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News	2	Food & Drink	51
Comment	24	My Home	53
Lifestyle	26	Sport	57
Health & Beauty	40	Classified	63
What To Do	46	Pastimes	70

How golf is helping to boost tourism

The latest successes of the 'Armada' and the fallout from Fitur in this month's Costa del Golf **INSIDE**



FROOME GETS BACK ON HIS BIKE IN MIJAS

The British rider is taking part in the Vuelta a Andalucía despite a pending investigation **P50**

Mikel Landa (l) and Froome on the start line in La Cala de Mijas on Wednesday. :: AFP

SPORT

Snowboarder from Mijas bags historic bronze at the Winter Games

Regino Hernández's win in Pyeongchang secured Spain's first medal in 26 years **P51**



Preparing for the worst. Malaga are now looking ahead to the summer with relegation in mind **P52**

Axarquía murder suspect has previous conviction for domestic violence

María Adela Fortes, who was stabbed to death on Monday, had met her alleged killer a few months ago online

The small community of Los Romanes near La Viñuela was shaken on Monday when a 44-year-old woman was found dead in her home with around 30 stab wounds. Her

alleged killer, who was arrested early on Tuesday in Marbella, has a previous conviction and suspended prison sentence for domestic violence against a former partner and

faces similar charges in another trial in May. María Adela had been in a relationship with suspect José Manuel Olea, since they met a few months ago on the internet. She had been widowed four years ago following the sudden death of her husband and had lost one of her two sons to multiple sclerosis just two months ago. Her death has been condemned by national, regional and local leaders. **P2**

Sierra de las Nieves gets green light from the government to become Andalucía's third national park **P8**

Socialist realism of the Soviet era takes over the Tabacalera building in the Russian museum's new collection **P44&45**

How foreigners shaped Malaga's reputation. The names that put the city's charity and hospitality to the test **P24**

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Boyfriend in jail after woman found dead with 30 stab wounds in the Axarquía

The suspect, whom the victim had met online just months before, was arrested in Marbella in the early hours of Tuesday morning

He had already been given a suspended sentence for domestic violence and had been reported several times by previous partners

JUAN CANO / AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ / ÁLVARO FRÍAS

MÁLAGA. A 44-year-old resident of La Viñuela, María Adela Fortes Molina, was found dead in her home in the Axarquía municipality on Monday night with around 30 stab wounds to her body. Her boyfriend, José Manuel Olea, 47, whom she had met just months previously on the internet, was arrested in Marbella and has been sent to Alhaurín jail without bail.

The body of María Adela, who had been widowed four years ago, was found by the parents of her late husband when they returned home to their flat on the ground floor of the building they shared with the victim in Los Romanes, a cluster of houses close to La Viñuela village. Paramedics could do no more than to certify her death when they arrived on the scene.

The woman's son told the Guardia Civil that on Monday evening he had seen his mother's partner leave the property in his car. Officers discovered a trail of blood leading from the house to the place



Detectives at the home of María Adela Fortes Molina in Los Romanes on Tuesday. **EFE**

where the man had parked his car.

Suspecting a case of domestic violence detectives launched a search for Olea, who lives in Marbella. A Local Police officer spotted the vehicle by chance and the suspected killer was detained in Calle Juan de la Cierva.

He was covered in blood but told officers, "I don't remember what I've done, I've had a lot to drink." However a breathalyser test showed a negative result.

Further investigation revealed that Olea had been reported for domestic violence on seven previous occasions by two former partners.

In one case in 2012 he had been

found guilty and given a nine-month suspended prison sentence, a two-year ban on possessing and carrying weapons and a restraining order to protect his former partner.

Olea is also due to appear in court in May accused of violence against another former partner reported in May 2016. He faces another nine-month sentence in this case and the restraining order issued remains in force.

Other reports made against Olea have been shelved. He had not been reported by María Adela.

José Manuel Olea appeared before a judge and was sent to Alhaurín de la Torre prison on Wednesday without bail, after exercising his right to remain silent when questioned. The homicide inquiry is ongoing.

Facebook profiles

"I want to meet girls for friendship or something more," is the message of introduction on one of José Manuel's ten Facebook accounts. In total he has around 500 "friends" on social media, nearly all of them women.

María Adela, a widow before she was 40, had lost her son to illness two months ago

Her friends and neighbours said that she was happy in her new relationship although they had warned her not to trust José Manuel


AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ


VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. María Adela's death follows a life marked by tragedy. She has been described as a simple and trusting woman whose life revolved around her family and who "got on well with everyone".

Not originally from La Viñuela,



María Adela in a Facebook image. **SUR**





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National, regional and local leaders condemn killing

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MALAGA María Adela's relatives, friends and neighbours attended her mass in Vélez-Málaga and burial in La Viñuela on Thursday morning.

Her death, the second in Andalucía this month (following the recent case in Guadix, Granada), has sparked reactions from around the country.

On Tuesday the prime minister, Mariano Rajoy, reacted on Twitter: "I strongly condemn the terrible murder by stabbing of a woman in La Viñuela, Malaga. Society must stand united to put an implacable end to this outrage."

The president of the Junta de An-

dalucía, Susana Díaz, used the same social network to make a statement: "Regrettably, we have to condemn another gender crime. This time in La Viñuela, Malaga. The rise in murders of women is intolerable. We must all resolve to protect and support those who suffer gender violence to put an end to this scourge."

Residents of La Viñuela gathered outside the town hall on Wednesday for a silent protest against violence against women. María Adela was also remembered at the Transfiere science innovation forum being held at Malaga's congress centre and attended by Susana Díaz.



María Adela was buried on Thursday. :: AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

she had moved to Los Romanes when she married her husband, a local man. He died suddenly four years ago due to heart failure. She was widowed before she was 40 and sought refuge in her two sons.

The older boy left home to live with his girlfriend in Torre del Mar, but the younger boy, who suffered from multiple sclerosis, died just two months ago.

"This family has suffered a lot," said the mayor of La Viñuela, José Juan Jiménez on Tuesday.

Several months ago her friends noticed that María Adela had started to lose weight and was having cos-

metic dental treatment. She had met a man online and he had given her new life. She told everyone about him, how he had told her he was a police officer - a lie - and how they chatting on WhatsApp and exchanged photos before meeting. "Everyone told her not to trust him," said Susana, who owns a local shop. "Nobody saw him because he hardly ever came during the day."

Neither did her older son or her parents-in-law approve of the relationship. "But she said that she was an adult, 45 years old, and that she wasn't going to shut herself away at home," said her neighbours.



Officers arrest the teacher accused of abusing student. :: SUR

Teacher arrested accused of abusing a student for three years since she was 12

The Guardia Civil have said that the teacher, who worked at a school in Malaga province, called the girl 3,000 times in one year

:: Á. FRÍAS / J. CANO

MALAGA. A teacher has been arrested for abuse allegedly suffered by a pupil at the school he used to work at. Guardia Civil sources have said that the victim, who was 12 when the events began, had allegedly suffered repeated sexual abuse for three years.

The investigation started when the girl's mother reported the teacher to the police. The detailed information given by her daughter led to further investigation and the arrest of the teacher, who was at the school in the Guadalhorce valley area on a temporary placement and is no longer teaching there.

The man allegedly abused the trust of the girl and his superiority - in the teacher-pupil relationship - to achieve his aims for three years. Sources said that the relationship

between teacher and pupil was consensual at first, although this consent is considered tainted as the girl is under 16.

During the relationship the teacher controlled the girl's activities, said the sources. He allegedly gave a series of daily list of things to do to know what she was doing all the time and who she was with. Everything changed when the girl broke her silence, becoming "fully aware of her situation and decided to face her attacker and stop the abuse she was suffering".

The sources said that the teacher started to harass the girl with constant phone calls, making as many as 3,000 in one year. His messages were continual and he showed "perverse jealousy", even threatening all the youngsters the girl had contact with.

In a search of the suspect's home officers seized digital storage devices, hard disks and computers, among other items.

The man is accused of repeated sexual abuse, sexual harassment and corruption of minors. He has been remanded in custody while the inquiry continues.

Mother says her disabled son was threatened to stop him reporting sexual assault

:: J. C. / Á. F.

MALAGA. Malaga's juvenile prosecution department is investigating the case of a 14-year-old boy with intellectual disability who was allegedly raped by a classmate and the latter's 11-year-old brother last October. The events came to light when teachers intervened in an argument in the school playground, where the older brother threatened the alleged victim to persuade him to blame another boy, a friend who had witnessed the assault. The friend, however, confirmed the version of the victim. The school put the case in the hands of the police and the inquiry is ongoing.

The case has emerged just days after reports of the alleged rape of a nine-year-old boy in the province of Jaén. The prosecution service has shelved the investigation as the alleged perpetrators are under the age of 14 and cannot be prosecuted.

Body found floating near Cabopino port

:: SUR

MALAGA. A body found floating near Cabopino port in Marbella on Monday belonged to a man of sub-Saharan origin, emergency services have confirmed. A member of the public dialled 112 on Monday afternoon to report a sighting of a body in the sea around 200 metres from the shore near a beach bar. The body was rescued after being dragged by the waves towards the Calahonda area of Mijas Costa.

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Marbella FC president released from jail after paying 750,000-euro bail

Two other suspects arrested on the Costa del Sol last September in connection with an organisation linked to Russian mafia groups have also been released

■ JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

MARBELLA. Alexander Grinberg, the president of Marbella Football Club, left Alhaurín de la Torre jail last week after paying the 750,000-euro bail set by the Malaga provincial court. The Russian was arrested along with three others in September as part of a Guardia Civil operation against an organisation that was allegedly linked to mafia groups operating on the Costa del Sol.

Two others, Oleg Kuznetsov, the main shareholder in the firm Aguas Sierra de Mijas, and Arnold Tamm, the alleged leader of the organisation, were released days previously after paying similar sums.

Kuznetsov's defence lawyer Francisco Carvajal had called for his client's release, arguing that there was no evidence against him and referred to "errors" in the investigation that had been carried out "from a computer and with no knowledge of



Alexander Grinberg outside jail with his wife last week. ■ J. R.

mercantile law".

Kuznetsov maintained that he was a businessman who did "business, not money laundering", denying links to criminal organisations and pointing out that he has no criminal record in Russia or Spain. "He shouldn't be suspected just because he's Russian," said Carvajal, who described the bail sum as "excessive".

Similar arguments were given by

the defence lawyer representing Arnold Tamm, who is considered by the Guardia Civil as one of the top members of the Russian mafia group known as Solntsevkaya. Tamm, whose real surname is Spivalovski, is allegedly "closely linked" to Semion Mogilevich, the leader of the organisation and one of the FBI's most wanted criminals since 2009, in connection with a fraud worth

150 million dollars.

Tamm's lawyer has said that the "organisation does not exist and he is not the boss". "Being a national of an ex-Soviet Republic is not evidence that a crime has been committed," said the lawyer in his appeal for bail. He maintained that his client was on holiday in Marbella and telephone calls did not infer his participation in the events under investigation.

Alexander Grinberg also said that his nationality should not be considered as evidence. According to his defence, "He is a citizen who has moved his assets from Russia to Spain, who pays his taxes and whose children are at school in this country and therefore is unlikely to fail to appear [in court]."

The court granted bail despite opposition from the public prosecutor, who argued that there was a risk that the suspects could fail to appear in court. The magistrates said that the sums of 750,000 euros had been set "as a clear deterrent" to attempts to escape justice.

All three have been ordered to report to court fortnightly and their passports have been taken away.

Operation Oligarkl

Code-named Oligarkl, the operation began four years ago and ended in September with the breaking up of the Spanish arms of the Russian criminal organisations: Solntsevkaya and Izmailovskaya, according to the Guardia Civil. They say that 30 million euros has been laundered by suspected companies, including Marbella FC.

Díaz calls for more La Línea police as hooded drug-gang members intimidate a judge

■ L. G.-S.

SEVILLE. The regional president of Andalucía, Susana Díaz, has called on central government to provide police reinforcements in the town of La Línea and the area next to Gibraltar. The plea came on meeting last week with local mayor, José Juan Franco, and after more attacks and intimidation by members of gangs trafficking drugs from north Africa came to light.

Following the freeing of a wounded prisoner from La Línea hospital by 20 hooded people on 6 February, it was reported that hooded members of the same gang had surrounded and threatened a judge when she was leaving the town's court building. The group of around 40 followed her to the car park.

On meeting the mayor, Díaz said that 164 National Police officers and 151 Guardia Civil posts had been lost in Cadiz province, where La Línea is located, in the last few years. The provincial conservative PP party criticised Díaz's visit, saying she had come with "empty hands" to solve local problems leading to drug crime.



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HERE AND THERE

Work to shore up festival quarry for long-term use

MARBELLA

■ **M. P.** The local council in Marbella is to spend almost 400,000 euros on work to shore up and protect the rock face and sides of the old quarry in Nagüeles that is used as the summer venue for the Starlite music concert festival. For the last two years the council has carried out remedial work on the walls of the hillside out-

door venue so it is safe. But with plans well advanced to open up the venue to other groups interested in renting it for activities, a long-term solution is needed. The site, which is owned by the regional government and leased by the town hall, is in an environmentally-protected area.

Meanwhile councillors are carrying on with their plan to open up the venue for other events. Next week they will vote on the new rules for its use which should be fully approved during March.

Police office for tourists to open in Puerto Banús

MARBELLA

■ **N.C.** National Police and the local town hall have reached an agreement for a special satellite National Police office on Puerto Banús's main Antonio Banderas square. The office will be aimed at visitors who suffer a crime or need assistance and is part of the SATE network in tourist areas across Spain. Marbella already has one branch in Plaza de los Naranjos, in the old town.



Antonio Banderas square. ■ J-L

Estepona bullring to be back in action by June

ESTEPONA

■ **C. M.** The new operator of the Estepona bullring has said it will be planning a full programme of activities from mid-June. These will provisionally include concerts, horse shows and film screenings. Only one event, on 8 July, will be a bullfight. The venue has been disused since August 2016 after the previous licensee was removed by the council and the contract cancelled.

Possible environmental damage investigated at La Quinta project

Green party activists have condemned work on the Guadaiza river and Benabolá stream

■ NIEVES CASTRO

MARBELLA. A court specialising in environmental cases is investigating an alleged offence on the new Real de la Quinta development in the hills behind Nueva Andalucía, Marbella.

The investigation is in connection with the possible destruction of habitat in part of the course of the Guadaiza river in the beauty spot known as El Herrojo, which enjoys some protected status and is in the Benahavis municipality. The building work includes the construction



Construction under way by the riverbed. ■ JOSELE-LANZA

of a new bridge and distributor roads.

The alleged offence was reported by Izquierda Unida-Los Verdes, a green-leaning party on neighbouring Marbella's council. Spokesperson Miguel Díaz has claimed that the

developers have put in structures that have altered the water flow, which is against Benahavis planning rules. They have also reported work on the nearby Benabolá stream, part of which falls within Marbella.

San Pedro locals to vote on whether to pedestrianise main route into town

The district mayor, Rafael Piña, wants Avenida Marqués del Duero to be closed off but many are against

■ NIEVES CASTRO

SAN PEDRO. The district mayor for San Pedro on Marbella council, Rafael Piña, has told a public meeting of residents and businesses that he will organise a vote over whether to pedestrianise the Av-

enida Marqués del Duero, the main street into San Pedro from the coast towards the church.

San Pedro district town hall wants to close off the road to normal traffic once ongoing landscaping works are complete but a movement of local residents and businesses has argued that the road is a key artery and needs to stay open.

The renovation has been almost finished since November but a dispute with the contractor has meant it is still closed off. The vote will be carried out electronically.



The meeting was told that electronic voting will take place. ■ J-L

NEW SAN PEDRO BUS STATION TO STAY CENTRAL

Marbella council has agreed with the national government that San Pedro's new bus station will be built in the centre of the town after all. The location is considered better for local residents. Once some planning rules and design modifications are made it will put up by the existing main stop on the Boulevard.



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"The Costa del Sol is very well equipped to continue being successful in the future"

Steve Heapy CEO of Jet2.com and Jet2holidays

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

✉ pmartinez@diariosur.es

On the day Jet2.com celebrated 15 years of bringing passengers to Malaga, it announced 12 per cent more seats will be available this summer

MALAGA. Just like any other birthday celebration, there was cake on offer for the tourists flying with Jet2.com airline when it celebrated its 15th anniversary at Malaga airport on Monday. To mark this important anniversary Steve Heapy, the CEO of the airline and Jet2holidays tour operator, talked to us about the company's plans for growth in a destination which he says "has a magic which our clients adore". So much so do they adore it, in fact, that in the 2017-2018 season the airline brought 43 per cent more travellers to this area and expects to grow by a further eight per cent in the next year, offering a total of 915,000 seats. This summer, it is operating no fewer than 70 flights a week to the Costa del Sol.

-How has the Costa del Sol changed in the past 15 years?
-Well, firstly I would like to congratulate the company, the workers and Malaga airport on this anniversary; 15 years, that's fantastic! With regard to the destination, although it has evolved a great deal during that time, some things are the same: the climate, the wonderful resorts, the beaches, the option of Malaga city for a weekend break and a whole range of attractions which continue to excite tourists, whether it is their first visit or they are coming for the tenth time. There is a magic here which our clients love and we work every day so they can enjoy every moment.

We have just celebrated our 15th anniversary with a flight full of happy clients who were coming to enjoy a few days' holiday on the Costa del Sol. One of the main changes since we began is that this summer we will be operating 70 flights a week from this airport.

-You are obviously committed to this destination, but what makes it a favourite with your clients?

-There are numerous reasons that the Costa del Sol is so popular in the UK and they are all very important for British tourists when planning their holidays. We are responding to that strong and stable growth in demand, which is why this summer we are increasing our number of seats by 12 per cent.

-The figures speak for themselves. In the 2017-2018 season, your airline has grown by 43 per cent at Malaga airport and you now have contracts with over 200 hotels. What do you think the destination needs to do in order for successes such as yours to continue?



Steve Heapy. :: SUR

The Costa del Sol is very well equipped to continue being successful in the future. We are certain of that and the proof is that Jet2.com and Jet2holidays are getting stronger every year. At the same time, we can't rest on our laurels because other destinations in Europe are also becoming more successful and attracting more visitors. As far as we are concerned, we want to form even closer and transparent links with the hotels and local institutions so we can all continue to grow together.

-What plans do Jet2.com and Jet2holidays have for the Costa del Sol this year?

-Between summer 2018 and winter 2018-2019 we are increasing our seats by about eight per cent. From the point of view of innovation in customer service, we will continue to implement our new 'Resort flight check-in service', which enables clients to check-in for their flight directly from the hotel and therefore not have to queue at the airport. We are also the only airline which is already selling tickets for the next winter season.

-Do you think the Costa del Sol could be affected by competition from rival markets such as Greece, Turkey or Tunisia this summer? How could it affect Andalucía as a whole?

-Despite the growing demand for destinations, especially in the eastern Mediterranean, Jet2.com and Jet2holidays are totally committed to Spain and the Costa del Sol, as I said earlier, with more seats, more flights, more hotels and villas with which our tour operator Jet2holidays works. However, everyone does need to be aware that competition from other destinations is increasing.

-Do you think the fact that some hotels have raised their prices could be a problem?

-Bearing in mind that demand for other destinations is growing, we need to be careful about this sort of thing. The hotels on the Costa del Sol, and Spain in general, have

had some very positive years, especially recently, and that's why they have put their prices up, as well as to finance improvements. Our message is simple and it is firm: we are here to stay and to consolidate ourselves, working with tour operators and looking for ways to keep our clients happy. But yes, we also recommend that hotel owners should bear in mind that the competition is becoming more aggressive.

-What sort of traveller chooses the Costa del Sol?

-La Costa del Sol has something for all types of tourist. At the same time, Jet2holidays offers accommodation to suit all travellers, and that combination makes this such a successful and important destination for us. Our latest project is the Jet2villas programme, which means that couples or families can enjoy all the advantages of a complete package holiday, including free car hire among others, but with the freedom of staying in a villa. At present we have more than 100 villas on the Costa del Sol in our brochure.

-What does the Costa del Sol mean to the operations of Jet2.com and Jet2holidays in Spain and Europe as a whole?

-The Costa del Sol is very important to us. It is our second most important destination on the Peninsula: last year we brought 380,000 clients here, from the nine bases we have in the United Kingdom.

-If you had to give advice to those in charge of tourism in this destination, or to business owners in Malaga, what would you say to them?

-I would like to focus on the subject of two concepts we have talked about in this interview: I would tell them that they can trust Jet2.com and Jet2holidays, because we are here to stay, grow and become consolidated and, at the same time, that they should be aware of the growth in other destinations with whom they have to compete in terms of price, product and promotion.



:: SUR

15TH BIRTHDAY PARTY AT THE AIRPORT

Jet2.com celebrated 15 years flying to Malaga airport this week by treating passengers about to board a flight to Leeds-Bradford Airport to birthday cake. The event was attended by the director of Malaga Airport, Salvador Merino, Jason Cullen of Jet2.com and Lynn Mitchell of the Costa del Sol tourism authority.

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Is your UK property worth its weight in tax?

By Chris McCann, Partner, Blevins Franks

Many British expatriates believe it makes financial sense to keep hold of your house in the UK. However, over recent years the tax burden has generally increased for property owners, particularly non-residents. In fact, the UK has recently gained the dubious honour of having the highest property taxes in the developed world, boosting Treasury coffers by over £80 billion in the last tax year.

Capital gains tax

Before April 2015, generally expatriates did not attract UK capital gains taxes. Now, non-resident individuals and trusts with UK residential property are liable for 'non-resident capital gains tax' (NRCGT) of 18% or 28% on growth accrued since 6th April 2015. After selling a UK residential property, even if no tax is due, non-residents have 30 days to file a NRCGT tax return to avoid penalties.

Next year, non-residents disposing of interests in commercial UK property will also face capital gains tax for the first time. From April 2019, NRCGT will be charged on the sale of UK real estate or land, whether owned directly or indirectly

(excluding Scotland), based on the revalued amount as at April 2019.

Annual tax on enveloped dwellings (ATED)

The ATED regime applies to UK residential properties not directly held by an individual or trust – for example, those owned or part-owned by a company, collective investment scheme or partnership (where one of the partners is a company). Implemented in 2013 to apply to 'enveloped' properties worth over £2 million, in April 2016 the valuation band dropped to £500,000. Rates for the current chargeable period range from £3,500 to £220,350.

Enveloped dwellings worth over £500,000 also attract an ATED-related capital gains tax of 28% on gain accrued from April 2013, unless relief is available. ATED rules override both the NRCGT and corporation tax regimes, so a company-owned property would be liable for 28% ATED-related capital gains tax, instead of the current 19% corporation tax rate.

Holding UK property through a company has therefore become much less beneficial. The former

UK inheritance tax benefits of keeping property within a corporate structure have also disappeared.

No tax relief is available for 'de-enveloping' property, so if you hold UK residential property within an enveloped structure, take care to understand your options and associated costs.

Inheritance tax

Since 6th April 2017, UK residential property owned through certain offshore structures fall within the charge to UK inheritance tax. This particularly affects 'excluded property' trusts owning, directly or indirectly, residential property in the UK. Thus a non-UK domiciliary who holds a UK residential property through an offshore company should consider restructuring to avoid an unexpected 40% inheritance tax bill, in the same way a UK domiciled individual would. This applies to UK residential property of any value, whether occupied or let.

Stamp duty land tax

Only first-time buyers benefit from the 2017 Budget's £300,000 stamp duty relief and 5% rate on property

purchases up to £500,000. For everyone else, the £125,000 threshold remains, with rates up to 12%.

A 3% stamp duty surcharge still applies when purchasing additional UK residential properties, such as second homes and buy-to-let properties, bringing the top rate to 15%. Overseas properties should be included, so if you own a Spanish home and buy another in Britain additional stamp duty may be payable.

Stamp duty land tax no longer applies in Scotland; instead you pay a transaction tax. From April 2018, Wales will also introduce a transaction tax to replace stamp duty land tax.

Other taxes

If you retain an unoccupied UK property, your council tax rates could double from April, when local authorities can increase council tax premiums by 100% on properties vacant for two or more years.

Reduction in buy-to-let tax relief continues. Before April 2017, landlords were able to claim tax relief on their monthly interest

repayments at the top level of tax they pay – a tax saving of 45% for higher earners. Up to 6th April, landlords can only claim 75% of mortgage interest relief against the income, then 50%, eventually whittling down to zero by 2020/21.

Establish your options

While many expatriates understandably want to retain their UK home, the increasing tax liabilities need to be carefully considered, especially for second and subsequent properties.

British expatriates living in Spain can benefit from speaking to an adviser with in-depth knowledge of the tax regimes of both countries, such as Blevins Franks, to ensure you hold all of your assets in the most tax-efficient way possible. They can also present opportunities that may offer much better tax advantages and returns than UK property.

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; individuals should seek personalised advice.

Brexit. The clock is ticking.

The EU and UK have agreed to preserve the rights of UK nationals who are resident in the EU before Brexit. If you already have official residence status you can look forward to a secure future in Spain. If you do not, you need to take action now to formalise your position. We can advise you.

Keep an eye on the Blevins Franks website for Brexit news - www.blevinsfranks.com/brexit and contact us if you want to sign up for regular updates.

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Sierra de las Nieves upgrade to national park status gets green light from government

FERNANDO TORRES

Twitter: @fernandotorresu

SIERRA DE LAS NIEVES

Malaga province is to be home to Andalucía's third national park following the approval at last Friday's cabinet meeting

An interim protection plan has been put in place by the Junta until the law is passed and the declaration is official

The central government has given the green light to the proposal put forward by the Junta de Andalucía to declare the Sierra de las Nieves a national park, the highest level of protection given to areas of environmental importance in Spain.

The area, located inland from the Costa del Sol towards Ronda, will be

the 16th area with national park status in Spain and the third in Andalucía, after the Sierra Nevada and Doñana. The Sierra de las Nieves has until now been protected as a 'parque natural' and a Unesco biosphere reserve.

The approval given at last Friday's cabinet meeting in Madrid will mean greater investment in nature conservation as well as the protection the area's traditions.

Final red tape

There is still a further administrative process to get through before the park starts to reap the benefits. The decision made by the cabinet now has to go through a public information period and analysis before it can be finally turned into a law with the approval of both houses of parliament, the Congreso and the Senado.

The campaign to protect the Sierra de las Nieves dates back to 1934. However, it wasn't until 1989 that it was officially designated a 'natural park' and in 1995 it became a Unesco biosphere reserve.

The area to be protected covers 23,000 hectares across parts of the municipalities of Yunquera, Tolox, Ronda, Parauta, Istán and Benahavis.

According to the central govern-

THE PARK



► **Land.** The proposal now approved by the cabinet of ministers covers 23,000 hectares which coincides basically with the current Parque Natural and includes an area of special conservation.

► **Flora.** The Sierra de las Nieves is home to Spain's largest population of pinsapo firs, a species unique to southern Spain and Morocco. There are also gall oaks, holm oaks and other Mediterranean species.

► **Fauna.** The park is the natural habitat of numerous species of birds such as the golden eagle, Bonelli's eagle, peregrine falcon and the Eurasian eagle-owl, among others, as well as the Iberian ibex.



ment's Environment minister, Isabel García Tejerina, the Sierra de las Nieves complies with the legal criteria to be upgraded to a national park. "It has a relevant proportion of species and natural communities of the systems represented," she said.

The declaration will afford the area complete protection from construction, guarantee its future maintenance and support the socio-economic development of the surrounding area.

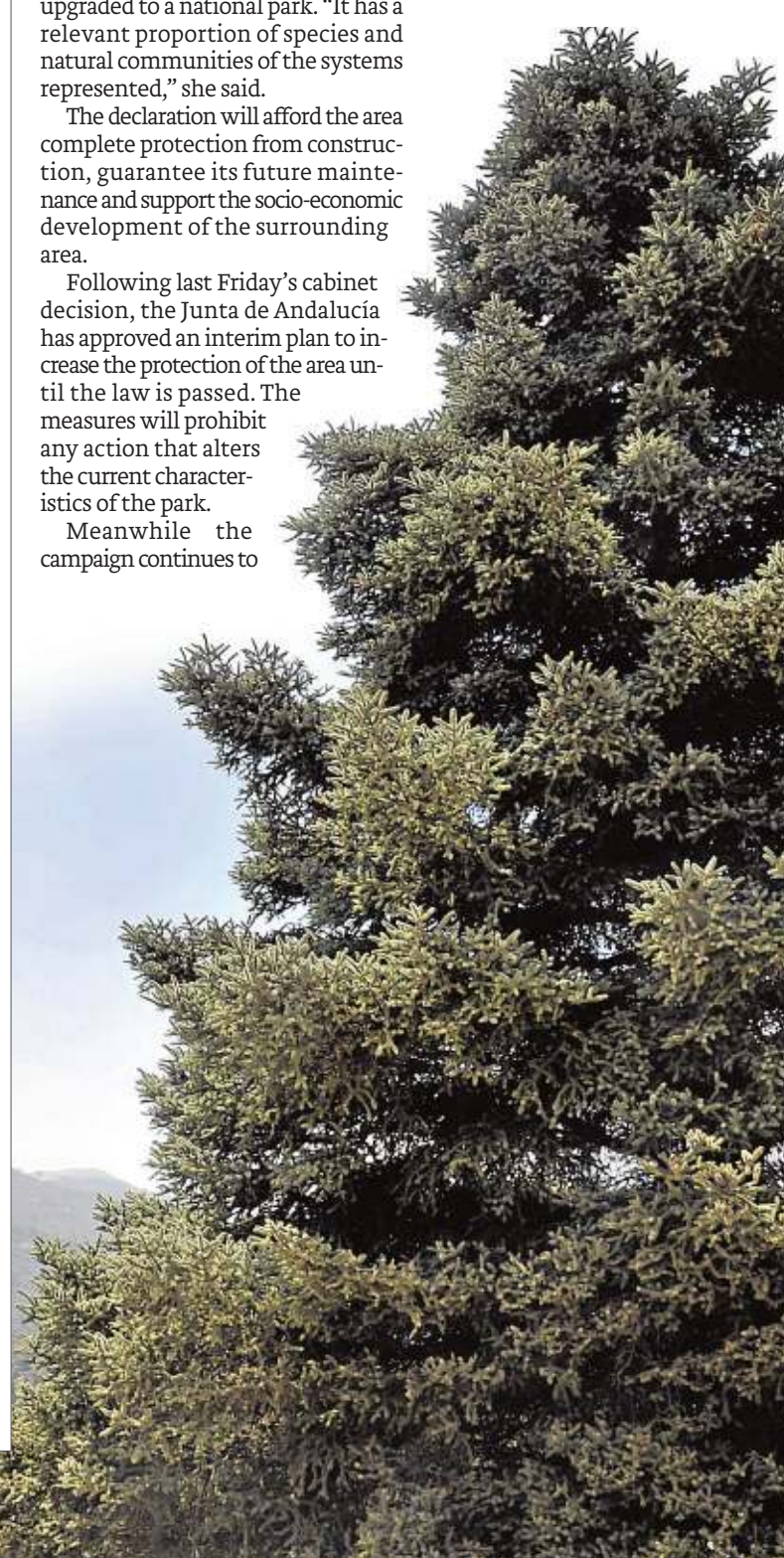
Following last Friday's cabinet decision, the Junta de Andalucía has approved an interim plan to increase the protection of the area until the law is passed. The measures will prohibit any action that alters the current characteristics of the park.

Meanwhile the campaign continues to

include the Sierra Bermeja mountains, closer to Estepona, in the area protected as a national park.



A view of the pinsapo firs in the Sierra de las Nieves. :: FRANCIS SILVA



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Two new access roads from A-7 junction into Torremolinos proposed

The work is needed due to the expected 28,000 extra cars a day from the huge new Intu project and other developments

by ALBERTO GÓMEZ

TORREMOLINOS. Planners in Torremolinos have presented their ideas to the national Infrastructure min-

istry for new access roads into Torremolinos from the resort's A-7/AP-7 motorway junction. The move is the last step needed in gaining approval for the town's new master urban plan that in turn will clear the way for a major new development by the motorway, including the huge Intu leisure and shopping park. An estimated 28,000 cars a day are due to enter Torremolinos this way in coming years once plans are approved.

In its proposal, the town hall says it wants to turn the current slow-moving single lane road into the centre off the motorway into a three-lane avenue and add another distributor road running parallel to it on the other side of the Palacio de Congresos convention centre. A further parallel route from the A-7 will enter to the west near the Molino de Inca gardens. If approved, the new routes will be paid for by the developers.



The plan shows new access roads from the current exit. :: SUR

'Protectora' animal charity wants new start for Torremolinos shelter

by ALBERTO GÓMEZ

TORREMOLINOS. The Malaga animal shelter and rescue charity 'La Sociedad Protectora de Animales' has put forward a proposal to Torremolinos town hall to try and end at last the bizarre situation where public land is still registered in the name of another animal charity whose former head, Carmen Marín,

is in prison for cruelty to animals and falsification of paperwork.

The disgraced Parque Animal charity, whose name is also still on a bar in the council's showground which is said to have been illegally sublet to a private individual, passed the operation of the animal refuge it ran to a third party, Home Animales (previously Canes) in 2012. This was

just after the scandal of its mistreatment of animals had broken. The lease on the council-owned land is still in Parque Animal's name.

The Malaga 'Sociedad Protectora de Animales' wants Torremolinos council to move to set up a fully operating animal rescue charitable operation and not merely a dog and cat kennels, which it claims the current operation is. The new charity would be managed by a joint board of several animal welfare charities and the previous shareholders in Parque Animal who had reported the original crimes to police.

HERE AND THERE



Protesters outside the station on Friday. :: A. G.

Protesters call for better access to train station

TORREMOLINOS

by A. GÓMEZ. Dozens of people joined a protest outside Torremolinos train station in La Nogalera on Friday to call for the immediate installation of a passenger lift and other works to improve access.

With the support of several associations, protesters got together to draw attention to the lack of pro-

vision for people with reduced mobility at the station.

Passengers in wheelchairs, with children in pushchairs or with heavy luggage are currently unable to access the underground platforms. There is no lift and an escalator only for those leaving the station which, said protesters, "is often broken".

A further protest has been organised for 10 March to call for the government to keep its promise and carry out the works that were due to start in January.

Competition to promote Torremolinos

TORREMOLINOS

by T. BRYANT. Torremolinos town hall has launched a photography competition to promote the town as a destination for courting couples. To enter the competition, interested couples must upload to Instagram a photo of themselves in their favourite place in Torremolinos. Photographs can be of landmarks, restaurants or anywhere of special interest and they must include the hashtag #Torremolinosenpareja

The campaign runs until Thursday 1 March. The winner of the competition, which will be drawn on 8 March, will enjoy a luxury dinner for two at the Hotel Costa del Sol in Torremolinos. The prize is valid until 15 June.

For more information see www.torremolinos.es

Cudeca collection tins took 60k euros in 2017

BENALMÁDENA

by T. BRYANT. The Cudeca Hospice in Benalmádena has revealed that its familiar green and yellow charity tins accumulated more than 60,000 euros during 2017.

The tins, which are located in bars, restaurants and shops along the Costa del Sol, and also at Malaga airport, are sponsored by SUR in English and are one of the organisation's most important ways of raising funds.

Natalia Aparicio, official Cudeca tin coordinator, expressed her gratitude to the solidarity of the people and the associations and businesses for the important support received. She also thanked Allen Rowlands and Brendan Dalley, whose task it is to count the thousands of coins that arrive each month.



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Fuengirola starts a link road from Carvajal to Torreblanca homes

The five-million-euro scheme has been funded by contributions from local residents and housing developers

by IVÁN GELIBTER

FUENGIROLA. The area of Torreblanca in Fuengirola is set to see significantly improved links with the rest of the municipality and the Costa under new plans explained by local mayor, Ana Mula, this week.

Work has already started on a new link road inland from the main coastal dual carriageway, the old N-340, under the railway line near Carvajal beach and towards the housing developments in Torreblanca.

Last week the mayor, accompanied by the head of Town Planning, María Hernández, unveiled more details of the plans. Previously road communication between Carvajal and Torreblanca has been hampered by the rail tracks. Highlighting the complexity of the building work being undertaken, Mula explained how the first phase of the work is under way; this involves the construction of a tunnel-type structure and supports under the rail route. This will be followed by construc-



Fuengirola mayor, Ana Mula (second from right) with the plans. :: SUR

tion of the road itself and landscaping. The town hall expects to award the contract for this second stage in

March or April.

The new route will run from the Lions Club roundabout on the main coastal road northwards under the railway for 450 metres and will be a dual carriageway. Sources say that the total cost will be around five million euros using funds that have been provided by local housing developers and owners of the homes and businesses in the area.

The first phase of the project, a tunnel under the railway, has started

HERE AND THERE



Making progress - the outer shell is almost ready. :: C.M.

Town hall says all is on track for new hospital

ESTEPONA

by C. M. The mayor of Estepona has said that by the end of February the outer frame and main service ducts into the town's new hospital will be ready. He has added that so far

two million of the 15 million euros promised by the council has been handed over. Councillors reached a funding deal with the Junta de Andalucía regional government, which normally builds and runs hospitals, in order to speed up construction. Completion of the 14,300 square-metre building is still on track for the end of this year, they say.

Renfe and Bioparc extend train-entry deal

FUENGIROLA

by P. M. Train operator Renfe and Bioparc, the zoo park in Fuengirola, have widened the deal between them that sees reduced admission to the attraction for people arriving by Cercanías train. A discounted train-Bioparc ticket will continue to be sold and this year the offer will also be available to school groups.

Selwo and cable car open for 2018 season

COSTA DEL SOL

by P. M. Two Costa tourist attractions reopen for the season today (16 February). Selwo adventure animal park near Estepona and the Teleférico cable car in Benalmádena are owned by the same group. In the case of the animal park, the owners say some habitats and viewpoints have been redesigned.

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Valentine's Day may have passed, but romance doesn't have to stop there. There are plenty of reasons to be romantic and what says 'romance' better than a diamond? Having inherited her family's love of fine jewellery and the best stones, Lucy Barnes of Anthony's Jewellers is on hand to guide you through the process.

Anthony's Jewellers has gained a reputation for selling top quality items at low prices and Lucy reveals that it is a focus on the famous 'four Cs' (Cut, Carat Weight, Colour, Clarity) that ensures that standards are maintained.

Lucy has amassed a wide range of knowledge, having gained her grading certificates at Hatton Garden, and this ensures that customers have all the information they need before making a purchase: "The cut or shape of the diamond will always be a personal choice and something that should best be left to the customer, but we can help with the clarity, which relates to the number of inclusions that a stone has and the colour.



"If you're looking for a classic engagement ring you can't go wrong with a brilliant cut diamond," she says.

However, if you're not quite ready to pop 'the question', there are a number of alternatives that make great gifts: "We stock some beautiful earrings, pendants, crosses, chains, bracelets and necklaces," says Lucy, who has benefited from the considerable knowledge and experience of her father, the name behind Anthony's Jewellers, which also deals in loans, financing, cleaning and repairs, pawning and customising and has been a presence on the Costa del Sol since 1983.

Excellent customer service is at the heart of everything Anthony's Jewellers does and Lucy believes that, however undecided the customer is when entering the shop, the team has the knowledge and expertise to make coming to a decision an easy process one.

Avda. Ramón y Cajal, 40. Fuengirola. Tel: 952 588 795

HERE AND THERE

Part-pedestrianisation plans for Alameda avenue in central Malaga

MALAGA

J. H. The city council has awarded the contract for the first stage of the part-pedestrianisation of the busy Alameda avenue, running from the

Plaza de la Marina towards El Corte Inglés. Once the underground metro station work has finished on the north side, only the central lanes of the wide street will remain open to vehicles. The project involves moving the well-known statue of the Marquis of Larios closer to the bottom of Calle Larios so that road traffic can still flow freely.



Artist's impression showing statue's planned new location. **SUR**

Lidl to open 12-million store in Las Lagunas

MIJAS

I. G. Supermarket giant Lidl is to open a large new store in the Las Lagunas area of Mijas. With a projected cost of 12 million euros, the shop will be built on land in Calle Roble next to the district's social security office and near Avenida de Mijas. It will have two floors and is expected to employ around 50 people. Once work starts it is due to be finished by mid 2019.

Taxman to sell off some of Mijas's racecourse

MIJAS

I. G. Tax collectors are to auction 14,000 square metres of land, part of Mijas's horseracing complex, to recover the debts of the failed public-private company that ran it and collapsed with losses of four million euros. The land was once a karting track. Mijas council has promised to fight the sale, blaming it on mistakes by the previous PP-led administration.

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Carnival fish 'spared' in EDAR protest

Organisers of this year's event in Nerja placed the 'chanquete' on a sewer pipe and decided not to burn it, in a bid to send a clear message to the government

:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

NERJA. Organisers of this year's carnival in Nerja used the traditional burning of the 'chanquete', which forms the final act of the annual event, as another protest over the town's incomplete sewage treatment plant (EDAR).

This year the fish was paraded throughout the streets during Nerja's carnival on top of an open sewer pipe with raw sewage spilling out.

"Brilliant idea"

The organisers explained during the parade that for the first time in the carnival's history, the fish "wouldn't be burned until it is able to swim in a sea with treated water and not with sewage".

Mayor of Nerja, Rosa Arrabal, praised the organisers' "brilliant idea", adding, "It was a completely different 'chanquete' burial, with a radical touch, similar to what we



The 'chanquete', standing on top of an open sewer pipe. :: E. CABEZAS

did a week ago with the demonstration in which more than 700 people participated." The mayor also highlighted that the problem is not just political but is also at the expense of "tourism and the environment".

The traditional end to Nerja's festivities involves taking the model 'chanquete' (a small fish served up in local restaurants) to the Calahonda beach where it is set alight. Winners of the carnival's fancy dress competitions, who traditionally dress in

black to mourn the end of the carnival period, said that this year the black clothing also represented a protest over the sewage treatment plant.

Following the demonstration on 3 February and last weekend's carnival message, the central government's Environment ministry announced on Tuesday that work would start on Monday next week.

Guarantees made

Financial guarantees from Isolux-Corsán-Corviam, the company overseeing the project which went into receivership in summer 2017, have been made, according to the Environment ministry and as such work has been authorised to go ahead. The company's position led to the project being halted in summer 2017 and has remained 76 per cent complete with no further progress made since then.

When work restarts on Monday the first phase will be to complete the first collector on the left side of the Chillar river and a second collector on Avenida del Mediterráneo as well as pipes in Calle Chanquete.

The Environment ministry said on Tuesday that it has informed Nerja town hall that "measures will be taken to avoid any new delay and to act against any indication which may point to failure to meet deadlines".

Public prosecutor asks for 15-year prison sentence for 2015 Danish tourist murder

:: ALVARO FRÍAS

MALAGA. Malaga's public prosecutor has asked for a 15-year prison sentence for the alleged murderer and former partner of a 40-year-old Danish woman who died in a hotel room in Torre del Mar in June 2015.

The trial is expected to start on Monday and will decide the final sentence, which also could see 200,000-euro compensation for the woman's father.

On 21 June 2015, National Police were called to the BQ hotel in the town after a 53-year-old Danish guest asked reception staff to call an ambulance as his partner wasn't breathing. The man claimed that his partner had died after trying to strangle herself using the cord of a hairdryer in the bathroom. However, further investigations led police to believe that the man had in fact strangled the woman with a mobile phone charger in the room they were staying in at the time.

The hotel manager had become suspicious on finding money, clothes and a broken television remote control scattered on the floor of the couple's room.

HERE AND THERE

Fire station officially opens with plans to recruit more firefighters

NERJA

:: E. CABEZAS. Nerja's fire station was officially opened last Friday. The service will cover Nerja, Maro and Frigiliana, with a combined population of 40,000 people. This figure, however, can triple during the summer months.

Three firefighters are currently stationed in Nerja but mayor, Rosa Arrabal, and president of Malaga's Diputación, Elías Bendodo, who attended the event, announced that a further member of the brigade is to be recruited soon and that more jobs would "be made available this year".



One of the abused dogs whose case has gone to court. :: SUR

Animal rights group accuses town hall of apathy towards abuse

CASABERMEJA

:: F. TORRES. LADRAM, a collective of residents in Casabermeja has spoken out over the apparent apathy of the town hall towards what

they call "systematic animal abuse". Recent cases include puppies being found in a bag and three decapitated dogs in the Guadalmedina river. The town hall says that it is "doing all it can" and "calls an animal association when a case is reported". LADRAM says it has offered to write a new bylaw but that the council has so far not responded.

Free table tennis tables installed on beach

TORRE DEL MAR

:: J. R. Two table tennis tables have been installed on Torre del Mar's beach, next to the biblioplaya. Bats and balls may be rented from the biblioplaya (storytelling area), which is located in front of the El Boquerón beach bar. The tables are free to use and available to everyone.

University use proposal for Las Claras convent

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

:: E. C. Las Claras, an association that is campaigning to ensure that the Las Claras convent in Vélez-Málaga is used in the most appropriate way, has asked for the building to have "university use" if and when it is bought by Vélez-Málaga town hall from Unicaja bank.

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Oxfam's branch in Spain distances itself from sex and corruption scandal

The clarification came on the day that the charity's international president was arrested in a case unrelated to Oxfam

■ J. L. ALVAREZ

MADRID. The head of Oxfam Intermón, the subsidiary of Oxfam International in Spain, wrote to supporters of the charity on Wednesday to express his "deep upset" over the scandal involving aid workers linked

to the British-based organisation.

José María Vera explained that the case had been fully investigated when it happened and those responsible removed. He added that no member of the Spanish team had been involved, explaining that "at the time there was a different management and our team wasn't implicated".

The clarification came on the day that Oxfam International's current president, Juan Alberto Fuentes, was held in his native Guatemala in an unrelated corruption case linked to when he was finance minister there.

Catalan parliament to involve EU Human Rights court in bid to solve political deadlock

■ SUR

BARCELONA. The process of choosing a new regional president in Catalonia, which would end elements of direct rule from Madrid, is still stalled.

The speaker of Catalonia's parliament, Roger Torrent, has confirmed he will refer his proposal to invest ousted ex-president Carles Puigdemont to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Torrent aims to get a ruling on whether Puigdemont is having his rights abused by Spain's constitutional court's attempts to prevent him easily returning to be invested as regional president again. Puigdemont is in self-imposed exile in Belgium and would face arrest if he came back to Spain.

Torrent is from the ERC separatist party and members of rival Junts per Catalunya, Puigdemont's separatist political group, are unhappy that the speaker hasn't exhausted all angles in Spain before turning to Strasbourg. Of the 177 cases sent from Spain to that top court in the last three years, only eight have had a positive ruling.



Ex-minister in Guatemala, Juan Alberto Fuentes, is detained. ■ EFE

New US ambassador's first big speech emphasises military ties

■ SUR

MADRID. The new American ambassador to Spain, Richard Duke Buchan III, has used his first public speech since taking over the vacant post to highlight the partnership and friendship between the two countries. In particular he drew attention to the importance of the continued use of two military bases in Andalusía, at Rota and Morón de la

Frontera, by US troops, reminding his audience that this year marks the 30th anniversary of a defensive agreement between his country and Spain.

Buchan was taking part in a forum in Madrid entitled 'United States-Spain: Shared Visions. Security, Defence and the Future International Order', organised by the

Real Instituto Elcano.

He went on to talk about the many shared interests between the two countries, especially in combating threats in the twenty-first century, such as so-called fake news.

Other US embassy bosses also explained how the two bases used are a "key part of defending Europe". Some 4,000 US military personnel are based at the port of Rota, near Cádiz, and Morón de la Frontera, near Seville.

Buchan, 54, was appointed by President Trump and arrived in Spain in January.

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IN WITH THE NEW



Mariano Rajoy's days as prime minister of Spain are, or should be, numbered. That is the conclusion to be drawn from the latest Metroscopia poll for the Spanish daily El País, which revealed that 85% of Spaniards want the Galician old-timer to give someone else a shot at leading the conservative Popular Party (PP). More worryingly still for Rajoy (if he cares about such polls, which might be a bit of a stretch), is that 62% of people who have previously voted for him think that he should go.

Clearly, Rajoy – who has been at the helm of his vilified party for fourteen years and has stood for prime minister five times – is being punished for his handling of the Catalonia crisis, as well as for corruption within the PP. But the Metroscopia poll also suggests that Spaniards don't care about the fact that the Spanish economy has been growing steadily under Rajoy's leadership; indeed, it posted GDP expansion of 3.1% in 2017, the third consecutive year of growth over 3%.

But most Spaniards don't think the current prime minister can take the credit for that. Either that, or the rosy macroeconomic statistics have been drowned out by events in Catalonia and the stream of corruption scandals generated by PP politicians. Or, as is probably the case, a combination of all those factors.

Rajoy's contention has al-

ways been that the PP, under his leadership, is the only worthy guardian of the Spanish economy, which was in dire straits when he won his first term as prime minister in 2011. Since then, unemployment has dropped to 17% from a critical high of 26% in 2013 and Spain's GDP has been expanding at one of the fastest rates in the eurozone. But Spaniards are telling Rajoy that this is irrelevant – that his failure to address endemic corruption within the PP and his handling of the latest Catalonia crisis have sealed his fate.

All of which is playing into the hands of pro-business, market-friendly Ciudadanos ("Citizens"). Albert Rivera's centre-right newcomer is now the strongest force in Spanish politics and would gain 28.3% of the national vote if an election were held today. The message from the Spanish electorate is clear: forget about the supposed economic recovery – fresh faces and a harder line on corruption are long overdue in Spanish politics. Among Ciudadanos supporters, 79% think that the party has a well-defined plan for Spain's future.

Spanish economy minister Luis de Guindos, certainly, won't give much thought to the damning Metroscopia poll. He's far too caught up in pursuing a position as vicepresident of the European Central Bank. Perhaps it's time to give someone else a shot at his job, too. Out with the old, in with the new.

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Malaga court declares mortgage opening commission to be illegal

The sentence says there is no evidence that payment was for a real service that took place and opens the way for more refund claims against banks

✚ NURIA TRIGUERO

MALAGA. A Malaga judge has said that a 1.5 per cent opening commission on a mortgage was an abusive charge and therefore void. The case was brought against Malaga-based Unicaja Banco by lawyers Martínez-Echevarría acting for a taxi driver from Alhaurín de la Torre. It also included complaints against three other clauses in the loan the man took out in 2005.

Since June last year, Malaga has had one judge dedicated to hearing cases against mortgage clauses to keep up with demand from people suing banks for abusive hidden 'floor clauses' on interest rates.

Opening commissions aren't hidden but now the surprise decision that the mortgage holder is due back 9,000 euros including interest has opened the way for others to possibly claim. The judge said that the amount charged didn't correspond to a real service. The sentence can still be appealed.



Most Spanish home loans have a start-up charge. ✚ SUR

Marbella judge cancels home loan quoted in Japanese yen

A Marbella court has declared partially void a mortgage from Bankinter that was calculated in Japanese yen. The multi-cur-

rency loan was taken out in 2008 for 290,000 euros but due to a weakening exchange rate with the yen, the loan has been going up even after repayments and at one point was 415,000 euros. The judge said that the risks weren't explained at the time to the customer and that the loan should be changed to euros.

Refund of plusvalía tax on flat inherited by daughter

✚ FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. Pressure on town halls to charge fairer rates of 'plusvalía' tax (increased land-value tax) when homes are sold for less than they were bought for or are inherited by children appears to be paying off.

A Malaga woman recently suc-

ceeded in getting the city council to refund her 6,300 of the 8,400 she had paid in the municipal tax in 2015 when she inherited the flat of her late mother. Yolanda Ochoa had been forced to take out a loan to cover the tax in order to keep the property. The council would nor-

mally waive the tax if the deceased had been continuously living in the property, but the family were unable to prove this. In addition the tax is reduced if the family member inheriting lived with the deceased. In the case of Yolanda, she lived in the same block of flats but did not share the same address.

However after pressure from opposition Socialist councillors the council has changed its mind and agreed that living in the same block of flats does count as a valid reason to reduce the tax liability.

THE BIGGER PICTURE
JEREMY BLATCH
✉ jb@ehh.gi

IS THIS TIME DIFFERENT?



There are two questions perplexing all investors today: Is the bull market in US equities in a bubble, up some 48% since the crisis of 2009? And is the 30-year bond market, where yields on US Treasuries have fallen from 16% in 1981 to 1.14% in 2012 (prompting inversely a rise in stocks) also in a bubble, and about to collapse?

Or is this time any different? To quote the investment sage Sir John Templeton, "This time is different are the four most expensive words in investment history."

There is broad consensus that valuations of US stocks are historically high. The S&P 500 Index of the top 500 US companies by capitalisation has posted three all-time highs this year - something never seen before in history. The longest running bull market ever (surging market prices) ran 10 years, and this bull market is already in its 10th year.

Bull markets do not die of old age and when they do, it's hardly ever with a whimper. They die when hit by a "shock" event, and they are particularly vulnerable in times of euphoria. As innovations grow in technology on which markets and the financial system are dependent, the risk of a severe loss of connectivity to the "cloud" or cyberspace is a trigger for a "shock" event.

Regulator bias is another likely trigger. Regulators tend to focus on the same areas of risk and are reactive. They will miss the next "shock" event. Unfunded entitlement benefits act as a strong headwind to growth in the US

and many developed economies. US tax cuts add trillions to US companies, but it is unfunded.

Historically we had three equity bull market bubbles that burst: two in the US and one in Japan. The two in the US, in 1929 and 1999, had a common dramatic factor: in the 6 months prior to collapse, the market gained in a sharp "melt up", about 21% in 1999 and 100% in 1929. This final "gasp" heralded euphoria. We have witnessed euphoria recently with Bitcoin.

Euphoria in the stock market needs to be "oiled" with good fundamentals for a sharp acceleration of prices. As I write, the S&P has corrected downwards by around 3% but if the 2017 upward trend continues, in some 21 months the S&P will have increased by 60%, as in the final stage of the 1999 bubble.

Many money managers today are too young to have invested through the events of 1999. Experience of adverse market conditions makes staying the course easier and the investor or advisor less likely to confuse a "bull market" with "brains". Sensible long term investors have a well-diversified global portfolio of low-cost index funds and will stay the course.

Is this time different? Probably not...

The comments and observations by the author are a reflection of his opinion and do not constitute an offer to buy and hold securities, nor does he receive any remuneration of any kind from names referred to.

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Significant progress being made in "revolutionary" schools project

In a statement this week the government said construction of Notre Dame school is advancing well and is due to open this year

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. The Gibraltar government announced this week that there has been significant progress in its massive project to update local schools.

Construction of Notre Dame School at Laguna Estate is advancing well, and it is due to open this year. At that time the present Notre Dame school will be demolished and building will start on the new St Anne's School. Users of the area where the two new comprehensive schools will be built are currently being reallocated. Demolition is expected to commence in March, and construction there is due to begin in April.

The project, which the government announced last October and described as "revolutionary", involves creating eight new schools including two purpose-built comprehensives in Waterport, and refurbishing four others. The entire



Many of Gibraltar's school buildings are outdated. :: SUR

project is due to be completed by September 2019.

The president of the Gibraltar Teachers Association, Victor Gonzalez, recently told local media that staff at Westside Comprehensive School, Governor's Meadow, Bishop Fitzgerald and St Martin's were unhappy about the government's project to revolutionise education in Gibraltar, and the GTA claimed that teachers had not been consulted

about the new schools. However, some senior teachers have refuted this and in a statement issued earlier this week the government stressed that staff are being fully involved in the discussions and plans. The Chief Minister and the Minister for Education will also be visiting the schools over the coming days and weeks to engage with teaching and support staff, discuss concerns and clarify issues.

IN BRIEF



Britain's newest aircraft carrier was given a warm welcome. :: SUR

Gibraltar bids farewell to HMS Queen Elizabeth

GIBRALTAR

DEBBIE BARTLETT. The Royal Navy's newest aircraft carrier, HMS Queen Elizabeth, spent last weekend in port on her first-ever visit to Gibraltar.

The 1,000-strong crew took time out to explore the Rock and take part in local events.

The ship, captained by Commanding Officer Jerry Kydd, left Gibraltar on Monday to continue helicopter flying trials. In the summer, she will trial fixed wing flying off the east coast of the USA.

World Trade Center marks first birthday

GIBRALTAR

DEBBIE B. The World Trade Center in Gibraltar celebrated its first anniversary on Thursday.

The 45-million-pound centre has become the headquarters of many prestigious multinational companies and in August last year it made history by installing Gibraltar's first bitcoin ATM.

Poetry slam at Central Hall on 3 March

GIBRALTAR

DEBBIE B. Budding poets have the chance to showcase their talents at a Poetry Slam at the Central Hall on 3 March, where participants will be given three minutes to create their original poem(s). It is open to everyone over the age of ten, and further details can be obtained by emailing tanya.santini@culture.gov.gi

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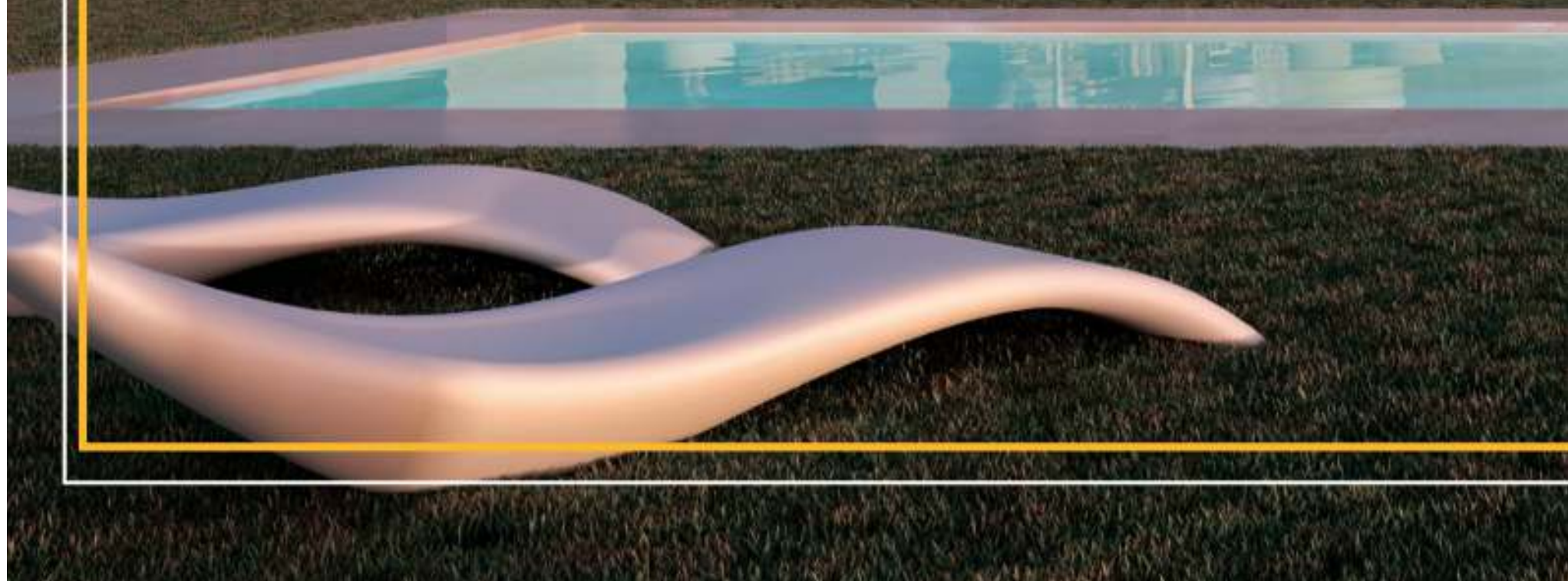
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Customer service par excellence!

May I, through your letters page, express my appreciation of the way I was recently assisted by the staff of Mercadona in Coin? Arriving at the checkout I was horrified to find that during my meanderings around the aisles someone had stolen from the trolley my bag containing credit cards, mobile phone, driving licence and car keys.

My cash was in my pocket, so I was able to pay for my shopping at least, but I was stranded, 20 kms from home with no way of notifying my wife of what had happened.

Mercadona to the rescue: several sympathetic members of staff helped me to look around the car parks to see if the bag had been dumped and when this

drew a blank I was driven home by one of them.

Thankfully, just as we reached Alozaina my chauffeur received a call to say that the bag had been found, dumped in a rubbish bin in one of the lavatories. We turned around and to my enormous relief when I was handed the bag I found that nothing was missing, thus sparing me the considerable hassle of cancelling cards and replacing my driving licence etc.

A happy ending, then, but nevertheless an unpleasant experience which would have been an awful lot worse but for the kindness of the Mercadona staff, whom I cannot thank enough.

IAN WILKINSON
BY EMAIL

Passport service

Re Peter Edgerton's article about his passport application (Comment, February 9th). Five years ago I needed to renew my passport. Living in a rural area our post office did not do passports, so I thought I'd apply using the internet and Googled "apply for UK passport". Yes! I duly filled in all my personal details, bank card number to cover fee, click. A short time later I received a letter stating that my application could not be processed as I had not paid. I sent off confirmation of my payment. I next received a 'phone call telling me I had been the victim of a scam. The site I had dealt with was bogus and not the Passport Office. I sorted out my passport then decided to dig.

I noticed that the government site I was dealing with was the IPS? What was the IPS? Namely the Identity and Passport Service, whatever that was. What happened to the Passport Office?

Working with my SNP MP, Pete Whishart we succeeded in getting the official website changed, the name Passport Office reinstated and these bogus sites required to state clearly that they had no connection with the official government website.

From Mr Edgerton's point of view we seem to have made a

much more efficient, safer and secure website for the public. Glad to have helped.

RICHARD TODD
NERJA

Outrage in The Times

The satirical article published by The Sunday Times on 21 January caused a wave of indignation on social media. The writer uses a string of stereotypes and derogatory terms to define the character and conduct of Spaniards, giving readers a set of behavioural guidelines to follow if they want to blend in while visiting this country; inhabited, according to him, by unpunctual, uncouth and ungrateful layabouts.

What is surprising is that it is not a personal comment made by an individual expressing his amazement or anger after being a victim of discourtesy, cheating or contempt at the hands of certain Iberian aborigines. Instead it is published in a widely read national paper, favouring the forming of prejudice and opinions that bear little resemblance to reality. Of course there are people who fit the profile described in the article, although these features are certainly not exclusive to Spain.

ALEJANDRO PRIETO
BY EMAIL

Swift justice

PETER EDGERTON
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

Normally, I'd find myself being immediately repelled by anyone using their middle initial in their name, but I'll most certainly make an exception in the case of the magnificent Judge Michael W Fitzgerald. A couple of days ago, this fine chap deftly managed to take the side of the mind-numbingly bland pop star Taylor Swift in a court case over lyric copyright infringement, while at the same time offering a stinging appraisal of her patently rubbish wordsmithery.

A couple of little-known songwriters were attempting to sue her for plagiarising the clunky, misspelt non-rhyming couplet 'Playas gonna play, haters gonna hate' in her hit song Shake It Off which was presumably aimed squarely at the rain-soaked dog market. Anyway, his lovely lordship Michael W decided that such

witterings were far too 'banal' to be copyrighted and that the case should be summarily dismissed. His reasoning was as scathing as it was hilarious:

"In the early 2000s, popular culture was adequately suffused with the concepts of players and haters to render the phrases 'playas... gonna play' or 'haters... gonna hate', standing on their own, no more creative than 'runners gonna run'; 'drummers gonna drum'; or 'swimmers gonna swim'."

I do hope he uttered this summing up in one of those plummy condescending voices that judges are presumably trained in as part of their studies in all round judgery. If he was peering dismissively over the top of a pair of half moon specs into the bargain, well all the better.

Whatever possessed the songwriting duo to bring this to court

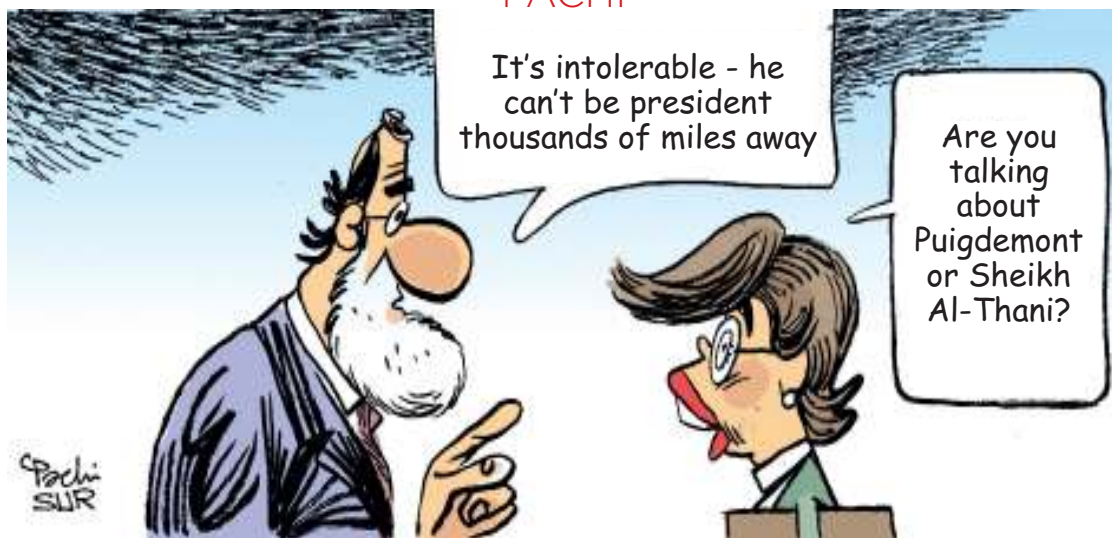
in the first place, is anyone's guess. Oh, I know, the thought of some easy money. Imagine if Mikey W had ruled in their favour - the courts would have immediately been awash with plain-tiffs harbouring 'moon' and 'June' grievances by the shedload.

As far as I remember there were approximately fifty thousand hit songs called The Power Of Love, or it may have been three, I can't recall. Whatever - I'm pretty sure they didn't sue each other into oblivion, probably because they were good enough songs (especially Frankie Goes To Hollywood's) to each earn their own pay day.

So, we've got a lot to thank Michael W Fitzgerald for, not least giving us all a hearty chuckle over our cornflakes.

That's all from me for now, see you next week. Yours, Peter A Edgerton.

PACHI

The wish
thief

IGNACIO LILLO

It's the middle of the afternoon on a sunny Sunday back in January and spring is trying to sneak into winter in Muelle Uno. It's also market day and we've had to park on the third level of the underground car park, which is so big you have to take a photo of the space to find your car again. There are queues, literally, single file, at the counters of the ice cream shops. Diners extend their long lunches, reluctant to leave the terraces. Others are browsing the stalls that sell practically everything.

We stroll among the people, as Nori, excited by the crowds, is keen to mark every palm tree, and we reach the strip of water that stretches out like a refreshing carpet from the door of the marine chapel. Visitors before us have turned this pool into their own wishing well and the metallic discs can be seen shining on the bottom.

Now, in full view of everyone, a young man is busy picking out the coins. I wouldn't dare describe him as a tramp. He's wearing New Balance trainers, jeans and a sweatshirt,

with a small rucksack on his back. He calmly, effortlessly, with quick, stabbing movements, like an egret fishing in a backwater of the Guadalhorce, picks the loose change out of the water and holds it all, still wet, in his free hand.

Some passers-by look at him but don't see him; or maybe they see him but take no notice. After all, he's just someone picking change out of a pool of water. I look at him and I see him, and I immediately think that he's a wish thief, as that's why people throw coins into the fountain in Muelle Uno. I don't know whether their dreams came true; or whether they have suffered the collateral damage of longing for something they don't have. "When the gods wish to punish us they answer our prayers," said Oscar Wilde.

What is certain is that the furtive collector of ambitions in the form of euro cents will have fulfilled his wish of having dinner that night. At least he would have had enough for a sandwich.

SUR English

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Written in memory of Cecilia and Drew

A British resident in Nerja has based his first novel on a murder that shocked the town in 2008



JENNIE RHODES

✉ rhodes_jennie@hotmail.com

Cecilia Natalia Coria Olivares was brutally murdered by her ex-boyfriend as she arrived for work at a café on 28 September 2008

NERJA. Paul Bradley, 68, who has lived in Nerja since 1992, was taking a stroll through the town when he saw an old friend sitting at the well-known Kronox cafe near the Balcón de Europa. He stopped to have a coffee with his fellow Englishman and this chance meeting led to Bradley's first ever novel.

The year was 2012 and the pair were sitting opposite the Biznaga cafe, which four years earlier, in 2008, had been the scene of one of Nerja's most horrific crimes; the murder of Cecilia Natalia Coria Olivares, a 25-year-old Argentinean who was working as a waitress there.

A chance meeting

As the Brits talked, they both stopped and reflected on the murder, which had attracted international media attention at the time.

Drew Launay, a name that many will associate with books including the Xenophobe's guides - a series of satirical guidebooks about different nationalities and their stereotypes - admitted to Paul that he was "bored" of trying to write his own autobiography and wanted a new project to work on. Many of the fiction books he had written previously were psychic thrillers.

Paul had written articles in the past, but was a budding fiction writer who says he had "always been good at writing, even at school".

The two of them came up with the plan to write a book based on the events leading up to Cecilia's

tragic death, which involved a jilted lover, who had become obsessed and controlling, eventually ending her life by stabbing her 15 times as she arrived for work at the Nerja café on the morning of 28 September 2008.

Paul explains that the original idea became "extremely complex" and took the two writers "down avenues we didn't want to go down, having to involve lawyers and researching methods used by stalkers". He admits that their original idea was becoming "too sinister" and was moving them away from a novel into writing a text book on stalking.

Sadly, in May 2013, just a few months after the pair initially embarked on their joint book, Drew passed away. Paul explains that the death of his friend "took the wind out of my sails while".

In memory

A few months later Paul made a promise to himself to continue with a book, both in memory of Drew and Cecilia. He says that he never knew Cecilia personally, but had friends who knew the waitress quite well and had been worried for her safety because of her involvement with the man who would go on to kill her. "People knew he was bad news and that things wouldn't end well," Paul recalls melancholically.

After two redrafts of his book, Paul finally published *Darkness in Malaga* in January this year.

While the book is fairly far removed from Cecilia's story, Paul explains that there are "a lot of themes that are important in Malaga, such as immigration, particularly from north Africa".

Darkness in Malaga is the first of a series of Andalusian mystery books which Paul is working on and others explore the world of bullfighting and environmental problems such as the water shortages facing the province.

"One of the jobs I do is to escort American university students on trips to Spain, so I have become well-acquainted with Juan Ramón Romero, a bullfighter based in Ronda, who is a descendant of Pe-



Paul Bradley, outside the Kronox cafe in Nerja. :: J. RHODES

"Cecilia's murder shook the town"

Paul Bradley, like many Spanish and foreign residents living in Nerja at the time, was shaken by the murder of Cecilia Olivares on 28 September 2008. She was stabbed 15 times at the Biznaga café on Nerja's Balcón de Europa at 9.20am on that morning. Her attacker was her ex-partner, Hicham B., originally from Mo-

rocco, who had previously been issued with a restraining order and should not have been in contact with the Cecilia. They had been in a relationship for two years but had broken up six months before. Police officers had been accompanying her to and from her home in the days before her murder because she was so frightened of what her ex might do. They had escorted her to work that day and left her minutes before her murder.

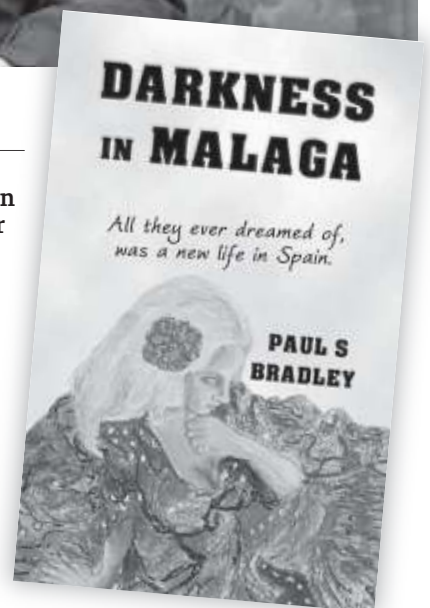
Although the final version has moved away from the original idea, it addresses similar themes to those surrounding Cecilia's murder, including immigration and stalking

dro Romero," says Paul to explain how he got the idea to write about the subject.

The protagonist of this first book is an English woman, Juliet Harding, who disappears during Nerja's San Isidro festival. The book weaves in the big issues of immigration and tourism on the Costa del Sol, which touch on the original inspiration for the novel: the murder of Cecilia, an immigrant from Nerja's Argentinean twin

town, San Juan; her death at the hands of her Moroccan former boyfriend; and the popular tourist destination of the Balcón de Europa in Nerja.

Paul lives in Nerja with his wife Renate, who is originally from Germany. The couple met while living in the area and have been married for 20 years. The author has learned to speak German and says that it is the predominant language spoken at home. He also speaks Spanish.




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Foreigners who changed the image of Malaga

Malaga is hospitable and charitable, and always ready to fight for freedom - and the proof lies buried in the English Cemetery

MALAGA. When Ferdinand and Isabella, the Catholic Monarchs, swept into Malaga in 1487 they immediately set about turning the city into a Catholic fortress, converting the main mosque into a cathedral and smaller ones into churches. They allocated the housing to their followers and sent the previous inhabitants, if they couldn't buy their freedom, into servitude or worse.

When the first 'concejo' or town council was set up they granted the city its own coat of arms featuring the Gibralfaro castle and the sea, the crown, and the Malaga martyrs, St Ciriaco and St Paula. It also bore the words "muy noble Ciudad de Málaga", and "Tanto monta" (King Ferdinand's motto). "Muy leal" was added by Felipe IV in 1640. The other texts round the shield, establishing Malaga as hospitable, charitable, dauntless, and full of freedom-fighters, came much later.

About three and a half centuries after Malaga became a bastion of Roman Catholicism, it had turned into a major port and industrial centre, and non-Catholics were playing a vital part in its life. They also needed somewhere to be buried, and in 1831 the city became the site of the first Protestant cemetery in the Spanish peninsula. The texts added to the original coat of arms reflect this change in Malaga's character and status, and they have close connections with the English Cemetery and the (despite its name) international origins of those whose last resting place it is.

Hospitality

When did Malaga first become so renowned for its hospitality that the words "muy hospitalaria" were incorporated into its coat of arms? The answer can be found in a maritime disaster of December 1900. The 'Gneisenau' was a training ship belonging to the Imperial German Navy which was sent with a crew of 470 men to pick up a diplomat. Battered

**LIZ
PARRY**

by a storm, she went aground just outside the port of Malaga and sank. Forty-two German lives were lost, including the captain and chief engineer, all of whom lie buried in the English Cemetery. The death toll would have been much higher without the valiant assistance of the local population who threw themselves into boats and into the water to try and help, with the loss also of twelve 'malagueños'. As a result of this tragedy the city earned the motto "Muy hospitalaria" to add to its coat of arms.

Malaga's hospitality did not end there. Those survivors who were uninjured were taken in by local families, and some of them stayed on and married into Spanish families, their surnames becoming part of the cosmopolitan identity of Malaga.

Dr Noble

The Gneisenau sailors in need of medical assistance were taken to the hospital situated very close to the port, the "Hospital Noble". This hospital's name came not from the city's motto, or as some have thought from its dedication to the health of the nobility - nothing further from the truth! - but from the British physician Dr Joseph Noble, who died in Malaga during a cholera epidemic in 1859.

He must have grown to love the city in the short time he lived here, and true to his calling as a doctor he requested that part of the inheritance be used to build a charity hospital in the city to care not only for the people of Malaga but for the many foreigners and seamen who came to the port. His heirs complied with his wishes and sailors from the Gneisenau were among those who had cause to be grateful for his charity.

So too, were the victims of the Rif War who were brought to Malaga for medical assistance. The city opened its arms to the wounded, and the Hospital Noble continued to fulfil its mission. In 1922 a royal decree rewarded the city with the addition to its coat of arms the words "Muy benéfica".



▲ The grave of Dr Joseph Noble and the Malaga coat of arms.

► Monuments to the freedom fighter Robert Boyd and the crew of the Gneisenau in the English cemetery.



The "most charitable" Dr Noble who gave the city its hospital also lies buried in the English Cemetery.

"Always dauntless" and "The first in the fight for freedom" are mottos added together, as far back as 1843, just twelve years into the existence of the English Cemetery. "Siempre donodada" and "La primera en en peligro de la libertad" were granted by royal decree in recognition of the political struggles which brought about the downfall of the Regent, General Espartero, a general uprising in Spain having started in Malaga.

Liberal rebels

Freedom fighters though had left their mark on the city several years earlier, in 1831, during the reign of the absolutist and repressive Fernando VII. A group of Spanish liberals had got together in London

A reflection of the city's cosmopolitan history

The English Cemetery in Malaga, or the Protestant Cemetery as it is sometimes known, was not reserved only for English people or for Protestants. It is in fact a very fair reflection of the cosmopolitan history of Malaga since the 1830s, with Germans buried alongside Finns, and Jewish graves overlooking the plot reserved for Roman Catholics. It is situated in Avenida de Pries, not far from the bullring, and is maintained as a historic monument and garden by the Fundación Cementerio Inglés de Málaga.

and planned to sail round the peninsula and issue a "pronouncement" which would trigger a general rebellion all over the country. Led by General José Maria Torrijos and in a ship financed by their British sympathiser and companion Robert Boyd, they got as far as the Malaga coast but were betrayed, and shot without any semblance of trial.

The Spanish participants in the venture now lie under a monument in the Plaza de la Merced, but Boyd, the 26-year-old from Londonderry (Northern Ireland) was buried in the English Cemetery, where another monument says he fell "in the sacred cause of liberty". In the hours before his execution, he wrote a letter to his family which showed him to be dauntless in the face of death, prepared to "fall in defence of what I hold dear".

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SOCIETY SCENE

Valentine's Day and a competition for a new Adana logo

February 14th was celebrated with dinners and dances and one club was interviewed for their views on Brexit

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

Coin RBL Valentine's Day dance

Fifty-five members and guests of the Coin branch of the Royal British Legion celebrated Valentine's Day with a dinner dance at La Tavola by Miky restaurant last Friday.

The event, with entertainment by Lesley Harrison and Alicia Lane, raised 304 euros for the 2018 Poppy Appeal.

The Coin branch has a full entertainment programme up to Easter, details of which can be found at www.coinrbl.info

Adana Competition for a new logo

Estepona dog rescue and rehoming charity Adana has announced the launch of a competition, open to all, for the design of a new logo to feature on the charity's publicity material. The chosen design will appear on all their leaflets, stationery, banners and on the new van which has been paid for by a generous UK-based donor.

"Many people have told us they find our current logo confusing with no visual impact," said president Mary Page. "One visitor to the kennels said it reminded him of signs directing you to the loos at the airport."

The competition is open to anyone; schools are especially welcome

to become involved.

Adana is a charity which has facilities for stray dogs which it cares for and rehomes so the design must obviously reflect this. Entries should be sent to adanapresidente@gmail.com before 31 March.

Adana coffee mornings start 23 February and then the last Friday of every month at Vice Versa in Estepona port, 11am to 1pm.

La Cala Lions Fundraising evening

The Legends Show Bar in La Cala de Mijas recently held a special evening to raise funds for the local Lions Club.

The President of association, Julie Barry, thanked everyone for their support and explained that the money will go towards supporting the local community.

Last year the club donated almost 60,000 euros, the majority of which was raised in their shop at Calle Torremolinos, 12, in La Cala.

New members are always welcome. Call 677059061 for more information.

Nerja 41 Club A busy month

In the last month Nerja 41 Club (ex-Round Tablers) met Klaus Hinker, an artist from Frigiliana who showed them some of his work which included watercolours, linocuts and acrylic paintings. Club members also enjoyed a sauna evening and a lunch out in Viñuela village.

Early this month, students in the first year of their Geography degree at Royal Holloway, University of London, interviewed club members on



Lions Club president Julie Barry, Wynson Beswick and Sandie Tavendale. :: SUR



Nerja 41 club members were interviewed by university students. :: SUR



Tom, Stuart, James (president), Nancy and Pam at Miraflores. :: SUR

Brexit as well as life in Spain.

The 41 Club has 50 members from 10 different countries throughout Northern Europe and many of them only spend short periods of time in Spain. For more information call Alfie on 626998626 or visit 41clubnerja.org

The Sol Classic Car club A drive in the country

This Saturday the Sol Classic Car club are going on their monthly excursion, this time to Álora. The meeting place is the Ventilla café near Alhaurín Golf. For more information contact John: jcolton1@hotmail.co.uk

Miraflores Bowls Men's and Ladies' singles

There were many long and closely-contested matches leading up to the finals with Nancy Shaw (her fourth championship of the season) winning the ladies' singles against Pam Kinane 27-1 and Stuart Thacker winning the men's singles 21-16 against Tom Cordner (winner of last week's handicap singles).

What are you up to?

If you are involved in a club or association and planning events, trips or activities that would be of interest to other readers of SUR in English, we would love to hear from you:

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BRIT BACK

Good morning everyone and welcome,” yells a ruddy-faced man in a suitably muddy anorak. “This is our twenty-second year, so no special landmark. How is it out there?” “Bloody freezing,” comes back the cheery response.

On an icy day last weekend, with the east wind blowing, we found ourselves in a queue with several hundred others for an event I had been eagerly awaiting - the annual East Anglia Potato Day.

In spite of the fact that I know potatoes were brought to Spain from South America by the conquistadors, and even though a plate of patatas fritas accompanies every choice on the menu del día and, let's face it, the crisps section of any Spanish supermarket is highly impressive in terms of size and variety, I have always thought of potatoes as very British. Far from glamorous or exciting, but earthy instead, they are nevertheless an important staple food in northern climes. In the depths of winter potatoes power us through.

For keen vegetable growers

Potatoes!

Tables of tubers and steel elbows at an annual (polite) bunfight



like me, January in England is as long and useless a month as it is for everyone else. But February? February, with its Snowdrop Sunday events, swathes of daffodils and crocuses poking green shoots through the grassy verges and the rapidly lighter and longer days marks the real beginning of the year. And the first crop to get going is the early or new potato.

So, here we are in mid Suffolk, among a wildly mixed gang of allotment holders and gardeners - bearded hipsters in checked shirts, smart old ladies wearing posh wellies and mad hats, local old boys (as they're called in these parts) clutching lists of the seed potato varieties they want to buy. There are 80 different kinds carefully laid out in crates in the hall and, as we had been warned, once through the doors it's a (rather polite) bunfight with sharp elbows and steely determination needed to get anywhere near the tables of tubers. It reminded me of the yearly battle to achieve a plate of free - but hard won - paella at the summer village fiestas in Andalucía.

Dull and lumpy looking they may be but potatoes have bril-

liant names, many reminiscent of all things British - Arran Victory, Home Guard, Pentland Squire, Vales Emerald, Ulster Chieftain, Valor. How on earth does one choose a seed potato? We bought purple ones, red ones, wrinkly worm shaped ones, first earlies, second earlies, maincrops. I would have liked to consult the official 'Advisor on Varieties' but he was deep in conversation with a man keen on becoming an amateur Sarpo breeder (something complicated but vital to do with tackling potato blight and preserving heritage varieties). What a whole new wonderful world we uncovered that Saturday.

Best of all and not surprisingly was the quality of eavesdropping. “Do you think there might be a black market in Charlottes?” I overheard a young man asking someone. “They've refilled the crate three times and now they're sold out.”

And my husband, laughing hysterically, relayed a conversation he'd heard, from one old boy to another. “Look at all this argy-bargy going on in here. It int about Black whatsits day or summut like tha'. It's over taters...!”

**POLLY
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The crimes of 'Little Finland'

FRANCISCO GRINÁN

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MÁLAGA. Since it was announced at the end of 2016, the series *The Paradise* has caused great excitement due to its crime drama theme with a Nordic noir twist, centred around the largest community of Scandinavians outside of northern Europe: sunny Fuengirola, also known as 'Little Finland'.

Spanish producer Mediapro and the Finnish Broadcasting Company (YLE) have confirmed the filming of the series, which will have a female lead character and will begin filming in the Costa del Sol this coming November.

It is estimated that between 15,000 and 20,000 Scandinavians live in Málaga province, with the majority residing in Fuengirola, which many residents consider a holiday paradise, as referenced in the title of the series.

The Finns have established themselves on the Costa del Sol with their own schools, supermarkets, busi-



Marja Pyykkö will direct the Nordic noir series *The Paradise*. :: YLE

nesses, clinics and by promoting their language.

The disappearance of a Scandinavian family in Fuengirola will kick-start the plot of the series, which is due to span eight episodes and

whose lead character will be portrayed by the actress Riitta Havukainen.

The veteran performer will bring life to Hilkka Mäntymäki, a 60-year-old police officer from Oulu who is

sent to Málaga to determine the location of several of her compatriots, who have disappeared. Upon arrival, the detective will discover that the case is related to several retirees who have died under mysterious circumstances.

This Mediapro production is the first international dramatised series produced by the company, which owns significant stake in the broadcasting rights to La Liga. The company has decided that *The Paradise* will be directed by the Finn Marja Pyykkö, who has directed several Nordic noir series, including *Hooked* and *Black Windows*, while the script will be produced by Matti Laine, author of several novels and writer of popular series like *Bordertown* and *Bullets*.

Forget the past

The producers have still not released details on the cast members who will accompany the Finnish lead in this international production, which has been developed by the executive producer of *Homeland*, Ram Tellem, now working for Mediapro to further develop this brand of television drama. "The *Paradise* is a story about memory, about those who are trying to forget a difficult past and live

THE SERIES

► **Title:** *The Paradise*.

► **Director:** Marja Pyykkö.

► **Created by:** Jarmo Lampela, Ran Tellem and David Troncoso.

► **Script:** Matti Laine.

► **Production:** YLE (Finland) and Mediapro (Spain).

► **Cast:** Riitta Havukainen.

► **Filming:** Filming will begin in November of this year on sites in Fuengirola and around the Costa del Sol. Some scenes will be filmed in Finland.



in the present, and about those who won't let them," explains Tellem.

The original idea for the series came from David Troncoso, who has also produced other television dramas such as 'Olmos y Robles' y 'El chiringuito de Pepe'.

"Fuengirola is more than a place where people take shelter from bad weather and darkness, because there are more than 15,000 Finns," said the producer who, alongside Tellem and Laine, visited the town last year to get a feel of the series' setting.

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DEBBIE BARTLETT

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

16 FEBRUARY 1962

A major step towards the recovery of women's rights

February 16th 1962 was a very important date for women in Spain; on that day the official state bulletin, known as the BOE, published a decree from the Ministry of Work which granted women equal rights to men in the workplace.

This was a major step forward, because women had lost many rights after the Civil War. Huge progress had been made during the Second Republic, which lasted from 1931 until the Civil War began in 1936: women were accorded full legal status, Spain became one of the first countries in southern Europe to enfranchise women, abortion was legalised, adultery was no longer treated as a crime and women were given equal access to the labour market. Under the 1931 Pay Law, workers were granted the

right to equal pay for the same work, irrespective of gender.

However, when the Franco dictatorship began in 1939, many of those rights were withdrawn. Numerous laws were abolished, with strong support from the Catholic Church, including those regarding civil marriage and divorce. There were severe penalties for women who had abortions or who committed adultery.

Basically, the State wanted to restrict women to the home and subject them to the authority of their father or husband: a woman needed her father's or husband's permission to drive, work, own property and travel away from home. Women could not have bank accounts of their own, as all accounts had to be registered in the name of their husband or their father. During the dictator-



A woman worker sells a ticket on a bus in Bilbao in 1960. :: EFE

ship, the role of women was made clear: they were to look after the home, bear children and instill traditional moral values. If single women worked, they were expected to give up their job when they married, and there was no place for women in public life.

Things began to change after the Second World War, when the USA began to invest in Spain in the 1950s in exchange for setting up military bases in the country. The improved economy resulted in gradual social changes in the

1960s, and people became more aware of women's rights in other countries. More women benefited from an education and in general they began to be granted more freedom. Many of them took the opportunity to go out to work.

The situation improved still further after the death of Franco, but despite the advances there is still some way to go. Last year, on International Women's Day, a massive march took place in Madrid (500,000 people participated, according to the organis-

ers, although the authorities put the figure closer to 40,000) demanding more measures to combat gender violence and major differences in salary and working conditions. As many of the protesters pointed out, the World Economic Forum had said shortly beforehand that at present rates of progress it will take another 169 years for the economic gap in Spain to close completely.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Igualdad	Equality
Derechos	Rights
Mujeres	Women
Trabajo	Work
Decreto	Decree
República	Republic
Guerra Civil	Civil War
Mercado laboral	Job market
Divorcio	Divorce
Aborto	Abortion
Matrimonio	Marriage
Iglesia	Church
Permiso	Permission
Dictadura	Dictatorship
Invertir	To invest
Libertad	Freedom
Educación	Education
Manifestación	Protest march

LEGAL ADVICE



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REF. B. O. M.

My father, who lived in Spain for a long time, has recently passed away. He had signed a will in England before he had acquired the property in Spain, which is the only asset in the inheritance. We think that there is a good chance that years later, when he was living in Spain, he signed another will here, but we do not

know how things work in Spain. Is there any way to find it out?

In Spain there is a central registry where they register all the wills signed here, and you can submit an application for them to inform you if the deceased signed a will in Spain. You will need to provide a death certificate and the personal details of the deceased. This way, the central registry will issue a certificate informing you if there exists a will in Spain, and in that case, the notary where it was signed, so that you can then ask them for a copy of the will.

REF. E. L. I.

One year ago I retired in the UK, and together with my wife, we decided to buy a property in Spain and move here to live. After visiting several properties, we decided to buy an estate con-

sisting of a plot and a villa. However, we have a problem, since the plot is correctly registered in the Land Registry, but the house is not legalised and for the administration it does not exist. In the town hall we have been informed that there has never existed a building permit to build the house. We want to have everything in order because we do not want any problem at our age. Is there any way to legalise the house?

In principle, and depending on the specific circumstances of your case, there could be a way to legalise the house. First you must find out exactly how old the house is, as well as rule out the possible existence of any kind of sanction in place by the town hall or the Junta de Andalucía. Once we have that information, it may be possible to legalise the house, as long as it is not in any administrative procedure already.



PET FRIENDLY CAR VIEWING

Malaga's automobile museum has received numerous four-legged enthusiasts since it opened its doors to dogs every Monday. The initiative to allow visitors to take their pets into the museum's galleries began with the new Monday opening hours in January and, according to the museum, has been welcomed by owners. A visit to the motor vehicle and fashion collection can now be combined with a walk along the nearby seafront.

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READER'S PHOTO



:: GRAHAM ALEXANDER

FROSTED TREFOILS

We've been having quite a few frosty mornings recently and Graham Alexander snapped this photo of the icy white leaves of a plant belonging to the Trifolium genus (clover family) in Estepona.

GARDENING HINTS

Fascinating facts about trees part one

Three trillion is an estimation of the number of trees on Earth. Sounds a lot but it is around 47% less than 12,000 years ago, before man really got in to agriculture and the resulting deforestation. Of the over 60,000 species of tree known to science, more than half are endemic (occur naturally) in only one country. The countries with the highest number of endemic species are Brazil (named after the brazilwood tree), Colombia and Indonesia. Earth has only had trees for the last 470 million of its 4.5 billion years (approx-

mately), before that, the planet had weird fungi-like growths called Prototastites which had thick trunks and reached about 8 metres high. The most ancient living tree on the planet is the Ginkgo biloba, they were around 200 million years ago and have hardly changed since. Another ancient tree is the Wollemia, which was believed to have been extinct for 150 million years until a mature specimen was discovered in an Australian national park in 1994. There are only around 80 mature Wollemia trees on the planet.

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. Alternatively, you can send them to us via Facebook ([surenglish](https://www.facebook.com/surenglish)) or Twitter ([@SUR_English](https://twitter.com/SUR_English))

GARDENING

Aristea major / capitata

A stunning South African plant which forms a large clump of sword like leaves and has tall spikes of dark blue flowers during the spring and summer

:: DENISE BUSH

Aristea, is a genus of plants in the Iridaceae (Iris) family. The fifty five species in the genus are found distributed throughout Africa and Madagascar. Aristea major, synonym A. capitata, is native to South Africa. Its common name is Blue

sceptre and it is known as Cetro azul in Spanish.

Although drought hardy, Aristea will benefit from regular watering in the summer and is also suitable for planting at the edge of a pond. It is a big plant,

reaching 1.5 metres tall by about one metre wide and spreads by its rhizomous roots to form a dense clump. The long, narrow leaves are evergreen and provide a stunning architectural element whether in a large pot or as an accent plant in the border.

The tall flower spikes are crammed with hundreds of flower buds which open a few at a time with each one lasting just a day.

Most common varieties have deep-blue flowers with yellow anthers but there are pink and white varieties available too. The flowers are particularly loved by bees and butterflies and have a subtle fragrance. Once flowering has finished the spent stems can be removed but if left, they turn a reddish brown and add winter interest.

Aristea needs plenty of sun but like most blue flowered plants, the colour of the blooms appears more intense if given a little shade during the hottest part of the day.

Propagating Aristea can be tricky. Not all varieties produce viable seed and if the seed does germinate, the resulting plants may take between three and ten years to flower. Aristea can be divided but dislikes root disturbance and the rhizomes must not be left to dry out. However in ideal conditions it may self-seed.

A smaller version of A. major is A. ecklonii which is said to be much tougher, withstanding both drought and some frost.



Aristea major and close up of blooms (inset). :: WIKIMEDIA



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New book by British author focuses on Andalusian folklore

Tony Bryant has collected relatively unknown tales of miracles and fascinating legends, some of which are based on historical facts

■ SUR IN ENGLISH

TORREMOLINOS. British author and journalist, Tony Bryant, has recently published his latest book, *Andalucía - Between Dream and Reality*. Bryant, who writes for SUR in English, is an avid flamenco aficionado and is known for his extensive work within the world of the Andalusian Gypsies.

The latest offering is the writer's fourth book and it tells the story of Andalucía through the legends and myths that play a large role in the history of the province. The former musician, who has lived in Malaga for almost 25 years, researched dozens of old legends and anecdotes associated with the history of the land he now considers his home.

The book traces the history of Andalucía from the invasion of the



Bryant with his latest book about Andalusian legends. ■ SUR

Moors in the eighth century until present day, and includes many relatively unknown tales of miracles and legends, some of which are based on actual facts.

He pays special attention to the Gypsies, a race that has fascinated the author since he discovered his own Romany roots while researching his family history many years ago.

The book is divided into two sections: the first is a brief look through the historical events that contributed to the fascinating history of Andalucía; part two is a selection of legends encompassing religion, royalty, Gypsies, bullfighters, highwaymen, pilgrims and artists.

The book is available from Amazon in both e-book format and paperback.

CUTTING HAIR TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CUDECA

More than twelve stylists participated in Cudeca's 'Hair for Care' event last weekend. The Salon in Benalmádena, Cecilia Rossi in Arroyo de la Miel and Petros in Fuengirola raised 2,350 euros during a marathon haircutting session. Carlos White, fundraiser for Cudeca, said, "A big thank you to the three salons for their tireless commitment."



■ SUR



The multi-coloured cube is instantly recognisable. ■ SUR

Centre Pompidou set to remain in Malaga until 2025 following new agreement

Malaga city hall and the director of the French museum have agreed to extend its presence by a further five years

■ A. J. LÓPEZ

MALAGA. The Centre Pompidou and Malaga city hall have reached an initial agreement which sets out a plan for the museum to remain in the city for a further five years, extending the current deal which ran until 2020 to 2025.

The branch of the French gallery which first came to the city in March 2015, will see its contract doubled from five to ten years. This was agreed by mayor Francisco de la Torre and president of the Pompidou Centre Serge Lasvignes, who met last Tuesday at the Fine Art Awards, hosted in the gallery and presided over by King Felipe VI.

At last week's ceremony, the king showed his support for the partnership and stated his hope that it wouldn't just be a "modern utopia", as the new permanent exhibition is called, but rather a "a reality for many more years to come".

Sources consulted by SUR have confirmed that the conditions of the new deal will remain the same as those of the former; Malaga council will pay the Centre Pompidou 2.07 million euros annually, a million of which is for the use of its brand and collections, with the rest covering transportation, insurance and specialist consultation. The agreement is yet to be approved by the council, however.

The Centre Pompidou Málaga is the first branch of the French museum to be opened outside of France. Its launch was first discussed publicly at the Franco-Spanish summit in Paris in December 2014.

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We speak

The current flu epidemic has caused more deaths in Spain than than the pandemic of 2009

This winter has been the most lethal of the past decade, with 472 people losing their lives to the flu

EUROPA PRESS

MADRID. Spain has registered a total of 472 deaths due to flu since the beginning of November, when the first confirmed death was registered in the 2017-2018 season - the most deadly of the last decade, including the pandemic of influenza A (H1N1) in 2009.

Data from the latest report from the National Network of Epidemiological Surveillance at the Carlos III Institute of Health, suggests that the week 29 January to 4 February saw 116 new deaths, a significant increase on the 356 already registered.

From these figures it is clear that the number of deaths related to the flu virus is far higher this season compared to 2016-17, when there was a total of 421 deaths between October 2016 and May 2017.

The authors of the report say that this flu season is producing "excessive mortality, greater than what had been anticipated" since the last week

of 2017 and that deaths are mostly concentrated among those over 64.

Aside from the increase in mortality, the number of infections is slightly higher than it has been over the past two years; the highest level of flu infection registered this season has been 290 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, compared to 222 cases during 2016-2017 or 210 in 2015-2016.

The World Health Organisation and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control have criticised the "low acceptance" of the flu vaccine in Europe, where in many countries only a third of adults have been vaccinated.



File photo of a flu jab. :: SUR

DOCTORS MARK TEN YEARS IN MARBELLA

Dr Bernd Reisbeck and Dr Manuela Reisbeck have recently celebrated the tenth anniversary of their practice in Marbella, where they specialise in family medicine, internal medicine and cardiology. Around 100 people attended the anniversary event including patients, partners (doctors) and friends. Manuela and Bernd are pictured right with secretary Angela Hanchen.



Protests threatened if Guadalhorce hospital operating theatres are not opened

FERNANDO TORRES

CÁRTAMA. The Prohospital platform in the Guadalhorce valley is tired of waiting. The group has been campaigning for years for the High Resolution Hospital (CHARE) in Cártama to open.

Though many departments are operational, the group is demanding action that will allow its oper-

ating theatres to finally welcome patients.

A statement released by the group's spokesman, Miguel Estéban, asked for "transparency" and compliance with the time frames that had been previously agreed. If this doesn't happen, Estéban warned that "protests will resume".

He expressed his annoyance at the empty promises of government health organisations, who had assured him that the new facilities would be open by the end of 2017.

A spokesman for Endesa, the electricity company involved in the project, said that the firm was "ready to begin the work", but it was waiting on work permits for the contract.

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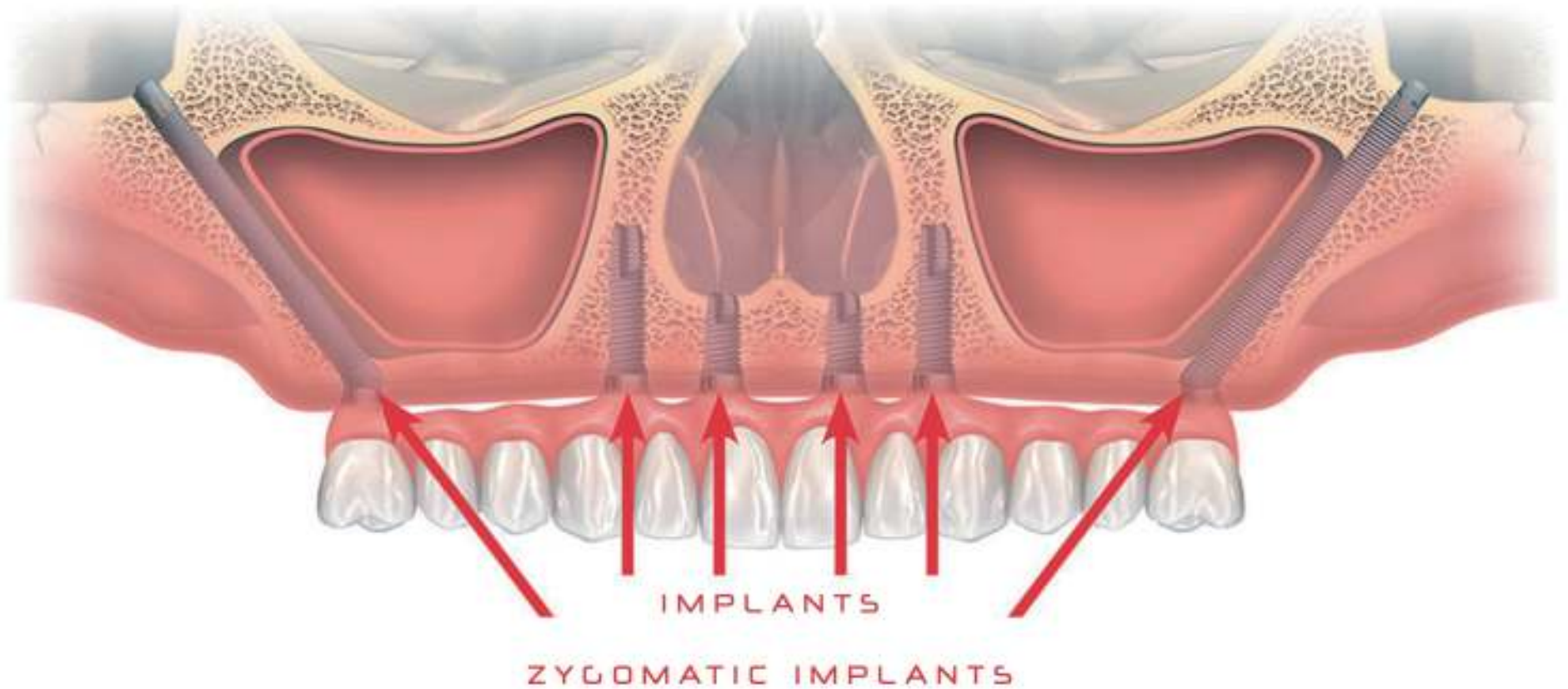
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INÉS GALLASTEGUI

Paqui, aged 74, was last seen in the Plaza del Lavadero in Salobreña at 1pm on the Saturday. "It's really difficult, searching for her. She tends to wander off and she has a six-hour start on us," said the head of the Civil Protection service in this town in Granada province. About 40 volunteers and police officers were combing the area. The search finally ended at 10am on the Monday, when a Guardia Civil patrol found her body on some rocks under the cliffs, a 40-minute walk from the town.

Paqui's story is a tragedy which is repeated about every six days in Spain: an elderly person with early dementia goes out into the street, wanders around aimlessly and is then lost forever. Specialist associations say that of all the cases of people who disappear as if the earth had swallowed them up, these are the easiest to prevent: a geolocator which costs between 50 and 100 euros would sound the alarm immediately if they left their normal environment.

"It makes me feel so helpless, because they don't go to the other side of Spain: they're right here, in a radius of three kilometres from their homes. These are deaths which could have been prevented," says Joaquín Amills, the president of SOS Desaparecidos.

Why do Alzheimer's sufferers get lost? Cases such as that of Paqui sometimes occur when the patient has not yet been diagnosed with this neurodegenerative illness, or when it has been diagnosed but the patient is not aware of their cerebral deterioration and still seems independent enough to be able to go out and follow their normal routines without constant supervision.

Cristóbal Carnero, the head of Cognitive Neurology at the Virgen

The steps of the lost

Every year in Spain around 50 elderly Alzheimer's sufferers die after wandering off, becoming disorientated and suffering a blow or fall. A geolocator which costs around 50 euros could save them

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de las Nieves hospital in Granada, says that problems in identifying places and orienting themselves are early symptoms of this form of dementia. "There can also be temporary disorientation", says Cheles Cantabrana, president of the Spanish Alzheimer's Confederation (Ceafa). "They might go to the hairdresser on a Sunday, or head off to work without remembering that they don't work any more," she explains.

Other symptoms often occur before this disorientation, such as not being able to remember normal words, forgetting an appointment, forgetting where they have put an everyday item, repeating the same question or losing keys.

"Unfortunately the families tolerate a loss of memory, and that's a cultural error. They say 'it's normal, he's 80, it's due to age'," says Dr Carnero. But when an elderly person is brought home by a neighbour or the police, because they have been found



In seatch of Paqui. In the photo above, volunteers search close to Salobreña beach. Left, the body being removed from the bottom of a cliff. :: JAVIER MARTÍN

wandering in the street, families do tend to take it more seriously. Sometimes it is an incident like this which makes them decide to consult a specialist. Many relatives recall that there have been a series of small inci-

dents, although they have not had such a dramatic conclusion.

"It isn't just that these people don't recognise the places they pass through," says Dr Carnero. "It's that they do not have the resources to resolve problems themselves; they have little initiative, don't

know how to ask for help so they don't ask. Or they don't know what to ask, because they have forgotten where they live. If they go the wrong way, their situation becomes even worse." Every step could be leading them towards their death.

A home from the past

A tendency to wander about is a typical sign of Alzheimer's and it also appears in more advanced stages. "Some patients have recurring and obsessive ideas. They don't recognise the house in which they live and they go out to look for 'their' home, which is nearly always somewhere they have lived in the past or may even be their childhood home," explains Guillermo García Ribas, the head of the Cognitive Deterioration Unit at the Ramón y Cajal hospital in Madrid. Sometimes they have negative feelings towards those who look after them and feel an urgent need to escape.

The situation is aggravated when the patients live in outlying districts of towns or cities, or in villages, and they wander off into the countryside where solitude, nightfall and anxiety make the problem worse. Death can



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ON THE MAP

1.2

million people in Spain have Alzheimer's: seven per cent of over-65s and 50 per cent of over-85s.

Localising app

There are several available. The Life360 (free and in Premium version) creates family circles whose members can see where the others are at any time. The problem is that many elderly people don't know how to use a mobile phone. It also has to be carried all the time and charged.



Accessories for everyday use

The most sophisticated geolocators are hidden in everyday items such as belts, shoes, necklaces, wallets or watches and allow you to know where the wearer is. If they leave their safety zone, thanks to the GPS system a warning is issued.

95

euros, plus 12 euros service charge a month, is the cost of watches and necklaces sold by Neki. They include a geolocator and an SOS button and the wearer can make and receive calls from pre-set numbers.

➤ occur through blows or falling into ditches or down precipices, hypothermia, heat stroke, starvation or lack of medication which they need to take.

In Spain there is no official register of disappearances, and therefore nobody knows how many people who disappear suffer from dementia. The NGOs have figures of their own: in 2017 SOS Desapariciones registered 174 cases of people

over the age of 70 disappearing, of whom 54 were found dead and 17 are still missing.

The QSD Global European Foundation for People who have Disappeared, which is run by journalist Paco Lobatón, broadcast details of 111 people over the age of 70 who went missing, and registered 43 deaths.

Amills points out that these people are the most vulnerable, and

they account for 22 per cent of all disappearances even though there are fewer of them than children or younger adults. He believes the response from the security forces, Civil Protection and social media is quickest and most effective when an elderly person goes missing - many of them die in the first 24 hours - but it would help if those at risk were to be equipped with a geo-locator so their families or staff at the homes always know where they are.

Apart from mobile apps, there are devices on the market for 50 euros, although the most sophisticated ones cost around 100: hidden in watches or necklaces, they alert several carers at once, enable the wearer to make and receive calls and warn if they move outside the secure area.

"Elderly people are often more prepared to accept this type of accessory than a mobile phone, and because the localiser is hidden they are not stigmatised by it," says Rafael Ferrer, the founder of Neki, the company from Aragón which leads the Spanish market in these devices, which are used by 2,000 people.

At a time when the Law of Dependence doesn't come anywhere near covering the needs of these patients, nor do the administrations subsidise the cost of this type of device which many families are unable to afford. In some places organisations like Cruz Roja can help them join the telephone assistance service.

The economic crisis, says Amills, has made dependent elderly people more vulnerable. "Some families have had to bring their relatives out of residential homes, day centres have closed down and there is less money around to pay for carers and other means of support," he says. Elderly people are the most unprotected, even though in Spain families tend to be very close. "In countries in northern Europe and the USA there are a lot of people on their own and the risk is

THE WORST ENDING

Three months with no news

Saturnino Garzas is a clear example of preventable drama. Suffering from Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, at the age of 67 he went into a care home in Torreldones and a week later he disappeared without trace.

The management at the home say he jumped over a two-metre-high fence, which the family doubts because he was not very mobile and had recently undergone surgery because of a hernia.

A search in the Madrid mountains proved fruitless until three months later, on 6 March 2017, his body was found two kilometres from the care home.

His son Iván believes he had fallen and died of cold. "He was only wearing a sweatshirt. I don't think he could have survived past midnight," he says.

What is tragic is that for years Saturnino had worn a belt with a geo-locator. "We offered it to the care home and they said it wouldn't be needed, because he wouldn't be able to get out," says Iván. The home was fined for failing to protect its residents. The family are taking legal action against it.

greater," says Dr García Ribas.

Additional distress

In March 2016 the QSD Global Foundation signed a collaboration agreement under which the Ministry of Health promised that in these situations it would protect "vulnerable groups" such as the elderly. Last year Imerso signed an agreement to put a 'Mayores a

Salvo' plan into effect, which as well as expanding the geo-localisation system also included the need to make families more aware of the risks faced by their elderly relatives. "Many of them aren't aware," says Paco Lobatón, who admits that they are still waiting for the government's commitments to be converted into action.

For families, who are already trying to come to terms with the implacable destruction caused by this cruel illness, when someone gets lost it is an extremely distressful situation. "More than for the person who has wandered off, in fact, because although they may panic or be confused they tend to forget about it afterwards," says Dr García Ribas. "I remember a lady who came to the hospital to visit a patient and said she was going to the bathroom. On the way, she decided to go to the village. Her husband was in despair, but 12 hours later she turned up as if nothing had ever happened," he says.

"There is a tendency to blame yourself for what happens," says Cheles Cantabrana. "Partners or children know they need to keep an eye on the patient when they are losing faculties, but they may not realise they have to be supervised 24 hours a day. Sometimes basic precautionary measures like bolts on the doors or a sign saying 'No entry' on the back of the front door don't work."

The organisations say there is a need to create safety networks in the surrounding area. QSD Global proposes protocols for cooperation between police forces and the nearest health centres. Cheles Cantabrana stresses the importance of "non-physical barriers" through friendly relationships, so that staff in local shops and near neighbours, if informed of the situation, can raise the alarm if they spot something and avoid a drama. For Paco Lobatón, there is no time to lose if people's lives are to be saved. There is one death every six days. "This has to be stopped," he says.

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ANDREW. J. LINN

'HOW TO BE SPANISH'... REALLY



The now infamous article published in The Times, 'How to be Spanish' has provoked a level of indignation that its author did not anticipate. Disregarding such comments as, "Forget Anglo-Saxon notions of politeness, discretion and decorum", "being Spanish requires utter disdain for punctuality", or "arriving anywhere 30 minutes late is actually considered quite early and quite rude", we can concentrate on Chris Haslam's ideas about how the Spanish behave around food and drink.

He writes, "Being Spanish involves walking into a bar, kissing and hugging complete strangers, shouting 'Oiga' at the waiter and chucking anything you can't eat or drink on the floor [...] you can drop the please and thank yous; they're so unnecessary [...] swear like a trooper, drink cold red wine, and eat everything you order: countries that have suffered from hunger are funny about things like that."

Haslam now maintains the article was not meant to offend anyone, but an attack on the proud Spaniard's way of life is inevitably insulting. Although doubt exists about whether he ever visited Spain, to write a similar article from the other end of the telescope it is indeed necessary to visit Britain.

Visitors complain about the BO redolent in the tube on warm days, but this is surely just imagination,

as is the absence of bidets in bathrooms or the intolerance of children in bars and restaurants, or the routine boredom of provincial pubs frequented by aged couples that spend hours staring at a beer without exchanging a word, or the total lack of any sort of gastronomic culture (whereas in Spain everyone knows what each village is famous for in gastronomic terms, be it olive oil, a type of sausage, honey, or whatever). Or the office sandwich half-hour chained to a desk, the equivalent in Spain being sufficient time to enjoy a freshly-cooked lunch with work colleagues, or identical high streets in every town with the same chain stores and franchises and not a tapas bar in sight.

Surely, given the choice, any sensible person would choose to be a Spaniard, provided it be an authentic one.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Yllera Crianza 2012

A family-run bodega, just outside the Ribera del Duero official zone so it has to refer to itself as a Castilla-León table wine, whereas in fact it is as good as any regular Duero. Aged in French and American oak, a very rich wine that consistently gets high grades. Around six euros.



Grandma's casseroles promote traditional cuisine

Restaurants and bars on the Cazuela de la Abuela route in Fuengirola offer hearty stews served in an earthenware dish

by TONY BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. More than 50 restaurants and bars in Fuengirola will participate in the seventh edition of the Cazuela de la Abuela route. This gastronomic event, which begins on Friday (today) and continues until Sunday 4 March, is aimed at promoting a traditional home-cooked dish known locally as 'grandma's casserole'. The culinary initiative will offer residents and visitors the chance to taste variations of local casserole recipes accompanied by a drink for just two euros.

The cazuela is an earthenware dish and the word is also used to describe a hearty type of stew found all over Andalucía. It can

consist of meat, poultry, offal, pulses and vegetables or fish and seafood.

Each of the establishments -which will compete for the title of best cazuela in Fuengirola- will prepare their own recipe served in the signature

earthenware dish.

The cazuela will be available during normal opening hours and customers can vote for their particular favorite. More details can be found on the Fuengirola town hall website.

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DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA



View of the town and castle. :: SUR

A frontier town in Jaén

TWO DAYS IN ALCALÁ LA REAL

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Routes in the area: 3 hours

JAVIER ALMELLONES

The history of Al-Ándalus cannot be understood without realising the importance of some frontier towns which for decades passed between Muslim and Christian hands.

One of these is Alcalá la Real, which stands at the foot of La Mota fortress, whose interior resembles a trip through mediaeval history in the southern part of Jaén province.

It is within this walled precinct that Alcalá originated. Although many original features of its Andalusian construction still remain, most of those to be seen

today are the result of architectural reforms which were carried out after 1341, when it was taken definitively by Alfonso XI.

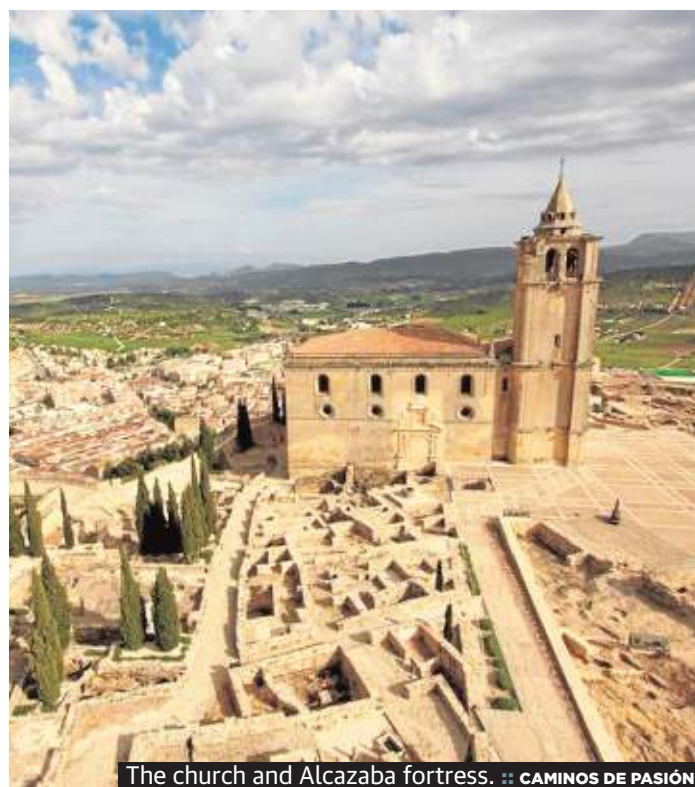
Of its early origins, the seven gateways are still there. They used to be part of the circular walls which made the upper part of the castle practically impregnable.

Beside the old Alcazaba fortress, in La Mota castle today you can see the Iglesia Mayor Abacial, a Gothic-style church built on the site of a former mosque. In addition to this valuable historical monument, there are panoramic views over the countryside of the Sierra Sur in Jaén, and there are numerous attractions for visitors outside the old castle walls.

After being taken by the Christian troops, the town began to grow on the side of the hill called La Mota. One place of interest which should not be missed is the Information Centre about Life on the Frontier, situated in the Abacial Palace beside the town hall and the Casas de Enfrente (both 18th century), which is one of the most important buildings in Alcalá la Real.

There are also several churches and convents which demonstrate the important role this town had in Andalucía between the 16th and 19th centuries. Among the most important churches are those dedicated to La Consolación, San Juan, San Antón and La Encarnación, but they are all worth seeing.

After a walk around Alcalá, most visitors like to try some of the typical confectionery or sample the traditional cured meats for which it is famous.



The church and Alcazaba fortress. :: CAMINOS DE PASIÓN



QUICK GUIDE

What to see in Alcalá la Real

La Mota castle. Historically valuable walled precinct with a church, three towers and the fortress.

Cerro del Castillo de la Mota, 23680 Alcalá la Real

Church of La Consolación.

Also known as Santa María la Mayor, its construction was finished in the 18th century.

◀ Glorieta de Consolación, 23680 Alcalá la Real

Town Hall.

Built in 1733, it is one of the most unique and remarkable buildings in the town.

Plaza Arcipreste de Hita, 23680 Alcalá la Real

Popular religion museum.

Valuable collection of ecclesiastical items, inside the San Juan church

Plaza de San Juan, 23680 Alcalá la Real.

Casas de Enfrente:

A fine example of 18th century architecture.

Plaza Arcipreste de Hita, 23680 Alcalá la Real.



The church of San Juan. :: TURISMO ANDALUZ



Elegant 18th century buildings. :: SUR

EXHIBITIONS

Holocaust Remembrance Day Marbella. *Until 3 March. Galería Yusto /Giner, C/ Madera 9.* Daniel Solomons' 'Olam haba / The World to Come' is an exhibition to mark the International Holocaust Remembrance and Prevention of Crimes Against Humanity Day. It is a series of photographs, autobiographical and architectural, that portray the Jewish cultural image in and around London.

Classic Marvel Comics Estepona. *Until 31 March. Auditorio Felipe VI.* This exhibition will focus on the most popular characters from Marvel comics in the 1960s-1980s, including Spiderman, the X Men, The Fantastic Four, Thor and Iron Man.



The "Indaliano" Movement Antequera. *Until 16 March. Centro Unicaja de Cultura.* This exhibition will display works by several influential artists from this mid-twentieth century movement, including José Gómez Abad, Antonio López Díaz, Miguel Cantón Checa and Jesús de Perceval.

Equilibrio Malaga. *Until 23 February. Sala de Usos Múltiples, Plaza de la Marina.* Paintings, drawings, photographs and sculptures make up this exhibition of 44 works by various artists.

Museum Jorge Rando Malaga. *Until 25 February. Cruz del Molinillo, 12* A temporary exhibition entitled 'Nacerán Nuevas Auroras' (the Birth of Colour) is currently on display. The museum also holds poetry and musical events.



The exhibition focuses on human beings and nature. :: SUR

Abstract art exhibition in Malaga

:: TONY BRYANT

MALAGA. The Ateneo Art Gallery in Malaga is hosting a new exhibition of works by local artist, Luis Bujalance.

The work of the Malaga artist conveys expressionism based on the impulses of his own personality according to his mood. It is precisely this quality that gives his art, submerged in the purely abstract, its expertise in the application of consciously chosen colours and the combination of the most diverse materials and techniques. Each work is accompanied by words, phrases or strategically placed numbers that add an air of mystery to his art.

The exhibition, which focuses on the relationship between the human beings and nature, engages a combination of paint, photography, wood and asphalt to create the possibility of expression and communication.

Luis Bujalance, who holds a degree in fine arts from the Polytechnic University of Valencia, began his career in the 1990s and has had several exhibitions in Norway and the USA.

This free exhibition, which began last week and continues until Friday 23 March, can be viewed between the hours of 6 pm and 9.30 pm from Monday to Friday.

kontakt@museojorgerando.org.

Rafael Heredia Malaga. *Until 27 February. Alfajar Sala, C/Cister* An exhibition entitled 'Mediterráneo' by Rafael Heredia.

Axel Miret 'Paso' Malaga. *Until 2 March. El Retorno de Lilith, C/Cobertizo del Conde 6, behind Picasso's birthplace in Plaza de la Merced.* Belgian artist Axel Miret will be exhibiting a selection of his works.

José Basto Malaga. *Until 8 March. Galería Benedito, C/Niño de Guevara.* An exhibition by Cadiz artist José Basto.

Nature and Perception



Malaga. *Until 23 March. Ateneo de Malaga, C/Compañía* Luis Bujalance started his career in the 90s and has had several exhibitions in the USA and Norway.

Blackness Malaga. *Until 16 April. Café de Es-*

traperlo, Plaza Poeta Alfonso Canales.

The artists Siobhan Riordan (UK) and Daysury Valencia (Denmark) are two black artists living in Malaga. In this exhibition, the artists celebrate black cultural heritage to project a positive image of black people throughout history, and at the same time underline that the cultural contribution of black residents in Malaga enriches society. www.facebook.com/Café-de-Estraperlo

ArtFest

Calahonda. *Until 30 March. Atlantis PMR, CC Los Olivos.* The ArtFest is an art competition initiated by The Arts Society for all affiliated societies worldwide. Ten of the Costa del Sol branch members are participating. This exhibition is by appointment only. Call 952933870 or email: Teresa@atlantinspmr.com More information <http://www.theartsociety-costadelisol.org/>

Picasso's Footprint

Mijas. *Until 19 February. Museo de los Gálvez.* This exhibition by Ramón Núñez will open today at 8pm.

Joint exhibition

Nerja. *Until 17 February. Sala de Exposiciones Calle Cristo.* Brendon Taylor and Maribel Martín are holding a joint exhibition of their works.

CHARITY

American Club table top sale Estepona. *25 February, From noon until 4pm. 69 C/San Roque. Free entry.* Table reservations 5€. Information, or to reserve a table call 952 793 059

Classical music

Torremolinos. *17 February, 8pm, Casa de la Cultura. 8€.* The concert is to raise funds for Edwind organised by the Juventudes Musicales de Málaga.

MUSIC & DANCE

The Wall Bar

Malaga. *Hotel Vincci Posada del Patio, 11pm, entry free.* **16 February.** Daphne & Nicky Trio. Jazz and bossanova.

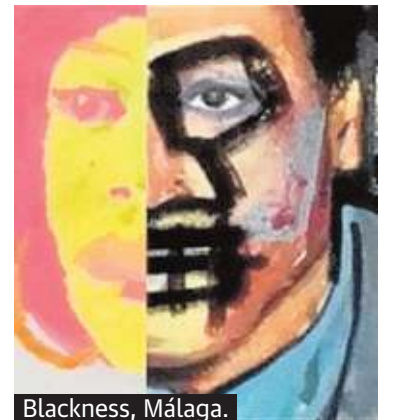
Malaga Philharmonic

Orchestra

Malaga. Teatro Cervantes **16 February, 8pm.** The orchestra, under the baton of Georg Mark and with cellist Adolfo Gutiérrez Arenas, will be performing music by Edward Elgar and Robert Schumann. Tickets: <http://www.teatrocervantes.com>

Lucas Colman

Malaga. *16 February, 10pm. La Cochera Cabaret. 5€.* Lucas Colman presents his first album, released last year.



Cántica Cuarteto

Torremolinos. *16 February, 8.30pm. Centro Cultural Pablo Picasso.* Cántica Cuarteto is made up of Yolanda Campos, mezzosoprano, Inmaculada Gómez, flute and castanets, Ángel Martín various percussion instruments and Manuel Esteban classic guitar and composition.

Music and dance for Saint Valentine

Malaga. *17 February, 8pm. Sala María Cristina.* The Joven Orquesta Promúsica with violin soloists Pablo Martín and David Posé, will accompany the Happy Style Dance school.

Coalition

Malaga. *17 February, 10pm, Sala Camaleón, Av de los Guindos. 2€.* Pop, Rock and Blues classics, plus a sprinkling of Irish influence, several French numbers, and a few of their own compositions.

Joven Orquesta Mediterránea Almuñécar. *7pm. Auditorio Casa de la Cultura.* **18 February.** Beethoven's Concerto N°3 and 5. With pianists Noelia Rodiles and Alejandro Algarra.

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MUSIC & DANCE

Génesis Jazz Band

Torremolinos. 16 February, 8.30pm. Centro Cultural Pablo Ruiz Picasso. The Génesis Jazz band have a wide repertoire of music including pop, soul, motown, ball room and jazz. They sing most of the songs in English but also some in French, Portuguese and Spanish. Free entry.

Murgas and comparsas

Torremolinos. 16-18, 23 February, Auditorio Municipal Príncipe de Asturias. Free.

As part of the Carnaval celebrations, 10 comparsa groups and 12 murgas will be competing for cash prizes with the final being held on 23 February. Each day the performances start at 9pm except on 18 Feb when it will be held from midday until 7pm.



Gregory Kunde, Malaga

Gregory Kunde

Malaga. 17 February, 8pm. Teatro Cervantes.

Gregory Kunde has sung in some of the most important opera theatres of the world. He will be accompanied by José Ramón Martín, the acclaimed pianist.

Chili Pepes tribute act

Malaga. 16 February, 9.30pm. Sala Trinchera, C/Parauta. 6€ in advance, 9€ from box office. The Chili Pepes perform the greatest hits of The Red Hot Chili Peppers. Tickets: entradium.com or from Superskunk in C/Granada, South Urban in C/Niño del Museo or Disaster in C/Córdoba.

Dúo Salzburgo

Almuñécar. 21 February, 8pm. Auditorio Casa de la Cultura Alexander Preda on piano and Yvonne Timianu playing the cello featuring music by Mozart.

Noches de Tango

Almuñécar. 22 February, 8pm. Casa Cultura Almuñécar. 13€ in advance, 15€ two hours before. 'Pasión Tango', a tango dance show. Tel. 676929479 or 958838862

Murs to Mars

Nerja. 22 February, from 7.30pm. Hotel Villa Flamenca. 15€. Johnny G and his backing singers and dancers will be performing songs made famous by Olly Murs and Bruno Mars. Tickets from Monroes Hair Studio, Ruskins Restaurant, Nerja Property Services, OLAS, Fitzgeralds Bar, Potters Bar and The International Club Nerja.

Stand-up comedy night

TONY BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. The Salon Varietés Theatre in Fuengirola is to host a night of stand-up comedy on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 February. Following the success of last year's one-night event, the theatre has added another night this year to cater for the ticket demand.

Dave Thompson, former Tinky Winky of the Tellytubbies and cult hero on the university circuit in Britain, has performed his absurd style of stand-up comedy all over the world and he is returning to host the show in Fuengirola again this year.

Known for his quick-fire sense of humour, Dave, who has written material for Ronnie Corbett, Bruce Forsyth and Harry Hill, will perform alongside two other UK top comedians: Sean Meo, who has appeared on Tonight at the London Palladium, has been described as 'surreal, sexy and very, very funny' and Geoff Whiting, billed as one of Britain's funniest men.

Sean Meo has been a professional stand-up comedian since the late 1980s and has since risen to the top of the UK comedy scene. He has worked alongside Clive James and Jimmy Tarbuck and appeared on many television shows, from Des O'Connor To-



Dave Thompson will perform in Fuengirola :: SUR

INFORMATION

► **What:** Stand-up comedy show

► **Where:** Salon Varietés Theatre, Fuengirola

► **When:** Saturday 24, 7.30pm and Sunday 25 February, 7pm.

night to Celebrity Squares.

At the age of 37, Geoff Whiting was living on state benefits and struggling to find employment, until he answered an advert in

the Daily Telegraph for an open mike competition. He was at rock bottom with nothing to lose and after reaching the finals in 1998, Geoff's career as a stand-up was established.

Zany comedian, Dave Thompson, described by Timeout Magazine as the 'the weirdest dude on the face of the earth', told SUR in English, "Sean Meo and Geoff Whiting are brilliant performers and we are lucky have them participating in this year's show." Tickets are available from the Salon Varietés ticket office and website.

Cuarteto Granada

Malaga. 23 February, 8pm. Sala Unicaja de Conciertos María Cristina. 10€.

A recital dedicated to composer Dmitri Shostakovich featuring symphonies n° 3 and 15. www.unientradas.es

Ho Down with TOPS

Alhaurín el Grande. 24 February, 8.30pm. Venta La Recta. 8€ Food is available before the show from 7pm. Songs from artists such as Willie Nelson, Charlie Rich, Dolly Parton, The Eagles, Glen Campbell, Patsy Cline, John Denver, and more. Tickets from Martins or Cristina's paper shop. Call Cath to reserve a table: 952112057

FLAMENCO**Antonio Carmona**

Malaga. 16 February, 9.30pm. París

15, C/La Orotava. 25€

Member of the flamenco band Habitchuela, Antonio Carmona will be performing songs from his third solo album, 'Obras son amores'. Tickets: ticketea.com

Flamenco in the Museum

Malaga. Museo de Arte Flamenco Peña Juan Brea, C/Ramón Franguelo.

17 February, 8.30pm. Sandra Cisneros.

For information and bookings call 687 607 526 or email info@flamenka.com

Noche Flamenca

Nerja. 16 February, 9pm. Centro Cultural villa de Nerja. 12€ Granada dancer, Agustín Barajas, presents a flamenco dance show with the different styles of flamenco. Accompanied by singers Fita Heredia, Manuel Heredia and Asunción Heredia; by dancer Kika

Quesada and by guitarist Marcos Palometas.

Manuel Liñán

Almuñécar. 16 February, 8pm.

Auditorio Casa de la Cultura. 'Baile de Autor' with Manuel Liñán and his dance group.

LECTURES**U3A Lectures**

Fuengirola. Lux Mundi reference Library, free to members, guests 5€. Email: u3afuengirola@gmail.com

Art History 'Jackson Pollock'

21 February, 11am-12.30pm. An illustrated talk on the American Abstract Expressionist.

Hands that rocked a cradle : 'Isabella d'Este, Lucrezia Borgia and Louise of Savoy.' 20 February, 11am.

Treasures of the World 'Uzbekistan to Syria'.

16 February, 11am. Including the Tiles of Samarkand, the Fire Temple of Baku and Shiraz carpets.

Treasures of the World 'Jordan to Ethiopia'.

23 February, 11am. Including Petra and Jerusalem.

Debate and Discussion 'Negative effects of Globalisation'.

21 February, 1pm.

Some regions and social groups are likely to be disproportionately vulnerable to the negative effects of globalisation. Are ordinary people unable to stop international companies taking over from governments?

A Mixed Bag: 'Globalisation'

27 February, 11am.

Bob Henman talks on how the political economy affects globalisation

Red Cross Informative talk

23 February, 11am. Restaurante Parquesol, El Morche, Torrox Costa.

Richard Weale is a volunteer with the Spanish Red Cross and will be speaking about their work across the Axarquía region, together with the services and assistance they can provide, irrespective of age or nationality.

Lux Mundi Art Appreciation

Torre del Mar. 19 February, 10.30am. Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, Avda Moscatel. 2€.

"The Private Life of Masterpieces" was a BBC arts documentary series which told the stories behind great works of arts languages. The original narrations were done by the actor Samuel West and Tim Pigot-Smith. There will be a short introduction about each artist followed by a showing of the episode. The next features The Great Wave by Hokusai.



Antonio Carmona, Paris 15.

Lux Mundi talk

Fuengirola. 21 February, 4pm. Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre. 2€.

A Journey Through Dementia, introduced by Ian Phillips. Tel 952 474 840, e-mail luxmundidif@gmail.com or go to www.lux-mundi.org

The Arts Society lectures

Benahavis. 20 February, 6.30pm.

Benahavis Town Hall. Visitors 12€. **Andalusian Landscapes - Drama and Diversity.**

Andalucía is remarkable on account of the dramatic contrasts between its landscapes, from snow-capped mountains to sub-tropical orchards, from highland plains to sun-drenched beaches. In part these spectacular landscapes are due to geology and the weather, in part they have been shaped by man. Lecturer is José Padilla. www.benahavisdfas.com/events

De La Frontera. 21 February, 11am.

San Roque Golf Club. Visitors 12€.

Romans, Moors and Christians - Andalucía and It's Golden Age. www.facebook.com/theartsocie-



Chili Pepes, Malaga.

tydelafrontera/ or call Felicity Navarro: 620415705

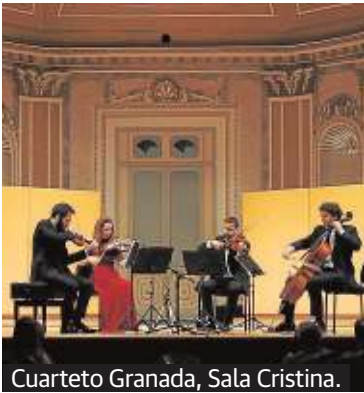
EVENTS

Bollywood Dance Classes Torremolinos. 24 February, 10 March. 6pm. Caseta Fitness. Indian dance classes. Sign up in the office of the Palacio San Miguel Sports Centre. www.torremolinos.es

Carnaval Grand Procession Marbella. 17 February. From 5.30pm. Prizes for the best fancy dress. Register one hour before the start next to the Museo del Bonsai.

Family fun run for Peace Torremolinos. 17 February, 11am. Crocodile Park, Pinares de Torremolinos. Register online at www.dorsalchip.es or at the Santa María del Mar church between 7 and 7.30pm. 10€ includes race pack which can be collected from the church on 15th or 16th between 5 and 8pm.

Holi Life run Malaga. 18 February, 11am from the carp park at the Martín Carpena sports centre. The 5km run is broken up by colour at every 1,000 meters and as in other years there will be tons of coloured powder thrown for the Holi festival. www.holilife.es



Excursion to Quarryat Dílar and Lanjarón Torre del Mar. 22 February. Various departure points. 28€ Visit olive oil factory and Lanjarón. Transport, travel insurance included. Lux Mundi Torre del Mar. Tel:952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

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
The Shape of Water: 16.00, 18.10, 20.20, 22.30 (every day).
The Florida Project: 16.00, 20.10 (every day).
Call Me By Your Name: 20.10, 22.15 (every day).

Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri: 16.05, 22.25 (every day).
The Pentagon Papers: 18.05 (every day).

Cinesur El Ingenio Avda. Juan Carlos 1, Vélez-Málaga. Tel. 667 77 31 87.
The Shape of Water: 19.30, 22.00 (Tuesday).
Black Panther: 17.10, 19.50, 22.30 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).
50 Shades Freed: 17.55, 20.10, 22.25 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).

Cinesur Miramar Avda. de la Encarnación, Fuengirola. Tel. 952 19 86 00.
Fifty Shades Freed : 16.30 (Mon-Thurs); 18.45, 21.00 (every day); 23.15 (Fri-Sun).
The Shape of Water: 12.15 (Fri-Sun, Wed); 16.00, 18.30 (every Day); 21.00 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).
Black Panther: 12.15 (Fri-Sun, Wed); 17.10 (every day); 19.50, 22.30 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).
Maze Runner: The Death Cure: 17.55 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).
15:17 Paris: 16.00 (every day).

Cines Teatro Goya For tickets and information call 951196665. www.cinesteatrogoya.com
The Shape of Water: 15.50, 20.30 (Sat, Sun); 17.45, 20.00 (Mon-Thurs); 18.10, 22.45 (Fri-Sun).
Black Panther: 16.00 (Sat, Sun); 20.00, 22.30 (Fri-Sun); 17.30, 19.45, 22.00 (Mon-Thurs) 17.45 (Fri).

Maze Runner: The Death Cure: 17.30 (Sat, Sun).
Fifty Shades Freed: 11.45 (Sun); 15.45, 20.15 (Sat, Sun); 17.45, 20.10, 22.15 (Mon-Thurs); 17.50, 22.45 (Fri-Sun); 20.30 (Fri).
Ferdinand: 11.45 (Sun).
Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri: 17.30 (Mon-Thurs); 19.45 (Mon, Wed, Thurs); 20.15 (Fri-Sun).
Early Man: 11.45 (Sun); 15.45, 18.30 (Sat, Sun); 17.30 (Mon-Thurs); 17.50 (Fri).

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor Centro de Ocio Plaza Mayor, Avda. Alfonso Ponce de León. Tel: 902 902 103 or visit www.yelmocines.es
Early Man: 14.15 (Sat, Sun).
The Shape of Water: 21.20 (every day).
Phantom Thread: 12.05 (Sat, Sun); 19.30 (Tues).
Fifty Shades Freed: 15.15 (Sat,

Sun); 17.30 (Mon-Thurs).
Black Panther: 17.45 (every day)

Marbella 'The Other Side of the Camera' Instituto Río Verde Calle Notario Luis Oliver 20.00, 22.15 and Centro Municipal de Música, Plaza de la Libertad, San Pedro, 21.00.
Eisenstein in Guanajuato: Marbella, 19 February, San Pedro 20 February.

Musica Con Encanto Escuela Universitario Les Roches Marbella. Bookings: 689 000 944
Moscow - Buenos Aires: 17 February, 7pm. 25€ A concert for two pianos with Natalia Kuchaeva and Jorge Lechado. Music by composers Alexander Borodin, Schostakovich, Carlos Guastavino and Astor Piazzolla. Discount tickets 5€ for students, under 18s and unemployed. www.musicaconencanto.org



MOVIE LISTING
From Friday 16th to
Thursday 22nd February

ORIGINAL VERSION SUBTITLED SPANISH

BLACK PANTHER Director Ryan Coogler Starring Chadwick Boseman and Michael B. Jordan ACTION · 134 min. Friday 16: 17:45, 20:00, 22:30 Saturday 17 and Sunday 18: 16:00, 20:00, 22:30 From Monday 19 to Thursday 22: 17:30, 19:45, 22:00	THE SHAPE OF WATER Director Guillermo del Toro Starring Sally Hawkins and Michael Shannon FANTASY · 123 min. Friday 16: 18:10, 22:45 Saturday 17 and Sunday 18: 15:50, 18:10, 20:30, 22:45 From Monday 19 to Thursday 22: 17:45, 20:00
FIFTY SHADES FREED Director James Foley Starring Dakota Johnson and Jamie Dornan DRAMA · 105 min. Friday 16: 17:50, 20:30, 22:45 Saturday 17: 15:45, 17:50, 20:15, 22:45 Sunday 18: 11:45, 15:45, 17:50, 20:15, 22:45 From Monday 19 to Thursday 22: 17:45, 20:10, 22:15	THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING, MISSOURI From Friday 16 to Sunday 18: 20:15 Monday 19, Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22: 17:30, 19:45 Tuesday 20: 17:30
EARLY MAN Friday 16: 17:50 Saturday 17: 15:45, 18:30 Sunday 18: 11:45, 15:45, 18:30 From Monday 19 to Thursday 22: 17:30	FERDINAND Sunday 18: 11:45
MAZE RUNNER: THE DEATH CURE Saturday 17 and Sunday 18: 17:30	



The enormous paintings were commissioned as propaganda by the Soviet regime. :: FRANCIS SILVA

Socialist realism at the Russian Museum

The new annual exhibition at the museum in the Tabacalera building takes a different look at Soviet art

The display includes works which reflect official propaganda but have a life of their own

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ MALAGA. The party thought there was too much sky and not enough of the leader, so it refused to allow the painting to be put on display to the public and 'Lenin at the tribunal' (1927) by Isaac Brodsky was therefore kept in storage for years. His style met the demands of the political powers: clear, propagandistic and enthusiastic about the Bolshevik ideology, but those in charge of the Soviet publicity machine thought the figure of Lenin should have been bigger.

The history of this small piece is given in the first room of the new annual exhibition at the Russian Museum. It places the focus on art of the Soviet period, from the October Revolution of 1917 to the dawn of 'perestroika' in the 1980s. However, this

new exhibition is more light-hearted and one of the most 'rounded' of those seen so far at this museum in the Tabacalera building.

The vice-director of the State Museum of Russian Art of St Petersburg, Evgenia Petrova, who curated the display, placed her cards firmly on the table at the official opening: "In Europe, the art of the Soviet Union is hardly known.... we call this art socialist realism. For several decades it was considered very similar, being dedicated to the leaders, the governments and political ideas, but in reality it was something rather different, because apart from the official

art there was an art which was living its own life. We would like to overcome the myth that art was the same in this period, and show people the truth, because everything was much more complicated and much more interesting," she said.

The 132 works from the parent museum in St Petersburg will be on display in Malaga for the next 12 months. The impressive canvases in the form of publicity hoardings for the Soviet regime, painted by Grigori Shegal, Viktor Vjitsinski and Dimitri Nalbandian, play a more than leading role, as they did during that period, but in this exhibition they are placed alongside more subtle and complex creations.

It is a good idea to start by 'discovering' Sofia Dímschits-Tolstaia, an experimental artist in the early 20th century. She complied with the realism demanded by the Soviet regime, but without abandoning her quest for the avant-garde through portraits of the "new woman: restless, shock-

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The curator of the display says it aims to overcome some myths about Soviet art

THE EXHIBITION

► **Title.** 'Radiant future'.

► **Dates.** Until February 2019.

► **Opening hours (all three exhibitions).** From Tuesdays to Sundays, 9.30am to 8pm. This weekend the Russian Museum is offering two open days to announce its new exhibitions. Entry is also free every Sunday from 4pm onwards.

workers and managers of kolkhozes".

Ideological discharge

José María Luna, the director of the municipal agency which manages the Russian Museum, said the "artistic value" of many of these works stems from their "ideological discharge".

This is also the case further on in the exhibition, after passing the large official paintings and entering the section dedicated to the anonymous workers. Two small paintings by Boris Yermoliaev particularly stand out: 'At the table' (1937-1938) and 'Listening to the news' (1938). These are everyday scenes far from the dominant era, simple, almost childlike, and at the same time with a deep melancholy.

The luminous pictures by Yermoliaev had the same result as the 'black paintings' by Samuil Adlivankin: ostracism. Adlivankin produced the dark scenes of 'Closing the gap' (1930) and 'At the headquarters of the kolkhoz before embarking on the fight to fulfil the production plan' (1931), and his theme is continued in the following section, dedicated to the world of labourers.

Here, there are more contrasts. The idealised scenes of barely-stained workers wearing good



The new annual exhibition at the Tabacalera features less well-known Soviet art. :: FRANCIS SILVA

shiny leather boots by Vasili Yakolev in his 'Miners write a letter to the creator of the Grand Constitution' (1937) are displayed alongside the 'Shock-worker (Builder of socialism)' (1932) by Aleksei Volter, which looks like something from a fashion catalogue. And on the next wall, scenes of factories at full output, by Aleksandr Kuprin and Vasili Rozhdestvenski, but with no heroism, nor idyllic lifestyles: here there is fire, smoke and faceless workers carrying out interminable tasks.

Movement and eroticism

The following section is dedicated to sport. The main work here is Alexandr Deineka's dynamic 'Mid-

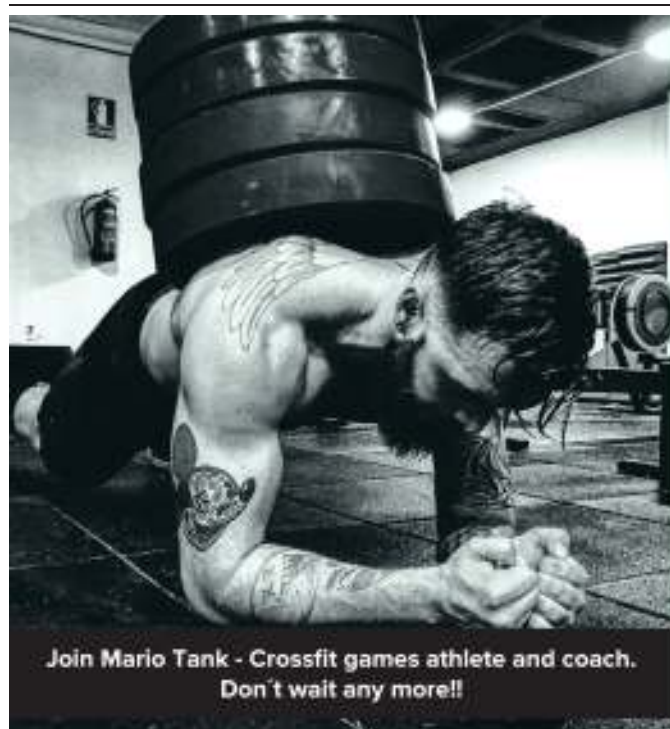


'After the cross-country race', by Samojválov. :: FRANCIS SILVA

day' (1932) with a choice of colours almost identical to Aleksandr Samojválov's 'Girl with ball' (1933) and 'In the stadium' (1934-35).

And without detracting from what comes before, around the corner is the delicate eroticism of the same artist in 'After the cross-country race' (1934-35), with a female athlete resembling the Venus de Milo, and 'In the Fortress of St Peter and St Paul' (1934) by Alekséi Pajómov.

Women undressing against a blurred background, the serenity of pastel shades, the firm gaze fixed on the spectator, without fear or doubt. A demonstration of silent strength, far from the proclamations of the party.



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JAVIER
ALMELLONES

AROUND MALAGA

The mysterious legends of the Bajo Genal

Stories abound of star-crossed lovers, a princess and the discovery of a magical dye on the banks of the Genal river

2 days in Bajo Genal

Car + walk.

Duration of the trip: 1 hour 45 minutes from Malaga to Algatocín. Cultural visits: 4 hours 30 minutes.

Gaucín. It is said that Guzmán El Bueno died in the siege of the Castillo del Águila

Benarrabá. According to legend, the colour crimson was found on the banks of the Genal in the Al-Andalus period.

Algatocín. Some prefer to believe that the origin of the name of the town is from the princess Algotaisa.

Benadalid. People still remember the tragic end of an impossible romance between a Christian girl and a Muslim boy.

Location. In the Bajo Genal.



According to legend, the colour crimson originated from the Genal. :: J. A.

Reality and fiction are mixed in the Al-Andalus past of some towns located in the Bajo Genal. Even today there remain some unique legends that are part of the 'magic' of that time in the Serranía de Ronda. In the town of Gaucín it is believed that the famous Guzmán El Bueno perished when trying to take the castle of Águila, the Arab fortress that for centuries was impregnable due to its elevated position on a rocky point close to the centre of the town. Not far from there, in Benarrabá, it is said that on the banks of the Genal the colour crimson was discovered. The story says that a Muslim family of fabric dyers from the town managed to get this tone for their clothes. According to popular tradition, a dye with almost magical properties was achieved, thanks to the quality of the river water and a beetle called a 'Qarmaz'. The original spot could quite easily be the Llano de las Escribanas, located on the border between Benarrabá and Genalguacil. On the way to



Ronda you should take a break at Algatocín. According to local history, the parish church was built on a small palace, where the Princess Algotaisa lived for years. Her father, King Abomelid of Ronda, ordered the palace to be built especially for her. For many this popular story is the origin of the name of the town. However, historians prefer to consider that Algatocín comes from the Al-Atusiyyin Berber tribe. In Benadalid a mosaic recalls the most romantic legend of the area, which involved a Christian girl and a young Muslim boy. Their relationship, impossible at that time, ended in tragedy as both lovers decided to end their lives simultaneously. According to the story, they killed themselves with a wild rose. The plant, which doesn't exist today, had a lethal effect, since whoever was pricked by it bled to death.

MORE EXCURSIONS

Guadalhorce market

Coín

Valle del Guadalhorce.

Coín has one of the largest gastronomic offerings in the province of Malaga thanks to its extensive agriculture and livestock businesses.

Many of these products are on sale every weekend in the Agrifood Market in the Guadalhorce Valley. Customers can buy directly from the manufacturer.



Every Sunday from 9am - 2pm at the entrance to the town, before La Trocha commercial centre.

The history of Mijas

Mijas

Costa del Sol.

Today and tomorrow Saturday, Mijas is celebrating the seventh edition of the Conference of History and Ethnography of the area. At the conference twenty different researchers and historians will talk about Mijas' past, from prehistory up to the last century. The pre-Roman cults in the area, the use of marble from Mijas in sculpture and the War of Independ-



ence will be some of the topics that will be discussed over these two days. The conferences are free but are in Spanish. From 6pm tonight (Friday) until 9.30pm Saturday.

Grandma's casserole

Fuengirola

Costa del Sol.

The most traditional tapas in Andalusian gastronomy are on offer over the next fortnight in more than fifty restaurants in Fuengirola. The seventh edition of the route La Cazuela de la Abuela gives you the chance to try stews, soups, meatballs, tripe with chickpeas, cabbage and gazpachuelos plus a



drink for just 2€.

From today until Sunday 4 March in 57 participating bars and restaurants in Fuengirola.

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Kitchen page 47
Removals page 48

Gardening page 48
Glass curtains page 49

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The peloton enters a snowy Granada where the first phase of the Vuelta a Andalucía concluded. :: EFE

Froome returns to action in the Ruta del Sol while doping investigation rumbles on

The reigning Tour and Vuelta champion was on the start line in Mijas despite questions over whether his team should have suspended him

:: DARYL FINCH

MALAGA. Despite the controversy surrounding the ongoing investigation into his use of asthma drugs at last year's Vuelta a España, British cyclist Chris Froome was on the start line in Mijas for the Vuelta a Andalu-

luía road stage-race which got under way on Wednesday.

The Team Sky rider, who has not been suspended while the investigation continues, was the star attraction in La Cala de Mijas where crowds had gathered throughout the morning for a number of activities put on by the town hall, while also hoping to catch a glimpse of the riders.

Froome used the media attention before the race to insist that the doping scandal was an unwanted distraction and that he didn't see why he should be treated any differently.

"This is a process that a lot of other riders have gone through, I don't see why I should have different treatment to all of them," said Froome in response to suggestions that his team should have suspended him while the investigation continued. "It's not going to go any faster if I was sitting at home. We're going as fast as we can on it and hopefully get it resolved as soon as possible."

Mijas was chosen as the start point for the nearly 200-kilometre first stage of the Vuelta a Andalucía, also known as the Ruta del Sol, to Granada.



Froome, with former teammate Mikel Landa (l) on the start line. :: EFE

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Boudat in the sprint which gifted him victory in the first stage. :: EFE



Riders pass through Alhaurín de la Torre. :: EFE

The race began at 11.30am; the route passed up to Mijas Pueblo and Alhaurín de la Torre, before joining the A-7 and passing through La Cala del Moral, Rincón de la Victoria, Chilches, Benajárfé, Torre del Mar, Vélez-Málaga and La Viñuela on the eastern Costa del Sol, before heading inland to Granada.

Frenchman Thomas Boudat (Direct Energie) was the early leader after winning Wednesday's stage.

A surprise defeat

Thursday's second stage between Otura and La Guardia de Jaén saw a

surprise defeat for Froome whose hopes of winning the race were dented on the Alta de Allánadas summit finish.

The Brit had a bad day, finishing in seventh, 27 seconds behind stage winner and teammate Wout Poels.

However, he has a chance to make up ground in the third stage, a likely sprint stage which begins today (Friday) and runs from Mancha Real to Herrera. The fourth and penultimate stage is between Seville and Alcalá de los Gazules on Saturday before the final 14.2-kilometre run in Barbate on Sunday.

A historic bronze for Mijas snowboarder Regino Hernández at the Olympic Winter Games

Hernández's medal in the snowboard cross event in Pyeongchang is only the third in Spain's Winter Games history

:: MARINA RIVAS

After more than four hours of competition and three qualification rounds to reach the final, Mijas rider Regino Hernández has finally claimed the medal he's been craving.

Hernández became only the third Spaniard to win a medal at an Olympic Winter Games, picking up bronze in the snowboard cross event in Pyeongchang in the early hours of Thursday morning (Spanish time).

It has been 26 years since Spain

last picked up a medal; Hernández follows in the footsteps of Francisco 'Paquito' Fernández Ochoa (gold in 1972) and Blanca Fernández Ochoa (bronze in 1992).

"It's a huge win for Spain and especially for snowboarding," he said. "It'll be a huge impetus for this sport in our country."

This was Hernández's best showing in a winter games by far: he achieved 31st and 21st in Vancouver 2012 and Sochi 2014, respectively.

His road to the final was not an easy one with the entire competition blighted by a number of falls, some serious, across every phase.

However, the rider from Mijas progressed and was the only Spaniard to do so.

The favourite was Pierre Vaultier and it so proved; the Frenchman claimed gold, ahead of Australian Jarryd Hughes, one of the surprise packages in the competition. Hughes pipped Hernández to third, both finishing ahead of Alex Pullin, who was also tipped for success but crashed midway through the race and did not finish.

Pullin's crash, followed by American pair Nick Baumgartner and Mick Dierdorff sustaining falls, left Vaultier, Hughes and Hernández in the medal positions.

Vaultier could not be caught, finishing 0.27 of a second in front of Hughes, who pipped Hernández by 0.11.

"It has been an incredible day. I couldn't be happier. I don't care if it's bronze, silver or gold. It's an Olympic medal," he said.



Regino Hernández celebrates his podium finish in Pyeongchang. :: AFP

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Malaga still hopeful, but making preparations for life in Segunda

With just 15 games of the season left, the club is preparing for the best case scenario... and the worst

by **SERGIO CORTÉS / DARYL FINCH**

MALAGA. Though relegation is not a topic anyone around La Rosaleda is willing to discuss, plans are being made behind the scenes to ensure that the club is prepared for the summer, whether they stay in La Liga or otherwise.

Work is already under way in

identifying potential targets for the summer transfer window, assessing players' qualities, levels of professionalism and leadership. This, however, is occurring on two fronts but given the club's limited resources, there is plenty of overlap in those identified.

As we have already seen this in the January window, sporting director Mario Husillos brought in midfielders Mehdi Lacen and Manuel Iturra and defender Ignasi Miquel with the idea that they would be involved with the squad next season, come what may.

Lacen and Iturra are both in the twilight of their careers, but the



Ignasi Miquel was signed with the predicament in mind. **by S. SALAS**

club believes they are of sufficient level to compete in the top flight, but not above playing in Segunda.

Miquel, likewise, was recruited from Lugo. Though he is a promising player, he still has plenty of room for development before he can es-

tablish himself as a La Liga player.

In a similar vein, academy products Javi Ontiveros and Álex Mula were loaned out to teams in the second division with the idea that they could adapt to the league ahead of a possible campaign there next year.

This type of foresight is what attracted owner Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani to bring back Husillos. The sheikh was unhappy with former sporting director Francesc Arnau principally for overlooking the possibility of the drop.

Under his watch, Arnau renewed the contract of Juanpi without including a 50 per cent decrease in wages in the event of relegation (a clause which all players have). The same occurred with Federico Ricca and Michael Santos, who came in as a result of a favour to agent Paco Casal who facilitated the arrival of Chory Castro. But for the sheikh's intervention, more Uruguayan players were set to move to the Costa.

The futures of Juanpi, Ricca and Santos will be a major headache in the summer should Malaga go down. Despite Santos, who is currently on loan at Sporting Gijón, bagging 12 goals to make him Segunda's third leading scorer, his inflated wages would threaten the already delicate wage structure.

So just as the dust starts to settle on a manic transfer window, there is plenty still to be done, whether Malaga do beat the drop, or as looks increasingly likely, they go down.

So where is the sheikh?

The club owner hasn't been in the city since returning to Qatar for Ramadan in May

by **ANTONIO GÓNGORA / D. FINCH**

MALAGA. With the club facing the biggest sporting crisis during his reign as owner, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani continues his prolonged absence from the city.

The sheikh has not been seen since returning to Qatar in May to observe Ramadan and has been running the club remotely, principally through his children.

Since firing Vicente Casado as general director, his sons Nasser, Nayef and Rakan, who all have roles on the board, have been running the club based on his orders.

His daughter Hamyan has also been brought into the picture and has been overseeing the women's team and the Academy project



Al-Thani with Sandro in May. **by N. S.**

which was finally inaugurated this week after years of delays.

At present Al-Thani no longer has a 'man of confidence' in place at the club, instead almost entirely delegating to his children and sporting director Mario Husillos.

The problem in the past has been

a lack of trust in those operating on his behalf, frequently leading to interventionism which was, with hindsight, excessive.

This occurred in the summer when Al-Thani vetoed the move for experienced pro Javi García and instead personally pursued a move for Argentinian rookie Esteban Rolón who has hardly featured this campaign. On a number of occasions, too, deals have been held up and stalled as the club waited for Al-Thani's final word.

However, this January saw an enormous shift with Malaga carrying out business rapidly, with the operations carried out by Husillos with almost complete autonomy.

Despite the seeming change in direction, though, fans are unimpressed by the sheikh's lack of involvement. With the team facing the very real prospect of relegation, calls are increasing for the sheikh to take some of the blame for the side's predicament.

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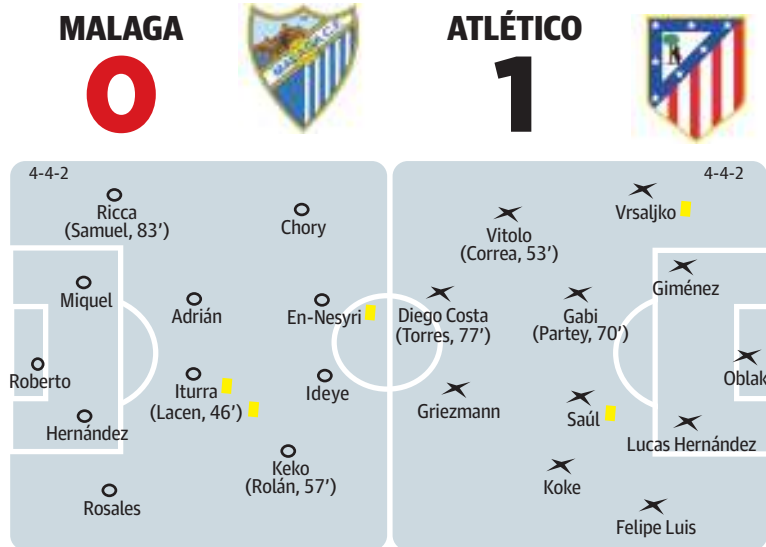
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Unused substitutes: Prieto (GK), Diego González, Bueno, Lestienne.

Unused substitutes: Moyá (GK), Carrasco, Juanfran, Gameiro.

STATISTICS

BALL POSSESSION



0	Goals	1
8	Total shots	4
3	On target	1
5	Off target	3
3	Corners	3
1	Offsides	3
22	Fouls committed	19
3	Yellow cards	2
0	Red cards	0

Goal: 0-1 Griezmann (1').

Referee: José Sánchez.

Venue: La Rosaleda (25,482 spectators).

TABLE & FIXTURES

MATCHDAY 23

Results

MALAGA - At. Madrid	0-1
Athletic - Las Palmas	0-0
Sevilla - Girona	1-0
Leganés - Eibar	0-1
Barcelona - Getafe	0-0
Celta - Espanyol	2-2
Villarreal - Alavés	1-2
R. Madrid - R. Sociedad	5-2
Valencia - Levante	3-1
Deportivo - Betis	0-1

Fixtures

MALAGA - Valencia
At. Madrid - Athletic
Las Palmas - Sevilla
Girona - Leganés
Eibar - Barcelona
Getafe - Celta
Espanyol - Villarreal
Alavés - Deportivo
Betis - Real Madrid
Real Sociedad - Levante

LEAGUE TABLE

TEAM	PT.	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
★ 1. Barcelona	59	23	18	5	0	60	11
★ 2. At. Madrid	52	23	15	7	1	34	9
★ 3. Valencia	43	23	13	4	6	45	27
★ 4. Real Madrid	42	22	12	6	4	50	23
■ 5. Villarreal	37	23	11	4	8	34	28
■ 6. Sevilla	36	23	11	3	9	29	34
7. Eibar	35	23	10	5	8	32	34
8. Betis	33	23	10	3	10	38	45
9. Celta	32	23	9	5	9	41	34
10. Girona	31	23	8	7	8	31	30
11. Getafe	30	23	7	9	7	26	21
12. Leganés	29	22	8	5	9	20	22
13. Athletic	28	23	6	10	7	24	25
14. Real Sociedad	26	23	7	5	11	43	45
15. Espanyol	26	23	6	8	9	21	31
16. Alavés	25	23	8	1	14	21	33
17. Levante	20	23	3	11	9	21	35
▼ 18. Las Palmas	18	23	5	3	15	17	50
▼ 19. Deportivo	17	23	4	5	14	24	52
▼ 20. MALAGA	13	23	3	4	16	14	36

Early goal sends Malaga one step closer to oblivion

DARYL FINCH

✉ dfinch@diariosur.es

Antoine Griezmann scored in the first minute to shatter the Blue and Whites' gameplan

MALAGA. Having lost the crucial 'six-pointer' in Las Palmas on Monday night, Malaga came into Saturday's game with an altogether different prospect: facing Atlético Madrid, knowing that any positive result would be a bonus.

However, what they would have to do was keep it tight and they failed to do so; the fans were barely in their seats when Atlético took the lead. Antoine Griezmann was sharp while the Malaga rearguard was flatfooted

and latched on the ball as Saúl's blocked shot from outside the box looped into the area, taking the ball under his spell before dinking it over Roberto.

This early blow rocked Malaga and ruined head coach José González's gameplan immediately.

The Blue and Whites, who started with both Brown Ideye and Youssef En-Nesyri up top in the absence of captain Recio, were hoping to soak up the Atlético pressure and hit them on the counterattack.

González evidently targeted the space in behind the fullbacks, but with the Colchoneros comfortable with their early lead, they were able to soak up anything the Blue and Whites tried to hit them with.

In fact, the only chance they could muster in the first half came from a Roberto Rosales freekick from the left which Ideye nodded wide at the far post. He was offside in any case.

From that moment, an uncharacteristically quiet La Rosaleda found it hard to get excited with neither keeper having anything to do.

However, this changed in the sec-



The Malaga players, downtrodden at the final whistle. :: EFE

ond half with the introduction of debutant Medhi Lacen in the middle of the park who demonstrated authority in possession and kept Malaga's play ticking over.

The Blue and Whites came into the game more but still relied on set pieces to create chances.

Rosales produced a world-class save out of Jan Oblak with a freekick bound for the top corner. However, besides this opportunity, Malaga were living off scraps in the area, with Ignasi Miquel and Federico Ricca both heading over half chances.

González threw on both Diego Rolán and Samuel in search of the equaliser but a distinct lack of creativity from midfield meant that despite the hosts enjoying possession, they couldn't get their attacking players in threatening positions.

With five minutes to go, Mehdi Lacen was stretchered off and taken to hospital with suspected concussion after a clash of heads with substitute Fernando Torres, effectively ending Malaga's chances. With ten men, they were forced onto the back foot once again and but for the off-

side flag, Torres would have bagged the second when he was played through on goal before chipping the keeper.

Malaga are now rock bottom of the table, seven points from safety, but head coach José González could still find solace in the result: "If we continue to play like that, we will win more games that we'll lose."

However, with many of January's new recruits still far from being match fit, it is up to the core group to produce the goods when high-flying Valencia visit La Rosaleda on Saturday.

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A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER

Commentator, Sky Sports
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The farewell tour

Real Madrid seem to only turn up for the big occasions these days. Is it time for the band to split?

This Real Madrid band is like an egotistical monster of rock - the bigger the arena or festival, the better the performance.

I once saw Meatloaf; I'd been waiting for years to see the legend in the flesh. When he came to my local arena he was all over the place, out of tune, slurring some words and relying on lesser members of the band to carry him through the night.

Apparently when he played Wembley he was mega and rocked the house.

This is Real Madrid; send them to play a gig in Girona or Vigo and they'll throw lesser known band members to the centre of the stage to bang out tracks from the new album; it's one big let-down. Ask them to go head-to-head with luminaries at a festival and they raise the roof.

The clash with Paris Saint-Germain was billed as the most significant event of the season so far. Lose and it was 'adiós' to Zinedine Zidane, despite his quite incredible past record as manager of the most demanding club in the world.

I'm guessing that he told his players that this is their last chance to make a number one together (not that he will have suggested to Cristiano Ronaldo that he is



Gareth Bale needs to step up and take Cristiano's mantle. :: EFE

anything other than immortal).

Zidane went back to the early days of coaching at the Bernabéu by selecting his team on balance and recent performance rather than reputation. Isco has rarely let him down and has frequently been inspirational whereas the fragility of body (and maybe mind) of Gareth Bale is still questionable.

Isco strummed and set the rhythm, Ronaldo enjoyed his soloist moments and Karim Benzema crashed around like a crazed drummer. I always feel sorry for Benzema, like a drummer his perspiration is often overlooked; without him there's less energy and the rest suffer. Some would like to see someone more famous in the line-up but he keeps getting the gigs. I wonder if he has posters of Ringo Starr in his mansion?

It could be argued that this Real Madrid team is like the Beatles. They've gone beyond playing the likes of the Cavern and only the buzz of a major football arena gets the adrenalin fully flowing.

The Beatles finished at Candlestick Park and the grand plan is for this edition of Real Madrid is to reach the crescendo at the Olimpiyskiy Stadium in Kiev.

To win the Champions League three years in a row would bring immortality and then the band must break up to allow the next generation to break through. Peter Gabriel was replaced by Phil Collins in Genesis, Adam Lambert filled in for Freddie Mercury in Queen and so Gareth Bale must grab the microphone from Cristiano Ronaldo and Marco Asensio has to become football's Justin Bieber.

The farewell tour continues.

Marbella pick up a valuable away point

The Costa side struggled to impose themselves on an open game but held on for the draw in Gran Canaria

LAS PALMAS B 0 MARBELLA 0

:: J. HERRERA (OPTA)

LAS PALMAS. Marbella could only come away from the Canaries with a point in their clash against relegation-threatened Las Palmas B on Sunday.

Despite dominating the play, it was the hosts who created the best chances by soaking up Marbella's attack before capitalising on sloppy possession and hitting them on the counterattack.

The first came in the 12th minute through Erik, to whom the ball returned after he started the move, but Wilfred in the Marbella goal had no difficulty in stopping the shot.

A shot from Fabio sailed over and Benito's header drifted wide

before the visitors had a chance of their own just before the break. Corpas, however, couldn't convert and the teams went in level.

Las Palmas carved out a further two chances through Yeremi and Erik before Marbella coach Fernando Estévez turned to his bench in search of more steel in the middle, introducing Héctor Otín and Álex Bernal for Sergio Narváez and Juanfran.

However, all the Costa side could produce in the remaining half an hour was a tame effort from Añón. The hosts, by contrast, had two great chances in the closing stages squandered by Artiles and Kilian, making it clear it wasn't a day for the strikers.

This result means that Marbella stay second in Segunda B IV on the back of a seven-game unbeaten run, picking up 15 from the 21 available.

Next up they face Jumilla at home, which will be the warm-up for the biggest game of the season as they take on leaders Cartagena the following week.



Corpas looks for options during Sunday's clash. :: OPTA

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:: JUAN CALDERÓN

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The Unicaja basketball team took on Real Madrid in the first round of the Copa del Rey last night. The team travelled on Wednesday to Las Palmas for the tournament with their youth team in tow and stopped for photos at the Gran Canaria airport (above). At the time of going to press, the match result was not yet known.

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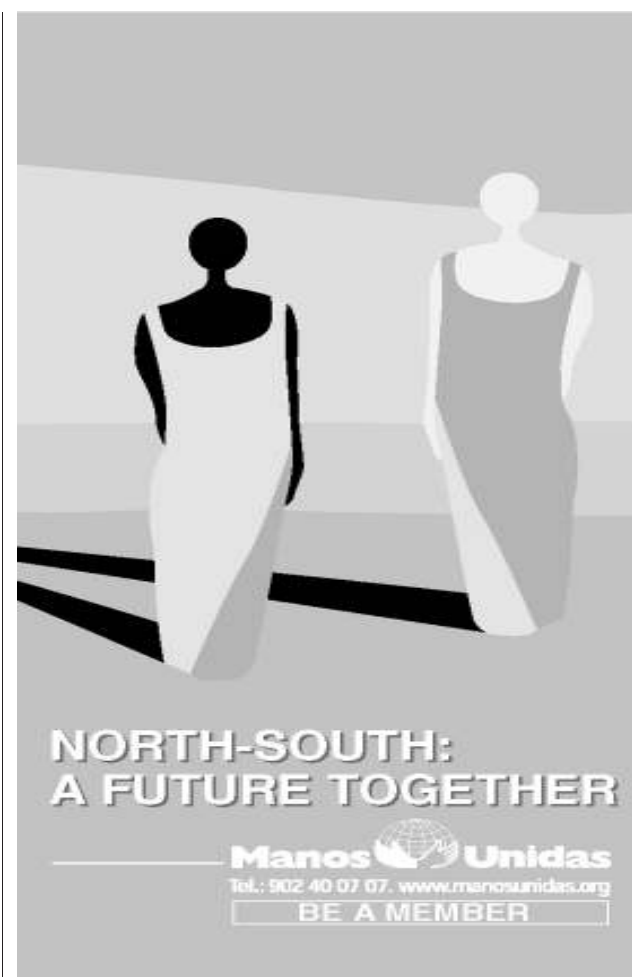
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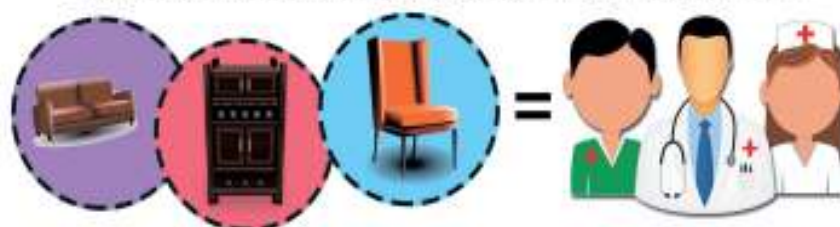
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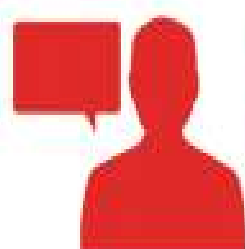
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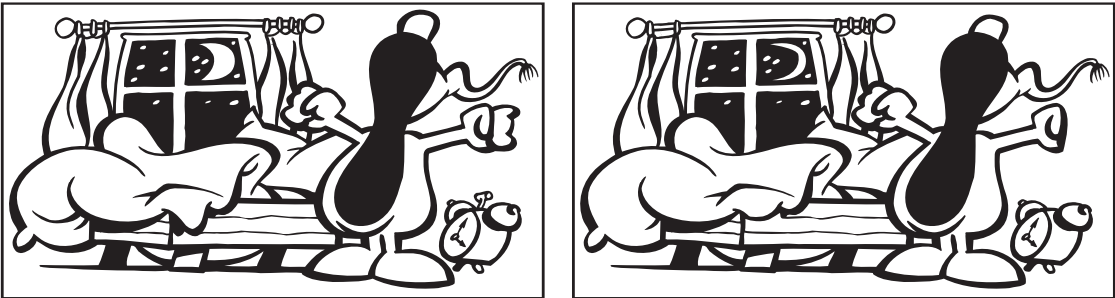
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THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



THE STARS

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January 21 - February 19
There is something to be said for taking things as they come, or living in the moment.

Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Are you getting mixed messages from a loved one? People can be changeable, like the weather at this time of year.

Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Rather than be influenced by what others are saying or doing, listen to your instincts. Not everything is clear.

Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Don't tire yourself out by over-thinking things. Keep life simple and avoid those who would be confusing or negative.

Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Curiosity may lead you to plan a trip that is different from anything you have done before. New places will stimulate your mind and give you ideas.

Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Give yourself some leisure time to do that one thing that you keep promising yourself.

Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
It is time to use your efforts and talents to progress. Forget trying to do everything for others as some 'me time' is long overdue.

Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Remember that there is a time and place for everything. When things slot into place you will know they are right.

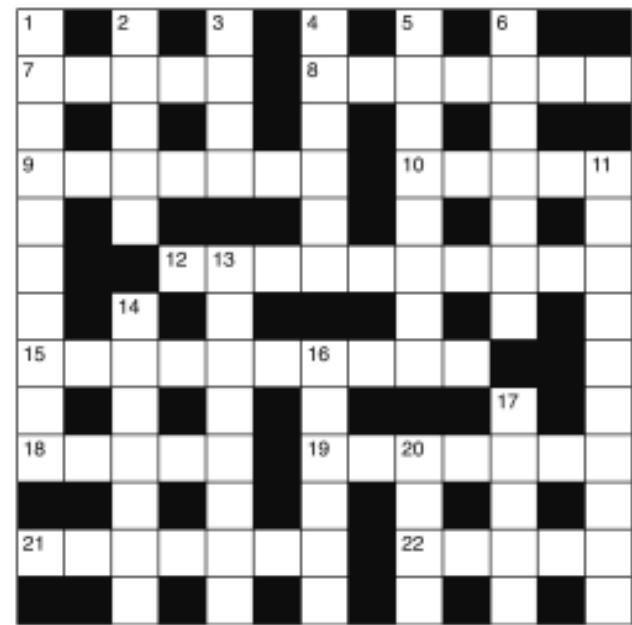
Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
A passionate encounter at the weekend may seem a bit overwhelming. Is that because it was unexpected?

Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
This week needs more inward thinking than outward action. A cheeky suggestion at the weekend may seem harmless but who is behind it?

Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
A lack of energy as the week begins can easily be changed so get out and get active, chasing that dream.

Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Are you having a change in luck? Perhaps your new confident attitude has something to do with it?

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11282



- Across
- Down
- 7 A subject causing trouble? (5)

8 Most woe begotten pair (7)

9 Hit legs into shape to gain dexterity (7)

10 Archers may fire or speak with it (5)

12 To borrow money and move away is risky (5,3,2)

15 A retiring habit (10)

18 Make an excellent start, and do even better (5)

19 Institution providing outlet after study (7)

21 Gave evidence and was kicked out of office (7)

22 Wait to start a game perhaps (5)
- 1 The knowledge of the most suitable gear to use (5,5)

2 Went back to sea? (5)

3 A standard laid down to help pave the way (4)

4 Still among the best at ice hockey (6)

5 Shows fish that are left (8)

6 Company has guardians not voted for bravery (7)

11 Be a superior gardener, and become even more so (4,6)

13 Be superior to other pupils (8)

14 Their contents will be cracked (7)

16 Go back and make a further concession? (6)

17 Centre of the earth (5)

20 Egg production centre (4)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

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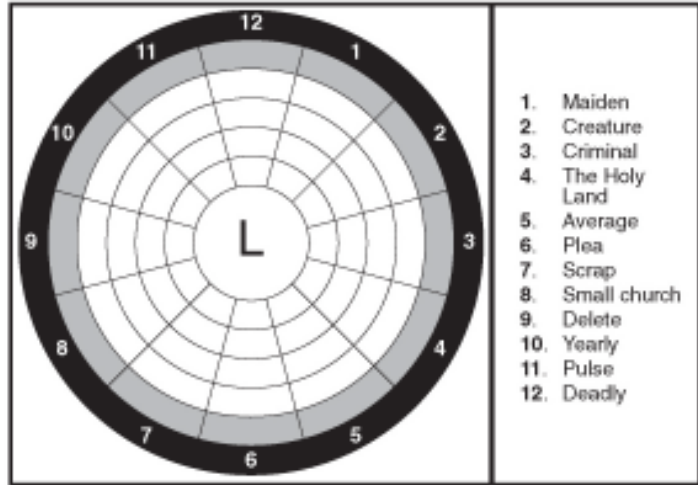
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3	2		7	5				
						3	4	
4			8					9
		2						
			9	7			2	1
9	3				1			8
	6		3					
		4			8			
1					9			7

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 TV presenter.



THE WORDPUZZLER

S	O	R	I	T	H	U	R	S	E
C	R	O	S	S	E	N	T	E	D
R	I	S	P	I	M	C	L	A	W
A	M	E	A	T	H	A	R	L	O
B	E	N	W	A	I	R	A	H	I
O	N	D	I	P	E	P	P	E	R
L	I	W	N	E	V	E	C	A	S
F	L	A	G	R	I	T	E	T	E
E	S	R	E	M	B	A	S	H	V
D	A	F	T	A	R	L	O	Y	L

CAN you identify the words that may follow RED from the clues listed below?

1. Condiment

2. Edible flesh

3. Body of water

4. Short person

5. Angry

6. Floor covering

7. Banner

8. Got up

9. Ribbon

10. Warmth

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.

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
- 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

QUIZ

QUESTION 1

Which of these countries does the river Nile NOT pass through?

1. Ethiopia

2. Tanzania

3. Somalia

4. Kenya

QUESTION 2

Who wrote about Matilda who "told lies and was burned to death"?

1. Hilare Belloc

2. Roald Dahl

3. Dr. Seuss

4. Rudyard Kipling

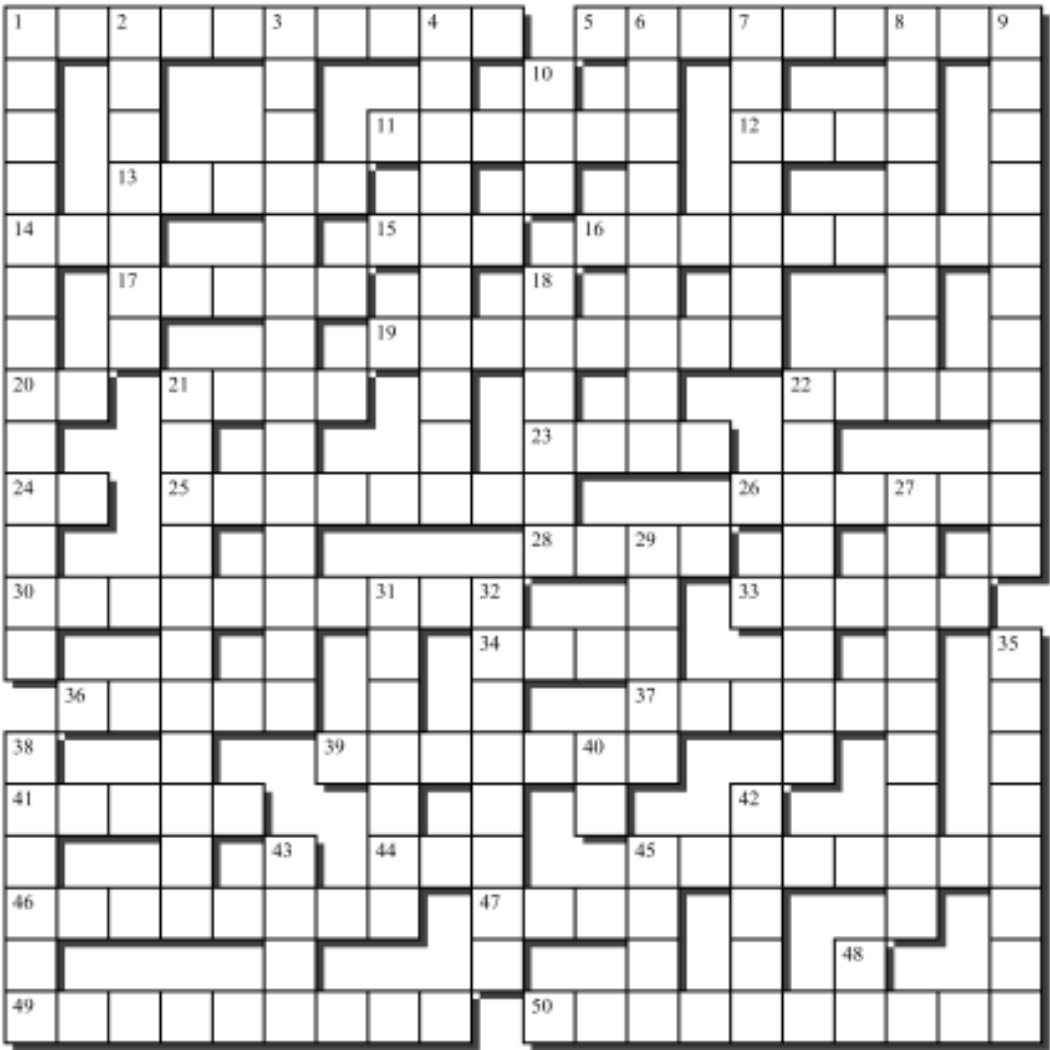
LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

Across

- 1) Marriage (10)
- 5) Education (9)
- 11) Progress (6)
- 12) Miaow (4)
- 13) Bank (5)
- 14) Ugly (f) (3)
- 15) Hoop (3)
- 16) Difficult (pl) (9)
- 17) Cante ____ (flamenco) (5)
- 19) To dislocate (8)
- 20) You (2)
- 21) She (4)
- 22) It barks (5)
- 23) Chaos (4)
- 24) The letter Q (2)
- 25) Pregnancy (8)
- 26) Abortion (6)
- 28) Alone (f) (4)
- 30) We will give our opinion (10)
- 33) Strawberry (5)
- 34) Celery (4)
- 36) Flat (music) (5)
- 37) To relapse (6)
- 39) Permission (7)
- 41) Dwarf (5)
- 44) Axis (3)
- 45) To protect (8)
- 46) Rights (8)
- 47) Monkfish (4)
- 49) Republic (9)
- 50) Privilege (10)

Down

- 1) Protest march (13)
- 2) Work (7)
- 3) Job market (7,7) (14)
- 4) I would invest (10)
- 6) Eighteen (9)
- 7) To change (7)
- 8) Equality (8)
- 9) They needed (11)
- 10) One (3)
- 18) Skinny (pl) (6)
- 21) Eternally (11)
- 22) Freedom (8)
- 27) It restricts (9)
- 29) I cry (5)
- 31) Women (7)
- 32) Brine (8)
- 35) Divorce (8)
- 38) To lose (6)
- 40) Yes (2)
- 42) I broke (5)
- 43) Shawl (4)
- 45) I ordered (4)
- 48) He sees (2)



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

Of interest: Joseph Hilaire Pierre René Belloc was an Anglo-French writer and historian. His widely sold Cautionary Tales for Children included "Jim, who ran away from his nurse, and was eaten by a lion" and "Matilda, who told lies and was burnt to death".

Answer 1: Somalia

Of interest: The Nile is regarded as the longest river in the world. It passes through Egypt, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and Eritrea.

Answer 1: Hilaire Belloc

Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 7 Rebel; 8 Twosome; 9 Slight; 10 Twang; 12 Touch and go; 15 Nightdress; 18 Excel; 19 Convent; 21 Deposed; 22 Serve. Down: 1 Dress sense; 2 Ebb; 3 Flag; 4 Static; 5 Portrays; 6 Cowards; 11 Grow better; 13 Outclass; 14 Eggcup; 16 Recede; 17 Heart; 20 Nest.

Clockword solution

SOLUTION: 1 Damsel, 2 Animal, 3 Vandal, 4 Israel, 5 Normal, 6 Appeal, 7 Morsel, 8 Chapel, 9 Cancel, 10 Annual, 11 Lethal, 12 Lethal.

PRESENTER: Davina McCall.

Wordpuzzler solution

SORIT HURSE
CROSS ENTED
RIS PIMCLAW
AMEAT HARLO
BENWAI RAHI
ONDIPERPER
LINWEECAS
FLAGRITETE
ESREMBASHV
DAFTARLOYL

1. Pepper
2. Meat
3. Sea
4. Dwarf
5. Cross
6. Carpet
7. Flag
8. Rose
9. Tape
10. Heal

Sudoku solution

3	2	9	7	5	4	8	1	6
8	7	6	1	9	2	3	4	5
4	5	1	8	3	6	2	7	9
6	1	2	4	8	5	7	9	3
5	4	8	9	7	3	6	2	1
9	3	7	6	2	1	4	5	8
2	6	5	3	1	7	9	8	4
7	9	4	5	6	8	1	3	2
1	8	3	2	4	9	5	6	7

Language Crossword

ACROSS:
1. MATRIMONIO SEDUCACION
11. AVANCE 12. MALU 13. BANCO 14. FEA
15. ARO 16. DIFICIL 17. ONDO
19. SILO 20. TI 21. LA 22. ARA
23. AOS 24. CU 25. MARAZO
26. ARO 28. SOLA 30. PINAREMOS
31. FRESA 34. PIO 36. BMO
37. DECA 39. PERMISO 41. ENANO
44. FEA 45. PROTEGE 46. DECHO
47. AFE 49. REPUBLICA 50. PRIVILEGIO

DOWN:
1. MANIFESTACION 2. TRABAJO
3. MARCHA 4. ABOGADO 5. ANIVERSARIO
6. DIBUJO 7. CAMBIO 8. AGUADAD
9. NECESITAN 10. UNO 18. FLACOS
21. ETERNAMENTE 22. LIBERAD
27. ESTUNGE 29. ARO 31. MUJERES
32. SALTUERA 35. DIVORCIO 38. PERDER
40. SI 42. ROMPI 43. CHAL 45. PEDI 48. VE

BOOK OF THE WEEK



Paradises
Iosi Havilio

The narrator is a young widow whose home is repossessed after her husband's untimely death. She leaves the countryside with her young son to find a job in Buenos Aires and is offered work in the reptile house of the city zoo. She also agrees to help nurse the cancer-ridden morphine addicted matriarch of the squat where they take up residence by administering his daily morphine injections. A self-destructive and hedonistic old friend turns up and draws her into a world of drugs and alcohol.

THOUGHT FOR
THE WEEK

I believe that
if one always
looked at
the sky, one
would end
up with
wings

GUSTAVE FLAUBERT

THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

February, fast turning into March

We are already in February with Valentine's Day behind us and the Carnival nearly over (Marbella has its Grand Carnival Procession tomorrow starting at about 5.30pm). There are loads of events, holidays and festivals to come which we try to keep ahead of in our What To Do Pages.

Next on the horizon is White Week (Semana Blanca, 26 February - 4 March) when schoolchildren have a week's holiday and traditionally it is the season for skiing.

Wednesday 28th, in the middle of Se-

mana Blanca, is Andalucía Day, marking the anniversary of the referendum in which the majority voted to make Andalucía an autonomous region. This day is a public holiday and it is usually fairly quiet with few shops and businesses open. There is often a reduced bus and train schedule too. Expect to see lots of green and white flags about though.

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Fellini's dreams come true at the Picasso Museum

A new exhibition puts the work of artist and filmmaker side by side to reveal their creative relationship

by ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

MÁLAGA. In 1917 Pablo Ruiz Picasso set up his studio at number 110 Via Margutta in Rome to paint the sets for the ballet Parade. Half a century later Federico Fellini moved into the same house. The coincidence could well be a metaphor for the relationship between artist and filmmaker: they never met but their paths crossed on several occasions, mainly in the dreams of the Italian director. Four times, he said, he dreamed of the Malaga-born artist, an appearance that sparked the latest exhibition at the city's Picasso Museum (MPM): And Fellini Dreamed of Picasso, which opened on Tuesday.

The idea of the pair's paths crossing without them ever actually meeting is continued in the staging of the exhibition where the work of both creators is positioned so they can look, but not touch.

The aim, said the MPM's artistic director José Lebrero, is to create "iconographic juxtaposition between the works of Picasso and the sequences of Fellini". In other words the visitor is not spoon-fed but left to ponder the common threads that go through both artists' work: the world of the circus, the female form and a



One of Picasso's paintings in the exhibition and right, Fellini's sketch of his dream in January 1962 when Picasso sat at his table. by S. SALAS / SUR

passion for classical antiquity.

"Fellini and Picasso are two different characters, but their work can be compared in different ways. [...] This imaginary dialogue that starts in dreams takes shape in the museum. [...] Their works continue the conversation," said the curator Audrey Norcia of the project inspired by

Fellini's experiences described in his own Book of Dreams.

The filmmaker's works in the show include three sketches (he earned a living as a cartoonist before revolutionising the world of film) in which he drew Picasso as he appeared in his dreams. In the section devoted to women the exhibition displays

how each artist, in his own way, depicted voluptuous, lascivious and almost grotesque figures and the circus link comes in a series of photographs of the artists in fancy dress, playing instruments or striking comical poses. The exhibition is accompanied by a documentary about the pair by Isaki Lacuesta.

THE EXHIBITION

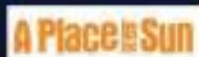
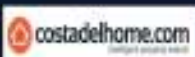
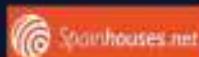
- **Title.** And Fellini Dreamed of Picasso.
- **Venue.** Malaga Picasso Museum.
- **Dates.** Until 13 May.



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