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March 10th to 16th 2017
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The Costa's future, in capable hands

A celebration of the area's international schools in our Education & Learning supplement
INSIDE



Foreign residents urged to do their bit to keep census figures current

Residents from other EU countries need to renew their registration on the 'padrón' every five years

The dive over the last couple of years in the foreign population, especially the British, has led to fresh calls for residents to make sure they keep their census registration up-to-date. After a rule change in 2009, resi-

dents from other EU countries, which - at least for the time being - includes the thousands of Britons in Andalucía, are removed from the 'padrón' register after five years if they do not confirm their details. This time limit is reduced to two years in the case of non-EU citizens. The 'exodus' of British residents from the statistics, therefore, does not necessarily imply an 'exodus' from the country. **P2&3**



Demonstrators came together in Plaza de la Constitución in Malaga to mark International Women's Day. **ALVARO CABRERA**

THE FIGHT FOR "REAL EQUALITY" CONTINUES

Figures show that motherhood is still a major obstacle to women's careers **P18&19**

Rajoy joins calls for a stronger, more integrated Europe

The PM met with his French, Italian and German counterparts to discuss the EU's future

Spanish prime minister Mariano Rajoy stressed the need for greater and better European integration as he met leaders at a summit in Versailles earlier this week to analyse the future of the EU after Brexit. He supported a multi-speed Europe and urged cooperation from several other countries. **P22**

German tourist numbers set to increase after positive forecasts

Tourism chiefs have been showcasing the region at the prestigious ITB travel fair in Berlin **P12**

Finca Cortesin golf course in Casares crowned best in Europe according to leading comparison website **P12**

Getting your life back through art. The Jorge Rando Museum in Malaga is holding painting workshops for refugees **P28**

SPORT

Michel gets down to business as new Malaga head coach

The former Real Madrid man replaces Romero who won only one of his ten games in charge **P55**



ALVARO CABRERA

Unicaja qualify for the EuroCup semifinals after an epic win in Bavaria against Bayern Munich (74-69) **P59**

Special Olympics Gibraltar sets sights on Games success as the country's sporting profile continues to grow **P58**

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Drop in Brits on town hall register is more complicated than just a 'mass exodus'



JENNIE RHODES

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The national statistics institute is working closely with town halls across the province to encourage foreign residents to register and renew when necessary

MALAGA. An article published in SUR in English on 27 January referred to an 'exodus' of British residents from the Costa del Sol. The report quoted the most recent statistics available regarding numbers registered on their local town hall's 'padrón', or population census, however the figures generated a number of letters and comments from readers, highlighting the mixed messages that foreign residents have received from their local town halls.

Residents who have been in Spain since before 2009 will probably have been told that once they had registered on their local padrón, they did not have to update the information. However others may have been told that they do need to update their details, anything between every two and five years.

Antonio Requena Segovia, who heads up the Malaga office of the Spain's Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE - national statistics institute), confirmed to SUR in English this week that since 2009, foreign residents coming from other European Union member states have been required to update their details every five years.

Residents from non-EU countries are asked to renew every two years, in line with their residency papers. In both cases if they fail to do so, their names will be removed.

Previously, foreigners, like Spanish residents, were kept on the register permanently once they had registered.



Brits enjoying a drink and the good climate in a beach bar on the Costa del Sol. :: SUR

The 'exodus' headline came from the latest statistics released which revealed a significant drop in British people on the town hall register, or padrón.

Data trends

The institute releases data on the country's population at the beginning of every year and shows trends in Spanish nationals as well as foreign residents.

Malaga province is home to Spain's second largest British population after Alicante, with 49,526 registered in 2015. In total 239,810 Brits were registered as living in Spain in the same year.

The 2016 INE report, which shows data from 2015, revealed that

Residents from other EU member countries are removed from their local register after five years if they do not renew

The fall in the numbers registered reflects not just those who have left, but also those who have died or simply not renewed

5,240 British people had been removed from the padrón and that 8,093 foreigners in total had been taken off across the whole of Malaga province.

As the statistics predate Brexit, there is only anecdotal evidence of British people returning to the UK due to fears over the consequences of the UK leaving the EU.

According to Requena, who is based in the INE offices in Calle Puerta del Mar in the centre of Malaga, it is "impossible" to know all the reasons why people don't update their details on their local council's register.

"Many people naturally drop off the register because they die," he said. "Due to the fact that Malaga



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is home to many foreign pensioners, one of the key factors in this drop is, obviously, that people pass away.”

According to the latest INE statistics, the average age of a British national living in Spain is 52, compared with the average for all foreign residents falling into the 30-44 age bracket.

Impossible to track

If foreign residents move to another place in Spain and register with their new town hall, they are automatically taken off the previous padrón but do not disappear from national statistics.

“Nowadays, technology is very advanced and we can keep track of people who move within the country. The problem is when people leave the country and don’t tell us, or we are not informed of a death,” explained Requena.

He said that there is no way of knowing whether people have really left the country or simply not, for whatever reason, contacted their local council to update the information.

Since 2009, many town halls in Malaga province have run renewal campaigns, to remind foreign residents to update their information.

This is generally done in the form of a letter which will be sent to the postal address which appears on the padrón.

However, as Jacky Gómez of the foreign residents’ department at Nerja Town Hall points out, “Many people move and don’t give us their new addresses, so the letters never reach them.”

The initial letter is generally sent out several months before the renewal deadline, with a reminder if there is no reply after a set date.

Additionally the town halls publicise their padrón campaigns in the local media to reach residents who

Antonio Requena Segovia
Provincial head of the INE and census office in Malaga

“We want to convince them that it’s necessary for the services in a town”

The head of the Malaga office of Spain’s national statistics institute works closely with town halls across Malaga to get up-to-date information about the number of foreign residents living in the province. He and his team work with the local authorities and the British consulate in Malaga to inform British citizens of why it is important to keep their registration up-to-date.



Antonio Requena Segovia.

by J.R.

may not have received their letters.

Antonio Requena said that dissemination of information about the padrón “depends very much on the town hall”.

“Some are very good at collecting the information and running campaigns and others are not,” he added.

Malaga’s INE works very closely with the local councils across the province in order to collect the information and to help them to ask foreigners to register and renew. The INE chief insists that his team is making sure that town halls keep their registers up-to-date. However, he points out that the renewal process has only been in place for eight years and if people are only contacted every five years it will take some time to really be accurate.

Not a legal requirement

Although registering on the padrón is not a legal requirement, people are strongly encouraged to do so as population numbers relate directly to the amount of central government funding towns receive for services such as medical centres, fire stations, schools, cleaning and other municipal facilities.

Take the case of Nerja for example, which has a population of around 21,000. If the population registered on the padrón remains above 20,000, the town is eligible for more funding for core services. Should the population drop below the limit, it is likely to lose key facilities. As Requena pointed out, foreigners who use these services should be part of the head count.

Registering on the padrón, he explained, has nothing to do with paying taxes and it doesn’t cost anything to register. He said he has been made aware of the concerns and rumours that go around foreign communities that being on the padrón means that a foreign resident will be required to pay more taxes, which, he said,

KEY PADRÓN MESSAGES

► **Do I have to renew?** Since 2009 foreign residents have been asked to update their details on their local town hall register every five years if they come from another European Union member country, and every two years for non-EU residents. Prior to 2009 this was not necessary.

► **Am I obliged to join the padrón by law?** While registering on the padrón is not a legal requirement, anyone who uses municipal services (doctors, rubbish collection, schools etc) is strongly encouraged to be on it as they enjoy the benefits of the services that town halls provide.

► **What are the benefits?** The more people on the padrón, the more funding a town hall is eligible for to provide those services. Town halls also offer benefits to residents in the form of discounts at sports facilities, discounts for pensioners etc.

► **Is my information shared with the taxman?** Registration on the padrón is free and is not related to the tax office. While the police may use the padrón to obtain information in the event of a foreign resident being arrested or linked to a crime or incident, padrón information is not passed on to any of Spain’s police bodies (Local, Guardia Civil or National Police) or any other public body automatically. Spain, like other EU countries, is subject to Data Protection laws which prevent the sharing of information.

► **How long do I have to live in Spain for to register?** Anyone who spends at least three months in Spain is asked to register on the padrón.

📍 **Instituto Nacional de Estadística (available in English):** www.ine.es

is “absolutely not true”.

While the police do have the right to consult town hall registers in the case of a foreign resident being arrested or involved in some way with a crime or incident, the information doesn’t automatically get shared with the police or any other body, other than the INE.

Town Hall foreigners’ departments across the province have reported mixed foreign population fluctuations in recent months. Nerja saw 20 new Britons moving into the town and registering on the padrón in February alone, according to the foreigners’ department, although the town has seen an overall drop in the number of foreign residents.

Joanna Drozdowska, who works at the foreign residents’ office in Benalmádena, said that she has noticed a “big drop” in numbers of British residents. “People are afraid and are selling their properties because of Brexit,” she said.

Vélez-Málaga’s census and padrón department also confirmed that it sends letters some time before a foreign resident’s registration is due to be updated. A reminder is sent out if the renewal hasn’t been carried out before the five year limit is up.

Requena concluded by saying that since 2009, the INE has been working closely with town halls to ask foreign residents to remember to update their details every five years.

Town halls are required to find the human resources to carry out the work and that the annual campaigns are “important”. He said that it is a “big cleaning project”, which he recognises will take time but says it is “necessary so that towns get all the services they need”.

While INE statistics suggest an ‘exodus’ of Brits, the reality is more complicated than people simply leaving Spain. However, what is clear is that those who do live in Spain for at least three months of the year are advised to register with their local town hall.

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Young prostitute left in a coma after being beaten over the head by a client in Estepona

:: JUAN CANO

MALAGA. A twenty-five-year-old prostitute is in intensive care in the Hospital Costa del Sol after being beaten by a client. The Romanian victim is in a coma with head and facial injuries.

The attack happened around 10pm on Tuesday night. The woman was waiting by the roundabout known locally as 'rotonda de las hormigas' (because of the ant sculptures that decorate it), when she was picked up by a man who had been a previous customer of the prostitute. He took her to a quiet area where they had sex.

What happened next is not known but the woman was seriously injured by being hit successive times with what is believed to have been a rock. Another prostitute in the same area called the emergency services at 10.50pm. The victim was taken by ambulance to the hospital where, at the time of going to press, she was still in a coma. The investigation led to the arrest of a 22-year-old Spanish man who is being held for attempted murder.

The search is on for missing British man last seen in Estepona

National Police are investigating the whereabouts of Ian Thompson, 64, who disappeared last Thursday

:: LEANDRO PAVÓN

ESTEPONA. The National Police have launched an investigation after Ian Thompson, a British national, 64, was reported missing on Saturday.

Thompson, who has lived in Estepona since last October, was last seen by his daughters. "He was in bed at 1.30am [on Thursday night] and he woke up early the next day to go to work. On Saturday morning, when we saw he hadn't come back, we called the police," said his girlfriend, Claudia, who last saw him on Thursday when he dropped her at work before heading to the Social Security office in Marbella.

Thompson, who is a property developer, would routinely join colleagues for a drink on Friday nights after work which is why the alarm wasn't raised until the following day.

"All of his clothes are still here. He was only carrying his wallet,



Ian Thompson has not been seen since last Thursday. :: TWITTER

with his documentation, and his mobile phone. This has never happened before," she said.

Concerned family members tried to call him and sent him numerous messages until his phone stopped giving signal three days after he disappeared.

"This is a nightmare. We haven't been able to sleep since Saturday and we've not heard any news," said his partner. "We know a few people here and they are helping us to try and track him down."

Thompson's family in the UK, in-

cluding his son, have also joined the effort by spreading pictures of him across social media.

According to information provided to SOS Desaparecidos, Thompson had taken his car, a green Renault Laguna, and was wearing a black jacket with white lettering and jeans at the time of his disappearance. He has grey hair, wears glasses and is around 1.75 metres tall. He has a good level of Spanish.

Any information regarding his possible whereabouts should be directed to Estepona police.

112 REPORTS

Man denies involvement in woman's murder

MALAGA

:: **SUR.** A man on trial for strangling a prostitute to death and setting fire to her house in Malaga in January last year has denied any involvement in her death, stating that he was at home at the time, telling the jury that "she was a very close friend" and that he feels sorry for what happened.

The public prosecution in Malaga are demanding 37 years in prison for the man. According to the prosecution, the man contacted the woman with the intention of robbing her to pay for debts that he owed to other people.

Routine check leads to prison sentence

NERJA

:: **E. CABEZAS.** The driver of a van carrying 21,000 packets of contraband cigarettes, along with 1,000 euros in cash has started a prison sentence following his arrest on 15 February. The van was pulled over during a routine Guardia Civil check on the A-7 outside Nerja and police uncovered the haul hidden inside the vehicle. The man was unable to provide the necessary documents to prove the cigarettes had been obtained legally and was arrested.

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Est. 1977



Provincial Court order bouncer to be put on trial in missing girl case

Agnese Klavina disappeared in 2014 after leaving a club with Westley Capper and Craig Porter

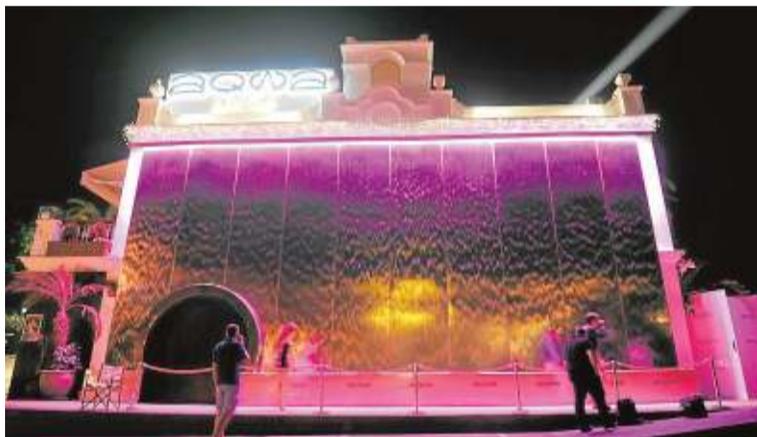
by JUAN CANO

MALAGA. The Provincial Court has ordered a bouncer at the Marbella nightclub Aqwa Mist linked with the disappearance of Agnese Klavina, a 30-year-old Latvian woman, to be put on trial.

Klavina was last seen three years ago, leaving the nightclub with British pair Westley Capper and Craig Porter when she was supposedly forced into a car by the duo.

The bouncer is suspected of collaborating with Capper and Porter, with video surveillance seeming to show the bouncer closing the door of the vehicle and ensuring it remained so as Klavina attempted to open it.

The investigating judge added that this footage shows that he was “fol-



The Aqwa Mist nightclub where Klavina was last seen. :: JOSELE-LANZA

lowing instructions from Capper”. The news comes after the Provincial Court considered the appeal from the woman’s family, who wanted to know the role played by two other people identified by police in their initial investigation, one of whom was the bouncer.

The other is a friend of the two men and who Capper, the son of Brit-

ish millionaire John Capper, called up to 48 times after Klavina’s disappearance.

However, the judges have deemed that to be “a hazy piece of evidence” and will therefore not be following up on his link in the case.



The masks and disguises used by the gang. :: SUR

Gang which blew up cash machines is dismantled

by ÁLVARO FRÍAS

MALAGA. Guardia Civil and National Police forces have dismantled a gang that was using explosives to blow up ATM machines in Andalucía.

The masked men would inject acetylene gas into the ATMs through rubber tubes, which would then be connected by rods

to a car battery to blow the machines up.

Six individuals of mostly South American origin, who are believed to have committed robberies in Cadiz, Seville, Malaga and Jaén, were arrested. Three houses were also searched where fake passports, driving licences and identity cards from different countries were found.

Fuengirola resident who incited hatred against Muslims on Twitter faces two years in jail

by Á. FRÍAS

MALAGA. A man from Fuengirola faces two years in prison after posting several messages on Twitter which incited hatred against Muslims.

The Public Prosecution of Malaga have demanded this sentence, along with a fine of 2,700 euros, after the tweets, which were posted between the end of June 2015 and February last year, called for Muslims to be

kicked out of Spain and Europe.

The Public Prosecutor’s Office explained that the accused used the account @tizonaedo73 to reveal “his unmistakable contempt and animosity towards this religious group” by describing them as “murderers” and “scourges”, while also urging his readers to help kick the religious group out of the continent.

They also stated that as of 29th February, his tweets could only be viewed by followers of his account, however before that anyone who had created a Twitter account was able to read his posts.

This follows the arrest of a man last month in Malaga who incited hatred and violence after putting out a tweet which justified the death of woman as a result of gender-based violence.

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Nature Protection Service investigates disruption at Vega del Mar basilica

Residents complain that works vehicles sent to carry out work for the local council have damaged the site where Roman relics lie

:: HÉCTOR BARBOTA

MARBELLA. This week the Guardia Civil's Nature Protection Service (Seprona) is looking into any possible damage done to the Vega del Mar paleochristian basilica site in Marbella, after complaints from residents in the area.

According to the complainants, the damage was caused by works vehicles, which are now known to have been sent by the council to clear the land in order to create a new picnic area. Residents claim that one of the trucks became stuck in the mud and the destruction occurred as a second truck tried to remove it.

Although only the basilica is officially classified as an Asset of Cultural Interest (BIC), the whole of its surrounding land is fenced off and is under archaeological protection as it is known to contain Roman relics. Some of these remains, including bones, metal nails and ceramics, surfaced as a result of the disruption to the land last week.

On Monday, representatives from the Nature Protection Service visited the forest of eucalyptus trees outside the basilica where the majority of the damage is said to have been done.

Marbella's head of Culture, Gema



The damage caused by works vehicles to the land surrounding the Basilica :: H. BARBOTA

Midón has since defended the council's decision to send the works vehicles to the site, claiming that "no irreparable damage has been done," and the installation of wooden benches for the new picnic area is "compatible with the archaeological protection of the area." She also stated that the objects which surfaced are not particularly valuable as they are "decontextualised."

However she did confirm that in order to prevent further damage, from now on all work at the site will be done manually.

Roman burials can be found beneath nearby beach

The zone adjacent to the paleochristian Basilica has never been subject to archaeological examination but there is no doubt that it is home to Roman burials, after excavation work in 1991 uncovered three Roman

graves beneath sand dunes which lie only 500 metres from the basilica.

This means there is a possibility that the entire area between the basilica and the beach could effectively be a Roman graveyard. However, despite repeated petitions over the years from the historical heritage protection association, Cilniana, no further excavations have been carried out.

Residents' battle for space in La Plaza de Los Naranjos continues

:: HÉCTOR BARBOTA

MARBELLA. On Tuesday Marbella Council revealed its new plans for the distribution of space in La Plaza de Los Naranjos.

For four months the tables of restaurants and bars have been absent from the square. A group of local citizens, who claim "the plaza is ours," want this to be a permanent measure to improve pedestrian access to the square. However the council's proposal, which plans to split the square into four parts that will be separated by three walkways but allocates the majority of space to bars and restaurants, is still not enough for some local residents.

"It isn't acceptable that the town's square can't be used by local citizens; tourism is important but it should not obstruct our lives," said the group's spokesperson, Carola Herrero. The group have already submitted 1,000 signatures supporting its cause to the council, and expect to have another 1,000 within a few days.

However, Councillor Javier Porcuna insists that the new plan is "the most well balanced option." He stated that it leaves enough space for residents to enjoy while not compromising space available to restaurants and bars, businesses which provide Marbella's citizens with steady employment and are therefore essential to the local economy.

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Top architect to design new look for Torremolinos

Salvador Moreno Peralta was chosen to oversee the project because of his experience and reputation in the world of architecture

:: TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. The town hall in Torremolinos has announced that renowned architect, Salvador Moreno Peralta, will coordinate the pedestrianisation of the Plaza Costa del Sol.

The planning department of the town hall disclosed the plans for the new look during last week's plenary session.

The proposed reconstruction of the square will incorporate Avenida Palma de Mallorca and parts of Calle Hoyo and Calle de la Cruz.

The town has already undergone major changes since the socialist PSOE party took control of the town almost two years ago. The revitalisation of the main square in the centre of the town has been a main priority since it was closed to traffic in December 2015.

The Plaza Costa del Sol has again



The Plaza Costa del Sol will soon have a complete facelift. :: SUR

become the heart of the town and many new bars and restaurants have opened in the area over the past 18 months.

The mayor of Torremolinos, José Ortiz, claims that the pedestrianisation project is about to begin, although they are still waiting to see if they were successful with their application for a loan from the Euro-

pean Regional Development Fund.

"The pedestrianisation of the Plaza Costa del Sol is an indispensable project for this town, and we are close to achieving it. We are seeing fewer empty buildings and more progress in this area, compared to the bleak situation that faced us when we first entered government 18 months ago," the mayor said.

The centre of Torremolinos is to undergo a complete facelift and the square is to be transformed into a picturesque plaza with green zones, fountains and shaded areas with seating.

The first stage will concentrate on the Plaza Costa del Sol and will focus on elements of historical character, incorporating water, springs and mills.

The project will include various proposals arising from the different political parties, citizen groups and local associations.

Salvador Moreno Peralta was chosen to oversee the project because of his experience and reputation in the world of architecture.

He has renovated several emblematic buildings in the province, including the Hotel Castillo in Monda, the Parador de San Rafael and the Hotel Larios in Malaga.

The architect was also responsible for designing the building that houses Torremolinos town hall.

The deputy mayor, Maribel Tocón, explained that the council has the support of business owners, and this was obvious, she claimed, because "they are investing in the town and securing its future".

"The project for the final pedestrianisation of the square will be developed with our own resources. The choice of Salvador Moreno Peralta to lead this important project for the town is not due only to his career, but also because of his emotional attachment to Torremolinos," Tocón said.



Issues on Calle Skal. :: A. G.

Frequency inhibitors cause problems for vehicle owners near police station

:: ALBERTO GÓMEZ

TORREMOLINOS. Inhibitors used by the National Police in Torremolinos are causing problems for car owners who leave their vehicles in the vicinity of the police station in Calle Skal.

Used by the police to prevent espionage or unwanted transmission of information, the inhibitors have the side-effect of blocking the signals of remote control keys.

The residents of the area are aware of the problem, but dozens of visitors and tourists leave their vehicles in Calle Skal oblivious to the fact that their vehicles have not been locked.

The inhibitor can also demobilise a vehicle, especially modern cars with electrical control panels, because the frequency can shut the system down.

It is not only vehicles that are affected; these devices also interfere with alarms of nearby homes, garages doors and even television handsets.

However, one neighbour claimed that the possibility of car theft in the area was somewhat unlikely: "It is true that it is much easier to steal a car here than on any other street, but the police presence in this area deters potential thieves," he said.

Processing of town's new urban development plan enters final stages

:: ALBERTO GÓMEZ

TORREMOLINOS. After several delays in recent months, Torremolinos town hall has announced that the processing of the General Plan of Urban Development (PGOU) has entered its final stages.

Approval of the plan depends on the Junta de Andalucía, which has rejected it on five previous occasions.

One of the points in the document concerns access to the future business park and Intu Leisure Cen-

tre. Municipal engineers have had to modify the road access report to respond to the demands of Junta.

Another obstacle was overcome last September, when the Demarcación de Costas, the coastal authority, gave the all clear to the mandatory report on water issues.

This came after the town hall carried out extensive work to rectify problems of flooding during periods of heavy rain.

The deputy mayor, Maribel Tocón said, "These are small technical details and they are less complicated than the obstacles we have

previously faced."

The PGOU plan envisages the construction of the largest shopping mall and leisure centre in Andalucía. Intu Leisure claims the project will generate more than 4,000 direct jobs, while another 3,000 people will be employed to work in the complex.

The new urban plan also includes the creation of a greater number of green areas, the renovation of historic buildings, the regeneration of the town centre and the construction of nearly 20 kilometres of hiking trails.



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LONDON OFFICE

Disciplinary proceedings opened against resort

Marbella town hall has opened the proceedings after claiming that the Puente Romano Resort is building a new reception without its permission

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. Marbella town hall has opened two sets of disciplinary proceedings against the Puente Romano Beach Resort&Spa after it began to carry out work which the local authority says is being conducted without its permission.

For some months now the resort

has been in the process of creating a new building for receiving customers in the area next to the Jardín Andaluz residential complex.

Residents have not only voiced their concerns at the new building itself, but are also worried about the repercussions it will have on noise levels in the area and on traffic and pedestrian security.

The provincial councillor for town planning, Isabel Pérez, confirmed to SUR that the authority is working on the case which could end with an order that will stop the work altogether, which, despite the opening of disciplinary proceedings, is currently ongoing.



Work continues on the site despite Pérez's announcement. :: J-L

HERE AND THERE



:: SUR

NEW PROMENADE NEARS COMPLETION

Work on the last stretch of the promenade between Fuengirola and the Playa del Castillo is almost complete. The mayor of Fuengirola, Ana Mula, visited the site this week to inspect the progress that has been made. During her visit she made reference to the times when there was no promenade on this stretch of coastline, which borders the municipality of Mijas.

Fuengirola refuses to hand over old fire station to Mijas

FUENGIROLA

:: I. GELIBTER. The fire station, once the headquarters for operations in Fuengirola, has been the subject of an eviction order by Mijas town hall, whose jurisdiction the building falls under.

However, the response from the neighbouring municipality has been unequivocal: it will not vacate the building "until told so by a judge", arguing that Mijas town hall had racked up an unpaid bill for firefighting services.

Lack of agreement leaves piles of waste to gather on beaches

MARBELLA

:: M. PÉREZ. Some 3,000 tonnes of debris, much of it plant matter, remains on Marbella beaches after the town hall has refused to foot the bill for the clean-up following the recent bad weather spell.

So far, it has removed the two smallest heaps and has appealed for the coastal authorities to remove the rest - a proposal that has been refused on the grounds that cleaning and public health are municipal responsibilities. The possibility of a deal hasn't been ruled out.

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Optimism at ITB Berlin fair as tourism from Germany is expected to rise

More than 300 tourism professionals from Andalucía have been attending the ITB tourism trade fair which runs until 12 March in Berlin

by PILAR MARTÍNEZ

BERLIN. Tourism companies and professionals from Andalucía have been showcasing the region's qualities as a tourist destination at the 51st edition of the world's leading tourism trade fair, ITB, in Berlin.

The president of Andalucía Susana Díaz was also present in the German capital on Thursday and made a visit to the stand representing Andalucía, where more than 300 tourism professionals have set up for the five-day event.

Tourism companies have already made early predictions about an increase in tourism from Germany to Andalucía. Airlines are expected to increase seat availability on their flights by 14 per cent, which could see over 900,000 German visitors travelling to the Costa del Sol.

There are already excellent connections between Malaga and German airports, with nine different air-



The Andalucía stand on the opening day of ITB Berlin. by SALVADOR SALAS

line companies offering direct flights into the province at 16 different airports in the country.

German tourism professionals are equally as confident of Andalucía prof-

iting from tourism from Germany this year as they see tourism increasing in the region by two per cent.

This is despite the fact that Germany are simultaneously strength-

ening their ties with Greece and Egypt, two countries that suffered hugely from a lack of tourism last year due to the political instability in both.

However, the Costa del Sol tourism office is not worried about a resurgence from their competitors due to a deal struck with Infox, a marketing channel which will promote Andalucía as a priority destination through 3,000 agencies.

Moreover, the senior vice-president of the provincial government in Malaga, Francisco Salado, is hoping to see the figure increase from two per cent to six per cent.

He also added that he is not concerned by the competition from countries such as Greece, Egypt and Tunisia either, given that he wants to attract tourists "that come to get an experience of the destination rather than for the low prices".

The vice-president's comments were mirrored by the director of Tourism in Malaga, Javier Hernández, who stated that the city offers "urban and cultural, not vocational, tourism".

For that reason, Salado announced that the provincial government have increased investment in tourism promotion by 16 per cent.

The city has also managed to reach a deal with tour operator TUI, which will include the city as a tourist destination for the first time in each of the 450,000 copies of its catalogue.

Nevertheless, despite the many advantages that these deals will offer to tourists and companies alike, the minister for energy and tourism, Álvaro Nadal, warned that prices could increase in the region due to the increase in demand, and therefore it was imperative that the industry establishes a competitive strategy for the medium and long-term.

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One of the holes on Finca Cortesín golf course. :: SUR

Finca Cortesín golf course in Casares is crowned best in Europe

The biggest golf course comparison site, Leading Courses, has announced that its users have voted Finca Cortesín as top European course this year

:: LEANDRO PAVÓN

CASARES. Leading Courses, a reviewing website used by hundreds of thousands of golfers has placed the Casares golf resort, Finca Cortesín, at the top of its European rankings this year.

The golf resort has been promoted from third to first place after achieving an average rating of 9.3 out of 10. The rating is based on golfers' opinion of the resort's facilities, course maintenance, clubhouse appearance and atmosphere, value for money and hospitality.

Miguel Girbes, Finca Cortesín's new director has stated that this recognition is important for the resort's staff because it demonstrates

that their work is appreciated by customers.

Girbes also points out that Finca Cortesín has scored so highly perhaps because golfers are guaranteed more space than at other resorts, as in the last year they only had around 15 000 rounds take place there. "We host a smaller amount of players at a higher cost, but we provide a service to justify the price. If we offered rounds for 50 euros each we could possibly

have had 40 000 rounds this year," said Girbes.

Moreover, many golfers are attracted to the resort not only for its picturesque location, but also because televised golfing competitions, Volvo World and Match Play, have taken place there for the last three years.

Finca Cortesín hopes to repeat its success in 2017 as tourism and the demand for golf courses increases each year.

Three Malaga golf resorts voted into the European top 100

Finca Cortesín, placed first, is also joined by two other Malaga golf resorts in the top 100 of Leading Courses' latest ranking of European golf courses.

Villa Padierna, located in the

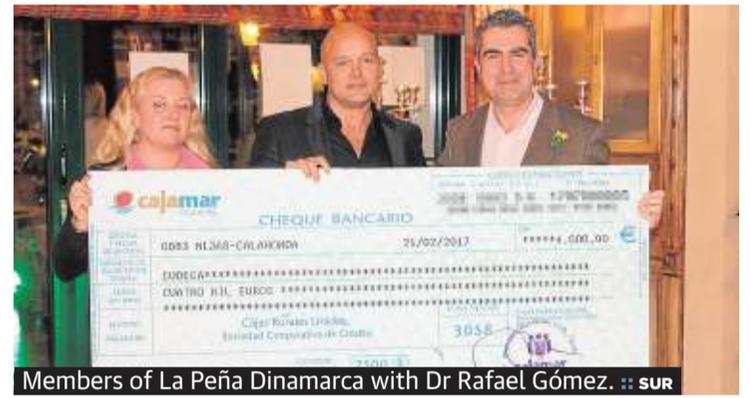
Marbella, Estepona and Benahavis triangle has been ranked 24th, which also places it as second best in Spain, and La Cala Resort of Mijas is ranked 58th and 6th in the country.

Overall 17 Spanish resorts were placed in the top 100, a greater number than any other country, which proves Spain to be the best golfing destination in Europe this year.

FUNDRAISING



Angel Krebbers of Cudeca with Christine Fleischer. :: SUR



Members of La Peña Dinamarca with Dr Rafael Gómez. :: SUR

Business and football mean funds for Cudeca

MALAGA

Cudeca has benefited from numerous fundraising activities recently. Christine Fleischer, marketing manager from Helle Hollis, recently handed over a cheque for 500 euros

raised for the hospice charity during the firm's "Cudeca charity number C0001" campaign.

Meanwhile, cheques to the value of 7,000 euros raised by the La Peña de Dinamarca, the Danish Malaga CF fan club were presented to Cudeca's Dr Rafael Gómez at the club's spring party at Ristorante Da Bruno.

Bar thanked for support to RAF Wings Appeal

TORREMOLINOS

The El Aladino bar in Carihuela, Torremolinos, won the RAF Association Wings Appeal Trophy for raising the most money in this year's collection. The trophy was presented to bar owner Richard Appleyard by Reg Hayward and Archie Ferrier on behalf of the Costa del Sol branch of the RAF Association. The collection amounted to €150.69. Money raised from the annual Wings Appeal goes towards the welfare work of the association.



The presentation. :: SUR

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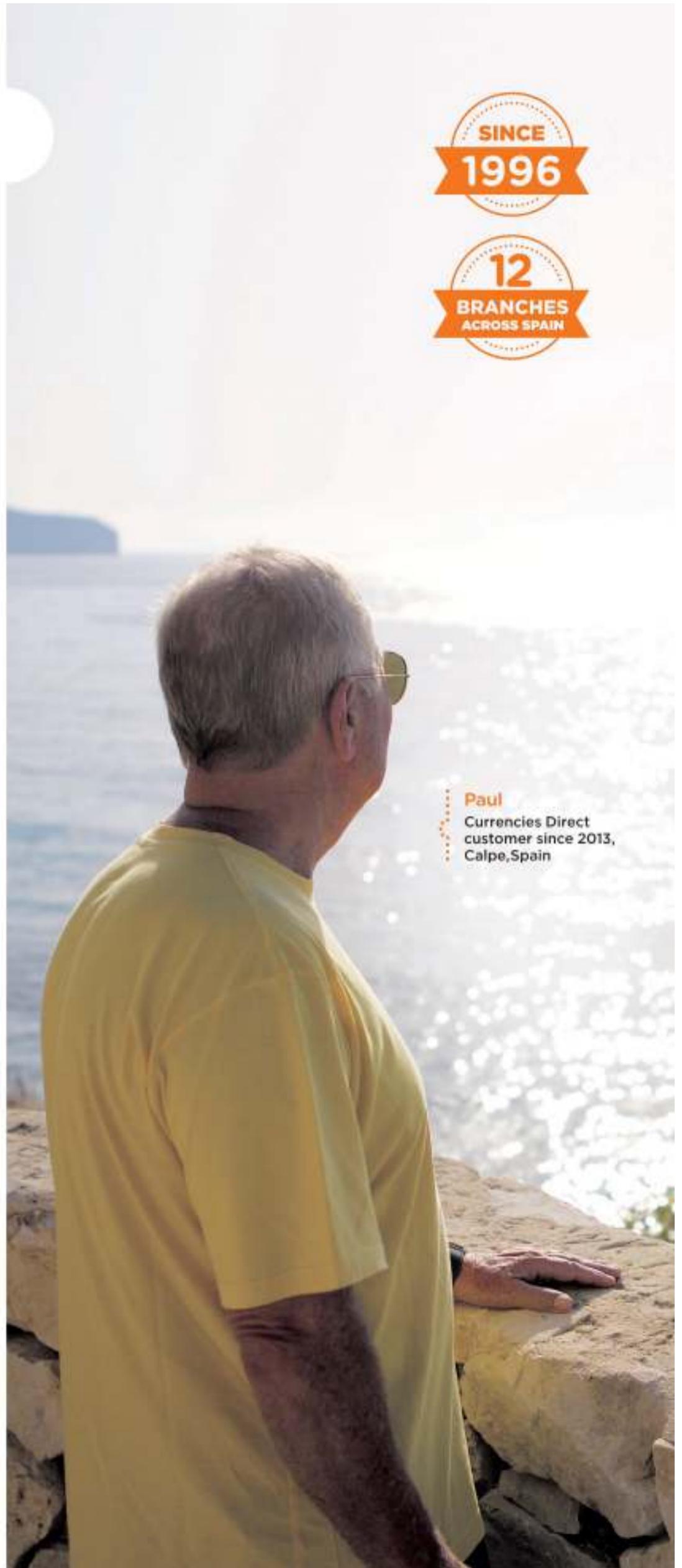
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Derek Langley introduces the speakers at the Marbella Golf and Country Club. :: SUR

Business owners look towards success in the digital era

SUR in English took part in a seminar on marketing and communication organised by the British Chamber of Commerce in Marbella

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. “The aim of marketing is to make selling superfluous,” Ann Goodwin told members of the British Chamber of Commerce at a seminar at the Marbella Golf and Country Club on Tuesday.

Ann, a chartered marketer at Win Marketing, was the opening speaker at the event and managed to sum up what she described as days and days of training in just 15 minutes.

Her main message for the business owners present was to think of their customers and future customers as people, to put themselves in their shoes and get a better idea of their needs.

Rachel Haynes, editor of SUR in English, was invited to speak of how a large multimedia group such as Vocento, to which the SUR newspapers belong, can help businesses find their way to clients with the help of professional and trusted journalism.

“Print and digital media currently coexist happily,” she said, adding that the strong partnership formed by advertising and quality editorial content has mutual benefits and is just as important in digital formats as in traditional media.

Social media

An insight into how to use social media to the benefit of a small business was provided by Ali Meehan, founder of the Costa Women business networking organisation.

As well as suggesting numerous platforms that can help business owners manage their accounts effectively, Ali offered advice on how to behave on social media, much of which could be applied to real life.

“Listen more than speak, then act” and “Say thank you” are among the keys to successful social media networking, she said, pointing out, “It’s the quality of the people you connect with that’s important, not the quantity.”

The final speaker of the evening was Steve Cameron of Advent Communication, a Google Premier Partner, who spoke of how to make online advertising successful.

“Do more of what works and less of what doesn’t,” he told the business owners, stressing the importance of using data analytics to find out who is visiting their sites, what they do there and how they get there.

Members and guests were welcomed at the start of the evening by the regional vice-president of the British Chamber of Commerce in Andalucía, Derek A. Langley, who later invited those present to discuss the issues further over drinks and tapas.

Lions from around the world learn about leadership in Malaga

More than 60 people from 20 countries got together last weekend for the Advanced Lions Leadership Institute

:: FERNANDO TORRES

MALAGA. Members of the International Lions Club learned how to share their values in Malaga last weekend at the Advanced Lions Leadership Institute. The four-day event combined learning with pleasure as the more than 60 leading Lions members from 20 countries attended classes in three languages as well as social functions.

Groups divided into English, French and Spanish speakers stud-

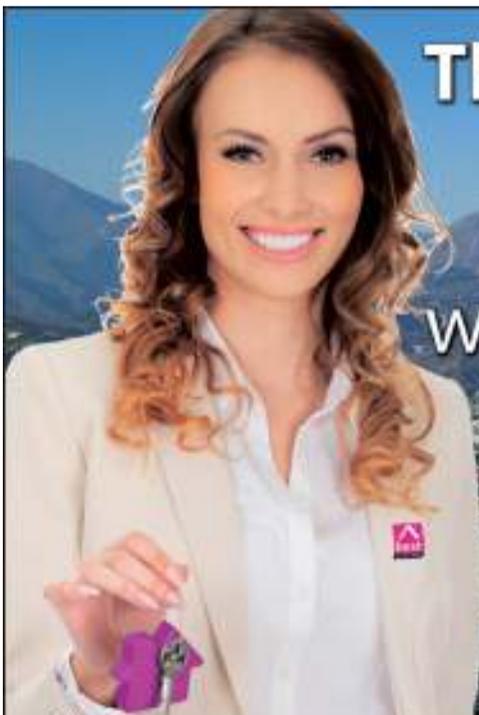
ied several issues related to the association at the city’s NH hotel. Joshua Friedman from the central offices in Chicago explained how the visitors received training in management techniques, conflict-solving and skills for transmitting the values of the Lions.

“We Lions work rather hard for the wellbeing of others and we sometimes have the opportunity to prove that we enjoy doing it, literally. Like somebody once said, ‘There is more pleasure in giving than in receiving’. We believe it,” said Pepe Guasp, the local coordinator for the event and member of the district’s executive board of Lions organisations in Spain.

The weekend ended with a joint fellowship dinner.



The English-speaking (top) and French-speaking groups. :: SUR



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Marketing and Business graduates use skills to create Holy Week souvenir company

Daniel Escalona and Francisco Gutiérrez have already received dozens of orders for personalised products from religious associations in Andalucía

:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Two young university graduates from Vélez-Málaga have set up their own business selling Holy Week souvenirs. Daniel Escalona, 25, who has a degree in Marketing and his friend, Francisco Gutiérrez, 23, a Business Management and Administration graduate, found inspiration for the business, called Tintineo, while watching the processions in Malaga last year.

“Many of the things we offer are things we would like to have had when we were 15, because in my case I decorated my school folders with photos and images of the processions



Francisco Gutiérrez and Daniel Escalona with their products. **:: SUR**

and thinking about that is what led to products which suit all ages and profiles,” says Escalona.

As Holy Week approaches, the pair have already received dozens of or-

ders from different religious associations across Andalucía. Associations are able to order products such as bags, notebooks, bookmarks, puzzles, mobile phone covers and baby

clothes with their own designs. Miniature replicas of the ‘thrones’ are also available, thanks to the collaboration of painter, Martín España.

“There are other similar companies, but none that offer such a personalised service and that are able to adapt to the requests of different groups,” the pair says about their company.

Tintineo comes from a word that Antonio Banderas used when he was the ‘pregonero’ (person who formally starts an event) for the 2011 Holy Week in Malaga, which Daniel and Francisco explain, describes the sound that the floats make as they are carried through the streets.

The company currently sells its products in the Mayka bookshop in Malaga and Yerma bookshop in Vélez-Málaga. There are plans to sell in further outlets in Antequera, Seville and Jerez de la Frontera. “We want people to be able to enjoy Holy Week all year,” they say.

HERE AND THERE

School finally says goodbye to prefab classrooms

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

:: A. PELÁEZ. Parents, pupils and teachers at Las Naciones primary school in Vélez-Málaga have finally seen the end of the 14 prefabricated classrooms that had been acting as the majority of the school’s classrooms since 2009.

At the beginning of the 2016 school year, parents threatened to withhold their children from the school, protesting that the prolonged use of the prefab classrooms was affecting their children’s education.

The building work has now been completed, with the school boasting 18 classrooms, a library, gym and special education area at a cost of nearly three million euros.

Work to the playground area is ongoing and includes plans to improve sports facilities.

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Foreign residents visit waste water plant site amid concerns over ongoing delays

:: E. CABEZAS

NERJA. 25 members of Nerja’s Hispanic-Nordic Association visited the site of the town’s waste water plant last week, accompanied by the councillor for foreign residents, Jorge Bravo and the councillor for infrastructure, José María Rivas.

The foreign residents showed their “concern” over the delays to the project and asked the councillors to ensure that work is complete as soon as possible.

Work restarted in January on the main pumping station, located near Burriana beach, following almost a year of inactivity due to a number of factors including the issuing of licences.

Foreign residents have been among the most concerned over the length of time it is taking for Nerja’s first waste water station to be up and running.

Weekend Beach Festival line-up confirmed with surprise to come

British band The Prodigy are to headline and the final “defining” artist is to be announced in the next few days

:: J. RHODES

TORRE DEL MAR. Organisers of Torre del Mar’s Weekend Beach Festival, along with deputy mayor Jesús Pérez Atencia, held a press conference on Tuesday to officially announce the line-up for this year’s instalment.

Although information had been released previously about acts such as British band The Prodigy and internationally-acclaimed Malaga group, Chambao, this was the first official announcement.

The poster for the festival was also unveiled, naming 87 acts, who will perform on three stages,



Fátima Rodríguez and Jesús Pérez Atencia present the festival's poster at a press conference held on Tuesday. **:: SUR**

from Wednesday 5 until Saturday 8 July.

Event organiser, Fátima Rodríguez said, “Today we are confirming that 88 artists will per-

form, although we haven’t released details of the last one, which we will be doing in the next few days and it’s going to be the defining artist.”



Damage to Torre beach. **:: SUR**

Central government funds for beach repairs

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

:: J. R. Vélez-Málaga town hall has confirmed that it is to receive 130,000 euros from the central government to repair damage to the area’s beaches caused by the heavy rain and storms in February. The money will go towards repairing the dog beach to the west of Torre del Mar and improved flood defences between the lighthouse and El Motero beach.

Chilches, Valle Niza, Lagos and Mezquitilla beaches are also to receive part of the money to repair damage and improve access.

Samuel and his mother drowned after a testing wait for medical visas

The father of the 'Spanish Aylan' has decided not to repatriate his body and he will be buried in Barbate

:: L.G.-S.

SEVILLA. The story of little Samuel, the 'Spanish Aylan', won't stir as many western consciences as that of the Syrian boy who drowned off the coast of Greece, but that doesn't mean his story shouldn't be told to highlight the human tragedy which immigration is bringing to the shores of Europe and, on this occasion, the coast of Cadiz province.

This four-year-old from the Congo drowned when the small boat in which he was travelling with his mother sank on 12 January, and his body was recovered days later from the Mangueta beach in Barbate. His mother, Véronique,



Aimé Kabamba, Samuel's father and a photo of his wife Véronique with Samuel. :: SUR

was bringing him to Spain in the hope of finding him medical treatment for a lung condition; she was also suffering from a serious cancer in the neck and the doctors who

were treating her in the Congo said she should try to look for help in Europe, where the therapies are more advanced. Véronique's body was found several days after the

accident, on the Algerian coast.

The wait for medical visas

Samuel's father, Aimé Kabamba, said this week that his wife and son

waited months in their own country for medical visas, and in the end Véronique decided to try to obtain them in Morocco, where she had contacts.

The wait there lasted an endless eight months, Aimé said, because the bureaucracy is so slow, and in desperation Véronique decided that she and her son would have to be smuggled across in a small boat.

He didn't know the boat had sunk for several days, and only found out via Facebook when he was concerned that he had heard nothing from Véronique. When he heard that a child had drowned, he immediately feared that it was his son, who was the youngest of six children. Aimé has decided not to repatriate his son's body, which had deteriorated badly in the water, so he will be buried in Barbate. This is due to Congo tradition: it would not be thought correct to repatriate Samuel without his mother, who had already been buried in Algeria.

The Kabamba family have expressed their gratitude for all the support they have received from people in Spain and the government, and say they are especially thankful for the assistance from Gabriel Delgado, who is the diocesan delegate for Migration.

Over eight hundred participants take part in a coastal fun run for charity

:: JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

BENALMÁDENA. The second edition of the Carrera Litoral Holiday World Benalmádena drew around 850 people, including the mayor of Benalmádena, which was over a hundred more than the previous edition. This year it was planned so that the races of ten and five kilometres, for the adults and for children, would be held simultaneously.

The weather was perfect for running and the route was very scenic,

keeping the runners in sight of the sea. The finishing touch was a huge paella at the end of the race.

The fun run was to support the Proyecto Hombre collective, a charity to give motivation, therapy and help getting back to work for reformed drug addicts and substance abusers.

The winner of the 10km category was Nerja resident and ex-Olympian, Álvaro Fernández and the winner of the 5km route was Manuel Bravo.



The winner of the 10km race, Álvaro Fernández, and the line-up at the start of the race. :: JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

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Motherhood is still the main obstacle in women's careers

In Spain, 96 per cent of parents applying for reduced working hours to help look after young children are mothers

:: ANA PÉREZ-BRYAN

MALAGA. The decision to have a child and all the changes that entails for a family continue to have a direct effect on women's professional careers. Although reconciliation policies are gradually being improved, the arrival of a baby into the family unit, or the existence of a dependent person who needs special care, is a responsibility that women still tend to take on, rather than men.

Many choose to stop working for an agreed period or by working shorter days, and in extreme cases they give up work altogether to devote themselves to their family full-time. The statistics make this situation very clear and confirm, for example, that 96% of cases of employees applying for reduced hours for childcare in Spain involve women, while just four per cent of men decide to cut down their working hours to meet family commitments.

This percentage is reflected by the Survey into the Active Population (EPA) but other studies also show a major difference between men and women when it comes to cutting down on working hours.

The latest report from the National Statistics Institute (INE) shows that 21% of female workers reduce their working hours in order to care for children or sick adults, compared with 2% of men. Or to put it another way, two out of every ten women opt for some type of reduction in their working hours to cover their needs at home. This has major impli-

cations for their professional careers.

A right for both

The UGT union's Equality Department in Malaga says an increasing number of companies favour men when appointing someone for a job, because it is usually women who apply to reduce their working hours or take unpaid leave. This even applies when a female applicant has no family commitments. Some firms consider that employing a woman aged between 25 and 40 could have repercussions on the organisation of the company in the medium term.

However, both men and women have the legal right to work fewer hours in order to care for children under 12 or dependents, with the proportional reduction in salary, and this is clearly stated in the Statute of Workers (article 37, point 5).

This means that it could be the mother or the father, or even both at the same time if their family needs make that the best option. The rules are different for maternity leave, which can only last for 16 weeks: the first six of those weeks have to be taken by the mother, but



Women are more likely to reduce working hours for childcare. :: SUR

Women apply to reduce their working day through social pressure and because their salaries are lower

the remainder can be divided between both parents.

Undoubtedly, adjusting the working day to cover domestic needs is a great help on a day-to-day basis, but it has a direct effect on a woman's professional career.

Rosa del Mar Rodríguez, the coor-

FIGURES

58%

of women admit that they have had to give something up in order to juggle their working and home lives

35%

of women's employment contracts in Malaga are for part-time work. Ten years ago, they were only 27 per cent

dinator in Malaga of the Andalusian Institute for Women, says this "not only means women have lower pay at the end of the month, which is logical, but it automatically puts a brake on their possibilities of promotion".

She also points out that there is another effect in the long term: "The fact that a working woman is earning less means she is paying less Social Security, which means that when she retires her pension will be lower."

Are jobs more precarious?

Another thing which worries employees when they consider working fewer hours is the possibility that it will put them at risk of losing their job. The Statute of Workers makes it clear that this should not be the case. Article 55, point

What is the salary gap?

:: A. PÉREZ-BRYAN

MALAGA. The question was very reasonable: "If a man and a woman are doing the same job and have the same responsibility, is it possible for the woman to be paid less than the man?" And the answer was a very firm "no". This was made clear this week by Dolores de la Fuente, a Work Inspector and specialist in discrimination and inequality, who came to Malaga to take part in a meeting organised by the UGT trade

union to commemorate International Women's Day. "In Franco's day there were different salaries for the same job, but luckily that no longer applies," she insisted.

If that is the case, how is it possible that the salary gap in Malaga is said to be about 28 per cent? Dolores says there is no difference in the salary which applies to a job, but there is still a practical difference because of a complicated and extensive evaluation of workers'

individual probabilities of promotion or of accessing certain jobs within the same company.

"One part of the salary gap is resolved by companies themselves, by applying equality protocols, but on the other hand there is still a considerable discrimination in terms of salaries in society," she said. She also pointed out that there are different agreements on working conditions "under which some professional categories are paid less than others", and these categories sometimes coincide with jobs which are mainly carried out by women, such as cleaning. There

are also differences in productive sectors, and the highest salaries are paid for work which is usually done by men. "Sectors such as the iron and steel industry have higher salaries than sectors which mainly involve women, like professional care of children or elderly people," said Dolores. "It reflects the importance attributed to these jobs by society." She also gives another example: "People only have to compare how much they pay per hour for a woman to look after their children, and how much per hour they pay a plumber."

It is these differences which pro-

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5b, says that dismissal can only be for a reason which is not related to pregnancy nor exercising the right to measures which include time off for an agreed period or a reduction in the working day.

In fact, most companies are keen to avoid conflict with workers over this: they don't want to end up in court trying to justify that they have dismissed someone who has reduced their working hours for a different reason and that there has been no discrimination.

To coincide with International Women's Day, other surveys have been carried out to show that it really is women who in one way or another forfeit progress in their careers to juggle their home and working life.

For example, a report by the YoNoRenuncio platform, created by the Club Malasmadres (Bad Mothers Club), came to some significant conclusions after interviewing more than 24,000 people. It confirmed that 58% of working mothers forgo something in their professional career when they have children (fewer hours, time off, giving up work altogether), while only six per cent of fathers do the same. Also, 51.3 per cent of women who do not yet have children believe they will have to make some sort of professional sacrifice when they become mothers.

duce - and widen - the salary gap, in the same way that a man, because he is a man, "will be more likely to be promoted in his work because he is not expected to care for children or ask to shorten his working day". In other words, men have more options of earning a bigger salary than women.

In this expert's opinion, the present laws and mechanisms are sufficient but there needs to be a change in social thinking. "We also need to find out exactly where these salary gaps are occurring," she says.



The Plaza de la Constitución in Malaga, just before the start of the march for International Women's Day. :: **ÁLVARO CABRERA**

Thousands demand "real equality" during International Women's Day march

The demonstration on Wednesday culminated a full day of events around the region calling for women's and men's rights to be equal in all areas

:: **A. PÉREZ-BRYAN / SUR**

MALAGA. From social media to the streets, calls for equality for women were louder and more numerous than ever on Wednesday to mark International Women's Day.

Messages, banners and hashtags



Inma Espinosa and María Victoria Alarcón. :: **FRANCIS SILVA**

called for real equality in society, bringing up issues such as work and motherhood, the salary gap and domestic violence.

The march in the city of Malaga attracted around 2,000 people - mainly women, but also men and children - who walked for two hours through the city's streets.

This followed other events throughout the day, which included the first international strike when women downed tools, for periods ranging from five minutes to the full day, in 45 countries.

In Malaga Inma Espinosa and

María Victoria Alarcón got together with some of the other 44 women who became the city's first female Local Police officers 35 years ago.

The Costa Women organisation extends its Women's Day activities until today, Friday, with its fifth annual conference. Make It Happen is the theme for the event held at Andalucía Lab in Marbella from 9.30am, in collaboration with 1230 The Women's Company.

This follows Thursday's Be Bold For Change networking party at Avanto restaurant, also organised by Costa Women.

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Malaga faces major setback to its hopes of housing the European Medicines Agency

The PP, PSOE and Ciudadanos voted for Barcelona to be the new location for this European organisation

∴ **ÁNGEL ESCALERA**

MALAGA. Malaga's hopes that the European Medicines Agency would move to the city have been dashed after Barcelona received more support as a suitable location from the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee. The Committee approved a proposal from the Partido Demócrata Catalán (formerly Convergencia), to urge the government to present Barcelona as the headquarters for the Agency, which will have to leave London when Britain withdraws from the European Union. The proposal received 25 votes in favour from the PP, PSOE, Ciudadanos and Grupo Mixto and there were five abstentions (Unidos Podemos). This came as a major disappointment for Malaga, whose possibilities are now dissolving like a spoonful of sugar in a cup of coffee. The Foreign Affairs Committee's decision that Barcelona would be a more suitable location was supported by the Minister of Health, Dolors Montserrat. One Ciudadanos MP, Francisco Igea, went so far as to say that not only does Barcelona meet all the criteria to host the Agency, but it is also the government's preferred choice.

The Agency employs more than 800 staff and there are 30 working groups comprising several thousand European scientists, who are responsible for regulating medication in Europe. It was created in 1995 and has an annual budget of more than 300 million euros. It is primarily responsible for protecting and promoting public and animal health by



The mayor of Malaga (centre) at the conference.. ∴ **D. PÉREZ**

evaluating and supervising medication which is used by doctors and vets. It also considers applications from drug companies for their products to be authorised in Europe.

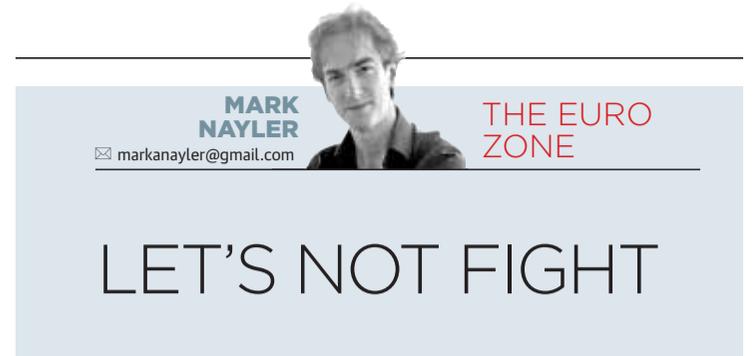
Spain is competing with other countries including Italy, Sweden and Germany to be the new headquarters of the Medication Agency. The mayor of Malaga, Francisco de la Torre, firmly believes that Malaga would be the ideal location and has argued to this effect with his political party, the PP, in Madrid, but it has decided in favour of Barcelona.

During the debate, the socialists proposed that the government should be urged to approach the European institutions to suggest that Spain should be the new location for all EU agencies and associa-

tions which are currently based in London after Brexit, particularly the European Medicines Agency and the European Banking Authority. However, the motion was over-ruled on the basis that it is too early and would be "trying to run before learning to walk".

However, Francisco Conejo, PSOE's secretary for Institutional Policy in Andalucía, says that his party believes an application should be made for the Medicines Agency to move to Spain and that the city in which it should be located could be decided at a later date.

"There's nothing wrong with a bit of competition between cities. What we have to do is present a strong and consensual candidacy for Spain to the European Union," he insists.



At a conference organised by El País and Sabadell Bank on Monday, post-Brexit relations between Spain and the UK were discussed by a panel from Spanish media, business and politics. Spain, said some of these experts, can't afford to display hostility towards the UK in the forthcoming negotiations. They pointed to the economic and cultural ties that exist between the two countries and argued that these need to be preserved, for the benefit of both parties, after the UK quits the bloc.

Such optimistic remarks will be warmly received by many Britons living in Spain. Due in part to Theresa May's refusal to lock down the rights of EU citizens living in the UK before Article 50 is triggered, anxiety among British expatriates living abroad is reaching a critical point. That various media outlets are whipping up a storm of dread around Brexit doesn't help, but sadly they have ample room in which to spin and speculate: almost nine months after the referendum, virtually nothing is known for sure about the kind of negotiations that will ensue once Article 50 is triggered.

Although there is still only a black hole where Brexit plans should be, some of the panel were right to say that there is no reason why negotiations between the UK and Spain should be fraught or antagonistic. As Jaime Guardiola, CEO of Sabadell Bank - which is a medium-weight player in the UK's financial services industry - said, a punitive approach "could put both parties' [economic] growth at risk".

The statistics that suggest he's right have been widely quoted recently. About half a million Britons are resident in Spain and around double that number own property here. It has been estimated that in 2016 one in five of every tourists to visit Spain was a Briton. The UK is the biggest recipient of Spain's foreign investment, receiving 17% of the total amount annually, and around 300,000 Spaniards currently live in the UK. Clearly, the two countries are important to each other.

Guardiola's optimism was not shared by everyone on the panel, with some saying that Spaniards whose lives are made difficult in the UK after Brexit might have to be enticed back home. But Spanish prime minister Mariano Rajoy and his economy minister, Luis de Guindos, apparently have the same outlook. Both have recently been at pains to make clear that they want a smooth Brexit that doesn't harm relations between UK and Spain.

All very agreeable and optimistic - but will it actually work out this way? A report written by the EU parliament's internal affairs committee and leaked last month by the Guardian newspaper suggested that UK citizens in EU countries might face difficulties post-Brexit. And Theresa May's refusal to secure the future of EU citizens living in the UK before negotiations start has further complicated diplomacy with Brussels. But hopefully, it will be the optimists who are vindicated about post-Brexit Spanish-British relations, not those who predict a bitter separation which harms both countries.

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Merkel, Hollande, Rajoy and Gentiloni after the dinner. :: EFE

Rajoy supports a multi-speed Europe to encourage further integration

The Spanish prime minister agrees with Hollande, Merkel and Gentiloni that this type of Europe is possible with cooperation from other countries

ADOLFO LORENTE

BRUSSELS. On Monday, Spanish prime minister Mariano Rajoy supported the idea of a multi-speed Europe and said that Spain is prepared to “go further” towards European integration, alongside any other countries who feel the same.

He made these comments in a joint appearance with French president François Hollande, German chancellor Angela Merkel and Italian prime minister Paolo Gentiloni at the Palace of Versailles, where European leaders were meeting earlier this week to

analyse the future of the EU after Brexit.

Rajoy, who stressed that he wants greater and better European integration, agrees with the three other leaders that this type of Europe would be possible if there were stronger cooperation from several other countries.

This was the first time he had clearly expressed his support for a multi-speed Europe and he explained that this is his preferred option for the future of the EU among those presented by the European Commission in its White Book, because it would mean “greater and better integration.”

“I believe that right now Europe needs to look further afield, because the times when it has done that have been the best in its history,” he said.

He then went on to express his support for Hollande and Merkel – and later Gentiloni – in their arguments for a Europe which func-

tions at more than one speed.

“I agree with what we have just heard. Spain is prepared to go further towards European integration, with all those who want to work towards that,” he stressed.

Uncertainties ahead

The prime minister also pointed out that the EU has many challenges and uncertainties ahead and must try to respond to those with clear messages.

He believes the European Summit in Rome on 25 March, which is being held to commemorate the 60th anniversary of signing the treaties which were the origin of the EU, would be the perfect opportunity to provide those messages.

Sr Rajoy believes the European Union “is a success story”, that its priority should be to attend more intensively and effectively to the problems of European citizens, and to progress towards further European integration.

MIK WOOLLEY
BREXIT VIEW

HOW MANY STEPS TO BREXIT?

Some people thought that the UK would just stride through a door marked ‘Brexit’ on the day after the Referendum. It is clearer now that there are more, and complicated, steps. Sadly for headline writers, the answer is: it depends; but there will be enough to leave commentators breathless by the end - if we get there.

On the steps taken already, the Conservative manifesto promise of an “in/out” referendum created a Parliamentary mandate but the Referendum Act did not make the result binding, nor did the Government commitment to comply settle matters because that was policy and not the law.

Similarly, only Parliament can unmake legislation it has made, namely the European Communities Act 1972. This Constitutional fact needed to be enforced in the Courts because the Government (politically) thought otherwise. It may also mean that more is needed beyond the promised Great Repeal Bill (putting all EU legislation into UK statute), but that is getting much further ahead.

The Government needs Parliamentary authority to notify the European Union of our intention to leave. The Bill involves several steps and the House of Lords have now taken their’s. By this paper’s next edition, you will know what happened next. As I write, the Lords have agreed amendments including on the draft withdrawal agreement (or even ‘no deal’) needing Parliament’s approval. This is less than the minimum requirements for EU business, which in practice meant relevant Committees approving a strategy beforehand, and monitor-

ing progress.

If MPs do accept amendments then that is their job: to improve both process and outcome, not least to try and avoid unintended, negative consequences. As Churchill said: “The first duty of a member of Parliament is to do what he thinks in his faithful and disinterested judgement is right and necessary for the honour and safety of Great Britain”.

Their Lordships considered also whether the final withdrawal needs yet another Act, and if the UK can unilaterally stop the process (which needs a European Court decision). So Brexit may be delayed, at least, if the outcome is not judged to be “right”, but there is no legal certainty on such steps. In fact, there is little guidance on, or rules about, the complex agreements that Brexit involves.

For now, you can be sure that Article 50 will be invoked within weeks. First, the EU takes several steps before negotiations even start: the PM’s counterparts set out political principles, the Commission make a recommendation, and then the other 27 governments agree on negotiating objectives.

There will be different and separate negotiations, and some will be finalised only after any withdrawal. This means that Brexit will prove to be a long journey which will continue, as it started, with far from simple steps - despite what some people may have hoped.

The writer is a former UK civil servant who prior to retirement, worked on EU policy for the Department of Work & Pensions. From 2011-13 he was Chair of the EU Employment Committee.

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Samantha Sacramento, Gibraltar's Minister for Equality. :: SUR

Working group established to investigate gender equality

Equality minister Samantha Sacramento announced the plans on International Women's Day

:: DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. Samantha Sacramento, Gibraltar's Minister for Equality, took the opportunity on International Women's Day on 8 March to announce that she and her team are working on ways to encourage progress towards true gender equality at work. As part of these plans, a working group has been formed to look at whether there is a gender pay issue.

In her press release, Sacramento said that "in Gibraltar we are privileged in that women have equal access to education, healthcare and

employment. For many women, balancing a career and family life is not easy, however well organised and well-intended. In general, women sometimes tend to fret on whether they have taken too much time off work after having children and whether this absence may have been for too long, thereby affecting their employment and promotion prospects. This can in turn lead to the question as to whether women can earn the same and progress in the same way as their male counterparts."

She added that "we simply cannot afford to sit and wait for things to happen. We need to make them happen and it needs to be a collective approach by both women, men, young and old. As women we must feel empowered and be bold to make that difference and effect change."

Major sea search unsuccessful after man falls overboard from Algeciras ferry

:: D. B.

GIBRALTAR. A major sea search took place on the evening of Sunday 5 March after reports that a passenger on the outward ferry from Algeciras had fallen overboard.

The alarm was raised at about 7.30pm and officers from the Gibraltar Port Authority began a full-scale search. They were joined by others from the Royal Gibraltar Police, the Defence Police, HM Customs, Royal Navy, Gibraltar Squadron and the Environment Agency, who concentrated on an area 2.2 nautical miles west-southwest off Europa Point.

The search had to be called off several hours later at 11pm, when there was no sign of the passenger; a smaller-scale search was carried out the following morning but proved unsuccessful.

New drugs haul recovered from sea

42 bales were collected, containing cannabis resin with a street value of £6.3 million

:: D. BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. Drugs with an estimated street value of £6.3 million were recovered from the sea off the east side of Gibraltar on Wednesday, in a joint operation between the Royal Gibraltar Police and HM Customs.

The authorities were alerted to the presence of the bales by a fishing vessel, and a total of 42 were collected. The bales contained cannabis resin and weighed approximately 1.26 tonnes in total. The Spanish



The bales seized off the east side of Gibraltar. :: RGP

Guardia Civil are believed to have retrieved a further 12 bales from the sea off La Atunara beach in La Línea.

So far this year more than 4.4

tonnes of cannabis resin have been seized from local waters by the Gibraltar authorities, with an estimated street value of £22 million.

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THERE IS A PRIZE FOR THE BEST
CONTRIBUTION TO THIS PAGE
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Disabled man not
allowed on bus

My grandson broke his neck in three places playing rugby at 21. He has since bought an apartment in Las Adelfas, Guadalmina Baja. We went over there with him to get it ready to live in. The taxis were proving expensive. We tried three times to get on a bus with the disabled signs on and were refused. We were disgusted and wanted to air our feelings.

N. J. TAYLOR
UK

Pastimes

I very much enjoy completing your crossword each week, but what I do not like is the page layout. The location of the crossword makes it difficult to fold the page as the clues are hidden below, so therefore when trying to complete unfolded the crossword is so far in the middle of the page your hand won't reach the back for support! Does anyone else have this problem? Any chance of a fresh new layout?

SUE VAUGHAN
BY EMAIL

Theft warning

Please be warned: recently, while walking in the vicinity of the Angela Hotel, Los Boliches, Fuengirola at 11.10pm, my wife and myself, both pensioners, were the subject of a sea front robbery. My wife had her handbag snatched from her hand. I gave chase to the offenders, obviously too fast for me, making good their escape. After a search of various streets in the area, I recovered the handbag but minus various items including a mobile phone and a purse containing cash.

This was a very distressing incident to my wife and myself, one which we will never forget.

My reason for writing this letter is to make people, especially the elderly who seem to be easy targets for these criminals, aware of these nasty crimes being committed.

I think it is only fair that people are aware that crimes like this are being committed, and therefore be on alert to preventing themselves becoming victims.

MICHAEL DEARLOVE
UK

So traumatic for the people

PETER EDGERTON
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

In a desperate race to the bottom, we appear to be hell bent these days, on trying do outdo each other as to who among us has the most to complain about. It's a kind of Top Trumps for victims.

"My father was a cold authoritarian figure, who only ever looked up from his newspaper to clip me round the ear and make me eat plates of gruel."

"That's nothing, mate, my parents yelled at each other until my ears bled. Then they got divorced and both told me to stop bleeding at the ears or they'd give me something to bleed about."

"Oh, be quiet the pair of you. My parents were tragically killed in a traumatic incident involving an argument about whose turn it was to bath me and an inconveniently po-

sitioned hair dryer."

"Well you poor things - my parents snuffed it before I was born."

"Hmfm, actually mine were pushing up the daisies before I was even conceived."

"Eh?"

The point is, everyone's got something to feel hard done about - a rubbish job, horrible neighbours, a wooden leg, being a Manchester United supporter, etc. but some people just seem to have a greater capacity to shrug their shoulders and get on with things while others prefer to wallow in the drama of how their life isn't quite perfect. Well, here's the thing - nobody's is.

While some bloke with no legs will complete a month's pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago in a wheelchair festooned in brightly coloured balloons, his next-door

neighbour will be in his air conditioned office complaining that there isn't enough bacon on his egg and bacon roll and that someone's nicked his stapler.

It's a question of perspective. If you're in generally good health, you've got a roof over your head and a bacon and egg roll on the table, you've basically won the lottery of life. If your mum didn't drive you to Taekwondo and macramé classes on Tuesdays or ruffle your hair every other minute, calling you the centre of the universe, that's not a trauma, it's a mum who had more interesting things to be doing with her time.

The Eagles have got a song called Get Over It. It's not a very good song - in fact it's one of their worst - but the sentiment is nothing short of perfect.

SANSÓN



SUR English

Published by: PRENSA MALAGUEÑA S. A.
Director General: JOSÉ LUIS ROMERO

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MANUEL CASTILLO
Publications Director:
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I don't write often but I wanted to share a moment in time with readers. To set the scene: one day recently we went for a walk in the natural reserve of Juanar, which is in the mountains above Marbella.

It was an amazing day and as it was mid week, there were very few people about. We walked up through the pine forest, and then out along the dirt track that runs through the olive groves, which are on top of the mountain below La Concha.

The air was crisp, and there were still pockets of snow left from the incredibly unusual weather the previous week. The sky was blue with no cloud in sight, the sun warm on our faces, and the silence was perfect.

We sat quietly, and all we could hear were the various bird songs. It was total tranquility for the soul. We then walked on and finally came to the mirador.

As we approached we saw two elderly German ladies (as we discovered later) and a young couple enjoying

their lunch. We stood taking in the magnificent view that stretched away down to the glittering sea.

Soon the young guy joined our conversation about a group of walkers who we'd seen climbing the ridge of La Concha.

It turned out he was training for football in Marbella, was from Paris, and his girlfriend was visiting on holiday. He was a fantastic young guy, friendly and chatty and we ended up talking about countries and cultures, languages, school and life, and the conversation was great.

We noted his guitar leaning on the wall. The conversation turned to that, and music in general, and inevitably the guitar came out. My boyfriend started playing, and we all started singing, and everyone was smiling and feeling great.

We joked about a free concert on the mountain top, and the German ladies said they were going to stay!

After my boyfriend finished, the young guy took his guitar and sat on the wall. He said he'd only been playing for three years and couldn't match up to my boyfriend. He was so hum-

ble. He then proceeded to sing the most beautiful song in French, whilst playing his guitar. It was a beautiful melody, and we all stood smiling and transfixed.

There we were on the mountain, blue sky, crisp air, with total strangers, listening to a lovely voice and the beautiful sound of the guitar.

When he'd finished we all clapped and smiled and there was something special in the atmosphere.

I asked for the name of the song as it was so lovely I wanted to download it. It turned out he'd written the song himself. It was beautiful.

I wanted to share that moment because there is so much pain and suffering in the world, people and nations fighting over religion, colour, creed, and greed and this was an amazing snip of time on the road of my life.

I've no doubt all our paths will never cross again, but there we were on a mountain top, perfect strangers, of different nationalities, probably

different religions, different colours, and from a wide scope of ages, just enjoying the simple, but beautiful things in life.

Together for a tiny moment in time. A connection with the love of nature, our planet, and the wonderful music which has no boundaries.

In my life I've been lucky to travel a lot. I've made some amazing forever friends, and lasting relationships which I hope I'll have until I'm old and grey.

My path has crossed the lives of many people. I've shared a moment of joy, and unity with lots of people from all walks of life, for five minutes, half an hour, and then you never see them again. However, they leave a happy stamp on my heart and soul.

I hope this little story does for others too. In our busy lives maybe we should all just slow down sometimes. Giving a smile or a brief chat to a stranger can sometimes just make someone's day, and give you a lift to your heart and soul as well.

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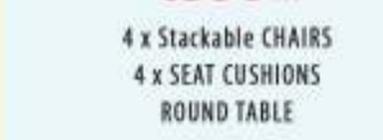
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Malaga tells the story of Picasso

The new collection at the Picasso Museum highlights the great versatility and diverse techniques explored by the artist during his 75 years of creative activity



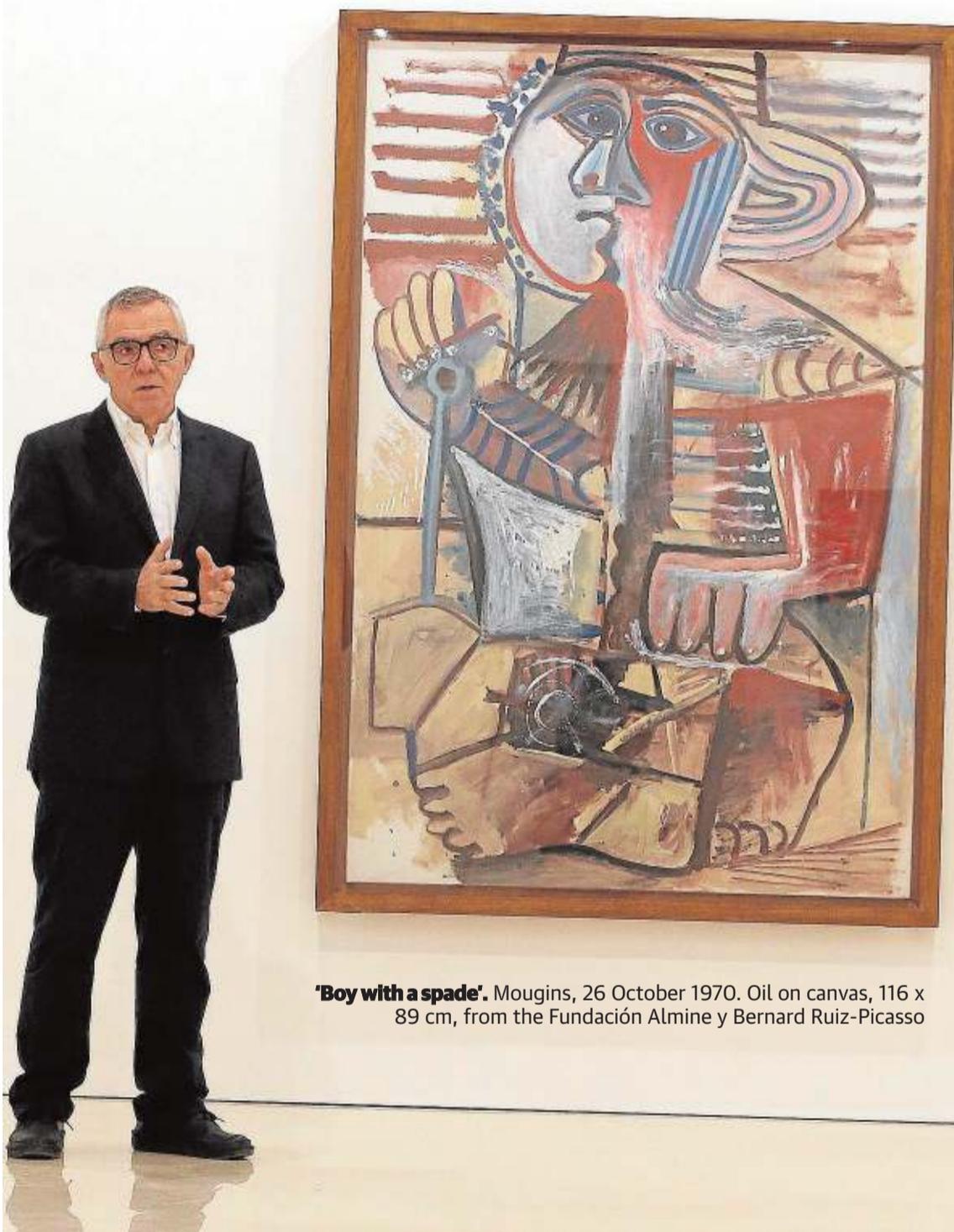
M. EUGENIA MERELO

@emerelo

Picasso was 13 years old when he painted 'Portrait of Lola'. In fact, he finished it on 1 December 1894. It has never been confirmed that the picture is of his sister, but his family environment constantly featured in the imagination of this artist from Malaga throughout his artistic career. This oil on canvas will be waiting to welcome visitors in the first room of the remodelled permanent collection at the Picasso Museum, which is due to be inaugurated on 13 March. The portrait reflects a different setting, a new stage in the existence of the museum which opened 14 years ago and has become the most-visited museum in Andalucía: it has decided to tell its visitors even more about Picasso.

In the new agreements between the Junta de Andalucía and the Fundación Almine y Bernard Ruiz Picasso para el Arte (FABA), 38 of the 43 pieces which had been on loan from the family institution will no longer be on display. These include some which have become icons such as 'Olga Khokhlova with mantilla' (1917), 'Paul on a donkey' (1923) and 'Susanna and the elders' (1955). For the new story which the rooms at the Buenavista Palace are about to tell, the foundation is lending 48 paintings, 19 sculptures, 26 ceramics, 13 drawings, 13 graphic works and a sketchbook, in addition to the 233 pieces which Christine and Bernard Ruiz-Picasso, the artist's daughter-in-law and grandson, donated initially. The permanent collection will now be renewed every three years and the graphic work every three months.

What, then, will the Picasso Mu-



'Boy with a spade'. Mougins, 26 October 1970. Oil on canvas, 116 x 89 cm, from the Fundación Almine y Bernard Ruiz-Picasso

José Lebrero, in room 11 of the gallery. :: SALVADOR SALAS

seum of Malaga be telling us about the artist from the 13th of this month? "The story of Picasso," says José Lebrero, the director, but this is a difficult challenge bearing in mind that the story covers an important part of the history of 20th century art. We are talking about one of the most influential and most prolific (over 20,000 works) artists of the 20th century, and 75 years of creative activity. This is a major creative adventure, a unique artistic journey.

The new permanent collection is arranged chronologically to highlight Picasso's great versatility and diverse techniques. Between the first and last of the 11 rooms "a whole life passes," as José Lebrero says. "Between one point and the other lies an important chapter in the history of art in the 20th century."

He is aware that the chronological arrangement is likely to cause controversy, but says it makes the exhibition no less interesting. "Over such a long period of time you can see in some periods that certain things return, that they have been there before. It gives an idea of a versatile permanence, and I think that is very 21st century," he explains.

Painter, sculptor, engraver, sketcher, ceramic artist: Picasso broke away from the academic tradition at which he excelled and so admired. The extraordinary creative adventure into the best and most complete 20th century artist culminates in Room 11 of the museum with his final works. The room has been named 'Painting the Golden Century'. More than 70 years have passed since he painted 'Portrait of Lola'. There are six pictures in the room, three of which featured in the previous permanent collection: 'Bather' (1971), 'Man' (1970) and 'Man, woman and child' (1971). The others have not been seen before: 'Boy with a spade' (1970), 'Motherhood' (1970) and 'Bust of man' (1971). From 1965, Picasso became interested in Rem-

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'Motherhood'. Mougins, 26 October 1970. Oil on canvas, 116 x 89 cm. Fundación Almine y Bernard Ruiz-Picasso.

'Bust of man'. Mougins, 8 November 1970. Oil on board. 96.5 x 57.5 cm. Fundación Almine y Bernard Ruiz-Picasso.

brandt's works and Shakespeare's poetry. Even when he was a young man living in Barcelona, he would travel to Madrid to see the Prado Museum and discover the works of Velázquez, Murillo and El Greco. In his later years, however, he remained an unconventional artist.

"You can see that from the works in this room; he was still exploring colour, the way of constructing the picture, on themes which may have been of no interest to anybody else," says Lebrero. "Why would a man of his age paint a boy with a spade? Maybe older people just like to recall their pleasant childhood memories. He liked to remember spending days on the beach with his children, Paloma and Claude. Picasso was a family painter, he didn't need models. His family and the people around him were his models and were almost always in his studio."

These 11 rooms of the Picasso Museum in Malaga are now designed as a new look at the story of this artistic genius, who has left us the biggest and richest personal creative legacy in the history of art.



© Sucesión Pablo Picasso, VEGAP, Madrid, 2017 © FABBA



© Sucesión Pablo Picasso, VEGAP, Madrid, 2017 © FABBA



The museum's director in the room which concludes the new permanent collection. :: SALVADOR SALAS

"Andy Warhol will be the main temporary exhibition of 2018"

José Lebrero Director of the Museo Picasso

■ M. E. MERELO

-You are making changes to the permanent exhibition but what about the temporary ones?

-The temporary exhibitions will stay as they are. At the moment we are working very hard on the Andy Warhol exhibition which is now at an advanced stage. It will be large format and though they are different artists, visitors will be able to see connections between them, We hope it will be the main exhibition for the summer of 2018.

-It is quite telling that you've carried out the renovation during a period that the gallery was doing so well.

-Yes, visitor numbers continue to increase but that is the challenge. Do we rest on our laurels or do we innovate further? In a city like Malaga where everything is changing so fast, quality has to remain high.

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The difficult art of getting your life back

The Jorge Rando Museum is holding painting workshops to promote the integration of refugees

A group of 16 refugees take part in the museum's initiative, which aims to facilitate their integration into Spanish society

by ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

MALAGA. The Jorge Rando Museum in Malaga has recently launched a new project to help refugees adjust to the Spanish way of life, through the medium of art.

The classes are taught by artist Jerónimo López in the museum's studio which is usually occupied by artists. "These are the first workshops of this type that we have hosted since we opened the museum. The initiative uses art as a tool to allow refugees to connect with each other and also encourage their social integration," explained the director of the museum, Vanesa Díez.

In the latest workshop, 16 refugees who had fled from Ghana, the Ivory Coast, Syria and Eastern Europe, took part. "We have to show refugees that we support them, and projects like this help to do that," said María Gómez, a worker and translator at CEAR, an organisation which provides help for refugees arriving in Spain and is located just around the corner from the museum. María added: "Many refugees don't even know in which city they have arrived", before having to face the challenge of finding a job and somewhere to live at the same time as learning a new language.

SUR spoke to 'Antonio,' one of the workshop's participants, who left Aleppo at the start of the war in Syria five years ago, but still had a tremor in his voice when he talked about the family he left



Refugees participating in the classes held at the Jorge Rando Museum. :: ÁLVARO CABRERA

there. He became animated when he talked about his experience with CEAR and the Jorge Rando workshops, though. "When I am here for these two hours, I don't have

to worry about whether I will understand the others or if they will understand me. When I am here we all understand each other through our paintings," he said.

The museum's director also revealed that NADFAS (National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies) which is a charity based in London, will provide a

grant to fund a trip to the Nerja caves for the participants of the workshop. This comes after UNESCO recognised the museum for the workshops, conferences, guided tours and other educational projects it has provided both locally and internationally. The organisation acknowledged the museum as "not only an exhibition space, but a place that allows us to better understand diversity in a constantly changing world."

The workshops for refugees will conclude with the creation of a mural to be put up in the CEAR centre and an exhibition of the participants' work.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Antonio
Syrian refugee

"For the two hours I am here, we all understand each other through our paintings"

Vanesa Díez
Museum Jorge Rando

"The initiative uses art to allow refugees to connect with and to encourage their social integration"

María Gómez
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JENNIE RHODES



WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

10 MARCH 2005

41 arrested on Costa del Sol linked to Ballena Blanca case

On this day in 2005 a total of 41 people were arrested in Marbella, Estepona, San Pedro de Alcántara, Mijas and Sotogrande, including three notaries and several lawyers in the Ballena Blanca (white whale) case - the largest money laundering ring in Spain.

The arrests were made after police investigations into the owner of Del Valle Abogados law firm, Fernando del Valle, and a number of colleagues and associates.

Chilean-born Del Valle was considered to be at the centre of a money-laundering ring, which included criminal gangs engaged in drug-dealing, arms-trafficking, tax fraud and prostitution in a number of countries including Spain, the UK, Russia, France and the USA.

Del Valle was found to have set up around 500 illegal companies in 'tax havens' such as Gibraltar on behalf of his largely foreign clientele and given the company in the name of one of his own Spanish employees.

In a series of arrests and raids which took place on 10 March 2005, police seized documents on 251 properties, two aircraft, 42 high-end cars, a yacht and 410,000 euros in cash.

Investigating judge Miguel Ángel Torres led the case and the following Tuesday Del Valle was sent to Alhaurín de la Torre prison charged with money laundering, tax fraud and falsification. However, six months later he was released after paying 600,000 euros in bail money. The three notaries were not given prison sentences having paid 50,000 euros in bail.



Fernando Del Valle in court on 13 March 2005. :: J. L. R. / AFP

In total the investigation took six years to complete, due to its complexity and international links. In the end 21 people were linked with the case and it was found that a total of 12 million euros had been laundered through the various il-



legal businesses.

On 1 April 2011, Del Valle reappeared in court and was sentenced to six years in prison and ordered to pay a 2.6 million euro fine. Others sentenced or fined included a French drug dealer and a Finn. Media reaction at the time to the sentences was criti-

cal and questioned the decisions of the judge Federico Morales (pictured left), who read out the sentences.

Critics said the court had been too lenient with the defendants and that it gave those accused in the Malaya case - concerning corruption at Marbella Town Hall - which was ongoing at that point, reasons to be optimistic.

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Detenido	Arrested
Abogado	Lawyer
Ballena	Whale
Blanqueo de capitales	Money laundering
Abogado	Lawyer
Acusado	Defendant
Narcotraficante	Drug trafficker
Paraíso fiscal	Tax haven
Fianza	Bail
Fraude	Fraud
Investigación	Investigation
Red	Network
Incautar	To seize
Delinquir	To commit a crime
Juicio	Trial
Juez	Judge
Sentencia	Sentence

Bilingual crossword inside back page

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Anne Hird of Finca Vida relaxes among the art work on display at the exhibition. :: SUR

Finca Vida presents its second art exhibition in Alhaurín El Grande

The personalities and styles of the artists stand out like visual interpretations of reality

:: TONY BRYANT

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE. A new art exhibition presented by the Finca Vida group is currently on show at the Casa de Cultura in Alhaurín El Grande. The exhibition, 'Illusions', includes works in charcoal, oil, watercolours, chalk and acrylic, and all are the works of local expatriate artists.

The Finca Vida is a group of 14 friends who all share a passion for painting. Led by 82 year-old Anne Hird, the group meets regularly to paint and discuss methods of expressing their art.

Born and brought up in Scotland, Anne studied art in London and Edinburgh before moving to Nigeria, where she lived for 20 years. She re-

tired to Spain 17 years ago.

Ann teaches the initial building blocks of colour, line and form. All initial workouts, personal notes and art quotations are noted in the artist's sketch books and these books will also be on show at the exhibition.

The group was formed after several of Anne's friends visited her studio one day and asked her to make their own art different, and Anne jumped at the chance to help them.

"Some friends came to me seven years ago and asked if I could help them to think differently about their own art work. Training at art schools in London and Edinburgh had opened my mind to new ideas. Together we have been pushing the boundaries ever since," Anne says with a hint of satisfaction.

This is the second exhibition the group has held at the Casa de la Cultura in Alhaurín El Grande, and during their inauguration last Thursday, the group sold 20 paintings.

The exhibition is somewhat different, in that each artist displays in their own vertical space. This makes a strong impact as their personalities and styles stand out like visual interpretations of reality.

"We are endeavouring to work more loosely in a semi-abstract style. Picasso said 'art is reinventing the language'. We are trying," Anne told SUR in English.

The participating artists will be on site during the exhibition and they will be available to answer questions regarding their individual pieces. Visitors will also have chance to see the artists in action.

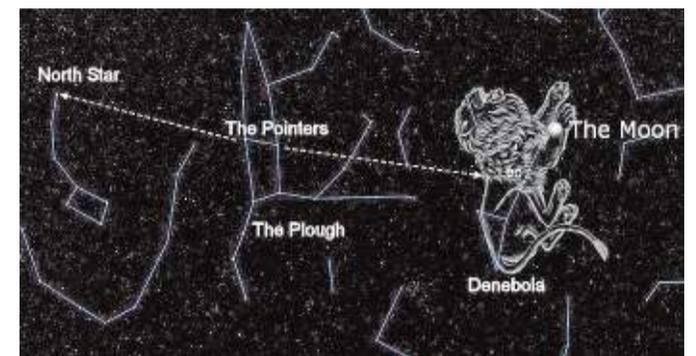
Ninety years young

"We are a crowd of youngsters in our 60s, 70s and 80s: our youngest member is 90," Anne says with a smile.

The exhibition can be visited between the hours of 9am and 2pm, and from 4pm until 8pm. Admission is free and the exhibition lasts until Thursday 16 March.

THE NIGHT SKY

KEN CAMPBELL



Finding Leo the lion

Most of the constellations take a lot of imagination to recognise them, but Leo is one of the better ones and does look like a lion, similar to the ones in Trafalgar Square in London.

In Greek mythology Leo was killed by Hercules during his twelve labours and it is one of the earliest constellations to be named. It lies between Cancer to the west and Virgo to the east. Leo contains many bright stars and is easily recognisable. The head and neck of the lion is depicted by a 'reversed question mark' of stars with the bright star Regulus at its base.

To help you find it, the Moon will be very close to Regulus on 10 March. The rest of the body of the lion forms a rectangle of stars with the bright star Denobla at the lion's tail. At the moment, Leo is pointing head up with his tail pointed toward the horizon. Another way to easily find Leo is to locate the Plough. The two end stars of the Plough are called the pointers and can be used to point to the North Star. If you follow the pointers in the opposite direction then they point to Leo.

Regulus is a about 79 light years from Earth and viewed through binoculars it can be seen as a double star with a faint companion star in orbit around it. Through larger telescopes Regulus is actually a multiple star system of at least four stars. Searching around Leo with a telescope reveals a whole family of distant galaxies, two of them visible with binoculars. M95 and M96 are spiral galaxies similar to our own but at about 20 million light years away. M105 is another galaxy very close to M95 and M96 but at 9th magnitude it would need a reasonable-sized telescope to spot it.

In astrology, the 'star signs' are based upon which constellation the Sun resided on the date of birth. These dates were set many hundreds of years ago and since then the Earth has 'wobbled' on its axis. Traditionally a Leo is meant to represent people born between 23 July to 27 August but as of 2002, the Sun has appeared in the constellation Leo from 10 August to 10 September.

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WILDLIFE

PETER HARRISON



Mad as a March hare

During spring time, animals have a tendency of behaving strangely; some are in advanced pregnancy while others are just out of hibernation

As children we were all amused by the March Hare in Lewis Carroll's wonderful book, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. What he says about hares in March is true, but that's only part of it.

In spring, most animals seem to go crazy. Some are in advanced pregnancy and some are fanatically protective of their young; some are just out of hibernation or torpidity. I was driving across a disused airfield early one March evening when suddenly a sheep appeared from out of the blue and ran head down into the side of the car. The sheep died instantly.

I went to the nearby pub where the landlord identified the owner. I went to tell him what had happened and made a financial settlement satisfactory to both of us. What had happened in that sheep's mind no one can tell. It was not the headlights as it was far from dark. Sadly, the sheep was close to lambing and that was a possible answer. It was a dreadful experience.

Birds have a springtime tendency to fly into car windscreens and lie fluttering on the road usually with a broken neck. Upsetting though it may be, the kindest action is to put the poor creature out of its suffering by hitting it with a stout stick on the head. Never just drive away.

Many wild animals are nocturnal and get attracted by bright light. Badgers, those adorable animals with their black and white faces are especially vulnerable. When the sun goes down, roads retain some of the little heat of the day and animals seek that heat to their peril. Do keep a watchful eye and keep speed down.

However careful you are, accidents do happen and faced with the problem of what to do with an injured animal is a problem as it needs instant action. Never offer food to the animal even if the injury is slight as you will almost certainly offer the wrong food. If you have water aboard (we make a point of always having water and a bowl in the car) give water to the victim. Do not

touch the injured animal as if it is returned to the wild the mother or other peer group animals may reject it. Your scent is abhorrent to

them. Use a cloth or other material which may smell but not of human scent.

Walking with a friend across a

moor we discovered two lambs which had fallen into a stream. In a hedge we found a piece of sacking blown there by wind so that did the trick and the lambs were taken to a

adjacent farm and returned to their mother. Vets are animal lovers and will help with any injured animal but there will be a cost. That's the cost of being a compassionate person.

The March Hare, by John Tenniel. :: SUR

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DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

Aromatic lemon grass

Lemon grass is a sub-tropical plant that forms a large clump with long, narrow swathes that droop elegantly at the ends

Cymbopogon or lemon grass, is a perennial tufted grass with aromatic leaves. The most common species are *C. flexuosus*, native to India, Sri-Lanka and Burma and commonly called Cochin or Malabar grass and *C. citratus*, native to

Malaysia and commonly called lemon or oil grass.

The aromatic leaves of both species are used as a spice, dried for making infusions and as an essential oil although *C. citratus* is most popular as a spice in tropi-

cal Asia. The cane like stems are used in traditional Asian cooking.

Lemon grass contains the same essential oil as lemon peel and has a similar flavour although not as bitter. In many Asian countries and in Brazil, Lemon grass is used as a traditional

medicine as a diuretic, tonic and stimulant. It is said to promote digestion and induce perspiration to help reduce fevers.

It can be propagated from seed or by division and is not fussy about soil but it does need to be free draining.

Lemon grass will grow in full sun or partial shade but is not drought or frost tolerant. In temperate climates it can be grown as edging along a path where it will release its lemony scent when brushed against. In cooler climates it may be better to grow it in a container that can be taken indoors in the winter, or as an annual.

The genus name *Cymbopogon* is derived from the Greek 'kymbe' meaning 'boat' and 'pogon' meaning 'beard' referring to the long boat-shaped swathes and the flowers.

The species *C. nardus* is grown commercially to produce citronella, a popular deterrent for mosquitos. Bee keepers use lemon grass oil to attract a swarm by putting just one or two drops on a napkin and introducing it into or near a hive. Scout bees will find the scent and guard it until the swarm gets there.



A clump of lemon grass and the edible stems (inset). :: SUR

READER'S PHOTO



:: HEIDI CALVERLEY

A RATHER SPECIAL WEED

Heidi Calverley has been trying to find out what this beautiful plant is that she found growing wild near her house. She searched books and eventually turned to a social media site where a Spanish person identified it as *Triguera osbeckii*, once a common wild flower found only in Andalucía, but unfortunately it is becoming harder to find.

GARDENING HINTS FOR MARCH

Giving support

If you know that some of your plants are going to need supporting or they'll be flopping onto neighbouring plants once summer comes, then now is a the time to put in stakes. Use twiggly sticks left over from pruning, bamboo canes or metal stakes but be careful not to damage the root ball of the plant. For 'top heavy' plants such as phlox and peonies, they are better supported by a cage. To make a

cage push in three or four stakes and then weave string in and around them to create a 'cat's-cradle' effect. Other types of support include hoops and trellises. By putting the support in place now even the ugliest ones will soon be covered by leafy branches. Climbing plants may need the new growth gently tied into the support every 10-15cm; use soft string or an old tee shirt cut into thin strips.

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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FACTS AND FACES



The RBL pose outside the Bodega Cuatro Vientos. :: SUR

Coin Royal British Legion visit bodega

COIN
Thirty eight members and guests of the Coin Branch of the Royal British Legion recently went on a trip

to the Bodega Cuatro Vientos in the Sierra de la Contraviesa. They were given a tour of the wine museum before a wine tasting session and lunch, which was also accompanied by wine. Coordinator Peter Brown thanked the trip organiser Gloria Bergillos for such a memorable day.

Lux Mundi take a trip back into the past

MALAGA
Friends of the Half Orange group of Lux Mundi, Torre del Mar went to Malaga to visit the Museo de Malaga which is housed in the Palacio de la Aduana (Customs House). Many of the artefacts on show were part of the Marquis and Marchioness of Casa Loring's collection. Others had been excavated locally in the Axarquia region or where being stored for other institutions.



A Roman mosaic. :: SUR

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REF. K.E.Y.

I run a business in rented premises, but the owner stopped paying the monthly payments of the mortgage, and the bank appropriated the property. I found out about this when the court tried to notify an eviction order for the landlord. Up to date, neither the landlord or the estate agent through which I rented the

premises have informed me about this. I am very worried, because I am not sure if I will be able to pay rent elsewhere in the event that I am evicted, as the rent I am paying here is quite low. What should I do?

In the first place, it is important to take into account that the rental contract that you signed is still valid until its termination, due to the fact that even if the owner has changed as the bank has appropriated the premises, the new owner is obliged to respect the pre-existing rental contract. The only difference is that you will have to pay the rent to the new owner, in this case the bank.

REF. R.U.B.

My father has been notified that he will be dismissed next month. It seems that the company is in a difficult financial position, but my father says that is not true, because he knows their volume of busi-

ness. When he was notified about this, they offered a lump sum as compensation, but we do not know if it is correct, since taking into account that he has been working for 14 years it seems quite low. Nevertheless, he will have to sign an acquittance, and we do not know what will happen if then the compensation is not correct, and he cannot claim because he signed the document. What should we do?

In order to know if the amount offered is correct we need to know some details that you have not provided. In any case, when he receives the dismissal letter, it is essential that he writes "no conforme" when signing. This way, if when calculating the compensation, the amount is not correct, he will always be entitled to make a claim against the company for the outstanding amount within 20 business days of the day of the dismissal.

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	<p>LOGAN Director James Mangold - Starring Hugh Jackman ACTION - 137 min. Friday 10: 20:00, 22:30 Saturday 11 and Sunday 12: 15:45, 20:20, 22:30 From Monday 13 to Thursday 16: 20:00, 22:30</p>			
	<p>MANCHESTER BY THE SEA Director Kenneth Lonergan - Starring Casey Affleck DRAMA - 137 min. An uncle is asked to take care of his teenage nephew after the boy's father dies. Saturday 11 and Sunday 12: 16:00</p>			
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	<p>SING Director Garth Jennings - Starring Matthew McConaughey ANIMATION - 108 min. Saturday 11: 16:00 Sunday 12: 12:00, 16:00</p>			
			<p>KONG: SKULL ISLAND Director Jordan Vogt-Roberts Starring Tom Hiddleston ACTION - 118 min. A team of explorers and soldiers travel to an uncharted island in the Pacific, unaware that they are crossing into the domain of monsters, including the mythic Kong. Friday 10: 18:00, 20:00 Saturday 11 and Sunday 12: 16:00, 18:00, 20:30 From Monday 13 to Thursday 16: 18:00, 20:00</p>	
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Remnants of one of the cranes from the mine, underneath the sea. ::
SALVADOR GALDEANO

The 'Torre del Cable': a marine ecosystem clinging to history

Experts are calling for the species which live on and around the old tower to be protected



MÓNICA PÉREZ

✉ mperezg@diariosur.es

The authorities are about to give the visible part of the structure a facelift, but what can be done to protect what lies unseen below the water?

MARBELLA. In the mid-19th century Marbella was an important mining town. The first civilian blast furnaces in Spain were installed in the municipality and they produced 75 per cent of the country's cast iron. As a reminder of the intensive activity at the Peñoncillo Mine and all the infrastructure associated with it, we can still see the 'Torre del Cable' today; it is an old loading dock which used to be part of an aerial tramway that was built in 1957. This used

towers and a monocable to move the iron from the mine over the N-340 highway, to the ships that could not enter the fishing port because of their size, so they could load it into their cargo holds.

Out of that network of towers, rails and other structures only the last one, the loading bay, is still standing now, and it has been affected by the passage of time, insufficient maintenance and even the effects of earthquakes which have occurred in the area.

Four years ago, the Spanish government decided to remove it on the basis that it could be dangerous, but campaigners using the slogan 'We are all the cable' successfully stopped those plans and Marbella council agreed to carry out urgent works to protect the remaining tower.

Four years on, this project finally has a date and funding and is expected to be carried out in June. The works will include cleaning, removing the existing paint, repainting, and removing any elements which have deteriorated to such an extent that they could pose a danger.

The upper part of the structure will

also be given a facelift. This is the most famous part, the one which has become a symbol of the town and is often shown on posters, pictures and even pendants. It even had a cameo role in one of the Pili y Mili films, the stars of Spanish cinema in the 1960s.

But what condition are the base and the rest of the structure in? That question is being asked not only at the Town Hall - where they are waiting for authorisation so they can carry out the relevant survey - but also by groups of professionals and local residents who are well aware that the tower is not just historic but has also become environmentally important.

Adhering to the base, to the fragments which have gradually been falling down over the years and with

two shipwrecks nearby, a highly valuable underwater ecosystem has been growing. There are species of animals and vegetation which could disappear if works are carried out on the submerged structure. Would it be preferable to protect them, instead of carrying out works to strengthen the base of the tower from which fragments are continuing to fall? How could they be protected? Would they be affected by the project which is about to begin on the upper section of the loading bay?

Most experts believe the most important thing is to maintain this ecosystem. "It has to be maintained. It is full of life," says Salvador Galdeano, the founder and an active member of the Official Underwater Re-

search Centre in Marbella (COIS). "For me the Torre del Cable has both sentimental and ecological value. I have been diving in that area since I was 15 years old, and I'm over 50 now," he says.

When asked about the condition of the underwater part of the structure, he had no doubts: "There is evident deterioration. During our most recent dives we have seen that more pieces have fallen off. So what should be done? Well, I believe they need to find some way to protect the ecosystem while maintaining the tower at the same time," he says.

The Marbella Fire Brigade has offered to carry out an inspection and any necessary preventive work without charging the council for it. This would have two aims: on one hand to preserve as much of the post as possible, and on the other the Fire Brigade's Underwater Unit could use the opportunity to dive in that area for training purposes.

Fire brigade proposal

The idea has already been put to the Town Hall. "We could carry out

Three communities of different marine species have been identified at the base of the tower

Two sunken ships and an old lifting crane provide shelter for a large variety of fishes



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inspections into the state of the ironwork, and also the condition of the seabed and the pipes in that area," says Manuel Lavigne. He knows that area well and a few years ago he produced a report about the condition of the tower after a strong earth tremor caused part of the concrete to give way.

Manuel is also keen for the posidonias to recover; these are a type of seagrass which has been gradually disappearing from the area after an infestation. He also believes the area has possibilities for tourism, something with which Salvador Galdeano agrees.

"Diving in the area close to Marbella doesn't reveal even half of the marine life, biological activity or beauty which this structure holds," says biologist Nora Cámara. Numerous species adhere to the base of the tower, such as mussels, and there are anemones on the lower levels.

"As we go down further, we start to see marine creatures with different biological requirements and their locations depend on their needs," she says.

Nora, who has been working for some time on a study of this ecosystem which adheres to the Torre del Cable (some details have already been released by the Marbella Activa Association) says there are three marine communities at the base of the post.

"There are those which need a high degree of insolation, such as seaweed, brightly-coloured sponges - it is living alongside the seaweed that gives them their colour - and those that hide from the light because they like gloomy conditions, such as the sponges and other dark-coloured invertebrates, red or brown seaweed; and there is also a mixed area, where species which are able to tolerate drastic changes in insolation coexist," she explains.

The old lifting crane which has been submerged for years has also become home to different species and, as Nora explains, "we have found Alcyonacea, a species of soft coral which needs colder, dynamic waters which are filled with plankton. All these species which adhere to the structure are called benthic and they create the biological substratum which



is necessary for fish, crustaceans, octopuses, starfish etc to find shelter and food. In other words, they depend on what has adhered to the Torre. If the benthic species disappeared, those that depend on them would do the same."

All these professionals want a detailed study of this wealth of nature to be carried out before any action is taken, but they are aware of the difficulties involved.

"This isn't a case of rebuilding an inert wall in an inert street. We are talking about the sea, somewhere which is alive," says Nora.

"Maybe it will be necessary to take all the different aspects into account: the maintenance of the tower, the protection of the natural species and the possibilities of aquatic tourism in the area," adds Salvador Galdeano.

The future of the Torre del Cable is obviously still in doubt.



1. Corals which have grown around the tower: **NORA CÁMARA**

2. Fragments which have fallen from the base of the tower. **S. GALDEANO**

3. Member of the community identified in the shady area **::**

NORA CÁMARA

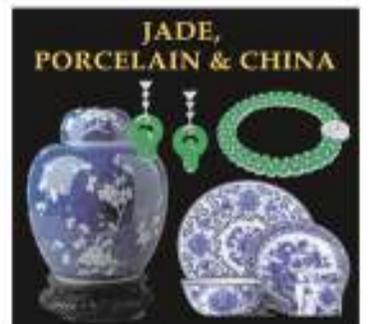
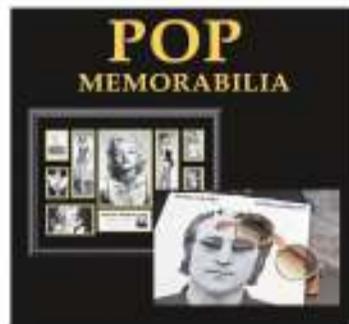
4. A wealth of flora and fauna below the sea. **SALVADOR GALDEANO**

5. Above the water, the Torre del Cable as seen from the beach. **SUR**



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A.J.LINN

THE BREXIT EFFECT



In 2013 David Cameron looked on aghast as the battle between the European and Eurosceptic factions threatened to split his party. The decision he took – calling a referendum on EU membership – seemed logical at the time, but will probably be remembered as one of the most disastrous in recent British history.

Cameron could not have been expected to foresee that voters over a certain age, the bulk of them mistakenly thinking they were voting against uncontrolled immigration, would overwhelm the under-25s, who, in their vast majority, wanted to continue as Europeans.

In the current limbo-land, the uncertainty is affecting small restaurants as much as major banks. No-one has properly assessed the likely domino effect that the Brexitistas ignored. Just as one example, the

EU Medicine Agency, based in London, will have to close its doors and dismiss its 900 employees. Worse, the mere existence of this important EU agency has ensured during decades a continual stream of visitors that filled 350 local hotel rooms daily throughout the year. And where did these visitors go to eat and drink? At the restaurants and pubs in the area.

No restaurant business is exempt. Russell Norman, owner of the Polpo chain, is concerned that the fall in the value of the pound will continue to increase prices of all imported drink and foodstuffs. Jeremy King, whose group includes some of London's best restaurants, such as Wolseley, De-launy and Zedel, has seen the change in attitude of his foreign employees. They no longer consider themselves welcome in their adopted country, and many are considering leaving Britain. On the basis that they form 75 per cent of the workforce, who will replace them? Not the British, who have shown a traditional aversion to such work. As King says, 'Without free movement of labour this business has no future.'

In some UK restaurants customers have noticed the recent absence of tablecloths and staff uniforms. What will be the next cost-cutting measures?

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MARBELLA

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It was not surprising then that Silvia would want to try and recreate a tea shop she visited in Covent Garden here in Spain. A tea boutique with all the charm of a traditional tea merchants shop, something that up until now has been lacking in Marbella.

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Silvia in Tea & Chic specialist tea shop.

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Olive oil, the key to Mediterranean culture

The third edition of the AoveSol Feria is being held this weekend at the Palacio de Congresos in Torremolinos

:: SUR

TORREMOLINOS. The Palacio de Congresos in Torremolinos will be the venue this weekend (10, 11 and 12 March) for the third edition of AoveSol, the Costa del Sol's Extra Virgin Olive Oil Fair (AOVE).

It will be attended by some of the most important olive oil suppliers in Andalucía and Spain in terms of quality, and they will be showcasing some of their innovative products which make the oil the leading light of the Mediterranean diet.

There will be exhibitions, tastings, products for sale, and cook demonstrations by chefs such as Daniel García Peinado. There will also be recreational activities and cooking workshops for children and talks and debates on health, oleotourism and gastronomy.

Events start today, Friday 10 March from 10.30am, when the public exhibition area for tastings and sales opens. Throughout the morning there will be several opportunities to taste the products, including two sessions conducted in English and German, as well as other tastings focusing on important denominations of origin such as Baena, Priego de Córdoba (both in Córdoba) and Sierra Mágina (Jaén). AoveSol will also be open for visits from schoolchildren, who will be able to make their own prod-

ucts using a portable olive press and learn to knead bread under the tuition of Antonio García, from El Colmenero de Alhaurín.

The AOVE workshops will be repeated on Saturday and Sunday at 11.30am, and from 12.25 to 1pm on Saturday and Sunday (and from 4 to 5pm on Saturday afternoon). Children can put on aprons and make delicious desserts, snacks and aperitifs using extra virgin olive oil. And to help children become familiar with the use of olive oil in the Mediterranean diet, a tasting workshop will be offered on Saturday from 3 to 4 pm. All workshops are free.

Live show cooking

Cooks and professionals will also

have the opportunity, from 1 to 3pm every day, to attend the showcooking and master classes that will be given by cooks such as Malaga chef Daniel García Peinado; El Pimpi's Rafael Gutiérrez; Raúl González, from the La Calanova Golf de Mijas restaurant; Eladio Garzón, from the AOVE restaurant in Rincon de la Victoria; and Manuel Mérida, chef at Best Hotel Sirocco in Benalmádena.

Oleotourism, especially in places like the province of Malaga (where despite the abundant heritage of olive mills, ancient olive trees and thematic museums, has not been exploited until now) has begun to emerge as an important asset in rural tourism and gastronomy. Its development, possibilities and trends

will be discussed at a round table talk on Sunday at 4pm with some of the most successful mill owners in the area taking part.

Health is another important aspect of AOVE and on Sunday 12 at 3pm there will be a tasting session aimed at highlighting some of the healthy compounds which can be

detected by taste in the bitter and pungent notes of quality oils - more in some varieties than in others.

The third edition of AoveSol will also include activities aimed at professionals and companies in the sector. José Antonio Amérigo, president of the International Academy of AOVE will be holding a conference entitled, 'New challenges in the marketing of AOVE' and there will be a presentation of the European project Aristoil aimed at boosting the competitiveness in the olive sector.



Malaga chef Daniel García Peinado will be show cooking. :: SUR

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What do mothers fear most?

First-time and more experienced mothers agree that they worry about not knowing what to do if their child has a high temperature or is in pain, and they usually look for information on the internet

■ LINDA ONTIVEROS

For mothers, the wellbeing of their children is vital and 89% want to look after them personally at certain stages of their life, according to a study carried out by the Movement of Mothers in Europe, a Unesco consulting body. The situation can cause intense worry and lead to stress, anxiety and even emotional instability. To find out what worries Spanish mothers most about caring for their children, the first Survey into Concerns and Attitudes of Spanish Mothers was commissioned by the Spanish Society of Outpatient Pediatrics and Family Medicine and the Mylam pharmaceutical company.

“When a woman becomes a mother, there is a major and irreversible change in the way she sees things, her priorities and preferences,” says the report. “She wants to be able to speak for herself and wants her points of view to be taken

into consideration by political leaders.” The survey aimed to give mothers a voice and asked them questions to see what they were worried about, what they wanted and needed: it also tried to find possible solutions. The objective was also to find out how mothers reacted when their children had minor health problems such as high temperature and pain, and what their relationship with their child’s pediatrician was like.

For 47% of first-time and more experienced mothers, the greatest fear is that their child may become ill, followed by not being able to

spend enough time with their son or daughter (35.5%) and not knowing why the child is crying (32.7%). In terms of illness, the biggest fear was that the child would have convulsions if their temperature rose too high, followed by the fear of serious illness (69.9%) and that the temperature would not drop after treatment (61.8%).

“Specifically, the presence of fever in a child is one of the most common reasons mothers consult pediatricians (between 30 and 50%), and it can sometimes make parents afraid and panicky,” say the authors of the report. “In most cases, parents consider a child’s temperature to be the most important sign of a serious infection and this can lead them to misuse the GP medical system and especially the emergency services.”

When a child is unwell, mothers also worry about them being in pain and this is one of the areas of pediatric services which is being stud-

“When a woman becomes a mother, there is a major change in the way she sees things”

METHODOLOGY

The survey

The Spanish Society of Outpatient Pediatrics and Family Medicine carried out the survey using a series of closed questions which were answered by more than a thousand mothers across the country’s autonomous communities.

Aged between 18 and 45, the average age was 36. The proportion of first-time and experienced mothers was equal (501 participants vs 502) and they all had children aged five years or lower.

Mothers with children suffering either chronic or mental illnesses, as well as those with disabilities, were excluded from the survey.

ied in depth. “It’s important to know that pain is a common problem in children and adolescents, but it can result in an unpleasant emotional experience which pediatricians deal with every day,” says the report. “Treating pain properly helps to reduce anxiety



■ S. R.

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in the child and the parents, improves the way treatments work and avoids negative effects of pain such as an increase in morbimortality, hyperalgesia and the negative effect upon development.”

Among the mothers who took part in the survey, 56.5% say that they are most worried about “not being able to identify” their child’s pain and “not knowing whether they should go to the emergency services” (11.6%). About 39% of the mothers said they never give their children medication if they are in pain and would make an appointment with the pediatrician instead, while 25.3% give them paracetamol or ibuprofen at home and know the correct dose to be given.

The survey also looked at the relationship between food and safety. With regard to food, first-time mothers said they were afraid that their child could develop an allergy to something, while more experienced mums were worried that their children would be fussy eaters. When it comes to safety, 79% of all mothers questioned said they were afraid of their children getting lost, followed by them injuring themselves. It may sound obvious, but it’s true: a mother never stops worrying about their child’s welfare.

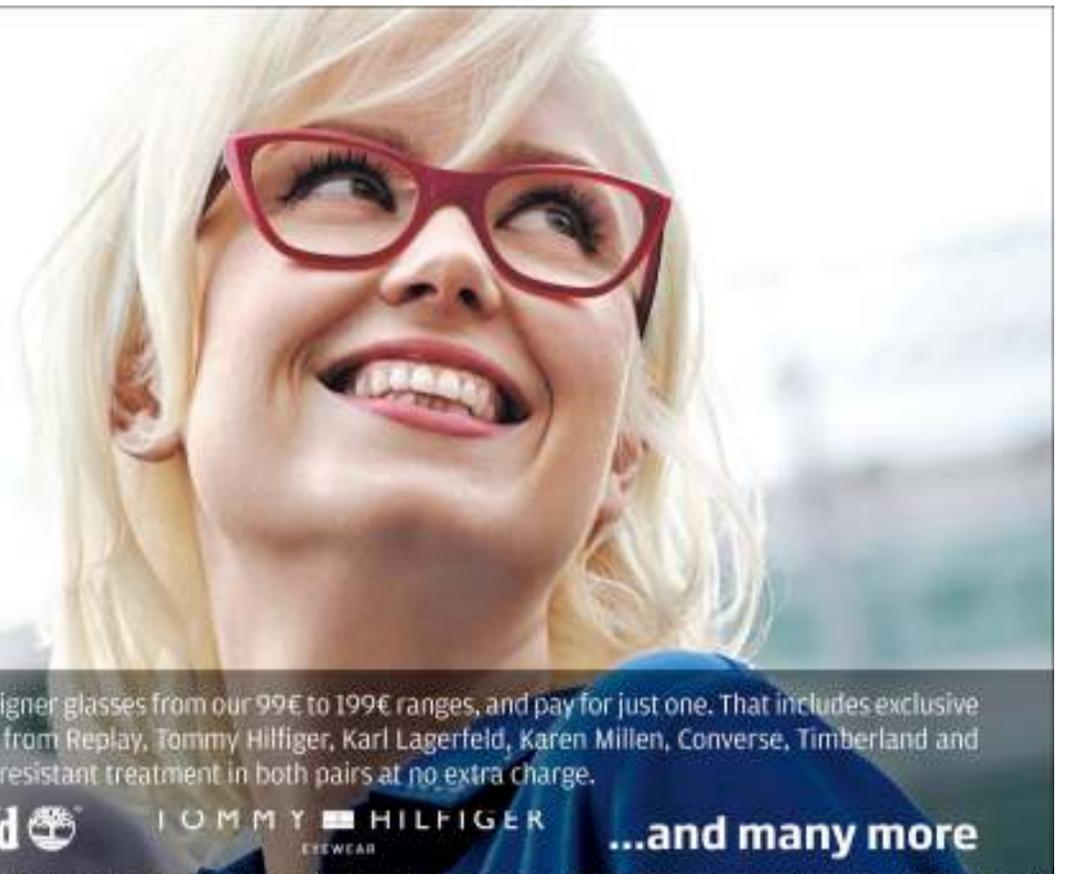
Consulting the internet, the mother of all information

■ L. O.

One of the most interesting items in the survey is how the mothers obtain extra information about motherhood: it appears to be from the internet and social media sites. About 71% of first-time mothers usually look for information on the internet, 28.5% from social media and only five per cent from television. The percentage varies slightly between experienced mothers: 68% look on the internet and 21% in specialist publications.

To sum up, the authors of the report concluded that “the process of assistance between pediatricians and parents is long and complex. It should begin in the prenatal stage and should aim to treat illnesses and keep the child healthy within the context of the family. Parents and pediatricians should bear in mind the biological, psychological and environmental aspects to ensure security, wellbeing and good health.”

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"Some pains are transmitted through observation"

Dr Jordi Montero

Leader of the Neuropathic Pain study group of the Spanish Neurological Society

PIJAR MANZANARES

Some pains warn us of danger, and are like a key which opens the door to a cure. Others are chronic pains, and over six million people in Spain suffer from these. The most common are in the back, joints, head and shoulders. These can disturb sleep and cause anxiety, insomnia and depression. "Chronic pain affects between 10 and 30 per cent of the adult population, and women aged between 40 and 60 are the most affected. This pain is usually related to emotional problems and is the cause of 80 per cent of visits to pain clinics," explains Dr Jordi Montero, the leader of the Neuropathic Pain study group of the Spanish Neurological Society. This doctor has written a book called 'Permiso para quejarse' (Permission to complain), which has been published by Ariel and which refers to all types of pain: those which are just an alarm and are learned in childhood, those which

Not all the pains we suffer are due to injury. Some are learned, and stored in our memory. This is a problem that affects millions of people and there is no treatment for it. What is science doing to help them?

are relieved by medication and those for which there is no treatment and continue to distress those who suffer from them.

-In your book you say: "Pain is a wonderful invention." What is so wonderful about it?

-When I say that, I am referring to pain as a sensory experience which serves as a defence mechanism. If we didn't have that acute pain we wouldn't be able to survive. In fact there is a very rare condition called congenital insensitivity, which is hereditary, where

people who suffer from it lack specific nerve fibres and can't feel pain; they receive blows, fractures and infections without even noticing. They tend to die from complications from self-inflicted injuries. Only those whose symptoms are slight manage to overcome the illness. That's why pain is a wonderful invention. It is an alarm which tells us where the fire is, such as when we get appendicitis, for example. Nowadays, thanks to the properties of substances with an opiate action which even the Ro-

mans used, modern science has developed analgesic medications for acute pain and they are really powerful, capable of boosting the networks which stop the sensation of injury occurring. We are lucky because we don't have to suffer pain, not even when dying.

-Even so, some pains seem to remain and there is no remedy for them.

-That is chronic pain. It is very common and millions of people suffer from it. It lasts a long time - more than six months - but there is no sign of damage. There is no pharmaceutical treatment for it and until recently people were told there was nothing wrong with them, or they were being hysterical. That was pure ignorance on the part of the medical profession, because these people do have pain and that's why they want permission to complain, because of their pain. This is something we have discovered in this century through



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Doctor Jordi Montero during the interview in Madrid. :: JOSÉ RAMÓN LADRA

new cognitive neuroscientific techniques, which have enabled us to observe how the brain functions. Most of the ideas in the world about philosophy and psychology have a physical and scientific basis. We have been able to see what happens with fear, where the neuronal networks which signify fear, horror and attachment are located. We have also been able to see what happens in the brain when pain occurs, so we know that patients who suffer from chronic pain really are experiencing it.

-But if there is no damage, what causes that pain?

-This type of pain is produced by a memory, a sensitivity. In many cases it occurs in people who have suffered very intense pain in the past and it is recorded in their minds. A simple touch, or smell, anything which evokes that past pain, can produce the same feeling. It isn't that the pain (or the cause) actually exists, but its representation in the brain is experienced as something real. It only stops when the people sleep, because when they are unconscious the memory can't appear. Also in some cases of Alzheimer or patients with neuronal damage which causes amnesia, the pain can disappear if someone doesn't have a very vivid memory of it.

-Do you always ask patients whether the pain wakes them up at night?

-Yes, because if the pain is due to damage, a trigeminal neuralgia, for example, it would wake them up. But if the pain is constructed by our conviction, by our consciousness, even without us being aware of that, it cannot appear when we are sleeping. That is important to know. In the same way, we can see that chronic pain is worse when the patient is anxious, when they worry about their pain, or when they join an association of patients who suffer from the same thing.

-So in that case it isn't a good idea to mix with other patients who have the same thing, as people do with some illnesses.

-In cases of chronic pain, definitely not. It would be like an association of poker players who try to give it up but meet up and have a game. In a case like that, wouldn't it be better to mix with people who play chess?

-Is the pain real which we feel when someone we love is ill, or we believe we have inherited it but according to your book it is learned?

-This is a disturbing subject. We learn and understand through imitation. For example, when Messi shoots a goal the mo- 



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IN FIGURES

6

million people in Spain suffer from chronic pain.

80

per cent of these are in response to emotional problems.

6

months is the minimum for a pain to be considered chronic.

> tor neurones of the people who are watching order the quadriceps to move and they imagine themselves doing the same thing. In order to know the significance of something, like that movement, we have to do it in our imagination. We learn through imitation. You have the same smile that your mother would have right now, and you learned it when you were four and a half months old and copied it. And our family all speak with the same accent, and we have the same gestures, because we learn by copying.

-So how do we learn when the pain is acute?

-Just like anything else. A child copies his or her models. Very obese parents have obese children. It is true that there is also a factor called the imprint, which means that not everybody copies at the same time. That also depends on the brain, and we see this in twins whose behaviour is different. In general, though, their behaviour will be very similar. So, children who see their mother suffer a lot of pain end up suffering from a similar pain later. There are pains which are not transmitted through genes, but through simple observation. In general, what we copy are emotions, because it is they that govern, not reason. They are the reason we usually choose certain food

in a restaurant, or the clothes we wear, or why we love one person instead of another. Pain is moved by emotions, so for pain to appear the emotions are very busy. Our conscience has a limited control over our feelings and can produce imaginary pains without us realising it.

-Is that difficult to cure?

-GPs aren't given enough time, or paid enough, to be humanist in the way they deal with all this. They send people for tests and write pre-



:: JOSÉ RAMÓN LADRA

scriptions. If a GP sees six people with headaches in half an hour, asks for six resonance scans and writes thirty prescriptions, he is a good doctor but he won't cure any of them. But if a doctor only sees one, doesn't ask for any tests and doesn't give a prescription but the patient is cured, as far as the health service economists are concerned he is a bad doctor. Doctors nowadays are stopped from being humanists, and this type of problem isn't dealt with from an empathetic view, putting yourself in the patient's place, understanding them, talking to them, spending hours with them sometimes. That would be impossible. Patients need a friendly gesture, affection, without a desk in-between. But the culture, our culture, plays a very important role. In the case of chronic pain you have to move away from this way of doing things, change everyone's attitude and it is very important for patients with this pain, which is causing them so many problems, to know what is happening to them, not to be ignored, and for their pain to be understood. We should explain to patients why they have the pain.

-We don't have a pain culture...

-No, and we all want to be really happy, although we don't really know what that means. Nobody

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wants to suffer, and as we have the concept of acute pain which is treatable, we think chronic pain must be the same: "Oh, they can give me something for it." And it's a business, and they are given something for it, but it isn't very effective. The benefits of treatments which combine motivation, physiotherapy and caresses, generally in the form of massages, are increasingly obvious although there are many other types of physical contact, emotional care ... we are living at a time in which huge lights are beginning to shine on the medicine of the 21st century, because we now know who is the enemy. From a pharmaceutical point of view we are going to be able to be more effective. It is very probable that the modification of certain neuronal receivers can intervene in the alterations of the networks which signify pain in our brain. On the other hand, there are great hopes and projects about electric stimulation of the nervous system, in what has come to be called neuromodulation through stimulation, which is already being applied to patients with Parkinsons.

-In your book you talk about the case of a patient with chronic pain who doesn't feel pain when he is playing a role in a theatre. Are you doing research around

A child will always copy his or her models; very obese parents will often have obese children

alteration of conscience?

-That was something I experienced which taught me a great deal and I should send it to scientific magazines because I believe it is something to think about. I remember something a patient said to me: "Doing something isn't the same

As we have the concept of acute pain which is curable, we think that chronic pain must be the same

as being seen to be doing it." In this case, he forgot the pain. We don't feel it when we are pretending to be somebody else because, obviously, that person doesn't have the same memory and therefore the pain which is recorded in it doesn't occur. This is very interesting. As

Pain cannot be measured; we have to listen to the patient. That's the only way we can understand

you say, perhaps it could be a way of carrying out treatments, but it is something far beyond my ability. Maybe the psychologists of this century who study neuroscience will consider this to be material to work with.

-Does complaining help us to

overcome pain?

-Sometimes a complaint has a sense of grievance, and that is a neurological phenomenon, and it is a type of demand. It helps us because as the pain can't be measured we need to listen to the patient, and he has the right to express his complaint. Through the complaint we can understand what is happening, and more about their emotional world, I have to know things from the patients' pasts because they could be the cause of their chronic pain. You have to look at this in depth and we need specialists who can do that, people who are professionals in emotions.

Advances to combat chronic pain

■ P. M.

Chronic pain, whether it is neuropathic or through sensitisation, is a problem in later life, as Dr Montero explains. "Pains which are basically inflammatory and related to the ageing of joints, vascular injuries... they are going to

become even more common, which means that chronic pain will become increasingly more prevalent," he says

Faced with evidence that conventional treatments are ineffective in the majority of cases, researchers are making progress in

other paths and although there is still a great deal to be discovered there have been some interesting advances.

One of these is a proposal by neuroscientist Vilayanur S. Ramachandran, who favours a treatment based on movement. This movement has to be real as long as the patient's condition permits it: walks, specific exercises for certain limbs - but it can also be imagined movement. For example, when the patient has a paralysed hand, mirrors can be used so the unconscious observes that this

hand is moving.

Another very interesting and curious step has been taken in Australia by the group led by neurologist Lorimer Moseley, who says that in addition to motivation patients need to have their situation explained to them. In the book 'Explain Pain', he says that rational knowledge of the cause of the problem should always be part of the therapy for this type of patient. Often, understanding a situation means that we deal with it better, and in this case it could make us hurt less.

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Hospital Costa del Sol reinstates its bone marrow donation services

After a brief closure which forced donors to travel to Malaga, Marbella residents will be able to donate bone marrow at Hospital Costa del Sol once again



Donors at a CRTS mobile unit in La Campana last summer. :: J-LANZA

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ
MARBELLA. After Pablo Ráez's hard-fought campaign and his death at age 20 on the 25 February, the number of people donating bone marrow has increased nationally by approximately 1,300 per cent. Therefore residents in Marbella, Pablo's hometown, were shocked when they learnt earlier this week that Hospital Costa del Sol was no longer providing a bone marrow donation service. Yesterday, however, it was announced that the hospital will open its doors to donors once again. Originally the hospital stated that they did not have sufficient staff or

facilities to continue accommodating such large numbers of donors, as they had done up until the closure. Since then however Mayor José Bernal has promised to provide the

hospital with extra funding to enable the reintroduction of the service during this time of high demand, which has meant a quick turnaround in the hospital's plans.

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Marbella Council to name a public space after Pablo Ráez

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ
MARBELLA. José Bernal, the Mayor of Marbella, has agreed to honour Pablo Ráez's legacy by naming a public space in Marbella after him. The announcement comes after Francisco José Molina, a resident from

Vélez who was so moved by Pablo's story and campaign that he launched a campaign of his own, successfully, to ensure that the young hero will not be forgotten.

Starting his campaign with the slogan 160,000 signatures to get a

street named after Pablo on the day of Pablo's death, Molina has since collected 163,000 signatures and convinced the council.

Pablo's name will soon be the title of a public space "whether it's on a street, square or the new San Pedro health centre," said the town's mayor. "We will fulfill the wishes of the 163,000 people who signed the petition by ensuring that Pablo's image and his effort to help save lives will always be remembered and associated with Marbella," he added.

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Andalucía

Countryside in Andalusian colours

The White Villages Route in the Sierra de Cadiz passes through countryside with huge environmental value

JAVIER ALMELLONES

The Sierra de Cadiz is tinted with the colours of the Andalusian flag. The beautiful green countryside of this area is also home to the White Villages Route, which takes in the famous 'pueblos blancos' and their traditional architecture.

Between Los Alcornocales and Sierra de Grazalema natural parks, in the northeast of Cadiz province, lie numerous charming towns and villages whose pretty streets and mountainous surroundings enchant everyone who visits them.

It would be difficult to see all the places on this route in a short time. The best way is to make several visits between autumn and spring.

One place which should not be missed is Arcos de la Frontera, whose picturesque town centre has been classified as a Site of Historical and Artistic Interest. Arcos is located between the mountains and the flat plain of the 'campiña', and two of the biggest rivers in the area pass through it, the Guadalete and the Majaceite. The former flows into two emblematic local reservoirs, those of Bornos and Arcos.

As well as looking lovely – especially the part known as 'La Cola de Bornos' – both of these reservoirs are environmentally important and are officially classified as natural areas. However, this is not the only protected area of Arcos, as part of its land lies within the natural park of Los Alcornocales, considered the biggest 'green lung' of Andalucía.

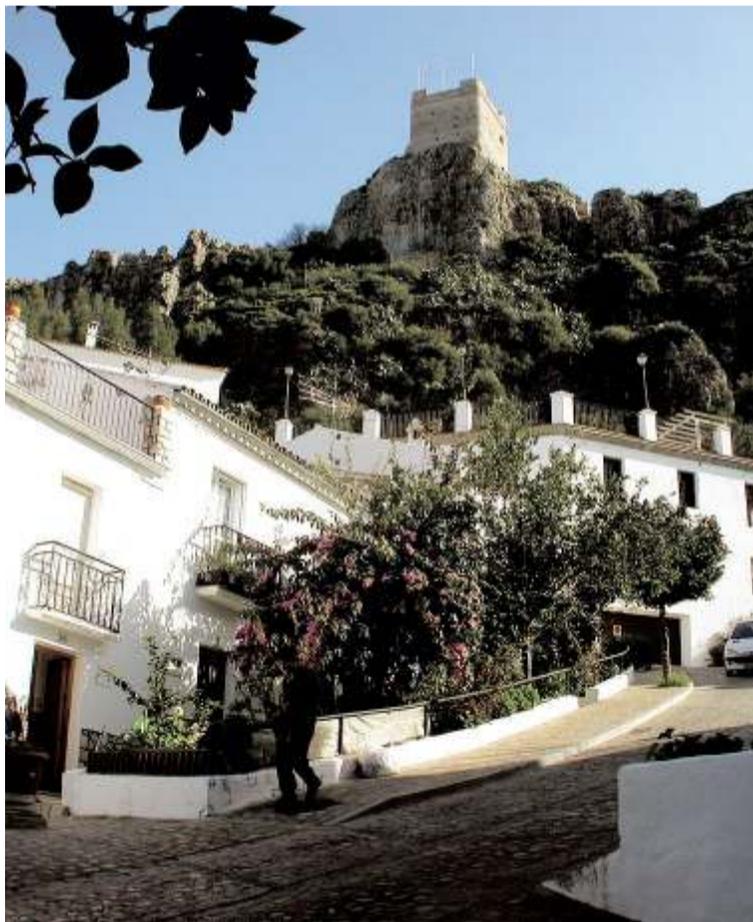
In Arcos, it is a good idea to walk up to the top of 'La Peña', the rock upon which the town was built. From there, you will not only have spectacular views over the mountains, the plain and the reservoirs, but can also enjoy some local history, including the lovely castle and the churches of La Asunción and San Pedro.

In the area around Arcos de la Frontera there are small villages such as Espera, Bornos and Algar, but it is also worth visiting Ubrique, El Bosque and Prado del Rey, which are known not only for their beautiful countryside but also for artisan crafts. This area forms the transition between Los Alcornocales and the Sierra de Grazalema.

The town of Ubrique sits at the foot of rugged mountains and has some fascinating historical landmarks such as Roman remains, the San Antonio church, the Capuchi-



A view of La Peña in Arcos de la Frontera. :: ANTONIO ROMERO



Zahara de la Sierra :: JOSÉ MANUEL BRAZO MENA.

nos convent and the Cardela castle, among others. However, it is particularly famous for its leather goods and is the perfect place to buy quality garments and other items.

El Bosque and Prado del Rey are smaller than Ubrique. The former is a typically peaceful, rural village with plenty of charm. It is located at the foot of the mountain which still bears the Arabic name of Albar-

delightful Benaocaz, which is home to an important Roman road and the castle of Tavizna.

Heading towards the east, anyone who loves the type of cheese called 'payoyo' should stop off at Villaluenga del Rosario, a tiny village at the foot of the mountains with some important ecological areas and well-preserved Roman remains. Visitors can buy this award-winning artisan cheese, which is made from the milk of the local 'payoya' breed of goat, from the local producer, and there is also an interesting cheese museum.

At the heart of this route lie Grazalema and Zahara de la Sierra. Zahara is particularly beautiful, sitting on a hill crowned with a Moorish castle and with the waters of the reservoir at its feet. It is considered one of the loveliest places in Spain, thanks to the Andalusian heritage which is also reflected in its picturesque steep and narrow streets.

Grazalema, surrounded by mountains with enormous environmental value, is 800 metres above sea level and is one of the highest villages in Andalucía. The source of the Guadalete river lies here, and it is possible to climb to the top of the highest peak in Cadiz province, El Torreón, which at 1,648 metres poses a challenge even to experienced mountain walkers. It is part of the Sierra del Pinar, where there are some very rare pinsapo fir trees.

The White Villages Route also includes other historical villages such as Olvera, which boasts a 12th century castle and magnificent church; Algodonales, which in recent years has become a paradise for lovers of air sports; and Setenil de las Bodegas and Alcalá del Valle, where many of the houses have been excavated from the surrounding rock.

Other interesting places along this route are the villages of El Gastor, Puerto Serrano, Villamartín and Torre Alhàquime.

On the White Villages Route in Cadiz province are many picturesque villages and towns

racín. Apart from its natural beauty, it is also known for its gastronomy and particularly the trout which are bred beside the Majaceite river.

Prado del Rey, situated between agricultural fields and the steep and rugged Sierra de Grazalema, is one of the newest places in the area, having been settled in the 18th century. As a result its layout and appearance differs from those of other villages, as its streets are straighter and more regular. However, its buildings are painted in the same bright white as the others and it has some very interesting historical remains such as the Roman ruins of Iptuci.

Not far from here, the White Village Route takes visitors to the



Part of Setenil is excavated from the rock. :: SUR

EXHIBITIONS

Museum Jorge Rando

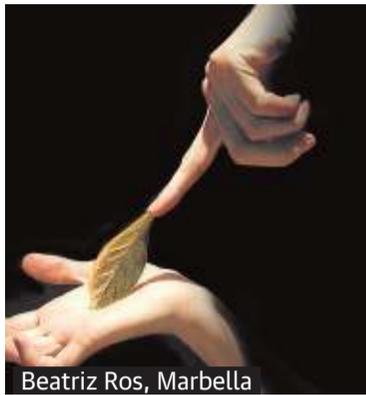
Malaga. *Cruz del Molinillo, 12*
The works of contemporary artist Jorge Rando are on permanent display. The museum also holds poetry and musical events.

Lawrence Weiner

Malaga. *Until 12 March, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.*
Lawrence Weiner first exhibited in the CAC Malaga in 2009. He returns with four works entitled 'There are Things that Move Outside of Motion, 2001

Cruz Herrera Museum

La Linea. *Permanent exhibition in La Linea de la Concepción.*
The museum has a gallery for Hererras' works plus conference room and classroom.



Beatriz Ros, Marbella

Semana Santa Musuem

Vélez-Málaga. *Museo Municipal de Semana Santa, Iglesia de Santa María. Permanent exhibition. Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-2pm and 5pm-8pm. Sundays and festival 10am-2pm. Closed Monday.*
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Revello de Toro

Malaga. *C/Afligidos, 5.*
A new season's exhibition entitled 'Damas, Retratos Femeninos' consisting of eight paintings of sensual women by Félix Revello Toro. Until 2 April.

Galería Krabbe

Frigiliana. *Until 8 April. Galería Krabbe, C/Rosario La Joaquín.*
An exhibition of art work by Fernando de la Rosa.

Roger Cummiskey

Marbella. *Until 31 March, The Golfer Sports Bar.*
Abstract oil paintings in an exhibition entitled 'Potpourri'.

38 Picassos

Malaga. *Until 26 March, Museo Picasso Málaga*
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Daniel Silvo

Malaga. *Until 11 March, Galería Isabel Hurley, Pase de Reding.*
'Conservar y divulgar' is the current exhibition at the gallery by Daniel Silvo. The exhibit includes a video which records the process of abandonment of four Mexican works of art in the US.



Happy Artists, La Cala Mijas

Aurora Alcaide

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

Marcel Van Eeden

Malaga. *Until 26 March, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.*
Dutch artist Marcel Van Eeden is displaying around 250 works in charcoal, watercolour and pastel which depict scenes from the 16th century.

Expo Jurassic

Malaga. *Until 26 March, Recinto Ferial.*
An interactive exhibition of life-size dinosaurs. Tickets from www.expojurasico.com

Emilio Espinosa Pabón

Malaga. *Until 3 April, Alfajar Sala, C/Cister.*
A temporary exhibition of the unusual bicycles of Emilio Espinosa. Inauguration 8pm 3 March.

Japanese art

Malaga. *Until 23 April. Museo Carmen Thyssen, C/Compañía, 10*
The exhibition 'Japon. Grabados y objetos de arte' includes 24 drawings, one painting and around twenty other objects.

Rando y Ciriza

Malaga. *Until 30 April. Cruz del Molinillo, 12*
The Malaga artist and the sculptor from Pamplona are holding a joint exhibition entitled 'Encuentro Jorge Rando - Carlos Ciriza.

Travis Somerville

Malaga. *Until 7 May, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.*
American artist Travis Somerville gives voice to the immigrants in the US and also stands up for the indigenous Indians with powerful art works that incorporates disturbing images such as the capes of the Klu Klux Klan.

Beatriz Ros

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

Benezra Gallery

Marbella. *Until 31 March. La Quinta, between Marbella and San Pedro.*
This new gallery specialises in contemporary art and sculpture as well as fine art and impressionist sales. It also supports emerging artists. The opening exhibit highlights the works of eight contemporary artists

Margaret Riordan

Torrox Costa. *Bar Choto Playa, Peñoncillo Beach.*
Nerja. *Restaurante Sevillano, El Rincón, C/Gloria*
Both exhibitions run until the end of April 2017.

Annabel Keatley

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

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



Guernica 951, Malaga

Malaga-Guernica 951

Benagalbón. *Until 7 April. Sala de exposiciones Robert Harvey in the Colegio Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria*
Rogelio López Cuenca and Elo Vega have organised an exhibition of art by students and teachers at the school based on the theme of the 'desbanda' when thousands fled Malaga.

Picasso and Opisso

Macharaviaya. *Until 17 April. Museo de los Gálvez.*
The exhibition consists of 31 portraits of women by Pablo Picasso and Alfredo Opisso.

Artistas Eclécticos

Mijas Pueblo. *Until 17 March. Clínica Veterinaria, Avd México 21.*
Works by Sinikka Ahokas-Gröhn, Elaine Carlton and Richard Wood. www.artistaselecticos.com

Torremolinos Chic

Torremolinos. *Permanent exhibition, Casa de los Navajas.*
A permanent exhibition of photographs taken in the 60s and 70s entitled Torremolinos Chic. The twenty photographs include one of the legendary Bridget Bardot posing on Carhuela beach.

Happy Artists

Mijas Costa. *Until 31 March, BocArte Restaurante, C/Cómpeta.*
Paintings by the accomplished Norwegian Artist, Gunnvor Sorhus.

Jane Kleinschmit

Cómpeta. *Until 11 March, Galería Centro de Bellas Artes.*
German impressionist, artist Jane Kleinschmit portrays her love and passion for her life in Granada through a large selection of dazzling canvasses.

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Ramce
Fuengirola. Until 16 March, Double Tree by Hilton Resort & Spa, Reserva del Higueron.
Art work by Cuban artist Ramce.

Itinerarte
Benalmádena. Until 19 March, Centro de Exposiciones, Av Antonio Machado, 33
Paintings, photos and graphic art created by 35 artists of different ages and styles.

'The sword and the pen'
Mijas. Until 9 April, Sala del Patio de Las Fuentes, Mijas town hall.
The exhibition 'Málaga y Cervantes: La Espada y la Pluma IV Centenario (1616-2016)'.

CHARITY

Sunday markets for Cudeca
Los Boliches. 12 March. From 11am. Ilunion Hotel, Plaza San Rafael. Free entry.
Everything from quality bric-a-brac to antiques as well as art. To book a stall tel: Tom Allan of the Cudeca Goldies 661402134

'HairtoCare
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.
There will also be live music, cakes, mojitos, other refreshments and paella available.
Petro's hairdressers (for appointment. tel: 952 467 130) is situated just off the Plaza de la Hispanidad near to the Fuengirola fairground while CR's (For appointment. tel: 952 474 147) is located opposite the train station in Fuengirola.



Molina de Inca botanical garden

BY TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. One of Torremolinos' most beautiful hidden secrets is its wonderful botanical gardens.

Relatively unknown to people outside the town; the Molina de Inca and its sublime gardens are a hidden gem.

One of the gardens' most notable features is the fifteenth century water mill that is driven by the springs in the mountains that surround it.

Located just behind the Aqualand Water Park, this stunning botanical garden offers a little piece of paradise to all who visit.

The gardens take their name from the old flour mill, which today has been turned into a museum. A visit to this unique building provides an informative and interactive experience, as well as an insight into the workings of this emblematic landmark.

The gardens are beautifully laid out with a vast selection of plants, shrubs and flowers. There are more than 300 species of trees and these are complemented by unique water features and statues.

A small stream flows through the gardens and there are three different ponds full of aquatic plants and tropical fish. There is also an abundance of wildlife and exotic birds, including peacocks,

INFORMATION

► **When:** Tuesday to Sunday from 10.30am until 2pm, and 4 to 7pm.

► **Where:** Camino de los Pinares, Torremolinos.

► **Tickets:** Entry costs just one euro, while children under 12 and pensioners are free. Guided tours are available, but must be booked in advance on 952 379 400.

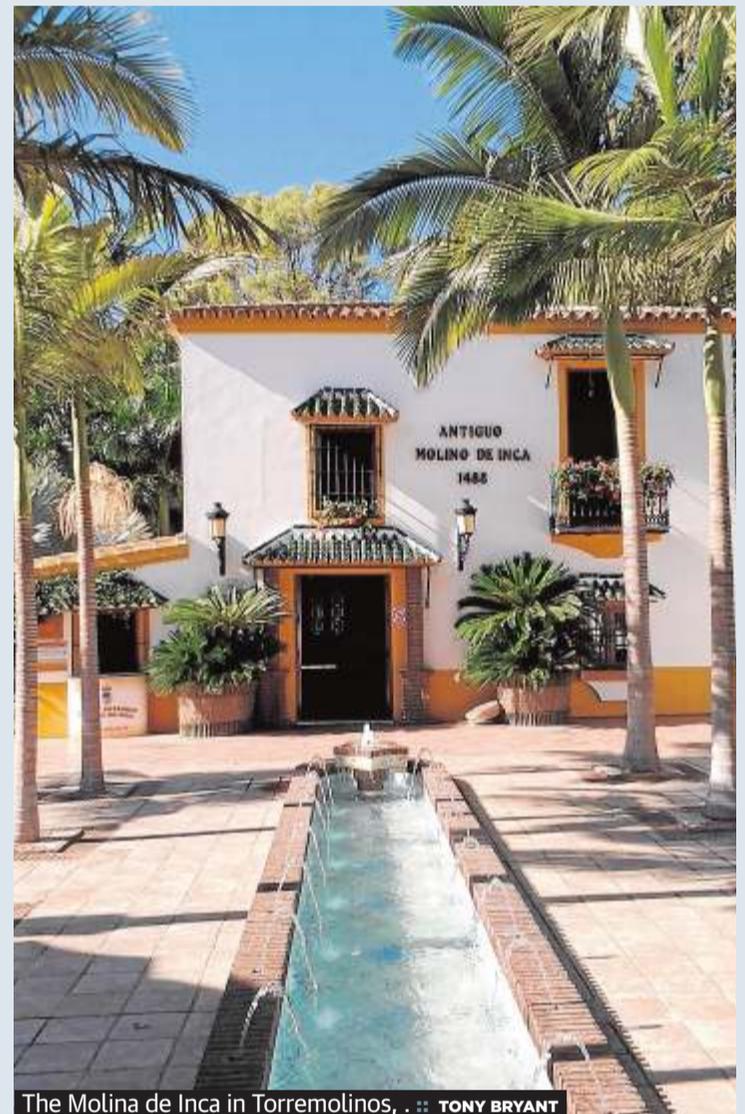
falcons, owls and macaws.

A key feature of the gardens is a 50-metre natural maze which boasts a 100-foot pine tree as a centre piece.

Other interesting features are four pink Italian marble statues that symbolise the four seasons, and the Japanese water garden with its impressive collection of bonsai trees.

The Japanese garden is designed for the enjoyment of the senses, and a stroll through this tranquil area releases one from the strains of everyday reality.

The Molina de Inca has quite a bit of history attached and sev-



The Molina de Inca in Torremolinos, BY TONY BRYANT

eral prominent figures have visited over the years

In 1926, King Alfonso XIII and Queen Victoria Eugenia visited the gardens.

Among the many things on display in the museum is a marble bath that was used by Queen

Victoria Eugenia during her stay in Torremolinos.

The Molina de Inca is not the easiest place to find and so it would be wiser to take a taxi. For the more adventurous, the gardens are approximately 15 minutes' walk from the centre of town.

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CHARITY

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

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



Daphne & Nicky, Wall Bar

MUSIC & DANCE

The Wall Bar

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

10 March. Daphne & Nicky. Jazz and bossanova.

11 March. Twin Room. Sonia Veravocals and Josu Jungutu on piano. Vintage swing.

Guy Braunstein and friends

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

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

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

Malaga. *Teatro Cervantes*

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

www.orquestafilarmonicademalaga.com

Auditorio Museo Picasso Malaga

14 March, 8pm. The tenth series of Chamber Concerts.

Music has no limits

A. MARQUÉS

MALAGA. The 'Music has no Limits' show is a concert which alternates between Michael Jackson, Adele, Queen, The Police, U2 and Avicii. An event where an aria can end up fused into one of the most recognised songs in the history of heavy metal.

The show, which breaks the barriers between the genres, is on tour in Spain after having triumphed in New York, Miami, Mexico and Milan, among others. On Saturday, March 11, it comes to the Cervantes Theatre in Malaga after visiting Granada, Bilbao, San Sebastián, Valencia, Seville and Gijón.

The concept is based on a fusion of legendary music by Queen, David Guetta, Lady Gaga, Barbra Streisand, Guns N'Roses, Bruno Mars and Puccini, for example, and creating a different interpretation.

The motto of the company that organises the show is that "music has no limits". During the show, gospel introduces pop and precedes house and classical music. Everything is valid as long



Classical and modern instruments are used on stage. :: SUR

INFORMATION

▶ **When.** 11 March, 8pm.

▶ **Where.** The Cervantes Theatre, Malaga.

▶ **Tickets.** Between 11 and 30 euros from www.unientradas.es or discounted from Sur's Oferplan: www.oferplan.diariosur.es

as it has rhythm and pleases the audience.

The tour will visit a total of 14 Spanish cities, the last seven have been very successful and Malaga looks as if it could be sold out with over two thirds of the tickets sold already.

Tickets can be bought online through www.unientradas.es or take advantage of a discount with the Diariosur Oferplan online at www.oferplan.diariosur.es

Mozart requiem

Granada. 11 March, 7pm. *Auditorium Manuel Falla*

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

Student orchestra competition

Nerja. 10, 11 March. *Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja*.

There will be a parade from Calle Cristo to the Balcón de Europa on 10 March at 8pm. The different orchestras will play outside the town hall. Then on 11 March 7pm the main event, a concert by several orchestras including the Dutch orchestra 'University of Maastricht'

Japanese violinist recital

Gibraltar. 14 March, 8pm. *Convent Ballroom*.

Daishin Kashimoto will be in concert accompanied by Eric Le Sage. The programme will feature music by G. Faure, J Brahms and C Franck.

Tango

Almuñécar. 16 March. 8pm. *Auditorio Casa de la Cultura*

The Orchestra Social del Tango will be providing an evening of tango music and dance.

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).

18 March, 8pm. 'Profane songs of the renaissance' with the Resonare Fibris Consort.

Wind and string octet

Malaga. 17 March, 9pm. *Club El Candado, Avda Principal del Candado*

The octet will be playing music by composer Franz Schubert.

Joseph

Fuengirola. 17 - 26 March, *Salon Varietés*.

The smash hit musical Joseph and

the Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat is coming to the Salon Varietés Theatre. Shows nightly at 8pm, Sunday 7pm and matinée Saturday at 3pm. Box office tel: 952474542 or online www.salon-varietestheatre.com

Danza Invisible

Torremolinos. 18 March. *Auditorio Principe de Asturias*. 16€ in advance, 20€ on the door.

A special concert to celebrate the



Danza Invisible, Torremolinos

35th anniversary of the legendary Spanish band.

Symphonic orchestra concert

Almuñécar. 19 March. 8pm. *Auditorio Casa de la Cultura*

Schumann's symphony n°4 and Rachmaninov's concerto for piano n°2. Conducted by Michael Thomas. Soloist Alejandro Algarra.

JJMM concert

Almuñécar. 20 March. 8pm. *Auditorio Casa de la Cultura*

Daniel del Pino will be playing the fourth book from the Iberia Suite by Albéniz.

Cool Racoon

Vélez-Málaga. 22 March, 11.30am. 23 March, 10.30 am and 12pm. *Teatro del Carmen*. 4€

La Academia Pirata is presenting a musical called 'Cool Racoon' in English.

Stars of the West End

Mijas Costa. 24 March. *Teatro Las Lagunas*

Songs from "The Phantom of the Opera", "Les Misérables", "Jersey Boys", "Oliver", "Cats", "Beauty and the Beast" and many more during a 2-hour show performed by Mike Sterling, Jo Gibb and Michael Conway. Tickets 20 or 25€

www.ticketsource.eu/bigmpromotions or One Stop Shop, La Trocha, Coín; Sunshine Golf Store, La Cala de Mijas; IBEX, Insurance office, Fuengirola; Woody's, Los Boliches Or tel: 952 661 819 Also enjoy dinner accompanied by the stars at Tamisa Golf on 22 March; La Sala Puerta Banús on 23 March and La Sala, Sunborn, Gibraltar on 25 March. VIP tables available.

Easter Concert

Vélez-Málaga. 25 March, 8pm. *Teatro del Carmen*. Free entry

A special concert for Easter with pianist Alberto Martín and Elisa Urrestarazu on saxophone.

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Barbershop singers

Benalmádena. 6 April, 8pm. *Salón Valero, Hotel Polynesia, Holiday World.*

Direct from the USA for an exclusive concert, SABS (Spanish Association of Barbershop Singers) welcome GQ and old school quartets to perform in a 90 minute show. The convention continues until 9 April with competitions, classes, workshops and shows. www.ticketsource.eu



Barbershop choir, Benalmádena

FLAMENCO

El Duende

Nerja. 10 March. 9pm. *Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja.* 10€
Ballet Flamenco de Andalucía A flamenco show by the Pilar Soto flamenco dance company.

Flamenqueando a Lorca

Vélez-Málaga. 17 March, 9pm. *Teatro del Carmen.* 5€
Flamenco dance, music and Lorca's poetry.

Ballet Flamenco

Almuñécar. 18 March. 8pm. *Auditorio Casa de la Cultura*
Ballet Flamenco de Andalucía 'Aquel Silverio'.

Flamenco night

Torremolinos. 18 March, 8pm. *Meson El Norte, C/La Cruz.* 25€
Three course meal and flamenco recital. Reservations tel: 667 07 67 09

LECTURES

U3A Lectures

Fuengirola. *Lux Mundi reference Library, free to members, guests 5€.* www.u3acostadelsol.org
Art and artists: 'Fake and Fortune' series. 15 March, 11am-12.30pm. 'Is it fake or worth a fortune?'
Speaker: Liz Cochrane
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
Mixed bag talk: 'A history of the British honours system, years 1800-2017: shocking revelations question whether it is fit for purpose'. 21 March, 11am-12.30pm. A group discussion led by Geoff Cooke.
Science and technology: Free will and consciousness. 22 March, 11am-12.30pm. What is Free Will? What is Consciousness? Are they compatible with a 'scientific'

interpretation of the mind, what are the legal implications of free will? And can a robot be conscious? Speaker: Ian Phillips.

Science and technology: The Future for Mankind 5 April, 11am-12.30pm. Does mankind have a future? Will developments in artificial life and artificial intelligence make humanity redundant, or will we create a future where death is obsolete? Speaker: Ian Phillips.

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.
Humanity, ethics, Frankenstein and redemption. 31 March.

FESTIVALS

Carnaval

Torremolinos. *Until 12 March.*

St. Patrick's Day

Fuengirola. 17 March *midday.* Striker's Sports Bar. Irish music, draught Guinness etc.
Fuengirola. 16 March. *Miramar shopping centre.* Performances, fashion show, children's activities.
Torremolinos. 18 March. *Midday to 6pm.* Plaza de la Nogalera. Celtic dancing, food and beer.

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A competition of orchestras descends on Nerja this weekend



Various orchestras will be performing in Nerja this weekend. :: SUR

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

NERJA. The student music group of the Law, Philosophy and Arts faculty of Malaga university are hosting a competition between student orchestras in Nerja this weekend in aid of the Taller de Amistad charity which helps disabled people.

It starts on 10 March at 7pm when a parade leaving from Calle Cristo will head to the Balcón de

Europa.

The different orchestras and student bands will demonstrate their skills with short concerts outside the town hall at 8pm.

On 11 March at 7pm, the main event takes place in the Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja.

There will be concerts by several orchestras including the Dutch student orchestra from the University of Maastricht.

INFORMATION

► **What.** A competition between various orchestras and musical groups. 5€ entry fee goes to charity.

► **When.** 10, 11 March.

► **Where.** Nerja town hall and the cultural centre.

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Reenactment, Yunquera

FESTIVALS

Fiestas Patronales San José

La Herradura. 16-19 March. Lots of events including horsemanship competitions, a horse show showcasing the beauty of the Pura Raza Andaluz, dancing, live music, padel, table tennis, tennis tournaments, Flamenco, parade of giant heads etc.
www.almunecar.info

EVENTS

Historic reenactment

Yunquera. 10, 11, 12 March

In the mid nineteenth century Yunquera was caught up in the rage of the defeated Napoleonic Army who set fire to the town. Over three days, more than 300 amateur actors will take part in a re-enactment of events. The town will be converted into a village of those times and there will be a food market selling local products. A bi-lingual Spanish/English tour will take visitors through historical areas of the town.

Ecological market

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

Ecological food and environmentally friendly products are on sale.

Urban Race

Torre del Mar. 19 March. Leaving from Vals Sport Axarquía

The first Carrera Urbana in Torre del Mar. The course is 10km long. Inscription before 15 March in Base shops in Torre del Mar and Vélez-Málaga and in Vals Sport Axarquía. Infants 5€, junior to veteran 10€. Each participant will receive a tee-shirt.

ITS theatre production

Saving the planet



The photos are on display in the Paseo del Parque. :: F. G

MALAGA. The open-air exhibition 'Gestos para salvar el planeta' in Malaga's Paseo de Parque, consists of a collection of 65 enlarged photographs by national and international photographers. The content is aimed at raising public awareness of the dangers to the environment and there is also advice on how little changes to everyday life can actually help to save the planet. The exhibition is sponsored by Fundación AXA and commissioned by naturalist Joaquín Araújo.

INFORMATION

► **When:** Until the end of March.

► **Where:** Paseo del Parque, Malaga.

► **What:** 65 enlarged photographs with descriptions on how to help to save the planet.



Mustard Seed Gang, AeG

Estepona. 10, 11 March, 8pm. 12 March 7pm. Atalaya Park Hotel. The International Theatre Studio will be performing 'Kindly Leave the Stage' for three nights at the Atalaya Park Hotel. Tickets tel: 639265912.

Cheese market

Torre del Mar. 12 March. Paseo de Larios

The 6th Mercado de Queso Artesano de Cabra Malagueña and Vino de la Axarquía. www.cabrama.com or axarquiamegusta.blogspot.com.es

Mustard Seed Gang

Alhaurín el Grande. 11 March. 3-4.30pm. Cemetery Chapel

Story telling, crafts, games and refreshments for children of all ages. Tel: 697867377

Trip to Gibraltar

From Torre del Mar. 16 March. 20 April. Various departure points. 12€

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

Trip to Olvera and Setenil

From Torre del Mar. 23 March. Various departure points. 20€ Coach trip to Olvera and Setenil

de las Bodegas. Tel.952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org. Webpage: www.lux-mundi.org

Trip to see 'Stars of the West End'

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

Price includes concert ticket, coach fare and driver's gratuity. Payment required on booking please. Information tel Gail on 951067723, email phoenixsocialclub@yahoo.co.uk or go to www.phoenixsocialclub.co.uk.

Weekend in Morocco

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

Price includes coach, catamaran and coach in Morocco, half board accommodation, quarter bottle of wine and water with dinner. Gratuities are NOT included. Travel Insurance mandatory. Information tel Gail on 951067723, email phoenixsocialclub@yahoo.co.uk or go to www.phoenixsocialclub.co.uk.

Train trip to Valencia

Torre del Mar. 8-12 May. 403€ (dble) 455 (sngle)

Includes bed and breakfast at Hotel Eurostar Rey Don Jaime 4*, transfer, train tickets, excursion, boat trip and menu del día, travel insurance. Tel.952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org. Webpage: www.lux-mundi.org

O. V. FILM

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

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T2 Trainspotting: 18.30, 22.35

Moonlight: 20.35

La La Land: 19.50

Jackie: 16.15

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22.00 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)

La La Land: 17.00 (Tues)

Logan: 12.00 (every day), 16.30,

19.20, 22.00 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)

The Healer: 17.00 (Tues)
Gold: 16.45, 19.15, 21.45 (Tues)
50 Shades Darker: 19.30 (Tues)

Cinesur Miramar

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

Gold: 16.45, 19.15, 22.10 (Tues)
Logan: 12.00, 16.40, 19.15, 21.55, 00.30

Fences: 19.35, 22.15 (Tues)

Kong: Skull Island: 12.15, 17.00 (every day); 19.30, 22.00 (Tues)

The Founder: 12.00 (every day), 16.15, 18.45, 21.10 (Tues)

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Kong: Skull Island: 16.00, 20.30 (Sat, Sun); 18.00 (every day);

20.00 (Frid, Mon-Thurs)

Moonlight: 11.45 (Sun); 17.45, 20.00 (Frid, Mon-Thurs); 18.00,

20.15 (Sat, Sun)

Logan: 15.45, 20.20 (Sat, Sun); 20.00 (Frid, Mon-Thurs); 22.30 (every day)

Manchester by the Sea: 16.00 (Sat, Sun)

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

50 Shades Darker: 22.15 (Frid, Mon-Thurs); 22.30 (Sat, Sun)

Sing: 12.00 (Sun); 16.00 (Sat, Sun)

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The Founder: 12.40 (Sat, Sun)

Gold: 12.10 (Sat, Sun)

Kong: Skull Island: 12.30, 15.15 (Sat, Sun); 18.00, 20.30 (every day);

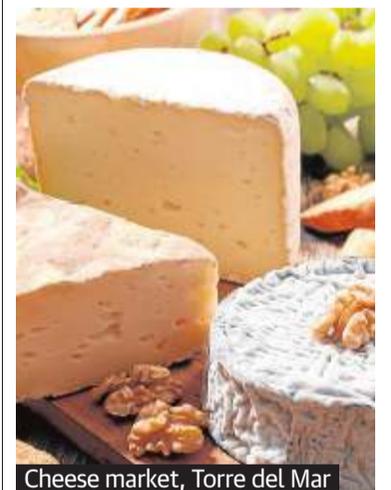
23.00 (Frid, Sat)

Logan: 12.30 (Sat, Sun); 16.45,

19.30, 22.20 (every day)

La Traviata live from the MET:

18.55 (Sat)



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in English



Michel led training on Wednesday ahead of his first game in charge at home to Alavés this Saturday. :: FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ

NEW BACKROOM STAFF

- ▶ **Head coach.** Michel (Madrid, 23 March 1963).
- ▶ **Assistant and coaches.** Juan Carlos Mandiá has been brought in while Sergio Pellicer and Wellington retain their places in the dugout.
- ▶ **Physical trainers.** José Vallejo has been added to the setup which already includes Enrique Ruiz and Manu Gestoso.
- ▶ **Goalkeeper coach.** Paco Ruiz.
- ▶ **Other staff.** The rest of the first-team staff will remain except for Marcelo Romero who will remain at the club but in another capacity.

Michel gets down to business as new Malaga head coach

The former Olympiacos and Marseille manager has taken the place of the Marcelo Romero, who won just one of his ten games in charge

:: A. GÓNGORA / D. FINCH

MALAGA. Michel has been appointed the new head coach of Málaga CF after the club announced they had parted ways with Marcelo Romero on Tuesday morning.

Former Marseille manager Michel, who made a name for himself as a player with Real Madrid and the Spain national team, signs a one-and-a-half-year contract which will see him see out the remainder of the current campaign and the following one.

He replaces Romero, who managed his only win of his ten-game managerial stint at the club against Las Palmas at La Rosaleda last month.

Romero's departure could signal the end of his long association with the club, having represented the

Romero: "I'm grateful for the opportunity"

After it was announced that Marcelo Romero would no longer be head coach, the Uruguayan released this statement: "I'm grateful for the opportunity I've had to lead my 'home' team, and I would like to thank Sheikh Al-Thani and his family, as well as sports director, Francesc Arnau for their support. I would also like to extend special thanks to all the members of the coaching team, medics, players, staff members and the fans. I'm a 'Malaguista', and although I was born in Uruguay, I also consider myself a 'Malagueño'. I wish the team all the best for the future, and I will continue to support the team as a fan. ¡Vamos Málaga!"

Blue and Whites as a player between 2001 and 2007, before joining the coaching staff in 2014. How-

ever, it is expected that the club's hierarchy will find a position for him within the new setup.

He served as assistant manager to both Javi Gracia and Juande Ramos before stepping into the hot seat at the end of December after the latter's surprise resignation.

Romero received the backing of owner Sheikh Al-Thani but that proved to be short-lived after a disastrous run of form saw the Blue and Whites claim just five points from a possible 30, despite performances improving.

His replacement had been with-

out a job for almost a year after his sacking by Olympique Marseille last April. Previous to that,

he led Greek side Olympiakos to back-to-back league titles and a Greek Cup win but that wasn't enough to save him his job after falling behind PAOK in the following campaign.

The former Real Madrid Castilla manager fits the profile of coach the club has been looking for with plenty of experience with young players, having overseen much of Real's academy between 2006 and 2007. He also successfully staved off relegation with Getafe in consecutive seasons.



Michel was officially presented on Wednesday afternoon. :: ALVARO CABRERA

Michel arrived into Málaga's María Zambrano train station on Tuesday afternoon where he was greeted by fans and club officials. He took his first training session with the first team on Wednesday morning, introducing himself to the players, passing on instructions ahead of Saturday's vital home clash against Alavés.

He was officially presented later in the day and showed that he wasn't afraid to be pragmatic in his approach: "Who says you have to play well? What's important is attacking and defending well. You can win without playing well."

The new head coach, 54, was presented by club president and owner, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani. He expressed his thanks to the work carried out by Romero but also praised the commitment of new man. "Negotiations were very simple," he said. "Decisions were taken very quickly and communication between us has been very easy."

With the side 15th in the table and facing a tough opponent in the shape of Alavés this weekend, Michel claimed that his new side has "ability" and that it was just a question of "improving confidence and creating rhythm". "The difference between what I'm seeing and what I would like is not so great," he said.

"We are going to try and implement a style of play that is distinguishable. I think this is possible because the players have all of the right attributes," he enthused. However, the bottom line was that "the position we are in is not good enough".

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LINE-UPS

ATHLETIC	MALAGA
1	0
	
4-2-3-1	4-2-3-1
Balenziaga	Rosales
Muniain (Villalibre, 62')	Keko (En-Nesyri, 79')
Laporte	Luis Hernández
San José	Camacho (Sandro, 86')
Iraizoz	Charles
Yeray	Pablo
Beñat	Demichelis
Lekue	Llorente
Susaeta (Saborit, 86')	Jony (Chory Castro, 73')
Williams (Bóveda, 76')	Kameni
Raúl García	Juankar

Unused substitutes: Remiro (GK), Elustondo, Iturraspe, Mikel Rico.

Unused substitutes: Boyko (GK), Torres, José Rodríguez, Duda.

STATISTICS

BALL POSSESSION	
65%	35%
ATHLETIC	MALAGA
1	0
11	8
3	2
8	6
8	2
1	2
13	18
3	5
0	0

Goals: 1-0 Raúl García (72').

Referee: Álvarez Izquierdo. Yellows for Pablo Fornals, Keko, Juankar, Camacho, Charles, Beñat, Raúl García and Saborit.

Venue: Estadio de San Mamés (33,438 spectators).

TABLE & FIXTURES

MATCHDAY
26

LEAGUE TABLE

TEAM	PT	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
★ 1. Barcelona	60	26	18	6	2	76	21
★ 2. Real Madrid	59	25	18	5	2	67	26
★ 3. Sevilla	56	26	17	5	4	50	30
★ 4. At. Madrid	49	26	14	7	5	48	22
■ 5. Real Sociedad	48	26	15	3	8	42	36
■ 6. Villarreal	45	26	12	9	5	38	19
7. Athletic	41	26	12	5	9	32	30
8. Eibar	39	26	11	6	9	42	37
9. Espanyol	36	26	9	9	8	35	35
10. Celta	35	25	10	5	10	39	44
11. Alavés	34	26	8	10	8	26	32
12. Las Palmas	32	26	8	8	10	40	41
13. Valencia	29	26	8	5	13	35	46
14. Betis	28	26	7	7	12	28	42
15. MALAGA	26	26	6	8	12	32	43
16. Leganés	24	26	6	6	14	21	40
17. Deportivo	24	26	5	9	12	29	41
▼ 18. Granada	19	26	4	7	15	24	54
▼ 19. Sporting	17	26	4	5	17	27	55
▼ 20. Osasuna	10	26	1	7	18	27	64

Results

Las Palmas - Osasuna	5-2
Leganés - Granada	1-0
Sporting - Deportivo	0-1
Villarreal - Espanyol	2-0
Betis - Sociedad	2-3
Eibar - R. Madrid	1-4
Barcelona - Celta	5-0
Alavés - Sevilla	1-1
At. Madrid - Valencia	3-0
Athletic - MALAGA	1-0

Fixtures

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

Another Basque Country defeat signals the end for Romero

KISHAN
VAGHELA

Raúl García's penalty ensured Malaga lost in the region for the second week running after the Eibar defeat

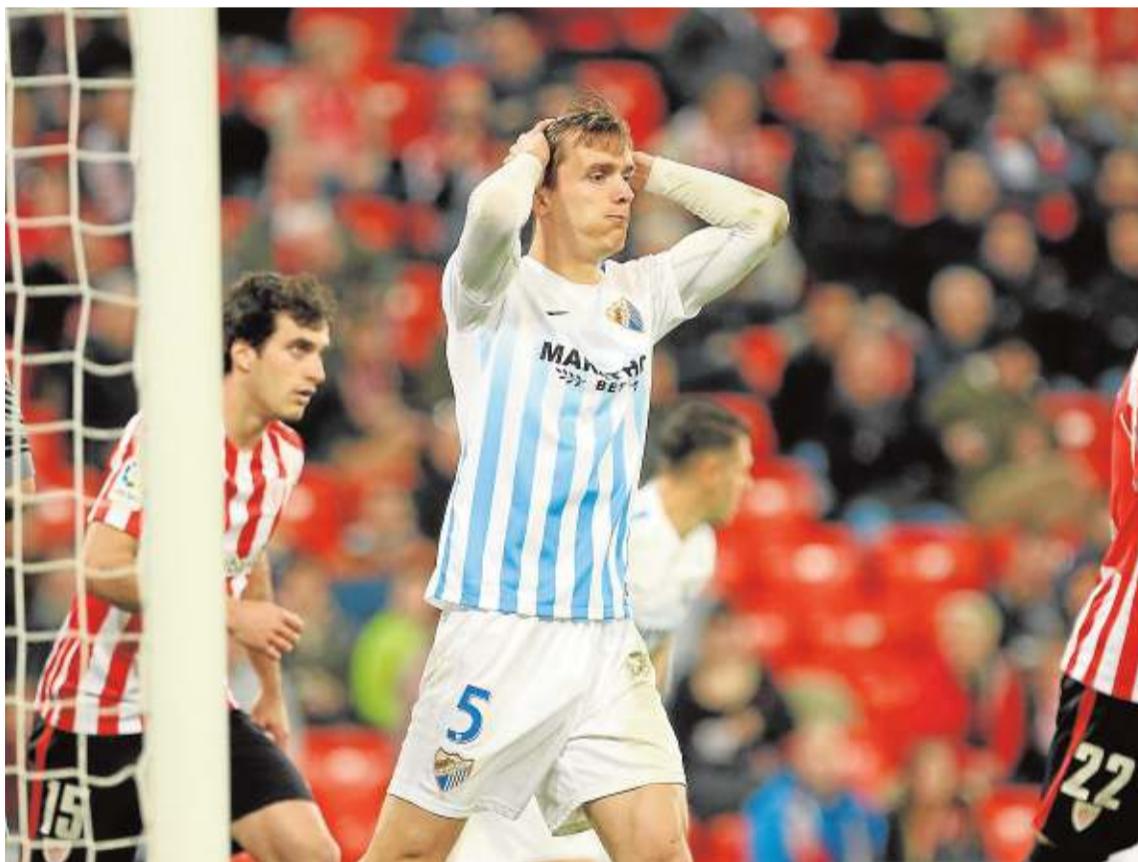
MALAGA. Marcelo Romero's final game in charge of Malaga saw him come away from the Estadio de San Mamés empty-handed on Sunday after Raúl García gave Athletic Bilbao all three points from the penalty spot.

The decision was taken by the referee after captain Ignacio Camacho was adjudged to have handled the ball from Iñaki Williams' shot.

Relegation-threatened Granada's 1-0 loss at Leganés ensured that the Blue and Whites maintained a seven-point lead in the table over their Andalusian rivals, but Romero's side yet again failed to take the opportunity to remove any chance of them becoming involved in the scrap at the bottom of the league.

The visitors' best moments came in the first five minutes of both halves, before tailing away in the remaining 40 minutes of each period. Thirty seconds after kick-off Camacho forced Bilbao goalkeeper Gorka Iraizoz into action from a header, before Juankar's dangerous run down the left also forced Bilbao's captain to come to his side's rescue.

Sadly, that was all that Malaga offered offensively in the first half as Fornals, Keko, Jony and Charles all failed to make any sort of impact. The hosts settled into the game and should have forced Carlos Kameni



Diego Llorente rues missing the target with a header at the Estadio de San Mamés. :: AGENCIA LOF

into action eight minutes in, but unmarked right-back Iñigo Lekue blazed his volley from Mikel San José's corner over after arriving late in the box. Iñaki Williams and Martín Demichelis were engaged in an intriguing youth-versus-experience battle in the central attacking areas for the hosts, however it was Juankar who nearly gifted a goal away midway through the first half after making no contact with a long ball which he was trying to direct back to Kameni. The ball played in Markel Susaeta, but the Cameroonian goalkeeper was out quickly to block the winger's shot.

Crosses from set pieces and wide

Strong rearguard action from Malaga, and Demichelis in particular, limited the quality of Bilbao's chances

areas were clearly Bilbao's ploy to try and open the scoring, but staunch defence from Malaga, and Demichelis in particular, limited the quality of their opportunities. Yeray Álvarez glanced a header over from Beñat's corner ten minutes from the half-time whistle, before Raúl García's could only get a toe to the ball when attempting an overhead kick from Williams' cross two minutes later.

Lekue was creating plenty of problems down the right-hand side with his crossing, but it was his left-foot shot from just outside the box, which took a huge deflection of Demichelis, which had Kameni scrambling just before half time.

Malaga began the second half just like they had the first, but Jony's header from Luis Hernández's long throw-in was tipped over by Iraizoz before Diego Llorente headed over from the resulting corner.

Raúl García's influence on the game was certainly increasing, but his inaccuracy let him down on two occasions as he headed over from Susaeta's cross in the 53rd minute before firing a tame left-foot drive past Kameni's left-hand post 15 minutes later.

Unfortunately for Malaga, their stubbornness in defence, which had prevented Athletic from several clear-cut chances, was broken just under twenty minutes from the end. Lekue made another foraging run down the right, and his cut-back found Williams, whose first-time effort hit the hand of Camacho before smashing against the post.

The referee, however, pointed to the spot immediately, deeming Camacho's involvement in the incident to be handball. Raúl García smashed the ball into the left-hand corner and simultaneously sent Kameni the wrong way to break the deadlock.

Eight minutes later, the Blue and Whites appealed for a penalty themselves after another long throw hit the arm of Aymeric Laporte, but the referee waved away the protests before booking Camacho for his rather overzealous complaints.

Another toothless attacking display from Marcelo Romero's side meant that any chances of an equaliser were unlikely.

That hypothesis was confirmed in the final minutes, with the closest to an attempt on goal coming from a fantastic cross from substitute Youssef En-Nesyri, but Charles failed to make clean contact with it.

Malaga's frustration boiled over in the final minute of normal time when a spat between players from both sides broke out and consequently saw goalscorer Raúl García and Charles booked.

Five minutes were added after that but the Blue and Whites created nothing and lost their third game on the trot, a result which was fatal to Marcelo Romero's future at the club.



A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports
@robopalmer



An unexpected turn for the better

New life has been breathed into La Liga in recent weeks with the revival of both Barça and Atlético

It is like someone has turned on all of the lights at the funfair!

There was a point a few weeks ago when I wondered to myself whether some of the life had gone out of La Liga. Real Madrid were walking the league, Barcelona looked spent, Atlético were waning... and then boom!

Valencia, a club that looked to be in a comatose state, awoken from their slumber and humble the apparently run-away leaders Real Madrid.

Barcelona are liberated by Luis Enrique's announcement that his journey with them is going to be ended in the summer and they revert to their former selves.

Even Atlético Madrid, who looked as though they'd lost their mojo, have perked up and look completely rejuvenated.



Sergi Roberto capped off an unforgettable night at the Camp Nou on Wednesday. :: EFE

So what has happened? Real haven't necessarily lost their way as proved by the way they swept aside Napoli in the Champions League with Ronaldo weighing in as captain Sergio Ramos led the way.

The cliché is to suggest players

lose motivation if they know the manager is to leave them. This may apply at Leicester, and maybe Arsenal but not Barcelona. Luis Enrique unburdened himself after his team hit six against Sporting Gijón. They followed this up by regaining

top spot by scoring five against Celta and then the remarkable turnaround against PSG.

My theory is that he no longer feels he has to incorporate the substandard signings that may have been foisted upon him or give a fair

share of game time to all. He picks the team he wants to, rattles the egos that annoy him and does it all his way without worrying about the long-term effects. The joy on his face when they pulled off the improbable on Wednesday was a complete contrast to the anguish that has been his facial feature for far too long.

Who would want to face this buoyant Barcelona with a manager on the rebound and apparently demob-happy?

Diego Simeone similarly looked like a wizard without his wand and he was just killing time on his contract before heading for his next adventure in Italy. Suddenly his Atlético team has kicked into life. The new players have taken six months to acclimatise and now there is a new order. Antoine Griezmann is courted by many big clubs but the hope is that he won't follow the other great strikers, like Torres, Agüero, Falcao and Costa, out of the door imminently.

La Liga is once again he place to be. It is the greatest test of the world's best players and brightest coaches. I wonder if Pep Guardiola wished he was back home this week when he struggled to work his magic on a cold Wednesday night against Stoke City?

Valiant away point in Melilla not enough to save Nafti his job

The Tunisian was sacked despite a strong defensive performance earning his side a draw in Melilla on Sunday

MELILLA 0 MARBELLA 0

:: OPTASPORTS

MELILLA. Marbella's strong defensive performance earned them a 0-0 draw away at sixth-placed Melilla in a tactical battle at the Estadio Municipal Álvarez Claro on Sunday.

The home side signalled their intent within three minutes of the first half when Jairo's strike from just outside the box crashed against Marbella goalkeeper Bernabé's post. Their domination continued as they controlled the game and moved the ball around the pitch better than their Marbella counterparts.

However, Medhi Nafti's side were clearly well organised as they soaked up the pressure exerted on them by the hosts. Given their deep defensive line, Marbella would need an outlet on the break, and Añón proved to be just that as he led the line brilliantly and was heavily involved in their best chance of the game.

In the 13th minute, a long throw-in from the right, which caused havoc amongst the Melilla defence, was

Search is on for new head coach

Mehdi Nafti, who only joined the club in the summer was relieved of his duties following a board meeting held by the club on Tuesday morning.

With ten games remaining, Marbella are in a terrible run of form, with no wins in four. What's more, the now ex-coach had three more games of his touchline ban left to serve, which would have taken his season total up to eight.

His inability to integrate the new signings and a breakdown in his relationship with vice president Raffaele Pandalone are cited by Onda Cero Marbella as further reasons for his departure.

met by the head of Añón, who saw his effort saved brilliantly by the diving Dani Barrio, before the Marbella forward smashed the rebound onto the woodwork.

Unfortunately for the visitors, it would be their only real chance of the game as Melilla once more began to assert their dominance. The game's most controversial moment came soon after, when Melilla's Pepe

skipped past the challenges of a few Marbella defenders and crossed to Borja Prieto, whose right-foot shot hit the woodwork and bounced back down around the goal line.

Despite the protests from the Melilla players that the ball had indeed crossed the line, no goal was given. The hosts would have one more chance before the break, but Mahanan saw the offside flag raised against him from Kiu's free-kick.

Melilla carried on in the second half as they had for much of the first, but yet again crosses from both flanks proved fruitless, with Cubillas failing to get on the end of the best cross from the left. The hosts' frustrations forced them to attempt shots from distance, which yet again proved futile as Nando fired well over.

The sting seemed to vanish from Melilla's attacks as a combination of time wasting and staunch defence from the visitors ensured they coped with everything that Melilla could conjure up going forward.

The home side's frustration came to a climax when their goalkeeping coach Mohamed was sent off in the 73rd minute for protesting. Despite not affecting the numbers on the pitch, the sending off seemed to calm both sides down as they both seemed satisfied to take the point instead of taking the risk to try and find the winner.

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Conquering both social and physical obstacles

Special Olympics Gibraltar's reputation continues to grow, but it hasn't always been plain sailing

:: KISHAN VAGHELA

GIBRALTAR. "People thought I was mad. They told me it wouldn't work." Annie Risso faced more than her fair share of difficulties after introducing Special Olympics to Gibraltar. Risso is currently the National Director for Special Olympics Gibraltar, which is part of a worldwide organisation that serves athletes with intellectual disabilities.

However, back in 1984, Risso was working as a manager of Saint Bernadette's Occupational Centre, an adult daycare centre for people with intellectual disabilities. Worried by the fact that those who attended the centre were largely left to themselves after going home at 4pm, Risso spoke with Sue Young, an occupational therapist in Gibraltar on contract there from Scotland. Risso told Young how much the service users seemed to enjoy the exercises that she organised herself during lunchtimes, which led her to be introduced to Special Olympics by the therapist.

However, signing the contract to begin the programme proved to be the most painless part of a difficult beginning as Risso and the other volunteers aimed to create solid foundations for the organisation. "The frontier was still closed and it was a



Special Olympics Gibraltar on their return from the World Summer Games in Los Angeles two years ago. :: SUR

new initiative. Overhearing people that doubted me made my skin crawl but at the same time it made me more determined to make it work, not for me, but because I knew what it was doing for the athletes. They had gone from not going out at all to being on

the athletic tracks and in the swimming pool, which meant the community got to know them as people."

A year later, athletics and aquatics were the two sports in which the athletes competed in at the European Special Games in Dublin with 21 other countries. Some 32 years later, not only has the whole organisation grown, but the number of sports that Special Olympics Gibraltar can offer have increased from two to eight summer sports and four winter sports.

Fifteen athletes from Gibraltar will compete in three of those four winter sports in the Special Olympic Games which begin in Schladming, Austria on 14 March. Although they will be looking to build on previous success in snowshoeing, Gibraltar will be competing in floorball, a type of poly hockey, and alpine skiing competitively for the first time.

The former is of great importance to the younger members of Special Olympics Gibraltar, with the organisation having selected a team for the 15-23 age category. "We have served (through floorball) a lot of athletes that have not had the opportunity previously to go away to world games and compete. Some of them have not even flown or seen snow before, so it'll be an amazing experience for them," Risso stated.

The alpine skiing will see a familiar face to many Gibraltarians return to compete in a different field. Samuel Santos won gold for Gibraltar in the World Summer Games in Los Angeles two years ago in open water swimming, and his achievement didn't go unnoticed. Not only was he congratulated by passers-by after returning home, ESPN TV, the Ameri-

can sports channel that will be televising the Austria Games, came to Gibraltar to make a feature on the athlete - a report that will be broadcast around the world during the competition.

Just like many of the other athletes, Santos competes in several different sports and is a beneficiary of the contrasting training methods employed by various coaches. From the more physical training involved in open water swimming, the gold medallist has adjusted to the more technical alpine skiing thanks to the "family" that surround him at Special Olympics Gibraltar. Despite it being his first competition in the sport, his desire to replicate his achievement in the USA in 2015

is stronger than ever.

"I have improved a lot and I feel like I have achieved my level. I am really grateful to the coach that I have been taught so much, and I will give it my best shot. Like the Special Olympics oath says, let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

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Samuel Santos after returning from Los Angeles with a gold medal in open water swimming and Annie Risso (inset). :: SUR



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JUGAR BIEN

Unicaja see off Bayern to reach the EuroCup semifinals



JUAN CALDERÓN

The Malaga side exceeded all expectations to beat the Bavarians on their home court and will face Lokomotiv Krasnodar in the next round

MALAGA. Unicaja were on the top of their game - and they had to be - as they saw off Bayern Munich to reach the semifinals of the EuroCup on Wednesday night.

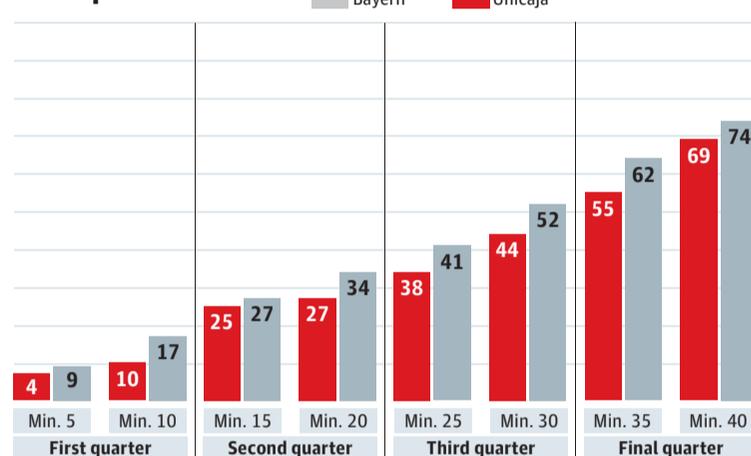
The Malaga side were off to the quicker start then showed the correct application to control the tie, backed up by Nemanja Nedovic and Dejan Musli who were the decisive factors in the Bavarian capital.

Nedovic racked up an impressive 21 points, putting in a per-

69-74

BAYERN MÜNICH-UNICAJA

How it panned out



formance which confirmed his place among the European elite. Between himself and Musli, the

Serbian pair scored half of the side's points on the night.

Joan Plaza's men dominated the score line for the most part, only losing the final quarter (winning the first and third, and drawing the second), finishing the game as 74-69 winners.

Despite the inconsistencies of this campaign so far, Unicaja ral-



Nedovic, Unicaja's stand-out performer, scores a basket. :: SUR

lied together when it mattered most. Having lost the first tie in the best-of-three quarterfinal last week, many feared another cup elimination after that of the Copa del Rey. However, backed by a rampant Carpena last Friday, the side claimed a 82-67 win, forcing the third game. With momentum on their side, victory never looked

likely to evade them as they never surrendered their first quarter lead.

In the next round, they face formidable opposition in the form of Lokomotiv Krasnodar, finalists in the EuroLeague last season. The Russian side overcame their compatriots Zenit in their quarterfinal tie. The first leg of the semifinals start next Tuesday.



Musli manages to ride the challenge of Buva to catch a rebound. :: ACB

Bilbao win, the perfect platform

Plaza's side went into the EuroCup decider with confidence boost after victory in the Basque Country

BILBAO 63 UNICAJA 74

:: J. C.

MALAGA. Unicaja's 74-63 victory over Bilbao Basket at the Bilbao Arena on Sunday put Joan Plaza's side in a good frame of mind going

into their EuroCup decider on Wednesday.

Unicaja went into half-time 29-28 ahead mainly thanks to Dani Díez. Mumbrú caused Unicaja problems in the second half and led a Bilbao side who refused to lie down. However two three-pointers from Smith and Waczyński at the end of the game sealed the victory for the visitors.

Despite an erroneous start to the game, the Malaga side regrouped and put in a strong collective performance and matched

their opponents physically.

Díez was the star of the show going forward, scoring 17 points to get his season back on track after largely disappointing until this point.

Nedovic was key in getting the ball forward, while Musli's solid defensive performance was also important in installing confidence in the side before the huge clash.

The only downside in the game arrived when Brooks was forced off injured, though he was able to recover in time to play a part against Bayern.

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ENGLISH ROSE sophisticatedly, privately educated, well-spoken, well dressed, slim, sophisticated English Rose, looking to accompany business men for lunch/ dinner optional. Discretion assured. 699859054

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COIN Zarah, sexy slim mature English blonde, Oral great sex. GFE no rush service. Private villa. 681614955

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NICOL lBonde, sexy, beautiful, enjoy erotic passionate, sensual services. Luxury atmosphere. 604309812

ESTEPONA: Natasha beautiful 39 years blonde, superb body, pleasing, complete. 631627766

ESTEPONA Tamara Spanish, french without limits. Outcalls. 24h. Visa 680966710

HELLO there!! I'm slim, brunette, mature, looking for 1 hour or more of complete and total passion. Marbella. 674946727

ESTEPONA: New Sara 30, beautiful blonde, busty, pert ass. French. Greek. Outcalls/ Hotels. 602438426

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FUENGIROLA: Eva beautiful Spanish blonde, big tits. No limits. 603719177

MARBELLA. Enthusiastic, madure, curly red hair, slim for socialize. 674946727

NEW ROSSI Beautiful student. Natural French. Kisses. Massages. Nva. Andaluca 602531054

NVA. ANDALUCIA: Sexy brunette nurse, looking for sex. Natural French. 69. Massage. 604143950

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ESTEPONA. Katy 21 year, complete, Dominicana slim, English/French speaking. 622069078

ESTEPONA. Lucia Venezolana, full services, very vicious, big breasts. 633487004

MARBELLA Carmen, Mature 602475138, kissing, big ass, Greek, French till end. Avenida Arias Maldonado 1, Iberest 1, apt 3-G

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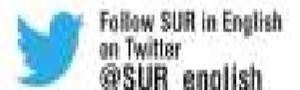
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AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS
English meetings: 662180326
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Breast cancer. www.positively-pink.com info@positively-pink.com 952 835 776
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952 564 910 or susanhannam@cudeca.org Estepona: ACE Club 11.30am 1st Thursday. Nerja: Cáritas 11.30am 2nd Thursday. Cómpeta: 11.30am 3rd Thursday, Axareducación.
MABS CANCER SUPPORT GROUP
Fourth Tuesday, Miraflores Club, Marbella, 11.30 a.m. 952833568/ 647054945
CANCER SUCKS SPAIN
Cancer support group. 662446388 Facebook & cancersucksspain@outlook.com
AGE CARE ASSOCIATION
11am-1pm, Mon, La Iglesia Bar, Benalmádena; 11am-1pm. Tues, Baptist Church, Calahonda; 11am-12.30pm. Wed, Salon Varietés Bar, Fuengirola; 11am-12.30pm. Thur, Hogar de Pensionistas, Cala de Mijas. Advice: 952933409 info@agecarecosta.org
AGE CONCERN
Estepona and Manilva. Lifeline 608458555. acesteponaymanilva@ageconcernespana.org / www.acesteponaymanilva.org Fuengirola y Mijas. Lifeline 652 53 76 15
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FOREIGN RESIDENTS' ASS. ANDALUCIA
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LUX MONDI ECUMENICAL CENTRE
Torre del Mar: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org 952 543 334. Fuengirola: 952474840
ROYAL AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
Costa del Sol, www.rafcostadelsol.co.uk
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conservatives.costadelsol@gmail.com
INTERNAT. LABOUR GROUP

Fuengirola: Alf Brewer 952 449 408

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Almuñécar to Torrox nerjaclub@yahoo.com or www.americaninternationalclub.com

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Tel: 952473 545. Various Costa locations

AMERICAN CLUB OF COSTA DEL SOL

President: R. E. Parmiter www.americanclubcostadelsol.com **Fuengirola, Mijas, Benalmádena:** David Kyles 653274392. **Malaga:** Rosella Parmiter 952400006. **Marbella:** Carol Lewis 951778717. **Estepona:** Frazier Gardella 952804693.

ACE AMERICAN CLUB OF ESTEPONA

Calle San Roque. Tel: 952793059.

ENGLISH-SPEAKING CLUB MALAGA

English/Spanish conversation. 952432235/952 242844

WELSH SOCIETY

Arroyo de la Miel. Debbie 626292707

THE BRITISH SOCIETY

May Boyd 952 565 111 Benalmádena Pueblo. britsocietyspain@hotmail.com

BRITISH ASSOCIATION MARBELLA

Meets weekly. Jan/Joan 952835947

ENGLISH PHOENIX CLUB

Torre del Mar: Gael: 951067723

INTERNAT. CLUB OF SALOBREÑA

icsalobrena@hotmail.com

ASOCIACIÓN IRLANDESA

President Finola Sloyan: 607340523

IRISH ASSOCIATION OF SPAIN

Terry McKinley 676154055. Facebook.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Arroyo. Martin 952383883/654859075

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1st Wed. 8 p.m. Magna Cafe. 627833262

INTERNATIONAL CLUB ESTEPONA

www.siberme.com. 952 802 549.

OUT OF AFRICA CLUB

Trish: 952668081

U3A LEARNING FOR PLEASURE

Fuengirola: 952577671 www.u3acostadelsol.org **Marbella-Inland:** 622670158 / 952596070. www.u3a.es

BRITISH SCOUTING MOVEMENT

1st Fuengirola Scout Group.

Robert Troost 610755995

www.fuengirolascouts.com

1st Sotogrande Scouts and Cubs.

Mike Wilson 951403204

NADFAS

Costa del Sol: www.costadelsoldfas.com **Nerja:** 952533373. www.nerjanadfasc.org **De la Frontera:** San Roque Club. www.nadfasc-delafrontera.org **Gibraltar:** gibdfas.webs.com **Benahavis:** 663459103. www.benahavisdfasc.com

MARBELLA BUSINESS NETWORK

Joe 694442331 wednesdayjoe@gmail.com

THE FIELD CLUB

Walks. **Fuengirola.** www.thefieldclub.es

COSTA CHORDBUSTERS

Anne Bowles. 952464184

THE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC SOCIETY

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JIVE DANCE CLUB

jivespain.com 635717211.

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Benalmádena/Fuengirola. Howard 631813877 www.dance-jive-spain.com

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ESTEPONA FLORAL ART CLUB

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FLOWER ARRANGING CLUB

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THE ANDALUCIAN GARDEN GROUP

Alh. el Grande. 952119767/952455213

THE AXARQUÍA GARDEN CLUB

www.axarquigardenclub.blogspot.com

ANDALUCIA BIRD SOCIETY

952817843 www.andaluciabirdsociety.org

COSTA PRESS CLUB

www.costapressclub.com

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www.costawomen.com/ 677251058

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NERJA BRIDGE CLUB

Joan 952520579 or Trevor on 952524743

LOS BOLICHES BRIDGE CLUB

Dominiques. Mon & Fri. 645 684 756

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www.atalayabridgeclub.com. Wed, Thurs, Sun. 952880595/609548595(whatsapp)

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Tel: 655459576 www.bridgewebs.com

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aspcostadelsol@gmail.com 629541930.

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St George's Anglican Chaplaincy

www.stgeorgemalaga.org
email: chaplain@stgeorgemalaga.org or wardens@stgeorgemalaga.org
Malaga, St George's Church (in the English Cemetery, Av. de Pries) Sunday Holy Communion 11am. Contact: 951 287 382
Velez-Málaga, La Antigua Capilla de S. José, C/. Linares 7. Sundays 10.30am
Anglican Chaplaincy of St. Andrew, Costa del Sol (East)
Chaplaincy Office 952580600.
Los Boliches, St. Andrew's Edif. Jupiter, Avda Padre Jesús Cautivo 44. Sung matins (BCP) Mon, Tues, Thurs 9am. Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am.
Benalmádena Costa, San José chapel, 9.30am;

Sung Eucharist (Common Worship) 1st, 3rd, 4th Sun; sung MP 2nd Sun
Calahonda, Ermita de San Miguel, 9.30am. Sung Eucharist (Common Worship) 2nd and 4th Sun; sung MP 1st and 3rd Sun.
Alhaurín el Grande: Cemetery Chapel Sun. at 11.30am. All age service 1st Sun; MP (Common Worship) 2nd Sun; sung Eucharist (Common Worship) 3rd, 4th Sun
Costa del Sol (West)
San Pedro, Sunday 10a.m. (Holy Communion) Parroquia Virgen del Rocío.
Sotogrande, Sunday 12 noon. (Holy Communion 2nd & 4th Sundays) La Iglesia de Nuestra Sra. de la Merced. Chaplaincy House. www.costachurch.com
Nerja: Sun 12 noon, San Miguel church, Wed. 9.30am. (Church shop, C/Malaga 952 522 460.) Rev. Geoffrey Johnston, 952521339.

Almuñécar: Capilla de Nuestra Señora del Carmen, (Fishermen's chapel) Chinasol. Sun. 9.30am. (not August) Priest as Nerja.
Torre del Mar: St Barnabas IERE, 11am. Morning Prayer 1st and 3rd Sunday, H.C. 2nd and 4th. Lux Mundi centre. 952030461.
Gibraltar: Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Sun 10.30. Tel. 78377.
Benalmádena Costa: Songs of Praise, Interdenominational church service, Castillo Bil Bil. Sun. 5.30pm. Oct. - May. 648666152.

MUSLIM

Marbella: Mezquita del Rey Abdulaziz. Friday 2.30pm. 952774143.
Fuengirola: Mezquita del Centro Cultural Suhail, Parque Doña Sofía. Friday worship 2.30pm. Tel 952473916.
Malaga: Mezquita, C/San Agustín 11. Friday 2.30pm. 952228595.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Marbella: Santo Cristo del Calvario Church, Avda. del Calvario: Holy Mass in English, 11am. every Sunday. Tel: 952774 899.
Fuengirola: Capilla San José, Las Rampas (Upper Level), Daily Mass (in English): Mon-Fri 11am. Sat 7pm. Sun 11am.
Fuengirola: Lux Mundi, C/ Nueva, 12 Sun.
Arroyo de la Miel: Mass in English Parroquia de la Inmaculada, Saturday 1 pm.
Calahonda: Ermita de San Miguel, 12 Sun.
Benalmádena Costa: Parish Church of La Virgen del Carmen, Avda. Bonanza. Bilingual mass English/Spanish Sunday 10am.
Torre del Mar: Lux Mundi, Avda. Moscatel, 1- "I". Saturday. Winter 5pm, summer 6 pm. 952543334.
Chiclana (Cadiz): Nstra Señora de Europa church, Urb. Novo Sancti Petri, RC Mass in English and German, Sunday 10.30am
Pueblo Nuevo de Guadiaro - Sotogrande (Cadiz): Mass in English, Saturday 7pm and Sunday 10.30am at Santuario de la Divina Misericordia
Malaga: Catholic mass in English, Avenida Santiago Ramón y Cajal, Ciudad Jardín. 11.30am Sunday. 952260760.

METHODIST CHURCH

Gibraltar: Methodist Church, 297 Main Street. Sun 11am and 8pm. +350 200 77491/+350 200 40870. Rev. Fidel Patron.
Sotogrande: La Iglesia de Nuestra Sra. de la Merced 1st and 3rd Sundays 11.45a.m. For more info. call 952 895 102.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

Mijas internacional: 10 am Sun Calle Rueda 7, Los Boliches, 952469392 / 607521032.
Motril: Sun 10 am. C/ Jesús del Gran Poder 34. 958 825665.
Malaga: Sun 10.30 am, C/Babel 1.
Algeciras: Sun 10.30 am. C/Sevilla 43. Tel. 956630894.
Nerja: Sun. 10.30 a.m. C/Granada,83. Tel. 607 522 671

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Arroyo de la Miel: Avda Del Cerro de Viento, s/n . Tues. 7.30pm. Sat. 4.30pm. Tel. 952561170.
Fuengirola: Kingdom Hall, Plaza Hispanidad, Service Meeting, Fri 7.30pm. 952469082.
Malaga: C/José Palanca, 20. Service Fri 8pm. Tues 7.15pm.
San Pedro: C/ Amor 6, Fuente Nueva. English: Sun 11am & Wed 7.30pm. Tagalog: Sun 1.30pm & Tues 7.30pm. Kingdom Hall 952788855.
Torrox Costa: Local 17, Urb Costa de Oro. Sun 11 a.m., Weds 7pm. Tel. 952526740.
Torre del Mar: Calle Infantes, Conjuntos Islas del Sol. Scandinavian Sun 6pm, Thurs 7pm. German Sun 11am and Fri 7pm.
Coín: Calle Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente. Weds 7.30pm, Sun 11.30am. 952499239.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH/ BAPTIST CHURCH

Los Boliches: Evangelical Church, Paseo Marítimo 77. Sun:Worship and Bible teaching, 4pm. Weds: Bible study and prayer 7.30pm. Tel 952460728
Torremolinos: Evangelical Community Church. Sun service 11am, various weekly meetings. C/Gregorio Marañón 4. Tel 952384706
Torremolinos: Gloryhouse International Christian Center. African Pentecostal style. Sun 11am C/ Danza Invisible, 7/8, Bloque D, Nogalera. Pastor Moses. 679740825, 951210300
Nerja: Fellowship of the King, Pasaje San Miguel, Sundays at 10.30am. 952 969 058 / 958 658 439.
Nerja: Community Bible Fellowship, C/ Pintada 35, 2nd floor. English/ Spanish Worship, Sunday 10am. 952521776.
Caleta de Vélez: Cornerstone International Church (Evangelical). Barrio Cooperative Ntra Sa del Carmen. Sunday 11.30am. Tel: 634 540 519

Calahonda: The Evangelical Christian Fellowship, Ermita San Miguel. Sun 4.30pm. Rev. Peter Riggall, 952 588 160.
Arroyo de la Miel: Arroyo Baptist Church, Sun 4pm. Conjunto Zodiaco, Edif. Aries, C/ Sagitario. Tel. 95244796/952386716.
Calahonda: Baptist Church, Calle San Jeronimo 1, Worship Sunday 11 am with Sunday School. 952832533.
La Línea: Asambleas de Dios. C/San José, 41. Thurs 9pm. Sun 11am & 8 pm.
Marbella: Int. Christian F'ship. Sun 11.30 Ed. Milla de Oro. Tel. 952 932 216 .
Puerto Banús: Christian Church (The Wave) Worship Service: Sun 11am. The Wave Café: Wed 11am. Prayer: Fri 12pm. 637408194/5 puertobanuschurch.com
Salobreña: Fellowship of the King. Various locations. Sundays at 10am Tel.635 358 808 / 958 645 027
Almuñécar: Fellowship of the King. Casita Málaga, Parque El Majuelo. 2nd & 4th Sundays, 11.00am . Tel. 958 881 358
Almuñécar: Evangelical Reformed Church, C/ Torres Quevedo 5. T958 639 529, 677 699 490. Sunday 11 a.m.

Gibraltar: Brethren Assembly, Queensway Quay. Sun 11am, Minister Francis Baldachino.
Benalmádena Costa: Elim Family F'ship. Sun 11am. Pastor Dave 695115496 www.elimfamilyfellowship.com
San Pedro: Elim Family Fellowship. Sun 3.30pm. 695 115 496
San Pedro: Faith Baptist Church. Sun 6.30pm, Edif Manantial. Tel: 615 788 511
Fuengirola: Ark Christian Fellowship Family Worship. Sun 11am, Las Rampas. Tel.: 952 592 171.
Fuengirola: Costa del Sol Bible School, Healing Clinic and "The Beauty of Holiness". Rev. Joyce McNaughton 663706806.
Fuengirola: The Way, Christian Counselling Ministry. Tel. 634369414/ 951135441.
Malaga: Believers Loveworld Inc.(Christ Embassy) Sunday11am, Wed 7pm, Sat 5pm. C/Cantimpla 11, Av. de Europa 951955354/672805789.

Marbella: House of Judah (Jewish & Gentile Believers) Bilingual Fri. Worship 7.30pm - NH Marbella Hotel Tel: 605924555.
Mijas Costa: Baptist, Bi-Lingual services Sun 11.30am and 7pm; Thur 7pm Tel:636 422 717 www.libertadmijascosta.com
Heaven's Gate Pentecostal Church Int. Benalmádena: Carril de Sirocco 1, Worship- Sun 11am- 6pm, F'ship- Friday 7.30pm, 602392139
Fuengirola: Christian Family Centre Int. Worship Sun 1pm, Fellowship Tue 7pm Church auditorium, C/Jacinto Benavente, 10. Tel: 605329074
Granada: Avda Andalucía, 53, La Chana, Worship- Sun 6pm, 605329074
Malaga: Avda de Europa, 69, Worship- Sunday 9am, Fellowship- Wednesday 7.30pm, 605329074

DUTCH EVANGELICAL

Fuengirola: Skandinaviska Turistkyran. Ed. M del Carmen. Paseo Marítimo 77 Los Boliches, Sundays 9.30.
Torremolinos: Sun 11.30 in Holland Huis. Ed. Number One. Avda. de Montemar, 10-A.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (PRESBYTERIAN)

Fuengirola: Sun 10.30am at Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, C/Nueva 3. Tel 951260982 or 952455213.
Gibraltar: St. Andrew's Church, Sun 10.30am. Tel 20077040.
Torre del Mar: Sun 11am, Legend's Bar, C/Don Cipriano Maldonado Jiménez.

BAHAI

Bahai Information Office, C/Ricardo Soriano, 35, Marbella.
Marbella: 952 90 21 21
Fuengirola: 951 259 742.
Malaga: 952 214 052.
Benalmádena: 952 442 424.
Alhaurín de la Torre: 952411496.
Rincón de la Victoria: 952 402 870.
Gibraltar: +350 200 73287.

SYNAGOGUES

Torremolinos: Beth Minzi, Av. Palma de Mallorca 55; Castillo San Luis, Local 14. Daily services. 952052550.
Marbella: Beth El, Urb. El Real, Km 184. Services, Fri in summer 8.30pm winter 7pm Sat & holidays 10am 952859395

QUAKERS

Malaga: Quakers (Society of Friends). Info: zvi@gotadsl.co.uk

NORWEGIAN SEAMEN'S CHURCH

Calahonda: El Campanario, Av del Cortijo 3. Sun 4 pm, 952939800 www.sjomannskirken.no/costadelsol

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Fuengirola: Sat 10am. Bible study, worship Calle Palangreros, 60. 952456672 / 633716651 ww.adventistasfuengirola.es.

CONSULATES

Great Britain	C/. Mauricio Moro Pareto 2- 2. Málaga	952352300
USA	Av. Juan Gómez 8. Ed. Lucía 1-C. Fuengirola	952474891
Holland	Avda Palma de Mallorca 57, Torremolinos	952380888
Belgium	Carretera de Cádiz, km 202, 29649 Mijas Costa	952599159
Denmark	Calle Córdoba 6 404, Malaga	952211797
Norway	Avda Los Boliches, 60, Edf Rosenkranz, Fuengirola	952667955
Canada	C/Cervantes, Edif. Horizonte, Malaga	952223346
Germany	Mauricio Moro Pareto 2, Malaga	952363591
Sweden	Calle Córdoba 6, 5th floor, Malaga	952604383
Ireland	Avda. Los Boliches, Fuengirola	952475108
France	1, Plaza de Santa Cruz, Seville	954293200
Italy	Calle Lagasca, 98, Madrid	912106910
Austria	Alameda de Colón 26, Malaga	952600267
Finland	Calle Blasco de Garay, 7, Malaga	952212435
Saudi Arabia	Mauricio M. Pareto 2 bloque Sur 2º, Malaga	952310358
Greece	Salitre, 16, Malaga	952311847
Iceland	Paseo Marítimo 91, 29640 Fuengirola	952661200
Philippines	C/Marqués de Larios 4, 2º, Malaga	952222757
Hungary	Av. de Andalucía 26 29007 Malaga	952308393

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCIES

Emergency operator	112
National Police	091
Local (municipal) Police	092
Medical	061
Fire	080
Guardia Civil	062
Sea Rescue	900202202
Crime report	902102112

ENGLISH-SPEAKING HELP

Samaritans in Spain	900525100
Alcoholics Anonymous	600379110
Age Care	952933409
Age Concern (Estepona)	608458555

ANDALUSIAN HEALTH SERVICE

Salud Responde (doctors' appointments & advice)	902505060
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ESTEPONA

Bus Station	952800249
Taxi Service	952802900
Tourist Office	952800913
Town Hall	952801100
Foreign Residents Dept.	952809031

FUENGIROLA

Bus Station	952475066
Taxi Service	952471000
Tourist Office	952467625
Town Hall	952589300
Foreign Residents Dept.	952589440

MALAGA

Bus Station	952350061
Railway Station	902240202
Taxi Service	952345693
Tourist Office	951926020

MARBELLA

Bus Station	952823409
Taxi Service	952774488

Tourist Office	952771442
Town Hall	952761100
Foreign Residents Dept.	952771442

MIJAS

Town Hall	952485900
Town Hall Las Lagunas	952473125
Taxi	952478288
Tourism Office	952589034
Foreign Resident Dept.	952589010

NERJA

Bus Station	902422242
Taxi Service	952520537
Tourist Information	952521531
Town Hall	952548400
Foreign Resident Dept.	952548401

TORREMOLINOS

Bus Station	902143144
Taxi Service	952380600
Tourist Office	952371909
Town Hall	952379400
Foreign Residents Dept.	952374231

BENALMADENA

Bus Station	902450550
Taxi Service	952441545
Tourist Office	952442494
Town Hall	952374231
Foreign Residents Dept.	952442494

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

Bus Station	952503162
Taxi	952540016
Town Hall	952559100
Tourist Office	952541104

GIBALTAR

General emergency	199/112(mobiles)
Fire/ambulance (emergency)	190
Tourist Office	(00350) 20074950
Taxi	(00350) 20070027

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
MSC Magnifica	12/03	Funchal	Civitavecchia	07.00	14.00
Ventura	14/03	-	-	08.00	17.00
Costa Pacifica	15/03	Arrecife	Lanzarote	09.00	19.00
Norwegian Spirit	20/03	Funchal	Alicante	07.00	17.00



THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



THE STARS

Aquarius
January 21 - February 19
It is a gift to realise that others have been wasting your time. Why? Because now you can move on and really make some progress!

Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Because you want to please someone you could tend to be over-generous with your cash.

Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Your suggestions at work may not seem appreciated but, if you are willing to be flexible, the best will come out.

Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Should the chance to make some extra cash come along this week, you will be ready for it. Long-term prospects are good and show themselves easily.

Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Not everyone is willing to be as flexible as you but any agreement needs to give you an equal benefit.

Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Whatever discussions you have at the moment, honesty will save you heartache later on.

Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Being in touch with friends far from home could involve a holiday or other happy visit.

Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Efforts made in the past now begin to show some rewards. This reminds you that patience pays off.

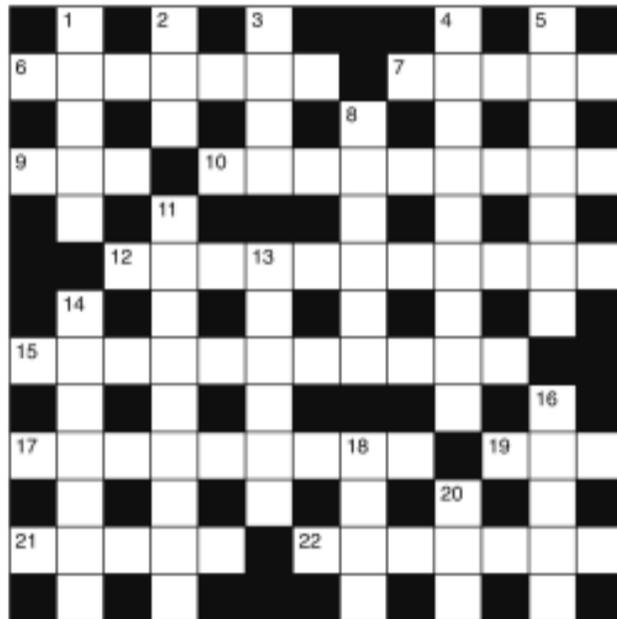
Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Romance and money seem tightly bound together. Be sure that you are happy with a current arrangement before continuing it.

Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Bring the tone to a lighter and more fun level to encourage a loved one. Has their mood been low recently?

Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Seeking perfection can bring disappointment. Perseverance and determination can bring success.

Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Finding others rather dull? Do something exciting and new to bring them out of their shells.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11232



Across

- 6 A country lover rising after light touch (7)
- 7 See 1 Down
- 9 One who shows abysmally silly stupidity, initially (3)
- 10 Made by one who glories in laziness? (4,5)
- 12 Cease to have guards for good timekeepers (11)
- 15 Entry is made erroneously for this kind of deposit (11)
- 17 Are they arranged in rings on the camping site? (4,5)
- 19 This will stop one telling a joke (3)
- 21 See 3 Down
- 22 See 20 Down

Down

- 1 & 7 Ac There's no good reason for using this! (5,5)
- 2 Make some attempt to be a judge (3)
- 3 & 21 Ac Fine deeds appreciated in the music hall (4,5)
- 4 Will they give the carts room? (5,4)
- 5 In terms of the church reformation (7)
- 8 This provides plenty to take down about history (8)
- 11 A youngster wanted to skin fish (8)
- 13 A noble editor examined articles closely (6)
- 14 Income unvarying in street in France? (7)
- 16 Virginia has cover that's legally effective (5)
- 18 Paris is associated with this kind of weight (4)

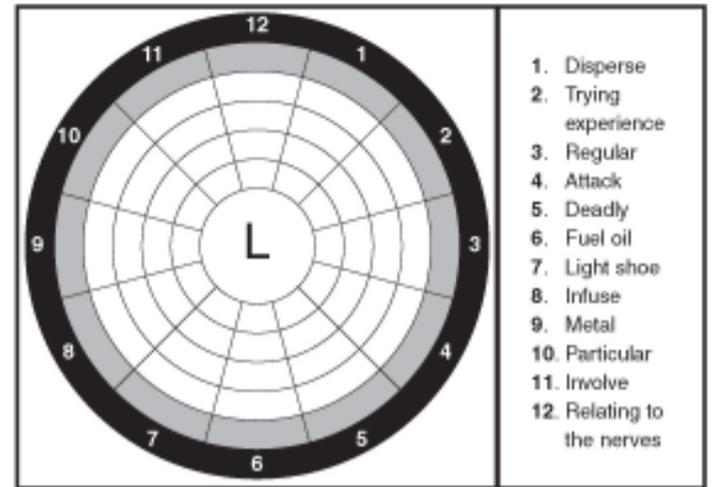
SUDOKU BY HANZO

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

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

CLOCKWORD

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter L in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a British actor.



- 1. Disperse
- 2. Trying experience
- 3. Regular
- 4. Attack
- 5. Deadly
- 6. Fuel oil
- 7. Light shoe
- 8. Influse
- 9. Metal
- 10. Particular
- 11. Involve
- 12. Relating to the nerves

THE WORDPUZZLER



CAN you identify the words missing from the film titles listed below?

- 1. The Maltese ---
- 2. The Tin ---
- 3. The Seven ---
- 4. The Evil ---
- 5. The Concrete ---
- 6. The Thin ---
- 7. The Fisher ---
- 8. The Thirty-Nine ---
- 9. The Railway ---
- 10. The Magnificent ---

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 Almirajara (99.1 FM)
Nerja radio in English and German and night time World Radio Network

HeartfmSpain (88.5 FM Costa, 96.1 FM inland) Music, entertainment, news

Lick FM (103.6 FM Marbella)
Urban music broadcast between Gibraltar and Calahonda

Rtv Puebla (107.7 FM)
Monday evenings, Rock music memories.
7 - 9pm. email: radiopuebla.musicmemories@yahoo.com
Fb: Radiotelevision Peubla de Cazalla

QUIZ

QUESTION 1

What revolutionary event happened on this day in 1876?

- 1. The first phone call
- 2. The Boston Tea Party
- 3. Apple reveal iPhone
- 4. Romanovs executed

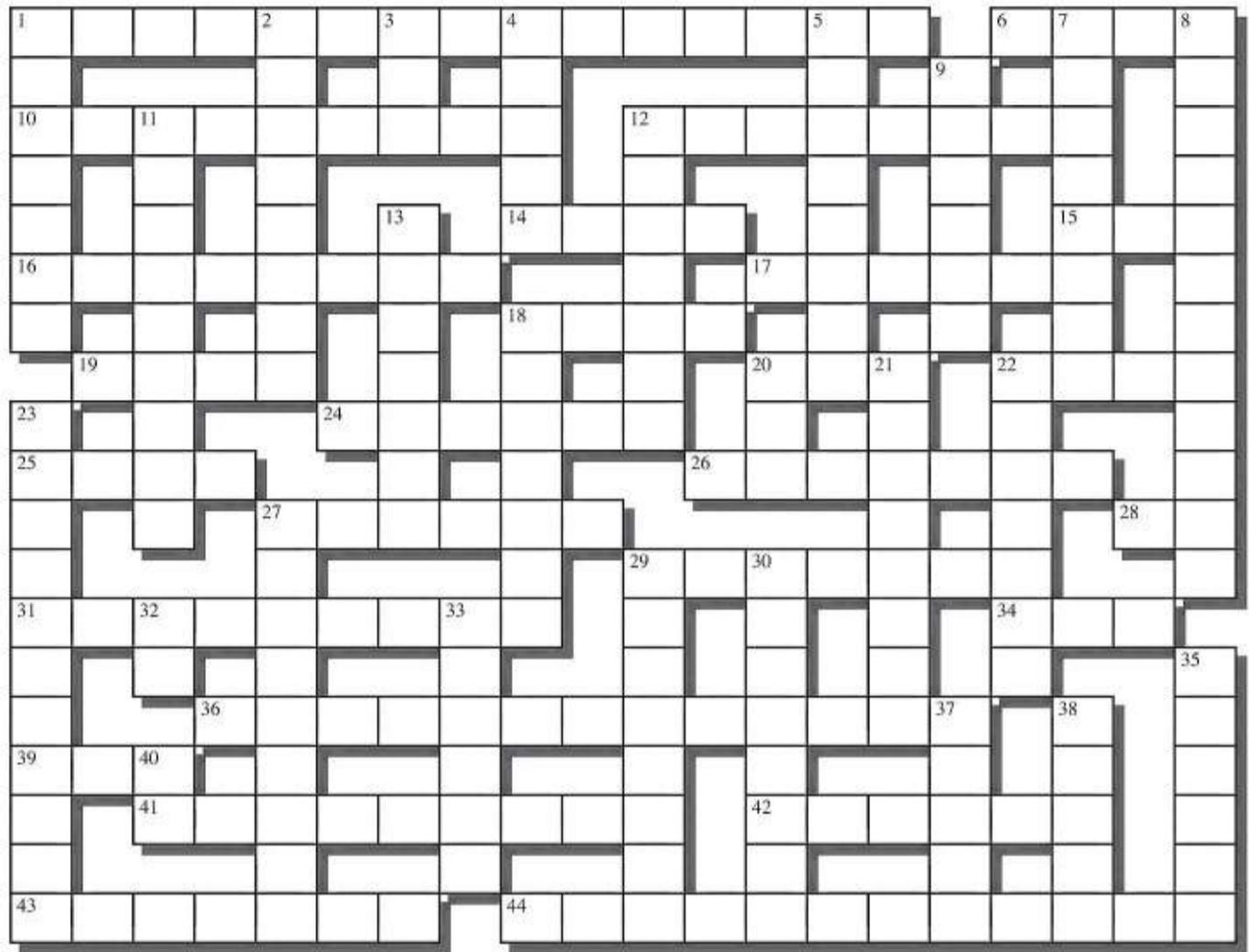
QUESTION 2

In which year was the Domesday Book completed?

- 1. 1066
- 2. 1076
- 3. 1086
- 4. 1896

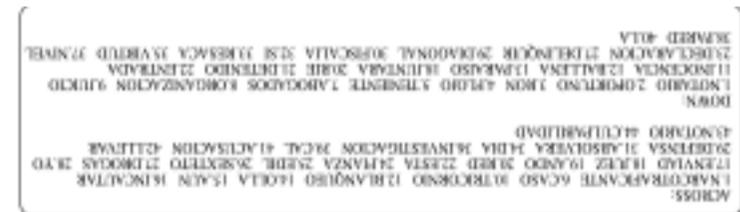
LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across**
1. Drug dealer (15)
 6. Case (4)
 10. Three-cornered hat (9)
 12. Laundering (money) (8)
 14. Pan (4)
 15. Even (3)
 16. To seize (8)
 17. Send! (pl) (6)
 18. Judge (4)
 19. I walk (4)
 20. Network (3)
 22. This (f) (4)
 24. Bail (6)
 25. Councillor (4)
 26. Sextet (7)
 27. Drugs (6)
 28. I (2)
 29. Defence (7)
 31. He will acquit (9)
 34. Day (3)
 36. Investigation (13)
 39. Limescale (3)
 41. Prosecution (9)
 42. To take (6)
 43. Notary (7)
 44. Guilt (12)
- Down**
1. Notary (7)
 2. Timely (8)
 3. Rum (3)
 4. Weak (5)
 5. Deputy (8)
 7. Lawyers (8)
 8. Organisation (12)
 9. Trial (6)
 11. Innocence (9)
 12. Whale (7)
 13. Haven (tax) (7)
 18. She will join together (7)
 20. He laughs (3)
 21. Arrested (8)
 22. Way in (7)
 23. Statement (11)
 27. To commit a crime (9)
 29. Corner to corner (8)
 30. Public prosecution (8)
 32. If (2)
 33. Hangover (6)
 35. Virtue (6)
 37. Level (5)
 38. Wall (5)
 40. The (f) (2)

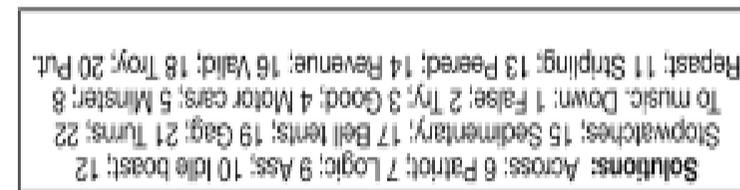


ANSWERS

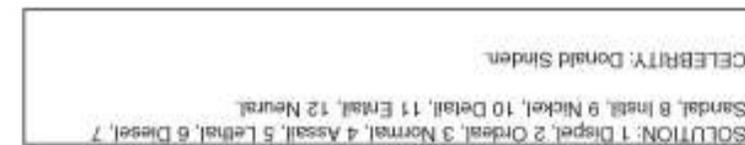
Language Crossword



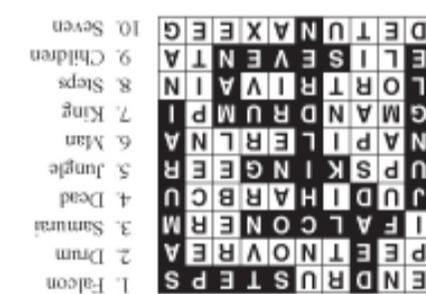
Cryptic Crossword



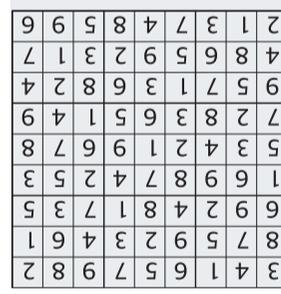
Clockword solution



Wordpuzzler solution



Sudoku solution



Quiz answers

Answer 1: The first phone call made the first phone call ever to telephone on 7 March 1876, Bell **Of interest:** After patenting the Thomas Watson three days later. He simply said "Mr. Watson, come here – I want to see you."
Answer 2: 1086
Of interest: The Domesday Book is a manuscript record of the "Great Survey" of much of England and parts of Wales completed in 1086 by order of King William the Conqueror.

BOOK OF THE WEEK

Elsa Morante
Aracoeli



Aracoeli
Elsa Morante

Aracoeli is an Andalusian peasant who becomes the mistress and later wife of an Italian naval officer. Manuel, her only son, narrates the story which tells of her descent into madness after the death of his baby sister. On her death, Manuel is cared for by his cruel grand parents and becomes obsessed with his mother, remembering the idyllic years he spent with her. He works in a dead-end job and is filled with self-loathing but decides to visit her home town to try and 'find' her.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

You cannot achieve the impossible without attempting the absurd

ANON

THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

Education and Learning special

This past week we have been working hard on our special Education and Learning supplement which is inside this edition of SUR in English. It is filled with all the latest news from the international schools in Andalucía along with examples of some of the best work they have produced over the year.

We have been having lots of fun looking through all the entries for our schools competition and, as usual, the standard of entries has been very high. Our panel of judges, which included retired edi-

tor Liz Parry, current editor Rachel Haynes, well-known artist George Kowzan and poet and lecturer Álvaro García, have had a really hard time deciding on the winners.

We always enjoy hearing from readers about the paper; praise and ideas for improvement are always welcome, and we can take criticism too, particularly if it's constructive! Send your news and views to surinenglish.su@diario-sur.es or tweet it to us (@SUR_English). We are also on Facebook (@surenglish).





BEAT THE BARS



PRISON ISLAND

- Beat the Bars -

Gather your friends, form a team and solve the challenging tasks in the prison cells together. Compete, collect points and have lots of fun. All are welcome - all around the year! Young as well as old, short as well as tall, the company kick-off, the birthday party, the athlete team, the school class, the bachelor party and the family reunion. Everything is possible! And remember - The team always needs you and you always need the team!

Plaza de la Goleta s/n.
 C.C Puerto Marina Shopping Local L3.
 29631 Benalmádena. PUERTO MARINA. Málaga
www.prisonisland.es



Spanish rider Queralt Castellet performs a 'halfpipe' jump on the slopes. :: EFE



Ikuma Hiroshima's gold-winning effort. :: EFE

Champion skiers hit the Sierra

The Sierra Nevada slopes host the 2017 Freestyle Skiing and Snowboarding World Championships this week

:: INÉS GALASTEGUI
SIERRA NEVADA. On Wednesday 777 international skiers and snowboarders descended upon the slopes of Andalucía's biggest mountain to compete in this year's Freestyle Skiing and Snowboarding World Championships.

Using either skis or a snowboard the 'riders,' whose name as well as their skiing style separates them from traditional forms of skiing, will be judged on an array of acrobatic jumps, including somersaults and air spins.

The International Skiing Fed-

eration (FIS) has not only praised the competition itself for "projecting a youthful image onto the sport," as more millennials are attracted to this riskier form of skiing, but has also been impressed by the organisation, infrastructure and audiences at the Sierra Nevada event.

Although freestyle skiing and snowboarding demands strenuous training at the highest levels, in general the style of the sport is considered to be more free and re-

laxed in comparison to the technical rigours of traditional skiing, something which is demonstrated by riders' kits of oversized hoodies and baggy trousers.

So far this week the podium has been dominated by Japanese freestyle skier Ikuma Hiroshima who has taken the gold medal on two consecutive days. However, Malaga rider Regino Hernández, who will compete today (Friday), hopes to challenge him and "make an impression at home."

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 McCLENAGHAN

"Great experience. Extremely good car, everything working properly, renting procedure very fast."

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 TOGANEL

"I would never use any other car hire company. Simply the best."

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 SMITH

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