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Poor officiating robs Romero of first win as Malaga coach

The Blue and Whites were denied a clear penalty as they led Villarreal 1-0, finishing the game with just a point **P59**



Crime rate on the Costa rises with more thefts and drug crime

Marbella was the town with the largest hike in figures but overall rates in Andalucía went down

According to Interior Ministry figures published this week, crime increased on the Costa del Sol and in Malaga province last year, with 78,365 criminal offences committed in 2016, an increase of 2.7 per cent on 2015. Across the Costa del Sol, Marbella saw the most striking rise in crime. However, Malaga province bucks the trend in Andalucía overall, where numbers fell. The data released also shows that Spain's murder rate is the second lowest in the EU. **P4**

Serial arsonist leaves La Cala de Mijas residents on edge after a string of attacks on cars, containers and properties **P6**



King Felipe greets crowds outside the new museum in the Aduana building on Wednesday. :: SALVADOR SALAS

King Felipe mixes innovation and culture on visit to Malaga

Felipe VI opened the Foro Transfiere conference before touring the Museum of Malaga

King Felipe VI was in Malaga on Wednesday morning to open the sixth edition of the Foro Transfiere, a conference which celebrates innovation shown by research groups and businesses.

Speaking at the conference in the Malaga congress centre, the king

praised the "dynamism" of the city and stressed the importance of the development of science, technology and innovation in shaping the future.

He also called for measures from the authorities to make sure that valuable scientific research does not

go to waste.

The king made the most of his trip to Malaga to tour the collections of art and archaeology in the recently-opened Museo de Málaga. He then had time to greet the crowds who had gathered on the streets outside the museum. **P2&3**

Experiment studies the psychological effects of the Caminito del Rey

A neuromarketing company is analysing the way visitors perceive the famous walkway

Experts from Fusión have carried out a study on people walking on the Caminito to find out the effect the site has on their emotions. Three points captured the attention of 90 per cent of visitors. **P13**



The eye-tracking glasses. :: F. T.

Bright colours, flamboyance and the famous Andalusian wit. Carnival season gets under way **P24, 25 & 40**



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King Felipe supports Malaga's bid to become one of Spain's key cities in the field of innovation

At this week's Transfiere conference the king called for "precise regulations" so as not to squander scientific progress as well as greater recognition for researchers

by ANTONIO M. ROMERO

MALAGA. The king's presence at the 6th Transfiere conference in Malaga this week served to highlight the city's position as a benchmark in Spain for technological innovation.

Felipe VI arrived in Malaga on Wednesday morning and inaugurated the conference attended by leading firms in the fields of technology and innovation as well as numerous authorities.

In his speech the king described Malaga as a "dynamic" city, whose initiatives, along with more in other Andalusian cities, link this "much-loved" region "clearly and solidly with technological development and innovation".

In a packed theatre in the city's congress centre, the king's inaugural speech was attended by authorities including the Spanish minister for Education and Culture, Íñigo Méndez de Vigo; the president of the Junta de Andalucía, Susana Díaz, the secretary of state for Research, Development and Innovation, Carmen Vela; the mayor of Malaga, Francisco de la Torre, and the president of Malaga's provincial government, Elías Bendodo.

With this captive audience the king seized the opportunity to urge the public administrations to create "precise regulations" so that the great advances made in scientific development and research "are not squandered or lost due to a lack of necessary and sustained support".

The head of state pointed out that



Felipe VI, accompanied by authorities talks to the managing director of Aertec about the firm's unmanned aircraft, Tarsis 75. :: A. CABRERA

Wednesday's was the fourth event he had taken part in recently related to innovation, science and technology, which, in his opinion, proves that these fields are "elements that permeate our lives and condition our future".

He praised the progress already achieved but warned that this is not the time to "rest on laurels" as there are more challenges ahead.

The king stressed the "key role" of the education system and universities in acting as catalysts for young scientific talent.

After the opening ceremony, the king toured the stands at the conference. He paid special attention to the display put on by the Malaga-based aeronautical multinational Aertec, including its Tarsis 75 un-



The Transfiere conference took place in the city's congress centre. :: A. c.

manned aircraft model, which is already being used in some countries for defence applications.

"The king asked about the technical features, above all, and showed that he is very knowledgeable about everything to do with aviation," said the company's managing director, Antonio Gómez-Guillamón.

María de los Ángeles Martín Prats, an expert in aeronautical engineering at the University of Seville, spoke on behalf of the research community at the inauguration of the event. She called for the authorities to develop programmes to prevent "brain drain" out of Spain, and invited the financial sector to invest in research and development "to support new discoveries".

"The time is now," she said.



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Felipe VI admires some of the pieces in the museum. :: S. SALAS

The monarch tours the new art and archaeology museum

:: I. LILLO

MALAGA. King Felipe made the most of his morning in Malaga and went on from the Transfiere conference to the new Museum of Malaga that opened in December in the old Aduana building.

Crowds lined the streets outside the museum where some had the chance to greet the monarch and even take selfies.

The king visited the archaeology section of the museum before touring the fine art collection.

The museum's director, María Morente, said that Felipe had shown a great interest in the exhibits throughout his visit.

"He asked about a lot of pieces," she said, adding that he had been particularly enthusiastic about the 19th century paintings.

The section recalling the years of campaigning and marches to call for the Aduana building to become a museum also attracted the king's attention.

His Caminito

The anecdote of the visit came when Felipe was leaving the mu-



The king greets the crowds. :: S. S.

seum and heading for his car. Juan José Acedo, a photographer from Álora, took the opportunity to give him a book about the history of the Caminito del Rey gorge walkway.

"I know all about it," said the king, "I'm looking forward to visiting it; it's just a question of when."

Provincial road improvement plan to affect forty towns and villages

The Diputación is to spend 9.1 million euros on road improvements, of which one million will go towards barriers, crossings and signposts in villages

:: A. M. ROMERO

MALAGA. The provincial government (Diputación) has announced a 9.12 million-euro plan to improve roads in numerous parts of the province.

One million of the total will go towards improving safety on the stretches of roads that pass through around 40 towns and villages, mainly in the Serranía de Ronda, the Axarquía and the Antequera area.

The project announced at the end

of last week affects 63 of the 118 roads that make up the network that is the responsibility of the provincial authority, whose numbers start with the letters MA.

Measures in built-up areas will include the installation of barriers, raised pedestrian crossings, new signposting and resurfacing of these roads used by both through traffic and locals.

The president of the provincial government, Elías Bendodo, said, "It's vital to guarantee the safety of

all the people who have to use these roads to go to school, to the shops or to their homes."

Other funds will go towards maintenance and safety improvements on 80 per cent of roads in the provincial network. The most important of these schemes is improved access to Benaoján and repairs and improvements in Montecorto, Cartajima and Júzcar. Villanueva de Algaidas, Cuevas de San Marcos and Triana (Vélez-Málaga) will also benefit as well as Casarabonela and Antequera.

The third part of this package of measures involves repairs to weather damage on 30 roads affected by January's rain and snow. The main areas to benefit from this section are the Guadalhorca valley (with 2.8 million euros) and the Serranía de Ronda (2.1 million).

The scheme is designed to improve pedestrian safety where roads pass through village centres

RUTA DEL SOL BRINGS INTERNATIONAL CYCLISTS TO ANDALUCÍA

It was an exciting start to the Ruta del Sol cycling competition on Wednesday as the first stage set off from Rincón de la Victoria into the mountains towards Granada. Alejandro Valverde finished first, ahead of his compatriot Alberto Contador who came seconds behind in sixth. The second phase on Thursday took in Jaén province while today's stage will be around Lucena before the tour moves to Seville on Saturday. There will be a return to Malaga province on Sunday for the finale between Setenil de las Bodegas and Coín, which will also take in Alhaurín el Grande, Alhaurín de la Torre and Cártama.



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Costa crime rate rises with more thefts and drug crime

The total number of crimes reported in Malaga province in 2016 increased by 2.7%, with Marbella seeing the biggest surge, but figures dropped in Andalucía overall

by **ÁLVARO FRÍAS**

MALAGA. Crime increased on the Costa del Sol and in Malaga province last year, according to Interior Ministry figures published by the national government this week. In the annual report, unveiled by Interior Minister, Juan Ignacio Zoido, there were 78,365 criminal offences – non-penal and penal – in the province in 2016, an increase of 2.7 per cent on the previous year.

Much of the blame for the big increase, which goes against the national trend, is being put down to a surge in the number of break-ins, which is the type of crime that grew the most in 2016. There were 13 per cent more burglaries in the area in 2016, when numbers rose to 4,259, compared to 3,768 in 2015. In other words, there are eleven break-ins at homes across Malaga province every day.

There was a significant increase of 6.8 per cent in crime related to drug trafficking, and violent robbery rose by 4.1 per cent. The number of violent deaths rose as well, although the total amount is small, with 19 acts of intentional homicide (murders or violent manslaughter) in 2016, up two on 2015. There were also 746 more reported cases of damage to property in 2016, a year-on-year increase of 10.6 per cent.

Mixed results across the Costa

Across the Costa del Sol, Marbella saw the most striking rise in crime. The number of reported criminal offences in the town rose 17.5 per cent in 2016, largely due to an increase in damage to property of almost 46 per cent, up from 934 to 1,363 in the year, and an increase in theft of 21 per cent.

In terms of other local towns featuring in the statistics, which covers information collected from National Police, Guardia Civil, as well as town-hall-controlled local police, Estepona and Vélez-Málaga also saw a larger than average rise in crime in 2016 when compared to the previous year, with the amount increasing by 4.3 per cent and 3.8 per cent respectively.

In contrast, the biggest fall in reported crime was in Benalmádena, with a decline of 11.4 per cent, and in Fuengirola, with a 10.2 per cent drop. In Malaga city, overall crime fell as well by 1.2 per cent. While in Mijas and Torremolinos, the year-on-year crime rate was stable.

In Andalucía, crime is down

This increase in the amount of crime in Malaga province bucks the trend in Andalucía overall. Presenting the data, Juan Ignacio Zoido announced that the region had the lowest crime rate in 12 years and saw a fall of 1.5 per cent on 2015.

Malaga is the Andalusian province where crime rose most in 2016. Only Huelva province saw a similar increase, with 2.3 per cent.

In the remaining six of the eight provinces that make up Andalucía, the crime rate fell or stayed stable. Cadiz had most to be happy about, seeing a seven per cent fall in the number of recorded offences there in 2016, followed by Cordoba with a 6.1 per cent drop, Seville with minus 2.4 per cent and Jaén at minus 2.3 per cent. Almeria and Granada saw no real change in their crime levels.

Seville.

Overall, crime in Spain fell 1.2 per cent in 2016. Malaga province had the sixth largest number of offences. Of the 78,365 reported crimes in the province, equivalent to 214 a day, only Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, Alicante and Seville had more, reflecting their larger populations.

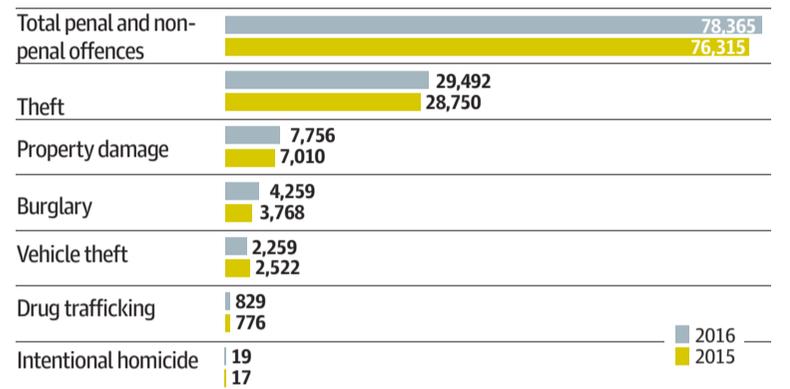
Except in Madrid, which saw an increase of 2.5 per cent compared to 2015, and Malaga, where crime grew 2.7 per cent, all these other larger provinces reported a fall in their local crime numbers.

Criminal offences: 2016/2015

Ranking by province (Number of offences in 2016 and percentage change on 2015. Top 30)

1. Madrid	374,184	+2.5 ▲	16. Granada	32,433	+0.8 ▲
2. Barcelona	311,750	-1.6 ▼	17. Zaragoza	30,682	-0.2 ▲
3. Valencia	115,017	-1.6 ▼	18. Almeria	30,650	+0.0
4. Alicante	91,436	-1.4 ▼	19. Pontevedra	27,381	-6.0 ▼
5. Seville	80,289	-2.4 ▼	20. Asturias	26,179	-3.0 ▼
6. Malaga	78,365	+2.7 ▲	21. Navarra	25,723	+7.5 ▲
7. Balearics	68,158	+2.2 ▲	22. Toledo	25,010	-3.3 ▼
8. Murcia	51,318	-3.9 ▼	23. Cordoba	23,929	-6.1 ▼
9. Cadiz	50,046	-7.0 ▼	24. Castellón	23,910	-4.8 ▼
10. Vizcaya	48,868	-1.2 ▼	25. Gipuzcoa	22,091	-6.2 ▼
11. Las Palmas	46,526	-1.4 ▼	26. Huelva	19,872	+2.3 ▲
12. Tenerife	42,344	-0.1 ▼	27. Outside Spain	18,438	-6.0 ▼
13. Girona	37,505	-7.5 ▼	28. Badajoz	18,401	-2.7 ▼
14. Tarragona	37,192	-4.7 ▼	29. Lleida	17,438	-8.0 ▼
15. La Coruña	32,631	-0.1 ▼	30. Cantabria	17,042	+1.7 ▲

Malaga province, inc. Costa del Sol (Number of offences 2016 and 2015)



Main Costa del Sol towns (Number of offences in 2016 and change on 2015)

Theft	% change	Property damage	% change
Malaga	11,370 -1.8 ▼	Malaga	1,932 +11.2 ▲
Marbella	4,901 +21.0 ▲	Marbella	1,363 +45.9 ▲
Fuengirola	2,461 -9.9 ▼	Mijas	591 +1.5 ▲
Torremolinos	1,965 +0.6 ▲	Torremolinos	465 -0.9 ▼
Mijas	1,510 +0.4 ▲	Fuengirola	461 -8.5 ▼
Benalmádena	1,374 -11.8 ▼	Estepona	423 +9.6 ▲
Estepona	1,025 +0.9 ▲	Benalmádena	421 -11.7 ▼
Vélez-Málaga	989 10.4 ▲	Vélez-Málaga	322 -4.2 ▼

Burglary	% change	Intentional homicide	% change
Malaga	744 +37.0 ▲	Malaga	8 +300 ▲
Marbella	617 +6.9 ▲	Fuengirola	3 +200 ▲
Mijas	549 -1.1 ▼	Torremolinos	3 +100 ▲
Estepona	264 +1.9 ▲	Estepona	2 +100 ▲
Benalmádena	193 12.9 ▲	Marbella	1 -66 ▼
Torremolinos	141 10.2 ▲	Mijas	1 -75 ▼
Vélez-Málaga	114 +6.5 ▲	Benalmádena	0 -100 ▼
Fuengirola	113 -33.5 ▼	Vélez-Málaga	0 -100 ▼

Source: Interior Ministry

Spain's murder rate is second lowest in the EU, data shows

by **A. FRÍAS**

MALAGA. Interior Minister, Juan Ignacio Zoido, has revealed that the number of murders in Spain dropped below the "psychological barrier" of 300 per annum last year, the lowest since records began. In total, 292 people died this way in 2016, just over three per cent less than in 2015.

Zoido described the result as "very positive" and explained that Spain has the second lowest murder rate in the EU after Austria, at 0.63 per 100,000 people.

This was "a huge achievement", according to the minister, who was speaking at the presentation of the 2016 crime statistics report in

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The tax landscape in Andalucía in 2017

By Chris McCann, Partner, Blevins Franks

It is important to review your tax planning from time to time, to check that it is up to date with Spanish tax reforms over recent years as well as international developments that may affect you. You also want to make sure you are using the opportunities available in Spain to reduce tax liabilities for yourself and your heirs.

Income tax

There were no changes to income tax rates at either state or regional level, so we pay tax at the same rates as last year.

Income (€)	Tax rate
0 - 12,450	19.5%
12,450 - 20,200	24%
20,200 - 28,000	30%
28,000 - 35,200	31.5%
35,200 - 50,000	37.5%
50,000 - 60,000	38%
60,000 - 120,000	46%
120,000 onwards	48%

The above rates only apply to general income (employment, pension, rental income, etc).

The 2017 rates for savings income (interest, dividends, income derived

from life assurance contracts, purchased annuity income and capital gains on the sale or transfer of assets) are:

Income (€)	Tax rate
0 - 6,000	19%
6,000 - 50,000	21%
Over 50,000	23%

Wealth tax

Effectively 'abolished' in 2008, this unpopular tax was reinstated in 2011 and been kept in place since. It has been extended again for 2017.

Spanish residents pay this tax on the net value of their worldwide assets as at 31st December. Non-residents are liable on Spanish assets only. In Andalucía rates rise progressively from 0.24% to 3.03%. There is however an individual allowance of €700,000, plus up to €300,000 if you own your main home.

This can be a tough tax for wealthy residents. If you are affected seek specialist advice on how you may be able to reduce it, particularly on your investment capital where the way you hold assets can make a considerable difference.

Succession and gift tax

Spanish succession and gift tax affects everyone living here or owning local assets. The Andalusian government recently made two changes to the regional rules which improve the tax position for group I and II beneficiaries (spouses, descendants and ascendants).

A new main home relief applies from August 2016. A reduction of between 95% and 100% is available, depending on the net value of property each beneficiary receives. This only applies where the beneficiary is the spouse, ascendant, descendant or other relative over 65; has been living in the property with the deceased, and they keep it for at least three years.

Additionally, the change to 100% relief from succession tax applies from 1st January 2017, to inheritances only. Previously €175,000, group I and II beneficiaries can now receive up to €250,000 tax free (if certain requirements are met). For inheritances whose taxable base is between €250,000 and €350,000, a variable reduction will reduce the final tax due. There is no relief on inheritances over €350,000.

UK nationals need estate planning to cover both Spanish succession tax and UK inheritance tax.

Modelo 720

Do not forget that *Modelo 720* needs to be submitted by 31st March 2017, reporting the non-Spanish assets worth over €50,000 you owned at 31st December 2016 if you were resident in Spain. If you previously submitted this form, you only need to report again if the value of an asset increased by over €20,000; you sold an asset, closed an account or obtained new assets.

Automatic exchange of information

The global automatic exchange of information regime, implemented under the Common Reporting Standard, is now in force. Over this year and next the Spanish tax authorities will start to receive information on all its taxpayers' overseas financial assets from 100 jurisdictions.

If you live in *Andalucía* and have, for example, investments in the Isle of Man, bank accounts in Switzer-

land or pension funds in the UK, the Spanish local tax authorities will automatically receive information on these assets.

Cross-border tax planning is complex. You need to ensure you are declaring income and paying tax in the right country, and are only using legitimate tax planning arrangements.

Tax planning

With specialist advice you can often use compliant arrangements to reduce tax on your savings, investments, pensions and assets. Blevins Franks has been advising UK nationals in *Andalucía* for forty years. We have in-depth knowledge of Spanish taxation and how to use tax regime to your advantage – with the right tax planning Spain can be very tax efficient for retired expatriates.

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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.

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La Cala de Mijas residents seek reassurance after string of fires

The alleged arsonist has been detained five times in connection with fires targeting locals' cars and property

IVÁN GELIBTER

MIJAS. For several days, residents in La Cala de Mijas have been living in fear after a string of arson attacks has targeted cars, commercial properties, rubbish containers and other property. The crimes have been blighting the area for almost a month, but intensified last week with a series of attacks on vehicles.

A Lithuanian man, 42, was arrested for the fourth time in connection with these crimes last Thursday, this time accused of setting fire to a car the previous night after having been seen loitering suspiciously around the area on several occasions. However, he was released hours later and, that same night, another car was set alight by Mijas Playa Club.

The situation in La Cala was so tense that last Friday, mayor of Mijas, Juan Carlos Maldonado visited the area to reassure residents and inform them that surveillance had been stepped up and that an appeal



The fifth vehicle to be set alight near Mijas Playa on Friday. :: I. G.

for more support had been filed with the public prosecutor's office.

"We've sent the letter with the hope that they can act with greater force as we fear that these crimes will be repeated," said the mayor.

Following this, the suspect, who has been linked to all of the crimes due to their common characteristics, was arrested for the fifth time.

The attacks on the cars were all carried out by slicing open the tyres before inserting newspaper doused in alcohol which was then set alight.

However, on Saturday, the man was caught as he was allegedly about to set business premises on fire in the El Zoco area of Calahonda and is currently still being held in custody.



The state of the bicycle after the incident. :: SUR

Police hunt driver of hire car involved in hit-and-run

The search is on for the driver of the vehicle that hit a cyclist but failed to stop on Sunday in Benalmádena

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

BENALMÁDEN A. Police continue to search for the driver of a hire car that was involved in a hit-and-run incident in Benalmádena on Sunday.

A 41-year-old Swedish man suffered multiple injuries, including a blow to the head and serious bruising, after his bike was hit by a car on Avenida del Sol at 7.25am. The driver failed to stop after the

accident.

The victim, who was conscious the whole time, was rushed to Malaga's Clinico hospital after the accident to undergo tests.

The vehicle involved, a Nissan Note, which turned out to belong to a car hire firm, was located in Torremolinos on Monday. Its damage was consistent with the broken pieces of bumper and fog light found at the scene of the accident. Its occupant at the time, though, still hasn't been located. Information provided by the car hire company shows that the driver was a French national, of north African origin, but that the address he provided was both incomplete and false.

112 REPORTS

National Police arrest three men from human trafficking network

SEVILLE

L. GONZÁLEZ-SANTIAGO. Three Nigerian men belonging to a large human-trafficking network have been arrested by National Police. One of whom is believed to be the leader of the group.

The gang are thought to have smuggled people from Nigeria into Spain and other parts of Europe for sexual exploitation.

Most of the victims were women who were either pregnant or accompanied by their children as they were smuggled through countries such as Niger, Mali, Algeria, Libya and Tunisia en route

to their final destination.

The leader of the group, Evo Rabel, was arrested in Morocco and is accused of forcing women into prostitution as well as being the person who controlled the movement of the women across the Strait of Gibraltar.

The other two men supposedly led operations from Tangier, with one receiving victims from Nigeria and moving them on to Morocco while the other provided accommodation for the women in Tangier before arranging their entry into Spain.

The operation began back in 2015, when agents involved in an investigation into a sexual exploitation network obtained information from victims identifying these three as the main coordinators.



ABANDONED HELICOPTER FOUND IN RONDA HILLS

The Guardia Civil have discovered an abandoned helicopter on a private country estate in Faraján, near Ronda, which wasn't registered nor had any documentation. In 2015, two people died as a similar craft, packed with drugs, crashed after being chased by the Guardia Civil. It has been moved into storage.

Three detained in connection with stolen diesel from lorries

COÍN

SUR. Two minors are among three people arrested in connection with the theft of 1,700 litres of diesel from lorries on an industrial estate in Coín.

After several complaints were filed, investigators were able to catch the perpetrators red-handed, with two 25-litre containers, a hosepipe and a vehicle readied for their escape.

The crimes were all committed at night during quiet times on the industrial estate. The three alleged perpetrators, all Spanish and from Alhaurín el Grande, broke open the fuel tanks before making off with the diesel.



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New cycle lane being built through the centre of Puerto Banús

Marbella Council begins work on the port's main street and pavements in modernisation plans after local survey results

:: **MÓNICA PÉREZ**

MARBELLA. The construction of a new cycle lane on Avenida Julio Iglesias in Puerto Banús has started this week as part of the general remodelling of the area's main street.

In a local questionnaire, residents voted the lane second out of ten possible sustainable construction projects they would like to see carried out in Marbella this year. As a result the council have invested 300,000 euros in the plan, which is due to be finished within four months.

Councillor Blanca Fernández said that the 800-metre-long lane and



Work has started this week on Avenida Julio Iglesias. :: SUR

improved pedestrian zones will replace the current worn-out road surfaces and pavements.

Up to now, cyclists arriving in Puerto Banús have struggled in the area's traffic, but the project is ex-

pected to solve this problem according to councillor for Transport Miguel Díaz, who stated that the bicycle lane will provide safe access to the promenade and coastal pathways.

HERE AND THERE

New roads to link Bel-Air with Cancelada

ESTEPONA

:: **LEANDRO PAVÓN.** Homeowners in the Bel-Air residential area will soon be directly connected with Cancelada via a new road.

The 480,000 euro investment from the council will also see the laying out of 13,500 square metres

of green zone in the Bel-Air area, along with new walkways and lighting.

Ana Velasco, councillor for Development, Infrastructure and Tourism, believes that the new road will allow residents to move between the two areas more efficiently. She explained that it means travelling by the less convenient motorway will no longer be necessary and access to surrounding streets will be improved.

Campaign to combat dog waste begins

ESTEPONA

:: **L. P.** Councillor for Parks and Gardens, Sergio Rodríguez, has announced that measures will soon be put in place to encourage dog owners to take more responsibility for their pets' waste. Flyers will be distributed to explain the importance of the issue, while free bags and small bottles of diluted vinegar will be available to help with cleaning excrement and urine.

Restoration of San Luis castle imminent

ESTEPONA

:: **L. P.** In the coming weeks restoration work on San Luis castle will start as part of the council's effort to transform it into a social and cultural centre for locals and visitors to enjoy.

Archaeologists will first assess the current condition of its walls and interior through excavation, before it is restored and reopened to the public.

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Legal proceedings started over Marbella FC's new sports complex

MFC Sport Arena built four football pitches on the La Dama de Noche golf course without the town hall's permission

☛ **HÉCTOR BARBOTA**

MARBELLA. Construction of the La Dama de Noche Sports City in Marbella, which was opened on 18 January, was carried out without a municipal licence.

Legal proceedings against MFC Sport Arena, the owner of the installations used by Marbella FC and which include four football pitches, are under way over the alleged breach of town planning and environmental regulations. The La Dama de Noche residents' association filed a complaint to a Marbella judge, claiming that the construction was illegal as it was being carried out on protected land around the Río Verde.

The judge took on the case and on 20 December started legal proceedings with the public prosecutor, requesting the town hall pass on its files to help with the investigation.

The town hall, in the meantime, ordered a halt to construction on 16 January when works had already been completed, two days before



A view of the La Dama de Noche Sports City facilities. ☛ **JOSELE-LANZA**

it opened. They had previously been informed of the breaches and on 2 September last year carried out inspections during which they noted that ground had been moved, levelled and conditioned. On the day that the installations opened, they urged the developers to take the "necessary steps to legalise the works carried out".

MFC Sport Arena has accepted their decision and is likely to face a small fine, between 600 and 2,999 euros, after the town hall considered the infractions to be "minor".

However, in the criminal com-

plaint filed by the residents' association, it is alleged that trees were pulled up and plants destroyed to carry out the construction.

The affected land is classified as a public water domain on which a 50-year lease was granted in 1987 to a company called El Cantizal to build a golf course. In October 2014, MFC Sport Arena, run by businessmen Roman Prokopenkov and German Pastushenko (the latter a Marbella FC shareholder), bought the lease. They then applied for planning permission which was still pending when works started.

Jail for armed robbers who stole 880 euros from a Marbella supermarket

☛ **EUROPA PRESS / M. PÉREZ**

MARBELLA. Two Spanish men, aged 30 and 33, have been detained for their involvement in a supermarket holdup which took place in Marbella on 8 February.

According to investigators, one of the men entered the shop, on Avenida Girasoles, and threatened a cashier with a pistol before making off with 880 euros while his accomplice kept watch outside and orchestrated their flight from the scene by car.

The pair were tracked down to a hostel in Benalmádena and await trial.

Meanwhile, the National Police continue to search for man who held up a jewellers in Puerto Banús last Thursday evening. The man, apparently acting alone, entered Diamonds & Co., surrounded by other luxury shops in the port area, armed with a firearm.

After a scuffle with a member of staff, who suffered minor injuries, he was able to escape with a haul whose value is as yet unknown.

This incident has intensified calls from businesses owners for video surveillance in the area.

Town hall has 17.7 million budget for construction of Estepona hospital

The contract for the works has been put out to tender following an agreement with the regional government

☛ **LEANDRO PAVÓN**

ESTEPONA. An agreement signed between Estepona town hall and the Andalusian health authority (SAS) has meant that the local authority can now build the new hospital with a budget of 17.7 million euros.

The construction work is expected

to take 22 months to complete and the hospital could be open by the middle of 2019.

The announcement comes six years after the previous contract was cancelled when archaeological excavations had to be carried out.

According to the agreement signed at the end of last year, the town hall will pay for the construction of the hospital as well as the development of the surrounding area.

The health authority will be responsible for fitting out the new hospital and running and maintenance costs after its opening.



The land where the hospital is going to be built. ☛ **L. PAVÓN**

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HERE AND THERE

Victims to appeal gas explosion decision**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA**

Victims of the gas explosion which occurred during the San Miguel fair in Vélez-Málaga last October said on Wednesday that they would appeal against the decision to close the case, with the help of the lawyer acting on behalf of the group, 'Plataforma de Afectados', Enma Romero. On Tuesday a judge concluded that the explosion, which injured 93 people, was accidental.

Axarquía unveils new tourism and info app**TORRE DEL MAR**

The Mancomunidad de Municipios de la Axarquía, which represents all of the town halls in the east of Málaga area, has unveiled a new app which has information on all of the towns and villages in the Axarquía. The app is called 'Guía de la Axarquía' and can be downloaded from the Google Play store. A website has also been developed under the same name and is available in Spanish, English and German.

Council seeks feedback on new town plan**ALMUÑÉCAR**

The department for urban planning at Almuñécar town hall is inviting residents to consult and comment on its PGOU (general urban plan) up until 2 March. The document can be found on the ground floor of the town planning offices (former ICE), situated on Avenida Amelia Sánchez de Alcázar, and can be viewed from Monday to Friday, 9am until 2pm. The current document was agreed by the council at its 22 December 2016 plenary meeting.

Two arrested after dog found living in squalor with no food or water

Neighbours reported hearing the animal, which tested positive for Leishmaniasis and was covered in sores and flea bites

EUGENIO CABEZAS

TORRE DEL MAR. A new case of animal abuse reached the courts this week; this time a dog in Torre del Mar which was being kept tied up in squalid conditions in Torre del Mar.

National police officers found the dog, which had neither food nor water at the time, in a building in Torre del Mar after neighbours reported hearing the animal over a lengthy period of time. The owners, a 20 and 24-year-old man from Torre del Mar were detained by officers.

A vet report supplied to the police confirmed that the dog had flea bites, was very underweight and was suffering from dermatitis all over its body, which had become infected.

In addition the dog, known as Rex, tested positive for Leishmaniasis, an illness common in dogs and transmitted by mosquitoes, which, if not treated can cause death.

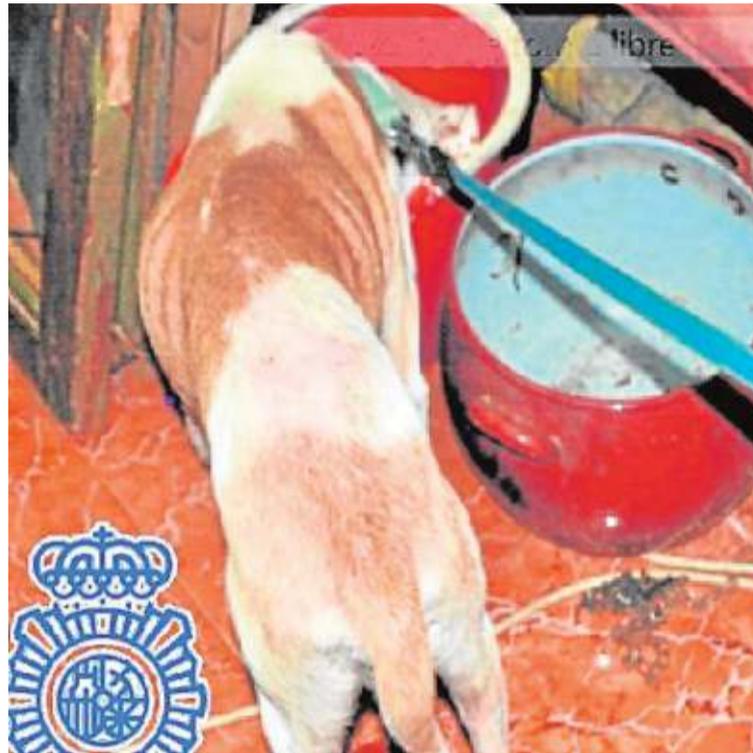


Image of the dog released by National Police. **POLICÍA NACIONAL**

There was no record of Rex having received the vaccinations required by Spanish and Andalusian law, nor did he have the mandatory microchip.

Rex is now in the care of a local animal shelter and the owners are to appear in court, accused of negligence and not respecting the legal requirements of keeping a dog.

School that was on brink of closure thrives thanks to foreign pupils**EUGENIO CABEZAS**

MARO. The state primary school in the small village of Maro has had its fortunes turned around with the arrival of foreign pupils. In 2013 the Virgen de las Maravillas school was on the brink of closure, with just 18 pupils attending classes.

However, with an influx of foreigners to the surrounding area,

along with a project which involves parents in the day-to-day running of the school called 'learning community', the school now has 74 pupils and has had to increase its number of classrooms. The project has included providing a library and classroom for infants and future plans include after-school activities, a canteen and breakfast club

facility.

Head teacher María Dolores Sánchez said on Monday, during a visit to the school by mayor of Nerja, Rosa Arrabal, and public education representatives, that she was, "extremely proud" of the changes that have taken place and that parents were attracted to the school thanks to its approach to parental participation.

Of the 74 children at the school, 31 are from other countries such as the UK, Holland, the Czech Republic, Germany, Belgium, Portugal and France, among others.

Junta hopes to open botanic gardens despite dispute over management**E. CABEZAS**

NERJA. The Junta de Andalucía has this week announced its intention to open Nerja's botanic garden this year, three years after work was finished on the site next to the Nerja caves.

José Luis Ruiz Espejo, Málaga's representative from the Junta, told SUR that he hoped it would be open to the public by summer.

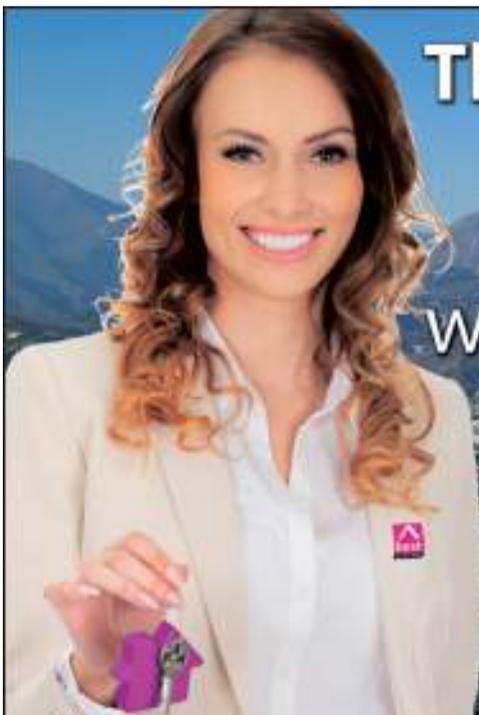
However, there is a dispute between the Junta de Andalucía and the Nerja Caves Foundation as to which body should be responsible for its management.

"Due to its proximity it's the ideal complement to the caves and it would be logical to look for a way to manage them together," Ruiz Espejo told SUR, adding that he was due to meet with managers of the foundation to discuss the issue soon.

However, the foundation responded by saying that it doesn't have the human resources available to manage both entities and that, as a botanic garden, it should be part of the network of 11 such places across Andalucía and as such, managed by the Junta.



Nerja's botanic garden. **E. C.**



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The luxury villa that the investor wishes to extend. ::MICAZU.COM

Plan presented to Ronda town council for specialised rural tourism hotel

:: VANESSA MELGAR

RONDA. A Dutch investor has presented a plan to Ronda town council to turn a luxury villa near the town into a special hotel promoting rural tourism.

The plan involves expanding the villa with six rooms into a hotel with 12 ensuite rooms. The hotel's facili-

ties would also include multi-purpose meeting rooms, a greenhouse, an environmentally-friendly kitchen garden and an open-air gym.

The central idea behind the hotel project, which is located in the Los Frontones area near the Seville road, is to build an establishment which focuses on the peace and quiet of ru-

ral areas and one that promotes meditation techniques as essential therapy, imbued with a nutritional vegetarian diet.

The investment will cost around 700 euros, with the extension expected to increase the building size to 1300 square metres, if approved by the council.

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Mayor of Torremolinos honours long career of former regional director of TUI

:: TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. Salvador García, former regional director of cultural tourism for TUI, has retired after more than 40 years in the tourist industry.

Torremolinos town hall organised an event at the Hotel Don Pedro in Playamar to honour García's outstanding achievements within tourism in the area. Personalities and friends came from as far as London, Paris and Mallorca.

José Ortiz, mayor of Torremolinos, presented the former director with a miniature replica of the Pimental tower - the Torre de los Molinos - the emblematic mill which gave the town its name.

In his speech, Ortiz said, "It is because of the continued work of professionals like Salvador that Torremolinos has the level of tourism that it has today."

García, who has spent his entire working life promoting tourism in Andalucía, began his career at the age of seventeen.

In 1967, he joined the Ultramar Express agency, which had its offices in Calle San Miguel and was later assigned to the TUI headquarters in Malaga.

In 1986, he was appointed regional director of the Cultural Tourism Centre and he was fundamental in the promotion of tourism for Spain. Salvador was a member of the Torremolinos tourist board, and he was recognised as 'Tourism Personality' during the Tourist Day celebrations in Torremolinos in 2014.



Salvador with the mayor. :: SUR

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The Caminito through scientific lenses

A study has analysed the behaviour of the brain during tourists' hikes on the path

Eye-tracking glasses and a headband with neuronal sensor on it record and analyse the vivid sensations felt by participants

:: FERNANDO TORRES

ÁLORA. Experts from the neuro-marketing company Fusión have carried out a study on people walking on the Caminito del Rey to find out the effect the site has on their emotions.

Before starting their hike on the path, people were asked to take part in the investigation by wearing eye-tracking glasses and a headband with neuronal sensors attached to it.

"The majority of people said yes, as they found our work interesting and the results would be totally anonymous," stated Gabriel Carrasco, the manager of the company.

The study consisted of two phases, the first taking place during the participant's actual visit when the movement of the person's eyes were analysed in real time, while the second phase came at the end when they were shown a series of images of the hike, at the same time as experts analysed their expressions and the behaviour of their brains.

The eye-tracking glasses were connected to a mobile device which stored the information and monitored the person's eyes.

"There were several cameras which



The eye-tracking glasses used by the company to track visitors' reaction. :: FERNANDO TORRES

recorded the eyeball and another which filmed what the participants were seeing," Carrasco explained.

These images allowed the technicians to establish "the bits which drew the visitors' attention and those that passed unnoticed," he continued.

To avoid bias, it was important that "everything was natural and real" and therefore crucial that the participants "forgot that they were wearing the glasses in the first place,"

he added.

Once the visit was over and adrenaline still very much in their veins, the participants were taken to another location on site where further monitoring was carried out in a more controlled environment, where photos "which evoke the feelings of the experience they have just had" were shown.

During this phase the experts showed visitors a series of images from various points of the hike.

KEY AREAS OF THE STUDY

► **The eyes.** The eyes transmit data constantly through the eye-tracking glasses throughout the journey. Every blink counts.

► **The brain.** Brain waves react to the different images that are seen by the visitor, sending data about the emotions that the participant is feeling at the time.

► **Other factors.** The study is designed to be as non-intrusive as possible, which is why the second phase is carried out immediately after the end of the hike. For the same reason, the glasses are light and are made so that you do not realise you are wearing them.

At the same time, the headband measured brainwaves at all times, generating large amounts of data which helped to identify all the feelings that the participants were experiencing.

Although the official preliminary results will not be published for another few weeks, Carrasco explained that they have already identified "three points on the foot-bridge stretch which captured the attention of more than 90 per cent of the participants".

Carrasco also confirmed that the attention of 92 per cent of visitors was drawn to a place in the first section of the path which had a "huge emotional impact" on them.

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HERE AND THERE

More job vacancies as Carrefour takes up place in Miramar**FUENGIROLA**

• **I. GELIBTER.** Monday saw the start of renovations to the hypermarket in the Miramar shopping centre in Fuengirola. Previously Eroski, the store will reopen as a Carrefour on 23 February.

Despite changing hands, Carrefour has stated that not only will it retain the 98 employees previously working in the Eroski store, but they will also hire a further 40 workers taken on through an agency.

The new staff will be spread throughout all departments and will receive 50 hours of training beforehand.

More UK-bound flights and new Prague route announced for this year**MALAGA**

• **P. MARTÍNEZ.** Passengers wanting to travel between the Costa del Sol and the UK this year will find more options available as the total number of seats available is to increase by 15%.

"In total there are around 3.5 million seats on flights to the Costa del Sol, a third of which connect Malaga with London airports," said the president of the Costa's tourism authority, Elias Bendodo at the end of last week.

Meanwhile, Ryanair has announced that from October there will be direct flights to Prague as part of its winter programme which will be announced soon.

Three Malaga scientists hope their robot will fly to the moon

Project 'Green Moon' wins a place in the final of TeamIndus competition 'Lab2Moon' with a robot that studies seed growth in lunar soil

• IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. Despite only entering the competition days before it took place, three young scientists have worked their way into the final after they developed and presented their project in just 24 hours.

Competitors were told to create something that could accelerate interplanetary human evolution in a sustainable way. Therefore student José María Ortega Hernández, biologist Gonzalo Rocada Romero and engineer Julián Serrano Arabal, all 23, who successfully designed a model which aims to study seed growth on the moon, have made it into the top 25 of approximately 3,400 entrants.

The only Spanish finalists, the Malaga trio's creation is apparently simple but would be crucial for the implementation of a human settlement on the moon. The prototype will essentially be composed of four test tubes, each containing different mixtures of 'soil' from both the Earth and the Moon. From this, they hope to be able to observe what the optimum conditions are for seeds to germinate on the Earth's satellite.

The young scientists are also receiving advice and support from numerous experts, including Professor Jesús Manuel Gómez de Gab-



The Green Moon team, in Malaga's Principia science centre. • S. SALAS

riel from the University of Malaga and the DHVTechnology company from Technology Park of Andalusia (PTA). With their help, the team intend to build the tin-sized prototype using 'Makerbeam' technology, which consists of small aluminium profiles that can be modified to adjust components.

The winner will be chosen in spring after competitors have completed the final challenge proposed by TeamIndus. This Google-funded Indian engineering company intends to land on the moon in Janu-

ary 2018 with the help of the country's space agency (ISRO). The three Malaga scientists hope to see their creation go to the Moon with them.

SUR contacted Paul Edward, an engineer with expertise in structures and mechanisms, who acted as a mentor to the young scientists, and also has connections at TeamIndus. "The project has truly great potential, due to the originality of the idea and the people involved. If it is well developed, they have a great chance of it being sent to the moon," he said.

Americans in Malaga raise their voices against Trump policies**• KISHAN VAGHELA**

MALAGA. Malaga Resistance, a group co-founded by five women following the Women's March in Granada on 21 January, held its first meeting a week ago in which members discussed their fears of what life for American citizens at home and abroad will involve under Donald Trump.

The group expressed concerns over Trump's latest controversial cabinet appointments as well as strongly condemning the travel ban and Dodd Frank rollback that Trump has introduced with varying success.

Nevertheless, Malaga Resistance emphasised the need to take action here in Spain, which would involve calling representatives from members' local districts in the US on Skype to keep up the pressure on them with the Senate elections in 2018 in mind.

At the meeting, attended by 15 people, the group confirmed its desire to involve the local community in Malaga by inviting environmental groups and universities to take part in a climate change march planned on 29 April.

The other initiative from Malaga Resistance members mirrors that of its Granada counterparts, who drafted and sent out a letter to the Islamic community in Spain to protest against Trump's policy towards the Muslim community in America and around the world.

The letter, which was translated into Arabic, French and Spanish, demonstrates both groups' willingness to reach out to mosques and Islamic centres such as the Centro Cultural Andalusi "to enhance tolerance" between the two communities by offering their "assistance with any projects in which you might find our collaboration helpful" which could include "question-and-answer discussion sessions about religion or politics."

One of the co-founders, Clare Alexandra Conrad, added that it was necessary to show the local community and people all over the world that this is not something that they agree with, given that they are representing their community abroad.



The queue of candidates outside the town hall. • JOSELE-LANZA

Marbella town hall opens up 500 job posts to the public**• M. PÉREZ / H. BARBOTA**

MARBELLA. Several hundred people queued outside Marbella town hall on Wednesday after the council announced it would be opening up a register for some 500 temporary job posts it will need to fill over the coming years. The majority of the jobs are cleaning, maintenance and gardening posts that will need to be occupied at various stages of the year.

The lists that residents could sign up for are independent of each other and 10 per cent of future jobs are reserved for those with a disability of 33 per cent severity, or higher.

Mayor José Bernal explained that this system would give the town hall access to workers as and when it needed them and gave applicants equal opportunities due to the degree of transparency.



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Big refunds could be on the way for home sellers over 'wrong tax charge'

Many people have paid a 'plusvalía' levy when selling their property, even if its value has dropped, but this might be declared unconstitutional

by **NURIA TRIGUERO**

MALAGA. After the scandal over the misleading sale of preferential shares in savings banks and the upcoming big payouts to homeowners for 'floor clause' interest rate overpayments, the next wave of mass financial lawsuits and possible refunds is already on the horizon.

An increasing number of property owners are taking legal action against local councils over the forced payment of 'plusvalía' (increased value) tax when they sell up. Town halls are continuing to charge the seller this tax even if the property is being sold at less than the price they originally paid for it.

The loophole arises as the value of the home that the council uses for its calculation is its 'valor catastral', (official taxable or rateable value). Following the pre-crisis property boom, real market values rose



The 'plusvalía' tax is an important means of income for town halls. :: SUR

well above this official valuation and councils can still therefore keep collecting the money, which is an important source of revenue, even if the seller is losing money.

An increasing number of people are taking legal action against councils. In December, a court found against Fuengirola town hall, after

a woman who had bought a flat for 220,000 euros and sold for 70,000 euros less still had to pay 5,000 euros of this increased value tax.

Campaigners against the charges, who are increasing in number, argue that the charge violates article 31 of the Spanish constitution which covers taxpayers' rights.

Banks must decide how to run their 'floor clause' payouts by Tuesday

by **JOSÉ M. CAMARERO**

MADRID. The government's deadline for banks to work out how they will process refund requests from their mortgage clients over 'cláusula suelo' (floor clause) complaints expires on Tuesday 21 February.

Well over one million homeowners could be due payouts after the EU ruled last year that some banks must refund overpayments made between

2009 and 2013 when banks failed to lower customers' mortgage rates as the euro base rate plummeted. Refunds will only be due if the 'floor clause' in mortgage contracts, which capped rate reductions, wasn't properly explained at the time.

Banks are not obliged to contact each client individually about a possible refund. They now have three months to process all requests

they receive. Reports this week said that most banks had prepared a standard form for customers to complete to claim back the money, although some were asking for a letter instead.

This week the Spanish Supreme Court has also ratified the EU's recent ruling, giving extra strength to people seeking refunds via the courts.

This legal route is still available if people are unable to reach an agreement with their bank directly. The court's ruling also gave a clearer idea as to what it considered to be a proper explanation or not of a 'floor clause' by a bank to a customer.

EXPECTING THE WORST

In the first economic report it has released since Americans voted for Donald Trump last November, the EU Commission states that the soon-to-be-27 member bloc is "assailed by risks" and faces "large uncertainties". The threats posed to the EU's economic stability, it says, are the political events that defined last year: Brexit and Trump's election victory.

Furthermore, Mariano Rajoy's assurances that he is doing all he can to reduce Spain's budget deficit seem to have gone unheeded: the Commission is now predicting that the country's deficit will be 3.5% of GDP this year, as opposed to the 3.3% it predicted in January and the goal of 3.1% (which itself is still higher than the limit of 3% that supposedly applies to all EU members).

This might seem like a tiny adjustment, but it equates to about four billion euros. And it comes just a couple of weeks after Rajoy's minority government announced that 2017 would be a record tax year: revenues are expected to be around 202.6 billion euros, said the Ministry of Finance at the beginning of this month. If achieved, that would mean an increase of 7.8% compared to 2016. Yet Pierre Moscovici, head of the EU Commission, remains unsatisfied that Spain's deficit-reduction targets will be met.

Moscovici is not without reason to be sceptical when it comes to Spain's fiscal promises. The Spanish government has missed Brussels' deficit-reduction targets

every year that Rajoy has been in power. Even though the Finance Department is expecting a tax bonanza this year, Spain's 2017 budget wasn't approved by the EU until about four weeks ago - a delay of months attributable to last year's farcical political deadlock. When combined with the general economic uncertainty that the Commission predicts will stem from Brexit and Trump's presidency, a downgrade in Spain's deficit forecast was virtually inevitable. But the rate at which the EU changes its various economic predictions, the current forecast probably won't be in circulation too long.

Such fluctuation is not just limited to the EU Commission, nor indeed does it solely concern Spain. Part of the problem is that various economic bodies and research teams are having to backtrack on forecasts made when they thought that Brexit and a Trump victory would plunge the world into crisis and despair. Granted, Brexit hasn't even started to happen yet - but its certainty in the medium-term future has failed to cause the economic backlash many predicted. The Bank of England, the IMF and the OECD have also recently made similar revisions to reports originally penned in the expectation of Brexit and Trump-induced chaos. While Spain has some serious work to do over the next two years to keep Brussels happy, these two factors may not hinder its efforts as much as the EU Commission predicts.



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Giving his trademark salute, Iglesias punches the air at the party meeting after winning the vote. :: MARTA JARA

Pablo Iglesias wins big majority at Podemos party conference

The future of his number two, Íñigo Errejón, is now in doubt after the two leading members fought against each other with different policies

:: SUR

MADRID. Pablo Iglesias, leader of radical-left-wing Podemos, strengthened his hold on the party at last weekend's conference in Madrid.

At the so-called 'Vistalegre II' meeting of party members, he won 89 per

cent of the leadership vote and his supporters won over fifty per cent of the votes for all the party's internal committees.

This was a disappointment for the number two in the party, Íñigo Errejón, who had presented an alterna-

tive set of ideas for the future direction of the party after both men had failed to seal a shared policy platform ahead of the meeting.

Although Errejón didn't stand against Iglesias as leader, he had sought to win a majority of places for his supporters on the 'Consejo Ciudadano' (people's council). In the end, his wing of the party took 33 per cent of the vote and this week, following 'Vistalegre II', he has demanded that 40 per cent of the still-to-be-formed party executive committee is made up his supporters.

Disagreement on direction

Iglesias and his supporters prefer that the party stays closer to its roots as a popular street movement with a more radical agenda.

In contrast, Errejón believes that the party has a better chance of winning power by working within established political processes. In addition, Iglesias favours setting up a 'shadow cabinet' of named policy spokespeople, whereas Errejón is against giving everybody a title.

It is now up to the 'Consejo Ciudadano' to decide if Errejón stays on as party number two.

Observers have commented that the swing back to a more radical Podemos could strengthen the conservative PP government's position. In parliament this week, the newly-energized Iglesias was seen arguing vociferously across the chamber with government MPs.

IN BRIEF

Woman held for finding 900 euros by ATM

SANTANDER

:: SUR. A 69-year-old woman was arrested this week after allegedly walking off with 900 euros that she found in the street. Police in Santander, Cantabria, said that a man first reported the loss on 25 January after a plastic wallet the money was in went missing by a bank just after he had taken it out of the cashpoint.

National Police were able to track down the finder, who has claimed she fully intended to hand in the money. The woman has no previous charges and has been released on bail.



Rajoy last weekend. :: AFP

PP party gives its full support to Rajoy

MADRID

:: SUR. Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has received the overall backing of his Partido Popular party at its 18th conference held in Madrid. Rajoy was re-elected leader for the fourth time with almost 96 per cent of the vote. Speaking after the result the PM said: "This result is an honour for me as this party has been my whole life."

The vote was seen as a boost for Rajoy, whose minority government is currently trying to negotiate parliamentary approval of its annual budget.

Gürtel macro-corruption trial sees first prison sentences

:: A. RALLO

VALENCIA. The first prison sentences have been handed out in the long-running Gürtel corruption trial.

In just one of several sub-trials making up this high-profile case, a court in Valencia found eleven of the thirteen accused guilty. This particular strand of the case relates to corruption in the awarding of contracts for the Valencia regional government's

stand at the Fitur travel show between 2005 and 2009.

Scheme mastermind, Francisco Correa, received 13 years, as did Pablo Crespo, Correa's right-hand man. Álvaro Pérez, also known as 'the moustache' was given 12 years.

The overall case relates to corruption in Madrid and Valencia linked to the PP party. Defence lawyers have said that they will appeal.

MPs call for parliamentary investigation after Bankia case widens

:: SUR

MADRID. The wave of allegations of malpractice by ex-bosses at Bankia took a new turn this week. Officials at the Banco de España and the CNMV, the body that oversees the running of the Spanish stock market, have been called for questioning by judges.

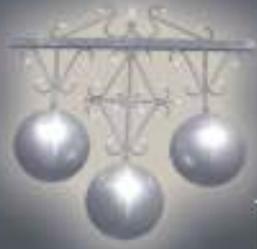
Investigators want to see if warnings from government inspectors in 2011 that Bankia wasn't in a fit state to be launched on the stock market were ignored. In the end Bankia became a quoted company but had to be rescued soon afterwards with 24.4 billion euros of public funds and many small shareholders lost money.

Following the latest news, MPs will debate also setting up a commission to investigate. Opposition MPs favour a focus on Bankia for it, which had closer ties to the ruling PP party, however the government is arguing for a broader remit that covers the financial crisis in general.

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Gibraltar's World Trade Center has now been officially inaugurated

On an optimistic note about the future post-Brexit, the chief minister said the WTC is Gibraltar's way telling the world "Here we come"

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. The latest addition to the World Trade Center Association Network is now open in Gibraltar, following the official inauguration by chief minister Fabian Picardo on Wednesday.

The ceremony was conducted by Picardo, deputy chief minister Dr Joseph García and WTC developer Gregory Butcher, and attended by the Governor of Gibraltar, Lieutenant General Ed Davis, government ministers and local business leaders, who were keen to celebrate the historic opening of this state-of-the-art, Grade A, 254,000-square-foot office building.

The aim of the World Trade Center Association network is to promote international prosperity through trade, a concept which Gibraltar is known to wholeheartedly support.

In fact, in his speech the chief minister was keen to stress that



The official inauguration took place on Wednesday. **SUR**

the opening of the WTC is a reflection of the optimism the Gibraltar government feels with a view to the situation post-Brexit.

Picardo told those present: "We are proud to be here today to inaugurate Gibraltar's first World Trade Center.... Brexit is not the beginning of the end of Gibraltar, it's actually just the end of the beginning, and the arrival of this first World Trade Center is Gibraltar saying to the world: "Here we

come."

The WTC Gibraltar will be a beacon for promoting international trade in the coming days, weeks, months and years, whilst Brexit is negotiated.

Several tenants have already taken space in the WTC in Gibraltar, including Regus, which is a FTSE 250 company, Bet Victor, BDO, Stan James Unibet, Costa Coffee and the global payment solutions company WaveCrest.

International recognition for Gibraltar's only zoo

D. BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. It is referred to locally as 'the zoo', but its full name is The Alameda Wildlife Conservation Park and it has just been awarded provisional membership of the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA).

This is the result of years of development and 12 months of hard work to bring the AWCP in line with recommendations made after inspections and assessments, but the efforts have paid off as it is now officially one of the smallest zoos in BIAZA and is mentored by the smallest member, Shaldon Zoo in Devon.

The AWCP is an integral part of the Gibraltar Botanic Gardens, and BIAZA accreditation will benefit the entire gardens and staff. For example, it provides access to groups such as the Plant Working Group, which is increasingly important within BIAZA. Plant collections, education and conservation are high in the working group's priorities and these are some of the Alameda's strengths. BIAZA's emphasis on biodiversity and wild spaces are also consonant with the Gibraltar Botanic Gardens' wider role and the Alameda is looking forward to contributing positively towards these.

Lib Dem Foreign Affairs Spokesman was in Gibraltar on a familiarisation visit this week

D. B.

GIBRALTAR. The Liberal Democrat Party's Foreign Affairs Spokesman, Tom Brake MP, paid a fact-finding visit to Gibraltar this week to achieve a better understanding

of the impact that Britain's decision to leave the European Union will have on the local economy. He held meetings with chief minister Fabian Picardo and deputy chief minister Dr Joseph García, who, as well as being the leader of the Liberal Party of Gibraltar, also holds responsibility for EU matters and work related to Brexit.

Mr Brake, who was taken on a tour of the border area and the airport as part of his familiarisation visit, reaffirmed his party's support for Gibraltar and the right of the people to self-determination.

THE ISLAND
BY OSIM

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'Mrs Clegg' objects

Spanish lawyer Miriam González, the wife of the former deputy prime minister, was displeased to receive an invitation addressed to 'Mrs Clegg'

BY IÑIGO GURRUCHAGA

LONDON. Miriam González Durán-terez recently received an invitation to take part in an event to mark the International Day of Women on 8 March. She was not surprised to have been invited, as she has been very active in women's rights, but she was surprised that the invitation was addressed to 'Mrs Clegg'.

She is married to former Liberal Democrat party leader and deputy prime minister Nick Clegg, but such was her displeasure at being addressed in such a way that she posted the invitation on Instagram and described it as "ironic".

A similar situation arose in Parliament recently, when prime minister Theresa May referred to the Shadow Foreign Minister Emily Thornberry, who is married to judge Lord Nugee, as 'Lady Nugee'. Thornberry was quick to protest, asking if it was correct for the prime minister to address a member of the



Miriam González Durán-terez is married to Nick Clegg. :: REUTERS

House of Commons by her husband's surname instead of her own.

Miriam González's objection aroused interest in the media. Some newspapers supported her, but an article in the Daily Mail accused her of being aggressively feminist and there were some very negative comments from readers.

The tradition of women adopting their husband's surname dates

back to the Middle Ages and was introduced by the Norman invaders, and most British women follow suit. In Spain, women retain their parents' surnames.

However, one comment pointed out that women never have a surname of their own. If they want to swap their father's for their husband's, there really isn't much difference.

Passport campaign launched to help Brits living in EU countries

Members of an anti-Brexit campaign group have a year to collect one million signatures to get the campaign heard in Brussels

BY JENNIE RHODES

MALAGA. An European citizens' initiative called the 'Choose Freedom Campaign' has been launched by Glyn Hughes, a 57-year-old engineering designer from Derbyshire and Sue Wilson, chair of the campaign group, Bremain in Spain. The aim of the campaign is to persuade the European Union to issue EU passports to any EU citizens who are at risk of losing their rights and freedoms as a result of Brexit.

The European Citizens' Initiative is an EU scheme that allows citizens to propose legislation if they can garner the support of one million signatories across the European Union. A minimum of seven European countries must be represented, with a requirement for a specific quota of votes from each of those member states.

UK citizens living in the EU will

be governed by the voting rules of their country of residence.

France, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Austria and Portugal prevent foreign residents from voting altogether. However, the European Commission has no control over these, as each country makes its own voting decisions.

Glyn and Sue have up to a year to collect the one million votes required. If successful, the campaigners will meet with the European Commission in Brussels, before being invited to present the petition at a public hearing in the European Parliament. The Commission would then have three months to decide on a course of action and to explain the reasons for their decision.

Sue says, "For those living in Europe, who have been denied the opportunity to vote because of the 15-year rule, this is fantastic news. Whatever the result of the campaign, I hope - at the very least - that it will prove to all European governments how strongly we value our EU citizenship and the lengths to which we are prepared to go to hold onto those rights and freedoms." For more information visit www.bremaininspain.com

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THERE IS A PRIZE FOR THE BEST
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Dogs and their place

I have read both Mr Harrison's and Mr Williams' views on a dog's "place" in the home.

I believe it all comes down to common sense and one's own personal preference.

I have two dogs; the older one sleeps in my bedroom on her own large bed on the floor next to mine. We both like to stretch out and have our own space and not be crowded. She does have her particular spot on the sofa (with her own blanket) but as I said before, she is the

senior dog and age must have some perks!

The younger dog, on the other hand, sleeps in the living room on her own very comfortable bed. The reason for this... she snores for Spain. We are all happy with this arrangement.

So, to sum up, we don't feel there is a general rule which should apply to every dog family. It's up to your boundaries, your preferences and your lifestyle.

LYNN HOPKINS
BY EMAIL

THIS
WEEK'S
WINNING
LETTER

An impostor

Purely to avoid confusion, might I point out there appears to be a cuckoo in the nest? In the edition of February 10th to 16th on page 31 one of those big cats is indeed a fraud. It is in fact, and I'm sure I'm not mistaken from this distance, a beautiful Daimler Dart or, as the Americans would have it, an SP 250. With a small block V8. It's third from the left, black with a tan hood.

The newer cars are nice but don't they all look the same? I am a Jaguar enthusiast; incidentally I've owned a mark 10, two 3.8 mark 2's and an XJS.

BILL CARR
BY EMAIL

Rise in theft

I read the article in the 3 February edition about business owners (in Torremolinos) warning about the increase in theft with concern that this is spreading right across Costa del Sol. Currently here for winter months in the Puerto de la Duquesa area, I have been a victim three times in two months, not all in Duquesa. Having reported two to the police I quickly realised that nothing can be done as they cannot be everywhere.

Talking to others who live here, 75% had been robbed at least once, some more. Different techniques are used but nothing appears to be reducing the number of incidents.

This leaves the question: what can be done to try and reduce the

opportunities for the robbers?

This burden could be shared by individuals and businesses. Some businesses are keeping quiet in fear of losing revenue but low cost measures may help deter opportunists.

Some businesses could get together in their communities and have CCTV cameras installed so checks can be done following each event to identify thieves which can help police. Notices could be placed at the entrance of outlets and streets that CCTV cameras are used and checked daily; supermarkets need extra outside security in car parks; some thieves puncture tyres in order to distract the driver's attention and then enter the car and grab what they can.

Another distraction trick used by gangs is that one falls/trips up in front of their target who goes to help; then another member of the gang comes from behind and takes the wallet or handbag. Numerous women have reported being stopped by a car for directions then their handbag straps have been cut and taken off at speed. People's quality of life is being affected and ultimately the income in the area could fall as tourists choose safer countries. Communities need to get together to plan strategies with the support of the police and individuals need to find ways to carry their belongings as safely as possible. Could this be an opportunity for makers of handbags and wallets to design safer models?

E. BLACKSTOCK
BY EMAIL

Law and disorder

PETER EDGERTON
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

It's not fashionable to be prejudiced these days, but I'm afraid I am. Against tidy people. Let's be honest, tidy people are a blight on our happiness, milling about as they do, sighing heavily and putting things in order for no discernible reason. They must be stopped.

In order to eradicate the problem, I think we're going to have to address it at its root. The principal miscreants are parents who teach their children to put their toys away before bedtime; they're clearly damaging society with their misguided actions. Toys are supposed to be scattered across all floors at all times - especially Lego bricks - principally, so that everyone can laugh at dad when he treads on something painful and hops about grimacing because he's not allowed to swear in front of

the children. These little comedy moments bring families together, pointing and giggling at the red-faced old duffer as he falls base over apex while trying unsuccessfully to rub his foot better, forgetting that he hasn't touched his toes since junior school.

Actually, when you think about it, you never meet interesting tidy people, a fact which can be corroborated by the following simple test. Next time someone's boring your socks off at a party, surreptitiously drop a small piece of paper on the floor and simply let it lie. After trying to restrain themselves for a minute or two - and, in the process, mercifully losing their train of thought - the inveterate tidy person won't be able to resist the compulsion to bend down and pick it up. This is your opportunity to leg it sharpish and

endeavour to find a group of revellers surrounded by gigantic piles of empty beer cans and plastic plates which they're not even conscious of. That's where you'll find some fun.

No, I'm afraid to say that tidy people all need to be locked away, lumped together in gated communities on the outskirts of town somewhere in order that they might inflict their misery on each other for all eternity, or at least until they see the error of their ways. Meanwhile we, the righteous untidy, will be left to scatter our belongings wheresoever we may choose whenever we feel the urge and to bask in the glory of our wild abandon. I recognise, of course, that it's a harsh remedy but it's the only feasible option if we value our freedoms and innate desire for a healthy society.

IDÍGORAS



Behind a surname

RACHEL HAYNES

This week, Nick Clegg's Spanish wife Miriam González Durántez remarked on the irony of being addressed as "Mrs Clegg" on an invitation to an event organised to mark international women's day.

Understanding surname acquisition is one of those issues that inevitably come up in a conversation between a Briton and a Spaniard, each finding it hard to digest the other's explanations. I was brought up with mums and dads, aunts and uncles, family units, all sharing the same surname. Today, I don't think I'm wrong in saying that the majority of women in the UK still take on their husband's surname when they marry.

It's one of those things that I took

for granted and didn't give much thought to, until, that is, I found myself looking at my home country and its traditions from the outside, through the eyes of a foreigner. Some things then become very hard to explain.

The same thing happens though when the Spaniard tries to explain his or her two surnames to someone from the UK. Carrying both your father's and mother's surnames with you forever may appear further removed from the times when women were considered their husbands' possessions than the British system, however any superiority claims in the field of gender equality are dubious. Here the father's name comes first; changing the order was only made legal relatively recently and a

minority actually take advantage of that possibility.

The important thing though is what's behind the name, whether the woman, labelled as "wife of" or "daughter of", is treated equally or not in society. Spain still carries the "machista" stigma, but neither country fares too well in the daily race to equality. Breaking the "glass ceiling" is a work-in-progress worldwide, but numerous scenes in everyday life show that certain ideas aren't changing. You only have to look into the car next to you at the traffic light. If it is occupied by a couple or family it's more likely that the man is in the driver's seat. The house is still considered a woman's responsibility, even when both have jobs, and men proudly claim they "help" rather than just get on and "do".

Miriam González Durántez has drawn attention to a custom that remains in place out of tradition and inertia. But doing away with it wouldn't change the minds of those few who still think of a woman as a possession. Cases of domestic violence still fill the courts and the hospitals - whatever the surname.

SUR English

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Carnival: breaking down social barriers

Franco frowned upon events that blatantly mingled religion with the purely secular, and carnivals were banned altogether



TONY BRYANT

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MALAGA. The prominent travel writer, Richard Ford, once questioned how the people of Andalusia managed to 'keep themselves', as every day seemed to be a holiday.

His first impressions of nineteenth century Andalucía epitomise the thoughts of many people who visit it today. It would appear that at whatever time of the year one visits the region, one is certain to encounter a festival or celebration of some kind.

Carnival is the first major festival of the year and its timing is closely tied to religious festivals, as are most fiestas in Spain. Traditionally celebrated in the week before Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, carnival was an opportunity to let off steam before the prohibitions of Easter.

The most popular is the carnival in Cadiz, a lavish extravaganza renowned for its outrageous costumes, colorful, and sometimes provocative, parades, and humorous tableaux. Its origins date back to the sixteenth century when Cadiz was one of Spain's major trading ports. Historians claim that the carnival in Cadiz was inspired by the grand carnival of Venice.

However, carnival is not just confined to Cadiz, because just about every city and town will celebrate with grand parades, theatre shows and plenty of Andalusian wit.



Bright colours and Andalusian wit abound in the flamboyant theatre shows. :: SUR



In Malaga the famous 'boquerón' receives a ceremonial burial. :: E. NIETO

poking fun at the government, the church, or anyone currently in the news even continued throughout the Franco era.

However, Franco frowned upon events that he considered blatantly mingled religion with the purely secular, and carnivals were banned altogether. Most Spanish towns and cities followed the ruling, but the 'Gaditanos', being famously independently minded, continued clandestinely.

In 1948, Franco allowed groups to sing in the streets, albeit under strict control, but he prohibited the use of the word carnival.

In 1950, Cadiz launched the 'Fiestas Típicas Gaditanas', which was a watered-down carnival celebrated in the summer. The street musicians could not be as blatant with their ridiculing songs, although their lyrics had hidden meanings in order to escape the censors.

The carnival, which was not restored to its full anarchic glory until 1978, is a fiesta of the people and an opportunity to let go of all inhibitions. Participating in the carnival celebrations, as with the feria, can make one feel the dramatic break with social order.

The parades are gaudy and ostentatious, with huge models of anything from Disney characters to phallic symbols, and basically, anything goes.

Electing the carnival queen is usually a huge event, although maybe not as popular as the drag queen competition. The drag queens are traditionally outrageous in appearance and their parades are spectacular. Some arrive on elaborately garlanded floats, others in outfits so extravagant one wonders how they manage to manoeuvre them.

People arrive from all over Spain and beyond to enjoy the noisy, colorful, festive atmosphere as well as the strange customs. One such custom is the 'Entierro de la Sardina', the burial of the sardine, usually celebrated at the end of carnival.

The city of Seville dedicates February to carnival and their celebrations carry all of the glamour and splendor expected from such a vibrant city.

Malaga's carnival is thought to have evolved from a sixteenth century custom; the clergy of the cathedral would dress the wittiest boy of the choir in the attire of a bishop. He would then perform a parody of religious ceremonies in front of hundreds of locals disguised with Venetian style masks.

This event was shortlived due to the uproar it caused and it was not until the eighteenth century when this popular festivity was recovered for the working classes.

Carnival has been essential in breaking down social barriers and providing escape from repression. People could let loose and dress up in any way they wished, and they used their songs as a unique opportunity to lampoon the ruling classes.

This tradition of criticising and

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CARNIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

► **Marbella.** Marbella holds its carnival from 12 February until 4 March.

► **Alhaurín el Grande.** This is a five-day event that begins on 27 February and concludes on 4 March.

► **Benalmádena.** Benalmádena residents and visitors are getting ready for their Grand Carnival, which takes place from 25 February until 5 March.

► **Torremolinos.** The carnival in Torremolinos begins with the Drag Queen Carnival on Saturday 4 March. The carnival will continue from 6 until 12 March.

► **Cártama.** Cártama celebrates a whole week of carnival from 25 February until 4 March.

► **Coín.** This carnival is a one-day event and is held on Friday 24 February.

📌 See page 40 for an extended list.

The burial consists of a parade that parodies a funeral procession and culminates with the burning of a large inflatable sardine. The burning of the effigy represents a purging of the vices and a restoration of order.

One of the top attractions is the groups of amateur musicians famed for their elaborate costumes, witty lyrics and catchy tunes. There are also the more serious groups who are in search of prizes and recognition in the official competitions. The most derisive are the 'chirigotas' who will scathingly attack anyone from royalty to television personalities. 'Murgas', meanwhile, are groups of singers whose songs are based on the current social and political events. They are most often accompanied by nothing more than a kazoo.

The 'coros' alternate between serious and light-hearted and appear in theatres or in the streets and 'comparsas' are the more serious singers, known for the solemn content of their songs. Finally, the 'cuartetos' are all about pure, unadulterated humour.

The groups' performances are often legendary, although most foreigners fail to appreciate the fast wit of the Andalusian.

Keeping up to date with the Spanish news is one way of understanding the topical jokes, but if not, one can always just enjoy the razzmatazz of it all.

'Like a pig in a puddle' is an Andalusian saying meaning to feel really well where one is, and this sums up the attitude of carnival.

British Society prepares to mark fifty years on the Costa del Sol

📌 TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. The British Society, one of the longest serving expat clubs on the Costa del Sol, is celebrating its golden anniversary this year. To mark the occasion, they are hosting a buffet lunch today, 17 February, at their headquarters in Benalmádena.

The event will be attended by members and former members, as well as representatives from the British Consulate.

In 1967, when the club was founded, life on the coast was very different. Franco was still in power, package holidays to Spain were just getting started and the popularity of the Costa del Sol had not yet grown.



The club's headquarters. :: SUR

However, there were enough British people residing on the coast, whether full or part time, to warrant a social club where they could meet.

The new British Society was established by an English couple named Fred and Mona Heap. They began with a temporary residence in the Hotel El Andaluz in Torremolinos in early 1967. By May of that year the society had moved into Villa La Loma in Torremolinos. After first renting the Villa Luisa, their current headquarters, the society purchased the property in 1977.

The villa has several social and sporting facilities, including pétanque courts, table tennis, an art room and a comprehensive English-language book, video and DVD library.

The golden anniversary is testament to the club's success, although it still welcomes new members.

LONDON STUDENTS QUIZ RESIDENTS

Geography students from Royal Holloway University met members of the 41 Club in Nerja last week as part of their annual field trip to the town. They spoke to British residents about life in Spain and were particularly interested in asking about the effects of Brexit.



:: SUR

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Soul in the Moonlight

A gig at the O2 arena in London prompts first Spanish gig by Otis Redding III

The son of one of the most legendary soul singers in the history of modern music is coming to the Costa del Sol

BY TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. Otis Redding III, whose father had worldwide hits with '(Sitting on) The Dock of the Bay' and 'These Arms of Mine', is to perform at the Moonlight Lounge in Benalmádena on Friday 24 March.

Otis Redding, known as 'The King of Soul', left his son with a musical heritage that extends far beyond the hit records for which he is famous.

Otis junior has been bestowed with his father's unique musical gift and he has put his talent to good use. Aside from touring and performing, Redding has been composing and arranging music for almost 25 years.

During the show in Benalmádena, which will be his first in Spain, he will perform many of his father's greatest hits, as well as popular gospel and old-school soul songs. He will be joined on stage by two of the coasts most popular soul singers.

Mike Harding and Simone Lisa are a husband and wife duo who regularly perform their gospel-inspired music at venues along the Costa del Sol. They persuaded Otis Redding III to come to Spain, which, as Mike told SUR in English, was not hard to do.

"The idea came about after my wife and I had performed with Otis at the O2 arena last October. We were performing at a soul revival concert that included Otis Redding III, Shakatak, Rose Royce and Imagination," Mike said.

Simone's father is a member of '80s funk sensation Imagination, famed for the hits 'Body Talk' and 'Just an Illusion'. She is also the niece



Otis Redding III will perform for the first time in Spain in March. :: SUR

INFORMATION

► **What.** Soul concert by American singer Otis Redding III

► **Where.** Moonlight Lounge, Sunset Beach Club, Benalmádena Costa.

► **When.** Friday 24 March.

of Grace Kennedy.

Mike's roots are firmly embedded in gospel and he has also had a long career in music. The couple struck up a friendship with Otis and they stayed in contact by phone and e-mail.

On their return to Spain following the O2 gig, they set about their plans to bring him to the coast.

Mike and Simone, who form 2 True Entertainment, the promoters of the concert, soon had everything in order. Otis agreed immedi-

ately and the possibility quickly became reality.

The concert will be held in the Moonlight Lounge at the Sunset Beach Club in Benalmádena Costa on Friday 24 March. Doors open at 7.30pm.

Tickets, which cost 35 euros, can be purchased online, although the promoters are expecting a full house, so early booking has been advised.

VIP tickets, which include champagne on arrival, meeting the artists at an after-gig party, and a signed photo of Otis Redding III, have already sold out.

2 True Entertainment is also planning to bring other legendary artists over Spain. They already have Mica Paris lined up, and with their connections, we should soon see a steady flow of 80s legends heading to the coast.

Information and tickets : www.2trueentertainment.com

A picture perfect place for art

Wendy and Doug Holmes have opened up a gallery in the Axarquía town of Periana

BY JENNIE RHODES

PERIANA. A new art gallery, run by English couple, Wendy Holmes and her partner Doug Elliot, has opened in Periana. 'La Galería' has been open since the end of January and exhibits work by local Spanish and foreign artists.

The current collection has paintings, photography and collages by six different artists and the works are for sale.

Future planned exhibitions include art using natural material such as stones, palm leaves and esparto grass, as well as photography.

The project is the brainchild of Wendy and Doug, who have lived in Periana for 11 years. Wendy is a retired tax inspector from Dorset and Doug is a retired businessman from London.

Doug, 72, says that he has always had an interest in art and at the age

of 20 bought his first piece from an artist on Bayswater Road in London for 110 pounds. "I have had it valued and I can tell you it's worth quite a bit more now," says Doug, He bought it, he says, because he was "looking for something blue" to match his office.

Wendy, 56, says that she became interested in art through Doug, but confesses that she is not particularly artistic herself. "My dad was a very good photographer and I think I learned something from him, but not really enough to take it up seriously," she says.

At the moment visits to La Galería, which overlooks the Viñuela reservoir just outside the town, are by appointment only and the couple are hoping to run monthly events and combine some of them with fundraising for local charities.

The website is updated regularly and includes information on making appointments as well as forthcoming events.

For further information: www.lagaleria.eu, email: lagaleriaperiana@gmail.com, phone: 951 139 153 or 618 236 615



Doug Elliot and Wendy Holmes at their gallery. :: ROB BELL

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Beatriz Ros goes hunting

The young Malaga artist is exhibiting at the Yuster/Giner gallery in Marbella

Fragility and violence are portrayed hand in hand in a display entitled 'La boca', which consists of different art forms and focuses on dualities

:: A. J. LÓPEZ

MARBELLA. 'La boca' - meaning 'the mouth' - is the name of an exhibition by young artist Beatriz Ros which is currently open at the Yuster/Giner Gallery.

The mouth is a frontier, a door, between the outside and the inside of the body. The mouth is where words take shape. The mouth is the idea, the image that Beatriz Ros

has used to create a display in which videos, installations, sculptures and patterns open different paths towards various dualities: man as an animal, the ambivalent dichotomy between hunter and prey, life and death, sensuality and fury.

"We are always prey for another person," she says. And we have come here, to this exhibition, to hunt. Or to be hunted, maybe. We shall see.

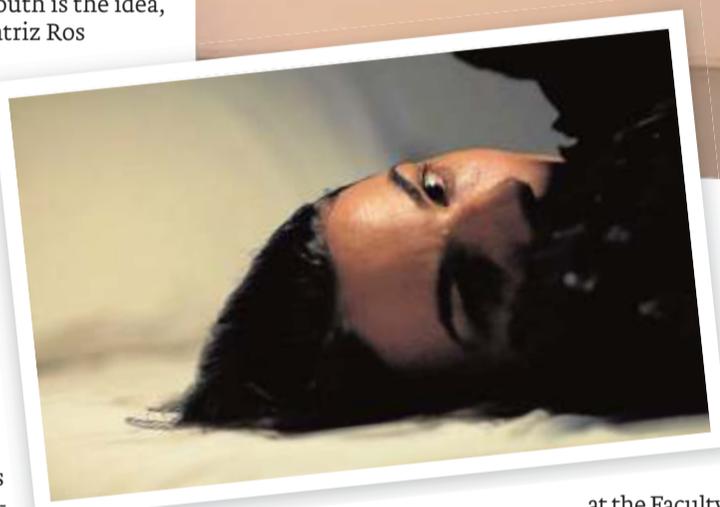
Because in 'La boca', Beatriz Ros turns elements of hunting into artistic, almost lyrical, material - as well as being an artist, she is also a poet - and creates her works in the mode of visual metaphors.

This latest exhibition presents different sets of deer antlers, spreading out like the branch of a tree. 'La boca' is also an illustration of the artist's career, because the display includes knots, and stitches, from previous projects such as 'Mi vida nunca' (2016, a joint exhibition with Violeta Niebla), 'Heartself' (2014) and 'En paralelo' (2012).

So, in a way, the deer almost becomes her alter ego. For example, in the installation called 'Adiós', the projec-



Ros, beside the projection 'No quiero saber si el color rojo es antes o después'. Left, in the video 'Porque te espero vuelo de ave'. :: J-LANZA



the video 'Mi pecho es un bosque de flechas' ('My breast is a forest of arrows') which was also included in 'Heartself' and was exhibited

at the Faculty of Fine Arts at Malaga University nearly three years ago.

The visual poetry of Ros continues to shine with special intensity in the video.

The exhibition offers four striking examples, two diptychs, beside the installation mentioned above, which presides over the main room. In the first, Ros handles a black stone like a gambler, the dark rock appearing to be another metaphor, like a clot, or a tumour. To one side, there are feathers, also black. And there is the sound of birds. And shots.

Ros is lying down like an arrow in a violet field, in another video of 'La boca'. And opposite the screen, a display case has ten spikes, made with glass from a television screen. "The thing that reflects us and injures us," she says.

Nothing is accidental in the work of Rosa, whose spikes recall Paleolo-

tor shows the image of a golden deer whose eye (the eye of Ros) blinks to send a message in morse code - a verse taken from the poem 'Pasión de la Tierra' by Vicente Aleixandre: "If blood had eyes, the slowest eyelashes would fan the way. Goodbye."

Executioner and prey

Blood appears to tinge the tense red ribbons in front of the screen, a finishing line coagulated with embroidered words. A phrase: 'Ahí hay un hombre que dice ¡ay!', used in schools to teach pupils to spell, features here as a game of relations, of mirrors, in the piece 'Ars memoriae', supported by deer antlers.

"I wanted to commemorate the act of looking on as prey, but also as executioner," says Ros, standing in front of the work which links with

'LA BOCA'

▶ **Artist.** Beatriz Ros (Malaga, 1984).

▶ **Venue.** Galería Yusto/Giner. C/ Madera, 9. Marbella.

▶ **Date.** Until 25 March.

▶ **Opening hours.** Monday to Friday 10am to 2pm and 5pm to 8pm; Saturday 11am to 2pm.

thic remains: nine found in the bodies of animals and one, inside a human. The point when hunting becomes homicide.

Ros appears wrapped and unwrapped in red silk in another video, 'El orden de los labios', the most sensual part of 'La boca'. It is intimate, and her darkened room is separated from the rest by opaque fabric.

And then another work awaits: 'Prueba de acción'. Two sets of antlers facing each other, in combat. And there are two black mirrors, one on one side, one on the other. They both reflect your face. Because you are the hunter. And the prey.

FACTS AND FACES

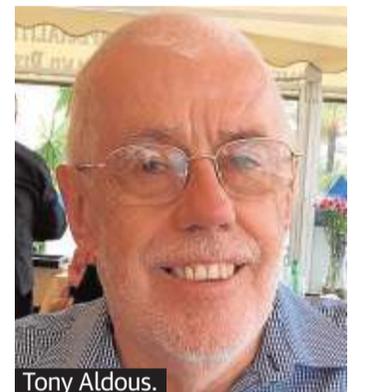
Marbella students win top Cambridge awards

MARBELLA

Three pupils from Aloha College have received awards from Cambridge International Examinations to acknowledge their performance in 2016. The Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards programme celebrates the success of learners in over 40 countries.

High Achievement awards in Spain went to Aloha College students Emma Sophia Olde Boer-rigter, Edward Retkov and Valeria Sinisi.

The principal of Aloha College, Elizabeth Batchelor, said that the awards recognised the talent, dedication and commitment of both learners and staff.



Tony Aldous.

All change at the helm of Age Concern

ESTEPONA

The Estepona and Manilva branch of Age Concern has a new president after Eileen Dry recently stood down due to ill health. The organisation's press officer, Tony Aldous, has been appointed in her place. The new president said of Eileen: "She has worked ceaselessly for the charity without thought for her well-being. So many people are grateful for the help and guidance she has given them."

The organisation has also announced that the Age Concern drop-in centre in Calle Zaragoza will be closing on 31 March. "The emphasis in the future will be about taking Age Concern to the people rather than expecting the people to come to Age Concern!" said the new president.

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THE RESTAURANT GUIDE OF THE YEAR



A selection of the most prominent establishments on Malaga province's restaurant scene by SUR food critic, Enrique Bellver.

From the most creative to the classics, the temples to local cuisine, grills, hotel restaurants, tapas bars and much more...

Discover them all in this bilingual publication that offers essential details on local eateries.

SUR

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REF. S.C.R.

I work in a company that made a verbal pact with a driving school so that all the workers could take a course to get a Spanish driving licence paying a flat fee that included unlimited theory and practice lessons. However, when I was taking the 20th practice lesson, the teacher told me that from the 25th lesson we

would have to pay 20€ plus VAT. This is not what was agreed, and I have the email that was sent to all the workers offering the course. What we can do?

According to the law, a verbal agreement is considered a contract, and therefore has the same validity and obligatory nature for the parties as a written contract. In this case, the email that you received proves that the agreement exists, even if you have no signed contract. You can therefore oblige the driving school to fulfil what was agreed, either by an amicable settlement or by taking the matter to court.

REF. E.E.N.

My gran lived in Spain from 1970 in a rented property governed by the old rental system, and when she died, my mother continued paying the rent without informing the owners about my gran's demise, since when we came to Spain we

stayed in the property as it was cheaper and more comfortable than a hotel. However, now my mother wants to leave that flat, but she is afraid that if she informs the owners that my granny passed away years ago, they can demand the payment of the amounts that we should have paid if they had updated the rent after the demise. I think that they could only demand our eviction considering that the contract would be invalid, but I am not sure. Could they claim anything?

The landlord is entitled to update the rent, but in order to do so, it is necessary that the tenant is reliably notified about the update and provided with a certificate from the National Institute of Statistics showing the official rate established for the update. If up until now you have not been notified and no movement has been done in this sense, then the owners could not claim the payment of any amount.

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Expert Fernando Arcas Cubero addresses the Press Club. :: AYTO DE MIJAS

Leading historian gives war anniversary talk

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

LA CALA DE MIJAS. The Costa Press Club recently discovered what it was like living in Malaga during the Spanish Civil War.

At a well-attended event held in the district town hall in La Cala de Mijas, members of the club and the general public watched a documentary on the oral history of the war and had the opportunity to ask questions about the events surrounding it.

The meeting was held the day after the 80th anniversary of the bombing of thousands of citizens

from Malaga fleeing the Nationalist troops on 8 February 1937.

Speaking at the event was Fernando Arcas Cubero, professor of History at the University of Malaga and a leading expert on the subject.

The documentary, entitled "Yo estaba allí" (I was there) and directed by Arcas Cubero, included the recollections of many people from Malaga who were children or teenagers at the time of the Civil War. Filmed in 2006, those interviewed all clearly remembered the events and carried the emotional scars decades afterwards.

De Cotta
Law

Mortgage Floor Clause Claims - Do you have a Mortgage on your Spanish property?

Following a judgment of the European Court of Justice on 21st December 2016 you may be able to claim compensation from your bank if your mortgage contains a floor clause (clausula de suelo). Many Spanish mortgages were linked to a variable interest rate such as the European Borrowing Rate (Euribor).

A lot of these mortgages had a floor clause which meant even when the official interest rate dropped to a very low level, the customer's mortgage was stuck at the floor rate. If you have one of these mortgages, you may now be able to claim for the wrongly charged interest going back to 2008 in many cases. The losses could be € 200 or more per month on a mortgage of € 150,000.

On Friday 20th January, the Spanish government published legislation on urgent measures for the protection of consumers in floor clause cases. It sets up a scheme for claiming compensation with time limits for the banks to respond and settle. There are a number of conditions attached to the scheme.

If you suspect that you may have a mortgage containing this clause and you are interested in claiming compensation, contact us for a free review of your mortgage deed on info@decottalaw.net

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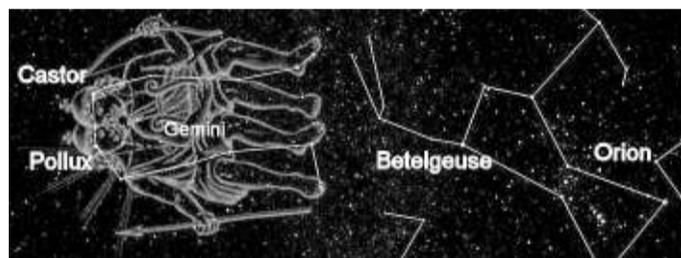
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THE NIGHT SKY

KEN CAMPBELL



Castor and Pollux

Of all the constellations of the zodiac, only one or two of them look a bit like what they are meant to represent. Leo does look like a lion and Scorpio is quite good but some others are hard to identify. Gemini is one of the better ones and does have a twin-like appearance.

Follow a line from Orion's belt through the red giant Betelgeuse in Orion's upper left corner until you come to two bright stars named after the twins Castor and Pollux. Castor is the upper star of the two and about 52 light years away, while Pollux is over ten times bigger than the Sun and only 32 light years away. The rest of the constellation forms two almost parallel lines of fainter stars extending out from Castor and Pollux towards Orion.

In mythology Castor and Pollux were brothers, conceived at the same time but with different fathers: King Tyndarus of Sparta, and Jupiter. Pollux, as the son of a god, was immortal and was re-

nowned for his strength, while his mortal brother Castor was famous for his skill with horses. Both brothers travelled with Jason in his search of the Golden Fleece and then fought in the Trojan War to bring their sister, Helen of Troy, home. They are traditionally depicted as armed with spears and riding a matched pair of snow-white horses.

Pollux was so overcome with grief when his mortal brother died, he begged Jupiter to allow him to share his immortality. Jupiter consented and reunited the pair in the heavens. Castor and Pollux mark the twins' heads in the constellation. With a telescope Castor can be seen as a double star and a recent discovery has found a planet in orbit around Pollux, and planets orbiting around at least seven other stars in the constellation.

More information :
www.costadelstars.com

Science teacher leaves school for six-month run across Europe

Aleks Kashefi has run from northern Norway to southern Spain to encourage others and to raise the profile of three charities

JENNIE RHODES

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Aleks Kashefi, a science teacher from Buxton in Derbyshire, passed through Vélez-Málaga last Friday, on the final leg of his 6,200-kilometre solo adventure to run the entire length of Europe, a distance of almost 150 ultra-marathons.

He completed the challenge ahead of schedule on Wednesday this week when he arrived in Tarifa. He had originally expected to finish this Sunday.

Aleks's journey began at the northernmost point of mainland Europe, Nordkapp in Norway, in the Arctic Circle, in August 2016 and, averaging 35 to 45 kilometres per day, finished six months later at the southernmost tip of Europe, the Punta de Tarifa.

Aleks's self-supported journey has taken him through freezing conditions, rough terrain and rain and he has slept outside almost the entire way.

Aleks, 38, said he has been "lucky to have had the support and generosity of several strangers along the route", be it with an offer of a place to rest, food, company on a run or simply a cup of coffee, adding: "All these people, without hesitation,



Aleks, taking a well-earned break on his European adventure. :: SUR

have shown kindness and compassion to someone they have never met and I am deeply grateful." Aleks has kept a log throughout his trip complete with photographs.

The log includes the highlights and challenges he has encountered along the way, including his tent breaking on the first day as well as his fall into a river, injuring his leg.

Aleks comes across as an incredibly humble man, but he is keen to share his story in the hope that he will provide inspiration to people, especially his former students; he wants to encourage them and others to be brave, to step out of their comfort zones and take on more challenges. "Where these actions lead isn't important, but the inspi-

ration it may provide others to get outside, to have less and do more, that ordinary people can achieve extraordinary things."

He is also hoping to raise awareness and donations for three British charities: The Stroke Association, The Thomas Theyer Foundation, and Mountain Rescue England and Wales.

More information : To support Aleks and find out more about him and his adventure visit his Virgin Money Giving page at: tinyurl.com/DonateRunEurope and find him on Facebook: [_Barefoot Aleks](https://www.facebook.com/BarefootAleks).



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A teacher from Marbella, now a US university associate dean

After years of intensive work and research, Marina Llorente has been appointed to the management team at St Lawrence University in New York



MÓNICA PÉREZ
✉ mperezg@diariosur.es

After moving to the USA over 30 years ago, Marina Llorente is now considered one of the country's top experts on Spanish poetry

MARBELLA. It takes time to read her CV. At present, it is 14 pages long and there are still more to be completed. Today, she is considered one of the principal experts on Spanish poetry in the USA. Her professionalism, expertise and effort have earned her recognition in a country where, although effort is rewarded, it is not easy to make a name for oneself, especially for a foreigner.

Marina Llorente decided to focus her studies and her professional career on the other side of the Atlantic three decades ago. She moved there in 1986, when she decided to apply for a place as a Spanish teacher at the State Education Department in California. She arrived on American soil on 12 October that year, a symbolic date for the conquest of a new personal and professional life, and her success was not long in coming. A few months ago, her colleagues at St Lawrence University in New York supported her nomination as Associate Dean of the Center for International and Intercultural Studies.

"It is a great honour to have been chosen from so many excellent candidates for this work, which is so crucial for the intellectual development of American students, because the experience of studying for six months or a year at a foreign university offers students the chance to integrate in a different culture at all levels, and acquire intercultural knowledge,"



Marina Llorente. :: TARA FREEMAN / ST LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY

she explains, proudly.

She knew at a young age that she wanted to be a teacher and, specifically, to teach Spanish literature. She has always loved poetry, so-

mething that was in evidence during her first classes with her teacher, Miss Conchita, at the Río Verde school. This love continued when she disembarked in the United Sta-

tes at the age of 26 and also while working as a teacher at schools in Oakland and during four years at Honolulu university in Hawaii, where she carried out research which made her the greatest expert on Spanish poetry in the USA.

Under professor Andrew Debicki, Marina Llorente studied for her doctorate in the speciality of contemporary Spanish poetry. With her doctoral thesis, 'From marginality to liminality: Transgressive Spaces in Spanish poetry 1975-1990' under her arm, she began working at St Lawrence university in 1997 as assistant professor. She is still there, but now she is an Associate Dean.

Opportunities

"I have always missed my family and the Spanish culture, but I must stress that I was made very welcome here, right from the start, especially when I became part of the American university teaching sector. I took advantage of each and every opportunity that came my way," she says, looking back over the past 30 years.

Between the publication of her first book 'Word and Desire: Transgressive Spaces in the Poetry of Spain 1975-1990' by the University of Málaga to the bilingual anthology of social poetry 'Activism Through Poetry: Critical Poems in Translation from Spain', which is to be published

this month, she has given hundreds of talks on literary criticism at national and international conferences, written articles in academic magazines, coordinated poetry recitals, published several books, and been awarded the chair of Spanish literature in 2013 at the university at which she works.

She likes to visit Spain whenever her work permits it. Her husband John, who loves Spain and speaks the language fluently, encourages her. However, she says the visits do not alleviate a feeling of sadness, of no longer forming part of a place to which one belongs.

"The distance from your own culture provides an objectivity which is impossible to achieve from inside but, at the same time, you lose the day to day aspect, the vital experience in itself, and that is what hurts most. I can see, observe, understand many things from abroad that I could not from within, but I can't experience them from here," she says.

Would she come back to Spain? Maybe, when she has retired. For the moment, no, even though she misses the Mediterranean, the celebrations, the food, the wine and "not being with my parents as they get older and my nieces and nephews as they grow up".

"Teodoro Adorno used to say that without memory there is no justice. So the study of how poetry tries to reveal those buried and/or silenced memories is one of the most important aspects of my research," she explains.

In her personal life she cherishes other memories, those of her place of origin, despite her successes. "Our situation, that of immigrants, is always difficult because you are between two cultures. Being welcomed with respect, receiving help to settle in, the way I was, is what I wish for everyone who migrates from Spain," she says.

"The American upper class has been interested in Marbella since Michelle Obama's visit"

:: M. PÉREZ

MARBELLA. The climate, the food, the quality of life: these are just some of the Spanish delights which attract Americans so much. At least, that is the perception that Marina Llorente has, after many years living in their country. The stereotype

of wild Spanish nightlife, she says, is mainly among young people. For those who know better, the main attraction is the country's history.

It was Michelle Obama who placed Marbella on the map for Americans. Marina says that her hometown has become an interesting ho-

liday destination for middle and upper class Americans ever since the former First Lady spent a few days there.

The picturesque historic town centre, the seafont, Puerto Banús, the 'pescaito frito' fried fish, the hotels and the cuisine hold a power-



ful attraction for those who long for a few days' relaxation, Spanish-style.

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DEBBIE BARTLETT

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

17 FEBRUARY 1995

Singer Rocío Jurado and bullfighter José Ortega Cano marry

February 17th 1995 was a glorious day for gossip magazines and TV news channels in Spain because one of the nation's favourite singers, Rocío Jurado, married handsome bullfighter José Ortega Cano in a lavish ceremony at 'Dehesa Yerbabuena' in front of more than 1,600 guests and numerous members of the press.

This was the 48-year-old singer's second marriage. In May 1976 she tied the knot with boxer Pedro Carrasco, and they had a daughter, Rocío Carrasco. They divorced in July 1989.

Four years after their wedding, Rocío Jurado and José Ortega Cano adopted two Colombian children, who they named José Fernando and Gloria Camila Ortega Mohedano.

Rocío Jurado was born in the town of Chiclana, in Cadiz prov-

ince, on 18 September 1946. Her father, Fernando Mohedano, was a shoemaker who performed flamenco in his spare time, and her mother was also musical.

Rocío's first performance was at the age of eight, when she took part in a school play. She went on to become a much-loved major celebrity, releasing over 30 albums and featuring in nearly a dozen films.

After their fairytale wedding, Rocío Jurado and José Ortega Cano became known as one of Spain's happiest celebrity couples, but that happiness was cut short when she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2004.

She underwent medical treatment in Houston, Texas, but by 2006 it was obvious that her health was failing fast. She died at her home, La Moraleja, in Alcobendas, Madrid, on June 1st that year, and



The golden couple's happiness was cut tragically short. :: SUR

was buried as she had requested in her home town of Chipiona, in the San José cemetery.

José Ortega Cano had been a successful bullfighter, who had survived being gored in the liver in 1987. He continued with his career for a while after his marriage to Rocío, but then decided to retire from bullfighting in 1998.

He made an attempted comeback in 2001, but went into retire-



ment once again in 2004 to look after his wife during her illness. Since her death, he has only entered a bullring on one occasion, in Olivenza in 2007.

On 29 May 2011 José was involved in a very serious car accident on the A-8002 highway in Seville province; the driver of the other vehicle was killed, and he was seriously injured.

He remained in hospital for sev-

eral weeks, and was later given a prison sentence of two years, six months and one day by a court in Seville for reckless homicide and reckless driving in connection with the car crash. He was said to have been three times over the legal drink-driving limit and was driving at 125 kph in an area where the speed limit was 90 kph when he crashed head-on into the other car.

f Bilingual crossword inside back page

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Boda	Wedding
Torero	Bullfighter
Cantante	Singer
Prensa	Press
Personaje	Celebrity
Famoso	Famous
Cotilleo	Gossip
Revista de corazón	Celebrity/gossip magazine
Casarse	To get married
Invitados	Guests
Canción	Song
Gaditana	Of Cadiz
Fallecimiento	Death
Enfermedad	Illness
Querida	Loved
Disco	Record
Ceremonia	Ceremony
Balada	Ballad
Voz	Voice

Menus for children and young adults

Sunday Lunch & Early Bird Menus

Chef's seasonal blackboard suggestions

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DENISE BUSH

GARDENING

Euphorbia characias

Also known as mediterranean spurge, this plant is a statuesque herbaceous perennial native to the Balkans and Turkey

Euphorbia characias is a member of the huge plant genus Euphorbiaceae which has over 2,000 species.

In its natural habitat, E. characias is found growing on dunes, coastal headlands and grasslands and prefers dry, gravelly soil and open land.

It is a vigorous, spreading perennial with blue-green leaves arranged spirally around the stems and fragrant greenish-yellow flowers in early spring which attract butterflies and bees. The flowers do not have petals, instead they have showy lime-

green bracts that form in dense, bottle brush like inflorescences. Once mature, E. characias can reach a height of around 1.20 metres by about the same width.

After blooming, cut the flower stems right down to the base to make room for new growth.

Like all euphorbias, care must be taken when handling as all parts of the plant are toxic and the sap can also be a skin irritant. Always wear gloves and prevent contact with exposed skin and avoid touching your eyes. Not only are euphorbias toxic to humans, they are also toxic to horses, livestock and pets.

Mediterranean spurge loves full sun and is drought tolerant once established although it will benefit from watering occasionally during the hottest months.

It is a vigorous plant which spreads by underground rhizomes which form lateral root buds. This makes it easy to propagate but also makes it quite difficult to eradicate, especially if it is grown in moist, rich soil or is allowed to grow without check. The seeds, which form in 3mm capsules, are not always viable but it is possible that it may seed too. E. characias makes it an ideal ground cover plant, however it can also be grown in a container which will prevent it from becoming out of control.

If you can find it, E. characias subspecies Wulfenii 'Lambrook Gold' is a cultivar with shorter stems and brighter flowers.



Euphorbia characias and a close up of the blooms (inset). :: SUR

READER'S PHOTO



:: ANN PENNINGTON

A SPLASH OF VIBRANT RED

Ann Pennington sent in this photo and says, "The garden is changing now, bulbs appearing, roses budding, another few weeks and its spring again! I discovered this lovely amaryllis amidst the lilies, such a vibrant red, I didnt know I had any in there!"

GARDENING HINTS FOR FEBRUARY

Planting lilies

Although lilies look very exotic, they are surprisingly easy to grow. They are not fussy; will grow in most soil types and PHs and will grow in full sun or light shade.

What they do demand is good drainage; they will soon rot in waterlogged soil. Adding organic matter will not only add nutrients to the soil, it will improve soil structure and drainage too.

Make a hole about a foot deep and mix a little bone meal into the bottom. When the first green leaves appear you can top dress the soil with a sprinkling of organic fertiliser and water it in.

Spreading a mulch over the top after planting will help to insulate the ground in case there are any hard frosts and will help keep the soil moist and cool.

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

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

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

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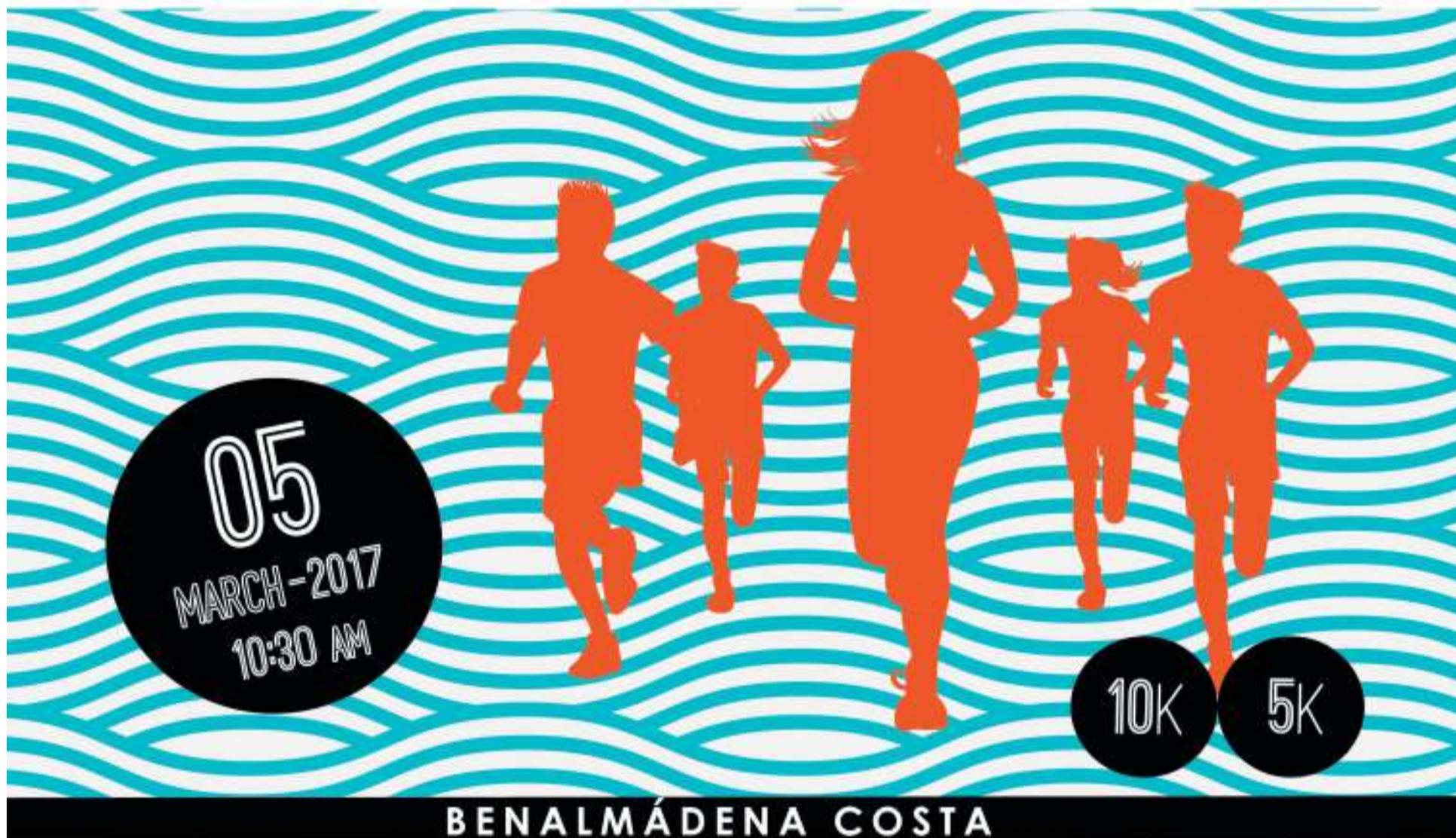
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Southern Spain has a multitude of hidden corners just waiting to be discovered: this week we suggest you take the road to...

Andalucía

Hot springs and history in Alhama

The town in Granada province has interesting geological features as well as historic buildings

✚ JAVIER ALMELLONES

“Hanging over an enormous rock or peak like an eagle’s nest,” is how French writer and traveller Théophile Gautier described Alhama de Granada, which is also known as the Town of the Gorges, over 200 years ago.

Two centuries later, this description is still perfectly apt and this town in the Poniente region of Granada, which borders the Upper Axarquía region of Malaga province, never fails to impress.

Before or after taking a walk through the historic town centre, visitors will not fail to see impressive views of the ‘tajos’, or gorges, a geological area which is now protected as a natural monument of Andalucía. These consist of several sandstone canyons, carved out of the rock over thousands of years by wind and, especially, by water.

This has been patiently carried out by the Alhama river, forcing its way through and leaving a remarkable scene behind it. Earthquakes which have occurred in this rugged area in recent centuries have also played their part.

Los Tajos have coexisted alongside the ‘jameños’ (meaning ‘alhameños’, the people of Alhama) for all this time. What we see today as an important natural resource has actually formed part of everyday life in this town for centuries, since the Moorish era. Between the rocks runs the short but intensive medieval path of Los Ángeles. This route, which is suitable for anyone who likes walking, leads to old flour mills and water channels which owe their existence to the Alhama river. For that reason, this sandstone scenery also has an important ethnological value.

In this area you can also visit the chapel which is dedicated to the Virgen de los Ángeles, from whom muleteers used to request protection on their journeys.

Nature has also been whimsical in other enclaves in the municipality of Alhama de Granada, as can be seen from the intricate network of paths which run through its territory. Many of these lead into the Sierra de Tejada, home to the peak of La Maroma (2,069 metres).

However, in addition to its environmental resources, Alhama de Granada can also boast an interesting history. Few other places in Andalucía have such interesting monuments, because this town was important during and after the time



View of the historic town centre from Los Tajos, which are now a protected area. ✚ TURISMO DE ALHAMA



Alhama’s hot springs are a tourist attraction. ✚ T. A.

of Al-Ándalus.

Without even needing to leave the historic town centre, you can find remains which principally date back from the Roman era to the 17th century.

Perhaps the most famous place of interest in Alhama is the Balneario, or spa, which is situated outside the town. In fact, in ancient Arabic the word Alhama meant ‘hot

water’, referring to the hot spring which has existed since the Romans discovered its curative powers in the 1st century. However, it was in the 12th century that what is known today as Los Baños was built, with a pool into which the water flows and caliphal-style arches. Beside this building, which nowadays is privately owned, there is also a Roman bridge, dating back

to the period when Alhama was known as Artigi Lucensis.

The remainder of its monuments are situated in the oldest part of town, in a winding labyrinth of streets which are a reflection of its Andalusian past.

Taking a short stroll through these narrow streets, visitors will come across civil and religious buildings of great artistic value. One of these is the church of La Encarnación, which is Gothic in style and was ordered to be built by the Catholic Monarchs over a former mosque in the 15th century.

Another interesting church is that of San Diego, which is Baroque and was constructed in the 17th century. These days it is occupied by Clarissa nuns, who are famous for their homemade confectionery. The third important religious building is the Iglesia del Carmen, a former convent of the order of Carmelitas Descalzas which combines Baroque and Renaissance features.

Among the civil buildings which are outstanding in terms of age are a castle, currently privately owned, which was built over a Moorish fortress, and a silo which used to be a synagogue during the time of Al-Ándalus.

Nor should we forget the building which used to be the Queen’s Hospital, ordered to be built by the Catholic Monarchs; it was constructed on the site of a Moorish palace and contains Renaissance and Mudéjar features.

There is also part of what was once a jail, built in the time of Carlos II in the Plaza de los Presos. Nowadays this building houses the Alhama de Granada Information Centre, which is the ideal place to learn more about the history of this interesting town.

The tour of places of interest should also include two which were built in the 16th century: the fountain known as the Caño Wamba, which bears the arms of the Catholic Monarchs and the shield of Carlos I, and the Casa de la Inquisición, the House of the Inquisition, with its remarkable façade. This is the perfect time of year to try some of the typical dishes of Alhama de Granada, such as the ‘olla jameña’, a stew made with chickpeas, bacon, pork tail, potatoes, and local spring water. For local people, the water is one of the most important ingredients to ensure that this hearty warming dish comes out perfectly.

In addition to this speciality there are other traditional items from this area such as beef, cured meats and goats’ cheese. They all go very well with the wine which is produced in this region. February is also a good month to experience some local traditions, such as the Carnival celebrations which this year will be taking place between the 24th and 26th.

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Fancy dress during Carnival

The most popular day is the last one, the Sunday, which is known as the ‘domingo de Piñata’, in which nearly every local resident takes part.

As well as the usual satirical songs, the festivities include fancy dress and masks. For those who would like to join in, it only takes a bit of imagination and a hunt through some old clothes to create a suitable costume.

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EXHIBITIONS

New Longman's

Estepona. From 18 February until 5 March, Plaza de Manilva, 6

An exhibition of acrylic and water-colour paintings by Emmanuel Janvier. The inauguration evening on 18th starts at 7pm and will be accompanied by a concert by mezzo-soprano Clarice Williams.

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.

Hadaly Villasclaras

Malaga. Until 24 February, Facultad de Bellas Artes, Campus El Ejido, University of Malaga. The exhibition 'Death or Glory, (just another story)' will be on display in the exhibition area of the Facultad de Bellas Artes.

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, first floor. 'A no entender entendiendo' is an exhibition of paintings in large format by recognised Madrid artist Jesús González de la Torre.

Eugenio Rivas

Malaga. Until 2 March, Alianza Francesa, C/Beatas. The exhibition by Eugenio Rivas is entitled 'Fall again, fall better'.

A gallery for King's sculptor

JENNIE RHODES

NERJA. The artist responsible for the sculpture of King Alfonso VII on the Balcón de Europa in Nerja has opened his own gallery in the town.

Francisco Martín's collection of oil and acrylic paintings, along with sculptures, can be found at 'Pintada 27. Galería María Soto' on Calle Pintada, in the town centre. The gallery is named after Martín's wife, María Soto, who is a gallery director.

The artist, who has lived in Torre del Mar since moving there from Cáceres as a child, says he is "very excited" about this new project and that he is "in love" with Nerja.

Other well-known works of his include the life-size sculpture of 'Chanquete', the fisherman from the famous 1980s television series set in Nerja, 'Verano Azul', and a bust of Picasso, which he was commissioned to make by Tourism Ministry for the for the 2003 Fitur travel market.

Although Chanquete is staying



Artist Francisco Martín at his new gallery. :: E. CABEZAS

put in Nerja's tourist office, Picasso welcomes visitors as they enter the gallery.

There are around 100 works of art in the space, which show the different stages of Martín's career, from wild animals and landscapes to more abstract works and more sculptures, including his vision of Don Qui-

ote. The artist also has 70 works around the province, including Alcaucín's famous sculpture of mountain goats and the farm labourer in Algarrobo.

The gallery is located in a building which is believed to date back to around 1870 and, according to Martín, has been relatively unchanged.

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.

Lawrence Weiner

Malaga. Until 12 March, Centro de

Arte Contemporáneo.

Lawrence Weiner first exhibited in the CAC Malaga in 2009. He returns with four works entitled 'There are Things that Move Outside of Motion, 2001'

Expo Jurassic

Malaga. Until 26 February, Recinto Ferial. An interactive exhibition of life-

size dinosaurs. Tickets from www.expojurasico.com

Benezra Gallery

Marbella. Until 31 March. La Quinta, between Marbella and San Pedro.

This new gallery specialises in contemporary art and sculpture as well as fine art and impressionist sales.

Magpie International Gallery.

Marbella. Until 23 February. C/Virgen del Pilar.

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

Beatriz Ros

Marbella. Until 25 March. La Galería Yusto-Giner, C/Madera. The exhibition 'La Boca' is by Malaga artist Beatriz Ros.

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.

Sean Smith

Mijas. Until 13 March, Casa Museo de Mijas.

An exhibition of photographs by Sean Smith.

Annabel Keatley

Almuñécar. Until 3 March. Espacio Creativo, C/Baja del Mar.

An exhibition and paper-making workshops. Also 'mini cuadros' small format art from international artists made especially for the exhibition. For workshops tel: 699 801 613



Sean Smith, Mijas



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EXHIBITIONS

Fernando Torres

Vélez-Málaga. From 21 February. Sala el Pósito.

An exhibition entitled 'Paisajes Andaluces' by Fernando Torres.

Artistas Eclécticos

Mijas Pueblo. Until 17 March.

Clinica Veterinaria, Avd México 21. Works by Sinikka Ahokas-Gröhn, Elaine Carlton and Richard Wood. www.artistaselecticos.com

Mercedes Llamazares

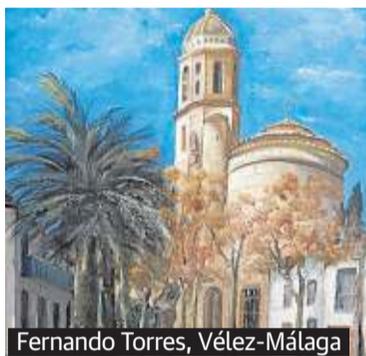
Los Bolichos. Until 23 February.

Sala de Exposiciones, Los Bolichos town hall.

A selection of water colour paintings by Mercedes Llamazares.

José María Córdoba

Fuengirola. Until 28 February,



Fernando Torres, Vélez-Málaga

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.

Happy Artists

Mijas Costa. Until 28 February Hotel Carmen, Boulevard La Cala.

This exhibition by local artist Joy Fahey comprises of watercolour and acrylic paintings.

Santini Gravini

Mijas. Until 6 March, Centro Cultural de La Cala.

An exhibition by sisters Hana and Gabriela Santini Gravini.

Jane Kleinschmit

Cómpeta. From 18 February until 11 March, Galería Centro de Bellas Artes.

German impressionist, artist Jane Kleinschmit portrays her love and passion for her life in Granada through a large selection of dazzling canvasses.

'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 Al-Ándalus.

CHARITY

Greg Peck Memorial Trophy

Marbella. 17 February, 9.30am. Marbella Country Club.

Shotgun start, Individual Stableford. 100% funds to Cudeca Cancer Hospice. MGCC Members 25€, Non Members 65€, just lunch 15€. reservas@marbellagolf.com or tel: 952 830 500 www.marbellagolf.com

Charity dinner

Mijas. 23 February, 7.30pm.

Olivia's, La Cala de Mijas. 55€ To raise funds for Cancer Research UK Milada Fitzgerald of deVere Spain, is going to climb Mount Kilimanjaro. To help raise money a

gala dinner is being held. The ticket price of 55€ includes a drinks reception, followed by a three-course meal. Guests can also take part in a charity raffle, presented by TV personality and owner of Olivia's, Elliott Wright, enjoy live entertainment and a late-night disco.

Rotary Club Gala Dinner

Estepona. 4 March, 7pm. Teatro Felipe VI.

A charity gala dinner with entertainment provided by band 'Hybrid', the School of Russian Ballet and 'Chiquitina', an adaptation of the musical 'Mamma Mia'. There will also be performances by magician David Villalobos and the 'La Voz Kids' finalist Charlotte Summers.

Flamenco fashion for cancer

Antequera. 4 March, 7.30pm.

Antequera Golf Hotel. Flamenco fashion show by Patro Flamenca to raise funds for the Asociación Española Contra el



Kleinschmit, Cómpeta

Cáncer (AECC). Guest of honour Ardián Martín. Vocals El Callejón.

Shenanigans with the Goldies

Calahonda. 18 March, 6.30pm. The

Millenium. 10€ Acta appearing at this Cudeca

Goldies charity event are Sam Oliver, Deborah Dee, Reality International Duo, Jochen Janz, Tina Hall, Marinella Graitsis, Carl Coulton, Susan Mohr, One Wish Steve among others. Limited tickets: tel: Steve 952 934 793

MUSIC & DANCE

The Wall Bar

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

18 January. Son de Oro. Modern neo jazz pop with vocals from Estibaliz Guerrero and Rafael Quezada (Foki) guitar bass and flute. **17 February.** Susan Valery and Adrian Lombardi. Jazz and vocals.

Mäbu

Malaga. 17 February, 10pm. Sala Velvet Club, C/de las Comedias. Mäbu is an indie band from Bilbao.

H Mafia and LASAI

Malaga. 17 February, 10pm. Sala Trinchera, C/Parauta. 8€ in advance, 10€ on the door.

LASAI visits Malaga for the first time this weekend for his concert at the Sala Trinchera which also features H Mafia and other special guests. www.salatrinchera.com

Nunatak

Malaga. 18 February, 10pm. La Cochera Cabaret, Avd Los Guindos. The band Nunatak will be in concert and are presenting the project 'Entrada Verde'. People pay just two euros extra for their ticket and these extra funds will be sent to support the clean up campaign of the Mar Menor in Murcia. www.lacoheracabaret.com

Dúo Duazzo

Torremolinos. 18 February, 8pm. Casa de Cultura. Free.

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The duo made up of pianist David Caro and saxophonist Javier carmona, both from Malaga, will be in concert.

The ABBA experience

Fuengirola. 18 February, 8pm. 19 February 7pm. Teatro Salon Varietés.

The golden years of 1970s pop with this ABBA tribute. www.salon-varietestheatre.com

Classical concert

Mijas Pueblo. 19 February, 7pm. Parroquia Inmaculada. Free.

Soprano Sonia García Quintero, Contralto Mariza Ruppman and pianist Heather Bellene will be performing Stabat Mater by Pergolesi.

Revival

Fuengirola. 25 February, 8pm. Teatro Salon Varietés.

A tribute to the bands of the 60s, 70s and 80s. www.salon-varietestheatre.com

'Start spreadin' the news'

Fuengirola. 26 February, 7pm. Teatro Salon Varietés.

Peet Rothwell and Martin Joseph perform tributes to the best crooners of all time such as Frank Sinatra



Ingegjerd Bagøien Moe. :: SUR

Dorina Komani. :: SUR

Trond Halstein Moe. :: SUR

Opera comes to the coast

:: JENNIE RHODES

NERJA. Trond Halstein Moe, from the Norwegian Opera and Ballet in Oslo will be giving two concerts in Nerja in February, together with his daughter, soprano Ingegjerd Bagøien Moe, accompanied on the piano by Dorina Komani from Albania.

Trond Halstein Moe has been a member of the Oslo Opera since 1988 and has performed around 75 times nationally and interna-

INFORMATION

► **Nerja:** Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. 22 February, 9pm.

► **Calahonda:** The Norwegian Church at Calahonda. 23 February, 7pm.

tionally and has made several TV and radio appearances.

His daughter, Ingegjerd, has performed as a soloist in Oslo well as in Cordoba.

In 2013 she was a semifinalist in the 'Jacinto Guerrero' international singing competition in Madrid.

Together, they will perform extracts from operas and operettas, accompanied by the young pianist Dorina Komani, who is just finishing her Master's degree in Music in Norway.

car and 'Los Arcos' choirs. Conducted by José Antonio Guerrero.

Champagne Jam

Calahonda. 18 February, 10pm. Millennium Music Bar.

Champagne Jam is an international group playing 50 years of rock, blues and rythmn and blues.

Tangos de Siempre

Torremolinos. 19 February, 9pm. La Casa de Los Navajas.

Tango music performed by Gabriela Loria and Juan Seles.

Amaranto quartet

Torremolinos. 19 February, 9pm. Auditorium Casa de la Cultura.

'Noches de Boleros' with the Cuarteto Amaranto.

Finnish concerts

Malaga. 18 February, 8pm. Museo de Vidrio.

Fuengirola. 19 February, 5pm. Casa de la Cultura.

Benalmádena. 20 February, 7pm. Castillo Bil Bil.

Violin and piano recital

Vélez-Málaga. 23 February, 9pm. Teatro del Carmen

Ana Márquez González and Irene Guirado Isla. Entry by invite (from the Town Hall)

Stars of the West End

Mijas Costa. 24 March. Teatro Las Lagunas

The great hits of the West End performed by Mike Sterling, Jo Gibb and Michael Conway. Tickets 20 or 25€ www.ticket-source.eu/bigm promotions or One Stop Shop, La Trocha; Tel: 952 661 819 Dinner accompanied by the stars at Tamisa Golf 22 March; La Sala Puerta Banús 23 March and La Sala, Sun-born, Gibraltar 25 March. ▶



Flamenco for charity, Antequera

and Michael Bublé. www.salon-varietestheatre.com

Rob Sas Band

Coín. 25 February 9pm. Coín Sports and Show Bar

The Rob Sas band are in concert.

Música Con Encanto

Marbella. 23 February, 7pm.

Auditorium Trapiche de Guadiza, Av Oriental, San Pedro de Alcántara

Gabriela Montero, winner of a Grammy Latino, will be holding a piano recital. Tel: 689 000 944 www.musicaconencanto.org

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

Malaga. Teatro Cervantes 19 February, 12 midday. Magic and adventure at the hands of composer John Williams with sound tracks from Indiana Jones and Harry Potter.

Noches de Burriana

Nerja. 17 February, 24 March. Playa & Sol Restaurant, Burriana beach

A new season of opera on Burriana beach. Tel: 690073871 or email: ventana.abierta.acp@gmail.com

Atarfe symphonic orchestra

Torremolinos. 18 February, 8pm.

Iglesia de la Encarnación Mozart's Coronation mass and Mendelssohn's Violin concerto with the Manuel de Falla, Almuñé-

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www.prisonisland.es

George Benson in concert this summer



Jazz guitar legend George Benson. :: SUR

MALAGA. One of the greatest jazz guitarists of all time and winner of ten Grammy awards, George Benson, will be performing live in Marbella this summer.

His repertoire includes some all-time favourites such as "Never Give Up on a Good Thing", "On Broadway" and "Give Me the Night".

Ticket prices vary; the VIP ticket holders (275 euros) will get a pre-show cocktail and front-row seats.

DETAILS

► **When.** 21 July, doors open 8pm. Paul Maxwell 9pm. George Benson 10pm.

► **Where.** Club de Tenis del Hotel Puente Romano, Marbella.

► **Tickets.** Prices from between 35 and 275 euros. www.crazymusicproductions.com

MUSIC & DANCE

Alexandra Grocheva
Marbella. 5 March, 7pm. Cultural Centre Contemporary Art Kunsthau-Berlin, plo. La Nueva Campana. 5€

Pianist Alexandra Grocheva will be in concert playing music by composers Bach, Schumann and Schostakovich. www.kunsthau-berlinmarbella.com

Martinete

Almuñécar. 17 February, 8pm. Auditorium Casa de la Cultura 'Sounds of my guitar' Flamenco and dance performance.

LECTURES

U3A Lectures

Fuengirola. Lux Mundi reference Library, free to members, guests 5€. www.u3acostadelosol.org
Mixed bag talk: The battle of Vimy Ridge, April 9-12, 1917. 21 February 11am-12.30pm. How four days of tragedy and greatness forged Canada's emergence as a nation. Speaker: Joyce Lewis.

Science and Technology: Mathematics can save your life. 22 February, 11am-12.30pm. Besides physics and engineering maths has a much broader importance. Speaker: Ian Phillips.

History and all that: 22 February, 11am - 12.30pm. Course leader Kay White.

Science and Christian Faith Estepona. Anglican chaplaincy house, C/Juan de Fuca, Beverley Hill. 6-7.30pm. www.costachurch.com

Fractals and chaos, a window on infinity. 17 February.

Evolution, genetics, creation and design. 24 February.

Space, time and the end of the universe. 10 March.

Humanity, ethics, Frankenstein and redemption. 31 March.

DFAS lectures

Benahavis. 28 February, 6.30pm. Benahavis Town Hall
MGM and the birth of the silver screen. The lecture will examine how the Motion Picture industry developed in the late 19th and early 20th Century and how it revolutionised entertainment. Lecturer is Geri Parly. www.benahavisdffas.com/events



A. Grocheva, Marbella

FESTIVALS

Carnival

Alhaurín el Grande. 27 February until 4 March.

Benalmádena. 25 February until 5 March.

Cártama. 25 February until 4 March.

Coín. 24 February. Children's party.

La Herradura. 17, 18 February. Fancy Dress competition 18 February, comparsas and chirigotas.

Malaga. Until 26 February. The Fancy dress competition and parade on 19 February, Battle of the Flowers and more fancy dress on the 25th and the burying of the anchovy on the 26 February. www.carnaldemalaga.es

Marbella. Until 4 March.

Torre del Mar. From 23-26 February. Fancy dress parade is on 23 February and processions on the 25th.

Torremolinos. From 6-12 March. The Carnival Gay I Gala Drag Queen competition is being held on 4 March in La Plaza La Nogalera from 9pm.

Vélez-Málaga. 17 February. The opening speeches followed by the traditional competition of Murgas and Comparsas at 9.30pm.

EVENTS

Conservatives Abroad lunch

Cabopino. 17 February, 1.30pm. Albert's, in the port. 35€
The event includes cava on arrival and a three course lunch with wine and water. Tickets from Maggie tel: 952 590 867 or maggiemijas@yahoo.co.uk

Rombosol Family Fun Day

Marbella. 17 February, 4-8pm and 18 February 10am-2pm. Rombosol The Renault dealer Rombosol Marbella is holding two days of

fun to celebrate the release of the new Renault Scenic. Story telling, workshops, balloon modelling, badge making, give-aways and more. Suitable for all the family. Reservations www.rombosol.com

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

Trip to see 'Stars of the West End'

Mijas Costa. 24 March, Las Lagunas Theatre. Various departure points. 32€
Price includes concert ticket, coach fare and driver's gratuity. Payment on booking. Tel Gail 951 067 723, email phoenixsocialclub@yahoo.co.uk.

Floral Art Club

Estepona. Agro Jardín, Cancelada. 21 February 3pm: Jilly Griffin is Vice Chairman of her local area of NAFAS, Sussex. An area demonstrator, judge and speaker, Jilly is also the Chief Steward of the Floral Design Studio at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Visitors 10€.
23 January 11am: Jilly Griffin workshop. Tel: 694 425 219 or email: esteponafloralartclub@hotmail.com

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
La La Land: 17.00, 19.30, 22.00

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Jackie: 16.15, 19.45, 21.45

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 Tel. 667 77 31 87.

Resident Evil: The Final Chapter:
 18.10 (Tues);

The Great Wall: 12.10 (Sat, Sun);
 15.50 (every day)

50 Shades Darker: 12.00 (Sat,
 Sun); 15.50 (every day)

Jackie: 16.15, 18.15, 20.15, 22.15
 (Tues)

La La Land: 15.50

Ballerina: 20.00 (Mon-Thurs)

Split: 19.00 (Mon-Thurs)

The Healer: 16.45, 19.00, 21.15
 (Tues)

Cinesur Miramar

Avda. de la Encarnación, Fuengirola.
 Tel. 952 19 86 00.

La La Land: 11.50, 16.45

Split: 12.00, 16.45

Jackie: 16.15 (Mon-Thurs)

The Great Wall: 11.50, 16.00,
 18.50, 21.10, 23.30



Beijing opera, Marbella

Lion: 20.05, 22.30 (Tues)

Manchester by the Sea: 16.10,
 18.45, 21.25 (Tues)

50 Shades Darker: 12.00, 16.30,
 18.50

Cines Teatro Goya

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

Hidden Figures: 19.30 (every
 day)

Ballerina: 12.00 (Sun); 15.45 (Sat,
 Sun); 17.30 (every day)

Split: 22.00 (every day)

La La Land: 16.35 (Sat, Sun);
 22.15 (Thurs)

Resident Evil: The Final Chapter:
 15.50 (Sat, Sun)

50 Shades Darker: 11.30 (Sun);
 17.45, 19.45, 21.45 (every day)

The Great Wall: 11.45 (Sun);
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Centro de Ocio Plaza Mayor, Avda.
 Alfonso Ponce de León.

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www.yelmocines.es

Ballerina: 14.15 (Sat, Sun)

50 Shades Darker: 16.00, 18.30
 (every day)

Jackie: 12.10 (Sat, Sun)

La La Land: 12.45 (Sat, Sun)

The Great Wall: 13.15 (Sat, Sun);
 16.10 (Mon-Thurs)

Split: 15.45 (Sun)

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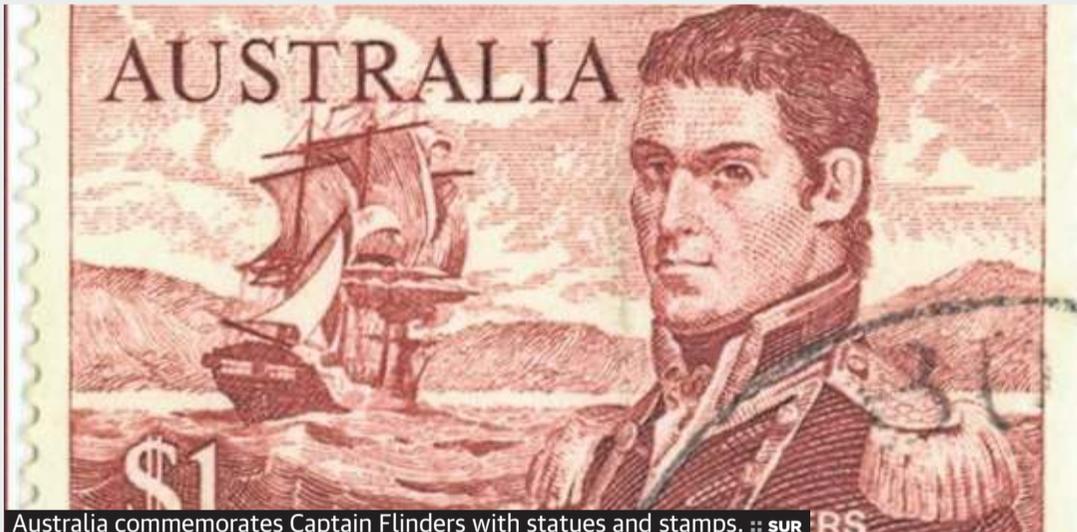
Children of the Beijing Opera: 4
 March, 7pm. 10€ (a film by Don
 Kent. English subtitles)

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Captain Flinders, the first to circumnavigate Australia



Australia commemorates Captain Flinders with statues and stamps. :: SUR RS

JANE NORRIE

MARBELLA. Matthew Flinders was an outstanding British navigator, explorer and cartographer. He followed in the wake of Captain Cook, he sailed under Bligh and was championed for his scientific inquiries by Sir Joseph Banks. Between 1801 and 1803 he was the commander of the sloop HMS Investigator which became the first ship to sail round Australia. He identified it as a continent and subsequently gave it the name Australia.

In Australia there are statues to his name and his portrait on banknotes and stamps. Although a bronze statue of him was recently erected in London to mark the two hundredth anniversary of his death, he has mainly slipped under the British radar.

The lecture will be given by James Taylor who is a passionate advocate of Flinders. He has spent much of his career as Curator of Paintings at the National Maritime Museum.

INFORMATION

► **What.** A talk about Matthew Flinders with a buffet.

► **When.** 24 February, 12.30pm.

► **Where.** Gran Hotel, Benahavis.
 email: events@benahavisdfas.com or costadel-sol.dfas@gmail.com

As well as a botanist, on board HMS Investigator were two artists, the botanical painter Robert Brown and the landscape artist William Westall. James Taylor will illustrate his talk with images from these two very different artists. Also included are ten oils painted by William Westall once he was back in England from sketches he took on board. These show key parts of the voyage but have never been shown to the public. With Flinders' added

adventures in the small boat, Tom Thumb; his imprisonment in Mauritius and his affection for his cat Trim who accompanied him on his historic voyage, this promises to be an enthralling lecture.

With great good fortune and lending a personal note, alongside James Taylor will be a BDFAS member Heather Wicks who is a descendant of Flinders - his great-great-great-great niece! She will bring letters from Flinders to his wife plus his book about his cat and will be available after the lecture to chat to members of the audience.

There will be a three-course buffet lunch in the hotel restaurant with soft drinks and coffee. The event is a collaboration between BDFAS from Benahavis and the Costa del Sol NADFAS from Fuengirola. For people coming from the Mijas/ Fuengirola area, there will be a coach service arranged by Costa del Sol DFAS.

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Andalucía in general, and Malaga in particular, have been ridiculed worldwide recently because of the news that people here wear pyjamas to go for coffee. The sign posted outside the bar in Malaga's Calle Mármoles states, 'Entrance not permitted to people wearing pyjamas or dressing gowns.' (As reported in this newspaper earlier this month).

From St Petersburg to Singapore the reaction was, "Do Spanish people really go out in the morning wearing the clothes they slept in?"

A.J. LINN

WHAT TO WEAR?



Very negative comment when you consider that most Spaniards, and Andalusians especially, have always had the reputation of being well turned-out whenever they appear in public, unlike Londoners or New Yorkers, who will throw on any old rag to go down to the supermarket. Nevertheless, the distressing sight of tourists on the Coast heading out for dinner, the woman beautifully dressed and coiffured, partnered by a man who, incredibly, can usually be seen wearing a short-sleeved vest, shorts and sports shoes! I have frequently seen

men in shorts refused service in top restaurants on the Coast, above all in the evening.

There are of course establishments that ban the entry of men who have 'forgotten' to wear ties, and from Hong Kong to Boston, anyone in an open-necked shirt will still be offered the opportunity to borrow one at the entrance.

Perhaps these oversights are relatively harmless and offend no-one, but there are dress codes that exist sensibly for health considerations. A recent article in the

Spanish sister paper of SUR in English, Diario SUR, by a food hygiene expert, explained the rules and regulations that are required for restaurant staff. The most important were, and are, light-coloured clothing, preferably white, head covering, footwear used exclusively in the kitchen and never the same as for outside, etc. On the facing page was a photograph of the chef of a well-known Malaga restaurant and his assistant, both solemnly dressed from head to foot in black, bareheaded, and wearing sports shoes. ¡Olé!

French, African and Spanish: the Cajun flavour combination

Cajun and Creole cuisine has been influenced by poor Cajun-French immigrants, African slaves and the Spanish

ESPERANZA PELÁEZ

MALAGA. The New York chef Dan Barber, said that the reason that the country's culinary culture was so poor was precisely the quality of its raw materials: "A good steak does not make it necessary to develop creativity." Without generalising too much, if there is one place in the USA with an interesting culinary culture, it is the state of Louisiana, in the southeast of the country, the territory of Creole and Cajun cuisine.

Two key factors created this unique cuisine. One is miscegenation and the other is the poverty of the two main influences on Cajun cuisine; the Cajun immigrants of French origin and the African slaves.

Native ingredients such as corn, squash, potato, tomato and chili together with chicken, pork, garlic, onion, sugar cane, rice and spices which were introduced by

the Spanish are combined with vegetables and fruit such as kale, okra, yam and watermelon brought by African slaves.

Creole cuisine or the 'soul food' with which the slaves could remember their homeland, was born from the fusion of all these ingredients.

It was, however, the French that left the biggest mark on the personality of Cajun cooking. The Cajuns or Acadians were French colonists who had been forced out of Canada by the British.

They brought with them the 'mirepoix', a sauce made with chopped onion, celery and green peppers, and which is essential in any stew. They also brought the 'roux', flour cooked with melted butter and used to thicken stock.

The smoked 'andouille' sausage was a French introduction and is used a lot in Cajun dishes. 'Étouffée' a thick stew in which crawfish, prawns and crab from the rivers in the Mississippi Delta are cooked, is also a French dish. Spices too were introduced by the French; dried onion and garlic, cayenne pepper, dried oregano and thyme.

The result is a rustic style of gastronomy with layers of rich fla-



Spicy seafood jambalaya is probably based on Spanish paella or Provençal rice. :: SUR

vours and high in calories like the imaginative gumbos (a type of soup thickened with okra) and the spicy, rice jambalayas (possibly adapted from paella or from Provençal rice dishes) served with chicken or prawns.

The Spanish influence is found in the fried dishes with chicken, oysters and prawns fried in a light batter and in the 'empanadillas'

with a variety of fillings. They are also responsible for the sweet buñuelos (beignets) liberally sprinkled with sugar.

The fusion of cultures reached into every aspect of the cuisine including the crusty French baguettes, cornbreads and bread crumbs for stuffing poultry before roasting.

The contrast between sweet and

sour and the hot spicy sauces (the world famous Tabasco sauce originates from Louisiana), sweet pastry tarts and the cocktails, are all drawn from the mix of cultures in the region.

So wide is the Cajun gastronomic culture that there is a museum, the Southern Food & Beverage Museum of New Orleans which includes the Cocktail Museum, dedicated to it.

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Asperger's, neither as bright nor as entertaining as shown on TV

February 18th is the international day of a disorder which has become well-known through characters on TV such as Sheldon, in 'The Big Bang Theory'. Specialists insist that the reality of Asperger's Syndrome is very different

ALJANDRA RODRÍGUEZ

Gil Grissom ('CSI Las Vegas'), Sheldon Cooper ('The Big Bang Theory'), Gregory House ('House'), Sherlock Holmes ('Sherlock'), Temperance Brennan ('Bones')... they are all part of a group of fascinating characters in some of today's most successful TV series and they all have something in common. In theory, they all suffer from Asperger's Syndrome.

Asperger's forms part of the so-called ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorders) and is characterised by a clear dysfunction in relating to and understanding the world; however looking at the characteristics and behaviour of these TV characters, very few people would detect anything negative about them.



Sheldon Cooper.

Each and every one of these characters has an extraordinary intelligence and an absolutely brilliant mind, which has enabled them to feature in exciting roles and gain fame and international prestige.

Gil Grissom runs an elite criminalist unit; Sherlock is a private detective who is called in by the police to help solve the most difficult cases; Dr House is a medical ace who saves lives with impressive ease; Brennan, a forensic anthropologist, also helps to hunt criminals by studying bones;

Cooper is a theoretical physicist who as a child built a nuclear reactor to light up his neighbourhood; Spencer Reid, despite his youth, is part of a group of FBI agents who are responsible for

catching serial killers, all thanks to an IQ of 187 which enabled him to graduate at the age of 12 and a memory which can process data almost as fast as any computer.

It is true that they are all a bit strange, their behaviour is somewhat eccentric, they shun human contact and are not skilled at social relationships. Nevertheless, not only have they reached adulthood without trauma or problems of self-esteem, but their condition has resulted in some very entertaining and endearing situations.

Unrealistic integration

On TV, these characters are integrated in their working groups, they have relationships with partners and have formed a family and those around them accept their



Gregory House.

differences as part of a personality which is marked by extraordinary intelligence.

However, the life of people with Asperger's and their families is very different. Most specialists agree that it is a good thing for this and other disorders to appear on television because it helps to normalise, integrate and make visible conditions which until not long ago were surrounded by ignorance and secrecy.

Nevertheless, the specialists also warn that in many cases the profiles on TV are very distorted and do not reflect reality, because who wouldn't want to talk one-to-one with Stephen Hawking, advise Scotland Yard or be an FBI agent?

In fact, if something is as good as this why are associations and specialists coming together on 18

February and holding events to raise awareness of this condition and give a voice to those who suffer from it?

The myth of intelligence

"We mustn't forget that the TV series are fiction and they aim to be entertaining. Although one of our objectives is to make Asperger's more visible, we have to stress that normally the TV series only show the positive side of the disorder, which is great intelligence. Only the less damaging aspects of the social difficulties are shown," explains José Antonio Peral of the Spanish Asperger's Confederation.

"The individuals live a more or less normal life with no type of support or help, and the emphasis is placed on the entertaining aspects. However, fewer than 10 per cent of people with Asperger's has higher than average intelligence, and 100 per cent have problems in understanding and relating to the environment around them, and this complicates their lives, sometimes in an extreme way. There is nothing glamorous or attractive about that," continues Peral.

With regard to the supposed greater intelligence of those with Asperger's Syndrome, the experts say that often the people with this syndrome seem intellectually more able than others because they develop skills related to a specific interest, which means they tend to accumulate and remember huge amounts of information.

As a result, some suffer- ➤

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ers are able to relate the code of every colour of a Pantone or the features of every model of bicycle ever made. "The problem is that on occasions these interests are very restricted and in areas which are not relevant," explains Peral.

The specialists also point out that intelligence is not all that is important for humans. We are social beings and we need to understand the world we live in so that we can develop.

We also need to establish links with those like us, if we are to develop emotionally, affectively, at work and in our personal lives. Specifically, the areas of the brain implicated in social skills and communication are those which appear to be badly configured in those with Asperger's Syndrome.

Success is only in fiction

Dr Alberto Fernández Jaén, the head of the Children's Neurological Unit at the Quirónsalud Hospital in Madrid and medical director of the Centre of Attention for Educational Diversity (CADE), says that many characters who in fiction are presented as having Asperger's are no more than eccentric geniuses or individuals, and this has nothing to do with the disorder in question.

"Downplaying the clinical profile of people with this condition has negative consequences for the

patients themselves, because it helps to create an image of somebody who doesn't need resources or tools in order to develop and makes it look as if they only have to make a bit of extra effort so they don't appear disagreeable to others. When a young man tells you he would give his right arm to have just one friend, you are not looking at somebody who just a bit odd," says Dr Fernández Jaén.

"I think the main thing that makes Asperger's so successful in TV series is the same thing that makes it so difficult and hard to bear and to diagnose: its invisible aspect. The people who are affected can talk and are intelligent, so most of those around them don't realise that they have a disability. However, they and their families go through some very difficult times of suffering, frustration and incomprehension until a diagnosis is reached, and also afterwards," says Alexandra Pardos, neuropsychologist and director of the centre of the same name in Madrid.

"And although not all cases of Asperger's show the same symptoms or the same degree of severity, generally these obstacles start in childhood," she adds.

From childhood

Patricia Fernández, a neuropsychologist who specialises in learning difficulties at Cognifit, explains that "educating these children is



Temperance Brennan.

There is no cure for Asperger's; it is tackled through learning and acquiring behaviour to compensate for the difficulty relating to others

Many people with Asperger's can talk and are intelligent, so those around them may not realise that they have a disability



S. R.

very complicated, even with the right support".

"Many of them don't finish their basic studies, and they become the target of scorn and bullying at a very early age because they don't understand the jokes, don't take part in the games, tend to be slow in group sports, don't empathise with their companions, have no filters when it comes to expressing themselves and are very rigid and literal... this can lead to anxiety, depression, behavioural problems and isolation, and if these are not treated in time they are perpetuated in adulthood with the consequent obstacles in finding work, living an independent life, having a network of friends or forming a family," adds the expert.

There is no cure for Asperger's and it is tackled by learning and acquiring behaviour which compensates for the difficulties in communicating and relating with the surroundings.

Social skills and communication, motor skills, cognitive training, tools to improve attention and execution ability, psychotherapy and pharmaceutical treatment to take care of the possible comorbidities (anxiety, depression, compulsive obsessive behaviour, attention deficit, tics...) form the basis of methods which have to be designed to measure according to the needs of each individual.

This is done by multidisciplinary teams which include the family, school and specialists in neurodevelopment.

ADVERTORIAL The aim of the clinic is to work in harmony with the patient

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At the beginning of January, Clínica Estética Contur opened in the Centro Comercial Contur in Elviria. The clinic is owned by Dr Karl Wehmeyer, who is originally from Marl, a small town in northern Germany. He has been working in Marbella as a dentist in the Clínica Dental Dr Wehmeyer since 1999. Much of his work is devoted to the field of aesthetic dentistry.

In this context, Dr Wehmeyer's vision is to make the patient's smile appear fresh, healthy and vital through the harmonious balance of healthy teeth combined with a beautiful shape and colour.

However, many of his patients want more because a beautiful smile also needs a beautiful frame. Dr Wehmeyer, however, confines himself to his profession as a dentist and will therefore be exclusively working in the dental sector. His patients desire to improve their looks is what gave him the idea of opening this beauty clinic.



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ONE FAMILY'S STORY

"We all have a talent; it just has to be discovered"

Nicol didn't know what was wrong with her baby. The diagnoses ranged from hydrocephalus to a cerebral cyst. It took 13 years to find out that he had Asperger's

by A. RODRÍGUEZ

"I wouldn't hold out much hope. Just give him love." That was what Nicol was told just a few months after giving birth to her son Johann Sebastian, whom she named after the famous composer, almost as a premonition.

However this woman, who was born in Italy and lived in Venezuela until a little under two years ago, disregarded that advice and drove huge distances to take Johann to every specialist she thought might

be able to help him overcome the endless problems with which he came into the world after an eight month pregnancy. Possible hydrocephalus, spasticity, tonic asymmetry, motor retardation, a cerebral cyst with the risk of growing and becoming malignant...

"At first I only paid attention to the physical and motor problems because they were the most evident and most urgent, so it wasn't until later that we saw some signs of autism, especially the selective mutism. He would only speak to people when he wanted to, and he would only communicate by singing. We encouraged that because we thought it would be good for him," explains Nicol, who continued to consult specialists because she was convinced that Johann was showing signs of improvement.

At the age of 11, he was diagnosed with slight autism and a year or two later it was confirmed that he had Asperger's. "That gave me a certain



JOSÉ RAMÓN LADRA

tranquility, but no more than that. In Venezuela there are no special schools, the teachers don't really understand the disorder and nobody could help us in that aspect. Life there is complicated even for people without any disabilities or disorders, so for those who do the situation is infinitely worse.

"For example, for people with Asperger's it is very important to follow their normal routines, but how can you do that in a place where at any moment you might have to get off a bus because somebody's about to rob you? How do you explain that they have to stop reading because there is a power cut and you don't know when there might be light again?" she asks.

However, Nicol's academic training (she teaches physical education to children with special needs) and her positive attitude meant that she kept looking for the best way for Johann to overcome his social and affective problems. She channelled all her efforts into the talent that her little boy had shown for music, specifically opera singing.

A couple of years ago, when he was 19, Nicol was told that Johann could have a very exciting future in music, but it would mean leaving Venezuela. So, the family packed their bags and moved to Ocaña (Toledo) from where this tenor in the making travels to Madrid to attend classes at the Escuela Superior de Canto, as well as to his performances with the JORCAM (Community of Madrid Youth Choir) and rehearsals with the choir

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➤ for other people with Asperger's, whom he helps as a volunteer.

"Paradoxically, Johann adapted to a new life in Spain faster than we did. We are delighted and very grateful for the welcome we have received here," says Nicol, who also helps in group sessions for parents from the Asperger's Association of Madrid.

On 18 February, International Asperger's Day, that association and others will attempt to give visibility to a disorder about which there is a great lack of understanding. In

many cases, it looks as if there is nothing wrong with the person. In less severe cases, they can just seem unusual, rude or a bit manic, but Asperger's always causes suffering and it can be a real handicap.

"We need to get used to growing up in an environment marked by diversity and coexistence, rather than just tolerance. There is room for everyone in this world and fortunately there are tools to make it possible," says Nicol.

Johann has been closely following our conversation, taking notes, clarifying and expanding on it when

he thought it necessary.

"I don't want to seem egocentric, but I am living proof that everyone has a talent, but it has to be discovered and empowered. You can progress a great deal if you work at it. Before, I used to be cold and antisocial. I didn't like anyone to touch me. I found it hard at school because of the other pupils and even some of the teachers, but thanks to music, my mother, my brother, my mother's partner, who I think of as a father, and the teachers I have had recently, I started to improve my social skills and make friends. Now

"We need to get used to growing up in an environment marked by diversity and coexistence"

I know how to hug someone, I'm independent and I know what it is to fall in love. It's not easy, but nothing is in life and there are definitely people in far worse situations than mine," says Johann, giving us a fierce hug to say goodbye.

He starts to walk away and then comes back to remind us that we have promised to mention his girlfriend Ana.

She also has Asperger's and would have liked to have taken part in the interview, but she was unable to do so because she was sitting exams at university.

MY CHILD HAS ASPERGER'S; WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

► **Observation.** The most obvious signs of Asperger's are: lack of empathy, selective mutism, an analytic and cold gaze, robotic intonation when speaking, being excessively literal, lack of reaction when punished, lack of affectionate gestures towards the parents, isolation, slow movement, emotional coldness, rejection of human contact (kisses, hugs), strange interests for their age, repetitive behaviour, pedantic language, tics... however, only a specialist can decide whether this is Asperger's or another disorder, or whether we are just looking at a personality trait.

► **Progress is always possible.** Although they show similar

characteristics, no Asperger's sufferer is the same in their symptoms or their severity. just as no two people are ever the same. Each individual evolves in a different way depending on the environment in which they develop and they construct compensatory behaviour to overcome their difficulties, which means that an early diagnosis is not always easy. "This can sometimes be a torture for parents who think they haven't done enough or have not been aware, but that isn't the case. Early diagnosis saves a lot of secondary problems, but it must be stressed that even people who are diagnosed in adulthood improve if they have suitable help," says

José Antonio Peral. "The most essential thing is to work with the difficulties each person is experiencing when they are diagnosed. You can always do something and when the individual is well looked after some very important advances can be achieved," he stresses.

► **Share.** Associating with others in a similar situation is a great help for patients and families in the case of many illnesses and disorders. In the case of Asperger's, it is almost essential. In these groups, families realise that they are not alone and that this syndrome is not as glamorous or entertaining as it appears to be on television, but nor is it the end of the world.

They also receive guidance on finding help from the authorities and accessing resources and tools to attend to their child's individual needs. It also helps them to deal with the situation. "In our cafés for parents we try to make them understand that there is no point in complaining about what we don't have. What is important is to work on the difficulties our children have, but above all to discover their skills and enhance them," says Nicol.

► **Look after yourself.** Lack of information, disorientation, visits to different specialists, seeing your children suffer, experiencing their lack of affection, the money that has to be spent... all this has a con-

siderable physical and emotional effect on parents of children with Asperger's. However, your wellbeing is important for your children's development. All the specialists agree that parents need to be trained in reserving space and time to look after themselves, physically and mentally. Doing sport, enjoying hobbies, setting aside time for leisure, cultivating relationships with friends and family; all these are important to normalise the disorder and help someone with Asperger's to integrate, which is so important for their development.

For information on Asperger's organisations in Spain contact: info@asperger.es.



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Nearly 80 per cent of children who suffer from cancer overcome their illness

An event took place outside the Materno Infantil hospital to commemorate the International Day against Child Cancer

:: **ÁNGEL ESCALERA**

MALAGA. Every year in Spain about 1,100 children are diagnosed with cancer, of whom about 60 are in Malaga. The positive side of this is that nearly 80 per cent of them are cured. These figures were revealed recently in a moving event which took place on the steps outside the Materno Infantil hospital on the International Day against Child Cancer. Three girls (Deborah, Manal and Almudena) who have all recovered from tumor, read a statement in which they sent a message of hope to patients and their families and called for further research into treatments to beat the disease.

The event was attended by the provincial health delegate, Ana Isabel González; the manager of the Carlos Haya regional hospital, Emiliano Nuevo; the director of the Materno hospital, Hilario López; councillors Julio Andrade and Estefanía Martín Palop and representatives of the United Development against Cancer group, which is formed by several associations, among others.

When the girls finished reading the statement, there was a mass release of balloons.

Paediatric oncologist Guiomar



Three girls who have overcome cancer read a statement outside the hospital. :: F. G.



Balloons were released. :: F. G.

Gu-tierrez said that last year 59 children were diagnosed with cancer at the Materno hospital, 19 of them with acute leukemia and 40 with solid tumors. Dr Gutiérrez explained that the survival rate for

children with cancer ranges from 75 to 80 per cent, five years after being diagnosed. She stressed how important it is for pediatricians to be able to identify the symptoms which could indicate that a child may be suffering from cancer.

Meanwhile haematologist Pedro Ruiz pointed out that the rate of cure for lymphoblastic leukemia, which is the most common type in children, can be as high as 90 per cent. He said that children are better able to withstand chemotherapy sessions

than adults.

The provincial Health delegate pointed out that thanks to advances in treatments and the quality of public health care, a high percentage of children with cancer have overcome the illness. She paid tribute to the work of the professionals who treat child patients.

The manager of the Carlos Haya hospital also stressed that it is essential to make life as pleasant as possible for children during the time they have to stay at the Materno.

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Men who suffer from impotence are still afraid to consult a urologist

Embarrassment and false beliefs are the main reasons many men delay for so long in trying to find a remedy for their erectile dysfunction

∴ **ÁNGEL ESCALERA**

MÁLAGA. "A man's penis is a great ally when it comes to warning him that his cardiovascular system is not functioning well and that is the cause of the erectile dysfunction which is affecting him," says Antonio Martín Morales, director of the Malaga Institute of Urology.

This specialist says men need to overcome the feelings of fear, shame and false beliefs which so many of them suffer, which make them reluctant to consult a urologist when they experience difficulties in obtaining an erection, a problem for which treatments exist and which enable them to have satisfactory sexual relations.

The doctor's comments were made in an interview earlier this week, to mark the European Day of Sexual Health.

Dr Martín Morales said that the



Erectile dysfunction is often linked to cardiovascular problems. ∴ **FOTOLIA**

appearance of erectile dysfunction is a warning sign of some type of cardiovascular illness. It has been shown that men who are impotent have suffered a heart attack 36

months after experiencing difficulty in achieving an erection.

"Men have to overcome their fear and modesty about consulting a urologist, because it will help

their health in general as well as solving their erectile dysfunction, in terms of problems such as cardiovascular illnesses or prostate cancer," he explained.

Treatments

Impotence increases as a man gets older. Whereas four per cent of men suffer from erectile dysfunction at the age of 25 (and the cause is usually psychological), this rises to 70 per cent at the age of 70 (and the cause is mainly organic). There are several ways to treat it and a doctor will decide which is the most suitable for each patient. In the first place, they normally prescribe tablets, but there are also intracavernous injections. In addition to tablets and injections, shock waves are sometimes used. Another very effective and satisfactory alternative is an implant of penile prosthesis.

With regard to adverse effects of the tablets to treat erectile dysfunction, Dr Martín Morales says that the men who take them are less likely to suffer from a heart attack or stroke, but the drugs should only be prescribed by a doctor and should never be mixed with vasodilatory medication.

Having sex twice a week may prevent a heart attack

A study published in a prestigious American medical magazine (*The American Journal of Cardiology*) says that men who have sexual intercourse twice a week are 50 per cent less likely to suffer a heart attack than those who have sex once a month. With regard to this, Francisco Torres, a cardiologist at the Hospital Quirón in Malaga, agrees that the heart benefits from sexual intercourse and explains that sexual activity has an inversely proportional relationship with the presence of cardiovascular illnesses.

The president of the Association of Gynaecologists of Malaga and head of gynaecology at the Quirón Hospital, Andrés Carlos López Díaz, says that sex also has benefits for women's health, including strengthening the pelvic floor. However, he also stresses the importance of practising safe sex to prevent the transmission of sexual diseases and the risk of coming into contact with the human papilloma virus (HPV).

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The number of births at the Costa del Sol hospital rises for the first time in years

There was an increase of one per cent in the number of babies born, and nearly 40 per cent of women who give birth there were foreigners

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. Not only has Marbella experienced a significant rise in tourism in recent years, the resident population is also increasing and this is reflected in a rise in the number of births to Spanish and foreign mo-

thers. In 2015 the registered population rose by 1,207 habitantes, an increase of 0.9%, bringing the total to over 140,000 for the first time. In the same year, there was an increase in the number of births at the Costa del Sol hospital for the first time in seven years. The increase was small - there were 2,782 births and 2,724 deliveries, compared with 2,747 births and 2,696 deliveries - but that one per cent was enough to make a difference to the statistics. The number of foreign mothers giving birth at the hospital also rose from 36.4 per cent to 39 per cent in two years.



More babies are being born at the hospital in Marbella. :: SUR

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Goodbye to eye strain

By following just five simple steps you can avoid the sensation of heavy eyelids and eye strain

:: SUR

When work involves using a computer, people on average spend 7.5 hours with their eyes fixed on the screen every day. This adds up to nearly 38 hours a week and around 1,800 hours a year. To protect the eyes during the hours spent in front of the computer, you should follow some simple rules to avoid eye strain.

"People are advised to look after their ocular health," explains Fernando Llovet, medical director at Clínica Baviera.

To do this the doctor recommends a few simple points:

1. Rest your eyes. It is advisable



Working in front of a computer screen can cause eye strain. :: SUR

to look into the distance for a couple of minutes every hour. For example, look out the window and change your focus by looking towards the horizon.

2. Blink and hydrate your eyes. The longer we stay looking at the computer screen the frequency of blinking is reduced and the tears produced to keep the eye moist are not distributed efficiently. You should try to make a conscious effort to blink frequently or, if necessary, hy-

drate your eyes with artificial tears.

3. Make sure you are at a correct distance from the screen. It should be parallel to your line of vision and 50cm from your face. You should try to avoid reflections on the screen and adjust the focus and brightness as needed. The screen should be kept clean so that the clarity is not reduced. Your body posture is also important.

4. Adjust the lighting. Although working in natural light is ideal it is not always the best option. Too much light can be as detrimental to your sight as not enough. In offices with large windows it is recommended that there are systems to regulate the amount of light to make workers more comfortable.

In offices which have artificial lighting it is preferable to maintain the correct conditions using light bulbs that emit white light, and avoid transparent lighting.

Reading lights should be positioned so that they do not shine directly into the eyes.

5. Ventilate the office. Temperature, humidity and ventilation are the primary factors in creating a comfortable environment in which to work. It is important to maintain a correct level of humidity to prevent your eyes drying out.

Also, the air should be refreshed periodically without creating draughts or sudden changes in the temperature.



Miguel and Mónica with members of the Smile Foundation. :: SUR

Foundation brings a smile to eight-year-old Miguel and his family

The youngster and his mother had to travel from Granada to Malaga for HBOT therapy, which was not available close to their home

:: TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. The family of an eight-year-old boy who suffers from cerebral palsy has thanked The Smile Foundation for its support and assistance and during their son's hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatment.

Miguel López Jordán received the specialist treatment (HBOT) at the Vithas Xanit Internacional Regenerative Centre in Benalmádena during December 2016 and January 2017.

The family was struggling to cope with the travel arrangements because this therapy is not available within close proximity of Miguel's home in Baza in the province of Granada.

HBOT has shown great effectiveness in treating conditions such as cerebral palsy, autism and multiple sclerosis; although the downside is that the treatment is expensive.

The added expense of accommodation also meant that the treatment was not economically

viable for the family.

However, The Smile Foundation and CLC World Resorts & Hotels stepped in and donated accommodation for Miguel and his mother at their resort in Benalmádena Costa.

Miguel's treatment involves the introduction of 100 per cent oxygen into the body within a pressurised room.

The pure oxygen supply to the tissues of the brain enhances cerebral blood flow. The oxygen that flows into the brain empowers the immune system and repairs the tissues that obstruct optimal blood flow into the brain.

Miguel's mother, Mónica, said, "We are very grateful for the help we received from The Smile Foundation, because the treatment has greatly improved Miguel's mobility."

The treatment has allowed Miguel to grasp things with his hands, and his ability to communicate has also improved with more rapid and clearer speech.

José Luis Mella, president of The Smile Foundation, said, "When we heard of the problems faced by Miguel and his family, we were only too happy to provide accommodation for them. Seeing the improvement in Miguel's well-being demonstrates how worthwhile this has been."

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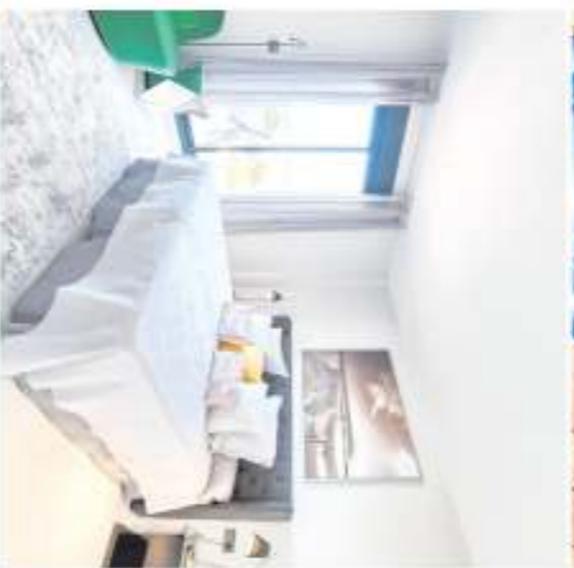
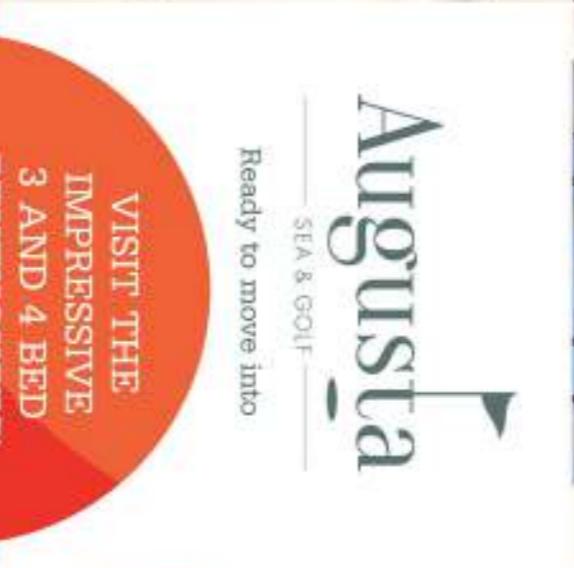
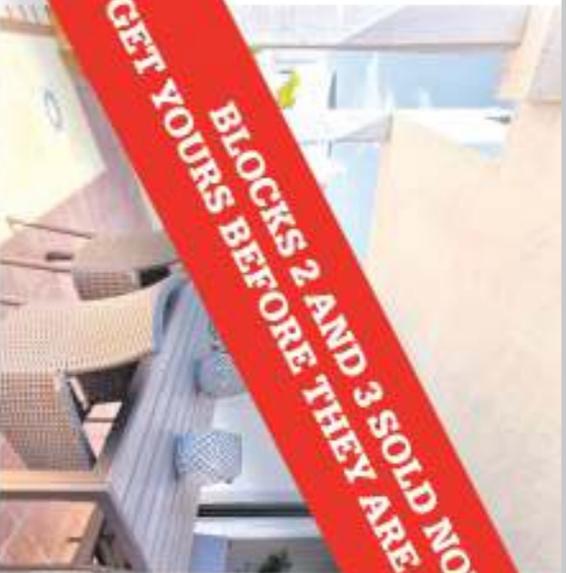
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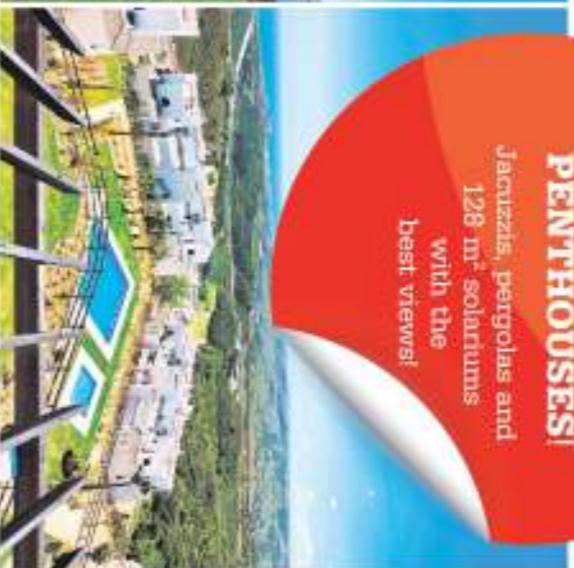
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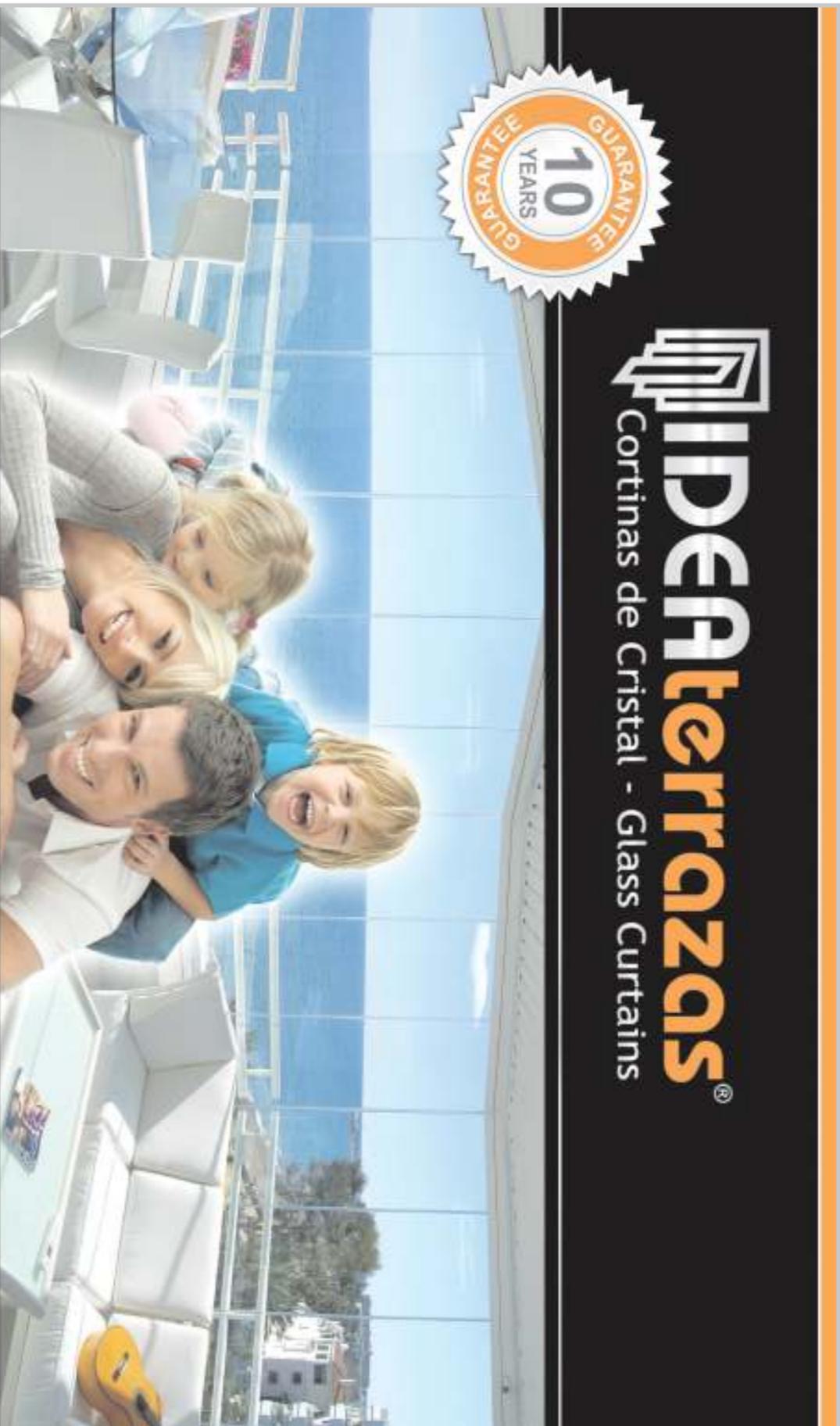
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Much more than football

AMDDA is the first Andalusian team of people with cerebral palsy to play in the National League



The AMDDA players, photographed just before a match.

ALFONSO CANO

One of the objectives of the association is to create a sports school for youngsters with any type of disability

FÁTIMA CASANOVA

MALAGA. To say that the members of the AMDDA (Malaga Association for Diversity and Adapted Sport) are an example of effort and overcoming difficulties would be an understatement. The team, who from 18 February will be taking part in the first of the three stages of the National League competition organised by the Spanish Sports Federation for People with Cerebral Palsy and Acquired Cerebral Damage, consists of eight young men who have seen football as a way of

leading a different sort of life.

They are very proud of being the first team to represent Andalucía in a competition of this type and they say they plan to give it everything they can. "We're not just going there for the experience. We want to do well in every match. The problem is that our rivals have more experience and there are not many of us, because many families are overprotective of their children and are reluctant to let them play sport," explains David Jiménez, the president of the Association, who won a bronze medal in the Paralympic Games in Atlanta 1996.

AMDDA was only set up a couple of months ago and, since then, its progress has been spectacular. During this time it has obtained support from six sponsors who will be financing part of the cost of travel-

Paralympic bronze medallist David Jiménez is a co-founder of the AMDDA association

"The main problem is that many families overprotect their children and won't let them take up sport"

ling to Cáceres, Madrid and Barcelona; the European College is supporting them and lets them use its

facilities to complete their training; and they now have Unicaja's Alberto Díaz as a sponsor. "For us, he is an example to follow because of the commitment and pride he shows in every one of his matches. There is nobody better to sponsor us than a sportsman from Malaga who makes the whole of the Martín Carpena stadium shout out his name," says the association's vice-president and co-founder, Alan Flores.

David Jiménez and Alan Flores, who are behind this project, have both loved sport all their lives but have had to face up to innumerable challenges. That is what led them to set up AMDDA. "In the long term, my objective is that no young man should have to go through what I have had to go through," explains David. "I have been playing with the Spanish

seven-a-side football team for 12 years, but for a long time it was really difficult for me to have anything to do with sport."

The team coach is Carlos Narváez, who admits that he felt afraid before taking charge. "In the end I realised that I can do the same exercises with them as with any other adult team. The only difference is that they set the pace, because they all have different limitations. With some, for example, I have to work more on coordination. For the others, they are just like any other athletes, you give them instructions but they just go in one ear and out of the other," he laughs.

Overcoming difficulties

Behind each of the eight champions who make up AMDDA's seven-a-side team, there is a story of overcoming difficulties. Juan Pablo Amorano, known as 'JuanPi', for example, was told by a doctor that he would never be able to get out of his wheelchair. Today he is an important part of the team. "It doesn't matter how many times I fall over. I'll always get up again. I would advise everybody to take up sport. You have to carry on, even if your legs don't work well. I'm working very hard to achieve a dream and I am not going to give it up easily," he says, with a courage which is moving.

The short term aim of the founders of AMDDA is to consolidate the seven-a-side football team and create a school for children who want to practise some type of sport. However, their battle has only just begun because so far recruiting footballers has not exactly been a bed of roses, admits Alan Flores. "We're not looking for a Messi or a Maradona. We just want people who are enthusiastic and want to have fun. The problem is that many people with cerebral palsy or acquired cerebral damage are afraid. Sport, like life in general, is a continual battle, but you can't spend all day complaining," he says.

That's why he encourages AMDDA members to urge other people with disabilities of this type to join the association and take part in a training session. They all agree: nobody will regret doing so.

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A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports
@robopalmer



Something's got to give

Luis Enrique's time as Barcelona head coach looks set to end after his side's thrashing in the Champions League this week, but the problem lies much deeper than that

The knee-jerk reaction to Barcelona's embarrassing Champions League humiliation in Paris was to blame the coach.

This isn't a sudden collapse and it isn't the coach alone who should be shouldering the blame; this is the result of poor signings and a complete lack of young talent coming through the much-lauded academy.

The successful Barcelona model was to nurture home-grown talent

and only make a world-class, marquee signing, like Neymar or Luis Suárez, if they hadn't bred their own in a particular position.

La Masia was the envy of the world as Messi, Xavi, Iniesta, Busquets, Piqué, et al broke through. The list seemed endless.

The list has now proven to be finite, though, with Sergi Roberto the last graduate of the academy to establish himself. And he's now 25. Barcelona have bought rather than bred in recent years and, to be blunt, they have invested awfully.

The past two summers, they spent well over 150 million euros and the squad hasn't been noticeably strengthened. Valencia can't believe they received in the region of 60 million for Paco Alcácer and André Gomes, both of whom appear substandard. The two young France internationals, Samuel Umtiti and Lucas Digne, may be classed as a combined 40-million investment

for the future but in the present they fall short of reaching the standard set by their predecessors at the club. Remember that the previous summer, Barça had lashed out a combined 45 million on Arda Turan and Aleix Vidal.

That's 150 million in two seasons and not one of the signings has established himself in the team.

I do think Luis Enrique will walk in the summer. I still think he can hold his head reasonably high after his remarkable achievements.

He arrived full of fresh ideas, just like Pep Guardiola, and he will leave looking like a ball of stress, needing a long break... just like Pep.

There will be an end-of-season inquest when Real Madrid claim the league and Barcelona have departed the Champions League early. The findings will be foolish investment and a broken system.

It may be that they have to recruit a coach who can work with

players who don't provide the highest quality back-up to the superstar trio of Messi, Suárez and Neymar.

There will be conversations going on within the walls of the Camp Nou regarding what to do about next season's leader as there is no obvious replacement.

Ernesto Valverde is highly regarded for inspiring Athletic Bilbao to achieve beyond the limitations and he was at for Barcelona a couple of years as a player.

Another candidate has to be Eusebio Sacristán, currently inspiring Real Sociedad. Exceptionally, he took a team that was fearing relegation under David Moyes to, just a year later, looking a good bet to qualify for the Champions League. He's served at Barça as a B-team coach and also assisted Frank Rijkaard.

Whatever happens, expect a sign reading "Under New Management" as normal service needs to be resumed ASAP.



Luis Enrique needs a break. :: EFE

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Draw cuts Marbella three points adrift of leaders

The conditions played their part in the first half but Kike Márquez equalised for the Costa side a minute after the break

MARBELLA 1 LA RODA 1

:: JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

MARBELLA. Marbella could only manage a 1-1 draw at home to La Roda on Sunday, leaving them three points behind leaders Lorca, who earned a 1-0 victory away at San Fernando.

The heavy rain had a major influence on the first half, and it was La Roda who adapted better to the unpleasant conditions, playing a more direct game and winning more balls

in the air. Their initial dominance nearly told, but Marbella keeper Bernabé managed to divert an effort behind which the travelling supporters thought had gone in.

La Roda's defence pushed up and denied Marbella any space to create attacks, which consequently exerted a lot of pressure on the home side's defence, and their direct game eventually paid dividends, after Javi Bolo converted a long ball from the right past a helpless Bernabé.

The hosts reacted but were unable to equalise before the break, with an effort from Petcoff and several set-piece situations proving fruitless for Marbella. However, Añón, who scored the winner at El Ejido last week, came closest to levelling for Marbella when his effort crashed against the bar,

whilst Andrés Sánchez could not make the two chances that fell to him count.

The hosts eventually broke through a minute after the break, with Kike Márquez managing to break the offside trap before slotting in low past goalkeeper Pulpo. Marbella were now the dominant force in the game and looked the most likely to score the next goal. And they almost got it through Márquez, but he was denied this time by La Roda defender Connor after a swift break led by Petcoff.

Marbella's energy levels naturally started to drop, which allowed La Roda back into the game. Megías' effort was expertly saved by Bernabé as La Roda's long-ball game started to result in dangerous shots.

Nevertheless, it was Marbella who had the best chance to win the game in the final 10 minutes, but Lolo's header in the 85th minute went just wide of Pulpo's left-hand post.

The result also leaves Marbella level with Cartagena, who suffered a surprise 2-1 home defeat to Mérida.

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<p>Unused substitutes: Andrés Fernández (GK), Musacchio, Cheryshev, Jaime Costa.</p>		<p>Unused substitutes: Boyko (GK), Mikel, Santos, Juanpi.</p>		<p>Goals: 0-1 Charles (14'); 1-1 Bruno Soriano (63').</p>																																																																																																																																																																									
		<p>Referee: Iñaki Vicandi Garrido. Yellows for Demichelis, Camacho, Charles, Keko and Duda. Red for Roberto Soriano.</p>		<p>Venue: Estadio de la Cerámica (17,120 spectators).</p>																																																																																																																																																																									

Refereeing decisions mar Villarreal draw

Malaga's draw at the Estadio de la Cerámica against Villarreal means no win in nine for Marcelo Romero's side

BY KISHAN VAGHELA

MALAGA. Malaga drew yet again in La Liga, this time against Villarreal on Sunday. Charles' low header gave the visitors the lead but Bruno Soriano's penalty drew the hosts level.

The game however was full of controversial decisions, the first when referee Vicandi Garrido waved away Charles' complaints for a penalty despite replays appearing to show the Brazilian striker being impeded by Manu Trigueros, before Roberto Soriano was shown red for lashing out at Ignacio Camacho.

Marcelo Romero's side began the sharper and could have taken the lead in the ninth minute, but Pablo Fornals' left-footed strike was brilliantly saved by Sergio Asenjo. However, five minutes later, Villarreal's goalkeeper, who spent time on loan at La Rosaleda in 2011, was beaten after Roberto Rosales' whipped cross was headed in by Charles for his second goal of the season, his first since the 2-2 draw with Espanyol on the second matchday.



Referee Vicandi Garrido books Charles for his protests. :: AGENCIA LOF

However, the hosts reacted well and looked the more likely to score, with Villarreal left-back José Ángel and right-back Mario Gaspar enjoying the freedom of the flanks. However, their crosses were met by a stern Malaga defence.

Nevertheless, Malaga survived a few scares, the first of which came in the 18th minute when Nicola Sansone failed to make any sort of contact with Ángel's cross, before Rosales' last-ditch challenge prevented the Italian from levelling following Adrián López's pass. Carlos Kameni hadn't had much to do until this point, but he was forced into action just before the half-hour mark after Trigueros' curling effort from Jonathan Dos Santos' cut-back. Four minutes later the hosts believed they were level, but Adrián was correctly given offside when he tapped home the rebound from Trigueros' shot.

The hosts began the second half much like they had ended the first, with Sansone evading the challenges of three Malaga defenders before firing over, and a minute later Kameni saved Bruno Soriano's long-range effort at the second attempt.

Five minutes later, the controversy began as Charles appeared to have his left arm pulled back by Trigueros inside the penalty area, but the only action the referee took was to brandish yellow cards to the Brazilian and Camacho for their protests. To rub salt into the wounds, Garrido then gave the hosts the opportunity to equalise when he pointed to the spot after Rosales' untidy challenge on Sansone.

Bruno Soriano duly obliged and sent Kameni the wrong way. Jony replaced Keko in the aftermath of the equaliser, a move which created more chances for Malaga as they attempted to restore their lead. However, Asenjo proved to be Malaga's nemesis, producing two sharp saves to deny the substitute, before saving from Fornals again.

Just after the 70-minute mark, Roberto Soriano received a straight red card for an apparent double kick on Camacho. The visitors certainly picked up the pace as a result, but despite Victor blocking another shot from Jony, it was the hosts who had the better chances to win the game. Four minutes from the end, substitute and former Malaga player Samu Castillejo burst past the challenges of Camacho and Malaga substitute Javi Ontiveros, before cutting it back for Dos Santos who blazed over. Castillejo nearly sealed the game himself five minutes later, but Kameni diverted his left-footed drive after an incredible run past the post to ensure a point for both sides.

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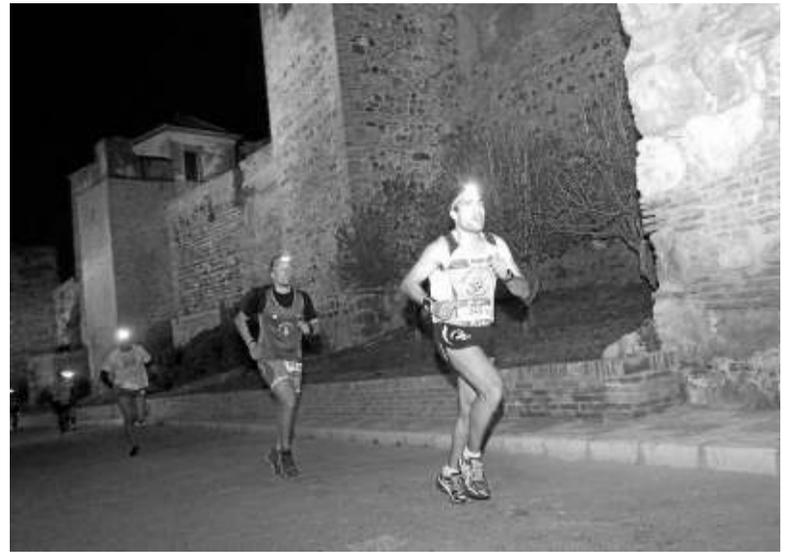
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SPORT IN PICTURES

► **Rugby.** All three of Trocadero Marbella Rugby Club's academy teams qualified for the second round of the Campeonato de Andalucía. The Under 14's, 16's and 18's all played against their counterparts at C.R. Atlético Portuense in the first round. The winner of each age group will compete in the Copa de España.

:: SUR



▲ **Cross Country.** The MLK Trail&Tahermo run will this year take place on the night of Saturday 18 March, through the streets of the centre of Malaga. :: ALVARO CABRERA



◀ Athletics.

The Cueva de Nerja-UMA Under-15 side won bronze in the indoor Copa de España competition in Zaragoza. One of the star performers for the Nerja team was Eva Salcedo (pictured), who took gold by winning the pole vault. Both male and female teams finished third overall.

:: ATLETISMO CATALÀ



◀ **Bowls.** The finals of the Benavista Bowls Club Men's Singles and Drawn Pairs Competition took place on Thursday 9 February. The latter was won 21-16 by Aileen Beedie and Malcolm Greenwood (pictured), while Mike Old was victorious in the Men's Singles with a 21-20 win. :: SUR

► **Bowls.** Last weekend saw the climax of Miraflores Bowls Club's Men and Ladies singles competitions. In the Men's final, Derek Carr (second from right) defeated Dudley Calder (far right) 21-19, while in the Ladies' final Carol Cooke (second from left) won her third title of the season following a 21-20 victory over Dine Warn (far left). Carr and Cooke will now represent Miraflores at the Champion of Champions event from 20 to 23 March. :: SUR



▲ **Basketball.** Unicaja's latest basketball star Alberto Díaz is training to become a teacher at his former school. The star is following a programme at Rosario Moreno which involves a mixture of studying to become a teacher and giving lessons. :: SALVADOR SALAS



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MARBELLA ESTADIONA

Perfect preparation for the Copa del Rey as Unicaja defeat leaders Real Madrid

Alberto Díaz and Nemanja Nedovic inspired an 82-78 win for the home side in their warm-up for the Copa del Rey on Friday

UNICAJA 82 REAL MADRID 78

BY JUAN CALDERÓN

MÁLAGA. Unicaja put two straight defeats to Gran Canaria and Cedevita Zagreb behind them by beating league leaders Real Madrid 82-78 on Sunday evening.

The result gave Unicaja a much-needed boost ahead of the Copa del Rey quarter-final against FC Barcelona Lassa tonight.

The first quarter, and in particular the first ten minutes, saw plenty of scores for both sides, as the league leaders went into the second quarter 21-19 up. However, Joan Plaza's side stepped up their game in the second quarter as they fundamentally changed the game by increasing their quality of play defensively.

Alberto Díaz in particular was exceptional as he marked Luka Dončić, who has taken the headlines after his excellent recent displays for Madrid, out of the game, to the extent where coach Pablo Laso had no option but to take the Slovene off.

Díaz then went on to score two three-point baskets to give the hosts a 35-28 lead, but Madrid's Sergio Llull's points ensured Unicaja only went into half-time 40-36 up.

Unlike in previous games, the break did not result in a loss in concentration for Plaza's side, who instead man-



Fogg (left), Díaz (centre) and Musli (right) thank the fans. **BY S. SALAS**

aged to score 11 points without reply to give themselves 51-36 lead. The visitors themselves only managed a single basket before Plaza took a near fatal decision to take off Dejan Musli and Nemanja Nedović, which caused the Malaga side's attack to collapse and put even more pressure on their defence.

That pressure showed as Real Madrid scored 15 points and conceded just four as they reduced the deficit to just five points going into the final quarter.

Unicaja managed to regain their defensive composure, while Jeff Brooks and Nedović gave the hosts much-needed impetus going forward. The former managed to score 16 points and give his best performance for Malaga since his arrival in the summer, while two three-pointers from

the latter gave Plaza's side a 71-59 lead and forced his opposite number to call timeout.

Despite dragging themselves back into the game by scoring another six points, Real never seemed totally comfortable in possession against a staunch Unicaja rearguard. The hosts then seemed to have killed off the game when a basket from Nedović and a three-pointer from Adam Waczyński put Unicaja 78-69 ahead with just a couple of minutes remaining.

However, the hosts relaxed a little too much and allowed Real Madrid to conjure a little scare when a score from the visitors made it 79-75. Despite this, two free throws from Nedović ensured victory for the Malaga side and inflicted a defeat on Real Madrid for just the fourth time this season.

IN BRIEF



A Barona player about to score against Malaga. **BY SIMO TYNYS**

Barona Fuengirola, mathematical champions

INLINE HOCKEY

BY FUENGIROLA. The latest round of the Andalusian inline hockey league was contested in Fuengirola at the weekend and this time even the heavy rain couldn't stop play af-

ter the problematic leaky roof was fixed by Fuengirola town hall.

After this latest matchday, Barona Fuengirola are mathematical champions of the regular season with one game still to be played. The playoffs will be in Seville in April with the fight for second place still open between the Fuengirola Lions and Sancti Petri.

Olympic athlete to compete in Litoral Holiday World Run

RUNNING

BY BENALMÁDENA. Álvaro Fernández Cerezo, the athlete from Nerja who took part in the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, will run in the Litoral Holiday World Run on Sunday 5 March.

It has been organised by the Benalmádena town council and the Holiday World resort, with all money raised going to the Fundación CESMA, a charitable foundation which heavily supports the Proyecto Hombre Málaga Project, an organisation which helps rehabilitate drug addicts.

Greg Peck Memorial Trophy to be held at Marbella Golf Club

GOLF

BY MARBELLA. The Greg Peck Memorial Trophy will be taking place on 17 February at the Marbella Golf Country Club (MGCC).

The tournament will start at 9.30am and all of the funds raised at the competition will go to Cudeca Hospice, who care for over 1,300 people each year suffering from cancer or other non-curable illnesses.

MGCC members will pay a fee of 25 euros to enter, while non-members will be charged 65 euros.

Prizes will also be given out to the first three qualifiers.

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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 centre. Sexy man, hard big banana for your sexual desires. In/outcalls. 657328140

Transvestites

NVA ANDALUCIA. Victoria Feminine, big boobs, Luxury massage party. Private apartment. Alone. Pictures Whatsapp 603100027

TRANSEXUAL Sophia, beautiful brunette, active/passive, great bust, well hung. 662045252. Fuen-girola. www.escortswow.es/sofi-abiagg

NEW BENALMADENA Aysha Trans mulata, 22cms. Party girl. Drinks. 24hrs. 695973362

ESTEPONA. Lola, beautiful, 150 bust, milky transvestite. Outcalls. Visa. 660874904

1 HOUR 50E! Transvestite Fanny, 29, Spanish, sexy, superendowed. 691762717 Torremolinos Centre

SHEMALE Gorgoues ladyboy sexy bitch, top and bottom very Milky. Taste me +34602648925

NEW ESTEPONA: Transvestite feminine, caring, complete, superendowed, active/passive. 631816160

MARBELLA center, Most elegant and pretty feminine Filipina trans for your sexual desires. 602493030

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PAULA brunette, big boobs. Tantric massages, body to body, and much more... Fuengirola 622486034

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

FUENGIROLA Carolina, blonde, elegant, relaxing massage, full erotic massage. Whatsapp. Message: 634797230

MAIAH, Fuengirola. Erotic, professional massage, body2body, happy ending. Miah, 647101046

KEEP your mind relax your body satisfied. Erotic-tantra Massage. relaxingtouch.es 602448534

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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

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



JAPANESE Hottie gay massage exclusive for men with amazing ending. Also outcalls. Marbella. 664177216

FUENGIROLA: Madonna, Hot oil/horny massage with my boobs! Happy ending. 632157758

MARBELLA. Mary, great body, super titts, best happy ending. 666291699

FUENGIROLA: Erotic Massage. For a mere 80 Euros/ hour enjoy a sensual experience with a delightful finalé, from one of our attractive masseuses. 602570272

MARBELLA Camila, Professional, elegant, simpatich, beautiful, sexy, magic hands, complete massage. 603169139

VICTORIA, Marbella, dark skin, long hair. Beautiful shape, horny, sweet, sensual erotic massage, toys. Discreet place. 604229713

ESTEPONA: Beautiful Latina, elegant, sexy, loving. Private apartment. Discreet. 622152511

DUSKY lady! Nice massage on bed! Only afternoons. Calahonda 612257309

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touch4men.com Torremolinos: Erotic massage service for men. Ask for new girl massage. 628746407

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EVA Jamaica and friend, professionals massage every part of your body, soft or strong, clean environment. San Pedro near Banús. 672994555

NEW ESTEPONA: Massages, French by beautiful, horny blonde and brunette. Complete. 631807380

MARBELLA, Mijas Costa. Monika, pretty mature, busty, all type massage and more... In/out. 658039189

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Emergency operator	112
National Police	091
Local (municipal) Police	092
Medical	061
Fire	080
Guardia Civil	062
Sea Rescue	900202202
Crime report	902102112

ENGLISH-SPEAKING HELP

Samaritans in Spain	900525100
Alcoholics Anonymous	600379110
Age Care	952933409
Age Concern (Estepona)	608458555

ANDALUSIAN HEALTH SERVICE

Salud Responde (doctors' appointments & advice) 902505060

ESTEPONA

Bus Station	952800249
Taxi Service	952802900
Tourist Office	952800913
Town Hall	952801100
Foreign Residents Dept.	952809031

FUENGIROLA

Bus Station	952475066
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Taxi Service	952471000
Tourist Office	952467625
Town Hall	952589300
Foreign Residents Dept.	952589440

MALAGA

Bus Station	952350061
Railway Station	902240202
Taxi Service	952345693
Tourist Office	951926020

MARBELLA

Bus Station	952823409
Taxi Service	952774488
Tourist Office	952771442
Town Hall	952761100
Foreign Residents Dept.	952771442

MIJAS

Town Hall	952485900
Town Hall Las Lagunas	952473125
Taxi	952478288
Tourism Office	952589034
Foreign Resident Dept.	952589010

NERJA

Bus Station	902422242
Taxi Service	952520537
Tourist Information	952521531

Town Hall	952548400
Foreign Resident Dept.	952548401

TORREMOLINOS

Bus Station	902143144
Taxi Service	952380600
Tourist Office	952371909
Town Hall	952379400
Foreign Residents Dept.	952374231

BENALMADENA

Bus Station	902450550
Taxi Service	952441545
Tourist Office	952442494
Town Hall	952374231
Foreign Residents Dept.	952442494

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

Bus Station	952503162
Taxi	952540016
Town Hall	952559100
Tourist Office	952541104

GIBRALTAR

General emergency	199/112(mobiles)
Fire/ambulance (emergency)	190
Tourist Office	(00350) 20074950
Taxi	(00350) 20070027

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Norwegian Spirit	21/02	Funchal	Alicante	07.00	17.00
MSC Magnifica	01/03	Funchal	Civitavecchia	08.00	14.00
Norwegian Spirit	03/03	Funchal	Alicante	07.00	17.00
Horizon	09/03	Casablanca	Cadiz	12.00	19.00
MSC Magnifica	12/03	Funchal	Civitavecchia	07.00	14.00
Ventura	14/03	-	-	08.00	17.00
Costa Pacifica	15/03	Arrecife	Barcelona	09.00	19.00
Norwegian Spirit	20/03	Funchal	Alicante	07.00	17.00
SAGA Sapphire	23/03	-	-	08.00	23.30
Corinthian	28/03	Gibraltar	Cartagena	07.00	16.00
Balmoral	31/03	Almeria	Cadiz	08.00	18.00



CONSULATES

Great Britain	C/. Mauricio Moro Pareto 2- 2. Málaga	952352300
USA	Av. Juan Gómez 8. Ed. Lucía 1-C. Fuengirola	952474891
Holland	Avda Palma de Mallorca 57, Torremolinos	952380888
Belgium	Carretera de Cádiz, km 202, 29649 Mijas Costa	952599159
Denmark	Calle Córdoba 6 404, Malaga	952211797
Norway	Avda Los Boliches, 60, Edf Rosenkranz, Fuengirola	952667955
Canada	C/Cervantes, Edif. Horizonte, Malaga	952223346
Germany	Mauricio Moro Pareto 2, Malaga	952363591
Sweden	Calle Córdoba 6, 5th floor, Malaga	952604383
Ireland	Avda. Los Boliches, Fuengirola	952475108

France	1, Plaza de Santa Cruz, Seville	954293200
Italy	Calle Lagasca, 98, Madrid	912106910
Austria	Alameda de Colón 26, Malaga	952600267
Finland	Calle Blasco de Garay, 7, Malaga	952212435
Saudi Arabia	Mauricio M. Pareto 2 bloque Sur 2º, Malaga	952310358
Greece	Salitre, 16, Malaga	952311847
Iceland	Paseo Marítimo 91, 29640 Fuengirola	952661200
Philippines	C/Marqués de Larios 4, 2º, Malaga	952222757
Hungary	Av. de Andalucía 26 29007 Malaga	952308393

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



THE STARS

Aquarius
January 21 - February 19
Imagine that you had all the confidence possible. What would you be trying out right now? There is so much to gain.

Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Tempted to wear your heart on your sleeve next weekend? Make sure you are in the right place for it to be seen!

Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Your enthusiasm for a pet plan or idea is great, but think carefully before you start going about it.

Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Choose your words and actions carefully around someone who is currently being a little touchy.

Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Things can change quickly and for the better if you remain flexible. New approaches can quickly alter the outcome.

Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Suggestions for a change of direction are appealing. Getting down to the practical details needs determination.

Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
There is more demand on your time than usual. This effort is worth making, especially for older relatives.

Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Could it be that someone who has been busy and distracted has noticed you at last? Keep their interest going by being enthusiastic and inventive.

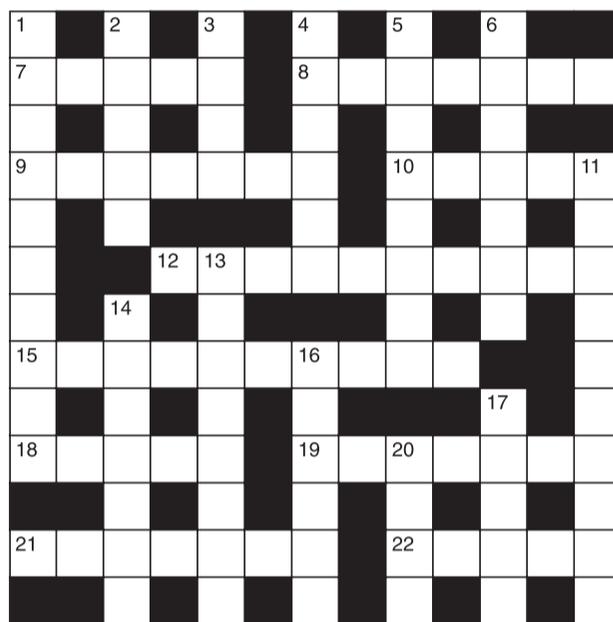
Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
There seems little point in denying that you feel a surge of happiness. They say that everything come to he who waits.

Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
A long-awaited breakthrough builds confidence and gives fuel to the fire in your heart.

Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
A younger member of the family has something to celebrate and needs your full encouragement.

Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
A chance remark from a colleague or friend brings something sharply into focus. Perhaps an idea that fell by the wayside has now found its time?

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11229



Across

- 7 It forms a ring in two ways (5)
- 8 Conscientious objection (7)
- 9 Hold me back and stay (7)
- 10 Brave emblem (5)
- 12 They promised good, but bring none (5,5)
- 15 Explains something the printer set all wrong (10)
- 18 Seems to make appearances (5)
- 19 Don't agree it could be dangerous (4,3)
- 21 He should be fit to revise the tale (7)
- 22 Her calling is a dangerous one (5)

Down

- 1 A miss in business (6,4)
- 2 It's charitable to give to its benefit (5)
- 3 Turn pale - possibly being guilty (4)
- 4 Value fools to a point (6)
- 5 A note of whimsy? (8)
- 6 Grave words for those that are late (7)
- 11 Support for a player (5,5)
- 13 Stopped sorting out retreats (8)
- 14 Wasting a prize perhaps (7)
- 16 It is inclined to support overhead development (6)
- 17 The directors don't sound very keen (5)
- 20 Lots may be missing (4)

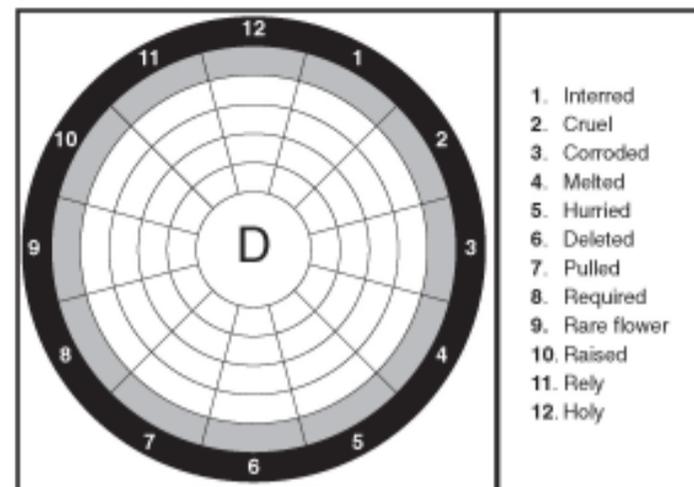
SUDOKU BY HANZO

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

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

CLOCKWORD

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter D in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a U.S. actor.



- 1. Interred
- 2. Cruel
- 3. Corroded
- 4. Melted
- 5. Hurried
- 6. Deleted
- 7. Pulled
- 8. Required
- 9. Rare flower
- 10. Raised
- 11. Rely
- 12. Holy

THE WORDPUZZLER



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

- 1. Singing voice
- 2. Large feline
- 3. Team
- 4. Cot
- 5. Atomiser
- 6. Coast
- 7. Bird
- 8. Unwanted plant
- 9. Boy
- 10. Equine mammal

INTERNATIONAL RADIO

Talk Radio Europe
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91.5 Costa del Sol East
91.9 Costa del Sol West
98.7 Gibraltar/Sotogrande
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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)
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Fb: Radiotelevision Peubla de Cazalla

QUIZ

QUESTION 1

"The course of true love never did run smooth" is from Shakespeare's ...?

- 1. Romeo and Juliet
- 2. Twelfth Night
- 3. Macbeth
- 4. Midsummer Night's Dream

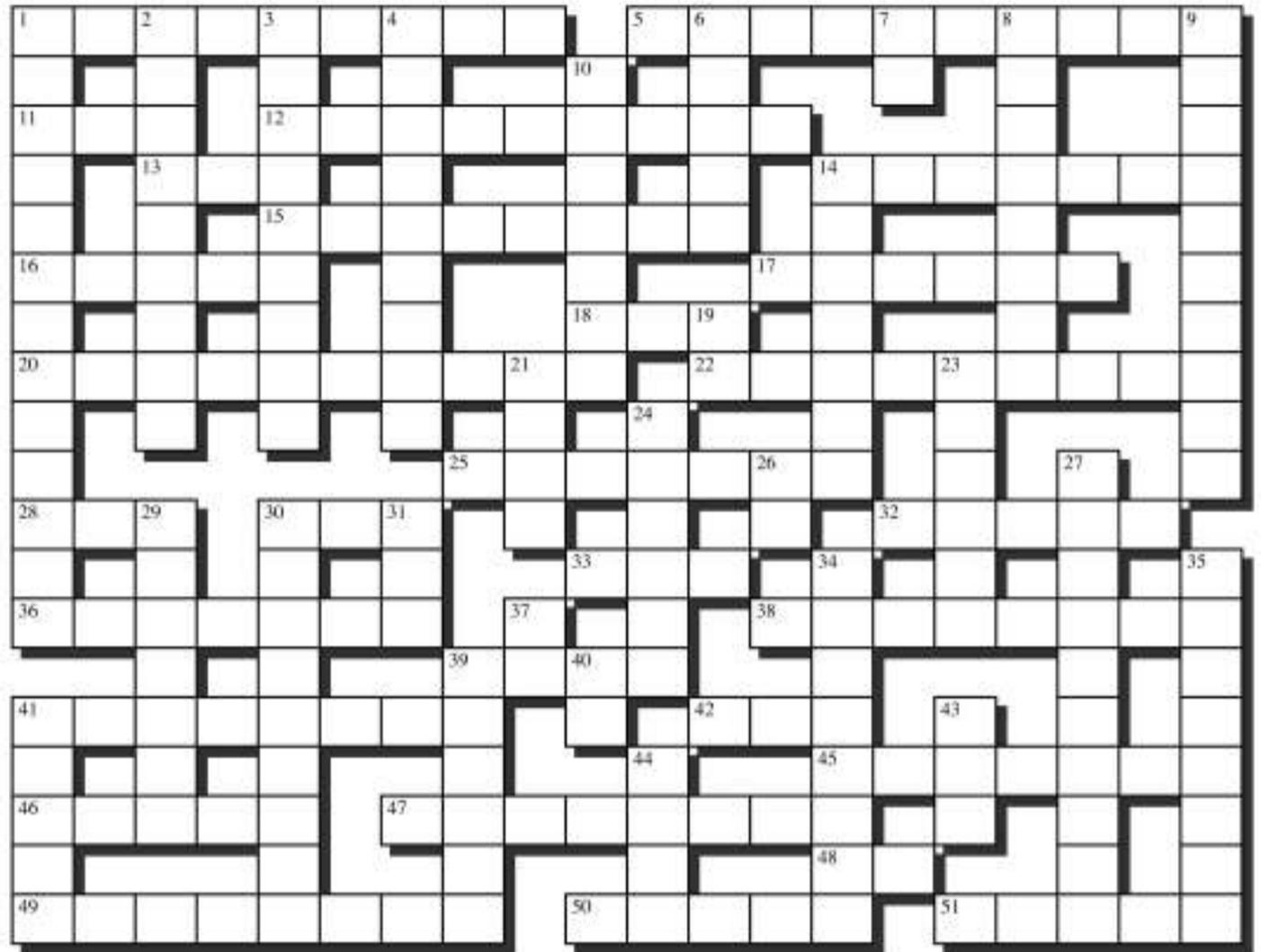
QUESTION 2

Cetology is the study of what type of creature?

- 1. Octopus / squid
- 2. Dolphins / whales
- 3. Crabs / lobsters
- 4. Piranhas / palometas

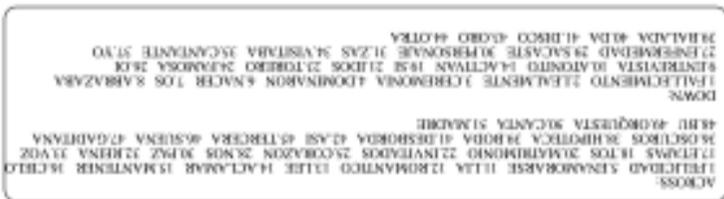
LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across**
- Happiness (9)
 - To fall in love (10)
 - He lies up (3)
 - Romantic (9)
 - She reads (3)
 - To hail (7)
 - To maintain (8)
 - Heaven (5)
 - Stages (6)
 - Cough (3)
 - Marriage (10)
 - Guests (9)
 - Hear! (7)
 - Us (3)
 - Peace (3)
 - Queen (5)
 - Voice (3)
 - Dark (pl) (7)
 - Mortgage (8)
 - Wedding (4)
 - It overflows (8)
 - Like this (3)
 - Third (f) (7)
 - It sounds (5)
 - From Cadiz (f) (8)
 - Boo! (2)
 - Orchestra (8)
 - She sings (5)
 - Mother (5)
- Down**
- Death (13)
 - Faithfully (9)
 - Ceremony (9)
 - They dominated (9)
 - To be born (5)
 - You (pl) (2)
 - He was hugging (8)
 - Interview (10)
 - Astonished (7)
 - They activate (7)
 - If (2)
 - Out of it (pl) (4)
 - Bullfighter (6)
 - Famous (f) (6)
 - I heard (2)
 - Illness (10)
 - You took out (7)
 - Celebrity (9)
 - Powl (3)
 - He used to visit (8)
 - Singer (8)
 - I (2)
 - Ballad (6)
 - It gives (2)
 - Record (5)
 - Gold (3)
 - Other (f) (4)



ANSWERS

Language Crossword



Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 7 Atoll; 8 Scruple; 9 Embrace; 10 Totem; 12 False hopes; 15 Interprets; 18 Looks; 19 Fall out; 21 Athlete; 22 Siren. Down: 1 Career girl; 2 Doubt; 3 Plea; 4 Assess; 5 Crochet; 6 Epitaph; 11 Music stand; 13 Arrested; 14 Atrophy; 16 Rafter; 17 Board; 20 Lost.

Clockword solution

SOLUTION: 1 Burned, 2 Unkind, 3 Hushed, 4 Thawed, 5 Pushed, 6 Erased, 7 Yanked, 8 Needed, 9 Orchid, 10 Litled, 11 Depend, 12 Sacred, 13 CELEBRITY, 14 Burt Reynolds.

Wordpuzler solution



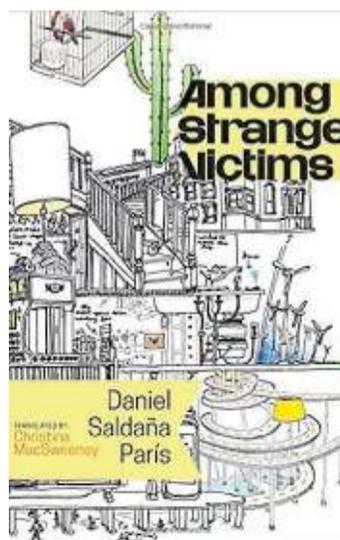
Sudoku solution

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

Quiz answers

Answer 1: A Mismatcher Night's Dream
Of interest: In Act 1, Scene 5 Lysander says to Hermia, "The course of true love never did run smooth. But either it was different in blood—" "The couple are in love but Hermia's father plans for her to marry another and Lysander tries to comfort her."
Answer 2: Dolphins / whales
Of interest: Cetology is the branch of zoology that studies the approximately eighty species of whales, dolphins, and porpoise in the scientific order Cetacea.

BOOK OF THE WEEK



Among strange victims
Daniel Saldaña Paris

Rodrigo likes his vacant lot, its resident chicken, and being left alone. But when passivity finds him accidentally married to Cecilia, he trades Mexico City for the sun-bleached desolation of his hometown and domestic life with Cecilia for the debauched company of a poet, a philosopher, and Micaela, whose allure includes the promise of time travel. Earthy, playful, and sly, *Among Strange Victims* is a psychedelic ode to the pleasures of not measuring up.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

I always prefer to believe the best of everybody, it saves trouble

RUDYARD KILPLING

THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

We're here because you are

You wouldn't be reading this newspaper today if it weren't for the flourishing communities of international residents across the Costa del Sol and Malaga province. It's your town or village, your association or school, your good days and your bad days that keep these pages full of interesting news and comment. We're proud to keep you informed and help everyone keep in touch - after all, we've been doing it for 33 years and are the

official market leader in southern Spain. Of course we couldn't do it without you. We need your help to tell us what's going on, what interests you and what drives you crazy. There's always something to talk about and share - so why don't you let us know a story idea or write with your point of view? Send your news and comment to surinenglish.su@diariosur.es or tweet it to us (@SUR_English). We are also on Facebook (@surenglish).





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Ridley Scott's 'The Cartel' to be filmed in Malaga

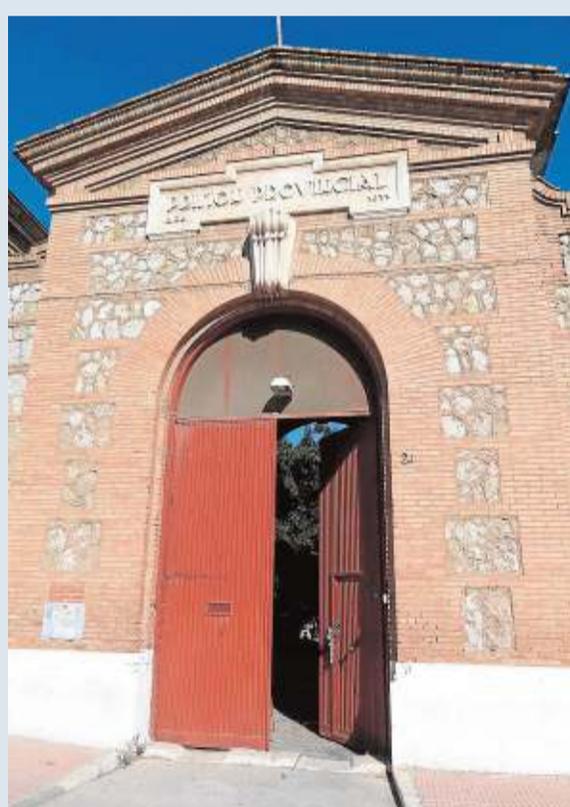
The former provincial prison will become a Mexican jail when the director brings filming of his latest thriller to Malaga this summer

:: F. GRIÑÁN / M. E. MERELO

MALAGA. This is not the first time British director Ridley Scott will be in Andalucía. The first time was back in 2013 as he scouted out locations for the filming of 'Exodus: Gods and Kings', settling on the desert locations of the 'spaghetti westerns' around Almería after travelling around much of the region by helicopter.

In December, he was back, this time his helicopter headed in the direction of Cadiz in search of filming locations. All that was known at the time was that he was looking for a place with a Mexican vibe. It seems now that he has found such a place in the city of Malaga, specifically at the former provincial prison in the Cruz de Humilladero area of the city which has for many years been abandoned.

This prison will become a Mexican jail for the filming of 'The Cartel', a thriller about the 'narco wars' between the USA and Mexico, according to SUR's sources close to



The former provincial prison. **:: FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ**



Scott, visiting the Coronel Maté base. **:: SUR**



DiCaprio, in Scott's 'Body of Lies'. **:: SUR**

the project.

Ridley Scott, who will be launching 'Alien: Covenant' in May, visited in December and gave it the thumbs

up to be the location for a high-security institution where a renowned drug baron will live in luxury and continue to run his operations while

evading justice in the United States.

The story is inspired by the life of Joaquín 'el Chapo' Guzmán and his first escape from prison in 2001.

Negotiations are ongoing with Leonardo DiCaprio to play the main role

The new film by the director of 'Blade Runner' and 'The Martian' will chronicle the story of DEA agent Art Keller and drug baron Adan Berrera. Negotiations are ongoing with Leonardo DiCaprio, with whom Scott previously worked on 'Body of Lies', for the Oscar winner to play Keller.

In the last few weeks, preproduction for 'The Cartel' has advanced significantly, not only with the announcement of the Malaga location, but also with Scott returning to Spain at the end of January to visit the Coronel Maté de Colmenar Viejo base in Madrid where filming, including the use of military vehicles and helicopters, is expected to take place.

It is also known that the director had been searching for a town with a church, possibly in Cadiz province, to be a typical Mexican 'pueblo'.

Filming is expected to start in the summer under the supervision of the Malaga Film Office, but fans will have to wait to find out if Leonardo DiCaprio will be coming to Andalucía.

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