how to turn unattended delivery trucks into weapons of mass

destruction, why are cargo vehicles allowed to be left running, unattended on the Paseo Marítimo in Fuengirola?

I counted six unattended ticking-over trucks this morning along the seafront, and four unclaimed dog turds.

T. KIRBY
BY EMAIL

Rubbish recycling

I was not surprised to read in last week's paper that the province is a long way from achieving the EU's target of recycling 50% of our waste by 2020.

In fact I was amazed to learn that even 30% of Malaga's rubbish is recycled. Where I live in the city centre, the bins are not even categorised into plastics, glass and organic.

This is the case with many streets, forcing some residents to walk up to one kilometre to find their nearest categorised bins, which of course many are unwilling to do, and therefore a lot of rubbish goes to waste.

As a conscientious recycler myself, I have to say that the authorities need to make this issue a priority. I would even welcome the introduction of a tax on all those people who are rubbish at recycling.

R. BROOKS
MALAGA

SUR English

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Advertising Manager:
Emma Vera
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Flied breakfast

PETER EDGERTON
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

Man, they're annoying. Just when you think you've seen the last of them, they appear again from nowhere, imposing themselves on our lives with a pompous arrogance rarely seen outside the world of professional football. No, I'm not talking about political elections, rather that other bane of our lives - the humble mosquito.

I need to say from the outset that I'm lucky - mosquitos don't bite me. Largely, I imagine, because it would send them soaring over the drink-flying limit at the first swallow. (I'm tempted here to make a 'one swallow doesn't make a summer' joke, but the deadline for the article is fast approaching and I can't refine the gag in time - you'll have to do it yourselves).

They do, however, buzz in my ear at night, seeming to have honed the skill of waiting for that perfect moment when I'm balanced lightly on the cusp of deep slumber before performing a deft flypast of my lughole, presumably carrying a Playmobil hedge trimmer and doing some kind of loop-the-loop just to rub it in.

It's a well-known fact that only the female mosquito buzzes and bites and generally causes a nuisance (you may draw your own conclusions, I wouldn't dare), while the male of the species sits in a shed somewhere with an old train set and a six pack of real ale. Well, I can't remember the exact details but it's something like that.

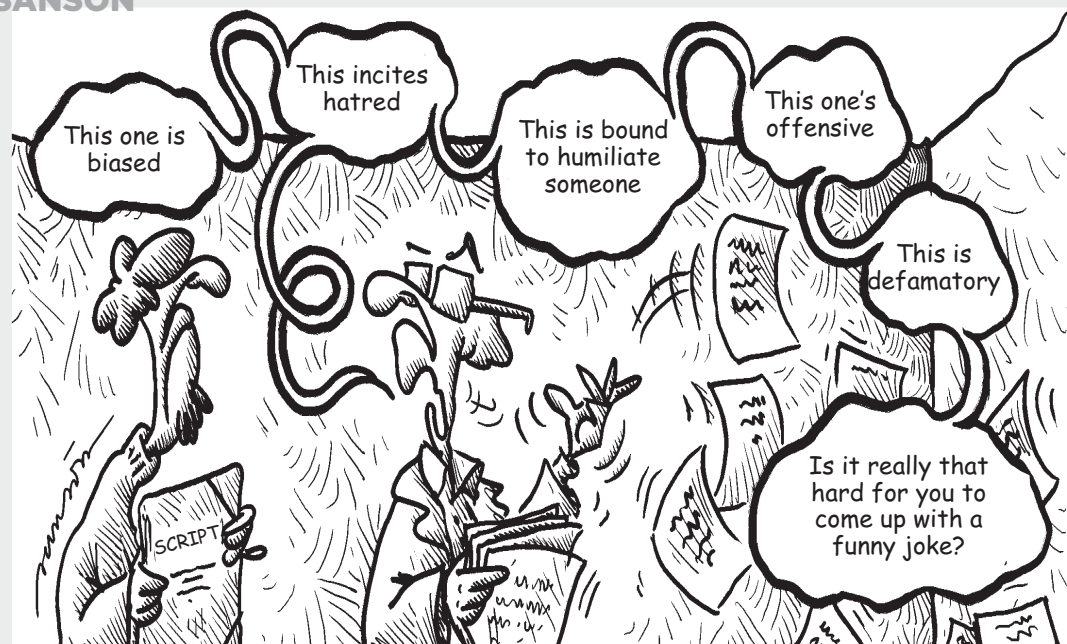
For the people who do get bitten - and, boy, do those poor souls get bitten - all of this is no laughing matter, I'm afraid. Swollen

limbs, big red eyelids, angry skin blotches and all kinds of other, painful, symptoms plague them throughout the mosquito season. Sprays, plug-ins and creams can help a little but, judging by some of the customers who come into the pub, they offer scant comfort in the long run.

I'm surprised, then, that no-one has ever tried black pudding as a remedy - it's basically blood in the form of a truncheon. The first step would be to leave some on a dish by the doors and windows. If you're lucky, they'll pause to snack on it on the way in and forget all about you. If they don't, you can just pick it up and smack them over head with it a couple of times before retiring to enjoy a full English breakfast.

I believe they call that a win-win situation.

SANSÓN



A thought for the good eggs

RACHEL HAYNES

It's April, it's 2017, but some of the headlines in this week's news are probably almost identical to others published five, ten or fifteen years ago. Politicians are arrested under suspicion of corrupt practice, embezzlement and generally abusing the power bestowed on them by the voting public. Meanwhile others promise to build hospitals, repair roads and create employment.

The names may be different (or perhaps not), the projects may be new ones (or not - in the case of certain roads and hospitals), but it's the same great commodity at the core of every story: money. What's more, it's not just any old money, it's public money, which, many still don't seem to realise, means that it belongs to the public - in other words, to you and me.

So why don't more members of the general public, owners of these public coffers that are being pilfered, seem shocked when someone who has gained power through their votes, cleverly pockets the money that should have been spent on those hospitals, roads and jobs schemes?

Every time we learn of a new case of corruption, involving politicians and officials sneaking public funds

off to their private accounts through one means or another, there seems to be a non-reaction. People, already on their way back to silly videos on Facebook after a quick scan of the day's "more-of-the-same" headlines, seem to need nudging into some sort of reaction.

"Hey, you're supposed to be horrified! Those are your taxes that should have been spent on making

your life better. Those guys you trusted have stolen from you!"

Even when you put it like that, though, people aren't rushing out into the streets to protest. Those who do look aghast at a politician's dodgy dealings are most probably feigning surprise.

If a "squeaky clean" Scandinavian politician had devised a complex scheme to siphon off funds to secure him- or herself a very comfortable future the world may well throw its hands up in horror. But in Spain, with its great track record for corruption, the news is not so much what the politician in question has done, but the fact that they got caught out.

So, as the investigations come and go, so do the elections. And, despite the recent, more colourful choice at the ballot box, the political parties

in question don't seem to be punished for producing one rotten egg after another.

"They're all as bad as each other," a friend told me, unable to conceive that someone might go into politics motivated purely by the chance to improve society, rather than out of a desire for power and wealth.

That friend laughs and calls me naïve when I say there must be hundreds of Spanish politicians who stand for election with a true vocation to serve their community, whatever their position on the political spectrum.

So if there are any honest politicians reading this, then, please don't give up. You have the unenviable job of fighting against a reputation that others are still helping to make worse. But one day I'm sure you'll prove me right.

Few urban panoramas can match Tokyo's skyline at night. :: SUR

Downtown Tokyo



ANDREW FORBES

✉ Twitter: @andrewforbes

From the poetic to the prosaic - the Japanese capital is still one of the world's most civilised cities

Boarding an underground train is rarely memorable, but if it is, it's almost certainly for all the wrong reasons; a feeling of claustrophobia, chaotic pushing, a sensation of stress. Yet my first time on the Tokyo network felt like an almost poetically choreographed experience.

I walked past the uniformed staff, wearing pristine white gloves, and joined the waiting passengers patiently standing in parallel lines. As the train pulled up and came to a stop, the carriage doors perfectly aligned to the designated boarding area marked on the platform. Passengers disembarked, before we joined the train, boarding in the order in which we had arrived. An incongruously child-like jingle then rang out from loud speakers, and the carriage doors slid closed and we departed.

I know it's probably a clichéd observation, but believe me, being part of urban life first-hand in Tokyo is far from the prosaic experience of most European capitals. Admittedly it wasn't rush-hour and I had joined the train at one of Tokyo's upscale central districts, so probably my experience wasn't the norm; yet it felt that politeness, order and calm typically prevailed.

Hidden history

Together with my private guide Rie, I headed north on the metro from Tokyo's urban heart to the Rikugien gardens, a historic green space dating back to the 1700s, when this was the city known as Edo.

I'm fascinated by Japanese gardens; not only a beautiful mani-

festation of the national pursuit of perfection, but also these manicured spaces offer a glimpse into Tokyo's past, a sense of history that's sometimes hard to find in this modern metropolis. Tokyo was all but flattened in the second world war, so much of what one experiences in the capital has been built from the 1950s onwards.

Rie is Japanese, one of the bilingual founders (together with foreign resident Owen) of 'The Back Street Guides'. As we near our destination we chat about my first impressions of the city. When I arrived on my flight a few days earlier, I managed to enjoy a bird's eye view of Tokyo, as the aircraft flew over the city, on its final approach to Haneda airport. The silvery grey of towers and buildings spread out as far as the horizon. It's probably

During your first day or so it's good to have a local at your side; it accelerates one's understanding

the most colossal urban area I'd ever seen - exciting, whilst also slightly awe-inspiring.

During your first day or so it's good to have a local at your side; it accelerates one's understanding of Tokyo, a city that can seem both overwhelming, yet also almost village-like thanks to the gentle politeness of the residents.

Rie tells me that Japan is well advanced with its programme to make the country more open for foreign visitors. This is predominantly reflected in English being the second language, and English being rolled-out across the transport network from signage to information screens. With the 2020 Olympic Games approaching, Japan is wanting to be more open, putting its history of being a closed nation very much in its past. Yet so far, from my limited perspective as a visitor, Tokyo still looked and felt very 'Japanese'. Sitting on the metro train, I surveyed my fellow passengers; there were few signs that Tokyo is cosmopolitan, or a culturally diverse city.

Just Japanese

With a falling population, Japan has a ticking demographic time bomb. Faced with similar issues,

European governments have sometimes embraced immigration as a quick-fix to labour shortages. Yet here the Japanese are turning to automation, robotics and artificial intelligence. Foreign-looking faces are still few and far between here, yet AI gadgets and cartoon-style pepper robots are an increasingly familiar sight.

Graceful gardens

Within a few minutes, we had arrived at the station for the gardens. Nature and her seasons play an integral part in the social and cultural life of Japan; from the renowned 'hanami' custom of relishing the beauty of the spring cherry blossom, to enjoying the radiance of the autumnal trees, particularly the iconic, warm tones and fiery reds of the delicate acer maples.

Surrounded by apartment blocks and busy streets, the Rikugien gardens are surprisingly tranquil. This noble park has survived through the centuries and is said to be an interpretation of the period's revival of the Waka poetry style. Many elements of the garden have been manicured and groomed over generations to create a sense of harmony between nature and the



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social use of the garden. Like many of the formal gardens that lay almost hidden amongst Tokyo's skyscrapers, this space was commissioned by an elite nobleman, either a daimyo, or a shogun.

Petite timber tea houses shelter under branches of ancient trees; small streams, crossed by diminutive stone and wooden bridges, feed a central lake punctuated by a picturesque island of clipped pine and maple trees.

As the afternoon light fades, the gardens become illuminated with coloured lighting, theatrically framing the garden scenes, each revealed as one strolls along the narrow winding paths. It's a centuries-old fantasy world, where one can still find ancient engraved stone 'seki-chu' posts describing the different poetic corners of this contrived yet still natural environment.

This notion of nature perfected is common across the capital. Japan is a mountainous, volcanic nation, so its urban areas are densely populated and city green spaces are venerated. Nature is understandably brought into the all-encompassing built environment in Tokyo too. It's a common thread throughout city life, from the presentation of food, to the architec-

ture and design of its skyscrapers.

After-work antics

The tranquillity of the city garden could not have been more different to the night before, an evening spent discovering some of the hidden 'Yokocho' alleyways of Tokyo's city centre. Evocative of scenes from the movie Blade Runner, these narrow streets, typically lit either by the harsh, bright signage and colourful neon or from the subtle glow of oriental paper lanterns, offer places to eat well, authentically and cheaply.

My guide was Anne, founder of Agrigato Japan, an independent company that offers Japanese food tours. Together with a small group of other visitors, I indulged in the street food and urban flavours of Tokyo's nightlife, including succulent yakitori chicken skewers prepared over smoking charcoal grills.

In such a crowded city, no space is wasted, and these small, relaxed eateries and bars make use of all available space, between the gleaming office towers and under the archways and elevated tracks of the nation's famous Shinkansen bullet trains.

As the office workers flood out

of the towers into the streets below, they either head for the metro stations or into the myriad small restaurants for tasty kushiyaki skewers, or into the smoky bars for hoppys or highballs; and then on to gaming arcades where they play slot machines and pachinko; or lose themselves in their favourite songs in one of the multi-storey karaoke lounges. It's a night out offering the chance to see a more relaxed, less self-controlled side of Tokyo life.

However, it doesn't take long before one sees more examples of perfectionism here. We wondered through the upscale streets of Tokyo's Ginza district, the chic and civilised shopping and leisure neighbourhood that is chock-full of fine-dining eateries, flagship designer stores and expensive boutiques. Here the illuminated street hoardings and digital billboards are alive with images from the world's most luxurious brands, as well as the logos and slogans of



The iconic, warm tones and fiery reds of the delicate acer maples. :: **sUR**

Foreign faces are still rare to see yet AI gadgets and cartoon-style pepper robots are increasingly common

leading Japanese technology and car manufacturers.

The wealth of Tokyo is far from hidden here. I stepped inside the famous Nihonbashi Sembikiya fruit parlour; a grocery shop that is said to offer the most perfect fruit in the city. Don't be surprised to see a small tray of a handful of meticulously presented pieces of fruit for 75 euros. Or selected melons, each carefully wrapped in tissue paper, for between 150 and 250 euros each!

As night fell I returned to my hotel. The underground station was filling with office workers not looking to stay for more after-work drinks with their colleagues and bosses. The doors of the carriage once again slide open and I stepped onto the platform. Then a man quickly walked up to me, handing me my digital PASMO smart ticket which had dropped out of my pocket; his thoughtful, personal gesture was not lost in translation in this, one of the world's biggest mega-cities.



A night out in Tokyo inevitably begins in restaurants found in the 'Yokocho' alleyways. :: **sUR**

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ANDREW FORBES

THE INSIDER GUIDE

Tokyo



Metropolitan Government Observatories.

This is one of the planet's megacities; with some 13 million people living in Tokyo, extending to a mind-boggling 37 million residents when one includes the full metropolitan area, the world's most populous.

STAY:

Prince Gallery Tokyo

Few urban panoramas can match Tokyo's skyline at night. The city's elevated highways flow like rivers of light, meandering among neon-topped towers and sparkling apartment blocks - a remarkable backdrop for drinks or dinner. The Prince Gallery is Tokyo's latest five-star deluxe hotel, offering a smart urban Tokyo experience. It's a gleaming skyscraper hotel with exceptionally-framed views of the city from each of its public spaces and more than 150 rooms. Contemporary, with a youthful, city vibe that's cool, on-trend, yet relaxed - and with Japanese service delivered with exceptional finesse and attention to detail. Try the cocktails in the suave Sky Gallery Lounge Levita.

PrinceHotels.com/en/kioicho

Mandarin Oriental Tokyo

From its impressive double-height Sky lobby on the 38th floor, one can see the Imperial Palace Gardens and Mount Fuji beyond to the west, while to the east is the Tokyo Skytree dominating the almost endless cityscape. This landmark hotel, within the Cesar Pelli-designed Mitsui skyscraper, has interior design by Reiko Sudo who has presented the tower as a tree, a place of shelter and community, bringing the notion of nature into this constructed environment. From the ground floor entrance, with its richly-textured design motifs, fabrics and wall coverings, that combine to inspire thoughts of tree roots, to the reception sky lobby conceived as the tree's canopy, there are creative interpretations of nature everywhere.

The property is also worth a visit for its ten stylish bars and eateries including the innovative Tapas Molecular Bar; Sushi Sora, an authentic sushi counter restaurant; and Michelin-starred Sense, offering Cantonese cuisine.

The Spa at Mandarin Oriental has treatment rooms with floor-to-ceiling windows offering skyline views. As one of the city's pre-

mium hotels, the MO Tokyo is found in the chic and exclusive Nihonbashi district, close to the area's landmark Mitsukoshi department store, and the Nihonbashi 'Bridge of Japan' which was historically considered the km 0 of Tokyo.

MandarinOriental.com/Tokyo

First Cabin capsule hotels

Tokyo is renowned for its 'capsule hotels', driven by a demand for reasonably-priced accommodation in one of the world's most populous and expensive cities. These hotels feature small personal pods, instead of guest rooms. First Cabin has evolved the concept with its more spacious, design-driven capsules that emulate a first-class cabin aboard an aircraft. Sizes vary from 2 to 20 square metres.

First-Cabin.jp.e.jr.hp.transer.com

EAT:

Sushi SORA

To be one of the privileged eight guests, sitting at the sushi counter of this intimate restaurant with stunning city views is to witness the artistry of traditional 'Edomae' sushi chefs. Dexterity, precision and grace define the work of Yuji Imaizuma and his team. Delicate dishes of seasonal fish are served at the counter made from a single piece of 350-year-old Japanese cypress - a place where tradition and modernity meet.

MandarinOriental.com/Tokyo

Café de l'Ambre

Found in the swish Ginza downtown district, this family coffee shop has a retro feel. There are English-language menus and most importantly, great coffee.

h6.dion.ne.jp/~lambre/

Park Hyatt Tokyo

Opened in 1994, the Park Hyatt was Tokyo's first foreign-run luxury hotel and it remains a classic. It was the setting for the cult movie *Lost in Translation* (all filmed during the night so as not to disturb guests!) Book afternoon tea in the Peak Lounge for a flavour of discreet, civilised Tokyo.

Tokyo.Park.Hyatt.com

DO:

Rikugien Gardens

City gardens dating back to 1702; one of Tokyo's 'Special places of Scenic Beauty', and an enchanting example of Japanese garden design.

Teien.Tokyo-Park.or.jp/en/rikugien/

Metropolitan Government Building Observatory

For a free view of the city, head up to the 45th floor of government



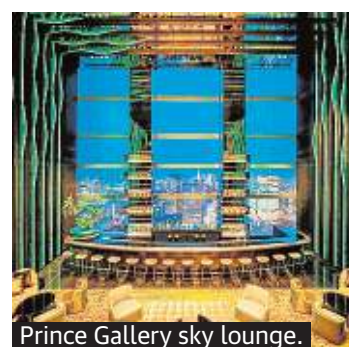
Shibuya crossing.



Mandarin Oriental sky lobby.



Yakitori chicken skewers.



Prince Gallery sky lounge.

building 1, in the central Shinjuku district (direct access from Nishi-shinjuku station). Visit the south deck during the day, while for evening views try the north deck, open until 10.30pm.

The Back Street Guides

This boutique firm, founded by Owen and Rie, specialises in personalised tour experiences in Kyoto and Tokyo. Book a private guide for a true insider's perspective of Tokyo, or join one of the smaller group tours to experience local food, and see unmissable sights such as the Tsukiji fish market, Sensoji Temple, Nakamise Dori, the unique Akihabara Electric District, and the charming Old

Yanaka District.

TheBackStreetGuides.com

Shibuya Crossing

For a bird's eye view of Tokyo's most famous pedestrian intersection, the five-way Shibuya crossing, most tourists head to the Starbucks or L'Occitane cafes. Alternatively, try and dodge the hotel security at the Shibuya Excel Hotel to get to the 25th floor, where corridor windows offer a good view. Alternatively, don't just observe, actually make the crossing and be part of the crowds.

Agrigato Japan

For a great value experience of Tokyo's remarkable food scene, it's a great idea to turn to a professional guide. Agrigato Japan, founded by Tokyo-resident Anne, offers food tours and experiences in Osaka, Kyoto and Tokyo. Try the 'All Star Food Tour' of Tokyo, taking in some of the city's Yokocho alleyway eateries as well as a sit-down restaurant serving regional Japanese delicacies.

ArigatoJapan.co.jp

Karaoke

One of the biggest karaoke chains, you can find Big Echo multi-storey karaoke lounges throughout Tokyo. Check-in is much like a hotel and you can order food and drinks to your private lounge. Song lyrics are available in English and microphones are said to be tuned so that even the most amateur enthusiast can sound good!

Big-Echo.jp

TRAVEL:

At a metro station kiosk, purchase a prepaid PASMO or SUICA smart card - much like an Oyster card in London. It allows you to travel on city buses, taxis or the metro, all without using cash. Use it too in shops, and at some of the ubiquitous vending machines that are found everywhere in Tokyo, selling everything from noodles to sake.

TokyoMetro.jp/en/

WHERE IN THE WORLD?



Links bookmarked

Widely considered to be the first on its continent, this library dates back to 1646, amassing more than 45,000 books and manuscripts.

The library owes its name to the city's bishop. He was a lover of

books, donating hundreds on the understanding that they would be available to the general public so that education would not be limited to the wealthy elite. He is quoted as saying: "He who succeeds without books is in an inconsolable darkness, on a mountain without

company, on a path without a crossier, in darkness without a guide."

The city in question is surrounded on four sides by mountains and volcanoes, terrain on which the country's future was decided in a landmark battle for the continent.

Next Friday, the events of more

than a 150 years ago will be marked with a large parade and a re-enactment. During the week there are concerts, lectures and other cultural activities scheduled.

Strangely, this is not considered a national holiday and is much more widely celebrated in the neighbour-

ing country to acknowledge links between them.

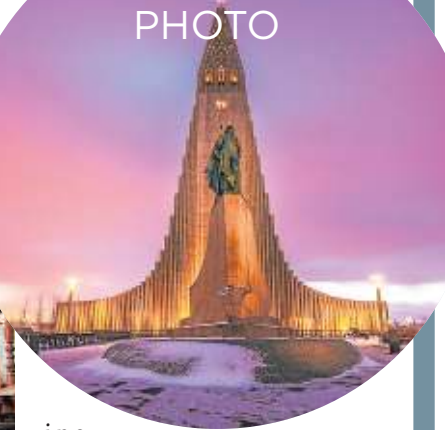
If you know the name of the library, as well as the name for the holiday celebrated next month, you could win a prize. Send your answers to english@diariosur.es and put 'Where in the world?' as the subject. Please also include your address and telephone number so we can send the prize to you.

Congratulations to Claudine Beaujean who won last month's competition for correctly identifying the city as Reykjavik (Iceland) and 'Sumardagurinn fyrsti', the holiday celebrating the first day of summer - believe it or not!

Your prize will be with you shortly.

Send your answer to english@diariosur.es

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Southern Spain has a multitude of hidden corners just waiting to be discovered: this week we suggest you take the road to...

Andalucía

Major celebrations in the month of May

Granada and Cordoba are celebrating May Cross festivals and Seville is about to start a week-long fair

✪ JAVIER ALMELLONES

MÁLAGA. May Day is always an important festival in Andalucía, but this year there are even more celebrations than usual because the April Fair in Seville is not only starting late but will last for a whole week, and will therefore coincide with major festivals in Granada and Cordoba.

Seville's April Fair kicks off at midnight on Saturday, when the lighting at the fairground is officially switched on.

May Crosses in Granada

On 2 and 3 May, Granada is celebrating its 'Las Cruces' festival, which is its most important event of the spring apart from Corpus Christi.

Visiting Granada at this time of year is an excellent way to discover the city which was once the capital of the Nasrid kingdom as it celebrates a tradition which was religious in origin but is also entertaining and colourful.

Tuesday and Wednesday will be particularly interesting days to be in the city, because patios and shop windows will be decorated with crosses.

This tradition, according to local people, dates back to 1625, when an alabaster cross was erected in the San Lázaro district. By the beginning of the 20th century, it was already the custom in the Albaicín del Realejo district for children to build small altars with a cross on top.

Those altars were decorated with embroidered shawls, ceramic jars, copper pots and an apple with a pair of scissors stuck into it, as they are today.

As a reward for preparing these altars in the city's streets and squares, the children used to ask for a "chavico", meaning an old copper coin which was actually called an 'ochavo'.

The altars which are set up today are very similar to the ones of that time, but nowadays they are built and decorated by groups of residents, associations, to maintain the longstanding tradition.

Every year at least 20 crosses are authorised by the local council, and are erected around the most emblematic districts of this Andalusian city.

An impressive amount of imagination and creativity is used to create these floral works of art and take part in the competition, and during these two days local people



Cordoba's Battle of the Flowers takes place at midday on Sunday. ✪ TURISMO ANDALUZ



The May Crosses festival in Granada is always popular. ✪ SUR

gather around the crosses to dance and sing.

One of the most curious features of this tradition is the apple or pear into which scissors have been stuck, beside the crosses. This was a symbolic, almost hieroglyphic way, in the old days, of warning visitors not to place any objection, or 'pero', to the cross at which they

were looking.

It is also traditional to eat certain foods during this festival, so visitors can expect to find products such as broad beans, salted cod and Russian salad on offer in local bars and restaurants.

A month among flowers

In Cordoba, spring means flowers

flowers and plants, and numerous cultural activities are organised to coincide with the event.

Fervour for 'La Morenita'

Meanwhile in Andújar, Jaén province, this Sunday, the Virgen de la Cabeza pilgrimage takes place. This is believed to be the oldest 'romería' in the country, dating back to the 13th century, and has become a major tourist attraction.

According to legend, the virgin appeared to Juan Alonso de Rivas, a shepherd from the village of Colmera, in Granada province, in August 1227 and miraculously cured his injured arm. She then asked him to build a shrine in the same place, and that is the one which is known today as the Cerro del Cabezo. Thousands of people take part in the pilgrimage there every year, and it is considered the second most important event of its type after the famous one at El Rocío.

Fairtime in Seville

Seville's massive April Fair will be continuing until 6 May this year, and it coincides with events to mark the 25th anniversary of the Expo and the 400th anniversary of the birth of the artist Murillo.

This is a wonderful time of year in this beautiful Andalusian city, where the air is fragrant with orange blossom and local people celebrate the fair with music, dancing and delicious traditional

gastronomy.

Although the event is officially inaugurated on Saturday at midnight with the so-called 'Alumbrado' at the fairground, hours before-hand people will be enjoying their 'Noche del Pescaito', a gastro-

nomical event where the bars in the fairground will be selling fried fish, cured

meats and cheeses, accompanied by beer or dry sherry.

Anyone who has never been to Seville at fairtime will find it an exciting, fun experience, and one which never loses its sense of tradition.

because the May Crosses Competition and Patio Festival take place in the first two weeks of the month.

Large crosses have been erected in different parts of the city and decorated with flowers, and these can be visited from tomorrow, Saturday, until Tuesday in the districts of San Basilio, San Andrés and San Agustín.

On Sunday, the traditional Battle of the Flowers will take place in the emblematic Paseo de la Victoria, during which more than 120,000 carnations will be thrown into the crowds from more than 20 floats during the procession.

Then, from Tuesday until 14 May, it is the turn of the Patios Festival, which also takes place in the most ancient part of the city.

The patios are decorated with



The Virgen de la Cabeza pilgrimage. ✪ SUR

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Former Norwegian footballer chooses Benalmádena for new business enterprise

During his time as a professional footballer, André Lindbæk played for several Norwegian clubs, including Molde and Viking Stavanger

BY TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. One-time professional footballer, André Lindbæk, has recently opened a state of the art gymnasium on the Costa del Sol.

The Epic Gym and Health Centre is a new hi-tech complex that first opened its doors in December 2016, although the official open-day was held last Saturday, when visitors were invited to test the facility free of charge.

The new project had been a dream of André for some time and, after viewing many possible locations along the coast, he eventually decided to locate his new enterprise in Benalmádena Costa.

During his time as a professional footballer, André played for several Norwegian top-flight clubs, including Molde and Viking Stavanger. He also played in Spain, representing Numancia and Las Palmas, before injury ended his career in 2008.

The 39-year-old Norwegian and his two business partners, also formerly involved with professional football, are using their experience and connections to make the gym and health complex one of the most popular of its kind on the coast.

One of these connections is a sports travel agency that brings Scandinavian football clubs to Spain for preseason training.

Norwegian footballers are now using Spain to train because of the excellent climate during the win-



Councillor Ana Scherman, André Lindbæk and mayor of Benalmádena Víctor Navas at the opening. BY T. BRYANT

ter and the football stadium in Benalmádena has become a favourite training ground for them.

Last month almost 200 players

from Norway visited Benalmádena and André was quick to offer them the use of his new fitness complex.

The 1,400- square-metre techno-

gym offers the most up-to-date equipment, including Tomahawk virtual exercise bikes and Hammer-Strength multi-jungle machines.

However, Epic Gym is not aimed solely at elite athletes, but also those with the focus and determination to want to train like one.

The complex has two collective workout rooms, an outdoor training terrace, spinning room, personal trainers and more than 100 weekly classes.

André told SUR in English: "Epic is a lifestyle. A successful facility is about much more than a mix of a few fitness machines. It's about combining spaces and equipment to create an environment that motivates our members."

Benalmádena has one of the highest numbers of Norwegian residents on the coast, partly due to the exclusive Norwegian school situated in Arroyo de la Miel.

"The town hall, especially the mayor, is very interested in what we are doing and they have given us their full backing," the former footballer explained.

The town's mayor, Víctor Navas, who attended the opening, said: "Enterprises of this kind are good for sports tourism in this area; we wish them every success."

Roof-top party to launch opening of new gymnasium

BY T. BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA A lavish party was held to launch the opening of the Epic Gymnasium and Health Lounge last Saturday in Benalmádena, and more than 150 people turned up to help celebrate the occasion.

The VIP party was attended by

Víctor Navas, mayor of Benalmádena and Ana Scherman, councillor for foreign residents.

Guests enjoyed a selection of wines and cocktails on the health centre's roof terrace.

The event was sponsored by Mercedes Benz, Heineken, Torres, Illy Café and SUR in English.



Guests enjoy the roof-top party at the opening of the new gym. BY T. B.

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GARDENING

Arctotis acaulis

Perennial Arctotis acaulis is a tough, mat-forming perennial with downy, grey-green leaves and large, colourful, daisy-like flowers

This stunning daisy is native to dry, rocky slopes in southern Africa and is commonly called the African Daisy, though this name also applies to several other genera of plants.

Its genus name is Arctotis and there are three main garden species: Arctotis hybrida, which has a huge variety of colours with shades of cream, yellow, orange, red and pur-

ple, many with a contrasting 'eye'; A. fastuosa which is slightly larger and has orange flowers with dark purple centre and purple blotches at the base of each petal; and A. venusta which has bigger flowers than the other two in shades of white pink or orange with a golden ring

around a bluish 'eye' in the centre.

The underside of the petals of this latter form is usually red. The foliage is similar to a chrysanthemum and has finely cut edges, a soft, downy texture and is grey-green in colour.

Arctotis is an excellent ground cover plant and will help to secure soil on sloping banks due to its large root ball. It is also an ideal container plant and just one specimen will quickly fill a large container and cascade over the sides. Just make sure that the soil is well drained and that there is plenty of room for the roots to develop.

Arctotis needs a position in full sun. It is fairly drought tolerant but will benefit from occasional watering. It will not withstand frost. Regular deadheading increases the flowering although it will usually flower from late spring until mid to late autumn in an ideal climate. In very hot summers Arctotis may stop flowering for a few weeks until temperatures drop a little.

The flowers are light sensitive so they always look outwards and will close up on overcast days and in the late afternoon, much like Dimorphotheca - another species known commonly as the African Daisy. Propagation is from stem cuttings at any time of the year. Seed may also be viable although seeds collected from hybrid plants may not come true to the parent plant.



Arctotis acaulis and close-up of the leaves. :: SUR / KELLEY MACDONALD

READER'S PHOTO



:: JENNIFER GILES

GLORIOUS AMARYLLIS

Keen gardener Jennifer Giles sent in this stunning photo. Judging by the number of photos of amaryllis that have been sent to us, it must be a particularly good year for them, although this was the only picture of a double flowering form we received.

GARDENING HINTS FOR MAY

Bugs and beasties, part 1

Already the dreaded geranium moth has been making a reappearance in the garden, fluttering around the juicy new stems of the geraniums in the window boxes. They are hoping to lay their eggs on the leaves or in the leaf axils so that the larvae when it hatches can burrow into the stems. Eventually the stems collapse although the plant may recover.

There are sprays sold commercially that are specifically for the geranium moth but any spray that claims to kill caterpillars (orugas) will do.

If you prefer a more environmentally-safe solution then look for a spray that contains Bacillus thuringiensis (it's called Bt spray in the UK). It is a natural, non-pathogenic bacterium that is found naturally in the soil.

However there are home-spun alternatives; I have been trialling the anti-moth capsules that are sold to place on coat hangers in the wardrobe, hooking several of them onto the stems of the geraniums. So far, fingers-crossed, I haven't seen a moth near them since!

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

We know that many of our readers have lovely gardens, or enjoy growing plants on their terraces or balconies, so why not share them with others?

Email your photos to english@diariosur.es or send them to SUR in English, Avda Dr Marañón 48, 29009 Malaga, with a caption and a few words of explanation, or send them via Twitter @SUR_English or Facebook @surenglish and we'll do the rest!

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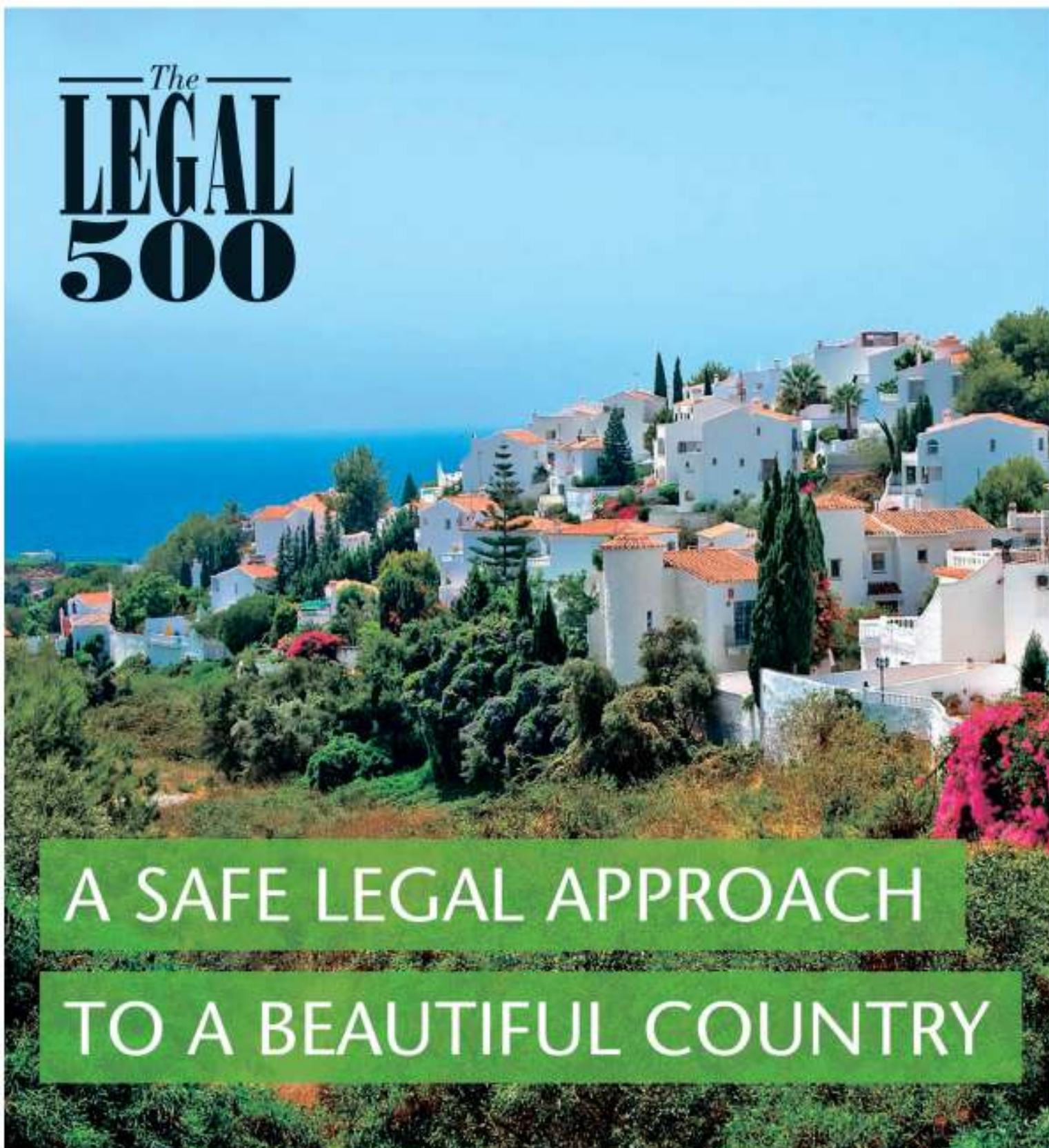
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The Tate comes to the Picasso

The Malaga museum is displaying 90 works by a dozen artists from the London School including Freud and Bacon

■ ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

MALAGA. It took him three years to paint them. The driest of brown leaves, the light reflected on the green palms, the tranquility. He had moved to a new studio, the scene was what he could see and that was his way of identifying himself with that new place, of making it his own, of becoming familiar with it.

Lucien Freud's 'Two Plants' (1977-1980) are now in a corner of the Picasso Museum in Malaga, and their apparent docility disguises a different way of understanding art. "The same viscosity he dedicates to the human body can be seen here. He tries to indicate the passage of time with the same passion in the natu-

ral environment as in human life," says Elena Crippa, the curator of 'Bacon, Freud and the London School', the first exhibition to come out of an agreement between the Picasso Museum and London's Tate Gallery.

The 90 works from the British institution can be seen at the Picasso Museum until 17 September, and they reflect one of the most vibrant chapters in the history of western art in the past century. The works cover eight decades and the exhibition is an important step forward in the museum's international presence.

After its agreements with the New York Metropolitan (2007), the Swedish Moderna Museet (2013) and the MoMA (2016-2017), among others, the Malaga museum is now embarking upon an alliance which promises further joys in the future. "This is our first and ambitious partnership with the Picasso Museum of Malaga... we are delighted to loan works from our collection, and we like to take advantage of the knowledge of our European colleagues and also request works from them. This

is a communal collaboration in which everyone benefits," said Judith Nesbitt, the director of National and International Programmes at the Tate in London, at the opening of the exhibition. And in case anyone has any doubts about the forthcoming Brexit, she insisted that "there is no doubt that the Tate will continue its commitment to collaborating with European institu-

tions."

This exhibition features a group of artists who worked in London and whose works "show us what our art owes to the children of immigrants," explained Judith. The artistic director of the Picasso Museum, José Lebrero, described them as "cultural refugees," who created their own path in western art from the first third of the 20th century

onwards.

"This exhibition is obsessively dedicated to painting," he remarked about one of the main signs of identity of the group, which focused with special intensity on representing the human form and the landscape when the dominant trend was the abstract expressionism of Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko and co.

"Painting here," said Lebrero, "is not image. It is presence. We have become accustomed to distancing ourselves from things, but we need to get close to these pictures." Indeed, it is a good idea to get as near as the security measures will allow to the smooth brushstrokes of Freud, the wild carnality of Bacon, the overflowing palette of Kossoff, the rabid chromatism of Ronald B. Kitaj, the delicacy of Michael Andrews, the bloody (?) figures of Euan Uglow and the silent subversion of Paula Rego.

Body and landscape

This new exhibition at the Picasso Museum should not be rushed.

THE EXHIBITION

► **Title.** 'Bacon, Freud and the London School'.

► **Venue.** Malaga Picasso Museum.

► **Date.** Until 17 September.

► **Opening hours.** The art gallery opens every day. Until June, from 10am to 7pm; July and August, 10am to 8pm; September, 10am to 7pm.

► **Entrance.** 'Pablo Picasso. New Collection': 7 euros (reduced rate 5 euros); temporary exhibition 'Bacon, Freud and the London School': 5.5 euros (reduced rate 3 euros); combined ticket for 'Pablo Picasso. New Collection' and 'Bacon, Freud and the London School': 10 euros (reduced rate 6 euros).

► **Information.** Tel: 952 12 76 00, www.museopicassomalaga.org.



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The landscape, the portrait, the human body, the city of London. Axes upon which works which are very diverse among themselves turn, by artists who are represented chronologically through their careers.

Two names stand out above all the rest, however: the works by Freud cover a period of 50 years, up to his 'David and Eli' (2003-2004), passing through 'Girl with Striped Nightshirt' (1983-87) and 'Leigh Bowary' (1991). And with regard to Bacon, there are more than three decades between his 'Figure in a Landscape' (1945) and 'Triptych August 1972', accompanied by his 'Second Version of Triptych 1944' (1988), two of the works with the most powerful visual impact in this display.

"The school was based on a commitment to the human figure, and it explains the artistic and human relationship between these artists which lasted for so long. When we talk about the London School we usually focus on Freud a great deal, but here we want to show that there were in fact many others," explained Elena Crippa.

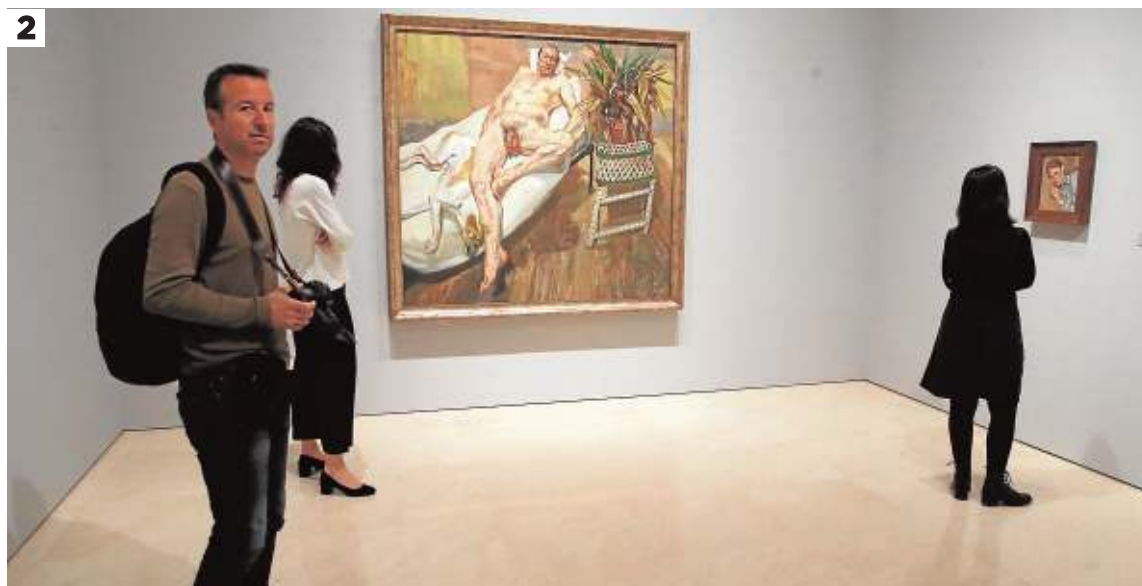
1. 'Second Version of Triptych 1944' (1988) by Francis Bacon.
:: SALVADOR SALAS

2. 'David and Eli' (2003-2004), beside 'Girl with Striped Night-shirt' (1983-87), both by Lucian Freud. :: SALVADOR SALAS

3. The chromatism of 'Celic Court' (1983-1984), by R. B. Kitaj. :: S. SALAS

4. Two nudes by Euan Uglow. :: SALVADOR SALAS

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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

28 APRIL 1770

18th century stage actress Rita Luna is born in Malaga

RACHEL HAYNES



del Barco in Madrid. She gained popularity appearing in classical comedies including works by Golden Age dramatist, Calderón de la Barca.

The following year she was taken on by the Reales Sitios theatre company and became the second lady at the Corral del Príncipe theatre, now the Teatro Español.

She soon emerged as a rival for the then first lady of the theatres of the court of Carlos IV, María del Rosario Fernández 'La Tirana', a veteran diva who became jealous of the younger woman. Rita Luna eventually took the title herself and had her portrait painted by Francisco de Goya.

Due to tension between the two women, Rita Luna moved to another popular Madrid theatre, known as the Coliseo de la Cruz,

Rita Alfonso García was born in Malaga by chance. Her parents, originally from northern Spain, were both orators, taking their recitals from stage to stage. They were living in the southern Spanish city in the spring of 1770 when Rita, one of three sisters, was born.

Given her family background it comes as no surprise that Rita also took to performing, adopting the stage name Rita Luna. She made her acting debut in 1789, at the age of 19, at a provisional theatre in Calle



A modern day picture of the Teatro Español in Madrid. :: SUR



Rita Luna by Francisco de Goya.

where she stayed for 16 years.

Rita abandoned her stage career in 1806 without explanation, although this came after she had suffered the rejection of playwright Leandro Fernández de Moratín who hadn't been pleased with how she played one of his characters. Her departure may also have been sparked by gossip among the actresses of the time or by mysterious and inappropriate love affairs, although speculation linked her decision to the death of a doctor she was very close to.

She retired to Real Sitio de El Pardo and distanced herself from her past stage career, devoting her time to charitable works.

During the Peninsular War, following Napoleon's invasion in 1808, she moved back to Malaga and from there to the spa at Caratraca, where she sought relief for her ailments. She moved on to Toledo, eventually returning to her Madrid home in El Pardo. She died of pneumonia in 1932.

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Actriz	Actress
Teatro	Theatre
Padres	Parents
Escenario	Stage
Comedia	Comedy
Cómico	Comedian
Corte	Court
Dramaturgo	Playwright
Infancia	Childhood
Celoso	Jealous
Dolencias	Ailments
Alivio	Relief
Retrato	Portrait
Nacimiento	Birth
Caridad	Charity
Personaje	Character
Papel	Role

Bilingual crossword inside back page

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PET CARE

PETER HARRISON



A matter of memory

To what extent do dogs remember events from the past?

Elephants are reputed to have long memories and children's books have many examples. Dogs have a reputation of short recall and a "live for today" attitude to life. I am not convinced of this.

A few years ago we ran kennels. Two dogs from separate homes were placed in adjacent pens separated by wire fencing. From day one they perpetually argued through the fencing so we separated them, but they could see one another even though they were a good distance apart. We moved them so they could not see one another. The arguments reduced but still continued until one dog went home. His enemy stayed and became calm.

Over the next few years each dog came to the kennels but never at the same time so the incident was history. However three years later one came and the following week the other arrived so they overlapped by four days. As soon

as number two arrived by car, even before he had seen the other dog, the rumpus was started all over again and continued afresh. It was astonishing. In human terms I do not harbour grievances and if I have a heated argument with some one it is all forgotten if we meet even a few months later. That, however, is applying human behaviour to an animal. It is a mistake. What triggered off the second aggression? They had not even seen one another. Was it scent?

We had a dog of our own called Digger. Driving over a wild country area I came across a pony which had been knocked down by a car. I immobilised the pony which was attempting to get up thereby making his injuries worse and left a passing motorist to divert the scant traffic while I went to fetch the police and get a local vet. When we arrived at the police station a very short drive away I took Digger One into the sta-

tion. On seeing a police officer in uniform Digger went berserk and became very aggressive. Totally out of character. Did the sight of a man in uniform trigger something in his memory bank? He had been our dog for six years. Who can tell?

I went to a store where dogs were not permitted with another dog, Jake, and tied him to a rail outside the shop where I could see him, it being too hot to leave him in the car. The shop owner asked me to move the car a few metres as she was expecting a delivery of goods. I moved the car about three metres but Jake went crazy. Did he think I was abandoning him as he once may have experienced? That must have been at least seven years before.

I believe dogs do have long memories, but memories of association. It is worth bearing in mind if your dog behaves out of character.

FUNDRAISING



Jean and Chris strapped up in Comares. :: SUR

Legion members zip through the air

COMARES

A 17-strong contingent from the Alhaurín el Grande branch of the Royal British Legion went off to Comares

recently to support fellow member Jean on her fundraising zipwire challenge. She was joined by Chris for her sponsored "flight" that raised 263 euros for the fund. "The fantastic views occupied me so much that the whole thing just didn't last long enough," Jean said.

Aloha College pupils run for Cudeca

MARBELLA

Primary and secondary children from Aloha College, along with parents and teachers, recently took part in their annual Charity Run to support Cudeca Cancer Care Hospice. This year they raised a total of 2,300 euros, which will go towards Cudeca's work to provide palliative care



Running for cancer care. :: SUR

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FACTS & FACES



Members of the Fuengirola British Scouts in the English Cemetery in Malaga. :: R. H.

Scouts on parade for St George

MALAGA. Members of all sections of the 1st Fuengirola Scout Group travelled to St George's Church in Malaga on Sunday to mark the feast day of the patron saint of England. The group joined the Anglican con-

gregations from the Malaga and Vélez areas for the special St George's Day service which began with a reading from Shakespeare and concluded with the hymn Jerusalem.

The Scouts were then given a tour of the English Cemetery by former British consul Bruce McIntyre, who told the youngsters the stories of some of the people who were buried there over the years.

RBL Bring and Buy helps Poppy Appeal

MOLLINA. It took less than two hours for members and friends of the Mollina branch of the Royal British Legion to raise 250 euros for their Poppy Appeal at the recent Bring and Buy Bonanza. The group also recruited two new members at the successful event.

Auctioneer Tony Burns sold items ranging from computer inks to loaves of Portuguese bread and volunteers donated bric-a-brac and second-hand clothes and books.

The group's next event on 23 May is a "Day at the Races" starting at 11am at Parque la Vina, Mollina.



The Reflections quartet during their performance. :: SUR

Reflections entertain Age Care Association

MIJAS. More than 60 people enjoyed a concert given by the a cappella quartet Reflections and hosted

by the Age Care Association last week. The International Baptist Church in Calahonda was the venue for the entertainment that included favourite songs such as 'Under the Boardwalk', 'Breaking Up is Hard to Do' and 'Unchained Melody'.

Bowlers dress up in red and white for special saint's day competition

ESTEPONA. Benavista Bowls Club opened its doors on Sunday for a 'fun day' celebration to mark St George's Day. Members and visitors dressed in red and white - and the odd silly hat - for a not-too-serious 'trips' competition.

Mike Old, Audrey Shakesheff and Yvonne Paige were the winners and each received a bottle of wine. The bowling was followed by an English lunch of bangers and mash followed by strawberries and cream.



Benavista Bowls Club members and guests. :: SUR



41 Club members at the Taller de la Amistad. :: SUR

Club delivers donation to Taller de la Amistad

NERJA. Chairman Jim Skinner and other members of 41 Club Nerja recently visited the new extension of the Taller de la Amistad association to donate 500 euros to help with much-needed equipment. The association pro-

vides help and services to around 200 people with learning disabilities in the Axarquía area. The 41 Club representatives were greeted by a local TV crew who interviewed the staff and one member, Ragnar, who explained about the association. 41 Club Nerja is made up of 45 ex-Round Tablers from ten different countries in northern Europe.

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Searching for life

We have now sent space probes to every planet in the Solar System to study them up close. Unfortunately, the search for life has yielded nothing: Mercury and Venus are too hot; Mars was always a good bet but is not looking quite so good anymore; Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are made mostly of gas.

Lately the interest has turned away from the planets and on to the many moons in the solar system. Currently there are 181 moons known to orbit the various planets. Mercury and Venus are the only planets not to have a moon of their own. Mars has two, Jupiter and Saturn have over 60 each and it is two of these moons that have raised a great deal of interest.

It is known that Europa, one of Jupiter's four largest moons, is covered in a blanket of ice many miles thick but a NASA probe called Galileo, launched in 1989, discovered cracks similar to those that appear in the ice packs around the North Pole. This led scientists to believe that there is a liquid ocean beneath the ice that is being kept from freez-

ing due to thermal vents.

Thermal vents exist under the Earth's oceans and, even in the most inhospitable conditions around these vents, a whole eco-system thrives. Perhaps the same happens around the thermal vents on Europa?

Last week, scientists were examining images taken by the Cassini probe which has been orbiting Saturn since 2004. In October 2015, the Cassini probe flew very close to a moon called Enceladus and found that like Europa, it too was covered in thick ice. The interesting thing is that Enceladus sends plumes of water high above the surface. It has been proposed that a probe be launched in December 2021 that will fly through one of these plumes and collect samples. Even the most basic living organisms-if there are any- should be inside the plumes.

This really could be the breakthrough that scientists have been waiting for. It really isn't feasible to think that with the billions and billions of stars and planets throughout the universe that Earth is the only planet where life exists.

LEGAL ADVICE



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REF. D.A.N.

Some years ago I inherited a house in Spain together with my brothers, and we have been using it during holidays, but now we hardly use it and have decided to sell it. We got in contact with a real estate agency and sent them all the paperwork of the property, but now they say that they have found out that in the

Land Registry it appears a mortgage in favour of the construction company that built the houses more than 40 years ago that no longer exists. How can we cancel the mortgage, if no one can come to state that it is already paid?

In this case, in order to cancel the mortgage it is necessary to go to Court, as there is a special proceeding for this kind of case. At the end of the proceeding, the judge will issue a resolution that you can take to the Land Registry in order to cancel the notes related to the mortgage that encumbers the property.

REF. R.O.B.

Two months ago I sold my property in Spain, and now I am having problems with the buyer. The point is that around one year ago, the community of owners agreed to make some alterations for which it was necessary to pay an addi-

tional fee, as the community of owners did not have enough funds to carry out the works. Since it was approved, I was paying promptly each month, but obviously when I sold the property I cancelled the direct debit. Now the buyer says that he is going to claim what he is paying because in the title deed I stated that I sold the property free of charges. Should I worry for what he is saying?

Not at all. If the buyer consults a lawyer, they will probably tell him that he is not entitled to claim as long as you were up to date with the payment of the community fees when the purchase took place, so it is unlikely that he will sue you for this reason. The buyer is the one who has to pay the community fees, whether they are extraordinary or not, from the date in which he bought the property.

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Benalmádena town hall trials 'Daily Mile' initiative in the town's schools



ALBERTO GÓMEZ
Twitter: @Agalmendres

The project, inspired by a successful British initiative, aims to cut down on childhood inactivity and obesity

BENALMÁDENA. Elaine Wyllie, a now retired teacher at a school in Stirling (Scotland), warned in 2012 that the children were in worse shape than in previous years. One morning, she made her students run a lap of a nearby school. She found that the majority couldn't complete it, but after repeating the exercise every day, they were all able to do four laps of the park, a distance of around a mile (1.6 kilometres). That was how The Daily Mile project was born.

Now, hundreds of schools across the UK have adopted the idea over the last few years and Benalmádena has been chosen for the first steps towards introducing the scheme to Andalucía. To begin with it has been launched in three public-funded schools: La Paloma, El Tomillar and Jacaranda.

The more than 1,600 students run around a kilometre and a half each day around the playground,



The initiative encourages a daily run or walk of around fifteen minutes. :: A. GÓMEZ

without this disrupting their school timetables or the need for special clothing.

The initiative, organised by the town hall in collaboration with the Junta de Andalucía and the Costa del Sol health district, has been set up as a pilot scheme with the hope that it will be implemented in other schools around the region in

the coming months.

The lap can be done either as a race or walking. The principal objective is to cut down on childhood inactivity and obesity, with figures from the regional Ministry of Health showing that 45 per cent of schoolchildren are overweight.

Mayor, Víctor Navas, and provincial heads of Education, Patri-

cia Alba, and Health, Ana Isabel González, visited El Tomillar school in Arroyo de la Miel last week, where the project is already up and running.

This is not the only project aimed at tackling obesity in Benalmádena, though. For several months, health centres have been able to refer patients to the town's

Almost 1,600 children run or walk more than a kilometre a day without changing their timetable

The regional government is looking at rolling out the project across schools all over Andalucía

Sports Trust, where trainers devise specialised exercise and dietary plans based on the doctor's recommendation and their own check-up.

Higher achievement

Headteacher at El Tomillar school, Antonio Gallardo, believes that the new project has improved students' "physical health as well as their social and emotional wellbeing". He believes it has also contributed "in a positive way" to their academic achievement.

For its part, the regional government has recognised that Benalmádena "is one of the pioneering municipalities" of the Local Network for Action in Health (Relas) in Andalucía, citing other initiatives such as the 'Caminando por un reto' challenge. This brought together more than 2,000 people last year, of whom the majority were schoolchildren, to chalk up the distance between Benalmádena and New York among them all.

At present, the World Health Organisation estimates that 85 per cent of those aged five to 17 don't do the recommended hour of physical activity a day - but Benalmádena town hall is hoping to change that.



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Insomnia may be linked to higher risk of heart attack or stroke

Chinese researchers have warned that a lack of sleep increases the danger of cerebrovascular accidents

EUROPA PRESS

Researchers at the Medical University in Shenyang, China, have discovered that people with insomnia could be at greater risk of a heart attack and stroke, according to a survey which has been published in the European Journal of Preventive Cardiology.

Sleep is "essential for biological recovery" and human beings spend one third of their lives asleep, says Dr Qiao He, but more and more people these days complain about not getting enough sleep. In fact, according to some statistics, as many as one third of the German population has suffered from insomnia at some time.

Although previous research has shown that a lack of sleep can have negative effects on health, until now attempts to find a relationship between insomnia and heart problems or stroke have not been very consistent.

This latest analysis looked at the link between symptoms of insomnia and the incidence of death from cardiovascular illness (acute myocardial infarction, coronary disease and



S. R.

heart failure), cerebrovascular accidents or a combination of both.

The symptoms of insomnia are difficulty in getting to sleep, staying asleep all night, waking up early or sleep which is not refreshing. In total, the researchers analysed 15 studies in which 160,867 people took part. During the different stages of monitoring, which lasted between three and 29.6 years, 11,702 adverse events were registered.

A significant link was noted between difficulty in getting to sleep, staying asleep or non-refreshing sleep and the risk of cardiac illness and cerebrovascular accident, but there appeared to be no link between waking up early and a greater risk of adverse events.

"We found that difficulty in getting to sleep, staying asleep or not feeling refreshed after sleeping is associated with a 27.11 per cent and 18 per cent higher risk of heart attack or stroke respectively," explain the researchers.

They admit that more research is needed in order to completely understand the underlying mechanisms which explain this risk, although previous studies suggest that insomnia can change the metabolism and endocrine function, increase the activation of the sympathetic nervous system, raise blood pressure and levels of inflammatory and proinflammatory cytokines, which are also cardiovascular and cerebrovascular risk factors.



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Health centres study how people who look after relatives with cancer are affected by the situation

MÓNICA PÉREZ

✉ mperezg@diariosur.es

The research, which is taking place in Marbella, Torremolinos and Benalmádena, will help the authorities to design a plan to improve carers' quality of life

MARBELLA. The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines quality of life as "the individual's perception of their position in life in the context of the culture and value systems in which they live and in relation to their goals". How, then, is quality of

life affected when someone becomes a carer to a family member who has cancer?

"There has been very little international research into the quality of life, satisfaction and stress levels of non-professional carers (in other words, family members) who are looking after cancer patients in the palliative phase," says José Castilla, the nurse who deals with cases of this type at the health centre in Arroyo de la Miel.

He is now carrying out pioneering research with the help of doctors at some of the health centres on the Costa del Sol, which aims to monitor the effects on these carers when their relative's condition worsens. The results will help the Andalusian Health Service to design new strategies which can be put into practice to improve the quality of life of people who look after very sick family members.

The project, which also involves



José Castilla attends to a patient at Las Albarizas. :: JOSELE-LANZA

professionals from the Costa del Sol health authority and the collaboration of Cudeca and the Spanish Association Against Cancer (AECC), is being carried out via the health centres in Arroyo de la Miel, Torrequebrada

and Benalmádena; Carhuela and San Miguel, in Torremolinos; and Leganitos and Las Albarizas, in Marbella.

The study focuses on analysing and evaluating the changes which have occurred in the quality of life

of 180 people through questionnaires and the carer's own medical history every time they go to their health centre.

"The idea came from one of the many training courses I have done.



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My nursing coordinator at the time, Eugenio Contreras, suggested that I should take this idea forward and I thought it would be a good way of putting the theory into practice. That's how it all began, and we have been preparing for this for four years now," explains José, who says the project has received support from the regional government's Progreso y Salud foundation, which has "helped us develop the research project", individual doctors and health experts at Malaga University. The research team comprises 16 people, who monitor each of the carers who have volunteered to take part in the project.

Procedure

It is this direct patient-researcher contact which will determine the effects of caring for a patient from the time the period of palliative care begins.

The carer's quality of life and stress levels will be evaluated at the start, then one month later, and then after three months and six months. At the same time, the number of times the carers use the health services themselves will be noted, and they will be asked how satisfied they are with the services they receive.

Another variable to be taken into account in the analysis is the socio-demographic profile of the people who are participating in the research project.

When the researchers have all the data collected during a six-month period, they can look at the effects that changes in the patients' condition have on the carers' quality of life. This will enable them to design a plan of action which is adapted to the specific needs of these carers, to improve their wellbeing.

"The hypothesis from which we are starting is that the carers' stress levels are going to increase as the cancer patients' condition worsens, and that means that their quality of life will decrease. We also believe they will need more health care themselves, as a result of this," explains José Castilla.

One of the first changes in quality of life originates from the psychological impact of the situation, which can in turn manifest itself in physical health problems.

The first phase of the research has focused so far on designing computer tools which will be used for the data collection, but within 15 months the first results should be available. It is hoped that this study will shed light on a new aspect of health care and will have important national and international repercussions.

A multidisciplinary team with a vocation for research

The group which is carrying out the research includes professionals in nursing, family and community medicine, social work, biostatistics and public health.

Some members of the team

have experience in research methodology, research projects into home health care and carers, geriatrics, palliative care and data analysis.

José Castilla, is leading the project, and also involved are Eugenio Contreras (an expert in health management), Dr Alonso Montiel (family nursing), Dr Julia Warnberg (public health and community nursing), Dr Francisco Javier Barón López (public health statistics), María Jesús de la

Ossa (palliative nursing), Miguel Hijano (family nursing), María Antonia Nava (nursing administrator), Dr Alicia Ortiz (GP), José Luis Domínguez (palliative nursing), María del Carmen Martín (nursing administrator), Herminia Domech (family nursing), María Jesús Sánchez (social worker), Dr Luciana Jiménez (family and community medicine), Isabel Pacheco (nursing administrator), and María Teresa García (nursing administrator).

The brains of teenagers do not change after anorexia treatment, experts say

■ EFE

The brains of teenagers who suffer from anorexia do not change even after treatment, according to experts on eating disorders. This increases the risk of a relapse and also shows "subtle but important" differences in comparison with the brains of people who have never had to fight this illness.

This was the message given recently by Dr Marina Díaz Marsá, head of the eating disorder unit (TAC) at the San Carlos hospital in Madrid and president of the Psychiatry Society of Madrid, who reiterated that anorexia continues to be a health problem which "ruins" the lives of patients and their families.

In a statement, the doctor said that "the suspicions we have had about the neurobiological impact of anorexia have been supported by continuous studies," the latest of which examined 21 adolescents before and after treatment and was published in the American Journal of Psychiatry.

That piece of research found that the brains of these patients still focused on the idea of rewarding starvation and the wish to be thinner, in comparison with



■ SUR

21 participants who were not suffering from the eating disorder.

Science has still not been able to ascertain whether "these neurobiological differences are present before someone develops the illness, or whether they are physical predictors of it or whether they are the 'scars' which are left by a prolonged lack of food," explained Dr Díaz Marsá, who is also the programme director for the personality and behaviour unit at the Ruber Juan Bravo hospital.

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More than 90 per cent of runners are at risk of injury

A lack of proper preparation before practising this sport can result in muscular pain, fainting, fractures or palpitations. About 61 per cent of the more than three million runners in Spain have suffered an injury in the past year

:: LINDA ONTIVEROS

There are 3.14 million runners in Spain; most of them run in urban areas and 93 per cent do not prepare properly, according to a study called 'Perception and habits of Spanish runners' which was carried out by CinfaSalud, with the backing of the Spanish Sports Medicine Society (SEMED).

When people do not follow the recommended guidelines for safe running, they can suffer problems such as muscular injury or severe headaches. That was the case with 61 per cent of runners in the past year: 38 per cent suffered a muscular injury, 23.1 per cent developed severe headaches and one in ten suffered fractures or sprains (11.9 per cent), dizziness or fainting (9.8 per cent) or palpitations (8.9 per cent).

The most common mistakes

The study involved questioning nearly 2,400 men and women be-

tween the ages of 20 and 60. It showed that the lack of preparation by Spanish runners (mostly men) included not following an eating plan (86 per cent), not training regularly (77 per cent), not taking an exercise stress test (75 per cent), or not warming up or cooling down before or after running (51.5 per cent), despite running over three hours a week on average.

"To enjoy the benefits of running and to prevent risks, it is crucial to adopt preventive measures such as medical checkups and stress tests, and warming up and stretching before and after exercise," says Eduardo González Zorzano, an expert from Cinfa's Medical Department. "It is important to take professional advice when you are making plans for training, and following a diet which is adapted to your needs. Although the demands of recreational physical activity are not as high as for professionals, they can still be

pretty intensive."

More than half of running enthusiasts run three or more times a week and they compete in an average of five races a year. It is relevant to note that many who take part in marathons do not take the correct precautions: four out of ten have never taken an exercise stress test, and neither have 70 per cent of those with a cardiovascular condition.

Among women, who represent 37 per cent of runners, there are fewer injuries. Only four out of ten women who run (43.5 per cent)

have suffered an injury.

"That doesn't mean that they are more physically capable than men in this sport, just that in general they prepare more," explains Eduardo González Zorzano. "For example, according to the study, two out of every ten women questioned (18.8 per cent) follow a diet which is adapted to their sporting needs, but only one in ten (nine per cent) of men do. And 27.1 per cent of the women use adapted training or have a personal trainer, which is much higher than the men (19 per cent)."

Only one in ten runners consult a specialist doctor, and they don't even seek help when a problem occurs: nearly half of all runners (48.1 per cent) who had suffered something like dizziness or headache, said they did not go to the doctor, and one in five (21.1 per cent) did nothing about it. Some (42.8 per cent) did look for information on

Only one in ten runners consults a specialist doctor, and they don't even seek help when a problem occurs



the internet or asked friends or relatives for advice (36.8 per cent).

In any case, the benefits of running are considered to outweigh the risks: 33.8 per cent say running reduces their stress, 26.5 per cent say

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Among women, who represent 37 per cent of runners, there are fewer injuries. :: REUTERS

TEN GUIDELINES TO CUT OUT RISK TO YOUR HEALTH WHEN EXERCISING

1 Use your head. Practise sport sensibly and don't lose sight of your motivation - whatever it is. Set realistic targets, and fulfil them gradually.

2 Before starting, check your state of health. Before you start running, ask a specialist for exercise stress tests to find out how fit you are. Don't wait until you are injured or are showing signs of illness to go to the doctor.

3 Sleep. The amount of sleep and rest we get should be between seven and nine hours a day.

4 Always warm up and stretch. Both are essential to reduce injury risk. Warming up increases your body temperature and prepares you for the exercise, while stretching afterwards is important to relieve the tension in the muscles and tendons.

5 Respect rest days. Rest is one of the key points in the so-called invisible training. It is essential to improve physical performance and prevent injuries.

6 Hydrate your body before, during and after exercise as we lose a large amount of water and electrolytes through perspiration. If you do not replace lost liquid,

your physical performance will be affected and there is greater risk of injury.

7 Follow a diet which is high in carbohydrates. These are present in pasta, bread, flours and cereals. This way, you will be able to keep your glycogen deposits as full as possible.

8 Nutritional supplements are your allies. To avoid dehydration, prepare your body for the race and help your muscles to recover after so much effort, nutritional supplements can be a great help.

9 Pamper your feet. Wash and dry them properly every day, moisturise them at

least twice a week and cut the nails properly.

10 Choose shoes suitable for you and your way of running and walking. Make sure the cushioning of the shoes you are going to use for this sport is suitable for your weight and that their ergonomics are adapted to your way of walking and running, among other aspects to bear in mind.

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it improves their mood and 24.2 per cent feel that it boosts their self-esteem. Also, two out of every three runners questioned (66.3 per cent) believe that running benefits their family life or their relationship with

their partner. In fact, half (47.2 per cent) like to run in company, and 23.1 per cent like to do so with their partner. This percentage rises to 30.3 per cent for women, and drops to 15.9 per cent in the case of men.

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Malaga province showcases local gastronomy in a flurry of foodie events

This weekend and during May there are many gastronomic events going on around the province of Malaga

■ JAVIER AMELLONES

MÁLAGA. The months of April and May are the busiest months of the year for gastronomic festivals in the province of Malaga.

Malaga city itself is celebrating the Málaga Gastronomy Festival until 7 May with cookery films, very special dining experiences with top chefs, show cooking, a wine master class, cookery photography workshop and concerts. More information is on the web site www.malagastronomyfestival.com

Periana celebrated the Día del Aceite Verdial last week with tastings of the local extra virgin olive oil and La Cañete La Real held a day to sample the locally-reared turkey. This weekend even more foodie events are scheduled.



The Sopa Mondeña has a distinctive flavour. ■ SUR

Canillas de Aceituno

Canillas de Aceituno is famous for its 'morcilla canillera' or black pudding and this Sunday, 30 April, is the day every year when homage is paid to this sausage with Día de la Morcilla.

Around 300 kilos of the grilled sausage, made with pig's blood and onions, will be given out to visitors and residents to sample, along

with a glass of beer or local wine. The gastronomical event starts at around noon in the Plaza de la Constitución.

Frigiliana

The events of the Día de la Miel de Caña in Frigiliana this Sunday 30 April start at 10am and finish at around 3.30pm. 'Miel de Caña' (similar to black treacle) has been pro-

duced in this picturesque village for centuries and besides being able to try it used in various recipes in bars and restaurants of the locality, there will also be an opportunity to take a guided tour of the factory.

Villanueva de la Concepción

Also on Sunday, Villanueva de la Concepción will be holding its annual Día de la Haba, broad bean day, where, at about 2pm, they will be offering visitors a small dish of 'porra' (a thick cold soup, like a purée) made with broad beans and tastings of other dishes made with the vegetable.

The event is not only restricted to the bean, it will also be an opportunity to buy other traditional products and crafts from the area.

Monda

The town of Monda celebrates a very traditional gastronomical event this Sunday, 30 April, El Día de Sopa Mondeña. Sopa Mondeña (Monda soup) is made with a very special ingredient, the 'tomate de culo' a variety of tomato that is dried and put in the soup to add a



Morcilla sausages. ■ SUR



Día de la Miel de Caña. ■ SUR



Broad beans. ■ SUR



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distinctive flavour.

During the day, local families will be making their own version of the soup while the town hall will be making an enormous quantity to be shared out between the residents and visitors to the event.

Sayalonga

On 7 May is Día del Níspero in Sayalonga. A níspero is a type of medlar or loquat. It is traditionally used to make jams and liqueurs but is equally as nice eaten fresh. Sayalonga is one of the few places in Andalucía where the loquat is grown commercially. It is celebrated with tastings washed down with local wine, live music and dancing.

Sierra de Yeguas

Asparagus day in Sierra de Yeguas has become hugely popular and draws thousands of asparagus enthusiasts to the town. This year, the Feria del Espárrago y de la Agricultura Ecológica (Asparagus and ecological agriculture day), will be held on Sunday. There will be plenty of opportunities to taste and buy the locally-grown asparagus and other ecologically-grown produce.

Benalmádena

Seafood lovers should not miss this gastronomic opportunity at the marina in Benalmádena. The Feria del Marisco is on at the moment and will continue until Monday.

Around 500 square metres of



Asparagus in Sierra de Yeguas. :: SUR



El Galipuche. :: SUR



The Feria del Marisco. :: SUR

marquees will house the event at which around seven tonnes of seafood and 5,000 litres of beer will be consumed over the four days.

Prices are kept low as in previous years so that everyone can try the products on offer which include mussels, razor shells, prawns and clams. Octopus and a range of seafood rice dishes are also available.

Riogordo

Snails cooked in their own juices are a speciality of the town of Rioverde and on 28 May the local dish is celebrated with a gastronomic festival in its honour.

Coin

The orange is an extremely versatile fruit, used in both sweet and savoury dishes. Coin has extensive orange groves and every May (this year on the 21st) holds the Fiesta de la Naranja. At the event there will be examples to taste of the various traditional dishes made with oranges as well as freshly squeezed orange juice.

Guaro

'El galipuche' is a local dish found only in Guaro. It is a thin soup, thickened with flour, containing very basic ingredients such as wild asparagus and potato. It is honoured at the annual Festival de Gastronomía which is held on 1 May this year. Other local dishes to try are the 'conejo con almendra' (rabbit with almonds) and 'caldereta del chivo' (goat stew).

A. J. LINN

COOKING IN (BASQUE) STYLE



Most readers will have heard about the peñas gastronómicas (eating clubs) of the Basque country, veritable institutions dating back half a century or more.

These temples of local gastronomy are a feature of the region, and the all-male membership usually gets together weekly for a meal prepared by one or more of the group. It is not a condition of membership that you have to be able to cook, but if you volunteer, then you have to do everything, including buying the ingredients in the market.

Most clubs have long waiting lists for membership.

The last time I was invited to one such club in Bilbao, we were 30+ for a lunch consisting of 'bacalao al pil' and 'chuletón de buey'.

The cost of the food and wine is always divided equally, and the

annual membership fee covers rental and utilities.

The last thing I expected was to be invited to a peña gastronómica in Marbella. There are many Basques living on the Coast, and other food enthusiasts from San Sebastián, Bilbao, Burgos, Pamplona, even Cantabria, tend to hang out together. This was the sort of mix we had at lunch the other day. The locals could be counted on the fingers of one hand, and the guiris on one finger. It could have been in the Basque country.

Roberto, long-time Coast resident from Burgos, taught himself to cook when he retired, and as chef for the day prepared a delicious stew of 'callos a la andaluza' (Andalusian-style tripe), followed by 'merluza en salsa verde' (fresh hake in green sauce).

He had been up since seven to get the best from the Marbella market, and he finally managed to take a rest at around three, when we all sat down at a long table groaning under the weight of food and bottles of wine.

An all-male group, as tradition demands, with weekly get-togethers, there was no shortage of volunteers to lend a hand with the waiting at table and the washing up. If you told people there is a Basque-style eating club in Marbella, most would be hard put to give it credit.



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Half a century teaching catering at Bellamar

The Bellamar catering college in Marbella has trained around 35,000 professionals during its fifty years

The catering college was created to help with the demand for trained catering staff during the tourist boom of the 60s

by **NIEVES CASTRO**

MARBELLA. The Bellamar catering college was founded in the 60s, during the tourist boom, to answer a need for properly trained kitchen staff to tend to the hordes of visitors that were already descending

on the Costa del Sol.

The hotel businesses in the city organised two institutions, the Sindicato de Hostelería and the Cofradía Santa Marta. They had detected the need to channel many of the youngsters from the Serranía de Ronda area, who were unable to find jobs in agriculture, into catering. The first stumbling block of these entrepreneurs was to overcome the fears and prejudices of the families who were also unable to provide the wherewithal needed to send their children to work in

the town.

The answer was "to create an institution that not only professionally trains, but also welcomes, protects and takes responsibility for the present and future of these young people. A reliable institution, protected by the State and financed with public funds," explained Antonio Flores, director of the Bellamar catering college between 1989 and 2014.

The entrepreneurs presented the Ministry of Labour with an unprecedented project in Spain: a training centre with a hotel open to the public so that the students could practise. The idea convinced the government to form the then Programme of Professional Promotion

of Workers (PPO), which opened the centre in the spring of 1967 by renting the small San Nicolás hotel with 50 rooms in Marbella.

Success came quickly and somewhat unexpectedly. The students were supervised by the teaching staff 365 days a year for 24 hours a day, which meant that they were also holding classes during the night.

After several years, and although the problem of unemployment had been considerably reduced in the region, the tourist pull demanded more and more professionals. New applicants began arriving from all over Spain.

The San Nicolás Hotel soon became too small so bigger premises

were needed. In 1969 the college moved to the Hotel Bellamar. The hotel on Calle Pintor Pacheco had 70 rooms and an annex was added for use as a classroom and student residence with a capacity for 150 people. It is this annex that remains today as the hotel was closed in 1986 for a renovation that was never carried out.

Over the fifty years a total of around 35,000 professionals have been trained at the Bellamar catering college. The current director, Carmen Sánchez, recalls that among the alumni list, of which about 500 are foreigners, there are some well known people such as top chefs Diego del Río and Álvaro Arbeloa, co-owner of Ta-Kumi Restaurant.



Students at the Bellamar catering school. by **JOSELE-LANZA**

Visual poems of Frida Kahlo



Miquel with the mayor of Vélez-Málaga, David Vilches. :: SUR

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

TORRE DEL MAR. An exhibition entitled 'Frida Kahlo en Torre del Mar' has been created by local artist Miquel Segovia Aparicio.

Since the 70s, Miguel has been expressing his artistic talent through poems and writings, many of which are influenced

DETAILS

► **When.** Until 30 April

► **Where.** Salón Exposiciones Cipriano Maldonado, C/Abuelo Manuel Azuaga. Torre del Mar

by the life of Frida Kahlo.

EXHIBITIONS

Pedro Rodríguez

Marbella. Permanent exhibition, Kempinski Hotel Bahía. Pedro Rodríguez 'Pedrín', a Malaga sculptor, has an exhibition of his works in the Galería de Arte de Pedrín in the Kempinski. One of his works 'Olly', a magnificent bull, can be found in the entrance to the hotel.

Biennial Contemporary Art

Marbella. Cultural Centre Kunsthau Berlin, Polígono Nueva Campana local 2 Nueva Andalucía. In collaboration with the Fred Friedrich Foundation, Marbella Town-Hall and the Mexican Ambassador in Spain, Don Raphael de la Madrid. Fifteen local and international artists are exhibiting their work. info@redaktionkhbm.de.

Galería Seshat

Estepona. Polígono Industrial. An art gallery has opened in an unusual position, in the industrial estate in Estepona. The exhibition includes works by Goyo Domínguez, Isidoro Lázaro, Sergi Marín, Chico Montilla and Paco Meléndez.

Mercedes López Charro

Marbella. From 5-31 May. Kasser Rassu Art Gallery, Blvd Principe Alfonso de Hohenloe. Mercedes works as a freelance illustrator drawing a wide range of life-style, fashion and food illustra-

tions, using techniques such as watercolour and artist marker pens. www.mercedeslopezcharro.com

Magpie International Gallery.

Marbella. Until 18 May. C/Virgen del Pilar. 200m from port. An exhibition of photographic art by British artist Ginny Aston entitled 'Reflections on Reflections'.



Ludovic Cesari, San Pedro.

El Campanario

Estepona. Until 15 June, El Campanario Golf and Country House. An joint exhibition by Sandra Winkelmann and Dana Nowak.

Ludovic Cesari

San Pedro. Until 20 June. Bhudo Decoración. French born artist/photographer Ludovic Cesari is displaying a selection of his work.

New Longman's

Estepona. Until 4 May, Plaza de Manilva, 6.

An exhibition of paintings by Steven Timmermans.

Bullfighting exhibition

Malaga. Permanent exhibition. Centro de Arte de la Tauromaquia, in the old Patronato de Turismo building, Plaza del Siglo. 300 pieces by artists such as Picasso, Dalí, Goya, Benlliure and Zuloaga, will be on display. They include sculpture, paintings, posters, clothing and other items connected to the world of bullfighting.

The Russian museum

Malaga. Edificio Tabacalera, Avda Sor Teresa Prat. The Russian museum's seasonal exhibition until 16 July is called 'Kandinsky y Rusia' and comprises 78 pieces by well known Russian artists such as Kandinsky. The annual exhibition is entitled 'La Dinastía Románov' and includes many portraits of Russian royalty before the Tsar and his family were assassinated in 1918.

Picasso's birth place

Malaga. Until 11 June, Sala de Exposiciones, Casa Natal de Picasso. Picasso's birth place houses two exhibitions, both running until June. The first, entitled 'Arte Recuperado (1916-1957)' contains a selection of works by several Spanish artists on loan from Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia. The second, 'Junto al aura de Picasso', consists of works that harmonise with Picasso's style and execution such as Tàpies, Julio González and Miró.



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Sunday 30: 11:45, 16:00, 18:45, 21:45
Wednesday 3 and Thursday 4: 18:30, 21:45

+12



THE FATE OF THE FURIOUS 8

Director F. Gary Gray · Starring Dwayne Johnson
ACTION · 136 min.

From Friday 28 to Thursday 4: 22:00

+12



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Director Bill Condon Starring Emma Watson and Dan Stevens
FANTASY · 129 min.

Friday 28: 18:00
Saturday 29, Monday 1 and Tuesday 2: 16:00
Sunday 30: 11:45, 16:00
Wednesday 3 and Thursday 4: 18:00

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Thursday 4: 20:00

+18



GOING IN STYLE

Director Zach Braff · Starring Michael Caine and Morgan Freeman
COMEDY · 96 min.

From Friday 28 to Thursday 4: 18:00, 20:00

+7



THE BOSS BABY

Director Tom McGrath · Starring Alec Baldwin and Steve Buscemi
ANIMATION · 97 min.

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Saturday 29, Monday 1 and Tuesday 2: 15:45, 17:45
Sunday 30: 12:00, 15:45, 17:45
Wednesday 3 and Thursday 4: 17:45

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EXHIBITIONS

Ruiz de Luna

Malaga. Museo Municipal del Patrimonio (MUPAM), Paseo de Reding. An exhibition dedicated to the Ruiz de Luna ceramic dynasty. Around 300 pieces are on display including ceramics, drawings, watercolours and sculptures.

'Neighbours III'

Malaga. Permanent collection. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo, Calle Alemania. Art works by local Malaga artists are on display in 'Neighbours III'. Many different techniques and subjects are included.

Museum Jorge Rando

Malaga. Cruz del Molinillo, 12. The works of contemporary artist Jorge Rando are on perma-

nent display. The museum also holds poetry and musical events.

Ernst Kraft

Malaga. Botanical gardens 'La Concepción'. The sculpture 'The Tree of Life' by Ernst Kraft will be on permanent display in the gardens on the lawns next to the pond. The minimalist structure of iron rods is five metres tall and is based on the pre-pharaonic pictogram representing the union of heaven and the underworld.

Jia Aili

Malaga. Until 18 June, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo. Jia Aili is an emerging Chinese artist whose works reflect the dramatic changes in Chinese society since the year 2000.

Malaga Philharmonic performances in May

MALAGA. May is going to be a very busy month for the Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra (OFM) with plenty of concerts planned as part of their chamber, seasonal and traditional programmes.

The first concert of the month is on 2 May, featuring a string quartet with oboe and includes music by Franz Krommer, Benjamin Britten and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

On 5 May is a concert for the orchestra playing music by Mendelssohn, Schumann and Tchaikovsky; it is repeated on 6 May in Úbeda.

This is followed by three special concerts in Malaga, Mijas and Estepona featuring the 'Concierto de Aranjuez' by Joaquín Rodrigo and 'La Luna de Alejandra' by Daniel Casares.

The month draws to an end with a Star Wars / John Williams tribute concert on 20 May and two seasonal concerts on 25 and 26 May featuring Symphony n° 5 in B flat major by Anton Bruckner.



Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra. :: SUR

CONCERT DATES

► **2 May, 8pm.** Museo Picasso, Malaga

► **5 May 8pm.** Museo Picasso, Malaga.

► **6 May, 9pm.** Auditorium of the Hospital de Santiago in Úbeda.

► **12 May, 8.30pm.** Auditorium Edgar Neville

► **13 May, 7pm.** Teatro de Las Lagunas, Mijas

► **14 May, 6pm.** Auditorium Felipe VI, Estepona

► **20 May, 8pm.** Auditorium Palacio de la Paz, Fuengirola

► **25 May, 8pm.** Teatro Cervantes, Malaga

► **26 May, 8pm.** Teatro Cervantes, Malaga

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Travis Somerville

Malaga. Until 7 May, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo. American artist Travis Somerville gives voice to the immigrants in the US and also stands up for the indigenous Indians with powerful art works that incorporates disturbing images such as the capes of the Klu Klux Klan.



Car Museum, Malaga.

Fausto Velázquez

Malaga. Until 31 May, Fundación Unicaja, Plaza del Siglo. 'Frida Kahlo, La vida como obra de arte' is an exhibition of paintings by artist and collector Fausto Velázquez. The artist was inspired to recreate the photos of Frida and her life in a series of paintings.

Francisco Javier Valverde

Malaga. Until 3 June, Galería Columna JM, Duquesa de Parcent. An exhibition of paintings by Francisco Javier Valverde entitled 'Oleoramas del Parque del Oeste'.

Faces in a family album

Malaga. Until 30 June, Sala 17, La Térmica. Photographs taken by film producer Isobel Coixet of some of the stars in some famous films.

Car museum

Malaga. 30 April, Avda Sor Teresa Prat

The VI Reunión Motera Piraña Bike with 500 motorbikes on display.

Malaga. Until 20 July. Avda Sor Teresa Prat

The museum has an interesting exhibition of haute couture as well as vintage cars.

'Lo Aparencia de lo real'

Malaga. Until 10 September. Museo Carmen Thyssen, C/Compañía, 10 Three generations of Spanish artists are represented in this exhibition which reveals the artists' attempts to create illusions of reality.

José Hernández

Villanueva del Rosario. Casa de la Cultura.

An exhibition of art work and letters belonging to artist José Hernández. The artist gifted around 20 works to the town shortly before his death in 2013. He spent long periods at Molino El Tejar while creating his pieces.

Paula Vincenti, Inside Out

Antequera. Until 29 May. Centro Unicaja de Cultura, C/Cantareros. Argentinean artist Paula Vincenti exhibits a selection of her works.

Friends in Focus

La Cala de Mijas. Until 1 May, Cen-

tro Cultural de La Cala. Photographic club, Friends in Focus, will be exhibiting some of their photos.

Artistas Ecléticos

Mijas Pueblo. Until 19 May. Clínica Veterinaria, Avd México 21. Works by Sinikka Ahokas-Gröhn, Elaine Carlton and Margit Björklund. www.artistaselecticos.com

Torremolinos Chic

Torremolinos. Permanent exhibition, Casa de los Navajas. A permanent exhibition of photographs taken in the 60s and 70s entitled Torremolinos Chic. It features around 20 photographs in total.

Costa del Sol Photographic Society exhibition

Benalmádena. From 4 until 26 May, Castillo Bil Bil Open Monday 10am-1.30pm. Tues-Frid 9am-2pm and 4-10pm.

Art Gallery Costa del Sol

Mijas. A permanent exhibition at the Club House 'Cerrado del Águila'. Paintings, drawings, sculptures and ceramics are on display by artist such as Pedro Bueno, Teresa M. Martín and José B. Angulo.

Picasso ceramics

Mijas. Permanent exhibition. Cen-

tro de Arte Contemporáneo, Mijas, Calle Málaga, 11am - 7pm.

An exhibition of 44 ceramics created by Malaga artist, Pablo Ruiz Picasso.

Exotic Vibrations

Mijas. Mijas Tourist Office, Mijas Pueblo. Seven international artists living and working on Costa del Sol will be displaying original artworks in oils, pastels, watercolours, textiles, silk paintings and acrylics. Also greeting cards and miniature art.

Happy Artists

Mijas Costa. Until 1 June, BocArte Restaurante, C/Cómpeta. An exhibition of art work by Astrid Zehetner, a local Norwegian artist.

Graffiti Extravagance

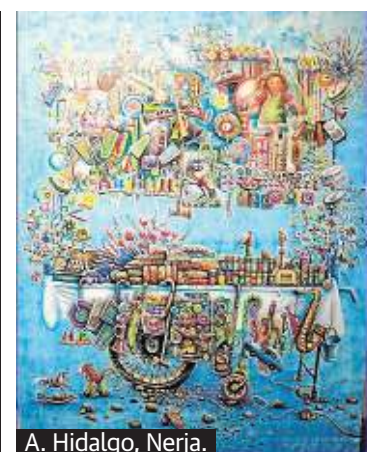
Fuengirola. Until 11 May. Double Tree by Hilton, Reserva del Higuero. A solo exhibition by internationally known street artist, Victoriano. Organised by Artmoves.

Frontera Líquida

Benalmádena. Until 18 June. Centro Andaluz de la Fotografía. A visual record of Andalucía and Morocco.

María Zambrano

Vélez-Málaga. Permanent exhibition. Palacio de Beniel de Vélez-Málaga. Monday-Friday, 9am-2pm. An exploration into the life and works of Malaga-born philosopher



A. Hidalgo, Nerja.

and writer María Zambrano. For further information call 952500244.

A. Hidalgo

Nerja. Until 11 May. La casa municipal de Arte, C/Almirante Ferandiz. Bright colourful paintings by A. Hidalgo.

Galería Krabbe

Frigiliana. Until 13 May. Galería Krabbe, C/Rosario La Joaquín. An exhibition of collective art work entitled Landscapes A4.

Robert Bell

Periana. Until 31 May. La Galería, Villa Olivia. La Galería is having a public open day on 5 May, 5-7pm for the exhibition of photographs by Robert Bell. Reservations and for viewings after that date email: info@la-galeria.eu or tel: 951139153



A celebration of opera

GIBRALTAR. The Gibraltar Philharmonic Society presents 'A Celebration of Opera' at the Convent Ballroom on 16 May at 8pm. The concert is sponsored and organised on behalf of the Ministry of Culture.

Following huge successes over the past seasons with its opera concerts, the society has decided to repeat the formula which proved so effective with two accomplished voices singing popular operatic arias accompanied by a pianist.

Russian soprano Elena Gorshunova has won several international awards and tenor Rudy Park (Ji Eung Park) won the Wilde Awards Best Performance in 2004 for his interpretation of Calaf in Turandot among many other awards.

The two singers, accompanied by pianist Cristina Altamura, promise a most elegant spring concert in Gibraltar.

INFORMATION

► **When.** 16 May, 8pm.

► **Where.** Convent Ballroom

► **Contact.** 350 200 72134 www.philharmonic.gi.

The programme includes arias by Rossini, Verdi, Donizetti, Leoncavallo, Gounod, Puccini and Bellini.

Tickets priced at £20 are available from Sacarello's coffee shop – restaurant in Irish Town and The Silver Shop at 222 Main Street or online at www.buytickets.gi

A limited number of tickets at £10 are available to senior citizens and students via the John Mackintosh Hall at 308 Main Street.



Tenor Rudy Park. :: SUR



Soprano Elena Gorshunova. :: SUR

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Sundown Sounds music festival

TONY BRYANT

MIJAS. La Cala de Mijas is gearing up for a season of free open air summer concerts, which are to be staged in the small square in front of the town hall building at sunset.

Each Thursday at 8pm (9pm in July), a different style of music will be presented and these will include jazz, blues, reggae, pop, rock and flamenco.

The concerts, an idea proposed by Roy Pérez, councillor for foreign residents, are staged under the banner of 'Sundown Sounds'.

The Mijas town hall has contracted Big M Promotions to arrange the live music events from 4 May until the end of the summer. The company was chosen to organise the events because of their past track record of concerts and other social events on the coast.

Martyn Wood, director of Big M Promotions, confirmed that 11 different artists and bands have already been booked to perform at the concerts, but he is hoping to add more acts to the list in order to be able to offer a wide variety of music throughout the summer.



Nuria will be performing at the summer festival in Mijas. :: SUR

Those already booked include the Jersey Boys, a popular local tribute to Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons; and the Rolling Steves, a duo who perform hits from the 1960s, 70s and 80s.

Other musicians taking part will be Finnish vocalist Harry B Goode;

the ever popular entertainer One Wish Steve; singer Nuria and band The Memphis Trio, considered by many to be one of the best rock and roll bands on the coast.

There will also be a traditional Andalusian flamenco show performed by the Fuengirola-based

INFORMATION

► **When:** From Thursday 4 May and then every Thursday throughout the summer. Concerts will start at 8pm (9pm in July).

► **Where:** Plaza del Ayuntamiento, La Cala de Mijas.

► **Tickets:** Free admission.

flamenco troupe, Arte Azabache, and there will be two nights of reggae supplied by Magnet Man and Jens Mallings.

Musicians and singers who would like to participate in the festival should contact Martyn Wood through Facebook or www.costadeldisco.com

The Plaza del Ayuntamiento is situated at the main roundabout in the centre of La Cala de Mijas and parking will be available at the fairground.

Information :
www.costadeldisco.com

able when booking through Diario Sur Oferplan. Book now:
<http://oferplan.diariosur.es/>
Website: <https://clubjazz.eu>
Email: clubjazzatcasadelrio@gmail.com

Retro party

Torre del Mar. 28 April, 9pm. Sala Rosa. 25€ or 50€ VIP

Fuengirola 29 April, Cabaret Club Top European DJs Chief One, Lille Lars and Dan Rachlin will be presenting 70s and 80s music. Email: maddie@costa-events.com, tel: 686 722 349

Classical music festival

Nerja. 29 April, 8pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. 15€

The festival, entitled 'Las Músicas de Federico Lorca' is based on the musical tastes of the famous writer.

Choir concerts

Malaga. 29 April, midday and 5pm in the Plaza de la Constitución and 2pm in Teatro Cervantes

Five groups from Spain, Norway and Turkey will take part in the III Festival Corales Internacional.

Concerto Málaga

Malaga. 1 May, 7.30pm. Auditorio del Colegio de Médicos.

This is the 51st concert in the series entitled Las Cuatro Estaciones (The Four Seasons). The Malaga string orchestra will perform works by Haendel, Mozart, Glazunov, Telemann, Enric Granados and Francisco Javier García Fajera.

Joven Orquesta Provincial de Málaga

Estepona. 1 May, 8pm. Auditorium Felipe VI. 10€

Concert based on 90 years of film sound tracks.
www.auditorioestepona.com

CHARITY

Bangers & Mash Square Bash

Torre del Mar. 28 April, from 4pm. Kick Off Bar, C/Pasillo Bateria 9. Fashion show at 4pm followed by Bangers&Mash at 6pm. At 7.30pm is a dog racing event 'pay as you bet'. Funds raised are to support the Battle Back programme, an MOD initiative to support seriously injured service men. In September a group of veterans will be coming to Spain to participate in golf tournaments at Baviera and Los Moriscos courses.



Mircea Gogoncea, Granada

Classical music by composers such as Vivaldi, Mozart and Paganini among others. Tickets from Estanco Alonso in calle La Unión from two hours before the show.

El Color de Sonido

Malaga. 28 April, 7pm. Museo Jorge Rando, Cruz del Molinillo

A concert of flute, viola and harp by the Reflets Trio.
www.museojorgerando.org/expressate.html

Joven Orquesta Sur de España

Almuñécar. 30 April, 9pm. Auditorium of the Casa de la Cultura. Conducted by Michael Thomas the orchestra will be playing Mozart's symphony n°4 and Haydn symphony 104 'London'. Tickets from Viajes Ecuador and Casa de la Cultura.

Guitar recital

Granada. 29 April, 8.30pm. Castillo de La Herradura. 10€ Mircea Gogoncea will be in concert.

Jazz festival weekend

Alozaina. 29-30 April, Casa del Rio. Weekend of live jazz and art in 19th Century Villa. Bands play jazz

classics, smooth, jazz funk & jazz improvisation. Scheduled are Siobhan Riordan (Sarah Vaughan & Ella Fitzgerald), Carlos Pino (jazz funk), dmcq (improv jazz) and Jose Carra (smooth jazz). One free beer/tapa and other discount packages avail-



Cologne Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra, Estepona

MUSIC & DANCE

Cologne Philharmonic Chamber orchestra

Mijas. 2 May, 8.30pm. Teatro Las Lagunas. 20€ (12€ students, 17€ pensioners).



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Arcos de Buenos Aires Tango
La Cala de Mijas. 4 May, 8.30pm.
Salón de Actos, town hall. 10€
The Arcos de Buenos Aires Tango dance company will be performing. Tickets tel: 660753246

T.I.M.S choir

Fuengirola 6 May, midday. *Plaza de la Constitución.*
T.I.M.S. Choir have been asked by Lux Mundi to join the 'coro Rociero and the Choir from San José Parish Church in performing at an Ecumenical 'Churches together' service to celebrate the resurrection of Christ.
Alhaurín el Grande 14 May, *Cemetery Chapel*
T.I.M.S. Choir will be performing four songs at a special praise service.

Fuengirola Pop

Fuengirola. From 22-25 June. *Sohail castle and Pogs Bar*
The legendary Beach Boys are already in the line up for this year's event. More information: www.fuengirolapop.com

FLAMENCO



Daniel Romero, Nerja

Daniel Romero

Nerja. 28 April, 8pm. *Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja.* 8€
Daniel Romero performs pure flamenco.

Weekly flamenco shows

Malaga. *Kelipe Flamenco, C/Muro de Puerta Nueva 10.*
Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9.30pm. For private workshops and more information tel: 34 665 09 73 59 or email: kelipe.manzano@gmail.com

Art and achievement

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

MALAGA. The Spanish Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists (Pintores con la Boca y el Pie), a group of artists that have used their creativity to overcome their physical limitations in creating art using their mouth and feet, are now exhibiting their work in Malaga. Art fans will be able to visit the display at La Sala Moreno Villa, in Malaga's Mercado de la Merced.

The exhibition displays more than 30 pieces made by the group, some of which were created by Malaga artists Mavi Rodríguez, Virginia Polo and Alejandro Pinazo.

Their work is also joined by paintings by Manuel Parreño, the artist responsible for founding the Spanish branch of the association six decades ago, after it was created in Germany by Erich Stegmann, a polio sufferer, for people that were unable to create art with their hands as the result of an illness or physical handicap.

"Each case is different, one can't establish common patterns or criteria. Each artist has to adapt to their individual situation to be able to paint and develop their creativity," said Ricardo Charfolé, the association's current director. "It gives the artists a sense of pride because they feel of use thanks to their efforts," he added.

From pastime to profession

The association also encourages its members to become professional artists by granting them scholarships. "In this way, something which perhaps started as a hobby can become a profession. This can change the artist's life significantly, because not only do they feel that their work is



One of the artists in the process of painting with her feet. :: SUR

EXHIBITION

► **Place.** Sala Moreno Villa. C/Merced, 1 (in the Mercado de la Merced building).

► **Date.** Until 23 June.

► **Hours.** Monday to Friday, 10am to 1pm and, in the evening, 5pm to 8pm.

being recognised, but they are also receiving an income from it." Charfolé said.

The director also pointed out that the association, which now has counterparts in more than 40 countries, does not receive any grants or donations from the government or public institutions, but funds itself through the sales of the artists' paintings.

The exhibition will be on display until 23 June.

El Patio de Estepona

Estepona. From 4 May, 9pm every Thursday. *Auditorio Felipe VI.*
Flamenco performances weekly. Tickets available from the auditorium or www.auditorioestepona

Eval Danza Flamenco

Almuñécar. 29 April, 9pm. *Casa de la Cultura*
Antonio López and Enrique Vicente of the Eval Danza dance company are performing.

Wine tasting and flamenco

Nerja. 8.30pm. *La Taberna de Volapié, C/Antonio Millón*
Wine tasting with a Flamenco twist. Discover Málaga Province's premium wines accompanied by a

Flamenco dance show. Reservations www.ventana-abierta.es
3 May. Wine from Bodegas Bentomiz



Eval Danzal, Almuñécar

Jaleo

Malaga. Every Monday and Thursday 1.30pm and Saturdays 2pm. *Museo Interactiva de Musica Malaga (MIMMA), 15€ with a welcoming drink.*
Flamenco singing and dancing.

Peña Flamenca

Estepona. 5 May, 10pm *Plaza Fuerza Armadas.*
Open from 8pm. Dancers Luisa Chicano and Juan Ramón Heredia, singer José Parra and guitarist Juan 'El Músico'.

LECTURES

Talk on arthritis

Arroyo de la Miel. 15 May, 1pm. *ELIM Church in Plaza Ibensa*
The RAF Association Costa del Sol has organised a talk by Dr Alf Neuhaus on arthritis and what can be done to alleviate the symptoms without having to resort to pain relief. Tea and coffee. ➤



Jaleol, Malaga.



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FESTIVALS

Feria de los Pueblos

Fuengirola. *Until 1 May, 1pm to 4am. Fuengirola fairground*
This multicultural event promotes the gastronomy, culture and folklore of the 32 countries and regions that are participating. Parade: Saturday 29 April at 11.30am from Plaza de España.

Día de la Miel de Caña

Frigiliana. *30 April. Plaza del Ingenio*
Tastings of dishes with 'treacle' as the main component. Dancing, flamenco, a hot air balloon, photo and painting competitions.
www.frigiliana.es

Día de la Morcilla

Canillas de Aceituno. *30 April. In front of the Ayuntamiento*
Tastings of the traditional black pudding made from pig's blood and onions. Live music etc.

Cruces de Mayo

Andalucía. *2, 3 May*
Originally this festival was mostly celebrated in Granada but now many towns and villages across Andalucía take part. Crosses are richly decorated and displayed or paraded through the streets.

Battle of the flowers

Cordoba. *30 April, noon*
The Paseo de la Victoria becomes a riot of colour with carriages festooned with flowers.

Día del Trabajador

Mijas. *1 May, El Torreón de La Cala.*
This traditional fiesta is celebrated in mijas by a 'sardine-fest' with over 600 kilos of sardines shared out to attendees. Also live music and lots of activities.



A decorated cross

EVENTS

Book signing

Marbella. *4 May, 5-8pm. Edif. Marina Banús 1-2, Calle Ramón Areces.*
N. J. Simmonds, author of a new young adult fantasy romance series will be signing copies of her first novel at BookWorld in Puerto Banús.

Torremolinos Fashion Weekend

Torremolinos. *28, 29 April, La Plaza Costa del Sol.*
Local boutiques and six designers will be exhibiting their latest fashions and trends on the catwalk. Masculine and feminine clothing, clothing for children and babies as well as Flamenco fashions.



San Isidro festival in Periana. :: SUR

Saints and crosses

:: JENNIE RHODES

AXARQUÍA. To celebrate San Isidro this year, the town of Periana will be welcoming more than 40 brotherhoods from across Spain that also have the saint as their patron.

The event will take place from today until Sunday and a full programme of events, which includes walking routes around the town, can be found on the Periana town hall website.

Frigiliana is will be holding a joint celebration: the Día de la Miel de Caña with the only working 'ingenio' (sugar cane factory) in Spain opening its doors to the public on Sunday, giving guided tours as well as tastings of its famous miel de caña (black treacle) and the day

INFORMATION

► **When:** From today until 3 May.

► **Where:** Periana, Frigiliana, Nerja, Vélez-Málaga.

► **More details:** The individual town halls have programmes of the events online.

will also signal the start of the Cruces de Mayo (May crosses).

This festival is also celebrated, on and around 3 May, in Nerja and Vélez-Málaga when local towns and villages decorate crosses with flowers.

onstrations of pilates, Tai chi, Chinese therapies, martial arts, detoxing, yoga etc. There will also be concerts and stalls selling craft items etc. On 9 May a special conference by Tulkulobsang on Curative Meditation and private consultations, reservations majolein@tulkulobsang-organizer.org or tel: 691 061 459 (whatsapp).

Visit the patios of Cordoba

Fuengirola. *8, 9 May, various pick up points. 95€ double, 125€ single*
Price includes B&B accommodation in 4* Hotel Selu, bus and transfers, guided tour of the patios, travel insurance and VAT. Tel: 952 474 840, e-mail luxmundif@gmail.com or go to www.luxmundi.org

Coach trip to Alcalá la Real

Torre del Mar. *8 June. 24€*
Lux Mundi, Torre del Mar are going on a one day coach excursion to the town of Alcalá la Real in the province of Jaén, situated at



N. J. Simmonds book signing.

the base of the Arab fortress, La Mota. Visit 'Los Quesos Sierra Sur' in Ermita Nueva a family run business producing cheese and yoghurts. Tel: 952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

Coach trip to Gibraltar

Torre del Mar. *18 May, 15 June. 12€*
Lux Mundi, Torre del Mar are going on a one day coach excursion to Gibraltar. Passports necessary. Tel: 952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

Lux Mundi fashion show

Torre del Mar. *3 May, 3.30pm. 4pm. 4€*
Spring and summer fashion show of nearly new clothes, shoes and accessories. Refreshments.

Patios of Cordoba with Nerja Lions

Nerja. *10 May, departure from Nerja, pick up from petrol station Cajiz. 35€*

Ticket price includes travel, lunch, entrance to Viana Palace and shuttle bus to Medina Azahara. Bring the 'over 65' card if you have it to avoid paying extra to get in the palace and for the Medina. Payment by 1 May. Tel: 952 526 980 (English); 639 980 001 (French), 693 706 900 (German, English, Spanish).

Visit Valencia

Lux Mundi. *8 - 12 May, various pick up points. 403€ double, 455€ single*
Price includes B&B accommodation in 4* Hotel Rey Don Jaime. Tel Fuengirola: 952 474 840, e-mail: luxmundif@gmail.com or go to www.lux-mundi.org or Torre del Mar tel: 952 543 334 e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

Weekend in Morocco

Torre del Mar. *5-7 May. Various departure points. 225€ pp. 35€ single supplement.*

Price includes coach, catamaran and coach in Morocco, half board accommodation, quarter bottle of wine and water with dinner. Gratuities are NOT included. Travel Insurance mandatory. Information tel Gail on 951067723, email phoenixsocialclub@yahoo.co.uk or go to www.phoenixsocialclub.co.uk.

Trip to Orgiva Tea Gardens

Torre del Mar. *19 May. Various departure points. 25€*

Price includes coach fare and driver's gratuity. A beautiful tranquil garden covering about 5,000 sqm. English Teas, homemade sandwiches, soups and delicious cakes, local crafts and fresh produce. Plants for sale. Payment required on booking. Information tel Gail on 951067723, email phoenixsocialclub@yahoo.co.uk or go to www.phoenixsocialclub.co.uk.

Lux Mundi open day

Torre del Mar. *19 May, 11am-5pm.*
Learn about the history of Lux Mundi and its founder, the development of the centre in Torre del Mar while meeting new people and enjoying coffee in the garden.

O. V. FILM

SUR in English advises calling cinemas to check for any last minute time changes. Lunchtime and late night screenings weekends only.

Cine Albéniz

C/Alcazabilla 4, Malaga. Tel: 902 36 02 95 or visit www.cinealbeniz.com or www.unientradas.es
Lady Macbeth: 20.10

Cinesur El Ingenio

Avda. Juan Carlos I, Vélez-Málaga. Tel. 667 77 31 87.

Guardians of the Galaxy 2: 12.05 (Sat-Mon); 17.00 (Fri-Mon, Weds); 20.15 (Tues, Thurs)

Rules Don't Apply: 16.30, 19.05, 21.45 (Tues)

John Wick Chapter 2: 12.15 (Sat-Mon)

Fate of the Furious: 17.00 (every day); 12.05 (Sat-Mon); 19.45, 22.30 (Tues)

Boss Baby: 17.15 (Tues-Thurs)



Orgiva Tea gardens trip.

Cinesur Miramar

Avda. de la Encarnación, Fuengirola. Tel. 952 19 86 00.

Beauty and the Beast: 19.00 (Tues)

John Wick Chapter 2: 12.05, 16.30

Boss Baby: 12.00, 17.00

Fate of the Furious: 12.10, 19.00 (every day); 16.15, 22.15 (Tues, Thurs)

Guardians of the Galaxy 2: 12.10, 15.45, 18.35, 21.25, 00.15

Going in Style: 18.25 (Tues, Thurs)

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Boss Baby: 12.00 (Sun); 15.45 (Sat-Tues); 17.45 (every day)

Fate of the Furious: 22.00

Going in Style: 18.00, 20.00

John Wick Chapter 2: 20.00 (every day); 22.30 (Frid-Wed)

Beauty and the Beast: 11.45 (Sun); 16.00 (Sat-Tues); 18.00 (Frid, Wed, Thurs)

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Guardians of the Galaxy 2 3D: 13.30 (Sat-Mon)

Rules Don't Apply: 12.15 (Sat-Mon)

Fate of the Furious: 15.45 (Mon-Thurs)

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A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports
@robbopalmer



Better than all the rest

Lionel Messi almost single-handedly brought Barça back into the title race, cementing his place, in my mind, as the best ever

My TV mentor insisted early in my career that commentary should come from the heart and not a script. So, when the 92nd minute of El Clásico came around, I was following his advice.

"The best there is, the best there has ever been, the best there probably ever will be..." are roughly the words that accompanied Lionel Messi's dramatic game-winning goal against the arch enemy.

It was a bold statement and not one I'd have been prepared to script.

You see, some commentators prepare a little phrase for most foreseen occasions. Back in the day they used to get royalties for every time their commentary was used. I suspect it came after Kenneth Wolstenholme's famous "They think it's all over..."

Little Lionel could have made me a millionaire if I had a kick-back for every goal he'd scored complimented by my words. The winner has his 500th for Barcelona and I've been lucky to call a large percentage of them.

This one was almost beyond description, though. Earlier in the game he'd run around the field with a blood-stained towel after his jaw and teeth were almost dislodged by Marcelo's elbow. Later Sergio Ramos nearly cut him in half with a tackle crude enough for the referee to immediately dismiss the Real Madrid captain.

Messi had already scored a mesmerising individual goal to breathe some life into Barcelona's



The Argentinian celebrates his 92nd-minute winner. :: EFE

weakening chances of challenging for the title and the clock was running down to the allocated 92 minutes.

He was like the star of a Broadway show as he took up a position from the wings, as the chorus line worked their moves. It looked rehearsed, seconds remaining, the ball was cut back to the centre stage and BANG he hits the winner.

People were in tears... well Ronaldo was anyway! He bowed to the audience -although it wasn't an appreciative Bernabéu- the world was astonished and words had to be found to describe what he'd just achieved.

I think it is beyond doubt now, to me, that he is the greatest. My co-commentator Gerry Armstrong

is old enough to appreciate Pele and Maradona. He shared a dressing room with George Best and played against Cruyff; long ago he declared Messi is the most magnificent.

His first goal last Sunday took him beyond the legendary Alfredo Di Stéfano as the leading all-time scorer in Clásicos and his second was the 500th goal of his career.

Singularly he was the difference between Barcelona and a Real Madrid team that I still think will win La Liga and the Champions League.

Messi's achievement is such that I was probably right to blurt out: "He's the best there is, the best there has ever been and the best there probably ever will be."

Can I copyright that?

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Jugar **BIEN**

LINE-UPS

GRANADA

4-3-3
Héctor (Gastón Silva, 46')
Cuenca (Ponce, 76')
Hongla
Ochoa
Krhin
Ingason
Foulquier
Wakaso (Mallé, 54')
Ramos
Carcela-González

MALAGA

2
4-1-4-1
Keko (Duda, 68')
Luis
Recio (Ontiveros, 87')
Hernández
Camacho
Kameni
Sandro
Pablo
Llorente
Juan Carlos (Demichelis, 74')
Ricca

Unused substitutes: Silva (GK), Kone, Vezo, Lombán.

Unused substitutes: Boyko (GK), Charles, Rodríguez, Chory.

STATISTICS

BALL POSSESSION
46%
GRANADA

54%
MALAGA

0	Goals	2
3	Total shots	14
1	On target	5
2	Off target	9
2	Corners	4
0	Offsides	3
21	Fouls committed	11
5	Yellow cards	0
0	Red cards	0

Goals: 0-1 Sandro (47'), 0-2 Sandro (90+2').
Referee: Carlos Clos.
Venue: Estadio Nuevo Los Cármenes (11,894 spectators).

TABLE & FIXTURES

MATCHDAY 34

Results
Alavés - Eibar (Thu) 7-1
Barcelona - Osasuna 0-1
At. Madrid - Villarreal 3-0
Leganés - Las Palmas 2-3
Valencia - Real Sociedad 2-6
Deportivo - R. Madrid (Thu) 2-6
Athletic - Betis (Thu) 0-2
Granada - **MÁLAGA** 1-1
Sporting - Espanyol 1-1
Sevilla - Celta (Thu)

Fixtures
Villarreal - Sporting
Real Sociedad - Granada
R. Madrid - Valencia
Las Palmas - At. Madrid
Espanyol - Barcelona
Osasuna - Deportivo
Betis - Alavés
Eibar - Leganés
Celta - Athletic
MÁLAGA - Sevilla

LEAGUE TABLE
★ Champions League ■ Europa League ▼ Relegation

TEAM	PT	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
★ 1. Barcelona	78	34	24	6	4	103	33
★ 2. R. Madrid	78	33	24	6	3	90	38
★ 3. At. Madrid	68	34	20	8	6	60	25
★ 4. Sevilla	65	33	19	8	6	58	39
■ 5. Villarreal	60	34	17	9	8	49	27
■ 6. Real Sociedad	58	34	18	4	12	52	47
7. Athletic	56	33	17	5	11	46	37
8. Eibar	50	33	14	8	11	52	45
9. Espanyol	50	34	13	11	10	45	44
10. Celta	44	32	13	5	14	48	52
11. Alavés	44	33	11	11	11	32	40
12. Valencia	40	34	11	7	16	49	59
13. Las Palmas	39	34	10	9	15	52	61
14. Málaga	39	34	10	9	15	40	49
15. Betis	37	33	10	7	16	36	51
16. Deportivo	31	34	7	10	17	37	57
17. Leganés	30	34	7	9	18	30	51
▼ 18. Sporting	24	34	5	9	20	37	67
▼ 19. Granada	20	34	4	8	22	27	72
▼ 20. Osasuna	18	34	3	9	22	35	82

Derby win secures league status for another season

Malaga can now look up the table after clinching mathematical safety at the expense of Tony Adams' strugglers

== KISHAN VAGHELA

MALAGA. Sandro is in red-hot goalscoring form at the moment for Malaga. Having inspired his side in their victory over Valencia, the Spaniard's brace at the Estadio Nuevo Los Cármenes handed Michel's side a 2-0 victory over Granada on Tuesday evening.

Michel was somewhat forced to rotate the players deployed on the wings, with Juan Carlos replacing the injured Jony while Keko came in for Javi Ontiveros. Six minutes in, 25-year-old Keko managed to connect with Sandro's incisive pass on the stretch, but placed his effort harmlessly wide. A minute later, Granada goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa, on loan

from Malaga, was called into action, tipping Ignacio Camacho's effort over the bar after a poorly-cleared Juan Carlos cross.

Recio, buoyed by his goal at the weekend, was denied twice by Ochoa in as many minutes, firstly from a cute looping effort outside the box before forcing the Mexican to get down to palm away his curling effort inside the area.

Granada were having similar problems marking a roaming Sandro, who interchanged frequently with Keko. The duo combined just after the half-hour mark, but the former's clever pass was blazed high and wide by the latter on his weaker foot.

Michel's side had received very little reward for all their domination, and the visitors would spurn another opportunity five minutes before the break, when Juan Carlos latched onto Luis Hernández's long ball with a diagonal run, but his touch past the keeper was too heavy, narrowing the angle and forcing the winger to fire over.

The Blue and Whites went into



Striker Sandro proved to be the match winner for the second consecutive game. == AGENCIES

half time disappointed, particularly given their supremacy in creating opportunities, with the visitors registering ten efforts compared to Granada's zero. However, their regret turned to rejoice early in the second half when Sandro swept home his fifth goal of the season from outside the box following Keko's lay-off.

Granada had produced next to nothing to trouble Carlos Kameni with an hour gone, but four minutes later the Cameroonian needed a strong right hand to divert Rene Krhin's powerful low strike away from goal.

Malaga began to sit back too much, consequently inviting unnecessary pressure from Tony Adams' side. Only the hosts' own deficiencies in the attacking department let Malaga off the hook, with the next chance, Medhi Carcela-González's misjudged clip in the 69th minute, proving to be their last.

Juan Carlos' injury provided a sting in the tail for Malaga given Jony's injury, but it was Sandro's stinging efforts that threatened to put the game to bed. Eight minutes before time, Sandro smashed his effort against the outside of the post after being slipped in by Recio. The 21-year-old would not make the same mistake ten minutes later, though, taking one touch to control substitute Javi Ontiveros' pass before powering the ball past Ochoa in the second minute of injury time for his 12th goal of the season and sealing the points in the process.

Malaga face another Andalusian rival next, with Sevilla the visitors to La Rosaleda on Monday. Kick-off is at 9pm.



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Sandro inspires comfortable home win

The forward scored and assisted as his side racked up a 2-0 win against a Valencia team with little to play for

:: DARYL FINCH

MALAGA. The double match week got off to the perfect start for Malaga who saw off Valencia by a comfortable two goals to nil at La Rosaleda on Saturday afternoon.

Michel reverted to a more conventional line-up than that which lost in Galicia last week, employing two out-and-out wingers in the shape of Jony and Javi Ontiveros. In fact, it was from wide that Malaga's first chance came with Recio's ball across the goal face needing a last-ditch clearance to prevent the opener.

The hosts couldn't capitalise on their dominance in the first 15 minutes, though, with both Pablo Fornals and Ontiveros working themselves into good positions before being let down by their finishing.

Minutes later, Valencia had their one and only chance of the first half as Munir whipped the ball across the face of the goal for Santi Mina who only succeeded in connecting with Carlos Kameni.

Munir probably ought to have had

a penalty in the 32nd minute but the referee waved away claims that he was tripped by Rosales.

This was quickly forgotten when Sandro cut back onto his right foot on the byline before standing up a perfect cross for Recio to nod his side into the lead.

It became a quickfire double after Sandro's freekick fell back into the path of the Canarian to smash past a hapless Diego Alves with the help of a deflection.

Jony could have sent his side into the break with a three-goal lead, penetrating the left channel, but his rifled effort took a nick on the way out for a corner.

The hosts were happy with the scoreline going into the second half and it showed as their intensity soon faded. Valencia, though, didn't take advantage and looked a beaten side even with 45 minutes still to play. Even the introduction of Nani and Zaza made little difference as Malaga still had the lion's share of chances.

The best came from quite an unlikely source in the shape of centre half Diego Llorente who found himself on the right wing, rifling an effort into the side netting.

Valencia finally showed up in the last 10 minutes, but could only muster a single chance in stoppage time when Eliaquim Mangala hit the post with all the goal to aim at.

Latest loss prompts change of guard at Marbella

Miguel Álvarez offered his resignation after yet another defeat dashed any remaining hopes of promotion for Marbella

SANLUQUEÑO 2 MARBELLA 0

:: J. B. MARTÍNEZ. OPTA

EXTREMADURA. It appears the weight of a must-win game was too much for Marbella to bear as Extremadura, fighting relegation, easily inflicted a 2-0 defeat on the visitors in Almendralejo on Sunday.

The first half began with the home side dominating possession and creating a number of good chances. In fact they won a penalty as early as the seventh minute when Tiri deliberately handled the ball in the area. Fortunately for the away side, keeper Manu dived the right way to deny Willy from the spot.

The scores did not remain level for long, however. After approximately 10 minutes, in which Marbella had hardly stepped foot in the opposition's half, Willy put Extremadura ahead with his third shot on goal. A cross from Carlos Rubén on the right wing found the striker's head at the back post and there was little Manu could do to keep the ball out of his net.

The play continued in a similar way for much of the first half with Marbella's Zé Turbo alone in creating any kind of work for the Extremadura defence.

After the break, Marbella looked a little more threatening as Kike Márquez helped to fire the side up. Extremadura keeper, Doblas, was finally forced into action by Turbo a few minutes into the second half shortly before the forward created the visitors' best chance of the game, thwarted by the crossbar.



Marbella defence struggle to ward off the Extremadura attack. :: OPTA

With the clock ticking down, Marbella's main threat in the closing stages came down the left wing. There were calls for a Marbella penalty after a clumsy tackle from José Rodríguez, as the visitors continued to push for an equaliser.

However, the equaliser never came. Instead Willy and Pierre con-

tinued to challenge Manu on the counter-attack, the keeper maintaining his resolve until the 93rd minute, when he left an open goal for Extremadura's Miguel Rubiá to seal the hosts' victory.

The defeat keeps Marbella in seventh place and prompted Miguel Álvarez to offer his resignation.

Fael chosen as replacement for outgoing Álvarez

Another change is in the offing at Marbella FC with club president Alexander Grinberg taking the decision to replace coach Miguel Álvarez.

Grinberg has decided to cut ties with Álvarez, who offered

his resignation following defeat to Sanluqueño, and has replaced him with Rafael Becerra Cortés, better known as 'Fael'.

The club have also parted company with vice president Raffaele Pandalone, Roberto Álvarez and Marc Juliá.

Fael will have just three games to overturn a four-point margin to finish in the playoff places.



Sandro celebrates after gifting his side a two-goal lead. :: EFE

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Davidovich, making excellent progress

The young tennis player from Malaga beat Roberto Carballés, number 124 in the ATP, but lost to Santiago Giraldo, ranked 104th

■ **FÁTIMA ÁVILA-CASANOVA**

MALAGA. Alejandro Davidovich, one of Spain's most promising young tennis players, has just taken an important step towards the professional circuit. Last weekend this 17-year-old from Malaga took part in his first ATP500, the 65th Conde de Godó tournament, after being invited as a 'wild card' by the organisers.

Alejandro was one of the biggest surprises in the tournament at the Real Club de Tennis Barcelona, where on the first day he beat Roberto Carballés (124th in the ATP ranking) 3-6, 6-2, 6-2. Being on the central court was an amazing experience, he says. "I was nervous in the first set but afterwards I thought I should just enjoy being where I had always wanted to be. I fought to the end, and felt that the stadium was mine."

On the second day, Sunday, he lost to Colombian player Santiago Giraldo (ranked 104th), who was a finalist in the Conde de Godó tournament three years ago. Alejandro took the first set but lost the next two (5-7, 6-3, 6-2) in a hard-fought match. "Alex played quite well, but it was hard for him to maintain the level for such a long time, and his rival didn't fail to take advantage of that. On this circuit, experience is important," explains his trainer, Jorge Aguirre.

Davidovich, who has only been playing tennis for two and a half years, has made impressive progress during the last six months. At the end of last year his game improved tremendously and in recent weeks he reached 7th place on the junior ranking. By winning the Juan Carlos Ferrero tournament and taking part in the Conde de Godó, he has gained confidence and maturity.

He now faces a busy agenda until Roland Garros, where he will fight to be seeded. Before that he will be in Lérida, where he has received a wild card to take part, and in Milan for a grade one ITF (the highest level for

INFORMATION

- **Name:** Alejandro Davidovich Forkina.
- **Date of birth:** 5 June 1999.
- **Coach:** Jorge Aguirre.
- **Junior ranking:** 7th.
- **ATP ranking:** 857th.

junior players). His performance in Barcelona was so good that his coach is now trying hard to get him a wild card for the Mutua Madrid Open-Masters 1,000. At present it is looking as if he will be there, but nothing has been confirmed yet. He started the year as number 11 in the junior ranking and in just three months he has risen to seventh place. "We are following the path we planned at the start of this year," says Jorge Aguirre. As Alejandro explained at that time, "My idea is to try to be in the world top ten at junior level, to play in the three Grand Slams, and finish the year in the China Masters. It all depends on how well I do."

Roland Garros

So far, he is doing well. Now that the Conde de Godó tournament is over, this young player is already thinking about Roland Garros. "We're going to try to get to Roland Garros among the eight or ten top ranked juniors, to be seeded and try to avoid the best players in the early rounds. Undoubtedly, in a competition like this everybody plays very well and anyone can beat you, but it's always best if you can be seeded. With regard to the ranking, we're doing as planned. It's in the ATP part that we have to improve."

Currently, Davidovich holds 857th place on the professional circuit. "Thanks to this tournament he has been able to experience professional tennis from the inside. He has understood the physical, mental and technical skills he'll need to be among the best. Now we want to get him to that stage as soon as possible," says Aguirre.

Alejandro Davidovich played well in Barcelona. ■ SUR



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No mercy as Unicaja dispatch bottom side with ease



Defeat for ICL Manresa at a half empty Carpena confirms their relegation to the LEB

MALAGA. ICL Manresa came to Malaga on Wednesday night, scraping for their lives in the Liga Endesa, but it was a battle they would ultimately lose as Unicaja came out comfortable 91-75 winners.

The Catalans have been defying the odds for a number of seasons now, but their luck finally ran out and they will be playing in the LEB next campaign.

They can't be accused of lacking fight, though. Pere Tomás inspired his team in the opening exchanges with three consecutive three-pointers, taking advantage of the hosts' lapses in concentration and defensive organisation and helping his side to a first-quarter lead (20-25).

Despite the setback, this didn't stop coach Joan Plaza from rotating his players and giving minutes to those who have hardly featured during the campaign such as Lafayette and Okouo on the day the latter con-

**91
75**
UNICAJA - MANRESA

firmed his inscription for the NBA draft.

As a result of the changes, his side improved in defence and wasted no time in cutting into their opponents'

lead, racking up a six-point advantage going into the break.

The introduction of Omic, Suárez and Díaz in the third quarter changed the game completely. With the tie at 50-50, the latter thwarted a counterattack, proving to be the turning point in the game.

From then on, Unicaja dominated the court and, taking a 67-55 lead into the final quarter, could afford to be comfortable and play without tension. It's just a shame that the arena was half empty with the side playing some great basketball and not even a month after winning a major trophy.

This Sunday the Malaga side travel to the Basque Country to take on Baskonia (6.30pm).



Suárez fighting for a rebound with Cakarun. :: NITO SALAS

A bad day at the office

Wednesday's resounding triumph came off the back of the side's heaviest league defeat of the season

BARCELONA 89 UNICAJA 70

:: J. CALDERÓN

MALAGA. There was little positive to take away from Catalonia for Joan Plaza's side who lost 89-

70 to Barcelona on Sunday.

Having secured their place in the playoffs, Unicaja's new priority is to finish in the top four in order to secure home advantage. However, this took a setback at the Palau Blaugrana with the visitors poor in defence and with few answers when it came to their offensive game.

All looked to be going to plan after a frantic four minutes saw a spectacular exchange of three-pointers and Unicaja taking the

early lead (11-12). The visitors, however, couldn't maintain this level and Barcelona soon took control of the quarter, opening up an eight-point lead (28-20).

Unicaja's drought continued into the second quarter and with their inability to slow the home side's attack, this spelled disaster. Even without the withdrawn Tomic and Rice, Barça extended their lead to 11 points, forcing Plaza to introduce Nedovic. However, with the home side's star men back in the picture, victory was all but assured by the break (49-35).

Plaza appealed for greater intensity in defence but there was no appreciable difference in the

second half.

Within three minutes the deficit had grown to 18 points (57-39) with Unicaja guilty of loose play, opening themselves up to the counterattack.

A fightback of sorts ensued, but yet another scoring spree from the hosts put the match beyond recovery going into the final quarter (69-52).

Despite ten minutes left to salvage some pride, there was no sign of a fightback nor any of the spirit displayed in the past two months. In fact, the Malaga side fell further behind, finishing 19 points short of their rivals - their largest league defeat of the season.



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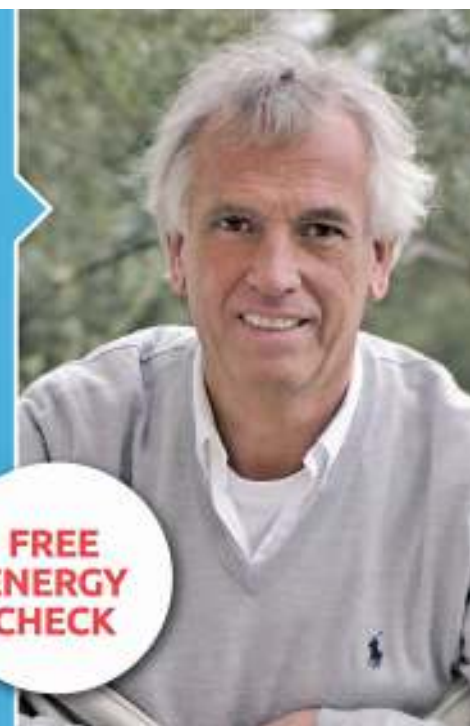
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4* HOTEL Benalmádena seeks: Waiter/ress speaking Spanish, English & German. Send CV fax 952578453 rrhhfuengirola@hotmail.com

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Estepona and Manilva. Lifeline 608458555. acesteponaymanilva@ageconcernespana.org / www.acesteponaymanilva.org Fuengirola y Mijas. Lifeline 652 53 76 15
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Marion Winter, 952863926
ANREM - RESIDENTS & FOREIGNERS
info@anrem.org 630927226 anrem.org
FOREIGN RESIDENTS' ASS. ANDALUCIA
thefraa@hotmail.com 658426227
LUX MONDI ECUMENICAL CENTRE
Torre del Mar: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org 952 543 334. Fuengirola: 952474840
ROYAL AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
Costa del Sol, www.rafacostadelsol.co.uk
CONSERVATIVES ABROAD
conservatives.costadelsol@gmail.com
INTERNAT. LABOUR GROUP

Fuengirola: Alf Brewer 952 449 408
ASSOC. FRANCÓFONOS
All French speakers welcome. 951087994
AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL CLUB
Almuñécar to Torrox nerjaclub@yahoo.com or www.americaninternationalclub.com
NEDERLANSE CLUB COSTA DEL SOL
Tel: 952473 545. Various Costa locations
AMERICAN CLUB OF COSTA DEL SOL
President: R. E. Parmiter www.americanclubcostadelsol.com Fuengirola, Mijas, Benalmádena: David Kyles 653274392. Malaga: Rosella Parmiter 952400006. Marbella: Carol Lewis 951778717. Estepona: Frazier Gardella 952804693.
ACE AMERICAN CLUB OF ESTEPONA
Calle San Roque. Tel: 952793059.
ENGLISH-SPEAKING CLUB MALAGA
English/Spanish conversation. 952432235/952 242844
WELSH SOCIETY
Arroyo de la Miel. Debbie 626292707
THE BRITISH SOCIETY
May Boyd 952 565 111 Benalmádena Pueblo. britsocietyspain@hotmail.com
BRITISH ASSOCIATION MARBELLA
Meets weekly. Jan/Joan 952835947
ENGLISH PHOENIX CLUB
Torre del Mar: Gael: 951067723
INTERNAT. CLUB OF SALOBREÑA
icsalobrena@hotmail.com
ASOCIACIÓN IRLANDESA
President Finola Sloyan: 607340523
IRISH ASSOCIATION OF SPAIN
618680148. Facebook.
SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING
Arroyo. Martin 952383883/654859075
ARTE Y CULTURA MARBELLA
1st Wed. 8 p.m. Magna Cafe. 627833262
INTERNATIONAL CLUB ESTEPONA
www.siberme.com . 952 802 549.
OUT OF AFRICA CLUB
Trish: 952668081
U3A LEARNING FOR PLEASURE
Fuengirola: 952577671 www.u3acostadelsol.org Marbella-Inland: 622670158 / 952596070. www.u3a.es
BRITISH SCOUTING MOVEMENT
1st Fuengirola Scout Group. Robert Troost 610755995 www.fuengirolascouts.com 1st Sotogrande Scouts and Cubs. Mike Wilson 951403204
NADFAS
Costa del Sol: www.costadelsoldfas.com Nerja: 952533373. www.nerjanadfasc.org De la Frontera: San Roque Club. www.nadfasc-delafrontera.org Gibraltar: gibdfas.webs.com Benahavís: 663459103. www.benahavisdfas.com
MARBELLA BUSINESS NETWORK
Joe 694442331 wednesdayjoe@gmail.com
THE FIELD CLUB
Walks. Fuengirola. www.thefieldclub.es
COSTA CHORDBUSTERS
Anne Bowles. 952464184

THE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC SOCIETY
Mixed choir. Gilly Bareford, 952 573 983.
COLLEGIUM MUSICUM COSTA DEL SOL
International choir/orchestra. 952775492.
THE PARASOL SINGERS
Amateur singers Manilva. 692 558 041
SAYDO MALE VOICE SINGERS
Every Tuesday: Gordon 951199413
R.T.'S LINE DANCE CLUB
Calahonda / Fuengirola / Benalmádena. Bob 952931754 or 697441313.
BOOGIE SHOES LINE DANCE CLUB
Estepona, The Roadhouse Bar. Thurs 19.45
MISSISSIPPI COASTERS
Line dance.Fuengirola.Bob 697441313.
JIVE DANCE CLUB
jivespain.com 635717211.
MODERN JIVE
Benalmádena/Fuengirola.Howard 631813877 www.dance-jive-Spain.com
JJ'S COSTA DEL SOL DANCE CLUB
Ballroom, Sequence & Latin 627658925
FOTA, FRIENDS OF THE THEATRE
Desk open Mon/Wed/Fri 11.30am-1.15pm. Salon Varietés, Fuengirola. 952584268.
INTERNATIONAL THEATRE STUDIO
San Pedro district. Tel 952884034
THESPA-ENGLISH SPEAKING PLAYERS
Dinner and Drama. Los Boliches. 622454422. www.theatrecostadelsol.com .
NERJA HISTORY GROUP
Talks/trips. Christina Sinclair 687 602 057 email: nerjahistorygroup@yahoo.com
ESTEPONA FLORAL ART CLUB
esteponafloralartclub@hotmail.com www.facebook.com/esteponafloralartclub
FLOWER ARRANGING CLUB
Venta Platero (Coin-Cartama road)
THE ANDALUCIAN GARDEN GROUP
Alh. el Grande. 952119767/952455213
THE AXARQUÍA GARDEN CLUB
www.axarquigardenclub.blogspot.com
ANDALUCIA BIRD SOCIETY
952817843 www.andaluciabirdsociety.org
COSTA PRESS CLUB
www.costapressclub.com
COSTA WOMEN
www.costawomen.com/ 677251058
TANGENT CLUB & EX-LADIES CIRCLERS
952886772 mb163@hotmail.co.uk
41 CLUBS & EX-ROUND TABLERS
Costa del Sol: 952 818772 or 627462410 Nerja: 952 529611 or 677 090 665
MIJAS ARTS CENTRE
Classes, 952485867, www.mijasartes.com
TOTEM CERAMICS CLUB
952 887 364, www.TotemCeramics.com
PATCHWORK AND QUILTING
www.quiltersdelsol.org
COSTA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
952961735 www.photoclubspain.com
ASTRONOMY COSTA DEL SOL
astronomycostadelsol.com 616679453.

FRIENDSHIP & HEALING GROUP
Torremolinos. 634307054/951534219.
NERJA CHICK-LIT BOOK CLUB
New friends, great books! 693373530
LIONS CLUBS
Malaga Ilusion: May Ramirez 616613705; Leos: Gonzalo 627712351; University: Sara 626835485 Marbella Costa del Sol: Jacqueline Dueñas 619755031; Marbella Francófono: Rosalyn Bakker; 952884340; Marbella German: T. Heyden 667760230; Marbella Decano: M. Álvarez 619414119; Mijas La Cala: Paul Butler 952493901; Mijas: Jose Guasp Borreda 639 080 569; Nerja: Elke Lange 693706900; Puerto Banús Cosmopolitan: Egidia Ingels 68032009; Rincón de la Victoria: Doris: 952407824
TOASTMASTERS PUBLIC SPEAKING
Al-Andalus Toastmasters Club #1788: Donna 956 840 497. Rota, Cadiz. The Achievers Toastmasters Club #5183: Nueva Andalucía, Percy 646533112. Gibraltar: Luis 606460025. Malaga: PTA English / Spanish, Claudia 685965867.
FREEMASONS
Fuengirola: Norman Hay 674755024. Calahonda: Mike Williams 644133186. Los Boliches: Paul Clueit 667156806. Mijas Costa: David Mantle 952934193. Coin: Paul Carter 952669731. Alhaurín: Vic Dean 952450678.
ROTARY CLUB
Benalmádena: 952441440 Benahavís: 670604392 Estepona: 952800999. Fuengirola/Mijas: 648292146. Marbella: 952821121 San Pedro: 951318381 Marbella - Guadalmina: 952888077.
OVER 40S SINGLES CLUB
Estepona: El Limonero Tel: 952806759
ARROYO SOCIAL & WELFARE CLUB
Arroyo de la Miel. Jean 952563580.
TORREMOLINOS & DIST. SOCIAL CLUB
Wed am. Rosaleda Bar. Mike 626880722.
ARROYO FRIENDLY CLUB
Benalmádena. 952446935.
SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
653 771 625 www.soroptimist.es
HASH HOUSE HARRIERS
Mijas: 606761942. Malaga: 654 633430.
AMIGAS DE CASA
Vva del Trabuco. 952751424/952751304 www.trabucotimes.com/amigasdecasa.htm
CLUB CHARITY AND PLEASURE
Estepona. President Mary 952896820
COLMENAR DISTRICT SOCIAL CLUB
Marjorie 951 163 071.
TENNIS CLUB 'EL CAPITAN INT'
Torre del Mar. Patrick 675 391 967.
THE GOOD COMPANIONS CLUB
Los Boliches. Tel: Tony White 952494730.
CLUB DE BÉISBOL COSTA DEL SOL B.B.C.
952202940 / 952464468. Mijas
AIKIDO TOMIKI SHODOKAN
Different levels. Tel: 952131670, Malaga
TAEKWONDO CLUB
Fighting Dragons Club Benalmádena. Mike 618149373 www.vipfitness.tv
CALAHONDA BRIDGE CLUB
Club Naranja. 952 198 789 / 670 593 232.

ACE BRIDGE CLUB
Fuengirola. Deanne Nutter: 747771404.
NERJA BRIDGE CLUB
Joan 952520579 or Trevor on 952524743
LOS BOLICHES BRIDGE CLUB
Dominiques. Mon & Fri. 645 684 756
ATALAYA BRIDGE CLUB ESTEPONA
www.atalayabridgeclub.com . Wed, Thurs, Sun. 952880595/609548595(whatsapp)
CASTILLO BRIDGE CLUB
Tel: 655459576 www.bridgewebs.com
ST ANDREW'S BRIDGE CLUB
Los Boliches. 697769170 / 952667861.
COSTA DEL SOL CRICKET CLUB
League cricket. Previn: 606526618.
MARBELLA SURF CLUB
Avda. Independencia, 17, Tel:952778617.
INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS CLUB
Benalmádena Costa. 952373813.
MIJAS LAWN BOWLS CLUB
Tel: 952 466 038.
ASSOCIATION OF LIFEGUARDS
aspcostadelsol@gmail.com 629541930.
SUNDAY TABLE TENNIS CLUB
Sunset Beach Hotel, Benalmádena 663138062 drtfranklinkim32@yahoo.com
MARBELLA SINGLES SOCIAL GROUP
Over 45s. marycormack1@aol.com
COSTA DEL SOL FREETHINKERS
costadelsolfreethinkers@gmail.com
PAINTING GROUP
Fueng. - Marbella. cicelycarroll@yahoo.com
THE ART CLUB
San Pedro www.theartclub.es
KITCHEN CLUB
angieskitchen@hotmail.co.uk 697883717
YORUBA ASSOCIATION OF MALAGA
Aluko 691314576 yorubassmlg@hotmail.com
SOTOGRADE WRITERS CLUB
http://www.sotograndewriters.com
COMMUNITY PRESIDENTS CLUB
Marbella:645784718/Fuengirola: 952591071 www.urbytus.es/pc/
ASTOR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
Torreblanca: Tel Brian 609 548 656
BENALMÁDENA HEALING GROUP
Spiritual Group Tel Liz 951947480
CLASSIC CARS CLUB
Mijas. 3rd Sat each month. 607690057
FERRARI OWNERS CLUB
607562057ferrariownersclubandalucia.com
PORCHE OWNERS' CLUB
peter@porscheownersandalucia.eu
SPANISH/ENGLISH INTERCAMBIO
Malaga. AlCasaBar, C/Pozo del Rey. Tues 9pm tll late Tel: 951106311 David.
INDIAN COMMUNITY
indiancommunitymalaga@gmail.com Tel: 952477171 / 627108987
THE IMAGE GROUP
Photographic club. imagegroupspain.com
GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS
jackwatson10@gmail.com Tel:620786772
Send any corrections or details of new clubs by email marked ‘For the clubs page’. surinenglish.su@diariosur.es

CHURCH SERVICES INTERNATIONAL

CHURCH OF ENGLAND/ EPICOSPAL CHURCH

St George's Anglican Chaplaincy
 www.stgeorgemalaga.org
 email: chaplain@stgeorgemalaga.org or wardens@stgeorgemalaga.org
Malaga, St George's Church (in the English Cemetery, Av. de Pries) Sunday Holy Communion 11am. Contact: 951 287 382
Velez-Málaga, La Antigua Capilla de S. José, C/. Linares 7. Sundays 10.30am
Anglican Chaplaincy of St. Andrew, Costa del Sol (East)
 Chaplaincy Office 952580600.
Los Boliches, St. Andrew's Edif. Jupiter, Avda Padre Jesús Cautivo 44. Sung matins (BCP) Mon, Tues, Thurs 9am. Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am.
Benalmádena Costa, San José chapel, 9.30am;
 Sung Eucharist (Common Worship) 1st, 3rd, 4th Sun; sung MP 2nd Sun
Calahonda, Ermita de San Miguel, 9.30am. Sung Eucharist (Common Worship) 2nd and 4th Sun; sung MP 1st and 3rd Sun.
Alhaurín el Grande: Cemetery Chapel Sun. at 11.30am. All age service 1st Sun; MP (Common Worship) 2nd Sun; sung Eucharist (Common Worship) 3rd, 4th Sun
Costa del Sol (West)
San Pedro, Sunday 10a.m. (Holy Communion) Parroquia Virgen del Rocío.
Sotogrande, Sunday 12 noon. (Holy Communion 2nd & 4th Sundays) La Iglesia de Nuestra Sra. de la Merced. Chaplaincy House. www.costachurch.com
Nerja: Sun 12 noon, San Miguel church, Wed. 9.30am. (Church shop, C/Malaga 952 522 460.) Rev. Geoffrey Johnston, 952521339.
Almuñécar: Capilla de Nuestra Señora del Carmen, (Fishermen's chapel) Chinasol. Sun. 9.30am. (not August) Priest as Nerja.
Torre del Mar: St Barnabas IERE, 11am. Morning Prayer 1st and 3rd Sunday, H.C. 2nd and 4th. Lux Mundi centre. 952030461.
Gibraltar: Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Sun 10.30. Tel. 78377.
Benalmádena Costa: Songs of Praise, Interdenominational church service, Castillo Bil Bil. Sun. 5.30pm. Oct. – May. 648666152.

MUSLIM

Marbella: Mezquita del Rey Abdulaziz. Friday 2.30pm. 952774143.
Fuengirola: Mezquita del Centro Cultural Suhail, Parque Doña Sofía. Friday worship 2.30pm. Tel 952473916.
Malaga: Mezquita, C/San Agustín 11. Friday 2.30pm. 952228595.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Marbella: Santo Cristo del Calvario Church, Avda. del Calvario: Holy Mass in English, 11am. every Sunday. Tel: 952774 899.
Fuengirola: Capilla San José, Las Rampas (Upper Level), Daily Mass (in English): Mon-Fri 11am. Sat 7pm. Sun 11am.
Fuengirola: Lux Mundi, C/ Nueva, 12 Sun.
Arroyo de la Miel: Mass in English Parroquia de la Inmaculada, Saturday 1 pm.
Calahonda: Ermita de San Miguel, 12 Sun.
Benalmádena Costa: Parish Church of La Virgen del Carmen, Avda. Bonanza. Bilingual mass English/Spanish Sunday 10am.
Torre del Mar: Lux Mundi, Avda. Moscatel, 1-“I”. Saturday. Winter 5pm, summer 6 pm. 952543334.
Chiclana (Cadiz): Nstra Señora de Europa church, Urb. Novo Sancti Petri, RC Mass in English and German, Sunday 10.30am
Pueblo Nuevo de Guadiaro - Sotogrande (Cadiz): Mass in English, Saturday 7pm and Sunday 10.30am at Santuario de la Divina Misericodia
Malaga: Catholic mass in English, Avenida Santiago Ramón y Cajal, Ciudad Jardín. 11.30am Sunday. 952260760.

METHODIST CHURCH

Gibraltar: Methodist Church, 297 Main Street. Sun 11am and 8pm. +350 200 77491/+350 200 40870. Rev. Fidel Patron.
Sotogrande: La Iglesia de Nuestra Sra. de la Merced 1st and 3rd Sundays 11.45a.m. For more info. call 952 895 102.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

Mijas internacional: 10 am Sun Calle Rueda 7 , Los Boliches, 952469392 / 607521032.
Motril: Sun10 am. C/ Jesús del Gran Poder 34. 958 825665.
Malaga: Sun 10.30 am, C/Babel 1.
Algeciras: Sun 10.30 am. C/Sevilla 43. Tel. 956630894.
Nerja: Sun. 10.30 a.m. C/Granada,83. Tel. 607 522 671

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Arroyo de la Miel: Avda Del Cerro de Viento, s/n . Tues. 7.30pm. Sat. 4.30pm. Tel. 952561170.
Fuengirola: Kingdom Hall, Plaza Hispanidad, Service Meeting, Fri 7.30pm. 952469082.
Malaga: C/José Palanca, 20. Service Fri 8pm. Tues 7.15pm.
San Pedro: C/ Amor 6, Fuente Nueva. English: Sun 11am & Wed 7.30pm. Tagalog: Sun 1.30pm & Tues 7.30pm. Kingdom Hall 952788855.
Torrox Costa: Local 17, Urb Costa de Oro. Sun 11 a.m., Weds 7pm. Tel. 952526740.
Torre del Mar: Calle Infantes, Conjuntos Islas del Sol. Scandinavian Sun 6pm, Thurs 7pm. German Sun 11am and Fri 7pm.
Coín: Calle Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente. Weds 7.30pm, Sun 11.30am. 952499239.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH / BAPTIST CHURCH

Los Boliches: Evangelical Church, Paseo Marítimo 77. Sun:Worship and Bible teaching, 4pm. Weds: Bible study and prayer 7.30pm. Tel 952460728
Torremolinos: Evangelical Community Church. Sun service 11am. C/Gregorio Marañón 4. 952384706
Torremolinos: Gloryhouse International Christian Center. African Pentecostal style. Sun 11am C/ Danza Invisible, 7/8, Bloque D, Nogalera. Pastor Moses. 679740825, 951210300
Nerja: Fellowship of the King, Pasaje San Miguel, Sundays at 10.30am. 952 969 058 / 958 658 439.
Nerja: Community Bible Fellowship, C/ Pintada 35, 2nd floor. English/ Spanish Worship, Sunday 10am. 952521776.
Caleta de Vélez: Cornerstone International Church. Barrio Cooperative Ntra Sa del Carmen. Sunday 11.30am. 634 540 519
Calahonda: The Evangelical Christian Fellowship, Ermita San Miguel. Sun 4.30pm. Rev. Peter Riggall, 952 588 160.
Arroyo de la Miel: Arroyo Baptist Church, Sun 4pm. Conjunto Zodiaco, Edif. Aries, C/ Sagitario. Tel. 95244796/952386716.
Calahonda: Baptist Church, Calle San Jeronimo 1, Worship Sunday 11 am with Sunday School. 952832533.
La Línea: Asambleas de Dios. C/San José, 41. Thurs 9pm. Sun 11am & 8 pm.
Marbella: Int. Christian F'ship. Sun 11.30 Ed. Milla de Oro. Tel. 952 932 216 .
Mijas Costa: Iglesias Internacional Costa del Sol, C/José de Orbaneja 10. Sun 11am and 7pm; Thur 7pm Tel:636 422 7
Puerto Banús: Christian Church (The Wave) Worship Service: Sun 11am. The Wave Café: Wed 11am. Prayer: Fri 12pm. 637408194/5 puertobanuschurch.com
Salobreña: Fellowship of the King. Various locations. Sundays at 10am Tel.635 358 808 / 958 645 027
Almuñécar: Fellowship of the King. Casita Málaga, Parque El Majuelo. 2nd & 4th Sundays, 11.00am . Tel. 958 881 358
Almuñécar: Evangelical Reformed Church, C/ Torres Quevedo 5. T958 639 529, 677 699 490. Sunday 11 a.m.

Gibraltar: Brethren Assembly, Queensway Quay. Sun 11am, Minister Francis Baldachino.
Benalmádena Costa: Elim Family F'ship. Sun 11am. Pastor Dave 695115496 www.elimfamilyfellowship.com
San Pedro: Elim Family Fellowship. Sun 3.30pm. 695 115 496
San Pedro: Faith Baptist Church. Sun 6.30pm, Edif Manantial. Tel: 615 788 511
Fuengirola: Ark Christian Fellowship Family Worship. Sun 11am, Las Rampas. Tel.: 952 592 171.
Fuengirola: Costa del Sol Bible School, Healing Clinic and “The Beauty of Holiness”. Rev. Joyce McNaughton 663706806.
Fuengirola: The Way, Christian Counselling Ministry. Tel. 634369414/ 951135441.
Malaga: Believers Loveworld Inc.(Christ Embassy) Sunday11am, Wed 7pm, Sat 5pm. C/Cantimpla 11, Av. de Europa 951955354/672805789.

Marbella: House of Judah (Jewish & Gentile Believers) Bilingual Fri. Worship 7.30pm - NH Marbella Hotel Tel: 605924555.
Mijas Costa: Baptist, Bi-Lingual services Sun 11.30am and 7pm; Thur 7pm Tel:636 422 717 www.libertadmijascosta.com
Heaven's Gate Pentecostal Church Int: Benalmádena: Carril de Sirocco 1, Worship- Sun 11am- 6pm, F'ship- Friday 7.30pm, 602392139
Fuengirola: Christian Family Centre Int. Worship Sun 1pm, Fellowship Tue 7pm Church auditorium, C/Jacinto Benavente, 10. Tel: 605329074
Granada: Avda Andalucía, 53, La Chana, Worship- Sun 6pm, 605329074
Malaga: Avda de Europa, 69, Worship- Sunday 9am, Fellowship- Wednesday 7.30pm, 605329074

DUTCH EVANGELICAL

Fuengirola: Skandinaviska Turistkyran. Ed. M del Carmen. Paseo Marítimo 77 Los Boliches, Sundays 9.30.
Torremolinos: Sun 11.30 in Holland Huis. Ed. Number One. Avda. de Montemar, 10-A.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (PRESBYTERIAN)

Fuengirola: Sun 10.30am at Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, C/Nueva 3. Tel 951260982 or 952455213.
Gibraltar: St. Andrew's Church, Sun 10.30am. Tel 20077040.
Torre del Mar: Sun 11am, Legend's Bar, C/Don Cipriano Maldonado Jiménez.

BAHAI

Bahai Information Office, C/Ricardo Soriano, 35, Marbella.
Marbella: 952 90 21 21
Fuengirola: 951 259 742.
Malaga: 952 214 052.
Benalmádena: 952 442 424.
Alhaurín de la Torre: 952411496.
Rincón de la Victoria: 952 402 870.
Gibraltar: +350 200 73287.

SYNAGOGUES

Torremolinos: Beth Minzi, Av. Palma de Mallorca 55; Castillo San Luis, Local 14. Daily services. 952052550.
Marbella: Beth El, Urb. El Real, Km 184. Services, Fri in summer 8.30pm winter 7pm Sat & holidays 10am 952859395

QUAKERS

Malaga: Quakers (Society of Friends). Info: zvi@gotadsl.co.uk

NORWEGIAN SEAMEN'S CHURCH

Calahonda: El Campanario, Av del Cortijo 3. Sun 4 pm, 952939800
 www.sjomannskirken.no/costadelsol

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Fuengirola: Sat 10am. Bible study, worship Calle Palangreros, 60. 952456672 / 633716651 ww.adventistasfuengirola.es.

CONSULATES

Great Britain	C/. Mauricio Moro Pareto 2- 2. Málaga	952352300
USA	Av. Juan Gómez 8. Ed. Lucía 1-C. Fuengirola	952474891
Holland	Avda Palma de Mallorca 57, Torremolinos	952380888
Belgium	Carretera de Cádiz, km 202, 29649 Mijas Costa	952599159
Denmark	Calle Córdoba 6 404, Malaga	952211797
Norway	Avda Los Boliches, 60, Edf Rosenkranz, Fuengirola	952667955
Canada	C/Cervantes, Edif. Horizonte, Malaga	952223346
Germany	Mauricio Moro Pareto 2, Malaga	952363591
Sweden	Calle Córdoba 6, 5th floor, Malaga	952604383
Ireland	Avda. Los Boliches, Fuengirola	952475108
France	1, Plaza de Santa Cruz, Seville	954293200
Italy	Calle Lagasca, 98, Madrid	912106910
Austria	Alameda de Colón 26, Malaga	952600267
Finland	Calle Blasco de Garay, 7, Malaga	952212435
Saudi Arabia	Mauricio M. Pareto 2 bloque Sur 2º, Malaga	952310358
Greece	Salitre, 16, Malaga	952311847
Iceland	Paseo Marítimo 91, 29640 Fuengirola	952661200
Philippines	C/Marqués de Larios 4, 2º, Malaga	952222757
Hungary	Av. de Andalucía 26 29007 Malaga	952308393

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCIES	
Emergency operator	112
National Police	091
Local (municipal) Police	092
Medical	061
Fire	080
Guardia Civil	062
Sea Rescue	900202202
Crime report	902102112

ENGLISH-SPEAKING HELP	
Samaritans in Spain	900525100
Alcoholics Anonymous	600379110
Age Care	952933409
Age Concern (Estepona)	608458555

ANDALUSIAN HEALTH SERVICE

Salud Responde (doctors' appointments & advice) 902505060

ESTEPONA

Bus Station	952800249
Taxi Service	952802900
Tourist Office	952800913
Town Hall	952801100
Foreign Residents Dept.	952809031

MALAGA

Bus Station	952350061
Railway Station	902240202
Taxi Service	952345693
Tourist Office	951926020

MARBELLA

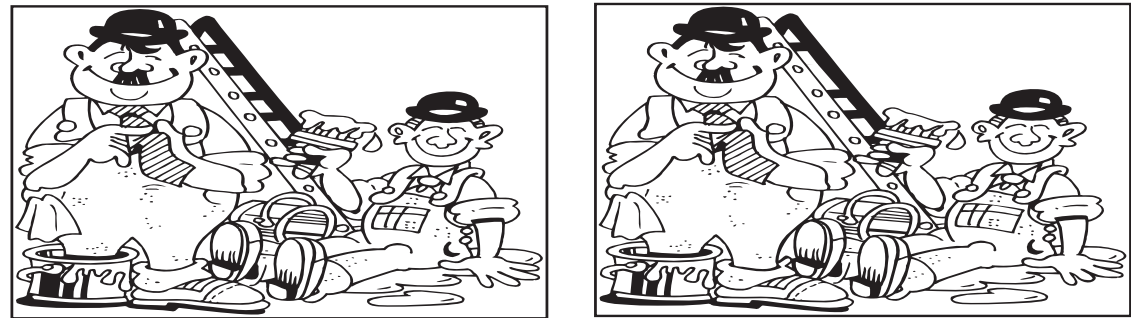
Bus Station	952823409
Taxi Service	952774488

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION


CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Ocean Majesty	28/04	Barcelona	Ibiza	06.30	18.30
Black Watch	28/04	Southampton	Valetta	08.00	17.30
Seadream II	28/04	Funchal	Cartagena	08.00	17.00
Aegean Odyssey	28/04	Valetta	Cadiz	08.00	23.59
Royal Clipper	29/04	-	-	06.00	20.00
Brilliance o t Seas	29/04	Funchal	Ibiza	08.00	16.00
Thomson Celebration	30/04	Lisbon	Mahon	06.00	22.00
Horizon	30/04	Alicante	Tarragona	10.00	16.30
Seadream I	30/04	Marbella	Cartagena	19.30	17.00
Berlin	01/05	Cartagena	Cadiz	07.00	18.30
Celebrity Reflection	02/05	Santa Cruz	Cartagena	10.00	20.00
Costa Mediterranea	03/05	-	-	07.00	19.00
Horizon	03/05	Tangier	Alicante	08.00	13.00
Marina	03/05	Cadiz	Alicante	08.00	18.00
Aurora	04/05	Porto	Casablanca	08.00	23.00
Aidablu	04/05	-	-	08.00	18.00
Freedom o t Seas	04/05	Cadiz	Palma	08.00	19.00
Tui Discovery	04/05	Funchal	Ibiza	09.00	17.00


THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES




THE STARS




Aquarius
January 21 - February 19
The urge to spend that hard-earned cash is very strong this week. If you find that wonderful bargain, fine.




Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Stay sharp and pick your projects carefully. No point wasting time on something that you know is short-term.




Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Keep an eye on spending but, most of all, expand your social links. Close relatives need some attention and this is an ideal time to show that you care.




Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Time to tweak that health routine or buy a new outfit? Your endeavours this week will pay off handsomely.




Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
It has been much easier to upset you in the last few weeks and you could still be in a bit of a prickly mood.




Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Communications are generally improving all around and so this is the time to start talking about what you need from others.




Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Dynamic social sparks are flying this week and urging you to get out there and make contact.




Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Avoid losing contact with friends and relatives who you care about just because you are too busy.




Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
The urge to get to 'pastures new' is strong. Maybe it isn't possible to get away just yet, but you can plan.



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Following up the family tree? It is through some sharp investigation that the most interesting things come to light.

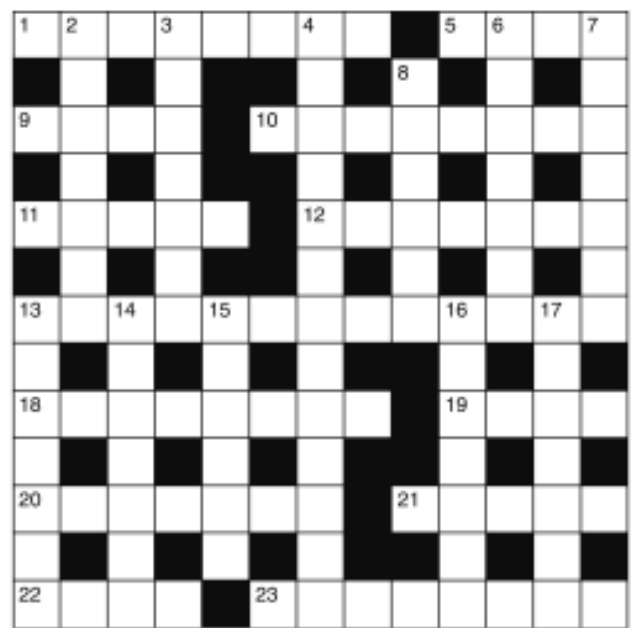


Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
The obvious way forward may not be the best one right now. Consider your options carefully.



Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Slowly, this week, it dawns on you that there could be some changes coming. You'll need to be a detective.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11239



- Across
- Down
- 1

Girl a writer may run away with? (8)
- 5

Fight, probably rigged (4)
- 9

Once powerful Russian arts organisation (4)
- 10

Separate - that's abundantly clear (8)
- 11

The bilingual machine (5)
- 12

It's forbidden and badly one hundred take it (7)
- 13

Where to sit and be patient while another is down in the mouth! (8,5)
- 18

But this is quite different from mal-de-mer (3,5)
- 19

A pre-match fling (4)
- 20

Plant name one needs to change (7)
- 21

What one taking lunch needs daily about one (5)
- 22

Record that makes money (4)
- 23

After the burlesque let's organise a game (8)
- 2

Trap seen, ran out! (7)
- 3

You're in a sound position in this (7)
- 4

A boring affliction (4,2,3,4)
- 6

It puts an end to any ill feeling (7)
- 7

A muscle that turns up or down (7)
- 8

Literary type with a leaning to the right (6)
- 13

Dad is wrong in showing contempt (7)
- 14

Certainly it's not far eastern in origin (7)
- 15

Just the thing for a cold in the chest! (6)
- 16

It cuts down the chat, perhaps (7)
- 17

Encourage another to breathe? (7)

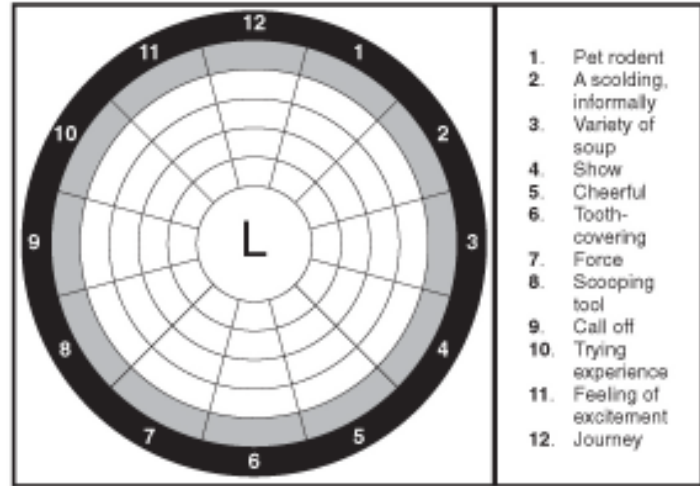
SUDOKU BY HANZO

Instructions
Complete the square making sure that every row of nine numbers includes all digits from 1 to 9, every column includes all digits from 1 to 9 and every 3 by 3 subsection includes all digits from 1 to 9

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

CLOCKWORD

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter L in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a U.S. actor, the first to refuse an Oscar.



THE WORDPUZZLER

P	O	N	T	O	O	N	E	W	A
O	M	P	A	R	L	E	B	I	L
K	A	B	R	I	D	G	E	L	W
E	X	L	U	R	M	A	Z	B	H
R	P	O	M	P	A	C	I	E	I
B	U	S	M	A	I	L	Q	N	S
I	S	E	Y	N	D	A	U	T	T
L	N	R	E	I	A	D	E	I	H
C	A	N	A	S	T	A	E	L	O
O	P	E	R	L	E	F	N	A	P

CAN you identify the card games from the anagrams listed below?

1. Gedrib

2. Pans

3. Swith

4. Staanac

5. Mad lido

6. Tonnopo

7. Mymur

8. Quizbee

9. Krope

10. Aprn

INTERNATIONAL RADIO

Talk Radio Europe
105.5 Axarquía
91.5 Costa del Sol East
91.9 Costa del Sol West
98.7 Gibraltar/Sotogrande
News, interviews, lifestyle, sport and BBC World Service.

Spectrum (105.5 FM, Costa Almeria/Mojácar 92.6 FM)
24 hour music and entertainment

Radio Mijas (107.7 FM)
3 p.m. News, views and music

Radio Sol Almjara (99.1 FM)
Nerja radio in English and German and night time World Radio Network

HeartfmSpain (88.5 FM Costa, 96.1 FM inland) Music, entertainment, news

Lick FM (103.6 FM Marbella)
Urban music broadcast between Gibraltar and Calahonda

Rtv Puebla (107.7 FM)
Monday evenings, Rock music memories. 7 - 9pm. email: radiopuebla.musicmemories@yahoo.com
Fb: Radiotelevision Peubla de Cazalla

Global (93.6 and 96.4FM)
All week round the clock music and entertainment

Radio Radio Network (96 and 98.3 FM). Music 24 hours.

Central FM (98.6 FM, 103.8)
All week, classic tracks and today's music broadcast to the Costa del Sol

ACE FM (106.8 FM)
Inland radio, news and music
The Beat fm (106 FM)
24 hours, music and entertainment

QUIZ

QUESTION 1

How many federal states (Bundesländer) form the country of Germany?

1. Twelve

2. Fourteen

3. Fifteen

4. Sixteen

QUESTION 2

Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud is the king of which country?

1. Saudi Arabia

2. Kuwait

3. Qatar

4. Morocco

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

Across

1. Sudeen (9)

5. Characters (10)

9. Prince (8)

10. Roads (7)

11. Honey (4)

13. To roll up (8)

16. Hate (4)

17. Theatre (6)

20. She loves (3)

23. Childhood (8)

25. Hut (5)

26. I heard (2)

28. Regret (15)

30. Charity (7)

31. Appearance (10)

34. He laughs (3)

35. Woman (5)

37. Actress (6)

38. To go up (5)

40. To debut (7)

41. Jealous (6)

44. Traveling (9)

45. Birth (10)

Down

1. Playwright (10)

2. Stage (9)

3. Draw (6)

4. She doesn't know (6)

5. Role (5)

6. Speaker (6)

7. Relief (6)

8. To substitute (9)

12. To go (2)

14. The (f) (2)

15. To increase (8)

18. They introduced (12)

19. They were cleaning (9)

21. Ailments (9)

22. To stir fry (7)

24. Ugly (f) (3)

25. Beginnings (9)

27. She will go (3)

29. I said (4)

30. Comedy (7)

32. I acted (5)

33. Portrait (7)

36. Remnant (5)

39. Wall (4)

42. He lies up (3)

43. My (2)

ANSWERS

Language Crossword

ACROSS

1. Sudeen (9)
5. Characters (10)
9. Prince (8)
10. Roads (7)
11. Honey (4)
13. To roll up (8)
16. Hate (4)
17. Theatre (6)
20. She loves (3)
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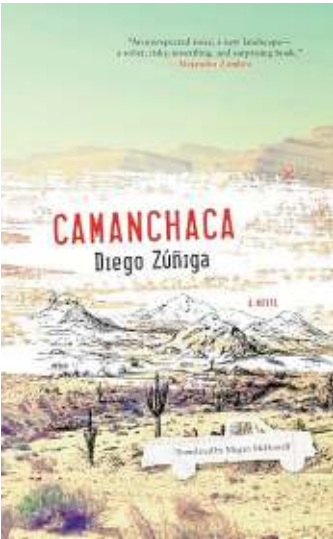
DOWN

1. Playwright (10)
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43. My (2)

Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 1. Penelope; 5. Spar; 9. Tsar; 10. Distinct; 11. Lathe; 12. Mite; 13. Dentist's chair; 16. Sea fever; 19. Toss; 20. Anemone; 21. Chair; 22. Note; 23. Skittles; Down: 2. Ensnare; 3. Earshot; 4. Pain in the neck; 6. Panacea; 7. Rotator; 8. Hail; 13. Disclaim; 14. Nearest; 15. Icebox; 16. Hatchet; 17. Inspire.

BOOK OF THE WEEK



Camanchaca
Diego Zúñiga

Where the driest desert on Earth, the Atacama Desert of Chile, meets the Andes Mountains, dense clouds of fog form but never release their water where it's needed most. These clouds are known as camanchacas. This tantalising potential, hovering just out of reach, is reflected in the frustrating life of a the son of a Chilean family mired in an ugly drama of divorce, death and poverty. The unnamed college student goes to visit his father whose new family enjoy the comfortable lifestyle that he can only dream of.

Clockword solution

SOLUTION: 1. Gentle, 2. Earth, 3. Ode, 4. Reveal, 5. Gentle, 6. Enamel, 7. Compel, 8. Show, 9. Cancel, 10. Ode, 11. Thrill, 12. Travel.

CELEBRITY: George C. Scott.

Wordpuzzler solution

1. Bridge
2. Snap
3. Whisk
4. Canasta
5. Old Maid
6. Pontoon
7. Rummy
8. Bezique
9. Poker
10. Nap

Sudoku solution

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

Quiz answers

Answer 1: Sixteen
Of interest: The 16 states are: Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Berlin, Brandenburg, Bremen, Hamburg, Hesse, Lower Saxony, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, North Rhine-Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein and Thuringia.
Answer 2: Saudi Arabia
Of interest: Salman was crowned as the new king of Saudi Arabia on 23 January 2015 following the death of his half-brother, King Abdullah. Salman is reported to be the 25th son of Ibn Saud.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The most important trip you may take in life is meeting people halfway

HENRY BOYE

THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

Spring is the time for gardens

SUR in English frequently receives beautiful photos of plants, gardens, patios, terraces and balconies; it's obvious that a lot of our readers are keen gardeners. Of course the spring helps a lot as the garden is often looking at its best right now.
Malaga province is blessed with several botanical gardens, the Jardín de la Concepción, once owned by the Loring family, being one of the most well known. The original owners planned the garden in the English style of the times and it at-

tracted visitors even then.
This June, the gardens are doubling as a backdrop for a musical entitled 'Hara. El espíritu de la selva' based on Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book. Tickets will soon be available from El Corte Inglés.
Meanwhile we want to see more of your photos, news and views so send them to surinenglish.su@diariosur.es or tweet them to us (@SUR_English). Find us online at www.surinenglish.com and on Facebook (@surenglish).





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Dancing as a tourist attraction



More than 600 visitors aged between 50 and 85 have been visiting Torremolinos to take dance classes organised by an Irish travel agency

TORREMOLINOS. They may be aged between 50 and 85, but they are the tourists with most rhythm on the Costa del Sol. Some 660 visitors, most of them from Ireland, have been livening things up with their dancing at the Amaragua hotel in Torremolinos. They arrived last week on a trip with Enjoy Travel, an agency that has been organising holidays centred around music and dance for the past 20 years. The programme of activities includes classes and concerts, so several dance teachers and more than 70 musicians have also been brought over.

This Irish tour operator is currently planning the first country



Tourists dancing beside the swimming pool at the Amaragua hotel. :: A. G.

music festival in Europe. Owner Gerry Flynn has already been in contact with country music associations in Germany, Holland, Sweden, Denmark, the UK and Ireland, and hopes to have everything ready for the first event within two years.

The initiative would bring thousands of new visitors to the Costa del Sol, thanks to agreements between the agency and these asso-

ciations. Flynn wants the Amaragua hotel, where the current dancing tourists are spending a week, to become the festival headquarters, and this would also benefit other establishments in the area. The formula already works in places like Albufeira and Ibiza, where Enjoy Travel also organises trips based on popular styles of music such as folk and jazz.

The president of MS Hoteles, Miguel Sánchez, said this type of tourism is "very attractive", because clients tend to come back for a second time, and he thinks the idea of a music festival is "amazing".

The agency has already made initial contact with Torremolinos council, which has shown an interest in the festival taking place in the town.

About 81 per cent of tourists who

come to the Costa del Sol for the events organised by Enjoy Travel come back every year, according to figures provided by the tour operator. The climate, the excellent transport, the shops, the seafront promenade and the restaurants and beach bars are among the aspects these visitors most appreciate, and they are welcome tourists because of their age and their love of shopping.

Although dance classes start early in the morning, most of the holidaymakers opt to alternate their dancing with visits to the beach and going for walks. The dancing usually goes on until after midnight.

Flynn also has plans to bring artists over from the USA, the birthplace of country music, so his clients can attend their concerts in Europe. Although the Amaragua hotel would be "the logistical centre" of the operation, he wants to sign agreements with other hotels to cover the more than 3,000 places he expects to fill for the first festival, and he is confident that in later years "9,000 hotel beds" could be needed for the number of tourists attending.

Gerry Flynn says that after visiting other places on the Costa del Sol, it was the "friendliness and hospitality of the people and the leisure facilities" in Torremolinos that attracted him most.

Seniors tourism is one of the strongest segments in the town, and last year it was responsible for over five million overnight stays.



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