

# SUR

## in English

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### From sunny Mijas to snowboard silver medallist

Regino Hernández won only the sixth medal for Spain in snow sports at the world championships this week **P56**

# Councillor quits after Mijas PP offers job in return for vote against mayor

The town's Podemos councillor was also told that he could avoid a potential legal problem if he supported the PP

Revelations that the Mijas branch of the Partido Popular had offered the town hall's Podemos councillor, Francisco Martínez, a job in exchange for supporting a vote of no confidence in the current mayor, have forced the

resignation of PP councillor Santiago Martín. In taped conversations with Martín and local PP president, Ángel Nozal, Martínez was encouraged to sign a motion that would mean the conservatives could take back con-

rol of the council from the Ciudadanos mayor, Juan Carlos Maldonado. This, he heard, would mean there would be no need to bring alleged irregularities involving his salary to the attention of the authorities. **P2**



## PICASSO MUSEUM, MARK II

Renewal was the theme as the Malaga gallery unveiled its new permanent exhibition **P32**

Bernard Ruiz-Picasso (second left) attended the relaunch of the MPM on Monday. **SALVADOR SALAS**

### Real estate firm sets out plans for 300-million-euro revamp for Tivoli

Plans include more than 40 new attractions, a new shopping centre, office blocks, a cinema and underground parking

Madrid firm Tremón announced this week plans to regenerate the Tivoli World theme park in Arroyo de la Miel. The multi-million project is set to go ahead despite a legal challenge from former owner 'Sandokán' and possible complications concerning access roads. **P14&15**

**The mysterious Apostle of Ireland.** St Patrick's Day will be celebrated along the Costa del Sol this weekend. But who was he? **P26&27**

**Unicaja have one foot in the EuroCup final** after an impressive win in Russia but must beat Lokomotiv in Malaga tonight **P55**

### Beach repair works halted by this week's storm

More destructive weather has undone work to fix Marbella's beaches damaged in December and February **P3**

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**Bioparc** BIENGROLA



# PP councillor resigns over a job offer in return for a vote to oust the mayor of Mijas



IVÁN  
GELIBTER

Twitter: @IvanGelibter

The local PP offered a Podemos councillor a job at Club La Costa and said he wouldn't be reported for a salary irregularity if he agreed to help the party regain power in Mijas

**MIJAS.** A Partido Popular councillor in Mijas, Santiago Martín, resigned on Thursday after SUR revealed the content of conversations in which a Podemos councillor, Francisco Martínez Ávila, was offered a job in exchange for supporting a vote of no confidence in the current mayor of Mijas.

At a meeting on Tuesday, with Martín and the local PP president and former mayor Ángel Nozal, it was also suggested that Martínez Ávila, known as Curro, would not be reported for an alleged illegality in his salary paid by the town hall if he signed a motion that would put Nozal back in the mayor's office.

The municipality is currently ruled by the centre-right Ciudadanos (C's) party led locally by mayor Juan Carlos Maldonado. After Ángel Nozal, who was mayor between 2011 and 2015, failed to repeat his overall majority in the last elections, the PP joined forces with Ciudadanos and Maldonado became mayor.

Disagreements, however, then led to a break in the two-party pact and Ciudadanos instead went into coalition with the socialist PSOE group. They have the support of Martínez Ávila, the only CSSP (Podemos-supported) councillor, on key issues.

## Car journey

Tuesday's meeting, which Martínez maintains was not the first time he has received offers from the PP, began when Santiago Martín picked up Martínez Ávila in the car park of the



Francisco (Curro) Martínez (r) leaves the car driven by Santiago Martín. :: ÑITO SALAS



Ángel Nozal (PP). :: SUR

Parque Acuático. The first part of the taped conversation took place between the two councillors on their way to the appointment with Nozal at the headquarters of the Mancomunidad of the Western Costa del Sol, of which the former PP mayor is vice-president.

The CSSP representative expressed his concern about a court sentence that Ángel Nozal allegedly planned to use to report Maldonado for irregularities. The sentence, according to Martín handed down by the supreme court, apparently argues that a councillor who does not belong to the local government team should not be paid a salary for working full time for the town hall, unless this is approved



Francisco Martínez (CSSP). :: I. G.

at the first council meeting of a term of office.

Using this sentence as a precedent, the PP believes that a lawsuit could bring serious legal consequences for Maldonado, as well as for Martínez, who would, according to the PP, have to pay back around 20,000 euros to the town hall.

In exchange for signing the no-confidence vote, which would make Nozal mayor, the PP, according to Tuesday's conversations, would keep the alleged sentence to themselves.

"I'm telling you that if Maldonado falls, this won't come up again," said Martín.

The subject of the vote of no confidence was discussed later during



Santiago Martín (PP). :: SUR

the meeting with Nozal.

"To turn the tables at the town hall, we need a motion [of no confidence]," said the former mayor.

This hypothetical no confidence vote would have taken place during the coming weeks, once the support of Martínez had been established as well as that of another councillor, Elena Abda, who is not affiliated to any party.

## Job offer

Santiago Martín referred to the prospect of a job before the pair parted company again in the car park.

"Don't let me down, Curro," said the PP councillor who stood down on Thursday. "I can guarantee you the

Maldonado: "If this is true the PP should remove Nozal from politics"

The mayor of Mijas, Juan Carlos Maldonado, reacted to the revelations on Wednesday. "If the information is confirmed I demand the resignation of Nozal and for the PP to remove him from public and political affairs," he told the press, following the publication



Juan Carlos Maldonado

that the local PP had offered CSSP councillor Martínez Ávila a job in exchange for supporting a vote to oust him from power, as well as bringing a possible case of an illegal salary into the equation.

"The people of Mijas don't deserve this type of political practice," said the mayor.

next four years at Club La Costa, I can get it out of Ángel because he told me a year ago." Martín added that he could expect a salary of up to 1,500 euros and implied that it was an opportunity he couldn't afford to let pass by, as "you speak English, you're an educated person, you want to study and go abroad, you want to do things."

On Thursday the public prosecution department decided to open its own investigation into the 'Caso Mijas' to establish whether the events constitute a criminal offence.

Martínez Ávila had previously stated that he would report the PP representatives for "threats, coercion and influence peddling".

According to the Podemos councillor, this was not the first time that he had been pressured in this way. "This was the last straw," he said referring to when Santiago Martín first mentioned the possible legal case regarding his salary. "They've tried to offer me things before and this time I had to catch them out," he added. "I felt blackmailed and I couldn't let that happen."

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Nozal says he didn't offer anything and sues for libel

:: SUR

**MALAGA.** The president of the PP in Mijas, Ángel Nozal, said on Wednesday that it was the CSSP councillor who had asked for the meeting, in which he was apparently offered a job in exchange for helping the PP oust the Ciudadanos mayor. The reason, said Nozal, was to discuss the "verbal violence" at recent council meetings. They spoke, he said, of the current situation at the town hall.

"I told him that he held the key and that he shouldn't vote in favour of everything," he said, admitting that they discussed the "delicate issue" of his salary, but that he didn't offer him anything.

Nozal described the situation as a "manipulation" and said he suspected that the mayor, Juan Carlos Maldonado was "behind all this". He commented on the timing of events; the Ciudadanos leader Albert Rivera, was due to visit Mijas, the biggest municipality controlled by the centre-right party, on Thursday evening.

On Thursday Nozal filed a lawsuit against the CSSP councillor Martínez Ávila for libel.

**PP reaction**

The provincial president of the Partido Popular, Elías Bendodo, said at a press conference on Thursday that the case, now labelled 'Caso Mijas', was a question of "individual behaviour unconnected to our party politics".

Speaking prior to the resignation of Santiago Martín, Bendodo said that the party was investigating the events and would take the necessary measures.

"I'm sure that in this situation there are more actors than those who appear in the photo," he added, referring to the images of the encounter published by SUR.



A Marbella chiringuito after being battered by waves on Wednesday :: J-LANZA



The damaged promenade. :: JOSELE-LANZA

# Beach recovery operation takes a hit from this week's storm

Work done last week to repair Marbella's beaches after the December and February storms has been reversed by yet more destructive weather

:: NIEVES CASTRO / SUR

**MARBELLA.** After the sudden burst of sunshine and high temperatures of last weekend, Marbella council, with a budget of 1.3 million euros provided by the central environmental ministry, initiated a project to restore the town's storm-damaged beaches. However, the arrival of yet more bad weather on the coast earlier this week means the coastal authority, which is carrying out the

work, has gone back to square one.

The project involves the transportation and embedding of nearly 50,000 square metres of sand, and was expected to be completed by Easter.

San Pedro beach was the first to be improved, but the 14,000 square metres of fresh sand that were laid there have already been lifted and swallowed up by fierce waves caused by the most recent storm.

In addition, San Pedro's promenades and showers have been damaged along with some of the chiringuito restaurants that line the beach.

"We have suffered five storms this winter, but none as bad as this one," said a waiter from Trocadero Playa, a restaurant that saw its kitchen flooded by the torrent of waves on



Huelin, in Malaga city. :: S. SALAS

Wednesday.

In spite of this setback, Marbella council is optimistic that the beach improvement project can continue and will ensure that the beaches are in perfect condition for tourists and

residents by the Easter deadline.

"There is still time for the council to work on the beach infrastructure and, fortunately, the coasts authority is prepared to redo all the work it completed before the storm so that the beaches will be in optimal condition for the first big date of the tourist season," stated Miguel Díaz, Marbella's councillor for Beaches.

After work is redone at San Pedro and La Fontanilla beaches, El Faro, La Venus and San Ramón will be improved.

Marbella's beaches were not the only ones to be dealt a blow. Five-metre-high waves had an equally damaging effect on Huelin beach in the city of Malaga on Wednesday, and the erosion of a wall caused by the waves in Guadalmar led to the deluge of sea water in the local streets.

In Torremolinos, where 30 millimetres of rainfall were registered on Tuesday, large masses of sand and sea water damaged the beach's plumbing and left the promenade flooded.

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# Teenagers arrested in police investigations into school bullying in Fuengirola and Estepona

National Police forces have been investigating a case in Fuengirola and two in Estepona as bullying incidents in schools continue to rise

BY JUAN CANO

**MALAGA.** The number of recent serious bullying offences in schools should be treated as "isolated cases in context", but these are nonetheless causing a lot of concern in the regional government, according to the regional minister for education, Adelaida De la Calle.

Her statement came after six minors in total were arrested in two major incidents in Fuengirola and Estepona.

The case in Fuengirola saw four young people arrested after the victim's father was himself witness to the bullying, having had suspicions that all was not well with his son beforehand.

Having arranged to pick his son up from the Mercedes Labrador secondary school after class, he saw one boy approach his son and pull



Mercedes Labrador school in Fuengirola. BY IVÁN GELIBTER

the hood of his sweatshirt over his head.

He then threatened to hit the victim, which forced the father to get out of his car and run towards the boys, with the aggressor fleeing upon seeing him heading towards them.

The teenager was already being insulted on a daily basis by three minors, who attended the same school as him, and also by a fourth

child at another school, before events escalated and became violent.

The three minors at Mercedes Labrador, who worryingly were also said to have threatened the boy by putting a penknife to his throat, have been suspended by the school while they are being investigated by police.

The school has also taken immediate internal action, which includes

changing classes and counselling for the boy.

National Police were also alerted to a similar situation in Estepona by the parents of a boy who confessed that he was being constantly insulted by three classmates at the Juan XXIII school and that they had threatened to beat him up.

Two minors were consequently arrested, while a third is not criminally liable at just 13 years old.

The boy has since seen a psychologist specialised in bullying, while the police are also investigating the possibility of a second victim of the same group of teenagers.

A second investigation in the same municipality is also underway after a video of a girl being assaulted on the street was circulating on WhatsApp between students at Monterroso, another local secondary school. The video also shows other young people at the school cheering while the incident was taking place.

According to the Cisneros X Report, which includes bullying statistics across Spain, 27.7 per cent of pupils suffer bullying at school in Andalucía, while other research carried out by the Centro Reina Sofia found that 75 per cent of the students surveyed have witnessed some form of bullying at their schools.

Such statistics have alarmed the regional government's Education ministry, with De la Calle reassuring parents that these cases "will be treated with the same seriousness and rigour as any other".

## IN BRIEF

### Seven arrested in Marbella for offering girl's virginity online

**MALAGA**

BY SUR. National Police have disbanded a criminal organisation which advertised sexual services through various websites, one of which included offering the virginity of a minor for 5,000 euros.

Seven men were arrested in Marbella after police received anonymous tip-offs about the website, stating that the girl involved was 16 years old.

The organisation used a network of telephone operators to arrange appointments and transportation of women to hotels or even the residences of affluent clients.

### British man missing in Estepona found dead

**ESTEPONA**

BY L. PAVÓN. National Police officers have found the body of a British man reported missing in Estepona earlier this month. Ian Thompson, 64, was found dead at the end of last week next to his car in Calle Jerguen, in El Paraiso. Sources close to the investigation said there was no evidence of the participation of other individuals in his death, although the inquiry was ongoing.

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## Hacienda inspector arrested over alleged fees for tax avoidance advice

The tax office employee was detained along with five others after an investigation lasting several months

:: JUAN CANO / ÁLVARO FRÍAS

**MALAGA.** The police investigation was labelled 'operación Erario' (operation treasury). A Malaga business woman had complained to police last year that a tax official was allegedly asking for money to give advice on how to avoid or evade tax.

On Wednesday this week, the undercover police operation reached its climax when plainclothes officers and the investigating judge discreetly entered Malaga's main Hacienda office, on



The employee was held inside the main Malaga tax office. :: ÑITO SALAS

Avenida Andalucía next to El Corte Inglés, to arrest the employee.

Seven raids were carried out in total and six people were held in

total, including at least two lawyers who belong to a 'gestoría' tax advisory that was working with the Hacienda official.



## POLICE HALT ARMED MAN ON BUSY SEAFRONT

A man carrying a knife on Carvajal seafront in Fuengirola caused panic on Sunday afternoon, causing diners at various beach restaurants to flee from their tables at around 2.20pm. Police were called and after a short standoff were able to overpower him and arrest him before anybody came to harm. The whole incident was captured on video.

## HERE AND THERE



One of the affected sites by Marbella's famous arch. :: J- LANZA

## Marbella petrol stations 'illegal for 20 years'

**MARBELLA**

:: **H.B.** A Malaga court has upheld earlier judgements that four well-known petrol stations in Marbella were built with illegal planning permission granted in 1995 and 1996

when Jesús Gil was mayor. The stations affected are by Marbella bus station, in Nagüeles, in Cabopino and by the Marbella arch. All were built on land designated for non-industrial use in the town plan at the time. The lawyer who first brought the case in 2000 has asked for the other legally-built petrol stations in the town to be compensated.

## Residents stop council selling off La Cala land

**LA CALA DE MIJAS**

:: **I.G.** La Cala de Mijas residents' association has succeeded in stopping Mijas council from selling off a big piece of land for private housing. The 28,180-square-metre plot, by the Los Olivos football pitch on the outskirts of the village, is due to be sold for development for around seven million euros in order to help council funds. Residents have complained that the sale deprives the area of an important piece of public land and risks causing over development in La Cala. The council still wants to sell land but has now asked for new ideas from locals.

## Two bodies found in strange circumstances

**MALAGA**

:: **SUR.** Two bodies have been found in suspicious circumstances on the Costa del Sol this week. In Marbella a man was found dead in the Lomas del Río Verde area on Tuesday night. He apparently had been shot in the head while on his motorbike and was discovered by a pizza delivery boy. The dead man was carrying identification and police are investigating. In Fuengirola a man's body was found floating in the river on Wednesday morning. According to police, he was believed to have been in his 50s and a foreign national.

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The front of the Costa del Sol Torremolinos Luxury Boutique Hotel in Playamar. :: SUR

## Luxury halal-certified hotel opens its doors in Torremolinos

The building has 36 rooms and is the first Spanish venture for Kuwaiti chain Costa del Sol Hotels

### :: PILAR MARTÍNEZ

**MÁLAGA.** Kuwaiti chain Costa del Sol Hotels has opened a new boutique hotel in Torremolinos which caters for the Arab market. The establishment, just three hundred metres from the beach, has 36 rooms.

Named Costa del Sol Torremolinos Boutique Hotel, this is the

group's first in Spain and will be only the second in the country to carry the Halal Quality Assurance Seal created by the Muslim Council of Spain (the other is in Marbella).

This means that the hotel is able to offer services specifically catering for Muslim clientele, including strict control over the catering, strictly eliminating all traces of pork product, even in pastries and dressings.

The hotel can also provide guests with prayer mats and rooms facing Mecca if they request them.

Run by Julio García and located on the Paseo Colorado in the Playa-

mar area, the hotel is already open to the public, despite the official inauguration not being planned to take place until 11 May.

The hotel also has a heated outdoor pool open all year, a jacuzzi, free wifi throughout, a gym, a panoramic 'chillout' terrace, café, restaurant and a car park.

In its efforts to be green, the chain is working towards Breeam (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Methodology) certification which will see the hotel's sustainability recognised on an international level, and it is the first in Andalucía to do so.

## Costa Galera residents repeat footbridge demand

A request was made to national government eight months ago, but there is still no news on when construction might start

### :: LEANDRO PAVÓN

**ESTEPONA.** At the moment, residents of Costa Galera have to walk at least half a kilometre in order to be able to access the coastal part of west Estepona, unless they take the risk of crossing the A-7 coast road. Consequently, residents are demanding the construction of a footbridge to prevent unnecessarily long or dangerous journeys from north of the road to the beach.

Residents first proposed the idea to the national government's pub-

lic works ministry in June last year. They were told that it was a viable project but that it would have to be approved by the local government. Since then, however, there have been no further developments.

"Summer is getting closer, foreign residents that come for high season will soon be here and the amount of people taking the risk of crossing the A-7 will increase. It is a great danger," said Antonio Carmona, the residents' spokesman. "The council have dropped the ball on the issue," he added.

Residents are also campaigning for the seasonal bus stop to be placed this year on the side of the A-7 where most of their houses are located, which will enable them to avoid crossing the motorway each time they want to catch the bus.



The roundabout where residents want the footbridge built. :: L. P.

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# Are Your Funds Suitable For You?

By John McCann, Senior Partner, Blevins Franks

There are thousands of investment funds available to invest in. Besides the traditional ones that invest in equities, bonds and real assets, you may have seen funds advertised that sound more interesting and seem to offer better returns, ranging from schemes investing in foreign property to second hand life insurance policies. Unfortunately, being interesting or popular does not make them suitable, and you need to carefully evaluate the risks.

Funds which pool investors' money in non-traditional scheme assets are known as Unregulated Collective Investment Schemes (UCIS). A variety of schemes have been on offer over the past decade or so, particularly in the offshore market. Unfortunately, many of them have been suspended or liquidated, leaving investors without access to their capital or, worse still, facing heavy losses.

The UK's Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) continues to have concerns about them. After noting that "consumers have lost substantial amounts of money investing in UCIS and similar products in recent

years" it introduced rules in 2014 to prevent UCIS and close substitutes (such as Traded Life Policy Investments) being promoted to the general public.

In theory, they should now only be promoted to certified high net worth, sophisticated and existing UCIS investors.

Even if you fit these categories, caution is advised. "Sophisticated" funds tend to be complex with inherent risks. The sophisticated element is not always made clear, so investors may have little idea of the real level of risk they are taking.

It is often difficult to do due diligence on these funds due to the nature of the holdings. The risks they carry are often disproportionate to the potential returns and they are usually completely unsuitable for mainstream investors.

Despite the rules, the FCA has seen evidence that ordinary members of the public are being sold UCIS, with some customers being advised to invest their self-invested pension (SIPP) into them. And of course the

FCA is focused on the UK market; expatriates have to be extra careful.

Traded Life Policy Investments invest in life assurance policies, normally of US citizens – they are sometimes referred to as 'death bonds'. Investors hope to benefit by buying the right to the insurance payments when the original policyholder dies. Most are sold as UCIS, but some take other legal forms.

Research by the FCA found levels of unsuitable advice when selling these funds. It advises that these are high risk investments which can fail entirely. It is worried the market could grow and cause more investors to lose significant amounts of money.

Here is another example of the dangers of investing in unusual funds. We recently met a retired couple in Spain who lost around £100,000 investing in a sports betting investment scheme. They started by investing a little but when returns were good moved more capital out of traditional investments into it. The scheme has now collapsed. According to a BBC

article, it was promoted as offering huge, risk-free returns and had £27 million invested in it.

## So how do you choose investments?

The key rule of investing is that your overall portfolio should be specifically designed around your personal objectives, circumstances, time horizon and risk profile – obtain an objective analysis of your risk profile. Hold a diversified mix of assets to help reduce the overall risk of your portfolio. You need to keep all this in mind when considering a new fund, and how it fits with your existing holdings.

For most investors, plain vanilla is best. It is not just a question of sticking to tried and tested investment assets, but also of investing in regulated products which do not have complex, hard-to-value structures.

Regulation is very important when considering a fund. While most financial centres have a regulatory system, the level, quality and reliability varies across territories.

Make sure your investments are supervised by a body on a par with the UK's Financial Conduct Authority, considered one of the best in the world.

It is just as important to evaluate the regulation of the adviser who is making the recommendation. Always speak to an experienced, trustworthy and regulated wealth manager, which carries out a high level of due diligence when recommending funds. They should carry the highest degree of regulation and only recommend authorised funds from highly recommended jurisdictions. They should take time to know you, and offer tailor made financial planning solutions, rather than just be trying to sell you a particular product.

It may sound a cliché, but always remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

*All advice received from Blevins Franks is personalised and provided in writing; this article, however, should not be construed as providing any personalised investment advice.*

"I'd like to expand my portfolio. How do I recognise a suitable investment from a risky one?"

Talk to the people who know.

Your portfolio should be carefully designed around your objectives, circumstances, time horizon and risk profile, with assets chosen accordingly. Avoid unregulated investments – consumers have lost substantial amounts of money with them in recent years.

Blevins Franks carry out thorough due diligence on all the funds we recommend and have helped our clients avoid 'toxic products'. Contact us for advice on new investments or a review of your current portfolio.

### contact us now

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## Two messages to drive women's social and professional business

Costa Women joined forces with 1230 The Women's Company to organise two events encouraging participants to share their experiences as part of International Women's Day

### :: RACHEL ARMSTRONG

**MARBELLA.** 'Be Bold For Change' and 'Make It Happen' were the messages passed on to women on the Costa del Sol at two events last week. The first was a networking event at Avanto restaurant in La Cala de Mijas for ladies to share their 'bold' experiences. The evening included an inspirational talk by Kati van der Hoeven, a Finnish former supermodel whose career was cut short after she suffered an undiagnosed stroke in her 20s. She now suffers from 'locked-in syndrome' but has learnt to communicate by using eye movements.

Ali Meehan, founder of Costa Women, invited Kati to share her "truly inspirational" story and encourage others to realise that there is no need to feel "restricted" by



Ali Meehan with speakers at Andalucía Lab. :: ALEKSANDRA OLEJNIK

health, gender or surroundings. Ali said: "Rather than complaining about what you don't have, Kati has made the most out of what she does have. We can all achieve something if we set our minds to it".

'Make It Happen' was the theme of the 5th annual International Women's Day Conference which took place the following day, Friday 10 March, at Andalucía Lab in Marbella. Seven international speakers delivered talks about various issues women face in business, offering the 130 attendees tips on how to 'make it happen' in a corporate and personal sense.

### Seven international speakers gave talks about issues women often face in business

Ticket sales and donations on the day helped raise over one thousand euros for two charities - AMUSUVIG (Asociación de Mujeres Superviviente de la Violencia de Genero) and Asociación Knitted Knockers Costa del Sol, a charity that makes

and distributes hand-knitted breast prostheses to ladies who have had a mastectomy.

One of the speakers on Friday was Georgina Shaw, who set up her own marketing business on the Costa del Sol during the recession in 2008. Despite noticing gradual changes over recent years she thinks that, even in modern day society, "women tend not to be taken as seriously" as men in business, "as they are perceived as care givers rather than naturally career-oriented".

She highlighted the importance of events like the IWD conference to "acknowledge the particular challenges women in business face, share ideas and coping strategies and come together to support one another".

Georgina, originally from London, thinks one of the main challenges women now face is the decision between whether they should focus on family or a career - or "try to juggle both and deal with the guilt of feeling you can't give either role 100%".

She told SUR in English: "There are so many talented and bright women who bring a huge amount to the business world and should be recognised. Our traditional skills of empathy and nurturing are excellent in management and offer insights that are very valuable to companies of all kinds."

Costa Women is a free community for women living in, or thinking of relocating to, Spain; a connection point offering advice, tips and support for women all over the country.

### HERE AND THERE

#### Foreigners department offers advice on residence and vehicles

##### MIJAS

:: **SUR.** The Mijas Foreigners Department is holding a talk today at 12 midday in the conference hall at La Cala de Mijas municipal offices. The administrative body Colegio Oficial de Gestores Administrativos and National Police officers will address issues that regularly concern foreigners regarding driving licences, vehicle importation, residence certificates and NIE identification numbers.

#### International Poetry Day comes to town

##### BENALMÁDENA

:: **SUR.** The town of Benalmádena has been chosen by the United Nations agency UNESCO to write a giant poem as part of International Poetry Day this Tuesday.

The town hall in Benalmádena is encouraging people of all the 123 different nationalities currently living in the area to contribute and write something in their own language.

The event will take place on the Avenida de Blas Infante in the town of Arroyo de la Miel at 11am.

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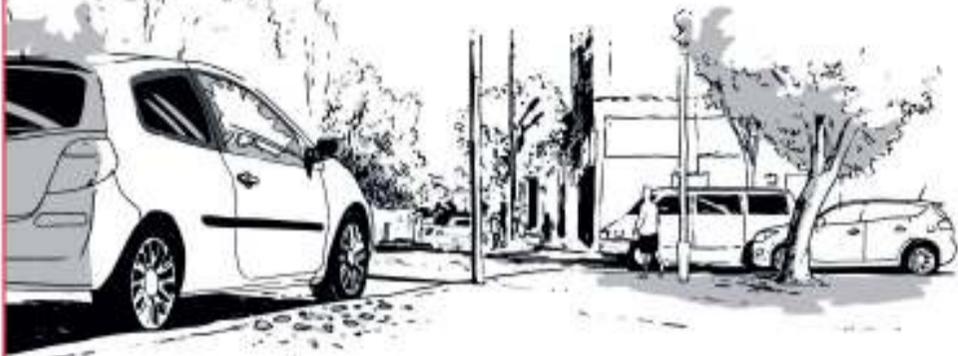
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## Mijas launches domestic violence awareness programme aimed at foreign residents

The council, non-profit associations and emergency services take steps to reach out to women in the international community

### IVÁN GELIBTER

**MIJAS.** The need to get vital information regarding the problem of domestic violence to the foreign community in Mijas - 40 per cent of the total population according to town hall figures - has resulted in Viogenex, a project which saw its second meeting last week.

The scheme, proposed by the foreign residents department last November, involves a partnership with the municipal social services, the Local and National Police, the Guardia Civil's domestic violence unit and the organisation Soropti-



Representatives at the meeting in La Cala last week. :: I. G.

mist International as well as Cruz Roja (Red Cross) and the Lions Club.

The councillor responsible for social services, Mari Carmen Carmona, explained that the foreign popula-

tion needed to be made aware of the importance of reporting this type of violence to the police.

"We need to show this group of women the resources that are avail-

able to them at the town hall, taking another step closer to eradicating this type of violence," said Carmona at the meeting attended by the councillor for Foreign Residents, Roy Pérez, as well as representatives of the participating forces and organisations.

Translating the information available into English, German and French, among other languages, is one of the steps being taken to ensure that women of all nationalities know where to go and what to do if they suffer violence at the hands of a current or former partner.

Luis Miguel Díaz, the local Cruz Roja president, said that his organisation would be on hand to accompany women seeking help.

Elisabeth Juliao of Soroptimist International said that the women's non-profit group would help with translation and act as a link between victims and the authorities.

### HERE AND THERE

#### SOS call from Malaga horse refuge

##### ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE

**I. LILLO.** The CYD Santa María horse sanctuary in the town of Alhaurín el Grande has launched an SOS appeal in an attempt to prevent it from being forced to close.

Sisters Concordia Márquez García and Virginia Solera García have called for more volunteers to join, with the current situation seeing just five people managing facilities across 30,000 square metres.

The women in charge of the refuge have also demanded economic support, as they believe that more sponsors are needed than the 400 current organisations that contribute to the organisation financially.

The sanctuary has been open for 15 years now and the sisters have been involved in the treatment and care of more than 4,000 horses that have been abandoned or injured.

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## HERE AND THERE

**Plans for 290 homes on land in Nerja town centre****NERJA**

:: **E. CABEZAS.** The land behind Calle Carabeo in Nerja, just a few hundred metres from the Balcón de Europa, could be used to build 290 homes. Priamo Real Estate, the company that owns the land, has reactivated conversations with Nerja town hall about the possibility of building on the space, which is currently

used for the town's fair in October and as a public-pay car park the rest of the year.

Priamo Real Estate has said that it has plans to include social housing in the development on the land, which is valued at between 1.8 and 3.2 million euros, according to separate reports by Nerja town hall and Malaga provincial government respectively. The company also includes in its plans the relocation of the feria ground to a plot of land near the river Chillar.



The feria ground in Nerja centre could be used for housing. :: **E. C.**

**Extension to dog DNA registration deadline****RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA**

:: **E. C.** Rincón de la Victoria town hall has announced a six-month extension to its programme to collect DNA from residents' dogs. The announcement comes after only 71 out of an estimated 9,500 dogs' DNA have been registered since the start of the scheme. Pet owners now have until September to register their dogs at [www.colegioveterariosmalaga.es](http://www.colegioveterariosmalaga.es) (ADN) then take the dog to a vet's.

**Avenue named after German who introduced the avocado to Axarquía**

Dieter Wienberg co-wrote a paper which led to the opening of La Mayora research station in Algarrobo, which he ran from 1961 to 1975

**AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ**

**ALGARROBO.** The avenue and roundabout leading up to the La Mayora research station in Algarrobo have been officially named after the man who founded and subsequently managed the centre and who is responsible for introducing a number of important crops to the area.

Representatives from Torrox town hall, the University of Malaga and La Mayora joined Dieter Wienberg last Thursday in a ceremony at the site.

Wienberg, who was born in Turingia in Germany on 14 July 1929, was in charge of the research station, now known as the Instituto de Hortofruticultura Subtropical y Mediterránea, in Algarrobo from 1961 to 1975.

During his time there he introduced crops such as the Californian strawberry, varieties of tomato and pepper as well as the avocado, which is now considered one of the Axar-



Dieter Wienberg with representatives in Algarrobo last week. :: **A. P.**

quia's most important products.

According to the current director of the institute, Enrique Moriones, Wienberg's vision led to an evolution for agriculture by introducing crops which have generated a large number of jobs in the area.

Wienberg studied agriculture and economy at the universities of Göttingen, Bonn and Innsbruck from 1950. He later travelled to Zaragoza thanks to a Hispano-German exchange grant from the Instituto Nacional de Colonización and in January 1955 he en-

tered the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC). In 1961 he published, together with Joachim Berger and professor Rafael Viñarás, a paper on 'problems and possibilities of increasing the Spanish export of vegetables, fresh fruit and new potatoes,' in which the idea of opening a research station on the Costa del Sol was proposed.

In 1961 the Centro Experimental Económico-Agrario La Mayora in Algarrobo was created and financed by German development funds.

**Residents film as broken pipe spills raw sewage into sea**

The hole was just 400 metres off the shore and appeared amid concerns over waste water plant

**E. CABEZAS**

**NERJA.** A 20cm by 20cm hole in one of the two pipes that takes raw sewage into the sea off Nerja's coast was spotted and subsequently filmed by residents in the town last Thursday. The hole, 400 metres from the seashore between the El Chucho and Torrecilla beach, spewed vast amounts of sewage into the sea and was clearly visible from the Balcón de Europa. The incident



broken sewage pipe. :: **D. P.**

happened among growing concerns over the town's unfinished waste water plant.

**Popular Nerja tourist spots receive facelifts ahead of high season****E. CABEZAS**

**NERJA.** Work is underway to stabilise the walkway and cliffs between the mirador del Bendito next to the Carabeillo beach and Burriana beach in Nerja. The walkway

was closed 15 years ago due to concerns over safety and falling rocks from the cliffs. It is hoped that at least part of the walkway will be open to the public again soon. Further improvements to popular tourist areas are underway. Some 900 new plants and flowers are being planted on the Balcón de Europa. New flowers, all of which are white and purple in colour, have been chosen due to their resistance to heat and palm tree roots which town hall sources say tend to prevent other plants from absorbing nutrients.

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# Age Concern opens its first charity shop in the heart of Los Boliches

The money raised from the venture will help to fund its three drop-in centres and the welfare outreach programme to people in old age

BY TONY BRYANT

**FUENGIROLA.** After several years of searching, Age Concern Fuengirola and Mijas is delighted to announce the opening of its first charity shop in the heart of Los Boliches. The shop is located at 56 Calle Francisco, just a two-minute walk from the church.

Age Concern Fuengirola and Mijas was formed in February 2014 and has already set up three drop-in centres and a welfare outreach programme.

The new shop, which will open its doors on Monday 20 March, is light and airy with plenty of room to walk around and browse. There is easy access for wheelchair users and the attentive, volunteer-staff will always be on hand to help.

Steve Marshall, secretary of Age Concern Fuengirola and Mijas, said, "It has taken a two year search before we settled on the right premises, although at the moment it's



Volunteers prepare the shop for its opening next Monday. :: SUR

organised chaos, but we'll be alright on the day."

All items for sale are selected for their quality and the money generated from the shop will help to fund their charity and social work in the local community.

The shop will sell new and secondhand goods, including clothes, jewellery, fashion accessories, household items, tools, DVDs and books.

With additional stock arriving daily, there will be something for everyone and the organisers promise to keep their prices low.

The shop will be open from 10am until 2pm Monday to Friday, and they will also open from 5pm until 7pm on a Wednesday.

Age Concern Fuengirola and Mijas was started by a small group of volunteers who recognised the need to provide services and support for older people living in Spain.

The charity provides advice, help and friendship to the over 50s English-speaking expat community within the area around Fuengirola and Mijas.



The knitters with hospital staff and the handmade garments. :: TB

## Knit and Natter donates 700 garments to Malaga hospital

BY TONY BRYANT

**FUENGIROLA.** The Knit and Natter group has made another generous donation to the neonatal department of the Malaga maternity hospital.

More than 700 handmade baby garments were handed over to hospital staff during a presentation that was held in the Gelato & Mare ice cream parlour in Los Boliches last Thursday.

A selection of handmade blankets and covers, bonnets, boots and jumpers had been knitted and crocheted by the Los Boliches based group; many of whom were also present at the hand over.

Since forming in 2009, the Knit and Natter group has donated thousands of handmade garments to the maternity hospital. The clothes are used for the newborn babies of underprivileged families, especially those born prematurely.

A representative from the hospital said, "We are very grateful to the knitters for their generous donation. These garments will help families in difficult situations."

Helen Ulfseth, the group's spokesperson, thanked all the knitters for their tireless commitment.

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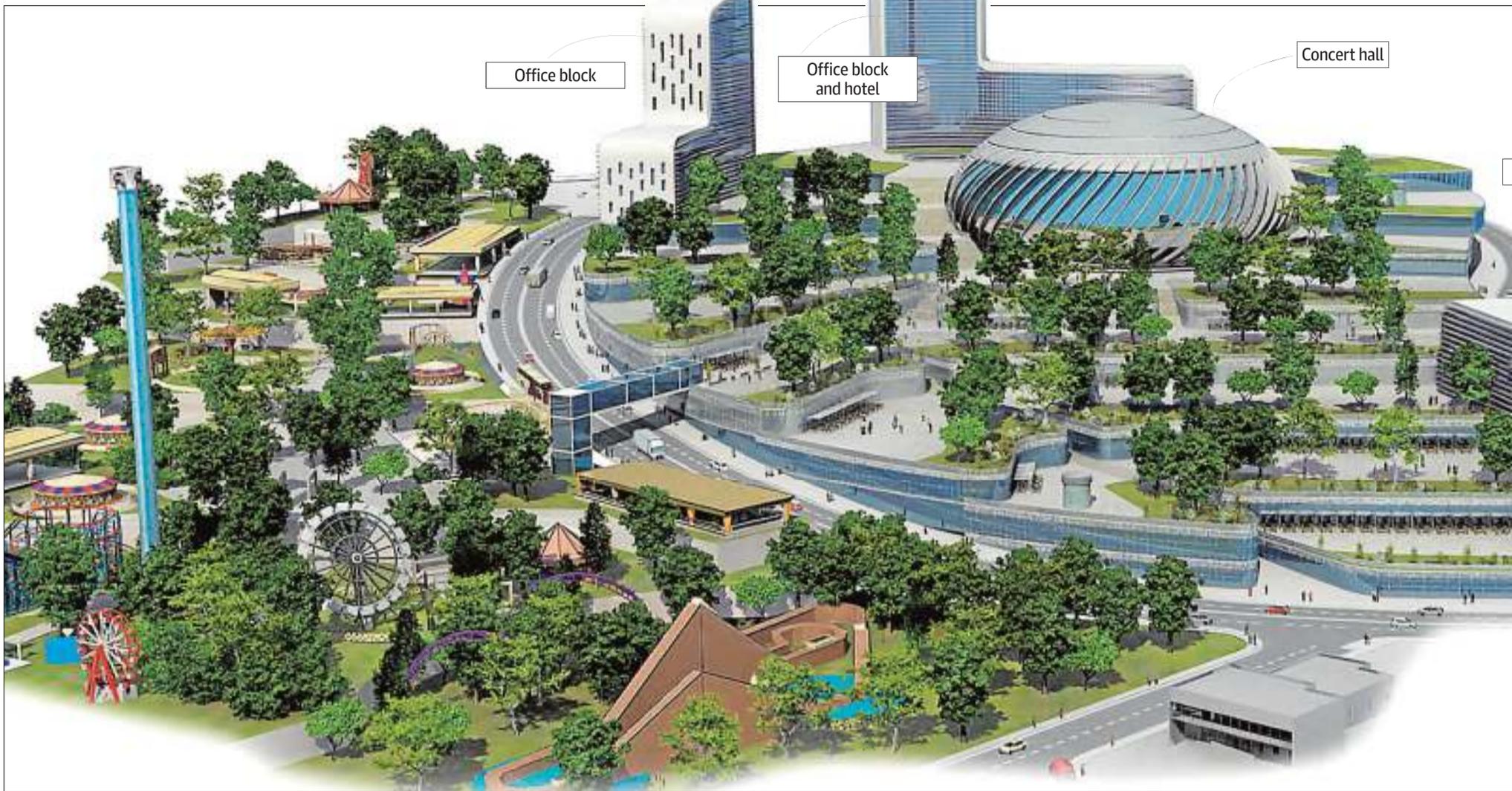
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# Real estate firm proposes 300-million-euro project to revamp Tivoli

The Madrid-based Tremón plans to add new attractions to the theme park as well as creating a commercial complex with a hotel, cinema and concert hall



**ALBERTO GÓMEZ**

✉ Twitter: @Agalmendres

**BENALMÁDENA.** The real estate group Tremón plans to modernise the Costa del Sol's iconic theme park, Tivoli World, as well as developing adjoining land to create a commercial and leisure centre.

The Madrid firm proposes to create a complex covering more than 152,000 square metres which would include two commercial ar-

reas on the east side of the park, as well as gardens and an underground car park with 2,000 spaces.

The new commercial areas would include a hypermarket, a multi-screen cinema, three office blocks, a concert hall and a hotel.

The new commercial areas would include a hypermarket, a multi-screen cinema, three office

blocks, a concert hall and a hotel.

The area occupied by the theme park itself is not expected to change although Tivoli would undergo a complete renovation with the installation of 43 attractions. Among them would be an area for extreme stunts demonstrations as well as a mini Formula 1 circuit and an Everest expedition attrac-

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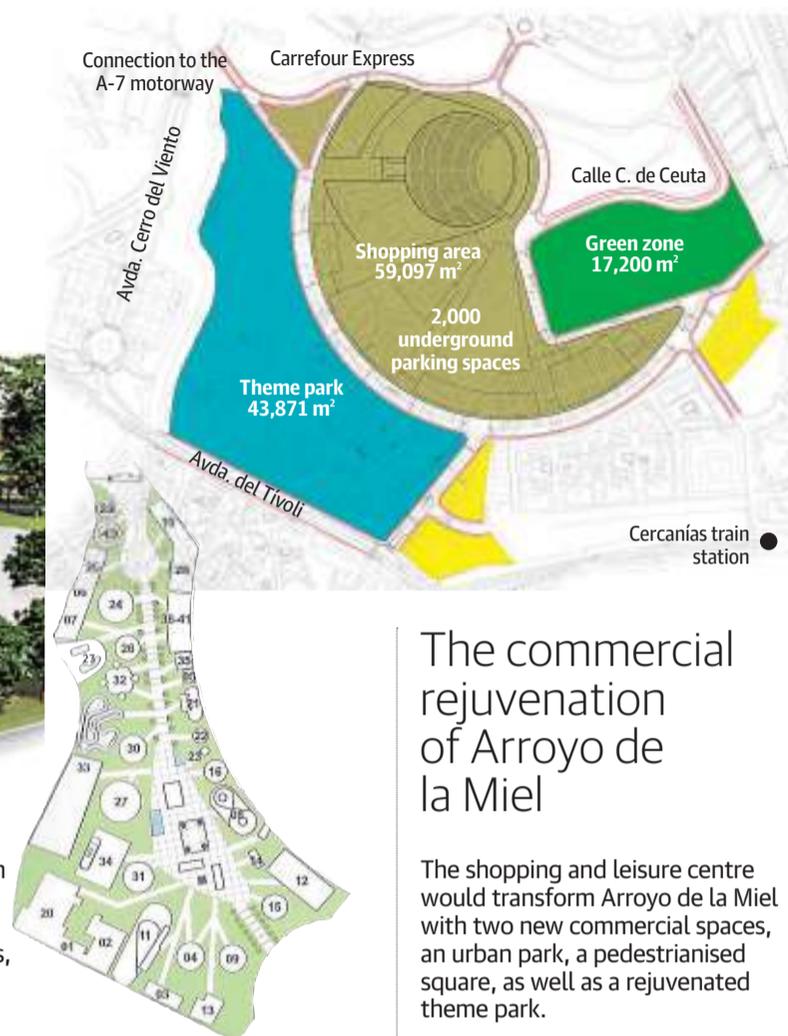


Office block

Gardens

A renovated Tivoli with more than 40 new attractions

The project includes the renovation of Tivoli World with 43 new attractions including a mini Formula 1 track, a rollercoaster, two freefall rides, and an Everest Expedition attraction.



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Cercanías train station

The commercial rejuvenation of Arroyo de la Miel

The shopping and leisure centre would transform Arroyo de la Miel with two new commercial spaces, an urban park, a pedestrianised square, as well as a rejuvenated theme park.

## A facelift planned more than a decade ago

by A. GÓMEZ

Plans to modernise Tivoli have been on the drawing board for more than a decade. The real estate group Tremón has been able to make its move now, however, thanks to the recovery from the financial crisis and the unusual stability of the local town hall, which has seen five different mayors in the last ten years.

Businessman Rafael Gómez had previously announced plans to build a commercial centre on land used as a car park, with cinemas, shops and a circus, however the project was stopped in its tracks by the financial crisis. Gómez had bought Tivoli in 2004 from its previous owner, Bent Olsen, who founded the iconic park in 1972.

The project has been on the back burner since Tremón acquired the park from Gómez in 2007, although the group, with its own debts in the financial crisis, has been able to do nothing until now.

Benalmádena has no major shopping centre, despite being one of the Costa del Sol's busiest tourist resorts and residential areas.

About to reach its 45th anniversary, Tivoli has been crying out for renovation for years. The park was built at the beginning of the seventies, when Spain was starting to satisfy the need for leisure facilities in the latter years of the Franco regime.

Fireworks, a rollercoaster, the Chinese pagoda and a boating lake were highlights of the opening of a park that has been through golden eras and more depressing times, without losing its position as a benchmark attraction among several generations of residents and visitors.

In its nearly 45 years, Tivoli has seen more than 30 million visitors and even in its more neglected periods visitor numbers fell but the park was never closed.

tion. The entire complex would keep the name Tivoli.

The main obstacle in the way of the developers is the ownership of the park. Tremón bought Tivoli in 2007 from the Cordoba businessman Rafael Gómez, otherwise known as Sandokán, who owns the firm Arenal 2000. This was part of a massive real estate deal that included the sale of some 30 properties across Andalucía, amounting to a total of seven million square metres.

However Gómez alleged that the sale had not been fully completed and took the matter to court. This led to the paradoxical situation in that the park is in the name of Tremón but it is still managed by a company linked to the Cordoba businessman, who was recently sentenced to five years in prison for tax offences.

SUR has learned that Tremón is prepared to go ahead with this new project, with an investment of 300 million euros, as soon as the court dispute is over.

The project, which would trans-

form Arroyo de la Miel, has been welcomed by Benalmádena town hall. The local authority is keen to speed up the administrative process, considering the creation of employment and the economic impact of the new centre would

be a unique opportunity to revive commerce in the Arroyo area.

The town hall would also gain financially from planning permission fees and other taxes, a welcome cash injection for the local coffers.



Tivoli has attracted locals and tourists since 1972. :: SUR

Representatives of Tremón have met with the mayor of Benalmádena, Víctor Navas, on at least four occasions, the most recent last week. Among other conditions for a future planning agreement, the council has called for the jobs of the around a hundred staff at Tivoli to be maintained.

The project is expected to create more than 1,600 jobs during its construction, expected to take two years, and 3,300 after completion.

The new park would not require the modification of the PGOU planning regulations, although, as in the case of the complex the developer Intu is due to build in Torremolinos, the access roads could cause administrative complications.

Tremón proposes a number of works to improve road connections from the Costa and Benalmádena Pueblo. The future work to prevent holdups at the Arroyo de la Miel exit on the A-7 will also be essential for the Tivoli project, however the central government has included 17 million euros for the improvements in its budget.

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# Thomas Cook chooses Costa for global summer planning meeting

The British tour operator held its 'Destination Management Conference' in Torremolinos, where 250 executives discussed plans for the season

:: ALBERTO GÓMEZ

**TORREMOLINOS.** British travel giant Thomas Cook discussed its business strategies for summer tourist destinations at its 'Destination Management Conference' at the Palacio de Congresos conference centre in Torremolinos this week.

In a boost for the Costa del Sol's image, Torremolinos was chosen to host the annual event which was attended by more than 250 executives from 50 countries. Peter Frankhauser, company chief executive, led the two-day meeting and set out to brief staff on current social and political factors affect-

ing the tourism market and to anticipate operational issues that may occur from now until the end of the summer.

Spain is Thomas Cook's most popular destination, with the company expecting to look after a similar number this summer to the 4.5 million tourists who travelled to the country last year on its packages.

## Support from the mayor

The conference was opened by the mayor of Torremolinos, José Ortiz, who was keen to highlight the strong historical links that the company, as "pioneer of tourism", has with the Costa town.

Ortiz also emphasised the importance of public and private partnerships and a strong relationship between all travel agents as key to seeing Torremolinos become "a leading tourism product".

The mayor also reminded those present of the 100 million euros in-

vested by the local hotel industry in the last two years in the town, which has been "one of the biggest renovation and modernisation programmes seen on the Costa del Sol in decades". Some 20 per cent of the 21,000 rooms in the municipality are expected to have been modernised.

Thomas Cook plans to increase flights to the Spanish mainland this summer, in addition to its increased programme to the islands. Extra flights have been scheduled to Malaga and Almeria airports among others.

The mayor took advantage of the occasion to invite the directors, managers and executives of the company to discover for themselves the many attractions that are on offer in Torremolinos, which is aiming beyond the traditional image of sun and beaches in order to turn itself into a new global, multi-experience destination.



The conference saw more than 250 senior executives from the British-based company attend. :: A. G.



The Marbella stand at the travel show in the Russian capital. :: SUR

# Marbella heads to Moscow tourism fair

A delegation attended the MITT travel show in the Russian capital to strengthen its ties with the tourism industry in that country

:: HÉCTOR BARBOTA

**MARBELLA.** Mayor of Marbella, José Bernal, led a town-council delegation to Moscow for the MITT tourism fair in the Russian capital this week. It aimed to consolidate the municipality's position as a popular tourist destination in that country.

The Russian market is an interesting proposition for Marbella, who want to encourage people not just to visit the town but also to make it their second home, due to Russia's strong economy and purchasing power.

As an extra initiative at the show, SUR showed once again its commitment to the tourism sector with a special 24-page supplement in Russian which recommended the Costa del Sol as a destination and with a dedicated section on Marbella also included.



Visitors with the supplement. :: SUR

This supported the council's other aim which was to highlight the quality and excellence of the surrounding area, considering many visitors already know a lot about Marbella town itself.

The town had its own stand for the first time at the fair, held between Tuesday and Thursday, as part of a strategy to catch up with Catalonia, which is still the preferred destination in Spain for Russians.

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# Zara owner sees sales jump 12% and profits beat three billion euros

The Inditex group, owner of many well-known high street brands, sold over 23 billion euros in 2016 and created 9,596 new jobs worldwide

## Lucía Palacios

**LA CORUÑA.** Spanish retail giant, Inditex, carried on its upward march in 2016 and continued to beat its own sales records. The Galicia-based company, which owns brands such as Zara, Massimo Dutti, Pull & Bear and Stradivarius, saw sales of 23.31 billion euros worldwide in the twelve months ending 31 January, an increase of 12 per cent. Over 15 billion of these sales came from the Zara brand.

Group sales grew in each of the 93 countries where it operates. There were 279 net store openings last year and it now has 7,292 shops around the world.

Inditex profits increased ten per cent to 3.1 billion euros, helping it keep its market leadership and beating nearest rival H&M.

## INDITEX SIZE IN NUMBERS

# 160,000

people employed by the group across 93 countries.

# 7,292

shops open selling the company's products, of which well over half trade under the Zara brand.

Reporting the annual results this week, Pablo Isla, company chairman and CEO, thanked the group's 160,000 employees globally. Staff levels increased by 9,596 on 2015.

It was also announced that Amancio Ortega, Inditex founder and one of the world's richest men, was lucky enough to walk away with a 1.3-billion-euro dividend.

In Madrid, Zara is getting ready to open its biggest store in the world on 7 April, with 6,000 square metres of retail space.



Finishing touches to world's largest Zara, soon to open in Madrid. :: EFE

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THE BIGGER  
PICTURE

## IS THE EURO REALLY THE DEUTSCHMARK?

**A**s Europe braces itself for a year of political uncertainty, the single market currency is again coming in the spotlight. As Europeans look towards summer vacations, venturing outside the eurozone could be expensive. The market has not yet priced in a Le Pen victory or an Italian referendum on membership of the EU.

Following on the heels of the European Common market, the single currency was conceived out of a need for mortar to cement the bricks of a political institution. The construction of the EU with a central bank that has no ability to be the lender of last resort for the banks was genius of Machiavellian proportions.

The German central bank, the Bundesbank, presided over the economic miracle of a German economy that rose from the ashes of communism after reunification with the East. Etched into the Bundesbank DNA was the vow never again to return to the inflation that ravaged the 1930s when a million Marks bought 1 US Dollar. Germany today has the

largest current account surplus of any economy due in no small measure to the credit risk management of the Bundesbank. An independent treasury within the EU with the ability to print government bonds has been strongly opposed by Germany.

During the hot summer of 2010, Germany, together with the IMF and the Troika, unleashed its full fury on the Greek government, demanding severe fiscal austerity in return for a loan. Greece, already bankrupt, was forced to submit to German demands as both an example and deterrent. Deutsche Bank was near insolvency and it had a large loan position with Greece. The Greek government received little. The EU's first scalp was the resignation of Yanis Varoufakis, the Greek finance minister. He rejected the extend and pretend strategy by refusing to allow the Greek government to guarantee worthless Greek paper so that it could be held as collateral by the IMF to issue credit to pay German banks. Against the German finance minister there could only

be one victor. Varoufakis resigned, only to be replaced by someone who would continue the charade.

The German economy has benefitted the most from the single currency. With an export-led economy it makes up 27% of the eurozone and contributes the lion's share of debt relief within Europe. When Deutsche Bank lent to Greece, along with the French bank Société Générale, they knew that Greece would not be able to repay capital or service the loan. Their subsequent demands were reminiscent of the victorious allies' retribution on Germany in 1926.

President Trump, with US jobs and wages at the centre of his reform agenda, recently lashed out, disputing the strength of the euro. It is significant that he directed his remarks at Chancellor Merkel. She not only issued a strong rebuttal but added that the ECB's policy is not geared towards her country and benefits other member states. However, as the eurozone navigates the stormy waters ahead, there will only be one pair of hands at the helm. They may not be those of Frau Merkel, but they will be German.

*The comments and observations by the author are a reflection of his opinion and do not constitute an offer to buy and hold securities, nor does he receive any remuneration of any kind from names referred to.*

## OECD report praises Spain's recovery but warns on poverty

### SUR

**MADRID.** The OECD has said that Spain's economic recovery is one of the strongest in the developed world thanks to structural financial reforms carried out over the last few years.

Announcing in Madrid details of the global economic watchdog's annual report on Spain, Secretary-General, José Ángel Gurría, said that the OECD was increasing its forecast for Spanish economic growth in 2017 to 2.5 per cent and

lowering its unemployment rate forecast to 17.5 per cent.

However he criticised Spain's recent record on social inequality and poverty, pointing out in front of Spain's Finance minister, Luis de Guindos, that the child poverty rate in Spain is 24 per cent, double the OECD average. He applauded labour market reforms but warned against high levels of short-term and part-time contracts and a decline in real wages.



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## Gibraltar to be the starting point for the Eurafrica Trail this year

Competitors will have to do a 4km vertical climb up the Rock as well as the 25 or 50km stage in Los Alcornocales and the 40kms in Chefchaouen

DEBBIE BARTLETT

**GIBRALTAR.** The Eurafrica Trail, the first mountain race in the world to be held in two continents and three countries, will be starting from Gibraltar for the first time this year. It is due to take place over five days from Wednesday 11 October, finishing on Sunday 15 in the Moroccan town of Chefchaouen.

This year will see the third edition of the popular race, which in the past has included 1,000 competitors from nine different countries and has needed 200 volunteers. However, this year's event will be more difficult than ever because, in addition to the 25 or 50 kilometre leg in the Alcornocales Natural Park in Andalucía and the final 40 kilometre leg in Chefchaouen, participants will have to do a four kilometre vertical climb from Europa Point in Gibraltar to O'Hara's Battery via the Mediterranean Steps.

The event has grown exponentially



Gibraltar will be the starting point of Eurafrica Trail 2017. :: SUR

and has now established relationships with mainstream and specialized media partners around the world. Eurafrica Trail also has over 10,000 subscribers and its website statistics depict over 1.5 million online hits.

In addition to the competitive side of the event the Eurafrica Trail organisers are very conscious of the need to protect the natural environment within which the race is held and the communities that it involves. With this in mind, they have organised activities such as the planting of the

Eurafrica Forest to reverse the carbon footprint of the race last year, and the cleaning of river channels in the Alcornocales Natural Park, which also took place in 2016.

Gibraltar's Ministry for the Environment is now exploring avenues of mutual interest so that suitable projects can be planned in the very near future.

Registration for the Eurafrica Trail opens on 30 March and can be accessed via the website [www.eurafricatrail.com](http://www.eurafricatrail.com).

## Gibraltar's Special Olympics Team compete at the World Winter Games in Austria

D. BARTLETT

**GIBRALTAR.** The Special Olympics team have now left Gibraltar for Austria, where they will be competing in Floorball, Alpine Skiing and Snowshoeing at the World Winter Games, which will be held in the cities of Graz, Schladming and Ramsau respectively.

The Games will be held from 18 to 24 March, and the Gibraltar contingent of 15 athletes, unified partners and nine officials will be at Saturday's Opening Ceremony in Schladming together with 2,700 other athletes from 107 nations.

Gibraltar's Minister for Equality, Samantha Sacramento, will be with them on Saturday and will also be attending the Global Forum on Inclusion in Social Affairs and Sports. Sports Minister Steven Linares, who will be unable to attend, has sent a message of support to the team, saying "Annie Risso and her team make Gibraltar proud on a daily basis and their participation at the World Winter Games will be no different. I hope they enjoy every minute."

### IN BRIEF



Fatboy Slim has become a UK legend. :: SUR

## Fatboy Slim announced as another festival act

GIBRALTAR

**D.B.** It was announced this week that Fatboy Slim, whose new single 'Where U Iz' is racing up the UK charts, will be appearing as a headline act at the Gibraltar Music Festival, which has now been reborn

under the format of 'MTV Presents Gibraltar Calling'.

Norman Quentin Cook, to give him his real name, has become a legendary DJ, musician and record producer/mixer in the UK, and has been a firm favourite on the global festival scene since the 1990s.

The festival takes place on 2 and 3 September, and tickets are available via [www.gibraltarcalling.com](http://www.gibraltarcalling.com)

## Date set for the 'Calentita' festival

GIBRALTAR

**D.B.** This year's Calentita festival will take place on Saturday 10 June in Grand Casemates Square, and those interested in having a stall there should contact [www.calentita.gi](http://www.calentita.gi) for further information.

This annual event has grown from just ten small tents to nearly 50, and the organisers are hoping that even more will take part this year.

## HMS Ocean arrives in Gibraltar for short stay

GIBRALTAR

**D.B.** Britain's largest operational warship, HMS Ocean, has arrived in Gibraltar for a short stay after a six-month deployment, some of which was spent east of Suez as the Command platform for Combined Task Force 50. This helicopter carrier and assault ship will be returning to her home base of Devonport before the end of March.

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THE EURO ZONE

## THE VICIOUS CIRCLE OF BREXIT

The nature of Brexit will be determined precisely by negotiations that are being soured before they've even begun

It doesn't happen often, but I recently agreed with something Mariano Rajoy said. Last Friday, the unflappable Spanish prime minister told reporters in Madrid that regarding the soon-to-commence process of the UK's withdrawal from the EU, "There is no need to dramatise things."

His characteristically placid remarks come after the leaking of a document written by the Permanent Representation of Spain to the EU (PRS). Intended for politicians' eyes only, the paper was seen by El País newspaper, who relayed its doom-laden predictions about the impact of Brexit on Spain.

According to this document, the hard Brexit being pursued by the UK government will reduce Spain's GDP growth by up to four billion euros. Spain will also lose as much as one billion euros worth of exports to the UK after the latter leaves the Single Market and will have to pay in an extra 888 million to the EU Budget. The paper goes on to express con-

cerns about the effect of Brexit on Spanish companies with big UK operations, such as Santander, Telefónica and Iberdrola.

It also warns that the lives of Spanish footballers playing in the UK might be made difficult by Brexit. That makes you suspect, if you didn't already, that the report's creators threw in any possible negative effect of Brexit on Spain (interpreting "negative" loosely where footballers are concerned), found some statistics from somewhere to back them up, and came to an often-reached conclusion: that Brexit will be a disaster for all concerned.

The report did, at least, express one unassailable opinion - namely, that Brexit would have "innumerable repercussions". But then anyone who hasn't been living in a hermitage since last June could have written that.

Attempts to be definitive about the costs of Brexit - both for the UK and for other EU member states - are premature, odd as that might sound almost nine months after the referen-

dum. We are still a long way from knowing what trading deals are likely to be struck and with which countries, what probable impact Brexit will have on sterling and the euro and what impact that, in turn, will have on the UK holidaymakers who currently favour Spain. Socratic humility is called for regarding the outcome of Brexit, because as yet all we know is that we know nothing.

El País reported that the PRS authors obviously favoured a soft Brexit. This is understandable, but it highlights what will be the fundamental problem when the exit process finally starts. The UK has stated it will leave the Single Market as well as the EU and the latter, it is now clear, wishes to punish the UK for doing so.

The undertone of reports such as the Spanish one leaked by El País is that if key EU countries are going to be hammered by Brexit, they're less likely to be amicable during the Article 50 process. While the importance of that "if" cannot be overstated, key players in the EU are already taking a combative stance towards the UK because of the perceived implications of its withdrawal from the Single Market. And so a vicious circle is created, as the nature of that exit will be determined precisely by negotiations that are being soured before they've even begun.

I'm with Rajoy, though: there's no need for drama or hysteria, especially before Article 50 has even been triggered - although "ignited" is starting to seem like a more appropriate term. Brexit is going to be complicated enough as it is.

## Uncertainty for many as Brexit bill gets royal assent

Pro-remain groups are to participate in the 'Unite for Europe' march on 25 March to highlight the plight of EU citizens in UK and Britons abroad

by JENNIE RHODES

**MALAGA.** Britons living in European Union countries and European Union citizens living in the UK suffered a blow on Monday when MPs voted against an amendment by the House of Lords to publish plans to guarantee citizens' rights within three months of Article 50 being triggered.

The amendment was one of two to be considered by the House of Commons before the European Union (notification of withdrawal) Bill, or 'Brexit Bill,' as it has been dubbed, was passed by MPs unamended on Monday, paving the way for Prime Minister, Theresa May, to trigger Article 50.

Following the vote, Brexit minister, David Davis promised to hold, "moral responsibility," for guaranteeing the rights of Britons abroad and EU nationals living in the UK. However, critics and pro-remain groups have accused the government of using the two groups as "bargaining chips," and continuing to leave their futures in the balance.

Spain-based 'Bremain in Spain' will be participating in the 'Unite for Europe' march planned for 25 March in London, to highlight the plight of Britons in the country and in particular pensioners, who Sue Wilson, says are, "at breaking point,"



David Davis on Monday. :: AFP

following the vote, as they are fearful of whether they will still be eligible for free health care once the UK leaves the EU. Other concerns include paying for prescriptions and eligibility for mortgages should they have to return to the UK.

The group will be taking banners, with messages including, "If 350,000 pensioners were forced to return to the UK, could our NHS cope?" and another which features Nigel Farage presiding over a large queue of pensioners, instead of refugees, in a twist on the controversial original 'Breaking Point' poster used by pro-Brexit campaigners in the lead-up to the referendum.

The 'Brexit Bill' was given Royal assent on Thursday and Prime Minister, Theresa May, is expected to trigger the long-anticipated Article 50 during the last week of March, although formal negotiations may not start until June.

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## Former leader of Catalonia banned from office over illegal referendum

Artur Mas is defiant after the two-year court order, criticising Spanish democracy, but faces other pressures and accusations

:: SUR

**BARCELONA.** The former president of Catalonia, Artur Mas, has been banned from public office for two years by a Barcelona court for his part in the organisation of an independence referendum held in November 2014. Two other former regional ministers were also banned from office.

The court found that the regional government, headed by Mas at the time, had provided logistical sup-



Mas speaks after the decision. :: EFE

port for the vote, despite the Constitutional Court ruling the vote illegal. Mas had claimed that the vote wasn't a referendum but a "voluntary political process". A decision is still awaited from the Supreme Court on Francesc Homs, ex-cabinet minister, on the same charge.

### 'Spain is a funfair democracy'

Mas hit out at the decision, saying that Spain was a "funfair democracy" and that the law wasn't the same for everyone. Mas also faces extra pressure on his political career as his name has been linked to the 'Palau' corruption case, when commission was allegedly paid to local politicians for awarding public contracts.

Another banned referendum is controversially planned for September this year by regional politicians.

### IN BRIEF



Where Denise was found five months after disappearing. :: R.C.

### Trial begins of Camino de Santiago local man who killed US woman

LEÓN

:: **M.B.** Denise Pikka Thiem, a 41-year-old American, disappeared without trace while walking the popular Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route through northern

Spain in April 2015. Following disagreements between police forces and attempts by US Senator John McCain to offer FBI assistance, it was in September 2015 when detectives were led to Miguel Ángel Muñoz who lived alongside the route. He confessed and is now on trial facing twenty years in jail. Over 200 people from 20 countries were interviewed in the investigation.

### King and Queen to go to UK in June on State Visit

LONDON

:: **SUR.** King Felipe and Queen Letizia are to pay a State Visit to Britain from 6 to 8 June. They have accepted Queen Elizabeth II's invitation and will stay at Buckingham Palace, according to a statement from the UK government. It is the first official visit by the couple to the country. The last Spanish State Visit was in 1986.

### Richard Gere eyes Madrid Buddhist centre

MADRID

:: **J-L.A.** Richard Gere has expressed an interest in buying a group of buildings in the town of Alcorcón, in the Madrid region, to convert it into a large Buddhist meditation and cultural centre. The 67-year-old actor, known for his following of the Dalai Lama, visited a month ago and plans to take another look in May, according to the local mayor.

## SUSANA DÍAZ TO UNVEIL PLAN TO BE PSOE LEADER

The President of the Junta de Andalucía, Susana Díaz, pictured in Seville this week, has said that she will announce her candidacy for the national leadership of the socialist PSOE party on 26 March. She is seen as the 'establishment candidate'. Former leader, Pedro Sánchez, and Patxi López are also to stand.



:: EFE

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

## Staying on the 'padrón'

I have read the article about foreign residents and the census with interest. As a resident of many years, I have been included in the census for a long time, so I was surprised to receive a notice from the town hall informing me that if I did not present identification within fifteen days, I would be removed from the census and lose any benefits (as a pensioner I pay 50% less IBI).

Several days had elapsed either due to the postal service or because the notice had not been sent promptly. Moreover, this was 21 December.

I was off to the UK two days later, so the next day I went to town hall very early. I asked what would have happened had I already left, and was told that I would have returned to find myself off the census and would have to start again.

I wonder how many people had already left to spend Christmas with their families (I would normally have gone by then myself).

I can't help thinking that the timing was strange, to say the least.

**MICHAEL STREVENIS**  
TORREMOLINOS

## Scottish confusion

Dear Editor,

I need you and your readers to help. At the present time Scotland, together with the other three main parts, is part of the UK. Yes?

The UK is part of the European Union. Yes?

The SNP has been told that an independent Scotland would not be part of the EU. Yes? (Scotland would have to apply as an Independent Nation... like Turkey).

Ipsa facto, the SNP's referendum is/will be about leaving the EU as an Independent Scotland before being severed from the EU as part of the UK by Article 50.

SNP want to be the first of the UK four to leave the EU if a referendum goes SNP's way, right or is that totally wrong?

**TONY MAY**  
ÁLORA

## St David's success

Many thanks for your help in publicising our St David's Day celebrations on 1 March. I thought that you and your readers would like to know that we raised 1,500 euros on the day. We would like to thank all the artistes who gave their time and provided the fantastic entertainment throughout the day, as well as all the people who provided food and drink, raffle prizes, and

of course everyone who came along and made the day such a success. We will be presenting Age Care with the funds as soon as we can arrive at a mutually convenient date to do so, hopefully in the next few days.

**DEBBIE BENHAM**  
WELSH SOCIETY COSTA DEL SOL

## Talented youngsters

I'm just writing to say that I thought that your Education & Learning supplement last week was fantastic. Not only did I not realise that there were so many international schools in the area, but the level of some of the works, I thought, was outstanding.

Though to this day I've never really got to grips with poetry, the use of words by some of these youngsters showed a lot of potential.

However, I particularly like the artworks and I'm sure there would be buyers waiting if the students were selling!!!

The winning secondary artwork was phenomenal. I found it very touching given the climate we find ourselves in these days.

A big round of applause not only for the kids but also their teachers. I hope we get more opportunities to see the great work they're producing. Keep it up!!!

**ANNABELLE ROBINSON**  
FUENGIROLA

## The brothers of invention

**PETER EDGERTON**  
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"I've done you a Mickey Mouse."

"Gnnnffgghiaggg."

"Here, I'll draw it for you. See - big Mickey Mouse ears that lock into the previous filling. That should stop it breaking off and avoid having to put a crown in. Crown's are really expensive."

"Nnnffggiyffnng."

There are many reasons I love José, my dentist (including his uncanny ability to understand what terms like 'Gnnnffgghiaggg' actually mean) but his inventiveness and passion for his work are quite outstanding. Imagine spending twenty-five years, fifty hours a week staring into the abyss of strange people's mouths and maintaining the same level of interest in your work throughout the whole process. Actually, he seems to get more enthused about all things dental with each year that rolls by - blessed is the man

who finds his true vocation.

Away from his unbounded artistry with a drill, our man José dedicates most of his spare time to devising all kinds of weird and wonderful gadgets in the manner of a latter-day Caractacus Potts. Last year it was an anti-snoring gizmo that a Japanese company wants to patent, while this time he showed me a dinky little dentist's mirror with a handle that prevents repetitive stress injury in the wrists (it's an occupational hazard, apparently).

He was telling me he's got loads of ideas but hasn't really got time to develop them properly because of his workload (that's the trouble with being really good at something - you're always in demand). I empathise with him (not with the being really good bit, obviously) because although owning the pub has offered the opportunity to many

new skills, none of them are very compatible with with the day-dreaming required to pursue creative projects. To put it bluntly, it's hard to be poetic when you're wondering if you've ordered enough peanuts for the weekend.

This first-world problem is a conundrum for many people who like nothing better than to put their imagination to good use, but also need to pay the bills. There's an answer somewhere but, ironically, neither José nor I has found an imaginative solution.

Luckily, I need another small filling at the end of the month, so we'll be able to compare notes and he can show me his new dog bark silencer or whatever it is he's working on at the minute. I'll say: "Unnnngggfffiyanginggg," and he'll say: "Thank you very much, I'm glad you like it."

## SANSÓN



## Over to Mijas

**HÉCTOR BARBOTA**

The image of Marbella often spreads beyond the municipal borders, becoming an umbrella location for a large proportion of the western Costa del Sol. There are hotels and beach clubs in Estepona that use the Marbella brand in their marketing - and nobody seems to mind, not in Marbella, nor in Estepona -, in the same way as luxury residential estates in Benahavis or property developments in Ojén also effectively use the allure of their larger, more famous neighbour. It's hard enough to position a brand in the international tourism and property markets, especially when that brand is ignored by the public institutions that should be promoting it, so there's no point clinging to it just

for the sake of boundary line.

In recent years Mijas has also made use of the Marbella umbrella but in a different way. Not to promote successful financial initiatives, but to hide its own disgraces behind scandals that are much more conspicuous, not because they are more serious, but due to the brand penetration.

However you only have to look at the planning atrocities overlooking the motorway to conclude that something has been smelling fishy in Mijas for some time. But as there haven't been great scandals to be ashamed of, it seems that the necessary moral antibodies have not been generated.

Now it transpires that the Partido Popular spokesman in Mijas,

Ángel Nozal, has offered a Podemos councillor a job for taking part in a no confidence vote to regain power over the town hall. And if he doesn't accept, he will be reported for allegedly earning a salary he's not entitled to. Nothing personal. Just business.

This offer, which is really a threat, shows yet again that, looking at it with the best will, indulgence and naivety, the Partido Popular has two souls living side by side: that of those who are ashamed of everything from the Gürtel scandal to this one, and that of those who think they can carry on regardless, simply taking the general public for as long a ride as they can.

The track record of Ángel Nozal and the ethics of his offer leave no doubt as to which soul is driving him. Neither does it seem likely that he will stand down of his own accord.

Meanwhile those who should have been showing him the door were worryingly silent after the story broke on Wednesday. Perhaps we should question the soul behind their political project.

**SUR** English

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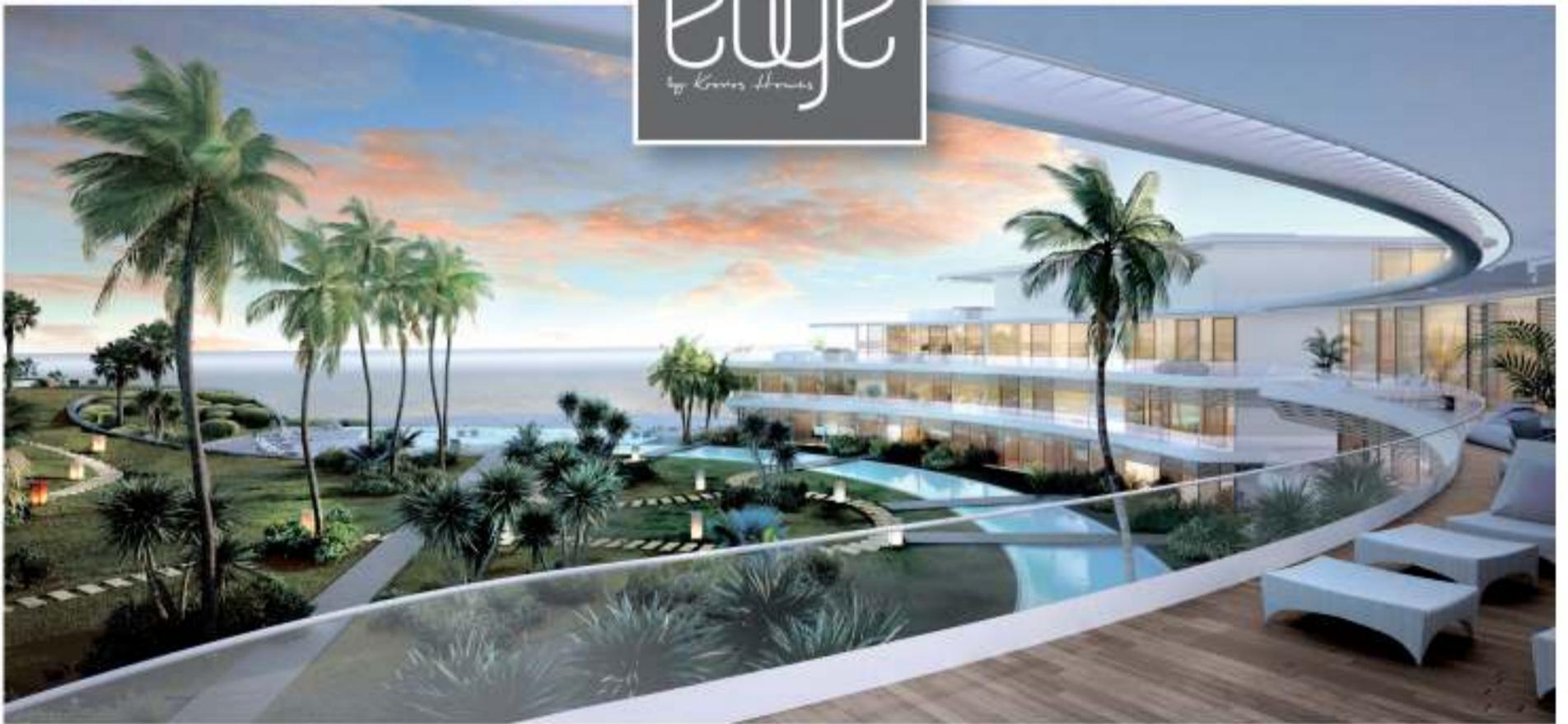
Editor in Chief:  
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# The mysterious Apostle of Ireland

Legend says his birth name was Maewyn Succat, but he changed it to Patricius after becoming a priest



TONY BRYANT

✉ tonysureng@gmail.com

**TORREMOLINOS.** St Patrick's Day parties and parades will be taking place all around the world today, as Irish nationals remember the Apostle of Ireland, the most celebrated saint of them all.

Dublin's St Patrick's Day Parade and Festival is one of the largest in the world. The four-day event is attended by approximately 500,000 people, who celebrate with marching bands and folk music, Irish dancing displays, carnival-style floats and plenty of Irish humour.

However, parades in his honour first began in North America in the eighteenth century and did not spread to Ireland until the twentieth century.

The first parade was held in New York City on 17 March 1762, and today it still uses the same route as it did more than 250 years previous. However, not every city goes all-out in its celebratory efforts.

The Irish village of Dripsey once held the title of the shortest St Patrick's Day Parade in the World. The route was just 26 yards; the distance between the only two pubs in the village. The parade was abolished after one of the pubs closed down in 2007.

For most of the twentieth century, St Patrick's Day was considered a strictly religious holiday in Ireland and the nation's pubs remained closed.

The day was converted to a national holiday in 1970 and this is when the pubs were given permission to open. This must have been a great relief for the big breweries, because surveys declare that the consumption of Guinness more than doubles on 17 March.



St Patrick is celebrated all over the world on 17 March. :: SUR

## The first St Patrick's Day parade was held in New York City on 17 March 1762

## While green is now the excepted colour of Ireland, blue is still the official colour of state

As with most versions concerning the feats and achievements of saints and holy figures, the history of St Patrick is filled with as much myth as it is fact.

Some of what is known about St Patrick comes from the Declaration, which was allegedly written by Patrick himself. Most available details of his life are from subsequent Irish annals, but these are generally dismissed as folklore.

The dates of his life cannot be fixed with certainty, but it is generally believed that he was active as a missionary in Ireland during the second half of the fifth century.

According to Irish legend, St Pat-

### ST PATRICK'S EVENTS

► **Benalmádena.** Mass will be held in the Iglesia de la Inmaculada Concepción in Arroyo de la Miel at 12pm. This will be followed by the traditional parade from the church to La Paloma Park.

► **Torremolinos.** A grand party will be held in the Plaza La Nogalera from 12pm until 6pm on Saturday 18 March.

► **Marbella.** Marbella's St Patrick's Day celebration is a two-day event that takes place in front of the main tourist office. The celebrations run from 1pm until 7pm on Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 March.

rick, who was born in Britain, wasn't originally called Patrick. His birth name was Maewyn Succat, but he changed his name to Patricius after becoming a priest.

He is regarded as the founder of Christianity in Ireland and legend claims that, when teaching the Irish about the doctrine, St Patrick used a three-leafed clover as a metaphor for the Holy Trinity.

It is also claimed he drove all the snakes from Ireland with his staff, even though modern scientists suggest that Ireland has never had snakes due to its climate.

The cane with which he is said to have banished the snakes was venerated for centuries, only to be publicly burned in 1538 under the orders of the archbishop of Dublin.

Another legend claimed that his walking stick grew into a living tree.

During his journey through Ireland, he is understood to have carried an ash walking cane, which he would thrust into the ground whenever he

was preaching. Legend claims that the message of Christianity took so long to get through to the residents of a village called Aspatia; the stick had taken root by the time he was ready to move on.

### Blue, not green

Even though a sea of green will engulf most towns and cities in Ireland during the saint's celebrations, several early artworks depict him wearing blue vestments. While green is now the excepted colour of Ireland, blue is still the official state colour.

King Henry VIII used the Irish harp in gold on a blue flag to represent the country. The harp has appeared on Irish gravestones since the medieval period and it is certain that it was popular in Irish legend and culture long before that period.

### Holy relics

A few of the saint's relics can still be viewed in Ireland today. St Patrick's Bell, along with pieces of his jaw and tooth, are displayed in the National Museum in Dublin.

The bell, first mentioned in the 'Book of Cuanu' in the year 552, was part of a collection of relics removed from his tomb sixty years after his death.

Although most historians believe that St Patrick died in 461, the Annals of the Four Masters, chronicles of medieval Irish history, claim that he died in 493. He is said to have been 122 years old.

He is believed to have been buried at the cathedral in Downpatrick, County Down, alongside St Brigid and St Columba; although this has never been verified.

One thing that can be said with complete conviction is that St Patrick is the most venerated saint of them all.

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# 20 years serving the Irish community in Spain

## Malaga's links with famous Irish nationals

The roots that link Malaga with Ireland are more ingrained than many people might think.

Among the Irishmen who found a prominent place in the history of the city was a leather tanner named Thomas Livermore Page.

His name is etched into Malaga's history because two of his daughters married personalities of great importance in the development and future of the city.

George Campbell was a renowned Irish painter who had a 25-year love affair with Malaga. Campbell became acquainted with numerous Spaniards who had settled in Dublin during the 1940s, and he often painted visiting Spanish dancers in their traditional costume.

Walter Starkie, the Irish scholar, Hispanist, author, musician and founder and first director of the British Institute in Madrid, was seduced by Spain.

One of his most famous works, Spanish Raggle-Taggle, is based on his travels through Spain during the 1930s.

Robert Boyd is probably one of the most popular Irish heroes connected with Spain. Boyd was one of the leaders of an ill-fated liberal uprising against Ferdinand VII that was captured and executed in 1831.

The Irish Association of Spain gives assistance to Irish nationals who have chosen the Costa del Sol as their adopted home

### TONY BRYANT

**TORREMOLINOS.** Thousands of Irish nationals, and those who assume the identity for the day, are gearing up for the biggest party of the year.

St Patrick's Day celebrations will be taking place all along the Costa del Sol today, and gallons of Guinness will be consumed by green-clad revelers whose only aim is to party.

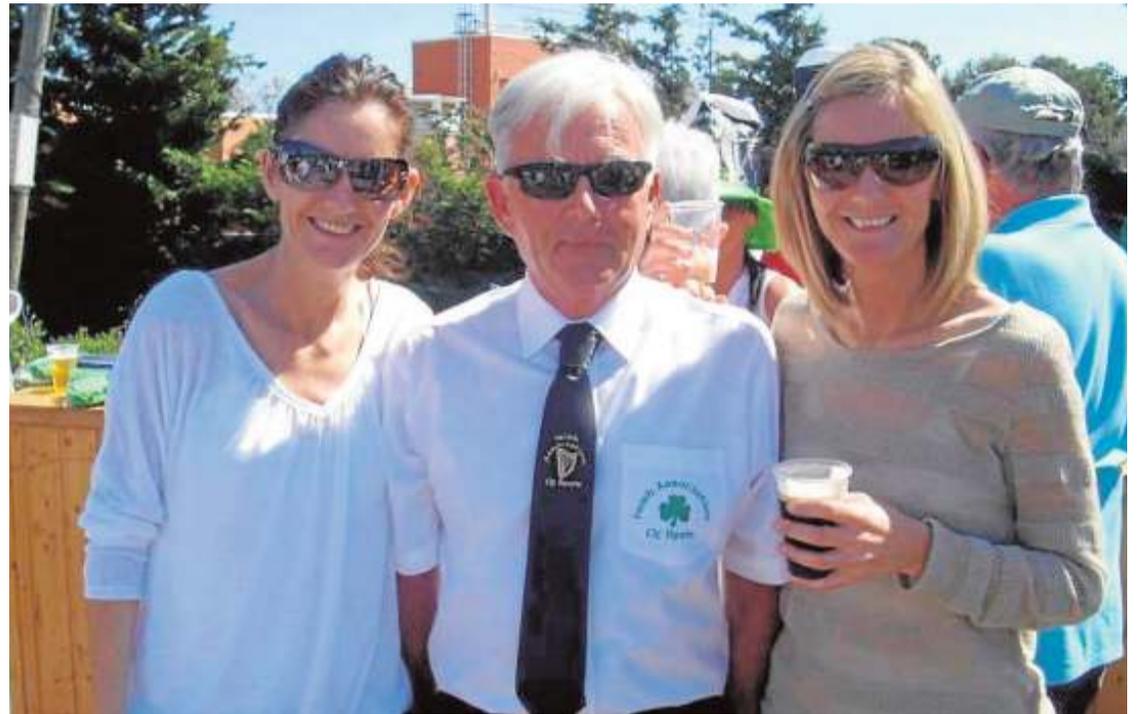
Few of the partygoers spare much thought for the coordinators of these massive all-day events and the people behind the scenes rarely receive much recognition for their efforts.

The popular celebration held in Benalmádena every year is organised by the Irish Association of Spain. Founded by Tony Bell in 1997, the association facilitates social contact between the Irish people living in Spain, and their St Patrick's Day party is one of the most attended in the area.

However, the Irish association does much more than arrange the annual shindig in memory of the Apostle of Ireland. Terry McKinley, president of the association, explained that the objective of the platform is to assist and inform Irish nationals who have chosen Spain as their adopted home. They also offer their services to the thousands of Irish tourists who visit the Costa del Sol each year.

"We are not a club or welfare; there is no membership or fee, we simply provide an informative service to the Irish community who live or visit the Costa del Sol," the president told SUR in English.

There is an estimated 4,000 Irish nationals living in the province of Malaga and the association soon



President of The Irish Association of Spain enjoying last year's St Patrick's Day celebrations. :: SUR

became their leading social and informative platform.

The service is not only available to the Irish community; it also offers help and information to people with a general interest in Irish history, culture and traditions.

The association has a list of teachers on their books, and so traditional Irish folk dancing lessons can be arranged for those who want to learn the Slip Jig, or other old style step dances.

Working closely with many of the town halls along the coast, the Irish Association publish details of upcoming events, clubs and classes that may be of interest to the Irish community.

Their website lists preferred service providers and their products are monitored to ensure the highest quality service. Another of their priorities is to promote and encourage the use of the many Irish-owned businesses in Spain.

## There is an estimated 4,000 Irish nationals living in the province of Malaga

The association also gives assistance to Spanish nationals wishing to travel to, or live in, Ireland. They offer help with problems tourists might encounter, like lost or stolen passports.

Their committee members can liaise with the consulate and the police, and assist with complicated paperwork like insurance claims and theft reports. They recently helped with the funeral arrangements of an Irish national who had died in Torremolinos.

"We are here for the benefit of all expatriates on the coast and even though we focus on the Irish com-

munity, our services are here for whoever may need them," Terry explained.

The Irish Association of Spain has been assisting Irish residents and tourists for twenty years. They are renowned for their ongoing service and long-standing traditional St Patrick's Day celebrations, and this year they have added another party to their agenda.

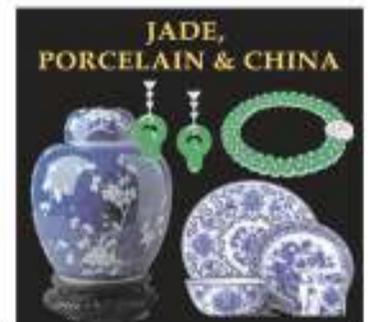
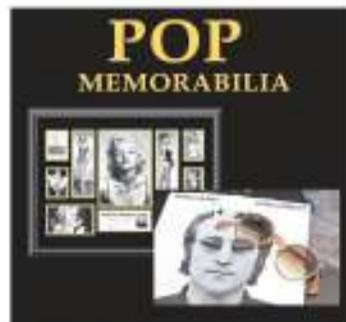
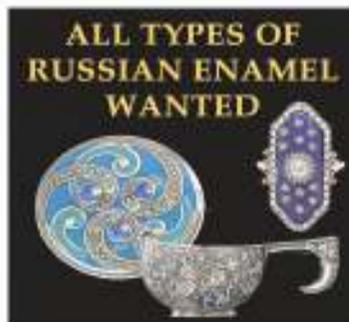
The first of this year's two celebrations begins at 12pm today. Mass will be held in the Iglesia de la Inmaculada Concepcion in Arroyo de la Miel, followed by the traditional parade from the church to La Paloma Park.

The second party will be held on Saturday 18 March, in the Plaza La Nogalera in Torremolinos from 12pm until 6pm.

**Irish Association of Spain :** [www.irishassociationSpain.com](http://www.irishassociationSpain.com)

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# FACTS & FACES



One of the reenactments called 'La taberna'. :: FERNANDO TORRES

## Peninsular War revisited

**YUNQUERA.** More than 300 people took part last weekend in the sixth edition of the 'Yunquera Guerrillera', a three-day event that commemorates the battle that took place in Yunquera during the Peninsular War as Napoleon Bonaparte attempted to enlarge his empire. Spain and France began the war

in 1808 as allies when they invaded Portugal together, but a year later Napoleon turned on the Spanish in a war that greatly drained French resources and increased nationalist fervour in the Iberian Peninsula. People dressed up in period costume and took part in performances and reenactments of the battle in

the early 1800s between Napoleon's forces and local residents who attempted to defend their homes from the invaders.

Performers also brought to life the town under subsequent French control. A food market, various parades and guided walks were also part of the weekend's programme.

## La Cala Lions charity shop stocks knitted knockers

### MIJAS

The Mijas-La Cala Lions Club has joined a group of knitters in their attempt to make life more comfortable for women who have undergone a mastectomy. Knitted Knockers is the name Maria Bailey gives to the soft, more comfortable prostheses that her team

of volunteers produce in exact cup sizes. As well as supporting the project with donations, the Lions shops in La Cala now stocks the 'knockers', along with its new spring collection of clothes.

The shops in Calle Torremolinos are open from 10am to 2pm Monday to Saturday.



Lions shop volunteers. :: SUR

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#### REF. S.T.E.

I have a physical disability that affects my legs, so I have to use a wheelchair to move around. I have a specially adapted car, but the street where I live is very narrow and I cannot park, so I usually have to leave the car in a different street quite far from my home, which causes me a lot of problems. Could I ask the Town Hall to

#### grant me a space to park?

In order to answer your question, it would be necessary to check the regulations of the Town Hall corresponding to your residence, as it may change from one town to another. Legislation foresees that those people with reduced mobility must be given the right to park their car without being forced to cover long distances, so Town Halls may even create a disabled parking bay for this purpose. Nevertheless, as explained above, it is the town hall who develops the specific regulations, so it is necessary to find out in the town hall corresponding to your residence.

#### REF. E.E.L.

I am the owner of a plot in which I decided to build a house. Eighteen months ago I hired a construction company to build the house, so after taking a look at the construc-

tion project and making some changes for my liking, I asked them to give me an estimate in writing, and once I verified it, we signed a contract. However, now that the works have finished, they have given me a final invoice that is far higher than the initial estimate, alleging that they had to make some changes with regard to the materials used. Obviously, I do not agree to pay this invoice. What should I do?

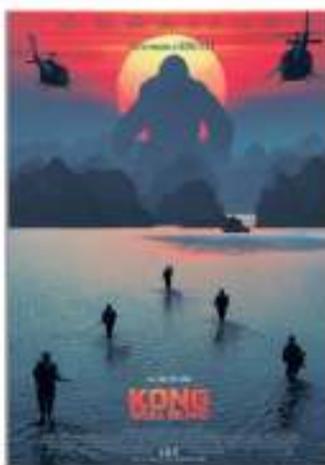
If there exists a detailed estimate in writing, in order to make a change to it they should have drawn up a document establishing those variations and asking for your consent, and you should have then signed that document. Therefore, if you did not allow the modifications you can refuse to pay the surplus, demanding the building company to stick to what was agreed and approved in the initial estimate signed at the time.

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## CORPSE FLOWER OPENS AT ORCHIDARIUM

They was plenty of excitement among plant enthusiasts this week as an example of the world's largest unbranched inflorescence opened at the Estepona orchid house on Monday. The Amorphophallus titanum, common name 'the corpse flower', is distinguished by its scent, compared to that of rotting flesh. It stayed open for less than 72 hours, closing on Wednesday.



### KONG: SKULL ISLAND

Director Jordan Vogt-Roberts  
Starring Tom Hiddleston  
ACTION - 138 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 17: 17:45, 20:10  
Saturday 18: 15:50, 20:30  
Sunday 19: 11:45, 15:50, 20:30  
From Monday 20 to Thursday 23: 17:45, 20:10



### LOGAN

Director James Mangold  
Starring Hugh Jackman  
ACTION - 137 min.



In the near future, a weary Logan cares for an ailing Professor X somewhere on the Mexican border. However, Logan's attempts to hide from the world and his legacy are upended when a young mutant arrives, pursued by dark forces.

Friday 17: 22:30  
Saturday 18: 18:00, 22:30  
Sunday 19: 22:30  
From Monday 20 to Thursday 23: 22:30



### MOONLIGHT

Director Barry Jenkins · Starring Trevante Rhodes and Naomie H.  
DRAMA - 111 min.



Friday 17: 18:00  
Saturday 18: 15:45, 18:00  
Sunday 19: 11:45, 15:45  
From Monday 20 to Thursday 23: 18:00



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### BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Director Bill Condon  
Starring Emma Watson and Dan Stevens  
FANTASY - 129 min.



An adaptation of the Disney fairy tale about a monstrous-looking prince and a young woman who fall in love.

Friday 17: 17:50, 19:15, 20:20, 22:00  
Saturday 18: 16:00, 17:30, 18:45, 20:00, 21:30  
Sunday 19: 11:45, 17:30, 18:45, 20:00, 21:30  
From Monday 20 to Thursday 23: 17:50, 19:15, 20:20, 22:00

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Actors on stage at the Atalaya Park Hotel last weekend. :: ALAN JONES

## Am-dram group delivers captivating comedy to sell-out audience

:: RACHEL ARMSTRONG

**MARBELLA.** The International Theatre Studio Marbella treated locals to a night of lively entertainment last weekend with the latest production at the Atalaya Park Hotel. The amateur dramatics group was delighted with the turnout and had to introduce a waiting list for those who hadn't reserved tickets.

A fast-moving comedy by John Chapman, *Kindly Leave the Stage*, intrigued the audience with a clever twist that saw the actors appear to digress from the script and divulge in some scandalous backstage secrets.

Set at the end of a dinner party - turned sour after an almighty row between the hosts - the audience was catapulted off on a high-speed theatrical journey. Dinner party host, Rupert, ignited the fire as he ignored various prompts to wan-

der outrageously off-script and reveal that he had caught his "real life" wife getting up close and personal with one of the other actors in her dressing room.

Despite calls to "bring the lights down" and attempts to carry on with the rehearsed script, further revelations came thick and fast resulting in comical mayhem.

Peter Brooks, who has been involved with ITS since he moved to San Pedro 26 years ago, directed the witty entwinement of a play within a play. He said the biggest challenge was conveying the dif-

ference in the performance of the actors as they switched between characters but he hopes that the use of different accents meant the audience were able to follow the quick changes.

With performances over three evenings, Peter admitted he experienced "the usual first night nerves" on Friday but was thrilled with the performance and said it was "more than any director could hope for".

Refurbishment plans from new management at the hotel mean *Kindly Leave the Stage* is likely to be the last ITS production performed at Atalaya Park. While the local theatre group are sad to say goodbye to the venue, Peter told SUR in English they remain optimistic about finding a new location so that ITS can continue to bring live British theatre to the Costa.

### Refurbishment plans at Atalaya Park means that ITS is searching for a new location for its productions

## FACTS AND FACES

### Over fifty exhibitors display their wares at three-day Costa olive oil fair

TORREMOLINOS

Over two thousand people visited this year's AoveSol show, which promotes extra virgin olive oil, at the Torremolinos conference centre last weekend.

Apart from the 55 stands with producers of olive oil from all over Andalucía, there were also professionally-led tasting sessions and cooking demonstrations.

This was the third year that this three-day event has been held in the town and visitor numbers were up on last year.



Members of the public attending a cooking show. :: SUR

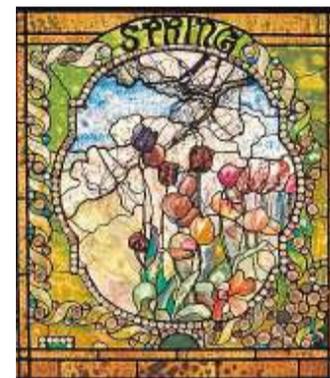
## THE NIGHT SKY

KEN CAMPBELL



### The four seasons

The Earth is not straight on its axle but tilted by about 23 1/2 ° and it is this tilt that gives the Earth its seasons. During the summer months, the Northern Hemisphere is tilted toward the Sun and we have long, hot days. But six months later the Earth has travelled half way around the Sun and now the Northern Hemisphere is pointed away from the Sun giving us short, cold days. Of course, for the Southern Hemisphere the opposite is true, winter for them is June, July and August.



Spring by Tiffany glass :: SUR

The shortest day of the year - the winter solstice - usually falls on 21 December. On this date the Northern Hemisphere is pointed to its most extreme away from the Sun and so the Sun appears to stay very close to the horizon throughout the day. At any point on or above the Arctic Circle the Sun will not rise at all. The longest day, or summer solstice, usually occurs on 21 June; on this day the Sun will appear at its highest point in the sky at midday and at any point on or above the Arctic Circle, the Sun will not set. The date of the solstices can alter by a day or two depending on whether it is a leap year and also where you happen to be on Earth when the solstice occurs.

Half way between the two solstices are two dates when there is exactly twelve hours of day and twelve hours of night. These days are known as the spring and autumn equinox. Equinox is Latin for equal night.

This year's spring equinox will

occur on Monday 20 March at 11.29am. On this day the Sun will rise due east, it will be directly overhead at the equator and will set exactly due west, a perfect time to check your compass bearings.

The Sun doesn't rise at exactly 6am and set again at 6pm, this is because sunrise is when the Sun's disc first appears above the horizon and sunset is the last glimpse of the disc. But as it can take up to seven minutes for the whole of the Sun's disc to become visible the equinox day, is counted from the centre of the Sun, horizon to horizon. Also the Earth's atmosphere has a refracting effect which means the Sun is visible for several minutes before it has risen and after it has already set. But after this date, the days will gradually become longer than the nights and spring has arrived.

**More information :**  
[www.costadelstars.com](http://www.costadelstars.com)



Members of the Coín Lodge. :: SUR

### Freemasons discuss charity work in Coín

COÍN

W Bro Adrian Howard was installed as Master of the Coín Freemason Lodge for the second

year running at an event in Yates's Family Bar and Restaurant recently.

The meeting, attended by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, included an announcement about charity donations and was followed by dinner.

# Fuengirola hairdressers raise more than 3,000 euros for Cudeca

The Cudeca staff and volunteers were on hand with their collection boxes and yellow sunflowers

BY TONY BRYANT

**FUENGIROLA.** The Cudeca foundation held their latest fundraising extravaganza in Fuengirola last weekend. Under the banner of 'Hair to Care', a charity hair-cutting session took place in Petro Hair Salon in Los Boliches, and CR Hair Stylist in Fuengirola. Both establishments were kept busy all day and they donated the takings from all wash, cut and blow dries to Cudeca.

Although the proceedings at CR hairdressing salon in Fuengirola were fairly low-key, the staff were kept occupied with a constant flow of customers.

The ambience in Petro, however, was slightly more uplifting. Many people dropped in just for a chat, or to enjoy the fun and entertainment that took place in the salon throughout the day. Others took the opportunity to be pampered by the attentive salon staff, all of whom worked non-stop for more than seven hours.

Customers were entertained by the music of Auralyn Waves, a local acoustic band who performed wonderfully restructured renditions of well-known hit songs.

The glorious sunshine and high temperatures brought a continual flow of people throughout the day and many took advantage of the freshly-prepared mojitos that were on offer. Visitors could also enjoy a selection of cakes and desserts donated by the Tahona Bakery in Los Boliches.

Carlos White, fundraiser for Cudeca, told SUR in English that he was "extremely pleased" with the turnout. "We try to present different events in the hope that people do not get bored with the same old thing. I think this event has been a success and I thank the two salons for taking part and dedicating their time to the project," Carlos said appreciatively.

Baldos Italian restaurant, which is situated across the street from Petro, prepared a huge paella for

the event, and all proceedings from this were also donated to Cudeca.

As always, the Cudeca staff and volunteers were on hand with their collection boxes and yellow sunflowers - the charity's emblem - and there was also a prize draw to boost the day's takings.

Carlos White said, "The event raised more than 3,000 euros and so we are absolutely delighted with the outcome. It was a great day and I would like to personally thank Barbara, Gabriela and Mamen for being instrumental in bringing much fun to the event."



Customers in Petro's were entertained by an acoustic band. :: T. B.



Paella in Baldos. :: T. BRYANT

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# Malaga's Picasso museum launches a new era

The new collection is worth 500 million euros and has been loaned for three years by the artist's grandson, Bernard Ruiz-Picasso

## ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

**MALAGA.** Malaga's Museo Picasso entered a new phase in its history on Monday as it presented its new permanent collection, now open to the public.

The gallery, officially the most visited in Andalucía in 2016 with 558,033 visitors, was also among the worst for proportion of local visitors, with only 15 per cent of those through the door coming from the provincial capital.

For this reason the museum (MPM) has launched a two-pronged strategy to engage locals and encourage repeated visits in future. The first has seen the signing of a new deal with the Fundación Bernard y Almine Ruiz-Picasso which sees 166 works loaned to the museum for three years, after which the permanent collection will be refreshed once again. The second is to rotate the work within each three-year period every three months - a necessity in some cases, especially for works on paper, for preservation reasons.

"We wanted to reinvigorate the collection," said the museum's director José Lebrero, with constant change the key to that. The thematic approach has also disappeared, replaced by a chronological lay-out, designed to bring the visitor closer to the artist.

Split into 11 rooms, each representing a different phase of the artist's career, visitor's can appreciate the artist's great versatility and diverse techniques, with several styles and motifs returning over time.

"We are relaunching the Picasso



Antonio Pascual, Bernard Ruiz-Picasso, Rosa Aguilar, Almine Ruiz-Picasso and José Lebrero at Monday's launch. :: SALVADOR SALAS

## New lighting and audioguides in ten different languages

Other significant changes include a new lighting system which aims to recreate natural light and its effect on the artworks. The LED bulbs will not only improve the visitor experience, but it will also make the gallery more green, reducing energy consumption by 97 per cent and cutting down CO2 emissions by 13 tonnes a year.

The second is to the audioguides which, according to Lebrero, are followed in their entirety 85 per cent of the time. Now they are available in 10 different languages.



Former director Carmen Giménez with Francisco Calvo Sarraller. :: A. C.

museum," said the region's Culture chief Rosa Aguilar who attended the launch alongside Bernard Ruiz-Picasso, the artist's grandson, who admitted that work on this new exhibition had been ongoing for the past two years.

His wife, Almine, added that she hoped the new collection "would show a side of the genius that had never been seen before", in the process reviving local interest.

The launch, however, also piqued international interest and also saw the return of former director Carmen Giménez, who admitted she "had to see the new Picasso museum", having not been back to the museum "in thirteen years".

She was accompanied by art critic Francisco Calvo Sarraller, one of several important figures from the art world, from home and abroad, to attend the event.

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**CELEBRATION** This lovely village in the Sierra de las Nieves has organised some interesting activities from Wednesday to Sunday next week

# ISTÁN CELEBRATES ITS FIRST WATER WEEK

March 22nd is World Water Day and the beautiful village of Istán, in the Sierra de las Nieves Natural Park and Biosphere Reserve, is one of the places which will be marking the occasion. In fact, due to its lifelong association with water, it will be holding a special programme of events from Wednesday 22 to Sunday 26 March, as part of its first-ever Water Week. The different cultures which have passed through Istán, especially the Moors, were skilled at handling this precious resource and have left a rich heritage in the form of water channels and fountains which the local council is keen to preserve for future generations. A visit to Istán is always a unique and unforgettable experience.

The slogan 'Istán, the spring of the Costa del Sol' was not chosen by accident. This village has an abundance of water, and provides it to all the municipalities along the Costa del Sol, from Manilva to Torremolinos. When La Concepción reservoir was built in 1973, water from the Rio Verde began to be stored to supply the growing population of residents and visitors, thereby helping to contribute to the development of the region.

The programme for Water Week in Istán includes something to interest everybody and aims to encourage integration between local people and foreign residents and visitors. This is a perfect opportunity to discover the beauty of the village and the surrounding countryside, and its potential as a tourist destination.

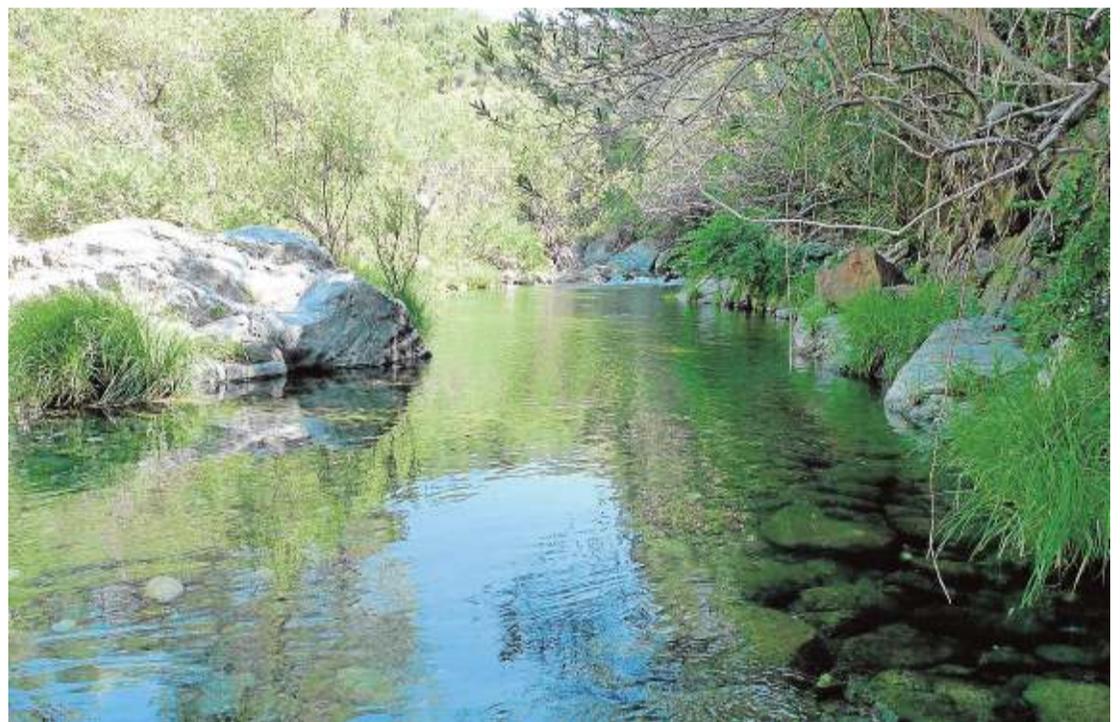
Some of the planned activities also aim to raise awareness among the new generations of 'Panochos' and 'Panochas' (as the people of Istán are known) of the importance of water and the natural wealth

of the village, because in the future they will be responsible for managing active, ecological and sustainable tourism. The expected classification of the Sierra de las Nieves as a National Park will bring new employment prospects for the young people of Istán, because the village is the natural entry to the park from the Costa del Sol.

The Natural Park and Biosphere Reserve of the Sierra de las Nieves, with its outstanding countryside, flora and fauna, is popular with many nature lovers, especially cyclists and walkers, but few of them take the opportunity to explore the hidden treasure which is the village of Istán, with its pretty streets of traditional whitewashed houses, historical buildings including the Torre de Escalante, lookout points with stunning views, more than 20 fountains and springs, and the 500-year-old Moorish water channels which still irrigate the local orchards today.

For this reason, the council decided to introduce a special Water Week every year to encourage people to come and discover Istán and its stunning countryside. Visitors will be able to follow routes around the fountains and springs, see the source of the Río Molino river, visit the Water Museum and Information Centre and enjoy spectacular views, especially those of the coast, Gibraltar and Africa from the Mirador de las Herrizas.

Everyone who takes part in the activities during Water Week will receive a rucksack to commemorate the event, and those who do the guided Ruta de las Fuentes walk will be given a small bottle known as a 'botijo' with an esparto grass cord, made by local artisans, which they can hang



around their necks and sample the water from each of the fountains along the walk, and then take home as a souvenir.

## WATER WEEK PROGRAMME

The programme of activities will begin on Wednesday 22 at 10am, with the official reopening of the Water Museum. At midday there will be guided visits to La Concepción dam. The council began to organise these visits last year, and they have proven very popular.

On Thursday at 10 am there will be the 'Ruta de las Fuentes', a walk around the village to see the different fountains and streams. At 11am there will be a guided walk through the area of countryside known as 'El Coto', and at noon there will be more guided visits of La Concepción dam.

On Friday at 10am visitors can take a tour of the different viewing points in Istán, and at 11 there will be another walk around the village to see the fountains and streams. As on the previous days, there will be guided visits to La Concepción dam at midday, and at 4pm there will be workshops on making home-made soap at the fountain and laundry trough known as 'El Chorro'.

Those who visit Istán on Saturday 25th can take a guided visit to the source of the Molinos River and attend a presentation in El Coto of the 'Arbol de los Abrazos', or Tree of Embraces. As usual, there will be a guided tour of La Concepción dam at midday, and at 4pm there is a presentation on the history and use of the 'botijo' at the Water Museum.

At 5pm a competition will take place: how to drink from a 'botijo', at the beautiful Mirador de Las Herrizas viewing point. Be prepared to get wet: it will be a lot of fun and there will be plenty of prizes to be won.

Sunday 26 March is the final day of Water Week in Istán, and at 10am there will be a walk through the Moorish Water Channels in 'El Coto', followed at 12 by a guided tour of the fountains and streams in the oldest part of the village.

This is a unique way to discover a unique and remarkably beautiful village, which nestles in the heart of protected mountainous countryside, at a time of year when it is at its loveliest.

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Ian McEwan checks his mobile phone at the press conference in Barcelona, where he was asked about Brexit. :: QUIQUE GARCÍA / EFE

## "I will really miss being an EU citizen"

**Ian McEwan surprises his readers again with the acidic 'Nutshell', narrated by a foetus who emulates Hamlet**

:: MÓNICA BERGÓS

**BARCELONA.** The solemn spirit of Hamlet, which flows through the pages of Ian McEwan's latest novel *Nutshell*, was also very present at the press conference held by the writer in Barcelona recently

to talk about the forthcoming Kosmópolis literary festival.

The British author, who is known for his temperament and being controversial, as well as producing brilliant, complex and surprising work, was at his most acerbic when asked about the present situation in his own country, which he has compared with Nazi Germany.

He didn't hold back in his criticism of Brexit, using sharp and vehement language. "This was done by plebs, it reminds me

of the Third Reich," he said about the process, which he considers a total disaster from a social, cultural and economic point of view, especially because it is pushing Parliament in a corner "and that is where sovereignty should lie in a parliamentary democracy".

"Something smells very bad in England. The air is loaded, it's rotting," he added.

Nor did he have anything good to say about the political leaders who are handling the withdrawal from the EU, who he described as

a small group of energetic, murky and impatient politicians.

"They say they represent the people, but they are disparaging about the other half of the population. If you don't agree with what they are doing, they say you are an enemy of the people. The 16 million British people who wanted to stay in the EU feel like orphans. We have no representation," he said.

For McEwan, the European Union has been "a heroic project" which has enabled Europe to live in peace for 60 years, has brought greater wellbeing than ever before and has resulted in "extraordinary things" such as being able to travel from Slovenia to Calais without a passport. "I will really miss being part of the European Union," he said.

The author, who usually transmits his critical view of the world in his novels, often using satire and

irony, and adopting creative and original ways of developing the art of writing, has once again surprised his readers with the complexity and wonder of his most recent book. *Nutshell*, which was published last year, is totally unexpected: the focus is on an intrauterine narrator who is capable of holding all types of disquisitions upon the divine and the human, with clear parallels with Hamlet.

"How is it possible that I, who am not even young, who wasn't born yesterday, knows so much, or enough to be mistaken about so many things?" asks the aforementioned baby, who witnesses in perplexity the story of a betrayal. His mother and her lover are plotting to get rid of his father, in the way that Gertrude and Claudius plan to kill the king in Shakespeare's text. On that occasion the motive for the crime was to put Elsinor on the throne, but in this book the conspirators want to get their hands on a seven-million-pound house.

This is not the first time that McEwan has taken a classic as a reference and rewritten it in his own way. He did the same in *Saturday*, which was a reflection of Virginia Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway*, and this time he is using Hamlet to give his acidic opinion on existence, in an intelligent and daring tale about betrayal and assassination, brilliantly told in the manner of a thriller.

Why did he decide to use a foetus as the narrator? It is a symbol, he says, a way of reflecting "the impotence that I feel so often in the face of current politics". Hamlet also felt helpless, and the same applies to the intrauterine person who observes the terrible events without being able to intervene.

For Ian McEwan, this novel is a compendium of his professional career. "I have been able to portray all the violence and cruelty in it, but also the love, the hope and also my passion for poetry, for Shakespeare," he says. His literary influences include Virginia Woolf, Kafka and the Victorian author Anthony Trollope, who McEwan considers better than Dickens because of his skill in describing characters.



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RACHEL HAYNES



## WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

17 MARCH 2009

# Villanueva de la Concepción becomes municipality 101

The province of Malaga lost its round number - exactly 100 - of municipalities on 17 March 2009. After years of campaigning, the small town of Villanueva de la Concepción finally gained its independence from Antequera, becoming municipality number 101.

The segregation was approved that morning at the Junta de Andalucía's cabinet meeting and the locals immediately took to the streets, hooting their horns and letting off fireworks.

The people of Villanueva de la Concepción, located at the foot of the famous El Torcal nature reserve, had begun their campaign for independence nearly 20 years previously, in 1980.

The next step came in 1992 when Villanueva earned itself the complicated title of Entidad de Ámbito

Territorial Inferior al Municipio (EA-TIM) which basically recognised its status as an administrative unit, but still governed by Antequera. Under this category, it had its own district mayor, 'alcalde pedáneo', and a residents council which could make decisions in areas such as construction and maintenance of country roads and fountains, among others.

In 2001 Villanueva de la Concepción was promoted to the title of Entidad Local Autónoma (ELA) which earned it a higher level of self-government.

Finally, in 2007, the segregation papers went to Malaga for approval and then on to Seville, where the final agreement was signed.

The small town fulfilled all the requirements to apply to become independent, according to Andalusian law, in terms of population, size, financial sufficiency, identity



Celebrations on 17 March 2009 in Villanueva de la Concepción. :: SUR

and distance from the 'mother' town centre.

Villanueva de la Concepción had a population of 3,417 at the time of its independence (3,304 in 2016). At 5.98 kilometres from Antequera, it covers 63.2 square kilometres, and, as well as Antequera, it borders with Almotiá and Casabermeja to the south.

Often referred to as the 'pueblecillo' by the people of Antequera, the Villanovenses (as the locals are known) considered Antequera as a brother municipality of which they did not feel a part.

The earliest traces of human pres-

ence in the area date back to the Middle Palaeolithic period, and Neolithic stone tools have been found. The Iberians founded the first town, Osqva, which was later referred to by Roman historians Tito Livio and Plinio. The Roman town would have had temples and a theatre, according to historians. It is thought that the town was abandoned after the fall of the Roman Empire.

In the Nasrid period the area was defended by a belt of five castles, of which one, Xébar, was in what is now the municipality of Villanueva, helping to safeguard the routes down to the coast.

## LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

<b>Pueblo</b>	Village/Small town
<b>Municipio</b>	Municipality
<b>Independencia</b>	Independence
<b>Cohete</b>	Rocket
<b>Entidad</b>	Entity/Organisation
<b>Autonomía</b>	Self-government
<b>Población</b>	Population
<b>Identidad</b>	Identity
<b>Segregación</b>	Segregation
<b>Vecinos</b>	Locals
<b>Alcalde</b>	Mayor
<b>Requisitos</b>	Requirements
<b>Habitantes</b>	Inhabitants
<b>Herramienta</b>	Tool
<b>Vestigios</b>	Remains
<b>Extensión</b>	Area
<b>Siglo</b>	Century

Villanueva de la Concepción gained importance again in the second half of the 18th century with the construction of the Camino Real to link Malaga and Madrid.

From then on the village gradually grew up again and was named a 'población rural' in 1880.

Since 2009 two more villages have gained independence in the province, Montecorto and Serrato, both previously attached to Ronda, taking the total up to 103.

**Bilingual crossword inside back page**

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BY OSIM

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DENISE BUSH



# GARDENING

## Aeonium arboreum

The tree aeonium forms a large bushy plant with erect stems and panicles of bright, yellow flowers in spring

Common names include tree houseleek, Irish rose, desert rose and tree aeonium. It is a succulent, subtropical plant in the Crassulaceae family. The genus Aeonium includes around 30 different species, the majority of which are native to the Canary Islands where they are called 'bejeque arboreo'.

The tree aeonium forms large, bushy plants with erect stems. The dense rosettes of fleshy, bright-green leaves can be up to 20cm across. The leaves are spatula-shaped and sometimes have a purplish mark close to where they join the stem.

The panicles of sulphur-yellow

flowers form in the spring and are held upright, above the rosette of leaves. After flowering the plant declines and tends to get leggy (some species actually die after flowering), eventually the stems bend over and touch the ground or break off altogether. This is the aeonium's natural way of rejuvenating itself; the fallen stems will eventually root and a new, vigorous plant will be created. Aeonium can also be grown from seed but is less successful.

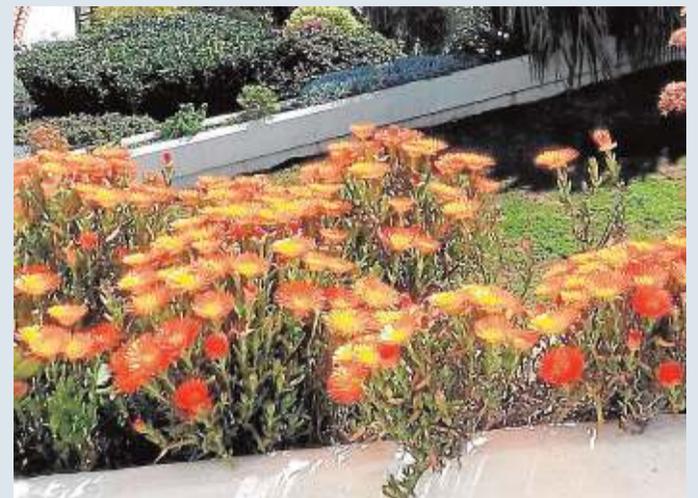
It is best to take cuttings in the summer when flowering is over. With a sharp, clean knife, cut a length of stem with a rosette of leaves at the top. Leave the stem to dry for a couple of weeks or until the wound has gnarled over. Then fill a pot with compost and sharp sand and push the cutting in at least 5cm. If the cutting is long you may need to give it some support to stop it toppling over.

Aeoniums are not frost tolerant but adapt well to being grown in a container which makes them easier to move to a sheltered position in cold winters. They do not like humidity and thrive in hot, dry climates although they are not completely drought tolerant either and will need occasional watering during the hottest months. Aeoniums need a free-draining, fairly rich soil and can be given a liquid cactus feed once a month during their growing season.



Aeonium arboreum and the purple form (inset). :: SUR

### READER'S PHOTO



:: SUE WITHERS

### RESILIENT MESEMBRYANTHEMUMS

Sue Withers sent in the photo above and says: "These beautiful mesembryanthemums are flowering on our balcony in Calahonda. We bought the original plant in 2003 because succulents can go weeks without water if need be."

### GARDENING HINTS FOR MARCH

#### Revitalising pot plants

Spring is the time to freshen up potted plants. Container-grown plants that have been in the same pot for a year or more will appreciate a little fresh compost. If the plant looks like it is thriving then it may be enough just to scrape off the top two centimetres and replace with fresh compost. If there are roots on the surface or growing out of the bottom then it probably needs repotting. Tip the pot

upside down and give the base a tap to help the plant to drop out. Very carefully loosen some of the roots from the root ball and then plant back into a bigger pot. A pot just two centimetres bigger in diameter is usually sufficient. Add new compost around the sides and gently firm in. Make sure the plant sits at the same level as it did in the old pot. Water in well to remove any air pockets.

### 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](mailto: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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## Twenty years of liver transplant success at Carlos Haya Hospital

The Junta de Andalucía deputy minister for health spoke at an event celebrating this special milestone and highlighted the support from the local community

:: **ÁNGEL ESCALERA**

**MÁLAGA.** The Carlos Haya Hospital in Malaga held an event on Tuesday to mark twenty years since the hospital carried out its first liver transplant operation. Since 14 March 1997 surgeons and medical staff at the hospital have performed 921 other, similar operations, with 53 of those taking place last year alone.

The anniversary event was led by the deputy minister of health at the Junta de Andalucía, María Isabel Baena, and the provincial delegate for health, Ana Isabel González.

María Isabel Baena said that this was a day that all residents in Malaga could be proud of, highlighting “the solidarity shown by the families who have agreed to donate their or-

gans to a loved one who was about to die”, while also praising a public health system which “responds to the needs of those who require a transplant”.

The deputy minister also thanked the team of professionals in charge of carrying out the operations, highlighting the “magnificent job” they have done to restore the life and dreams of more than 900 people.

She also explained that the organ donation rate in the province currently stands at 60 people per every million residents, a figure above both the regional and national averages of 47.1 per million and 43 per million respectively.

For the deputy minister, this statistic was “the best example of solidarity” in Malaga province.

The doctor in charge of surgical services at the hospital, Julio Santoyo, commented on the development of the transplant process over this 20-year period, not just in the operating room but also in relation to the improvements made to help monitor patients’ recovery after treatment.

There has also been a significant



Staff at the Carlos Haya Hospital with María Isabel Baena (centre) at the event. :: FRANCIS SILVA

**The organ donation rate in Malaga province is above both the regional and national average**

**Between 20 and 50 professionals are involved in a liver transplant operation**

increase in staff now taking part in the operations, with each liver transplant surgery involving between 20 and 50 professionals. Santoyo explained that such high numbers of staff are needed given the more complex nature of liver transplants in comparison to operations involving more solid organs.

Such improvements have seen a huge increase in the survival rates of patients, with seven out of ten patients still being alive five years after the operation, and six out of ten still living after ten years.

One man who is living proof of

this success is José López Rivas, who received an implant after being told it was the only way to save his life after being diagnosed with liver cancer.

Rivas was a teacher at the Campanillas secondary school and further education college near Malaga when he was diagnosed with the cancer.

Ten years on, Rivas is still reveling in the success of the operation, declaring that he now leads a normal life.

“Everyone who is operated on has their own story, but luckily for me mine was fantastic,” he added.

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# "I can give my patients the opinion of a doctor who has experienced death"

**Roberto Canessa Head of echocardiography and cardiology at the Hospital Italiano in Buenos Aires, and one of the survivors of the 1972 air crash in the Andes**

He was one of the 16 survivors of one of the most tragic air accidents, immortalised in the book and subsequent film 'Viven'. Now he talks of his experiences and how they have influenced and helped him in his career

## PIJAR MANZANARES

On 13 October 1972, flight 571 of the Uruguayan Air Force, which was taking some rugby players and their families to Chile, crashed in the Andes, killing several of those on board. After 72 days, long after the search had been called off, Nando Parrado and Roberto Canessa appeared, after spending ten days climbing through the mountain range. Later, they led teams of res-

cuers to 14 other survivors who were waiting amid the wreckage of the aircraft.

Roberto Canessa decided to dedicate his life to his companions on that flight who had not survived. He graduated as a cardiac paediatrician and won the National Prize for Medicine in Uruguay three times. In 2015 he was designated an Honorary Fellow of the American Society of Echocardiography. At present he is the head of Ecocardiography and Cardiology at the Italian Hospital and collaborates with a network of the most prestigious colleagues in the world to help babies and children with congenital heart disorders. "As soon as I listen to a foetus' heart I can tell whether it is complete or broken; if it only has one piece, then it has to be mended" he says.

He has been featured in the news, documentaries, films and books, mentioned by companions such as

Nando Parrado... but now he is telling his own story and how the tragedy inspired his career, in a book called 'Tenia que sobrevivir' (I had to survive).

**-What lessons did you learn during those 72 days of brutal survival?**

-I learned not to wait for the helicopters! I learned that you don't have to be in a plane crash to realise how lucky you are, that we always hanker for things without realising what we already have, that you shouldn't look ahead to the mountain, just focus on the next step, because anyway you don't know what you are going to need to get up the mountain when you reach it. People think of problems when there aren't any. We knew that if we walked, then at some point we would come to a path or a road. It was a finite distance. We couldn't think about the impossible, we had to just take everything in small stages. Uncertainty makes us less effective.

**"The cologne we found in people's luggage became disinfectant, razors became scalpels, rugby shirts were turned into bandages...."**

**"You lose your fear of death so you don't succumb to despair. For 72 days, imminent death was my greatest terror"**

**"If my patients have been affected by this remote chance of illness, there is also the chance that there will be a cure"**

-As you were studying medicine, you instantly became the emergency doctor. What was that like?

-Awful. Very hard indeed. I suddenly found myself having to make bandages, clean wounds, stitch them, find out how to control infections, which were internal because the freezing cold in that place made it the most aseptic operating theatre in the world... and all with no instruments. The cologne we found in people's luggage became disinfectant, razors became scalpels, rugby shirts were used as bandages... and there wasn't a single doctor among us, only me with the soul of a doctor.

**-During those months lost in the Andes, you must have found that the term 'never before' is relative.**

-Definitely. That 'never before' led everyone to give us up for dead. And when they saw that we were alive, they didn't say "we were wrong." They said "they have made it after all." They called us heroes, which we never thought we were, there in the fuselage of the plane, because we were just unfortunate enough to be there, far from home... and people said things like "they survived because they ate the people



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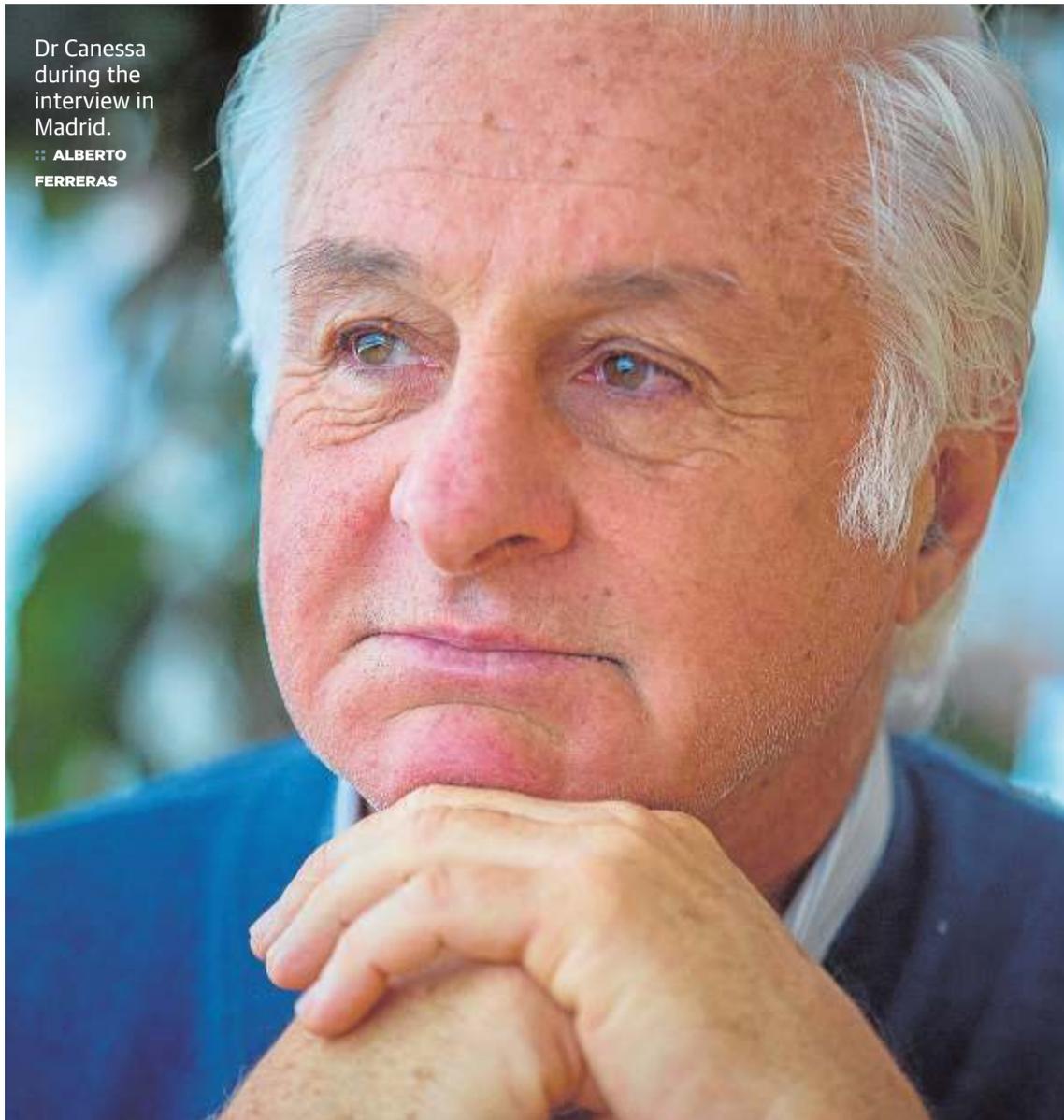
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Dr Canessa during the interview in Madrid.  
:: ALBERTO FERRERAS

who died." No, we saved ourselves because we left the shelter of the fuselage and set off to find a way out, because we knew they must have stopped searching for us by then. It's incredible how the world sees our story and how we actually experienced it. People still tell us we were lucky - why? Our plane crashed, they didn't find us, they forgot all about us, many of our companions died...."

**-It was your idea to eat the dead and as a doctor you knew there was no other option, but it must have been very hard to tell the others that and to actually do it.**

-Obviously, it was the only source of calories, fats and proteins we had, but at a personal level there was a philosophical and spiritual problem, because we couldn't ask those people if they would give us permission to use their bodies in order for us to survive. I thought that if I died, I would want my muscles to be used by somebody else, so they could survive. It would be a way of giving life to others. I would want those who lived to tell my mother that I had fought to the end. Sometimes I think that some malignant spirit wanted to experiment on us and that is why it put us in that place and in that situation. We were strong young men, we were part of a rugby

team and university students, so we had knowledge to use as a tool. We were religious, so if we believed in God, he would have pity on our souls. Phrases like "where there is life there is hope," came to mind. They may not mean much in our normal lives, but for us at that time they were very valuable, they had a powerful dimension. "I am dead, but tomorrow I could be alive," things like that kept us going.

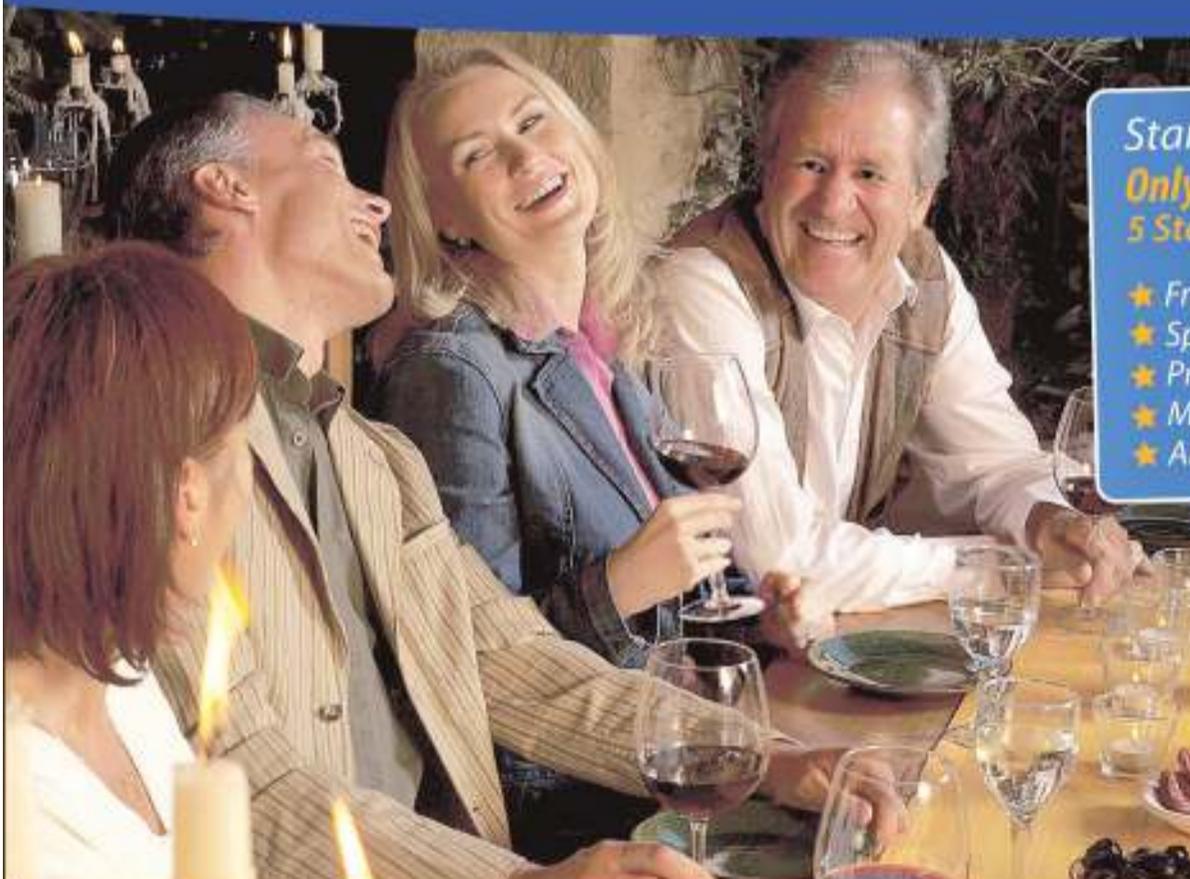
**-Did you lose your fear of death?**

-Yes; at least, I believe so. You lose it so you don't give in to that fear in desperation. For 72 days I carried the burden of death on my shoulders. Imminent death was my greatest terror, and when we got out, when we saw a person for the first time, I felt an indescribable happiness. It was like coming back to life.

**-Did your experience change the way in which you see and deal with things in medicine?**

-Yes. I now know what my patients and their families are feeling. I'm in the same circle, you could say. As I say in the book, I can give them the opinion of a doctor who has also faced death. It also changed the way I see life. After all that, I thought it would be wrong to waste my life and that I should honour my companions who died, so that they would have been proud 

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We speak 

**>** of me. I wanted to live a good life. I didn't want the parents of those who died to wonder why I had survived instead of their son. I couldn't live a relaxed life. I had a commitment to it, an opportunity which others had not had. And medicine formed part of my plan, it was a commitment to helping others.

**–Going back to your patients and your commitment to them, are you in contact with the babies who were born with half a heart and who, thanks to your help, have survived and grown up?**

–Yes, of course I am, very much so. They and their mothers and fathers help me on many occasions. One of the boys, Roberto, said: "Mummy, how could I not be in this book? He saved my life." It's as if we were all one. And another of the children I talk about, the lovely Tomás, who

sadly died, used to come to see me as a friend, not as his doctor.

**–Is his story one of those which has marked you most?**

–You never forget the patients who die. You keep asking yourself: "What didn't I do right? What went wrong? What more could I have done for them?" There are always unanswered questions in your conscience.

**–Are the children you treat braver than adults, or does everyone feel afraid in the same way?**

–I believe people can be born fearful and die brave, and vice versa. There are things which change in life.

**–There must be questions that so many parents of these children ask, such as "Should we carry on? If we do, what will things be like?" And the final question, "Is it worth it?" What answers do you give them?**

–I can't give them any. These are questions they have to resolve themselves. I can only show them the way, without giving them any guarantees of knowing whether we will be successful or not, none of us know that. But I also show them the light at the end of the tunnel, what they can expect if everything goes well.

**–In your case, it was worth carrying on....**

**EXTRACTS FROM 'TENÍA QUE SOBREVIVIR'**



The moment the rescuers arrived. :: S.R.

**them the opinion of a doctor who has also been dead."**

**"If those same researchers, with the same criteria, were to analyse the type of life which awaits the babies who are born with congenital heart problems and have to undergo open heart surgery as soon as they are born, with their tiny bodies frozen like ours were in the fuselage, and they are connected to an extra-corporal heart, and they undergo several of these operations in their first years of life, they would conclude that the lives of these children would be worse than most. But I don't think like that. Their life won't be worse or better: it will just be different."**

**"I turn back to the pregnant woman on the bed. What is the best way of telling her that her daughter, still in the womb, is lacking the most important cavity of the heart? Until a few years ago, newborn babies with this type of complicated cardiac problem... would die soon after being born. But one day, medicine took a step forward... and for this mother there is hope. The family faces a long and uncertain journey, like the one we experienced in the mountains."**

**"I can't help it: I identify with people who are in situations which seem impossible to overcome. To these mothers (of children with heart problems) I want to say that they have been given diagnoses from doctors who are living, but I can give**

–I believe that life is worth the effort, that there are some wonderful situations like that of my patient María Rosario, who was born with half a heart. She loves to run in races and she always come last, and her parents are afraid. They ask me, "Do you think we should let her carry on running?" And I always say, "Ask her". Because she loves it, she loves everyone clapping when she reaches the finishing line, even though she has come last. It's like having an engine with one cylinder, when everyone else has two. She knows that she is always going to come last, but that's life. I believe Rosario has twice as much soul and only half the engine. People with a disability often show others how to live.

**–What happens when all the odds are against you?**

–For a child who has 90 per cent, the possibilities against it are ten per cent. For many of my patients it is the opposite. But if you're lucky it can be a 100 per cent success, no matter how unlikely that may seem. We are not talking about probabilities, we're talking about people. And that's something that the parents of my patients bear in mind. Where there is an illness, there may well also be a cure.



On the right, Canessa after the accident. :: S.R.



:: A. FERRERAS

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# Common problems for women's skin

## Acne, rosacea, melasma and alopecia are the most frequent conditions

### :: SUR

The Spanish Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (AEDV) has decided to pay tribute to the important role of women who specialise in these fields by looking at how the profession has evolved in recent years, and at up-to-date figures regarding the most frequent skin problems which affect women.

Society is changing and fortunately women are playing a greater role in the medical profession nowadays. As an example the AEDV has 2,478 specialist dermatologists, of whom 1,378 are women. The presence of women in this field has been progressively increasing and in the last few years more women than ever before have held top jobs, at the AEDV and at universities.

### Skin problems

Some skin conditions affect women more than men, and Dr Paloma Cornejo, a member of the AEDV, says the most common ones are acne, rosacea, melasma and alopecia.

### Acne

Dr Cornejo explains that acne does not only affect adolescents and



Some skin problems affect women more than men. :: SUR

adults can suffer from it into their 40s. It is especially prevalent among women in such cases.

The clinical spectrum of acne can range from small non-inflamed comedones to pustules and papules and even deep, painful cysts which can leave scars. For this reason, Dr Cornejo says it is very important that acne is treated by a dermatologist, because it is not something

unimportant which can be easily eradicated with cream or soap. It is often associated with some hormonal problem such as a polycystic ovary syndrome which would require oral medication.

The doctor explains that diet plays a role in treatment for acne (reducing dairy products, especially skimmed ones, and foods with a high calorific-glycemic index), as

do triggering factors such as unsuitable cosmetics or a contraceptive with an androgenic effect, which will have to be changed. The treatment will depend on the severity of the case. The use of antibiotics is very limited because people can become resistant to them, but anti-androgenic contraceptives can prove effective.

### Rosacea

The second most common dermatological problem is rosacea. This is an inflammatory illness of the skin which affects the central facial region in the form of reddening, papules and pustules with a burning sensation and feeling of tightness. Sufferers can often not tolerate cosmetics. Over time the redness becomes chronic and blood vessels may become visible.

Dr Cornejo says it is essential to consult a dermatologist for this condition, because it is possibly one of the most difficult of all to treat. The treatment can be topical and/or oral (generally with antibiotics) and dermo-cosmetic treatment may be a patient's best ally or worst enemy by triggering outbreaks. That is why professional

assessment is so important.

### Melasma

Melasma is a symmetrical pigmentation in the facial region (forehead, cheeks, upper lip) and often affects women of fertile age. It is associated with oestrogens, although it is triggered by the sun. The ingestion of contraceptives is one classic cause, but many women who have not taken these still suffer from it.

Prevention is vital, by using continual sun protection and especially products which have well as UVB and UVA filters and even a filter against visible radiation. Physical filters such as titanium dioxide are often the most effective.

With regard to treatment, as well as topical depigmenting products, specific peeling treatments are very useful. They can clear pigmentation by more than 70 per cent "and nowadays there is a new ingredient, tranexamic acid, which is used to reduce bleeding in heavy periods and which has proven effective in reducing a tendency to pigmentation," says Dr Cornejo. It is only available by prescription.

### Alopecia

Another fundamental and common problem seen by dermatologists is alopecia, when hair drops out. This is especially common after the menopause, because of the alteration between oestrogens and androgens in favour of the latter. In any case, an expert opinion should always be sought about the best pharmaceutical treatment for it.



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# Imagination in a weight-loss diet

**Risotto made with cauliflower, tallarines which are actually courgettes and meringues made with skimmed milk are some of the dishes with which Ramón Perisé, a chef at Mugaritz, produces low-calorie haute cuisine**

## ▄▄ RUBÉN CAÑIZARES

Mugaritz is not just the seventh best restaurant in the world; it is much more than that. Andoni Luis Aduriz leads a team of chefs for whom creativity, innovation and haute cuisine are signs of identity. That's why they are often involved in different R+D projects, such as the one run by Ramón Perisé, who is one of the chefs at Mugaritz, at Las Dunas restaurant in the Healthhouse Las Duna centre in Estepona.

"We are trying to reeducate people about food, encouraging them to adopt healthy lifestyle habits and nutrition. We have invested a great deal of time in this research project, and the results are prov-

ing satisfactory," says Ramón Perisé.

The greatest challenge is to produce haute cuisine which is low in calories, because this project is based on nutrition as part of a weight loss programme. It includes food which is high in calories but low in fats and carbohydrates, "and our imagination is our most powerful

tool," explains Ramón.

Normally, people who want to lose weight tend to eat pretty boring food. At Las Dunas restaurant, these chefs are focusing on the visual aspect before the sensory one, so the plates look appealing from the start.

"As an example of what we are doing, because the food should not contain much salt, we use a different sort of condiment to make it taste good. And because it should be low in carbohydrates, we prepare dishes which look as if they contain them but actually don't," he says.

A 'risotto a la milanese' made with cauliflower, tallarines with clam sauce made with courgettes, cannelloni made with linseed, smoked tomato tartare and meringue with skimmed milk are just some of their specialities.

Dressings are another important aspect of this R+D project. In a diet, oils should be kept to a minimum, so the chefs have looked for substitutes. Once again, creativity is essential.

"We carried out a study to find delicious oil-free dressings and according to our research these should focus on three things: they need a certain acidity, umami, and a texture achieved by using tiny particles. To do that, we used three bases: tomato water or wild mushroom stock, onion paste and apple vinegar. With those, you can make a great oil-free dressing for salads and vegetables," explains Ramón. They used the same idea to replace fried items which form the basis of some dishes, such as oxtail stew.

"We use dried onion, which we caramelize without using oil, and then vacuum-pack it. We also cook



Ramón Perisé.

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Tartare of smoked tomato. ▄▄ S. R.



Asparagus with truffle veil. ▄▄ S. R.

## DELICIOUS, HEALTHY DISHES

► **Risotto a la milanese.** Made with cauliflower to cut down on calories and carbohydrates. The cauliflower is cooked in a reduction of chicken stock and the result is identical to risotto in appearance and texture. Psychologically, this is very useful. It is also delicious because of the stock and the use of saffron for seasoning.

► **Courgette tallarines and clams.** The courgettes are cut with a special Japanese tool, so they look exactly the same as tallarines. To give them flavour, they are served with a sauce made with clams, garlic and parsley.

► **Linseed cannelloni.** The linseeds are soaked in milk, then pepper and nutmeg are added to produce a type of bechamel without fat. It looks and has the same consistency as bechamel, but is really skimmed milk with linseed fibre. The bechamel is dehydrated and cut into squares which are filled with flaked stewed oxtail. The result is a dish which is delicious, fat-free and filling.

► **Asparagus with a truffle veil.** Only fresh seasonal asparagus is used, never frozen. That is very important. The veil is made with truffle water and the curd which is obtained from cooking cheese, which is the least fatty part and has most protein.

► **Roast beef and vegetable rolls.** The beef has to be round, not loin, because it is thinner and less fatty. Clean protein. Rolls are made with the roast beef and filled with asparagus, fennel, avocado and enoki mushroom, and served with a sweet-and-sour sauce made with skimmed milk yoghurt.

► **Tartare of smoked tomato.**

Made with smoked natural tomato and chopped dried tomato, and the dressing is a reduction of tomato paste with a touch of chilli. This is a spicy dish. In the middle, a slice of crispy bread is placed, made with frozen, dehydrated and toasted bread. Chopped parsley and spring onion are used for seasoning.

► **Linseed meringue.** This is a dessert made with skimmed milk, in which linseeds and vanilla seeds are infused. It is all left to get cold before whisking. Once whisked, it produces a thick mixture with a consistent texture, but contains hardly any calories.

the vegetables in water. That way, we can control the calorie content," he says.

In fact, water is one of the main pillars of this healthy haute cuisine, and not just as a drink. "Often when we think we're hungry, we're actually thirsty, so we are making dishes which are high in hydration. They quench the thirst and stop people feeling hungry. Gelatines and stocks are the things we work with most at Las Dunas," says Ramón.

One of these is shabu-shabu, a bowl of hot stock in which they cook meat, fish and raw shellfish.

It takes time to eat, which is also an important factor.

"We have worked on a menu which makes people take longer to ingest the food. Let me explain: the feeling of being full takes about 20 minutes to reach the brain, so your stomach doesn't tell your brain to stop eating for those 20 minutes and that means you may have eaten too much. You need to eat slowly, so you feel fuller. When you eat in a hurry you never know when you are really full and you continue to eat, with all the consequent collateral damage that causes," he explains.

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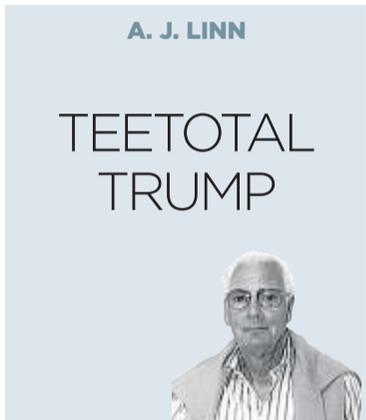
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**SUR**  
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The media on every level is filled with comments about the US's new president, even trivial observations like his teetotal habit. Many readers will praise this way of life – although if they live on the Coast they may be in the minority.

Trump is also in the minority as far as US presidents are concerned. All the greatest US presidents drank, some moderately, some less so. Recent holders of the post have already had honourable and not so honourable mentions in this col-



umn, although only Lyndon Johnson's love of Scotch stands out. His bodyguards had the job of making sure there was always plenty of it around. No, it was the old-timers who knew how to get through the stuff in a serious fashion.

George Washington built a whisky distillery at his home in Mount Vernon. Not just any old distillery, but the largest in the US. Like Trump he practised an America-First policy, and would not have imported beer or cheese on his table.

John Adams, the second presi-

dent, started his day with cider, beer and rum. His successor, Thomas Jefferson, ran up huge wine bills all over the place, and another, James Madison, somehow got a delivery to the White House of a hundred cases of French wines charged to furniture purchases. But you have to like Franklin Roosevelt the most. On being elected in 1982 he sensed America's boredom with Prohibition after 15 years, so cancelled it. Most evenings were spent drinking dry martinis, mixed on his classic 6-1 ratio, and before he

was tucked up in bed by the Secret Service he often sang old college songs. At the post-war Tehran conference, Stalin insisted on drinking vodka and Churchill champagne. At one round of negotiations the congenial trio got through 365 toasts, one for each day of the year.

Trump doesn't smoke either, so Abe Lincoln, who was a bartender prior to becoming president, was maybe near the mark when he commented, 'It has been my experience that folks who have no vices have very few virtues.'

# Nobu comes to Marbella

The Japanese chef will be opening a Spanish/Japanese restaurant in Puente Romano at the end of May

by NIEVES CASTRO

**MARBELLA.** Nobuyuki Matsuhisa is a worldwide authority among chefs and the owner of a gastronomic empire which includes 34 restaurants across four continents. The man whose formula attracts legions of celebrities (Tom Cruise, Richard Gere and Robert de Niro) is going to open a restaurant in Marbella. The Golden Mile will not only gain a new category of establishment, but one with the first Nobu label in Spain. The Spanish/Japanese restaurant will be situated in Puente Romano Beach Resort & Spa and will be opening its doors at the end of May.



Dani García pays tribute to the Japanese chef. by JOSELE-LANZA

However, the restaurant is not the only project that Nobu has planned for Marbella, the Nobu Hospitality Group is preparing to

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**MÁLAGA.** Whether in a small condiment set or in an elegant pepper mill, pepper is found on dining tables all over the world. The ease in which it can be bought in supermarkets and grocers belies its role as a source of international conflict throughout history.

Almost 3,500 years ago, when the body of pharaoh Ramesses II was being prepared for burial, the embalmer placed a few grains of pepper in the nasal cavities to mark the greatness of the dead man. At the time the precious spice was brought from India via the first commercial routes.

Later, in the first century AD, Pliny the Elder wrote: "Some foods attract us by their sweet taste, others by their appearance whereas pepper has nothing in it that can plead as a recommendation to either fruit or berry, its only desirable quality being a certain pungency; and yet it is for this that we import it all the way from India!"

At that time, the Arabs held the monopoly on pepper and its price was so extortionate that the Roman emperor Augustus sent an expedition to Arabia to try, without success, to break it.

The Church and European nobles undertaking the Crusades also tried to break the Arab monopoly but it was the Portuguese who, during the 15th century, were able to find alternative routes, circumnavigating the African continent to reach Calcutta, Ceylon, Java, Borneo and the Maluku Islands; the latter being where pepper



originated.

Today, although pepper (*Piper nigrum*) is also grown in South America, Africa, India or Brazil, most of the supply comes from the coasts of Malaysia and Indonesia.

Pepper berries form on a climbing vine and are rich in an alkaloid called piperine, which gives it the characteristic pungent flavour. Piperin develops as the fruit matures. Thus, the green pepper, which is the berry collected before it is fully ripe, is less spicy than the black or white, and is usually sold fresh in brine or vinegar. The black pepper is the same berry collected at its optimum point of maturity, scalded and dried, and the white is the ripe berry soaked for a week to remove the skin and then dried. What we call pink pepper is actually the seed of a plant native to Brazil (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) and which the Portuguese introduced as a cheap alternative to authentic pepper.

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# Estepongo II

## LEANDRO PAVÓN

**ESTEPONA.** More than 3,000 visitors are expected to the Salon del Manga, Videojuegos y Cultura Alternativa de Estepona (better known as Estepongo) over the weekend of 7-9 April.

### Cosplay World Master

One of the events which is hoped to bring in the most visitors will be the preliminary round of Cosplay World Master (cosplay is the practice of dressing up as a character from a film, book, or video game, especially one from the Japanese genres of manga or anime). The winner will go on to represent Spain in the European competition and will also receive the 750-euro cash prize.

The jury will be made up of cosplay guests and many attendees are expected to be in costume too, dressed up as their favourite characters from video-games.

Another activity which is bound to attract lots of attention is soft combat. This involves play fighting using replicas of medieval weapons.

Over the three days there will

## DETAILS

► **When:** 7-9 April.

► **Where.** Palacio de Congresos y Exposiciones, Estepona.

► **What:** For fans of video games and Japanese animation such as manga and anime.

► **More information:** Fb: Estepongo: Salon de Manga, Videojuegos y Cultura Alternativa.

be concerts by musicians such as Anzu Lilia, known for her love of anime; the Mexican singer Guimar who will be singing songs from Disney and the group Gate-mon, who will be playing tracks from anime, films and video-games.

Other activities include the 'K-Pop Sur Experience' competition based on the choreography of Korean pop groups and photocalls where fans can have their photo taken next to their favourite superhero.



One of the stands at last year's Estepongo. :: L. PAVÓN

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Andalucía

# Art and gastronomy in the Subbética

In Priego de Córdoba you will find traditional popular architecture and many splendid examples of baroque monuments

✪ JAVIER ALMELLONES

**MALAGA.** Spring is the ideal time of year to visit the Subbética region of Cordoba province. When the temperatures begin to warm up and the autumn and winter rains have had their effect on the countryside, this area in the south of the province is looking its very best.

One good example is the town of Priego de Córdoba, which is in the Sierra Subbética natural park; as you approach it, it appears to rise like an enormous iceberg from a sea of olive trees.

However, before exploring the rural paths and lanes of this region, it is worth visiting the town centre in Priego (there are also some outlying hamlets which are interesting). In particular, head for the oldest part of town, where the districts of La Villa and Balcón del Ardave are situated. It is lovely to walk through their narrow streets, where colourful pots of flowers stand out against the brilliant white of the houses.

One good way of exploring this ancient district, with its Andalusian air, is to go from the Plaza de Santa Ana to Calle Real, and then on to the charming Placita de San Antonio. There is also an open look-out point called El Ardave, with expansive views over the surrounding area. It perches on a dizzying natural gorge which for centuries was vital for the defence of the town and is one of its main attractions today.

As well as seeing its lovely architecture, it is also worth visiting some of Priego's historic buildings, as this combination has merited its classification as a Historic-Artistic Site of Andalucía.

Although Priego de Córdoba boasts different styles of art and architecture, it is most famous for its baroque. Thanks to its economic prosperity from the 17th to 19th centuries, some splendid religious buildings began to be built. Many of them contain fine examples of art of the period, such as the sanctuary in the church of La Asunción, the chapel of Jesús Nazareno in the San Francisco church and the plaster decoration



The town centre has some fine examples of baroque architecture. ✪ TURISMO DE PRIEGO DE CÓRDOBA



Typical street in La Villa district. ✪ TURISMO ANDALUZ

in La Aurora church.

There are also some very fine baroque features in the churches of San Juan de Dios, San Pedro, El Carmen and Las Mercedes, and some of the chapels which were built in the same period.

The castle at Priego de Córdoba also attracts the attention of visitors. Its austere construction con-

trasts with the flamboyant baroque art which can be found in other parts of the town.

Among the main features of this castle, which was restored between the 18th and 19th centuries, is the Homage Tower, which was essential during the years when the town was entrusted to the Order of Calatrava.

Priego's heritage consists of its fountains. Among them, the most important are those of La Salud, which is mannerist in style, and El Rey, which has neoclassical and baroque influences.

Part of the historical and cultural legacy of this town in the Subbética is also to be found in different cultural centres, such as the Museum-Houses of Niceto Alcalá-Zamora y Torres, who was the first prime minister of the 2nd Spanish Republic, and artist Adolfo Lozano.

There are also folk museums such as La Almendra, and the Popular Arts Museum in the hamlet of Casil de Campos).

These are mainly based on the agricultural past, and they highlight the importance of the surrounding area in the development of the town. In fact, Priego de Córdoba gave its name to what is today a famous designation of origin for olive oil.

There are some renowned mills, such as those of Vizcantar, where you can not only buy a heavenly 'liquid gold' but also enjoy an unforgettable experience thanks to olive oil tourism.

In addition to all this, Priego is also an ideal place to enjoy being close to nature in the natural park of the Sierras Subbéticas, which is one of the few geoparks in Spain. There, the rugged countryside poses a challenge to those who want to hike or climb mountains.

Among these challenges is the highest peak in Cordoba province, La Tiñosa, which stands more than 1,570 metres above sea level and is an excellent viewing point over the Subbética region.

There are many lovely places to explore on foot or bicycle in this area, including the Genilla stream and the Salado river.

## Food, glorious food

Priego also boasts a sublime gastronomy, which is hardly surprising as it is famous for its extra virgin olive oil. The 'salmorejo' cold soup, the 'relleno de Carnaval', Easter meatballs and 'ajoarriero' style kid are just some of the star dishes in the typical local cuisine.

At present, the town is also hosting its 'Ruta de la Cuchara', a route you can follow to try some delicious soups and stews in local bars and restaurants.

It continues until 7 April, and in about a dozen establishments you can enjoy traditional dishes from the area for about three euros each, as well as tapas made with locally-produced extra virgin olive oil.

**Priego de Córdoba appears to rise like an enormous iceberg from a sea of olive trees**

**Its combination of popular architecture and ancient buildings made it a Historic-Artistic Site**

Despite the remodelling which took place at that time, there are still some Nasrid features to be seen around the windows.

Not far from the fortress, you can walk through the San Bernardo arch which actually has no relationship with the castle precinct. Its origins date back to an old flour mill in the mid-15th century.

The Carnicerías Reales are from a later time; this is an austere building which was used in the 16th century as a slaughterhouse and market.

Nowadays it is one of Priego de Córdoba's most notable monuments. As well as its Mannerist entrance, it has a lovely stone spiral staircase down to the lower part of the building, which is where the cattle were once slaughtered before being sold.

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### EXHIBITIONS

#### 38 Picassos

**Malaga.** *Until 26 March, Museo Picasso Málaga*  
This exhibition features a selection of the works by Pablo Picasso that have been part of the museum's permanent collection over the last six years.

#### 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'.



Elena Dergunova, Mijas

#### Joaquín Ivars

**Malaga.** *Until 31 March, Universidad Internacional de Andalucía (Sala Italcable), Plaz de la Legión Española*  
The exhibition 'Impasse. Espectáculos de la frustración', showcases twenty years of this Malaga artist's work.



The Ballet Flamenco de Andalucía performing 'Aquel Silverio'. :: SUR

## Lorca's poetic flamenco

#### :: JENNIE RHODES

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** The Ballet Flamenco de Andalucía will be performing their latest show, 'Aquel Silverio' at the Casa de la Cultura in Almuñécar on Saturday.

This will be the second performance, following its recent premiere in Granada.

The show takes its name from the first lines of Federico García Lorca's 'Poema del Cante Jondo,' 'Between Italian and flamenco,

how did he sing, that Silverio?" "That Silverio" was Silverio Franconetti, a famous Andalusian flamenco singer, who is the inspiration behind the choreography of the Ballet Flamenco de Andalucía's latest production, according to the company's new director, Rafael Estévez.

The Ballet Flamenco de Andalucía, previously known as Compañía Andaluza de Danza, was founded in 1994.

#### INFORMATION

► **When:** Saturday 18 March.

► **Where:** Casa de la Cultura, Almuñécar.

► **Tickets:** [www.bravoentradas.com](http://www.bravoentradas.com), Viajes Ecuador in Paseo Altillo, Casa de la Cultura.

#### Jia Aili

**Malaga.** *From 17 March until 18 June, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.*

Jia Aili is an emerging Chinese artist whose works reflect the dramatic changes in Chinese society since the year 2000.

#### Benezra Gallery

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

This gallery specialises in contemporary art and sculpture as well as fine art and impressionist sales. It also supports emerging artists.

#### Itinerarte

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

An exhibition of paintings, photography and graphic art in a variety of media created by 35 artists of different ages and styles.

#### Artistas Ecléticos

**Mijas Pueblo.** *Until 17 March. Clínica Veterinaria, Avd México 21.* Works by Sinikka Ahokas-Gröhn, Elaine Carlton and Richard Wood. [www.artistaselecticos.com](http://www.artistaselecticos.com)

#### Female entrepreneurs

**Mijas** *Until 20 March. Casa de La Cultura de Las Lagunas.*  
An exhibition of photographs of entitled The female entrepreneur in Malaga, a look into the past'



Jai Aili, CAC Malaga

#### Elena Durgunova

**Mijas.** *Until 3 April, Casa Museo de Mijas.*  
Durgunova is a Russian artist living in Mijas specialising in watercolours.

#### CHARITY

**Spring Fair for the Arboretum Marbella.** *19 March. From 11am - 4pm. The public carpark behind the bus station. Free.*

Marbella Arboretum spring fair will have stalls with organic and environmentally friendly products, artisan foods, plus arts and crafts and workshops. Bring a book to donate to raise funds for this environmental charity. [www.fundacionarboretum.org](http://www.fundacionarboretum.org)

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Nancy Ruth and her band will perform in Malaga in April. :: SUR

## Nancy Ruth and band

### TONY BRYANT

**MALAGA.** International Jazz musician Nancy Ruth, is to perform three concerts on the Costa del Sol in April.

Nancy Ruth, a Canadian-born singer and songwriter, has fronted numerous jazz trios in clubs and festivals in Canada. She has also performed as a pianist and vocalist in venues all around the world.

She will be performing songs from her latest record, Sangria Jam, during her two gigs at the Clarence Jazz Club in Malaga on Saturday 1 April.

Sangria Jam is a musical journey recounting her travels and life in Spain. Combining her influences of jazz, Latin and flamenco into her songwriting, she says: "I write what flows freely... I'm not trying to create a fusion; I just play what I feel. I'm a product of my experience and surroundings."

Nancy, who will be accompanied by some of the area's top jazz musicians, will be performing two sets at the Clarence Jazz Club: the

### INFORMATION

► **When.** 1 April, 8.30pm and 10.30pm.

► **Where.** Clarence Jazz Club, Calle Cañón 5, Malaga.

► **Tickets.** 12 euros in advance, 15 on the door.

first will start at 8.30pm, followed by a second show at 10.30pm. Tickets cost 12 euros in advance, or 15 euros at the door.

A Los Angeles jazz critic described the Canadian musician as "A powerful and talented singer, who combines together jazz, flamenco and Latin rhythms in a natural way, creating a fresh genre that fits into all three idioms."

Helen Ruth and her band will also be the headline act at the official UNESCO International Jazz Day in Marbella on Sunday 30 April.

## CHARITY

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

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

## MUSIC & DANCE

### The Wall Bar

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

**17 March.** Richard Ray Farrell. The New Yorker bluesman in person  
**18 March.** Adolfo Rodríguez. 60s pop.

### El violinista y los poetas

**Mijas.** 17 March, 8.30pm. *Centro Cultural de la Generación del 27.*  
A fusion of music and poetry with violinist Quike Navarro and poet Jorge Villalobos. Free.

### Stolen Gnomes

Irish/Celtic songs and melodies, soul, blues and acoustic roots.

**Fuengirola.** 17 March, 3-6pm. *Pog's Bar, C/Lamo de Espinosa*

**Marbella.** 18, 19 March, 2.30 - 5pm. *St Patrick's Day Festival, Marbella port.*

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Stolen-Gnomes/133660466688522>

### Música Con Encanto

**Marbella.** 18 March, 7pm. *Les Roches, Marbella*

Carmen Yepes will be playing a piano recital to celebrate the 190th birthday of Beethoven. Tel:

689 000 944 [www.musicaconencanto.org](http://www.musicaconencanto.org)

**Joven Orquesta Sur de España Almuñécar.** 19 March, 8pm. *Auditorium of the Casa de la Cultura.*

Conducted by Michael Thomas the orchestra will be playing Schubert's symphony n°4 and Rachmaninov piano concerto n°2. Alejandro Algarra soloist. Tickets from Viajes Ecuador and Casa de la Cultura.

### Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

**Malaga Cathedral**

**24 March, 8pm.** A special free concert for Easter with music by composers Ocón and Faurè. Bernes Perles soprano, Luis Pacetti tenor and Luis López baritone.

[www.orquestafilharmonicademalaga.com](http://www.orquestafilharmonicademalaga.com)

## Museo Carmen Thyssen Málaga

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**Sacred Music festival**

**Frigiliana.** Casa de Aperos. 15€  
**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. Johnny G as the Pharaoh and Ricky Lavazza as Joseph. Shows nightly at 8pm, Sunday 7pm and matinée Saturday at 3pm. Box office tel: 952474542 or online www.salonvarietestheatre.com

**Danza Invisible**

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

A special concert to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the band.

**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 and performers 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.ticket-source.eu/bigmpromotions or One



Joseph's Dream Coat, Fuengirola

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.

**A night in Buenos Aires**

**Casares.** 17 March, 8pm. Centro Cultural Blas Infante. 10€

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

**Barbershop singers**

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

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.ticket-source.eu

**FLAMENCO**

**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

**Wine tasting and flamenco**

**Nerja.** 8.30pm. La Taberna de Volapié, C/Antonio Millón Discover Málaga Province's premium wines accompanied by a Flamenco dance show. Reservations www.ventana-abierta.es  
**5 April.** Wine from Bodegas F. Schatz.

# Faces in a family album

**FRANCISCO GRIÑAN**

**MALAGA.** "I take photos of people I find interesting but I'm not a photographer," confessed Isabel Coixet, film producer and director of films such as Nobody Wants the Night' and Elegy.

She may not be a professional photographer but she isn't an amateur either and follows a long tradition of filmmakers with a weakness for photography like Carlos Saura and Wim Wenders, for example.

A selection of Coixet's photos are in an exhibition entitled 'Faces' at La Térmica in Malaga until the end of June. In total there are fifty-two images, all small format and all black and white. The majority are very personal snapshots of actors or people with which Isabel Coixet has 'shared a moment' - the kind of photos you might find in an old family album. There are a few photos of the producer's father, Juan Coixet, before his death and of the writer Henning Mankell



The photos are of famous people such as Debbie Harry. :: A. CABRERA

whom she met in a lift in Berlin, the man she calls 'the person who taught me to look'. Artist John Berger is also represented.

Her casual and intimate style of photography is apparent throughout the exhibition which includes photos of Tim Robbins, Ben Kingsley, Penelope Cruz, Mark Ruffalo and Juliette Binoche.

**INFORMATION**

- ▶ **When.** Until 30 June.
- ▶ **Where.** Sala 17 of La Térmica.
- ▶ **What.** Photographs taken by film producer Isabel Coixet of many famous people.

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## FESTIVALS

### St. Patrick's Day

**Fuengirola.** 17 March midday. Striker's Sports Bar. Irish music, draught Guinness etc.

**Torremolinos.** 18 March. Midday to 6pm. Plaza de la Nogalera. Celtic dancing, food and beer. Best dressed competition.

## EVENTS

### Astronomy night

**Yunquera.** 18 March. The tower at the entrance to the village.

Astrolab, the observatory in Yunquera, has organised a special night to see the constellation of Orion through their powerful telescope. <http://www.latorredyunquera.es>

### Vespepe Antequera

**Antequera.** 19 March. Town centre and environs.

Antequera is holding the second edition of Vespepe this Sunday, a day dedicated to the Vespa motorcycle. Registration: 20€. [vespepecovespa@gmail.com](mailto:vespepecovespa@gmail.com) [www.antequera.es](http://www.antequera.es)

### 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.

### 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@luxmundi.org](mailto:luxmundi@luxmundi.org) Webpage: [www.luxmundi.org](http://www.luxmundi.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](mailto:phoenixsocialclub@yahoo.co.uk) or go to [www.phoenixsocialclub.co.uk](http://www.phoenixsocialclub.co.uk)

### Parade of horses and riders

# San José in La Herradura

by JENNIE RHODES

**LA HERRADURA.** La Herradura is celebrating its patron saint, San José, this weekend. The fair, which started on Thursday and continues until Sunday, has a full programme of events that aim to include all ages.

Highlights include an exhibition in the municipal market of photographs taken by the Foto Club Almuñécar; a family bike ride, starting from Plaza de la Independencia at 12pm today; and children's day, which is on Sunday.

The day fair will run from 1pm until 7pm on each day, while the night fair will include the orchestras 'Tentación' and 'Al Alba,' which will provide entertainment every evening.

The night fair will mainly take place around the Plaza de Toros and Plaza de la Independencia, while the day fair activities will be centred around Calle Eucalipto.

On Saturday the traditional 'cintas'-where horseriders try to snag as many ribbons as they can at speed- will start at 4pm in Calle Real and this will be followed at 6pm by the offering of flowers by the women's association in col-



A fireworks display will light up the sky on Saturday. :: SUR

## DETAILS

► **When:** Until Sunday, 19 March.

► **Where:** Around La Herradura.

► **Information:** Full programme of events: [www.almunecar.es](http://www.almunecar.es)

laboration with the 'Cosas Nuestras' Andalusian choir. People are invited to join them in traditional costume. At 10pm on Saturday there will be a fireworks display.

Sunday's highlights include the San José church bells ringing as a tribute to the town's patron at 9am. There will be a concert by the municipal band at 12.30pm in the Plaza de la Iglesia.

The fair will officially close at midnight.

**Torremolinos.** 25 March, 1.30pm. From La Plaza Costa del Sol to La Plaza de Toros.

The procession of riders and their horses will leave the Plaza Costa del Sol at approximately 1.30pm with the show of horsemanship at about 2pm in the Plaza Costa del Sol.

### Easter market

**Fuengirola.** 30 March, 10.30am-12.30pm. Fundación Lux Mundi, C/Nueva

Cakes, wine, preserves, coffee, tapas, jewellery, books etc. Tel: 952 474 840, e-mail [luxmundi@gmail.com](mailto:luxmundi@gmail.com) or go to [www.luxmundi.org](http://www.luxmundi.org)

### Lux Mundi Trip to San Roque

**Fuengirola.** 5 April, Various pick up points. 27€

Includes travel insurance, transport and train ticket (Ronda- San Roque) Tel: 952 474 840, e-mail [luxmundi@gmail.com](mailto:luxmundi@gmail.com) or go to

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### Vist the patios of Cordoba

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

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# Unicaja, with one foot in the EuroCup final

Victory in Krasnodar (57-73) means the Malaga side could confirm their spot in the final in the return game on Friday

:: JUAN CALDERÓN

**MALAGA.** Unicaja are just one game away from making history once again after recording a momentous victory against Lokomotiv Kuban on their own court (57-73) on Tuesday evening. The Malaga side can qualify for the EuroCup final should they repeat the feat at the Carpena on Friday (8.45pm).

The victory was well deserved, especially after Suárez pulled out of the squad with gastroenteritis and the loss of Musli during the game - the Serbian suffering from a twisted ankle. However, neither affected Joan Plaza's side adversely and they managed to see out the game, giving a masterclass in defensive play.

The 'cajistas' main man, Nedovic, had a night to forget but both Brooks and Fogg were able to emerge out of the shadows to finish with 18 and 15 points, respectively.

Before the game, Joan Plaza knew that Lokomotiv would look to start quickly and they didn't disappoint. Nedovic asked to come off after three minutes having been off the boil and his side struggled to adapt without their absentees (19-10, min 8). However, the introduction of Fogg and Smith stemmed the flow and the first quarter ended 19-15.

The initiative remained with



Smith, with the ball, surrounded by two Lokomotiv players on Tuesday night. :: SUR

Lokomotiv, despite their play being fairly ordinary. However, with various changes to the personnel, the pace of the game suffered, playing into Unicaja's hands as a basket from Nedovic put them ahead (25-26, min 16). Consistent play by Brooks and Díez's second three-pointer meant that the visitors went into the break ahead (31-33). In truth, the margin could have been greater if it weren't for a number of missed opportunities, Omic

the main culprit.

As expected, Lokomotiv had Unicaja on the ropes as the third quarter commenced, taking the lead courtesy of several baskets by Rochestie (39-35). Things looked set to take a turn for the worse when Musli hobbled off, but the trio of Smith, Fogg and Díez steadied the ship. Despite the side's problems, three consecutive three-pointers gave Unicaja maximum advantage (42-46) and they went into the fi-

nal quarter exactly as they would have wanted - with a high defensive level and ahead on the score-

board (44-48).

Without Suárez and Musli, and with an anonymous Nedovic, the team closed ranks and showed their best level in the final quarter. Three minutes of superb defence, patience and conviction in attack saw them go ahead 44-57, but an error by Smith allowed Lokomotiv back into the game. The Russian side, though, couldn't take advantage, allowing nerves to get the better of them. Unicaja managed the situation perfectly and Fogg, with five points in a row, saw off the threat.

Plaza's side came into this game on the back of their best form of the season, racking up four wins in a row. If they can make it six on Friday, they will be in the EuroCup final.

57  
73

LOKOMOTIV - UNICAJA

## Three league wins from three as Unicaja gain momentum in the Liga Endesa

The marginal victory over Joventut signalled Unicaja's improvement in the league after an indifferent start to the calendar year

UNICAJA 77 JOVENTUT 74

:: J. CALDERÓN

**MALAGA.** Unicaja continued their excellent resurgence in form with a narrow 77-74 home victory over Catalan side Divina Seguros Joventut in their EuroCup quarter-final triumph, qualities which saw them race into an 8-0 lead. Unfortunately, they failed to maintain the levels for very long and consequently let Joventut

come back strongly into the game.

Joventut's pivot Jordan profited greatly from Unicaja's defensive lapses, as he enjoyed the freedom of the home side's half of the court. The American's tenth point forced Plaza to call a time out in the 15th minute as Unicaja's lead had been cut to just one point. Despite the changes, which included Omic being replaced by Okouo, the head coach's team talk seemed to have little effect as his side continued to give the ball away cheaply and allowed their opponents to score easy points, frailties which saw the visitors go into a surprise 36-31 half-time lead.

The break saw Plaza change tactics again as he aimed to sure up Unicaja's defence by putting Alberto Díaz in the quintet. This change in system seemed to work as Adam Waczyński led Unicaja to score nine points without reply at the start of the third quarter. The visitors refused to lie down

and three-point baskets from Bogdanović, Sàbat and Vidal saw Joventut weather the Unicaja fightback, but only for a short while.

Unicaja's defence became a lot more solid and in attack Plaza's side scored an incredible 34 points, which was more than they had managed in the first two quarters put together, to put themselves into a commanding 65-52 lead.

Plaza therefore decided to take off some of his key players such as Brooks, a move which sparked a reaction from Joventut. Plaza was forced to turn back to his stalwarts in Musli, Díaz and Smith, but even they could not prevent the Catalan side from scoring thirteen points to ensure a tight finish to the game.

With less than two minutes remaining and the score 75-72, Brooks, who was brought back on, scored a two-pointer of his own after being set up by Suárez to confirm Unicaja's fifteenth league win this season.

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# A deserved silver for Regino Hernández

The Mijas-based athlete suffered a setback over the weekend in the individual trial but fought back to claim only the sixth medal in snow sports for Spain at a world championship

## || PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

**MÁLAGA.** It may seem strange to think of Malaga athletes competing in winter sports, but the Freestyle Ski and Snowboard World Championships, ongoing in the Sierra Nevada, has brought success for Mijas-based Regino Hernández who picked up silver in the team snowboard cross trial on Monday.

The 25-year-old, alongside Lucas Eguibar, tackled conditions of -5 degrees Celsius to qualify from the quarters finals in style. In the semis, they lined up against the north American duo of Hagen Kearney and Nick Baumgartner, Austrians Lukas Pachner and Julian Lueftner and the French pair Loan Bozzolo and Pierre Vaultier. Hernández came first in his run while Eguibar, from Gipuzkoa, maintained the position.

In the final, the Spaniards came up against the aforementioned Kearney and Baumgartner, Kevin Hill and Christopher Robanske (Canada), and Alessandro Hämmerle and Markus Schairer (Austria).

Hernández, in his run, came close to stealing first place but lost out marginally to Kearney. For his part, Eguibar started much slower and was initially in third place. However, on the final sprint he was able to climb a position but the veteran Baumgartner was too hard to catch.

For Hernández, silver was the perfect compensation for what happened on Sunday when a fall cost him in the individual trial after scoring the third best time in qualification. "Today we showed that what happened on Sunday was just bad luck," he said, admitting that the disappointment had left him "pissed off".

This is a career high for Hernández who insists he will continue



Regino Hernández, between Alessandro Hämmerle and Kevin Hill, competing in the semifinals of the snowboard cross trial. || EFE

## A journey from Ceuta to the Sierra Nevada, via Mijas

For the two-time Olympian, success at the Freestyle Ski and Snowboard World Championships was a successful return to 'home' territory. Born in Ceuta, Hernández moved to the Costa del Sol when he was just a year old. Despite being from a place with year-round sunshine, he spent a lot of time, from a young age in the Sierra Nevada.

"My parents were snowboarders and I remember them taking me up to the Sierra Nevada often, putting me on a board when I was around five or six years old. A lot of people were surprised to see someone so young on a board".



Regino Hernández and Lucas Eguibar on the podium. || EFE

**Silver was the perfect compensation for what happened on Sunday when a fall cost him in the individual trial**

to fight for every contest "as if it were the last".

## Sixth medal for Spain

With this medal, and silver for Eguibar on Sunday, it takes Spain's medal tally in snow sports world championships to six. The other four were Francisco Fernández Ochoa's gold in St Moritz (Switzerland, 1974), the gold and silver picked up by Johann Mühlegg, before the Salt Lake City doping scandal, at Lahti (Finland, 2009) and the halfpipe silver in Kreischberg (Austria, 2014) for Queralt Castellet.



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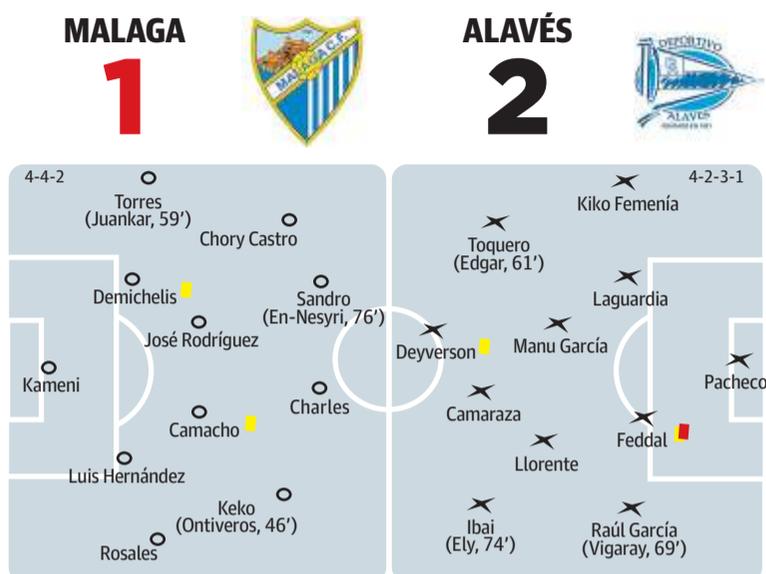
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**Unused substitutes:** Ortolá, Romero, Torres, Katai.

## STATISTICS

BALL POSSESSION	
51%	49%
<b>MALAGA</b>	<b>ALAVÉS</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

**Goals:** 0-1 Feddal (72') 1-1 Juankar (71') 1-2 Edgar (91')

**Referee:** Undiano Mallenco. Yellows for Feddal (2), Deyverson, Demichelis and Camacho.

**Venue:** La Rosaleda (23,716 spectators).

## TABLE &amp; FIXTURES

**MATCHDAY**  
**27**

## LEAGUE TABLE

★ Champions League ■ Europa League ▼ Relegation

TEAM	PT	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
★ 1. Real Madrid	62	26	19	5	2	69	27
★ 2. Barcelona	60	27	18	6	3	77	23
★ 3. Sevilla	57	27	17	6	4	51	31
★ 4. At. Madrid	52	27	15	7	5	49	22
■ 5. Villarreal	48	27	13	9	5	39	19
■ 6. Real Sociedad	48	27	15	3	9	42	38
7. Athletic	44	27	13	5	9	34	30
8. Eibar	40	27	11	7	9	43	38
9. Espanyol	39	27	10	9	8	39	38
10. Alavés	37	27	9	10	8	28	33
11. Celta	35	26	10	5	11	39	45
12. Las Palmas	32	27	8	8	11	43	45
13. Valencia	30	27	8	6	13	36	47
14. Betis	28	27	7	7	13	29	44
15. Deportivo	27	27	6	9	12	31	42
16. <b>MALAGA</b>	26	27	6	8	13	33	45
17. Leganés	25	27	6	7	14	22	41
▼ 18. Granada	19	27	4	7	16	24	55
▼ 19. Sporting	18	27	4	6	17	28	56
▼ 20. Osasuna	11	27	1	8	18	28	65

## Results

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

## Fixtures

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

# Clinical Alavés get Michel off to a losing start as new Malaga boss

## RACHAEL BREAKS

A 91st-minute winner for ten-man Alavés came against the run of play and sees the Blue and Whites facing a relegation battle

**MALAGA.** A change in manager for Malaga has not brought a change in fortune for the club after a last-minute winner for Deportivo Alavés condemned Michel's new team to a 13th defeat of the season on Saturday evening.

The first 20 minutes of the match were fairly even with both teams having equal possession and equal shots at goal. Alavés' keeper, Pacheco, was forced into action early on to deny a right-footed effort from Charles, and a header from Camacho soon after. In the latter stages of the first half, however, despite greater possession, Malaga, using the wings as their main route of attack, were in-

effective in creating many more significant chances as crosses from wingers Chory and Keko were lacking in quality.

For most of the half Alavés failed to capitalise on the home side's ineffective performance, despite winning several freekicks around Malaga's box and numerous corners. However, in the 38th minute Kameni failed to stop the visitors' first shot on target and Feddal, an unlikely scorer being a centre-half, provided Alavés with a 1-0 lead. The goal was especially hard to swallow for Malaga as the corner that fed Feddal's successful shot was provided by an unforced error from Demichelis who weighted his pass-

back to keeper Kameni so heavily that the latter was unable to keep the ball in play. The homeside pressed for the rest of the half, but their best chance, a header from Miguel Torres, was a straightforward save for Pacheco and Michel's team left the pitch 1-0

**The Alavés goals came from the visitors' only shots on target, which made the final result all the more bitter**

down at half time.

The second half saw a more threatening performance from Malaga, who continued to dominate possession but were now testing Pacheco much more frequently.

The first 10 minutes brought three freekicks for the homeside and the first booking of the match for the goalscorer as Malaga began to frustrate the Alavés defence. As the half progressed the chances for the hosts were coming thick and fast but did not yield any goals as a strong effort from Charles was stopped again by Pacheco and a potent shot from Sandro on the edge of the penalty area was thwarted by the inside of the post.

The last 20 minutes were the most dramatic of the fixture. An anticipated equaliser finally came in the 71st minute when left-back substitute Juankar, made a smooth finish to Charles' slick pass from outside the 18 yard box. The home fans' excitement was then compounded by the sending off of Alavés' Feddal just one minute later after he earned another yellow for a poorly-timed tackle.

The following minutes saw numerous chances for the hosts to take the lead. However more attempts from Charles' head and feet were light work for Pacheco, and a well-placed free header from substitute striker Youssef En-Nesyri was still not enough to halt the Alavés keeper's great performance. Nevertheless Malaga looked most likely to get the winner.

The winning goal finally came in the 91st minute, but disastrously for Michel and his players, it was from Alavés' central midfielder, Edgar, who easily slipped the ball past Kameni after being gifted possession by the hapless Demichelis and too much time and space by Luis Hernández in the Malaga penalty area.

The Alavés goals came from the visitors' only shots on target, which made the final result all the more bitter considering the amount of possession and the number of shots on target the home side enjoyed. A performance from Malaga, which overall looked more promising than their recent form, has once again ended in defeat, and Michel's first game is a frustrating loss.



An En-Nesyri shot goes skyward, a miss among others which Malaga would come to rue. :: FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ

# Sixteenth in the table and with the worst run-in of all their rivals

Malaga are just seven points clear of the bottom three and still have to face Atlético, Barcelona, Sevilla and Real Madrid

:: P. L. ALONSO / D. FINCH

**MALAGA.** The change of manager hasn't brought about a change of fortune and pessimism has started to settle in around La Rosaleda. With just ten games remaining, the club currently enjoy a seven-point cushion over Granada in 18th place but that could all soon change given Malaga's fixture list.

On Sunday they head to Leganés, a year to the day since their last win away from home (Real Betis, 0-1). So unless there is a dramatic upturn in fortunes, Michel will be looking to the home fixtures for points. However, this doesn't make pleasant reading with high flyers Atlético and Barcelona the next two due on the Costa.

## REMAINING FIXTURES

### 16th Malaga (26 points)

28. Leganés-Malaga	Sunday
29. Malaga-Atlético	1 April
30. Sporting-Malaga	5 April
31. Malaga-Barcelona	9 April
32. Deportivo-Malaga	16 April
33. Malaga-Valencia	23 April
34. Granada-Malaga	26 April
35. Malaga-Sevilla	30 April
36. Malaga-Celta	7 May
37. R. Sociedad-Malaga	14 May
38. Malaga-Real Madrid	21 May

After that is the resurgent Valencia, followed by the derby against Sevilla and a clash against a trick Celta side.

The final game of the season is against Real Madrid who may well still be gunning for title.

April will be a decisive month with up to seven fixtures expected to be scheduled during that time. Michel will certainly hope to have safety wrapped up before Celta come to town.

## IN BRIEF

### Travelling 'Malaguistas' sell out allocation

#### SUPPORT

:: P. L. A. Sunday's fixture in Leganés, on the outskirts of Madrid, is a critical moment in the club's season. The Blue and Whites will be well supported as the club's allocation of 202 sold out after more than 1,000 requests for tickets from supporters.

Among the travelling delegation will be Basti who scored two goals in a 2-0 victory in the club's only previous visit to Butarque in 1998. He is hoping to be a lucky omen for the side.

### Two for one replica shirts in all sizes

#### MERCHANDISE

:: D. FINCH. Until Sunday, Malaga CF are running a promotion on all replica shirts for this season, offering two shirts for the price of one, regardless of the size or colour.

Purchases can be made online at [www.tiendamalagacf.com](http://www.tiendamalagacf.com) or at any of the official club shops. There are four in the city of Malaga (Vialia and Larios shopping centres, at La Rosaleda stadium and in the historic centre) and others in Rincón de la Victoria, Fuengirola and Torre del Mar.



A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER

Commentator, Sky Sports  
@robbopalmer



# The ultimate 'go-to' man

Pepe Mel is already working his magic at Deportivo La Coruña

On the phone of all club chairmen of top flight clubs that operate on a limited budget, there is button that says "dial in case of emergencies". In England this puts you through to the agent of Tony Pulis or Sam Allardyce, depending on who is between jobs at the time. The Spanish equivalent is Pepe Mel. He even got the call to the UK when Big Sam and Pulis couldn't be reached!

He is the football saint of almost lost causes and the 'go-to' man when all else has failed. The latest club to engage his recovery services is Deportivo La Coruña. He drove through the night from Andalucía to Galicia to answer the SOS when their position became desperate. You half expect him to arrive in a tow truck as he delves under the bonnet of the broken footballing vehicle.

In fact he's the opposite of the man in greasy overalls who has a van load of replacement parts. Mel dons an immaculate suit and starts to fix the broken parts.

This is his 12th job in football, twice he rescued Real Betis from the second division and of course West Brom dialled "M for Mel" when relegation was threatening in 2014. He doesn't tend to stay long, he does the job he was asked to do and departs for a spell penning novels (he's written three) until the next emergency calls comes in.

Deportivo hired him at a time



Bergantiños celebrates his winner against Barcelona. :: EFE

of desperation, they hadn't won in 2017 and suffered four successive defeats in February, with a daunting March ahead.

Mel's initiation was to be four games in eleven days, and not just any four games. It was Atlético, relegation rivals Sporting Gijón, Mel's old club Real Betis and then the free-scoring Barcelona.

He knuckled the team down for a draw with last year's Champions League finalists, inspired them to beat Sporting in the 93rd minute, found the energy for a midweek draw with Betis and then saved his best until last.

Barcelona arrived in town as global headliners after arguably the greatest comeback of all time against PSG. Messi and co had

scored seventeen goals in three games. Any opposition was just seen as stooges, like when the Harlem Globetrotters strut their stuff.

Incredibly Mel masterminded one of the biggest shocks of the season. The first goal was scored by Joselu, a striker who'd seen little playing time since signing on loan from Stoke City. The manager unleashed him and he ran around like a frenzied Spanish bull. The masterstroke was giving local lad Álex Bergantiños his first start of the season. I say lad, he's been at the club fifteen years, like a part of the furniture but this season an unused bit of the furniture.

It was Galician Hollywood, as he emerged from the chorus line to score the winning goal to save his home-town club a relegation scrap.

The Pepe Mel influence had worked in less than two weeks. So you know the answer when your favourite La Liga team appears doomed, "Who you gonna call...?"



Mel lasted just 17 games at West Brom. :: EFE

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# The Marbella crisis deepens further

**Miguel Álvarez couldn't find the winning formula for his first game in the dug-out as his 10-man Marbella side lost 2-1**

# 1-2

**MARBELLA-GRANADA B**

**Marbella:** Bernabé, Carlos Julio, Marcos Ruiz, Delmonte, Andrés Sánchez, Beitia (Añón, 73'), Lolo, Goti, Luis Rioja (Tiri, 38'), Kike Márquez, Zé Turbo (Okoye, 57').

**Granada B:** Pol, Antonio Marín, Hongla, Estupiñán (Jean Carlos, 64'), Pawel, Sulayman, Aly (Santana, 85'), Navarrete, Matheus (Luis Suárez, 64'), Sergio Peña, Tomás.

**Goals:** 0-1 Tomás (36'); 1-1 Kike Márquez (44'); 1-2 Luis Suárez (75').

**Referee:** Fernández Fernández. Yellow cards for Lolo and Estupiñán. Sent off Carlos Julio for two yellows (33') and Jean Carlos (93').

**Ground:** Municipal. (1,200 spectators)

**:: JULIO RODRÍGUEZ**

**MARBELLA.** Not even a change in management could halt the poor form which has blighted Marbella recently, as the Costa side extended their run to five consecutive matches without a win and a third defeat in four weeks, losing 2-1 to Granada B on Sunday.

For much of the first 30 minutes, the visitors played as though they were the home side. Besides a great opportunity for Zé Turbo in a one-on-one contest with the Granada keeper, Pol Ballesté, in the third minute, the hosts had minimal chances, played aimlessly and frequently gave away possession.

Marbella's prospects then worsened rapidly with the dismissal of right-back Carlos Julio for a second yellow card in the 33rd minute, after a mistimed tackle on Aly. Granada soon profited from their one-man advantage. Just three minutes later, before coach Miguel Álvarez could reshuffle his defence, the visitors punished the hosts with a goal from left-back Tomás, after an impressive display of individual skill in the 18-yard box.

However, going a goal down and



Kike celebrates his goal, gesturing to the directors. **:: JULIO RODRÍGUEZ**

having a teammate sent off seemed to spur on Marbella and for the remainder of the first half they played more effectively than they had done with 11 men. Their positivity was then rewarded in the 44th minute as the ever-reliable Kike Márquez salvaged a goal to make the scores level. The controversial nature of Márquez's celebration, which saw him aggressively gesture to the directors and dedicate his goal to ex-manager Mehdi Nafti, is evidence that tensions continue to run high at the club.

Nevertheless with the boost in

morale provided by the goal, Marbella pressed for another in the last minutes of the half. An assist from Kike Márquez left Zé Turbo in another one-on-one with the keeper, who was beaten this time to gift the striker with an open goal. The home fans were off their seats ready to celebrate a goal, only to watch on incredulously as the forward smashed the ball into the stands.

Marbella began the second half in a similar way to how they ended the first and both teams were now enjoying numerous goalscoring opportunities. However, after three

golden chances falling the way of Aly, Matheus and Luis Suárez, it was the latter's that broke the second half deadlock in the 75th minute.

Marbella still did not throw in the towel and persisted in seeking another goal. Añón, Goti and Okoye all had good chances to score in the last 15 minutes but an equaliser never came and Miguel Álvarez's first game in charge ended in a loss.

The final result means that Marbella move down to fourth position and will give up their place in the play-offs to Mérida AD if they lose another three points.

Miguel Álvarez chosen to replace the outgoing Nafti as head coach

**:: J. RODRÍGUEZ**

**MARBELLA.** Miguel Álvarez was officially presented as Marbella's new head coach last week after the club terminated the contract of Mehdi Nafti.

The 58-year-old from Jaén has plenty of experience in Segunda B, having previously been at the helm of Terrassa, Lorca Deportiva, Badalona, Hospitalet, Leganés, Sant Andreu and, last season, Sabadell.

"It feels like I've won the lottery," he says. "I've gone from watching 'Sálvame' with my wife at home to here, coaching Marbella FC."

The new man, who grew up in Catalonia, admitted that he didn't intend to instill new ideas into the players, but rather "build on the good work that they have been doing already."



The new coach. **:: SUR**

## Decimated Marbella suffer defeat to Olímpico Pozuelo in the Spanish capital

**RUGBY**

**POZUELO 45 MARBELLA 35**

**:: SUR**

**MARBELLA.** A Marbella side decimated by injuries put up a brave fight but were ultimately defeated by

eighth-placed Olímpico Pozuelo on Sunday in Madrid.

The result meant the Marbella side, who could only call upon 18 players to make up the squad, such was the extent of their injury problems, passed up the opportunity to put pressure on Cáceres and Cisneros

in fourth and fifth position in the table respectively.

Fifteen players, five of those regular starters, were ruled out before the game, but those who were called up matched their rivals in every aspect and went into half-time with a 16-13 lead.

The second half was much more frenetic as three Marbella players were sent to the sin bin for infringements that gave an obvious advantage to the home side. Despite the three yellow cards for the visitors, the score was all square at 35 points apiece going into the fi-

nal ten minutes.

However, the Marbella players' energy levels started to drop and errors became more frequent, and consequently the hosts converted a penalty before scoring a converted try that not only ensured victory for the Madrid side, but also took away the visitors' defensive bonus point.

The visiting team did manage to keep their attacking bonus point intact, which all-but guarantees sixth place for Marbella with just two games of the season remaining, the first of which is at home to Alcobendas a week on Sunday.

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**MUGURUZA  
 KNOCKED OUT IN  
 THE QUARTERS**

Spain's Garbiñe Muguruza suffered quarter-final heartache at the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells on Thursday morning. The reigning French Open champion lost out to a familiar foe in third seed Karolina Pliskova, losing 7-6 7-6, taking her record against the Czech to just one win in seven.

AFP

**HERE AND THERE**



SUR

**Benavista Bowls Club  
 Lions team crowned  
 league champions**

**ESTEPONA**

**SUR.** The final game of the Lions League took place last Friday and saw Benavista play Miraflores at Benavista Bowls Club. This was a crucial game for both teams.

Miraflores went into the match at the top of the table, six points ahead of Benavista so both teams had everything to play for.

Two of the games were very close right up to the end so it was a real nail biting finish but eventually Benavista came through and won the match 10-0, achieving the title Lions League Champions 2016-2017.

**A close finish to  
 Founder's Trophy**

**TORROX**

**SUR.** There was a very close finish to Buena Vista Petanca Group's annual Founder's Trophy, held on Monday in Torrox Park.

A random pairs event, it was won by Sue Cole and Martin Cook who won all three games with a points total of plus 13 - one point more than Rose Dawes and Eric Young with three wins and plus 12 points. Third place went to Ted Cole and Jill Parsons, with two wins and plus 13 points.

The competition was organised by Len and Jean Warwick. The Founder's Trophy is one of Buena Vista's original competitions dating back to the group's inauguration in 1988.

**Mixed sex singles event  
 well attended**

**ESTEPONA**

**SUR.** The last major event in this season's calendar, the Handicap Singles, took place this week. It is the only mixed sex singles competition played at Miraflores during the year so is always popular with the participants.

The early rounds saw some very closely-contested matches with only a single shot difference deciding the winners. Finals day was very well-attended but unfortunately for Dine, she wasn't able to replicate her form of the previous few days. Although the scores were close at 7-6 after 10 ends, Malcolm steadily pulled away to win by a comfortable margin, 21-8.

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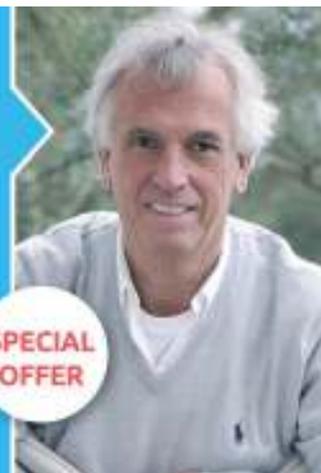
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**ESTEPONA** Marta mature, luscious, deep Greek. Outcalls. 24h. Visa 680966710

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**NVA ANDALUCIA:** Italian Playboy model. First time in Marbella. 603242456. See my photos: escort-modela.blogspot.com.it

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**SAN PEDRO** Cancelada. Sandra, tantric massage, lovely, 27, pretty, beautiful body, works alone. Sweet, charming. Spend wonderful moments with me. Discretion. 645334459

**MARBELLA.** Camila, beautiful, elegant, exotic, full body massage. Whatsapp 603169139 www.mysticmassage.es

**VICTORIA,** Marbella, long hair. Beautiful shape, horny, sweet, sensual erotic massage. Discreet place. 604229713

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in English

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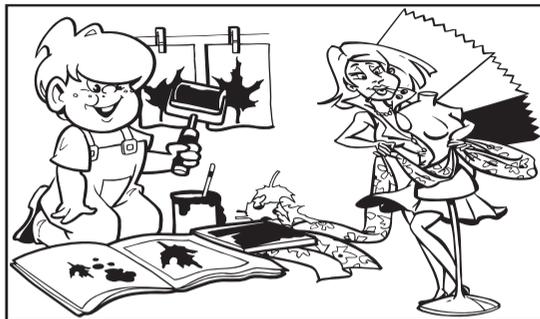
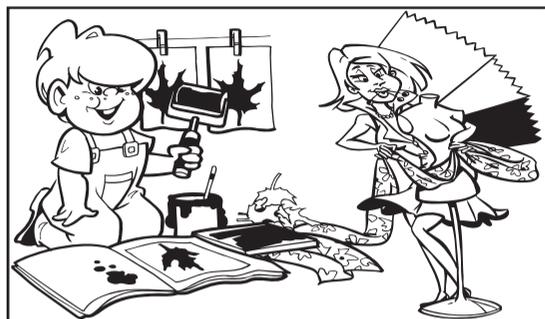
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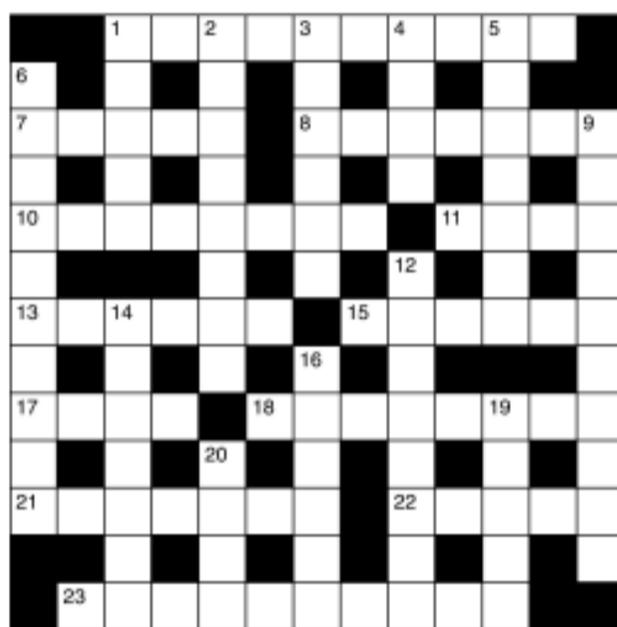
THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



THE STARS

- Aquarius**  
January 21 - February 19  
Using your charm and armed with a bundle of facts, get others to come to your way of thinking.
- Pisces**  
February 20th - March 20th  
While watching finances, realise that a small investment of time is far more valuable than flashing the cash.
- Aries**  
March 21st - April 20th  
When you see colleagues making the wrong moves it is hard not to interfere. Doing so, however, could be disruptive.
- Taurus**  
April 21st - May 21st  
With the pace slowing, things can still move along if you enlist the help of others. Remember that small moves can bring a big shift later.
- Gemini**  
May 22nd - June 21st  
A slow start to the week seems discouraging but you quickly realise that things are moving faster.
- Cancer**  
June 22nd - July 23rd  
In a slower week, avoid frustration by delegating and letting some projects coast.
- Leo**  
July 24th - August 23rd  
Changes of schedule are likely so do have that plan B ready! Loved ones who are kept in the loop will be far more supportive.
- Virgo**  
August 24th - September 23rd  
Hold back from making social plans if it means leaving someone out. You may want to be organised, so it is hard.
- Libra**  
September 24th - October 23rd  
Although others are drawn to you, much of the time you want to be alone to get on with a project.
- Scorpio**  
October 24th - November 22nd  
When fresh ideas come to you, share them with someone in authority. Getting up and out is exciting and nothing seems to blunt your curiosity.
- Sagittarius**  
November 23rd - December 21st  
Slowly, more luck is filtering into your everyday life. This will affect your partnerships which are due for a boost.
- Capricorn**  
December 22nd - January 20th  
Emotions run high so be aware that others can be going through a tricky period.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11233



- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| <b>Across</b> | <b>Down</b> |
|---------------|-------------|
- 1** Evidence on oath for removal from office (10)
  - 7** When to make amends? (5)
  - 8** Man of fashion will provoke worker (7)
  - 10** Particular mixture of spice and ale (8)
  - 11** I own the pit (4)
  - 13** Received a blow, but not quite put in the corner (6)
  - 15** A 12ft 6in. boxing hold? (6)
  - 17** Cupid got back feeling hurt (4)
  - 18** Suspend footballer who won't come forward? (4,4)
  - 21** It enables the sportsman to get to the top (3,4)
  - 22** I am to have a try at this insect state (5)
  - 23** Egged agent to commit himself to 9? (3,7)

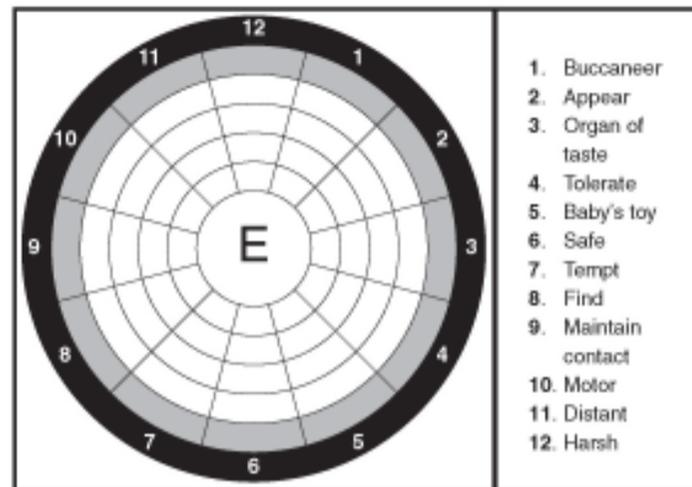
SUDOKU BY HANZO

**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

			5	3		7	9	
2	7				8			
	3		6			2		
4								
	6	1			3			7
		3	9	4	5		6	2
		4	1		9			
6		5				3		
	9			2		4	5	

CLOCKWORD

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter E in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a late British comic actor.



- 1. Buccaneer
- 2. Appear
- 3. Organ of taste
- 4. Tolerate
- 5. Baby's toy
- 6. Safe
- 7. Tempt
- 8. Find
- 9. Maintain contact
- 10. Motor
- 11. Distant
- 12. Harsh

THE WORDPUZZLER

S	P	A	T	H	O	G	L	E	X
Q	R	E	R	I	R	L	U	L	O
U	G	R	A	L	A	A	B	E	N
I	L	I	N	Y	S	R	J	P	I
N	E	N	G	A	P	E	A	R	T
T	M	U	L	B	E	N	N	E	R
H	S	T	A	R	E	A	L	P	O
A	P	I	N	O	K	I	O	E	B
W	A	T	C	H	E	L	E	E	R
L	J	H	E	N	D	G	N	R	Y

CAN you identify the different ways of looking from the anagrams listed below?

- 1. Rates
- 2. Reel
- 3. Keep
- 4. Chawt
- 5. Loge
- 6. Page
- 7. Englac
- 8. Inquts
- 9. Erep
- 10. Regal

INTERNATIONAL RADIO

- Talk Radio Europe**  
105.5 Axarquía  
91.5 Costa del Sol East  
91.9 Costa del Sol West  
98.7 Gibraltar/Sotogrande  
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All week round the clock music and entertainment
- Radio Radio Network** (96 and 98.3 FM). Music 24 hours.
- Central FM** (98.6 FM, 103.8)  
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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)  
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QUIZ

QUESTION 1

Which treaty signed in 1783 ended the American Revolutionary War?

- 1. Treaty of Utrecht
- 2. Treaty of Versailles
- 3. Treaty of Paris
- 4. Treaty of Cuseta

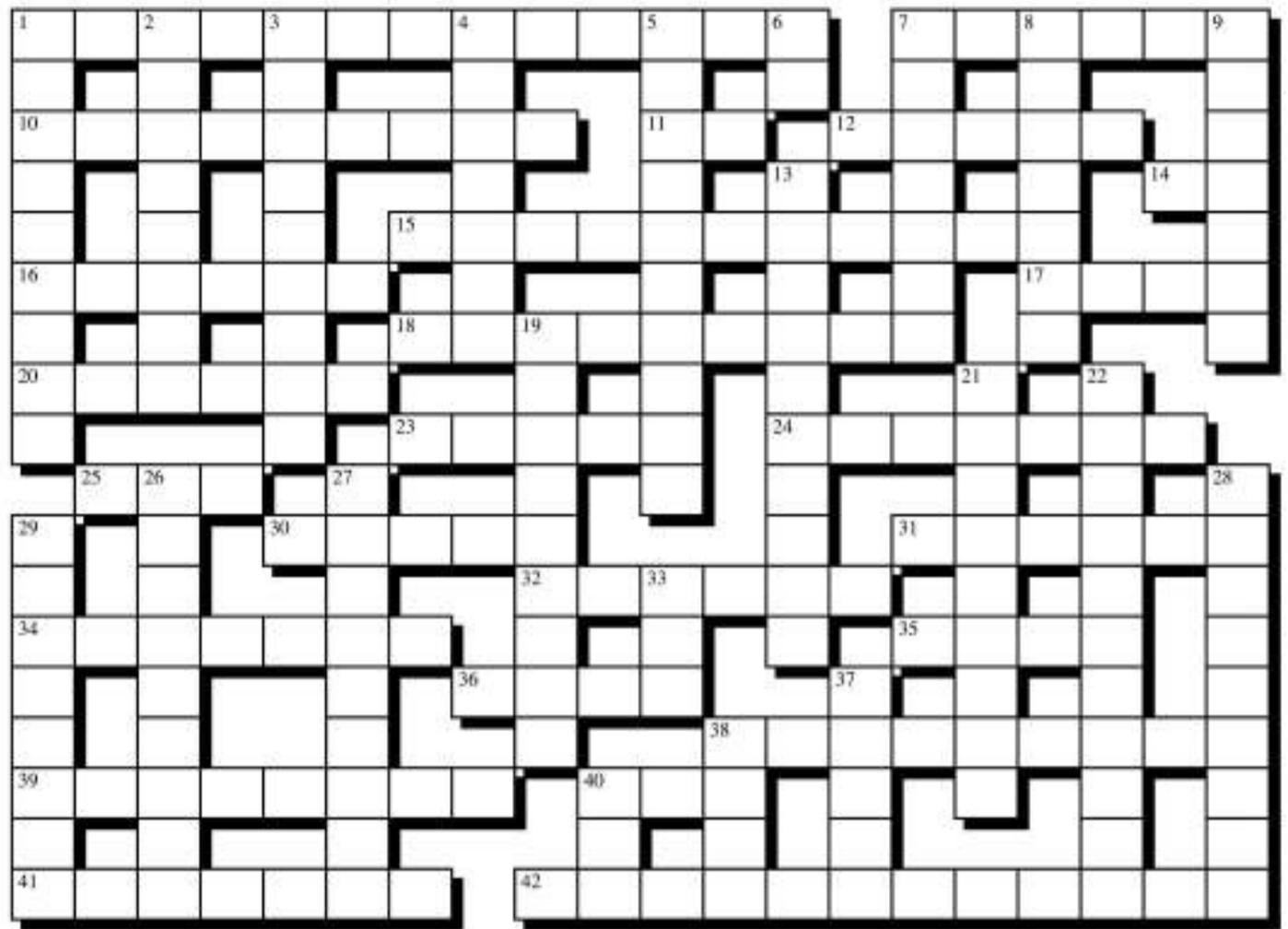
QUESTION 2

Ned Maddrell, 1877- 1974, was the last native speaker of which language?

- 1. Klingon
- 2. Bermudian
- 3. Manx
- 4. Pennsylvania Dutch

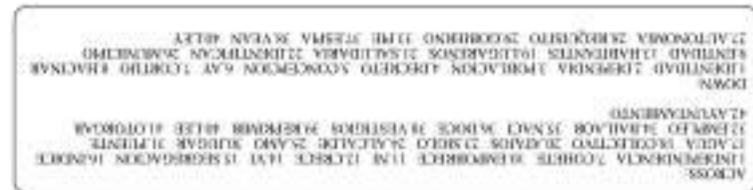
LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across**
- Independence (13)
  - Rocket (6)
  - He gets poor (9)
  - Nor (2)
  - It grows (5)
  - I saw (2)
  - Separation (11)
  - Index (6)
  - Water (4)
  - Group (9)
  - Shortcuts (6)
  - Century (5)
  - Mayor (7)
  - Master (3)
  - To play (5)
  - Bridge (6)
  - Employment (6)
  - Flamenco dancer (7)
  - I was born (4)
  - Twelve (4)
  - Remains (9)
  - To suppress (8)
  - She reads (3)
  - To award (7)
  - Town hall (12)
- Down**
- Identity (9)
  - It depended (8)
  - Population (9)
  - Decree (7)
  - Conception (10)
  - Owl (2)
  - Farmhouse (7)
  - To pile up (7)
  - Organisation (7)
  - Inhabitants (10)
  - Locals (9)
  - I would greet (9)
  - They identify (11)
  - Municipality (9)
  - Self-government (9)
  - Requirement (9)
  - Government (8)
  - Foot (3)
  - Spy (5)
  - They see (sub.) (4)
  - Law (3)

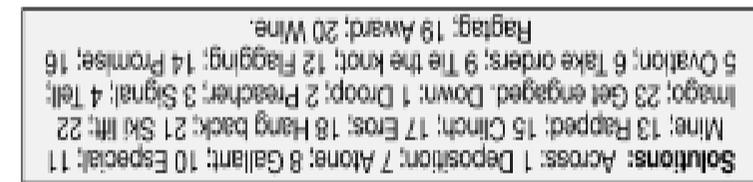


ANSWERS

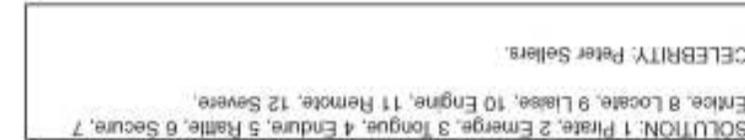
Language Crossword



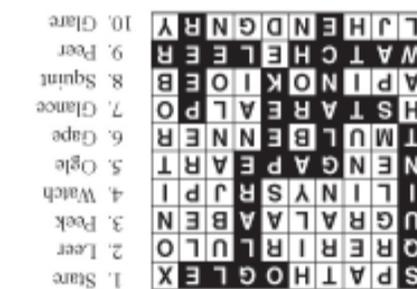
Cryptic Crossword



Clockword solution



Wordpuzzler solution



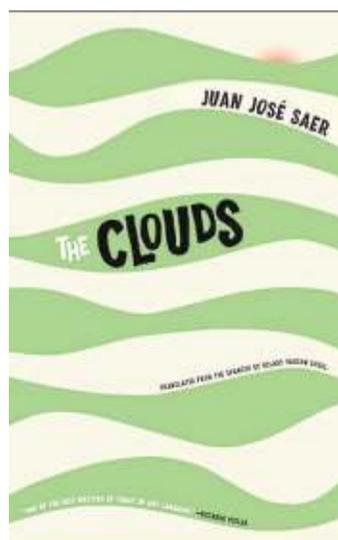
Sudoku solution

8	9	7	3	2	6	4	5	1
6	1	5	8	7	4	3	2	9
3	2	4	1	5	9	8	7	6
7	8	3	9	4	5	1	6	2
9	6	1	2	8	3	5	4	7
4	5	2	7	6	1	9	8	3
5	3	8	6	9	7	2	1	4
2	7	9	4	1	8	6	3	5
1	4	6	5	3	2	7	9	8

Quiz answers

**Answer 1:** Treaty of Paris  
signed in Paris by representatives of King George III of Great Britain and representatives of the United States of America on September 3, 1783, ended the American Revolutionary War.  
**Answer 2:** Manx  
**Of interest:** Edward "Ned" Maddrell was a fisherman from the Isle of Man who, at the time of his death, was the last surviving native speaker of the Manx language. Maddrell recorded some of his speech for the sake of linguistic preservation.

BOOK OF THE WEEK



**The Clouds**  
Juan José Saer

Argentinian writer Juan José Saer was awarded Spain's prestigious Nadal Prize in 1987 for 'The Event'. The Clouds is based in Paris, Pichón Garay receives a computer disc created by Doctor Real, a nineteenth-century physician tasked with leading a group of five mental patients on a trip to a recently constructed asylum. The patients include a delusional man who greatly over-estimates his own importance and a nymphomaniac nun who tricks everyone—even the other patients—into sleeping with her.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Optimism:  
waiting for  
your ship to  
come in  
when you  
haven't sent  
one out

ANON

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Norwegian Spirit	20/03	Funchal	Alicante	07.00	17.00
SAGA Sapphire	23/03	-	-	07.00	18.00
Clio	28/03	Gibraltar	Cartagena	07.00	16.00
Balmoral	31/03	Almeria	Cadiz	08.00	18.00







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# Antonio Banderas comes home for Malaga Film Festival

Some of the biggest names in cinema will flock to the city this week

The stage is set in Malaga for the arrival of Spain and Latin America's most talented actors, directors and producers for the 2017 film festival

**RACHAEL BREAKS**

**MALAGA.** Today, Friday, sees the opening of the annual Malaga Film

Festival, a week-long celebration of the best Spanish and Latin American cinema produced in the last year. Event organisers have battled this week's wind and rain to prepare the Cervantes and Echegaray theatres and the Albéniz cinema for the bevy of famous faces that will walk the red carpet over the coming days. One of which, will be Malaga-born Antonio Banderas, who will receive a long-awaited honorary golden biznaga which recognises his lasting career and his feat in paving the way for other Spanish actors to crack Hollywood.



Antonio Banderas will receive an honorary golden biznaga. :: EFE

award ceremonies. Along with Antonio Banderas, throughout the week, film fans can also look forward to appearances from many other prominent Hispanic actors and filmmakers, all hoping for their work to be rewarded with the distinctive flower-shaped trophy.

Tonight's inauguration ceremony, commencing at 8pm at the Teatro Cervantes, will exhibit some of Andalucía's finest talent. The show will be co-presented by Malaga actor Fran Perea, and other artists such as choreographer Luz Arcas, dancers Alto Voltaje Crew and singer Roko, who are all from the region, will perform in the musical segment of the show.

Some of the musical acts will be



The red carpet has been rolled out at the Cervantes theatre. :: F. G.

introduced by Jorge Drexler, which is another cause of excitement for film and music enthusiasts, as the Uruguayan is a widely acclaimed singer-songwriter who won an Oscar in 2004 for his composition of 'Al Otro Lado del Río' in The Motorcycle Diaries.

Alongside the work of internationally-successful producers and actors, Malaga filmmakers will also present their productions. On Saturday, Maniac Tales, a horror produced by Kike Mesa will be shown at Teatro Cervantes; on Wednesday, Laborable, a short by Alejandro Marín, can be viewed at the Provin-

cial Cultural Centre (CCP); and at the same venue on Thursday, Normal, a short by Chiqui Carabante will premiere.

When it comes to the prize for Best Film, an accolade that merits the golden biznaga instead of the silver one given for the majority of the awards, the panel have a difficult decision to make, as this year there are a total of 40 nominated films, 17 of which are Spanish and 23 Latin American. The closing award ceremony will take place next Sunday and will be hosted by yet another Malaga talent, singer Diana Navarro.

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