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February 24th to March 2nd 2017
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supplement for the latest
health news and
features **INSIDE**



WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE WEATHER?

Freak storms have brought a rough and crazy week **P2&3**

Malaga residents assess the scene after a road collapsed in Cerrado de Calderón, taking cars with it. :: FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ

Acquittal for King's sister in fraud and corruption case as her husband faces jail

Iñaki Urdangarin receives a six year and three month sentence

The husband of Infanta Cristina, Iñaki Urdangarin, is still free this weekend after the court in Palma decided on Thursday that he didn't have to enter prison immediately. It follows last week's sentencing of Urdangarin and his business partner, Diego Torres, in

the Nóos fraud and corruption trial that has tainted the royal family's reputation and held the attention of people in Spain for several years. The men remain free until the supreme court has reviewed the judges' decision. The Infanta was acquitted. **P2**

Hollande and Rajoy talk Europe at Malaga summit

The French president also enjoyed the cultural side of the city, taking in the some of the museums **P6**



The two statesmen. :: A. CABRERA

Marcelo Romero gets his first win as Malaga coach in a 2-1 home win over Las Palmas, ending the run of ten games without a win **P52**

Do you live in one of the 20 municipalities at risk of a major earthquake? The provincial government has published a report **P10**

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Freak weather brings record-breaking storm to Malaga and lucky escapes for some

A quarter of a year's rain falls on city in a day as Mediterranean low pressure anomaly also subjects Costa to hail, destructive waves and brown rain in a week

:: SUR

MALAGA. After a string of unusually heavy downpours over the last few months in different parts of the Costa de Sol, it was the turn of the central and eastern districts of the city of Malaga to receive a spectacular soaking last weekend.

The extremely heavy rain in the early hours of Sunday morning broke records and caused flash floods. Between 3am and 5am, 126 mm fell on the city's port. In just one hour 87.4 mm fell, the highest hourly rate since records began in 1981. The total rainfall in the port on Sunday was 153 mm, a quarter of a year's rainfall in one day. The Spanish met office recorded 456 lightning bolts during the storm that hit the city, which also included hail showers.

Stretch of road disappears

The residential area of Cerrado de Calderón was among the worst hit. The storm caused around 60 metres of Calle Flamencos to collapse down a hillside, taking a vehicle and its two occupants with it. The two students, Carlos Moya and Alejandro Zaragoza, were returning from the carnival festivities in the city centre when the road disappeared and their car rolled down the hillside. Miraculously they were able to crawl out of it with only minor injuries. They managed to climb the bank to warn another



Alejandro and Carlos count themselves fortunate to be alive after their car somersaulted 15 metres downhill as they neared home. :: ÑITO SALAS

oncoming car in time, which turned out to be a police patrol that then took them to hospital for checks. On Sunday afternoon they returned to the site, still visibly shaken, to retrieve possessions from the overturned vehicle. Two parked cars were also destroyed in the landslide, which was inspected by the mayor of Malaga, Francisco de la Torre, on Sunday morning.

Nearby, two sisters, Lidya, who is four months pregnant, and Tamara, also had a lucky escape. They were swept down the main road from the Cerrado de Calderón district to the city's seafront in their car by a torrent of water, colliding with other vehicles on the way. "We froze with panic," said Tamara, "All we could do was pray

that it would stop raining." A police officer who helped rescue them said it was a difficult operation as "it was like the Amazon rainforest". The nearby Baños de Carmen waterside restaurant was also badly damaged.

Car park surprise

In the centre of the city, late-night revellers were surprised by the ferocity as water cascaded down the narrow old town streets. Tourists returning to their cars on Sunday morning from city hotels got a shock to find that the well-used Plaza de la Marina car park at the end of Calle Larios was flooded and many vehicles damaged.

Insurers have estimated the damage in Malaga from Sunday



Not only rain but hailstones as well: A Malaga beach on Sunday. :: F. G.

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Costa beaches take a battering as bad weather to the east whips up the sea

Unusual rain this week blamed on the 'cold drop' climatic phenomenon

The record-breaking rain in an hour in Malaga on Sunday morning was especially remarkable as in other parts of the coast it hardly rained at all. The freak, localised rain the Costa has experienced this week can be explained by a Spanish climatic phenomenon called the 'cold drop' ('gota fría'). This weather event occurs mainly along the western Mediterranean when a higher-altitude low pressure becomes cut off from the prevailing flow of westerly winds and takes on a life of its own. These trapped pockets, often moving back from east to west through warm air, collect water vapour as they go and empty their load in very heavy downpours. By Sunday afternoon the 'cold drop' had moved off over northern Morocco, this time sucking up a lot of Saharan sand as it went. By Thursday it was back on the Costa del Sol again, where brown rain from the sand covered streets and cars.

night at 10 million euros, with 2,800 properties and 700 vehicles affected.

Although the heaviest rain was very localised in one part of Malaga, the whole Costa del Sol continued to experience a strange-weather week, with winds whipping up four-metre waves along the coast, pushing water onto seafront promenades and coastal roads.

Rain and lightning returned on Thursday, this time laden with brown dirt from the Sahara.

:: SUR

MALAGA. Work to clear up the Costa del Sol's beaches after the storms at the end of last year had hardly been finished before the heavy rain and high waves swept along the coast this week causing fresh damage.

Huge quantities of sand have been eroded from Malaga's La Caleta and La Malagueta beaches due to the easterly winds. Officials are contemplating having to bring sand in for the first time since full-scale conservation work was last carried out in 2010.

The effect of the four-metre waves was combined with the debris swept down the mountains by the rain, littering beaches and igniting criticism from residents over local authorities' failure to keep stream beds clean.

San Pedro beach sewerage

In Marbella, La Fontanilla beach, in the centre of the resort, has lost a significant amount of sand since last weekend, although ironically nearby El Faro beach has accumulated more sand.

However the most important damage has been done on the beach in San Pedro, where the storm has broken the effluent pipe connecting the Puerto Banús and Nueva Andalucía area with the Guadalmanza water treatment plant in Estepona.

Some 18 metres of piping have been affected as three sections of tubing have been pushed out of place by the strong waves. An emergency outflow pipe is being used to point effluent into the sea at a rate of 5,000 cubic metres a day.

Water treatment bosses expect to have repaired the damage by the end of the weekend providing the swollen seas subside, and point out



The main sewage pipe under San Pedro beach was broken this week by the strong waves. :: JOSELE-LANZA



Sand has been eroded as far as the promenade in Malaga. :: NIÑO SALAS

that the pipe was broken in the same place last year before being repaired quickly.

Marbella council also said that the rain had moved some stones of the Senda Litoral coastal path.

All repaired by Easter?

The strong easterly winds and waves have also caused damage to infrastructure and swept away sand in the resort towns of the Axarquía and eastern Costa del Sol.

Local councils and coastal authorities across the area have stressed that they are fully committed to repairing the damage to buildings and restoring sand levels to the coast's beaches before the Easter peak tourism period in mid-April.



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La Cala residents call for a new police station amid safety concerns

After the recent spate of arson attacks, locals feel the need for security to be stepped up in the Mijas Costa area

by IVÁN GELIBTER

MIJAS. Fed up of what they consider a “lack of security” in the municipality, and following the recent spate of fires affecting cars, property and containers, residents in Mijas Costa, and especially those in La Cala, joined voices on Wednesday to ask the town hall to give over a plot of municipal land to build a new police station.

President of the La Cala residents’ association, Francisco Javier Sepúlveda, told SUR that meetings have been held with police union representatives during which he was told that this was “the perfect moment” to build a police station there.

He added: “Not only would the new station improve vigilance and increase residents’ safety, but it would give locals a place to carry out the administrative procedures for which we would otherwise have to go elsewhere.”

Sepúlveda also highlighted how



Maldonado, centre, presenting the new dog unit. :: I. G.

the complexity of Mijas municipality, with both inland and coastal settlements, complicated work for the law enforcement agencies and that a new police station would improve procedures and urged the town hall to take this proposal to the council “as soon as possible”.

This appeal to the town hall came on the same day that the mayor, Juan Carlos Maldonado,

presented the Local Police’s new dog unit at the El Albero school.

“This is the latest step in helping our officers do their job to the best of their abilities,” he said. “In partnership with the Guardia Civil, we aim to crack down on drug trafficking.”

He added that if all went well, the number of animals could be increased.

112 REPORTS

Investigation into shot-at bus leads to discovery of marijuana farm

MALAGA

by A. F. / F. J. The investigation into what first appeared to be an act of mindless vandalism when a number 5 bus was shot at in Guadalmar last week has resulted in several weapons being seized, a marijuana farm dismantled and three people arrested.

It didn’t take the National Police long to track down the perpetrator, a 17-year-old who was taken to the police station for questioning with his father.

The case seemed to be resolved when he admitted to the crime until his father informed officers about the weapons and drugs his son kept in the home.



Damage to the bus. :: SUR

Alleged hit-and-run driver hands himself in

TORREMOLINOS

by F. J. / A. F. The man accused of knocking over a Swedish cyclist in Benalmádena and fleeing the scene handed himself in to police last week.

The Frenchman, of north African origin, handed himself in to police in Torremolinos in the presence of his lawyer.

He has been released with charges of inflicting damage and failure to provide assistance.

The cyclist is continuing his recovery at home.

El Romeral residents go without internet after mass theft of copper

ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE

by F. TORRES. Residents in the El Romeral area of Alhaurín de la Torre had to go without phone and internet connections after, as the provider explained, “the mass theft of copper from the installations”.

Telefónica say that the problem is not technical and therefore not their fault.

Attempts to repair the problem were also thwarted by further thefts which also caused damage to the systems.

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Constitutional court confirms that 'plusvalía' tax is illegal if the value of property sold falls

The sentence confirms recent decisions by judges across Spain and threatens a key source of town hall income to fund public services

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

MADRID. The top court overseeing the interpretation of the Spanish constitution has ruled that a big part of the money raised by town halls through 'plusvalía' tax is illegal.

The 'plusvalía', whose official title is Impuesto sobre el Incremento del Valor de los Terrenos de Naturaleza Urbana (IIVTNU), is levied by councils when a property being sold has increased in value.

However, councils base the calculation of the amount to pay on the official rateable value of the property rather than the real value. Since the economic crisis forced prices down, many properties are now well below this official value, but this has made little difference to town halls who have continued to charge the tax at the outdated value.

The new ruling by the Tribunal Constitucional in Madrid confirms decisions by courts across the country. It says that the calculation method is illegal under article 31 of the Spanish constitution, which says a person can only be taxed to support public funds according to their ability to pay.

The decision throws council finances into chaos. According to official data, 135.7 million euros were collected by local authorities in 'plusvalía' tax in 2015 in Malaga province.

Consumer groups are advising sellers to still pay the tax for the moment then raise a formal complaint afterwards with the town hall to demand a refund.

Sellers are advised to still pay the tax and then demand a refund later

Unions complain that Costa hotels have 11 per cent less staff than in 2008

NURIA TRIGUERO

MALAGA. Trade union Comisiones Obreras has complained that, despite record tourist numbers along the Costa del Sol last year, employment in the hotel sector is still characterised by temporary and seasonal contracts, outsourcing

and illegal working. Government data shows that there were 12,292 people working in hotels in 2016, 1,542 less than in 2008, equivalent to a fall of 11 per cent.

Although employment in the sector grew by 7.4 per cent from 2015 to 2016, union bosses have said that 50.5 per cent of contracts are still seasonal and 35 per cent are part time. They claim that this latter figure is false, as many staff work much longer hours than their contracts say but owners don't pay the extra social security costs. In addition, the union claims that too many hotels are still closing in the winter in Malaga province.

Scam warning over fake 'floor clause' telephone calls from banks

Lenders start to process 'cláusula suelo' refund claims as judges warn the court system may collapse if customers don't agree with the payouts on offer

SUR

MALAGA. The deadline passed this week for banks to put steps in place to tell customers that they may be due a refund on their mortgage payments if their loan contract included a hidden 'floor clause'. Lenders will not inform people one by one, but will put details in branches and on websites about the refund process.

However, consumer groups have warned about a phone scam whereby a person receives a call with an automated message. The voice gives the impression that it is the bank calling about a refund. The customer is urged to call back to verify their details but the number given is a premium rate line and callers are put on hold for several minutes and charged for the call. Lawyers have explained that a bank will not contact a customer individually by phone or by email to say they may be due a refund.

Fears of court overload

Judges in Malaga have asked for additional capacity to deal with legal complaints if too many customers fail to reach agreements with their lender over the refund amount and are forced to turn to the courts for a settlement. They fear that banks may use the stretched court system to delay any payout for several years.



Recent protests over 'floor clauses' in some bank loans. SUR

Court invalidates more mortgage clauses but for different reasons

HÉCTOR BARBOTTA

MARBELLA. A wave of other refund claims to banks could be on the horizon, and this time it has nothing to do with the so-called 'floor clause'.

A Marbella court has recently found in favour of two people who took out mortgages based not on the standard euribor interest rate, but on a more complicated financial index called the IRPH (Índice de Referencia de Préstamos Hipotecarios), which can be a higher rate than the euribor.

In the cases, brought against Banco Mare Nostrum and Caixa-bank, the complainants said that the distinct types of rate were never properly explained.

Lawyers for both banks argued that the type of rate wasn't explained to the customer as they didn't ask. However, the courts found that it was the banks' duty to spell out the differences. A staff member who arranged one of the loans for their customer was called as a witness and was unable to explain to the judge how the rate was calculated.

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As Tuesday 28 February is a public holiday for Andalucía Day the deadline for advertising and editorial for the edition of Friday 3 March will be midday on Monday 27 February

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Rajoy and Hollande admiring 'Ghost' by Kader Attia at the Centre Pompidou and, right, a group photo of ministers, plus Díaz and De la Torre, in front of the Alcazaba. :: S. SALAS / A. CABRERA

Malaga summit unites Spain and France in the face of the EU's latest challenges

François Hollande and Mariano Rajoy met in the city of Malaga on Monday as part of the 25th Spain-France bilateral summit

:: ANTONIO M. ROMERO

MALAGA. French president François Hollande arrived in Malaga on Monday morning to preside over the 25th Spain-France bilateral summit along with Spain's prime minister Mariano Rajoy.

The future of the European Union was the main topic for discussion at this summit. Giving a joint press conference at the Centre Pompidou, Hollande admitted that the European project was entering a "new phase" and defended the multi-speed Europe which he believes should be headed by France,

Spain, Germany and Italy.

To that end, he invited Rajoy to a summit in Versailles on 6 March with German chancellor Angela Merkel and Italian prime minister Paolo Gentiloni during which the countries' common strategies will be outlined ahead of the EU meeting in Rome at the end of March to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding treaty which led to the creation of the EU.

Both Hollande and Rajoy agreed on the principal challenges faced by the EU, namely jihadist terrorism, the consolidation of economic growth, unemployment, immigration control and national security.

Aside from EU affairs, the two statesmen were accompanied at the summit by seven ministers each to work on a series of bilateral agreements: Foreign Affairs (Alfonso Dastis and Jean-Marc Ayrault, respec-

tively); Justice (Rafael Catalá and Jean-Jacques Urvoas); Interior (Juan Ignacio Zoido and Bruno Le Roux); Development and Public Works (Íñigo de la Serna and Ségolène Royal); Education and Culture (Íñigo Méndez de Vigo and Naja Vallaud-Belkacem); Energy and Tourism (Álvaro Nadal and Royal); and Finance (Luis de Guindos and Michel Sapin).

Projects discussed were the handing over of documents compiled by the French authorities regarding ETA, the acceleration of a high-tension power line project beneath the Bay of Biscay, AVE train connections through the Basque Country, as well as various projects to improve cross-border security.

Security was tight in the city from the early hours of the morning with uniformed and plain-clothes officers on duty and much of the historic centre closed off to



The heads of state received a military welcome. :: A. CABRERA

the public.

Spanish Legionnaires were on parade to provide the military welcome to the French head of state who was welcomed at the City Hall by Rajoy, Susana Díaz (president of the Junta de Andalucía) and Francisco de la Torre (mayor of Malaga).

The ministers were hosted in the City Hall, the Banco de España building and the university Rectorado building, while the heads of state enjoyed tours of the newly-opened Museum of Malaga and the Centre Pompidou.

The mayor of Malaga, who guided Hollande around the city was ap-

plauded for his command of the French language, which he said he learned at school.

Hollande, who was greeted earlier that morning by children from the local Lycée Français, took particular interest in the city's culture and said that he would definitely return at the end of his political life. He was also particularly interested in the Malaga French Film Festival after his wife, actress Julie Gayet, participated in it last year.

The last Hispano-French summit held in Malaga was in 2002 when Jacques Chirac and José Maria Aznar were counterparts.



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Residents appeal for road toll to be lifted when A7 is congested

Marbella council will debate forming a committee with neighbouring towns to study the problem

by MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. A petition devised by a group of Costa del Sol residents, that appeals for the the AP-7 road toll to be lifted when the alternative A-7 road suffers traffic tailbacks, gathered more than 800 signatures in its first few days.

The petition, which was uploaded to Change.org over the weekend, accompanies an open letter from the residents, addressed to the central government's ministry of Development and Public Works.

The letter states that it is unacceptable for drivers to be forced into paying the AP-7 road toll when there is heavy traffic on the A7 due to accidents or roadworks. Lifting the barriers, it says, would be "a minor expense for the state coffers", and increase road safety.

The petition has gained support from affected drivers in coastal towns along the Costa del Sol from Fuengirola to Marbella.

María Isabel Vázquez is the spokesperson for one of the area's most active residents' associations, in Riviera del Sol. She points out the safety risks that could result from a congested A7, full of drivers who don't want to have to pay the AP-7 road toll.



A-7 traffic jam on 13 February caused by a lorry overturning. by J-LANZA

"It's not just that we can't get to work, and haulage lorries are unable to reach their destination, but more importantly, ambulances aren't able to get to hospital," she said.

The petition has already made some progress as a motion put forward by the Izquierda Unida party on the issue is due to be debated by

Marbella council today, Friday. The proposal is to call for the ministry to set up a commission formed by representatives from all the councils involved - Fuengirola, Mijas, Marbella, Estepona, Casares and Manilva - to monitor the situation and discuss the "urgent need" to lift the toll in the case of tailbacks.

HERE AND THERE



The land on which the park is being built. by LEANDRO PAVÓN

Work starts on the creation of green zone

by ESTEPONA

by LEANDRO PAVÓN. The creation of a green space around Calle Alejo Carpentier in the Calancha area of Estepona has begun. It is the latest of numerous urban renovation projects the council has under-

taken in the north of the town recently.

The 230,000-euro project involving approximately 3,000 square metres, will bring a new football pitch, gardens with a variety of new trees, and footpaths.

The park will also be connected to the two sports complexes that are located in the same area via new pathways.

Transformation of San Pedro centre

by MARBELLA

by MÓNICA PÉREZ. San Pedro Alcántara is facing the largest transformation of its town centre since the construction of its 'boulevard'.

With a budget of just over one million euros the council hopes to give the town centre a facelift by installing new green zones and wider paved areas which will prioritise pedestrians over cars and parking spaces.

However, the work, expected to be carried out over one year, is already causing disruption to traffic, parking and even the local taxi rank, as residents have experienced first hand.

New road surface on Sierra Bermeja hillside

by ESTEPONA

by LEANDRO PAVÓN. From this week, vehicles will be able to access both the ADANA animal shelter and Los Pedregales park more easily, via a new and improved road surface.

Using large amounts of compacted sand, workers employed by the council have levelled out ditches and improved the drainage of the hillside on which the park and shelter are located.

The work was necessary due to heavy rain in December washing away parts of the road. The improvements have made the road safer for motorists.

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BRITISH INVESTMENT, STRONG DESPITE BREXIT

The strength of foreign investment in Spain was made clear on Tuesday at the event organised by CaixaBank for members of the British Chamber of Commerce. The regional director of CaixaBank in western Andalucía, Juan Ignacio Zafra, stressed that property investment by British individuals and businesses was still ahead. "Even last year the British were the biggest investors in property in our country, despite Brexit," he said.



JOSELE-LANZA

ADVERTORIAL Rombosol Marbella

Two days of family fun for the launch of the Renault Scenic

Official Renault dealership Rombosol Marbella recently held two days of family-oriented fun to celebrate the release of the new model of Renault Scenic.

The events were catered for the new generation of families who enjoy sharing in leisure pursuits during their free time, learning from each other during a time of shared experiences.

To mark the occasion, there was storytelling, workshops, balloon-modelling, badge-making, giveaways and much more.

The event was centred around the essence of the new vehicle which was designed with safety and the whole family's enjoyment in mind. Its unprecedented shape and modern design gives it a unique look.

Several orders were taken over the course of the days as buyers took advantage of one-off discounts.

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Children take part in the activities. SUR

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SETTING AN EXAMPLE

Banks that are planning to move their London operations to EU cities as a result of Brexit are expected to choose their new locations within the next few months. The competition for this post-Brexit business among other major European cities is therefore entering its most important phase. Madrid's pitch has so far focused more on the benefits of life in the Spanish capital rather than on Spain's banking sector, citing factors such as fewer rainy days and lower living costs than close rivals such as Frankfurt, Paris and Dublin. Yet a spate of recently-announced investigations into senior bankers accused of financial misconduct might well boost Spain's standing for banks fleeing London.

Last week the National Court in Madrid confirmed that Miguel Ángel Fernández Ordóñez and Fernando Restoy - respectively former Governor and Deputy Governor of the Bank of Spain - and Julio Segura, ex-chief of the securities regulator CNMV, are under investigation in connection with Bankia's disastrous share sale in 2011. The bank raised three billion euros from the stock offering in a desperate attempt to stay afloat. Almost two billion euros worth of shares were sold to retail investors, yet just a year later Bankia almost collapsed and required a 22-billion-euro state bailout. Spain's National Court has upheld a claim that Ordóñez, Restoy and Segura went ahead with the 2011 share sale despite numerous warnings from an inspector that it would result in substantial losses. They will testify in a few weeks' time.

Whether or not they are meant as proof that the Spanish financial services sector is finally cleaning itself up, these investigations can't hurt Spain's reputation in

the eyes of banks such as Citigroup and UBS, both of which are sizing up Madrid as a post-Brexit location for their London operations. The same can be said about the fraud trial in which Rodrigo Rato, former IMF boss and deputy prime minister of Spain, is currently a defendant. If the bankers in either case are found guilty of their alleged offences, their sentences could reinforce the message that Spain no longer tolerates fraud in banking or politics.

Madrid's bid to portray both itself and Spain as a whole as a serious financial hub has also been strengthened by the recent conclusion of another high-profile fraud case. Last Friday, the King of Spain's brother-in-law, Iñaki Urdangarín, was sentenced to six years and three months in prison for pocketing millions of euros of public money through a bogus charity. His wife the Infanta Cristina, sister of King Felipe VI, was acquitted and handed a relatively negligible civil fine of 265,000 euros. For many who followed the case, it was symbolic of whether or not Spanish royals are above the law (and there is arguably now a verdict and sentence to support each side of that debate).

In the long run, though, it will take more than the occasional flurry of fraud crackdowns to prove that Madrid is a world-class banking hub. Indeed, the Spanish financial services regulator is currently setting up a fast-track accreditation service, in English, for banks looking to relocate from London. Madrid has also been touting its links to emerging Latin American markets and its large amount of vacant and relatively cheap office space. If the Spanish capital also maintains its apparently tougher stance on corruption, it is well placed in the beauty contest for post-Brexit business.

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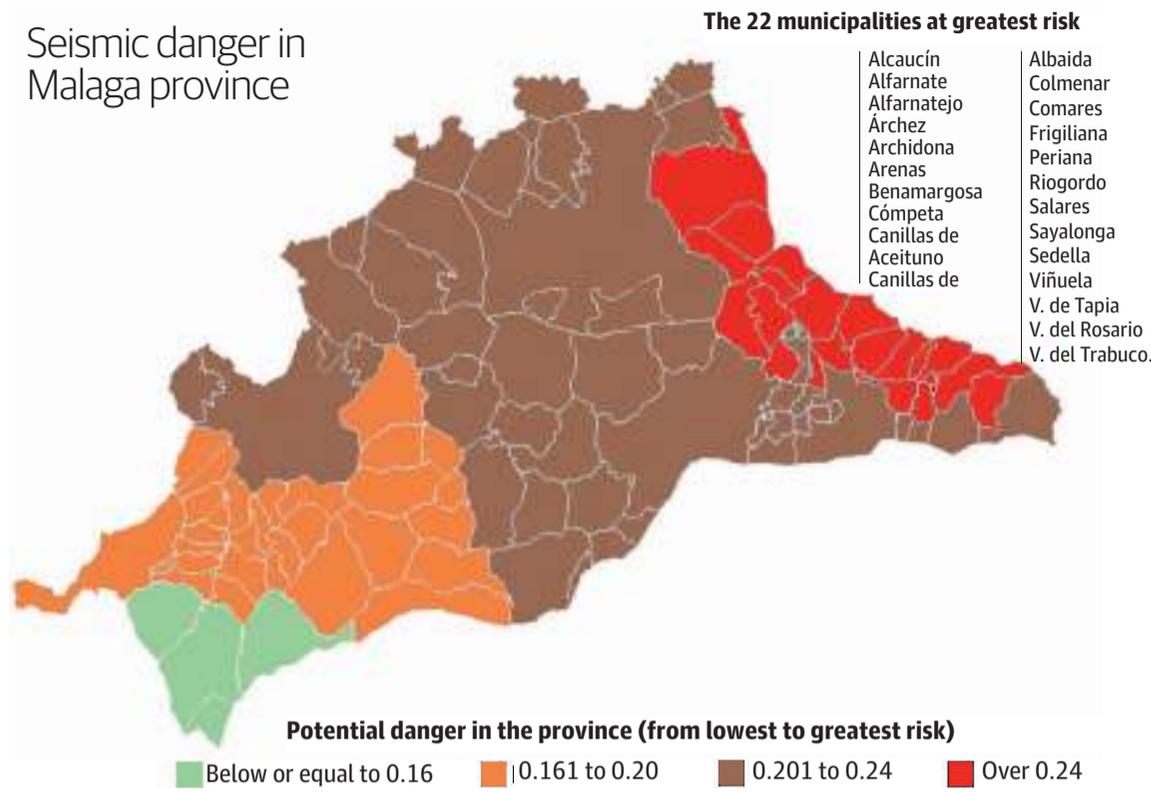
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Seismic danger in Malaga province



About 20 municipalities in Malaga, at risk of suffering a major earthquake

The Axarquía is the most vulnerable area of the province, and in Malaga city the effects would be more serious in western districts than in the east

IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. About 20 municipalities in the Axarquía and the area to the northwest of Malaga city are at the greatest risk of suffering a powerful earthquake, according to a map of seismic danger which was produced this week by the provincial go-

vernment in collaboration with the Spanish Association of Seismic Engineering. Towns on the western Costa del Sol, however, have the lowest probability.

In Malaga city the risk level is moderate, but is higher in the western districts (Carretera de Cádiz, Huelin, Pacífico, etc) than on the eastern side.

Ricardo García Arribas, the vice-president of the association, explained that the probability of a major earthquake is greater in areas closest to the Granada fault, which runs from Boquete de Zafarraya to Alhama. He warned that earthquakes measuring nine and ten on the Richter scale

could be expected in that province.

With regard to Malaga city, the proximity to the Guadalhorce river, where the land is softer, is a matter of concern and this has to be taken into account when constructing new buildings. In fact, the review of the Seismo-resistant Construction Regulation of 2012 (which is still not fully in force) increased the level of vulnerability in the province by 70%, so from now on the calculations for building structures will have to be even more rigorous even though the potential risk is the same.

Ricardo García Arribas explained that some buildings are already vul-

Most buildings comply with anti-seismic regulations

All the buildings constructed after 1968 were designed to comply with anti-seismic regulations. Most apartment blocks in Malaga city were built after that date so, in theory at least, they are designed to withstand significant earth tremors without suffering serious structural damage.

The Seismo-Resistant Construction Regulations were last updated in 2002. In 2012 they were reviewed, although the review is not yet fully in force, and the level of vulnerability in the province was increased to 70 per cent.

The indicators which show the level of danger in each area have been updated and are increasingly more rigorous.

nerable, such as the Local Police headquarters in Las Lagunas (Mijas Costa). "It makes no difference what a building looks like, if it has not been constructed with the proper knowledge," he said. However, he also stressed that there is very little risk of tsunamis off the local coastline: "There is no space between the coasts of Morocco and Malaga for the waves to grow very much; but in Cadiz and Huelva there is," he explained.

Map of the dangers

The vice-president of the Malaga provincial government, Francisco Salado, and the delegate for Sustainability, Francisco Delgado Bonilla, also attended the presentation of the latest Map of Seismic Danger.

"It is a very necessary and very useful document for every municipality, because it updates the risk data and adapts it to national and regional regulations, which are continually more demanding and rigorous. The aim is to prevent the effects of possible earthquakes, to protect human life and limit material damage," explained Francisco Salado.

New roundabout to be built in Torreblanca to improve road safety

I. GELIBTER

FUENGIROLA. The construction of a new roundabout between in the Torreblanca area has been announced by Fuengirola town hall in an effort to improve road safety. The contract for the project, worth 75,383 euros, was won by Excavaciones Fajosa S.L. and construction should last two weeks.

The roundabout is part of numerous road improvements in the area which are expected to ease traffic circulation and parking. The pavement on Calle Zarza has also been widened by 1.5 metres and street lighting in the surrounding area has been improved.

Junta announces funding for subsidised places in new Nijas care home

I. G.

MIJAS. The Junta de Andalucía has promised that it will provide funds so that 80 per cent of the spaces in Mijas' planned residential care home will be subsidised. Mijas councillors and residents have been discussing building a local centre with sponsored spaces for many years.

The commitment by the regional government to provide long-term funding means that a project to draw up formal plans for the centre can now be put out to tender. Mijas council has said it will set up a working group with local senior citizens to determine what the new home should be like.

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REF. S.O.F.

I am divorcing, but as I do not have any income, I applied for a court-appointed lawyer. However, I am not happy with him, he does not reply to my phone calls or emails and I think that his work leaves much to be desired. I have made a claim to the barrister association, but they tell me that if I want another lawyer, I

must look for him and pay it myself. What can I do?

The fact that you have no income entitles you to benefit from legal aid, and that is why you have a public defender, but this does not imply that you can choose the lawyer; equally, the lawyer cannot reject you as client and is obliged to defend your case in the best possible way. Except in exceptional cases (such as if you can prove that the lawyer is not working with the necessary professionalism), it is unlikely that the barrister association will designate a new lawyer.

REF. P.A.I.

I divorced some years ago, and the divorce sentence established that I should pay alimony to my son of 300 euros per month. I have been doing so until now, but my current financial situation is very bad and I need that money to pay

my own expenses. Could I stop paying, taking into account that my son has already reached the age of maturity?

In order to give you an accurate answer, we would need to know the financial situation of your son, since the fact of being an adult is not a determining factor when asking for the cancellation of the alimony. If your son has employment and his earnings allowing him to support himself, regardless of his age, then you can ask for the annulment of the alimony, as it is considered that your son no longer needs the allowance. But if your son, even if he is adult, is studying and does not have any income, then you have to continue paying the alimony until your son is financially independent. On the other hand, if your son does not study or work, and does not look for an employment, you could ask for the cancellation of the alimony as long as you can prove this in court.

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Former British consul, Thomas Tuite, dies aged 93

Born in Dublin in 1923, Thomas Robert Henry Stratford Tuite OBE was consul in Malaga between 1962 and 1989

by RACHEL HAYNES

MALAGA. Former British consul, Thomas Tuite, died in Malaga on 18 February at the age of 93.

He was born Thomas Robert Henry Stratford Tuite in Dublin, Ireland, in 1923, son of an Anglo-Irish army officer.

Before settling in Malaga, Thomas worked for the Foreign Office and was posted in British-occupied Germany and Eritrea after World War II.

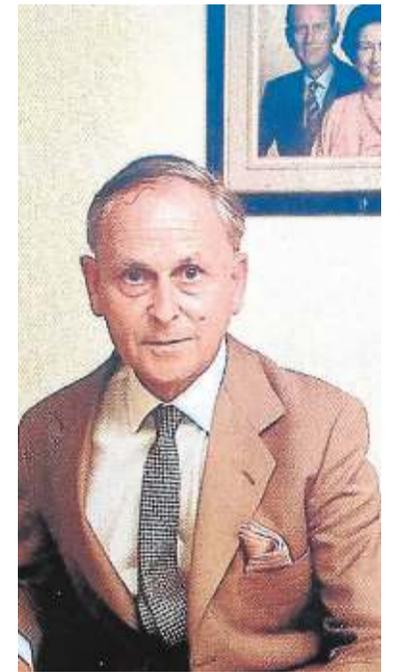
It was in the 1950s that he visited Malaga on his way to Ireland from Canada.

He liked the city so much that he decided to stay and look for a job, initially working in the private sector for a shipping agent.

He met Malaga-born Chari Briales de León, whom he married in 1957.

In 1962 he was offered the job of British consul, a post that had been vacant for several years.

His Law degree and legal experience gained in earlier life helped him obtain the position he held



Thomas Tuite. :: SUR

for 27 years.

He retired as consul at the end of 1989. During his retirement he served on the committee of the English cemetery in Malaga.

Thomas is survived by his wife Chari Briales de León, his sons Thomas, Gerard, Mark and Patrick and his sister Pamela, and four grandchildren.

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Vote of no confidence brings PSOE back into power in Frigiliana after 22 years

Following two ruptures in the town hall since the 2015 local elections, the Socialist party holds a minority and has not given responsibility to the PA

:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

FRIGILIANA. Frigiliana has a new mayor, following the council's support for a vote of no confidence in the previous mayor, José Antonio González, on Monday.

Alejandro Herrero, 46, an employee at Unicaja bank, has taken over the role of leader of the council putting the Socialists at the helm of the town hall for the first time in 22 years.

Since the last local elections, in May 2015, there have been two coalitions running the town council in Frigiliana; from June 2015 until March 2016 it was González's PP (Partido Popular) alongside the Partido Andalucista (PA).

However, difference of opinion led to the unprecedented shift to a coalition between the PSOE and the PP.

According to the town's PSOE, it was disputes over management of key areas of council business, including personnel and urban planning, which eventually caused the rupture in January this year and the ensuing motion of no confidence, which was signed by the PSOE and PA.

Group formed to campaign against environmental and financial effects of mussel beds

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

ALMUÑÉCAR. Around 20 organisations and companies gathered in Almuñécar on Tuesday to form the "platform against mussel beds" protest group. The collective has representatives from the tourist industry and well as locals who oppose the planned installation of the mussel beds off the Punta de la Mona beach, between Almuñécar and La Herradura.

Protesters fear that the installation of the beds would be a huge threat to the tourism industry in the area, as the planned site for the platforms would cut through areas of the sea used for boating and diving activities, which would have a knock-on effect on bars, restaurants and accommodation.

The group has also spoken out about the environmental impact of the beds, saying that the proposed site is home to rare species of coral and is in the protected Maro-Cerro Gordo cliffs nature reserve.



New mayor Alejandro Herrero and his team on Monday. :: E. CABEZAS

Spokesperson for the PA, Francisco Acosta, accused González of having a "dictator-like attitude."

Despite PA support on the vote, the incoming mayor, who leads a minority government, announced on Tuesday that all key positions in the local government would go to the three PSOE councillors and that the three PA councillors who form part of the coalition would not be given responsibilities.

Following Monday's vote and investiture ceremony, which took place without incident, Alejandro Herrero promised that he would govern "with dialogue and consensus" while the outgoing mayor said that he was leaving, with his head "held high" as the vote of no confidence was, "full of hatred, jealousy and false accusations".

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Nerja cave discoverers boost museum collection with memorabilia

A bronze identification badge will go on display along with a hammer and chisel used to gain access to the cave as well as an old visitors' book

:: E. CABEZAS

NERJA. Four of the original five discoverers of the Nerja caves met with Cave Foundation director Ángel Ruiz last week to make a donation to the museum, which also belongs to the foundation.

A bronze identification badge which was used by a guide when the museum was first opened to the public in 1960 was among the



Ángel Ruiz and José Torres. :: E. C.

items handed over. The badge has been in the possession of one of the discoverers, José Torres, since then.

It has now gone on display along with a hammer which was used to open up the cave and which was donated to the museum in August 2016 as well as a chisel and book with autographs of important visitors to the cave, which also form part of the collection.

The foundation said that thanks to these donations, more and more residents are coming forward with items, which "help us to reflect on the recent past of our town." The foundation added that it would encourage anyone with similar items to bring them to the museum to be added to the collection.

HERE AND THERE

Young tourist reports mugging in Nerja

NERJA

:: E. C. A 20-year-old foreign tourist has reported being mugged in the El Chaparil area of Nerja. The alleged incident took place at around 6am on Monday, when the tourist was approached by a man whom he described to police as being around 30, with a skinhead and unshaven face. The thief threatened the tourist with a knife and got away with 75 euros, two mobile phones, a jacket and a pair of trainers which the young man was wearing at the time. Police have appealed for witnesses to come forward.



Beach bar, Torre del Mar. :: A. P.

Sunday's storm causes widespread damage

AXARQUÍA

:: A. P. Although the Axarquía escaped the worst of Sunday's storm, high winds and large waves caused widespread damage along the coast. Torre del Mar, Caleta, Almayate and Chilches were the worst affected places, with beach bars suffering material damage and Torre del Mar's dog beach, which opened last summer near the mouth of the Vélez river, being washed away along with rubbish bins. Deputy mayor and councillor for tourism in Vélez-Málaga Jesús Atencia said that the area would need financial help to repair the damage.

Uncontrolled dogs kill 21 goats and sheep

TORROX

:: A. P. A pack of dogs killed 21 goats and sheep at a farm near Torrox during the course of last weekend, causing around 4,000 euros' worth of losses and damage. The owner of the farm, Francisco Bueno, who has reported the two separate incidents to the Guardia Civil nature protection unit (Seprona), believes that the dogs involved in the attacks have owners but are able to roam freely. Bueno has had to move the rest of his herd to a nearby farm, which is closer to the village.



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Erasmus+ programme provides international training in labs and hospitals for European students

The Santa Bárbara school has been running the programme for ten years and this year welcomes students from Germany, Latvia and Finland

:: KISHAN VAGHELA

MALAGA. The Santa Bárbara school of secondary and further education in Malaga began its International Week on Monday by welcoming European students who have chosen to take part in its Erasmus+ programme of healthcare courses.

The programme allows students from all over Europe to come to Malaga and undertake trainee work placements, which usually last between one and three months, in various hospitals and laboratories across the province. Representatives of Santa Bárbara's hospital and institutional partners abroad were also present at the event.

The most notable guests included the head of Education in the province of Malaga, Patricia Alva Luque, and a representative from Malaga city council, Eugenio Rodríguez.

In an opening speech, the principal of the school, Antonio Archidona, hailed the Erasmus programme, which was established 30 years ago, as a scheme "which has helped the institute establish links all over Europe and has allowed students to have different experiences thanks to the free movement of people".

Santa Bárbara is celebrating its tenth year of participation in the Erasmus programme, which was renamed the Erasmus+ programme in 2014, and this year welcomes students from Germany, Latvia and Finland.

Laura Leone, who is training to become a biomedical scientist, and



Archidona and Alva. :: K. V.

"You learn what your job is like in other countries, how it works and the way it's organised"

is one of three girls to come to Malaga for a month from Hannover Medical School, sees this opportunity as a way "to build international contacts and to learn something about new countries".

At the other end of the scale, Rocío Hernández Ríos, a Spanish masters student who spent two months at Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham, stressed the importance of the scheme in understanding the differences within a given sector across the globe.

"You learn what your job is like in other countries, how it works and the way it is organised. This allows you to compare it to the system in your home country and take and use the bits from your experience that seem useful and discard the ideas that do not work for you," she added.

Ríos also praised "the wide range of programmes" run by the school, which has helped it become one of the leading institutions in Malaga in health education.

Exchange sees German college welcomed in Malaga

:: FRANCISCO GUTIÉRREZ

MALAGA. The German consul in Andalucía, Peter Eck, welcomed students from Berufliches Schulzentrum, a training college in Leonberg, a city in the state of Baden-Württemberg in southern Germany, to the city's Automobile Museum last week.

The pupils from Germany, who are taking part in the Erasmus+ programme established between themselves and the Rosaleda institute of further education, were

"delighted" and "surprised" by what they discovered on their visit to Malaga.

The college in Leonberg is training them as plasterers and provides students with a course similar to the one taught at the Malaga school.

The collaboration between these two institutions began three years ago, when two teachers shared the same interests in the field and contacted each other to make the Eras-



Students from both schools at the museum. :: NIÑO SALAS

mus+ programme possible.

Fifteen students from both institutions are taking part in the programme, in which students and teachers alike will participate in reciprocal visits.

David Valaguer is one such student who travelled to Germany a few weeks ago, visiting various companies while undertaking a work placement at the college.

Although he admitted that the language "was a significant barrier", he used the little English he knew to communicate as best he could. "You learn a lot when you go abroad, not just about studies and work in Germany but also about the culture of the country," he stated.

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HERE AND THERE

Food collection runs until end of the month**MALAGA**

:: **SUR.** Specsavers Opticas are collecting non-perishable food for the Spanish Federation of Food Banks in all of their Costa del Sol stores until the end of the month. Anyone can drop off their food at their local store during opening hours. At the end of the month it will be donated to Bancosol food bank, for them to distribute in the community via partnerships with local charitable organisations.

Radikal darts to bring 3,000 players to Costa**FUENGIROLA**

:: **I. GELIBTER.** Fuengirola will become the world capital of electric darts from 6 to 9 April when it welcomes the international Radikal Darts tournament to the Palacio de la Paz.

A total of 180 machines will be installed and the event is expected to attract more than 3,000 players from all around the globe, but especially Malaysia, China and Korea, said organisers. If all goes well, the tournament could become a regular fixture, they added.

La Nogalera to host St Patrick's Day on 18 March**TORREMOLINOS**

:: **A. GÓMEZ.** Torremolinos will this year, for the first time, officially mark St Patrick's Day with celebrations in Plaza de la Nogalera. It will take place on Saturday 18 March between midday and 6pm with performances from the Celtic Dancers, as well as a bar installed in the square which will serve both Irish and international beers. Food and other Irish specialities will also be served up. The event is organised by the Irish Association of Spain in collaboration with Torremolinos town hall.

New Caminito del Rey visitors' centre will open in August

The 500-square-metre site will be equipped with an information point, cafeteria, toilets and parking for up to 200 cars and 17 buses

:: FERNANDO TORRES

ARDALES. The first stone of the new visitors' centre at the 'Caminito del Rey' was laid last week in an event attended by provincial government (Diputación) president Elías Bendodo and the mayors of towns surrounding the tourist attraction.

At the event, which highlighted the contribution of the Caminito to tourism in Malaga, it was announced that the site, expected to open in August this year, will be located on the MA-5403 road and will be comprised of two buildings.

Inside, tourists will have access to an information point, a cafeteria, a shop to buy everything necessary for the walk and a souvenir shop to visit at the end.

The approximate budget for the project is 860,000 euros and the construction company carrying out the work, Sando, is the same company



Elías Bendodo analyses the construction plans. :: **F. TORRES**

that was employed in 2014 to rehabilitate the Caminito.

Luis Manchuca, the architect who designed the site explained that the buildings will largely be constructed from wood in order for them to "integrate into the landscape, which is the important thing for the famous tourist attraction".

At the same event, Bendodo also announced that restoration work on the 300-metre 'Desfiladero de los Gaitanes' tunnel is complete. This will be accessible by March and will serve as an exit for walkers when wind speeds exceed safe levels or for those who just wish to shorten their route.

Hospitality innovation comes to Marbella thanks to Maastricht school**:: SUR**

MARBELLA. The Hotel Management School Maastricht comes to Marbella in March to deliver its Hospitality Innovation Program (HIP) to local professionals and executives. The course, entirely in English, takes place between 6 and 10 March at Andalucía Lab. Participants will come away with an official certificate from the Hotel Management School Maastricht.

The aim of the executive programme is to convert innovation into an ongoing process of data collection and analysis, identification of areas for improvement, development and implementation of solutions that adapt to the changing needs of customers.

The course comes to the Costa del Sol thanks to the Ronda Mountain Think Tank, a business and project development platform focusing mainly on the tourism industry. The programme is aimed at postgraduate students, executives and managers in the industry who want to take a step forward in their careers.

Roof of Santa María church open to the public from March**:: VANESSA MELGAR**

RONDA. On 8 March the roof of Santa María church, located in the heart of Ronda's historical centre, will be opened to the public.

The platform, which has been in construction since last summer, was designed by local architect Sergio Valadez. The Malaga Diocese has invested 100,000 euros in the project which is expected to attract even

more tourists to Ronda.

Although the church was built in the late 14th century, the new wooden platform seems to blend in well with the Moorish style of the building. Visitors will access the roof via a winding staircase that dates from around 1675 and once reaching the top, they will be presented with spectacular views of Ronda and its mountainous surroundings.



Valadez showing the view from the roof last summer. :: **V. MELGAR**

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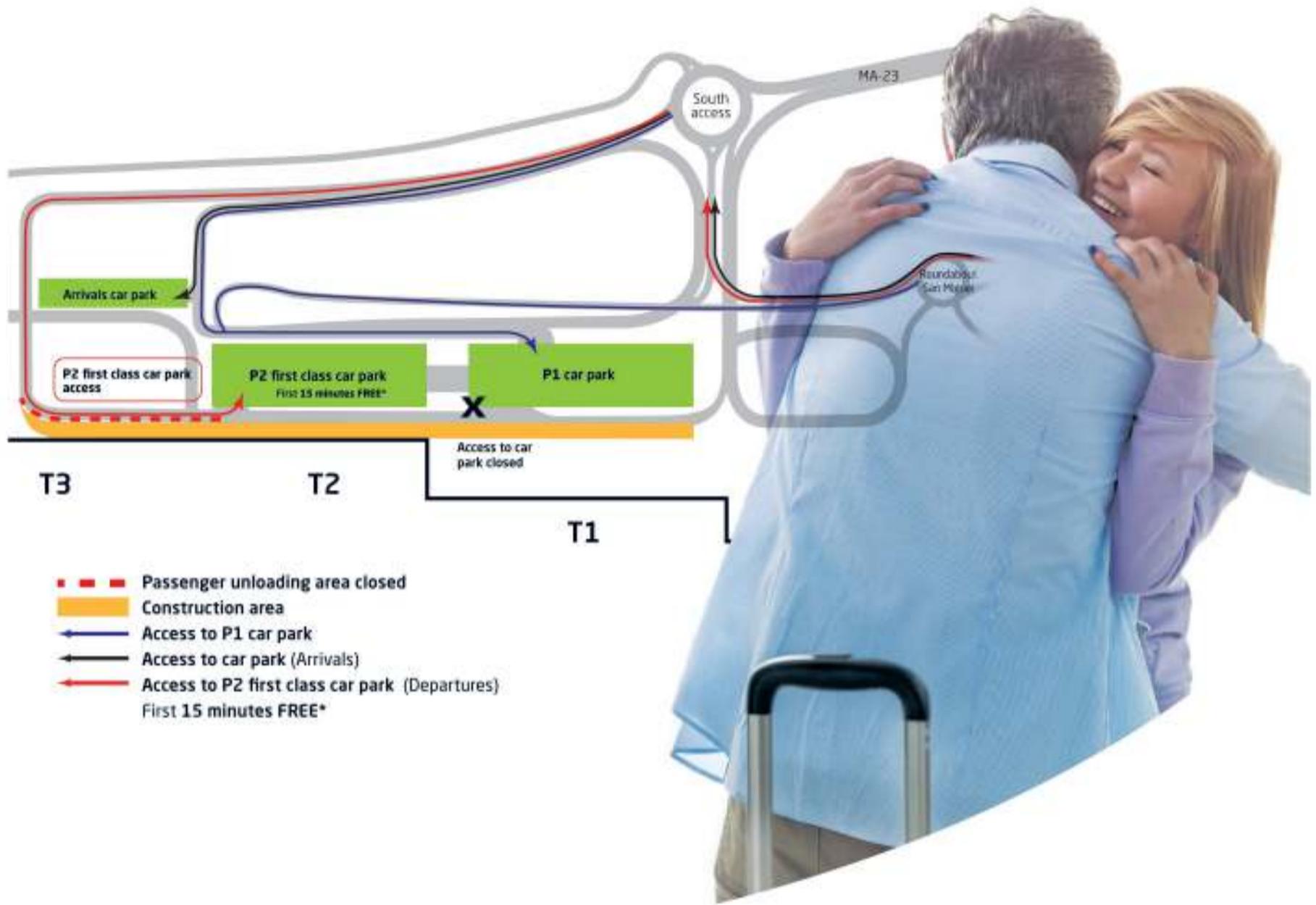
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A lifelong dedication to the Legion

Mary Le Corney's introduction to the RBL in Spain came after an unfortunate accident



TONY BRYANT

✉ tonysureng@gmail.com

TORREMOLINOS. On October 9 1987 an article in SUR in English informed of the forthcoming opening of the first branch of the Royal British Legion in Spain.

This year, the Legion will be celebrating its thirtieth year on the coast and it is down to the sheer hard work and determination of certain people who have endeavoured to keep the flag flying.

One of these people is 80-year-old Mary Le Corney, who has recently stepped down as district secretary, a post she has held for over 20 years.

Born in Graves End in Kent, Mary, with her husband Ray, came to Spain for the first time to celebrate their honeymoon in 1962.

In 1985, they decided to come to live in Torremolinos.

Mary comes from a military background, so it was normal for her to have an interest in the Legion; however, her introduction to the RBL on the coast came about under rather unfortunate circumstances.

Following a nasty fall, from which she broke her ankle, Mary spent several days in hospital. It was here that she first learned of the RBL on the Costa del Sol.

"One day, I noticed that the husband of another patient was wearing an RBL badge, so I asked him if he was a member. He informed me that he was the secretary of the Torremolinos branch," Mary told SUR in English.

This was the only introduction Mary needed, because once fit and well, she joined the Torremolinos branch, and she has been an active member ever since.



Mary has stepped down after 20 years as district secretary. :: SUR

Mary was soon persuaded to get more involved, taking up the positions of district chairman and district training officer.

For the last twenty years, she has been the chairman of the Torremolinos branch. She has also held the same position in the Benalmádena branch for the last ten years.

However, Mary is quick to point out the tireless work of the officers and other committee members.

"We've had some very good people in the Legion over the years, very hard working people, although they have not always been recognised for their efforts," Mary explained.

Today, the Torremolinos branch has just over 30 members, but when Mary first joined in 1989, there were around 150 members.

"We have struggled to stay alive because we just don't have the peo-

"I needed something to do; I couldn't just sit on the beach all day for the rest of my life"

ple anymore. Members have either returned to the UK, or they have died. We need younger people," Mary said.

Although she is stepping down from the district council, she is not retiring from her duties in local Legion business.

"I have had some wonderful times and I would not give it up for anything," Mary said with passion.

The highlight of her time with the Legion came just four years ago.

The vice-chairman of the district

at that time suggested that Mary be presented with a gold badge because of her loyalty to the Legion.

However, the board of trustees had other plans. They had decided to present Mary with life membership; one of the Royal British Legion's most prestigious credits.

"I was absolutely gobsmacked. It was the most outstanding thing to happen as far as I was concerned. It was absolutely phenomenal," Mary said gleefully.

Even though Mary had worked as a teacher for 35 years, she was in no rush to retire when she first arrived in Torremolinos.

"I needed something to do; I couldn't just sit on the beach all day for the rest of my life, and so I joined the Legion. I wouldn't have missed it for the world," she said with conviction.

AFAB raises awareness of the need for a new Alzheimer's centre in Benalmádena

BY TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. AFAB, the Benalmádena-based association for relatives of sufferers of Alzheimer's and other dementias, has launched an awareness campaign to raise funds needed to build a new care centre.

The campaign, which has been running since the local council donated land for the project in 2010, has been highlighted due to the overwhelming demand in their current day care unit.

The new facility will enable the charity to increase the help and support it gives to patients suffering with progressive mental deterioration. However, the construction project lacks funding and AFAB is asking for donations and regular contributions to enable them to build the new facility.

The organisation also raises funds through its charity shop in Arroyo de la Miel.

AFAB currently cares for 50 Alzheimer's patients and their families, and this shop is one of the main channels of financing the service.

Situated in Calle Vega in Arroyo de la Miel, the shop opens from 9am until 2pm, Monday to Friday.

It is run by volunteers and sells new and secondhand goods, including gifts, clothing, shoes and fashion accessories.

A spokesperson for the charity said, "We encourage residents and visitors to use this shop, since all of the proceeds from it enable us to continue the services we provide."

Created in 1996, the AFAB day care unit is equipped with a multidisciplinary team of social workers, psychologists, occupational therapists and physiotherapists.

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Iñaki Urdangarin seen near his home in Geneva for the first time after the sentence was announced. :: J.O. / E.P.

King's sister acquitted in Nóos case but her husband is found guilty

Iñaki Urdangarin, former Duke of Palma, is sentenced to six years and three months in jail after the corruption trial but remains free while the decision is reviewed

:: SUR

PALMA DE MALLORCA. The King of Spain's sister, Cristina de Borbón, has been acquitted of the criminal charges against her in the Nóos case.

Her husband, Iñaki Urdangarin, has been handed a prison sentence of six years and three months.

The court in Palma ruled that there was no evidence to prove that Cristina de Borbón actively cooperated in the tax fraud committed by her husband through the firm Aizoon that the couple owned between them.

Urdangarin has been found guilty of embezzlement, corrupt practice,

fraud, influence peddling and tax offences. His former business partner, Diego Torres, has been handed a prison sentence of eight years and six months.

In the long-running case centring on a misuse of public funds, the former president of the Balearic government, Jaume Matas, has been given three years and eight months.

While acquitted of the criminal charges against her, the royal sister has been fined 265,088 euros in civil responsibility charges, having benefited financially from the fraud.

A long legal process so far

The sentence came eleven years after a Balearic regional MP criticised the high cost of the contracts granted to Instituto Nóos by the regional government led then by Jaume Matas. Instituto Nóos was a charitable foundation formed by Urdangarin and Torres to promote sport.

The MP's complaint sparked an

investigation that ended up with the sister of King Felipe and her husband Iñaki Urdangarin on trial in Palma de Mallorca, along with another 15 defendants. The couple were formerly Duke and Duchess of Palma before the King stripped them of the title.

All defendants were accused of having formed part of or cooperated with a corrupt network that channelled around six million euros of public funds from the regional governments of the Balearics and Valencia into private hands through overinflated contracts for the organisation of business and sports events.

The hearings ended in June last year and the judges decision was finally announced last Friday.

Urdangarin and Torres have been allowed to stay out of prison while the Supreme Court reviews the sentence, however Urdangarin, who now lives in Geneva with his wife, must sign in at a local Swiss court once a month in the meantime.

Former top Bankia official sentenced to jail for fraud over misused credit cards

Disgraced ex-minister, Rodrigo Rato gets four and a half years as judge rules on 65 bank bosses accused of non-declared spending spree

:: SUR

MADRID. Sentence has finally been passed in the case of the misuse of company credit cards by executives and board members of one of Spain's leading banks.

Miguel Blesa, who was president of Caja Madrid, and Rodrigo Rato, who headed Bankia, its successor, were given six years and four and a half years respectively.

In total 65 people were accused of organising or cooperating with the systematic use of company credit cards for thousands of euros of personal expenditure between 2003 and 2012. The cards were seen



Rato at the trial (file photo). :: AFP

as an extension of the holders' salaries, although none of the money spent was declared as income to the tax authorities. Rato was once a PP government minister and is former head of the International Monetary Fund.

Pablo Iglesias takes control of his new executive as former number two is sidelined

:: SUR

MADRID. Former number two of Podemos and parliamentary spokesperson, Íñigo Errejón was pushed to the sidelines by newly reelected party leader Pablo Iglesias last weekend, when Podemos' 'people's council' met to vote on the new ruling executive committee.

Having publicly disagreed with Iglesias and offered alternative policies during the party's conference earlier this month, it was seen

as inevitable, even by Errejón himself, that he would be forced to take a lower profile from now on.

Iglesias promoted Irene Montero to be spokesperson in parliament, although he avoided formally baptising her as his number two as Errejón had been. Errejón himself was offered the chance to stand as Podemos candidate for the Madrid regional elections in 2019.

Errejón appeared to accept his fate gracefully, saying it "was normal" and that "when a new phase opens" responsibilities change hands.

On the new executive are Iglesias and ten supporters, Errejón and two of his supporters, and leader of the party's more anti-capitalist wing, Miguel Urbán joins for the first time.



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Snapshots of some of our recent trips



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Deputy chief minister holds talks about land borders post-Brexit

Dr García held discussions with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, who is familiar with Gibraltar's situation

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. Deputy Chief Minister Dr Joseph Garcia visited London this week for further meetings related to the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union, and one of those meetings was with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, James Brokenshire MP.

This meeting was arranged to discuss transit through land borders for which the UK is responsible once Brexit is finalised, a problem which is relevant to Northern Ireland and Gibraltar.



James Brokenshire, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. :: SUR

Brokenshire, who previously served as a Home Office minister, is already familiar with details of the land border between Gibraltar and Spain and has discussed it with chief minister Fabian Picardo and

Dr García in the past. Late last year the deputy chief minister also addressed delegates at the British Irish Parliamentary Assembly in Cardiff on the specific challenges faced by Gibraltar.



GIBRALTARIAN DESIGNER TAKES PART IN LONDON FASHION WEEK

Young fashion designer Gabriella Sardeña has become the first Gibraltarian to participate in the prestigious and exclusive CSM showcase at London Fashion Week. She is also the first designer from Gibraltar to study at the CSM (Central St Martin's University of the Arts) in London, where she is taking a Masters of Art course after obtaining a degree in Fashion at the Metropolitan University of Manchester. Fashion writers have described her as "a name to watch".

IN BRIEF



The futuristic mega-yacht was finally allowed to set sail. :: EFE

'Sailing Yacht A' leaves after debt is settled

GIBRALTAR

DEBBIE BARTLETT. The multi-million pound futuristic 'Sailing Yacht A' spent longer in Gibraltar than intended this week after it was refused permission to leave because

of a financial dispute between the owner and the German shipyard where it was built. The yard claimed its 9.8-million-euro bill had not been paid, and filed a suit in the Supreme Court to demand this and other allegedly outstanding sums. The yacht was finally permitted to sail on Wednesday after the owners paid the money into an escrow account.

Sativex drug has been approved for healthcare

GIBRALTAR

DEBBIE BARTLETT. The 2005 Drugs (Misuse) Regulations have been amended to make it clear that the cannabis-based medicine "Sativex" is approved for use in healthcare in Gibraltar.

The previous regulations appeared to be ambiguous, and after discussing concerns with the Drugs Advisory Council recently, Samantha Sacramento, the government minister who chairs the Council, set in motion the legislative changes that were necessary to clarify the situation.

The change means that doctors may prescribe Sativex to patients with multiple sclerosis, to treat and alleviate their symptoms. Given the nature of this substance, it may only be dispensed by the GHA Hospital pharmacy.

Dates for new format music festival

GIBRALTAR

DEBBIE B. Two important dates for music lovers: the MTV 'Gibraltar Calling' Music Festival will be taking place on 2 and 3 September this year, and tickets for this event will be on sale from 1 March via the website: www.gibraltarcalling.com

'Bordering on Britishness' conference

GIBRALTAR

DEBBIE B. The conference 'Bordering on Britishness' is taking place at the Garrison Library today (Friday) and tomorrow, an interesting oral history project about Gibraltarian identity.

The conference begins at 9.30am each day, is free of charge and open to all.

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The 'Dios Momo' and 'Diosa de Carnaval' in Malaga last Saturday night. :: EDUARDO NIETO



The Nao Victoria in Malaga earlier this month. :: F. S.

Nao Victoria calls port at Alcaidesa Marina on European tour

:: SUR

LA LÍNEA. A replica of the Nao Victoria, the 16th century vessel which was the first to sail around the world, is now open to the public at the Alcaidesa Marina.

The decks of the sailing ship can be visited at the port from today until Tuesday 28th February between 11am and 6pm, before it continues its European tour to other parts of Spain, France, England, Belgium and Holland.

Tickets are available online at www.fundacionnaovictoria.com, and on the vessel itself.

Rain fails to dampen carnival spirits

:: SUR

MALAGA. Carnival season continues around the region with celebrations coming to a climax this weekend in many areas. The calendar in the city of Malaga is packed after some of the events planned

for last Sunday being postponed due to the storms.

Last weekend's colourful competition to elect this year's carnival God and Goddess went ahead as planned on Saturday night with the candidates parading their elabo-

rate costumes on wheels on the catwalk in the Plaza de la Constitución. Their feathers were safely packed away by the time the heavens opened just a couple of hours after the show.

One of the winning costumes

contained more than 3,000 feathers, which, its designer said, had cost 1,800 euros alone. He did not want to offer a total figure for the cost of this type of carnival costume.

For more information on carnival events, see page 44.

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Celebrating 50 years in Spain

The British Society looks back to its beginnings in 1967

:: TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. More than fifty people gathered at the Villa Luisa in Benalmádena last week to celebrate the golden anniversary of the British Society on the Costa del Sol.

Among the guests who attended the event were current and former members, along with several past presidents and administration staff.

The guests enjoyed a buffet lunch and drinks while reminiscing about the society's achievements on the coast over the last 50 years.

The British Society, which was started by English couple Fred and Mona Heap, is one of the longest serving expat clubs on the Costa del Sol.

When the couple first arrived in Torremolinos in 1963, there were no British clubs on the coast, and so they decided to do something about it. The British consulate gave their plan considerable encouragement and the society was born in the early part of 1967.

Membership soon began to grow and by 1978, the British Society had more than 400 members, but over the years the membership numbers have dwindled.

At present, the club has around 60 members, but they need more



Presidents, past and present, celebrate the anniversary. :: T. BRYANT

The British consulate gave the club considerable encouragement when it started in 1967

people to join in order to ensure the club's prosperity.

Nick Potts, the society's secretary, told SUR in English, "Membership numbers have fluctuated over

the years, but they have been sufficient to maintain a very valuable aid to a pleasant life for the British on the Costa del Sol."

Sandra Addison, current president, acknowledged all of the members who, over the years, have made the club what it is today.

"Today is a very special day, because 50 years is something we should all be very proud of. I hope it will continue for many years to come," Sandra said.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Crime levels

I was astounded to read a letter by E. Blackstock, in the 17 February edition, that he/she believed crime is soaring on the Costa del Sol, especially having just read on Page 4, quote 'In Andalucía crime is down'. I have been a volunteer with the National Police on the Costa del Sol for 20 years and from personal experience over that time I know, as the SUR article said, reported crime has fallen. Also, and very importantly, violent crime against non-Spaniards is practically nonexistent.

Since retiring from the CID in

London 30 years ago, I have lived on the Costa del Sol. Crime levels here are considerably below similar areas in the UK and is one of the reasons I live here. I have never been a victim of crime. I do of course take reasonable care. My wife did have a purse stolen from an outside pocket in her backpack, but now realises she was practically inviting it. From what E. Blackstock says he/she is either extremely unlucky or, sorry to say, careless.

JULIAN WARD
BY EMAIL

Padrón renewal

I was intrigued to read the letter in SUR in English (10 February) from Paul Symonds in which he attributed the exodus of British expatriates from the Costa del Sol not to the fact that they have left but that they now have to register on the padrón every three years whereas before it was for life.

My local town hall has confirmed to me that if you are from

an EU country and you have a residence certificate without a renewal date then you have to register every five years.

However if you are also from an EU country but have a residence certificate with a renewal date or are from a non-EU country and have the old style residence card with a photo then the registration on the padrón must be carried out every two years.

I could not help but notice that Mr Symond's letter was that week's winning letter. Perhaps you could send the prize to me instead of him!

PETER SANDERSON
BY EMAIL

Dogs all over the place

I wonder if anyone else has noticed the extraordinary increase in the dog population on the Costa del Sol recently.

It has reached astounding proportions with the proliferation

of doggie parks, pooch parlours and who knows what other canine wonders.

Then, there are the obvious unpleasant consequences of minefields of dog poo, though one has to admit, quite a few owners now sport a dinky plastic poo bag and eagerly pounce on their doggy's doings priding themselves on such correct civic action (though some then don't know what to do with the bag and chuck it on the ground).

Then there are those annoyingly useless elastic leads to trip you up, not to mention the worst ongoing problem of the endless barking of pets abandoned all day (or night) by absent owners leaving them on balconies.

Well, I'm afraid to have to say this... but I, for one, am fed up with this canine takeover. I still think people are more important than dogs and I have a sneaky feeling that many of these new dog owners are suffering from the modern loneliness due to lack of real human contact being replaced by the dominance of social media on internet.

I wonder where it will all end? Remember some ancient civilisations, like the Romans, practically deified their doggies and look where the Empire finished up...

Now please don't get me wrong. I do love animals (I even have a dog myself) but in moderation and common sense.

B. CALVERT
BY EMAIL

Food forethought

PETER EDGERTON
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We eat too much. The media is riddled with self-proclaimed experts, wringing their hands, shaking their incredulous heads and talking earnestly about obesity as if it were inflicted upon us by some malevolent outside agency. I can't remember the exact figures but it appears that, these days, ninety nine out of a hundred people weigh over three hundred and fifty stone. Well, maybe they should stop cramming Pickled Onion Monster Munch down their faces then.

Three meals a day simply aren't necessary unless you find yourself working twelve-hour shifts in the fields humping hay bales or sacks of spuds onto farmyard trailers. By contrast, it's a simple fact that sales representatives munching on motorway pies and spending their working days slumped in cars and offices are clearly never going to enjoy the benefits of an attractively svelte body shape as they

go about their business, so let's not kid ourselves.

Meanwhile hordes of children continue to waddle from electronic device to electronic device, exercising little more than their Playstation thumbs, chomping on pizzas and Wotsits until one of them eventually explodes and some politician no-one's ever heard of feigns outrage and demands government action in a bid to make a name for themselves. Fat people don't need government intervention, they need to cut down on the pork pies, mate, as, I think, Blur pointed out in 1995.

Here in Spain we have the phenomenon of the 'Menú del Día', originally conceived when people did a proper, physically exhausting, day's work. Subsequently, the workload was greatly reduced but the massive three-course extravaganza has remained part of the cultural fabric. For those who may not have had the pleasure, the Menú del Día is, essentially, two whole

meals disguised as a first and a second course, topped off with a teeth-grinding pudding with enough sugar in it to sink the QE2. You can regularly see people tucking into this excessive fare (often on a daily basis) before blobbing back to the office to sit in front a computer for another five hours' mouse-clicking. Astonishingly, it's not unusual for some of these chaps to incorporate a snack break into the afternoon's proceedings just in case their metabolism had got the wrong idea and thought it'd been given a whole afternoon free to work properly.

Sometimes I forget to eat. It'll be ten o'clock at night or something and I'll suddenly feel peckish and realise that I've spent the last twenty four hours gloriously food-free. If you haven't been hungry it's almost certainly because you haven't done enough work to make yourself hungry. Nature is extraordinarily wise. Self-proclaimed experts are not.

IDÍGORAS



Another sad record

IGNACIO LILLO

Something's not quite right when you lose count of the times you use the word 'record' when talking about meteorology. The weather is providing us with headlines, but also apprehension. Year after year Malaga reaches a new milestone, and since the start of the 21st century the process has accelerated. This can't be natural or normal and, in fact, it isn't. Common sense tells us that, and so do the meteorologists and the scientists studying global warming. So many broken records are leading to our downfall.

Last weekend's storm has already earned its place in environmental history books. At this rate, the next

weather front is likely to take its place on the throne. The downpour brought, according to the Aemet met office, the heaviest rainfall ever to be recorded in the city of Malaga, literally chucking down 87 millimetres in just one hour. This volume of water and hail even beat the record set on the day of the famous floods in 1989.

Since the rainfall statistics were first gathered with the current precision, 36 years ago, the city has never seen such heavy rain.

The record has been beaten in other parts of the province however, all the cases being in the 21st century (2007, 2012 and 2016). At the beginning of December we saw se-

rious flooding on the Costa del Sol, a situation that has been more frequent in recent years. The increase in extreme rainfall is one of the main consequences that researchers at the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have been predicting for years. But let's get back to our situation.

Every record, be it for rain or heat, is quickly beaten by another. Aemet tells us that 2016 was the hottest year ever in Malaga with an average temperature of 19.8 degrees. The agency's climate forecasts say that the average temperature could have increased by four degrees by 2100. Perhaps your grandchildren will live to see it, if they don't get washed away in the floods before that.

But there's something worse than losing count of so many sad records: realising that nobody, not on a citizen or political level, is really taking it seriously, like a postmodern version of the boy who cried wolf on a permanent loop.

At the end of the day it's quite a lot cheaper to patch things up than try to change the lifestyle habits of a society that has its days numbered.

SUR English

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A cultural immersion in Kyushu



ANDREW FORBES

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Less of a baptism of fire, more a relaxing hot soak; learning the etiquette of staying in a Japanese 'onsen ryokan'

Despite my best intentions, I had committed a faux pas. The inn's hostess had become slightly agitated, her warm smile had dissolved into a look of surprise - or was it shock? Japan is said to be a nation of traditions, unspoken social rules and strict etiquette - and it appeared that I needed to pay more attention.

This was my first evening in a Japanese ryokan, a traditional Japanese inn, outside of Nagasaki, on the island of Kyushu.

Japan tourism chiefs want visitors to be a little more adventurous, to go beyond the tourist hotspots of Tokyo and Kyoto, and get on a domestic flight or book a seat on a 'Shinkansen' bullet train and discover one of the other, less well-known islands of Japan. So, I had done just that, and flown two hours from Tokyo down to the island of Kyushu for some southern hospitality, Japanese style. Here the traditional spa hotels or 'onsen ryokan' with their communal baths are regarded as among the best in Japan.

Ryokan rules

After check-in, I was taken to my room by a hostess who shuffled along the corridors, taking tiny steps in her wooden 'geta sandals'.

She opened the bedroom door, revealing a small entrance vestibule and a step up into the suite. Here began my first lessons in ryokan etiquette. The hostess motioned for me to take off my shoes before walking into the minimalist room. The floor was covered in



The view of the courtyard garden from a traditional ryokan bedroom. :: ANDREW FORBES



A typical dinner served in a ryokan. :: A. FORBES

traditional tatami reed matting the colour of golden ripe wheat. In the centre was a low, highly-polished table, and two chairs by the full height windows which were beautifully dressed with 'shōji' lattice screens of wood and translucent paper. When opened, the tranquil view of the courtyard Japanese garden was revealed; a magical scene of a babbling brook that passed by the terrace windows and meandered through the maple and pine trees, among which stood ornamental stone lanterns.

There was no bed and not much else in the way of furniture. Here one sleeps on a futon mattress, laid on the floor - it is prepared for guests while they are at dinner.

Dress code

Lying on a mat on the floor was a carefully folded 'yukata' (a cotton bath robe), together with a pair of

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GETTING TO KYUSHU

Kyushu is the southernmost of the big islands that make up the remarkable archipelago of Japan. It has 7 main provinces or 'prefectures', each served by an airport, including Nagasaki. Japan's many islands extend more than 3,000 km from north to south, running through various climate zones. There are four main islands: Hokkaido; Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu in the south.

► **Train.** Kyushu is also part Japan's legendary high speed 'Shinkansen' bullet train network – with services that connect the island with the rest of the country.

► **Plane.** If you are arriving at Tokyo on an international flight, then the quickest way to Kyushu is by plane from one of the city's two airports: Haneda, the original international airport, or the new Narita International Airport.

split-toe 'tabi' socks and a jacket – this was the expected guest apparel for a stay in a ryokan.

The hostess patiently showed me how to wear the robe, at pains to tell me to wear the left side over the right (I later understood why; the contrary is reserved for dead people!) There was a wide fabric sash to tie the robe together at the side, a little below the waist, and a simple jacket, almost like a buttonless cardigan to keep warm. After practicing tying my yukata a few times, I felt I was ready to make my way to the ryokan's baths. There are complimentary slippers provided for walking around the hotel and for visiting the communal baths. Above the entrance are curtains, blue for men and red for women. Once inside, your relaxing and therapeutic bathing ritual can begin.

The Japanese are renowned for their preoccupation with cleanliness. One of the first things one notices on arrival in Japan is how clean it is; no one drops litter, despite the lack of bins in public places. The next thing one is sure to observe is the popularity of white, surgical-style face masks. I couldn't help asking a few people as to why they are worn. Was it to protect against germs? Or the contamination that sometimes drifts over Japan from the mega-factory cities of neighbouring China? Yet the consensus is that it's more a selfless act of respect for fellow citizens; the wearers usually has a cold, and the mask is intended as a gesture to prevent infecting others.

Oh and of course there are the Japanese bathrooms. Almost exclusively you will find bidet-style WCs of varying levels of sophistication. Most offer a comfortable heated seat, and multiple settings for washing and drying!

Hot springs
So, in the ryokan baths, the men were understandably taking the bathing very seriously. A long, exfoliating textured flannel was part of my room amenity kit, and looking around it seemed essential.

The hot tubs and baths are for soaking in only once you are clean. The men around me, sitting on small cedar stools, in front of the showers and taps, were vigorously lathering with soap, scrubbing with the cloth and then rinsing with piping hot water thrown over

themselves from small wooden pales.

All this effort is rewarded with the glorious feeling of soaking in the thermal spring water. It's a relaxing environment as the baths include elements of nature, with smooth stone pebbles, plants and trees reaching up to the water's edge; and many baths are integrated with the outside ornamental gardens.

Dinner

However, I had to keep an eye on the time as I didn't want to miss dinner. Here the meals are meticulously prepared, creating a sense of occasion. I arrive, flushed and hot from the baths. Before me the table is charmingly decorated with flowers from the garden, and set with

small crystal glasses for sake, lacquered place trays covered with small porcelain dishes and delicate artisan ceramic plates each offering a morsel of food. The waitresses are dressed in traditional ankle-length kimonos, tied tightly with broad, silk obi belts, forming extravagant bows on their backs.

In my haste to join the table I forget to remove my slippers and walk on the pristine mat floor – causing the hostess to immediately stop what she is doing, and signal my error. The slippers are only for the carpeted corridors – no footwear is ever allowed on the mats!

Staying in a ryokan inn might at times feel like it presents a steep learning curve, but overall it is a truly authentic and rewarding experience.



A garden fountain. :: A.F.

THE INSIDER GUIDE

Nagasaki, Kyushu



Sakura cherry blossom.

ANDREW FORBES

The birthplace of Japan's industrialisation; setting for the opera Madame Butterfly; and inspiration for Martin Scorsese's 2017 movie 'Silence' – Nagasaki, the international gateway to Kyushu, the southernmost of Japan's main islands.

STAY:

Garden Terrace Hotel & Resort, Nagasaki

The night view of the Nagasaki bay and city skyline is said to be among the most striking panoramas in Japan – and one that can be enjoyed at this Kengo

Kuma-designed hotel (the architect now chosen to build the stadium for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games). It's a unique contemporary base from which to explore Nagasaki and the island of Kyushu. Before heading out for dinner, enjoy the hotel's club lounge for complimentary aperitifs and canapés. Then in the morning, order the traditional Japanese breakfast; exceptional presentation and flavours.

www.gt-Nagasaki.jp

Taisho-ya Ryokan, Ureshino

Holiday like a local in a traditional 'ryokan' Japanese inn. Kyushu is renowned for its natural onsen hot springs, making its 'onsen ryokan' among the best in the country. Ryokan celebrate and share traditional hospitality, cuisine and accommodation. So, get naked and enjoy the time-honoured Japanese ritual of bathing and then soaking in a hot tub. Afterwards, dress in your complimentary 'yukata' cotton gown, tied with a thick obi belt, and on your feet, try the 'geta' wooden slippers. Dinner will be 'kaiseki ryori' gourmet cuisine. Start your meal toasting with plum wine and then expect multiple courses of exquisitely-presented local and seasonal Kyushu dishes, such as noodles, sashimi, cooked

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salmon, Nagasaki wagyu beef, and miso soup with tofu. Everything is served in individual porcelain dishes, shiny laminated boxes, or on bamboo plates and decorated with twigs and leaves from the Japanese garden.

Meanwhile, your room will be prepared for the night, with a futon bed laid out onto the tatami mat floor, and your paper screen blinds closed. Breakfast the next morning is a feast, including the signature dish of tofu freshly prepared at your table in bubbling, mineral-rich spring water!

www.Taishoya.com

Shinsen Ryokan, Takachino

If you're planning on seeing more of Kyushu's natural wonders, then Takachiho Gorge, the remarkable river canyon, must make the short list. Nearby is this stylish traditional ryokan, with a beautiful Japanese garden, and a myriad outdoor traditional hot tubs in which to relax.

www.Takachiho-Shinsen.co.jp

Unzen Kanko Hotel, Unzen

The Unzen hot springs area has been a popular wellness destination for over a century. The Unzen Kanko Hotel, a member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World, was opened in 1935 and still retains a wonderful nostalgic ambiance, a fusion of Japanese service with European vintage style.

www.UnzenKankoHotel.com

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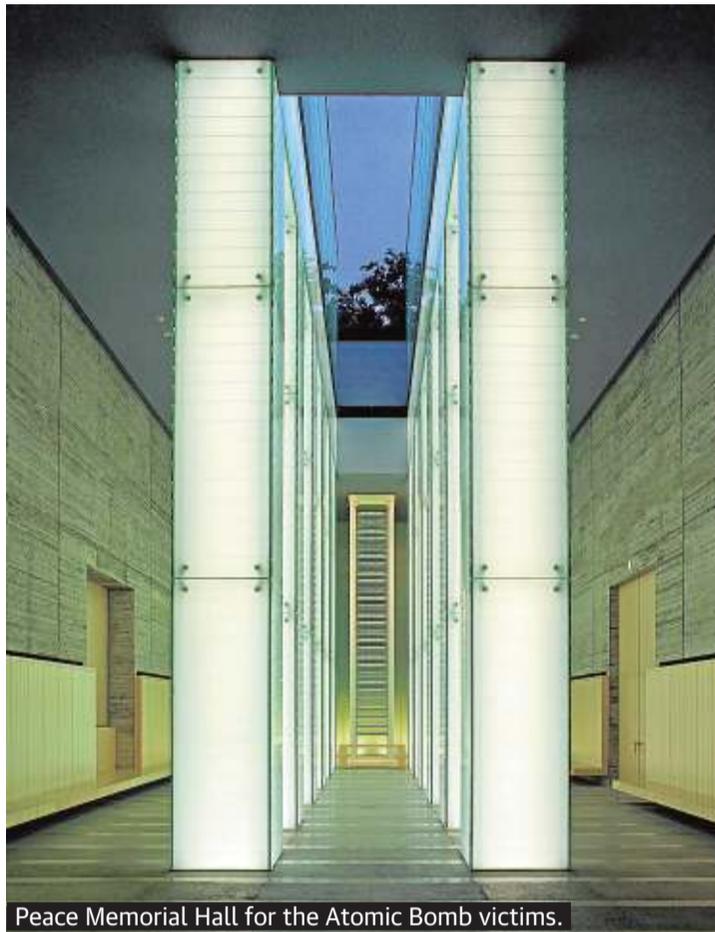
Seven Stars Cruising Train, Fukuoka

The Seven Stars is a 'one-of-a-kind'. Japan's first luxury cruising sleeper train has a timeless elegance akin to the world's classic luxury trains. However, this is Kyushu, so expect quintessential Japanese style, from exquisite 'kumiko' wooden lattice-work in the carriages, delicate paper shoji window screens, to elaborate meals prepared with typical Japanese attention to detail.

The one- or three-night itineraries, starting in Fukuoka, showcase the culture, scenery and cuisine of Kyushu in elite luxury. It's an exceptional way to cover some of the island's more than 3000 kilometres of track, and enjoy private excursions - including next month's Hanami (to enjoy the famous Sakura cherry blossoms) - and a unique behind-the-scenes look at the world-famous historic Kakiemon porcelain kiln in Arita (which recently celebrated its 400th anniversary).



Shugakuin temple.



Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb victims.

www.CruiseTrain-SevenStars.com

Dejima Island, Nagasaki

A visit to Dejima is a compelling way to learn just how significant Nagasaki is within Japan's history. For centuries, the country was isolated from the world due to its 'Sakoku' policy, where Shoguns forbid citizens to leave Japan or foreigners to visit. From the 17th century, Nagasaki was the only city with international cultural and commercial exchange, thanks to permitted commerce with Dutch traders housed on the Dejima artificial island, built away from the city's citizens.

NagasakiDejima.jp

Atomic Bomb Museum, Nagasaki

One could dedicate an entire guide to this peace museum and still not do it justice. For many, Nagasaki is synonymous with the atomic bomb; the US exploded 'Fatman' above the city on 9 August 1945. Since then, Nagasaki has become a focal point of the peace movement. The museum's mantra is that Nagasaki must be the last place on earth where a nuclear bomb was used in conflict. In addition to the compelling and moving exhibits, the museum is also a place for remaining survivors to share their testimonies. Nearby is the peace park, as well as the actual hypocentre of the blast. (Nagasaki is no longer radioactive as the bomb exploded

in the air and the radiation was dispersed and now, 70 years later background radiation is normal).

NagasakiPeace.jp

Unzen-Amakusa National Park, Unzen

The island of Kyushu is home to the protected Unzen-Amakusa hot springs reserves. The Unzen part of the park was opened in the early 1930s, making it Japan's first National Park. Here, in the shadow of the immense Mt Unzen, you can discover the hot springs known as 'Unzen Jigoku' or hell springs, as they spit, scream and boil. There are plenty of self-guided walks to take you through the steamy landscapes.

In nearby Chijiwa and Unzen City towards the end of March, the spectacular 'Kanoukaen' is celebrated. It is the biggest fire festival in Nagasaki which sees over 200 participants dressed as samurai warriors parading through streets lined with blossoming cherry trees.

Visit-Nagasaki.com

Zen Meditation, Shugakuin Temple, Yoshinogari

Zen meditation came to Japan, via China, through Nagasaki. Try it here in an authentic temple, guided by a priest. But be warned, like most things in Japan, it is taken very seriously and while you sit, expect to bow as the priest passes, so he can strike your back (compassionately he says) with a wooden stick to prevent lapses in concentration! But no hard feelings - afterwards, the priest, Taijun Noguchi, and his wife welcome you into their home next door for green tea and sweet cakes!

Fukuchiyo Sake Brewery, Kashima

Sake, Japan's national drink, and an integral part the country's cuisine, remains a novelty to most westerners. Fukuchiyo brewery, with its striking contemporary architect-designed interiors, contrasting beautifully with the historic architecture, is a memorable place to not only find out how sake is made (from fermented rice using a special mould, called 'koji-kin') but one where you can try their premium sake including Nabeshima. This historic Hizen Hamashuku area of Kashima holds an annual sake festival at the end of March.

Nabeshima.biz

Hiking - Kyushu Olle

Kyushu has an established network of hiking trails, many incorporating historic pilgrimage routes to shrines and temples, that take in wonderful scenery from graceful bamboo forests to active springs.

WelcomeKyushu.com/kyushuolle

EAT:

Sakamotoya Japanese Restaurant, Nagasaki

The food scene in Japan is superior, with exceptional attention to not only the quality of the produce but also to the creativity of presentation. This charming Japanese restaurant, where you are greeted and served by the traditional 'Okatt-sama' owner and hostess, offers gourmet 'Shippoku' cuisine. Through centuries of trade with China, Europe and beyond, the local cuisine reflects Chinese, Por-

tuguese, Dutch and Spanish influences. The meal is made up of lots of sharing plates, with familiar tastes like sweet tender pork belly and lobster, as well as Japanese staples including sea snails, miso, and sashimi. Remember, you must leave your shoes at the door, and wear the slippers provided by the restaurant!

www.Sakamotoya.co.jp

Kairakuen, Nagasaki

Nagasaki has one of the largest Chinatowns in Japan. It may sound odd to come all the way to Japan to eat Chinese food, but here it's truly unique - a style of fusion cuisine that dates to the Japanese Edo period. Try the Saraudon with small, crispy noodles; or the Champion with vegetables.

www.Kairakuen.tv

Mohikan Ramen, Kurume

If you want to eat noodles with finesse in Japan, then you need to learn to slurp! Deftly using chop sticks to fold the noodles into your mouth while making a loud slurping noise is the only way to enjoy ramen noodles, a speciality in Kyushu. Head to this noodle diner, run by charismatic chef owner Kawazu Yuta (yes you guessed right, he does have a mohican!). Order your meal from the vending machine (just press the button with the picture you like, pay, and then take your ticket to the bar). Within moments you'll have piping hot noodles in tasty broth with vegetables, pork or even crispy chicken.

Mohikan-Ramen.com



Dejima.



Shippoku cuisine.



Unzen jigoku.

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Moguer in the early 20th century

This town in Huelva province goes back in time to pay tribute to poet Juan Ramón Jiménez

by JAVIER ALMELLONES

Moguer is determined not to forget its most illustrious resident, the poet Juan Ramón Jiménez, who was born here in 1881. As well as his mausoleum and the house in which he used to live, he is the subject of an unusual festival which takes place every year during the last weekend in February. This town in Huelva province owes part of its fame to this writer, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1956 and found his birthplace to be a great source of inspiration.

More than half a century after his death, Moguer tries to replicate the town in which the author of 'Platero y yo' spent his youth with its 'Feria de 1900', which will be taking place this weekend.

During this event the town will recreate the ambience of the early 20th century, the years which inspired many of the works of Juan Ramón Jiménez, such as 'Rimas', 'Arias tristes', 'Jardines lejanos', 'Elegías' and the aforementioned 'Platero y yo'. The Fair begins this evening (Friday) and continues until Sunday.

The historic town centre will recall those days of splendour, when this was a prosperous place thanks to its agriculture and the locally-produced wine. At that time, Moguer boasted a commercial port, a theatre, a bullring, several local newspapers and had an active focus on cultural and literary events.

As Moguer takes this step back in time this weekend, visitors should not be surprised to find the oldest part of town populated by characters from that era, complete with traditional costumes, including farm workers, traders and members of the aristocracy of the time.

Local bars, restaurants and shops also throw themselves wholeheartedly into this initiative, doing their best to make Moguer appear as it did in the final years of the 19th and early years of the 20th centuries.

Other important elements of this fair include music and folklore, including some of the songs which were popular at that time. There will also be food which was traditional at the beginning of the last century, such as the 'pucheros', 'buñuelos' and 'piñonates' which will fill the town with delicious flavours and aromas throughout the weekend.

Among the culinary attractions of this event are the Tapas Routes and the Ley Seca de Cóctel, where local establishments will showcase the flavours of this region of Huelva.

The 1900 Fair kicks off with a period Fashion Parade, street theatre,



During the fair, newspapers are given out in the street just as they were at the beginning of the 20th century. :: AYUNTAMIENTO DE MOGUER



The church of Nuestra Señora de Granada. :: TURISMO ANDALUZ

live music and a children's party.

Tomorrow, Saturday, there will be classic cars, flamenco shows, an unusual boxing match, exhibitions, a period costume competition and activities for children. In addition there will be a farmers' market and a children's fair, which will continue until Sunday.

The final day will be similar, but there will also be activities related to the Carnival celebrations which take place at this time of year. For exam-

ple, Sunday is the Domingo de Piñatas, a popular festival from a century ago, including the traditional 'giants' and 'big-heads' which are an essential part of the festivities. The final event of the weekend will be a recreation of the 'Quema del Judas', one of the scenes which is described in 'Platero y yo', Juan Ramón Jiménez's most famous work.

This ambitious cultural and leisure event will also pay tribute to Modernism, a style in which Juan

Ramón Jiménez and his wife, Zenobia Camprubí, were influential. In the town you can visit the house in which the poet was born and the home the couple shared, as well as the mausoleum in which they are both buried.

The house in which Juan Ramón Jiménez was born, which is now a museum and the headquarters of the Foundation which bears his name, is an austere 19th century building which was restored by the Jiménez family. The decision to turn it into a cultural centre was made in the year the poet was awarded the Nobel prize. Both Juan Ramón and Zenobia collaborated with the museum by donating their entire library and numerous personal effects. However, the museum did not open to the public until after the poet had died.

Visitors attending the Feria de 1900 should also take the opportunity to see some of Moguer's interesting historical buildings, including the religious ones such

as the Santa Clara Convent, which is a combination of Gothic, Mudéjar and Renaissance styles. Inside the church you can see the marble and alabaster tombs of its founders.

From a later period but especially emblematic is the church of Nuestra Señora de la Granada, which is considered one of the finest examples of Andalusian Baroque. It was built in the 18th century over the ruins of a Mudéjar mosque. The minaret is still standing. Because of its size and its features, this is one of the most important churches in Huelva province.

Other religious buildings in Moguer are the monastery of San Francisco and the church of San Sebastián.

There are also some important remains dating back to the time of Columbus and the discovery of America, and you can visit the shipyards where the caravel 'La Niña', one of the three ships which took part in the expedition, was built.



The famous poet was inspired by his home town. :: SUR

WHERE IN THE WORLD?



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Rarely do bridges come with such a back story as this one. Believed to be the oldest one in the country, it was built in the 13th century after the original Roman bridge (constructed in approximately 50 AD) collapsed under the weight of a large procession,

killing 400 people. With encouragement from the Catholic church, the 'new' one was built and named after the city's first bishop.

During the Second World War, much of it was bombed and in the present day consists of seven arches, with the remaining part

being a steel drawbridge which both connects the bridge to the bank and allows for boats, nowadays too large to fit through the original arches, to pass through.

From 10 to 19 March this city will host what is described as "the world's preeminent fair of art and antiques", attracting dealers

and enthusiasts from around the world.

If you know the which city this is, as well as the cardinal after whom the bridge is named, you could win a prize. Send your answers to english@diariosur.es and put

'Where in the world?' as the subject. Please also include your address and telephone number so we can send the prize to you.

Congratulations are in order for Irvonea Glassey who won the prize last month for correctly identifying the Nera River Park in Terni (Italy), St Valentine's home town, and where they hosted the annual "Run for Love".

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Buda and Pest, shabby and chic

The parliament building, seen across a frozen River Danube. :: ENCARNI NOVILLO



MARK
NAYLER

In Budapest you are getting two cities in one and both have retained their own style and personality

Over recent years Budapest has gained a reputation as one of Europe's most exciting and cultural cities. It is fully deserving of this unofficial accolade, and not just because of its gargantuan parliament building (the third largest in the world after the Pentagon and Bucharest's), its great castle or its fascinating history. The Hungarian capital combines modernity with tradition and the chic with the shabby in a manner all of its own.

You are in fact getting two cities for the price of one if you choose Bu-

dapest as a weekend getaway. Up until their unification in 1873, Buda and Pest were separate cities sitting on the west and east sides of the river Danube, respectively. Though now joined in several places by myth-laden bridges, these two districts have retained their own styles and atmospheres. Pest, where most of the nightlife, restaurants and hotels are located, is (mercifully) flat, whereas Buda's castle sits on top of a steep hill, from which the entire city can be surveyed. The centre of Pest easily rivals Paris, London or Madrid for its range of designer bars and high-class restaurants: its network of beautiful old streets feel cosmopolitan and expensively sophisticated. Buda, on the other hand, feels more local, more low-key and traditional - although there are plenty of hotels and restaurants here too.

The Pest side of the Zsabadsag (or 'Liberty') bridge is a good place to stay. Around the junctions of Kalvin Ter and Keckskemeti streets, where quaint old townhouses sit alongside giant glass-fronted banks, you are just a ten-minute walk from the inner city and the parliament in a busy local area. On and around Ráday street, the queer paradoxes that de-

fine this part of town are everywhere, with sleek drinking spots sitting alongside scruffy apartment buildings and gloomy Soviet-Era office blocks. Ráday is also lined with eateries offering everything from traditional Hungarian goulash to Mexican fajitas.

Eating fajitas when in Budapest, though, would be a wasted opportunity. Goulash, the most famous dish of Hungarian cuisine is available in most restaurants in the city centre. It comes in a miniature pot hanging from a metal frame, with a ladle for serving, and accompanied by giant hunks of bread. If that doesn't sound particularly sophisticated, suffice to say it is divine. A rich, paprika-infused stew of meat (usually beef) and vegetables, its smoky flavours and meltingly-tender chunks of meat are incredibly filling. You might want to wash it down with a hit of palinka, a traditional Hungarian fruit brandy. Palinka is potent stuff and perhaps not for everyone - but it comes in loads of different flavours and is supposed to have medicinal effects.

To eat goulash or drink palinka in Budapest, incidentally, you will need to stock up on forints, because al-

though Hungary has been a member of the EU since 2004, it decided (wisely, you might say) to not to join the single currency.

From this part of town you are about a ten-minute walk - or two-minute rickety-old-tram-ride - away from Budapest's legendary parliament building. Seven years after Buda and Pest were joined in 1873, the Hungarian parliament decided to build an administrative structure to celebrate the city's unification. During its construction, which lasted from 1885 to 1904, about half a million precious stones and 40 kilograms of gold were used. Yet the effect is one of understated might rather a flashy display of wealth and power. Sadly, its architect - local boy Imre Steindl - went blind and died two years before its completion. Today, the Hungarian government struggles to fill this vast

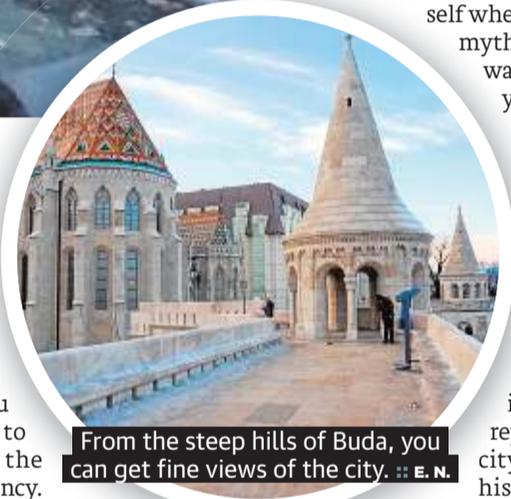
space and conducts business in a only a small proportion of the parliament's 691 rooms.

To visit Buda castle, the city's other great historic attraction, you'll need to cross the Danube, which often freezes during winter when temperatures can hit minus 20 degrees - even more of a shock if you're arriving from Malaga. The so-called "Chain" (i.e. suspension) bridge is the most famous of the city's several historic crossing points, and was designed in 1839 by English architect William Tierney Clark. Construction finished in 1849 and was overseen by the Scottish engineer Adam Clark who, according to an amusing apocryphal story, killed himself when a fundamental flaw in the bridge's design was pointed out: namely, that the stone lions at each end lacked tongues.

You can decide for yourself whether Clark's mythical suicide was justified as you cross the dark, faintly menacing waters of the Danube on your way to Buda castle.

Nowhere else in Budapest represents the city's troubled history better

than this sprawling castle, which dominates the city's western skyline, as parliament dominates the eastern. The original Royal Palace (the central building in the complex now known as Buda Castle) was built by Hungarian Kings between 1247 and 1265, but it was destroyed by an invading Christian army in the siege of 1686. Its Baroque replacement (itself rebuilt in the mid-nineteenth century) suffered the same fate in the Second World War. Yet the mid-twentieth reconstruction that sits atop the hill today is a stunning achievement, providing the perfect spot from which to contemplate the violent upheavals that have shaped Budapest's many-sided personality.



From the steep hills of Buda, you can get fine views of the city. :: E.N.



Fernando Moreno

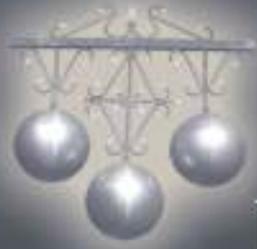
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PET CARE

ERNY HARRISON



Living together

With patience a dog and a cat will eventually become friends

For many years after my first cat died at the age of seventeen I vowed never to have another cat. Instead we had a black labrador, which demanded a lot of attention. But over the years I felt something was missing.

So the decision was made: a cat would be added to the household. Was it going to be a cat or a kitten? Male or female? Will it fit into our lifestyle, will it be happy with a dog in the house, will it wander a lot? A dog wags his tail to show good will and friendship but to a cat this is a sign of aggression. A blazing cat will be regarded by the dog as making playful noises. A dog stretching out his paws to play is seen by the cat as an aggressor.

With patience and the right attitude these problem can be overcome. Very often it is the owner, who with all good intentions makes it more difficult for dog and cat to come to terms with each other. First: keep dog and cat separate for some days for the cat to get used to the strange smells in the new home. Stroke your dog and let the cat smell your hand. It will enable the cat to recognise the dog when they meet.

When they meet, make sure there is a way the cat can escape. Don't interfere! Don't keep telling your dog to "leave the cat alone," after all, the whole idea is for them to live together.

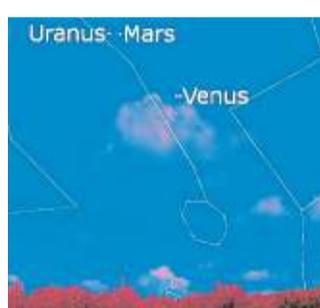
Don't be too nervous about the experiment. Cats are very independent and often end up being the boss! There are some breeds of dogs which by nature are such hunters it would be unwise to expect them to allow a cat in their lives; terriers and sporting dogs are a good example. Over all though you will find that dogs and cats will live harmoniously together and their relationship will add another interesting aspect to your life.

THE NIGHT SKY

KEN CAMPBELL



God of the sky



Uranus is just about visible to the naked eye under perfect conditions but had always been thought of as just another star. It was not until 1781 that the English astronomer Sir William Herschel observed it through his telescope and recognised it as a planet. Debate raged for many years over naming of the new planet, Herschel wanted to name it after King George III but this was unpopular with many countries especially France and America who were at war with Britain. Eventually the name Uranus was suggested after the Greek God of the sky and the father of Saturn.

Uranus is the third largest planet in the Solar System, only Jupiter and Saturn are bigger. Like Jupiter and Saturn, Uranus is a gas giant being made up mostly from hydrogen and helium gas. While all the other planets have a small tilt in relation to the plane of their orbits, Uranus is tilted right over onto its side and rolls around the Sun. So for half of its 84 year orbit the North Pole is pointed toward the Sun whilst the South Pole is in permanent darkness. Then for the second half of its orbit the situation is reversed.

Uranus is about 20 times the distance of the Earth to the Sun and even through the most powerful of telescopes very little can be seen of the surface. Virtually everything we know about it comes from the space probe Voyager 2 that flew past the planet in 1986. Voyager 2 told us that Uranus has at least 27 moons and also has a very faint ring system similar to Saturn's.

Uranus is very faint but on 26th February it will be very close to the planet Mars and easy to find. Look toward the West shortly after sunset and spot Venus shining brightly. Slightly above and a little to the left you will see Mars, its distinct red colour makes it easy to spot. Now using binoculars, Uranus will be in the same field of view just to the left of Mars and a distinct turquoise in colour.

More information:
www.costadelstars.com

La Herradura sitting pretty

Residents are embellishing the town to take part in the 'beautiful streets' competition

JENNIE RHODES

LA HERRADURA. Throughout the month of March, La Herradura will be holding a beautiful streets and façades competition.

Residents are encouraged to decorate their homes and streets, "natu-

rally, artistically and traditionally," by the town hall.

Judging will take place from 16 until 19 March, coinciding with the town's annual festivities in honour of its patron saint, San José. There are cash prizes as well as a break to an Andalusian spa.

The idea behind the competition is to promote tourism and to get local residents to take pride in the town by getting involved in the project.

Residents can register by 28 February by emailing: tealcaldialaherradura@almunecar.es



La Herradura. :: SUR

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DARYL FINCH



WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

24 FEBRUARY 1928

British and Spanish royals meet at the Príncipe de Asturias hotel in Malaga

February of 1928 was a significant month for the city of Malaga as representatives from two royal families came together in the city at the same time.

It was Princess Beatrice of Battenberg, mother of Queen Victoria Eugenie and youngest child of the UK's Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, who facilitated the meeting. During this time she would spend long periods residing in the Príncipe de Asturias hotel.

The first visitor to arrive was

Prince George (later King George VI, played by Colin Firth in the film *The King's Speech* in 2010) on 10 February after a visit to Gibraltar. He stayed for two days before coming back again on 21st aboard the battleship HMS Nelson.

On this second visit, he was joined on 24 February by Queen Victoria Eugenie, married to then King of Spain Alfonso XIII, and their children, Jaime, Beatriz and Cristina. They stayed in the royal pavilion of the hotel until 10 March.

The members of the royal families, and the aristocrats who ac-



Prince George and Princess Beatrice of Battenberg arrive at the Príncipe de Asturias hotel in Malaga and, left, the hotel now. :: **SUR**

companied them, toured the city and its surroundings, enjoying both the El Retiro and La Cónsula gardens. The former is now private property while the latter would later (in 1959) be frequented by the likes of Ernest Hemingway.

The royals also attended various sporting events, including an international tennis tournament and a football match between Malaga CF and British Royal Navy person-

nel who were docked in the port.

Today, the Príncipe de Asturias hotel is known as the Gran Hotel Miramar, Malaga's first five-star luxury hotel, and it received its first guests earlier this year.

Designed by renowned Malaga architect Fernando Guerrero Strachan and first opened in 1926, it was turned into a field hospital during the Civil War and only partially reopened, as the Hotel Mi-

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Familia	Family
Real	Royal
Visita	Visit
Rey	King
Reina	Queen
Princesa	Princess
Príncipe	Prince
Llegar	To arrive
Mother	Madre
Coincidir	To coincide
Ambos	Both
Permanecer	To stay
Temporada	Period of time
Volver	To return
Miembro	Member
Acorazado	Battleship
Infante/Infanta	Child of a Spanish monarch who is not heir to the throne
Aristócrata	Aristocrat
Alrededores	Surroundings
Huésped	Guest
Deportivo	Sporting
Jardín	Garden

ramar from 1939-1967. It then housed Malaga's lawcourts from 1987 until 2007, before falling into disrepair. Its latest incarnation hopes to restore the building to its former glories when royals would frequent the corridors and suites.

f Bilingual crossword inside back page

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DENISE BUSH

GARDENING

The Persian Buttercup

Ranunculus, a member of the buttercup family, has delicate crepey petals in gorgeous bright colours and are great for containers

There are approximately 600 species in the Ranunculaceae family which includes buttercups and spearworts. One of the species that has become a popular garden plant is *Ranunculus asiaticus* or the Persian buttercup.

As the name suggests, they originate from Asia but are also native

to Southern Europe. The most common variety grown in gardens is the Tecolote strain which has beautiful peony like flowers with layers and layers of delicate, crepey petals in bright red, yellow, pink, orange or white. Some are bi-coloured. The single blooms

are just as attractive and look very similar to anemones.

Although ranunculus bulbs can be planted in autumn or in spring, it is best to try and get them in the ground in the autumn because as soon as the hot weather arrives they will become dormant.

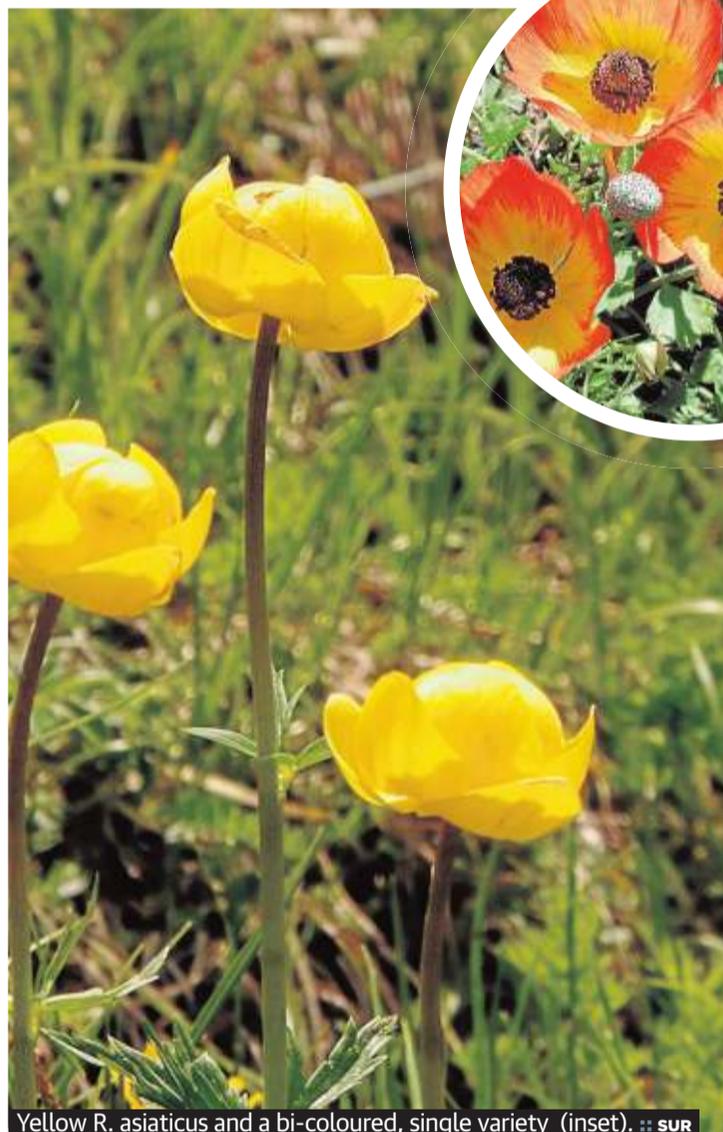
It is possible to speed up the flowering of spring planted ranunculus by soaking the little, brown, banana-like bulbs in tepid water for 10 hours beforehand.

Ranunculus are cool weather plants and will not tolerate the heat of the summer on the south coast of Spain.

The name of the genus comes from the Latin for 'little frog', probably because in the wild they are mainly found growing near water. They are not drought resistant and need rich, well-draining soil and plenty of sunshine. Ranunculus are popular with flower arrangers as they grow on long straight stems and last well as a cut flower.

Ranunculus can be grown in flower borders or in tubs but if planting in a container keep in mind that they grow in a mound up to 20cm across by 30cm tall and develop large root systems. Propagation is by division or by seed.

All parts of ranunculus are poisonous to horses, livestock, pets and humans. Members of the buttercup family are sometimes found in hay but the plant loses its toxicity once dried so it is safe for livestock to eat. Fresh parts of the plant can also cause skin irritation.



Yellow *R. asiaticus* and a bi-coloured, single variety (inset). :: SUR

READER'S PHOTO



:: JOHN MCDONAGH

"A LITTLE BED OF SPRING"

This lovely colourful photo of pansies, pelargoniums, petunias, purple alyssum and argyranthemums was sent to SUR in English by John McDonagh

GARDENING HINTS FOR FEBRUARY

The perils of late pruning

If you haven't got round to pruning your grape vines yet it may be too late in some areas. Cutting back the vines while the sap is running (early spring) can cause 'bleeding' which will weaken the plant and reduce the amount of fruit produced. If you live inland and your vines still appear to be dormant then cut back each lateral stem to two or four buds on the main framework of branches. Wisteria should be

pruned back now too using a similar method, leaving two or four buds on lateral branches, close to main stem. Buddleia and summer flower clematis should be cut back to about knee height and hydrangeas can now have the dead blooms removed by cutting them back to a strong pair of shoots. It may be necessary to thin out the branches by a third, to encourage new growth.

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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The 'Who's Who' of gastronomy

SUR has produced a guide in Spanish and English listing the top chefs and places to eat in Malaga appraised by food critic Enrique Bellver

:: NIEVES CASTRO

MARBELLA. Chefs, restaurateurs, wine makers, sommeliers and representatives of hospitality schools met on Monday in Marbella to see the presentation of the publication 'Who's Who in Gastronomy, Malaga 2017'. The book is edited by Prensa Malagueña and has nearly 200 entries rating the best cuisine in Malaga.

The guide, written by the SUR food critic Enrique Bellver, was created over two years as he visited various establishments in the province. It is the first of its kind to be printed in Spanish and English in Spain.

The aim of the guide is to help the many thousands of visitors to Malaga province each year take advantage of the different cuisines that the Costa del Sol and inland areas offer; gastronomy that "is a

landmark in Andalucía and much of Spain", in direct competition with legendary Basque cuisine, according to Bellver himself.

Enrique Bellver has been a food critic for SUR since the 90s and was faced with the task of rating many, many establishments. He narrowed the task down to those businesses that he had visited at least once between the end of 2015 and 2016 and which, when they appeared in the 'Málaga en la Mesa' weekly supplement had achieved a rating of between 7 and 10.

"There has never been a ten but there will be one day," Bellver said in reference to the meteoric rise in the quality of Malaga cuisine.

The guide was launched at the Meliá Don Pepe Hotel in Marbella, at an event with almost 200 guests which included the 'leading lights' of gastronomy and catering, provincial authorities and mayors. The editor-in-chief of SUR, Manuel Castillo, who opened the event, said that the guide highlighted the value of Malaga gastronomy, as well as the importance of training in catering schools in the province from which "innovative young people willing to take risks" have emerged. "Malaga



Enrique Bellver addresses the audience. :: JOSELE-LANZA

is in fashion, and its gastronomy, too," said Castillo.

Free with the Spanish SUR

The full colour guide, which is in Spanish and English, is included inside the Spanish SUR newspaper at newsagents tomorrow, Saturday 25 February.

It is more than just a directory of good restaurants, the guide reviews 193 businesses on the Costa del Sol and inland, listing their address, telephone number, opening hours,

average prices and a brief description about the type of food you can expect to receive there. It includes interviews with some of the chefs and also wine and gourmet product recommendations.

The 148-page guide has sections for creative (restaurants whose menu continually evolves), classic, seafood and Asian cuisine, hotel restaurants, tapas bars and steakhouses.



How to get your copy, free:

The 'Who's Who' restaurant guide is available with every purchase of Diario SUR on Saturday 25 February.

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The Mollete San Roque company in Antequera have reached an agreement with the 'Sabor a Málaga' brand and the luxury supermarket chain 'Manuel Market' to send molletes (the soft, floury bap that Antequera is famous for) to Saudi Arabia. The first consignment has already been prepared and packaged ready to be transported by plane to the Middle East. The mayor of Antequera, Manuel Barón said the "quality of our products is becoming known globally which also helps to promote Antequera."



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A. J. LINN

**BARRELS IN
COMMON**



The main thing the sherry and whisky trade have in common is the use of old sherry butts from Jerez to age Scotland's premium product. Last week Richard Peterson, chief distiller of White & McKay, was in Spain for one of his regular meetings with head winemaker of González Byass, Antonio Flores. But this time they did not discuss barrels, rather the launch of two new single malt whiskies the Scottish

firm will be selling in Spain via the sherry company. The presentation culminated with a lunch at which whisky and sherry were served to partner the food, something that can possibly rate as a first, though not to everyone's taste.

Digging a little deeper, there are other areas where the two products have common ground. Both have experienced a drop in sales, which in the case of sherry started three decades ago, and the gradual climb back has been cleverly underwritten by concentrating on the exceptional and unique old sherries still held in bodegas' stocks and which will never be made again. The finos and manzanillas that we enjoy as an aperitif every day are not in the same category, nor aspire to be.

In the same way that a list of the top-ranking Spanish wines would not include any sherries, the last published list of best-selling whis-

kies does not feature a single Scotch. All are Canadian, American and Japanese brands, something truly surprising considering where whisky was born. And while part of the sherry recovery has been due to the fact that buyers consider limited production an added attraction, there is no such thing as limited-production whisky. If you have the raw materials, you can make whisky until the cows come home.

Both drink sectors have finally concluded that the buyer demands a quality product above everything else, and has no problem paying for it. While run-of-the-mill blended whiskies will still continue to be drunk in vast quantities worldwide, as will their equivalent in sherry terms, these are low price, low profit lines, and the real money is in up-market labels and expensive presentations.

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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

Kandinsky and his road to abstract art

The new temporary exhibition in Malaga's Russian museum is dominated by abstract artist Wassily Kandinsky

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

MALAGA. The 'Kandinsky and Russia' temporary exhibition has been open to the public since Tuesday in Malaga's Russian museum after it waved goodbye to the 'Chagall and his Russian contemporaries' collection a few days ago. Visitors have until 16 July to see the new temporary exhibition.

The collection, which primarily consists of Kandinsky's paintings, shows his journey towards becoming an abstract artist, while also exhibiting works from some of the other famous avant-garde painters who shared the same spirit and same innovation as Kandinsky, with pieces of popular art from the sixteenth, seventeenth and nineteenth century on display.

This exhibition continues the museum's theme of displaying the work of artists who have links to other countries where they developed their ideas, despite the fact that they were all born in Russia.

Kandinsky himself settled in Ger-



One of the most important pieces in the exhibition, 'Painting with a white border', in the foreground. **S. SALAS**

many for most of his life before the Nazi regime closed his school there. As a consequence, he moved to France where he eventually died in Neuilly-sur-Seine in 1944.

Chagall, whose work dominated the previous exhibition, also produced art in France and the United States before his death on the French Riviera in 1985.

Nevertheless, all the different types

of art in the current exhibition bring to light the influence that their native Russia had on them and consequently on their journey towards modern art.

The works evoke ideas portrayed by the artist with relation to Russian tradition and to some of the other contemporary artists of the time.

Specialist Valeriano Bozal highlighted the importance of colour, light

and composition for modern Russian artists, but he added that nothing was more important than the moral burden that each individual work attempts to carry and depict to others.

Visits: There is free entrance to the museum, open between 9.30am and 8pm, this Saturday and Sunday.

The life of the powerful Romanov dynasty brought to Malaga

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

MALAGA. The Tabacalera building has also welcomed an exhibition about the House of Romanov, which ruled Russia from 1613 until 1917 when Tsar Nicholas II was forced to abdicate after the first of two revolutions in the country that year.

The collection features 247 works of art which include paintings, sculptures, furniture and household utensils and give a deep insight into the life of the powerful family.



Pablo Petrovich portrait. **SUR**

	<p>THE GREAT WALL Director Zhang Yimou Starring Matt Damon and Willem Dafoe ACTION - 103 min. +7</p> <p>Friday 24: 22:30 Saturday 25 and Sunday 26: 16:00, 22:30 From Monday 27 to Thursday 2: 22:00</p>		<p>Your Cinema in Puerto Banus</p>
	<p>FIFTY SHADES DARKER Director James Foley Starring Dakota Johnson and Jamie Dornan DRAMA - 118 min. +18</p> <p>From Friday 24 to Thursday 2: 20:00</p>		
	<p>LA LA LAND Director Damien Chazelle Starring Emma Stone MUSICAL - 159 min. Fit</p> <p>Friday 24: 19:45 Saturday 25: 16:00, 19:45 Sunday 26: 11:45, 16:00, 19:45 From Monday 27 to Thursday 2: 17:45, 19:45</p>		
	<p>BALLERINA Director Eric Summer ANIMATION - 89 min. Fit</p> <p>Friday 24: 18:00 Saturday 25: 15:45, 18:00 Sunday 26: 12:00, 15:45, 18:00 Monday 27, Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2: 18:00</p>		
	<p>HIDDEN FIGURES Director Theodore Melfi Starring Taraji P. Henson DRAMA - 127 min. Fit</p> <p>From Friday 24 to Thursday 2: 17:30</p>		
<p>T2 TRAINSPOTTING Director Danny Boyle and Sylvia Parker Starring Ewan McGregor and Ewan Bremner DRAMA - 117 min. +16</p> <p>After 20 years abroad, Mark Renton returns to Scotland and reunites with his old friends Sick Boy, Spud, and Begbie.</p> <p>Friday 24: 20:00, 22:15 Saturday 25: 15:50, 20:00, 22:15 Sunday 26: 11:45, 15:50, 20:00, 22:15 From Monday 27 to Thursday 2: 20:00, 22:15</p>			
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EXHIBITIONS

Museo Ralli

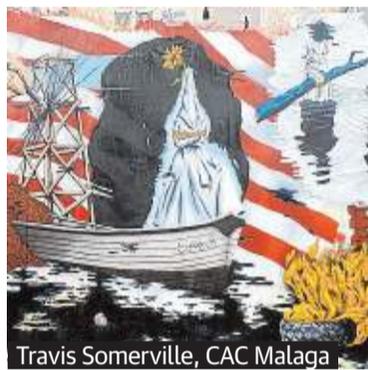
Marbella. *Permanent exhibition, Urb Coral Beach*

During the month of February the museum will be exhibiting works by Uruguayan artist Luis Solari, Mexicans Emilio Ortiz and Francisco Toledo and Chileans Mario Toral and Roberto Opazo.

Revello de Toro

Malaga. *C/Afligidos, 5.*

An exhibition entitled 'Damas, Retratos Femeninos' consisting of eight paintings of sensual women by Félix Revello Toro. Until 2 April.



Travis Somerville, CAC Malaga

New Longman's

Estepona. *Until 5 March, Plaza de Manilva, 6*

An exhibition of paintings by Emmanuel Janvier.

'Under 35'

Malaga. *Until 25 February, Galería GALCMA, C/Fidias, 48.*

Thirty artists under the age of 35 and with links to Malaga will be presenting their work.

38 Picassos

Malaga. *Until 26 March, Museo Picasso Málaga*

A selection of the works by Pablo Picasso that have enriched the museum's permanent collection over the last six years courtesy of FABA, now exhibited together and independently for the first time.

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*

'A no entender entendiendo' is an exhibition of paintings in large for-

SCS visits the Costa del Sol

by TONY BRYANT

MIJAS COSTA. The Scandinavian Cello School (SCS), in partnership with Project Music Management, is to present a series of classical music concerts along the Costa del Sol in March.

The concerts have been arranged as part of the SCS scholarship, which will take place on the coast from 26 February until 4 March.

Six of the finest young cellists will participate in the project, led by the internationally-renowned Jacob Shaw and Danish pianist David Lau Magnussen.

Each participant will receive three private lessons from Jacob Shaw, as well as group sessions, educational trips and performance opportunities.

Shaw founded the school to support, educate and promote young cellists around Europe and further afield, and this will be the second edition of the project to be held on the Costa del Sol.

The first concert will take place on Thursday 2 March at the Padre Manuel cultural centre in Estepona. The International Mu-



Scandinavian Cello School will come to the coast in March. :: SUR

sic Society will also perform at this concert.

The concert begins at 8pm and tickets cost 10 euros.

The second concert will be held in the Danish Church in Mijas Costa on Saturday 4 March at 7.30pm. Tickets for this concert cost 15 euros.

The final concert will take place at the Avanto restaurant in Mijas Costa on Sunday 5 March.

Tickets, which must be reserved at the restaurant, cost 40 euros.

INFORMATION

► **When:** Thursday 2 until Sunday 5 March.

► **Where:** Various locations along the coast.

► **Contact information:** aproject.space@outlook.com / pmmtickets@mail.com

mat 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'.

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.'

'From city to museum'

Malaga. *Until 5 March, Centro Pompidou*

The new exhibit at the Pompidou consists of 40 models of buildings in Paris built in the last 70 years. It is entitled 'De la ciudad al museo. Arquitecturas parisinas 1945-2015'.

Daniel Silvo

Malaga. *Until 11 March, Galería isa-*

bel Hurley, Pase de Reding.

'Conservar y divulgar' is the current exhibition at the gallery by Daniel Silvo. The exhibit includes a video which records the process of abandonment of four Mexican works of art in the US.



Museo Ralli, Marbella

Lawrence Weiner

Malaga. *Until 12 March, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.*

Lawrence Weiner exhibits four works entitled 'There are Things that Move Outside of Motion, 2001'

Marcel Van Eeden

Malaga. *Until 26 March, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.*

Dutch artist Marcel Van Eeden is displaying around 250 works in charcoal, watercolour and pastel depicting scenes from the 16th century.

Expo Jurassic

Malaga. *Until 26 March, Recinto Ferial.*

An interactive exhibition of life-size dinosaurs. Tickets from www.expojurasico.com

La Térmica

Malaga. *Until March, La Térmica, Av de los Guindos.*

A collection of 40 photos in an exhibition entitled 'Retratos' (portraits) taken by Swiss photographer and film maker Michael Comte.

Japanese art

Malaga. *Until 23 April. Museo Carmen Thyssen, C/Compañía, 10*

The exhibition 'Japon. Grabados y

objetos de arte' includes 24 drawings and other objects.

Travis Somerville

Malaga. *Until 7 May, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.*

American artist Travis Somerville gives voice to the immigrants in the US and also stands up for the indigenous Indians with powerful art works that incorporates disturbing images such as the capes of the Klu Klux Klan.

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 dispa-



rate theme, art and economy.

El Molino de Cajiz

Vélez- Málaga. *3, 4, 5 March, El Molino de Cajiz*

Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Merle Kumschier. www.merle-inspirationen.com

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 for the exhibition. For workshops tel: 699 801 613

Picasso and Opisso

Macharaviaya. *Until 17 April. Museo de los Gálvez.*

The exhibition consists of 31 portraits of women by Pablo Picasso and Alfredo Opisso.

Artistas Eclécticos

Mijas Pueblo. *Until 17 March. Clínica Veterinaria, Avd México 21.*

Works by Sinikka Ahokas-Gröhn, Elaine Carlton and Richard Wood.



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EXHIBITIONS

Benezra Gallery

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

Contemporary art and sculpture as well as fine art and impressionist sales. It also supports emerging artists. The opening exhibit highlights the works of eight contemporary artists.

Torremolinos Chic

Torremolinos. Permanent exhibition, *Casa de los Navajas.*

A permanent exhibition of photographs taken in the 60s and 70s entitled Torremolinos Chic. It features around twenty photographs including one of the legendary Bridget Bardot posing on Carhuela beach in a Cordobés hat.



Benezra Gallery, Marbella

José María Córdoba

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

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

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. 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 canvases.



Bass player Gerald Cannon and pianist George Cables. :: SUR

The International Winter Jazz Festival

REGINA SOTORRÍO

ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE. The 'all stars' of jazz will spend four days in Malaga on the stage and inside the classroom, from 1 to 5 March.

Joe Chambers, George Cables, Gerald Cannon, Peter Bernstein and Eric Alexander are part of the ambitious team at the International Seminary of Jazz and Modern Music in Alhaurín de la Torre at the Winter Jazz Festival.

The music will be complemented by the voices of Judy Niemack and Beatriz Pessoa, the saxophone of Francisco Blanco 'Latino' and pianist Pascual

Morente (jazz for children).

They will be performing together and separately at a number of venues which includes the Sala María Cristina, Velvet Club, the Centro Cultural María Victoria Atencia and in the MIMMA (Museo Interactivo de la Música) in Malaga and the Escuela Municipal de la Música and Centro Cultural Vicente Alexandre in Alhaurín de la Torre.

The concerts are all free although seating is limited.

More information can be found on Facebook: [seminariojazz.alhaurin](https://www.facebook.com/seminariojazz.alhaurin) or send an email to jazzalhaurin@gmail.com



Torremolinos Chic

Sean Smith

Mijas. Until 13 March, *Casa Museo de Mijas.*

An exhibition of photographs by Sean Smith.

Ramce

Fuengirola. Until 16 March, *Double*

Tree by Hilton Resort & Spa, Reserva del Higueron.

An exhibition of art work by Cuban artist Ramce.

Itinerarte

Benalmádena. Until 19 March, *Centro de Exposiciones, Av Antonio Machado, 33*

Paintings, photography and graphic art created by 35 artists of different ages and styles.

CHARITY

British legion Spring Fair

Nerja. 25 February, from 11am. *Nerja caves lower salon.* Free entry. Crafts, cakes, plants, jewellery, art and bric-a-brac. Te, coffee and cakes available.

CONCERT DATES

► **Malaga.** 1 March, 8.30pm. *Sala Unicaja de Conciertos, C/Marqués de Valdecañas.* Guitarist Peter Bernstein and the José Carra Trío.

► **Alhaurín de la Torre.** 2 March 9pm. *Centro Cultural Vicente Alexandre.* 'Descarga Latina'. Concert with Francisco Blanco.

► **Malaga.** 2 March, 8.30pm. *Sala Velvet, Velvet Club, C/Comedias.* The Eric Alexander Quartet.

► **Malaga.** 3 March 8.30pm. *Centro Cultural María Victoria Atencia.* Jazz musicians George Cables, Gerald Cannon, Joe Chambers and Enrique Oliver will be in concert.

► **Malaga.** 4 March 8.30pm. *Centro Cultural María Victoria Atencia.* The Judy Niemack Quintet.

► **Malaga.** 4 March, from 10pm. *Museo Interactivo de la Música.* Jazz festival.

► **Malaga.** 5 March, 8.30pm. *Sala Velvet, Velvet Club, C/Comedias.* The Malaga Jazz Collective.

► **Alhaurín de la Torre.** 5 March 8.30pm. *Escuela Municipal de Música de Alhaurín de la Torre.* Closing concert by teachers at the college.

Día Pimpi Solidario

Malaga. 28 February. *Bar El Pimpi, C/Alcazabilla.*

The famous Bar El Pimpi in Malaga has pledged all the money it raises on Andalucía Day to 16 NGOs in Malaga including Autismo Málaga. Last year they raised 80,000 euros. There will be a stage with various performances and stands selling local products.

St David's Day

Benalmádena. 1 March, from 2pm. *CJ's Karaoke Bar, Avda Bonanza.*

The Welsh Society will be raising money for Age Care at this event. There will be traditional Welsh food and lots of entertainment.

Rotary Club Gala Dinner

Estepona. 4 March, 7pm. *Teatro*

Felipe VI.

A charity gala dinner with entertainment provided by 'Hybrid', the School of Russian Ballet and 'Chiquitina', an adaptation of the musical 'Mamma Mia'. Also 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 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.*

24 February. Billy Preacher and Dani. Blues, rock'n'roll, American folk. Guitar and harmonica

25 February. Alberdi & James



Tosca, Teatro Cervantes

Tosca

Malaga 25 February, 8pm. 26 February 7pm. *Teatro Cervantes.*

Opera by Puccini in three acts
www.teatrocervantes.com

Revival

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

A tribute to the bands of the 60s, 70s and 80s.
www.salonvarietestheatre.com

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'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 and Michael Bublé.
www.salonvarietestheatre.com



Rob Sas Band, Coín

Rob Sas Band

Coín. 25 February 9pm. Coín Sports and Show Bar
 The Rob Sas band are in concert.

Classic and flamenco dance

Almuñécar. 24 February, 8pm. Casa de la Cultura.
 The Conservatorio Profesional de Danza Reina Sofia de Granada.

Fernando Egozcue Trio

Almuñécar. 25 February, 8pm. Casa de la Cultura. 12€ in advance. 15€ on the door.
 Great Argentinian tango and jazz show with the Fernando Egozcue Trio and dancers.

Hispanian Symphony Orchestra

& Guy Braunstein

Malaga. 27 February, 8pm. Teatro Cervantes. 20€

Guy Braunstein, one of the greatest violinists in the world, will be conducting the orchestra through works by Beethoven, Brahms and Mendelssohn.
www.teatrocervantes.com

Recital by Ángel Sanzo

Malaga. 4 March, 9pm. Sala Unica de Conciertos, C/Marqués de Valdecañas. 10€

Spanish pianist Ángel Sanzo will be in concert performing works by composers Mozart, Beethoven, Liszt and Ravel.
www.fundacionunica.com

Guy Braunstein and friends

Malaga. 11 March, 9pm. Sala Unica de Conciertos, C/Marqués de Valdecañas. 15€

Guy Braunstein, violin soloists Jesús Reina and Anna Nilsen, cellist Alberto Martos and pianist Ambrosio Valero will be performing pieces by Schumann and Brahms. www.unientradas.es

Concert Luna Llena Dúo

Cajiz. 3 March. El Molino de Cajiz, Merle Esculturas y Pinturas. Simona Mango singing and Bruce Reynolds on the guitar.
www.merle-inspirationen.com/

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

Malaga. Teatro Cervantes
9, 10 March, 8pm. Music by composers Shostakovich, William Walton and Edward Grieg. Conducted by Manuel Hernández Silva.
www.orquestafilarmonicademalaga.com

Mozart requiem

Granada. 11 March, 7pm. Auditorium Manuel Falla

The International Choir 'Coraxalia' based in La Viñuela, will be taking part in the First Choir Festival in Granada performing Mozart Requiem with a full orchestra. Email: eucorax@hotmail.es

Wind and string octet

Malaga. 17 March, 9pm. Club El Candado, Avda Principal del Candado
 The octet will be playing music by composer Franz Schubert.

Stars of the West End

Mijas Costa. 24 March. Teatro Las Lagunas
 Songs from 'The Phantom of the Opera', 'Les Misérables', 'Jersey Boys', 'Oliver', 'Cats', 'Beauty and the Beast' performed by Mike Sterling, Jo Gibb and Michael Conway. Tickets 20 or 25€ www.ticket-source.eu/bigmpromotions or One Stop Shop, La Trocha, Coín; Sunshine Golf Store, La Cala de Mijas; IBEX, Insurance office, Fuengirola; Woody's, Los Boliches. Tel: 952 661 819 Also enjoy dinner accompanied by the stars at Tamisa Golf on 22 March; La Sala Puerta Banús on 23 March and La Sala, Sunborn, Gibraltar on 25 March. VIP tables available.

Andalucía Day concert

Vélez-Málaga. 28 February, 12.45pm. Teatro del Carmen
 The municipal band, flamenco group Antonio Guerra plus other dancers and flamenco singers.

Dance championships MueBT

Torremolinos. From 27 February until 4 March. Auditorio

Municipal Principe de Asturias. 5€
 Dance competition with cash prizes. Categories include Artistic dance, Spanish dance, Formation dance, and Urban Hip Hop. Tickets in advance www.unientradas.es or from the box office 10€. Participants must register before 15 February info@torremolinosbailando.com.



Dúo Luna Llena, Cajiz

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 like Bach, Schumann and Shostakovich. www.kunsthau-berlinmarbella.com

LECTURES

U3A Lectures

Fuengirola. Lux Mundi reference Library, free to members, guests 5€. www.u3acostadelsol.org
Art and artists: 'Fake and Fortune' series. 1 March, 11am-12.30pm. 'Is it fake or worth a fortune?'
 Speaker: Liz Cochrane

History and all that 1066. 3 March, 11am-12.30pm After Willaim the Conqueror's death.
 Course Leader: Kay White.

Mixed bag talk: 'A historical record of the measurement of time and my attempts to equal the accuracy of the master clock makers.' 7 March, 11am-12.30pm. A group discussion.
 Led by Geoff Cooke.

Science and Technology: Robots, androids and automata. 8 March, 11am-12.30pm. For at least two thousand years people have dreamed of creating artificial life. How near are we to achieving this dream?
 Speaker: Ian Phillips.

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

Evolution, genetics, creation and design. 24 February.
Space, time and the end of the universe. 10 March. ➤

In the name of the olive

❖ JENNIE RHODES

RIOGORDO. Riogordo is celebrating one of the town's most important economic drivers this weekend: the verdial olive and its extra virgin olive oil. The idea behind the Molienda de Riogordo festival is to promote the product and highlight its importance for the town.

Over the course of today, tomorrow and Sunday, visitors to the town will be able to see a recreation of an old mill, complete with a mule working the press, as it would have been done in the 18th century.

On Friday a series of talks and workshops will take place in the Museo Etnográfico from 9am and at 7pm the exhibition, 'Spanish olive oil advertising art' will be officially opened.

An exhibition of rural scenes around Riogordo by local painters, Bob Woodhouse and Nigel Short is also on at the museum until Sunday.

A series of guided visits around the town's oil producer, Agro-Olivarera de Riogordo S.C.A., will be available and followed by the



Recreation of the old olive press. :: E. CABEZAS

opportunity to try a traditional miller's breakfast of local bread and olive oil.

A key part of the festival is the olive stone spitting competition, and other events include Maragata dancing (a traditional dance from the province of Malaga) and a gazpachuelo contest (gazpachuelo is a typical soup from the area made with fish stock, mayonnaise and potatoes).

INFORMATION

▶ **When:** Until Sunday

▶ **Where:** Riogordo, mainly in the Museo Etnográfico, Calle la Iglesia 14.

▶ **Further information:** Facebook: La Molienda de Riogordo.



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LECTURES

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 first developed throughout the late 19th and early 20th Century and how it went on to revolutionise the face of entertainment. Lecturer is Geri Parlbly.

www.benahavisdfas.com/events

FLAMENCO

'Con rima y compás'

Vélez-Málaga. 25 February, 8pm.
Teatro del Carmen

'Flamenco music and poetry reading. Invitations from Town Hall.

V Biennial Flamenco de Málaga

Malaga. 3 March, 7.30pm. Teatro Cervantes.

The opening gala with performance by the Flamenca de la Lupi company.



FESTIVALS

Carnaval

Alhaurín el Grande. 27 February until 4 March.

Almuñécar. 24-26 February

Benalmádena. 25 February until 5 March.

Cártama. 25 February until 4 March.

Coín. 24 February. Children's party.

Humilladero. 28, 29 February.

Fancy dress competition on Saturday followed by the curious tradition of the Chuchete de los Botijos on the Sunday (throwing alay drinking vessel around until someone lets it drop)

Twentieth birthday of Concerto Málaga



MALAGA. The Concerto Málaga (Malaga's string orchestra) is celebrating its twentieth anniversary with a special programme of concerts.

The Malaga string orchestra, led by the eminent violinist, José Manuel Gil de Gálvez, will be presenting the second of its four concerts in the 'Las Cuatro Estaciones' season entitled '20 Años de Historia'. The concert is to celebrate the twenty years of Concerto Málaga and will feature music by composers Vivaldi,

INFORMATION

▶ **When:** 28 February, 7.30pm.

▶ **Where:** Fundación de Ilustre Colegio de Médicos de Málaga, C/Curtidores.

▶ **Tickets:** www.classic-tic.com/es

Albéniz, Corelli and Puccini. More information: www.concertomalaga.com

La Cala de Mijas. 5 March 11.30am. Carnaval procession.

Malaga. Until 26 February. Because of rain last weekend there will be three extra parades over the weekend plus the battle of the flowers and fancy dress on 25th and finally the burying of the anchovy on the 26th. www.carnavaldemalaga.es/

Marbella. Until 4 March.

Mijas Pueblo. 26 February,

11.30am. Carnaval procession.

Torre del Mar. Until 26 February.

Processions on 25th.

Torremolinos. From 6-12 March.

The Carnaval Gay I Gala Drag Queen competition is being held on 4 March in La Plaza La Nogalera from 9pm.

Día de los Polvos

Tolex. 27 February. Legend says that young men in the early nineteenth century apparently threw flour over a girl to declare their love. Another story is that a Moor and a Christian girl, both of whom worked in a bakery, fell in love with the same man and had a

flour fight. Nowadays anyone is 'fair game', not just lovers.

Sopa de los Siete Ramales

El Burgo. 28 February.

The village of El Burgo celebrates the Fiesta de la Sopa de los Siete Ramales with a market, live music and tastings of the traditional dish.

Día de Andalucía

Pizarra. Every 28 February since 1995, the village celebrates Día de Andalucía with a romería to the Sierra de Gíbralmora.

Torremolinos. From 25-28 February. A programme of gastronomic and cultural events including live music, dance, food market and floral offerings to Blas Infante, the father of Andalusian nationalism on the 28th.

EVENTS

World Woman's Day of prayer

Torre del Mar. 4 March, 5pm Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre. This year the worship service fo-

cuses on "Am I being unfair to you?" Matthew 20:1-16. Prepared by women of the Philippines.

Ecological market

Mijas. Parque Andalucía. Second Sunday of the month and the last Sunday of the month in the Bulevar de La Cala.

Ecological food and environmentally friendly products are on sale.

Trip to Gibraltar

From Torre del Mar. 16 March.

Various departure points. 12€ Coach trip to Gibraltar Passports required. Tel.952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org. Webpage: www.lux-mundi.org

Trip to see 'Stars of the West End'

Mijas Costa. 24 March, Las Lagunas Theatre. Various departure points. 32€

Payment required on booking please. Information tel Gail on 951067723, email phoenixsocialclub@yahoo.co.uk or go to www.phoenixsocialclub.co.uk.

Weekend in Morocco

Torre del Mar. 5-7 May. 225€ pp. 35€ single supplement.

Gratuities are not included. Travel insurance mandatory. Tel Gail on 951067723, email phoenixsocialclub@yahoo.co.uk or go to www.phoenixsocialclub.co.uk.

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Cine Albéniz

C/Alcazabilla 4, Malaga. Tel: 902 36 02 95 or visit www.cinealbeniz.com or www.unientradas.es

La La Land: 20.30, 22.45

Fences: 16.15, 18.00, 21.30

Moonlight: 16.00, 17.30, 19.30

Jackie: 20.10, 21.45

T2 Trainspotting: 16.00, 18.05, 21.55

The Saga of the Viking Women and Their Voyage to the Waters of the Great Sea Serpent (1957): 20.00 (Thu)

Cinesur El Ingenio

Avda. Juan Carlos 1, Vélez-Málaga. Tel. 667 77 31 87.

T2 Trainspotting: 16.20, 18.45

(Fri, Sat, Sun)

La La Land: 18.30

The Great Wall: 22.05 (every



day); 00.15 (Fri, Sat)

Cinesur Miramar

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

Split: 12.00, 16.45

Jackie: 16.15, 18.20

The Great Wall: 12.15, 16.00, 18.20

The Healer: 12.20, 16.00, 18.05

T2 Trainspotting: 20.10 (Wed, Thu); 22.30 (every day)

50 Shades Darker: 20.40, 23.10 (Fri, Sat, Sun)

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T2 Trainspotting: 11.45 (Sun); 15.50 (Sat,Sun); 20.00, 22.15

(every day)

The Great Wall: 16.00 (Sat, Sun); 22.30 (Frid, Sat, Sun); 22.00

(Mon-Thurs)

Ballerina: 12.00 (Sun); 15.45 (Sat, Sun); 18.00 (every day)

La La Land: 11.45 (Sun); 16.00 (Sat, Sun); 19.45 (every day)

Hidden Figures: 17.30 (every day)

50 Shades Darker: 20.00 (every day)

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

Centro de Ocio Plaza Mayor, Avda. Alfonso Ponce de León.

Tel: 902 902 103 or visit www.yelmocines.es

Fences: 15.50 (every day except Thu)

La La Land: 20.30

50 Shades Darker: 16.30

The Great Wall: 16.00 (Sun)

T2 Trainspotting: 16.15, 18.40, 21.15 (every day); 13.15 (Sat-Tues); 23.40 (Fri, Sat)

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

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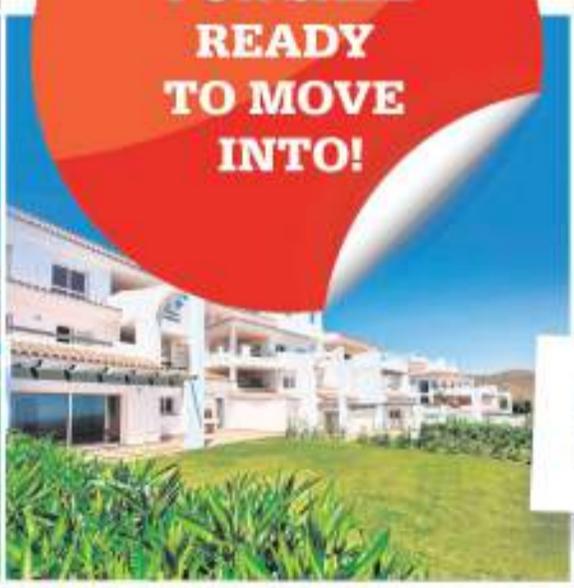
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A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports
@robbopalmer



It's game on!

Real Madrid's slip-up at Valencia on Wednesday night has breathed new life into the title race

There's a great phrase in Spain to describe the last few footballing days: "¡Hay liga!". In other words, "Game on!"

This could well be a decisive week in deciding where the title ends up. It was almost the last rites of the Catalans' claims as Real Madrid aimed to open up a four-point lead on their rivals, but their shock 2-1 defeat to Valencia on Wednesday changed all that.

Zinedine Zidane had planned carefully for the trip to Valencia, a game re-arranged from December when his Real Madrid were away claiming the Club World Cup title. He diluted his team for the weekend so that he could take his full force to a sell-out Mestalla.

What he hadn't catered for was Valencia, Europe's most under-

achieving team, suddenly over-achieving. Valencia came out all guns blazing and they led by two goals within the first nine minutes. On this occasion, Ronaldo was unable to emulate Messi and single-handedly haul his team back into the match as the Argentinean had done against Leganés.

The vultures accompanied the tiny team from the suburbs on their first ever visit to the Camp Nou. It did appear that they would have footballing flesh to pick at as the side, without a win in a dozen games, looked to be taking the unexpected souvenir of a point from their first visit to Europe's largest stadium.

Step forward Lionel Messi, a blasted penalty winner in the 90th minute was as dramatic as it gets. He led no celebrations as it wasn't a victory to celebrate.

Real still have the advantage and they do still have a game in hand but the season suddenly has new life. Real Madrid have mental scars and Barcelona's scars are healing.

But let's be honest, Zidane's team



Fabián Orellana celebrates scoring Valencia's second and winning goal against Real Madrid. :: EFE

are still favourites to take the title and on the balance of things, they should claim it. If last week had gone according to plan, I would have expected it to be wrapped up after the Clásico in late April.

Now there are factors that could mitigate against their undisputed claim. If Barcelona can't turn around a four-goal difference against PSG

in the Champions League, their fixture list suddenly becomes less cluttered and Luis Enrique doesn't have to balance the game time for his players.

Zidane's desk calendar will have hardly any space as they continue to progress in the Champions League and set the pace domestically. Exactly when they fit in the

cancelled game with Celta takes on significance. It looks like the only spot is midweek in the final week of the season.

I can't show any bias in my job, I have to remain neutral. So naturally I'm hoping it does go right down to the very last week. And right now, there's a much stronger possibility of that happening.

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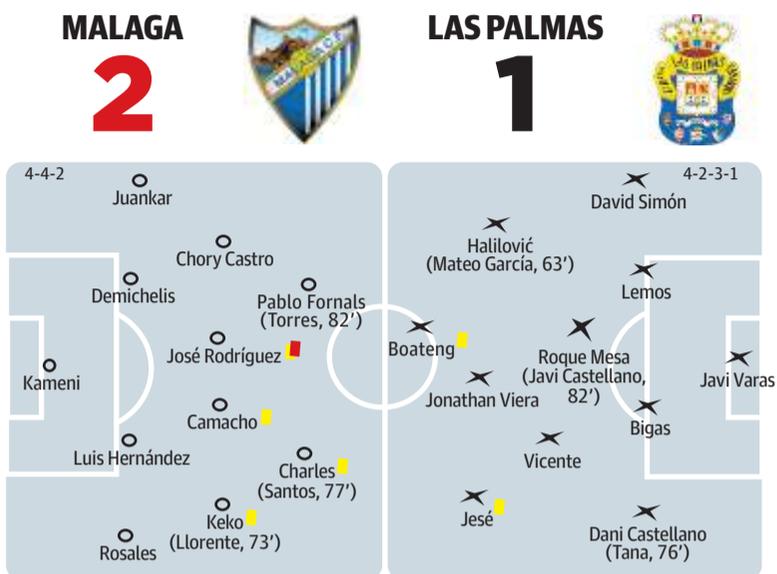
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Unused substitutes: Boyko (GK), Duda, Jony, Peñaranda.

Unused substitutes: Lizoain (GK), Aythami, David García, Hélder Lopes.

STATISTICS

BALL POSSESSION	
38%	62%
MALAGA	LAS PALMAS
2	Goals
11	Total shots
6	On target
5	Off target
2	Corners
7	Offsides
23	Fouls committed
5	Yellow cards
1	Red cards

Goals: 0-1 Lemos (19'); 1-1 Fornals (27'), 2-1 Charles (35').

Referee: Sánchez Martínez. Yellows for Camacho, Charles, Keko, Boateng, Jesé and Aythami. Two yellows for Rodríguez.

Venue: La Rosaleda (20,345 spectators).

TABLE & FIXTURES

MATCHDAY
23

LEAGUE TABLE

★ Champions League ■ Europa League ▼ Relegation

TEAM	PT	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
★ 1. R. Madrid	52	22	16	4	2	57	20
★ 2. Barcelona	51	23	15	6	2	63	19
★ 3. Sevilla	49	23	15	4	4	46	28
★ 4. At. Madrid	45	23	13	6	4	43	19
■ 5. Real Sociedad	41	23	13	2	8	36	32
■ 6. Villarreal	39	23	10	9	4	30	15
7. Eibar	35	23	10	5	8	36	31
8. Athletic	35	23	10	5	8	28	28
9. Celta	33	22	10	3	9	36	36
10. Espanyol	32	23	8	8	7	30	31
11. Alavés	30	23	7	9	7	22	28
12. Las Palmas	28	23	7	7	9	32	35
13. MALAGA	26	23	6	8	9	31	37
14. Valencia	26	23	7	5	11	33	41
15. Betis	24	22	6	6	10	22	35
16. Deportivo	19	22	4	7	11	26	35
17. Leganés	18	23	4	6	13	16	39
▼ 18. Sporting	16	23	4	4	15	25	47
▼ 19. Granada	16	23	3	7	13	21	49
▼ 20. Osasuna	10	23	1	7	15	24	52

Results

Granada - Betis	4-1
Sporting - At. Madrid	1-4
Sevilla - Eibar	2-0
Valencia - Athletic	2-0
Real Sociedad - Villarreal	0-1
MALAGA - Las Palmas	2-1
R. Madrid - Espanyol	2-0
Deportivo - Alavés	0-1
Barcelona - Leganés	2-1
Celta - Osasuna	3-0

Fixtures

At. Madrid - Barcelona
Betis - Sevilla
Villarreal - R. Madrid
Espanyol - Osasuna
Athletic - Granada
Las Palmas - Real Sociedad
Leganés - Deportivo
Eibar - MALAGA
Alavés - Valencia
Sporting - Celta

Ten-man Malaga gift Romero first win as boss

The Blue and Whites won their first game since late November in a 2-1 victory over Las Palmas at La Rosaleda

:: KISHAN VAGHELA

MALAGA. It was a momentous occasion for Malaga's new coach Marcelo Romero as he registered his first win since taking the helm at the end of December. Their 2-1 victory over Las Palmas at La Rosaleda on Monday night brought an end to a run of ten games without a victory, but they had to do it the hard way, seeing out the last 20 minutes with ten men.

Malaga's start to the first half saw Keko heavily involved down the right-hand side, and it was from his cross that the first chance came, but Camacho snatched at his effort and his volley failed to trouble Javi Varas. The former Sevilla goalkeeper was forced into action five minutes later when he held Chory's drive from Keko's pass, before he was nearly embarrassed when a seemingly harmless cross from the Uruguayan bounced just over his bar.

Las Palmas were proving to be a threat on the counter, with on-loan PSG forward Jesé feeding Hamburg loanee Alen Halilović, but his curling effort was easily dealt with by



Pablo Fornals celebrates scoring the equaliser his manager. :: S. SALAS

Carlos Kameni. Despite only having just that one effort, it was the visitors who took the lead just before the twenty-minute mark, after Lemos' curled free-kick found its way past

Kameni from 25 yards after Viera had been fouled.

Malaga responded and appealed for a penalty two minutes later after Charles felt a push in his back, but,

for the second time in two weeks, the Brazilian was booked for his complaints to the referee. The visitors found themselves in a similar position four minutes later to the one from which they scored, but Viera fired wide from the set piece.

Three minutes after Keko cut inside and saw his weak left-foot effort saved, the hosts were level. Chory's corner came to Pablo Fornals at the back post, whose speculative lob surprised Varas and the Malaga crowd when it nestled in the corner. On the half-hour mark, Malaga believed they had taken the lead, but the linesman raised his flag to rule out Keko's dink after a smart break.

The last significant action of the first half occurred ten minutes before the break, when Charles gave the hosts the lead when he prodded home a Keko's pass across the face of goal after the latter broke Las Palmas' offside trap.

The Blue and Whites kept up the pressure at the start of the second half, and four minutes in could have had a third when Lemos appeared to take Charles out in the penalty area, before José Rodríguez saw his effort in the resulting melee saved.

However, just as in the first half, Las Palmas were a threat up front and could have equalised on the fifty-minute mark, but Kevin-Prince Boateng's deflected effort cannoned back off

the post with Kameni well beaten. The game really started to open up, and Lemos almost undid his good work for the goal when he turned into trouble in the form of Fornals, but Varas came to his defender's rescue, making a smart block in the one-on-one.

Eight minutes later Malaga nearly gave themselves some breathing space as Martín Demichelis' header cannoned off the underside of the crossbar before bouncing on the goal line. The game began to see a couple of ill-tempered moments, with Jesé and Camacho both seeing yellow for protesting against the referee's decisions. However, with just over twenty minutes to go, José Rodríguez, playing his first game at La Rosaleda, was sent off for a second yellow card offence.

The red card saw Las Palmas pile the pressure on, with Kevin-Prince Boateng twice being denied by Kameni, firstly when he was in an offside position and secondly from a header. The visitors kept pressing and only a block from substitute and Real Madrid loanee Diego Llorente denied Vicente Gómez a certain goal five minutes from the end.

Las Palmas felt they would get one last chance, and deep into stoppage time it fell to the feet of Jesé, but he could only sweep his curling effort inches wide of the far post.

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DARYL
FINCHA VICTORY, AT
LONG LASTMalaga have shown a lot of improvement
under Marcelo Romero and Monday's
victory was their just deserts

Something about Malaga's victory on Monday felt inevitable. Despite being on a run of ten games without a win and facing up to impressive opposition, you still got the feeling that the win would come.

Marcelo Romero has done a magnificent job since coming in at the end of December. Between him and sporting director Francesc Arnau, they have rescued the sinking ship and are steering it in the right direction.

The areas that needed re-enforcing in January have been addressed - the club bought well once more by picking up the exciting Adalberto Peñaranda on loan as well as suring up the leaky defence by bringing in the experienced La Liga duo in the form of Martín Demichelis and Luis Hernández.

They took a more calculated gamble in the shape of José Rodríguez, who didn't have the best of times on Monday night.

Nonetheless, the haphazard methods of Juande Ramos are now a thing of the past; the feeling that the players have a game plan they believe in has returned. All too often, Ramos would ring the changes at half time when things weren't go-

ing his side's way. Because of this, his lack of belief in both his players and his tactics translated to the pitch.

Romero, on the other hand, has the benefit of having worked with some of the players for several years - and it shows. The mutual respect is there and many who had been anonymous until December have started to step up to the mark.

The return of players from injury has also helped, of course, with Charles' role vital to the way Romero wants to play. Last season's top scorer has been sorely missed and with his contract up in the summer, he will certainly have a point to prove.

It's easy to forget, also, that Malaga signed one of the league's top prospects in Keko this summer. Cruelly sidelined by injury and disjointed previously by Juande's chopping and changing, we may well start to see a return on Malaga's investment between now and the end of the season. Against Las Palmas he was superb down the right and was unlucky to have his goal chalked off for offside. It was his vision and superb execution of the cross, though,

that set up Malaga's winner.

Defensive solidity

When Romero's men went down to ten, the sensation of imminent collapse was strangely absent. Much of this is down to the new centre back pairing of Hernández and Demichelis.

Romero had no hesitation in pairing them together immediately after signing them and it is clear to see why (even if it was extremely harsh on the young pairing of Mikel Villanueva and Luis Muñoz).

In the four games they have started together, they have conceded just four goals. For the last 20 minutes on Monday, Demichelis bossed the backline. Often derided during his time in England with Manchester City, his experience is vital to this relatively young Malaga side. Neither Diego Llorente nor Bakary Koné, the two summer signings for that position, have covered themselves in glory. Technically, their level is sufficient, but their most glaring deficiencies are in their decision making, organisation and leadership.

Now Malaga have that in abundance. Successful Malaga sides in recent times have always been built on strong defensive foundations. It took Javi Gracia a good while to repair the damage caused by Bernd Schuster in that respect, but once his backline was secure, it provided a strong platform for the counterattacking style he wanted to implement.

It is clearly Romero's intention to mirror his former boss's mentality, and the players at his disposal are certainly equipped to do that. There is a lot of pace and guile in the wide areas while Charles, and the returning Sandro Ramírez both have the engine to stretch teams on the counter.

There was a lot of optimism before the season started and with a lot of football still to be played between now and May, it could yet turn out to be a good season.



Diana under pressure as his long pass is closed down. :: J. MORALES / OPTA

Set pieces see
Marbella come
unstuck in MéridaTwo identical goals
from Paco Aguza in
the first half set the
tone for Nafti's side

MÉRIDA 3 MARBELLA 0

:: ALEJANDRO VILLALOBOS /
OPTASPORTS

ALMERIA. It was a bad day at the office for Marbella on Sunday as they fell to a 3-0 defeat at the hands of Mérida, a setback in their fight for automatic promotion in a weekend when their direct competitors played each other.

It started well for the Costa side, though, and they gained ground on their opponents with some impressive wing play, pegging back the Mérida full-backs. Goti had the first attempt, lashing his effort across the face of goal before Kike Márquez, after leaving three defenders in his wake, forced Mandaluniz into a good stop.

Despite the territorial advantage, Marbella found themselves behind just 18 minutes into the contest when their former player Paco Aguza, found

himself free at the back post and connected with Óscar Rico's lofted freekick from the left flank.

The setback didn't stop the visitors who continued with their game plan which kept Mérida on the back foot. But the hosts struck back in almost identical fashion, Rico crossing for Aguza at the back post - goal.

After this goal, Marbella heads dropped and the good work of Mehdi Nafti's side soon turned to frustration at the lack of end product.

The second half was much of the same, with Marbella good in possession, but lacking conviction as they approached goal. In fact, the best chance they could muster came through Andrés who hit a speculative effort over the bar.

The final nail in the coffin came in stoppage time when David Álvarez, with a free header from the corner, nodded past Bernabé from barely a yard out.

Cartagena's 1-0 victory over Lorca CF means this was an opportunity missed to go joint-top. Instead, Nafti's side are three points adrift of the two leaders in third place with set-piece defending on the agenda for training this week.

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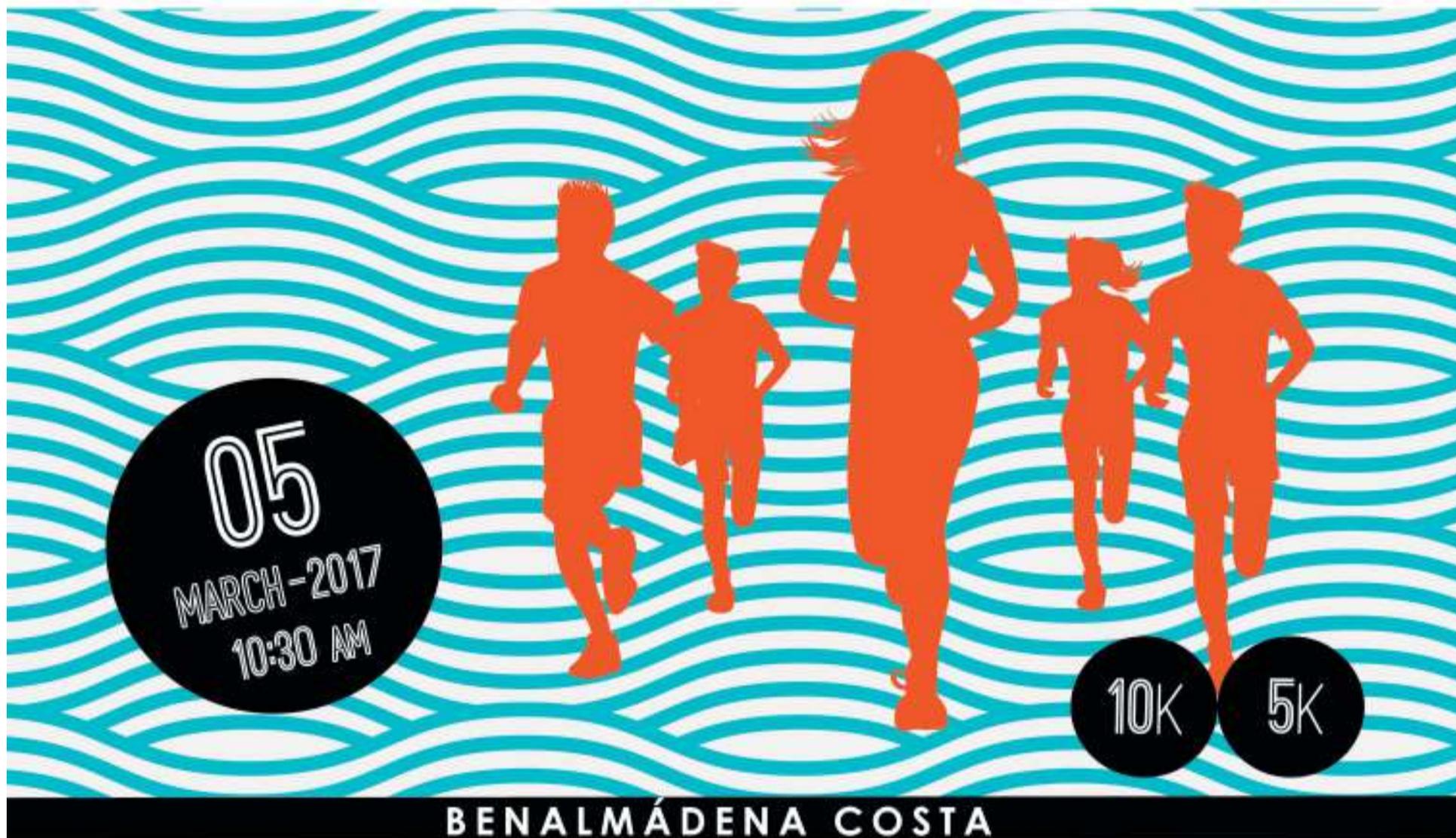
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Team photo of the SAS ladies following their 12-1 win over Dream Team Girls AVOI Femenino. :: R. A.

SAS set sights on second



RACHEL ARMSTRONG

Studs and Stiletto Ladies FC overcame a post-Christmas wobble to reinforce their position at the top end of the table

FUENGIROLA. With two games in hand over most of their rivals, a 12-1 win against Dream Team Girls earlier this month saw the Fuengirola-based ladies football team cement their position in third place of the Femenino LF7 - Malaga (C.D. Naturaleza y Deporte).

An impressive start to the season propelled SAS up the league but the Christmas break looked as though it had taken its toll as the girls fought to a nervy win against Candor CF in their first game back and then

suffered a home defeat to Polideportivo Mijas.

But, by the end of January, they looked to be back to winning ways with an 8-1 rout of U.D. Casares followed by another high-scoring away win, this time at the expense of Dream Team Girls on a day that saw a revitalised SAS side put 12 past their opposition. However, the team currently sitting at the bottom of the league managed to net a consolation goal to mark their coach's birthday.

New to the women's football league this season, Dream Team Girls AVOI Femenino are a group of volunteers at Hospital Materno-Infantil, Malaga, who dedicate their time to making the children's stay there as pleasant as possible.

Mena Sambiasi, who has been involved with Studs and Stiletto since 2014, said: "For me, Dream Team are the example of how our league should be. It's great to play against a team that wants to have fun; we share the same spirit."

The Fuengirola-based club have a couple of postponed matches to play which just happen to be against

the two teams currently perched above them in the league - Paraguay and Alhaurin de la Torre B.

Their immediate focus is on the daunting task of keeping goals against to a minimum when they face a strong Paraguay side this weekend. Elishia Hartley, player-coach for SAS, told SUR in English: "I think we have every chance of beating them... The girls are really coming together and they want these wins badly."

Despite having two games in hand, an eleven-point gap means Studs and Stiletto must get something out of their postponed clashes against their main rivals to have any chance of breaking into the top two this season.

Training with Studs and Stiletto Ladies F.C. takes place at Campo Suel in Fuengirola on Wednesday evenings from 8.15pm - 10pm with all abilities welcome.

i For information, see Facebook (@StudsAndStiletto) or email sasladiesfc@yahoo.es

IN BRIEF

Second Holiday World run on 5 March

BENALMÁDENA
:: **A. GÓMEZ.** The tourist complex Holiday World has organised a run for the second year running in aid of the Fundación Proyecto Hombre, which helps and treats those with drug addiction problems.

More than 750 people took part in last year's run, which raised nearly 13,000 euros.

The organisation hopes to see close to 1,200 participants on 5 March and has also agreed to collaborate with SOS Cardio Sport, a team made up of doctors, firemen and other emergency services to prevent the sudden death of participants.

Adults will pay 12 euros to compete, with children paying six euros.

Casares and Manilva to host horse riding events

MALAGA
:: **SUR.** The towns of Casares and Manilva will play host to various horse riding events this weekend. Equestrian club El Club Deportivo Ecuestre Espíritu del Viento has organised national and international competitions, which include the fifth edition of the international 'Espíritu del Viento' endurance test.

The other international event is the 'Doma Vaquera' dressage competition, which is part of the overall Spanish championship, on Sunday.

The events will also receive the support of the Andalusian horse riding federation and the provincial government of Malaga.

Patagonia challenge up next for Javier Mérida

MARBELLA
:: **N. CASTRO.** Para-athlete Javier Mérida will attempt to swim the strait which links the coasts of Argentina and Chile next Friday.

Mérida will be swimming without a neoprene suit in water temperatures of between six and ten degrees in the area around the South Pole.

In doing so, he will attempt to become the first Spaniard to complete this test in extreme sport by trying to return to his starting point in Patagonia in an hour.

The swimmer stated that he sees the event as "a sort of rematch" after he was unable to carry out his objective of swimming the Loch Ness in the summer of 2015 due to lower than expected water temperatures.

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Valverde, centre, flanked to his left by Alberto Contador and, right, Thibaut Pinot. :: EFE

Historic win for Alejandro Valverde in the Ruta del Sol

:: MARTÍN COLBA

COÍN. The 63rd Vuelta a Andalucía, the region's biggest professional cycling race, came to a head on Sunday with Alejandro Valverde, one of Spain's most prolific cyclists taking overall first place.

Contrary to what the competition's nickname, 'Ruta del Sol', suggests, on the fifth and final day of the race, Valverde and his rivals had to endure the stormy weather conditions that hit Malaga province over the weekend. From the beginning of the last instalment, in Setenil de

RANKINGS

Final stage

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| 1. Tim Wellens (LOT) | 3h.58:31 |
| 2. Simon Clarke (CAN) | m.t. |
| 3. Victor Campenaerts (TLO) | m.t. |
| 4. Maciej Paterski (POL) | m.t. |

Overall

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Alejandro Valverde (MOV) | 17h.12:23 |
| 2. Alberto Contador (TRK) | + 1 s. |
| 3. Thibaut Pinot (FDJ) | + 6 s. |
| 4. Wout Poels (SKY) | + 21 s. |
| 5. Diego Rosa (SKY) | + 45 s. |

las Bodegas (Cadiz), competitors had to battle through wind, rain and sleet during both the ascent and descent to make it across the finish line in Coín.

The stage was won by Belgian Tim Wellens, but Valverde topped the podium, flanked by compatriot Alberto Contador, who came second, and Frenchman Thibaut Pinot.

Despite the milestone achievement, after completing the race, Valverde stated that he has no intention of slowing down and hopes to continue his winning streak.

Unicaja's Copa del Rey dream comes to a premature end

Joan Plaza's side were defeated in the quarter-final by Barcelona 82-70, a disappointing result given the triumph against Real Madrid

:: JUAN CALDERÓN

MALAGA. Barcelona shattered Unicaja's Copa del Rey dreams with an 82-70 victory over the Malaga side in Catalonia last Friday.

The hosts controlled the game for large parts against a side who lacked energy, drive and discipline.

Unicaja began the match the better side and led at the end of the first quarter by 17-22 lead thanks to baskets from Brooks, Díaz and Smith. The second quarter saw in-

accuracy and errors from both sides in attack, however Unicaja managed to hold their lead until the break.

However, Barcelona took control at the start of the third quarter and through three three-pointers they turned the game on its head and stormed into a 40-36 lead.

Nedovic kept Unicaja in the match by scoring six points and assisting three-pointers for Brooks and Musli, but three baskets from Eriksson gave Barcelona the advantage going into the final quarter.

Unfortunately for Plaza's side, Nedovic was marked out of the game, and consequently Unicaja's game lost fluency. Despite Smith and Fogg's baskets, Munford delivered the killer blow with another score to confirm Unicaja's exit from the competition.



Coach Joan Plaza after the final whistle. :: EFE

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NEW Argentinian, Asian, Russian multiorgasmic, sexy. Luxury atmosphere. Near Banús. 618448131

ASIAN Maria Polish, Latin. Authentic exotic massage, multiorgasmic, kissing, friends, friendly services, luxury atmosphere. New Marbella. 679126231

NEW Marbella. Polish, blonde, sexy, beautiful, enjoy erotic fashioned, sensual services. Luxury atmosphere. 604309812

GRANDMOTHER Karla, 150 breast, sexy, Golden Rain. Natural French. Outcalls. Fuengirola 635543274

DANIELA Mature busty, thin Brazilian. The best French and anal. Fantastic black, crazy delicious tongue kisses, you'll enjoy so much pleasure. Private/discreet apartment. Appointments only by Whatsapp. Nva. Andalusia. 634817450

MARBELLA. Caribbean, young, discreet. All services, own apartment. Outcalls. 722520777

NEW FUENGIROLA: Sol 23 years, beautiful, 120 breast. Discreet. 603719177

DANIELLY Fuengirola. 30. Beautiful young, sexy Brazilian. Kisses, erotic, prostatic massages. Hot sex! French without. Perla 6. 697883690

OPEN minded couple. She 40. 36DD Nymph looking for gorgeous men voyeur/participant. Riviera. Phone, text, whatsapp 602539075

FUENGIROLA: 51, Escort Lady. Super-tits. Also hotels. Speak English. 632868590

HELLO there!! I'm slim, brunette, mature, looking for 1 hour or more of complete and total passion. Marbella. 674946727

ENGLISH, BRUNETTE, GREEN EYES, LATE 30's, SLIM TONED, BIG BUST. INCALL/ OUTCALL FROM 60 EUROS FOR 15MINS. 12-8PM laid-on-jade@hotmail.com 651521485

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NEW Marbella, Lisa, 27, high standing, beautiful, very horny charming smile and fit athletic body, 1.67 - 52 kg, long brown curly hair, sexy, erotic, full massage, body to body, blowjob, deep throat and more, outcalls, incalls, speak English et parle francais. 632948212

CANCELADA English busty blonde!! Massage. Roleplay. Luxury private apartment. 647231042

DISCRETION and Privacy. Los Boli-ches. Jessica black sexy 27 years, Private apartment. 10am to 8pm. 617818615

TORRE del Mar. Brazilian 27 y.o. Loving. Gorgeous body!! 671477161

FUENGIROLA: Luana 30 Euros: Beautiful Brazilian, affectionate, elegant, French without, complete sex. Relaxing, prostatic massages. Discreet apartment. Pº Maritimo. Outcalls. 602419749

NATALI (18) Turkish. Lovely photo -model. Out-calls/ 24H 611237548

MELISA 18 yrs. Hungarian very pretty. 24h Out-calls. 611238013

TINA from Bulgaria. All kind of services. Work 24 hours 611237884

RUSSIAN 27... blue eyes, brunette. Try my professional massage + all other services... 611238013.

JESSICA ...espectacular Colombian doll. I work 24 hours... Call me: 611238013

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BENALMADENA: Beautiful hot independent Escort. Daniela. Come meet me! 645533624

NEW BENALMADENA: From 30 Euros. We're 3 girlfriends. Discreet. 650835617

LOVELIES We are three hot girlfriends in Fuengirola looking for sex. Come to see us, we will have a great time! 633520255

ANNE Sweet and very pretty, in my own flat near Fuengirola. Please call and come to see me. For more information and photos call me: 631314945

ANA JAPANESE 26, exotic, super-hot, horny, Greek. Marbella Center. Discreet. 688453508

COLOMBIAN. Slim, sexy, blonde, mature (44) beautiful curvaceous, big tits, ass upturned, we meet in my private apartment. Outcalls. 100 euros. Nueva Andalucia. 632863334

ANA ELEGANT blonde, blue eyes, big breasts. Waiting for you! Private apartment. 637111667 Malaga

ESTEPONA Sandra, 28, willing to satisfy your wishes. 603302412

MARBELLA. Pretty Ebony 26 years, cum in mouth, Kissing 69 penetration, Massage, Suck without. Incalls/ outcalls. 603226217

NERJA. Dulce young, erotic masseur here to make your most pleasant dreams. I am very loving. 642022387

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ALEJANDRO 24 years, sexual massage with happy ending. Own apartment. Outcalls. 24 hrs. 665344158

MALE to male, full body massage, Mijas Pueblo. 609321958

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LAS CHAPAS. Handsome boy, superendowed. If you want unlimited sex and company, Call me 603202758

MARBELLA centre. Sexy man, hard big banana for your sexual desires. In/ outcalls. 681300530

Transvestites

TRANSSEXUAL Sophia, beautiful brunette, active/ passive, great bust, well hung. 662045252. Fuengirola. www.escortsow.es/sofiabiagg

NEW BENALMADENA Aysha Trans mulata, 22cms. Party girl. Drinks. 24hrs. 695973362

ESTEPONA. Lola, beautiful, 150 bust, milky transvestite. Outcalls. Visa. 660874904

NEW ESTEPONA: Transvestite feminine, caring, complete, superendowed, active/passive. 631816160

BENALMADENA: Karina young Brazilian transvestite, blonde, beautiful, feminine, endowed. 667846464

MARBELLA center, Most elegant and pretty feminine Filipina trans for your sexual desires. In/ outcalls. 602493030

CRISTINA Trans. New Marbella Center. Complete. 20cms. Feminine. 24hrs. Discreet. 603326186

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MARBELLA. Monik, sexy lady. Titled chiropractor,relaxing, therapeutic, Chinese techniques, magic hands, portable massage bed. Private apartment. Hotel Visits. 686740661

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150€
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FUENGIROLA Carolina, blonde, elegant, relaxing massage, full erotic massage. Whatsapp. Message: 634797230

MAIAH, Fuengirola. Erotic, professional massage, body2body, happy ending. Miah, 647101046

PROFESSIONAL masseuse: Massages till end with optional end. 666770405 Estepona

QUALIFIED masseuse, beautiful slim girl. Tantric, body2body, lingam. Fuengirola. 689106874

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

MASSEUSE professional Russian. Relaxing, therapeutic massage. Private. 722783578/ 634307345

www.masajesbudamalaga.com Luxury Tantra Spa with the best erotic massage and installations in the Coast. Relax & pleasure with beautiful girls. Tlf & Whatsapp 605265433

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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 tits, best happy ending. 666291699

ESTEPONA. Funny young latina, sex, massage. I speak English. 672536859

FUENGIROLA: Erotic Massage. For a mere 80 Euros/ hour enjoy a sensual experience with a delightful finale, from one of our attractive masseuses. 602570272

ESTEPONA: Beautiful Latina, elegant, sexy, loving. Private apartment. Discreet. 622152511

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DUSKY lady! Nice massage on bed! Only afternoons. Miraflores. 612257309

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MATURE man, qualified masseur. Excellent massages for men. Torremolinos, Carrihueta. 639040128

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ASIAN qualified offer an authentic professional massage relieve, pain and stress, luxury, private. Marbella center. 604143788

EVA Jamaica and friend, professional massage every part of your body, soft or strong, clean environment. San Pedro near Banús. 672994555

WWW.TANTRAFUENGI-ROLA.COM Laura and Natalia two gorgeous masseuses. Enjoy as never. You'll repeat. Fuengirola Center. 632881135 - 612272380

BEAUTIFUL Masseuse Paola. Erotic, tantric, b2b massage. Fetish fantasy, roleplay. relaxingtouch.es 602448534

EXCLUSIVE masseuse, 47yrs, 120 bust, supercurves. All services. Benal-madena. 658763505

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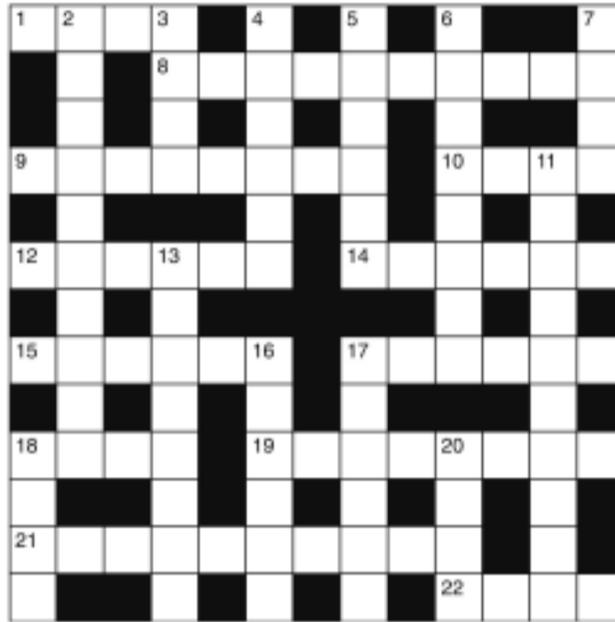
THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



THE STARS

- 
Aquarius
 January 21 - February 19
 There is every reason to be optimistic and yet, on some days this week, you may feel that progress is slow.
- 
Pisces
 February 20th - March 20th
 New activities that get the creative juices flowing will be as successful as you are willing to make them.
- 
Aries
 March 21st - April 20th
 Feeling the need for some kind of emotional map? The answer is close at hand in the form of an older relative or friend.
- 
Taurus
 April 21st - May 21st
 When you stop seeing molehills as mountains everything falls back into place.
- 
Gemini
 May 22nd - June 21st
 Unusual thoughts are not necessarily to be ignored. Daydreaming sometimes shows the way ahead.
- 
Cancer
 June 22nd - July 23rd
 You will now achieve your goal by first being blunt and then switching to 'charming and understanding'.
- 
Leo
 July 24th - August 23rd
 Whilst standing up for your ideas, also realise when there is a need to back away. Say your piece and give someone time to think about it.
- 
Virgo
 August 24th - September 23rd
 Real satisfaction this week comes from the home front where even your small efforts are appreciated.
- 
Libra
 September 24th - October 23rd
 What was it that you always wanted to do as a child? Is this the time to bring to life something you wanted to do in the past?
- 
Scorpio
 October 24th - November 22nd
 Seeing yourself as a power to be reckoned with brings back the old feeling that anything is possible.
- 
Sagittarius
 November 23rd - December 21st
 Something is calling you in a very spiritual way. Go where you are wanted and can really make a difference.
- 
Capricorn
 December 22nd - January 20th
 The satisfaction of helping others is firmly tied up with getting things done as part of a team.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11230



- Across**
- 1 Store between 180 and 270 degrees (4)
 - 8 Knocked down and defeated (10)
 - 9 He's concerned with his image, being badly tailored (8)
 - 10 Agreement prepared for conveyance, we hear (4)
 - 12 Possibly go over a furrow (6)
 - 14 Sidetracks to avoid the backstreet (6)
 - 15 Importance for a short time (6)
 - 17 Contract concerning Mussolini (6)
 - 18 Some of us have always eaten this meat (4)
 - 19 Tactful fellow (8)
 - 21 There are terms for this (10)
 - 22 Swim in three lanes (4)
- Down**
- 2 Offer nothing but solicitous affection? (6,4)
 - 3 Sheepskin coat (4)
 - 4 Decide not to go on? (6)
 - 5 Fumes capable of causing a lot of damage (6)
 - 6 Offer for money (8)
 - 7 It secures a measure of progress (4)
 - 11 Child's play for those who like pulling strings (4,6)
 - 13 Forget how to take charge (8)
 - 16 Take uncertain steps (6)
 - 17 Go about two? (6)
 - 18 Is in Virginia for purposes of travel (4)
 - 20 Finished up (4)

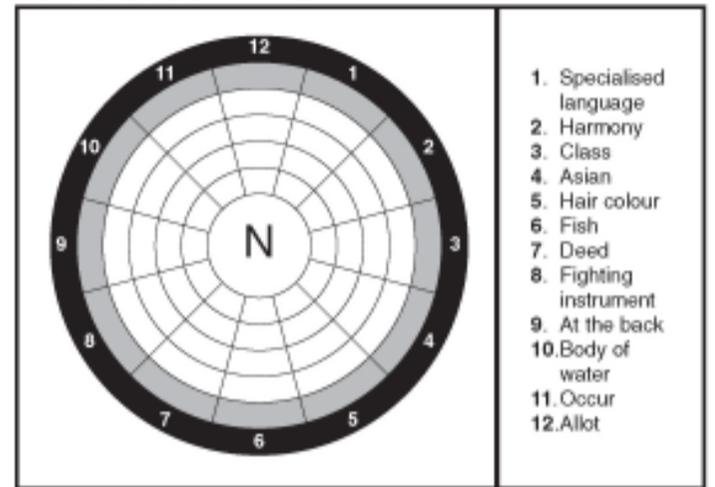
SUDOKU BY HANZO

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

CLOCKWORD

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter N in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a British actress.



1. Specialised language
2. Harmony
3. Class
4. Asian
5. Hair colour
6. Fish
7. Deed
8. Fighting instrument
9. At the back
10. Body of water
11. Occur
12. Allot

THE WORDPUZZLER



- CAN you identify the parts of the body from the clues listed below?
1. Metal fastener
 2. Dog-handler's command
 3. Weapon
 4. Spike
 5. Language
 6. Trendy
 7. Estuary
 8. Tease
 9. Chief
 10. Twelve inches

INTERNATIONAL RADIO

- Talk Radio Europe**
 105.5 Axarquía
 91.5 Costa del Sol East
 91.9 Costa del Sol West
 98.7 Gibraltar/Sotogrande
 News, interviews, lifestyle, sport and BBC World Service.
- Spectrum** (105.5 FM, Costa Almeria/Mojácar 92.6 FM)
 24 hour music and entertainment
- Radio Mijas** (107.7 FM)
 3 p.m. News, views and music
- Radio Sol Almirajara** (99.1 FM)
 Nerja radio in English and German and night time World Radio Network
- HeartfmSpain** (88.5 FM Costa, 96.1 FM inland) Music, entertainment, news
- Lick FM** (103.6 FM Marbella)
 Urban music broadcast between Gibraltar and Calahonda
- Rtv Puebla** (107.7 FM)
 Monday evenings, Rock music memories. 7 - 9pm. email: radiopuebla.musicmemories@yahoo.com
 Fb: Radiotelevision Puebla de Cazalla
- Global** (93.6 and 96.4FM)
 All week round the clock music and entertainment
- Radio Radio Network** (96 and 98.3 FM). Music 24 hours.
- Central FM** (98.6 FM, 103.8)
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 Inland radio, news and music
 The Beat fm (106 FM)
 24 hours, music and entertainment

QUIZ

- QUESTION 1**
- Which famous composer had the first names 'Pyotr Ilyich'?
1. Tchaikovsky
 2. Khachaturian
 3. Stravinsky
 4. Shostakovich
- QUESTION 2**
- 'Dark Lady', 'Stars' and 'Believe' where all recorded by whom?
1. Madonna
 2. Cher
 3. Barry Manilow
 4. Dusty Springfield

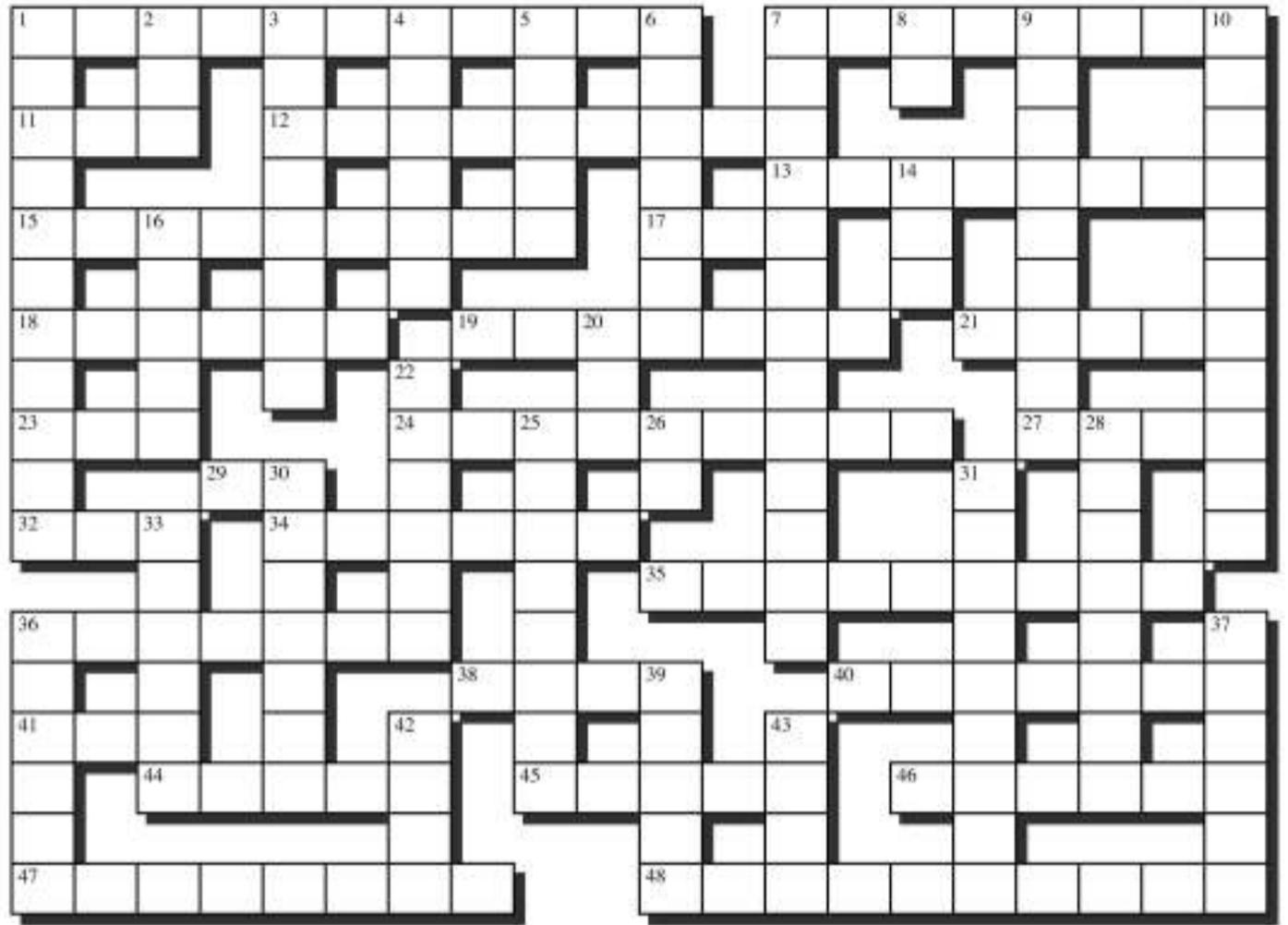
LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

Across

1. Surroundings (11)
7. Prince (8)
11. I will go (3)
12. Chancellor (9)
13. Meringue (8)
15. Period of time (9)
17. Day (3)
18. To rub shoulders with (6)
19. Guest (7)
21. He adores (5)
23. I loved (3)
24. Sporting (9)
27. French stew (4)
29. It goes (2)
32. Handle (3)
34. He went back (6)
35. Battleship (9)
36. Court (7)
38. Royal (4)
40. Slow motion (7)
41. Network (3)
44. Others (5)
45. Bath (5)
46. I chose (6)
47. News (8)
48. Residence (10)

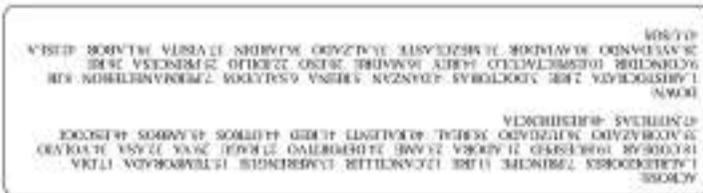
Down

1. Aristocrat (11)
2. She laughs (3)
3. Doctors (f) (8)
4. They dance (6)
5. Queen (5)
6. Greetings (7)
7. They stayed (13)
8. To go (2)
9. To coincide (8)
10. Show (11)
14. King (3)
16. Mother (5)
20. That (3)
22. Idyll (6)
25. Princess (8)
26. D (musical note) (2)
28. Helping (8)
30. Aviator (7)
31. You mixed (9)
33. Raised (6)
36. Garden (6)
37. Visit (6)
39. Work (5)
42. Island (4)
43. Uses (4)

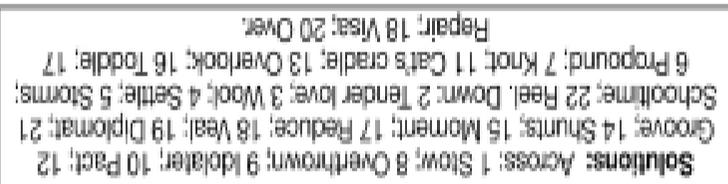


ANSWERS

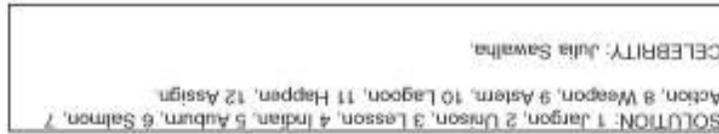
Language Crossword



Cryptic Crossword



Clockword solution



Wordpuzzler solution



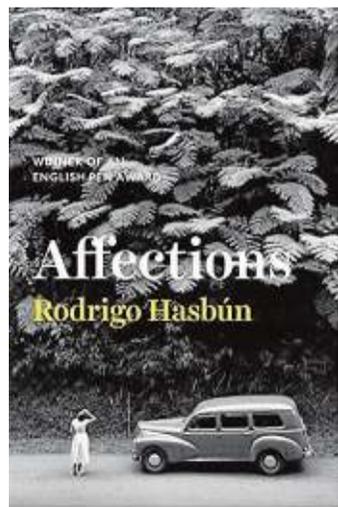
Sudoku solution

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

Quiz answers

Answer 1: Tchaikovsky
Of interest: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, often anglicized as Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky, was a Russian composer of the late-Romantic period, some of whose works are among the most popular music in the classical repertoire
Answer 2: Cher
Of interest: Cher recorded Dark Lady in 1974, Stars in 1975 and Believe in 1998. The album 'Stars' was one in a string of commercial flops which resulted in her contract being terminated by Warner in 1978.

BOOK OF THE WEEK



Affections
 Rodrigo Hasbún

Based on a series of true events, Affections tells the story of the Ertl family, headed by the egocentric Hans, once Leni Riefenstahl's famous cameraman and Rommel's 'personal photographer'. The family was forced to flee to Bolivia shortly after the end of the war. When Hans decides to embark on an expedition in search of Paititi, a legendary Inca city, he could not foresee the tragic result. The quest initiates the end of the family whose voyage of discovery ends up eroding everything which once held it together.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Nothing needs reforming as much as other people's habits

ANON

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
MSC Magnifica	01/03	Funchal	Civitavecchia	08.00	14.00
Norwegian Spirit	03/03	Funchal	Alicante	07.00	17.00





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Teenage polar explorer to make history

Manuel Calvo Ariza, 16, is about to set off on an expedition north of the Arctic Circle

ÁNGEL DE LOS RÍOS

MALAGA. Malaga teenager Manuel Calvo Ariza will become the youngest polar explorer in Spanish history when he takes part in the 'Desafío Ártico' (Arctic Challenge) expedition next week to Qaanaaq in the north-east of Greenland.

He will be going on the expedition with his father, Manuel Calvo Villena, who, at 50 years of age, has spent half his life as a dog breeder.

The expedition is organised by the non-governmental organisation Maratón Dog, which runs this type of polar expeditions to promote education from a young age of how to care responsibly for dogs by emphasising the strong bond between humans and the animals.

Climate change

The other objective of the expedition is to demonstrate the detrimental effect that climate change is having on these dogs, with the disappearance of more and more of the oldest breed of dog in the world becoming more and more frequent.

Although there are currently more

dogs than humans in that part of the world, the gap is slowly reducing due to shorter winters and seas freezing over as a result of climate change.

The father and son team will cover a distance of 400 kilometres through one of the most northern populations in the world accompanied by two Inuits and 32 dogs.

The expedition will also contribute to the development of scientific research in Malaga and Barcelona, with biological samples due to be sent



The pair have been training with dogs and sledges.

FRANCIS SILVA



The two Manuels with one of their dogs. FRANCIS SILVA

The explorers will be bringing samples back from Greenland for researchers at Malaga and Barcelona universities

to the main universities in the respective two cities.

The young Manuel Calvo stated that he knows that it will be difficult, but "it'll be worth it".

"I'm not afraid, I am going with the best guide possible," he added.

His father, who is now the director of institutional relations at Tiendanimal, the pet store that is sponsoring the challenge, preferred to think of the objectives of the expedition.

"On the one hand, it involves teaching people about the history and culture of these dogs as well as how to care for them responsibly, but there is also a climate-related purpose as well".

Both participants will be facing temperatures around -20°C on a daily basis during their time in Greenland.

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