

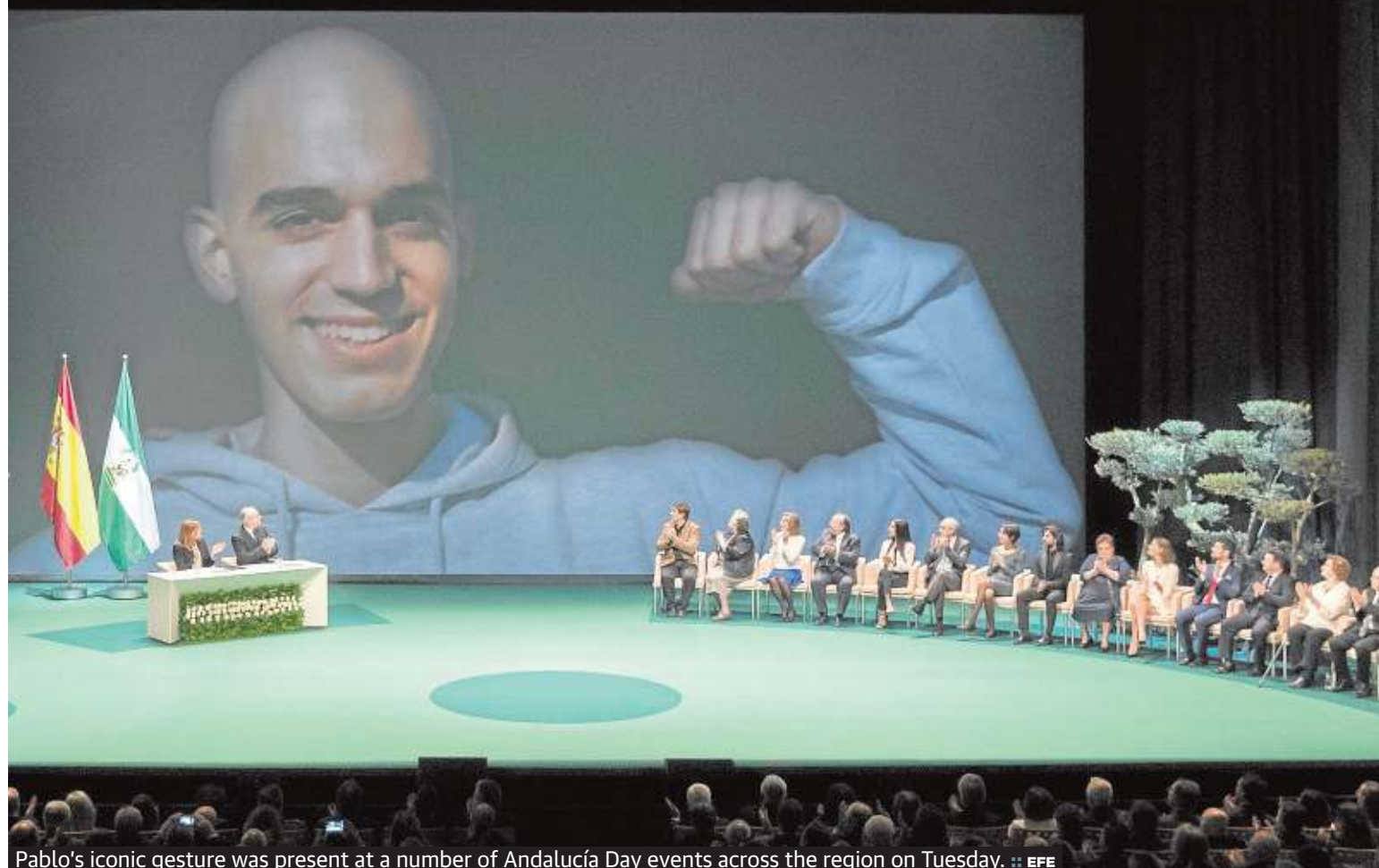
Malaga slip right back to square one

The renewed optimism around the club has quickly faded after back-to-back league defeats **P60&61**



A FIGHTER TO THE END

Pablo Ráez's death has brought widespread grief and recognition for his bone marrow campaign **P12**



Pablo's iconic gesture was present at a number of Andalucía Day events across the region on Tuesday. :: EFE

Top Whitehall official visits Costa to listen to Brexit concerns

Around 30 people representing various businesses and associations attended the meeting

Whitehall-based Julia Longbottom, the head of Britain's consular services across the world, visited the province of Malaga last week to listen to the concerns and issues being raised among the UK expat community on the Costa del Sol. Health care, pensions, dual nationality and various other aspects that might change after the UK's exit from Europe were discussed at the meeting in La Cala de Mijas and Longbottom promised to present the matters raised during the visit on her return to London. **P22**

Andalucía sees big increase in foreign tourists in January as tourism chiefs gear up for top travel fair in Berlin **P4**

Government promises that Costa beaches will be back to normal in time for Easter after recent spell of bad weather **P8**



:: NITO SALAS

Costa town halls fear funding black hole after 'plusvalía' tax rules on property are challenged following court ruling **P44**

Malaga airport roadworks bring passenger drop-off confusion

Drivers are now forced to turn into short-stay car park where they have just 15 free minutes to unload

For the past week, those wishing to drop off passengers at Malaga Airport have been redirected to the short-stay car park as the airport authority (Aena) carries out improvement works around the new terminal building.

The drop-off zone is now temporarily unavailable due to redevelopment work on the airport's access roads, with the short-stay car park

offered as the alternative. Motorists have a 15-minute grace period to unload bags and their travellers before having to pay the full rate.

This new system has drawn criticism from airport users caught in bottlenecks who argue that the 300 places available are insufficient. Several, who have been caught out by a matter of seconds, also complain that the allotted time is too short.

This is a sentiment echoed by minibus operators and car hire associations who have joined voices to condemn the adverse effects set to be inflicted in the form of additional costs to businesses which could see them lose income.

Among the solutions currently put forward is a move to terminal 1 which is currently not being used for commercial flights. **P9**

Urban gardening, helping the unemployed and elderly

Marbella town hall is currently setting up 1,000 urban gardens for individuals, associations and schools **P26**

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Town halls fear losing money through change to property 'plusvalía' tax rules

Mayors admit that it is unfair to charge the added-value levy when there has been no profit on a property's sale, but they continue to charge it while the law still stands

■ N. TRIGUERO / F. JIMÉNEZ

Officially, it is called the tax on the Increased Value of Urban Land (IIVTNU), but it is commonly known as the 'plusvalía', or value-added tax. Many lawyers are now starting to consider 'plusvalía' to be the new mortgage floor rate clause, because it is possible that a change in the law could result in 35,000 people in Malaga province alone claiming a refund because they were forced to pay it during the past four years.

'Plusvalía' tax has to be paid when a property is sold or acquired through inheritance or as a gift, because its value will have increased over time. For local councils this, together with another property tax, the IBI, has helped to offset the fall in income during the worst years of the economic crisis. However, town halls are now rather worried, because the Constitutional Court recently decreed that it is unfair to charge this tax when there is no profit from the transaction: for example, if someone sells a property for less than they paid for it they should not have to pay any 'plusvalía'.

Why, then, have councils been charging everybody this tax, whether or not a capital gain was involved? The answer is that the tax is not calculated on the actual value of the property but upon its cadastral or rateable value, to which coefficients are applied, and these increase in accordance with the number of years since the last trans-



Malaga City Hall has created a form so people can claim a refund of the plusvalía tax. ■ F. GONZÁLEZ

action affecting that property, regardless of real sale price. The result is always the same: tax has to be paid.

The court's decision only referred to one appeal against the application of plusvalía in the Basque Country, but the rules also apply nationwide so it is only a matter of time

Town Hall	Tax rate	Tax collected
Malaga	29%	50 mill€ (2016)
Marbella	25.5%	24.6 mill€ (2016)
Torremolinos	28%	8.3 mill€ (2015)
Vélez-Málaga	25-28%	6.8 mill€ (2015)
Mijas	27%	5.2 mill€ (2015)
Benalmádena	27.5%	15 mill€ (2015)
Rincón de la Victoria	29.87%	2 mill€ (2016)

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

Juan José Hinojosa
Professor in Financial Law

"This is national law, meaning a town hall has no choice but to apply it"

Eugenio Martínez-Echevarría
Mnez-Echevarría legal firm

"In the past month we have received about 600 enquiries from people who have been affected"

Ramón Blesa
Notary

"If there has been no increase in value this tax is absolutely unjustifiable and incoherent"

until it forces the government to modify the Law of Local Taxation. In fact, the possibility of the tax being unconstitutional has already been raised and the Constitutional Court is expected to announce its new, nationwide decision regarding that question soon.

The Spanish finance ministry is already considering how this regulation could be reformulated, but the extent of the reform will depend on the forthcoming court decision because it has not only questioned whether it is constitutional to charge the tax when there has been no profit from the sale, but also in cases where the profit turns out to be less than the amount charged in plusvalía.

Mayors are concerned about this uncertainty because they are aware

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Teresa Valdenebro
Ronda



Víctor Navas
Benalmádena



José Bernal
Marbella



It is something that will definitely affect property developers, because during the crisis many were forced to sell residential developments and land very cheaply or hand them over to banks but were charged huge amounts of capital gains tax.

Manuel Barón
Antequera



The possible change in the law is so important that the Confederation of Business Owners and the Association of Constructors and Developers of Malaga are organising talks to explain the repercussions of the Constitutional Court decision and how those affected can try to claim their money back.

Antonia Ledesma
Alhaurín el Grande

cept in cases

ct a reform of

Is very much money involved? Councils in Malaga province earn approximately 135 million euros a year through value-added tax, but none of them, not even the provincial government's tax collection board (which handles the 'plusvalía' of 78 local authorities and collected 62 million euros in 2016), can say how much of that corresponds to transactions in which the property had lost value. Most town halls and the Ministry of Finance, however, claim that they are not expecting a major drop in income if transactions which do not involve a profit are exempted from payment of this tax.

of the financial impact a reform of the 'plusvalía' could have, not only because councils will no longer receive as much income from a tax which they have been applying to the maximum, paradoxically when the property market has been almost stagnant, but also because they can expect an avalanche of

Right now, the atmosphere at

What is 'plusvalía' and who has to pay it?

The Tax on the Increased Value of Urban Land (IIVTNU), known as 'plusvalía', is a national tax but is charged by local councils. It is based on the increased value of the land when a property changes hands. It only affects urban assets, not those which are classified as rustic, and only applies to the value of the land, not the construction. When the property is sold, the tax has to be paid by the vendor, but, in the case of an inheritance or gift, payment of the 'plusvalía' becomes the responsibility of the person who acquires it.

town halls is one of tense expectation. While waiting for an end to the uncertainty, the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces has asked the Ministry of Finance for clarification about the present situation. The federation's president, Abel Caballero, also wants a meeting with the government to find out how they are thinking of changing the tax. "We (the town halls) obey laws, we don't make decisions; we follow and will continue to follow the government's instructions. It has to be the technicians, lawyers and politicians who decide how to proceed with this added-value tax," he said. He also pointed out that because several law courts have declared this tax to be unfair in the past, the federation has been calling on the government to reform it for years.

Most mayors consulted by this newspaper agree that in its present form the plusvalía is an unfair tax, but say their hands are tied: until there is a change in the law they have no choice but to apply it."

Is that true, though? Or could they act on their own behalf and exempt payment of this tax in cases where no capital gain has arisen? Lawyers say they could not.

How is the amount of tax calculated?

The 'plusvalía' is calculated by applying a percentage of the cadastral value of the land, which is also used to calculate the IBI. This percentage goes up in accordance with the amount of time which has passed since the last transaction which affected the property, so the more years that pass, the higher the coefficient. As an example, in Malaga city it ranges from 3.7% when the transaction occurs within one year to 60% after 20 years. Once this base rate is ascertained, the amount is decided by applying the relevant tax rate, which each council can set freely as long as it does not exceed the legal maximum of 30%.

“We are talking about a national law, so town halls have to apply it and cannot change it,” warns Juan José Hinojosa, professor of Financial and Tax Law at Malaga university. He also says it would not be possible to introduce some type of discount such as those which can be given to some people in inheritance cases, because those do not exist under national-level law.

In this situation, the only thing the mayors could do in response to the growing pressure is to reduce the tax rate which is applied when calculating the payment. In most large towns in the province this is around the legal maximum of 30%. However, this would affect not only cases where there is no profit from the sale but all property transactions, and it would therefore leave a huge hole in the municipal coffers. The other option would be even more drastic: stop charging the tax altogether and make it voluntary, but for obvious reasons no local authority is going to consider that.

The Notarial Council of Andalucía is going a step further and is questioning the existence of this tax. "If someone has already paid for the property and pays their IBI for it every year, adding another

Who can claim and how do they do so?

Anyone who has passed title of an urban property to somebody else in the last four years for less than they paid for it can claim a refund of the 'plus-valía'. The first thing to do is pay the tax and then file a claim. The method of doing this will depend on the system under which the tax is paid (self-assessment or by demand). If the claim is rejected, the next step is to appeal to the municipal economic-administrative court. If this is also turned down, you then have two months to lodge the case with the relevant court of law.

tax on top of that seems excessive and inappropriate to me; and in cases where there has been no increase in value it is absolutely unjustifiable and incoherent, because if someone has made no capital gain there is nothing on which to base the tax," says Ramón Blesa, the representative of notaries in the province.

Basically then, at present the town halls have no idea what will happen with the 'plusvalia' tax, or how to deal with the increasing number of legal cases. Do they assume that people are right and refund their money, contravening a law which is still in force and causing an 'avalanche effect'? Or continue to reject appeals and end up in court where, in view of recent events they stand a good chance of losing?

In addition to this dilemma, the councils do not know whether, if the tax is reformed, the government will compensate them for the money they will no longer be receiving, as they did in 2003 when firms with a turnover of less than a million euros were exempted from the Tax on Economic Activity (IAE). They hope that this will be the case, but for the moment nothing is clear and the decision of the court is anxiously awaited.



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Andalucía sees big increase in foreign tourists in January

International visitors to the region shot up 15 per cent according to government data, the largest increase of the main Spanish regions

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA Government statistics have shown that there were 15 per cent more foreign tourists in Andalucía in January compared to the same month last year.

Of the Spanish regions that receive the most international visitors, Andalucía saw the biggest increase. The Canaries saw 7.7 per cent more visitors and Catalonia lost 1.8 per cent of its visitors, when comparing the data with January 2016. Just over 13 per cent of the 3.9 million foreign tourists visiting Spain headed for Andalucía. Of those 521,116 visitors, 25.2 per cent were British and 9.7 per cent from Scandinavian countries.

In contrast to the summer, when they normally see more visitors

than Andalucía, the Balearic Islands saw only 2.7 per cent of international tourists as most hotels close for the winter there.

Visits from Spanish residents to Andalucía were up almost 11 per cent.

Andalusian tourism bosses were delighted with the news from a month that traditionally poses big challenges to attract visitors. The upward trend is expected to continue into the summer.

Regional tourism chiefs head to Berlin for top travel fair

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. A hundred tourism officials and representatives of hotel and travel companies from Andalucía will travel to Berlin next week for the ITB fair. The huge event is recognised as the most important in the world for

the volume of business generated for the travel and tourism industry.

The Andalucía stand will cover 500 square metres and over 270,000 euros will be spent on supporting promotions. Germany is the second biggest market for

Andalusian tourism after the UK and bosses hope to pick up a lot of new business in a market that is growing. As well as an event promoting the cultural diversity of the region, there will be marketing initiatives to highlight links between Andalusian villages and German people.

Last year at the ITB fair there were 180,000 visitors, 120,000 of whom were professionals, and 10,000 companies from 187 countries were represented.



Tourists discovering the centre of Marbella old town. :: SUR

IN BRIEF

October start for top Basque culinary centre

MALAGA

A.R. The Costa del Sol will soon have its own branch of the Basque Culinary Centre. Basque cuisine is recognised as among the best and most original in Spain and the presence of this top gastronomic school on the coast is set to boost hotel and catering training opportunities. With an opening planned for October, the director of the centre was in Malaga this week reviewing progress on the scheme. Classes will be given at La Térmica cultural centre in Malaga and at Benahavis school of catering.

Over 9,000 holiday homes listed in Malaga

MALAGA

P.M. It's been ten months since it became a legal requirement in Andalucía to register flats and villas being rented for self-catering. According to data published this week, in that time just over 15,000 properties have been added to the Junta de Andalucía's official tourism register, of which 9,032, some sixty per cent, are in Malaga province alone. Around 2,800 inspections have been carried out on properties but only 20 have been bad enough to warrant a fine.



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No bail for men involved in death of moped driver in Benalmádena

The two men have been provisionally sent to prison while authorities continue their investigations

by JUAN CANO

BENALMÁDENA. One young man was killed and another seriously injured last Saturday when a Renault Laguna ran down the moped that they were travelling on.

The two Spanish youths, 19 and 20 years old and of Moroccan origin, had previously been involved in an argument with two other men in Plaza Solymar, just 100 metres from the scene of the accident.

One of the detained men had rung police to ask for help after the argument as he had taken refuge in a bar and was afraid to leave. When the police arrived the man, who had a scratch



The scene of the accident on Avenida Antonio Machado. by NITO SALAS

on his face and swelling on his cheek, said he had been in a fight with two Moroccan youths. He did not want to report them, only to get to his car and go home.

Minutes later the police received a call informing them of an accident in the same area. A witness identified the youths on the moped as being the ones involved in the fracas

earlier and gave a description of the car involved. A knife was found at the scene. In the early hours of the morning the car was discovered along with the owner. The car showed signs of being in an accident and still had a piece of the moped attached to the chassis.

The second suspect handed himself into the courts on Monday morning.

Millionaire's son facing two and a half years in jail for fatal hit and run

by JUAN CANO

MÁLAGA. Westley Capper, who knocked down and killed a woman on a zebra crossing in San Pedro in May last year, had ingested 'so much alcohol and cocaine that he could not function normally' according to court papers. Prosecutors are asking for a two-and-a-half-year sentence and the payment of over 300,000 euros

of compensatory fines.

Capper was behind the wheel of a Bentley belonging to his father, British millionaire John Capper, with his friend Craig Porter in the passenger seat, when he overtook a car stopped at a zebra crossing. Bolivian chef, Bella Fátima Dorado 40, had just finished work and was crossing the road on her way home when she was hit by

the Bentley, which was believed to be doing about 75km per hour. The force of the blow threw her 30 metres through the air and she died shortly afterwards from her injuries.

Capper did not stop and was later located at a bar in the nearby Centro Diana shopping centre with his friend. Both men were arrested and Capper was found to have 0.69 milligrammes of alcohol after a breath test. The limit is 0.25 milligrammes. When apprehended his breath "smelt of alcohol, he was unsteady on his feet and was slurring his words" according to the court.

112 REPORTS



The Guardia Civil carries out a breathalyser check. by EFE

Crack down on drivers under the influence

MADRID

by E. M. The DGT (Dirección General de Tráfico) are planning to take tougher measures against reoffending drunk drivers and people driving under the influence of drugs. The offenders will not have points returned to their

licenses until they have a medical certificate stating that they have beaten their addiction. In the past, drivers suspected of taking drugs have not been prosecuted until tests have been confirmed in a laboratory, an expensive and lengthy process. A new instantaneous test will now allow officers to fine people on the spot if drugs are detected in their system.

Two cases of sexual assault over weekend

MÁLAGA

by JUAN CANO. Police are investigating two cases of sexual assault which occurred in Malaga over last weekend. The first happened early on Saturday morning when a young Nigerian woman, who may have been a prostitute, was picked up by

some men in a car, raped and then driven to Villanueva del Trabuco, where she was released.

The second case occurred on Sunday morning at about 8am when two men saw a naked woman stumbling along the street. She did not respond to their offers of help so they covered her with a jacket and called the police. She told the officers that she had been raped by some men she had met outside a disco.

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Even though the new wing still isn't finished, the hospital continues to work well, say bosses. :: J-LANZA

Record number of operations at Hospital Costa del Sol in 2016

Numbers on waiting lists at main Marbella site and smaller Benalmádena unit fell nine per cent and wait times were also down

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. The Agencia Sanitaria Costa del Sol, the public health body that runs the hospitals in the western Costa area, carried out a record number of operations in 2016.

The agency is responsible for the main Costa del Sol hospital near Marbella and smaller centres in Benalmádena and Mijas Costa.

In total 20,270 operations took

place in 2016, an increase of 3 per cent on the previous year. Of these, just over 15,000 were at the Hospital Costa del Sol and the rest in Benalmádena.

Commenting on the figures, director Torcuato Romero said that the increase showed "the work ethic at a hospital doing the best it can".

Delays to new extension

The main hospital has been mired by a ten-year delay in finishing a new extension due to legal disputes with the constructor. "Local people can rest assured that even though they may see a half-finished construction site, this isn't a half-working hospital," added Romero.

The medical conditions with the

most number of operations in 2016 were eye complaints, at 4,220; orthopedic and traumatology cases, with 2,113; and general surgery, with 1,998. More than 77 per cent of surgery was on day patients.

Waiting lists also shrunk nine per cent to 2,019 at the centres, and average waiting time was down five per cent to 51.2 days. On average, hospital beds were 67 per cent full.

In the accident and emergency departments, the average number of total cases seen per day rose slightly year on year from 308 to 313. The peak month of August saw 353 urgent cases treated per day. Trade unions have called for more support for staff in the casualty departments.

HERE & THERE



The new park's site between the airport and Torremolinos. :: S. SALAS

Junta gives final green light to huge new public park near Malaga airport

MALAGA

:: J. HINOJOSA. After a three-year wait, formal approval for Malaga city's plan to turn the old Benítez barracks site near the airport into a large public park has arrived from the Junta regional government.

No date has been fixed as yet for an opening as the town hall still needs to draw up detailed plans for the landscaping, which must take into account some points raised by the Junta. Once the detailed design is in place it needs to go before different public authorities again. In the meantime Malaga's mayor has said he may consider allowing the public to access the land at weekends.

Council to investigate racecourse activity

MIJAS

:: I.G. Councillors in Mijas have voted to set up a commission to investigate the granting of the concession to run the area's horse track and subsequent construction in the area around it. Amid arguments between PP and PSOE parties, the commission aims to see what errors were committed in a deal that ultimately ended when the company folded their operation with "three million euros debt and unpaid staff". Current mayor, Ciudadanos' Juan Carlos Maldonado, said that since he had been in power he had come across things that "didn't add up".

Villages aim to change nature-protection plan

ESTEPONA

:: L.P. Villagers in the Sierra Bermeja area have complained about the draft of a Junta de Andalucía natural protection plan for the Sierra de las Nieves that leaves out over half their local high-quality, natural space but includes built-up and brownfield areas like Ronda town centre and industrial quarries. The Junta's planning document is essential for the Sierra de las Nieves to be declared a National Park, however campaigners want to ensure that the Sierra Bermeja area is included as well in the long-hoped-for new designation.

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Modelo 720 penalties under challenge but taxpayer obligations remain

By John McCann, Senior Partner, Blevins Franks

There may be some relief ahead from the threat of *Modelo 720* sanctions for taxpayers in Spain.

What has happened?

On 15th February, the European Commission gave the Spanish government a two-month ultimatum to make *Modelo 720* penalties fairer. While the Commission accepts that Spain has the right to require taxpayers to declare their overseas assets, it disagrees with the severity with which it punishes late or inaccurate submissions.

Sanctions under *Modelo 720* law include, among others, a minimum €10,000 charge on incorrect declarations and an additional 150% penalty on unpaid capital gains. In some cases, taxpayers have faced large fines for just minor errors or omissions in completing the form. With penalties being so disproportionate to those imposed for other defaults (such as late submission of Spanish income and wealth tax returns), the Commission claims it is discriminatory and in conflict with EU freedoms.

The Commission has been arguing with Spain about the fairness of *Modelo 720* for the last two years. As no agreement has yet been reached, they have taken this step to force a resolution.

What happens in two months' time?

If there is no satisfactory response from the Hacienda within the deadline, the Commission will bring the case to the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) to further their challenge.

While sources from the Spanish government claim they are willing to defend *Modelo 720*, they have also hinted they may potentially soften some sanctions, such as capping the fine for errors in completing the form. They also suggested a possible reduction in penalties for failing to declare assets based in EU countries or in states that have signed automatic exchange of information agreements with Spain.

What does this mean for Spanish taxpayers?

Nothing has changed in terms of the obligations to declare correctly and on time. That means Spanish residents with overseas assets totalling over €50,000 still need to submit *Modelo 720* or face existing penalties.

While we need to wait and see how the case unfolds, it is highly likely that the authorities will maintain the *Modelo 720* system. After all, it is not the process of declaring overseas assets itself that is under question, but the penalties that are imposed. It is possible however, that the Hacienda may revise their approach to reduce the threat of such punishing fines for errors or late submissions.

What you need to do to meet your obligations

If you are tax resident in Spain and own any non-Spanish assets, like UK property, make sure you are ready to meet the upcoming 31st March deadline for your 2016

declarations. If you have submitted a *Modelo 720* form before, you only need to declare assets if they have grown by more than €20,000 or you have sold or closed them.

There are three reporting categories – bank accounts, investments and immovable property. If the value of your total assets in any category totals over €50,000, you have to report all overseas assets in that category.

Generally, you must report assets if you are the owner, a beneficiary, an authorised signatory, or you have the authority to dispose of the asset. This includes assets held by a company, trust or fiduciary.

You need to report even if your personal share of assets is less than €50,000. With joint assets, each owner needs to declare the full value (not pro-rated) and indicate their percentage of ownership.

In most cases, assets are valued using the wealth tax rules as at 31st December each year. For assets held within financial institutions

(e.g. bank accounts), you also need to declare the average balance over the last three months of the year. As you need to report in Euros, the value of assets held in other currencies should be converted using the official exchange rate as at 31st December of the relevant year.

If in any doubt, seek guidance to ensure you meet your obligations. This is also a good opportunity to assess whether you are holding your assets in the most tax-efficient vehicles for Spain. If you have investments which were set up with UK taxation in mind, you may be paying more tax in Spain than you need to. Take personalised, professional advice from an adviser with cross-border experience to get the best results.

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

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Government confirms that beaches will be back to normal in time for Easter

Miguel Briones confirmed that although work on the beaches will not be fully completed until June, they will be "in good condition" at Easter

:: NIEVES CASTRO

MALAGA. The national government's representative in Malaga, Miguel Briones, confirmed last Friday that all of the beaches in the province will be in good shape for Holy Week, following the damage caused by the storms in December and the one just two weeks ago.

Briones made it clear that the speed shown by the authorities in addressing the problem proves "that everyone is equal in the eyes of the government", despite the claims from some PSOE-led institutions that suggest otherwise.



Damaged caused by the December storm to a Marbella beach. :: J.-L.

Bernal demands that if the coastal authorities can't start work immediately then the council be given free rein to do so

The move follows the statement made by the mayor of Marbella, José Bernal a week ago, who demanded that the Marbella coastal authorities start work on restoring the beaches immediately and if they couldn't, then to give the council free rein to do the job themselves.

Marbella benefit greatly

Marbella have been granted 1.3 million euros to repair the damage caused by the storm in December, the high-

est amount given to any town along with Estepona in the province. Just over a quarter of the 16 million euros set aside by the government to repair coastal damage in Spain has been given to Malaga province "and Marbella has benefitted the most from this money because quite simply it was one of the hardest hit" said Briones.

Works had already begun in Manilva and Estepona to remove rubble and debris from the beaches before the storm in mid-February hit. This work will continue although replacing the sand is not expected to take place until the second half of this month.

Briones also confirmed that it was not advisable to carry out too much of the work due to the threat of another storm during the first half of March, in addition to the fact that time will be needed to obtain authorisation to extract sand from the riverbeds, which in itself needs to be passed by the Junta de Andalucía.

Briones added that although it is up to the coastal authorities to decide when and how the work on the beaches will be carried out, he promised that all of them will be in good condition come the Easter peak tourism period in mid-April.

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Costa mayors support the lifting of AP-7 road toll when A-7 is congested

Mayors of Fuengirola, Mijas, Marbella and Estepona show their support for the petition which has raised this issue along the coast

:: IVÁN GELIBTER

MALAGA. A petition devised by a group of Costa del Sol residents that appeals for the AP-7 road toll to be lifted when the alternative A-7 is congested, which has gathered approximately 1,500 signatures in under two weeks, is now being backed by local mayors.

The petition is accompanied by a letter to the central government's ministry of development and public works. The letter states that lifting the AP-7 barriers when the A-7 has large tailbacks would improve road safety and prevent drivers being heavily inconvenienced, at a "minor expense for the state coffers."



A traffic jam on the A-7. :: SUR

Last Friday, in a debate held at Marbella town hall, local mayors and councillors endorsed the residents' cause. José Bernal, mayor of Marbella, stated that this would be a "logical" change. The mayor of Mijas, Juan Carlos Maldonado, has also demonstrated his support by putting the issue forward in parliament, requesting a general decrease in the

AP-7 road toll, regardless of how congested the A-7 is. For Costa del Sol residents this is hopefully the first step on the path to the complete elimination of the AP-7 road toll.

The approach to the Arroyo de la Miel turn off at Km 222 is another black spot that causes long tailbacks on the A7. Work to improve the access has been promised but never started despite it being one of the projects backed during the electoral campaign in 2011 by Mariano Rajoy.

In September 2015, MPs Celia Villalobos and Carolina España, along with the then mayor, Paloma García Gálvez, announced that works would begin before the start of 2016. In June last year Elias Bendodo, president of the Junta de Andalucía, assured that the remodeling would start in autumn and would take "less than two years."

However the project still remains on the drawing board with no clear date for work to begin.

IN BRIEF

Estepona donates hearing aids to twenty people on low incomes

ESTEPONA

:: **L. PAVÓN.** Estepona town hall, the local Red Cross and the Otolclinic foundation have signed an agreement to supply hearing aids for free to people on low incomes.

Otolclinic has worked alongside the Red Cross for many years to identify people in need who are unable to afford hearing aids.

The agreement, similar to ones already in place in Marbella, Ronda, Vélez-Málaga and Antequera, guarantees clinical and technical assistance to patients with hearing problems.

The hearing aid bank in Estepona already has twenty devices available and that number is set to rise as the level of cases of people needing them is assessed.

This will be the second initiative in the town to help people with hearing problems. Last October, the town hall provided a sign language interpreter to assist deaf people using their services.

Med Playa's plans to expand Hotel Riviera

BENALMÁDENA

:: **A. GÓMEZ.** The Catalan hotel chain, Med Playa, has bought land next to its four star Hotel Riviera in Benalmádena in the hope of remodelling and expanding it.

This is the latest in a list of Med Playa projects taking place on the Costa del Sol, the result of

Benalmádena's position as the third most popular destination for overnight stays in Andalucía. The extension of its Torremolinos Hotel Pez Espada has also just begun.

Although the land bordering Hotel Riviera has been bought by Med Playa, the company state that the expansion of the hotel is in its very early stages. They are still in talks with the council and have not yet been granted planning permission to begin construction.

Temporary 'drop-off' parking introduced at Malaga Airport

The 'express parking' by the new terminal is now free for drivers staying 15 minutes or less but those staying longer will have to pay the full price

:: IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. As of last week drivers arriving at Malaga Airport to drop off passengers have been redirected to the short-term car park as work begins on expanding and improving roads around the new terminal.

The system is designed to prevent drivers from stopping in the terminal's entrance zone. Drivers now have a choice between parking in the 'express parking' for 15 free minutes, or opting for the long-stay car park where they will have to pay the full-stay rate.

The new, supposedly temporary scheme has already received criticism



Vehicles being diverted to the car park. :: FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ

from drivers who have parked in the 'express parking' but have been charged 1.79 euros, the cost of 16 minutes parking, because they have stayed just one minute over the 15 minute slot. However, the airport authority (Aena) maintains that 15 minutes is enough time to park, unload suitcases and say goodbye.

The removal of the 'drop off' zone will also affect car rental companies based off-site and minibus drivers, who will also be forced to use the 'express parking' with their clients.

Félix Pinar, president of the Asociación Empresarial de Coches de Alquiler (Aeca), has criticised the inflexible stance of the airport, citing

the availability of other solutions to the problem. He also said that the costs to the car rental companies would rise significantly if they had to pay to park at the airport, forcing smaller businesses into bankruptcy.

In his opinion, 15 minutes is not long enough to deliver a car and that the 300 spaces in the express parking are not enough.

"The airport system is going to collapse and it will be the tourist that will be stuck in the resulting bottleneck," he added.

Aeca and the other car rental association, Aesva (Asociación de Empresarios Servicio Vehículos de Alquiler), have held urgent talks to confirm a strategy with which "to do battle". They are proposing to move to terminal 1, presently unused.

"But they will not listen to us and we are becoming very frustrated. Many of us are private companies who are going to disappear if we are not given space to operate", explained Ana María García, president of Aesva.

Aena has stated that these changes to the airport parking are "urgent" and necessary to improve the flow of vehicles while construction work is taking place and will prevent passengers being at risk of missing their flight.

Council is fined two million euros for delayed payouts on new town hall

:: IVÁN GELIBTER

FUENGIROLA. The local council in Fuengirola may have to hand over two million euros to the company that built its new town hall after officials delayed paying the bills. It comes after a court last year sentenced the municipality to pay six and a half million euros for having held up payments for the building of the new Elola sports centre.

The disputes arose when the town hall delayed payments during the financial crisis and the constructors resorted to the banks to finance them while they waited. The banks later applied to a government scheme to help town halls pay debts that did not cover interest payments. The constructors now say they are due these. Fuengirola has said it is a "legal controversy" and that they are confident of an appeal win.



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FREE TOURS OF ESTEPONA NOW AVAILABLE

As part of a new initiative launched by Monterroso secondary school and college, free tours run by students are now available in Estepona, every Thursday until 17 March. The scheme aims to give students training in the tourism industry and provide visitors with an insight into the historic centre of the town at the same time.

Successful keyhole surgery takes place at Hospital Animal Bluecare

Pioneering surgery takes place at Hospital Animal Bluecare veterinary centre in Mijas Costa

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

MIJAS COSTA. Last week, vets Javier Engel and Santiago Durán, owners of the Hospital Animal Bluecare, successfully operated on Zelda, a pomeranian dog, using pioneering techniques.

Zelda was born with a heart defect at birth which drastically reduced her life expectancy. However Zelda can now look forward to a long, happy life after the vets used a technique similar to catheterisation to operate on her heart through a tiny three millimetre incision in her neck. She was able to go home just one day after the operation.



Zelda, after the operation. :: SUR

Hospital Animal Bluecare is the only veterinary centre in Andalucía that performs this type of heart surgery on animals as small as Zelda, who weighs only 3.85 kilograms.

The centre also offers the implantation of pacemakers and the treatment of heart worm.

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MARK NAYLER

THE EURO ZONE

SCHRÖDINGER'S SENTENCES

The outcome of one of Spain's highest-profile criminal trials is now known: Rodrigo Rato, former deputy prime minister and ex-head of the International Monetary Fund, is going to prison for four-and-a-half years after being found guilty of overseeing Bankia's "black credit card" scandal. Rato also received a fine of 110,000 euros for spending almost the same amount on his own limitless card between 2003 and 2012.

Miguel Blesa, who preceded Rato as the chairman of Bankia and who was on trial alongside him, was also found guilty in connection with the black cards and will go to prison for six years. Between them, then, these two men - once two of the most powerful figures in Spain's banking sector - will spend

over a decade behind bars for leading illegally-funded, lavish lifestyles during Spain's recession.

Or maybe they won't. The problem is, fully-deserved as many Spaniards will see them, there is as yet no guarantee that these terms will actually be served. Applicable and yet not applicable, Rato's and Blesa's sentences have the paradoxical status of the cat in Schrödinger's thought-experiment, which for a while was simultaneously both dead and alive.

In Rato's case, this is not solely because he can appeal - and, according to Spanish law, until a sentence is beyond appeal it is not enforceable. Rato is also waiting for the verdict in a separate case that has been running in parallel to his fraud trial, but which also concerns his period at the helm of Bankia. In this, he faces allegations in connec-

tion with the bank's disastrous IPO in 2012, in which it posted losses of over 19 billion euros. Many small retail investors lost their life savings in the lender's near-collapse.

Problems at Caja Madrid, one of the several banks that merged to form Bankia, were widely credited with bringing the latter to its knees. As Caja's former chairman, Blesa was actually imprisoned for a night in 2013 in relation to the lender's purchase of an allegedly liability-laden Miami bank in 2008. Blesa left his cell after paying 2.5 million euros of bail money - the amount he is said to have received when he left Caja Madrid in 2010. No further action was taken against him.

In the other high-profile Spanish fraud case of late, Infanta Cristina's husband Iñaki Urdangarin was sentenced to over six years in prison. He is, of course, appealing - but while he does so (and how long will that take, one wonders?) he is being allowed to remain in Switzerland, a non-EU country, where he has to report to authorities once a month. One cannot help but wonder if such treatment would also be meted out to someone who wasn't the king's brother-in-law, or whether Rato's and Blesa's sentences for serious fraud will ultimately prove merely symbolic. As it stands, though, they have been handed Schrödinger sentences.

Biggest February fall in local jobless for ten years

NURIA TRIGUERO

MÁLAGA. The number of unemployed on the Costa del Sol and across Malaga province fell by 1,376 in February to 167,907. This was the biggest February fall for ten years.

The number of people signing on to the social security system, reflecting an increase in the size of the workforce, rose by 5,040 in the month.

Malaga was one of only three provinces in Andalucía where unemployment dropped in February, the others being Huelva and Cádiz. In Andalucía overall, unemployment rose by 2,361.

It was the province's service sector that drove the growth in February, helped by a small increase in jobs in the construction sector.

Looking at figures on a yearly basis, unemployment in Malaga has fallen by 23,173 since February 2016, a drop of 8.7 per cent, while just over 24,000 have been added to the social security register in a year.

Across Spain, unemployment fell by 9,355, the second best February fall since 2005. The total number of unemployed in Spain is now at 3,750,876, the lowest level for seven years.

Mercadona posts 636 million profit and announces future investment

SUR

VALENCIA. Mercadona, Spain's largest supermarket chain seems unstoppable. Announcing its annual results on Thursday, the company said its sales had grown 3.4

per cent in 2016 to 21.6 billion euros, bringing profits of 636 million euros, an increase of four per cent. This came despite the average prices its customers pay in its stores falling by one per cent.

Chief executive, Juan Roig, warned that profits would drop next year as the Valencia-based company carries out major investment. Roig wants to improve the butchers, cold meats and bakery counters. Mercadona created 4,000 permanent jobs in 2016 and now employs 79,000 people.

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Pablo Ráez's brave fight comes to an end but his legacy lives on

After two bone-marrow transplants, the 20-year-old succumbed to his illness but his struggle was remembered publicly at numerous Andalucía Day events

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ / SUR

MARBELLA. Pablo Ráez, the 20-year-old from Marbella whose two-year battle against leukemia was followed by thousands on social media, died on Saturday at his home surrounded by his family.

He was diagnosed in 2015 and his later campaign for bone marrow donors to give hope to people in his situation went viral on social media. As a result the number of bone marrow donors in the province of Malaga increased by 1,300% last year.

Ráez underwent his second bone marrow transplant in November last year when a suitable donor was found in the United States, after receiving the first donation from his father. His condition had deteriorated however in recent weeks.

During his illness his messages to his followers contained his motto, "Siempre fuerte" (forever strong).

Aware that his second transplant had not achieved the desired result, he said: "Death forms part of life, so you don't have to fear it, but love it."

Many tributes came in after the announcement of his death, most notably from national politicians Mariano Rajoy and Pedro Sánchez, actor Antonio Banderas and the football team he supported, Malaga CF.

Packed church at funeral

More than a thousand people attended his funeral at the Encarnación church in Marbella the following day, including the mayor of Marbella, José Bernal, and the mayor of



Pablo Ráez photographed last December after leaving hospital in Malaga. :: SUR



Pablo's father and sister holding his Marbella award. :: J-LANZA

Malaga, Francisco de la Torre. Some of those who attended were forced to stand outside the parish church during the ceremony due to the huge number of people who had come to pay their respects to the boy who wanted to become a fire-

man, just like his father.

The service was led by the parish priest, José López Solórzano, who, visibly emotional, admitted all he wanted "was to cry with everyone else". Solórzano, who was also Pablo's godfather, paid tribute to the

in general. Pablo García from Marbella wrote on the petition that he created to have the local hospital named after Pablo that he "demonstrated day after day the example of life, overcoming obstacles and fighting that is worthy of being remembered publicly."

Medal ceremony goes ahead

One cruel irony of Pablo's death was that it came a few days before he was due to be awarded the Marbella City Medal at a ceremony on Andalucía Day on Tuesday at the Teatro Municipal. Announcing two days mourning after his death, Marbella council also said it would cancel the ceremony. However on the insistence of Pablo's family that the youngster would have wished the event to take place, it was reinstated.

Speaking to the audience at the event, which pays tribute to key citizens each year, Pablo's sister Esther said, "My brother has left a legacy, and the donation of bone marrow is important. He never did it selfishly, he did it for everyone...He thought that the world could be better and he always focussed on people." Heartbreakingly Pablo stood on the same stage at last year's ceremony to receive a medal as part of a group of firefighters from the town who had travelled to Greece to help Syrian refugees.

Throughout Andalucía Pablo Ráez was remembered at events and ceremonies marking the annual Andalucía Day regional public holiday. In Seville, the regional capital, the Junta de Andalucía's annual awards ceremony projected a huge photo of Pablo with his trademark "forever strong" gesture. By coincidence, the Andalusian transplant coordination group received an award for 25 years supporting the local community. Its director, Manuel Alonso, dedicated the award on stage to all people who have donated and received donations and in particular to Pablo Ráez. A minutes silence was also held at Malaga CF's game against Betis.

Meanwhile, many people continue to remember Pablo privately by registering as bone marrow donors, transplant agencies have reported.

family of a young man "who did what he was able to do and has left his mark in the world".

Following the service, Ráez was cremated at a private ceremony held at the Virgen del Carmen cemetery.

Call for memorials to Pablo

Thousands of people have taken to social media and the internet to ask for Pablo's memory and his fight against his cancer to live on. On Monday alone, 22 different petitions were started on website change.org related to Pablo. These ranged from naming a street after him in Marbella and changing the name of the Costa del Sol Hospital, to founding a research centre and nominating him posthumously for the annual Princess of Asturias awards.

Many supporters of the initiatives praised the young man's good-natured efforts to raise awareness of his illness and cancer suffering

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THE LONG WEEKEND IN PICTURES



CARNIVAL IN MALAGA AND IN MANY COSTA VILLAGES REACHES ITS COLOURFUL CLIMAX

The Carnival frivolities ahead of Lent came to a head in many towns and villages. In Malaga city ornate costumes were the norm over the weekend, with events including the award for best drag queen and children's parades.



FANCY DRESS CREATIVITY

In Antequera, as elsewhere, many carnival-goers took to elaborate fancy dress. Here a group of adults and children dress as old-fashioned aviators. Carnival is still on in some places this weekend (including Marbella and Torremolinos).



HOMAGE TO THE REGION'S IDENTITY

This Tuesday was Andalucía Day, a public holiday during which tributes were paid in Malaga to Blas Infante, "father of the Andalusian homeland".



STAR WARS LEGION CHARITY APPEARANCE

The 501st Legion took part in a fund-raising day organised by EL Pimpi Bodega Bar in Malaga in brilliant sunshine on the Tuesday public holiday.

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Police investigate violent Añoreta attack as neighbours report increase in burglaries

A 50-year-old woman was alone in the property when a man posing as a postman used her name to gain access to the house with two further assailants

:: JUAN CANO

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA. Police and the Guardia Civil are investigating the burglary of a house in the Añoreta area of Rincón de la Victoria. According to police sources, the incident took place at around midday on Friday 24 February when a man called at the property, saying that he was delivering a letter.

A 50-year-old woman who was alone at the time of the burglary, opened the door, believing that the man, who had used her name, was genuinely a postman. She was kicked in the stomach and pushed to the floor as the assailant and two further men, believed to all be Spanish, entered the property and took a number of valuable items from different rooms.

According to sources, during the 45-minute ordeal the woman was masked and gagged, repeatedly kicked and pushed to the ground and told not to move.

Among the items stolen were cash and jewellery of a combined value of 6,000 euros along with a laptop, tablet and a camera.

After the thieves had left, the



The entrance to the Añoreta residential area . :: SUR

woman was able to free herself of the gags and call for help.

Neighbours say that the area, which is near to Rincón de la Victoria Añoreta golf course, has seen a rise in burglaries recently, with a number of homeowners reporting robberies taking place at night. However, last Friday's incident is the first in which violence has been used. The burglars have not yet been caught and the case remains open.

Burglary continues to be one of the principal crimes in Malaga, with statistics recently released from Spain's interior ministry suggesting that this type of crime is on the increase. With more than 500 reports of burglary (without violence) in 2016 alone this shows a 13 per cent increase on the previous year.

Residents set to decide how to rename streets currently linked with Franco

:: E. CABEZAS

NERJA. Residents of Nerja are to be given the opportunity to change the names of the existing Calle Asensio Cabanillas and Calle García Altied in accordance with a law introduced in 2007 by José Luis Zapatero's government to remove all reference to Spain's dictatorship under Franco.

Asensio Cabanillas and García Altied were both generals under the regime. Cultural organisations in the town have proposed four suggestions, which include 'El Tablazo', the name given to that area of Nerja historically.

Another is 'Los Tejares', meaning 'brick works', as the historical conservation group, which suggested the name, says there is evidence of this type of industry in the area. Other names are José Marín Cañas, a Costa Rican writer whose parents lived in Calle Pintada and Pablo de Irazazábal, a journalist who spent his summer holidays in the town.

Local art collective sends message to politicians and leaves locals confused

A group of artists in Nerja has promised to remove the message from a prominent Nerja street

:: E. CABEZAS

NERJA. Anybody who has walked down Calle Carabeo in Nerja this week will probably have seen the words 'sé fuerte Luis,' (be strong Luis), painted in large red letters over an existing piece of artwork depicting some of Spain's most illustrious writer and artists.

In fact the message was left by the same group, Un Balcón a la Memoria, who designed the original work. The words are taken from a SMS message sent from prime min-



The message on Calle Carabeo. :: E. CABEZAS

ister Mariano Rajoy to Luis Bárcenas, former treasurer and senator of Rajoy's PP party during Bárcenas's involvement in the Gürtel corruption case in 2013.

A representative from the Nerja collective, who wished to remain anonymous, said that the message is designed to "stir people's con-

sciences and make them think about the damage that has been done to culture in Spain in recent years."

They added that since a photo of the message was uploaded onto social media sites, many people have assumed that it is an act of vandalism and that they have promised to clean it over the next few days.

HERE AND THERE

New era for performing arts on Andalucía Day

ALMUÑÉCAR

:: **SUR.** The mayor of Almuñécar, Trinidad Herrera, celebrated Andalucía Day by opening a new music and dance school in the town.

The modern space, designed by architect Antonio Redondo, has six different rooms, all of which are soundproofed and has been designed to ensure the best acoustics, according to the architect. Herrera said that lovers of music and dance had been "screaming for something more," and that is why, she continued, "we committed ourselves to the school".



A rescued puppy. :: SUR

Police release more animal cruelty details

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

:: **EFE.** Police have released details of a further case of animal cruelty in Vélez-Málaga this week. A 40-year-old man was detained earlier this week when two puppies were found in a property in the town, both of which appeared to have been abandoned. One had injuries, a temperature and was shaking. The animal was taken to a nearby vet for treatment where it also tested positive for Leishmaniasis. Neighbours reported seeing the two puppies left for long periods of time in a patio to the police, which led to the animals' rescue and detention of the owner.

Town hall calls for bone marrow donors

ALMUÑÉCAR

:: **SIE.** Almuñécar and Salobreña town halls are calling for people to donate bone marrow to help a young resident of the town who has leukemia. On behalf of the child's family, the councillor for social welfare and equality, María del Carmen Reinoso, is asking anyone who can, to sign up to become a donor at sessions which will be held on 13 March at the Edificio de Carbonell in Almuñécar (from 10am to 2pm and 5pm to 9pm) and in Salobreña town hall from 10am to 9pm.

The 15 newcomers to Cartajima

Three couples, their children and a grandmother have moved to the village so far

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✉ vmelgarnaranjo@gmail.com

Nearly 11 months ago the mayor offered low-cost accommodation and work to attract families with children to keep the village school open

CARTAJIMA. Nearly 11 months ago the media descended upon Cartajima. Its name appeared in newspapers and on radio and TV programmes. The school in this tiny village in the Upper Genal Valley only had two remaining pupils and the mayor, Francisco Benítez, was worried that it would have to close. He therefore took the unusual step of offering a job and low-cost accommodation for families with children, to attract them to Cartajima so that the number of pupils at the school (which like Pujerra, Júzcar, Faraján, Alpandeire and Parauta is part of the Alto Genal Rural School system) would increase.

The plan worked. There are now three new families, with eight children between them (and even a grandmother) living in Cartajima, having moved there from Fuengirola, Ronda and Malaga city.

"We're hoping to arrange for two more families to come in the next few months, so there will be even more children at the school," says Francisco Benítez, who is very satisfied with the results. He received nearly 4,000 applications from all over Spain and abroad, and those who were successful are also helping to prevent Cartajima, like most other villages in the Serranía de Ronda, suf-



Noelia and Daniel, from Ronda, have just had their third child, David, brother to Isaac and Erika. :: V. MELGAR

fering a loss of population.

There are currently eight pupils at the school, ranging from three to 12 years old, and this has ensured that it will remain open.

"One of the families has had a baby and registered him with the school in Cartajima, and another family who already lived in the village has had another... this is the start of what we were hoping for," says the mayor.

Of the 15 newcomers to Cartajima, it is 29 year old Noelia Parra who has given birth, to her third child. Her baby, David, is now just one month old. His brother and sister are eight-year-old Isaac and five-year-old Erika. "We came here because of the job," she says. Her husband Daniel had been working in Ronda when they heard about this scheme, but his job had little security and was likely to

come to an end.

This couple, who pay 200 euros a month to rent their home, moved to Cartajima in September.

"I heard about the offer on Facebook, before the story appeared in the media. My husband came to the Town Hall to enquire, and he is now employed on maintaining buildings," says Noelia. She also used to work in Ronda but had to give up her job to look after her elder son full-time because he suffers from epilepsy. She runs the Malaga Epilepsy Association (AMADE), which is still looking for premises in Ronda.

Noelia admits that it wasn't easy to adapt to life in Cartajima. "I was used to Ronda, where there are plenty of people around and something is always going on, so it was a big change, but at least Ronda isn't far

"Our lives have changed for the better... we came to Cartajima because of the job"

away," she says. Nevertheless, for this family the move has generally been very positive and they plan to stay.

"We would like to put down roots here, but of course our situation is affected by our son's illness and the need to work," she says. "Our lives have changed for the better. My son wasn't doing very well at school before, but now he is getting good marks for everything. If we have difficulty paying the rent one month, there are facilities to help you... life here is quieter so it is less stressful."

Noelia and Daniel also say they have been accepted by the people of Cartajima, who are lovely. "It's as if we were one big family here," says Noelia, and they are especially impressed by the mayor, who "behaves less like a mayor and more like a friend." They say they also get on well with the other families who have moved here recently.

"It has also been a sacrifice"

Iris Galeote came to Cartajima from Malaga in September, with her three

children (Erika, 12, Inais, eight, and Iraia, three), her mother and her husband. They have benefited from low-cost accommodation because Iris' husband still commutes to his job in Marbella every day and she works from home as a sales representative.

Iris and her family were keen to move away from Malaga after her elder daughter was stabbed in the hand at school by another pupil. Iris says the child had been trying to stab her in the neck.

"This is more like the world we wanted our girls to grow up in. Somewhere peaceful. The school here is excellent. The balance is very good, and we have no plans to leave. We want to stay in the same house, in the same place, with the same people," says Iris, although the move has also involved some sacrifice.

"It takes my husband an hour to drive to work now, instead of ten minutes," she says, but in general the couple think it is worth it. "The people in Cartajima are very nice, and the countryside is beautiful," she explains.

Ekaterina Koziyakova and

Anton Svitlichny are Russian and they lived in Fuengirola for ten

years before becoming the first newcomers to Cartajima with their daughters, aged five and three. They

arrived in May and as they are both professionals in the tourism sector they now run the village's Tourist Information Centre, which

was closed.

"They also give Russian classes, run a padel tennis court and want to open a bar with a terrace; they're happy here," says the mayor. It was not possible for us to speak to Ekaterina and Anton about their experiences for this article, as they were on a trip to see family in Russia.



Iris and her family came from Malaga. :: V.M.

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Prostitution: there is a way out

The 'Kapaces' programme helps women who have made the decision to change their lives for the better



**ANA
PÉREZ-BRYAN**

✉ Twitter: @anaperezbryan

The initiative, coordinated by Mujer Emancipada and Arrabal, has helped 45 women in three years and 20 per cent of them now have jobs

MALAGA. When Elena (not her real name) arrived in Malaga ten years ago for a holiday, taking a break from her Law studies in her native Bulgaria, she could never have imagined that it would end up as a one-way journey. A casual meeting with a childhood friend while she was here marked a before and after in her life and meant that her future would be very different from the one she had planned. She was persuaded that independence was desirable, and in pursuing it she destroyed all her dreams. "My friend persuaded me to stay here. She was working as a live-in



Elena, Gladys and Cristina clasp hands with two experts from Arrabal, who prepare them for work. :: A. C.

home help and told me life was much better in Spain," says Elena, who is now 37, "but I regretted it almost from the start." Even so, she found work as a cleaner and carer for elderly people until the economic crisis changed her life. "As it did for everyone," she says. Even after things went wrong, going home was never an option for

Elena, who had left her parents and sister back in Bulgaria. "I would have been so ashamed to go back with nothing," she admits. Her family has no idea what happened to her after the crisis began. Elena lived in Torremolinos, "where you get to know a lot of people," and things became very desperate for her financially. In the end, she decided her only option

would be to sell her body. Strangely, neither Elena nor the other girls who took part in this report used the word 'prostitution', although that was their common destiny. Elena refers to it as "doing that"; Gladys, beside her, only says that yes, she also used to hang out on the Guadalhorce industrial estate to make a living; and Cristina tells her story of

real hardship but only refers to "the other." But "the other" is what led these women to the Mujer Emancipada (Emancipated Woman) association in Malaga, which tries to help women who have become involved in prostitution on the industrial estate and have voluntarily taken the decision to change their lives. In other words, that is what the women want to do and the association gives them the tools to do so, as part of the 'Kapaces' project. The Arrabal association also plays an important role in this project. The initiative, which was the idea of the Citizen Participation, Immigration and Cooperation for Development Department of Malaga City Hall, has been operative for three years and during that time it has assisted 45 girls. About 20 per cent of them have found work after taking part in this programme. That is a significant number, especially bearing in mind that most of the women who are incorporated into the 'Kapaces' project have little education - or at least their studies are not valid in Spain - and they have dependants and are immigrants. With almost everything going against them already, the



MANCHESTER BY THE SEA
Director Kenneth Lonergan - Starring Casey Affleck
DRAMA - 117 min.
An uncle is asked to take care of his teenage nephew after the boy's father dies.
From Friday 3 to Sunday 5: 17:30, 20:00
From Monday 6 to Thursday 9: 20:00

+12



T2 TRAINSPOTTING
Director Danny Boyle - Starring Ewan McGregor
DRAMA - 117 min.
After 20 years abroad, Mark Renton returns to Scotland and reunites with his old friends Sick Boy, Spud, and Begbie.
From Friday 3 to Thursday 9: 22:30

+16



THE GREAT WALL
Director Zhang Yimou - Starring Matt Damon and Willem Dafoe
ACTION - 103 min.
European mercenaries searching for black powder become embroiled in the defense of the Great Wall of China against a horde of monstrous creatures.
Saturday 4 and Sunday 5: 15:50

+7



FIFTY SHADES DARKER
Director James Foley - Starring Dakota Johnson and Jamie Dornan
DRAMA - 118 min.
Friday 3: 20:05
Saturday 4: 20:05
Sunday 5: 20:05
From Monday 6 to Thursday 9: 17:40

+18



LA LA LAND
Director Damien Chazelle - Starring Emma Stone
MUSICAL - 159 min.
Friday 3: 17:50
Saturday 4: 15:50, 17:50
Sunday 5: 11:45, 15:50, 17:50
From Monday 6 to Thursday 9: 17:50

Fit



SING
Director Garth Jennings - Starring Matthew McConaughey
ANIMATION - 108 min.
Saturday 4: 15:45
Sunday 5: 12:00, 15:45

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Director James Mangold - Starring Hugh Jackman
ACTION - 137 min.
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crisis hit the most vulnerable collectives especially hard.

Elena is one of the 45 who has received assistance and is also one of the 20 per cent who have stopped doing "that". She took the step three years ago, when she realised that she could no longer continue to live that sort of life. Today, she smiles when she looks at how far she has come. She now works for a cleaning company in Malaga, lives a quiet life "with two dogs in a home of my own," has an employment contract and has even recently taken out a mortgage. "Now I would no longer be ashamed for my parents to come and see me," she says, happily.

Gladys (38) is hoping that she will soon be as lucky as her friend. Her dream is to find work as a kitchen assistant in a 'chiringuito' beach restaurant, because she has training to do that, and increase the 20 per cent of women who succeed in getting a job.

Her basic training was no use to her at all when she arrived from Nigeria with her younger sister in 2002. Finding all doors closed to her, Gladys discovered that the industrial estate, where she spent a year, was her

only hope. She later found a temporary job cleaning in a restaurant, went to Huelva to pick strawberries, worked in a restaurant owned by somebody else from Nigeria.... and met her husband and had two children.

"I met him at that time, at someone's birthday celebration, and we have been together for 11 years," says Gladys. Her children are aged 10 and one, and she is hoping to find work again now the baby is a bit older. Thanks to 'Kapaces', Gladys has taken different courses, been able to work for a cleaning company and did work experience in a chiringuito, where

Cristina: "As a woman you have a way of making sure your children survive; children have to eat"

she hopes to return in the near future to finish putting her life in order.

"I've cried so much"

Cristina hasn't thrown in the towel either, despite now being at home

"waiting for them to call me" after finishing a one-year contract in a home-help company. "It's awful, all this waiting!" says this robust and spontaneous woman who was born in Nigeria but considers herself "Spanish" because she has been here since 2002.

Cristina tells us her story: "When a woman has three children and her husband hasn't had a job since 2005, just think what it is like....I've cried so much for my children. But if you are a woman you have a way of ensuring that your children survive; your children have to eat," she says.

"There isn't any work for Spanish women here, so imagine what it is like for us. Lots of women do it but they don't admit it out of shame, because their husbands and children don't know. That's how it is," says Cristina, who has lost count of how many doors she has knocked on for help: Cruz Roja, Cáritas, Mujer Emancipada...

"I have done several courses and I'm about to take my secondary school exams," she says. Maybe then she will be able to fulfil her dream of being a nursing auxiliary; at least she is now well on the way towards doing so.

A programme that operates on different fronts

The fundamental objective of the 'Kapaces' project is to improve the chances of employment for women who work as prostitutes on the Guadalhorce industrial estate and is aimed at those who have voluntarily made the decision to leave the streets and find a job.

The programme, which has been in operation for three years, includes four phases: firstly, there is training given by the Mujer Emancipada association (five hours a day for four weeks) and then the women take a course at the Arrabal association (three hours a day for eight weeks).

They find work thanks to the collaboration of about 20 companies, who take them on to do work experience for four weeks, help them to familiarise themselves with the world of work and improve their chances of finding a job afterwards.

While undergoing their training and doing work experience, the women receive 100 euros a month in the form of a grant.

"What is so good about this programme is its continuity and the personal attention the women receive," says a source at the Arrabal association, which specialises in helping vulnerable people to improve their job prospects. As with the 'Kapaces' project, those responsible maintain a balance between "the women's professional interests and expectations of growth, and the personnel needs of the companies who collaborate with the programme," she explains.



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Catalonian nationalist politicians wallow in a week of court accusations and scandals

While the CDC party is in the spotlight in a political favours and bribery case, other past and current pro-independence leaders are facing bans from office

BARCELONA. In intense activity in Spain's courts, different ongoing legal cases against parts of the Catalan pro-independence political establishment have been dominating headlines this week.

In Madrid, the Supreme Court hearing is finishing into the illegal organisation of an independence referendum in Catalonia in November 2014. The Catalan regional assembly, known as the 'Parlament', had organised a non-binding vote, against constitutional rules.

The prosecution is asking for the former minister in charge of the Catalan cabinet office, Francesc Homs, to be banned from office for nine years for "failing in his duty to stop the referendum".

Testifying on Monday, Homs said, "I admit everything I am accused of... but I have committed no crime".



Francesc Homs testified this week over the last illegal referendum. :: EFE

He claims that, as 40,000 volunteers were involved in the vote, it wasn't a referendum, but rather a "participative process". Other local politicians, including Artur Mas, who was regional president at the time, have also been on trial in a Barcelona court on the same matter.

'Caso Palau' starts
In Barcelona, the trial has opened

into alleged corruption at the city's Palau de la Música concert hall, which was supposedly used as a conduit for corrupt commissions paid on public contracts to fund the nationalist CDC party.

In the dock at the so-called 'Caso Palau' case are Félix Millet, former head, and his right-hand man, Jordi Montull, who together face a possible 27-year sentence for corrup-

tion and diversion of 30 million euros. Former Catalan leader Jordi Pujol, himself still involved in another long-running tax fraud trial, has been linked to the case.

'Parlament' president accused
Meanwhile the Catalan high court has started more proceedings against regional-parliamentary-speaker Carme Forcadell, and another three members, for having allowed the 'Parlament' to approve a route map towards an independence vote for the region in September this year. This route map has been struck down by the Constitutional Court. Forcadell and her colleagues face being banned from office.

Nationalist politicians have claimed that all these legal actions have been designed to derail the Catalan independence process. Speaking on Wednesday about the referenda, past and future, Francesc Homs said, "If putting out voting boxes challenges the [Spanish] state, I don't want to be part of this state." The Spanish government has committed to listening to nationalist politicians' grievances but does not support an independence referendum in Catalonia.

IN BRIEF

100 christening guests flee bar without paying

LEÓN
:: **SUR.** The staff of the Hotel El Carmen de Bemibre in León had just finished serving the main course at a christening party for 100 people and were plating the dessert when all the guests got up and fled the restaurant. The attendees at the event, which was for two children, were of Romanian nationality and left an unpaid bill of 2,000 euros in their wake. It is thought unlikely that it will ever be paid.

Barcelona basks in biggest mobile show

BARCELONA
:: **SUR.** Hoteliers, restaurant owners and taxi drivers in Barcelona have been rubbing their hands all week as the city hosted Mobile World Congress, the biggest international conference for mobile technology. Over 100,000 people are thought to have attended, adding 465 million euros to the local economy. The annual event has been held in the city since 2006 and organisers have agreed to keep it there until at least 2023.

Village with cleanest air in Europe is Spanish

GUADALAJARA
:: **SUR.** According to the World Health Organisation, the village of Campisabalos, in Guadalajara province, central Spain, has the cleanest air in Europe and the third cleanest in the world. Villagers have this week been speaking about why their air is so pollution free, explaining to journalists that the lack of industry, a small population of 68 and altitude of 1,300 metres all help. The only two places worldwide 'officially' with cleaner air are villages in rural Finland and Canada.



The bus with explicit messages pictured before it was banned. :: EFE

Madrid authorities order 'offensive' bus off the road

MADRID. A controversial bus with anti-transgender messages has been banned from driving around Madrid. Both Madrid city council and local courts have said the publicity covering the bus could incite hate crime and break Spanish criminal law.

The campaign has been organised by ultraconservative group Hazteoír (be heard) and sees the bus plastered

with very direct messages including: "If you're born a man, you are a man, if you're a woman, you're still one" as well as explicit references to parts of the anatomy.

Leaders of Hazteoír protested against the move and said they would go to Valencia instead with the bus, however that city's council has said that the group "isn't welcome" there either.

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Top Whitehall official visits the Costa to listen to British residents' Brexit concerns

A focus group made up of different sectors of the expat community airs their views about the UK's forthcoming exit from the European Union

BY TONY BRYANT

MIJAS. The head of Britain's consular services across the world visited the province of Malaga last week to listen to the concerns and issues being raised among the UK expat community on the Costa del Sol.

A round-table meeting, opened by Juan Carlos Maldonado, mayor of Mijas, was held at the cultural centre in La Cala de Mijas.

Whitehall-based Julia Longbottom, Director for Consular Services, was accompanied by Gerard McGurk, Consular Regional Director for Southern Europe, and Charmaine Arbouin, British Consul for Andalucía.

Around 30 people representing different associations and interest groups attended the meeting. They discussed health care, pensions, dual nationality and various other aspects that might change after the UK's exit from Europe. However, the majority of their questions and



Charmaine Arbouin (standing) and Julia Longbottom (seated, centre) listen to expats speak. BY TONY BRYANT

concerns could not be answered with any degree of certainty.

One of the many issues raised was that most expats felt alienated during the 2016 referendum, and participants sought reassurance that

the 15-year-voting-exclusion rule would be abolished. Julia Longbottom explained that the government's manifesto set out a commitment to introduce 'votes for life' for Britons by 2020.

She also explained that one of the biggest points they are aiming to communicate to British nationals living in Spain is that until the UK exits the European Union, "nothing has changed".

Madrid-based journalist, Giles Tremlett, challenged this by saying, "We've heard that nothing changes, but this is not entirely true. A lot has changed since the day of the referendum, in so much as that people cannot make important decisions about their long-term future

anymore."

"The effect on people's lives is real and their worries are real. We can talk about individual rights, health care, pensions and inheritance taxes, but the reality is that all of these rights are so intricately connected, as soon as you start undoing them, the whole thing falls to pieces," the journalist continued.

Charmaine Arbouin, UK consul, agreed that the main problem facing people was uncertainty. "You all know as well as I do that there is not a lot of information concerning what will happen when the UK leaves the European Union," she admitted.

She also answered a question on Spanish nationality, another possibility for British expats who want to remain European citizens. Spain doesn't recognise dual nationality at present, and the consul advised people who were thinking of renouncing their British nationality to think carefully about the implications. She explained that those who gave up their nationality could not have access to the services of the British Consulate.

Jack Nickolls, the owner of an English-speaking driving school for foreign residents, aired his concerns about those who have businesses in Spain. Explaining that he was looking to sell the driving school in order to retire, the 74-year-old expat said that his business was now worthless. "At the stroke of a pen on June 23 my business lost its value because uncertainty never produces good results. We can be certain that none of us will be better off, we will be worse off," he claimed.

The civil servants promised to return to London to present the matters raised during their visit to Malaga. They pointed out that one of Theresa May's main concerns is protecting the rights of Britons in Europe.

The estimated 760,000 British expats living in Spain will have to wait until the conclusion of exit negotiations triggered by Article 50 before they will know the full impact Brexit will have on their lives.

COMMENTS ON THE DAY

Giles Tremlett
Journalist

"People cannot make long-term decisions on their future anymore"

Jack Nickolls
Driving school owner

"At the stroke of a pen on June 23 my business lost its value. Uncertainty never produces good results"

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Government defiant after defeat by House of Lords

BY DEBBIE BARTLETT

MALAGA. It has been hailed as a victory and also as a humiliating defeat for the British government. On Tuesday the House of Lords voted 358 to 256 to amend the Article 50 Bill by including a clause to safeguard the rights of EU nationals in the UK after Brexit.

In a statement issued after the vote, the government described the result as "disappointing" but it has indicated that it intends to overturn the result when the Bill returns to the House of Commons and that prime minister Theresa May is determined to trigger Article 50 by the end of March, as planned.

The discussions in the House of Lords were polite but quite heated



Theresa May this week. BY EFE

at times, especially when Lord Tebbit asked: "Why is everybody here today so excited about an amendment which looks after foreigners and not the British?", apparently not bearing in mind that British

nationals living in other EU countries are also foreigners and also face uncertainty about their future. Other peers had stressed that EU nationals had come to the UK in good faith and were contributing to the country's prosperity, but had not been able to vote in the referendum.

Prime minister Theresa May has been under pressure to guarantee the rights of EU nationals who are already living and/or working in Britain post-Brexit, but she is reluctant to do so without a reciprocal guarantee in place from other EU governments.

Peers who voted for the amendment to Article 50 are now hoping to persuade Conservative MPs to defy the whip and support the amendment, although it is thought unlikely that many will do so.

Next week the Lords are due to vote on another proposed amendment to give MPs a meaningful vote on Mrs May's negotiations with the EU, and there is a strong possibility that the government will also be defeated on that.



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First artists confirmed for this year's Gibraltar Music Festival in September

Craig David, Clean Bandit and Steve Aoki will be headline performers and Bananarama, Midge Ure and Village People are also taking part

== DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. The annual Gibraltar Music Festival has been a major success ever since it began in 2012 and this year it will be bigger and better than ever before and in a new format, as the Gibraltar government has teamed up with MTV to revamp it as 'MTV Presents Gibraltar Calling'.

The dates of this year's event have been known for some time, but the names of the first confirmed artists who will be performing at the festival have only just been released - and they didn't disappoint.



Craig David will be performing at the Gibraltar Calling Festival. == REUTERS

On 2 and 3 September, the Rock will be rocking to the sounds of headline performers Craig David, Clean Bandit and Steve Aoki on the Main Stage, while Bananarama, Midge Ure and Village People will keep everyone dancing the day and night away on the Classic Stage.

There is a great deal more to come,

and further announcements will be made as other acts are confirmed in the future.

Early Bird tickets for the festival went on sale on March 1st, and can be purchased from the reception desk at City Hall in John Mackintosh Square from Mondays to Fridays, 10am to 5pm.

Lords committee says UK has moral duty towards Gibraltar

== DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. The House of Lords European Union Committee has published its report on the impact of Brexit on Gibraltar, saying that the British government has a moral duty to make sure that Gibraltar's voice is heard and that its interests are protected throughout the negotiations with the EU.

In the report, the committee expresses its concerns about the fact that any loss of access to the single market or the cross-border workforce would be likely to damage Gibraltar's economy.

Meanwhile, the second meeting of the Joint Ministerial Council (JMC) on Brexit between the United Kingdom and Gibraltar govern-

ments took place on Wednesday at the Cabinet Office buildings in Whitehall, and the matters discussed included the land border, aviation and future trade agreements between the United Kingdom, the European Union and third countries.

Chief minister Fabian Picardo led the Gibraltar delegation, and described the meeting as successful. He said it had been an excellent opportunity to engage with the three lead departments in the UK government which are important in the context of Gibraltar's work on Brexit.

IN BRIEF



The Gorham's Cave complex is a World Heritage Site. == D. BARTLETT

Gorham's viewing platforms to open soon

GIBRALTAR

== D. BARTLETT. Last summer the Gorham's Cave complex was classified as a World Heritage Site and now new viewing platforms are being created for those who want a good look at the place which was the last known home of the Neanderthals.

The platforms will have room for a large number of visitors and they have spectacular views of the caves and an impressive view of the World Heritage Site all the way to the top.

The caves can only be visited under certain circumstances to avoid damage to the site. The platforms will also be an excellent spot to observe bird and marine mammal migration.

Tourist board organises travelling road shows

GIBRALTAR

== D.B. The Gibraltar Tourist Board (GTB) has just hosted three travel trade road shows in the UK as part of the drive to promote Gibraltar in its strongest source market for overnight visitors.

The road shows took place in Bristol on 28 February, in Birmingham on 1 March and in Manchester on 2 March. All three cities have direct flights to Gibraltar, and the routes are becoming increasingly popular.

International Sports Law Conference

GIBRALTAR

== D.B. The University of Gibraltar is holding an International Sports Law Conference on the 28-29 March 2017. This conference will be of interest to a cross-section of the sporting sector and provides the opportunity to meet internationally-recognised experts who will be giving talks on a variety of subjects including financial fair play, Gibraltar's football journey, stadia safety, doping, discrimination and much more.



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

Personalised care

There has been a lot on UK TV and newspapers lately about the state of the NHS. A Spanish doctor told me recently how they used it as the basis for setting up their own health service when we expressed concern at returning a patient to its care. He was surprised to hear us say how thankful we were for the vastly superior level of care we had received from him and his team in comparison with what we might have received in England.

As a worker in the health service, my sister was qualified to make such a statement. Since the beginning of January for six weeks her husband was under the care of the Costa del Sol Hospital near Marbella after catching a cold which deteriorated quickly into a life threatening condition. Up until he was airlifted by air ambulance to the UK two weeks ago, the staff at the hospital impressed us with their efficiency, knowledge, compassion and care. From the first day when the doctor took

the time to explain to us the cause and process of the illness (an eye-opening discussion for us to discover that a common cold could cause such devastation); through the days when he assured us they would keep trying to make him well; up until the day he was airlifted out; the treatment and care given was second to none.

The daily personal care from the nursing staff amazed my sister and despite the language difficulties she found herself the recipient of much sympathy and compassion. She feels that the hospital saved her husband's life but was only able to hastily leave a thank you note and gift on the ward before they left.

She wanted to express more publicly her gratitude to Dr Julian Ollala Sierra, the nurses and indeed the hospital itself for taking on the not inconsiderable task of bringing back to life her husband of 61 years and hopes that this letter will in a small way convey her feelings.

C KEMZURA ON BEHALF OF
JUNE MASSEY
GILLINGHAM (UK)

A true gentleman

I have just returned to the UK after a very pleasant fortnight in Malaga. However, my holiday would have been completely ruined except for a true gentleman at Maria Zambrano station.

I tried to book a rail ticket, without success, and was walking away from the ticket machine, when a man tapped me on the shoulder and said "is this yours?" I had left my 'bum-bag' (hope that's the correct term!) behind at the machine.

It contained my passport, a

lot of cash in euros and pounds, and credit cards. While he would not have known the contents, it is fair to assume that it contained valuables. Had he not been so honest it would have completely ruined my holiday. I was in a complete state of shock and wasn't even sure of his nationality. It has now completely restored my faith in people. Just saying 'thank you' seems totally inadequate, but sincere gratitude to whoever you are!

MALCOLM MAGINN
MACCLESFIELD (UK)

The boy in the bubble

PETER EDGERTON

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There can be no doubt that we live in a complex world. Well, that's what you'd think everyone would believe but, no, apparently not. It would seem from social media feeds and, in fact from just talking to people, that everything is much more black and white in the eyes of a large section of the population - i.e. 'I'm right and you're wrong.' The inflexibility of our thinking is consistently astonishing, not to mention deeply worrying.

Once upon a time, Mohammed Ali said that any man who views the world at fifty in the same way as he did when he was twenty has wasted thirty years of his life. Surely the old pugilist was right, and yet that appears to be exactly what huge swathes of the population are hell-bent on doing - maintaining their preconceived world view at

any cost. We buy newspapers which reinforce our perspectives; we mix with people who conform to our way of seeing things; we even block or 'unfriend' (nice term) anyone on Twitface that disturbs our hermetically-sealed bubble of like-minded opinion.

Of course, what a healthy society needs is for lots of people to be doing exactly the opposite - investigating where we might be mistaken and where opposing viewpoints may be credible. That ain't gonna happen.

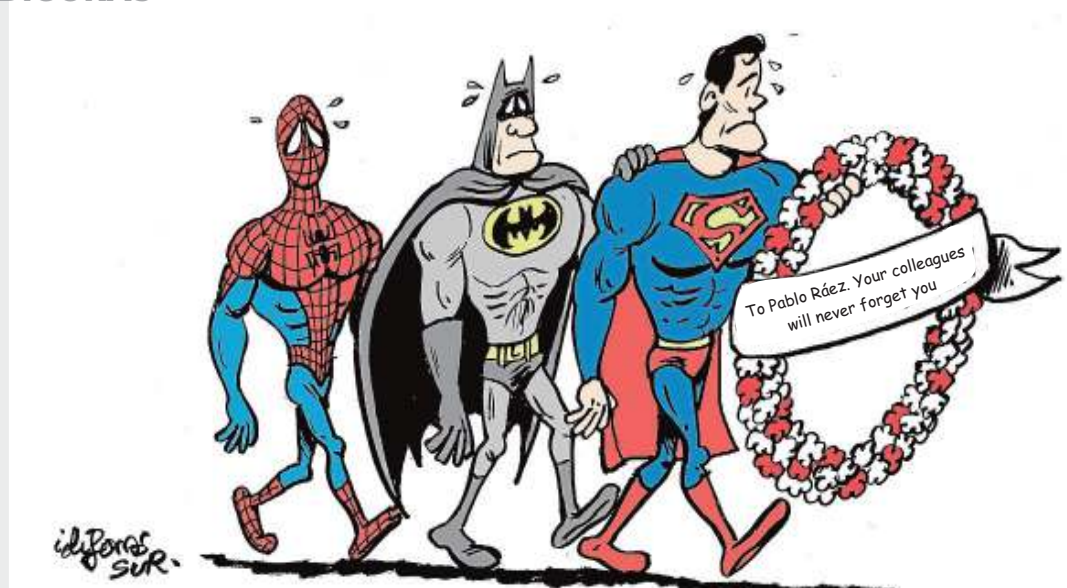
Actually, I've got a right wing extremist nutter among my online chums (bizarrely I met him on the spiritual journey which is the Camino de Santiago). He's mad as a box of frogs but I haven't cast him out into the wilderness with a feisty click of a mouse because it's important to know what's going on in

other dimensions even if it makes for uncomfortable viewing.

Ignoring differing views is the adult equivalent of a six-year-old sticking his fingers in his ears and shouting 'Can't hear you!' when you order him to tidy his room (that's if parents order their children to do anything these days; maybe they just call a group meeting). Except that the grown up version of this phenomenon is a lot less mature. All of this widespread intolerance (ironically, often most vehemently manifest by people preaching, er, tolerance) is deeply damaging to society.

From time to time, it's probably a good idea for us to try to think of something that we believe now but that we didn't believe five years ago. If it's a struggle, that's almost certainly a bad sign - just ask Mohammed Ali.

IDÍGORAS



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Ecological allotments at Arboretum Marbella. :: SUR

Urban gardening, giving help to pensioners and the unemployed

Marbella is currently setting up 1,000 urban gardens for private individuals

:: GABRIELA BERNER

MALAGA. Urban gardening is in full swing in many countries in the world. One of the most prominent supporters of this idea was Michelle Obama, who created her own kitchen garden at the White House. She recorded her experiences in a beautifully-illustrated book entitled 'American Grown' and publicity in many well-known magazines and other media encouraged many other private individuals to devote themselves

to the same purpose.

Years after her memorable visit, Marbella town hall, driven by the Departments of Sustainability, Parks and Gardens, decided to set up 1,000 small garden allotments, sized from 20 to 30 square metres, to be cultivated organically by individuals, collectives and aid organisations.

The project is based on the experiences of cities such as Barcelona and Madrid, and on what Arboretum Marbella has been doing for several years now at the Finca del Trapiche, which was given to them by the former council. In addition to the economic benefits of their mini gardens, Arboretum supports a great number of values such as the sustainable management of the environment, social

cohesion, recreation, healthy eating and climate protection. The first 30 gardens were raffled free of charge in 2014 to unemployed people, social associations, schools and pensioners. At that time, 100 applicants were registered.

After two years and responding to the demand, Alejandro Oriol, founder and director of Arboretum Marbella, agreed with the town hall to set up a total of 500 urban gardens within the community area. This figure has now been doubled by the current council.

The objectives of the urban project are practically identical to those of Arboretum, but the town council also wants to support interested schools with advice and help in the

development and management of their particular gardens and will involve the Department of Parks and Gardens.

Marbella is not the first town on the Costa del Sol which has adopted the principle of urban fruit and vegetable gardens. For example, Fuengirola set up a site for 23 public allotments in February 2014, despite a shortage of available land. They are exclusively worked by pensioners. "I had never had such a close connection with nature," says 68-year-old Rafael Martínez, describing his experiences as an urban gardener, and his neighbour, Inma Sánchez compared the atmosphere with that of a

village square from the past. "It is here that you meet people and get to know each other, you discuss the news and have a lot of fun".

Rincón de la Victoria has also decided to establish allotments in the town. The local council agreed last December with the regional government to implement this project at a site on the Camino Viejo de Vélez, where the Andalusian Department of Agriculture is located. The council has offered to support future allotment holders with workshops.

Vélez-Málaga, in the fertile Axarquía, and Casares, in the far west of the Costa del Sol, will also make their urban, mini-gardens available to pensioners.

Using the same concept, "Torremolinos wants to strengthen and intensify social integration and self-sufficiency, and at the same time, make a valuable contribution to education," said mayor José Ortiz.

It has been noted, especially among unemployed people especially that urban vegetable allotments seem to be a very helpful therapy for depression. "Every time

I come here, I forget everything but my plants. I just concentrate on the soil, the smells and the weather conditions and forget my problems," says unemployed waiter José Mariano.

Similar statements are heard from other unemployed hobby gardeners as well.



Continued growth

In the provincial capital, use of green areas and various gardening clubs have emerged very rapidly over the past three years; they organise regular workshops, sightseeing tours and other events that further their philosophy.

In 2006, only 14 Spanish towns boosted their own municipal gardens. Seven years later, still in the middle of one of the most terrifying economic crises in history, the number of towns where allotments are cultivated has grown to 216, the number of gardens to 15,243 and the total area to over 166 hectares. In addition, during this period, several initiatives for private urban gardens have been developed.

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Internationally-renowned cellist, Jacob Shaw, visits the Costa del Sol

His fresh approach to classical music has attracted a new audience of music lovers who had previously felt that classical music would not be to their taste

BY TONY BRYANT

MALAGA. The world of classical music is often associated with the rich and upper-class intellectuals. To those people who are not familiar with the classic composers, it seems to be a world far beyond their reach.

The concept that a classical music concert has to be held in a big hall with a particular type of audience is an image that one young musician is trying to shed.

Jacob Shaw, who is performing with the Scandinavian Cello School (SCS) on the Costa del Sol this week, is an internationally-renowned musician who has his sights firmly fixed on promoting classical music to a much wider audience.

He passionately believes that something must be done to bring a wider audience into classical music.

Born in West Norwood, London, in 1988, Jacob comes from a classical music background.

His mother is a music school teacher and his father played viola in the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Although classical music has been his calling, Jacob, who lives in Copenhagen, felt the need to experiment with different types of world music.

His fresh approach to classical music has attracted a new audience of music lovers who had previously felt that classical music would not be to their taste. Because he has stayed within the boundaries of classical music, his music has also been received well by the more dyed-in-the-wool aficionados.

Jacob has presented his modern,



Internationally acclaimed cellist Jacob Shaw will be performing on the Costa del Sol this weekend. BY SUR

fresh approach to classical music throughout Europe, Asia and North America.

His Carnegie Hall debut in January 2015 drew substantial attention and resulted in numerous North American bookings. It also resulted in the signing of a music deal with New York-based international record label Roven Records.

In Romania, he played in a non-conventional venue to an audience who were not familiar with classical music, and they adored what he did.

As Jacob points out, "There is not some set, old-fashioned, stuffy way of presenting classical music."

He believes there is no reason why he cannot present it to those who are lovers, and also those who have no classical background at all.

"I think it is possible to present it in such a way that it stays 100 per cent true to classical music, but in a fresh, upbeat way. We are not going to alienate our regular audiences, but we

"People think that classical music has notes that have to be followed like braille"

"Music is like a simple sentence, you can phrase it in many ways"

can bring in a new younger audience," the young cellist told SUR in English.

Jacob remains respectful of the roots of his music, but he also recognises the importance of other world music.

He does not, however, mix, or fuse, classical music with other genres; he plays it as it was originally written, while emphasising certain elements

of the folk music that inspired it.

"Music is like a simple sentence, you can phrase it in many ways. You obviously have a frame, but you need to step out of it occasionally," he says.

Modern dance

Jacob is currently preparing a project with the lead dancer of the New York City Ballet. He believes that this will be a different way of introducing an audience that may be interested in modern dance, but not necessarily in the genre of classical music.

"We don't necessarily need to freshen up classical music; we just need to present it better. To 'see the music and hear the dance' is a saying within the world of ballet, and I think this sums up what we are trying to do," he explains.

One of Jacob's passions is teaching and promoting young cellists from around the world, and the SCS, which he founded in 2016, is the platform he uses to do this.

PERSONAL PROJECTS

► **Scandinavian Cello School.** Especially dedicated to helping young cellists, in 2016 Jacob founded the Scandinavian Cello School.

► **Outreach projects.** Jacob dedicates a lot of his spare time to outreach projects, playing in hospitals, prisons and youth centers.

► **Radical Classic.** Jacob founded 'Radical Classic' as a way to get in touch with a new generation of classical music lovers.

Jacob is visiting the Costa del Sol to promote the SCS and even though he is also preparing for two concerts this weekend, the passionate youngster took time out of his busy schedule to perform a special concert at the Cudeca hospice in Benalmádena.

The forthcoming concerts are another way of introducing new audiences to classical music. The concerts, which are based on the classic works of western composers, will combine classical music with fine dining.

"Our concept is to create an atmosphere where people can relax and enjoy good food and wine, while enjoying classical music in a small restaurant, rather than in a huge concert hall, Jacob explains in his Scandinavian-tinted accent.

Jacob tours for ten months of the year, often performing as many as 75 concerts all over the world. He will be touring the USA next month, but he reveals that playing the same pieces over and again can sometimes be monotonous: "People think that classical music has notes that have to be followed like braille. Classical music is so great for me and I can keep playing the same pieces over and over. However, to keep it fresh, I love to add an element of spontaneity," he says with a look of contentment.

Jacob Shaw will be performing at in the Danish Church in Mijas Costa tomorrow, 4 March at 7.30pm.

He will also be at the Avanto restaurant in Mijas Costa on Sunday 5 March. Tickets cost 40 euros and include welcome drinks, canapés, dinner and wine.

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A parcel of pigs and other funny 'tails'

A Marbella-based author-illustrator has released a new book full of quirky rhyming poems, engaging characters and colourful illustrations aimed at children aged between five and eight

== RACHEL ARMSTRONG

MARBELLA. Andréa Prior, who has lived in Marbella for the past three years, hopes that her debut book will help encourage young readers to develop their memory recall, communication and learning abilities.

A Parcel of Pigs and Other Funny 'Tails' includes a selection of questions at the end of each rhyme so that children can test their memory of what they have just read, seen or heard.

In the weeks leading up to the release on 28 February, Andréa visited local schools to share her debut book with children on the Coast. The author was "thrilled" by the reaction from the primary classes at Sotogrande International School and Laude International College with "so much positive feedback from the teachers, children and parents".

In an era where the Internet and social media are seemingly inescapable, the Marbella-based writer said she feels "genuinely encouraged by the fact that children seem to want a book in their hands in preference to an iPad". She explained that this is why eBooks are not normally created for the target



Andréa Prior's debut book is aimed at young readers. :: SUR

age group of her poems (ages 5-8).

Andréa admitted that it has been "heart-warming" to see children enjoying her rhymes and illustrations as much as she enjoyed creating them. "It's great fun and makes it all worthwhile" she said.

It is two years since Prior initially sent her idea off to publishers after encouragement from her husband. "I had written quite a few silly rhymes that seemed to go down well with children (and adults) and it was my husband that encouraged me to see if there was any interest" she explained.

With characters including "the scariest mother you've ever seen", Humphrey the Hippo and a naughty mouse who outwits a smart ginger cat, Andréa says her ideas come from "anywhere and everywhere".

Speaking to SUR in English, the

author said 'A Parcel of Pigs' (which is also a poem in the book) came about from seeing the words "written on a tatty old board in an antique shop." From there she devised similar phrases, such as 'a mountain of mice', 'a bumble of bees' and 'a tumble of trees', which formed the basis of the book.

Andréa, originally from Durham in North East England, has always had a passion for art; more specifically, an "inherent love of children's illustrated books". After gaining a degree in Illustration from Leeds University, she started her career as an illustrator and set up an Artist's Agency in London, concentrating on children's publishing.

The most part of her career was spent as Managing Director of a branding consultancy in the UK capital before her and her husband decided to "make the leap" and move to the Costa del Sol. Andréa is delighted to now be able to dedicate time to writing and illustrating - her "lifelong passion".

When asked what first got her into writing, Andréa told SUR in English of her childhood memo-

ries: "When I was young, my mother read to me every night and I look back at that time as magical." While she loved the stories of Enid Blyton, the author-illustrator said she "particularly enjoyed the poetry of A.A. Milne and the nonsense poems of Edward Lear".

The "musicality" of rhyme enticed Andréa down the poetry path and she now promotes it as "not only great fun to write but also a fun way of learning for children".

The author hopes that 'A Parcel of Pigs' will appeal to parents as well as children, particularly those who love reading together, as she believes it is a great way to enjoy a shared reading experience.

Andréa will be at Bookworld in Puerto Banús on Thursday 9 March, from 5pm to 7.30pm, signing copies of her first illustrated children's book.

A Parcel of Pigs and Other Funny 'Tails' is available to order from online bookshops including Amazon and Waterstones, from the publisher's website www.troubador.co.uk/shop and from Bookworld in Puerto Banús

FACTS & FACES

La Cala de Mijas Lions raise 4,000 euros

MIJAS

As part of the 100-year celebration of the founding of the International Lions Club, the La Cala de Mijas president, Paul Butler, presented a cheque for 4,000 euros to the headteacher of IES Torre Almenara school, Maria Dolores Castillo Castillo.

Present were Roy Perez and Anette Skou from the Foreign Residents department, teachers from the school and Lion, Anita Humphreys.

With the money, the school, in Las Lagunas, has been able to purchase gym equipment and tablet computers for special needs children.

RBL Alhaurín el Grande celebrates birthday

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE

Alhaurín el Grande Royal British Legion Branch celebrated its 12th anniversary with a beautiful cake made by club member Christine.

It was decorated with 12 fondant poppies, each representing an anniversary year, and was cut by chairman, Ed Malcolm. The party atmosphere had members reminiscing on past club events especially their Poppy Appeal fundraising.



Cutting the cake. :: SUR

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Exoplanetary excitement

Could there be life on other planets?

The search for extra terrestrial life took a step closer last week with the discovery of seven Earth-like planets all orbiting around a star less than 40 light years away.

The first exoplanet was discovered in 1992 and since then over 3,500 other planets have been found orbiting around other stars. It seems that planetary systems exist around

almost every star. But the problem is they have to be just the right type of planet to support life and have to reside in the 'Goldilocks' zone that is not too hot and not too cold. If the planet is too close to the parent star then it will be too hot to retain liquid water; if it is too far from the star then it will be too cold and any water would freeze. Many of the exo-

planets that have been discovered so far are massive gas giants similar to Jupiter that are not suitable for life. But this new discovery points to just the right sort of planets which are just the right size and three of them are at the right distance from the star for liquid water to exist.

This exoplanet system is called TRAPPIST-1, named after The Transiting Planets and Planetesimals Small Telescope (TRAPPIST) based in Chile. It is a very faint star in the

constellation of Aquarius. In contrast to our sun, the TRAPPIST-1 star is classified as an ultra cool dwarf star; it is so cool that liquid water could survive on planets orbiting very close to it, closer than is possible on planets in our solar system. All seven of the TRAPPIST-1 planets orbit closer to their host star than Mercury is to our sun. The planets are also very close to each other. If a person were standing on the surface of one of the planets, they could gaze up and potentially see geological features or clouds of neighbouring worlds, which would sometimes appear larger than the moon in the Earth's sky.

Don't get too excited just yet, though. At 39 light years distance (or 229 trillion miles) a radio message would take 39 years to reach there and another 39 years for the reply to get back. Travelling in a rocket as fast as the space shuttle would take 1 ½ million years to get there. The New Horizons spacecraft that flew past Pluto in 2015 is the fastest spacecraft ever made; travelling at 32,000mph, it would take 817,000 years to get there. Space is just a long, long way away.

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REF. T.I.B.

I live in a rented apartment, and last week the water heater broke down. I immediately spoke with the owner of the property and she called a technician to repair it, but she told me that appliances break down through use, and that it is I who has to pay for the repair. However, a friend of mine has

told me that this is not true, and now I do not know what to do, because even if I do not want to pay for the repair if I am not obliged, I cannot be without hot water. According to the law, who must pay for the repair?

According to the Urban Leases Act, and unless the rental contract establishes something different, if the breakdown is caused by normal use, the expenses of the repair must be faced by the tenant. Therefore, the owner of the property is right, and you have to pay the expense of the repair of the water heater.

REF. R.O.S.

My property has been suffering constant peaks in the electricity for some time now, and it has caused the breakdown of some of my appliances. Up to now, I have

had to repair the fridge, a chest freezer and the washing machine. I have read that electricity companies are responsible for these peaks in the electricity supply. Could I demand that they pay me the cost that I have had to fork out for the repairs?

You could indeed claim those amounts. In order to do so, you should send a claim in writing to the electricity company asking them to send a technician to check where the problem is so that it can be solved, and you also have to ask them to deduct the amount that you have paid for the repairs from the next invoices. In case that they do not deal with the claim or refuse to pay, you can submit a claim to the Consumer Information Centre of your home town (OMIC) and the Spanish Energy Commission (CNE), or alternatively, you can go directly to Court.

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TONY BRYANT



WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

3 MARCH 1875

Premiere of Carmen

On 3 March 1875, French composer, Georges Bizet, premiered what was to become one of the most successful works in the entire opera repertoire.

Bizet achieved few successes before the grand production of Carmen, a love story about a naïve soldier called Don José, who is seduced by the wiles of the fiery Gypsy.

After disobeying orders to incarcerate Carmen following an incident at the cigarette factory where she is employed, Don José deserts the army and joins a band of smugglers.

Don José eventually stabs Carmen through the heart in a jealous rage after losing her love to a glamorous bullfighter called Escamolio.

Set to a backdrop of the cigarette factory, back street taverns and the mountain ranges of Ronda, the story is spun around the seedy world of the nineteenth century Andalusian gypsies.

Carmen embodies the spirit of Seville, especially the flamenco, bullfighting and banditry; elements that attracted the attention of numerous nineteenth century romantic travellers.

Bizet based his four-act opera on Prosper Mérimée's 1845 novella of the same name.

It was not at first well received, largely due to its controversial main characters, which shocked and outraged its first audiences.

The general tone of the press reviews ranged from disappointment to indignation. The more conservative critics complained that the heroine was an amoral seductress. One critic wrote that Carmen was 'the very incarnation of vice'.

The cast of Carmen, which premiered at the Opéra-Comique in Paris on Wednesday 3 March 1875, consisted of some of the top opera performers of that time.

Célestine Galli-Marié took the main role of Carmen, while Don José was played by Paul Lhérier.

Bizet, who had never visited



Carmen is one of the most frequently performed operas. :: SUR

Spain, sought to provide an authentic Spanish flavour to his music. He used genuine folk song as the source for his score, utilising the rhythms and instrumentation associated with flamenco music.

Carmen has since been performed by numerous flamenco troupes: celebrated artists like Antonio Gades, Cristina Hoyos and Carmen Amaya have taken the



Georges Bizet. :: SUR

production to all corners of the globe.

Carmen promoted the Andalusian tapestry to the outside world and it became so popular and revered, the image of Carmen-ised Andalusia has been hard to escape ever since.

The famous tobacco factory is as potent an architectural symbol as the Alhambra is of Granada.

Now the city's university, this

emblematic eighteenth century building still lures modern-day travellers in search of the legend of Carmen.

Unfortunately, Bizet died before his opera became an international success, and so he would never have known that Carmen would gain outstanding acclaim. It is now one of the most popular and frequently-performed operas.

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Estreno	Premiere
Música	Music
Compositor	Composer
Gitana	Gypsy
Criticado	Criticised
Entrada	Ticket
Éxito	Success
Corazón	Heart
Soldado	Soldier
Apuñalar	To stab
Contrabandista	Smuggler
Ingenuo	Naïve
Celoso	Jealous
Reperto	Cast
Escenario	Stage
Desertor	Deserter
Morir	To die
Escándalo	Scandal
Amotinarse	To revolt

Bilingual crossword
inside back page

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GASTRONOMY The fair, which takes place from 10 to 12 March at the Palacio de Congresos in Torremolinos, includes guided tasting sessions in English

AOVESOL 2017 BRINGSTOGETHER MORE THAN 50 PRODUCERS OF EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL FROM ANDALUCÍA

TORREMOLINOS

Torremolinos will be the capital of extra virgin olive oil between 10 and 12 March, as the town will be hosting AoveSol 2017, a fair which this year will bring together about 50 companies from the olive oil sector in Andalucía. Most of these are mills from provinces such as Córdoba, Jaén, Seville, Almería, Granada and Málaga, and many of these producers who will be at the Palacio de Exposiciones y Congresos in this town on the Costa del Sol form part of prestigious and protected designations of origin, such as Baena, Priego de Córdoba, Lucena, Estepa, Antequera and Sierra Mágina, among others.

All these oils can be sampled free of charge with complementary bread provided on this occasion by El Colmenero bakery in Alhaurín, which is famous for the quality of its products. And, of course, the oil will also be available for purchase. The range of olive oils is extensive, and numerous varieties will be on offer (picual, hojiblanca, verdial de Vélez, manzanilla alcornocilla and arbequina, among many others).

However, in addition to giving people the chance to try and buy, this fair also aims to raise awareness of the values of extra virgin olive oil (AOVE) and its culture. For this reason, the guided sampling sessions are an important part of the programme because they enable visitors to acquire basic information about how to evaluate the oils, through their aroma and flavour.

From Friday 10 to Sunday 12 there will be several tasting sessions (all free of charge), many of them in English and even some in German. To reserve a place (numbers are limited) it is advisable to visit the AoveSol website (www.aovesol.com) first, for further information. Afterwards, places can be reserved by emailing info@feriadelaceite.com.

AoveSol hopes this will be a way of giving thousands of foreign visitors and residents the chance to learn more about the quality and culture of the local extra virgin olive oil. As well as the tasting sessions, which will be guided by professionals from the different designations of origin, those attending will also be able to watch live cookery demonstrations, during which prestigious chefs from Andalucía will show how to use extra virgin olive oil in some innovative as well as traditional dishes.

Children will also be an important part of this themed fair, and they can attend workshops on how to prepare smoothies with seasonal fruits, dried fruit and extra virgin olive oil, as well as traditional desserts with fruit, fresh cheese, yoghurt and AOVE, and even how to make artisan bread. Youngsters and adults alike will also be able to watch demonstrations of how olive oil is produced through the Abencor process.

The programme also includes round table discussions and conferences on other important aspects of olive oil, such as its health benefits and tourism, with professionals and experts from the sector.

This year Aovesol will be open from 11.30am to 7.30pm on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th, and from 11.30am to 6.30pm on Sunday 12th. Entry costs two euros, and half of the money collected will be donated to the Comedor de Santo Domingo association of Málaga in the form of extra virgin olive oils. The donation to the Comedor de Santo Domingo is something new this year and it will take place after the fair.

The olive oil will come from the companies which are taking part in this year's fair, in other words from some of the most important mills in Andalucía and many from prestigious designations of origin.

This symbolic donation from the organisers to the social canteen, says the president of the Aovesol Organising Committee, José Luis Bergillos, is a way of helping those most in need – the association provides food to about 200 people a day – while ensuring at the same time that the Mediterranean diet which is provided in social canteens such as this one is the highest quality possible.

Another important innovation this year is a photography competition. It is open to all photography enthusiasts and the theme is extra virgin olive oil and its culture: the olive groves, the harvest, the production, the uses, the gastronomy, among other aspects. Those interested in taking part have until 7 March to send their photos and post them on Instagram. The competition rules can be found on the Aovesol website.

As well as the prestigious mills which will be taking part in this fair, there will also be producers who use extra virgin olive oil in their products, such as tinned fish, artisan confectionery and even an unusual Iberian ham from Huelva.

AoveSol 2017 is being held in the Palacio de Congresos in Torremolinos this year because the facilities have greatly improved in quality and there is plenty of free parking in the area. The organisers are also providing a free bus service for residents of Torremolinos, from the town centre to the venue.

Aovesol 2017 Information

DATES

From 10 to 12 March 2017.

OPENING HOURS

From 11.30am to 7.30pm, Friday and Saturday; from 11.30am to 6pm, Sunday.

VENUE

Palacio de Exposiciones y Congresos de Torremolinos (Calle México, 3, 29620 Torremolinos, Málaga).

ENTRANCE

2 euros (1 euro will be donated in the form of extra virgin olive oil to the Comedor de Santo Domingo charity association).

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact telephone 952 000 028.
Contact mail: info@feriadelaceite.com,
www.aovesol.com.

ADVERTORIAL

IN THE FRAME

JENNIE RHODES



Living with art and music in a windmill

Cornelia Lenzin Professional pianist and owner of El Molino de Cajiz

When the musician decided to buy property in the area she had no idea what she wanted

Cornelia Lenzin, is a professional pianist and piano teacher from Basel in Switzerland. After many years of holidaying in Malaga province and inheriting some money, she decided to buy property in the Axarquía and have more of a permanent base here.

At first, Cornelia, 48, says it was "just an idea for fun". But as she was shown around a number of different types of houses "by very enthusiastic estate agents", she confesses she got sucked in and then eventually started "taking it more seriously" and eventually decided that she wanted something "old and rustic".

Cornelia didn't really know what she was after initially and far from her thoughts was the idea of buying and converting an old, extremely run-down, flour mill in the tiny village of Cajiz, which belongs to Vélez-Málaga. However, in 2014 she found herself buying El Molino de Cajiz (the Cajiz windmill) and it became a project that would bring her closer to Spanish culture as well as allow her to continue with her profession and explore other aspects of the arts.

Of a population of around 820 people, Cajiz has a relatively low number of foreign residents. Cornelia admits that she created a lot of interest when she moved into the property, not only because locals saw that someone was working on the building, but also because she was foreign. "I know a lot of the locals now and they love



The restored mill as an exhibition and concert space. :: J. R.

"It's a good idea to reserve seats"

:: J. R.

CAJIZ. The official inauguration of Merle Kumschier's exhibition of sculpture and painting will take place at 4pm, today, 3 March.

This will be followed by a concert at 6pm with the Luna Llena duo, with Simona Mango singing and Bruce Reynolds accompanying her on the guitar.

Entrance is free but email res-

ervation (elmolinodecajiz@gmail.com) is recommended as the mill has limited seating.

Cornelia recommends parking at the entrance to the village and walking the short distance up Calle Molino to the mill.

i For more information, visit www.elmolinodecajiz.com or call 672 731 117

sharing with me their memories of the working mill," she says.

Although Cornelia says that it has been quite difficult to get information on the history of the mill, she believes it was in operation until the 60s: "Some of the older generation remember it and they also remember coming to buy their bread here as the house served as a bakery."

Cornelia actually bought the property from an English person who had had the mill's roof redone. However, when the pianist bought it, it was in a bad state of repair and other parts of the roof needed restoring. She enlisted the help of an English builder, who in turn contracted a number of locals to help with the project. "That was nice," says

Cornelia. "I think it really helped that the people who were helping to restore a building had it close to their hearts. They were familiar with and it helped me get to know my neighbours right from the beginning."

Now El Molino de Cajiz, which sits on Calle Molino in the village, has been converted into a concert and exhibition space, along with

Cornelia's home and a small annex which she rents out to tourists and friends. "I suddenly had the idea for the concert room in the mill and thought that it would be the perfect place for my piano too," says the pianist. "The idea for the exhibition space came later," she adds, explaining that art, other than music, runs in the family: "My sister and aunt are both very artistic but I am not."

Since work on the mill was completed, two concerts have been given in the space; a piano recital by Cornelia, which she says was really successful with lots of people coming "just hearing about it through word of mouth." A later concert was given by British guitarist, Keith James, who will be returning to play at the mill in April.

The walls of the mill are currently being used to exhibit work by German artist Merle Kumschier and Cornelia's creative sister designed a mosaic which goes around one of the property's terraces. Cornelia is in touch with a number of artists in the Axarquía area and hopes to attract more exhibitors in the near future.

The former flour mill retains some of its original features, including the grindstone, which would have been pulled by a donkey.

At the moment Cornelia divides her time between Cajiz and Basel, where she still performs in concerts and orchestras, although she has stopped giving piano lessons. She says that over time she will probably spend more time in Spain, although doesn't plan to give up her life in Switzerland entirely. There are a lot of projects planned for the mill, though; not only more concerts and exhibitions but also giving music classes in collaboration with singer Simona Mango, who will be performing this evening as part of the 'Luna Llena' duo.



"I know a lot of the locals now and they love sharing their memories of the working mill"

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DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

The mist flower

Bartlettina sordida is a warm climate shrub with large tropical-looking leaves and fragrant panicles of mauve flowers in spring

Fast growing, the mist flower is an evergreen perennial shrub reaching up to three metres high by about the same width in just a couple of years. This plant is known by two genus names; the most recent is *Bartlettina sordida* although it was

previously called *Eupatorium megaphyllum*. Besides the common name 'mist flower' it is also sometimes known as 'Purple Torch'. It is native to Mexico and a member of the Asteraceae family.

It loves shade; hot sun-

shine will burn the large velvety leaves, and the deeper the shade, the more intense the colour of the flowers becomes. It must be kept moist as it will not tolerate drought. It can be grown in a container or in a flower bed but the soil

should have plenty of organic material mixed in and be free draining. The fluffy pinkish-mauve flower heads up to 30 cm across and open in the spring releasing a sweet perfume which is said to resemble lilac or honey. The blooms which resemble a large blue ageratum, attract lots of butterflies and other pollinating insects.

The mist flower has reddish branches which should be cut back hard to promote new growth after flowering is over. During the winter it is best to protect the plant in really cold weather as it is not frost hardy. Wrapping in fleece and adding a thick layer of organic mulch will help. Although it is a low maintenance plant, it will benefit from a top dressing of slow release fertiliser during the spring and summer, and regular watering.

Propagation is by cuttings or by layering the lower stems.

Bartlettina sordida is named after Harley Harris Bartlett (1886-1960), a botanist from Michigan USA. 'Sordida' is Latin for 'neglected' or 'dirty looking' although what it refers to is not clear.



Bartlettina sordida and close up of flower (inset). :: SUR

READER'S PHOTO



:: ANN PENNINGTON

A HERALD OF SPRING

Ann Pennington who sent in this photo says: "Although I have many jonquilles [narcissus], this is the first daffodil which I think heralds better weather. Hooray!"

GARDENING HINTS FOR MARCH

Ornamental grasses

There are two types of ornamental grasses: evergreen and deciduous. They need different treatment at this time of the year. The deciduous group should be cut back hard every year, before new growth starts to appear in the spring. The annual grasses just need tidying up. This can be done by combing through the

clump with your fingers to remove dead grass (wear gloves as some grasses are very sharp) or use secateurs to trim away dead, scorched or diseased leaves. If the clump is very big it might be a good idea to lift it and divide it into two or three smaller pieces thereby increasing your stock and encouraging 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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Guadalhorce Ecológico, organic, healthy produce sold direct to the consumer

A wide variety of foods are on offer thanks to the special characteristics of this area, which is made up of many agricultural smallholdings

by FERNANDO TORRES

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE. In Villafranco del Guadalhorce there is a very special supermarket. It is the home of the Guadalhorce Ecológico Association and cooperative.

Since 2008, this association has brought together the sustainable farmers in the region to market their produce “as a response to the crisis” that altered the economic structure of the area in 2007. This was explained by Alejandro Hevilla, president of the organisation, who also adds that the project aims to “dignify” working on the land without harming the ecology of the area or the environment.

Guadalhorce Ecológico has a very diverse range of products, “the region is made up of smallholdings, so there is a lot of agricultural variety”. In the creation phase of the project, this peculiarity was a challenge because they could not access large distribution areas since the size of the production is small. This led the members of the association to create what today most characterises them: “We established a shorter distribution chain, the organic markets. First we started in this area, but then decided to sell them all over the province.”

Almost ten years after the launch of the association, the ideals of Guadalhorce Ecológico have become an important reference in the field of ecological produce: “Our presence is welcomed by the town halls in the region because we promote the values of protecting the environment and healthy eating,” explains Hevilla. In addition, the markets, held at spots all over Malaga province one or twice a month, allow the association to sell produce that was “harvested the previous evening”, and at a price that is not affected by the usual distribution chains, “which makes them more affordable for the customer”.



The shop in Villafranco del Guadalhorce. by F. TORRES

The size of the project “has been growing year after year because people demand organic products”, said Hevilla. This vision is shared by the manager of the cooperative, Luis F. Jiménez: “A key part of this project is the ecological certification of the produce”. The Junta de Andalucía verifies that the vegetables, oil and milk that arrives at the cooperative comply with the regulations. “The distribution process is also documented as sustainable” said Jiménez.

The idea of creating an eco-friendly supermarket was devised as a way to “move excess produce destined for the markets,” explained Jiménez. “We sell straight to the consumer, consumer associations and distributors throughout Spain”. Anyone can go along and purchase fresh and sustainable products from the small warehouse near the Gua-

dalhorce de Villafranco reservoir.

In turn, the cooperative is responsible for distributing to the rest of Spain. “Our buyers are eco-shops and consumer associations.” This is why the region’s agricultural diversity is so beneficial to this business idea: “Consumers aware of the environment demand products for a healthy diet”. The growth of the cooperative has led them to include a variety of produce, from citrus fruit, typical of the valley, to oil and dairy products.

Jiménez explains that these products have a number of features that make them unique. “They are richer in vitamins and tastier because they are produced naturally, at their own pace.” These qualities define the association and the cooperative, which recently created an online shop on its website so that no one is denied the chance to sample the products.

A.J.LINN

MOUNTAIN WINE



On Thursday of last week, in Seaton, USA, a local musical group performed ‘traditional Spanish and Portuguese numbers’. The music was interspersed with readings of notes by one of the first recorded English travellers in Spain, the Reverend Joseph Townsend.

Why should readers of this column need telling about a small concert on another continent? Because the Rev Townsend referred to was a vicar from Pewsey, in England’s Wiltshire, who visited Malaga in 1787 and is credited with the first ever recorded mention of Mountain Wine. Unfortunately he didn’t think much of it but didn’t like Spain anyway. Nevertheless his book is worth a read, and any student of 18th century English trav-

ellers in Spain, such as George Borrow and Richard Ford, will find the unimaginative Wiltshire clergyman’s writings an interesting match. Around the same period the famous French traveller, Teofilo Gautier, hated Malaga’s gazpacho (‘only fit for dogs’) but enjoyed the local white wine.

Townsend found himself in a province that was hugely productive. Back then it was Spain’s second-largest wine region, and the product, known as Mountain, was very popular in England and North America. Nothing lasts for ever though, and eventually successive infestations of mildew, and finally the deadly phylloxera, ruined the once-profitable business. Vineyards were abandoned and thousands of agricultural workers became unemployed.

To bring the wheel full circle and back to the present, it is appropriate that Mountain wines have been reborn, thanks to a few nostalgic and competent winemakers in the region. Leading among them is Victoria Ordoñez, whose family is steeped in the business, and who has dedicated nearly a decade to getting these unusual and outstanding wines to the market. The two she has just launched are made from the classic Muscat of Alexandria grape, pleasantly dry considering the sweeter lineage.





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:: V. MELGAR

AN EXTENDED 'RUTA DEL VINO DE RONDA'

The Ronda wine route (RVR) is going to be extended to include the rest of the province of Malaga, a project aimed at increasing tourist interest in the wine industry. The itinerary is approved by Acevin (Asociación Española de Ciudades del Vino), which only allows two routes per province when there is more than one Denominación de Origen in it, and currently includes 52 bodegas, companies and services. This number is expected to rise to around 300 members. The name of the route is also changing and will now be called Ruta del Vino de Ronda y de Málaga (RVRM).

ADVERTORIAL Joffrey's Las Mimosas

Enjoy contemporary fine dining at Joffrey's

LA CALA DE MIJAS

Joffrey's Las Mimosas in La Cala de Mijas has been a dream in the making for many years for French chef Joffrey Charles and his partner, TV stylist and presenter, Lisa Burgess. The concept was to create a contemporary fine dining restaurant with a creative and tantalising menu using fresh and seasonal ingredients. An important part of that idea was an exceptionally warm welcome, excellent service and affordable pricing.

The À la Carte menu has starters ranging from six to 12 euros and includes succulent scallops, gravalax or duck pate. Main course prices start at 17 euros and go up to 30 euros for a juicy 8oz fillet steak with chunky chips, onion purée, sun dried tomatoes and wild mushrooms with béarnaise or pepper sauce. The dessert list is equally mouth watering with a choice of peanut butter parfait glacé with buttermilk chocolate mousse; panacotta or crème brûlée and madeleine sponge and strawberry sorbet among others. There is also an 'early bird' menu available from 5.30-7.30pm costing 25 euros for two courses or 29 euros for three courses. Vegetarian option available.

Joffrey Charles was raised in Normandy. He has worked for the past decade in fine dining restaurants in Mont Saint Michel, Val D'Isere, Corsica, Dublin and London. Joffrey has an incredible passion for producing creative and beautiful food that is memorable and delicious. Lisa Burgess created her own dress label and online clothing company and has been a stylist for TV3 in Ireland for the past decade.



Fine dining with a French twist. :: OLLY BARRON-JOHNSTON

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Builders, staff and owners pose for the opening photo. :: O B-J

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New technique for removing digestive-tract tumours with no need for surgery

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This pioneering method, introduced to Andalucía by Malaga gastrointestinal specialist Pedro Rosón, is starting to be used on pre malignant polyps and early-stage cancers

MÁLAGA. Removing a pre malignant polyp or tumour in its initial stages from the digestive tract (esophagus, stomach or colon) is key to a patient recovering and a cancer going no further.

This is what can be achieved with a new procedure that means early-stage tumours can be taken out without the need to resort to surgery. The method, which originated in Japan where there is a high rate of gastric cancer, is being used at the Hospital Quirón in Malaga by Pedro Rosón, director



Doctor Rosón learned the endoscopy-based procedure in Japan . :: SUR

of the Andalusian Digestive Illnesses Institute (INEDA). He is the only specialist who currently uses this technique in the Andalucía region.

Doctor Rosón explained to SUR that the traditional colonoscope or gastroscope method cannot remove pre malignant polyps that are more

than 1.5 or 2 cm in size, while the technique he is using takes out larger polyps and surface cancers whole, "which means a complete oncological removal is now possible".

"The great advantage is that we avoid a patient having to undergo conventional surgery in an operat-

ing theatre", the expert went on to explain, also highlighting that cure rates also improve and a patient's quality of life is maintained.

The submucosal dissection is carried out by endoscope. The patient is heavily sedated, without the need for artificial respiration, and is normally discharged within 24 hours, which means the procedure is much less invasive and costly than normal surgery.

Training in Japan

Doctor Rosón, who has so far carried out this procedure on eight patients, learned the technique last year in Japan from Yutaka Saito, who works at Tokyo's National Cancer Centre Hospital. Doctor Saito is the world's leading expert on the removal of pre malignant polyps and surface gastric tumours with this method.

Once the polyp or cancer is cut out, the patient undergoes various checkups to monitor progress with a colonoscopy or gastroscopy, depending on which part of the gastrointestinal system has been affected. The first checkup takes place three to six months after the procedure; the second, after a year; and the third, after three years. If even-

rything is fine at this stage, the patient is given the all clear.

The endoscopic procedure that Doctor Rosón carries out lasts about an hour and a half, depending on the size and position of the piece to be removed. "Nobody else uses this technique in Andalucía. It's a complex method which means a lot of training and having the right specialised equipment", explained the director of the digestive illnesses institute.

Doctor Rosón is supporting a training programme to teach the method to specialists in other areas of Andalucía so they can carry it out in both private and public hospitals. "We want the Hospital Quirón to be the training centre for the procedure", he added.

The expert drew attention to the benefits that colon-cancer-screening programmes can have in detecting problems at a very early stage.

Malaga's Hospital Quirón has a free screening programme for colorectal cancer aimed at people aged between 50 and 70. This preventative programme consists of a medical appointment and a kit to detect blood hidden in stools, with the aim of diagnosing small hidden wounds before they grow and become tumours.

"It's possible that a patient can show no signs in the early stages of the illness, so the detection tests are especially important", confirmed Rosón, who adds that "catching a digestive tract cancer early means it can be cured".

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Smoothies to fight the illnesses of the 21st century

Dr Antonio Escribano has written a book with recipes to combat stress, depression and insomnia

Smoothies can help stop snacking, provide high quality energy and are usually low in calories

PIJAR MANZANARES

MÁLAGA. Many people are probably not aware that olive oil can be used to make a delicious smoothie with apple, tomato and cucumber, which benefits the general health, blood pressure and liver and also helps to combat cholesterol and stress. But, you may ask, what exactly is a smoothie? Isn't it the same as a milkshake? The answer is: not exactly, although milk can be used. A smoothie is a food which is pre-

sented as if our stomach had already digested it, an imitation of our own digestive system which is becoming fashionable in a society where everyone is always in a rush.

It is a more or less 'smooth' mixture which maintains all the properties of its components, including the fibre, and is based on fruit and/or vegetable juice, nuts and grains (oats, tiger nuts, barley, walnuts...) or a dairy base upon which the other ingredients are mixed.

When sweetening it honey is the best option, says Dr Antonio Escribano. However, it is worth bearing in mind that when making a healthy smoothie not just any mixture will do.

Dr Escribano is an expert in endocrinology and nutrition, and has

been the nutrition coordinator for more than 20 football teams. He is also a member of the Nutrition and Healthy Habits Commission of the Spanish Olympics Committee. Now, he can also guide the rest of us to good health because he has grouped his extensive knowledge of the subject in a book called 'Batidos para la vida' (Smoothies for life), which has been published by Espasa.

The book contains 46 recipes for smoothies which can help us to combat the greatest ills of the 21st century, such as depression, stress, insomnia, obesity and a lack of energy. "These days people consume far too many so-called energy drinks and stimulants, without realising that juices and



Smoothie combinations are wide ranging . :: R. PARRADO

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Dried fruit and nuts are important as their daily consumption may be related to a reduction in mortality rate

smoothies are in themselves an authentic form of natural energy drink. The smoothies also help us to avoid junk food, because all their components are healthy, functional and low in calories, so they prevent obesity and numerous illnesses," he explains.

The advantages

As well as those already mentioned, smoothies have many other advantages for the health of our organism: drinking them at different times of the day stops

us snacking, they exit the stomach sooner and prevent heavy digestion, they create a multivitamin complex, combat constipation, are diuretic and antioxidant, provide high quality energy, strengthen the immune system and are normally low in calories, because they have to be made with healthy ingredients.

For those with a sweet tooth, smoothies are a good alternative to other sweets and they calm the craving for sugar, and for those who don't manage to eat their five portions of fruit and vegetables a day they are a good solution.

When choosing ingredients, Dr Escibano says dried fruit and nuts are particularly important. The latter because as well as their general health benefits, numerous studies have shown that daily consumption may be related to a reduction in the mortality rate from the most common causes of death, including cardiovascular illnesses, cancer and respiratory disorders.

Dried fruits are characterised by their low amount of water, but they concentrate the remaining nutrients and provide calories. "They have exceptional nutritional properties," stresses Dr Escibano, who advises using

them especially in breakfasts or as snacks.

Olive oil

Nor must we forget the most special ingredient of all which Dr Escibano advises us to use in many of the smoothies we make: olive oil.

"It is without a doubt the best fat there is. Its composition includes unsaturated and polyunsaturated fatty acids, including oleic acid, which has a protective action on the plasma proteins, reducing the 'bad cholesterol'. It also acts to prevent arteriosclerosis, and its quantity of polyphenols makes it an excellent antioxidant, but it is also anti-inflammatory, anti platelet aggregation and antithrombotic," he explains, stressing that these are just a few of its benefits.

Nor is it high in calories: a large spoonful of olive oil contains about 90 and a small one about 40. And, for further guidance, we should choose the ones with lower acidity (0.4 or lower).

With all these ingredients, plus our favourite fruits and vegetables, the combinations are as wide-ranging as our imagination. However, we are including here some of the recipes recommended by Dr Escibano.

THE DOCTOR'S RECIPES

To care for the muscles

Ingredients: 10 green grapes, 1 apple, 150g carrots, 200ml orange juice

Method:

—Squeeze the juice from the orange.

—Wash the grapes and cut each one into 4, include the peel and seeds.

—Peel the apple if you wish, remove the pips and cut the apple into pieces.

—Peel and chop the carrots.

—Blend all the ingredients together. Add water if a more liquid consistency is required.

Benefits: This smoothie is good before taking exercise, because it helps to care for the muscles and muscular injuries. It also improves lung function, is good for the heart, the circulation, blood pressure and the digestive system, the teeth and mouth. It also helps to combat stress.

To combat insomnia

Ingredients: 10 de-stoned cherries, 10 black grapes, 5 raspberries, 150g watermelon, 200ml orange juice.

Method:

—Wash the de-stoned cherries and chop them.

—Wash the grapes and cut them each into 4 pieces, with the peel and pips.

—Wash the raspberries and cut them in half.

—Chop the watermelon.

—Blend all the ingredients together. Add water if you prefer a more liquid consistency.

Benefits: Helps to fight insomnia and helps you rest better. It also has a detoxing function. It is good for the skin, hair and nails, renal function, facilitates diureses, protects joints and bones and combats osteoporosis.

To combat excess weight

Ingredients: 5 black grapes, 1 kiwi, ½ banana, ½ apple, 100g de papaya, 200ml orange juice.

Method:

—Squeeze the juice from the orange.

—Wash the black grapes and cut each one into 4 pieces, with peel and pips.

—Peel and chop the kiwi.

—Chop the banana.

—Peel the apple if you wish, remove the seeds, and cut the apple into pieces.

—Peel and chop the papaya.

—Blend all the ingredients together. Add water if you prefer a more liquid consistency.

Benefits: Helps to reduce weight, cholesterol and blood lipids, but is also useful for the liver and for improving mood and depression. Its consumption also optimises the brain function and memory.

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What cellulite really is, and what we can do about it

This inflammation of the tissues affects the majority of women and has numerous causes including diet, a lack of exercise and genetic factors



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■ SUR

There are numerous myths about cellulite. Most people believe it is due to excess weight or fluid retention, but the problem is actually more complicated than that and can occur for different reasons, some of them difficult to control.

Medically-speaking, cellulite is an inflammation of the cellular tissue which lies beneath the skin. This swelling produces a wrinkled effect similar to orange peel and it occurs mainly on the thighs, buttocks and abdomen (although it can also occur elsewhere on the body.)

Although it is sometimes worse than others and can be more or less visibly obvious, it normally affects women: about 90 per cent of women suffer from cellulite, compared with 10 per cent of men.

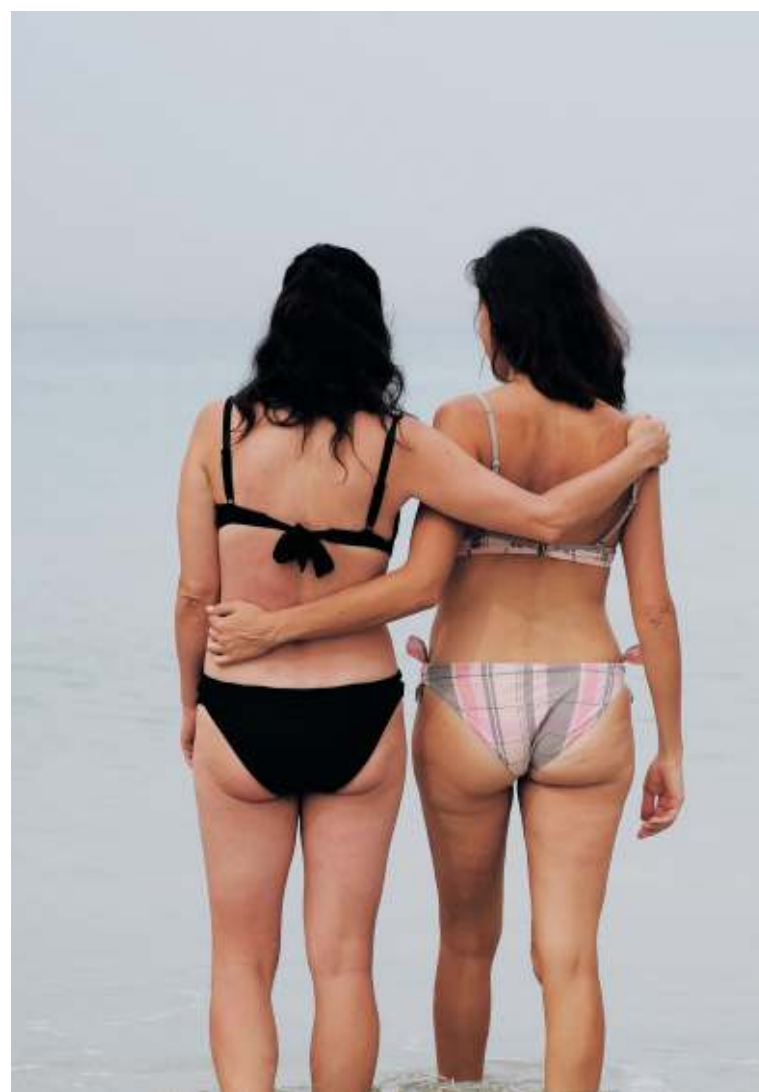
This alteration is not directly related to weight, because it can affect thin and fat people, and different things may cause it, including genes, hormonal changes, circulation, lifestyle habits and diet.

Depending on the origin of the problem and the area affected, three different types of cellulite can be identified: soft, hard or solid, and edematous.

The first is related to a lack of muscle tone and it appears with age or when someone puts on weight. It is often accompanied by varicose or spider veins. With hard cellulite, the dermis is tense but it resembles orange peel in appearance. This tends to especially affect teenagers and it increases as time goes by. Finally, there is edematous cellulite, which is the least common and is due to a problem of bad blood circulation aggravated by fluid retention.

Diet and exercise are important

Although they do not completely eradicate cellulite, there are ways



About 90% of women have cellulite. ■ 123RF

There are ways to prevent or reduce cellulite, starting with a healthy diet and drinking plenty of water

to prevent or reduce it. The first is to eat healthily and stay well hydrated. It has been shown that there is a relationship between the presence of a high incidence of toxins in the body and the appearance of cellulite. That is why experts recommend avoiding fast food, processed foods, alcohol, fats, coffee and soft drinks. It is also a good idea to drink two litres of water a day and ingest foods which are high in fibre, are diuretic and citric, because vitamin C strengthens the blood vessels and helps to control venous oedemas.

Sport is also necessary to keep cellulite at bay. Sit-ups and upward and sideward kicks are good exer-

cise if the cellulite is located in the buttocks or legs. It is also necessary to tone the muscles upon which too much fat has accumulated, for example the hips, thighs, stomach and upper arms. Other exercises which help to reduce cellulite are fast walking, cycling, aerobic or weight-bearing exercise and walking up and down stairs. Doing this for at least 30 minutes a day will have an effect.

However, it is important to stress that all these exercises can help to reduce cellulite but will not eradicate it completely because, as we said above, it is caused by different factors and the effects may be different, depending on the genetic predisposition of the person.

Beauty treatments

In addition to a healthy diet and exercise, in the most serious cases it is advisable to consult professionals in health and aesthetic medicine. Massage is a commonly-used therapy, because massaging the area affected by cellulite improves circulation and



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Regular exercise helps to reduce cellulite. :: YANALYA / FREEPIK

helps to dissolve the fat nodules which have formed. These massages can be carried out manually or with machines which apply suction to the skin and work by gentle movements to activate cellular exchanges, get rid of residues and make the fat circulate again.

In the area of technological treatments there are numerous options. Ultrasound can dissolve the fat nodules and improve circulation in the area, while pressotherapy activates the venous and lymphatic system.

Other recently-introduced methods use electric or infrared currents. These are applied through electrodes placed on the areas you wish to treat or through devices placed on the dermis. As a result, there are three effects on the skin: the temperature of the tissues in question is raised, the cellular permeability of the adipo-

cytes is improved and the connective tissues are defibrinated. All this improves the appearance and texture of the treated area.

Hydrotherapy can also help in the fight against cellulite. One of these therapies is lymphatic aqua drainage, a specific type of exercise which is practised in water to strengthen the postural muscles. Hydromassage baths and showers with jets at different strengths and temperatures stimulate the venous and lymphatic returns, resulting in draining.

Cosmetic

Although there is no easy solution as many advertisements claim, it is true that creams are becoming more effective at reducing cellulite.

These cosmetics use draining agents which combat fluid retention and unblock the tissues, smoothing

Can cellulite also affect men?

Genetic disposition means that cellulite is not exactly the same in men as in women

:: SUR

Although it is not nearly as common as in women, men can also suffer from cellulite. In their case, this is an alteration of the skin texture which is caused by an excessive accumulation of fat. This puts pressure on the tissues of the muscular layer and causes the skin to resemble orange peel.

Genetic disposition means that cellulite in men is not exactly the same as it is in women. The main difference is that the structure of



Male cellulite is different. :: SUR

the connective tissue which wraps around the adipose cells of a woman is formed by partitions ar-

anged in the form of vertical arches, fixed to the deep layer of the skin, whose vertices point towards the outer layer.

In the case of men, the structure of connective tissue is arranged horizontally, similar to the cells of a honeycomb, in such a way that the adipose cells form small independent units.

Because of this reticular structure, when the male fat cells increase in size they do not affect the outer layer of skin perpendicularly, as they do in women.

The most common causes of cellulite in men are hormonal changes, smoking, circulation problems, excessive alcohol consumption, and excess weight.

the skin. That is why they have a triple action: they limit the swelling, reduce the number and volume of adipocytes and improve the appearance of the skin.

Ideally, they should be applied by massage, alternating draining and rolling movements, always using a downward motion. As with other remedies, they have to be used constantly, and the results are often visible after several weeks or months.

For those who like natural remedies, apple vinegar is one of the

best products for cellulite because its nutritional composition helps to reduce accumulated fat. You can take it diluted in water (in a small, controlled proportion) or as a topical cure, applying it through massage a couple of times a day.

A homemade exfoliant of coffee and sugar enhances the metabolism of the fats in the body and also helps to eliminate excess fluid from the skin tissue.

But what is most important when tackling this or any other alteration in our body is to under-

stand that the treatments should focus on improving health, not just appearance for social reasons.

Cellulite is not exactly an illness (except in cases where it causes pain or serious circulation problems) and nobody should ever develop a complex about it. Above any aesthetic aspect, it is important to learn to love our body, look after it but also respect its individual shape and features. There is no such thing as the perfect female body, and no need to waste our lives trying to attain one.

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Couple demand compensation from health authorities after vasectomy fails

A couple from Malaga hope to receive 215,000 euros of compensation after conceiving a fourth child despite having a vasectomy

by JUAN CANO

MALAGA. Ismael Robles, 31, and Susana Guillén 30, are taking legal action against the 'Servicio Andaluz de Salud' (SAS) after an operation which 'guaranteed sterilisation' failed to do so.

Initially, the couple decided that Ismael would have the operation as they were going through a period of financial difficulty and already had three children. "We were already a big family. I ruled out becoming a father again because I was unemployed then, and I still am,"

Ismael said. Susana, the family's sole earner, was also working long hours at a care home and having to study at night in order to obtain the nursing degree she needed to keep her job.

The first signs of the unexpected pregnancy came when Susana didn't get her period. After a few days she told Ismael and they did a pregnancy test repeatedly as they could not believe the result, joking that it was an "immaculate conception." Despite the supposed impossibility of the child being Ismael's he had no doubts about Susana's fidelity, "don't worry, I know the child is mine," he told her. Nevertheless Susana says "I have had to put up with all kinds of comments from other people about who I may have slept with." Despite the circumstances, the couple did not consider an abortion for one moment.



Ismael and Susana with their four children in their family home. by F. SILVA

Doctors at Carlos Haya hospital, where the operation took place in October 2014, cannot find any logical explanation for the failure of the vasectomy.

Ismael and Susana hope to receive an amount of 215,000 euros of compensation from the SAS for two reasons. Firstly, they have been advised that they are entitled to 65,000 euros for the doctor's failure to sterilise Ismael. Secondly, the estimated average cost of raising a child to the age of 18 is 150,000 euros.

The family's lawyer, Francisco Damián Vázquez, believes the couple have a good chance of winning the case because their child, Jorge, was conceived nine months after the vasectomy took place, despite doctors' advice that patients only need to use precautionary contraception for up to three months post-operation.

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Marbella hospital carrying out MRI scans at weekends to cut waiting time

The new equipment was installed at the end of last year and has meant that patients have to wait less time for their appointment

by MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. The latest technology MRI scanner installed last December at the Marbella Hospital has meant that patients no longer have to wait for an appointment in Malaga.

It allows doctors to use new diagnostic techniques "more comprehensive and faster than conventional methods", explains a representative from the hospital.

"The new machine is more powerful and we can now do more scans, including at the weekends" they added.

The weekend appointments, al-



The entrance to the out-patients clinic at the hospital. by JOSELE-LANZA

though they have caused some confusion with patients who have rung the hospital to check if there has been some mistake, have reduced the waiting time considerably for many people. They have also helped patients who are usually at work during the week and only have weekends free.

The new MRI machine was installed last December with a budget of 659,182 euros. The project also included the renovation of the old room for the scanning equipment, conserving some features to keep costs down and to complete the works as quickly as possible which took a month and a half in total.

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Andalucía

Sisters with history in their hearts

Úbeda and Baeza, which are jointly a World Heritage Site, are unique for their monuments and beauty

✚ JAVIER ALMELLONES

They are sisters, but not twins. In fact, the towns of Úbeda and Baeza complement each other in such a way that they have become a unique cultural destination in Europe.

Situated ten kilometres apart, these towns, which have been jointly classified as a World Heritage Site, resemble a trip back in time.

Mediaeval remains, primarily from the time of Al-Ándalus, and Renaissance buildings are some of the features which make these sister towns a type of virtual reality machine, with an air which still seems similar to that of 500 years ago.

It would be too complicated to create a guide for this stroll through the past. Those who begin by visiting Baeza will find a great many places to see. There are at least 10 buildings and monuments which nobody should miss.

Among all the places of interest which deserve to be visited is, logically, Baeza cathedral, which was built over the remains of a former mosque. It contains different architectural styles, such as the gothic Puerta del Perdón entrance, which dates back to the 15th century, and the Renaissance main façade. Inside, there are some fine examples of Baroque, for example on the main altarpiece.

Baeza's ecclesiastical heritage also includes the church of San Juan Evangelista, which is part of the Old University complex. It is a 17th century building with a façade in Mannerist style and a relief of the Holy Trinity. Inside, this austere building has a patio with a monument to the poet Antonio Machado, who taught French grammar at this university from 1912 to 1919.

This writer from the Generation of 98, gave his name to the International University whose headquarters is in one of the finest examples of civil architecture in Baeza, the Palacio de Jabalquinto, which is in an interesting Elizabethan gothic style (15th century). The façade is especially striking, with its decoration of diamond points, nails and shields.

The Casas Consistoriales Altas date back to the same period; these began to be used as the headquarters of the Council of Castilla in 1511. It is also worth spending some time enjoying their splendid gothic façades.

The buildings of the Antiguas Carnicerías (Old Butchers) and the Audiencia Civil (Civil Court) in the Plaza del Pópulo, and the Old Jail, which nowadays is Baeza town hall, are Plateresque constructions from the 16th century which are also



Úbeda and Baeza are surrounded by fields of olive trees. ✚ TURISMO ANDALUZ



Torreón del Portillo in Baeza, which dates back to Moorish times ✚ T. A.

worth discovering.

However, as well as this legacy from after the Reconquest, there are also remains dating back to the Andalusian era, such as the Torreón de Puerta de Úbeda, a tower which was

built by the Almohads in the 12th century. It is linked by a bridge to the line of fortifications which leads to what is now known as 'El Torrico', the other tower which still stands in this town in Jaén province.

There are also some Roman remains, including those at the church of Santa Cruz, which was built in the 12th century and is one of the few remaining churches of this style in Andalucía. The church of San Juan Bautista was from the same period, but only a few of its walls are still standing.

If a walk around Baeza sounds exciting, then one through Úbeda is no less so and its ecclesiastical heritage is even greater.

Among the most important churches you can visit is the Collegiate Church of Santa María de los Reales Alcázares, which was built on the site of a former mosque and even over some of the mediaeval walls of the Arab medina.

The most striking feature of this church is the variety of architectural styles, starting from the remains of buildings which stood there before it was built in the 13th century and continuing to the 19th century. There are gothic, Renaissance and Baroque features, among many others.

Another of Úbeda's architectural

jewels is the Sacra Capilla Funeraria del Salvador del Mundo, which is considered one of the finest examples of Spanish Renaissance. Some very important artists were involved here, such as Diego de Siloé, Berruguete and Maestro Bartolomé.

Among the churches with gothic features are those of San Nicolás, San Pedro and San Pablo. In addition there are other interesting churches, such as the Santísima Trinidad, which is mainly Baroque in style.

Among the civil buildings which remain in the historic town centre, the most important are the Hospital de Santiago and the Casa de las Torres. There are also some impressive palaces such as those of Deán Ortega and Las Cadenas (also known as Vázquez Molina), both of which are close to the collegiate church. The 16th century Palacio Vela de los Cobos is also architecturally interesting.

As well as these, there is also what is known as the Sinagoga del Agua, which was discovered when works began to be carried out on a project in the historic town centre.

The remains include the arches of what was once a synagogue, the women's gallery and the bath. This is thought to have been an important Jewish temple which was built shortly before the 14th century. The site also includes the Tres Aguas Information Centre, which consists of seven interconnected rooms. The tour begins in the inquisitor's office.

To learn about Úbeda's history, another useful place to visit is the Archaeological Museum and another museum which is housed inside the San Juan de la Cruz church.

Baeza also has some important collections which reflect its history through art and remains, such as the Renaissance Information Centre and the cathedral, Puerta de Úbeda and Baeza museums.

Both of these towns, which are surrounded by fields of olive trees, also have information centres about olive oil. The one in Úbeda is named after the region (La Loma), while the one in Baeza is called the Museo de la Cultura del Olivo.



Sacra Capilla del Salvador, in Úbeda. ✚ SUR

Japanese violin virtuoso

■ SUR IN ENGLISH

GIBRALTAR. The Gibraltar Philharmonic Society is presenting the First Concertmaster of the Berlin Philharmonic, Daishin Kashimoto in a recital with pianist Eric Le Sage on Tuesday 14 March, 8pm at the Convent Ballroom. The concert is sponsored by the Parasol Foundation.

Daishin Kashimoto is a soloist in high demand across the globe. When he was three years old, his parents gave him an array of toy instruments: piano, clarinet, flute etc. He had his first violin lessons from Kumiko Etoh in Tokyo and then in 1986 he went to the Juilliard School of Music in New York as a young student. He moved to the Lübeck Musikhochschule in 1990. From 1999 to 2004 he was a pupil of Rainer Kussmaul at the Freiburg Musikhochschule.

Daishin Kashimoto has appeared as a soloist with many international orchestras, including the Boston Symphony, Orchestre Nationale de France, Bavarian and Frankfurt Radio Symphony orchestras, Dresden Staatskapelle, St Petersburg Philharmonic, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande and Czech Philharmonic as well as the NHK Symphony. He has performed with conductors Seiji Ozawa, Lorin Maazel, Semyon Bychkov, Sir Simon Rattle, Mariss



Daishin Kashimoto. ■ DAISUKE AKITA

INFORMATION

► **What.** A recital by Japanese violinist Daishin Kashimoto

► **When.** 14 March, 8pm.

► **Where.** The Convent Ballroom, Gibraltar

Jansons and Charles Dutoit among others.

He is first prize winner of a long list of competitions, including the sixth Menuhin International Junior Violin Competition in UK in 1993.

Daishin will be accompanied on

piano by Eric Le Sage, one of the leading pianists of his generation."

Eric has performed as a soloist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the Dresden Philharmonic among many others.

The programme will feature compositions for violin and piano by G. Faure, J. Brahms and C. Franck.

Tickets priced at £20 are available from Sacarello's coffee shop and The Silver Shop or online at www.buyltickets.gi. A limited number of tickets at £10 are available to senior citizens and students via the John Mackintosh Hall at 308 Main Street.

EXHIBITIONS

New Longman's

Estepona. Until 5 March, Plaza de Manilva, 6
Acrylic and watercolour paintings by Emmanuel Janvier.

Mark Ryden

Malaga. Until 5 March, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.
'Cámara de las Maravillas' by Mark Ryden. His art features angelic faces with macabre undertones.

'From city to museum'

Malaga. Until 5 March, Centro Pompidou
The exhibit entitled 'De la ciudad al museo. Arquitecturas parisinas 1945-2015' consists of 40 models of buildings in Paris.

Daniel Silvo

Malaga. Until 11 March, Galería Isabel Hurley, Paseo 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.

Aurora Alcaide

Malaga. From 4 until 25 March, Galería Centroarte, C/San Millán
An exhibition entitled 'Desbordes' by Aurora Alcaide. Inauguration at pm, 4 March.

Matías Sánchez

Malaga. From 4 March until 20 May, JM Galería, Duquesa de Parcent.
'Trinchera, sin fin al borde del mar' is an exhibition of four large canvases representing the great theatre of the human condition and existential crisis.

Economistas en el Arte

Nerja. Until 5 March, Museo de Nerja.
The exhibition comprises works by different arts that combine a disparate theme, art and economy.

El Molino de Cajiz

Vélez-Málaga. 3, 4, 5 March, El Molino de Cajiz
Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Merle Kumschier. Inauguration 4pm. www.merle-inspirationen.com/

Santini Gravini

Mijas. Until 6 March, Centro Cultural de La Cala.
An exhibition by sisters Hana and

Gabriela Santini Gravini.

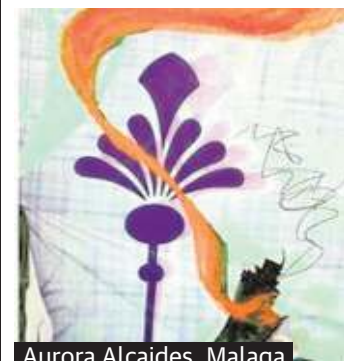
Jane Kleinschmit

Cómpeta. Until 11 March, Galería Centro de Bellas Artes.
Impressionist artist Jane Kleinschmit portrays her love and passion for her life in Granada.

CHARITY

Rotary Club Gala Dinner

Estepona. 4 March, 7pm. Teatro



Aurora Alcaides, Malaga

Felipe VI.

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

Flamenco fashion for cancer

Antequera. 4 March, 7.30pm. Antequera Golf Hotel.
Fashion show by Patro Flamenca to raise funds for the Asociación Española Contra el Cáncer (AECC). Guest of honour Adrián Martín. Vocals El Callejón.

'Cinderella' flamenco for Cudeca

Malaga. 3, 4 March, 8.30pm. La Caja Blanca, Av del Editor Ángel Caffarena. 5€
A flamenco / theatre performance of 'Cinderella' by the 320 viviendas association dance school. 30% of profits go to Cudeca Cancer Hospice. Tickets www.splitfy.com or tel: 665 439 173

HairtoCare for Cudeca

Fuengirola. 11 March, from 9am. CR and Petro's Hairdressers.
All proceeds raised by the businesses on the day will go to Cudeca Cancer Hospice. Live music, refreshments and paella available. For appts Petro's hairdressers tel: 952 467 130, CR's tel: 952 474 147.



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Milestone gig for Danza Invisible

BY TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. One of Malaga's most successful bands, Danza Invisible, is celebrating 35 years in the music business.

To mark their anniversary, the group is to perform a one-off concert in the municipal auditorium in Torremolinos on Saturday, 18 March.

Danza Invisible, considered one of the most important rock bands during the 1980s, was part of the renowned Movida Madrileña, a counterculture movement that emerged during the first years of post-Franco Spain.

The group was founded in Torremolinos in 1981 by Ricardo Texidó, along with Chris Navas and Manolo Rubio.

Malaga singer Javier Ojeda became the band's lead vocalist in 1982.

Danza Invisible gained the public's attention after winning a rock competition in Jerez de la Frontera shortly after their formation.

This led to the production of their first record, 'Mis Ojos Hacia Ti', and this set them on the road

INFORMATION

► **When.** Saturday 18 March.

► **Where.** Principe de Asturias-Municipal Auditorium in Torremolinos.

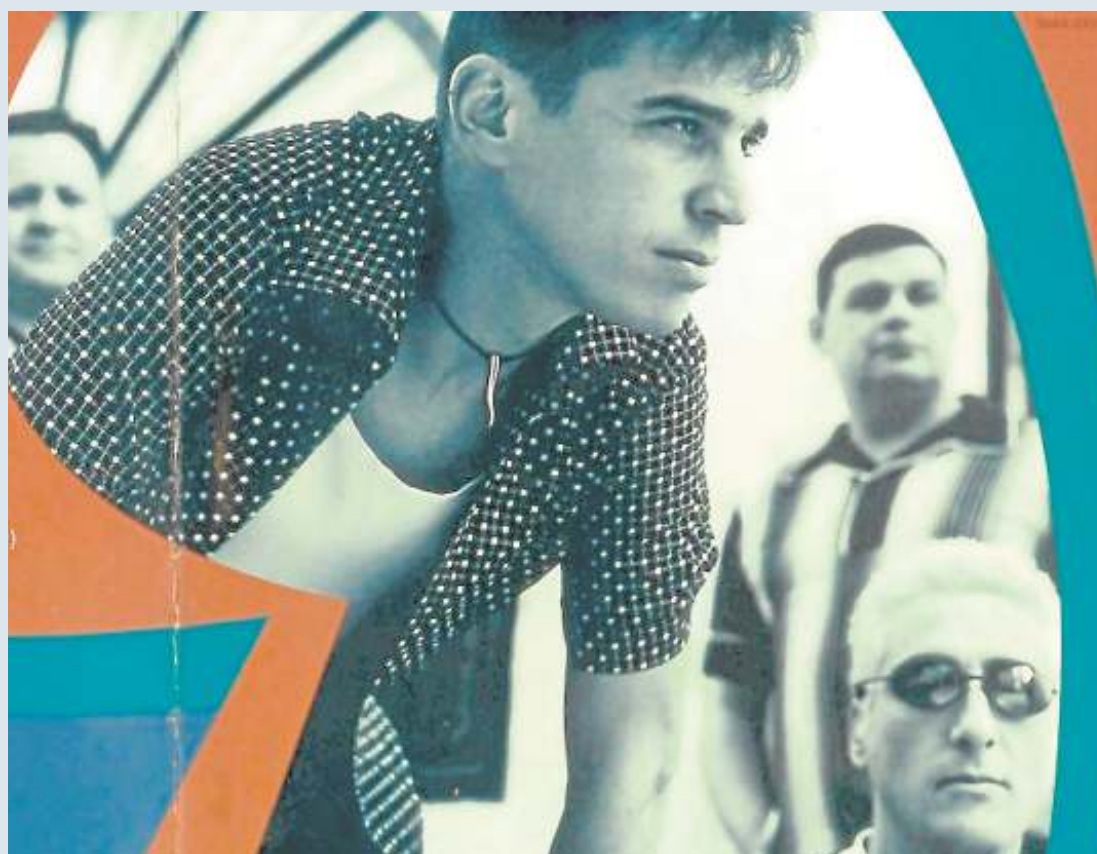
► **Tickets.**
www.clicktaquilla.com

to stardom.

The group has released 21 albums and 32 singles during their long career and they have received countless accolades and awards for their contribution to Spanish pop and rock music.

The band's musical career can be distinguished by two musical genres. The first is characterised by an alternative, avant-garde sound inspired by British groups like Simple Minds, U2 and The Police.

The second stage is characterised by a progressive approach towards black and Caribbean music.



Danza Invisible will celebrate their anniversary with a gig in Torremolinos on Saturday 18 March. :: SUR

More than 7,000 people turned up to see their last gig in Torremolinos in 2015, and promoters are expecting a large turnout for the thirty-fifth anniversary concert.

The band announced that the concert will include many of their most well-known hits, as well as

new material that will be performed live for the first time.

A string of hits during the late 1980s and early 90s, like 'Reina del Caribe', 'Sabor de Amor' and 'A Este Lado de la Carretera', kept the band firmly positioned in the Spanish music charts.

The group will be joined on

stage by some of Malaga's most celebrated musicians and so it promises to be a night full of surprises.

Tickets for the concert, which will take place in the municipal auditorium at 9pm, cost 16 euros in advance, or 20 euros on the door.

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CHARITY

Shenanigans with the Goldies Calahonda. 18 March, 6.30pm. The Millenium. 10€

A Cudeca Goldies charity event with Sam Oliver, Deborah Dee, Reality International Duo, Jochen Janz, Tina Hall, Carl Coulton, Susan Mohr, One Wish Steve among others. Tickets: tel: Steve 952 934 793

MUSIC & DANCE

The Wall Bar

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

3 March. Play On. Alberto Soler (bass) and Lola Casemeiro (vocals)

4 March Delirium Blues Fusion. Lourdes del Pino and Javier Esteve, vocals and guitar. Blues fusion.

Recital by Ángel Sanzo

Malaga. 4 March, 9pm. Sala Uni-



María Peláe, Malaga

caja de Conciertos, C/Marqués de Valdecañas. 10€

Pianist Ángel Sanzo will be in concert performing works by composers Mozart, Beethoven, Liszt and Ravel. www.fundacionunicaja.com

Málaga de Festival

White Room. 9 March, 6pm and 7pm. Museo Ruso San Petersburgo.

An audio-visual tribute to David Bowie. Two performances. Free.

The Blues Band

Almuñécar. 3 March, 8pm.

Auditorio Casa de la Cultura. Joaquín Sánchez blues band.

Nilo Mata Cervera

Almuñécar. 5 March. Iglesia de la Encarnación.

Violinist Nilo Mata Cervera will be performing Bach's 'Partita II' with other pieces of classical music.

Classical music concert

Almuñécar. 6 March. Auditorio de la Casa de la Cultura.

A classical music concert by the JJMM (Juventudes Musicales de Almuñécar) with Cristina Segura (mezzosoprano) and Josep Surinyac (piano).

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

Malaga. Teatro Cervantes

Carnival drag queen gala

BY TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. The first edition of the Gala Drag Queen del Carnival Gay will be held in Torremolinos on Saturday 4 March.

This colourful drag queen gala has been organised by the ACOGAT, gay business owners association of Torremolinos, and the cultural department of the town hall.

Lacquered wigs, brazen make-up and dazzling designs of all shapes and sizes will be on parade, and the judges will be looking for originality, imagination and personality.

The jury, which will consist of people associated with the fashion industry in Torremolinos, will also assess the drag queen's ease and grace when strutting their flamboyant designs on stage.

Hours will have been spent sticking sequins and feathers to ostentatious costumes that are limited only by the imagination of the person who is to wear it.

The event will begin in the Plaza La Nogalera at 9pm and it promises to be a festival that will contain all of the outrageousness associated with world of drag.

Aida Blanes, councillor for Culture, said, "This gala is the first in Torremolinos and it will be a very



Carnival kicks off with the drag queen gala on Saturday. :: SUR

INFORMATION

► **When.** 9pm, Saturday 4 March.

► **Where.** C/Plaza La Nogalera, Torremolinos.

► **Tickets.** Free entry.

colourful and exciting event. Let's hope that it grows and becomes one of the biggest gay carnivals in southern Spain."

The winner, along with those in second and third place, will go

on to participate in this year's edition of 'Pride de Torremolinos'.

This popular festival is based on the Gay Pride celebrations that traditionally take place all over the world throughout June.

The drag queen gala kicks off the 2017 edition of the Torremolinos carnival. The carnival begins with a gala in the municipal auditorium at 9pm on Monday night and continues until Sunday 12 March. Entry is free.

There will also be several events held in the Plaza La Nogalera and Plaza Costa del Sol throughout the week.

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9, 10 March, 8pm. Music by composers Shostakovich, William Walton and Edward Grieg. Conducted by Manuel Hernández Silva.

Auditorio Edgar Neville.

3 March 8pm. 'Fantasia Malagueña' by Gabriel Robles, 'Mercurial' for saxophone and orchestra by Eneko Vadillo and Beethoven's Symphony n° 4.

Mozart requiem

Granada. 11 March, 7pm. Auditorium Manuel Falla The International Choir 'Coraxalia' based in La Viñuela, will be performing Mozart Requiem with a full orchestra at the Choir Festival in Granada.

Dance championships MueBT Torremolinos. Until 4 March.

Auditorio Municipal Príncipe de Asturias. 5€ Dance competition with cash prizes. Categories include Artistic dance, Spanish dance, Formation dance, and Urban Hip Hop. Tickets www.unientradas.es or on door 10€. info@torremolinosbailando.com.

Sacred Music festival

Frigiliana. Casa de Aperos. 15€ 11 March, 8pm. 'The Spirituality of the great composers' with Carmen Ariza (mezzosoprano), Inmaculada Gómez (flute) and Antonio Mnazano (piano).

Alexandra Grocheva

Marbella. 5 March, 7pm. Cultural Centre Contemporary Art Kunsthau-Berlin, plo. La Nueva Campana. 5€ Pianist Alexandra Grocheva will be playing music by composers Bach, Schumann and Schostakovich. www.kunsthauBerlinmarbella.com



La Hinoja festival, Algatocin

Stars of the West End

Mijas Costa. 24 March. Teatro Las Lagunas Songs from "The Phantom of the Opera", "Les Misérables", "Jersey Boys" and many more. Tickets 20 or 25€ www.ticket-source.eu/bigmpromotions or tel: 952 661 819.

FLAMENCO

Flamenco show

Torremolinos. 4 March, 8pm. Mesón el Norte, Calle La Cruz A night of flamenco dancing and fine dining with Manuel Cortés and Oscar Barrio. Reservations tel: 667076709

V Biennial Flamenco de Málaga

Malaga. 3 March, 7.30pm. Teatro Cervantes. The opening gala with performance by the Flamenca de la Lupi company.

María Peláe

Malaga. 3 March, 8pm. La Cochera Cabaret Malaga singer María Peláe will be presenting her first disc 'Hipocondría'.

LECTURES

U3A Lectures

Fuengirola. Lux Mundi reference Library, free to members, guests 5€. www.u3acostadelsol.org **History and all that 1066.** 3 March, 11am-12.30pm After William the Conqueror's death. 10 March 'On to the Plantagenets' Course Leader: Kay White.

Mixed bag talk: 'A historical record of the measurement of time and 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 dreamt of creating artificial life. Speaker: Ian Phillips.

Debating and discussion group: 15 March, 1-2.30pm. The Motion for debate is: A two tier system of education should be encouraged by the introduction of new grammar schools. Proposed by Geoff Cooke

Science and Christian Faith

Estepona. Anglican chaplaincy house, C/Juan de Fuca, Beverley Hill. 6-7.30pm. www.costachurch.com **Space, time and the end of the universe.** 10 March.

FESTIVALS

Carnaval

La Cala de Mijas. 5 March 11.30am. Carnaval procession. **Marbella. Until 4 March.** **Torremolinos. From 6-12 March.** The Carnaval Gay I Gala Drag Queen competition on 4 March in La Plaza La Nogalera from 9pm.



A sea of green hats and coloured wigs. :: TONY BRYANT

St Patrick's party

TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. Torremolinos is to celebrate St Patrick's Day in the Plaza de la Nogalera on Saturday 18 March.

A traditional party has been organised by the Irish Association of Spain and the cultural department of the Torremolinos town hall.

This will be the first time Torremolinos has officially celebrated the Apostle of Ireland, and organisers have pulled out all the stops to ensure it will now continue to be a regular event.

The party, which will commence at midday and continue until 6pm, will include performances by the Celtic Dancers, who will deliver a repertoire of Irish folk dances. The event will also feature a wide selection of bands, dancers, singers and artists.

INFORMATION

► **When:** Midday until 6pm. Saturday 18 March.

► **Where.** Plaza la Nogalera, Torremolinos.

► **Tickets** Free entry.

There will also be children's entertainment and prizes for the best dressed party-goers.

Visitors will be able sample good old-fashioned Irish stew, as well as beef burgers, hotdogs and Coddle, a traditional stew of sausages, pork and bacon, normally found only in Dublin.

Of course, a bar will be erected in the square so revelers can enjoy a glass or two of Guinness.



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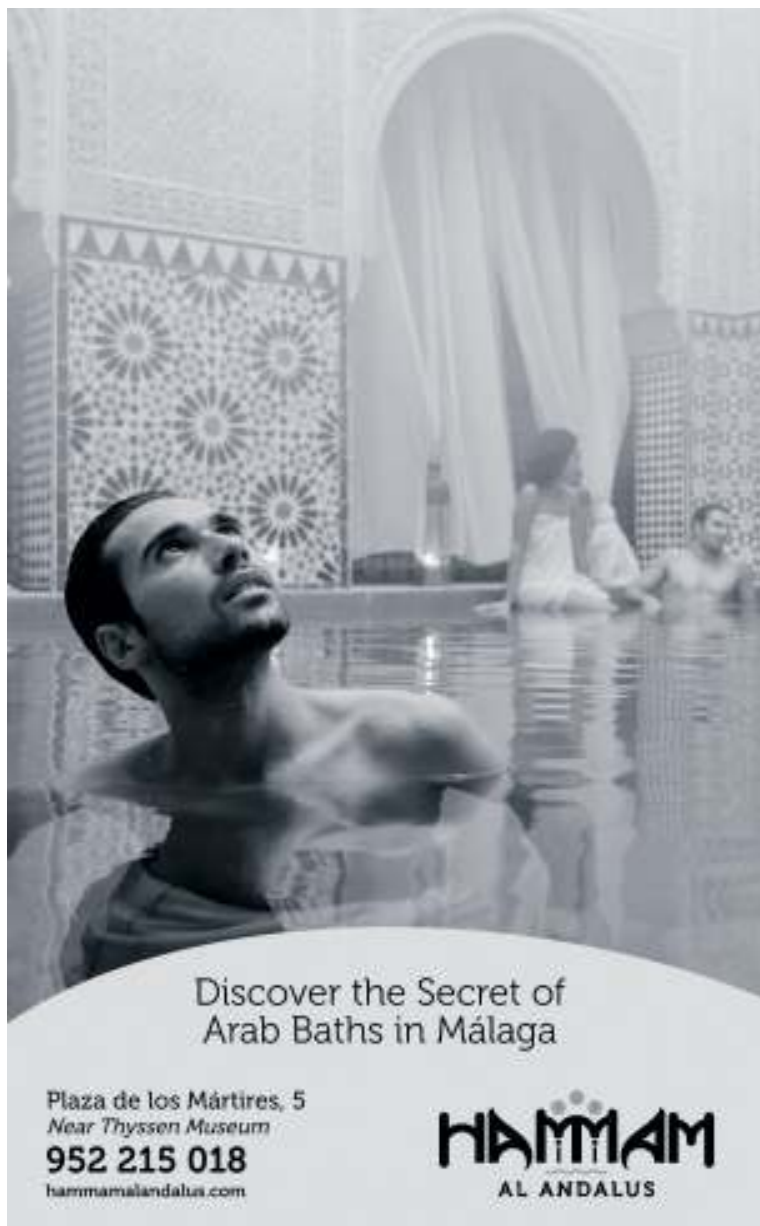
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FESTIVALS

La Hinoja

Algatocín. 4, 5 March

A culinary fiesta in honour of the 'hinojo' (fennel). Traditional dishes made with wild fennel will be on offer. Live music and dance performances.

EVENTS

World Woman's Day of prayer

Torre del Mar. 4 March, 5pm Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre.

This year the worship service focuses on "Am I being unfair to you?" Matthew 20:1-16. Prepared by women of the Philippines.

RAFA social meeting

Alhaurín el Grande. 6 March, from midday. The Black Horse.

The Costa del Sol branch of the Royal Air Forces Association is holding a social meeting with quiz and raffle. Lunch and tapas available.

O. V. FILM

SUR in English advises calling cinemas to check for any last minute time changes. Lunchtime and late night screenings weekends only.

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

La La Land: 18.00, 22.15

Wagon Master: 20.00

Fences: 16.00, 20.00

Jackie: 20.35

T2 Trainspotting: 18.30, 22.15

Cinesur El Ingenio

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

T2 Trainspotting: 17.10

La La Land: 17.00 (Mon-Thurs)

Logan: 12.00 (every day), 16.30, 19.20, 22.00 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)

Jackie: 15.55, 18.05, 20.10, 22.20 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)

The Healer: 12.25 (every day), 15.55, 18.15, 20.20, 22.25 (Tues)

50 Shades Darker: 16.30 (Tues)

Split: 10.05 (Tues)

Cinesur Miramar

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

Logan: 12.00, 16.40, 19.15, 21.55, 00.30

Split: 20.05 (Tues)

The Healer: 12.20, 16.00 (every day) 17.00 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)

The Great Wall: 18.20 (Tues)

T2 Trainspotting: 22.30

Fences: 16.05

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Logan: 17.45, 20.15, 22.15 (every day)

Manchester by the Sea: 17.30

(Frid, Sat, Sun); 20.00 (every day)

T2 Trainspotting: 22.30 (every day)

La La Land: 16.35 (Sat, Sun);

22.15 (Thurs)

Sing: 12.00 (Sun); 15.45 (Sat, Sun)

50 Shades Darker: 20.05 (Frid,

Sat, Sun); 17.40 (Mon-Thurs)

The Great Wall: 15.50 (Sat, Sun)

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La La Land: 14.40 (Sat, Sun)

Logan: 16.45, 19.30, 22.15 (every day)

Musica Con Encanto

Iglesia de la Virginia, Marbella.

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Children of the Beijing Opera: 4

March, 7pm. 10€ (a film by Don

Kent. English sub titles)

Cinesa

La Cañada, Marbella.

The Green Hell: 7 March, 8.15pm.

Narrated by Murray Walker with

interviews with Sir Jackie

Stewart, Niki Lauda, Sir Stirling

Moss, Lewis Hamilton and other

famous racing drivers.

www.cinesa.es/Eventos/the-green-hell

'Kindly leave the stage'



The cast in a previous production (Going Green). :: SUR

:: RACHEL ARMSTRONG

MARBELLA. An evening of laughter is promised by the International Theatre Studio Marbella as their next production, 'Kindly Leave the Stage', opens on 10 March for three nights at the Atalaya Park Hotel. Guests are invited to a dinner party with a difference; the play opens with a major row between the host and hostess. The guests, also a married couple who both happen to be solicitors, offer to handle divorce proceedings for the quarrelling pair before the actors appear to wander off script and reveal some shocking "real life" secrets.

Written by John Chapman and directed by Peter Brooks, a long-

INFORMATION

► **What.** A play within a play by the amateur dramatics group ITS.

► **When.** 10, 11 March 8pm. 12 March 7pm.

► **Where.** Atalaya Park Hotel.

standing member of ITS, the fast-paced comedy contains a clever entwining of a play within a play.

Peter, who has been involved with ITS since he moved to San Pedro in 1991, has directed various productions for the amateur dra-

matics group over the years. Speaking to SUR in English, he said this one offers something different for their audience; "It's a great, fast-moving comedy, but also gives [them] a chance to think".

Having served the International Theatre Studio well over recent years, refurbishment plans at Atalaya Park mean it is likely that the amateur dramatic group will use this production to bid the hotel a fond farewell as they are forced to look for a new performance venue.

Tickets are 13€ (10€ for members) and available from the usual outlets or call 639 265 912.

For more information: www.internationaltheatrestudio.org



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Gavel attempts to block Nedovic's advances. :: ALEX KLUGE

Unicaja on the ropes after first leg EuroCup defeat to Bayern Munich



Joan Plaza's side were thoroughly outclassed by the German outfit, with Friday's match of utmost importance now for Unicaja to keep their semi-final hopes alive

BAYERN 91 UNICAJA 82

MALAGA. Bayern Munich won the first match of a best of three quarter-final against Unicaja in Bavaria on Tuesday evening. Just as they did in the Copa del Rey against Barcelona, Plaza's side failed to match the Germans physically and paid a heavy price for their shortcomings.

The game did not begin well for the visitors at all, with two consecutive losses of the ball from Ne-

dović and the inefficient Lafayette foreshadowing things to come. Bayern imposed their physical intensity immediately but Unicaja initially managed to counteract the threat with their play in the centre of the court.

Nevertheless, the German side, and Taylor in particular, managed to nullify Nedović, just as Barcelona had managed to in the Copa del Rey, which forced both Musli and Brooks to take on the responsibility of scoring the visitors' points. The duo filled in well and ensured Plaza's side only trailed by a point midway through the first quarter.

Unfortunately for Unicaja, Bayern stepped up their game and through three three-pointers they extended their lead to six points very quickly. Unicaja's reaction was immediate and a three-point basket from Smith kept the visitors within touching distance of their hosts, the latter ending the first quarter 21-18 ahead.

Bayern Munich reached another level physically at the beginning of the second quarter, and it caused the first real problems for their Spanish counterparts. Nine points without reply from the German outfit forced

Plaza to call a time out. Although the Malaga side managed to regroup following the break, it proved to be insufficient in preventing Bayern from adding further points onto the scoreboard, as the hosts ended the quarter leading 42-36.

It was a strange first half for the Malaga side, who failed to show their true potential and had only managed to score four three-pointers from a possible seven, an aspect of the game from which Unicaja are usually strong.

Sadly, the situation would deteriorate early in the third quarter when three-point baskets from Kleber and Lučić saw Bayern add a further twelve points with just a solitary reply from Unicaja, really putting them on the back foot.

Omić's poor display with his shooting only made matters worse for Plaza's team and piled further pressure on their defence. Fogg came on as a consequence of the Bosnian's inefficiency and added a bit more rhythm to their play as they succeeded in reducing the deficit to eight points.

However, despite the additional rhythm provided by Fogg, Unicaja continued to lack consistency to overturn the German side's lead and with

the ruthlessness of Zirbes, the highest scorer in the match, Munich kept themselves at a fair distance from Unicaja with the score 66-56 going into the final quarter.

The first few minutes of the last period of play was fatally damaging for Plaza and his team, who conceded seven points while scoring just two meaning that Bayern now led by some 15 points with just seven minutes remaining. The Germans seemed to take their foot off the gas as coach Đorđević withdrew Zirbes, which appeared to give their visitors renewed energy.

The Spanish side scored sixteen points and conceded just four to drag the score back to 81-76 with two-and-a-half minutes remaining. Unfortunately, the Malaga side had left themselves too much to do in such a short space of time against a very professional side who then made sure of their victory and a 1-0 lead in the three-match tie with further baskets from American duo Booker and Johnson.

The sides will meet again on Friday night in Malaga in what is a must-win game for Unicaja.

Trocaero Marbella come close to upsetting leaders Liceo Francés

MARBELLA 17 LICEO FRANCÉS 22

:: SUR

MARBELLA. Trocaero Marbella pushed Liceo Francés de Madrid to the limit despite a 17-22 home loss to the league leaders.

The hosts also had to deal with a sending off, which was shown to one of their players after he received a second yellow card.

The leaders arrived in Marbella undefeated, and therefore the hosts' gameplan consisted of using the counter-attack as an outlet.

The tactic worked immediately as Tim Louw went over within five minutes following good work from Lucas Pomposiello.

The score seemed to anger the beast in Liceo Francés, as they responded with two tries of their own on the fifteen and thirty-minute marks, which saw them go into half-time 12-5 up.

Marbella reduced the deficit 12 minutes into the second half through Augusto Nuñez, after Gastón Fernández had started the move from his own 22-metre line, before Kike González put Marbella in a strong position with 20 minutes remaining when his try put the hosts 17-12 ahead.

However, a second try for the Liceo Francés hooker and the fatal score a few minutes from the end after the red card saw the leaders keep their unbeaten run going and their lead at the top intact, while Marbella remain in sixth.



Tim Louw scoring the first try of the game. :: CALIPPO PHOTOS

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A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports
@robbopalmer



Out with a flourish

Luis Enrique chose the perfect time to announce he'll be stepping aside

The first time I encountered Luis Enrique was by the pool of the Barcelona team hotel as he sunned himself just hours before a major game.

"Just look at him" said Bobby Robson, "he looks like he's just off his yacht."

As a player he was nonchalant, and initially as a manager he was coolness personified.

He took training sessions in his shades and strolled the match day touchline in his deck shoes, jeans and jacket. His self-confidence and brashness rubbed off on the players and the silverware piled up.

His enthusiasm shone through and he was the epitome of the modern boss.

Three years on he's developed that twitch that managers get. Living the job twenty-four hours a day takes its toll and both mental and physical health begins to suffer.

Pep Guardiola was so affected he needed to take a year off. In my early reporting days I saw firsthand how Kenny Dalglish suffered and the relief on Roy Evans when he relinquished the Liverpool job.

Recently Steve Bruce admitted the demands of the job at Hull were taking its toll, and when he returned after a rest he looked a man restored.

So it's absolutely no surprise to anyone within the game that Enrique announced he's to step aside. He admitted: "The reason is the way in which I live this profession, it

means very few hours of rest."

It was just a question of timing. After hammering Sporting Gijón 6-1 and taking top spot from Real Madrid, it was the ideal time to break the vital news. It means he can concentrate all of his energies on claiming his third league and cup double in three years as manager while Mrs Enrique plans their getaway.

His final game is due to be the Copa del Rey final and in recent weeks new life has been breathed into the Liga season as Real Madrid have stumbled.

Barça won't rush into the replacement and have said that the announcement will be made on July 1st.

The media favourite is Jorge Sampaoli whose brash style has illuminated the Spanish league since he took hold of Sevilla. He is living up to the reputation built is South America and then as the Copa America-winning Chile coach.

The establishment choice may



Luis Enrique's reign is drawing to a close. :: EFE

be Ernesto Valverde who is time served and is doing a sturdy job at Athletic Bilbao. There is a theory that there should be a link to the club and he was a player at the Camp Nou for two years.

If they don't go for the maverick Sampaoli or statesman Valverde then it could be Mauricio Pochettino of Tottenham who is well known in the town for his fine work at Espanyol. He's young by managerial standards, encourages stylish

football and of course he's a fellow countryman of Lionel Messi.

My wildcard is Albert Celades who is currently the Spain under 21 coach, born in Barcelona and a midfielder in the Louis Van Gaal era.

Real Madrid will be fuming, they are having an excellent season but Barcelona will be grabbing the headlines as the speculation goes into overdrive for the next few months

Ill-tempered Marbella see title hopes dented with loss to Lorca

Two red cards and Nafti sent to the stands compounded a miserable day at the Municipal for the Costa side who are now six points adrift

MARBELLA 1 LORCA 2

Julio Rodríguez

MARBELLA. Marbella suffered their second defeat in two games, this time to league leaders Lorca at the Estadio Municipal on Sunday.

The game was played at a high intensity and both teams showed a lot of fight from start to finish, but it was the tactical astuteness of the Murcia side that saw them claim all three points.

Their cause however was aided by an extremely indisciplined performance from the hosts, who had both manager Medhi Nafti and defender Tiri sent off.

The first half was an extremely even contest with both sides pushing to take the lead. It was Marbella goalkeeper Ángel Bernabé who was forced into action first, getting a firm hand to splendidly save Molo's header from point-blank range. However, the crossbar came to the keeper's rescue some minutes later when another header, this time from Borja García, had Bernabé beaten.

Marbella would also have two chances in a half, but neither Okoye nor Kike Márquez's freekick really threatened Lorca goalkeeper Dorronsoro's goal. As the half wore on,

tactical fouls became more and more frequent, with neither side wanting to lose the midfield battle.

The numerous fouls eventually provoked a severe response from referee López Puerta, who brandished no fewer than seven yellow cards to Marbella in the first half, before sending manager Nafti to the stands in the 32nd minute for his protests regarding the serious punishments handed out to his team.

There was a feeling that the game would not end 11 versus 11 at full time, and that sentiment was confirmed in the 57th minute when Tiri was shown a second yellow card for a foul which provoked very few complaints from the visiting side.

Lorca smelt blood with Marbella now down to ten men, and the visitors' threat on the counter attack induced a bombardment on Bernabé's goal. Two reflex saves from the keeper prevented Lorca from

taking the lead after good play down the right, but he could do nothing about Manu Onwu's header three minutes later, which gave the Murcia team the lead.

Bernabé continued to be kept busy due to Lorca's domination, but after saving three efforts in the same attack, he was eventually beaten again, this time from a Rojas header as Lorca doubled their lead with more than twenty minutes remaining.

That was enough time for Kike Márquez to halve the deficit from a freekick, and substitute Ze Turbo also had a chance to equalise, but with another second yellow, this time for Delmonte, and Lorca demonstrating why they were the league leaders with an extremely strong defensive performance, the visitors held out for the last few minutes.

Their lead over second-placed Cartagena is now at two points while Marbella sit six points adrift.

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TABLE & FIXTURES

MATCHDAY 25

Results

Granada - Alavés	2-1
Sevilla - Athletic	(THU) 2-2
Sociedad - Eibar	2-2
Valencia - Leganés	1-0
Osasuna - Villarreal	1-4
MALAGA - Betis	1-2
R. Madrid - Las Palmas	3-3
Deportivo - At. Madrid	(THU) 3-3
Barcelona - Sporting	6-1
Celta - Espanyol	2-2

Fixtures

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

LEAGUE TABLE

★ Champions League ■ Europa League ▼ Relegation

TEAM	PT.	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
★ 1. Barcelona	57	25	17	6	2	71	21
★ 2. R. Madrid	56	24	17	5	2	63	25
★ 3. Sevilla	52	24	16	4	4	48	29
★ 4. At. Madrid	45	24	13	6	5	44	21
■ 5. Real Sociedad	45	25	14	3	8	39	34
■ 6. Villarreal	39	24	10	9	5	32	18
7. Eibar	39	25	11	6	8	41	33
8. Athletic	38	24	11	5	8	31	29
9. Espanyol	36	25	9	9	7	35	33
10. Celta	35	24	10	5	9	39	39
11. Alavés	33	25	8	9	8	25	31
12. Las Palmas	29	25	7	8	10	35	39
13. Valencia	29	25	8	5	12	35	43
14. Betis	27	24	7	6	11	25	38
15. MALAGA	26	25	6	8	11	32	42
16. Leganés	21	25	5	6	14	20	40
17. Deportivo	19	23	4	7	12	26	39
▼ 18. Granada	19	25	4	7	14	24	53
▼ 19. Sporting	17	25	4	5	16	27	54
▼ 20. Osasuna	10	25	1	7	17	25	59

as Álex Martínez's stock continues to grow. Marcelo Romero reacted by sending Jony on for the ineffective Keko, who delivered a very different performance from the one the fans saw from him last Monday.

The 25-year old substitute's impact was notable, and just have the hour mark he had an effort deflected behind for a corner as he attempted to drive Malaga's attack to regain the lead. The resulting set piece produced another chance, but Ignacio Camacho failed to keep his composure and blazed over.

Betis' early second-half dominance was on the wane, and it nearly coincided with Malaga retaking the lead in the 72nd minute. Substitute Javi Ontiveros' run eventually made its way to Jony at the back post, but he unnecessarily cut inside onto his right foot and then scuffed his shot with his weaker foot.

It was a glorious opportunity which the Blue and Whites would rue a minute later when a misplaced header from Martín Demichelis fell perfectly for former Barcelona B and

Roma striker Tony Sanabria, whose finished mirrored that of Jonas' earlier in the half as he dinked it over Kameni who had once again premeditated and gone to ground too early.

Marcelo Romero would have been hoping for at least one more golden opportunity, and it arrived with just over ten minutes to go.

Sadly, Charles failed to hit the target with his right-foot effort after Jony's excellent work and cross from the left-hand side.

The winger's display was a huge improvement on the proceedings on the left-hand side following a rather poor performance from Chory Castro, and his runs produced a series of corners for the hosts. Two more chances to equalise came as a result of the corners, but Malaga's third and final substitute Youssef En-Nesyri headed over and Demichelis smashed his left-footed effort straight at former Real Madrid keeper Adán.

Marcelo Romero's men pushed to the very final second, but a lack of precision in attack proved to be their nemesis once again as they suffered their second defeat in four days.



Adrián González bagged goals either side of half time. :: AGENCIES

Eibar striking duo begin Malaga's miserable week

The 3-0 defeat signalled a dreadful start to the double-game week for Marcelo Romero, who rested players with Tuesday's game in mind

by K. VAGHELA

A brace from Adrián González and a volley from Sergi Enrich ensured ten-man Malaga suffered a demoralising 3-0 defeat against Eibar at the Ipurua Municipal Stadium on Saturday night.

Adrián put the hosts in firm control with two goals either side of half time, before Enrich added the third.

Marcelo Romero's misery was then compounded by the sending off of right-back Roberto Rosales for a second bookable offence with twenty minutes remaining.

It was an extremely lethargic start to the game from both sides and for most parts of the first half Malaga seemed to struggle to get out of their own half in the absence of captain Ignacio Camacho, with Pablo Fornals and Michael Santos largely anonymous. The Blue and Whites' only shot of the half came when a ball over the top by Diego Llorente found the Uruguayan, who fired into the side netting from a tight angle.

At the other end, Pedro León had plenty of joy on the Eibar right-hand side, and the former Real Madrid and Getafe winger would help Eibar take the lead in the last meaningful action of the first period.

He played a one-two with Ander Capa, who consequently played a clever through-ball to a marginally offside Sergi Enrich, who squared for Adrián to tap home.

Eibar then effectively killed the game off in the first ten minutes of the second half. Adrián sent Carlos Kameni the wrong way from the penalty spot after Juankar had brought down Pedro León, before Enrich fizzed a volley past the Cameroonian for his 10th goal of the season.

Malaga attempted to respond, but substitutes Charles and Javi Ontiveros failed to really test goalkeeper Yoel Rodríguez.

Five minutes after Takashi Inui's seemingly harmless long-range effort was tipped onto the post by Kameni, Rosales saw red after his challenge on Adrián earned him a second yellow card.

Eibar were content with their lead and professionally saw out the last twenty minutes, even though Yoel was forced to deny Santos right at the death from Fornals' clipped pass.

OPINION

CALLING FOR CALM IN THE STORM

by KISHAN VAGHELA

The victory over Las Palmas must seem like a distant memory for Marcelo Romero at the moment.

Consecutive defeats to Eibar and Real Betis have raised fresh concerns regarding the side's ability to build on the good foundations reestablished at the club following Juande Ramos' resignation.

This week has proved to be a nadir in the 40-year-old's short managerial tenure at La Rosaleda, and although supporters must not lose sight of the improvements his side have already made, it is simultaneously difficult to look past their flaws.

Ultimately, the team are failing to play as exactly that, with each section on the field appearing disjointed and isolated.

The strikers have felt the consequential effects, with both Charles and Michael Santos seeing very little of the ball lately. Such disorganisation is conducive to the most prominent feature of Malaga's season, inconsistency, especially amongst the younger squad members.

Keko and Pablo Fornals gave the Malaga crowd a glimpse of their extremely promising futures against Las Palmas, however a week later they cut frustrated and solitary figures.

Adalberto Peñaranda is probably in the same frame of mind, wondering what he must do to win his place in the team back.

Nevertheless, youth has largely led the resurgence under Romero with a slight tinge of experience added, and there is little reason why it cannot be a formula that reaps the rewards of, and through, perseverance.

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From couch potato to marathon junkie

A 34-year-old from Gibraltar was cheered around Sotogrande recently as he ran the marathon distance to raise funds for The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity

■ RACHEL ARMSTRONG

SOTOGRADE. Simon Jacobs, who was due to run his third marathon in the space of a year, refused to take 'no' for an answer as extreme rain and flooding forced organisers to call the Malaga Marathon off in December. Having raised 1,500 pounds for the cancer charity, a cause very close to his heart, he felt he owed it to his sponsors to complete the 42 kilometre challenge regardless of the official marathon being cancelled.

On 30 January the rain held off as Simon set off with two friends and his fiancée in tow. His fiancée, Jessica, and a friend, Stefan, ran 10km for the first time before turning into Jacobs' support team, cheering him and Ashley Bolton on for the remaining 32km. The run was one in a long line of races he has completed in aid of the cancer charity.

Simon completed the distance in 5:22:17, having to allow for a few water and stretching stops. He told SUR in English of his aim to achieve a time under the five-hour mark but how, unfortunately, tight hamstrings resulted in a much slower final 12km than he had hoped for.

Despite his disappointment when the Malaga Marathon was cancelled, Jacobs acknowledged that safety must come first and, with "the onslaught of torrential rain" that hit the Spanish coastal city on 4 December, he conceded that it was never really an option for organisers to go ahead.

A lifestyle change

From a self-confessed couch potato to marathon-mad, Simon has transformed his lifestyle in the past few years. Despite having always been a

fan of sport, in the past he "preferred to enjoy it from the comfort of the sofa". Now trainers are the first thing he packs in his suitcase, regardless of where he is travelling.

When asked what it was that first dragged him away from the sofa, Simon revealed: "Back in December 2014, a good friend, Ashley Bolton, asked if I would be interested in running with him". This was taken as a light-hearted, throwaway comment over their regular get-together for

year-old describes the feeling of crossing the finish line after 42 kilometres as both a 'relief' and 'humbling'. "By no means am I the best runner in the world," he admitted. "I would classify myself as an enthusiastic participant. The feeling of knowing I have done as much as I possibly could to support The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity is really what keeps me going on all of these challenges".

Simon's family have experienced cancer first-hand as his father was diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer in 2009. He received all of his treatment at The Royal Marsden Hospital in London, which the family describe as "a truly wonderful hospital full of wonderful members of staff".

Through his running challenges, Jacobs has raised £6,237 for the charity so far. He said: "By supporting The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity, we're supporting four key areas; research, diagnosis, treatment and care. Fortunately, I have been able to see all of these processes in action at The Royal Marsden Hospital and it literally changed our lives, so anything I can do to support such a wonderful place, truly is a privilege."

Had someone told Simon, as he sat and enjoyed his tapas and vino back in December 2014, that he was about to embark on a journey that would see him complete two full marathons and over seven half marathons in the next two years, he would have thought they were raving mad: "I'm grateful that Ash introduced me to running as I never thought it would be possible to achieve the things I have over the past couple of years. Physically, running has helped me lose over 25kg but, most importantly, I have made new friends and experienced things that I never dreamt would be possible."

Simon hopes to increase the total he has raised for The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity to £10,000 by participating in a couple more marathons in the near future; his sights are set firmly on Malaga 2017 (weather permitting) and London 2018.

Simon (right) running in Sotogrande with his fiancée, Jessica, and friend, Stefan. ■ SUR

tapas and a few drinks; that is, until Simon found himself running around the Rock of Gibraltar on a regular basis.

"Not content with non-competitive running, Ash suggested we enter the Estepona 10km Run and this was soon followed by the Gibraltar Half Marathon and the start to my running challenges."

Since his first casual run in January 2015, Simon has completed more than seven half marathons, including Marbella, Sancti Petri, Seville and London Royal Parks, and two full marathons (Malaga 2015 and Rome 2016) as well as the recent Monday morning run in Sotogrande.

Originally from London, the 34-



Azahara Muñoz won the Women's Open last year. ■ SUR

Malaga to host golf tournaments in bid to promote Costa del Sol as tourist destination

Both amateur and professional golf competitions will take place in the province to show the sport's importance in the area

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MALAGA. The province of Malaga will play host to a series of amateur and professional golf tournaments this year as it attempts to consolidate the sport as a key part of tourism in the Costa del Sol.

Among the tournaments to be contested in the province are the European Tour, the second most important competition after the PGA, the Andalucía Valderrama Masters, the Open de España Femenino, which is part of the Ladies European Tour schedule, and the Challenge de Andalucía Match Play.

Such tournaments bring in around 900 million euros a year through direct and indirect income, making them a major factor, according to the president of the Turismo Costa del Sol, Elias Bendodo, "in helping us to manage the seasonal nature of tour-

ism in the area."

He also added that, through working with the Sport Destination brand it has aided them in their bid to make the Costa del Sol an ideal destination for the celebration of a wide range of sporting events.

The Andalucía Masters will take place between 19 and 22 October, after the competition's re-inauguration last year after a five-year absence.

Englishman Andrew Johnston won the event last year, with Sergio García finishing in third position.

The Open de España Femenino will be held for the second consecutive year in the province, although the date and location of the tournament has yet to be confirmed.

The golf season began in January with amateur Andalucía Cup male and female competitions which were won by Dane Marcus Svensson for the men and Ivon Reijers from Catalunya in the women's event.

The Open de España for disabled people was also contested on 1 February, and was won by Juan Pos-tigo from Cantabria.

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JAPANESE Stunning goddess. Tantric and sexual body/to/body massage. Very good sexual services. Hotel and home visiting. Luxury private discreet apartment. Fuengirola. 673253870

THAI beautiful sexy lady to provide you with the latest erotic services. Enjoy comfort Body/to/body massage, Tantric massage, chest massage, happy end. Private apartment. Opposite Hotel Las Palmeras Fuengirola. Visits. 602382363

COMPLIANT Genuine couple (willing wife and knowing husband) offer an incredibly sexual and unique experience to ladies, couples and gentlemen. Indulge your fantasy, be a voyeur, or simply enjoy very special pleasures with us. Private apartment in Nueva Andalucia or out calls 685189518

ESTEPONA Marta mature, luscious, deep Greek. Outcalls. 24h. Visa 680966710



DISCRETION and Privacy. Los Boliches. Jessica, dark skin sexy 27, Private apartment. 10am to 8pm. 617818615

FUENGIROLA PORT THE FAMOUS SEVEN YEARS ESTABLISHED 5 STAR APARTMENT. ONLY ONE MINUTE WALK FROM THE LONDON PUB. WE HAVE THE ONLY GENUINE NO HIDDEN EXTRAS GUARANTEE ON THE COAST. YOU GET EXACTLY WHAT YOU PAY FOR. OUR PUSSIES GIVE THE FULL TIME. YOU DON'T LEAVE EARLY! THIS IS WHAT YOU RECEIVE ALL INCLUSIVE. STEP ONE MIND-BLOWING ORAL SEX. STEP TWO ANY POSITION STEAMY SEX, CUM TWICE IF YOU CAN. STEP THREE FULL BODY2BODY MASSAGE. PRICES INCLUDING A DRINK. 30.MINS/40.EUROS. RECOMMENDED THE HOUSE SPECIAL 45.MINS ONLY 50.EUROS OR THE FULL HOUR JUST 70 EUROS. MAYBE TWO GIRL COMBINATION. SEE A CHOICE OF PUSSIES IN OUR UNIQUE LOUNGE, DRESSED IN HEELS AND EXOTIC UNDIES. THEN ENTER ONE OF OUR FULLY EQUIPPED BOUDOIRS CONTAINING PORN DVDS, TOYS, DRAPED BEDS, ON HAND SHOWERS HOT AND COLD RUNNING PUSSIES. ENJOY THE RIDE! OPEN MON TO FRI 11AM TO 8.00 NIGHT. NOW OPEN SAT 11AM TO 5PM. CLOSED SUN. ALL CALLS ANSWERED IN ENGLISH. PUSSIE PHONE NUMBERS 661064376/600878610. FUENGIROLA PORT OFTEN COPIED BUT NEVER NEVER EQUALLED! YOUR BUSINESS IS OUR PLEASURE. CUM SOON. ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW GIRLS!!

NVA. ANDALUCIA Casino. Fitness blonde girl, 25 years. Come to enjoy tantric massage, full service by magic hands. Private apartment. Pictures whatsapp 615379423

MELANYW 34. Dutch. Natural blonde. Mistress. In/ Outcalls. Fuengirola. 667407779

MARBELLA Centre. Andrea. Pretty, sexy... Erotic masseuse. Nuru, body2body, happy ending tantra. Total luscious. 697232876

BEAUTIFUL slim, model, tantra massage. Safe and clean place. English speaker. www.annatantra.com 633060678

FUENGIROLA Beautiful mature brunette, elegant, clean, horny. Discreet. 632381963 Ludi

FUENGIROLA: Jennifer Exclusive! Horny, playful sexy lady! All services. 632381963

PETITE brunette. I love sex do you? Call me now! Couples welcome! Lia, Fuengirola 634168441 English spoken

PRETTY woman, Nikita, 1,65cm/45kgs. 84/60/84 Fantastic skills. Couples. Domination. Speak English. To feel good call Fuengirola 604235410

ARROYO Miel. Patricia 30-ish, Spanish, big breast. Receive with appointment. C/ Piscis, 2. 662477023

DUNGEON, roll play, domination, fantasies, squirting. Secluded facilities. www.lailalynch1.com 662913428

HUGE bust, Lina XL 37, relaxing massage, all services. Fluent English. Also outcalls. Fuengirola. 634163056

RAQUEL Young Brazilian brunette, sexy. Pº Maritimo, Nº23 Fuengirola 626039574

BENALMADENA Costa: Nice couple available for guys, ladies and couples. Private apartment. Outcalls. 631146803

SABRINA from New York City is back! OLD telephone numbers no longer exist! 628615737/ 605223348. NEW telephone nº 658189191. A full Exotic erotic body massage. Senior citizens 50% discount. Benal-madena Costa (Windmill round-about) 9am to 9pm only Appointments

PARTIES with no limits! Place yourself in the hands of the best escorts. Dreaming of a crazy night? Whatever you want! 8 spectacular girls. 24h. VISA. www.butterflygirls.es http://www.butterflygirls.es 951274723, 616368985

RIVIERA, wild Brazilian lover, affectionate and compliant. Vicky, 26, blonde. Amazing body. 50 ¿ 650237102

CALAHONDA, Laura, mature Spanish lady with perfect curves. A woman who'll drive you crazy. 650237145

MIRAFLORES, Natacha, black Colombian girl, beautiful, horny and wild. Fantastic legs, pert bottom. 24h. 608949543

NEAR Elviria, Mónica, Spanish, beautiful body, slim with natural tits. I'll make you feel like a king. www.butterflygirls.es http://www.butterflygirls.es 616368985

MIJAS, blonde Brazilian, pretty, sensual and very hot. A stylish lady who'll make you enjoy it more than anybody. 50 ¿ 650237102

CRISTAL, a lady without limits, long dark hair, uninhibited in bed. Couples, lesbian, Greek, French without. 24 h. 608949543

SADOMASOCHISM. Totally equipped dungeon. Leather and latex clothing, toys, fancy dress, very wild and passionate. 648814653

CANCELADA Brazilian, attractive, pleasing, very horny. 24h Escort. Discreet. 602891749

ESTEPONA/ San Pedro Alexia Brazilian 27, caring, friendly, pleasing. 24h Escort. 604109768

MARBELLA beautiful lady. Elegant brunette. Outcalls hotels 698329112

ESTEPONA: Young exotic Brazilian, nice body, pert ass, complete. I do massage sessions. Special services. Lots of erotic toys. Outcalls. Also hotels. 691030985

FUENGIROLA: Explosive blonde (27yrs). Superbody, massage and more. Visits. 645131273

DOMINATRIX from broad is demanding you let yourself go and fulfil your fantasies! Discretion works both ways. 691533101 Benal-madena Costa

FUENGIROLA: Saray Spanish, 21 beautiful, slim, tall, long hair. 603719177

FUENGIROLA: Oriental young beautiful Japaneses. Complete services. Outcalls. 24hrs. 693988340

40 EUROS: Elegant, sexy, blonde lady. Sweet, caring. Fuengirola. 625912315

NVA ANDALUCIA: Beautiful blonde, big tits, superbody, lingerie, sexual toys, 69, French watersports, massage. Discreet apartment. Visits. 645898573 Juliana

NVA ANDALUCIA: Gold black Brazilian girl, long legs, slim, big boobs, hot pussy. Private apartment. Visits. 603208873

ENGLISH Stephanie 33: Fuengirola (next to bus station). Size 8, 32GG very busty, long dark hair. No hidden extras, no upper age limit. Oral w/o, cim, passionate sex, massage. I love wearing heels and suspenders. Toys, shower. 30 mins 40E, 45 mins 50E, 1hr 70E. Avail Mon-Sat 10.30am - 7pm. Call, text, whatsapp 602636606. www.escortinmarbella.com

MARBELLA: Blonde Brazilian.. Do you want to taste a sweet inside my pussy? Massages. 619442117

BACK again!! Grandmother Karla, 150 breast, sexy, supercomplete. Prostatic massages. Hotels. 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. Andalucia. 634817450

SCANDINAVIAN mature blonde (55), slim & fit (size 10). Hotel visits only. 649181051

NEW FUENGIROLA: Ana 23 Paraguayan, blonde, 130 natural breast. 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 generous men voyeur/ participant. Riviera. Phone, text, whatsapp 602539075

FUENGIROLA: 51, Escort Lady. Superpits. Also hotels. Speak English. 632868590

LET YOURSELF be covered by our masseuses hands. Stimulate your senses. Welcome to the Tantra world. www.tantrazenn.com. 608016983

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

FUENGIROLA: Luana 30 Euros: Beautiful Brazilian, affectionate, elegant, French without, complete sex. Relaxing, prostatic massages. Discreet apartment. Pº Maritimo. Outcalls. 602419749

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

MARBELLA. Pretty Ebony 26 years, cum in mouth, Kissing 69 penetration, Massage, Suck without. Incalls/ outcalls. 612208005

PRIVATELY educated, well-spoken, well dressed, slim, sophisticated English Rose, looking to accompany business men for lunch/ dinner. Hotel meetings only. Discretion assured. 699859054

FUENGIROLA: Deluxe apartment with Cocktail bar. Señoritas VIP. 24hrs. 603719177

COIN Zarah, sexy slim mature English blonde, Oral great sex. GFE no rush service. Private villa. 681614955

TRY SOMETHING different, Asian, European amazing pleasure, multiorgasmic, luxury, San Pedro/ Banús. 618448131

ASIAN attractive lady, simpatihic, body-body, multiorgasmic, massage, stress free, luxury atmosphere, no rush. 604143788 Marbella.

NEW Argentinian, Asian, Russian multiorgasmic, sexy. Luxury atmosphere. Near Banús. 618448131

ASIAN Maria Polish, Latin. Authentic exotic massage, multiorgasmic, kissing, friends, friendly services, luxury atmosphere. New Marbella. 679126231

NEW Marbella. Polish, blonde, sexy, beautiful, enjoy erotic fashioned, sensual services. Luxury atmosphere. 604309812

DUSKY lady! Nice massage on bed! Only afternoons. Miraflores. 612257309

ESTEPONA: Natasha beautiful 39 years blonde, superbusty, pleasing, complete. 631627766

ESTEPONA Vanesa beautiful Caribbean 26, pleasing. Outcalls. 24h. Visa 680966710

MARBELLA Carmen, Mature 602475138, kissing, big ass, Greek, French till end. Avenida Arias Maldonado 1, Iberest 1, apt 3-G

HELLO there!! I'm slim, brunette, mature, looking for 1 hour or more of complete and total passion. Marbella. 674946727

NVA. ANDALUCIA: New Sara beautiful blonde, busty, pert ass. French. Greek. Outcalls/ Hotels. 602438426

Male

MALE to male, full body massage, Mijas Pueblo. 609321958

FUENGIROLA Male to male full body massage. Very discreet, private villa. 634004512

ASIAN boy, 19, skinny and toned, mind blowing massage. Fuengirola area. In/out. 24hrs. 602595649

HANDSOME boy, superendowed. If you want unlimited sex and company, Call me 603202758

GOLFERS massage and other soothing rubs by young Asian guy. 662576394 Puerto Banus

Transvestites

TRANSSEXUAL Sophia, beautiful brunette, active/ passive, great bust, well hung. 662045252. Fuengirola. www.escortswow.es/sofiabiagg

ESTEPONA. Black transvestite. Deborah. 27cm. No limits. Outcalls. Visa. 660874904

NEW ESTEPONA: Transvestite feminine, caring, complete, superendowed, active/ passive. 631816160

MARBELLA center, Most elegant and pretty feminine Filipina trans for your sexual desires. In/ outcalls. 602493030

BENALMADENA: Transvestite, nymphomaniac, big breasts, 23cms, 100%active, multiorgasmic. Specializing young beginners. Outcalls. English spoken. www.anastasiatopstar.es 697592754

JAPANESE Geisha. Sensual, fun, friendly. Active/passive. Puerto Banus. 602414398

Massage

WWW.TANTRACENTER.ES PLEASURE WITHOUT LIMITS, SPECTACULAR MASSEUSE. MASSAGE EROTIC... WITH!!SHOCKING END! 952216145/ 644452369

SAYAN. Tantra massage for ladies, gentlemen & couples. Ultimate bliss at a very nice place. Fuengirola. 952586339 /608977260 www.masajessayan.es

DISCOVER the benefits of tantric massages! Feel the pleasure in your skin...635290724

FUENGIROLA Carolina, blonde, elegant, relaxing massage, full erotic massage. Whatsapp. Massage: 634797230

MAIAH, Fuengirola. Erotic, professional massage, body2body, happy ending. Miah, 647101046

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



www.masajesbudamalaga.com Luxury Tantra Spa with the best erotic massage and installations in the Coast. Relax & pleasure with beautiful girls. Tlf & Whatsapp 605265433

MARBELLA centre. New. Luxury center with wide selection of expert masseuse... Sensual, erotic. Nuru erotic tantra, body to body lingam and prostatic. Unique experience 4 hands, pleasant and exciting, double stimulation. Massage for couples. Open: 9:00am/9:00pm. Appointment: 952867663/ 690046233



FUENGIROLA: Madonna, Hot oil/horny massage with my boobs! Happy ending.632157758

MARBELLA. Mary, great body, super titts, best happy ending. 666291699

ESTEPONA: Beautiful Latina, elegant, sexy, loving. Private apartment. Discreet. 622152511

40 EUROS: Erotic, prostatic body2body massage. Happy ending. Fuengirola. 625912315

FUENGIROLA: Relaxing, Tantra massage. Silk hands. Ending optional. In/outcalls. 645131273

MATURE man, qualified masseur. Excellent massages for men. Torremolinos, Carihuela. 639040128

touch4men.com Professional Erotic man2man massage. Incalls Torremolinos. Outcalls Costa del Sol. 628746407

ESTEPONA: Brazilian masseuse, sexy, elegant, caring. Discreet. Private apartment. 622152511

EVA Jamaica and friend, professionals massage every part of your body, soft or strong, clean environment. San Pedro near Banús. 672994555

FUENGIROLA: Erotic Massage. For a mere 80 Euros/ hour enjoy a sensual experience with a delightful finale, from one of our attractive masseuses. 602570272

WWW.TANTRAFUENGIROLA.COM Laura and Natalia two gorgeous masseuses. Enjoy as never. You'll repeat. Fuengirola Center. 632881135 - 612272380

EXCLUSIVE masseuse, 47yrs, 120 bust, supercurves. All services. Benal-madena. 658763505

www.masajesbudamalaga.com Luxury Tantra Spa with the best erotic massage and installations in the Coast. Relax & pleasure with beautiful girls. Tlf & Whatsapp 605265433

MANILVA/ Duquesa. Mimi and friends are back. Columbian, polish, beautiful fun, sexy, relaxing erotic orgasmic massage. All service of your desire fantasies. Very discreet luxury atmosphere. English speaking. Incall/ outcalls. 602561732

ASIAN qualified offer an authentic professional massage relieve, pain and stress, luxury, private. Marbella center. 604143788

MALE to male massage for golfers and businessmen. Relax, release. Nueva Andalucia. 662576394

SHEMALE massage. New, exciting pleasures awaits. 602414398 Nueva Andalucia

Various

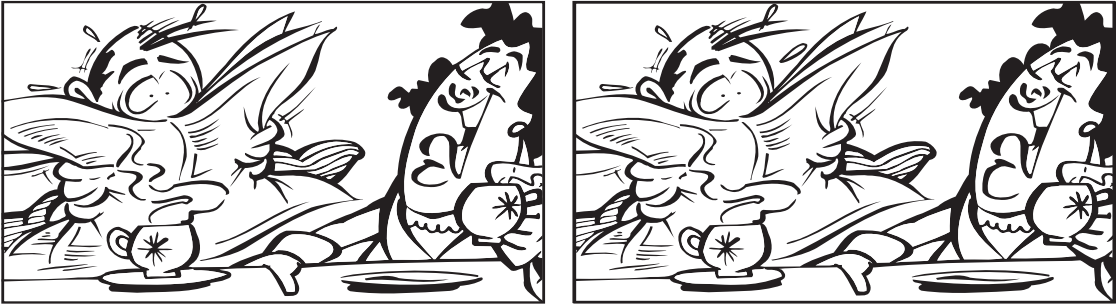
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THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES




THE STARS




Aquarius
January 21 - February 19
Prepare, this week, to speak your mind in the near future. Don't be taken for granted for the sake of keeping the status quo.




Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
This is an 'eye-opening' week. Love is up and down but in a strange kind of way it adds excitement.




Aries
March 21st - April 20th
This weekend is the calm before a busy period at work. Make the most of quality time with your family.




Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Some decisions are hard to shake off once made. Hold your passions in check midweek.




Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Socially you are drawn strongly to others. Going full steam ahead rather than taking a tentative approach could work very well for you now.




Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Cash flow eases to give you cause for optimism. This is not a signal to overspend, however.




Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Expect perfection and you could be disappointed. Go with the flow and it can be an enjoyable ride!




Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Love is never far from your thoughts right through this unusually relaxing week.




Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
There are more possibilities than you can see at the present time. Tying yourself to anything right now could be regretted later.



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
A trip out reminds you of someone in the past who made you laugh. Did this have a less than good ending?

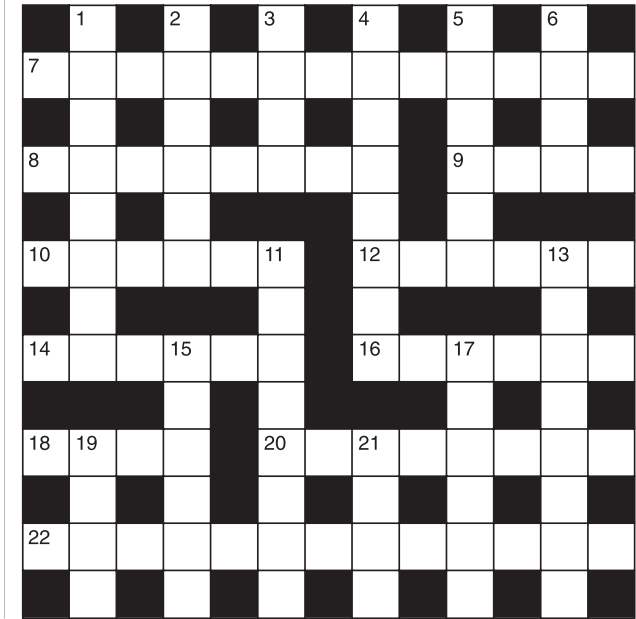


Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Be careful to make the right decisions as this week begins. When chances arise, grab them!



Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
You may be asked to agree to something that will give you extra work. Stay sharp and delay decisions.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11231



- Across**
7 Attache case! (10,3)
8 Mail rate revised for this stuff (8)
9 The account I had used for eating out (4)
10 It would be difficult to miss the artist's model (6)
12 Sailor told to go away (6)
14 Reductions put back by the company for wall facing (6)
16 Made a great effort to convert the voters (6)
18 See 20 Across
20 & 18 Ac They are taken by a couple at the match (8,4)
22 Do they have an air of detachment? (13)
- Down**
1 He's survived to the last round (8)
2 Timely attachment for a consort (6)
3 Politician surrounded by eleven warriors (4)
4 Latin is a different description of them (8)
5 Fights for things rejected (6)
6 Some of the formalities required for African state (4)
11 Presumably, you're willing to put up with him! (8)
13 Take the right course in the main (8)
15 Piece on board rejected by the French (6)
17 Not quite finishing off growing fruit (6)
19 Four of you started to do some evicting (4)
21 Measure the screen (4)

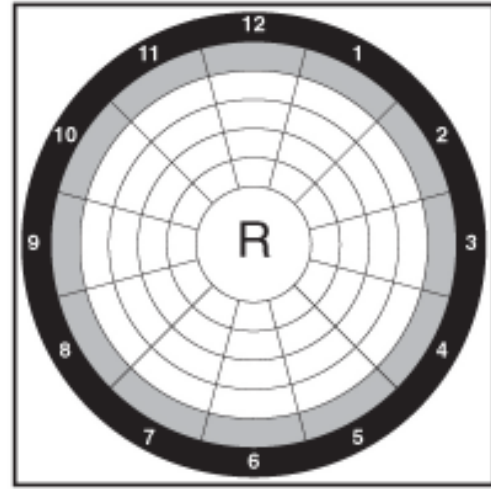
SUDOKU BY HANZO

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

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

CLOCKWORD

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter R in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a late Greek-American character actor.



1. Fear
2. Engraver
3. Food cupboard
4. More noisy
5. One who shouts
6. Tremble
7. Reply
8. Winner
9. Deer horn
10. Refuse
11. Fervour
12. Sibling

THE WORDPUZZLER

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

CAN you identify the words missing from the titles of the Jack Lemmon films listed below?

1. The Odd ---
2. The --- Syndrome
3. --- Down Below
4. The Front ---
5. A --- in the Theatre
6. ---Old Men
7. The --- Fools
8. Days of --- and Roses
9. --- Like It Hot
10. The Great ---

INTERNATIONAL RADIO

Talk Radio Europe
105.5 Axarquía
91.5 Costa del Sol East
91.9 Costa del Sol West
98.7 Gibraltar/Sotogrande
News, interviews, lifestyle, sport and BBC World Service.

Global (93.6 and 96.4FM)
All week round the clock music and entertainment

Radio Radio Network (96 and 98.3 FM). Music 24 hours.

Central FM (98.6 FM, 103.8)
All week, classic tracks and today's music broadcast to the Costa del Sol

ACE FM (106.8 FM)
Inland radio, news and music
The Beat fm (106 FM)
24 hours, music and entertainment

Spectrum (105.5 FM, Costa Almeria/Mojácar 92.6 FM)
24 hour music and entertainment

Radio Mijas (107.7 FM)
3 p.m. News, views and music

Radio Sol Almjara (99.1 FM)
Nerja radio in English and German and night time World Radio Network

HeartfmSpain (88.5 FM Costa, 96.1 FM inland) Music, entertainment, news

Lick FM (103.6 FM Marbella)
Urban music broadcast between Gibraltar and Calahonda

Rtv Puebla (107.7 FM)
Monday evenings, Rock music memories.
7 - 9pm. email: radiopuebla.musicmemories@yahoo.com
Fb: Radiotelevision Peubla de Cazalla

QUIZ

QUESTION 1
King George V and Queen Mary had how many children?
1. Seven
2. Six
3. Five
4. Four

QUESTION 2
Who did Ronald Reagan succeed as president of the USA?
1. George Bush snr
2. Jimmy Carter jnr
3. Gerald Ford
4. Bill Clinton

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

Across

1. Smuggler (14)

7. Success (5)

11. Andalusians (9)

12. Aunt (3)

13. To pray (4)

15. Falsely (10)

16. Composer (10)

17. Committed (8)

20. Owner (f) (5)

21. To go (2)

23. Bullfighter (6)

24. Yesterday (4)

25. Culture (7)

27. The (m) (2)

30. Music (6)

31. Acts (5)

33. I love (3)

35. It falls (3)

37. It is (2)

39. Iron (6)

40. Right-handed (f) (7)

41. In (2)

42. Novice (6)

43. Canvas (6)

44. Factory (7)

45. It goes (2)

46. To surround (6)

47. Gypsy (f) (6)

48. Opera (5)

49. Jealous (6)

50. French (7)

Down

1. Criticised (9)

2. Note (4)

3. Loving (7)

4. To cheapen (8)

5. Doubt (4)

6. Soldier (7)

8. Naïve (7)

9. Orchestra (8)

10. Cast (7)

14. To stab (8)

17. He ran (6)

18. She was dying (5)

19. I give (3)

22. Whose (f.pl) (5)

24. Wing (3)

26. To revolt (10)

28. Scandals (10)

29. Stage (9)

32. Heart (7)

34. Deserter (8)

36. I envied (7)

37. Ticket (7)

38. Premiere (7)

39. Flattery (6)

ANSWERS

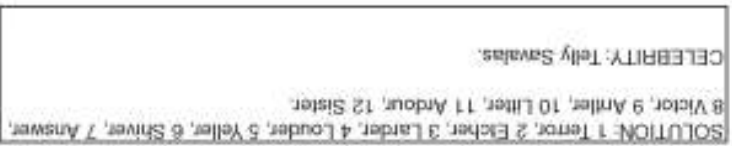
Language Crossword



Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 7 Diplomatic bag; 8 Material; 9 Acid; 10 Sitter; 12 Absent; 14 Stucco; 16 Stroke; 18 Vows; 20 Marriage; 22 Isolationists. Down: 1 Finalist; 2 Albert; 3 Impi; 4 Italians; 5 Scraps; 6 Mail; 11 Roommate; 13 Navigator; 15 Castle; 17 Raisin; 19 Oust; 21 Rood.

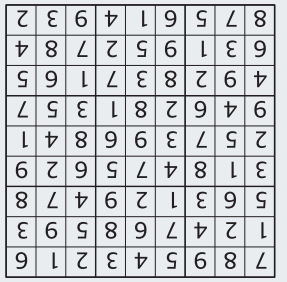
Clockword solution



Wordpuzzler solution



Sudoku solution



Quiz answers

Answer 1: Six
Of interest: George VI, Edward VIII, Mary, Princess Royal and Countess of Harewood; Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester; Prince George, Duke of Kent and Prince John. Prince John had epilepsy and died after a severe attack when he was just 13.
Answer 2: Jimmy Carter
Of interest: Ex film star Ronald Reagan, won the election by a landslide aided by the Iran hostage crisis and a worsening economy blamed on Carter. Reagan received the highest number of electoral votes ever won by a non-incumbent presidential candidate.

BOOK OF THE WEEK



Ema the Captive
César Aira

In nineteenth-century Argentina, Ema is captured by soldiers and taken, along with her newborn baby, to live as a captive and a concubine. Once Ema arrives at the fort, she takes on a succession of lovers among the soldiers and Indian tribesmen, leading to a brave and grand entrepreneurial experiment. As is usual with Aira's work, the wonder of the book is in the details of customs, beauty, and language, and the curious, perplexing reality of human nature.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

We are all different.
Don't judge, just understand instead

ROY T BENNETT

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)					
Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Horizon	9/03	Casablanca	Cadiz	12.00	19.00
MSC Magnifica	12/03	Funchal	Civitavecchia	07.00	14.00
Ventura	14/03	-	-	08.00	17.00







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The intriguing gaze of a father and a cat at the Pompidou

An innovative work by Malaga-born José Luis Puche is unveiled on the stairs inside this city art gallery and sets out to humanise the space

■ **ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ**

MÁLAGA. Lucky has her gaze fixed to the left. She has watery, serene eyes, perhaps tinged with sadness. Lucky was the black cat belonging to artist José Luis Puche and his partner and has a cameo role in his latest work in Malaga. The pet died while the artist was dreaming up this piece of art. Five days after Lucky, the father of Puche's girlfriend also passed away.

And so 'Papa' was what this Malaga artist named his latest work on the main staircase of the city's Pompidou Centre. The commission is part of Málaga de Festival, 170 cinema-themed cultural activities in the city running ahead of the Malaga Spanish Film Festival which starts

later this month.

While last year José Medina Galeote impressed visitors with his powerful work at the gallery's doorway, this year Puche solves the problem of creating something in the 'nothingness' of the staircase space in a subtle and surprising way.

When a visitor reaches the stairs from the entrance they see nothing. They need to go down the stairs and turn round to appreciate how, from the 27 risers on the stairs, the portrait of José Puche Vela, José Luis's father, emerges. At the bottom, tucked on the left, the visitor will also spot the watchful gaze of Lucky, the black cat.

A father that unites visitors

Puche highlights "the gravity-defying effect of the drawing and the transitory-nature of the staircase, which creates an experience that's unique to every visitor".

"I chose my father's image because I wanted to have a big work in Malaga and I decided to really personalise it as this is my city. These [staircase] spaces are soulless, as they are places

of movement and the people passing through don't have anything to share with each other. I wanted a collective memory to link everyone that moves across this space. A father is somebody that everyone has or has had, and that memory is the essential ingredient to create a connection between the individual and others," explains the artist, interviewed during the launch of the work.

Through a Venetian blind

Puche says that the core element of the work is the image of his father separating the slats of a Venetian blind to reveal his gaze. The 27 treads of the stairs help create the effect of the slats of the blinds. Explaining his technique, he says: "Each piece [of the work] is on a plastic base with the paper drawing placed on top, etched with a type of charcoal mixed with water to stain the paper". It's a technique he claims to have spent some time mastering and the result is akin to a watercolour.

"The basic idea is that when you go towards the gallery's exit [up the stairs] it's this person you see staring at you," he continues. The stare of his father and Lucky the cat, bringing him luck with this big work in his home town. Ironical of course, as black cats are considered unlucky in Spain.

Puche is receiving international attention for his work and is preparing an exhibition at the Sydney Opera House. 'Papa' is on display until October and the Málaga de Festival event runs across the city until 16 March. www.festivaldemalaga.com



The locally-born artist sits by his work on the Malaga Pompidou Centre's main staircase.

■ **FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ**



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