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**Our new
online look
goes live**

A redesigned
version of the SUR
in English website
has been launched
this week **P10**



SPAIN SNOWED UNDER

Inland areas of the province of Malaga were covered in white this week as temperatures plunged **P2&3**



A view of the frozen landscape in Ronda, where snow blocked road access for much of Thursday. :: VANESSA MELGAR

Costa hospital leads the way in fight against date rape drugs

The Costa del Sol hospital in Marbella can now run tests to detect use of burundanga in cases of sexual assault and robbery

Detectives looking into two cases of sexual assault in the Marbella area this year have a new ally in their investigation. The Costa del Sol hospital has announced a new protocol that could allow them to detect substances which cause "chemical submission". The project is pioneering in Andalucía,

where there is increasing concern about this type of crime, and is one of very few running in Spain.

The victims in the two cases - a young British woman who was attacked in Marbella on New Year's Eve, and a young disabled woman in Estepona - have had blood, urine and hair samples taken to check

for traces of burundanga, a powerful depressant of the nervous system which can subdue free will and render a victim unconscious for up to 24 hours.

The samples form part of the procedure which will be applied to patients who medical staff at the hospital fear have been drugged

with the substance. In all cases, victims will have to sign a consent form.

Though sexual assault is their main priority, police have noted an increase in the use of burundanga in other types of crime, including break-ins and robbery. The drug's ability to inhibit a victim's sensitivity has, in cases, allowed thieves to rummage through bedside tables for valuables while the occupant of the property was in a deep sleep. **P18&19**

SPORT



Veteran defender Martín Demichelis returns to Malaga to ease the club's defensive crisis **P61**

Borussia Dortmund and FC Basel are among several teams on the Costa for a mid-season break **P58&59**

Banks told to fast track pay-outs for customers with mortgage 'floor clauses' as government outlines clear steps **P16**

Andalucía anticipates another record year for tourism with an extra 1.5 million visitors expected to come to the region **P12**

The battle against sugar gets fiercer as the tax man prepares to take on the nation's biggest threat to health **P44-48**



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A child builds a snowman in Ronda with the famous Puente Nuevo over the gorge in the background. :: AFP



Puerto del León, 900 metres above sea level, only a couple



El Torcal in Antequera, covered in snow for the first time this winter. :: F. DEL PINO



Las Pedrizas on the A-92M, on Thursday morning. :: FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ

Cold front brings snow and plunging temperatures to southern Spain

Ronda was cut off by road on Thursday morning while several towns close to the coast received their first snow in decades

:: SUR

MÁLAGA. Yellow weather warnings were issued for much of Andalucía on both Wednesday and Thursday as a cold front approached from the north, forcing temperatures to fall more than ten degrees in places, bringing with it snowfall in several inland areas.

The Aemet Meteorological Centre in Malaga registered 7 degrees at its weather station at Malaga Airport at 9am on Wednesday morning, though the windchill factor made this feel like 3 or 4 degrees.

However, temperatures plunged as the day progressed bringing with it snow, mostly in inland areas such

as Antequera where thermometers went down to several degrees below zero.

It was Yunquera, though, that was the first municipality in Malaga province to receive snowfall, quickly joined by the Sierra Bermeja, where the snow was able to settle. Similarly, white patches appeared at Fuente de

la Reina in the Montes de Málaga. It also started snowing at El Torcal in Antequera and the Sierra de las Nieves.

Areas closer to (or on) the coast such as Nerja, Cártama, Coín, Olías and Alhaurín de la Torre also received snow but the temperatures didn't allow for it to settle. In the

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of kilometres from Malaga. :: A. C.



Youngsters play with the snow in Ronda. :: VANESSA MELGAR



The first snow balls in Yunquera. :: IVÁN GELIBTER

city of Malaga at around lunchtime on Wednesday, there was a brief period of sleet.

Historic snowfall

Aemet extended its inclement weather warnings into Thursday Yunquera in the Sierra de las Nieves received its biggest snowfall in 30 years.

The snow also left the town of Ronda without road access, closing

schools in the area. Several drivers were trapped on the roads and an accident involving a jackknifed lorry on the A-374 worsened the situation. Snowploughs were at work at several points of the road network but despite this, the traffic authorities admitted it was overwhelmed with calls to signpost dangerous zones.

Many roads affected remained closed at time of going to print, in-

cluding the A-372 to Montejaque while others, such as A-7276 to Cuevas del Becerro, could only be used by cars fitted with snow chains.

Motorists travelling in the Ronda area are advised to fit snow chains and consult the information, also available in English, on the DGT website (www.dgt.es) before setting off.

Other areas

In Antequera, where the town and its dolmens received a covering, road access to El Torcal nature reserve was cut off on Thursday morning with snowploughs still working to clear the route well into the evening.

Alhaurín el Grande received its first snow in 63 years while it also snowed on the Calamorro peak in Benalmádena and in the Cañada del Lobo area of Torremolinos.

Forecasts predicted that the last of the snow in Malaga province would fall on Thursday night, but the cold spell is due to last until next Tuesday.

Information compiled by: I. Gelibter, Vanessa Melgar, A. J. Guerrero and A. Peláez.

Costa Blanca and Mallorca hit by the heaviest snowfall seen in decades

|| MARCUS PRICE

Snow blanketed the east coast of Spain on Wednesday with Valencia forced to close its ports. According to the emergency coordination centre for the government in Valencia, all maritime traffic was stopped due to the adverse weather conditions. Elsewhere in the province, more than 1,300 vehicles found themselves stranded on motorways while the train line connecting Valencia and Alicante was also forced to close.

The last recorded snowfall in Alicante was in 1960 but it fell heavily in the city on Wednesday, with roads closed and the usual golden sand turned white. The Spanish met office (Aemet) issued a red alert for the northern part of the province in addition to the southern part of Valencia prov-

ince, indicating a high risk of snow with danger to the public.

The small town of Ibi, also in the province of Alicante, was left without power as the intense snowfall took down electricity cables. The town was also forced to close its municipal parks due to the fear of falling branches.

Mallorca was also affected by the cold snap as parts of the island were covered with between two and five centimetres of snow with the Sierra de Tramontana receiving around ten centimetres.

The Murcia region has also been hit by the conditions, with the capital receiving snow for the first time in 34 years. According to Aemet, parts of the region were forecast to see as much as 15 centimetres of snow, with temperatures plummeting to around six below zero.



Locals enjoying the snowy beaches in Alicante. :: EFE

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Steven's body was found on a bench at Malaga Airport. :: SALVADOR SALAS

Man filmed how homeless Brit was taunted before his death

The images posted on Facebook show that Steven Allford was still alive when a group were insulting him

:: JUAN CANO

MALAGA. A video posted on Facebook by a Finnish man, shows how Steven Allford, the 51-year-old British man who was found dead at Malaga Airport on 21 October, was still alive when he was being insulted and mocked before he died.

The footage shows him lying face down on a bench at the cercanías train station, the same position in which he was found, his hands bound to the bench with plastic ties, several hours later by a security guard. In the video he moves his head slightly. He is surrounded by a group of people, also apparently homeless, who are laughing at him.

The Finnish Facebook user did not leave the images on his page for very

long, but long enough for the police to find them. The video has led detectives to four more suspects thought to have taken part in the insults and to have contributed to the death of the British man. The autopsy revealed that the victim, who smelled strongly of alcohol, had died by choking on his own vomit.

In October detectives arrested Kimmo T. N., a Finnish national of the same age as the victim who also slept rough. He is still held in prison, while an international arrest warrant has been issued via Interpol for the other people identified in the video. Two of them are British and two Finnish.

The investigation into a possible case of negligent homicide is based on the fact that the victim's wrist and ankle were bound to the bench. Detectives are trying to determine whether these restraints prevented the man from turning over to stop himself from choking and therefore contributed to his death.

Steven's body was found with slices

of ham on his buttocks and his genitals had been put inside a tuna tin, which could lead to charges of harassment or desecration of a human body, depending on whether he was still alive when this was done. His trousers had been pulled down to his knees but the autopsy revealed no evidence of sexual assault.

Detectives believe that the motive for the attack could have been a fight over food. Other homeless people interviewed after the incident said they knew Steven and that he would often take food and drink from others, but refused to share his own, especially not his drink.

The British man suffered episodes of schizophrenia, for which he was undergoing treatment, as well as alcoholism. He had been arrested several times. The most recent for negligent homicide in France. He was released in August and returned to England. A few weeks later he came to Spain and ended up in Malaga. He had been sleeping at the airport for several weeks when he was found dead.

112 REPORTS

Police free 15-year-old who was working as a prostitute in a nightclub

PIZARRA

:: **A. FRIAS / J. CANO.** A police operation has broken up a criminal organisation that was sexually exploiting women. The organisation controlled half a dozen clubs in a number of different areas, including Estepona, Vélez-Málaga and Pizarra.

According to sources, when police officers entered the club in Pizarra, they found a girl of Dominican origin who had false documentation. She was eventually discovered to be 15 years old and living nearby with her grandmother, who believed she was staying with friends.

Seventeen people were arrested during the operation, including eight from Malaga.

Car with eight on board in police chase

MALAGA

:: **J. A. SEDANO.** An Audi A4, that led police on a 15-kilometre car chase through Malaga on Thursday last week, was carrying eight people. Among the passengers of the car were three children, one of whom was only a few months old.

Sentence reduced for model found guilty of killing Andrew Bush

ESTEPONA

:: **SUR.** The High Court of Andalucía has reduced the sentence of Slovakian model María Kukulcova who was found guilty of killing British millionaire Andrew Bush in his Estepona villa in 2014. One year and nine months has been deducted, absolving her of forced entry and also taking into account her confession. Kukulcova must still serve a further 13 and a half years behind bars.



:: JOSELE-LANZA

Mother who hit daughter in public receives restraining order

MARBELLA

:: **H. BARBOTA.** A woman has been given a restraining order as well as 18 days of community service after hitting her daughter, who was 12 at the time, before attacking the father when he tried to defend her. The restraining order is in place for one year with the judge also removing custody of the girl.

The incident took place in 2014 at the Las Albarizas health centre when a heated discussion arose over the daughter's behaviour.

Councillor convicted of assaulting another councillor's husband

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE

:: **I. GELIBTER.** Francisco Guerrero, councillor for Por Alhaurín, has been found guilty of actual bodily harm against Francisco Miranda, husband of Mari Francis Fernández, the PP councillor at the centre of the recent no-confidence motion.

The events took place during the town's fair in 2015 when Guerrero and Miranda got involved in an angry exchange before Guerrero grabbed Miranda by the neck and pushed him into some shelving. The intervention of passersby stopped the situation from escalating.

Guerrero has been ordered to repay legal fees footed by the town hall and can expect calls for his resignation.

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Tax Planning In Today's World

By John McCann, Senior Partner, Blevins Franks

Tax planning remains an important part of protecting your wealth and retirement income, but it can be quite a minefield these days, particularly for expatriates who have cross-border interests. You need detailed, up-to-date knowledge of Spanish, UK and international tax regimes and regulations to be able to achieve the best results for yourself and your heirs.

There are two key issues to consider –

(1) That the arrangements you use are fully compliant in Spain (and anywhere you have assets or heirs), and you are fully declaring your worldwide assets and income as required by law.

(2) That the arrangements you use are suitable for you, and will achieve your aims and work well in Spain and the UK. While some arrangements seem similar, the tax benefits they provide can vary significantly.

Modelo 720

The Spanish Tax Authority is becoming proficient at detecting and preventing tax evasion. The introduction of the *Modelo 720* in

2012 was a game changer in terms of the information it collects and uses to monitor taxpayers' overseas assets. Everyone resident in Spain needs to annually report their non-Spanish assets over €50,000. The penalties for failing to declare assets are particularly harsh.

This obligation falls on the owner of the asset, or Spanish resident beneficiary or authorised signatory, and includes assets held in a trust. Make sure you know what assets and values to include in your *Modelo 720* and that you are submitting the correct information on time to avoid substantial penalties. The deadline is 31st March.

Automatic exchange of information

This year tax authorities start to receive information on their taxpayers' overseas assets and income under the Common Reporting Standard – the new automatic exchange of information regime implemented by around 100 countries.

The financial information to be reported includes the name,

address and tax identification number of the asset owner; the balance/value, interest and dividend payments and gross proceeds from the sale of financial assets.

The financial institutions that need to report include banks, custodians, investment entities such as investment funds, certain insurance companies, trusts and foundations.

The Spanish authorities will be in a position to compare the information received on an individual with his tax returns and *Modelo 720*, and find any discrepancies.

Tax efficient investment arrangements

This is the time to review your tax planning arrangements to ensure you comply with your tax and reporting obligations in Spain – including for income that is taxed another country, such as UK government service pensions and rental income.

Look to shelter assets from tax using compliant arrangements. Tax efficient investment wrappers,

offered through a Spanish compliant bond, can be very effective. These 'portfolio bonds' – a specialised form of life assurance arrangement – are successfully used by expatriates living here for tax and succession planning, but there are various types of bonds available, with different tax treatment. Both the type of product and jurisdiction can make a difference to the advantages they offer.

The tax treatment of life assurance contracts in Spain varies according to whether the contract is approved or not. An approved, or 'compliant', contract must meet specific requirements. For example, the life company must be an EU company and passported through their home regulator into Spain, with the particular product approved by the Spanish regulator of insurance companies. The Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey are not in the EU.

If you have a non-compliant bond, the investment growth is taxable each year, regardless of whether you have made withdrawals or not. If, however, you have a compliant bond, no tax is payable until you make a withdrawal. So all

investment gains are rolled up, which over the long-term can produce higher returns. Also, when you make partial withdrawals, only the gain element of the amount withdrawn is taxable.

When it comes to estate planning, you may also find a trust can be effective in helping you achieve your wishes for your heirs. However much depends on your circumstances and objectives, and the type of trust you use.

In today's world, specialist advice for your tax and succession planning is essential to establish the most suitable approach for you and your family. You need an adviser who is fully conversant with Spanish and UK tax law, who analyses tax reforms and keeps your wealth management up-to-date with any changes.

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

“Do I need to review my financial planning for 2017”

Talk to the people who know.

2016 was a year of change. It marked the start of the new global automatic exchange of information regime and we then had Brexit and the US elections. Investment diversification is more important than ever, and your tax and estate planning must be up-to-date to protect yourself and your heirs. Contact us to review your wealth management for 2017 and beyond.

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Patients praise new Ronda hospital after first appointments on Tuesday

Five outpatients surgeries opened at the new hospital this week where 82 patients were seen by specialists on the first day

:: VANESSA MELGAR

RONDA. Activity began at the new Ronda hospital on Tuesday morning with five outpatients surgeries open: General Surgery, Dermatology, Anaesthesia, Gynaecology and Obstetrics and Paediatrics, after a wait of more than 20 years. Maite Flores, a young woman from Algodonales, was the first patient waiting for an appointment. The expectant mother arrived just before nine in the morning with her husband David Barrera. She referred to the new hospital as a “wonder” stating, “The consult-



One of the first patients, Patricia Peña, with María Flores and Carmen Hidalgo. **:: VANESSA MELGAR**

ing rooms, above all, are much bigger in general; this hospital is far removed from anything we have at the moment.”

The hospital will serve an area of 85,000 people who live in towns and villages in the Serranía as well as others in the province of Cadiz,

such as Ubrique, Benaocaz and Villaluenga del Rosario. A total of 82 patients went to their appointments on the hospital's first day.

The hospital will be fully operative in April, when the move from the Hospital Comarcal is complete. The more than 700 healthcare professionals at the Comarcal will eventually be moved to the new centre.

The new hospital was visited on Tuesday by the representative of the regional government in Malaga, José Luis Ruiz Espejo; the province's Health delegate, Ana Isabel González; the manager of the Serranía health district, José Antonio Ruiz; the mayor of Ronda, Teresa Valdenebro; and the councillor for Public Works, Francisco Márquez.

The facility has cost nearly 50 million euros. The first stone was laid in October 2008 by the firm FCC Construcción. Then a time line of 42 months was established for the works, however these were halted due to a lack of funds.

The hospital has 152 individual rooms (compared to the previous 18 single and 55 doubles) and covers 37,800 square metres compared to 13,500.

It is expecting annual activity of more than 41,000 emergency cases, 113,000 specialist consultations, 32,000 hospital stays and 3,500 surgical interventions.

More than 8,000 people protest against health cuts

:: JUAN SOTO

MALAGA. The movement against public health cuts is gaining support in Malaga as more than 8,000 people took to the streets for the second organised protest in defence of a quality public service on Sunday. The march, in which a number of health professionals from various parts of the province participated, made its way through the main streets of the city centre with shouts of “Malaga for decent public healthcare”.

The protest was much larger than the previous one in November, which gathered together around

3,000 people. Last Sunday's demonstration was believed to have nearly tripled this amount in just two months, despite the fact that the National Police reported that 5,500 people attended while the organisation behind the protest stated that the figure was nearer 30,000.

The march, organised by school teacher, Jonatán Andrades, began in Plaza de la Marina and headed towards Calle Larios, where demonstrators began to shout against the proposed health cuts of the Andalusian government and demanded the construction of a third hospital.



Healthcare professionals led the demonstration through the city centre. **:: ÁLVARO CABRERA**



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NAUGHTY BOY THEN”.**



New paved road link in the Sierra Bermeja connects mountain village with Estepona

:: VANESSA MELGAR

RONDA. A new 3.5 kilometre section of road has finally provided a link between Genalguacil in the Serranía de Ronda and the Costa del Sol after a 40-year wait.

The short stretch of the MA-8302, linking the village in the Valle del Genal to the Peñas Blancas pass on the Sierra Bermeja, was the last stretch of the province's numbered road system that was still a dirt road. The new surface has reduced the journey time to Estepona to about half an hour.

The link has cost the Diputación provincial authority 1.2 million euros and has a viewpoint and pedestrian pathway for some of its length.

Local communities in the Valle del Genal area have been campaigning for the road surfacing to help boost local tourism. Mayor of Genalguacil, Miguel Ángel Herrera, called it “the road of hope” at its official opening last week.



The rebuilt stretch of the MA-8302 has a viewpoint and pathway some of its length. :: v.m.

Over 10 million euros put aside so far by the Junta for emergency flood repairs

:: IVÁN GELIBTER

MALAGA. The head of the Junta de Andalucía in Malaga, José Luis Ruiz Espejo, has announced that the regional government has so far budgeted 10.4 million euros for emergency repairs in the province after the floods last December.

Ruiz Espejo said that 780,000 euros has gone on urgent works in schools that were affected, including in Mijas, Marbella and the Guadalhorce valley.

Around 3.35 million euros will be spent on repairing damaged roads controlled by the Junta in the worst hit parts of the province.

Over 1.5 million will be used to support 22 local councils in their repair work and extra funds will be spent on repairing damaged reservoirs and water channels.

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HERE AND THERE

Nerja cave discoverers reunited for 58th time**NERJA**

✪ **E. C.** The group who discovered of the Nerja caves met at the historical site for the 58th annual reunion on 12 January. Francisco Navas, José Torres and brothers Miguel and Manuel Muñoz were accompanied by their wives, along with the widow and son of the fifth discoverer, José Luis Barbero, who died in 2007. The boys, all from Maro, came across the caves on 12 January 1959 while playing in the area.

Alsa agrees to fund tram project deficit**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA**

✪ **A. P.** According to Vélez-Málaga's councillor for Transport, Marcelino Méndez-Trelles, Alsa, which runs the bus service between the Axarquía and Malaga and local bus services in the area, is prepared to pay the 1.5 million euros needed to repair damage to the infrastructure and get Vélez-Málaga's tram service back in service. Méndez-Trelles made the announcement following a meeting between Alsa and the town hall last week.

Apartments rented for army holidays**E. C.**

✪ **TORROX.** Spain's Ministry of Defence has announced plans to reserve 15 holiday apartments for use by Army and Navy personnel in Almuñécar, Caleta de Vélez and Torrox. This is part of a nationwide programme, for which the ministry has set aside a budget of 734,750 euros to rent a total of 316 holiday homes for its staff. The apartments are expected to be in use by the military from 16 June until 30 September of this year.

Plans to pedestrianise town centre included in 2017 budget

One million euros have been set aside in this year's budget with the aim of incentivising and promoting local business in Vélez-Málaga

✪ AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Vélez-Málaga town hall has revealed plans to pedestrianise the town centre in this year's budget. One million euros has been set aside to pave the roads around Plaza de las Carmelitas, where the town hall is located and extends to Canalejas, Cristo, Camino Viejo de Málaga roads, Reyes Católicos and los Leones, or Andalucía squares.

According to the town's mayor, Antonio Moreno Ferrer, councillors and technical staff are currently studying the viability of the project, including access for residents and local businesses in the area as well as the possibility of allowing public transport to use the roads.

Moreno Ferrer added that recent



There are plans to pedestrianise Vélez-Málaga town centre . ✪ **A. P.**

underground work in the area means that the project would only require paving, rather than digging roads up to install pipes and cables.

The mayor has also promised to hold regular meetings with businesses

and residents in the area and said that the objective of the pedestrianisation is to, "incentivise and promote local business". The idea had been mooted by the previous administration, under the name "Town of the people."



✪ **AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ**

RESIDENTS TAKE TO THE STREETS OVER BANK CLOSURES

Around 50 residents of Arenas and Sayalonga, along with their respective mayors, Laureano Martín and Antonio Jesús Pérez, protested in front of the Vélez-Málaga branch of Cajamar bank on Monday, following the announcement that it would be closing the two towns' branches as of today. The protesters held a banner which read (in Spanish), "Cajamar is condemning us to financial exclusion."

Court to hear corruption case linked to public company boss and local mayor**✪ AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ**

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. A court in Vélez-Málaga is to investigate alleged corruption and labour contract offences related to the president of the Mancomunidad de Municipios de la Axarquía, (the body that represents town halls in the area) and mayor of Iznate, Gregorio Campos.

The investigation, which is due to start on 31 January, follows accusations from the mayor of Benamocarra, Abdeslam Lucena, whose party, Por mi Pueblo (for my town) is not represented in the governing coalition of the Mancomunidad. The accusations relate to the selection process of employees at Axaragua, the public water company which is managed by the Mancomunidad and of which Campos is also president. Lucena claims that the selection system did not follow the correct procedures and was therefore illegal.

Axaragua is responsible for the management of the Viñuela reservoir as well as waste water stations in Torrox, Vélez-Málaga, Algarrobo and Rincón de la Victoria.



Gregorio Campos. ✪ **SUR**

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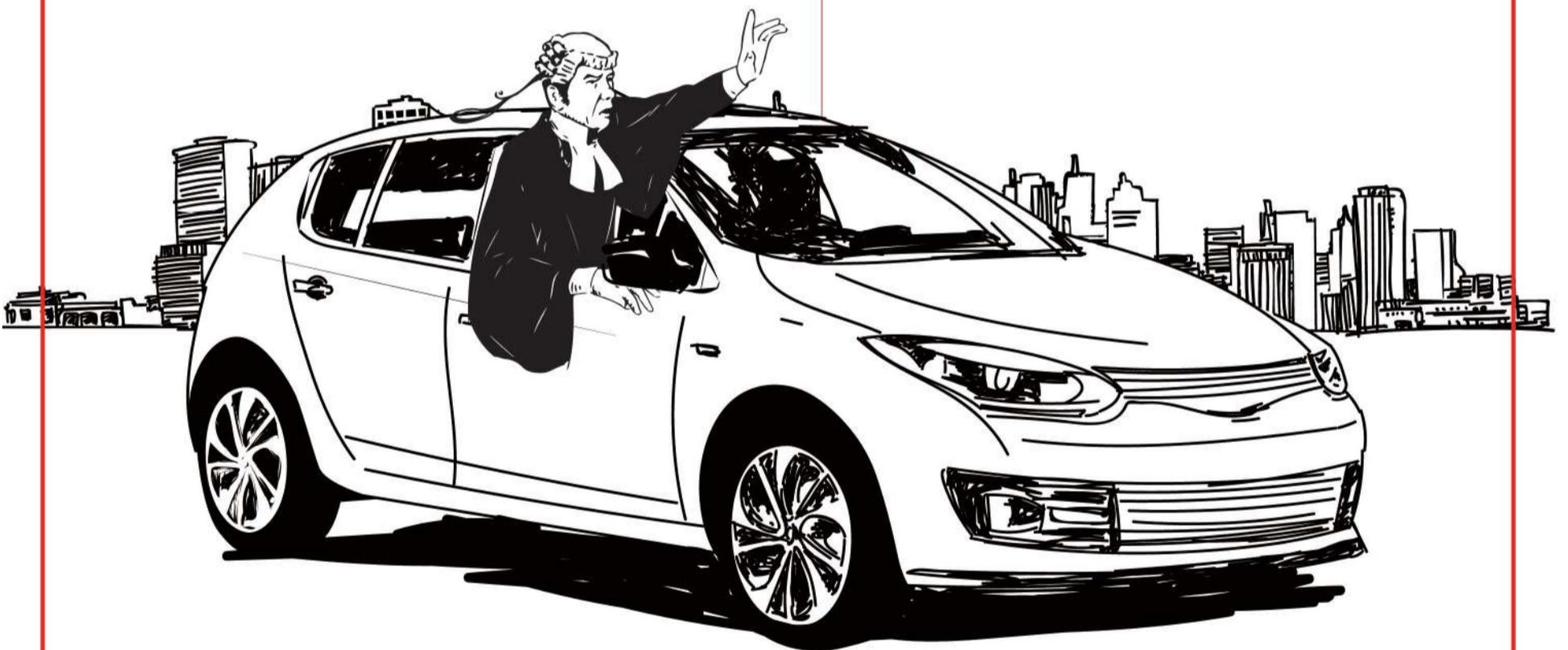
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RACHEL HAYNES
The leading English-language newspaper for southern Spain has unveiled the brand new version of its website

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Romero's side created little going forward as the new manager tasted defeat for the second successive match

Exhibitions and galleries

SPORT

The new version of the website went live on Tuesday morning. :: SUR

SUR in English takes step forward with new website

The new-look web page was launched on Tuesday and will bring readers the latest news from around southern Spain

:: RACHEL HAYNES

MALAGA. SUR in English has been a pioneer throughout its more than 30 years of providing information to English-speaking residents and visitors in southern Spain. After being the first successful newspaper to be published in English on the Costa del Sol back in 1984, in 1996 its website surinenglish.com was launched, even before its elder sister publication, SUR (in Spanish) went online.

Now SUR in English has taken one more step forwards with the to-

tal renovation of its website. Backed by the state-of-the-art technology of one of Spain's largest media groups, Vocento, and the team of developers at SUR, the new surinenglish.com has all the popular sections readers enjoyed on the old site, with an emphasis on news from the areas with the largest international populations.

With surinenglish.com, readers around the world can find out what's going on in the province of Malaga and around Spain thanks to the team of Spanish and British reporters at the SUR group of newspapers. Gibraltar news is also covered with its own section.

Features and interviews are combined in the Lifestyle section while What To Do continues to let people know about the charity and cultural events happening on the Costa del

Sol and further afield.

Sports fans will also find the latest results and news from both Malaga CF and Marbella FC, as well as local rugby, basketball and other teams and events.

But while surinenglish.com is moving forward, the free print edition remains strong, with a weekly circulation of 50,000 and a readership of more than 200,000. And the new website offers online readers the chance to see the latest and past print editions by downloading the pdf version.

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As before online readers can consult the SUR in English Classified Ads section.

HERE AND THERE



Workers begin cutting overgrowth after local complaints. :: A.G.

Clean up of stream bed between Torremolinos and Benalmádena starts

TORREMOLINOS

:: A.G. Junta workers have begun to clean a dirty 'arroyo' following a family's complaint that it may have been the cause of a parasitic illness in their baby. The Arroyo

del Saltillo, the dry stream bed that divides Benalmádena from Torremolinos, has been plagued by rats and mosquitos say locals who also claim that dead plants and weeds haven't been cleared for years. Health officials have said that it is unlikely the child's illness was caused by the unkempt stream, however both local mayors have welcomed the clean up.

Boom at Puerto Marina as more boats arrive

BENALMÁDENA

:: A.G. Puerto Marina was fuller than it has been for several years in 2016. In an annual report, the manager said that over 70 more recreational boats signed up to use the facilities, taking the total to over 1,000. The financial situation has also improved as more of the shop and restaurant units have been rented out as the economy recovers.

Town to outsource repairs of its vehicles

MIJAS

:: I.G. Councillors in Mijas have put the maintenance contract for its fleet of 167 vehicles out to tender for the first time. The annual contract has a value of 447,700 euros. Although they already have a mechanic on the payroll, officials also want to secure a fixed price deal with a local provider. Vehicles over 15 years old will also be renewed.

Locals upset about state of town's parks

BENALMÁDENA

:: A.G. A one-million-euro programme to cut costs in local parks and gardens by Benalmádena council is continuing to draw criticism from local residents, businesses and opposition parties. An internal report by FCC, the company awarded the parks' maintenance contact, says that an agreement to reduce the frequency of tree and

plant pruning and cleaning as well as a reduction in the amount of green space being actively looked after could be behind a rise in complaints about the state of parks such as Benamaina and La Paloma. Parque La Paloma was ranked one of the best 25 parks in Europe in 2014 by users of travel website Tripadvisor. Local shop and businesses have reminded councillors that Benalmádena is a "tourist town" and called for more money to be spent, "as it's essential to create the best impression possible".

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Susana Díaz, President of the Junta, and local politicians visit the Costa del Sol stand at the showcase Madrid event. :: SALVADOR SALAS

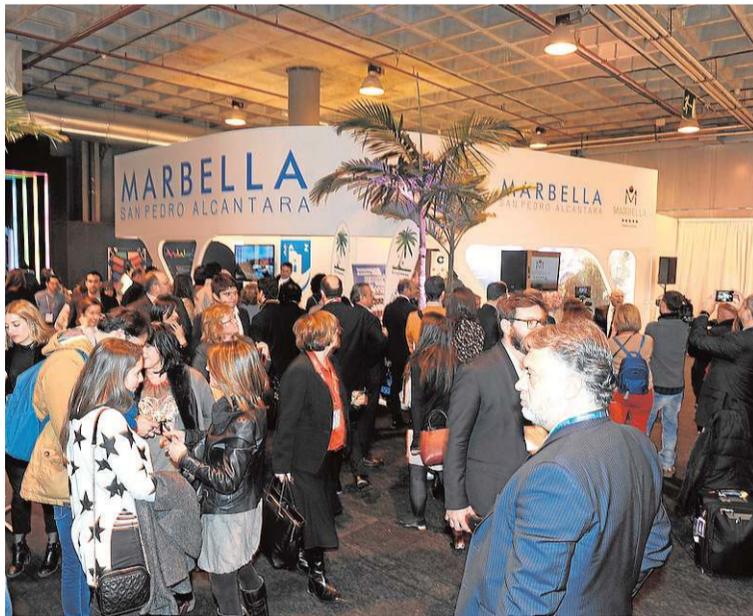
'More growth for Costa in 2017', say tourism chiefs at Fitur fair

Spain's annual exhibition for the travel trade brings together the world tourism industry, with over 230,000 visitors expected in Madrid

:: PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MADRID. The President of the Junta de Andalucía, Susana Díaz, officially opened the huge Andalucía stand at the Fitur travel show in Madrid on Wednesday amid official forecasts that 2017 is set to be another record year for tourism in southern Spain.

Touring the space dedicated to Andalucía that takes up one entire exhibition hall at the trade fair, Díaz said that an extra 1.5 million tourists are expected to visit the region



Visitors gather around the Marbella stand at Fitur. :: SALVADOR SALAS

this year, an increase of 5%. This would mean a new record tourist count of 30 million for Andalucía.

Díaz added that tourism brought in 19 billion euros annually to the local economy and that Andalucía alone had 40 per cent more international visitors in 2017 than all of Brazil in an Olympic year.

Head of Turismo Costa del Sol, Elias Bendodo, also attending Fitur, predicted 2.6 per cent more visits to Malaga province and the coast this year. "Everything points to an increase in 2017 on the record numbers last year," he said.

International travel show

The Fitur exhibition in Madrid is Spain's flagship event for the world travel trade, bringing together exhibitors and professionals from 165 countries. Now in its thirty-seventh year, the fair provides an important networking opportunity for this key sector of the Spanish economy.

Organisers expect to exceed last year's figure of 231,000 attendees over the event's five days. This Saturday and Sunday, the final two days, the fair is open to the general public.

Benalmádena breaks low season records with 56% increase in tourists in November

:: TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. According to a recent survey, Benalmádena was the top Costa del Sol tourist destination during November 2016.

The survey, carried out by the NIE (national institute of statistics), showed that there was a 56 per cent increase in overnight stays last November, compared to the same period of 2015. This figure was also more than double than those of 2013.

The figures reveal that hotel occupancy in Benalmádena was over 60 per cent during the low season, even beating Torremolinos, another destination that has announced record figures for the same period.

Benalmádena received 6.47 per cent of the tourists visiting the Costa del Sol during November, followed closely by Torremolinos (5.65) and Nerja (4.96).

These figures may be due to the fact that many hotels in Torremolinos, especially in Montemar, closed at the end of October, while more than twenty remained open in Benalmádena.

The survey also revealed that the hotels in Benalmádena kept almost 900 people in full or part-time employment during the low season.

Encarnación Cortés, councillor for Tourism, said, "2016 has been one of the best years for tourism in Benalmádena in the last decade. These results are very good and reflect a trend that we hope will continue in the future."

She pointed out that the hotels had attracted 20,000 foreign visitors in November, the highest figure since 2007.

December figures are also expected to be higher than they have been for some considerable time.

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PM and ambassador react to Theresa May Brexit speech

Mariano Rajoy advised "caution" until Article 50 is triggered, while Simon Manley was quick to reassure business leaders

∴ **J. RHODES / EUROPA PRESS**

MADRID. Simon Manley, the UK's Ambassador in Spain, and Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, have both reacted to the speech Theresa May made on Tuesday in which she announced plans for the UK's departure not only from the European Union, but also the Single Market.

In a letter to members of the British Chamber of Commerce in Spain, Manley outlined the key points from Theresa May's speech and invited members to put forward their questions or comments in order to "maintain a dialogue about our vision for the United Kingdom". The communication sought to reassure members that the UK was "a more united, safe, prosperous and tolerant country than ever, which is more focused on external relations than ever before". The letter went on to say that Spanish investment and bilateral trade, "are going to grow".

Spanish prime minister Mariano Rajoy reacted by saying that the four

pillars of European free movement (people, goods, services and capital) go together and that the EU "won't let the UK disassociate them".

He added that Spain would act "with caution", until May formally triggers Article 50 and referred to the different models of relationships that exist between the EU and countries such as Norway, Switzerland and Canada. He urged that the final outcome of Brexit should be, "as similar as possible", to the existing relationship and that he was, "disposed to good understanding", between to the two countries in the future.

The contents of Theresa May's speech provided the clearest signal yet of the direction the government wishes to take with the negotiations. Although the decision to leave the Single Market was seen as the 'hard Brexit', that many feared, a number of key business leaders said that they welcomed the speech as long-awaited clarification of the government's objectives.

The 42-minute speech included 12 priorities for the UK, one of which is to maintain the rights of EU nationals in Britain and British nationals in the EU.

May said, "We want to guarantee the rights of EU citizens who are already living in Britain and the rights of British nationals in other member states, as early as we can," adding, "I have told other EU leaders that we could give people the certainty they want straight away and reach such a deal now."

'Bremain' campaigner from Spain invited to speak at Westminster meeting

Representatives from a number of 'Brexit' groups based in EU countries spoke at the Exiting the EU Select Committee in the House of Commons

∴ **JENNIE RHODES**

LONDON. Four people were selected to present oral evidence on behalf of British people living in other European Union countries to the Exiting the EU Select Committee (House of Commons), on Wednesday, including Sue Wilson, who lives near Valencia and is a prominent campaigner for the anti-Brexit 'Bremain in Spain' Facebook group.

Each of the representatives has already presented written evidence, which will remain confidential until posted on the government website, and was invited to answer questions from the Committee on Wednesday.

The Committee was made up of 21 members, which includes the Chairman Hillary Benn MP and Michael Gove MP.

Speaking ahead of her trip to London, Sue Wilson said, "The written evidence I submitted covers fears and concerns raised by Bremain in Spain members - the main concerns relate to healthcare, pensions, lack of representation and loss of rights. I have also submitted written testimonies from five members - myself

included - highlighting our personal situations and concerns."

She added, "While I will be there to represent the 4,000 plus members of Bremain in Spain, I will also be speaking on behalf of all UK citizens living in Spain and official numbers say that number is 300,000, but according to the British Embassy in Madrid, in reality, it could be two or three times that number."

The other representatives were; Gareth Horsfall, who is based in Italy, Christopher Chantrey OBE in France and Debbie Williams who lives in Belgium and belongs to the Brexpats-Hear our voice group.

There were also four witnesses representing EU citizens living in the UK. Each group was given 90 minutes in order to give evidence.

Sue said that the group was expecting a lot of press interest in the UK and The Guardian has been following the story closely and would be in attendance on Wednesday. "We shall be stressing the point that we need action and answers as a matter of urgency, as people are already suffering, and can't wait two or more years for reassurance."

For more information on the hearing:
www.parliament.uk (Exiting the EU Select Committee)



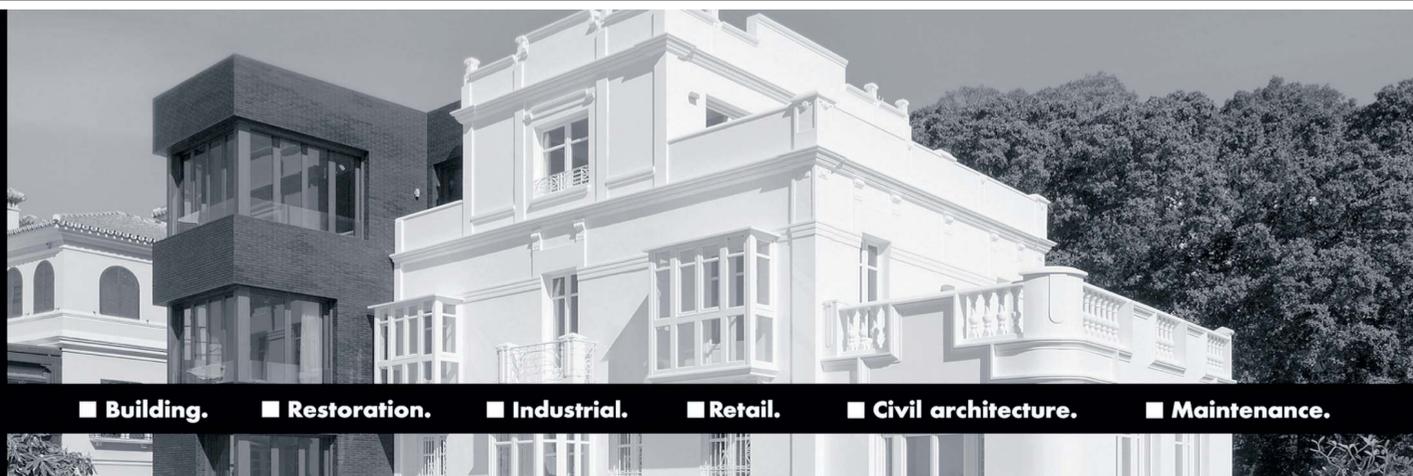
UK Prime Minister Theresa May during Tuesday's speech. ∴ **AGENCIES**

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Rose Horton. SUR

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SPONSORED FEATURE

SOHA action group aims to change law so they can borrow and sell their homes

The owners campaigning to have their illegally-built properties in the Axarquía made legal also want Junta to help speed up special AFO approval

AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

ALCAUCÍN. The Save Our Homes in Axarquía (SOHA) association has set out two main goals in its on-going campaign to help its members legalise houses built on rural land after local town halls illegally granted planning permission.

The first objective is to support the reform of Spain’s mortgage legislation (Ley Hipotecaria). According to SOHA spokesperson, Mario Blancke, who is also mayor of the Axarquía village of Alcaucín, home owners are faced with a serious problem if they want to borrow money as mortgage legislation and other financial rules prevent homes not part of an approved town plan being used as loan



Mario Blancke speaking at a previous SOHA meeting (file image). :: sur

guarantees. Neither are banks prepared to grant mortgages to any prospective buyers for the properties so sales have to be in cash.

He also explained that the second objective of the group will be to work with the Junta so that the regional government speeds up the cancella-

tion of the old planning permissions by town halls, which is a precondition on the homes then being given “officially-tolerated” status outside the legal town plans, (Assimilación a Fuera de Ordenación, or AFO).

The group’s annual general meeting will be held on 26 January.

Estepona to allow EU visitors to carry out local council transactions online

LEANDRO PAVÓN

ESTEPONA. Tourists and temporary residents from other EU countries will soon be able to automatically access Estepona town hall’s services online.

The local authority is only one of around twenty in the country chosen by the EU to take part in a pilot project to roll out common council services, such as paying local taxes or applying for a building licence, to European citizens. Users will need an identification code which is valid across Europe.

After the first phase of this EU project to reduce paperwork, which has been available just to local residents, the council estimates it is now saving 40,000 euros a year on photocopying.



JOSELE-LANZA

IMPROVEMENTS START TO ‘CHIRINGUITOS’

Marbella council has begun granting planning permission to 25 ‘chiringuito’ beach restaurants in the town that had their operating licences renewed in 2014 by the Junta and which have had to wait until now for the go-ahead from the local town hall to improve their premises. Renovation recently started on Hotel El Fuerte’s ‘chiringuito’, (shown), another has been relocated and the remaining 22 are awaiting news.



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Banks told to fast track payouts to customers with mortgage 'floor clauses'

Government sets out clear steps for financial institutions to follow, although homeowners could still take a bank to court if they wish

:: SUR

MADRID. The national government has reached a deal with the Socialist and Ciudadanos parties that lays down a process and timetable for banks to refund money overcharged to mortgage holders with 'floor clauses' (cláusulas suelo) in their contracts.

The plan, which banks must follow, will be approved by the Cabinet today (Friday). It sets out a process that avoids an estimated 1.7 million mortgage holders, including many homeowners from abroad, having to take drawn-out legal action and overloading Spanish courts.

The move comes after the European Court of Justice (ECJ) ordered Spanish banks to refund customers whose mortgages contained clauses that prevented their repayments being reduced below a base or 'floor' level as euro interest rates plummeted after 2009. The ECJ said that banks had to refund all overpayments, not just those from 2013 as Spanish courts had originally decreed. A bank is only



File image of protesters. :: SUR

liable to refund if the 'floor clause' wasn't properly explained when the mortgage was taken out.

Lenders will have three months from when the new rules comes into effect next month to make an offer to their customers, however any customer can still choose to take legal action instead.

Some banks could argue that customers were aware of the clauses before signing original deals

Banks are required to make a refund offer which also includes interest for the time they have held on to the money. Where a bank wishes to offer a non-cash refund, for example by reducing future mortgage payments, the offer must be at least the same as the cash amount. The customer then has two weeks to decide.

Financial institutions should inform all their customers with 'floor clauses' about the newly-approved process, although not all banks had these clauses in contracts. A government-led commission will be set up to check the rules are being followed.

Government can't do more

It's expected that some banks will argue that their customers were aware of the clauses when they signed their original mortgage deals and so will not offer compensation.

Minister for the Economy, Luis de Guindos, pointed out that the new process was "complementary" to a legal route and that "it was still an option to go to court".

He added that once the compensation offer was made, there would be "negotiation between bank and customer", saying that as this was between private parties, the government could do no more.

Mortgage holders will have to declare any windfalls to the taxman.

Government says sorry for 2003 Yak-42 troop plane crash

:: MELCHOR SÁIZ-PARDO

MADRID. Defence minister, María Dolores de Cospedal, this week apologised to the families of the 62 Spanish military personnel who died when their plane crashed in Turkey in May 2003. A recent official enquiry had blamed the government

for contracting the poor-quality Soviet-built Yak-42 plane and families had called for an official apology. Federico Trillo, defence minister at the time of the crash, announced last week that he was stepping down early as Spanish ambassador in London after widespread pressure.

Rules relaxed that allow 'autónomos' to delay their IVA

:: SUR

MADRID. The government is to approve a new rule whereby self-employed workers ('autónomos') and small companies won't have to prove that they haven't been paid when asking to delay the payment of IVA to the tax authorities. Up to now, it's been necessary to show that a customer hasn't paid an invoice in order to avoid having to forward the IVA tax on it to Hacienda. From 1 January, where the IVA is less than 30,000 euros, proof of the delayed income will not be required beforehand.

LET'S BE REASONABLE

It was a pleasant surprise this week to hear Spain's economy minister displaying common sense and pragmatism when asked about the latest Brexit news. Interviewed at the World Economic Forum in Davos on Wednesday (one of the cushiest tickets on the diplomatic calendar), Luis de Guindos reiterated that the the UK is very important to Spain economically - "perhaps our closest ally" - and that the Spanish government wants a "reasonable discussion" during the Brexit negotiations.

In her long-overdue Brexit speech on Tuesday, Theresa May confirmed that the UK will exit the Single Market as well as the EU. This prompted despair among many ex-Remainers and those Brexiteers who favoured a softer split from Brussels, so De Guindos' remarks at Davos were well-timed. And necessarily vague as they are (no-one, including the British prime minister, knows exactly how all this will pan out yet), they indicate that Brexit won't necessarily spell disaster for the half a million or so Britons living on the south coast of Spain. Unlike many senior EU politicians, who are primarily concerned with the fate of the EU project, De Guindos seems optimistic about Brexit - both for his own country and for the UK.

Jean Claude-Juncker's reaction to May's speech, on the other hand, was less sanguine: after reeling off the usual diplomatic clichés - "we want a fair deal for Britain" etc - he stated that negotiating a hard Brexit would be "very, very difficult". Donald Tusk mournfully tweeted "sad process, surrealistic times" yet also called May's proposed Brexit "more realistic".

This is an allusion to the fact that it would have been lunacy

for the prime minister to expect to remain in the Single Market yet quit the EU. Indeed, it's hard to see why this was ever seen as desirable, as the UK would have been subject to a raft of economic directives and regulations over which it had zero control - the unenviable position of Norway, Lichtenstein and Iceland (members of the Single Market but not the EU). Joseph Muscat, prime minister of Malta, said that May's speech showed that the UK was not deluded about remaining in the Single Market post-Brexit. He's right about that, but he's wrong to say that the UK's status after leaving both will be inferior to that currently conferred by membership. It is far from obvious how greater economic autonomy automatically spells disaster for the UK.

Spain, at least, will be open for business after the UK quits the EU. When asked by CNBC's rambling interviewer how the UK and Spain can continue their relationship after a hard Brexit, De Guindos was pragmatic rather than pessimistic: "I am totally sure that we'll be able to find a solution, no? Taking into consideration all the elements of our economic relationship, the UK is a very important country."

Contrary to what many ex-Remainers would have you believe, this will not cease to be the case after Brexit. Spain is important to the the UK and the UK is important to Spain, so there is good reason to expect that a mutually beneficial deal will be struck over the next two years.

As regards Juncker's prediction that the forthcoming talks will be "very, very difficult" - well, they'll be just as difficult as the politicians choose to make them. But Luis de Guindos, at least, seems to want to make them as straightforward as possible.

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Pioneer procedure for Costa del Sol hospital to detect traces of date rape drug

From now on, staff at the hospital in Marbella will take samples of blood, urine and hair from victims of rapes and robberies whose symptoms indicate that they may have been given burundanga



JUAN CANO

✉ jcano@diariosur.es

MALAGA. She wakes up in a strange bed, and she is naked. "How did I get here?" she asks. She hadn't drunk much the evening before, only a couple of drinks, but she can't remember much about it. Just an occasional flash of memory. Yes, she remembers, there had been sex - but she hadn't agreed to it.

"The victims describe it as a dream-like experience, as if they had left their body and were watching something that was happening to them from afar, with no control over it," says a forensic doctor who has treated dozens of rape cases in which, from what the victims have said, he is almost certain that they had been given burundanga. He has never been able to confirm it, but that situation has now changed.

The police, legal and health authorities have set up a scheme at the Costa del Sol hospital which is a pioneer in Andalucía and almost unheard-of in Spain, to detect substances which cause "chemical submission," in other words leaving those who ingest them at the mercy of those who supply it.

"Everything is ready. From this weekend we will be able to take specimens in suspect cases," explains Dr Carmen Agüera, who works in the Emergency Department and is the head of the protocol at this hospital in Marbella. In fact, in two cases of rape which are being investigated in



Burundanga is what is known as a "chemical submission" drug. :: SUR

From urban myth to reality

Many people believe that the use of burundanga in robberies and rapes is a myth imported from South America, an excuse used by those who had done something they later regretted, after a few too many drinks.

Some victims have complained about the incredulity and scepti-

cism with which they were treated when they reported their ordeal.

The first person to raise the alarm, six years ago, was José Manuel Burgos, of the IML in Malaga. At that time he said he had seen about 20 suspicious cases, and he called for hospitals to establish special protocols. Time has proven him right, and has shown that what appeared to be a myth is in fact reality.

Marbella and Estepona at present, this has already been done.

In the former, a 19-year-old British woman was sexually assaulted on New Years Eve though she was unable to identify the attacker and police continue to study CCTV footage. The latter involves the rape of a 20-year-old girl, also foreign, who is both physically and mentally disabled. She was raped on a patch of wasteground while heading home after meeting someone she had met on Facebook for the first time. A French national, in his twenties, has been arrested.

The concern of the authorities is supported by the statistics: the Institute of Legal Medicine says there was a 35 per cent increase in the number of sexual assault cases registered in Malaga in 2016, and police and medical staff who had direct contact with the victims were becoming increasingly worried.

A year ago, a working group was set up with forensic scientist Sergio Fernández Gorostiza of the IML in Marbella, Dr Agüera, María Luisa Hortas and Miguel Cantero, director and coordinator of the Laboratory Service; and the hospital's legal adviser, Andrés Sedeño. Officials from the Guardia Civil and National Police also participate, led by the chief of the police headquarters in Marbella, Enrique Lamelas. The principal problem was in defining which substances cause chemical submission and how to detect them.

Burundanga, also known as 'devil's breath', is probably the most famous in Spain and "is a mixture of different substances; some of them come from drugs used in hospitals as anaesthetics or pre-anaesthetics, and they have a hypnotic-sedative effect,"

SEXUAL ASSAULTS

Crimes against sexual freedom handled by the IML in Málaga

► 2016. 135.

► 2015. 100.

► 2014. 105.

► 2013. 100.

► 2012. 95.

► 2011. 90.

explains José Caba, the provincial director of the IML.

Although it is sometimes called scopolamine, an alkaloid which is present in solanaceaea plants and is the active ingredient in some medications, they are not exactly the same; scopolamine is just one of the active ingredients used to create burundanga. There are also cases of rape after the use of gamma hydroxybutyrate, better known as GHB or liquid ecstasy, a powerful depressant of the central nervous system. "The problem with these substances," says José Caba, "is that they are eliminated very quickly from the body and they are very difficult to detect."

That is why it is so important for victims to report what has happened and for the doctors to take samples as quickly as possible. "We are now going to hold training sessions for all our staff so they know what samples to take, the forms that have to be filled in and all the steps that need to be taken," says Dr Agüera.

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ADVICE

1 Keep an eye on your drinks

Don't lose sight of them by leaving them on the bar, and never accept an invitation from someone you don't know.

2 Company

Try not to go outside alone. If you're leaving because you don't feel well, ask someone you trust to go with you.

3 Route

Before leaving, tell your friends which way you are going so somebody always knows where you should be

4 Symptoms

If you suspect you have been drugged, throw yourself onto the ground straight away and make exaggerated gestures, as if you were having a fit. This could help ensure that the rapist goes away and someone comes to help you.

5 Report it

If you believe you have suffered a sexual assault through the use of narcotics, ask the police for help and go quickly to a medical centre. Drugs which cause chemical submission don't remain in the bloodstream for more than six to eight hours.

The protocol will be applied when signs which could indicate chemical submission are observed. In all cases, the woman will have to sign an informed consent form. Then, there are three different possibilities. If less than 24 hours have passed since she has possibly ingested the drug, samples will be taken of blood (four tubes), urine (two) and hair (which is always taken from the head).

If the incident occurred between 24 and 72 hours earlier, only urine and hair samples will be taken, because the drug disappears very rapidly from the bloodstream. If more than 72 hours have passed, only the hair sample will be of any use.

Other crimes

Although initially the focus was on rapes, the protocol has been extended to cover other crimes, such as robberies from homes where victims felt nauseous upon waking, had bad headaches and slurred speech, or reported having been in such a deep sleep that they didn't realise that the thief was rummaging in their bedside table.

In a specific case in Marbella the prosecution authorities have asked for a five-year prison sentence to be given to two women who are accused of having drugged a man in order to ransack his house.

A meeting will be held in the near future with the legal, police and health authorities about extending the protocol to the other hospitals in the province. "We believe it will be very beneficial to society because it will prevent impunity in these crimes," says Dr Agüera.

"My friend screamed at them; she says my eyes were open, but I don't remember a thing"

"They put something in my drink. It was as if the lights went out," says a woman who was drugged by two men who are both now serving jail sentences

■ JUAN CANO

MALAGA. They met over drinks in central Malaga and exchanged phone numbers. He, "well-spoken and very polite", said he was a pilot and showed her photos of himself getting onto a plane. She believed him and on the night that he invited her to his home, she saw no reason to worry. "I'm with Javi, bring a friend and come and have a drink with us," Carlos said when he rang her.

It was Christmas. Marina rang Raquel (not their real names) and together they went to visit Carlos, who lived in Alhaurín de la Torre. "I sat beside him, and Raquel beside Javi. They were very insistent that we drank something alcoholic. Raquel normally only drinks beer and they kept saying "No, no, have

a rum or a whisky". In the end we said we would, and they went indoors to get the drinks," says Marina, who is 45.

Marina drank more than half of the rum and orange they gave her as the four of them sat chatting. "The atmosphere was really nice. We could never have imagined that it would end the way it did..." she says. In the sentence handed down by the court, which sent Carlos and Javi to six and two years in jail respectively, it says that the accused dissolved several 'trankmazin' tablets in their drinks, but Marina is sure that she and her friend had been given burundanga "because it wiped us out completely", she says.

For Marina, everything stopped when her glass was half empty. "It was as if someone had turned out the light," she says. All she can remember of the rest of that night, was Raquel screaming. "My friend woke me up because they were both abusing me. She said my eyes were open, but I wasn't aware of anything. Nothing. The nightmare began the next day," she says.

"The next day I rang Raquel. She

remembered more than I did. She saw me with my eyes wide open, completely still, and she started to shout and insult them. Thank goodness she did, and she got me out of there. Even so, she can't remember how we got back to Malaga or how fast we went. It's as if we were like two robots. We could have been killed on the road," says Marina.

Police officers from the Women and Children Group (Grume) arrested Carlos and Javier after the women reported them. When officers searched a motorhome belonging to Carlos, they found "a bag full of women's knickers," says Marina. The two men were sentenced in February 2015. Apart from the prison sentences, they have been banned from accessing social networking apps for eight and five years, respectively.

Marina says she has lost a great deal of confidence since the ordeal. "I don't trust anyone at all now. This was a horrific experience for us, and we are mature, adult women. What about young girls? If this happened to them, it would ruin their lives," she says.



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Music Festival to become 'Gibraltar Calling' after partnership with MTV

The famous Gibraltar Music Festival, under its new name, will be promoted and broadcast live by MTV on September 2nd and 3rd

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. For the first time ever, MTV UK has entered into partnership with the Gibraltar government and will be promoting and broadcasting September's music festival under the name of 'MTV Presents Gibraltar Calling'.

The music festival, which MTV describes as "an outdoor live music spectacular" will take place on September 2nd and 3rd, and will feature well-known artists from the British and international music scene. The performers will be announced at a later date.

"With its sunny climate and



Minister for Culture, Steven Linares. :: SUR

stunning views, Gibraltar is a fantastic location for an outdoor live music event and we're really looking forward to working with the Government of Gibraltar to showcase what Gibraltar has to offer to our youth audience," commented Mark Swift, senior vice-president,

Commercial and International Ad Sales, VIMN UK. The minister for culture, Steven Linares, says this is an exciting new development for Gibraltar's cultural life, and this fantastic new collaboration with MTV will take the festival to a new level.

Talks in London continue following Theresa May's statement

D. BARTLETT

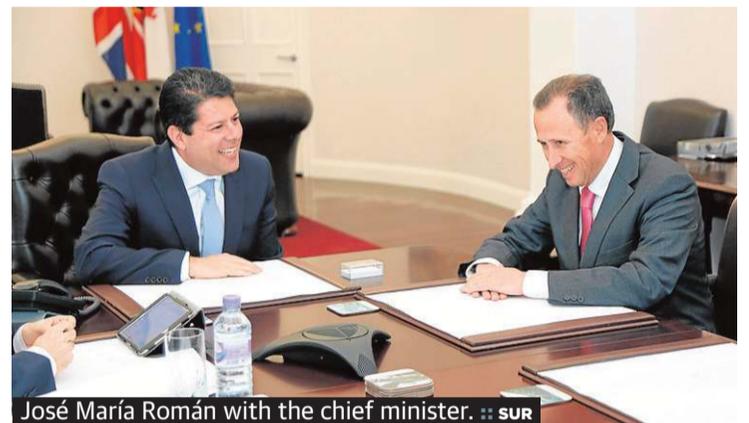
GIBRALTAR. British prime minister Theresa May outlined her basic plan for Brexit on Tuesday, and the Gibraltar government's reaction was that the content of her speech came as no surprise and that Gibraltar is well prepared to face whatever chal-

lenges her 'hard Brexit' will bring.

On Wednesday, chief minister Fabian Picardo and deputy chief minister Dr Joseph García flew to London for further talks with the UK government about a number of matters, including the process of leaving the EU.

The Gibraltar government is determined that the needs and concerns of Gibraltar are fully understood in London, and Mr Picardo had reassuring words in a statement released after May's speech, saying, "We are seeing that there are many positive pathways and routes through the areas of concern which can arise from Brexit and it is clear that Gibraltar is likely to continue to do well in the future because we have understood those potential pitfalls and prepared for them."

IN BRIEF



José María Román with the chief minister. :: SUR

Mayor of Chiclana's official visit to Gibraltar

GIBRALTAR

D.B. José María Román, the mayor of Chiclana, paid an official visit to chief minister Fabian Picardo on Wednesday, to discuss the possibilities of cooperation between Gibraltar and his municipality. Román is reportedly most interested in the prospects for collaboration in the areas of

tourism and air communications. Following a private meeting, the two men appeared at a press conference before going on to a working lunch.

At the press conference, Picardo stressed that it is essential for Gibraltar to shape and cultivate relationships such as this during the Brexit process, and that as well as a meeting between industry representatives in the near future, he will be paying a reciprocal visit to Chiclana.

New dementia day centre is now open

GIBRALTAR

D. B. The new Bella Vista Dementia Day Care Centre opened on Monday 16 January, at the site of the former Royal Naval Hospital. It is the first facility of this kind on the Rock, and can offer 90 places at any one time. It is run by a private company, Meddoc, on behalf of the Gibraltar Health Authority and aims to provide community-oriented care to enhance the lives of patients and their families.

Darts trophy comes to the Rock in May

GIBRALTAR

D. B. The world's top darts players will be back in Gibraltar in May, for the PDC European Tour event which takes place from 12th to 14th at Victoria Stadium. This year 48 players will be competing, and the prize money on offer totals £135,000. Among those playing will be world champion Michael van Gerwan, the winner for the past two years, and 2014 champion James Wade. Tickets are available online.

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THERE IS A PRIZE FOR THE BEST
CONTRIBUTION TO THIS PAGE
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Pollution pause for thought

I was intrigued to read your article last week which indicated that pollution levels on the Costa del Sol were among the lowest in Spain. The data showed that, while Cordoba was the province that was most polluted, Cadiz and the Bay of Algeciras were the least affected by pollution in Andalucía. Anyone driving towards Algeciras from the east will be more than aware of the contami-

nation emanating from the oil refinery which is present in the air in Guadacorte and La Línea as well as Algeciras itself. I would suggest that the authors of the survey, namely the Junta de Andalucía's Ministry of the Environment, pay a serious visit to the Bay of Algeciras.

PETER SANDERSON
BY EMAIL

Snow problema

I've been following the news and watching the thrill of my Spanish friends over the recent cold snap and the 'record' snowfalls in some parts the country. However I do feel something is missing from the national excitement, and that is car chaos, gridlock and tailbacks. If this were in Britain (where snow is seen more often by most, I vouch), papers would have been dominated by stories

of traffic misery.

Is it just that Spain is better organised for big 'weather' events, as recent floods perhaps showed, or is it that people in Spain just move less when snow hits?

And while on the subject, these snow chains are a marvelous idea in hilly areas that we Brits don't seem to encourage enough back home.

A. RILEY
BY EMAIL

The price of the cold

HÉCTOR BARBOTTA

In the old days they called it winter, but as climate change has turned meteorology into a strange anomaly it has now become known as a "Siberian cold front". This week much of the province of Malaga saw a covering of snow; you don't have to have such a fantastic memory, but just be over a certain age, to recall that snow in the north of the Axarquía, in Las Pedrizas or in the Sierra de las Nieves (which is called that for a reason, although future generations may need photographic evidence) was, if not a yearly occurrence, at least once every two years. But today snow is news, just like anything that changes the routine of the majority of people.

The planet has been suffering abuse for too many decades now and winters are growing shorter and less wintry. Perhaps it would be good to remember that this week, in case the climate change denialists are tempted to use the snow and cold as an opportunistic argument.

This week's cold and snow, which

for some meant a chance to take the children to see snow for the first time, while others suffered as they struggled to heat their homes, has come hand in hand with a hike in the electricity bills.

It is thought that every household in Spain will pay on average 100 euros more this year because the new system, brought in when José Manuel Soria was minister, can put their rates up for their users.

Wednesday was the coldest day so far this winter and it was on Wednesday that the cost of electricity reached its peak, a hike of 30 per cent. This is because, according to the official explanation, the price of electricity on the power wholesale market hit a maximum at Tuesday's auction. This new system, approved by a minister who has since failed to recall that he had companies in Panama, stipulates that one day's auction price is reflected in the next day's tariff. Wednesday's auction resulted in new increases, affected Thursday's price. The cold does not come cheap.

The snowflake generation

PETER EDGERTON
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

It all came as a bit of a beautiful shock when snow fell on the Costa del Sol this week. Ok, I'm sure Captain Oates wouldn't have been too discomfited at the intensity of the falling flakes but it was quite a moment nonetheless.

Snow is perhaps the most evocative of all meteorological phenomena. Balmy summer evenings, unexpected rain storms and soft autumn winds all have an important role in stirring memories within us but there's nothing like a bit of snow to tickle our nostalgic neurons. The sight of it floating softly to the ground invariably makes me recall being hauled into the headmaster's office at school for mashing a huge snowball into Mark McKevitt's face one lunchtime. Foolishly, he'd dropped a handful of freezing flakes down

the back of my shirt between French and Chemistry and so, instead of balancing equations for an hour, I'd employed my allotted time much more productively, plotting sweet revenge throughout the class. Admittedly, the 'snowball' I manufactured was at least fifty per cent playground grit and, also admittedly, the poor chap was wearing glasses but, come on, he'd brought it upon himself hadn't he? I was just making sure the last couple of flakes were correctly inserted into his nostrils, when our annoyingly over-zealous geography teacher appeared on the scene. He - as was de rigueur in those days - pulled me by the ear the not considerable distance to the headmaster's door where I was made to wait outside, listening to the thwack-and-yelp soundtrack from within. These were other boys getting

caned for a variety of misdemeanours. When eventually, it was my turn, Old Crofty called me in and proceeded to poke me repeatedly in the solar plexus with his cane, simultaneously turning red in the face and bellowing something unintelligible about snowballs, grit, faces and boys with glasses being blinded by idiots like me.

I'll always be grateful to the two older lads who, just as I was holding out my hand for a damn good thrashing, were shoved directly into the office charged with a much more heinous crime (fighting in the dining room, I think). Old Crofty's attentions were immediately turned to more important matters and - phew! - I was off the hook.

There's no doubt about it - snow and nostalgia are inextricably linked. Just ask Mark McKevitt.

IDÍGORAS

Small town,
big world

RACHEL HAYNES

This week, somewhat drowned out by the news of the snow - and of course the new SUR in English website - the rumblings have continued to emanate from the tremulous local political scene in Alhaurin el Grande.

While the opposition prepares en bloc to oust the current mayor, news reports and posts on social media have revealed the extent of the rifts and rivalry that spread outside the council chambers.

It would make a colourful soap opera: a former mayor convicted of

corruption who carries on under the umbrella of a party he founded himself; one of his allies on the council is convicted for causing injury to the husband of another councillor who breaks her party line to join the opposition's vote of no confidence; and this is not the first time it has happened. It would be amusing, if it were not for the fact that somewhere the interests of the local people may appear to have slipped down the priority list.

People go into local politics for a number of reasons: there are those who are there simply because

they've never been anywhere else, and others because they like the feeling of power. Of course there are some who stand for election simply because of a vocation to do their bit to improve the lives of the local people; in their case the party initials next to their names mean little in reality and don't necessarily define an ideology or an allegiance. But genuine do-gooders don't make good characters for a soap opera.

On the global scene though, things are different, aren't they? Politicians, and others, aspiring to rule their countries get on with the job with none of the petty squabbling or the personal grudges or the business interests or the rumours and scandals that keep small towns occupied. At least we can rest assured that those entrusted with the real power in the world are sensible, with fair views of what is good for their people...

Sorry, what's that? What did you say was happening in America today?

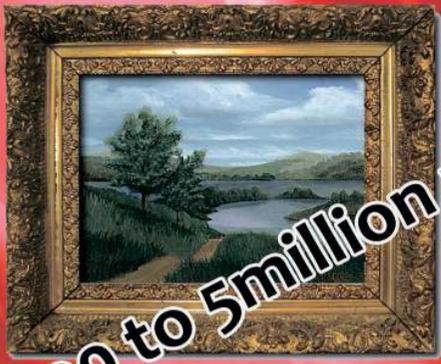
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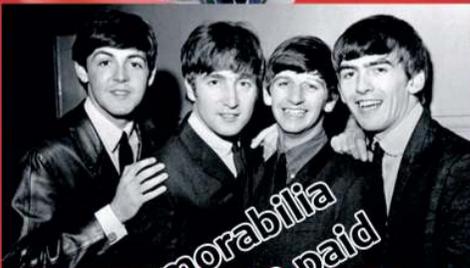


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An unplanned but enjoyable career move

Gwen Ferber Councillor for Volunteers and Tourism, Cómpeta

Brexit is likely to put an unwanted end to Gwen's political career in the town that has adopted her

Gwen Ferber has been the councillor for Volunteers and Tourism in Cómpeta since 2015. She and her late husband, Tom, first visited the town in the summer of 1993 when they spent the six weeks' school holiday there.

As school teachers in the north of England, Gwen says that they would make the most of their holidays and travel as much as possible. Tom had found the house advertised for rental in the Sunday newspaper in England and at that time he was studying Spanish at night school in England. His teacher was from Malaga, so when he reserved the house for the summer he proudly told his teacher he was going to Cómpeta. "She asked for how long and when he said six weeks she nearly collapsed! She said for her a day in the village was enough as she was a city person," reflects Gwen.

On one of the couple's first visits to a small bar near the plaza, when they asked for the bill the barman pointed out an elderly man at the end of the bar who had paid it. "When we asked why he said because he had wanted to and we the spent the next few weeks trying to buy him drinks back but it was impossible," Gwen remembers.

The draw of Cómpeta

Although Gwen and Tom were keen travellers, Gwen says that there was something about Cómpeta that kept drawing them back, and Tom in particular knew that it was where he wanted to retire.

He loved "all things Spanish",



Gwen Ferber became a councillor in 2015. :: J. RHODES

says Gwen. When the opportunity to take early retirement came up, Tom said to Gwen that he was going to live in Spain. "You can keep on working in England and come out for holidays Tom told me, but I said 'no way - if you go I go'."

They bought a small village house and moved to Cómpeta permanently in 2003, driving across Europe in a transit van along with their pet parrots. Gwen says of the decision that at the beginning it was "hard for me as I had always been financially independent with my own job, house and car, so giving all that up really went against my way of thinking". "The things we do for love!" she adds.

Tom and Gwen quickly settled into the pace of life in Cómpeta and started to meet people as well as joining the various groups, including the pastoral singing group. They helped with Spanish and English lessons in the village and also got involved in local politics. The couple had not been political in the UK

"I get an enormous sense of satisfaction when I know I have been able to help someone"

so when in 2005 Tom was elected as councillor for Tourism and Foreign Residents, it was the beginning of a new type of adventure for the pair.

Gwen says the first thing she said to Tom was, "That's another fine mess you've got us into," yet she assisted him with this work every day. Together they created the "Volunteers" a group of people from various countries willing to help promote tourism in Cómpeta.

This group continues today helping at the tourist office and museum on Sundays. They prepare walking routes and new materials as well as translating this information into various languages, helping the police and providing vital

support at events like the "Noche del Vino" in August.

Tom was diagnosed with cancer in 2008 and after four years of treatment lost the fight and died in 2012. Gwen says that despite his illness, his philosophy on life was to "keep yourself busy", so he carried on with his role as councillor and Gwen continued to help him.

Support

"I received incredible support and help from local people, including the mayor and team of councillors. Without them I do not know what I would have done," says Gwen but adds that the idea of returning to the UK, "has never entered my head".

Instead Gwen, who will celebrating her 60th birthday later this year, has followed in her husband's footsteps; she continued working with the volunteers and her name had remained on the election list, so in 2015 when the former mayor, José Luis Torres, stepped down and a se-

ries of changes took place, Gwen found herself with a seat on the council. She is now the councillor for Tourism and Volunteers and as such is still responsible for the group that she and Tom set up in 2005.

"I have taken a leaf out of my husband's book, I keep busy. I try to treat people as I myself would wish to be treated, trying to pay back the debt of support and kindness that I was once on the receiving end of."

Brexit uncertainty

However, for her perhaps more than many, Brexit is potentially about to be a major stumbling block; as a European Union citizen, Gwen is able to pursue her role as councillor, but as the law stands, she would not be able to continue to do so as someone from a non-EU country.

"By the next local elections, the UK may have left the EU and I would have to stand down. I wouldn't have stood again but now I don't know whether I will be able to," she rues.

Gwen adds that there are Brits living in Cómpeta who have already made the decision to go back to the UK. Approximately half of the population of Cómpeta is foreign and half of the foreigners are Brits. "The local economy relies on the foreign residents and visitors," says Gwen. "If they left a lot of the bars and restaurants would have to close."

The councillor advises people not to take any rash decisions as the final outcome for Brits abroad may not be as bad as some think; but, as she says, "we just don't know."

Gwen clearly enjoys the work she does and is immensely proud of her adopted village, the people who live there, both Spanish and foreign, and still has no plans leave.

"I get an enormous sense of satisfaction when I know I have been able to help someone," she says. "Here no one is alone unless they want to be! There is a good community spirit and an international mix."

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Trials and tribulations of life in Zambia

A local resident has published the second instalment of a trilogy of books that reveal her unusual lifestyle in Africa during the 80s

BY TONY BRYANT

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE. In 1980, Ann Patras decided it was time to do something different with her life, and so she rounded up her family and headed to Zambia.

Initially on a two-year contract, the family eventually left Zambia in 1989, moving down to South Africa where they lived for 22 years.

Originally from Burton upon Trent, Ann has a penchant to take awkward, near disastrous or embarrassing situations, and make them funny.

For some odd reason there seems to have been quite a few of these in her life, and they have become the basis for a trilogy of books.

Always a keen letter writer, Ann often entertained her friends with tales of various adventures and calamities, and she was constantly nagged to write a book about her life in Africa.

The first in the series, 'Into Africa with 3 Kids, 13 Crates and a Husband', was released in 2015,



Ann Patras with the first two installments of her trilogy of books about her bizarre life in Africa. :: SUR

and it describes the family's first year as expats in Africa.

She has recently released the second in the series, 'More Into Africa with 3 Kids, some Dogs and a Husband'.

The book is full of tales of their rather bizarre lifestyle over a three-

year period, when they invariably seem to find themselves in some sort of pickle.

Her books are neither travelogues nor in-depth looks at African culture. They are about a family who moved to Zambia with no idea of what was ahead.

The 67-year-old author now lives in Alhaurín el Grande, and she is currently working on the final installment of her trilogy of books about Zambia.

Ann reveals that her writing routine is absurdly haphazard, following no set time, duration or lo-

cation. However, she prefers to write outside.

"You'll find me sitting at a weird tiled table, trying to ignore the attentions of our two big dogs, the yapping of neighbours' hounds or the distractions of a husband," Ann says with a hint of humour.

Her source material was the carbon copies of letters she had written to family and friends while living in Zambia.

She is forever grateful that her legal training disciplined her in the routine of taking copies of all correspondence.

Were it not for those copy letters, she says she would never have remembered many of the crazy incidents which happened to them.

"Sometimes the contents of the letters have me chuckling to the point of utter distraction, as I am reminded of some silly incident or naive remark. But they do still provide me with essential material," Ann explains.

The first book in the trilogy has been a best-seller on Amazon and she is hoping that the new one will do the same. In the meantime, she'll be keeping busy with the next one.

"My second book continues with tales of incidents in our rather unusual lifestyle, most of which have been accredited by my readers as being very funny," Ann says with a smile.

Ann will be launching her second book at the Cafe Boulevard in La Cala de Mijas, from 6.30pm on Thursday 26 January.

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When Brennan foresaw the end of Franco

In a previously unseen work he proposed a constitutional monarchy, many years before the dictator died

To mark 30 years since the hispanist's death, The Casa Gerald Brennan publishes *The Spanish Scene*, translated into Spanish, which suggests a solution for Spain's future

FRANCISCO GRIÑÁN

MALAGA. Professors at Cambridge University offered him the Modern History Chair, but with the same courtesy with which the proposal was made, Gerald Brennan told them that he had never been to the university and that his only wish was to return to Malaga, to the place which he had portrayed and revealed as if it were a map in *The Spanish Labyrinth*, which he wrote in 1943.

Three years after that book was published, Brennan wrote what Carlos Pranger, his executor, calls a 'pamphlet', a spin-off of that book, also in English, in which he delved even further into the Spanish labyrinth and even suggested a way of overcoming the Franco problem.

"In *The Spanish Scene*, he explained that if the dictator were eliminated there would be another bloodbath, and said that the political future of our country would be a constitutional monarchy," says Carlos, adding that the text also refers to a "moderate socialist party" which would favour modernisation and make Spain equal to the rest of Europe. "He wrote all that in 1946, nearly 30 years before it actually happened," he explains.

This 'pamphlet', which was commissioned by a foundation and originally published by the Bureau of Current Affairs, is now being produced in Spanish thanks to a translation which Carlos Pranger has done to mark the 30th anniversary of the



Gerald Brennan, in later life, at his home. :: SUR



Above, the front page of 'La escena española'. Right, the Hispanist with artist John Whitworth, resting in El Torcal.

:: ANNE WRIGHT AND PRANGER
FAMILY COLLECTIONS



Although Gerald Brennan used to describe his everyday life in letters to friends, these have not yet been published

presented today, Friday 20 January, at the Casa Gerald Brennan in Churriana. Silvia Grijalba, the director of the writer's former residence, says he was fully aware of the future of Spanish politics, describing Spain as the country of "patria chica" because of the strength of regional and municipal feelings compared with those for the State.

Gerald Brennan at home

That view of nationalism and the prediction of the end of Franco did not cause problems for the writer with the regime. At least, no more than the difficulties they placed in his path when he wanted to return after the civil war.

"He had to negotiate his return. He even had to meet the Spanish ambassador in London to try to persuade the regime," explains Carlos Pranger. Brennan's return on 7 January 1953 must have seemed like a gift from the Three Kings. "Once he was back in Churriana, they left him alone," says Carlos, who is sure that there is plenty more yet to be discovered in the legacy of the British hispanist.

Stories and aphorisms feature among these previously unseen writings, but it is Brennan's correspondence about which there is the least knowledge.

"He used to write to his friends, tell them what had been happening,

death of Gerald Brennan, which was on 19 January.

The house in which Brennan used to live in Churriana, now a foundation, is publishing 'La escena española' with the support of Malaga city council. It shows not only the author's knowledge of Spain, but also his ability to understand the soul of the society of the time and the Spanish political scene.

The original text was published at a time when the UN Security Council was concerned about the situation regarding the Franco regime and the country was the subject of international debate. It was in that context that Brennan was commissioned to produce this portrait of Spain, and it is an informative and expert view of the country.

The publication of 'La escena española' coincides with a new edition of *The Spanish Labyrinth* in Spanish, published by Planeta, which is being

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MARO LIGHTS ITS FIRES



EUGENIO CABEZAS

Last weekend Nerja celebrated San Antón with traditional bonfires in the streets. Locals and visitors fought off the cold around the bonfires and barbecues with the help of sweet muscat wine. According to the tradition the fires are lit in the streets to scare off evil spirits.

and he loved gossip," says Carlos. After returning to Malaga, Gerald Brennan became an important figure in the up-and-coming Costa del Sol, and frequently hosted foreigners who were visiting Spain.

Virginia and Leonard Wolf, Ernest Hemingway, Bruce Chatwin, Lytton Strachey, Carmen Laforet and Paul Bowles used to visit him and some of them wrote about it, such as Bowles, who said that anyone who wants to get to know the Costa del Sol should knock at Gerald Brennan's door.

However, it was not only the famous who went in search of this well-known author: he also became popular with people in their 20s from the 'beat' generation who were looking for freedom on the Malaga coast.

"He regained his own lost youth by being in contact with laid-back young people. Poets and musicians used to visit him and breathed new life into him," says Carlos, who recommends that people visit the Casa Gerald Brennan in Churriana for themselves to see the collection of private photos of this entertaining yet private writer.

Thirtieth anniversary events start with reading in the English cemetery

SUR

MÁLAGA Yesterday, 19 January, was the thirtieth anniversary of Gerald Brennan's death. To mark the occasion the Casa Gerald Brennan, run by Malaga city hall, has organised a programme of public events.

The commemorative events began last night in Malaga's English Cemetery, where Brennan's ashes are buried, with the reading of a special text prepared by his biographer, Jonathan Gathorne-Hardy and a showing of the film 'Al Sur de Granada', based on one of Brennan's more famous works, in the Casa Gerald Brennan, the author's former home in Churriana.

Tonight (Friday, 20 January) at 6.30pm, also in the Casa Gerald Brennan, there will be a presentation of the facsimile edition of Brennan's Spanish Scenes, which has also been translated into Spanish for the first time by Carlos Pranger.

This will be followed at 7pm by the national launch of a commemorative pocket-sized version in Spanish of The Spanish Labyrinth, in the presence of Javier Pérez, director at Editorial Planeta publishers, and journalist and writer, Harry Eyres, who will also give a talk on the book.



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DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

Snow on the Mountain

Breynia is a tender, tropical plant with many colourful, variegated species whose dappled leaves look like they have a sprinkling of snow

The plant genus *Breynia* includes around 35 species of evergreen shrubs. The most popular of which are the colourful variegated forms as the tiny greenish flowers are virtually invisible. The oval leaves form in flattened, frond-like sprays on pink or red 'zig-zag' stems and depending on the species, can be all green or mottled with white, pink

or red. Common names include Snow on the Mountain, Snow bush and Ice-cream bush.

The genus is a member of the Euphorbiaceae (spurge) family, although it is sometimes listed as belonging to the Phyllanthaceae family, and most species

are native to the Pacific Islands. *Breynia* is a tropical plant and as such will not withstand frosts, however in a temperate climate it can be grown as hedging, as ground cover or as a container plant. It can tolerate a variety of soils but prefers a moist, free-draining

soil rich in organic matter. It needs a situation in full sun with some dappled shade during the hottest part of the day. Once mature it can reach around one to two metres tall with gently weeping branches. Pinching out the growing tips will help to promote branching and keep it compact.

Propagation is by softwood cuttings taken in the summer.

The genus *Breynia* was named after German Jacob Breynia a 17th century merchant, and his son Johann Philipp Breynia who was a botanist and a physician.

The species *B. oblongifolia* does not have mottled foliage but it does have attractive pinkish-red berries which gradually turn black as they ripen. It is commonly called the Coffee bush and is native to Australia so maybe slightly hardier than some of the other species.

In Indian traditional medicine, the dried leaves of *B. vitis-idaea* are smoked like tobacco to relieve tonsillitis and extracts of the leaves are given as a postpartum remedy and to treat skin diseases. The bark is used to treat rheumatism and to stop bleeding. *B. patens* is also used for treating conjunctivitis, blood diseases, bowel disorders, bites and stings and skin diseases.



Breynia disticha 'Snow Bush' and *B. oblongifolia* (inset). :: SUR

READERS' PHOTOS



:: JACKIE MUSCROFT

IT'S ALMOND BLOSSOM TIME

The almond is believed to have been first introduced to Spain by the Phoenicians and can be found across the peninsula. This photo of beautiful almond blossom was taken by Jackie Muscroft near her home in Malaga.



:: JANET O'CARROLL

CHINESE GROUND ORCHID

Bletilla striata, also called the Chinese ground orchid or Hardy orchid, is native to Japan, Korea and China. Although it is classed as hardy it will not withstand frosts and early flowers such as these are vulnerable unless protected from the cold.

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

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

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



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Andalucía

The prelude to Carnival in Cadiz

Several gastronomic events take place this Sunday including the 'Ostionada' and the 'Erizada'

✪ JAVIER ALMELLONES

MALAGA. In the city of Cadiz, people spend most of the year thinking about and planning their biggest festival, 'Carnaval', or Carnival. It is after the Christmas break that the preparations really get under way, and for more than 30 years it has been customary to organise some very interesting events as a prelude to the celebrations.

At present, about two weeks after Three Kings Day, local residents are looking forward to an event this weekend which is called the 'Ostionada'. It was organised by a local association for the first time in 1986 and is part of the gastronomic aspect of the Carnival celebrations, together with the also famous 'Erizada' and 'Pestiñada'.

On Sunday the emblematic Plaza de San Antonio will be crowded local residents and visitors who soak up the winter sunshine as they listen to the first songs and verses from the famous musical groups.

They will also be eating 'ostiones'; this is a shellfish which is similar to oysters but less expensive, and the event is a good excuse to meet up with friends, enjoy the food and listen to the music. The ostiones are free and helpings are generous - about 700 kilos are given away. Their flavour is stronger than that of oysters and is perfectly matched by either dry sherry (fino or manzanilla) or sweet moscatel wine.

However, this is not the only event taking place in Cadiz on Sunday, so it is also worth visiting the popular district of La Viña, where another gastronomic festival is being held, the one mentioned above which is called the 'Erizada'.

It would be unthinkable to hold the 'Erizada' anywhere else in the city, because so many of the musical groups are from this district, and it is another very popular event in the run-up to the famous 'Carnaval de Cadiz'.

The 'Erizada' takes place in the emblematic Calle de La Palma, where residents and visitors share another of the most popular foods at this time of year: 'erizos de mar', or sea urchins.

These are unusual shellfish covered with spines; they are opened with a knife and eaten raw. The purest flavour of the Andalusian Atlantic is the reward for those who decide to sample the reddish meat of the sea urchins.

Like the 'Ostionada', hundreds of kilos are given away free to those



Cadiz's beautiful cathedral is very close to the sea. ✪ J.A.



Hundreds of kilos of sea urchins are given out at the 'Erizada'. ✪ J.A.

who attend this event, and several carnival groups also perform here on the third Sunday of the year in the capital city of Cadiz province.

As well as the Erizada y la Ostionada, different associations organise other gastronomic events in Cadiz, such as the 'Mejilloná', which also takes place on Sunday at the Peña La Perla and at which

people feast on mussels.

Meanwhile the theatre, the Gran Teatro Falla, has already begun to host the official Competition for Carnival Groups. The semi-finals of the children's section took place last weekend, and this weekend it will be the turn of the youth section to show what they can do.

However, those who wish to see

the most famous parts of Cadiz Carnival will have to wait a few weeks longer. From 13 to 18 February the quarter finals in the adult category will take place, and the semi finals and the final will be between 20th and 24th.

And so we approach the Grand Gala of the Carnival, which will take place on Saturday 25 February. Although this is one of the most important events in the festivities, it does not mark the end. In fact, it is the trigger for the Carnival to move onto the streets and into the squares of this Atlantic city. Until Tuesday 28 February, which is Andalucía Day, there will be numerous other opportunities to enjoy this lively festival, which fills the Cadiz nights with colour and revelry.

Apart from the musical groups, Cadiz takes advantage of the weekends during the Carnival celebrations to organise fancy dress parties, where families and friends use all their ingenuity to dress up as some of the most popular personalities of the past year.

There is no doubt whatsoever that we will be seeing more than one Donald Trump this year, together with other famous faces who have been in the news in Spain and abroad.

This is also a good time of year for first-time visitors to Cadiz to explore the historic city centre. The main part of the city is situated on the eastern side of the Bay of Cadiz, on land which is a peninsula but also seems like an island if you don't take into account the narrow strip which joins it to the rest of the province.

Embraced by the Atlantic, this city has been associated with fishing for thousands of years. The former Gadir, as it was known, is believed to be the most ancient city in the west. This is where the Phoenicians settled before setting off on their Atlantic adventures, and its strategic position also attracted later civilisations such as the Romans and Moors.

There are some interesting buildings in the city centre, such as the Cathedral of Santa Cruz, which stands beside the sea and is also known as the New Cathedral because it replaced another which was smaller.

There are also some very nice walks around the old walls, La Caleta port, the Genovés park, the aforementioned Plaza de San Antonio and La Viña district, with their close associations with Carnival.

Like other places on Andalucía's Atlantic coast, Cadiz has many beautiful beaches including some which are ecologically important such as Cortadura, El Chato, Torregorda, and the Santibáñez marshes, which are part of the Bay of Cadiz Natural Park. There are also popular urban beaches such as La Caleta and La Victoria.

And nobody should leave

the city known as 'La Tacita de Plata', or Little Silver Cup,

without sampling its gastronomy. Famous dishes include fish in 'adobo' batter, noodles with mackerel, meat with tagarnina thistles, tuna with onion and the 'ropa vieja', which means 'old clothes' and is made with shredded steak.



Cadiz has a long seafaring history. ✪ J.A.



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The Force is with the Cudeca Goldies

The Goldies had an extra special surprise in store during their recent charity fair in Los Boliches



TONY
BRYANT

✉ tonysureng@gmail.com

FUENGIROLA. The Cudeca Goldies hosted their monthly charity bazaar in Los Boliches last Sunday.

The fair was held in the Ilunion Hotel and hundreds of people took advantage of the glorious weather in order to support the event.

The Goldies, whose motto is, 'putting the fun into fundraising', pulled out all the stops and arranged a truly entertaining afternoon.

A second-hand market was held from 11am until 4pm, offering clothing, jewellery, books, antiques and bric-a-brac.

Among the most prized items on offer to the highest bidder was a blue-mink fur coat, which raised one hundred euros, although a Les Paul electric guitar failed to reach its reserve.

The tombola proved to be extremely popular, raising at least 300 euros, and visitors were invited to enter a free prize draw for a bottle of champagne.

Several artists and musicians had offered their services free of charge during the afternoon, one of which was a German duo called The Acoustic Maniacs.

The mood changed drastically



Characters from the Star Wars franchise provided entertainment for children and adults alike. :: T. BRYANT



Barakatun played some head-pounding Latin American rhythms. :: T. B.

rhythms.

The popular Costa Soul Singers also participated, performing two entertaining sets of well-known songs.

However, the Goldies had some extra special guests in store and their arrival caused quite a stir in the street outside of the hotel.

The Events Company, a Malaga-based dance troupe that performs dressed as characters from the blockbuster Star Wars movie franchise, had offered their services to the Goldies.

The appearance of Chewbacca, Darth Vader, Princess Leia, Yoda and the Clone Troopers drew the attention of dozens of children, many of whom took the opportunity to have their photograph taken alongside their heroes.

Some of the parents seemed just as excited as the children, and the entrance to the hotel took on the appearance of a movie premiere.

The Star Wars characters were so popular, the dance routine began much later than scheduled, but it was well worth the wait for the dozens of excited children.

While constantly interrupted by the shenanigans of Chewbacca, Carlos White, fundraiser for Cudeca, thanked everyone for their support, claiming that the day had been "an extremely successful event".

The next Goldies bazaar will be held at the same venue from 11am on Sunday 12 February.

The appearance of Chewbacca, Darth Vader, Princess Leia, Yoda and the Clone troopers drew the attention of dozens of excited children

with the arrival of Barakatun, an eight-piece band of drummers from Fuengirola who entertained with head-pounding Latin American

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Taurus the bull

Orion is ready to fight the raging bull

We are continuing our tour of the constellations using Orion as our guide. Orion is such a distinct constellation that he can be used to point the way to other less familiar constellations. You should be able to recognise Orion by now with his distinct 'hour glass' shape dominating the southern part of the sky throughout the night with the three stars in a dead straight line marking Orion's belt. Follow the three stars in Orion's belt up toward the right and you will come across a bright red coloured star called Aldebaran. Aldebaran is a huge Red Giant star; it is so big that if it were placed where our Sun is then its edge would reach almost to the planet Mercury! Aldebaran is about 65 light years away and it marks the red eye of Taurus the Bull as it bears menacingly down upon Orion. Orion is pictured with his shield and club raised ready to fight off the raging bull. Two stars to the left forming a triangle with



Aldebaran, mark the two horns of the bull.

Use your binoculars to scan the area around Aldebaran where you will find a myriad of stars in an open cluster called the Hyades. The Hyades is the closest star cluster to the Earth at around 150 light years away. It contains thousands of stars and stretches for at least 65 light years across. The central core that contains the bulk of the stars is about 10 light years across and makes a spec-

tacular sight in binoculars.

Now look slightly above Aldebaran and the Hyades and you should be able to see a fuzzy looking group of stars. This is the famous Pleiades star cluster or seven sisters. If you live in a very dark area and have good eyesight you should be able to spot seven individual stars but again, binoculars will reveal many thousands of stars. The Pleiades have been called the jewel box of the night sky. They are a very young group of stars less than 100 million years old while the Sun is 4 1/2 Billion years old. With binoculars you can even see the dust cloud surrounding the Pleiades from which they were born.

The Hubble Space Telescope has produced incredible images of the Pleiades showing intricate structures within the dust cloud. This dust cloud will probably go on to produce planets orbiting around the individual stars. But make the most of it as the Pleiades are moving apart and in about 250 million years time will no longer form a cluster.

i More information :
www.costadelstars.com

IN BRIEF



COÍN RBL CELEBRATE 11TH BIRTHDAY

Forty-seven members and guests of the Coín branch of the Royal British Legion gathered at Yates's Family Bar and Restaurant on Wednesday to celebrate the branch's 11th birthday. Chairman Jo Taylor and Rosie Mahoney (above) baked and decorated a cake for the occasion. Over the last 11 years the group has enjoyed many trips and other activities.

Palliative care association to hold open day

ALAMEDA
The Asociación Girasol, based in the north of the province of Malaga, is holding an open day on Monday 23 January from 11am to 1pm. Members of the public are invited to take a look at the facilities and find out more about how the association (whose name means sunflower in English) is supporting the communities of Alameda, Fuente de Piedra, Molina and Humilladero and how donations are being spent. Located in the old library near the petrol station in Alameda, the association provides a range of services to adults with advanced, incurable illnesses and those in need of end of life care.

Search launched for Costa's best young journalist, blogger or YouTuber

SUR

MALAGA. Calling all young people aged 19 or under who enjoy communicating in English with others, perhaps via the school newspaper, website, their own blog or YouTube channel.

The Costa Press Club, the media association for writers, journalists and broadcasters in Malaga province is looking for nominations for a new 'Young Communicator of the Year' award.

Speaking about the award, Jesper Sander Pedersen, club presi-

dent, said, "We want to recognise young talent and the people who will be informing the Costa del Sol in the future."

Explaining the nomination process, he continued, "We want all school teachers, parents or friends of young people aged 19 or under to spread the word and help us find this year's award winner, or students can nominate themselves directly. For example, if the nominee has been published in a school magazine or is on the internet with their own content, we want to hear from them with details of their work. Winning the award will be a great start to anyone's career."

Those interested can see more details on www.costapressclub.com and can email explaining why they should win to communicator@costapressclub.com before 10 March. The award will be presented at a gala dinner in June.

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Royal British Legion told it must learn to blow its own trumpet

The Spain South district held its AGM last week, but it was not all good news for the branches in this area

:: TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. The Royal British Legion Spain South district held its annual conference in Torremolinos on Thursday last week.

The meeting was attended by members of RBL branches in Gibraltar, Marbella, Coín, Benalmádena, Torremolinos, Alhaurín el Grande and Mollina.

The event, which was held at the Pablo Picasso Cultural Centre, began with a parade of the district and branch standards.

Reverend Doreen Cage presided over the opening prayers, followed by the swearing in of the new district president, Neal Toplis, managing director of City FM Radio.

The congregation was also informed of the news that Mary and Ray Le Corney, from the Torremolinos branch, were stepping down after serving on the district committee for more than twenty years.

One of the many items on the agenda was the lack of adequate publicity and the misguided image of the RBL in southern Spain.

Brian Turner, chairman of the South district, suggested that more could be done by individual branches, adding that the legion "really, really, must be better at blowing its own trumpet".



Royal British Legion representatives in Torremolinos. :: TONY BRYANT

In his address, Turner claimed that some people think the RBL is only about "old men in blazers". He advised members to take a long, hard look at ways of improving the conception of the RBL in Spain.

"I am not criticising a branch in any shape or form, but the future of the RBL District South is in your hands," the chairman said.

His comments were reiterated by Rob Bedford, representative of the Membership Council for Overseas Branches and Districts. He warned that the southern district could become annexed to the northern district if action was not taken.

Two branches of the legion closed in southern Spain in 2015, and last year the Torre del Mar branch was temporarily shut down. This branch is now operating under the auspices of the Los Romanes branch.

However, both the chairman and Rob Bedford were quick to point out that all branches in southern Spain are upholding the standards of the Royal British Legion. The southern branches were commended for their outstanding fundraising efforts during the last Poppy Appeal.

The district secretary said, "It is a credit to the branches and members of Spain South, because, although we have lost branches, the 2016 Poppy Appeal raised over 69,000 euros."

Other good news is that the RBL in Spain has plans to open two new branches in the near future. These will be in Casabermeja and Duquesa.

Brian Turner said, "If we pull together we can achieve our aim and continue to administer, and support, the delivery of welfare services to the RBL branches throughout southern Spain."

Blue Bay recognises tourism professionals in awards ceremony

More than 250 guests were invited to the Casino de Madrid to acknowledge the positive work of those in the tourism sector

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

MADRID. Spanish hotel group BlueBay Hotels united hundreds of industry professionals as they held the third edition of their Travel Awards on Tuesday. Timed just before the start of Fitur, the Madrid travel fair, the gala has become an important meeting point for many prominent figures from the tourism sector.

The event took place at the Casino de Madrid and was attended by more than 250 guests from the tourism sector and other figures with a considerable presence in the social and political sphere at a national and international level.

Wamos Air, Tui Group; Hosteltur, represented by Manuel Molina; Jet2Holidays; Hotelbeds; Westjet; Repotur; Anex Tours and Expedia all received awards, and top-level executives from all the companies were present at the event, which included an opera and ballet performance, to collect the awards made from recycled material.

Among the dignitaries who attended were Sheikh Bandar Bin Fahd Al-Fehaid, president of the Arab Tourism Organisation who received the Best Tourism Model of Social Integration award for his commitment to the economic and social development of the Arab League nations; and the Tourism Minister of the Dominican Republic, Francisco Javier García, who received the Outstanding Tourism Personality for America in 2016 award for his commitment to consolidating legal and financial frameworks to boost tourism in the Dominican Republic.



Prize winners at the third Blue Bay Travel Awards. :: SUR

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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

20 JANUARY 288

Drums and turnips for an early Christian saint and martyr

January 20th is St Sebastian's Day, the patron saint of athletes and archers. This early Christian saint and martyr is often depicted in art and literature as a handsome young man, tied to a tree or bound to a stake, with numerous arrows piercing his body.

Sebastian is said to have joined the army in Rome in the year 283. He converted numerous people there to Christianity while successfully hiding his own faith from his leaders. He became a captain of the Praetorian guard, but in 286 it was discovered that he was a Christian and the emperor Diocletian saw this as a betrayal and ordered him to be led to a field and tied to a stake, where archers would fire arrows at him.

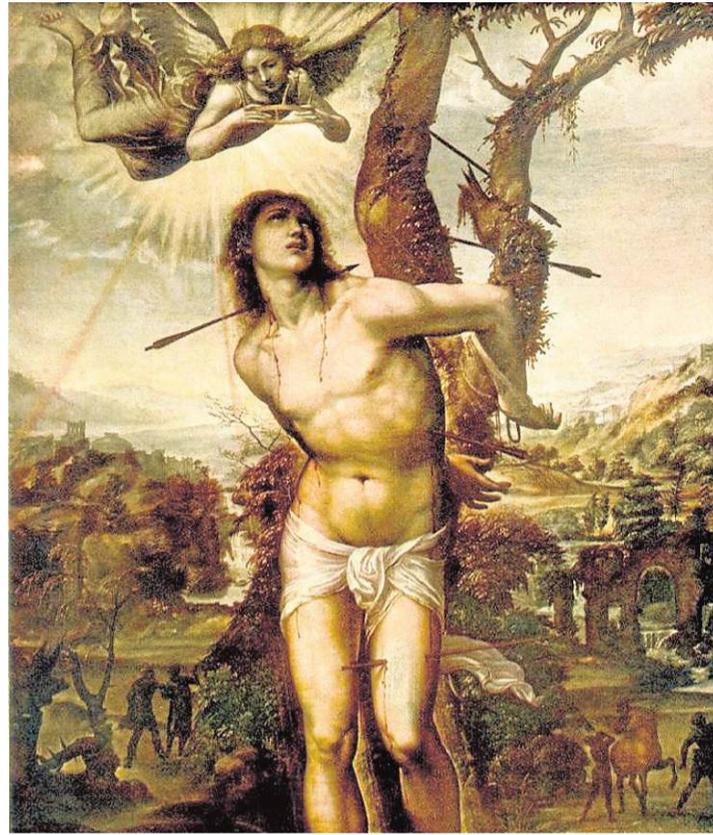
Sebastian was left for dead, but when a widow known as Irene

of Rome went to collect his body she discovered that he was still alive, took him back to her home and nursed him back to health.

Later, he stood in a place where he knew Diocletian would pass, and when the emperor appeared he harangued him about his cruelty towards Christians.

Astonished, because he believed Sebastian had died, Diocletian ordered him to be seized and clubbed to death, and his body was thrown into a common sewer. From there it was retrieved privately by a Christian woman named Lucina, and buried in the catacombs at the Calixtus cemetery in Rome.

Unsurprisingly, January 20th is a very important day in the town of San Sebastián, in the Basque Country, where the Pa-



Il Sodoma's depiction of Saint Sebastian tied to the tree. :: SUR

tron Saint's Day celebrations include the 'tamborrada' drum parade and the drumming continues for 24 hours.

Elsewhere, the festivities are quieter but no less strange: in the village of Piornal, in Extre-

madura, for example, local people very enthusiastically throw more than 20,000 kilos of turnips at a character known as the 'Jarramplas', a devil-like creature who steals cows, before pursuing him out of town. The person

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Patrón	Patrón saint
Atleta	Athlete
Arquero	Archer
Flecha	Arrow
Cristianismo	Christianity
Capitán	Captain
Emperador	Emperor
Traición	Betrayal
Crueldad	Cruelty
Enterrar	To bury
Cementerio	Cemetery
Catacumbas	Catacombs
País Vasco	Basque Country
Tambores	Drums
Desfile	Parade
Nabo	Turnip
Pueblo	Village
Expulsar	Expel
Máscara	Mask
Guapo	Handsome
Viuda	Widow

portraying the Jarramplas has to wear protective clothing beneath his costume, to avoid being injured. This tradition is said to symbolise the expulsion of everything that is bad.

In Acehúche, which is also in Extremadura, people wear animal skins and painted masks to dress up as the 'carantoñas', a type of monster animal, and parade through the streets.



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REGINA SOTORRIO

@ReginaSotorrio

The Impact Brothers taught themselves acrobatic breakdance in the street but now, at 23, they perform on TV and stage

MALAGA. All they can remember is that they were French, that they did some spectacular turns above their heads and that one of them "wore a Superman T-shirt." They don't know any more than that about the danc-

tos and film a video in an emblematic setting in Malaga, next to Muelle Uno, and they were happy to oblige.

After a brief warm-up they looked at each other, exchanged a few gestures which only they understand, and began the show. They are 'acro dancers', dancers with the ability to control their bodies and hold a classic posture after somersaulting in the air, turning one above the other and making a human pyramid. The scene took place beside the 'Cube' building above the Pompidou centre, and attracted numerous spectators who also wanted to take photographs. These brothers are aptly named. Watching them has a real impact.

Through practice, training and regular falls, they have created their own style which combines the tension of the impossible acrobatics of



Twins with rhythm in their blood

ers, they discovered that a group of young people in their town were doing urban dance, and they joined them. They began to compete in championships - they have already won several with their group Floor-lovers - and acquire professional training from David Segura (who today heads the Beyond Dance company).

Since then they have devoted their time entirely to dance, training at schools, rehearsing the choreography at home and now using premises provided by the local council in the Azucara building in Torre del Mar.



IMPACT BROTHERS IN ACTION



ers they saw in the street of their town years ago, but if they saw them again now they would have a great deal to say to them. It would begin, "Thanks, for being our inspiration."

After following these performers for an entire summer around their native Torre del Mar, twins Marcos and Alejandro Ponce decided they wanted to do the same. They were only ten years old then. Now, at 23, they are the Impact Brothers, a duo that performs a fusion of acrobatics, breakdance, classical and contemporary dance.

We asked them to perform one of their numbers so we could take pho-

breakdance with the elegance of classic dance movements, performed to some epic music in the background. By March, in just four months they will have been to France, Greece, Marrakesh and Italy, after starting in Malaga (where they have performed alongside David Segura in 'Decisiones' at the Sala Gades). At present they take part in the shows put on by international companies, but their dream is to put on their own show and they are working towards that.

Their first school was the street and beach of Torre del Mar. It hurts less when you fall onto sand. After being fascinated by those French danc-

Brothers Alejandro and Marcos Ponce, in Muelle Uno.
FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ



"We have always rehearsed in the street, but now we need somewhere that isn't cold and where we can go when it's raining," they say. It can't be just any room, either: they need height, space and a good floor, because when your body is your equipment "there are always risks". However, the Ponce brothers, touch wood, say they have never been injured. They have scars, muscle contractions, scratches, bruises... "nothing serious."

They often talk at the same time, giving the same answers, and that also occurs when they dance, for good or bad. "I don't know, maybe it's because we're twins or because we have

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spent all our lives together. We often make exactly the same mistake at the same time and in the same part of the dance routine," says Marcos.

This close relationship is essential in a situation where you need absolute trust in the person. Most of the movements these brothers perform, the acrobatics and turns, are the result of combining their individual strength and skill. They say that when they started there was nobody to train them, so they just tried on their own, each using the other as support. "That's why we are so sure about what we're doing. I know who he is and he knows who I am. We would never let the other down," says Alex.

The stage performances by these twins attracted the attention of the television some time ago. When they were 12 they took part in the 'Menuda

Noche' programme on Canal Sur; they have been on 'Tienes talento' on Cuatro; this summer they were finalists on TVE's 'Insuperables' programme; they have just filmed a commercial for a well-known company, due to appear soon, and they have another TV project coming up "but we can't talk about that yet," they say.

For them, television has become the best platform. "When we were on Insuperables the phone didn't stop ringing. People all over the world were interested in us, even in places like Peru and Mexico," they say. And as a result, they found work. At present they are a duo, but a young acrobat may be joining them. Alex's two-year-old daughter has already performed with them at times. The future of their business is assured.

:: FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ



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REF. S.C.R.

Some months ago I lost in a court proceeding and was sentenced to pay the court fees. Now I have received a letter saying that I have to pay around 4,000 euros and they are going to seize my salary until I complete the payment. Is this legal? What am I going to live on, if they seize my salary?

In the first place, the salary can be seized as long as it is higher than the guaranteed minimum wage. Nevertheless, you have to bear in mind that what would be seized would be that excess above the guaranteed minimum wage, not your whole salary. Therefore, that seizure is legal, and a claim to cancel it would be directly rejected. However, in this case it is usual practice to try to reach an agreement with the other party, either by reducing the amount to pay, or extending the period to do it, so that the debtor pays a smaller amount every month.

REF. C.O.M.

I have a property in Spain, and I usually come out four or five times a year. In order to get around I have always rented a car, but am thinking about buying a small, cheap one. When I went to the car dealer, he told me that if I

wanted to buy a car I had to provide my NIE. I had a copy at home, but he told me it was not valid, because it was expired. I didn't realise that a NIE could expire. Do I have to apply for a new one?

If they have told you that your NIE is not valid because it has expired, it is probably because you obtained the certificate before the middle of last year. The expiry of the NIE is something relative, since it is the certificate which expires, not the number. Some years ago, the certificate did not include any reference to its validity, but this was changed a few years ago, when the administration included a sentence stating that it had a validity of three months. This sentence has been removed again from the certificates issued around May last year, but if your certificate includes it, then you will have to apply for a duplicate.

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A. J. LINN

ALL THAT GLITTERS...

Scams of all kinds are becoming more common in the wine business, and there are rich pickings for the fraudster. The most famous of them all, Rudy Kurniawan, is serving a 10-year prison term in a US penitentiary for selling fake wines to super-rich collectors.

In one auction alone he offloaded \$40 million-worth of rare bottles. His regular customers included the likes of former Vornado Realty Trust chief, Michael Facitelli (lost \$3.6 million); Quest software founder David Doyle (\$15.1 million); film producer Brian Devine (\$5.3 million), and Andrew Hobson, former chief financial officer at Univision (\$3.1 million). A bottle of grand-cru imitation Bordeaux sold for \$10,000 will have cost Kurniawan about \$20 to knock up in his kitchen, where police found a veritable 'old' wine factory.

It may be hard to feel much sympathy for victims who could



Wine fraudster Rudy Kurniawan. :: SUR

easily afford the money they lost, while for Ginafranco Soldera, the day he opened his winery doors and found five entire vintages, 62,000 litres, swilling about on the floor, was bitter indeed. Whoever committed this vandalism had waited four years

to get his revenge for Gianfranco's public revelation that his fellow Brunello-makers were illegally mixing wine from other regions with what should have been 100% Sangiovese.

Wine faking goes back centuries, and even Rome's Pliny wrote that what was described on the label was often not a correct description of the bottle's contents.

For many years it was normal to dilute sherry and port with water and fruit juice, and the Austrian wine scandal of the 1980s, exposing the use of antifreeze to bulk up wine volumes, hit the trade hard. Even big names are not scandal-free. Georges DuBoeuf, Burgundy's best-known producer, was fined in 2006 for mixing top Beaujolais wines with cheaper blends, and the winery boss was jailed.

Unsurprisingly the real victim was the region, taking a decade to recover from this blow to its credibility.

And while fakers like Kurniawan make the headlines, the man-in-the-street wine buyer will hand over his eight euros without really being sure whether he is getting what he thinks he is paying for.

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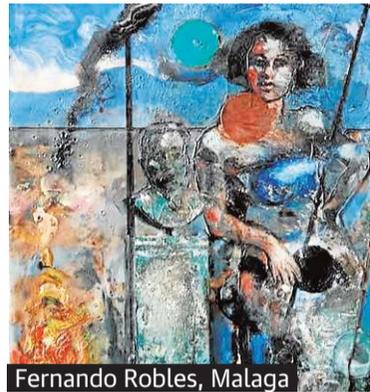
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EXHIBITIONS

Gerald Brenan Museum

Churriana. Until 1 February. Casa de Gerald Brenan, C/Torremolinos
A collection of photographs of Brennan, his wife and the many friends, among them writers, aristocrats and beatniks, that visited the house in Churriana.



Fernando Robles, Malaga

Museum Jorge Rando

Malaga. Cruz del Molinillo, 12
The works of contemporary artist Jorge Rando are on permanent display. The museum also holds poetry and musical events.

'Under 35'

Malaga. Until 25 February, Galería GACMA, C/Fidias, 48.
Thirty artists under the age of 35 and with links to Malaga will be presenting their work in this exhibition aimed at promoting emerging new talent.

Ortega Bru

Malaga. Until 28 January, ArsMálaga Palacio Episcopal
Around 100 religious paintings, sculptures and drawings in tribute to sculptor Luis Ortega Bru.

Malkovich, Malkovich, Malkovich

Malaga. Until 29 January, La Térmica, Avda de los Guindos.
A tribute to more than 40 famous prints from the 20th century created by photographer Sandro Miller with John Malkovich as the principal figure in each one.

The body, window to the soul

Malaga. Until 4 February, Sala de exposiciones La Térmica.
The American photographer Ryan McGinley is exhibiting more than 400 photographs of young nudes. The exhibition entitled 'Yearbook' attempts to communicate the values of youth: freedom, optimism, sensuality, emotion and freshness.

Eugenio Chicano

Malaga. Until 5 February, Salas de La Coracha, Museo del Patrimonio Municipal, Paseo de Reding.
The exhibition includes thirty two canvases completed over the last five years and which are bucolic scenes from across the province.

Joaquín Torres-Gracia

Malaga. Until 5 February, Museo Picasso Málaga
A retrospective exhibition of work by Joaquín Torres-García; from his early work in Barcelona at the end of the 19th century up to his last

paintings finished in the 40s.

Sebastián González

Malaga Until 9 February, Diputación de Málaga.
Photographer Sebastián González is holding an exhibition of photos taken around the Caminito del Rey to help promote the area as a tourist destination.

María Vera

Malaga Until 11 February, Columna JM, Duquesa de Parcent.
An exhibition entitled 'Luz Silenciosa'. galeria@galeriajm.com

Francisco Peinado

Malaga Until 18 February, Columna JM, Duquesa de Parcent.
An exhibition entitled 'The Greatest Story'. The painting is a huge mural consisting of five panels depicting a complete series of Bible stories. It is on display for only a short time before being shipped to Aarhus, Denmark.

Fernando Robles

Malaga Until 27 February, Alfajar Galería C/Cister 1.
'Suite para cielo -infierno' is an exhibition by Madrid artist Fernando Robles Vásquez.

Jesús González de la Torre

Malaga. Until 28 February, Sala Unicaja Siglo, Plaza del Siglo. 1st floor
'A no entender entendiendo' is an exhibition of paintings in large format by Madrid artist Jesús González de la Torre. ▶



A duet at the opera recital last year. :: VENTANA ABIERTA

Opera Nights

|| JENNIE RHODES

NERJA. 'Las Noches de Burriana', a new season of opera recitals at Burriana beach in Nerja, begins on 27 January with a further two performances on 17 February and 24 March. 'Las Noches de Burriana' is now in its second year after the considerable success of event last year. Each performance includes an aperitif and buffet dinner at the Playa & Sol restaurant.

This year's season includes Mozart's Don Giovanni, Puccini's La Tosca and Madame Butterfly and Bizet's Carmen. The menu promises to be different for each performance, as do the

INFORMATION

▶ **When:** 27 January, 17 February, 24 March.

▶ **Where.** Playa & Sol restaurant, Burriana beach, Nerja.

▶ **Tickets:** Tel: 690073871 email: ventana.abierta.acp@gmail.com, www.ventana-abierta.es or visit Ventana Abierta, C/Pintada.

companies.

Tickets cost 45 euros each or 120 euros for all three if bought together.

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LA LA LAND
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DRAMA-HISTORY · 159 min. Fit

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Saturday 21: 15:45, 17:50, 20:15
Sunday 22: 11:50, 15:45, 20:15
From Monday 23 to Thursday 26: 17:50, 20:15

UNDERWORLD, BLOOD WARS
Director Anna Foerster · Starring Kate Beckinsale and Theo James · SCI-FI · 91 min. +16

Saturday 21: 15:55

PASSENGERS
Director Morten Tyldum · Starring Jennifer Lawrence and Chris Pratt · SCI-FI · 116 min. +7

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Director Garth Jennings · Starring Matthew McConaughey
ANIMATION · 108 min. Fit

Saturday 21: 15:40
Sunday 22: 12:10, 15:40

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Revello's ladies



Revello de Toro with one of his paintings. :: SUR

MALAGA. The new season's exhibition at the Revello de Toro museum is entitled 'Damas, Retratos Femeninos' and consists of eight paintings by this famous Malaga artist.

The paintings represent all of the creative periods of the artist over the last fifty years.

Félix Revello is a painter of women.

He is able, through the use of a brush and a palette of colours, to depict "all the beauty, the charm, the seduction, the

DETAILS

► **What.** An exhibition of paintings by Malaga artist Félix Revello de Toro entitled 'Damas, Retratos Femeninos'.

► **When.** Until 2 April.

► **Where.** Museo Revello de Toro. C/Afligidos, 5, Malaga.

mystery and the sensuality of his models".

EXHIBITIONS

Mark Ryden

Malaga. Until 5 March, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.

'Cámara de las Maravillas' is the name of the surreal exhibition by Mark Ryden. His art features angelic faces with macabre undertones.'

Magpie International Gallery.

Marbella. Until 23 January. C/Virgen del Pilar. 200m from port.

An exhibition of art work entitled 'Relaciones' (Relations) by Austrian artist Dana Nowak.

Daniel Jameson

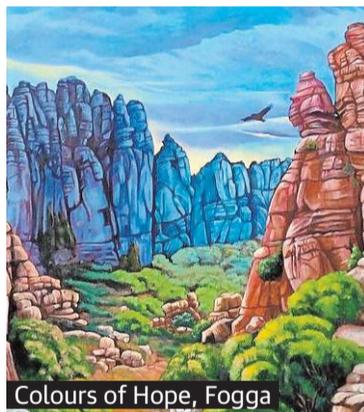
Estepona. Until 27 January, Casa de la Juventud.

Around a dozen, large format works make up the exhibition entitled 'En Resumen' by Argentinian artist Daniel Jameson.

Ángeles Agrela

Marbella. Until 4 February, Galeria Yusto/Giner, C/Madera.

'El favor de las Bellas' is the first individual exhibition by Ángeles Agrela. Combining sketching, painting, video and photography, Agrela explores, principally, the human form.



Colours of Hope, Fogga

Cecilia Noriega-Bozovich

Marbella. Until 13 February, Cortijo Miraflores, C/San Pedro Alcántara

'Kuu: Poéticas de la luna' is the title of the exhibition by Peruvian artist Cecilia Noriega-Bozovich, It comprises 21 canvases.

Agustí Centelles

Vélez-Málaga. Until 23 January, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.

'This exhibition 'Bram, campo de refugiados' is by the photographer Agustí Centelles who was one of the Spanish Republicans that fled to France after the Civil War. He is now considered one of the pioneers of modern photo-journalism in Europe.

'Interferencias'

Nerja. Until 25 January, Sala Municipal, C/Almirante Ferrándiz.

A selection of paintings by artist Javier Rueda.

Christmas exhibition

Frigiliana. Until 25 February, Galería Krabbe, C/Rosarico La Joaquín.

A collective exhibition. Email gale-riakrabbe@gmail.com

Economistas en el Arte

Nerja. Until 5 March, Museo de Nerja.

The exhibition comprises works by different arts that combine a disparate theme, art and economy.

Artistas Ecléticos

Mijas Pueblo. Until 31 January. Chemas Wine & Tapas, C/Málaga 10

Works by Sinikka Ahokas-Gröhn, Margit Björklund, Elaine Carlton and Richard Wood. Open daily noon until midnight, except Wednesdays. Tel. 722 17 05 17 / 952 590 610. New work at Clinca Veterinaria, Avd. México 21 by Sinikka Ahokas-Gröhn, Margit Björklund and Richard Wood can be seen until January 13. Tel. 952 485 740. www.artistaselecticos.com

Shutterbugs exhibition

Mijas. Until 6 February, Centro Cultural La Cala

The exhibition of photographs are taken by the Shutterbugs camera club. Inauguration 13 January at 8pm.

Colours of Hope

Arroyo de la Miel. Until 9 February. Fogga de Málaga, Blas Infante 31, Urb. Bello Horizonte.

A collection of art work by Anne Engholm, Henri Kivioja, Kristina Lähteenmäki-Hein, Pirjo Ouvinen and Victoria Rodríguez Castillo. www.facebook.com/foggamalaga

Mercedes Llamazares

Los Bolichos. From 1 until 23 February. Sala de Exposiciones, Los Bolichos town hall.

A selection of water colour paintings by Mercedes Llamazares.

José María Córdoba

Fuengirola. Until 28 February, Patio-Top Garden Centre.

"The paintings of José María Córdoba work as a window open to the world" commented the art critique Ángel Luis Pérez Villén. The exhibition entitled 'Confluences' runs until the end of February.

Contemporary art

Ronda. Until March, Museo Joaquín Peinado.

Malaga artists José Medina Galeote and Juan Manuel Rodríguez are both exhibiting in the museum until March.

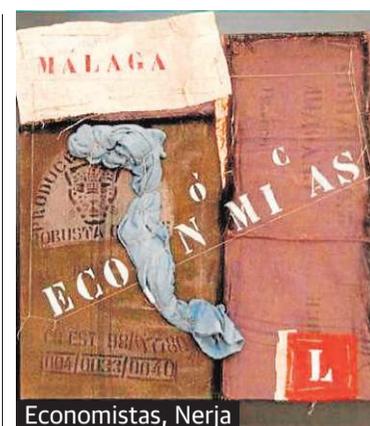
'The Edge of Forever'

Granada. Until 18 February, Biblioteca de Andalucía, C/Profesor Sainz Cantero, 6.

International art photographer Tariq Dajani is exhibiting a collection of his work inspired by the ancient muslim civilisation of



Tangos de Siempre, Torremolinos



Economistas, Nerja

Al-Ándalus.

FLAMENCO

'Quebranto'

Nerja. 21 January, 9pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. 12€

The dance company Antonio de Verónica trace a path through the different rhythms of flamenco.

'Con Temple'

Vélez-Málaga. 22 January, 9pm. Teatro del Carmen. 5€

The Cristina Gallardo and Anne Axarquía dance academy will be performing.

Flamenco dance

Almuñécar. 20 January, 8pm. Casa de la Cultura.

Andalusian flamenco, oriental dance and Sephardic lyrics.

MUSIC & DANCE

Cuarteto Granada recital

Malaga. 21 January 8pm. Sala Unica María Cristina.

This recital, DSCH III (Dimitry Shostakovitch III), will feature the 4th and 5th quartets from this famous composer.

The Wall Bar

Malaga. Hotel Vincci Posada del Patio, 11pm, entry free.

20 January Rosa Ruiz y Foky

21 January. Dana and Gianni. Blues and jazz fusion.

Louie Louie Bar

Estepona. Avda Luis Braille.

www.facebook.com/louie-louierockbar/

27 January, 11.45pm

The Rob Sas band will be performing.

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

Malaga. Teatro Cervantes

9, 19 February, 8pm. Concerto n°1 for piano and orchestra in E minor by Chopin, Symphony n° 36 in C major 'Linz' by Mozart. Der Rosenkavalier by Strauss www.orquestafilarmonicademalaga.com

19 February, 12 midday. Magic and adventure at the hands of John Williams. The concert will include sound tracks from Indiana Jones and Harry Potter. Auditorio Edgar Neville.

3 February 8pm. Concerto n°1 in A minor Op 77 for violin and orchestra by Dimitry Shostakovich and Peer Gynt suites n° 1 and 2 by Greig.

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Malaga.

14 February 8pm. The Mainake quartet and Luis Pacetti (tenor) will be performing Letters to Juliet by Elvis Costello.

Tangos de Siempre

Torremolinos. 19 February, 9pm. La Casa de Los Navajas. The most famous tango music performed by Gabriela Loria and Juan Seles.

Eric Clapton tribute

Nerja. 20 January, 9pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. 10€ La Cochera Cabaret are holding 'Ocean Boulevard, tributo a Eric



'Rockin Race', Torremolinos

Clapton' at the cultural centre.

From Vivaldi to Handel

Torremolinos. 20 January, 8pm. Centro Cultural pablo Ruiz Picasso. The Joven Orquesta Promúsica de

Winner of international guitar festival in concert

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

MARBELLA. Swiss guitarist Damiano Pisanello, winner of the VII Festival Internacional de Guitarra de Sevilla, will be playing at a the Iglesia de La Virginia on the Urb La Virginia in Marbella on 21 January. The concert starts at 7pm and tickets cost 20€ for adults and 5€ for students and under 18s. They can be purchased from the venue before the concert. To reserve a ticket, call 689 000 944.



Damiano Pisanello. :: SUR

Málaga will be performing various works by composers such as Albinoni, Handel, Pachelbel, Vivaldi and Corelli among others.

Andrés Segovia tribute

La Herradura. Until 21 January, Civic Centre.

The 32nd International Guitar Competition will mark the 30th anniversary of the death of Spain's most famous classical guitarist, Andrés Segovia. All 'rounds' of the competition are open to the public. www.certamenandressegovia.com

Swan Lake

Almuñécar. 25 January, 7pm. Casa

de la Cultura.

The Russian National Ballet will be performing Swan Lake to music by Tchaikovsky. Tickets from Casa de la Cultura and Viajes Ecuador. Groups of ten or more tel: 935 878 960

A night in Buenos Aires

Mijas. 26 January, 8.30pm. Salon de Actos, Town Hall, La Cala de Mijas. 10€

A Tango Show by the Arcos de Buenos Aires Argentinian music and dance company. Tickets: 660 753 246

Nerja. 27 January, 9pm. Centro cultural Villa de Nerja. 10€

Classical music festival

Nerja. 28 January, 8pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja ANAC (the Asociación de Nerja de Acción Cultural) is organising the first Festival de Música Clásica Villa de Nerja.

Ytre Suløens Jazz ensemble with Tricia Boutte

Nerja. 1 February, 9pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. 20€ The Ytre Suløens Jazz ensemble is one of the most emblematic jazz groups in Norway. They have toured the world with their traditional, New Orleans style jazz. They are joined by Tricia Boutte, renowned jazz performer.

'Rockin Race Jamboree'

Torremolinos. 2-5 February, Auditorio Municipal Principe de Asturias. The town hall are expecting around 3,000 people to attend this year, the 23rd edition of the event. Musicians from all over the world will be performing. Tickets are available from www.rockin-race.com

EVENTS

Star Gazing

Malaga. 3 February, 8-10pm. Centro de Ciencias Principia, Av. de Luis Buñuel The observatory at the science museum is offering a free tour of the heavens from their 3.5m moving dome. There are

CULTURAL SNIPPETS

I Feria Internacional de Arte Contemporáneo

MALAGA

:: SUR. The first International Fair of Contemporary Art will be at the Palacio de Congresos in Malaga from 30 June until 2 July. The fair is hoped to attract up to 400 artists and will be the biggest of its kind in Spain. There will be live demonstrations and workshops as well as original artwork for sale from individual artists as well as from galleries. More information can be found at artfairmalaga.com

Ojeando Festival

OJÉN

:: R. SOTORRÍO. The 10th edition of the Ojeando Indie Festival will take place on 30 June and 1 July. This year, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the festival, there will be a total of ten artists including Sidonie, Second and Miss Caffeine, among others. This year tickets are 25€ (40€ includes camping) and there is an exclusive concert for 100 people inside the Ojén cave. See www.ojeandofestival.es or ticketbox.es

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St Valentine's Day Dinner and Dance

Torre del Mar. 14 February, 7pm. Salon del Mar, C/Los Fenicios. 32€ Lux Mundi, the Royal British Legion and other groups are having a combined event to raise funds. Price includes meal and live entertainment from Hector Bannon. Tickets from: 952 543 334 www.lux-mundi.org / lux-mundi@lux-mundi.org or the RBL

Age Care Coffee Mornings

Los Boliches. Hogar del Jubilado, 11am - 1pm. Thursdays.

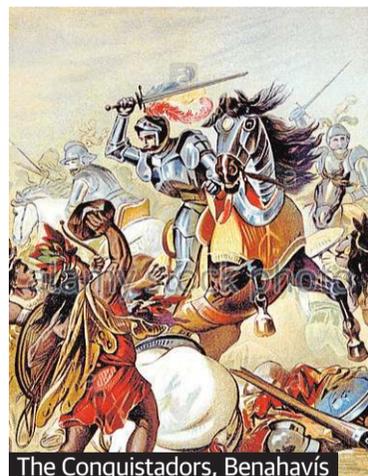
1st floor above the fruit market. There is a lift.

Mijas Pueblo. Oasis Bar 11am - 1pm. Thursdays.

La Cala de Mijas. El Caballo de Oro, behind Supersol. Fridays 11.30am - 1pm.

Trip to the Alpujarras

Torre del Mar. 26 January. Various departure points. 18€



The Conquistadors, Benahavis

Visit the villages of the Alpujarras. Tel.952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org. Web-page: www.lux-mundi.org

Trip to Casares and Estepona

From Torre del Mar. 23 February. Various departure points. 20€ Coach trip to Casares and Estepona. Tel.952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org. Web-page: www.lux-mundi.org

Thespa

Fuengirola. 25 January, 7pm. Los Boliches, Masonic Hall. 16€ members, 18€ guests. Includes set meal.

'Mother Figure' by Alan Bennett plus one other one act play. Reservations tel: 622 454 422 www.theatrecoastadelsol.com or email: thespabooking@gmail.

CHARITY

Burns Night for Cudeca

Mijas. 25 January, from 7.30pm.

Tamisa Golf Hotel. 45€ The Addressing of the Haggis together with a typical Scottish menu and entertainment at the Tamisa Golf including wines and whisky for only 45euros per person. Tel: Carlos White 663 083 249 or Tamisa Golf Hotel 952 585 988 reservas@hoteltamisa-golf.com

LECTURES

U3A Lectures

Fuengirola. Lux Mundi reference Library, free to members, guests 5€. www.u3acostadelsol.org
Science and Technology - A century of General Relativity. 25 January, 11am -12.30pm. Part 2: Black Holes, Dark Energy and Gravitational



Classic cars parked at the Palacio de Ferias de Malaga. :: SUR

The vintage vehicle fair opens in Malaga

:: I. LILLO/ SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. The Palacio de Ferias y Congresos de Málaga begin their new season of events this weekend with the annual classic vehicle fair.

Around 28,000 visitors are expected to attend the event where there will be 170 professional exhibitors who, besides showing off their many exclusive and rare vehicles, will also be hoping to do some buying and selling. A special area has been set aside where private sellers can promote their cars.

There will also be stands stocked with spares and offering all sorts of services tailored for classic and vintage vehicles.

Among the cars on display will be some exceptionally rare examples such as the Porsche Speedster from 1955, the Cord Sportsman from 1937 and a Lancia Astura from

INFORMATION

▶ **When:** 20, 21, 22 January. Fri 4-9pm, Sat 10am-9pm, Sun 10am-8pm.

▶ **Where.** Palacio de Ferias y Congresos de Málaga.

▶ **Price:** 8 euros for adults, children under ten go free. If you attend in a classic vehicle, entry is 5 euros.

1939, on loan from the Museo Automovilístico de Málaga.

Sunday 22 January will be the day of the luxury cars with a number of Porsches and Ferraris on show.

The fair is not just about cars though; an exhibition of Ducati and other makes of motorbike is also expected to be very popular.

Waves. Speaker: Ian Phillips
China. 24 January, 11am-12.30pm. The next DVD Film: The Song Dynasty. Presented by: Kay White
History and all that. 20 January, 11am-12.30pm. Before 1066-From Athelstan to Edward the Confessor. Course Leader: Kay White.
History and all that part two. 27 January, 11am-12.30pm Before 1066-The Normans. Course Leader: Kay White.

Lux Mundi talk and dinner Torre del Mar. 30 January, 6pm. Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, Avda Moscatel. 12€

Italian Opera

A talk by the Reverend James Tayler about the history of Italian opera. There will be extracts from La Traviata, Rigoletto, La Boheme and more. After the talk there will be salad, a choice of lasagnas, including vegetarian, dessert and a bottle of wine between 4 people. Tel: 952 543 334 or go to www.lux-mundi.org / lux-mundi@lux-mundi.org

DFAS lectures

Benahavis. 24 November, 6.30pm. Benahavis Town Hall

The Conquistadores Adventures in the New World

Within the short space of 50 years the conquistadores had vanquished civilisations from Mexico in the north to Chile in the south. So what drove men such as Cortes and Pizarro? www.benahavisdfas.com/events

FESTIVALS

Día de San Sebastián

Algarrobo. Until 20 January. Algarrobo celebrates in honour of its patron saint San Sebastián. Live music and a procession from the



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village to the hermitage. Fireworks.
Alhaurín de la Torre. *Until 22 January.*
Cómpeta. *21, 22 January.*

Carnaval

Malaga. *Until 26 February.* The month long Carnival celebrations start on 21 January with various gastronomic events. The main attractions are the fancy dress competition and parade on the 19 February, the battle of the flowers and more fancy dress on 25th and finally the burying of the anchovy on the 26th. www.carnavaldemalaga.es/

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
Paterson: 20.20
Loving: 16.00, 18.10, 22.25
Hell or High Water: 18.10
Callback: 17.00, 20.30
Realive: 18.30

Cinesur El Ingenio

Avda. Juan Carlos I, Vélez-Málaga. Tel. 667 77 31 87.
Moana: 17.00 (Tues);
Hidden Figures: 16.30 (Tues)
Loving: 16.20 (Mon-Thurs)
Hacksaw Ridge: 21.00 (Tues)



Carnaval, Malaga

La La Land: 12.05 (Sat, Sun); 16.00, 16.40 (Tues)
Underworld: Blood Wars: 22.00 (Tues)
Collateral Beauty: 15.55 (Tues)
Passengers: 19.30 (Tues)
Assassin's Creed: 21.45 (Tues)
Sing: 16.10 (Tues)

Cinesur Miramar

Avda. de la Encarnación, Fuengirola. Tel. 952 19 86 00.
Silence: 22.00 (Tues)
Rogue One: A Star Wars Story: 16.15 (Tues)
Passengers: 18.50 (Tues)
Sing: 16.05 (Tues)
La La Land: 12.15, 16.00, 18.25, ()
Underworld: 12.20, 16.00
Assassin's Creed: 22.05 (Tues)
Collateral Beauty: 20.35 (Tues)
Loving: 16.30 (Tues)
Hidden Figures: 16.25 (Tues)

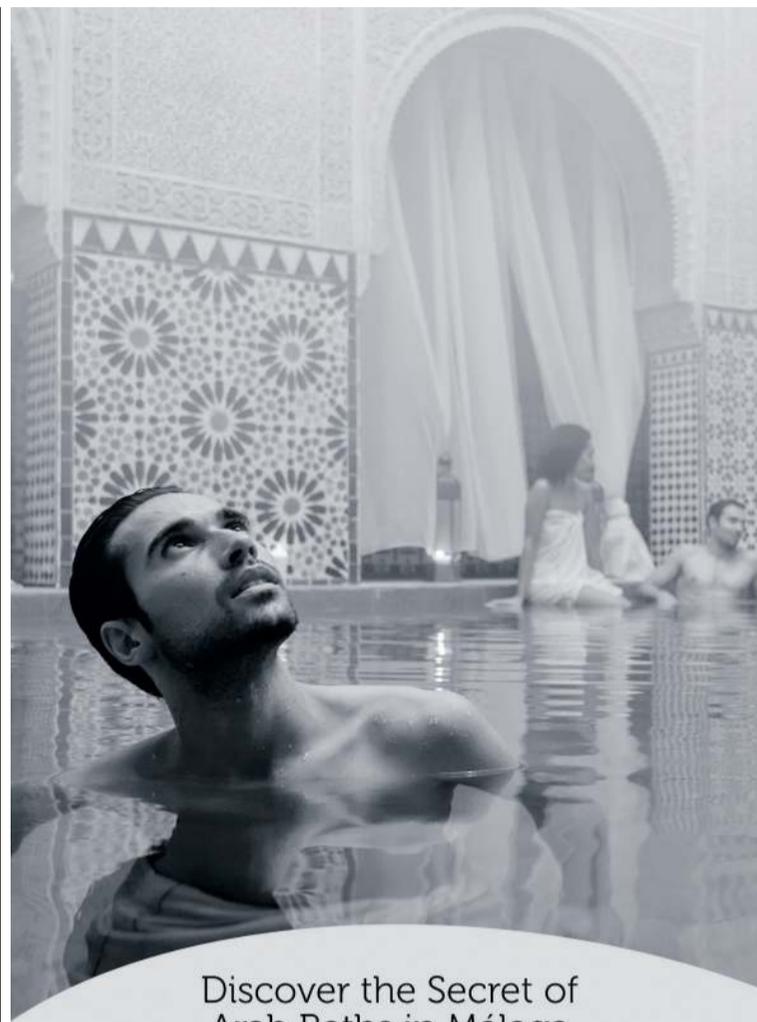
Cines Teatro Goya

For tickets and information call 951196665. www.cinesteatrogoya.com

Return of Xander Cage: 12.10 (Sun); 15.45 (Sat, Sun); 18.00 (every day except Thurs); 22.40 (every day); 17.45 (Thurs)
Hidden Figures: 17.50 (every day); 20.20 (every day except Thurs); 22.00 (Thurs)
La La Land: 11.50(Sun), 15.45 (Sat, Sun); 17.50 (every day except Sun); 20.15 (every day)
Underworld: Blood wars: 15.55 (Sat)
Passengers: 22.45 (every day)
Sing: 12.10 (Sun); 15.40 (Sat, Sun)

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

Centro de Ocio Plaza Mayor, Avda. Alfonso Ponce de León. Tel: 902 902 103 or visit www.yelmocines.es
Hidden Figures: 12.35 (Sat, Sun)
Loving: 16.45
Silence: 12.10 (Sat, Sun)
The Light Between Oceans: 17.00
La La Land: 17.45, 20.30 (every day); 12.00, 15.00 (Sat, Sun); 23.15 (Fri, Sat)

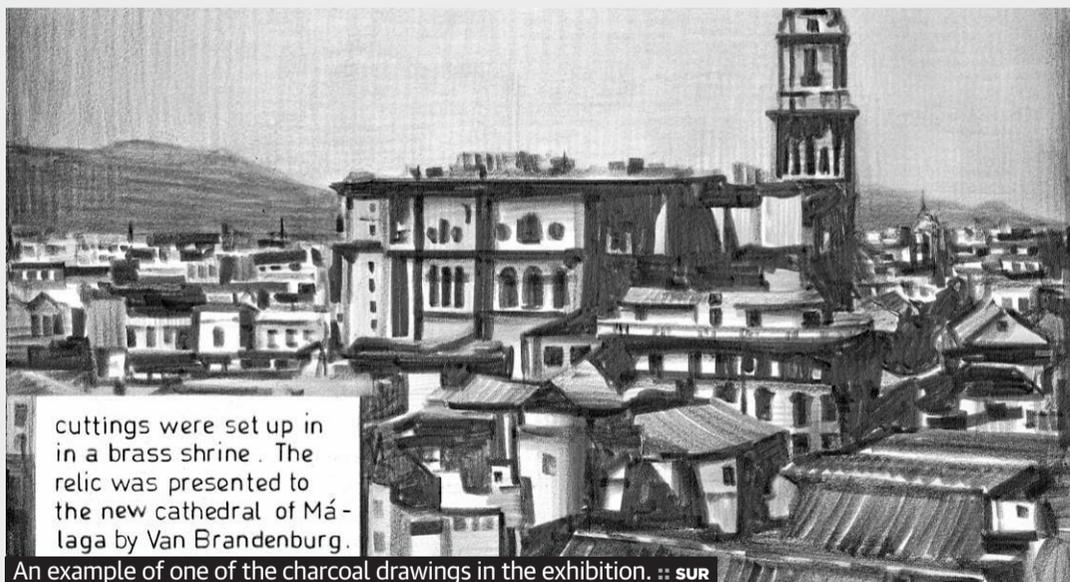


Discover the Secret of Arab Baths in Málaga

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hammalandalus.com



Conceptualism at the CAC



cuttings were set up in in a brass shrine . The relic was presented to the new cathedral of Málaga by Van Brandenburg.

An example of one of the charcoal drawings in the exhibition. :: SUR

MALAGA. Dutch artist and draughtsman Marcel Van Eeden is displaying around 250 small format drawings in an exhibition entitled '1525' at the Centro de Arte Contemporáneo (CAC) in Malaga.

The works are in charcoal, watercolours and pastel and are divided into different series. One group, '1525', consists of 21 pictures transporting the viewer to a mysterious Malaga, full of en-

chanted buildings, secrets and dark corners.

One drawing a day

Van Eeden is a conceptual artist. He has a rule that he must produce at least one drawing a day and bases them on images or texts originating on a specific date before he was born.

The ones in this exhibition are based on material from the beginning of the 16th century.

INFORMATION

► **What.** An exhibition of drawings by Dutch artist Marcel Van Eeden.

► **When.** From 20 January until 26 March.

► **Where.** Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Malaga.



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Major centre for research into prostate and breast cancer to open in Malaga's Hospital Civil

The Malaga provincial authority is ceding the nursing school building at the hospital for the project, which is backed by the government, the Junta and the university

■ ANTONIO M. ROMERO

MALAGA. To make Malaga a benchmark for cancer research: that is the objective of a project which is being carried out by the Spanish government, Junta de Andalucía, Malaga provincial authority and the University of Malaga, and which will turn the Hospital Civil into a major international centre for research into prostate and breast cancer.

The initiative, which started life in 2015 at the Institute of Biomedical Research in Malaga (Ibima), has now taken a step further: it will be expanding its sphere of activity and moving into new premises.

The president of the Diputación, Malaga's provincial authority, Elías Bendodo, announced this week that this organisation will cede the nursing college building, which was built only five years ago on land at the hospital and has never been used, for the project.

In November 2015 it was announced that the National Centre for Oncological Research (CNIO), which is a Spanish government body, had reached an agreement with Ibima, which is run by the Junta de Andalucía, to set up a specialist unit for research into prostate cancer. This would be the first time the CNIO had a branch outside Madrid.

One of those behind this initiative is Emilio Alba, the head of Oncology at the Clínico and Carlos Haya hospitals. He explained this



The nursing school building at the Hospital Civil will house the cancer research unit. ■ FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ

The CNIO, the Ibima and oncologist Emilio Alba are behind this project, which is expected to start this year

week that the prostate unit is currently in Ibima's premises in the Clínico hospital but it needs more space. For that reason, the provisional government was asked whether it would be possible for the unit to move into the nursing school, "because it is a modern, well-equipped building which would meet the needs of a major cancer research unit," he said.

Now all that remains to be done is for the Junta de Andalucía's Ministry of Health and the Diputación

"This centre will place Malaga at the forefront of the fight against cancer," said Elías Bendodo

to sign an agreement for the building to be handed over. Once finalised, the present research team of eight doctors and the laboratory staff can move in. Emilio Alba explained that public and private funding will be sought to finance the expansion.

In addition to the prostate cancer research unit, which is headed by well-known specialist David Olmos, the new centre will also include a research unit for breast cancer.

"One out of every four cancers detected in Malaga is prostate or breast cancer. This unit will be a huge step forward for two reasons: it will be better for the patients because we are going to be able to offer them a new treatment and detect cancer earlier, and secondly it is good for the city because it will attract research projects from European and Spanish institutions as well as the pharmaceutical companies. It will be a source of wealth for Malaga," Dr Olmos explained at the launch of the project.

Due to open this year

When asked about the timescale, Emilio Alba was cautious, because there are still some administrative processes to complete, but he is sure that some time this year the major centre for research into prostate and breast cancer will

be operative in its new location.

During his participation at an informative breakfast organised by Europa Press and the Cajazol Foundation, at which he was introduced by the Minister for Justice, Rafael Català, Elías Bendodo stressed the importance of a centre of this type for Malaga and the need for support by institutions such as the Diputación.

"We have been working on this centre for months; it will place Malaga at the forefront of the fight against cancer and I am confident that it will soon be a reality in the premises we own at the Hospital Civil. Malaga will become a national and international benchmark in clinical research and in training scientists in the battle against these types of cancer, which are so common and aggressive," he said. He also pointed out that every year about 1,200 cases of prostate cancer and 1,100 cases of breast cancer are detected in Malaga province.

Bendodo also stressed that Malaga has "one of the best oncologists in Spain and Europe" in Emilio Alba, and highlighted the important role played by Itziar Ochotorena, the manager of Ibima, in this project.

The building

The disused nursing school building was built when the PSOE ran the Diputación and Salvador Pendón was president but was never put into service.

In 2011, when the Partido Popular took over, the works, which had cost about 700,000 euros, were already complete but it was decided not to go ahead with the nursing school because this was classified as an educational project and did not therefore come under the provincial government's jurisdiction.

The University of Malaga then took over responsibility for the 75 places which had been offered by the provincial government each year.

This meant that the nursing school building was available at the right time and it is now considered ideal as the home of the new research centre.

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Siblings undergo pioneering kidney transplant at Malaga hospital

The operation saw the first kidney transplant from a live donor with an incompatible blood group in Andalusia

∴ MARÍA DOLORES TORTOSA SEVILLE. Siblings Manuel and Adelina Díaz Mora confess that they have rediscovered the joys of living after

the latter, aged 46, donated one of her kidneys to her brother, aged 44. Adelina, an outgoing and likeable woman, not only saved her brother from being hooked up to a haemodialysis machine but also instilled in him a new lease of life: "When I wake up, I feel as if I am 20 years old again."

While Andalucía has seen a record number of organ transplants performed, with 814 in 2016, the one that took place on 27 September in

the Carlos Haya hospital in Malaga was unique in that it was the first kidney transplant to take place in Andalucía with a live donor of an incompatible blood group. After a nervous three weeks, the operation was declared a success, with Manuel stating that it had changed his life for the better and that he would forever be indebted to his sister.

Until recently, there was a firm contraindication against donation

among people of different blood type owing to the fact that the transplanted kidney would be rejected immediately and would cease to work. Four months after the operation, Manuel and Adelina "are in perfect health and the transplanted kidney is working," explained Jorge Soler, urologist and the doctor responsible for kidney transplants at the Malaga hospital.

Manuel suffers from a congenital illness that deteriorated his kidney function. He and his sister were included on a programme designed to find donors for organ transplants

called Donación Cruzada. However, a compatible donor could not be found and Manuel started haemodialysis. He was hooked up to the machine for three months.

However, Manuel was offered a lifeline as it was discovered that he and his sister shared the same HLA (human leukocyte antigen) typing, something that only occurs in every one out of four siblings, meaning that a direct transplant was possible. After taking into account other factors, such as the good health of the siblings, the operation went ahead and proved to be a success.



Adelina and Manuel Díaz Mora, accompanied by medical staff and Manuel's wife. ∴ J. MUÑOZ. EFE

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The battle against sugar gets fiercer

After warnings from specialists and worldwide organisations such as the WHO, the Spanish tax authority plans to go into battle against sugar due to its negative effects on health and contribution to the increase in obesity

by ALEJANDRA RODRÍGUEZ

Last month the Minister of Finance, Cristóbal Montoro, announced a package of measures which are designed to raise around eight billion dollars this year. Of this cascade of cash, the Minister calculates that 200 million will come from soft drinks. Not many details are known yet, because Montoro has only said that the tax on drinks which contain an excessive amount of sugar is in line with the demands of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and will be implemented in a similar way to countries which already

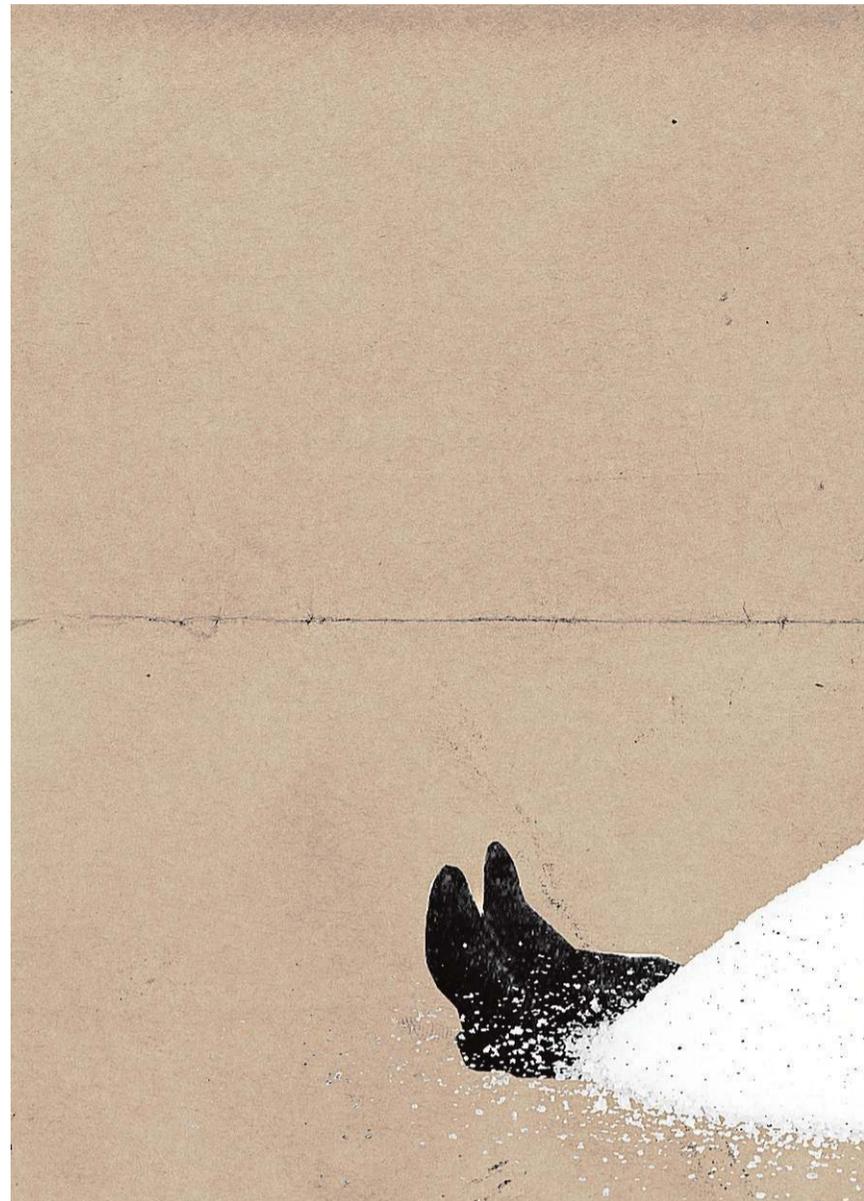
have this type of tax or are considering it, such as the UK and Portugal.

However, despite the lack of detail, manufacturers of this type of product are already criticising the measure as “regressive, discriminatory and ineffective in changing lifestyle habits,” according to a statement issued by ANFABRA (the Soft Drinks Association), a collective which will be directly affected by this new tax. Another nine entities related to the production of drinks and foods have expressed similar concerns. In the opinion of this sec-

tor of the food industry, this regulation will be a blow to the poorest families and will not reduce the consumption of sugary drinks. They also insist that the companies which produce soft drinks have already shown great commitment to health by reducing the amount of sugar in some of their products during the past decade, and they argue that sugary drinks are not as bad as they are reputed to be.

Does added sugar kill?

Not directly, but it can be a contributing factor to people's deaths. That



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is the general conclusion by specialists in health and nutrition, who say that the present situation regarding sugar is similar to that of tobacco in the past.

With the exception of investigations financed by soft drink manufacturers or where there is a conflict of interest by the authors, all the research published in scientific journals o far has revealed startling data against these products, accusing them of being directly responsible for the increase in obesity and Type 2 diabetes, two worldwide public health problems, as well as dental caries and even certain tumors.

One study, published in April 2015 in *Circulation* magazine, attributes sugary drinks to no fewer than 184,000 deaths a year in the world. Of these, 133,000 are due to Type 2 diabetes, 4,000 from cardiovascular illnesses and 6,400 to different types of cancer.

Meanwhile, another research project published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, carried out by scientists from the Public Health School at Harvard University, indicated that sugary drinks are closely related with a genetic disposition to adiposity and increased weight, and act as an important trigger.

Numerous pieces of research have shown, too, that the light (with less sugar) and zero (no artificial sweeteners) versions do not compensate for the negative effect of their full versions. This is either because the user consumes more of the product, or because they complement it with other sugary foods, but it is certain

Health professionals say they can see how their patients improve when they stop consuming sugary products

that the 'light' drinks are not as healthy as people might believe.

Juana María González Prada, the technical director of Alimmenta, agrees. She also points out that "just one tin of drink contains more than the daily recommended amount of sugar, but the sugar in these drinks is especially dangerous because it contains calories but has no other nutrient or valuable element. This has nothing to do with the sugars we obtain from the other foods in our diet, because those do contain minerals, vitamins and fibre," she says.

Juana María also explains that sugary drinks are replacing others such as water or milk which are necessary or recommended in the diet, especially where children are concerned.

Do such taxes work?

"Sugary drinks are a unique and modifiable dietetic factor which directly affects preventable death and disability in adults in countries with high, medium and low income, which suggests an urgent need for solid preventive programmes on a world level," conclude the authors of the article in *Circulation*.

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We speak 

> the WHO is calling for in its report Fiscal Policies for Diet and the Prevention of Noncommunicable Diseases. “Appropriately designed fiscal policies which add at least 20 per cent onto the sale price of sugary drinks could result in a proportional reduction in the consumption of these products,” it says.

Meanwhile, Douglas Bettcher, the Director of the WHO’s Department of Prevention of Noncommunicable Diseases, says that “the ingestion of free sugars, including those in products such as soft drinks, is one of the main factors which are leading to more obesity and diabetes in the world. If the governments were to tax products such as sugary drinks, it could prevent the suffering of many people and save lives. It would also reduce health costs and

increase tax income, which could be invested in health services,” he explains.

Juan Revenga, author of the blog ‘El nutricionista de la General’, welcomes the WHO report as well as the decision by the Spanish authorities, because “for the first time, independently of the aim of raising money, there is sufficient clear and objective data to classify these products as real enemies of public health,” he says.

“As professionals, we can confirm how much our patients improve when they stop using these products; not only because they tell us that they feel better, but because their blood tests and clinical data show it as well. However, reports like the one from the WHO support what Science has been demonstrat-

Experts believe the new tax announced by Cristóbal Montoro needs to go further because it will only be applied to fizzy sugary drinks

ing for years: free sugar is an element which is damaging for the health, and sugary drinks are one of the principal vehicles,” says Laura Kohan, who runs The Food Therapy.

Nevertheless, the specialists warn of some aspects which have to be taken into account in order for the measure to be effective in terms of public health. “The World Health

Juices are another fraud because they appear to be a substitute for pieces of fruit, and a label saying “no added sugar” does not mean they contain none

Organisation says the tax has to increase the cost to the public by at least 20 per cent. If the companies absorb this cost and users don’t notice any difference in the price they pay, the measure will not be effective,” says Juan Revenga.

Not only soft drinks...

Experts believe that the new measure announced by Cristóbal Mon-

toro doesn’t go far enough because it only refers to fizzy drinks. In other words, it basically affects soft drinks but not others which also contain a large amount of added sugar, such as milk shakes, non-carbonated drinks and industrially-produced juices.

“Some of these products contain more than 12 per cent of recommended sugar levels, when they shouldn’t have more than seven per cent. They are not healthy either, but they appear to be better,” argues Juana María González Prada, who says consumers feel confident in using them and giving them to children.

Juan Revenga points out that “the WHO has also warned that industrially produced juices contribute to the increase in obesity, especially in

EXPERT ADVICE TO WEAN OURSELVES OFF SUGAR

More market and less supermarket shopping

In other words, we should reduce as much as possible the presence of processed products (which are normally full of sugar, fats and salt) in our shopping basket and include as much fresh food, especially fruit and vegetables, as we can.

Get cooking!

This is a consequence of the point above. Cooking the food we have bought in the supermar-

ket gives us a more nutritious and balanced diet, and corresponds more to the Mediterranean lifestyle. It also means we can control not only the cooking method, but also the quality of the ingredients and the amount of sugars, fats and salt we add. By cooking at home we can become more versatile and replace additives which are not recommended with others that are much healthier.

Give it up little by little

Palates and brains which are accustomed to an excessively sugary reward find it difficult to give up something which can actually be addictive. Therefore, it is best to reduce the amount of sweet foods which we eat every day progressively, to re-educate our palate. When we least expect it, we will start to become used to eating less sugar.

Look for substitutes

Stevia and xylitol are natural sweeteners which are as effi-



cient or more so than refined sugar and are not as damaging to our health. Also, xylitol protects teeth against caries. However, we need to be careful with ready-prepared foods which are normally sold in supermarkets because, for example, the amount of stevia may be very small and could be accompanied by other artificial sweeteners which are also being studied by scientists for their possible implication in weight gain and Type 2 diabetes. In addition,





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children, and various research projects (one of which was published in the BMJ Open magazine last March) have reported that most of these products contain unacceptably high levels of sugar.”

On the other hand, juices contain another trick: they confuse people into thinking they are a substitute for fruit, and one which bears a ‘no added sugar’ label. The fact that no sugar is added does not mean that the juice doesn’t already contain a large amount, even if it is present naturally. Also, juice contains the same amount of sugar as several pieces of fruit (something which is not really recommended to maintain glucaemia at a stable level and prevent caries and weight gain), but not the vitamins or fibre.

Finally, in addition to drinks, ex-



perts in health and nutrition are calling for equally punitive measures to be imposed on other products such as biscuits, soluble cocoa, prepared sauces, snacks, ready meals, breakfast cereals and a long list of other foods which contain large amounts of harmful fats, free sugars and salt.

The industry reaction

Experts in health and nutrition fear that the industry reaction will not just be limited to the publication of the statement mentioned above, and that the producers will do everything they can to delay this type of measure being put into effect or stop it being applied in full.

Research published in October in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* revealed that the world’s

two largest soft drinks manufacturers have financed nearly 100 entities, including Cruz Roja, the American Diabetes Association, several prestigious universities, the American Medical Association (AMA), the American Cancer Society and the Centre for the Control of Illness, to improve the image of soft drinks by reducing their support for laws which aim to lower their consumption.

In the opinion of the authors of the report, by accepting financing from these two soft drinks giants, the health organisations have become collaborators in their commercial strategies, and are taking part in their marketing plans without realising it.

“Sponsorship, corporate social responsibility campaigns... >

many commercial products substitute fat or refined sugar with fructose, an ingredient which wreaks havoc on blood glucose.

Read the labels

Nobody should be fooled by labels such as “low in sugar” or “no added sugar”. In the first case, these are products with a lower amount of sugar, but they are not completely free of it. In the other, not adding sugar doesn’t mean that the product doesn’t contain any, and it could have a

great deal. As a general rule, these types of message give consumers a false sense of security and makes us consume the same amount or more of the ingredient we are trying to avoid.

Other products to bear in mind

In addition to the soft drinks, there is a long list of products which people believe are healthy but which, nevertheless, contain as much or even more sugar. These include milk shakes, non-carbonated drinks, cartons of



juice, energy drinks and sports drinks. The latter two are formulated to replace carbohydrates and electrolytes after training sessions of a certain intensity. People whose physical activity is not demanding or who only exercise occasionally don’t need products of this type. Recently, flavoured waters have also appeared on the market. These contain water, flavouring and sugar. In this case, although the amount of sugar may be relatively low, it should not be there

at all.

Conscious eating

If we were to increase people’s awareness of nutrition, include this as a subject taught in schools, carry out independent informative campaigns and, in general, know exactly what we are eating and the real effects our diet has on our health, we would then be able to enjoy truly free and responsible form of consumption.

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> this is a widespread phenomenon which makes them look good, but all it really does is increases their income”, says Juan Revenga. “In Spain there are codes of self-regulation of publicity which are not complied with, and are drawn up by the manufacturers of products which should not be given directly to children; there are ministerial campaigns in which a product which is not recommendable bears a message which is so tiny it is almost illegible... it’s all a fraud. It means the consumer is not free to choose what they are really consuming.”

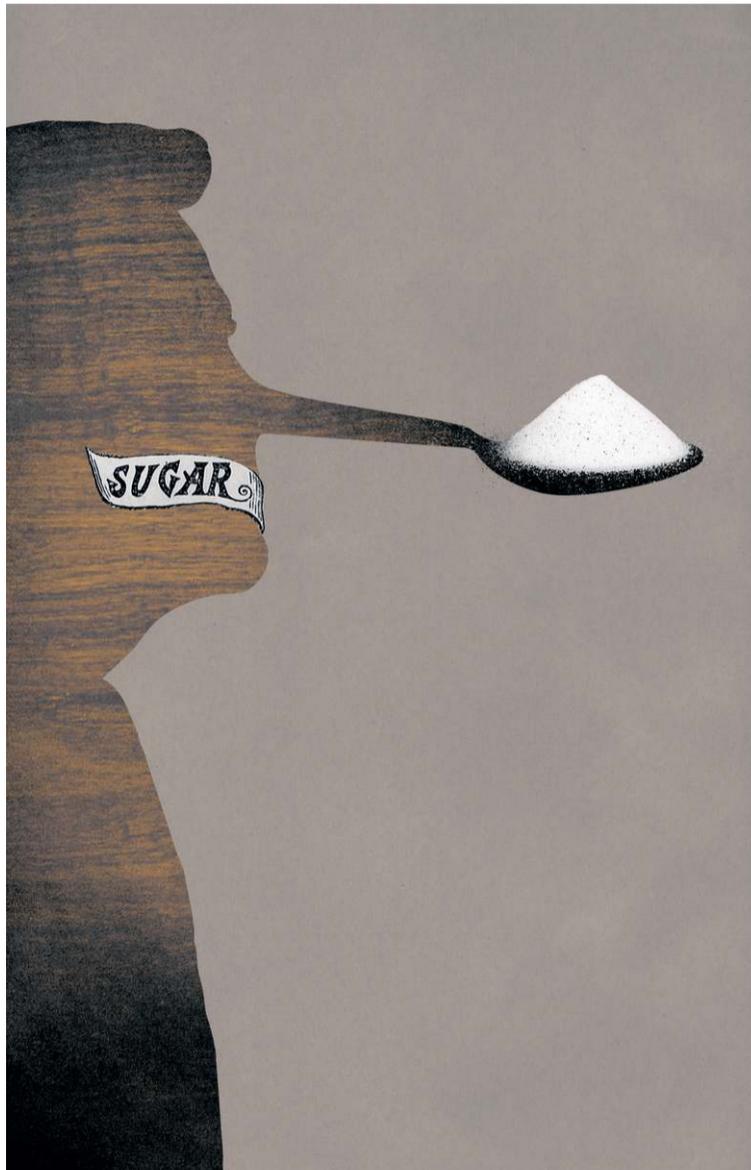
Healthier products

The question has to be asked: why don’t companies just make healthier products? The answer, according to the experts, is financial.

“If there was a real, unanimous commitment by the manufacturers, it would pay them to do that. But while some continue doing things badly, with no negative consequences and in addition they are making good money from it, I fear there is little to be done,” says Juan Revenga.

“Companies aren’t given prizes or incentives to do things well, and that is a mistake,” adds González Prada.

The author of the blog ‘Mi dieta Cojea’, Aitor Sánchez, says that “in all the years of my career many companies in this industry have asked me how to improve their market share. Only one asked me how it could make better products.”



REACTIONS

Pleased at the news, but not euphoric

Although they see the tax as something positive, experts believe the measure does not go far enough

A. R.

Experts have welcomed the news of a tax on sugary drinks with moderate optimism. In general, they believe it is the right thing to do but is just one step on a long road ahead.

“Introducing a tax on foods which are very low in nutrition is positive, but it should be part of a bigger campaign,” says Juan Revenga.

“If this remains an isolated regulation the only effect will be to raise money for the government. Everybody involved in what we eat and drink, such as the government, companies, the media and consumers, should be jointly responsible and take an active part in resolving a problem which is of global magnitude,” insists Juana María González Prada.

César Bustos, the director de PROnaf, agrees. “The tax is a good thing but it isn’t enough. We have similar examples with alcohol and to-

bacco. If we just increase the tax and do nothing else, people won’t change their habits,” he insists.

Nutritional education in schools, independent awareness campaigns, more honest advertising, more responsible behaviour from the media, expanding training programmes for professionals and encouraging consumers to be more critical, making healthy products cheaper than those which are unhealthy, encouraging people to take more exercise... these are just some of the measures recommended by health experts.

“The focus should also be widened and not just on soft drinks. Supermarkets have numerous products with large amounts of free sugar, harmful fats and salt, and they should be included as well,” says Laura Kohan.

Or, as Aitor Sánchez pointed out at the Conference on Self-Control and Safety in Food in Vitoria in May last year, “There is evidence that not using celebrities to promote products, raising prices through tax, not giving away toys or gifts with certain products, and improving access to healthy options are effective. The health authorities should insist that these be implemented.”

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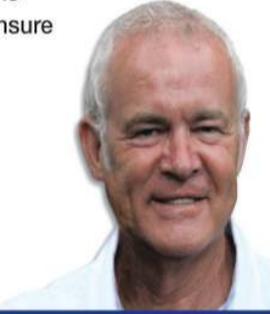
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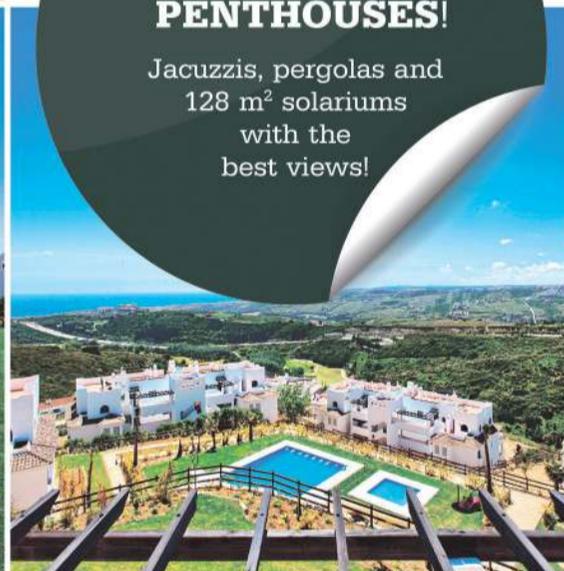
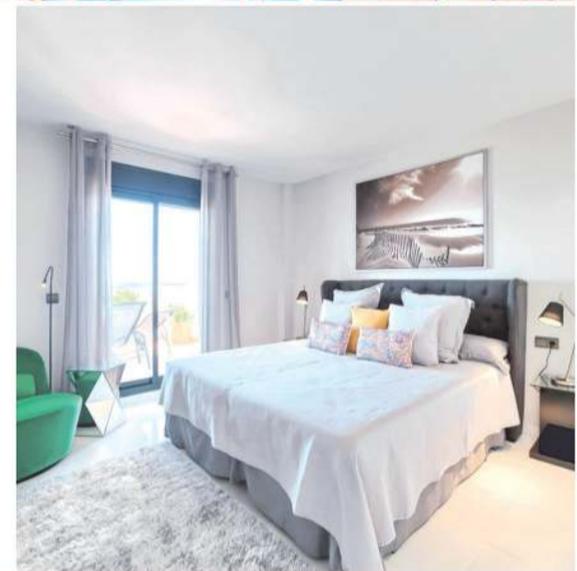




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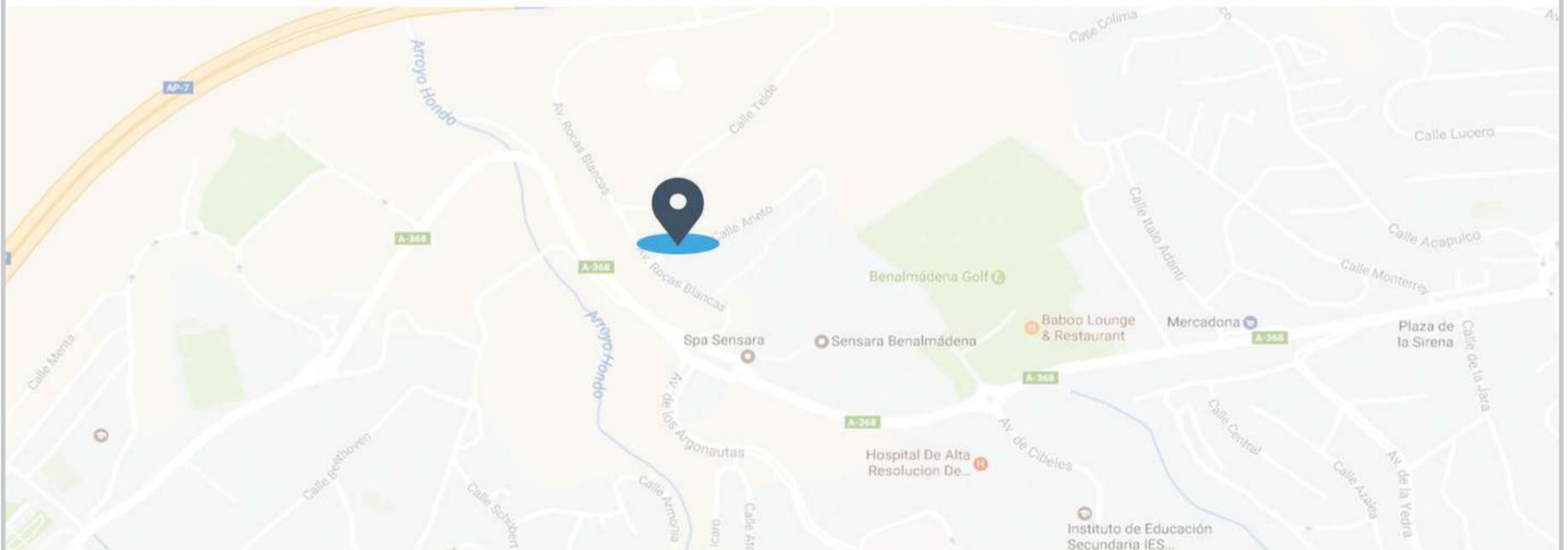




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Marbella players celebrate their first goal. :: JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

Marbella stake their claim for the top spot



Twitter: @1JulioRodriguez

Okoye starred as his two assists for Goti and Beitia leaves his side just one point behind the league leaders

:: JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

MARBELLA. Marbella produced a quality display to beat Linares 2-0 with goals from Asier Goti and Joseba Beitia on Sunday. The victory leaves them in third place, just one point behind leaders Cartagena and second-placed Lorca, both on 41 points.

The home side shot out from the blocks and were unlucky not to be ahead within the first minute. Linares also had their chances in the opening exchanges but Gonzalo and Martos were unable to take advantage to change the flow of the game. Nafti was again able to instil in his players the intensity that was present in their incredible sequence of nine victories in ten games at the start of the season. The feeling that the blanquillos were unstoppable had returned.

The breakthrough came in the 19th minute when Okoye crossed in to Goti who rifled a fierce shot

2-0
MARBELLA-LINARES

Marbella: Guille Lara, Carlos Julio, Delmonte, Marcos Ruiz, Andrés Sánchez, Lolo, Goti (Neva, 77'), Beitia, Petcoff, Luis Roja, Okoye (Pedro Mérida, 80')

Linares: Lopito, Joselu (Álvaro Vega, 69'), Higino, Rosales (David Gámiz, 69'), Gonzalo, Cuerva, Corpas, Rodri, Casi, Mario Martos, Luis Lara (Pekes, 56')

Goals: 1-0 Goti (19'); 2-0 Beitia (47')

Referee: Villoria Linacero. Yellow cards for Marcos Ruiz, Luis Rioja, Gonzalo and Rosales

Ground: Municipal. (1,300 spectators)



Boxer 'Chato' Benítez did the ceremonial kickoff before the game. :: J. R.

into the top corner. The visitors had no response. Petcoff, Beitia and Lolo were moving the ball around as they pleased. New arrival Luis Rioja seemed as if he had been playing the whole season at the Municipal. Marbella were simply on another level as they headed into the break.

The hosts did not let up as they scored with the first moment of danger in the second half. Okoye made his way into the box from the left flank, drawing the whole defence with him. Instead of shooting, he dragged the ball back to the penalty spot where Beitia was waiting to coolly finish past Lopito. It was a devastating blow for Linares, who disappeared from the game.

With the confidence of a significant advantage in the scoreline, Marbella started to relax and hand possession to their opponents. Linares' search for a goal opened up the field and the hosts took advantage on the counter-attack, with Goti and Damián coming close.

The Marbella coaches decided to switch the side around, taking off two of the stars of the game. The stands at the Municipal, more animated than usual, stood to see off Goti and broke into applause when Okoye left the field.

The second half was a stroll in the park for Marbella who did not stop working. They were superior in all aspects of the game: more solid defensively, more varied in attack, quicker to the ball and more precise with it. Now the side have their sights firmly set on the top spot once more.

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A mid-season break in the sun

Borussia Dortmund and FC Basel are just two of several top teams visiting the Costa this winter



LEANDRO PAVÓN

@lpavon87

The economic impact of the presence of these clubs and their fans in the area is estimated to be about 6.5 million euros

MARBELLA. It was on 9 April 2013 that the history of the German city of Dortmund and Malaga became entwined forever. On that day, Málaga CF was on the brink of reaching the semi-finals of the Champions League, but two goals by Borussia - and a controversial decision by the referee - put paid to the Malaga team's European dream. Nearly four years later, the paths of these two cities have crossed again, but in a less competitive manner. The German team is one of the most prestigious of those who have decided to spend their scheduled winter break in Marbella this year.

Nearly 70 teams will be coming to the Costa del Sol, hoping to escape the cold and to keep fit while they have no matches to play, and the hotels are taking advantage of this to overcome their problem of seasonal tourism.

For more than four years now, Football Impact has been managing most of the clubs who decide to come to the Costa del Sol at this time of year, and they say the number of overnight stays by these teams has now reached 46,000.

However, the actual figure is higher than this, because it doesn't take into account the fans who take advantage of their favourite team's visit to also come to the Costa del Sol for a few days.

"The teams want peace and quiet in their hotels, so the fans don't stay in the same places. We didn't expect so many fans to follow Borussia here, though; they are hoping to see the players close-up," explains Oscar Habash, the



Borussia Dortmund players, led by Spain international Marc Bartra, at the entrance to the Gran Meliá Don Pepe hotel. :: JOSELE-LANZA



Journalists covering a friendly match. :: JOSELE-LANZA



The game between Dortmund and Standard Liège. :: MIGUEL GUTIÉRREZ



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Day: 20 January.
Time: 4pm.
Venue: La Cala Golf Resort.

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Day: 21 January.
Time: 4pm.
Venue: Burgos Quintana.

Dinamo Kiev-St. Pauli

Day: 21 January.
Time: 6pm.
Venue: Football Center.

Dinamo Kiev-Tianjin

Day: 22 January.
Time: 4pm.
Venue: Football Center.

Lokomotiv-CSKA Sofia

Day: 22 January.
Time: 4pm.
Venue: Burgos Quintana.

Rubin Kazan-S. Suwong

Day: 25 January.
Time: 4pm.
Venue: Municipal San Pedro.

Journalists and football fans increase the financial impact

The countries with the greatest presence are Switzerland, with 20 per cent of the total, and Germany, with 16 per cent

|| L. PAVÓN

MARBELLA. The teams who spend the winter on the Costa del Sol during their mid-season break are not just tourists with high spending power, such as the footballers. They always bring an entourage with them, and that also has an impact on the economy and the tourist promotion of the town. The visitors include fans and the media, who cover the clubs' activities while they are here, especially those who play in the Champions League.

This was evident from the last game between Borussia Dortmund and Standard Liège in the municipal stadium in Marbella. The game was shown on television in Germany and Belgium, covered in the media and more than 3,000 people watched it live, many of them residents of Marbella or people from other countries who took the opportunity to see these teams play at first hand.

The presence of these clubs in the province also attracts fans who follow the teams here and support-

ters who live in Spain.

Germans form one of the largest communities of foreign residents on the Costa del Sol, and more German teams come here than almost any other nationality. In the three months of this pre-season period, eleven teams from Germany will be here, which is 16.4 per cent of the total.

There are also a good number of teams from countries from which there has been an increase in tourists in recent years.

This year 10.44 per cent of clubs who come here are Norwegian, while the Russians, who normally prolong their training period because of the climate in their own country, account for 7.46 per cent.

However, the country from which the largest number of teams are visiting is Switzerland. In total, 13 Swiss clubs have been or will be on the Costa del Sol, including the league champion of that country, FC Basel.

This is a form of reciprocal tourism, which corresponds to sporting factors. During the summer, Switzerland is one of the



countries which is most popular with European teams who want to spend time away at that time of year.

Asian teams

The growing importance of Asian leagues in sport and in financial terms in recent years has meant that their pre-season periods are now similar to those of European clubs.

This year, four Asian teams have visited the Costa del Sol and they are most popular with the hotels because while the other teams normally spend one or two weeks here, these come for nearly a month, with the exception of FC Kairat (from Uzbekistan), who will only be spending two weeks in Mijas.

For several years now, these stays have been made possible on the Costa del Sol through Football Impact, which works with the teams and the hotels and organises everything they need for a visit to Malaga province during the early months of the year.

Among the destinations chosen by the clubs, Marbella is the most in demand. About 52.86 per cent of them book here, while 22.85 per cent choose Estepona. The remainder stay nearby in places such as Benahavis and Mijas, about 8.57 per cent of clubs in each.

Some clubs also opt for rural destinations such as Alhaurín el Grande, where 7.14 per cent of the teams go to train.

More than half of the teams who visit Malaga province choose to stay in Marbella

commercial director of the Gran Meliá Don Pepe hotel, where the German team is staying.

At a time of year when hotels do not have many clients, on Wednesday and Thursday this week two Champions League teams were staying at this hotel. Borussia were joined by FC Basel, the current Swiss champions who lost in the preliminary phase of the most important continental competition.

It was these teams, with their large numbers of players and employees, who booked the most overnight stays in local hotels.

"There are differences between the big and small teams. Normally, the players are made to share rooms, two to a room. However, Borussia prefers everyone to have their own room," says Oscar Habash, who calculates that a big team is likely to book about 600 overnight stays in all.

The difference in the length of stay and the form of accommodation the teams choose can make all

the difference. Dutch and German teams normally stay for a week, while Russians, Scandinavians and Chinese tend to stay longer.

In the last three years, the evolution of these visits by football teams to the Costa del Sol has been

very positive. In 2014, there were more than 20,000 overnight stays, and now that more teams come and stay longer, this figure has doubled.

Exclusive hotels

The agreements between Football Impact and the hotels mean that some establishments which would once have closed in the winter due to lack of business can now remain open. One of these is the Westin La Quinta, situated between Marbella and Benahavis, which opens just for these team bookings.

In this case, the functioning of the hotel in terms of restaurant service and room cleaning is minimal, because nobody else will be

staying there.

This exclusivity is one of the attractions which has encouraged many of the bigger teams to come to the Costa del Sol. The Westin La Quinta has been booked by Inter Milan and Borussia Monchengladbach. Dynamo Kiev arrived recently, and Spartak and Lokomotiv Moscow are expected soon, following a few days at the Kempinski hotel in Estepona. So is Hebei China Fortune, whose trainer is former Malaga coach Manuel Pellegrini.

This year, the presence of these teams on the Costa del Sol has boosted the provincial government's 'Sport Destination' ini-

tiative, under which Malaga seeks to encourage sportsmen and women to spend time here.

The presence of these clubs has an economic impact of about 6.5 million euros in the area, including not only the expenditure on hotels but the players' and fans' own spending.

Each footballer spends on average around 1,500 euros during their stay, in addition to the money spent by the fans who come to see them and the foreign residents who are already on the Costa del Sol. These days, tourism in this region is on the increase in the winter months, and it is all thanks to the influence of football.

Hotels which used to close in the winter are now opening exclusively for these teams



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Juankar

Chory

Mikel

Pablo (Juanpi, 76')

Duda (Ontiveros, 64')

Kameni

Camacho

Luis

Rosales

Michael Santos

4-2-3-1

Juanmi

Odrizola (Héctor, 77')

Elustondo (Raúl Navas, 68')

Zurutuza (Illarra, 55')

Willian José

Xabi Prieto

Rulli

Granero

Iñigo Martínez

Oyarzabal

Yuri

Unused substitutes: Boyko (GK), Lorente, Recio, Jony.

Unused substitutes: Toño (GK), Rubén Pardo, Canales, Concha.

STATISTICS

BALL POSSESSION	
43%	57%
MALAGA	REAL SOCIEDAD
0	Goals
3	Total shots
1	On target
2	Off target
7	Corners
1	Offsides
22	Fouls committed
0	Yellow cards
0	Red cards

Goals: 0-1 Iñigo Martínez (50'), 0-2 Juanmi (62').

Referee: Mateu Lahoz. Yellows for Granero and Illarramendi.

Venue: Estadio La Rosaleda (18,057 spectators).

TABLE & FIXTURES

MATCHDAY
18

Results

Granada - Osasuna	1-1
Leganes - Athletic	0-0
Sporting - Eibar	2-3
Valencia - Espanyol	2-1
Deportivo - Villarreal	0-0
Sevilla - R. Madrid	2-1
Barcelona - Las Palmas	5-0
Celta - Alavés	1-0
At. Madrid - Betis	1-0
MALAGA - R. Sociedad	0-2

Fixtures

Eibar - Barcelona
Osasuna - Sevilla
Villarreal - Valencia
Las Palmas - Deportivo
R. Sociedad - Celta
R. Madrid - MALAGA
Betis - Sporting
Espanyol - Granada
Athletic - At. Madrid
Alavés - Leganes

LEAGUE TABLE

TEAM	PTS	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
★ 1. R. Madrid	40	17	12	4	1	46	16
★ 2. Sevilla	39	18	12	3	3	38	22
★ 3. Barcelona	38	18	11	5	2	47	17
★ 4. At. Madrid	34	18	10	4	4	32	14
■ 5. Real Sociedad	32	18	10	2	6	30	25
■ 6. Villarreal	31	18	8	7	3	26	12
7. Athletic	28	18	8	4	6	22	19
8. Celta	27	18	8	3	7	29	32
9. Eibar	26	18	7	5	6	25	24
10. Las Palmas	24	18	6	6	6	27	29
11. Espanyol	23	18	5	8	5	22	25
12. Alavés	22	18	5	7	6	15	18
13. MALAGA	21	18	5	6	7	26	31
14. Betis	21	18	6	3	9	20	30
15. Deportivo	18	18	4	6	8	23	28
16. Leganes	17	18	4	5	9	13	29
17. Valencia	16	17	4	4	9	26	33
▼ 18. Sporting	12	18	3	3	12	19	37
▼ 19. Granada	10	18	1	7	10	15	39
▼ 20. Osasuna	9	18	1	6	11	17	38

Uninspired Malaga slump to defeat in Romero's first home game

A CLOSER LOOK

THE NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK



MARCUS PRICE

Romero's side created little going forward as the new manager tasted defeat in successive matches

MALAGA. A deflected freekick and a poor refereeing decision were the downfall for Malaga as they suffered a second consecutive loss under new manager Marcelo Romero on Monday night. Despite trailing through unfortunate circumstances, the hosts were disappointing in attack, partly due to the early exit of Sandro through injury, and did not deserve anything from the game.

There was little to get excited about in a lacklustre first half from both sides, who were consistently found lacking the creative spark in the final third.

Malaga had a number of opportunities to counter as Real Sociedad pushed high up the pitch. Chory found space on the right-hand side but his cross to the unmarked Sandro was inches too long.

The visitors had the best of the chances in the first half, with Willian José's shot from the edge of the box drifting just wide. Juanmi also had the chance to score but could only tamely shoot straight into the arms of Kameni.

Romero's reign as head coach suffered another setback as Sandro was forced off in the 21st minute with a hamstring injury. The striker is expected to be sidelined for a month and a half. He was replaced by teenage debutant Adalberto Peñaranda



Juankar, dejected after Juanmi scored Real Sociedad's second goal of the night. :: SALVADOR SALAS

who, despite getting off to a nervy start, clearly demonstrated his pace and power.

Kameni showed why he plays between the sticks as his footwork continues to be questioned. He gifted the ball to Juanmi after five minutes and was lucky to see his defenders atone for his error. This was followed by a woefully scuffed attempted pass to Peñaranda who was looking for a ball in behind the defence. Despite this, the Cameroonian did little wrong with his hands in the first half, albeit without being truly challenged.

The breakthrough came shortly after the restart as Iñigo Martínez's freekick took a strong deflection off the wall, giving Kameni no

chance. Malaga hit back straight away and had an appeal for a handball in the box turned down by the referee just a minute later.

Oyarzabal should have doubled the visitors' advantage as he found himself unmarked at a corner. However, his header went just wide to the relief of a stranded Kameni.

Second goal

Real Sociedad doubled their lead just minutes later in controversial fashion, as Willian José's header from a corner fell to Juanmi to poke past Kameni. However, replays showed that the former Malaga man was in an offside position.

Malaga were left deflated by the goal and never really recovered, cre-

ating little in attack and sorely missing their top scorer. While the arrival of Ontiveros caused more problems for the defence, Real Sociedad were rarely stretched.

Michael Santos and Ontiveros both had chances to pull a goal back in injury time but their headers were well off the mark. The missed opportunities will be worrying for Romero, who must hope that Sandro's injury is not serious.

While they were perhaps unlucky to concede as they did, the result was no less than they deserved, as Rulli gained one of the easiest clean sheets of his career. The result leaves Malaga in 13th place while Real Sociedad move up to fifth.

You can't win anything with kids.' Alan Hansen's infamous quote still lingers on in the memories of football fans of all generations. While emulating the league and cup double of Fergie's 1995 United side might be a step too far for Romero and Malaga, the new manager hasn't hesitated in giving youth a chance.

No fewer than eight players under the age of 23 featured in Monday's game against Real Sociedad, including a debut for on-loan forward Peñaranda, who was thrust into the game earlier than expected due to Sandro's injury. Despite a slow start, his pace and power were evident; it is easy to see why he has been tipped for big things.

The man he replaced needs no introduction. Malaga's top scorer this season, the 21-year-old has shone this season. He will be sorely missed in his month and a half long absence with a hamstring injury.

Elsewhere in the ranks, the young centre-back pairing of Mikel and Luis performed well and were not at fault for either goal. At the other end of the park, Santos was tireless in attack while substitute Ontiveros again caused problems with his pace and trickery.

However, despite the abundance of talent and the promise of great things to come, Malaga's 'kids' are still lacking the clinical nature of a more experienced hand. Passes were rushed, chances were spurned where cooler heads would have prevailed. Romero must find the right balance between youth and experience. Perhaps Hansen was right all along...



A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports
@robopalmer



Quite the turnaround

A stint in Spain has turned around the fortunes of many EPL cast-offs

There's a Liverpool fan who somehow finds me, often at a congested train station, who delights in yelling at me: "What about that Iago Aspas, eh? What a waste of money!"

He refers to an interview I conducted with his club TV station when I inferred that, on the evidence of what I'd seen of him at Celta, the Spanish striker could be a massive hit in a Liverpool shirt.

Fan-man was right of course, Aspas bombed at Anfield; but now he heads a field of players who made little impact in the English Premier League yet are developing into prominent figures in La Liga.

Try telling Blackburn and Stoke fans that Steven N'Zonzi is possibly the hottest property in the win-

ter transfer window or Manchester City supporters that Samir Nasri and Stevan Jovetić are flourishing with a bit of Andalusian sunshine on their backs.

Aspas is the most heart-warming story. He's back at his local club Celta where he made a name for himself as the architect of their promotion and then survival seasons. It looked like they'd shipped his less-talented twin brother to Merseyside in 2013. The record books show just one goal in two years, and that was against lowly Oldham in the FA Cup.

This week he was back in the cup headlines, a scoring star at the Bernabéu for Celta. It was his 16th goal of the season; he's the top scoring Spanish player in La Liga

– in fact, only Messi, Suárez and Ronaldo are ahead of him in the 'Pichichi'.

Whereas he's found his utopia, Steven N'Zonzi may just be using Sevilla as a stop-off point on the way to one of Europe's major clubs. When he was at Blackburn, his ambitious agent told me that N'Zonzi was on the radar of Arsenal. When he went to Stoke, I thought that was more appropriate. The agent clearly had the ear of Monchi, the Sevilla star-maker who invested £7 million. That was a reasonable price, and the buy-out clause of 30 million euros looked like a figure they'd just made up.

Now 30 million for a player with immense presence looks a fair market price for an all-terrain type of player who wouldn't look out of place running Real Madrid's midfield, and soon may!

Sevilla specialise in restoring players who have failed to express themselves in England, expressly Manchester City.



N'Zonzi is one of La Liga's hottest properties. :: EFE



Iago Aspas (left) celebrates his goal at the Bernabéu. :: EFE

Samir Nasri, didn't fit the Pep Guardiola profile of a footballer and was promptly shipped out. At the Etihad there are higher profile creators and he often took second or third billing. At the Ramón Sánchez Pizjuán stadium he is the artist in residence and he's thriving in having the stage to himself.

Last week he was joined by another player who found himself surplus at City, Stevan Jovetić. It was a gamble as the Montenegrin

seemed to have lost his confidence in Manchester and then Milan. His impact was immediate. A debut goal in the cup against Real Madrid won over the Sevilla supporters and a few days later, the winner to end Real's forty-game unbeaten run won over pretty much the rest of the nation.

Clearly living and working in Spain has restorative powers but if you are reading this, you clearly know that already!

Martín Demichelis, 36, completes Malaga return

The defender will return to the club to help ease a growing defensive crisis and add some much-needed experience

BY DARYL FINCH

MALAGA. Malaga's defensive crisis is about to be eased with the arrival of centre-back Martín Demichelis, who has rejoined the club on a free transfer some three and a half years after he left.

The 36-year-old was a free agent after having his contract with Espanyol terminated earlier this month after making just two league appearances. The Argentinian, who only joined the Catalans in the summer, left Malaga in the summer of 2013 to rejoin his former coach, Manuel Pellegrini, at Manchester City.

His time in the north-west of England was a mixed bag, with the pace of the Premier League at times proving too much. Despite this, his experience and versatility was invaluable as the Citizens went on to win the league title in the



Demichelis was presented officially on Wednesday afternoon. :: SUR

2013/14 season.

However, when Pep Guardiola became manager this summer, his contract wasn't renewed and he moved on to Espanyol.

With Weligton giving up his space in the squad to Adalberto Peñaranda, injuries to Miguel Torres and Diego Llorente, and Bakary Koné on African Cup of Nations duty, Marcelo Romero went with the inexperienced pairing of Luis and Mikel Villanueva for Monday's defeat against Real Sociedad. Though Demichelis' signing is noth-

ing more than a short-term fix, his return to the club will be welcome, especially given the scarcity of available talent in this transfer window.

The Argentinian was instrumental in the club's rise to the Champions League quarter finals in the 2012/13 campaign, making a total of 103 appearances between 2011 and 2013.

He passed his medical examination and was officially unveiled at La Rosaleda on Wednesday. He will wear the number '3' shirt vacated by Weligton.



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Ten horrific minutes condemn Unicaja to defeat

The hosts threw away their EuroCup ascendancy after a dreadful third quarter handed victory to Valencia

**70
78**
UNICAJA
VALENCIA

by JUAN CALDERÓN

MALAGA. Wednesday's match was worrying for a number of reasons. Firstly, for its direct influence on the Eurocup table, in which it will now be difficult for Unicaja to come out on top. Secondly, it showed that the Malaga outfit still do not have the necessary composure as a team to compete against a rival such as Valencia, who have beaten them once again at the Palacio de los Deportes.

They did so thanks to a comprehensive collapse from the hosts after the break. A third quarter in which they lost 9-27 left them incapable of victory, with no time to react.

Unicaja started in a wholly different manner to the one in which they ended, dominating the play and acting as a wall in defence. After five minutes they found themselves 14-4 up, having only allowed their opponents six shots. The intensity took its toll as Nedovic and Díaz were given a break, allowing the visitors to close the gap to 23-19 at the end of the first quarter.

Plaza recalled Díaz to the court but the match had already swung in favour of Valencia, who took advan-



Suárez and Nedovic looking on during Wednesday's defeat. by A. CABRERA

tage of Unicaja's mistakes to bring the scores to 32-31. However, with Musli well guarded, the hosts resorted to three-pointers, with an inspired Jamar Smith scoring three in five minutes to end the half with the scores at 48-41.

What happened after the break was incomprehensible. Unicaja went six-and-a-half minutes without scoring. Valencia scored 13 points without reply to take the lead at 48-54. Waczynski eventually scored a pair of three-pointers but the reaction was non-existent. The pair of Kravtsov and Thomas outclassed Unicaja's centres, with a three-pointer from Sato closing a horrific quarter for the hosts in which they now trailed 57-68.

Unicaja had no response, with baskets coming in dribs and drabs. Al-

though they brought the scoreline to within five points thanks to some good defending, Valencia comfortably held on to win 70-78.

Defensive masterclass helps see off UCAM Murcia

Unicaja ended the first part of the league season with a comfortable 88-76 victory in front of their own fans

by JUAN CALDERÓN

MALAGA. After the match with UCAM Murcia on Sunday, many fans left the Palacio de los Deportes with the feeling that this Unicaja side is back to its best. However, games such as the one in Seville are still recent in the memory and the doubts that some supporters have are still very much justified. But on Sunday their side gave a spirited performance to dispatch a Murcia side who are always dangerous.

The opening exchanges of the match followed the usual script for Unicaja, with a slow start resulting in the side trailing 5-10 after five minutes. The entrance of Musli changed the flow of the game, as the Serbian exploited the gaps in the Murcia defence to level the scores at 15-15 after ten minutes.

The Malaga side improved their defence in the second quarter and this allowed them to play with more freedom. Despite the visitors taking the lead, the mentality of Unicaja's defence appeared to have



Competing for a rebound. by A. C

changed for the better as they stopped Murcia from scoring in the latter stages of the half to lead 35-30 at the break.

The hosts began the second half with more energy than their opponents, with Nedovic scoring and assisting with ease and Waczynski punishing Murcia from the three-point line. As such, the quarter ended with the scores at 66-48 and the tie all but over.

The final quarter was a dead rubber, with the hosts relaxing to allow the visitors to post a more respectable score. With their 88-76 victory, the Malaga side confirmed that if they defend well, they will be very competitive.

IN BRIEF



Both Saturday's and Sunday's games have free entry. by SIMO TYNYS

International Inline Hockey returns to Fuengirola

by SUR IN ENGLISH

FUENGIROLA. Los Boliches is preparing to host the seventh international inline hockey tournament this weekend in the Santa Fe rink in Fuengirola. This tournament has become one of the most important in southern Spain and is held in Fuengirola due to its climate, hotels, restaurants and easy access.

Many international teams have graced the tournament, with previous winners including TWA Turku, who have won twice, and reigning champions Pahalampi, both from Finland. Göteborg City from Sweden, Sevilla Dragons and hosts Fuen-

girola Lions have also won previous editions.

This year's tournament will feature two teams from the UK, The Others and London Battersea Cougars, two teams from Finland, Kattotutkat and defending champions Pahalampi, a team from Granada, Búhos, and a team from north Africa, Ceuta. Hosts Fuengirola Lions will put forward two teams, Barona Lions IHF and Fuengirola Lions.

The event starts on Saturday at 10am at the Santa Fe rink and is free to enter, with games running until 8pm. The tournament continues on Sunday, starting at 12am.

Trocadero Marbella firmly dispatched in Madrid despite a promising first-half showing

C.R.C. POZUELO 39 TROCADERO 0

by SUR

MARBELLA. Trocadero Marbella had a tough encounter in Madrid against second-placed CRC Pozuelo. Despite the scoreline appearing to be comprehensive, with the visitors losing 39-0, there is no doubt that the Marbella side were competing toe to toe in the first half with a team that aims to return to the highest level of national rugby, having been relegated last season.

It was only in the final moments of the first half that the visiting defence was breached with a rare defensive error to allow the hosts to score their first try of the match to lead 10-0.

Pozuelo secured their second try of the game five minutes into the second half to open up a gap in the scoreline. More comfortable on an artificial pitch, they overwhelmed their opponents, playing with more speed and having more power at the breakdowns, leaving Trocadero helpless to concede try after try against what was superior opposition.

The defeat leaves the side in seventh position in the table.

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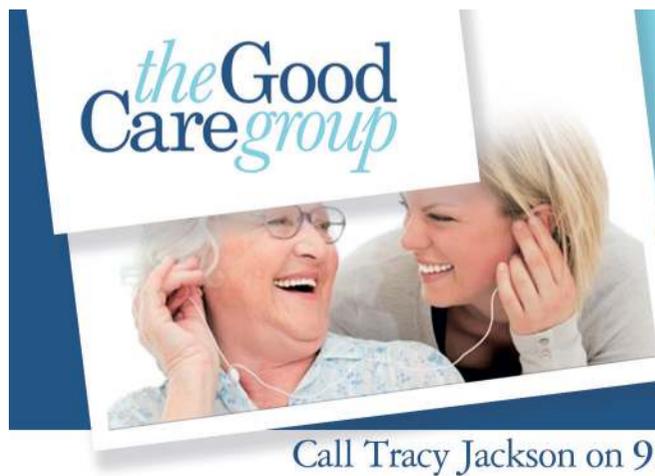
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ENGLISH Stephanie 33: Fuengirola (next to bus station). Size 8, 32GG very busty, long dark hair. No hidden extras, no upper age limit. Oral w/o, cim, passionate sex, massage. I love wearing heels and suspenders. Toys, shower. 30 mins 40E, 45 mins 50E, 1hr 70E. Avail Mon-Sat 10.30am - 7pm. Call, text, whatsapp 602636606. www.escortinmarbella.com

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TRY SOMETHING different. Asian, European amazing pleasure, multiorgasmic, luxury, San Pedro/ Banús. 618448131

ASIAN attractive lady, simpthatic, body-body, multiorgasmic, massage, stress free, luxury atmosphere, no rush. 604143788 Marbella.

NEW Argentinian, Asian, Russian multiorgasmic, sexy. Luxury atmosphere. Near Banús. 618448131

ASIAN Maria Polish, Latin. Authentic exotic massage, multiorgasmic, kissing, friends, friendly services, luxury atmosphere. New Marbella. 679126231

RAQUEL Young Brazilian brunette, sexy. Pº Marítimo, Nº23 Fuengirola 626039574

NVA. ANDALUCIA: Brazilian black girl 40, big boobs, spectacular body, lingerie, stockings. Private apartment. Alone. Visits. Sara 677680928

BENALMADENA Costa (Windmill roundabout): Sabrina from New York City. Full body massage. Call me and tell me your fantasies! 9am-9pm 7 days. Senior Citizens discount. 658189191

FUENGIROLA: Nina is back! Mature blonde Scandinavian (55), slim & fit. (5.2ft/ 130lb), happy & horny. Discrete. Hotel visits only. 649181051

FUENGIROLA Emma, 24, sweet little girl, beautiful face, Barbie body. I'm independent, in my own flat, fluent English. Only 45 euros. Whatsapp to see my photos, 632638826

LA MANSION Beautiful, sexy, very erotic señoritas! Torreblanca Fuengirola. 605158101

40 EUROS: Divorced charming, sexy lady (30yrs). Superbody. Kiss, 69. Massage. Sex. Visits. Fuengirola 625912315

NATALI (18) Turkish. Lovely photo -model. Out-calls/ 24H 611237548

MELISA 18 yrs. Hungarian very pretty. 24h Out-calls. 611238013

TINA from Bulgaria. All kind of services. Work 24 hours 611237884

RUSSIAN 27... blue eyes, brunette. Try my professional massage + all other services... 611238013.

JESSICA ...espectacular Colombian doll. I work 24 hours... Call me: 611238013

SWEET DREAMS Riviera. Open 24 hours. With 7 unforgettable ladies. Discreet and beautiful location. Come to meet us. Free drinks. 611237548

BENALMADENA: Bianca sexy blonde, big tits. Private discreet apartment. Hotel visits. 631146080

BENALMADENA Costa: Nice couple available for guys, ladies and couples. Private apartment. Outcalls. 631146803

FUENGIROLA: Jacqueline beautiful Brazilian 30, caring, busty, complete. Discreet. 602046148

NEW ESTEPONA: Young beautiful chocolate mulata, tall, superboddy, loving. 631807380

NEW ESTEPONA: Transvestite feminine, caring, complete, superendowed, active/ passive. 631816160

PARTIES with no limits! Place yourself in the hands of the best escorts. Dreaming of a crazy night? Whatever you want! 8 spectacular girls. 24h. VISA. www.butterflygirls.es http://www.butterflygirls.es 951274723, 616368985

RIVIERA, wild Brazilian lover, affectionate and compliant. Vicky, 26, blonde. Amazing body. 50 € 650237102

CALAHONDA, Laura, mature Spanish lady with perfect curves. A woman who'll drive you crazy. 650237145

MIRAFLORES, Natacha, black Colombian girl, beautiful, horny and wild. Fantastic legs, pert bottom. 24h. 608949543

NEAR Elviria, Mónica, Spanish, beautiful body, slim with natural tits. I'll make you feel like a king. www.butterflygirls.es http://www.butterflygirls.es 616368985

MIJAS, blonde Brazilian, pretty, sensual and very hot. A stylish lady who'll make you enjoy it more than anybody. 50 € 650237102

CRISTAL, a lady without limits, long dark hair, uninhibited in bed. Couples, lesbian, Greek, French without. 24 h. 608949543

SADOMASOCHISM. Totally equipped dungeon. Leather and latex clothing, toys, fancy dress, very wild and passionate. 648814653

ESTEPONA/ San Pedro Alexia Brazilian 27, caring, friendly, pleasing. 24h Escort. 604109768

CANCELADA Brazilian, attractive, pleasing, very horny. 24h Escort. Discreet. 602891749

GEORGEIOUS Paola is back. sexy luxury escort. GFE, fetish fantasies and more. gorgeouspaola.blog-spot.com 603761945

ESTEPONA. Hot sue for horny men from 50 euros. 610312100

ZARAH Coín, sexy mature, English blonde, stockings and heels. No rush service. Private discreet villa. Mature gents welcome. 681614955

BENAJARAFE: Beautiful hot girlfriends, loving, kisser, threesome, toys. Discretion. 652082748

NEW! MATURE, experienced Thai lady offers sensual massage for golfers and busy gentlemen. Puerto Banus. 604302336

BEAUTIFUL woman, big natural breasts, sexy curves and lingerie. 678859715

Male

ALEJANDRO 24 years, sexual massage with happy ending. Own apartment. Outcalls. 24 hrs. 665344158

ASIAN boy, 19, skinny and toned, mind blowing massage. Fuengirola area. In/out. 24hrs. 602595649

MALE to male, full body massage, Mijas Pueblo. 609321958

FUENGIROLA Male to male full body massage. Very discreet, private villa. 634004512

ADDICTED to porn? Help is available. Sex Addicts Anonymous (SAA) For information, call 654066901. Email saamarbella@gmail.com, or go to facebook.com/saamarbella or saa-recovery.org

MARBELLA. Sexy man, hard big banana for your sexual desires. In/outcalls. 657328140

Transvestites

TRANSEXUAL Sophia, beautiful brunette, active/ passive, great bust, well hung. 662045252. Fuengirola. www.escortswow.es/sofiabiagg

NEW BENALMADENA Aysha Trans mulata, 22cms. Party girl. Drinks. 24hrs. 695973362

ESTEPONA. Beautiful, busty transvestite. Catalina. No limits, outcalls. Visa. 660874904

MARBELLA. Stunning Thai ladyboy, kissable lips, lovely boobs, massage and more. In/ outcalls. 602493030

Massage

WWW.TANTRACENTER.ES PLEASURE WITHOUT LIMITS, SPECTACULAR MASSEUSE. MASSAGE EROTIC... WITH!!!SHOCKING END! 952216145/ 644452369

SAYAN. Tantra massage for ladies, gentlemen & couples. Ultimate bliss at a very nice place. Fuengirola. 952586339 /608977260 www.masajessayan.es

DISCOVER the benefits of tantric massages! Feel the pleasure in your skin...635290724

touch4men.com Torremolinos: Erotic massage service for men. Ask for new girl massage. 628746407

FUENGIROLA Carolina, blonde, elegant, relaxing massage, full erotic massage. Whatsapp. Message: 634797230

MIAH, Fuengirola. Erotic, professional massage, body2body, happy ending. Miah, 647101046

PAOLA. Beautiful masseuse. Erotic, tantra, b2b massage. Footfetish fantasy. relaxingtouch.es. 602448534

QUALIFIED masseuse, beautiful slim girl. Tantric, body2body, lingam. Fuengirola. 652290206

ESTEPONA: Luna special super Tantra massage with happy ending. Appointments. 602891749

44 YEAR old brunette, slender, natural French, Greek, toys, squirting, no limits, dungeon. Secluded facilities. Call 662913428 Check me out at: www.Lailalynch1.com

PURE ecstasy in Nueva Andalucia with young pretty independent masseuse. Erotic body, tantric and other completely relaxing massages in private apartment. 656350401

www.masajesbudamalaga.com Luxury Tantra Spa with the best erotic massage and installations in the Coast. Relax & pleasure with beautiful girls. Tlf & Whatsapp 605265433

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Luxury massage
Tantric
NEW masseuse
Appointment:
952 867 663
622 705 323

MARBELLA centre. New. Luxury center with wide selection of expert masseuse... Sensual, erotic. Nuru erotic tantra, body to body lingam and prostatic. Unique experience 4 hands, pleasant and exciting, double stimulation. Massage for couples. Open: 9:00am/9:00pm. Appointment: 952867663/ 690046233

MIJAS Costa. Anny, exotic mature, busty, All services. In/ out 645617779

ASIAN qualified offer an authentic professional massage relieve, pain and stress, luxury, private. Marbella center. 604143788

VALENTINA, 20 years old, Beautiful horny, sensual touch. Exotic, pasional massage. Good atmosphere. 660898501

MARBELLA. Elegant masseuse, horny, nice dress, full erotic massage. Whatsapp. Outcalls. 691927847

40 EUROS: Relaxing, prostatic, erotic massage. Happy ending. In/Outcalls. Fuengirola. 625912315

FUENGIROLA: Erotic Massage. For a mere 80 Euros/ hour enjoy a sensual experience with a delightful finalé, from one of our attractive masseuses. 602570272

VANESA new masseuse, perfect hands, 120 bust, discreet. Benalmadena. 658763505

PAULA brunette, big boobs. Tantric massages, body to body, and much more... Fuengirola 622486034

FILIPINA, Transgender, elegant, pretty slim, massage with lovely ending. Marbella. 602572579

ESTEPONA Cancelada, Sandra, wonderful massages, unforgettable, tantric, young, pretty, discreet. 645334459

BRASILIAN masseuse. Several techniques. San Pedro. Hotels/own apartment. 617024926

NEW! MATURE, experienced Thai lady offers sensual massage for golfers and busy gentlemen. Puerto Banus. 604302336

MARBELLA Camila, Professional, elegant, simpthatic, beautiful, sexy, magic hands, complete massage. 603169139

VICTORIA, Marbella, dark skin, long hair. Beautiful shape, horny, sweet, sensual erotic massage, toys. Discreet place. 604229713

JAPANESE Hottie gay massage exclusive for men with amazing ending. Also outcalls. Marbella. 664177216

Various

MALE/ female. Viagra, kamagra jellys, cialis, delivered or mail order viagra4you19@gmail.com. 672883025

VIAGRA (Kamagra) 100 mg, Cialis (Tadalafil) 20 mg, Jellies 100 mg. Wholesale & retail. Free delivery all areas. For the best products & service. 617740250.24 hrs.

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the newspaper for southern spain
SUR
in English

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



THE STARS

Aquarius
January 21 - February 19
Get to work on that pet idea that started a long time ago. Is this the time to make it a success? It is certainly worth finding out.

Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Sharp corners on the road ahead may look harsh. However, you could be pleasantly surprised time after time.

Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Try as you may, it is hard to plan ahead as others can be in a state of flux. Patience is needed!

Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Hedge your bets when it comes to a work colleague. They may know more than you think about the situation.

Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Assuming that a loved one wants the same as you could lead to lost time. Communications need to be short and clear.

Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Someone with a jokey approach turns out to be very serious. Maybe they are nervous or just plain inept.

Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Someone may be looking for that extra bit of encouragement before gaining the confidence to speak out.

Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Surprising developments close to home could put a spanner in your emotional works.

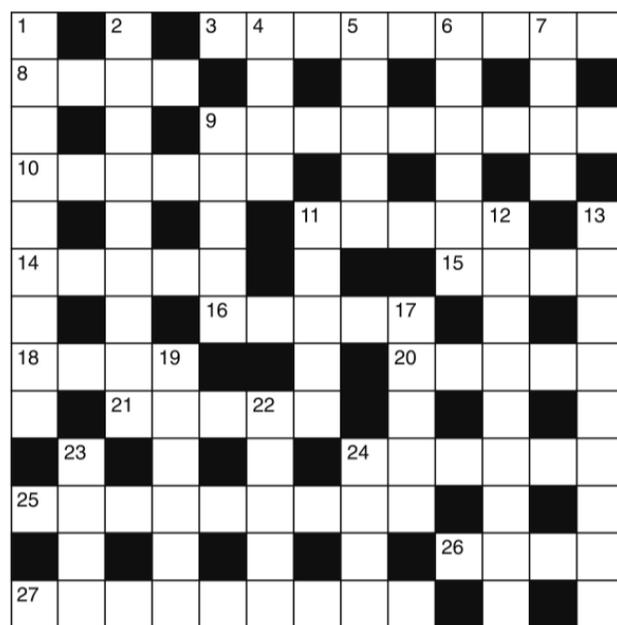
Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Being very picky at the moment? Not sure which of your admirers are worth your time? Well, it may not be the loudest or the richest.

Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Someone different and special is in your social circle. Are they a long-term prospect or a short-term desire?

Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Confused? Clearer thinking is ahead so don't be persuaded to act when you are not ready.

Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
When your mind wanders back into the past try not to get sentimental. Trust your instincts.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11225



Across

- 3 Decides not to go on producing burnt sack (5,4)
- 8 Always puts a woman right (4)
- 9 Thinks time and dates are wrong (9)
- 10 His instruction is brief (6)
- 11 Cut from the wedding ceremony (5)
- 14 Finishing off a cake? (5)
- 15 Heroic story in the news again (4)
- 16 Run in the next race (5)
- 18 Repeat after some reflection (4)
- 20 Compare to elk in a way (5)
- 21 Sincerity, as a matter of fact (5)
- 24 Be a shade embarrassed (6)
- 25 Act as a dismantler? (4,5)
- 26 Is twice a goddess (4)
- 27 Ban a professional writer (9)

Down

- 1 Canned - as sardines are! (4-5)
- 2 By which the fisherman's catch is measured? (3,6)
- 4 He employs us with hesitation (4)
- 5 One is upset by such a din (5)
- 6 They cut dashing figures (6)
- 7 They work in the same craft (4)
- 9 Get involved in someone else's business? (5)
- 11 Something wrong with a knot? (5)
- 12 Is it never found in light cavalry? (4,5)
- 13 Peculiar behaviour (9)
- 17 A number with much to distribute (5)
- 19 Holy commands? (6)
- 22 He often lifts his glass to each (5)
- 23 Musical that grows on one? (4)
- 24 Sidewalk pedestrian (4)

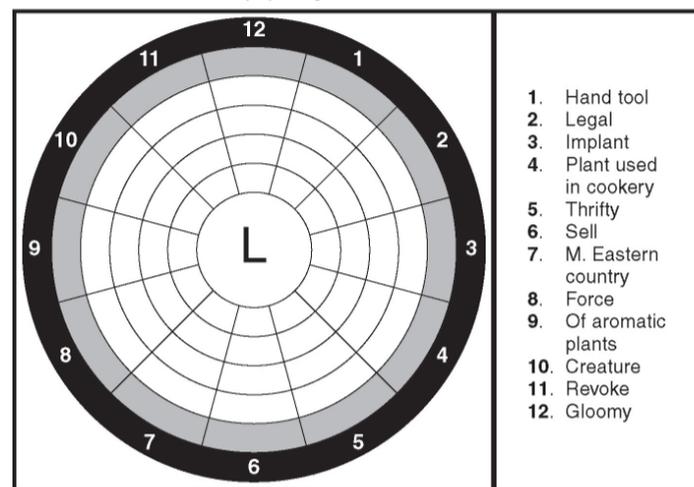
SUDOKU BY HANZO

Instructions
Complete the square making sure that every row of nine numbers includes all digits from 1 to 9, every column includes all digits from 1 to 9 and every 3 by 3 subsection includes all digits from 1 to 9

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

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 British pop singer.



- 1. Hand tool
- 2. Legal
- 3. Implant
- 4. Plant used in cookery
- 5. Thrifty
- 6. Sell
- 7. M. Eastern country
- 8. Force
- 9. Of aromatic plants
- 10. Creature
- 11. Revoke
- 12. Gloomy

THE WORDPUZZLER

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

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

- 1. Vacation
- 2. Subdivision
- 3. Covered passage-way
- 4. Dwelling
- 5. Obligation
- 6. Uttering words
- 7. Invoice
- 8. Foe
- 9. Ingot
- 10. Learning establishment

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.

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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 Almirajara (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 Puebla de Cazalla

QUIZ

QUESTION 1

Sn is the symbol for which chemical element?

- 1. Antimony
- 2. Strontium
- 3. Scandium
- 4. Tin

QUESTION 2

Where in the human body is the sphenoid bone?

- 1. Foot
- 2. Skull
- 3. Pelvis
- 4. Knee

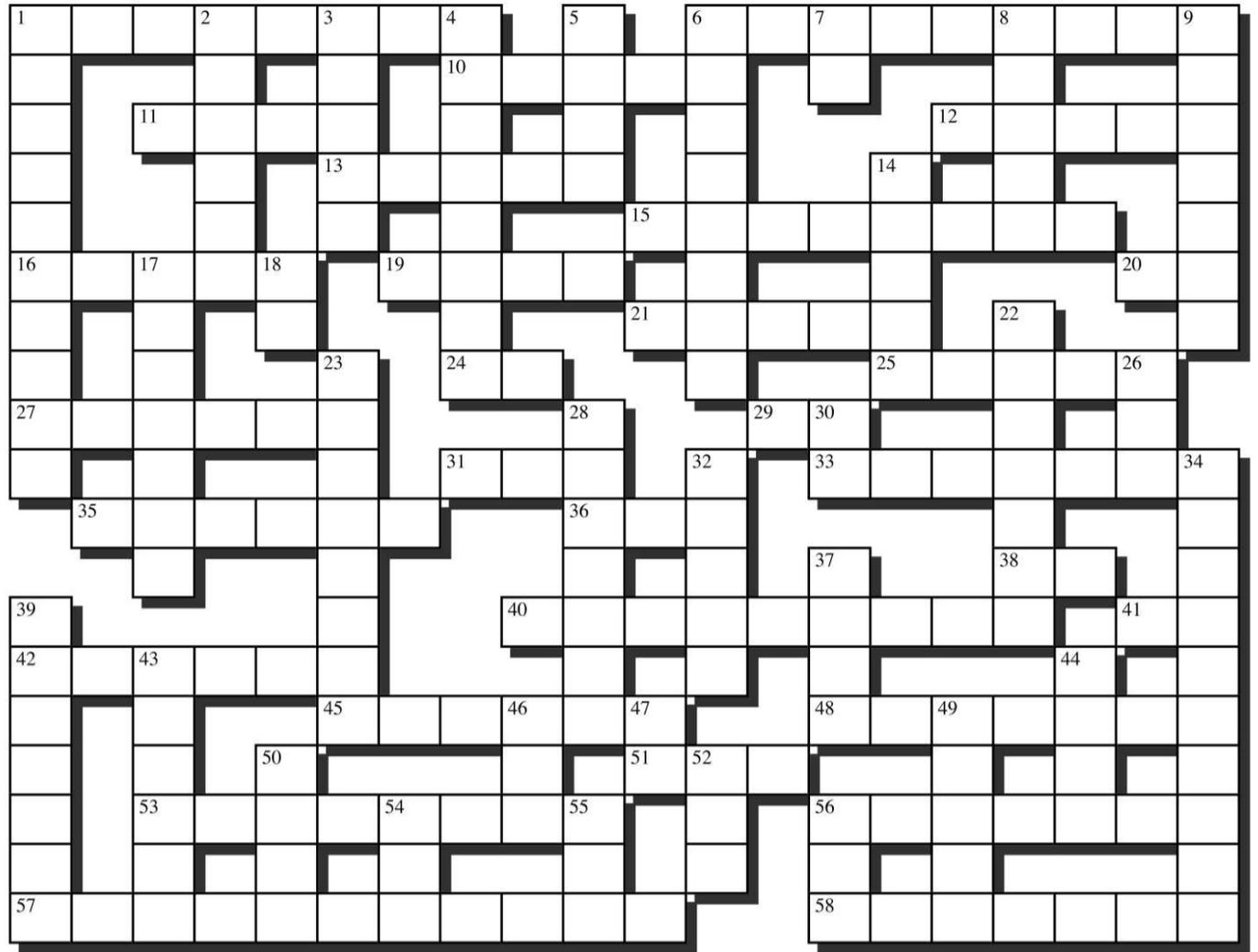
LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

Across

1. Churches (8)
6. Miniature (9)
10. Period (5)
11. Roof tile (4)
12. I suffered (5)
13. Nery (slang) (5)
15. We think (8)
16. Tree (5)
19. Love (4)
20. It (2)
21. Boat (5)
24. I know (2)
25. Alone (m.pl.) (5)
27. They come (6)
29. No (2)
31. Axis (3)
33. Humble (7)
35. Achievements (6)
36. What (3)
38. You (2)
40. Recent (pl) (9)
41. To go (2)
42. Hare (6)
45. Centuries (6)
48. Mice (7)
51. I shall go (3)
53. Adventure (8)
56. To recreate (7)
57. Exaggeration (11)
58. Chosen (m) (7)

Down

1. Initiative (10)
2. Elect (m) (6)
3. Iranian (5)
4. We follow (8)
5. Clothes (4)
6. Models (8)
7. Neither (2)
8. Trick (5)
9. Hobby (7)
14. Hands (5)
17. Drinker (7)
18. The (f) (2)
22. Last (m.pl.) (7)
23. Then (8)
26. Thirst (3)
28. Small (m) (7)
30. Oh (2)
32. To request (5)
34. Businessman (10)
37. To unite (4)
39. Mayor (7)
43. Scale (6)
44. Eleven (4)
46. Lord (3)
47. Yes (2)
49. I crossed off (5)
50. He drinks (4)
52. Rum (3)
54. Aunt (3)
55. I love (3)
56. He laughs (3)



ANSWERS

Language Crossword

ACROSS: 6. MINIATURA 10. PERÍODO 11. TEJADO 12. SUFRÍ 13. NEURAS 15. PENSAMOS 16. ARBOL 19. AMOR 20. LO 21. BARCO 24. SE 25. SOLOS 27. VIENEN 29. NO 31. JE 33. HUMILDE 35. LOGROS 36. QUE 38. OS 40. RECIENTES 41. R 42. LIBRE 43. SIGLOS 44. RAJONES 51. RE 53. AVENTURA 56. RECREAR 57. EXAGERACION 58. ELEGIDO
 DOWN: 1. INICIATIVA 2. ELECTO 3. IRANI 4. SEGUIMOS 5. ROPA 6. MAQUETAS 7. NI 8. TRUJO 9. AFICION 14. MANOS 17. BEBENDOR 18. LA 22. ULTIMOS 23. ENTONCES 26. SED 28. PEQUEÑO 30. OH 32. PEDIR 34. EMPRESARIO 37. UNIR 39. ALCALDE 43. ESCALA 44. ONCE 46. TOR 47. SI 49. TACHE 50. BEBE 52. RON 54. TIA 55. AMO 56. RE

Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 3 Turns back; 8 Ever; 9 Meditates; 10 Lawyer; 11 Hewed; 14 Icing; 15 Saga; 16 Extra; 18 Echo; 20 Liken; 21 Truth; 24 Colour; 25 Take apart; 26 Isis; 27 Proscribe. Down: 1 Well-oiled; 2 Net weight; 4 User; 5 Noise; 6 Blades; 7 Crew; 9 Merge; 11 Hitch; 12 Dark horse; 13 Mannerism; 17 Allot; 19 Orders; 22 Toper; 23 Hair; 24 Crab.

Clockword solution

SOLUTION: 1 Chisel, 2 Lawful, 3 Instil, 4 Fennel, 5 Frugal, 6 Retail, 7 Israel, 8 Compel, 9 Herbal, 10 Animal, 11 Repeat, 12 Dismal.
 CELEBRITY: Cliff Richard.

Wordpuzzle solution

1. Holiday
 2. Sector
 3. Gallery
 4. House
 5. Debt
 6. Speaking
 7. Bill
 8. Enemy
 9. Bar
 10. School

Sudoku solution

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

Quiz answers

Answer 1: Tin is a chemical element with the symbol Sn from the Latin 'stannum', its atomic number is 50 and it is found in group 14 of the periodic table along with Carbon, Silicon, Germanium, Lead and Fluorine.
Answer 2: Skull
Of interest: The sphenoid bone is situated in the middle of the skull towards the front. It is one of the seven bones that articulate to form the orbit. Its shape somewhat resembles that of a butterfly or bat with its wings extended.

BOOK OF THE WEEK



Open Door
 Iosi Havilio

Open Door is the first novel by Argentinian author Iosi Havilio. The story centres around a young woman that, after losing her job in Buenos Aires, finds herself drifting towards a very different pace of life in the countryside. She decides to settle in a small town, Open Door, named after its psychiatric hospital and moves in with an ageing ranch-hand called Jaime. News of the city arrives in the form of a request from a lawyer to identify a dead women fitting her best friend's description.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Knowledge is realising a street is one-way, wisdom is looking both ways anyway

ANON

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Costa Mediterranea	26/01	-	-	08.00	18.00
MSC Magnifica	27/01	Funchal	Civitavecchia	07.00	14.00
Norwegian Spirit	31/01	Arrecife	Barcelona	07.00	17.00





Shoeboxes bring smiles to Saharan nomads

The Ahlén family started Vilostrada after moving from Sweden to Frigiliana and are involved in a number of projects



JENNIE RHODES

✉ rhodes_jennie@hotmail.com

FRIGILIANA. Vilostrada, a non-profit organisation based in the Axarquía which runs community projects through its foundation, recently started a shoebox fundraiser for nomad children in the heart of the Sahara desert.

The founders of the organisation, Swedish couple Victoria and Joakim Ahlén, had the backing of Telesforo Romero, the head teacher of the Enrique Ginés primary school where their children go in Frigiliana. "He made sure it became a success," said Victoria, adding, "They donated close to 125 shoe boxes."

In total, around 200 pairs of shoes, donated by the school and friends and acquaintances of the Ahlén family, along with clothes and toys, travelled from the Costa del Sol with the family to the Sahara in December.

The children live in an area known as 'Tanmirt', close to M'Hamid and near to the border with Algeria. Tanmirt, explains Vilos-



Victoria Ahlén (right) with the shoe boxes and nomad friends in the Sahara. :: JOAKIM AHLÉN

trada co-founder Victoria Ahlén, means 'thank you' and 'our land' in Berber.

The family spent eight days over the Christmas and New Year period trekking and working with nomads in the Sahara.

"During our hike, we gave away some of the shoes to the nomads we met on the road and we will continue sharing them in the weeks to come," said Victoria, adding, there was a feeling of "pure happiness on both the receiving and giving end".

The family set off on December 26th and travelled with their van through the desert with nomads.

"We want to teach our children that Christmas is about giving and being together," said Victoria.

Lucas Ahlén, who is 11, has even become involved in a football team on the trips that he has made with his parents, the first of which was in March last year. Because of the shoe donations "several of my friends got new shoes to play with our team Real Nomad", he explained.

Victoria said, "I bear special memories of my meeting with Fatima, who said that they were so happy that there are kind people who think of them there in the Sahara and thanked us for our work."

Back in October the family was

involved in a separate project to install a solar panel to run a pump providing water to communities in the Tanmirt area.

A power button controls the solar powered pump that fills two large cemented, newly-built water troughs with about 3,000 litres of fresh water. This is enough for the nomads' camels, goats and donkeys, as well as households in the village.

Victoria said of the foundation, "Together with the nomads and our voluntary work in the Vilostrada Foundation, we aim to tackle major challenges like the depopulation of the desert and illiteracy in 2017. The work that Lucas and I

started in March 2016 with Brahim Elaaddouli, our partner in the desert, is now starting to give results with a handicraft school for women and school for children from three to six years, with a base camp for the teacher just 100 metres from the well."

During part of the first few months of 2017, Victoria will return to Tanmirt and work with the nomads to continue to build the school.

i For further information, visit: www.vilostrada.com or search 'Vilostrada' on Facebook

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