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Spain's Sergio García finally gets his Masters

The golfer known as El Niño came of age this week when he gained his first major title in Augusta **P63**



Fine weather forecast boosts Easter bookings for Costa and city

More than 8,000 cruise passengers docked in Malaga port on Wednesday morning

Last-minute bookings in response to forecasts of summery weather on the Costa del Sol this weekend have boosted results for the tourism industry in this first peak holiday week-end of the season. Hotels expect to report average occupancy rates of well over 90 per cent, despite the growing competition from rented accommodation. Meanwhile Ryanair has announced new routes to the Costa del Sol for the winter. **P17**



F. G.

Socialist party mourns after Carme Chacón, Spain's first woman defence minister, dies, aged 46 **P23**

The Costa del Sol joins the 'Help a Dane' campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of the sun among Scandinavian tourists **P44**



THE COLOUR OF SEMANA SANTA

Andalucía approaches the end of its week of spectacular displays of tradition and devotion **P3-4**

Hooded penitents in the Sangre procession in Malaga on Wednesday. :: EDUARDO NIETO

Marbella council plans to stop bullfights being held in town ring

The mayor has stressed that the move is not a ban, but merely a change in use of the bullring to house cultural events

Marbella's town bullring will soon be used as a venue for concerts and all sorts of cultural events - except bullfights. The council is in negotiations to end the current management contract and take back control over the building which has seen fewer

bullfights in recent years, and has been the scene of confrontations between protesters and fans. The mayor, José Bernal, pointed out that the council was not banning bullfighting and that the Puerto Banús bullring could still be used for the spectacle. **P7**

Partying students accused of wrecking Costa hotel

More than a thousand Portuguese students left damage valued at 30,000 euros after their stay in Torremolinos **P8**

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What is the real cost of devotion?

The 41 official brotherhoods in Malaga will spend over one million euros on processions this year

The main expenses are to pay the ceremonial musical bands, buy flowers and candles and dry-cleaning of the penitents' robes

■ ANGEL ESCALERA

MALAGA. The average cost to a religious brotherhood of running its annual procession in Malaga city during Holy Week is around 25,000 euros. As there are 41 brotherhoods and two other groups that parade on the official route in the city each year, the total expenditure on processions is over one million euros. And this excludes communal expenditure on policing, crowd control and temporary grandstands.

In the most part, the money spent



The image known as 'The Bride of Malaga' is carried on Tuesday. ■ F.S.

by each brotherhood goes towards musical accompaniment, buying flowers to decorate the thrones of Jesus and the Virgin Mary and ordering candles to light the procession

and the thrones. Other key expenses include cleaning the penitents' robes at the dry cleaners, security personnel and other support staff. Some brotherhoods also have to pay mem-

bers of the armed forces.

The total spent can vary by brotherhood, number of thrones and participants and choice of flowers. One brotherhood, Fusionadas, has six thrones taken out over three different days. Total cost per brotherhood can be between about 10,000 and 70,000; the average is 25,000 euros.

Music can cost a lot

Payment of the ceremonial bands is one of the most important costs. Usually there is a band at the head of the procession, one after the throne of Christ and another after the throne of Mary. Depending on whether the band is cornet or trumpet led, how many members it has and the day of the week, each band could charge from 1,500 to 10,000 euros. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are the days when music costs the most.

The amount spent on candles carried by the hooded penitents and adorning the thrones of Christ and Mary range from 2,000 to 6,000 euros. As for flowers, orchids and camellias are the most expensive. There are brotherhoods that pay 6,000 to 7,000 euros for the decoration.

In terms of cleaning robes, the most expensive are the velvet ones, followed by those made of damask.

The brotherhoods that invite military to take part, such as Thursday night's 'Cristo de la Mena', have to pay hotel and travel expenses.

A big part of the cost is paid for from subsidies from the centralised association of brotherhoods (Agrupación de Cofradías). A standard brotherhood with two thrones receives 19,300 euros in subsidies. Another important source of income is donations from participants that typically range from 20 to 50 euros.

CANDLES



Lighting

Images: The biggest expense is on the candles adorning the thrones of the Virgin Mary, which use better-quality wax. Some brotherhoods spend 4,000 euros, but the average is 2,500. On the image of Christ, less is spent as there are fewer candles.

Hooded penitents: Each candle carried is from two to four euros.

ROBES



Cleaning

Washing and dry-cleaning: The robes which cost the most to clean are those made of velvet followed by those made of damask.

Prices: Depending on the fabric and the quantity of material used, the total amount allocated to paying for cleaning ranges from 1,000 to 3,500 euros.

FLOWERS



Floral decoration

Icon of Christ: The amount spent on flowers for the throne of Jesus ranges from 800 to 2,500 euros.

Icon of Virgin Mary: If exotic flowers are chosen, such as camellias or orchids, the cost could reach 7,000 euros. The average price is some 4,000 euros.

MARCHING BANDS



Musical accompaniment

Cornets and drums: Marching at the head of a procession, the cost ranges from 1,500 to 2,500 euros. Behind Christ's throne, up to 5,000 euros is what is charged.

Trumpet-led bands behind Jesus: Cost up to 5,000 euros

Cornet-led band behind Mary: Up to 6,000 euros, although the best ones charge up to 10,000 euros.

MILITARY PERSONNEL



Armed forces

Tradition: Military personnel taking part in some processions is a Malaga tradition.

Cost: The brotherhoods who have a military escort have to pay travel, food and accommodation expenses and the cost typically ranges from 15,000 to 30,000 euros.





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Dismay as Holy Week brotherhood is forced to break 257-year-old tradition of freeing a prisoner

The cabinet did not agree on any candidate this year in time for the historic ritual in the procession by 'Jesús El Rico', however a release could be planned later this spring

:: SUR

MALAGA. Malaga's Holy Week is famous for the rituals and ceremonies of its more than forty brotherhoods. There is perhaps no better-known tradition than the freeing of a prisoner on the steps of Malaga cathedral every Wednesday of Holy Week as part of the procession of the 'Jesús El Rico' brotherhood.

This year, for the first time in 257 years outside periods of war, the tradition was abandoned to the embarrassment of authorities and anger of Semana Santa devotees in Malaga.

The approval for the liberation of a prisoner, normally a nonviolent offender who has been sentenced on a grade two offence, is a drawn-out process where a shortlist of names is suggested weeks before by the local Alhaurín de la Torre prison which has then to pass through the courts that carried out the sentencing, the Min-



The prisoner's release, shown in a previous year, is normally a highlight of Semana Santa in Malaga. :: SUR

istry of Justice and finally the Spanish cabinet to decide.

However this year, none of the three nominated candidates was approved in time and it was too late to find better-suited alternatives, despite a frantic last-minute search and negotiation among authorities.

A proposal to hold a smaller, second procession after Easter to release a prisoner, once a new candidate has been approved, appeared to gain acceptance, as the Bishop of Malaga has expressed reservations about a separate full-scale event, suggesting instead that the brotherhood should

carry out a simpler ceremony.

The annual release of a prisoner in Malaga is especially well known, although other brotherhoods in Spain can request the same. This year the government has agreed to just seven people being set free across the country from several hundred requests.

A plague in 1759 and a miraculous prison-break are behind the customary release

The tradition of freeing a prisoner during the Jesús El Rico procession in Malaga, which was broken for the first time in peacetime this week, dates back to a plague epidemic in the city in 1759. During the outbreak, normal Holy Week ceremonies were suspended but the convicts in the city jail asked permission to be allowed to parade the Jesús El Rico image instead. When this was denied, they broke out of prison, took the image of Christ through the streets on their shoulders, visiting parts most hit by the disease. They then broke back into the jail and the plague miraculously disappeared. On hearing of the prisoners' act of faith, Spanish king at the time, Charles III, gave permission for the Jesús El Rico brotherhood to release a prisoner each year.

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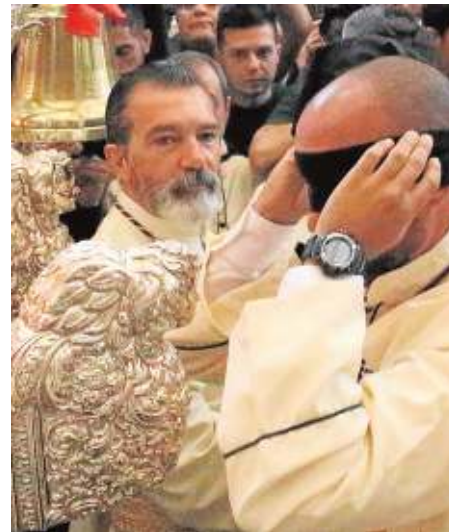
HOLY WEEK IN PICTURES



▲ **Marbella.** Three floats form part of the Santa Marta procession that took place in Marbella on Tuesday. This is the town's only brotherhood linked to a professional guild, in this case the hospitality industry. The Bishop of Malaga attended the event, which also boasts the only float carried solely by women. :: JOSELE-LANZA



◀ **Malaga.** Tradition meets contemporary art as the Virgin from the Dolores del Puente procession passes the murals by street artists Obey and D*Face. :: FRANCIS SILVA



▼ **Vélez-Málaga.** Jesus rides into Jerusalem in Vélez's Polinica procession on Palm Sunday. :: EUGENIO CABEZAS



◀ **Malaga.** Actor Antonio Banderas, just before he set out to guide the image of María Santísima de Lágrimas y Favores on Palm Sunday. :: FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ



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Panic stampede during 'El Cautivo' procession as people fear the worst

A late-night argument between spectators in Malaga caused alarm over a possible terrorist attack and stopped the popular event for 20 minutes

:: SUR

MALAGA A small, late-night row between spectators over some seats along the route of the 'Jesús El Cautivo' procession at 2.10am on Tuesday morning rapidly grew into a stampede, as rumour spread that there had been some form of terrorist attack.

Malaga's Holy Week is taking place amid heightened security this year following recent lorry attacks in public places across Europe.

The hugely-popular procession was halted as penitents and onlookers scattered into neighbouring streets. A police helicopter hover-



Shock near Calle Carretería after the false alarm. :: EDUARDO NIETO

ing overhead by coincidence contributed to the unease.

Fortunately only two people were slightly injured and the musical bands started again after twenty minutes, to the relief of everyone taking part.

The organising brotherhood has called for the timing of the city's processions on the Monday night of Holy Week to be changed in the future so the iconic 'El Cautivo' doesn't have to parade so late, amid long-standing concerns over crowd control.

Airport opens long-awaited arrivals car park on ground level

:: EUROPA PRESS

MALAGA From now on people going to pick up friends and relatives by car at Malaga airport can park in a designated zone on the ground level near arrivals.

The airport has opened a new car park with 91 spaces for small

vehicles, including disabled parking.

The area, near the taxi rank and the railway station, has two entrances and one exit as well as three payment machines at different points. An airport statement said that the new facility aimed to

"meet a demand for a dedicated arrivals car park".

Up to now drivers waiting for passengers have had to park in the distant long-term car park and walk, use the second floor drop-off car park or wait in the departures drop-off zone, running the risk of being moved on by police.

Users of this new pay car park can benefit from a 15 per cent discount in some of the cafés and restaurants in the airport while they wait for their passengers to arrive.

IN BRIEF



Architects' view of the proposed building in the square. :: SUR

Antonio Banderas and top architect come first in contest for building on Plaza de la Merced

MALAGA

:: **I. LILLO.** Architect José Seguí and the MX_SI studio have come first in a town-hall-organised competition for a design for a new building on the east side of Malaga's Plaza de la Merced. The striking

design comes with the financial backing of Malaga-born actor Antonio Banderas and the promoters of Marbella's Starlite festival. The building is needed to replace the old Astoria cinema, which has become an eyesore. The winning design aims "to look out at the surrounding area" including the Alcazaba and would be used for cultural events. The competition was only for the concept and the design will require adjustments to fit the town plan if it is to be built.

Road cameras to trap drivers without seatbelts

MALAGA

:: **I. L.** The government is stepping up its efforts to encourage drivers and their passengers to wear seatbelts. From last Wednesday, 18 detection cameras in Malaga province, mostly on the Costa del Sol, have been activated. These are capable of seeing when seatbelts aren't being worn by drivers and process fines. For the first few months, no offenders will be fined. Instead they will be sent a warning letter.

Fault delays high speed AVE trains from Madrid

MALAGA

:: **I. L.** A reduction in the strength of the electric current on the AVE high speed line between Malaga and Madrid caused delays on the heavily used train line on Wednesday morning, just as the Easter rush was starting. The cause of the fault, in Cordoba province, was identified by 11.30am, under one hour later, but engineers were forced to run just one of the two tracks for the rest of the day.



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Full state of abandon of CIO Mijas hospitality college revealed as town hall offers to buy it

The training centre has been closed for two years as Junta-led consortium is locked in an ongoing bureaucratic dispute

IVÁN GELIBTER

MIJAS. It cost an estimated 40 million euros to build and was one of the most important hotel and catering training centres of the Junta de Andalucía. However it was open for barely a decade and has been closed for nearly two years.

The CIO Mijas centre, by the A-7 in La Cala de Mijas, has a training school with state-of-the-art equipment, student accommodation and a four-star hotel where students can practise what they learn. The building is owned by the Junta de Andalucía, the land by Mijas town hall and the consortium that ran the complex is made up 80 per cent by the Junta and 20 per cent by Mijas.

The dissolution of this consortium is what is taking time, as the process is locked in a bureaucratic knot that means offers to buy the building cannot be accepted and five workers continue to go to work every day, despite having no work to do and not having being paid since the end of 2014.

On a recent visit to the deserted



Various offers are on the table for the 40-million-euro complex but the way is currently blocked. :: I.G.

40,000-square-metre site, SUR was able to see for itself the state of neglect of what was, until recently, a virtually new, flagship training centre.

The sorriest sight is the previously pristine swimming pools, now turned into green ponds. The grass is overgrown as the Junta has stopped sending money for fuel for the mowers to cut the grass.

Inside, the reception area of the

hotel looks like time has stood still, as if everything was ready for the next day's guests that never checked in.

The bedrooms are closed up, although a squatter did get in last Christmas before he was persuaded to leave by the remaining few employees.

The brand-new 100,000-euro wine laboratory is mothballed and the store room for the previously

white sheets and tablecloths has a rancid smell from the yellowing fabrics.

Mijas council has offered to buy the buildings outright for nine million euros and reopen them, however legal problems with the windup of the old management consortium and the fact the town hall is not allowed to operate educational establishments like this, mean the CIO Mijas saga could still run a lot longer.

Council pauses charges to residents for planned street improvements in Torreblanca

IVÁN GELIBTER

FUENGIROLA. Residents in the Torreblanca area of Fuengirola have been breathing a sigh of relief this week after the council temporarily suspended plans to charge them an average 6,000 euros per household.

Plans had been drawn up to demand the payment to fund major improvements to the roads, drainage and sewerage around the district. The money to be paid would

be according to the rateable value of each home. In some cases, up to 72,000 euros per property was being sought.

Although the provision to carry out the works is contained in the main town plan, residents are upset that all properties, even in the newest parts, are being required to fund the works which are mainly due in the older part of the neighbourhood.

One of the locals affected, Jesús, explained that despite it being one single area, Torreblanca has older and newer parts. "When we bought our homes we already had all the services that they want to install in the most rundown part; this flat owed nothing [for services] and what's more, we haven't got that sort of money," he said.

Mayor persuaded to act

Fuengirola town hall said at first that it had involved neighbours in the plans and initially didn't receive any feedback or concerns.

However at a recent council meeting, Ciudadanos councillor, Javier Toro, urged the mayor of Fuengirola, Ana Mula, to look again

after residents' complaints.

The mayor subsequently decided to pause plans while locals' concerns were addressed.

"At the moment, the plan is suspended and owners who attended [the residents' association meeting] have been informed and the information will be passed on to [all] residents who will be asked to attend the next meeting," said a town hall statement. "The town hall wants to give residents a proper, legal answer, and if they are right in their concerns, there will be no problem in recognising that," it continued.

Locals have said that although they can't completely relax yet, at least the plan was on hold for the time being.

HERE AND THERE

Audit uncovers lack of control at town's conference centre

TORREMOLINOS

A.G. An external audit drawn up on Torremolinos's Palacio de Congresos has revealed dozens of irregularities, weaknesses and deficiencies. The report compiled as the management of the centre passed from a municipal-owned company to direct town hall control, analyses the period from January to October last year.

The document claims that expenses weren't controlled properly and that almost every event organised there made a loss. It also alleges that two contracts signed with suppliers in 2016 are illegal.



Palacio de Congresos. :: A. G.

Starlite starts to recruit staff for this summer's festival

MARBELLA

H. B. The first round of interviews for staff for this summer's Starlite Festival in Marbella will take place from Tuesday 25 April to Friday 28 April in the town's conference centre. Those over eighteen years old interested in a temporary job for the sixth edition of the event should register on

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Marbella to end bullfights and use main bullring to host events

Town mayor, José Bernal, has denied the council is banning the tradition at the behest of his coalition partners and says Puerto Banús bullring could be used for fights instead

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. The local council in Marbella is currently in negotiations with the concession holders of the town's central bullring to end their contract and take over the direct running of the space. It will then be used for concerts and other cultural events, but not bullfights.

The current holders of the contract to run the main bullring have seen how interest in their fights has declined and recently the ruling coalition on the council banned their promotion on the local television station. Few important fights have been held there in recent years and in August 2015 anti-bullfighting protesters invaded the arena during a fight causing confrontations between fans and opponents that had to be settled in court.

The contract holders, El Toreo S.L,



Marbella's main bullring is in need of major renovation. :: JOSELE-LANZA

have asked for the local authority to provide a subsidy to keep organising their fights. However, the PSOE-led council, which is in coalition with IU and the local Podemos parties, both of which are against bullfighting, has declined to help financially.

The council is now studying how to cancel the El Toreo S.L. agreement and wants to take over the running of the arena itself for a range of cultural events. The change of use is in turn expected to "modernise the

bullring and increase its value".

Mayor of Marbella, José Bernal, however pointed out this week that the council was not actually banning bullfighting in the town. Rather, he said, it was stopping organising them due to lack of support. If anyone wanted to organise a fight, there was always the alternative bullring in nearby Puerto Banús, he clarified.

The Puerto Banús venue last held a fight in 2000, has been in disuse since 2010 and failed a fire and safety test last year.

ESTEPONA OPENS NEW GARDEN DEDICATED TO POETRY

To commemorate this year's Semana Santa, Estepona opened two new spaces in the town, el Jardín de los Poetas Andaluces and el Rincón de la Saeta, which pay tribute to some of the best poets and saeta lyricists that were born in Andalucía. In the garden, 12 bronze busts of the poets have been installed, designed and created by Elena Lucas, and some of their lyrics have been posted on the surrounding walls.



:: LEANDRO PAVÓN



Pro Dunas president, Fernando Piquer, with the surfed pipe. :: SUR

Pro Dunas raises awareness of poor beach conditions

The beach protection association warns that Real de Zaragoza beach is in such a bad state that the area's water pipes have surfaced

:: NIEVES CASTRO

MARBELLA. Pro Dunas, a group of volunteers dedicated to the conservation of beaches in east Marbella, has alerted the public to the startling damage caused to Real de Zaragoza beach by the winter and early spring storms.

The group stated that approximately two metres of sand was swallowed up to leave water pipes exposed for up to 300 metres along the beach, and also expressed concerns over safety. "For how long will the pipes resist the weight of the machinery used to clean the beaches?" asked Susanne Stamm, the group's spokesperson, who fears the pipe will burst and empty its contents onto the sand.

The group also criticised the lack of action taken by Marbella council to repair beaches in the east of the town, despite numerous requests from residents.

PP puts pressure on PSOE-led Marbella town council

:: HÉCTOR BARBOTTA

MARBELLA. Elías Bendodo, president of the provincial Partido Popular party (PP), hit out at the three-way coalition running Marbella this week, claiming that "things weren't going well" in the town. He stated

that "we don't rule anything out", in reference to a possible pact with the San Pedro local party, Opción Sampedreña, to remove the current PSOE mayor, José Bernal. He said he was open to all ideas but in the meantime the PP was focused on the next local elections in 2019.

Meanwhile Javier García, a PP councillor in Marbella, has hit out at the mayor for apparently saying that the council will not work with national government to free up land alongside the A-7 motorway for improving access roads as it was not the council's responsibility.

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Over 1,000 partying students 'cause mayhem' in a Torremolinos hotel

It is claimed some of the youngsters from Portugal graffitied walls, emptied extinguishers, urinated in corridors and removed tiles, among other damage valued at 30,000 euros

by A. GÓMEZ / J. CANO

TORREMOLINOS. A visit by a group of over 1,100 Portuguese students aged between 17 and 23 years turned into a nightmare for a Torremolinos hotel, local residents and the visitors themselves.

Hotel Camino Real, in the Los Álamos area of the resort, was chosen by a Portuguese travel agency to host the large group of youths celebrating the end of term. Students came from Lisbon, Porto and Faro and paid between 400 and 700 euros for a stay of five or six days which ended last weekend. The hotel started its season early to welcome the guests, who took up all the hotel and were divided into two groups wearing gold or red wristbands, distinguishing those who were old enough to be served alcohol.

Problems supposedly started to develop by the second night. Faced with some drunk youngsters and vomit in communal areas, management



The hotel "kept students deposits", giving rise to a counter claim. :: A. G.

stopped serving alcohol to everyone. Meanwhile, fed up with purported noise from a DJ in the open-air pool area, local residents called police who tried repeatedly to end the music.

The buildup of tension led several students to carry out what the hotel has called "vandalism" and the organising travel agency described as "small amounts of damage".

Among the 30,000-euro damages apparently claimed by the hotel are graffiti on walls, tiles ripped off walls, urine in corridors, a sofa in a lift, a television in a bath tub and empty

extinguishers. Police from both Spain and Portugal have been called in.

The incident has caused great interest among Portuguese media who travelled to Torremolinos to report the aftermath. The organising travel agency has complained to police about the hotel withholding most of the deposit and Portuguese parents' groups have called for "not all the students to be criminalised" because of the actions of a minority. On social media, some students claimed the hotel had treated them "like animals".

Illegal Costa internet TV provider falls after English FA complaint

by SUR

MÁLAGA. A Danish-owned internet company based in Malaga province has been unmasked as being behind one of the most sophisticated illegal television streaming operations in Europe.

A European-wide police operation against the unnamed firm has led to the arrest of eight people. Seven of these were in the Malaga area and one in Bulgaria.

According to details released by police last week, officers, including some from Europol, moved against the organisation for providing the illegal streaming of one

thousand channels over Internet Protocol Television (IPTV). To do this the Costa-based entity supposedly used a cover of two legitimate Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

The operation was launched after a complaint over misuse of football match coverage by the English FA's Premier League against the Danish national who is resident on the Costa del Sol and is owner of one of the area's largest ISPs.

Thousands of customers

His company was supposedly distributing channels to thousands of clients across Europe through a net-

work of internet technology providers. A further ISP, based in Bulgaria, was also connected with Malaga and used to redirect signals.

Both ISP companies were operating legally and were used as a cover for the distribution, which was extremely well organised and provided high-quality signals. Such was its prestige that the company itself could choose who it wanted as customers, said the police statement.

After twelve searches at properties in Spain and Bulgaria and the eight arrests, a judge has ordered the signals to be switched off.

Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) is increasingly used to deliver international television to the Costa del Sol, however some programming streamed without owners' permission could breach copyright.

112 REPORTS



Items recovered by police from the raid. :: POLICIA

Arrests over gunpoint burglary in Marbella

by SUR

MARBELLA. Police have held a 31-year-old man and a 36-year-old woman over their suspected involvement in a robbery at a Marbella home on 20 March when the owners were inside. According to

police, the intruders entered the property in the early hours, threatened the couple inside with a pistol and tied them up. Those arrested took 2,300 euros in cash, luxury watches, jewellery and high-end telephones. The male owner of the house had allegedly opened the door to the arrested woman, whom he knew, and both accused then launched their attack.

Drugs worth 1.3m euros found hidden in flat

by MALAGA

J. C. Some 13 kilos of ecstasy and 12 kilos of cocaine have been found hidden by police hidden in a false ceiling and inside a sofa at a private residence in the Teatinos area of Malaga. The find is valued at 1.3 million euros. Firearms were also found in a car and lockup near to the flat. Seven people were arrested: six men and a woman aged between 28 and 47 years. In addition, almost 37,000 euros in cash, seven sets of scales, eight vehicles and 25 mobile phones were seized in the raid.

Holy Week watchman's ear almost ripped off

by VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

E. C. A 33-year-old man is being held and has been refused bail in connection with an attack early on Monday morning on a 28-year-old security guard watching over a Holy week 'throne' in Vélez-Málaga. The man is accused of almost ripping off the guard's right ear with a baseball bat. It follows a reported incident on Sunday when the arrested man was supposedly hit by a part of the structure, blamed the guard and returned at 3.30am to confront him.

Son held for killing mother with DIY tool

by ARCHIDONA

J. C. / F. T. A 40-year-old man has been arrested and is being held without bail in connection with the death of his 70-year-old mother. Emergency services were called by the man himself to the family home in Archidona, in inland Malaga province, last Saturday at about 4pm. He initially claimed his mother had fallen but officers attending the scene found a bloodied tool used in gardening or DIY and the son confessed to the crime. The autopsy confirmed several blows to the woman's head and neck.



The house in Archidona. :: F.T.



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HMRC targets overseas pension transfers with new tax

By David Bower, Partner, Blevins Franks

One of the few surprise announcements in the UK Spring Budget was the 'Overseas Transfer Charge' – an immediate tax on certain transfers to offshore pension schemes. For some expatriates, this could divert a quarter of their transferred pension funds to the UK taxman.

Previously, expatriates could move UK pension funds into a Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Scheme (QROPS) without paying UK tax. This applied regardless of residency or where your QROPS was based, unless your total funds exceeded the lifetime pension allowance (currently £1 million). Since 9th March, however, under certain circumstances HM Revenue & Customs can automatically claim 25% of funds being transferred.

While HMRC expect this will only touch a fraction of the approximate 15,000 QROPS transfers each year, they anticipate collecting an extra £315 million by 2022.

Who will be affected?

The good news is that this will not affect most expatriates moving pensions Spain, nor those transferring to approved schemes

elsewhere.

Specifically, you will not be liable for the tax charge if one of the following applies:

- Both you and your QROPS are in the European Economic Area (EEA)
- You and your QROPS are based in the same country outside the EEA
- The QROPS is run or sponsored by your employer

Currently, the EEA includes all 28 EU member states (including Gibraltar for this purpose) as well as Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein. So generally only those moving UK pensions to excluded jurisdictions in which they are not resident – such as Switzerland, Guernsey, Monaco or other perceived tax havens – will be liable for 25% taxation. Even so, it is possible to get this tax refunded if their situation changes to meet one of the exemption conditions within five years of transferring.

The five-year liability trap

Transferred UK pension funds remain taxable by HMRC for five full tax years. So if your circumstances change to bring you

in line for the transfer tax, you could still face a 25% tax bill on the initial transferred value. This could happen, for example, if you become tax resident in a non-EEA area within five tax years of transferring.

It could also apply if you move funds from a QROPS to another scheme (an 'onward transfer') that does not meet the criteria for tax-free transfers. Other than being based in a non-approved jurisdiction outside the EEA, a pension scheme could invite tax penalties for allowing members to access their funds under the UK age limit of 55.

Note that the five-year clock starts ticking from 5th April following the transfer date. This means that the period for HMRC liability can actually be closer to six years, especially for transfers made on or just after 6th April in any given year.

Before you relocate or move your QROPS, therefore, you should consider the impact on your tax liabilities.

Why consider a QROPS?

Despite this new – albeit avoidable

– tax, expatriates transferring to a QROPS can still enjoy significant tax advantages and flexibility over UK pensions.

Once in a QROPS, funds are sheltered from UK taxation on income and gains. Also, your savings will no longer count towards your lifetime pension allowance (LTA), enabling unlimited growth without attracting the 55% or 25% LTA tax penalties.

Another advantage concerns estate planning. While many UK pensions are payable only to your spouse on death, QROPS offers flexibility to include other heirs and roll across generations.

QROPS may also provide greater investment choice and diversification compared to UK pension schemes. They usually offer more freedom to vary your income and hold your savings in multiple currencies. This can potentially insulate pension income from volatility in the Pound and the Euro – especially important during current Brexit uncertainty.

While your pension income may still be taxed in Spain, with good planning you can usually set up

your QROPS to be highly tax-efficient.

However, transferring a UK pension is not suitable for everyone and differences between QROPS providers and jurisdictions could affect the tax benefits. There may be alternative investment structures offering expatriates the same, if not better, benefits to a QROPS.

Something so important as your pension warrants taking regulated, personalised advice to protect your life savings from scams and unsuitable investments. Carefully explore your options and consider acting now – before Brexit triggers further changes – to secure the retirement lifestyle of your choice in Spain.

Summarised tax information is based upon our understanding of current laws and practices which may change. This article is general in nature and should not be construed as providing any personalised taxation and/or investment advice. Individuals should seek personalised advice.

Keep up to date on the financial issues that may affect you on the Blevins Franks news page at www.blevinsfranks.com

“Could Brexit affect pension transfers out of the UK?
Should I take action now?”

Talk to the people who know.

The UK has already begun to tax transfers to QROPS. There are exclusions, such as where the individual and QROPS are in the European Economic Area, but who knows what will happen once the UK has left the EU? If you are considering moving your pension overseas, it may be better to do so now, under known rules, than wait and see what happens.

Blevins Franks specialise in cross-border wealth management and can provide personalised, regulated advice on all your pension options, including QROPS.

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Seminar analyses the possible effects of Brexit on Costa del Sol residents and businesses

Pedro Fernández, a partner with Garrigues law firm, insists that the negotiations must honour the principles of the people living in Spain and the Spanish nationals living in the UK

BY TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. Brexit and how it could affect British people living or owning a business on the Costa del Sol was the subject of a seminar hosted by Linea Directa and SUR in English in Torremolinos last Friday.

Pedro Fernández, a partner with the Malaga-based law firm Garrigues, said that the negotiations now beginning between the United Kingdom and the European Union would be the most difficult recorded in history.

Fernández, a specialist in international tax law, claimed that a 'soft Brexit' was the best option for both the UK and the Costa del Sol, where there are numerous important British businesses and thousands of foreign residents.

Referring to people that believe there is still time to "stop the clock", Fernández claimed that, although there were many things we do not know, one of the few things that can be said is that Brexit is definitely going to happen.

He insisted that the negotiations must honour the rights of the British living in Spain and the Spanish nationals living in the UK.

Outlining how Spain had always welcomed the British and their business ventures, he suggested that business relationships would probably not suffer as much as we are sometimes led to believe.



Pedro Fernández believes that a 'soft Brexit' would be the best option for the UK. BY ÁLVARO CABRERA

"The English approach to business is so practical and the English language is of great importance, and no matter what happens, I don't see London losing its status and relevance in the world of business. London is the centre of finance and I think it is going to remain so regardless of what Frankfurt or Paris want," Fernández said.

He stressed his belief that the EU should not punish the UK for its decision to leave Europe, claiming that negotiations should be entered into with a "sensible attitude since there is a lot at stake".

The expert referred to recent tensions that flared when guidelines were published that proposed giving Spain a veto over any deal

involving Gibraltar's future.

Making reference to Theresa May's comments, which claimed that the UK will not negotiate away Gibraltar's sovereignty as part of Brexit talks, Fernández said: "I really don't like to think that we are going to bargain with Brexit and Gibraltar. I don't see the purpose; is that really going to help us here? Would it not be better to have a good deal with the UK and smooth out whatever is coming?"

Looking at the possible consequences of Brexit from the angle of the Spanish tax system, Fernández said the situation will only be clear once an exit agreement has been reached, but he added that coming out of EU could put the

British who live in Spain in a worse position.

Exit taxes on gains would be imposed on foreigners who have decided to return to Britain, but perhaps more important would be the changes in inheritance tax, affecting especially those living in areas other than Andalucía.

Business challenge

One of the biggest dilemmas caused by all the uncertainty is affecting business and trade, and Fernández showed concerns for this: "For those of us helping people establish businesses or buying properties, it is going to be a very, very challenging time. Of course, this is not good news, because, uncertainty is the main fear of investment and trade."

However, the general feel of the seminar was positive and Fernández gave British expats a little reassurance that things are not going to be that terrible. There will obviously be issues created by the UK's exit, but in general, for the vast majority of British citizens who live in Spain, he believes life will not be that different.

The formal exit notification has no immediate impact on the legal arrangements between the United Kingdom and the European Union. Its effects will begin to come into force after two years, and this period might even be extended by mutual agreement if more time is required.

However, for the entire period over which the exit is being negotiated, the UK will continue to be an EU member and all rules of the union will continue to be applicable to British residents.

The seminar was one of several organised during the II International Home and Leisure fair held in Torremolinos last weekend.

"I really don't like to think that we're going to bargain with Brexit and Gibraltar"

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Fair offers ideas and advice to foreigners living in Spain

by TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS The Palacio de Congresos in Torremolinos played host to the second edition of the International Home and Lifestyle Fair last weekend.

Organised by the Advice Group Spain SL, the lifestyle fair brought together 35 exhibitors, who offered advice and assistance concerning different aspects of living on the Costa del Sol.

International and local specialists in interior design, construction, renovation, service providers, real estate, lifestyle, legal and financial advisors and insurance brokers were all on hand for the three-day event.

Exhibitors offered a variety of products including custom-made staircases, glass curtains, bioclimatic pergolas, electronic awnings, custom-made furniture, property and mobile homes.

The real estate market on the Costa del Sol continues to rise and transactions carried out in Malaga during 2016 rose by 6.6 per cent.

Several of the exhibitors suggested that uncertainties arising from the process of the UK leaving the EU does not seem to be having too much of an effect on the real estate market.



Ignacio Ortega and Jill Gregory from Currencies Direct :: Á. CABRERA



Emilio Bueno and Silvia Vidal from Navas and Cusi Lawyers. :: Á. CABRERA



Home development specialists offered advice :: Á. CABRERA



Stefka Ivanova and Hannah Osthus from Feydom. :: Á. CABRERA



Local residents attended the event. :: Á. CABRERA



Iddomus and MT-Interiors. :: Á. CABRERA



L. Sánchez-Stewart and P. Fernández. :: Á. C.

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HERE AND THERE

Growers first to feel effects of drought

MALAGA

■ **E. C.** Mango and avocado growers in the Axarquía have been told by that from this week until the end of September their water will be cut off one day per week. The cuts are aimed at saving two cubic hectolitre of water. The announcement was made by Spain's environment ministry at a time when despite recent rainfall, the Viñuela reservoir is only 40 per cent full and at 66.3 hectolitres, 12 fewer than this time last year.

Almuñécar reports steep rise in visitors

ALMUÑÉCAR

■ **J. R.** Almuñécar Town Hall has released figures showing a sharp rise in the number of tourists on the same period in 2016. Around 16,500 visitors went to the town between January and March, which tourism councillor, Rafael Caballero, says takes into account the fact that Easter was in March last year. The area has seen a 42 per cent rise in the number of Scandinavian visitors, 35 per cent more French and 17 per cent more Dutch.

Air show announces supersonic acrobatics

TORRE DEL MAR

■ **J. R.** The second Torre del Mar International Air Show announced new confirmations last week, including the Türk Yıldızları (Turkish Stars), acrobatic troop of the Turkish Air force, a team formed by seven Northrop F-5 aircraft. It is currently the only team that uses supersonic planes for acrobatic stunts. The Belgian Air Force F-16 Solo Display has also been confirmed. The air show will take place from 28 to 30 July in the skies above Torre del Mar.



Representatives and the president of the Mancomunidad, Gregorio Campos, with Mónica Cabo. ■ **J. R.**

Free Spanish classes to be offered to Axarquía's foreign residents

The Mancomunidad de Municipios announced the pilot programme last week and 30 places will be offered to people needing to get an A2 level

■ JENNIE RHODES

TORRE DEL MAR. The Mancomunidad de Municipios, a collective of the town halls in the Axarquía, has announced a pilot scheme of free Spanish classes aimed at foreigners with little or no Spanish.

The course is designed to prepare students to take the official Spanish exam (DELE) level A2, which is the minimum required to obtain Spanish nationality.

In this initial pilot programme a total of thirty places are available and the window for registering for

the classes is from 17 until 21 April, after which the successful applicants will be expected to start classes on 2 May. The intensive course will last until 13 July and students will have classes for two hours a week, from Monday to Friday.

Inscriptions are open to every foreign resident and students will be shortlisted on the basis of necessity for work or Spanish nationality applications. Priority will be given to those who need the qualification for those purposes.

In 2015 the Spanish government introduced the requirement of a minimum level of A2 in order to apply for Spanish nationality. The classes will also include information about Spanish culture and traditions, which is another part of the Spanish nationality test.

The Mancomunidad's spokesperson for education and culture, An-

tonio Campos, said, "Foreigners come with a certain urgency to learn the language as they come here and need to learn it whether it's for work reasons or just to integrate more on a daily basis."

Mónica Cabo, who is coordinating the project, said that although the timing coincides with the UK triggering Article 50, this project had already been discussed before last June's referendum. She was keen to stress that the programme is open to every foreign resident, regardless of where they are from. Further courses will be running depending on the uptake of the pilot programme.

Those interested in the classes should go to the Mancomunidad de Municipios building on Avenida de Andalucía 110, Torre del Mar, from 10am until 2pm between Monday 17 and Friday 21 April.

Volunteers carry out annual cleanup of popular Almuñécar river bed

■ JENNIE RHODES

ALMUÑÉCAR. A group of volunteers, led by British resident Anna Connolly, has carried out its latest cleanup operation along a section of the Rio Seco in Almuñécar.

The group meets up on a regular basis to pick up the rubbish around Almuñécar and this time targeted the rubbish that collects on the edges of the dry river bed.

The town hall's environmental health department, in collaboration with the company FCC, provided the group with bags, gloves and hats and collected the rubbish from them at the end of the day.

Anna Connolly said that they had picked infinite amounts of plastic and drinks cartons, as well as a television set, a supermarket trolley and everything in-between. "All of these things that were thrown into the riverbed could have been recycled," pointed out Connolly.

The group was recognised by the town hall for its ongoing "altruistic work", in March when members were presented with environmentalist awards.



Volunteers clean the river. ■ **SUR**

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Arroyo de la Miel A-7 junction works aim to put an end to long tailbacks



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BENALMÁDENA

The scheme, which will cost over ten million euros, includes a large roundabout to keep the traffic flowing at the congested exit

The Ministry of Public Works has now awarded the contract for remodelling the exit to Arroyo de la Miel at kilometre 222 on the A-7 motorway, at a cost of 10.1 million euros. The works will resolve the problems caused by the volume of traffic that uses the junction to access Arroyo and Benalmádena Costa.

According to the plans, the length of the new stretch of road, including slip roads, is approximately 2.3 kilometres and the present layout for the junction will be changed without altering its functionality.

In future, traffic joining and leaving the A-7 in Benalmádena will do so via a large new roundabout. Filter lanes will also be created on the motorway between the access road and the Arroyo de la Miel service station, between kilometres 223 and 224.

New structures

Several new structures will have to be built, including two new underpasses, four walls and the widening of the existing underpass. Some 876 metres of noise barriers will also be installed.

The budget for the work is seven million euros less than the amount expected when the contract was put to tender. It was published in the Official State Bulletin at a cost of 17.9 million euros.



Plan showing the junction at kilometre 222 with the improvements to be made. :: A. G.

The works will put an end to a situation that has caused problems at peak travelling times for years; the traffic jams mean that drivers wanting to exit the motorway have to wait on the hard shoulder for several minutes, while other vehicles pass them at high speeds.

This makes it impossible to leave the distance stipulated by law between the waiting vehicles and those passing them, and this increases the risk of accidents.

The junction is used by 15,000 vehicles a day and has become the main access to Benalmádena from

the motorway.

The president of the Partido Popular political party in Benalmádena, Paloma García Gálvez, who was the mayor when the first funds were allocated for this project, has welcomed the restart of the project.

Still no start date

She said it is "the best possible news" for the municipality and that she hopes the contract will be signed very soon. She also called on the council and MPs from all parties to urge Madrid to complete

the administrative processes quickly so that the works, for which there is still no start date, can begin.

The daily difficulty in accessing Arroyo de la Miel is one of the main infrastructure problems on the Costa del Sol. Paloma García Gálvez has said credit must be given to Malaga MP Celia Villalobos (also PP), who has been continually pushing for a solution to the problem. She said Villalobos has played an "essential" role in unblocking a project which has been awaited for years.

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Ryanair to offer 50 routes from Malaga airport next winter

The programme includes three new low-season destinations in Germany, as well as Prague, Amsterdam, Santander and the Polish city of Wrocław

■ PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. The low-cost Irish airline, Ryanair, has announced that it will offer 50 routes from Malaga for next winter, including several new destinations.

This increase will see the company operating the largest ever number of routes during the low tourist season.

The head of marketing and sales for Ryanair in Spain, José Espartero, stated that the news for next

season focused mainly, but not exclusively, on the German market.

The airline will now run flights to Bremen, Dortmund and Frankfurt Main airports over the winter months.

However, new destinations outside Germany are also part of Ryanair's offer. Flights to Amsterdam will run from Malaga airport from the winter onwards, as will flights to the Czech capital, Prague and the Polish city of Wrocław.

"This increase in low season will mean the airline carries nearly 4.4 million passengers in 2017 to and from Malaga airport," Espartero added.

The number of routes this winter will be similar to the 52 routes that were offered to passengers last summer.

During low season, the airline plans to run 150 flights a week, in-



The airline will be flying to several new winter destinations this year from the Costa del Sol. ■ SUR

cluding the new links to Prague, Dortmund, Bremen, Santander and Wrocław twice a week, and four flights a week to the Netherlands' main airport at Amsterdam and

the main airport at Frankfurt Main.

Espartero also took the opportunity to highlight Ryanair's continued "contribution to tourism and employment" in Malaga and

the Costa del Sol, given the record number of seats for their flights on sale this summer and the airline operating routes to 55 destinations from the area.



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Malaga to host main Mediterranean cruise industry trade fair in 2020

The event will take place in the city's conference centre and will see major shipping firms, ports and supply companies coming together to network

■ PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. Seatrade Cruise Med, the most important cruise-industry trade fair in the Mediterranean and nearby area, will be held in Malaga in 2020.

Bosses from major world shipping companies, representatives of ports and delegates from component industries will converge on the city's 'Palacio de Congresos' for the biannual event.

Not only will stands fill the exhibition space, but a full programme of conference and other events are also planned so that the city makes the most of the networking opportunity.

MedCruise, the association of



Malaga port this week with Ocean Nova on the quayside. ■ SUR

Mediterranean cruise ports, commented that Malaga "has positioned itself as the most significant cruise port in its region thanks to investment in port facilities."

Paulino Plato, president of the port

of Malaga stated that hosting the event has been made possible "due to the port's commitment to promoting itself as a gateway to Andalucía."

Last year's fair was in Tenerife and the 2018 event will be in Lisbon.



A cruise liner docked in Malaga port on Wednesday. ■ ÁLVARO CABRERA

Record numbers of passengers dock in the city this week

■ PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. Three cruise ships docked in Malaga port on Wednesday, disgorging a record 8,300 passengers into the city. The first to arrive was 'Koningsdam' with 2,660 passengers followed an hour later by 'Norwegian Epic' with 5,186 passengers and 'MSC Orchestra' with 3,605 holidaymakers onboard.

According to the Malaga port authority this was the busiest day of Easter week which marks the beginning of the high season. Between 9 and 16 April there are 15 cruise ships scheduled to dock at Malaga carrying a total of more than 31,000 passengers, a figure that increases by another 40,000 when their respective crews are included.



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"We've nothing to celebrate, this is like living in the third world"

For over 40 years a community of Romani has been living in the shanty town of Casillas de la Vía in Torre del Mar



Coinciding with International Romani Day, the families are calling on the authorities to fulfil their promises of new accommodation

TORRE DEL MAR. "We've nothing to celebrate; this is the third world." That was the harsh response from Manuela Heredia and her husband, Juan Amador, when we mentioned International Romani Day, which was on 8 April. It went unmarked by the more than 100 gypsies who live in the Casillas de la Vía in Torre del Mar, the last large shanty town in Malaga province

apart from the Malaga district of Los Asperones.

The first Romani families set up home on the old railway lines which used to connect Malaga city with Ventas de Zafarraya not long after it fell into disuse in 1968, and now thirty families live there. In total, there are over 100 people, half of them children. "There is no dignity living like this. It's as if nobody knows we exist. In winter we get wet and freezing cold, and in summer we die from the heat," said 34-year-old Manuela, sitting in the doorway of her hut with two of her five children. "This little one is ill, he's epileptic and when he has a fit nobody can control him, so he can hardly ever go to school," she explained. The family survives on Juan Amador's occasional earnings as a street vendor and scrap metal collector.

"The politicians have promised us somewhere to live numerous times,



Manuela Heredia and Juan Amador, with two of their sons. :: E. C.



José Vargas, with one of his grandsons. :: E. C.

"In the winter we get wet and freezing cold, and in the summer we die from the heat"

but then they spend the money on other things," says Manuela. Her parents were also with her; they visit every day because Manuela is also ill, with osteoarthritis. "The conditions here are awful. We have water because we collect rainwater and the electricity is connected, but we don't have anything else," said Manuela's mother, who lived in Casillas de la Vía for many years but eventually moved to the Cuesta del Visillo district. "They spend money on lots of roundabouts, statues and gardens, but they can't do anything for us," complained her husband.

Manuela's uncle, José Vargas, lives a few metres away. "We're nearly all related," said this 58-year-old, who also works as a street vendor. He has seven children, 14 grandchildren and a great-grandson. "Most of them live here," he said proudly, sitting outside

his house with one of his grandsons. "He has asthma so he couldn't go to school today," he explained.

José is one of the few people in Casillas de la Vía whose address is registered as this community. "Only five or six of us are registered as living here, because we have been here for so many years. Nowadays the town hall doesn't want anyone from here on the register," he said.

The Romani are keen to dismiss their bad reputation. "Some people might be involved in things they shouldn't but in general everyone wants to live a decent life. However, there is no work," said Juan Amador. For many years the council has planned to knock down this shanty town and build new accommodation for its inhabitants, but so far nothing has happened. The local authority is still trying to obtain financing to do so.

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Events throughout the year to mark 50 years since referendum

The government archivist is asking for photos, footage or memorabilia associated with the 1967 referendum, for an exhibition in June

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. The Gibraltar government has announced that several events are being planned this year to mark the 50th anniversary of the first referendum, in which the residents of Gibraltar decided that they wanted to remain British rather than accept the offer of Spanish sovereignty which had been made to the British government.

One of the events will be an exhibition at the Casemates galleries which will open on 14 June this year, 50 years exactly from the day upon which the British government announced that a referendum would take place.

The exhibition is being organised by the government archivist, who is asking anyone who has photographs, footage and memorabilia which relates to the 1967 referendum to contact him if they would like them to feature in the exhibition, which will continue until the first week of July. His phone number is 20079461.

Later in the year a memorial event and concert will take place, and special coins are to be minted to mark the 50th anniversary. A set of commemorative stamps will also be issued.

Other plans include painting the



Dr Joseph Garcia, with a referendum poster. :: SUR

steps at Devil's Gap red, white and blue, the colours of the Union flag, and a commemorative booklet similar to the one which was published to mark the 75th anniversary of the Evacuation in 1955.

In a statement, deputy chief minister Dr Joseph Garcia said: "The referendum took place on 10 September 1967. On a turnout of 95.8 per cent, 12,138 people voted to remain British and only 44 voted for Gibraltar to become a part of Spain. This was the first time that the Gibraltarians had been given the choice and encouraged to exercise it. They spoke with devastating clarity.

The Government considers that

it is important to mark the 50th anniversary of this momentous occasion in the history of Gibraltar. The referendum represented, at a symbolic level, that fact that British sovereignty over Gibraltar had come to rest on the living wishes of the descendants of the people who had lived on this Rock since 1704.

September 10th was later chosen as the date for Gibraltar National Day because it marks the anniversary of the day on which this referendum took place. This year promises to be extra special."

In a second referendum in 2002, 98.97 per cent rejected the idea of shared sovereignty.

IN BRIEF



The GHA is improving the Emergency Department. :: SUR

New measures to improve A&E service

GIBRALTAR

DEBBIE BARTLETT. The Gibraltar Health Authority is carrying out reforms to improve the Accident and Emergency department. The measures have included deploying two additional charge nurses to the department, so a highly skilled senior member of the nursing staff leads and man-

ages the A&E team on every shift. The A&E services are also being streamlined to concentrate on providing timely care for accidents, emergencies and acutely unwell patients. Extensions to sick certificates will now be issued by GPs and not the A&E department. More than 500 GP appointments a month have already been saved by the introduction of a repeat prescription service, as part of the scheme to make medical services as efficient as possible.

Classical concert as part of Spring festival

GIBRALTAR

D.B Lovers of classical music should make a note of the forthcoming concert, 'A celebration of opera', which will take place on Tuesday 16 May at the Convent Ballroom at 8pm. This concert is part of the forthcoming Spring Festival, and is organised by the Gibraltar Philharmonic Society. Soprano Elena Gorshunova and tenor Rudy Park will be performing works by Puccini, Donizetti, Barberi, Gounod and Verdi.

Bosom Buddies charity fashion show on 21st

GIBRALTAR

D.B Don't forget: the gala fashion show in aid of Bosom Buddies breast cancer charity takes place next Friday, 21 April, at Grand Battery House/Landport. The evening kicks off with a cocktail at 7.30pm and the show, which also includes professional model and local businessman Luisandro Moreno, begins at 8.10pm.

Tickets cost £15 and all proceeds from the evening will be donated to the charity.



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Economically speaking, it seems that Spain is firmly back on track. According to official statistics, the country's GDP will very soon rise above pre-crisis levels; in other words, Spain's economy is back to where it was in 2008, before the recession hit.

Three consecutive years of economic growth, a steadily decreasing rate of unemployment - now at 18% down from a high of 27% in 2013 - and the govern-



RETURN TO FORM

ment's recent announcement of its first non-austerity budget all seem to indicate that Spain has exited its grinding recession.

The once-stricken country is also likely to be a key player in the forthcoming Brexit negotiations, not least because of the Gibraltar issue.

Indeed, when Donald Tusk explicitly referenced Spain's ability to veto any proposed Brexit deal that includes Gibraltar, he signalled to the UK and the rest of

Europe that Mariano Rajoy has Brussels' backing in fighting hard for the Rock (fighting in a diplomatic sense, not with guns over the high seas, as one UK Conservative has-been said might be necessary).

As if to remind the EU of his country's steadily-healing economy and renewed importance within the bloc, the Spanish prime minister hosted a meeting of the leaders of France, Portugal, Italy, Cyprus, Malta and Greece in Madrid on Monday, with the aim of forming a shared negotiating stance on Brexit.

Spain's revitalised economy significantly accounts for its surge in diplomatic confidence. Yet it might seem bizarre that the country's GDP continued to expand last year, given that Spain lacked a proper government for almost ten months.

The Spanish economy - buoyed by external factors such as a bumper tourism year - remained largely indifferent to the bickering and stalling of its supposed stewards, though - just as Belgium's did when the country went for 589 days without an administration between 2010 and 2011.

It is therefore not true to describe the Spanish economy as "hanging by a thread", as a UK tabloid headline did this week.

Inaccurate as such labels now are for Spain, there is still much work to be done before the country's government can uncork the champagne and celebrate a return to pre-crisis stability.

Indeed, the tabloid headline was referring to the convoluted process faced by Mariano Rajoy as he tries to approve the 2017 budget with a minority government in a divided parliament.

If all goes according to plan, the spending plan will be passed in June - halfway through the year it is suppose to cover.

While the Spanish economy is far from "hanging on a thread" in the meantime, this delay highlights the difficulties of prime minister Rajoy's unenviable position: he is operating in a congress in which his enemies have the power to veto anything he proposes.

Even though Spain's economy is expanding at a steady rate anyway, such delays in forming fiscal policy hardly bolster the country's reputation on the international stage. Rajoy's biggest challenge in the coming months will be to govern effectively by avoiding similar hold-ups - a task which Pedro Sánchez will significantly hinder if he regains control of the Socialists next month.

Whilst the Spanish economy might be returning to pre-crisis health, the country's political situation is far more fragmented than it was nine years ago.



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IN BRIEF

Guardia Civil officer reports bosses over toilet break complaint

BARCELONA

■ **SUR.** A female Guardia Civil officer has made an official complaint against bosses after she was reprimanded for making an urgent trip to the toilet as her period had started.

The alleged incident happened in Barcelona on International Women's Day when the officer had

to go to the toilet at short notice due to menstruation, meaning she left her post for a few minutes. On returning to her position, a sergeant is said to have accused her of abandoning her post, an offence which carries a punishment of four days' lost earnings.

The officer has asked the Guardia Civil to carry out an internal inquiry concerning possible workplace harassment, although her solicitor has not ruled out taking the incident to court if necessary.

Camino de Santiago killer gets 23 years

LEÓN

■ **M. B.** A court has sentenced Miguel Ángel Muñoz Blas to 23 years in jail for the murder of American tourist Denise Pikka Thiem in April 2015. Denise was walking the popular 'Camino de Santiago' pilgrimage route across northern Spain when she disappeared. During the extensive search for her body, which lasted until September 2015, the FBI offered its help to Spanish authorities.



Muñoz during the trial. ■ **EFE**

University teachers held over 'false cancer drug'

MALLORCA

■ **SUR.** Five people, including two teachers at the Universidad de las Islas Baleares on Mallorca, have been arrested on suspicion of fraud involving the sale of a supposed cancer drug. The accused allegedly benefited from the 600,000 euros income from the medicine that was claimed to have curative properties. The drug was sold via a non-profit-making foundation and was not licensed.

Spain's first woman defence minister found dead at 46

The PSOE Socialist party mourns after former-politician Carme Chacón dies suddenly at home of a suspected congenital heart defect

■ **SUR**

MADRID. Carme Chacón, former senior member of the PSOE party and Spain's first woman defence secretary was found dead in her home in Madrid last Sunday evening.

Family had been unable to contact the well-known ex-politician and police and fire brigade were called to force down the door. The emergency services said that she "had been dead for several hours".

Carme Chacón had often spoken publicly about a congenital heart defect that was diagnosed when she was ten and which could have caused her serious complications at any time. "I have 35 beats a minute, my heart is backwards and an atrium and ventricle are blocked," she explained in 2015.

Originally from Esplugues de Llobregat (Barcelona), she leaves an eight-year-old son, who was staying with her former husband when she died.

Chacón, who was 46, rose swiftly to the top of the PSOE hierarchy and during the government of José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero was first female defence minister from 2008 to 2011.

Her appointment to the role when pregnant was widely seen as a step towards the modernisation



Chacón reviewing troops as minister for Defence in 2008. ■ **E. A.**

of Spanish politics and, in her own words, contributed to "breaking the glass ceiling".

Although she came a close second in PSOE leadership elections in 2012, Chacón had gradually withdrawn from active politics, giving up her parliamentary seat last year, and involving herself in a Madrid law firm and as a lecturer at a college in Miami. She had only returned from Florida for Easter the day before her death, sending an Instagram with a view from the plane saying how much she was looking forward to seeing her son.

There was widespread shock and

grief across Spanish politics. On Monday her coffin was placed in the headquarters of the Socialist party in central Madrid before a private cremation.

A succession of politicians, some from rival parties, friends and members of the public went to sign a book of condolence and pay their respects.

Susana Díaz, president of the Junta de Andalucía, candidate for the leadership of the party in next month's elections and close friend of Chacón, spoke for many. "I was lucky to have her friendship and her by my side in both difficult and happy times," Díaz said to journalists.

ETA terrorist group surrenders its 'last hidden weapons' in France

The Basque radical-left-wing organisation handed over 120 guns and three tonnes of explosives in a day that was planned with a degree of ceremony

■ **DAVID GUADILLA / SUR**

PARIS. ETA officially turned itself into an unarmed group last Saturday when it put a large part of the weapons it still held at the disposal of authorities in France, where the arms had been hidden. The symbolic act ended five decades of terrorism during which some 850 people died.

Although security forces have still to thoroughly examine the

stash, there are believed to be 120 firearms, three tonnes of explosives, thousands of detonators and a lot of ammunition.

In an attempt to give the process a degree of ceremony, ETA didn't use familiar hooded spokespeople, but instead entrusted a French-Basque intermediary to hand over a dossier on the arms' location in front of the mayor of the French city of Bayonne, local officials and church representatives including the Archbishop of Bologna.

Eight hiding places were declared, although Spanish and French authorities said it was probably impossible to know, even for ETA, how many more weapons were still undeclared elsewhere. The group is expected to disband in the summer.



The archbishop of Bologna received the dossier last Saturday. ■ **R. C.**

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Junta to reduce evictions by buying up homes and renting them to occupants

The regional government will table a new law as an alternative to its delayed plan to temporarily requisition properties where owners cannot pay

■ MARÍA DOLORES TORTOSA SEVILLE. The Junta de Andalucía has set aside money to buy up homes where the owners have been legally forced to sell or are being evicted. The homes will then be rented back to their former owners at a specially reduced rent.

The new measure comes as the regional government's previous main initiative to limit the evictions of people at most risk remains stalled in Madrid.

The original law, approved regionally, which envisaged the temporary requisition of a home for three years where the owners were likely to lose it through financial hardship, is held up in Spain's top constitutional court. The national government argues that it creates too much uncertainty for the banking and property sectors.



Victims of previous home evictions protest (file photo). :: EFE

As a way round this, the Junta has now introduced this new law and said it will buy up the properties at risk rather than just take them over for a limited period. It will either pay the auction price or pay off the mortgage of the owners, depending on the nature of each case.

This year the Junta plans to spend four million euros on the scheme and hopes to acquire 200 homes by 2020.

The initiative is aimed at higher-risk groups, such as families where

all members are unemployed, those with young children, pensioners or victims of domestic violence, and will focus on acquiring modest-sized properties.

The law will create provisions for the Junta, or a local town hall that agrees to promote the scheme, to be automatically informed by other authorities of when evictions or distressed-property auctions are planned, so as to identify vulnerable cases in time.

JEREMY BLATCH
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**THE BIGGER
PICTURE**

THE CATCHER'S MITT

In the Long Run," mused Maynard Keynes, "we are all dead," or, as someone else once said, "Don't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; throw something back." The author of that line is unknown but we can assume that he knew something about baseball and the cut and thrust of business and the storms of life. In the consumer society of the developed world in which we live, the lifestyle we enjoy is largely shaped by the extent to which we buy and sell.

A market without anything to sell will be just as ineffective as a market full of merchandise with no one to buy. When we have real financial wealth, we are able to realise our dreams. That's one of the reasons for aspiring to wealth and the independence it brings.

Success in anything comes at a price and business is no exception. The ability to be disciplined and to persevere no matter what, is possibly the single greatest attribute to be success. As Calvin Coolidge put it, "Nothing in the

world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not. Nothing is more common than unsuccessful men and women with talent. Genius will not. Unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not. The world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent."

But perhaps there is another price which is not obvious until it hurts. The price of integrity. The lack of ability for individual companies and institutions to police themselves has led to a plethora of regulatory bodies for professions and businesses. We have created a "blame and shame" culture in which so often we prefer to abrogate responsibility and seek litigation, rather than facing up to the challenge ourselves. Integrity, perhaps, is best summed up as acting in a responsible, honest and fair way, no matter what the cost to the individual or company.

Philanthropy, no longer the preserve of the ultra rich and famous, makes a significant contri-

bution to society, aiding education, research and science from which we all have benefited in some way. Many of the wealthy have historically helped the poor and the vulnerable. We know that charity begins at home.

The stock market is the barometer of the economy, and the economy is driven by business. A powerhouse that can make a real difference by making a positive contribution to the society in which we all find ourselves.

Working with integrity, within that society, is perhaps not just about the way we treat our employees, colleagues and competitors but also about how we use the wealth that we create.

Whilst financial wealth will mean different things to different people, having more than we need gives us an opportunity to make a difference for others, however small we may think the contribution is.

Taking off the catcher's mitt and throwing something back is at the heart of charitable giving and philanthropy, and in doing so it helps the underprivileged and most vulnerable in society. "For it is more blessed to give than to receive." After all, in the long run, we are all dead!

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

The numbering system on Spanish roads

The names show who owns the roads as well as the province, location and distance from the nearest city



MÁLAGA. Nobody driving along some of the 2,134.23 kilometres of regional and provincial-run roads in Malaga province can have failed to notice that at the side of the road there are large information panels with a mixture of letters and numbers. These are the 'birth certificates' of each road, showing their names or, in more technical terms, their registration plates or nomenclature. But what do these characters and digits mean?

Basically, they tell us who is responsible for that road, (the regional or the provincial government), its location, and the distance from the nearest provincial capital.

In the case of roads run by the Diputación provincial authority, the registration plate starts with the initials of the province - Malaga is 'MA', for example - and these are followed by four numbers. For the numbers the following criteria apply: every province is divided into a series of concentric circles drawn from the provincial capital; the first of these is 30 kilometres in radius and encompasses the metropolitan area; the second is 40 kilometres, and so on at intervals of ten kilometres until the final circle, which is 90 kilometres.

The number of circles depends on the size of each province. The first digit of every road identifies the circle in which the road begins - these numbers start from 3 - and gives an idea of the approximate distance from the capital city.

In the same way, each circle is divided into four sections. The second digit of the registration plate of the road identifies the sector in which it is located; so number 1 corresponds to the roads in the northwest of that ring, number 2 refers to the southeast, number 3 to the southwest and number 4 to the northeast. For the rest of the digits, the point of origin is taken from the coordinates of the centres used to define the circles - in this case Malaga city - so that the third and fourth numbers are assigned by beginning in the north and moving clockwise, with zero being closest to the centre and so on.

Here's a real example: the MA-9300, in the municipality of Cortes de la Frontera, is a road which is part of the provincial-run network of Malaga. The number 9 means that it is in the circle corresponding to more than 90 kilometres from Malaga city - in other words, this is the furthest road from the city. Number 3 shows that it is, within the quadrant of the province, in the southwest area, while the double zeros indicate that it is the first in this area and the only one which exists (if there had been any other

it would have been 9301).

With regard to the regional road network, there are two different types of road run by the Junta de Andalucía beginning with the letter A: one is the 'red básica', or basic network, where the structural and arterial roads are found. They make up the road network which supports long-distance journeys and the principal exterior connections, together with the inter-district network for medium-distance traffic. The other is the complementary network which comprises other regional roads (those which guarantee mobility in the metropolitan areas, the ones that provide access to areas of tourist interest and those that provide access from the municipalities to the basic inter-district network).

When it comes to the basic network, in Malaga province these roads are identified by A-92M - the letter 'm' shows the province through which this regional road is passing - while those on the basic arterial and inter-district network are identified by an 'A' and three digits. It is not ac-

tually clear why certain numbers are used. Sources at the Junta explain that around 40 per cent of their roads either retain the numbers of the old national roads or a random criteria is applied. The A-92, for example, was built for the Expo in Seville in 1992.

With regard to the complementary road network, the registration is based on the 'A' for Andalucía plus four digits. The first of these refers to the province, which in the case of Malaga is the number 7. If a road passes through more than one province it is registered with the lowest numbered province.

There are two registration centres in this province, one in Malaga and

the other in Marbella. In Malaga there are two circles, one of 30 kilometres and the other of 60. The second digit shows the circle in which the road is located: 0 corresponds to the first, 2 to the second and 3 to the outskirts, over 60 kilometres. In Marbella there is one circle of 30 kilometres and all the roads which originate in it are registered with the number 1.

For the rest of the digits, and once each ring is divided into four sectors, starting from the north and moving clockwise, the numbers are assigned as follows: those from 0 to 24 are in the northeast of the province; 25-49 in the southeast; 50-74 in the southwest; and 75-99 in the northwest.

A PRACTICAL EXAMPLE OF A ROAD WHICH IS PART OF THE COMPLEMENTARY NETWORK



The letter 'A' shows that this is an Andalusian regional road

The number 7 Every province in Andalucía is assigned a number; Malaga, in alphabetical order, is number 7

The number 0 There are two concentric circles from the capital. The zero shows that it is the closest and within a radius of 30 kilometres.

The two last digits Each circle is divided into four parts and the roads are numbered depending on their location, following a clockwise direction. In this case the road is in the southwest sector of the province.



The MA-9300 The MA shows that the provincial government is responsible for this road. It is more than 90 kms from the capital - hence the 9 - and is in the southwest sector - shown by the 3 - and the first in this sector - the 00.

The names on the national motorways

The national government is responsible for some roads, and in Malaga these include the A-7 motorway (formerly the N-340), which runs from Barcelona to Algeciras. The 'A', in these cases, stands for 'autovía', or fast road, and those named 'AP' are toll motorways. The number is assigned because in the old division of the roads there used to be six radial roads leading from Madrid, and the A-7 was the first one to run along the coastal area in the east. Meanwhile, the A-45 between Malaga and Cordoba is a motorway which began on the old national road 4, and is the fifth branch road off that, hence the 5. The MA-20 and successive numbers in Malaga are part of the old N-340 and are bypasses around the city, as the MA shows.

LETTERS TO
THE EDITOR

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THERE IS A PRIZE FOR THE BEST
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SO PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR ADDRESS

Coastal path

ThI read the interesting article by Iván Gelibter (SUR in English, April 7th) and am glad to see the proposals for the future expansion of the coastal path. It's an attractive and enormous

asset to this part of the coastline.

Before they spend the next two million euros connecting the "Senda Litoral" be-

tween La Cala and Fuengirola, please could you ask the esteemed gentlemen Andrés Ruiz and José Carlos Martín when they are planning to complete the section between Calahonda and La Cala? The boardwalk was started enthusiastically and completed very quickly going west between the Chiringuito El Capricho and the Mijas/Marbella boundary, just past Luna Beach. It's a wonderful addition to the community but if you live along that stretch, you are stranded there until the section from El Capricho is connected to where the pathway recommences at Max Beach.

It is possible for some to descend the concrete steps by Edificio Almirante, at the back of the Urbanización Alhama, on to the sand, then scramble across the rocks by Doña Lola at low tide (if they can leap across the little estuary that flows out to the sea) and then make their way over the beach to the beautiful section of boardwalk from there to La Cala.

However, if you are slightly immobile, pushing a pram or

using a wheelchair, this is impossible. It is even impossible to use a wheelchair beside the barrier on the road because the steep kerbs and unfortunately positioned lampposts prevent anyone in a wheelchair from taking this route. Only the narrowest of scooters can get through and this involves a dangerous drive along the road itself. If you have a wheelchair accessible vehicle and can find a parking place, you could drive down towards La Cala and join the boardwalk but it rather defeats the object of a walkway.

It is marvellous that some of the buses are now wheelchair accessible, so this could be another option to bypass the inaccessible part of the beach. Unfortunately, it's not even possible to access the bus stop here because of the extraordinarily high kerbs, badly positioned lampposts and lack of sloped ramps onto the narrow walkway beside the road where the buses stop! How can you board the bus?

We have heard so many rumours as to why the "Senda Litoral" in this area of Calahonda is not finished, or when this particular section will be complete, and would welcome a definitive answer from those who are now planning the next section, even before the previous part of the coastal pathway is complete.

H. HAMILTON
BY EMAIL

Residents' day

Your reporter at the Residents' Day in Nerja the previous Sunday gave an excellent report of the day's proceedings but must have mingled with a different group of people than I experienced. There were references to Brexit, but the main concern was "When will the long-promised sewerage plant be open?" Or did your reporter just go looking for something to add topicality to the report?

ANTHONY SLADE
NERJA

Sun protection

With summer on its way we are continually warned of the risk of skin cancer and the need to use sun block. I personally have to use factor 50 facial, which, in the shops in Fuengirola, costs €12.95 for a 50ml tube. This seemed rather expensive to me. On checking around I find that the same brand, probably the most popular, costs €30, or €7.50 each, for four tubes delivered to my door.

DAVID HARRIS
BY EMAIL

Manners from heaven

PETER EDGERTON
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Holy Week is in full swing here in Malaga city centre. Throngs of people crowd the streets in thrall to the spectacular processions which take place each day. The trouble is, every single one of them seems to want to use our bathroom at the pub.

This is a complex situation to negotiate. If we let everybody who wants to avail themselves of our bathroom facilities do so, we would have constant queues three to four deep which wouldn't be fair to our paying customers, or, indeed to ourselves. On the other hand, old people, pregnant women, those taking part in the processions, small children and the disabled must all clearly be allowed to enter. Gangs of teenagers with kebabs and cheap cans of Coca Cola, by contrast, must not. Nor must short bald middle aged men with chips on their shoulder.

"Excuse me, sir. It's just that the bathrooms are for our customers' use." (Jabs finger at my chest.) "In Malaga anyone is free to use a bath-

room in a public establishment. It's the law."

"Well, first of all, sir, don't jab your finger at me please because it's very rude. I know you're short, but finger-jabbing doesn't make you taller." (Actually, I probably didn't say that bit.) "I'm not talking about the law, I'm talking about common courtesy. Asking permission, for example, or - heaven forfend - buying a bottle of water for one euro fifty." (I didn't say "heaven forfend" either because a, we were speaking in Spanish and b, no one has actually used the expression since 1645.)

"I'm not going to buy anything." He flounced into the bathroom and then flounced out again, holding his head back in an act of defiance which made him look uncannily like Hartley Hare.

Not long after, a man wearing shoes with no socks (no, really) and still using Brylcreem although it's the year 2017, strode in.

"Excuse me sir, it's just that, etc..."

"No, no, no, it's fine, I'm sitting outside on the terrace with a group of friends."

"I beg your pardon, sir, it's been a long day."

"Don't worry, I understand completely."

I pop outside to see what his chums might like to order. No chums. Oh, for heaven's sake. I wait. Brylcreem Man leaves the bathroom, spots me, gets flustered, pulls out his mobile phone and pretends to talk on it as he barges past.

If, at fifty odd years old you find yourself lying and cheating simply to be able to go the bathroom without asking the proprietor for permission, it's probably prudent to take a sabbatical in some remote corner of the globe in order to consider the wrong turn your life has taken and what on earth you can do about it.

In the meantime you might like to buy yourself some socks - they don't cost much more than a bottle of water.

SANSÓN



Missing the train

HÉCTOR BARBOTA

R ecent events have confirmed that the only possible way of listening to a politician saying what he or she really thinks is by secretly taping their conversations. In any other circumstances it's difficult to hear anything that isn't a set phrase, an argument thought up by a press officer or conclusions reached by means of the "we're the goodies, they're the baddies" thesis.

And so it's useless to hope that one day a political leader might stop in front of a microphone and admit that they've come to the conclusion that building a railway line along the coast would need an investment of millions which would force them to give up other projects in favour of the Costa del Sol which

would have a political price that no administration or political party is prepared to pay.

As at the moment there are no hidden microphones to record a reflection of this kind - possibly because when they think no-one's listening, they focus on talking about their own deals and other dirty business - we have to put up with the same old statements we're used to.

Now, given that the latest state budget has only designated 350,000 euros for the project, we're back to the same old story. On one hand, those who blame their adversary because they think that society has forgotten that when they were in power they didn't do anything either; and on the other, those who maintain that the train is still on

the cards, even though the budget will barely fund the eternal preliminary studies. For the last 17 years we've known that the train to Marbella is like those chronic students who refuse to leave the faculty even though they know they'll never finish their degree.

To know what the political leaders really think about the coastal train, about how much it's needed and its strategic importance, rather than listening to what they say, we should pay attention to what they've done and what they do now. And there's no sign of any railway works.

Faced with this attitude, there's little left to do for those of us who really think that the Costa del Sol train isn't a whim, or an out-of-date electoral promise, or a luxury that's out of our reach, but a strategic necessity in Andalucía's healthiest economic area.

Faced with the strategy of winning a battle by boring the opponent out of resignation or disillusion, there is only one answer but to persevere and settle the scores when the time comes.

SUR English

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IN THE FRAME

TONY BRYANT
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Preserving the traditions of Spain in art

Chandy Haggett Artist

Like so many artists, Chandy soon became attracted to the colours, aromas and tempo of life in Andalucía

A former plumber, tutor and newspaper cartoonist, 55-year-old Chandy Haggett is probably one of the most innovative artists living on the Costa del Sol today.

Born in London in 1962, Chandy's life has been far from conventional and her journey to become an artist has been a difficult and sometimes depressing experience.

She first attended Oxford College of Further Education, but after taking a year out to travel, she enrolled at the Banbury College of Art.

However, after marrying her first husband, Chandy dropped out of art college and became one of Britain's first women plumbers.

Following the failure of her first marriage, the self-confessed tomboy began working as a silk screen printer in Devon, but she soon got the urge to travel again.

Having fallen in love with Spain on a previous backpacking holiday in 1982, Chandy decided to visit her parents, who owned a small farm near Manilva.

Her parents eventually went to live in France, leaving Chandy alone and very much out of her depth in the mountain village of Casares.

Unable to speak a word of Spanish, without money, work, transport or friends, Chandy quickly realised that she would have to do something in order to survive.

"Luckily, I did have a very small roof over my head, although no



Chandy at one of her exhibitions in Malaga. :: TONY BRYANT

Two exhibitions, in Malaga and Coín

:: T. BRYANT

MALAGA. Chandy is currently holding two exhibitions in Malaga province. She has a permanent show in the Artsenal gallery in Muelle Uno, a place where Chandy can be found most days. This creative gallery has become, as she is keen to point out, her home from home.

The gallery is situated next

to the Pompidou centre and Chandy's work can be viewed, along with that of several other popular artists, seven days a week.

She is also holding an exhibition in the Coconut Café in Coín throughout April and May.

This exhibition showcases her latest works, which include all the traditional aspects of Andalucía and its people.

hot water or toilet, just a bucket and chuck-it loo," Chandy says.

She decided to return to painting and try to sell her work as a means of subsidising her income. Hitching lifts to the secondhand market in Puerto Banús every Saturday morning, Chandy began to sell her paintings to holidaymakers, although business was not booming.

"Although the villagers of Casares welcomed me with open arms and helped me tremendously, it was a hard to mouth existence and a terribly lonely time in my life. During this period I was, admittedly through sangria-tinted glasses, painting sad, desperate and depressive pictures depicting my mental state," Chandy explains.

A bohemian by nature, Chandy

embarked on the life of an eccentric artist, living like a recluse, sleeping most of the day and drinking and working by night.

She was soon addicted, like many before her, to the mystical spell of Andalucía, becoming attracted to the colours, aromas and tempo of life in Southern Spain.

Realising that the morbid paintings that she been producing were

not what the average tourist wanted, she began to develop a unique style of hand silk screen prints.

These depict beautiful landscapes and scenes of rural life, capturing the ferias and fiestas, and the traditional way of life that exists in the Andalusian countryside.

"Immediately falling in love with Spain and its people, I saw things very much in blocks of colour: blue skies, yellow fields, white houses and the gossiping old women dressed in black," Chandy says with a hint of glee.

She would spend the next 12 years slowly developing and building her style, and her reputation.

Candy's life changed when she remarried, had children and went to live in Coín, but this did not interfere too much with her artistic life.

She spent several years teaching drawing and silk screen printing at the Marbella Design Academy, but she left this position to further her career as an artist.

She has been commissioned to create several works for local clubs and peñas and she has held several exhibitions of her work on the Costa del Sol, as well as in Gibraltar and France.

"Now, 30 years later, I am still a poor, starving artist in Andalucía, but a very happy one," she says with a radiant smile.

Chandy works entirely from imagination, never using photography or real life for reference and yet her creations capture a perfect representation of a nostalgic Andalucía.

"Sadly the old traditions are now dying out, but I hope to have captured a memory of them in my work. Andalucía is in my heart and I plan one day to be buried here under an olive tree, but not too soon I hope," she says, laughing.



Chandy at work. :: T. B.

"Immediately falling in love with Spain and its people, I saw things very much in blocks of colour"



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Moonlight Dance Studio in Marbella. sur

MARBELLA

Have you ever watched Strictly Come Dancing and wished you too could trip the light fantastic? Have you ever thought "I would love to be able to ballroom dance, but I'd be no good at it?" Have you been hankering to have a try but couldn't find anywhere to learn? Or maybe you're a good dancer already and would like to improve or practise?

Wishes such as these can come true, thanks to the Moonlight Dance Studio in Marbella, where a great team of ballroom dancing professionals teach everything from the elegant waltz to the sensual tango, and the classic foxtrot to the exciting salsa.

It doesn't matter if you have never set foot on a dance floor before or whether you are competition standard, Moonlight Dance Studio will provide personalised tuition in a fun and friendly environment. What's more, the first lesson is completely free of charge, with no obligation.

"Everyone is different," says the director of Moonlight, "so we make sure that every student has an individual programme, so they can learn and progress in the way they are happiest and achieve what they set out to do."

As well as the private lessons

with a professional teacher, there are also group classes.

This dance studio, which is in Urbanización Real Panorama in Marbella, is the result of years of study about ballroom dancing as a social therapy. The team are convinced that it is the best dance school on the Costa del Sol.

"Moonlight is not just a dance school. It is a place where you go to change your life forever. It will improve many aspects of your daily life, such as self-confidence, posture, social relationships, health, body shape, even the way you walk and move," they say.

However, the best recommendation for any business comes from its clients, and Moonlight Dance Studio has received rave reviews, such as this one on its website:

'An extraordinary way to learn to dance. The groups are loads of fun and it's amazing how the teachers are able to personalize the teaching. The atmosphere is fantastic. I'm so glad I joined, it's the highlight of my week!' Further information can be obtained at www.moonlightdancestudio.com or by telephoning 687 792 245.

SPONSORED FEATURE

Costa residents win prizes for speaking out

Two members of a Marbella based public-speaking group were awarded first and third place at a national competition last month

RACHEL ARMSTRONG



MARBELLA. The Toastmasters Spring Division Contest, held in Victoria in March, saw more than 50 speakers from 21 clubs across Spain battle it out in the English and Spanish speech categories.

Third place in the English Speech Contest was awarded to John Sandner, a retired merchant marine officer from Estepona who has been a member of Toastmasters Marbella for nine years.

John, 68, said he was "slightly disappointed not to have come in higher but proud to have achieved so much" for himself and the club. He said, "The whole ethos of Toastmasters is one of communal support."

The president of Toastmasters Marbella, Ali Parandeh Zandpour, scooped first prize in the same contest for his speech "The Dividing Line", in which he raised issues about nationality, religion and politics.

The 46-year-old, who has been a member of the club since April 2015, said that he was "overwhelmed with joy" when the results were announced. Now he will have the opportunity to compete at European level.

Ali joined the club two years ago when he was looking for a new challenge and wanted to get back into the academic world. "While Toastmasters is not an academic institute, it is very similar in the sense that it includes all the things we learnt in school, university and work and puts them to use in a perfect manner," he explained.

Although he is relatively new to the group, Ali said he has been "amazed" by the changes and improvements he has noticed in other members. He highlighted the "dynamic of the group" as particularly special "because it is not the age that matters but everyone helps each other and we all learn together."

"All members want you to learn and do better than them," he explained. "They all support and encourage you to do better than your best. The only competition is to take the opportunity to improve yourself,

pushing yourself slightly out of your comfort zone but in the most supportive atmosphere."

In addition to his public speaking skills, Ali believes that Toastmasters has helped him become a "better listener, better communicator and a better leader" and would encourage others to follow in his footsteps. "Life is a journey and provides you with millions of opportunities: to visit places, meet people and learn new things. Toastmasters is one of those opportunities."

Toastmasters International is a non-profit organisation that aims to help individuals become more effective communicators and leaders; there are over 15,000 clubs in 143 countries.

The Toastmasters concept is based on practice and evaluation of public speaking; each person is encouraged to try different roles including timer, grammarian and 'filler words' counter, as well as presenting speeches.

"No matter what you do at work or at home, there is always a moment when you have to speak, be it to your colleagues or just your family, at your wedding, a birthday, a wedding anniversary. Public speaking teaches you the art of getting the message across in the most effective way," explained Ali.

The Achievers Toastmasters International Club of Marbella is the first of four in Andalucía - Malaga, Seville and Granada are home to the other three - and is the only English-speaking club in the region.

Originally created in 2001, the Marbella club now has over 30 members of various nationalities, including British, Spanish, German, Scandinavian, Czech and South American. Members come from an array of professional backgrounds and ages range from 18 to over 70.

Anyone is welcome to attend a meeting as a guest, with no commitment to join. Marbella Toastmasters meetings are carried out in English and take place every Wednesday at 8pm in the social room above Bar El Jardín in Nueva Andalucía.

❶ Achievers Toastmasters :
www.toastmastersmarbella.com
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Winning speakers Ali Parandeh and John Sandner. :: SUR

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A bird sanctuary for endangered species

Two biologists have turned a former rubbish dump and gravel pit into a wetland with more than 2,000 birds from 200 species

The Cañada de los Pájaros celebrates its 30th anniversary this year and the married couple who created it are seeing their dream come true

:: MARÍA DOLORES TORTOSA

SEVILLE. La Cañada de los Pájaros was the first nature reserve to be classified as such in Spain, and this year it is celebrating its 30th anniversary. One needs a real sense of vocation, like that of married couple Plácido Rodríguez Parada and Maribel Adrián, both of whom are biologists, to convert a gravel pit and rubbish dump into a paradise for birds which are in danger of extinction, which is what this is today. Not only that, but they did so privately and using their own money. This small 7.5 hectare habitat for birds is in Puebla del Río, one of the villages beside the Guadalquivir river, which flows into the heart of Doñana.

Plácido Rodríguez, the latest in generations of wardens, grew up in Sanlúcar de Barrameda. His vocation was developed early in life as he saw how the numbers of the birds he was used to seeing gradually dropped. Some, like the marble teal, were officially listed as being in danger of extinction. Others included the crested coot and ferruginous pochard, ducks whose existence is also in jeopardy.

La Cañada de los Pájaros was created as a place where these birds could breed, so that their species could continue, and it is also a centre for pres-

ervation, environmental information and research. Over the years it also became a favourite place for families in the area to visit, especially those with young children. It is a lovely setting, with lagoons and Mediterranean vegetation. More than 2,000 birds can be found there, and others stop off temporarily at different times throughout the year.

Maribel Adrián comes from Burgos originally, and she met Plácido in Seville. They not only found love, but discovered that they shared the same concerns. They went to the Canary Islands and upon their return to Andalucía they decided to make a dream come true by creating their very own area for the protection of birds. They looked for a suitable site and in April 1987 they purchased and moved to a site in Puebla del Río, half an hour from Seville, which used to be a quarry and gravel pit. It later became a rubbish dump.

The couple also encountered another obstacle: most of the trees were eucalyptus, the result of the mistaken policy of reforestation which caused so much damage to the wetlands of Doñana.

While the first baby coots and

pochards were being brought up, Plácido and Maribel set about clearing the site of rubble and eucalyptus trees and planting native species of Mediterranean woodland. They also cleaned the lagoons which had been created from the quarry pits and the extraordinary marshiness of the land, which is close to the Guadalquivir river. It is situated on the final stretch of the Cañada de la Barca, which is why they decided to name it Cañada de los Pájaros.

"We spent four years getting rid of the rubbish and rubble," says Maribel. It was inten-

sive work, which also included planting different vegetation in separate areas to attract certain types of bird, such as planting typha (bulrushes) for the crested coots.

The crested coot

This black duck with white beak and head and a red crest is known as 'focha moruna' (*Fulica cristata*) in Spanish. Maribel and Plácido took advantage of an agreement between Morocco and Spain to bring several of these ducks from North Africa because the species was very weak in this country. Thanks to this, the numbers of this species have grown. La Cañada de los Pájaros is the first nature reserve in the world to carry out a programme to recover the crested coot.

La Cañada opened to the public in 1992, but one year beforehand it was classified as a Nature Reserve by the Junta de Andalucía. It was the first of its type in Spain. It is also registered in the Inventory of Wetlands of Andalucía and the Andalusian Wetlands Plan.

The region of Andalucía as a whole has 230 wetlands and this year the census of birds has shown record figures, totalling nearly one million, according to the regional Minister for the Environment, José Fiscal, who provided this information on World Wetlands Day, on 2 March. About 70 per cent of them,



La Cañada de los Pájaros is a popular

645,000, are in Doñana. The most common breeds are the northern shoveler, lesser black-backed gull, northern pintail, greylag goose, common flamingo and calidris.

All these species also pass through La Cañada de los Pájaros, which since 1992 has been celebrating World Wetlands Day by releasing birds which have taken part in programmes of recovery in captivity. This year, José Fiscal was there to watch. Since the year the Expo took place in Seville, 1,200 crested coots, 100 ferruginous pochards and about 800 marbled teals have been set free.



Maribel and Plácido are both biologists. :: EFE

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place for families to visit. :: EFE

La Cañada is half an hour from Seville and close to the protected area of Doñana

It is a benchmark for breeding marbled teals, crested coots and ferruginous pochards

Plácido and Maribel warn that despite the recovery programmes in Andalucía and the Levante region and the fact that their numbers are increasing, these birds are still in danger of dying out.

Dangers

They are released into the countryside so that they can nest on the wetlands again, but they face many dangers including pesticides, rubbish, fences and the transformation of agricultural land.

Maribel and Plácido, who collaborated with Malaga City Hall to save birds which were affected by Malaga airport, say they see the release of the protected species as a symbolic gesture, a way of attracting the attention of governments and citizens and raising awareness of the importance of protecting the wetlands.

Since the 1990s, when they began releasing the birds, about 64 per cent of these have disappeared. "They are

very fragile ecosystems, and those of us who look after them need more support to protect them from external aggressions," explains Maribel.

On the day the birds were released this year her husband, Plácido, said it was a shame that no matter how many animals were released, the conditions of the wetlands were not improved. He said more money is needed, but for practical help, not for studies and papers which never amount to anything.

At least this couple are keeping their little reserve on the marshes of Seville going. They have made La Cañada an "essential place" for the crested coot and other birds when the conditions in Doñana become adverse and the birds have to look for alternative locations.

They receive grants for the breeding programmes, but need other sources of financing and assistance in order to maintain their small paradise. They have signed agreements with town halls and universities, under which students can do practical experience there, collaborate in the different bird programmes and also open the site to the public for visits.

This site is now home to 200 species of birds, 180 of which are native and the remainder are exotic. These include the scarlet ibis, an aquatic bird which delights photographers because of its extraordinary colouring.

"We do work very hard, but this isn't just a business. It's a way of life," says Maribel.

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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

14 APRIL 1988

Spanish government approves law to air privately run television

JENNIE RHODES

✉ rhodes_jennie@hotmail.com

On this day in 1988 the Spanish government passed a law to allow private companies to broadcast on Spanish television, paving the way for the likes of Antena 3 and Telecinco to make their mark on the airways

The law was passed by 169 votes to 112, but all votes in favour of private television came from the socialist PSOE government of the time. Then spokesperson, Pedro Bofil, said, "Freedom of information is growing thanks to the votes

of the PSOE."

Every other party in Spain's lower house opposed the bill. Luis Ramallo, spokesperson for the Partido Popular (PP) said that the bill didn't "regulate television freedom", but was an "obsolete intervention, incomplete and without guarantees."

The law was due to come into force on 1 January 1990 and at the time there were three companies vying for deals with the government: La Sociedad de Estudios de Televisión Independiente, which was an umbrella group including Radio Television Luxembourg and Antena 3, which belonged to the same group as the UK's Granada, taken over by ITV in 2008, as well as America's NBC. The third company was Univisión Canal 1.

The 1998 law stipulated that any



Antena 3 controllers preparing to go live in December 1989. :: EFE

future private television company would have to air for four hours a day and 32 hours per week and that a minimum of 15 per cent of the material would have to be the companies' own, original content.

Forty per cent of programmes were to come from other European countries, 55 per cent had to be Spanish and at least 50 per cent of films would have to be Spanish.

Advertising could not take up more than 10 per cent of annual broadcasting hours and could not

last for more than 10 minutes of airtime in any one commercial break.

Party political broadcasts were not permitted on private television channels.

On 26 August 1989 it was announced that the three companies to air private television programmes would be Antena 3, Gestvisión Telecinco and Sogetel. The first programmes would be shown on 3 April 1990 and the contracts would run for an initial pe-

riod of 10 years, after which they could be renewed.

On 31 March 2010, the audiovisual communication law superseded the private television law passed in 1988. There are now upwards of 35 private national and regional television companies airing programmes on mainstream Spanish television.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Ley	Law
Servicio	Service
Público	Public
Privado	Private
Medios	Media
Cobertura	Coverage
Telediario	News programme
Publicidad	Advertising
Hora	Hour
Contenido	Content
Programa	Programme
Canal	Channel
Documental	Documentary
Telenovela	Soap opera
Serie	Series
Película	Film
Emitir	To broadcast
Programación	Schedule
Entrevista	Interview

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REF. B.O.B.

I have bought an apartment located in Marbella. Within two weeks, we have to sign the title deed before the notary, but the owner and I can not come to an agreement about the notary that we must use, since he wants to sign with a notary who is a friend of his, and who has an office in Estepona. I want to sign with an impartial

notary located in Marbella, so that we do not have to go to a different village when it is not necessary. Who is entitled to choose the notary when there is no agreement?

With regard to the notary, it must be taken into account that any notary is impartial even if he is signing with a friend of his, as he has the obligation to make sure that all legal requirements and obligations are met. Nevertheless, if there is no agreement between the parties about the notary who has to sign the title deed, the decision will correspond to the one who will have to pay the notary fees, or the most part of it, in this case, you.

REF. C.I.E.

I have the intention of selling one of my properties in Spain. However, I am having problems with the buyer's lawyer, since he has said that

they will have to deduct from the sale price the amount that they will have to pay to the bank in order to cancel the mortgage, because he has obtained a nota simple in the Land Registry, and my property appears to have an encumbrance. This is not possible, as I paid the total amount to cancel the mortgage more than a year ago. Why would there be debts in the Land Registry, if I already settled my debt with the bank?

The most likely reason is that, even if you paid the outstanding amount to the bank, they have not signed the mortgage cancellation deed, and that is why the debt is still appearing in the Land Registry. In order to solve this, it is necessary that the bank's legal representative signs the cancellation deed before a notary and takes it to the Land registry, for them to remove the debt from their records.

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A group of ADANA dog walkers in Estepona on Sunday. :: SUR

Families and their dogs join in The Great ADANA Dog Outing

ESTEPONA. A large crowd of ADANA volunteers, members, supporters and the public took part in the fourth annual Great ADANA Dog Outing in Estepona on Sunday. Eleven dogs from the ADANA kennels were walked from the Palacio de Congresos, Estepona, along the Paseo Marítimo. They were accompanied by families with their canine companions, many of which were adopted from ADANA.

Just under 2,000 euros in donations were raised for the dog rescue and rehoming charity.

"Thanks to events like this and

public generosity, as well as our volunteers, we are able to get funds to carry on with our work of caring for and finding homes for abandoned and unwanted dogs," said Reg Winkworth, ADANA Treasurer.

Reg also thanked ADANA Secretary Lyn Bessant, Andy Sprake, Vesa and Tina who helped with the preparations and volunteer Sandra Walker Kincaid who selected the ADANA dogs chosen for the walk. If you are interested in adopting a dog or helping ADANA in any way, visit the website

www.adana.es for further details.



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PET CARE

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Essential security

The importation of dogs with false pedigree papers could be putting Europe's rabies-free status at risk

It is time to look back to the twentieth century in order to shape the future. Quarantine for dogs and cats entering the UK was mandatory and originally for good reason. Pets were being imported from all over the world mainly because of the shrinking empire, especially from India. Owners did not want to lose their pets but there was a very real risk of rabies. So the control of rabies act was passed and quarantine was introduced being increased to as much as six months. It did not apply to horses, probably because many MPs were horse owners.

Eventually in February 2000 the controls were considerably modified to allow pets to enter UK without owners having to face the cost, stress and inconvenience of quarantine. The pets were spared the upset of being separated from their owners. However this was not an open door policy. Only pets from certain countries could be admitted, which included Spain. It is interesting to note that more letters in support of change came from Spain to the British government than from any country.

And Andalucia headed the list. When the quarantine conference was held in Mijas, the hall was packed to capacity and attendees spilled over into the street. The organisation Passports for Pets chaired by the determined Lady Mary Fretwell was responsible for the changes, but Britain was not



abandoning the control of rabies. Britain was rightfully proud of its rabies free status but would follow the example of health conscious Sweden. There were less onerous controls, including a requirement for pets to be vaccinated against rabies, with a waiting period for the vaccine to take effect, and the use of approved carriers to certain nominated ports. (Owners should check the DEFRA website to ensure they are up to date with the recent requirements.) The new controls made life easier for owners and pets.

I am often asked whether the departure of the UK from the EU will have any effect on the restriction of pets entering the UK from abroad. I cannot answer that question. Indeed the whole Brexit affair seems to be a giant question mark, but bear in mind that the qualifying factor for entry depended on the rabies-free status of the country of departure, and not on any man-created organisation. Also non-members of the EU are included on the approved list.

It is of vital importance to keep all countries free of rabies and vigilance is essential.

Some animal traders of dubious reputation are importing dogs with faked papers, including so-called pedigrees, and crossing borders with impunity. Many of these puppies come from puppy farms where mass production and profit is the main aim. A puppy cannot effectively be vaccinated against rabies if it is under four months, yet some of these puppies have a vaccination certificate. The pedigrees are there because a higher price can be asked. Buyers can obtain a dog of mixed parentage at any rescue centre for a nominal amount, but a pedigree dog from a registered kennel is expensive. The illegally imported dogs, often from eastern Europe, will have all the papers and a price tag to match. But are they genuine? The old adage, "If it looks too good to be true, it probably is," is worth remembering. If you buy a dog under these circumstances you may be buying a whole load of trouble.

What can we all do to avoid canine rabies from getting hold in Europe with all its dramatic consequences? The answer is to buy a pedigree dog ONLY from a registered breeder who has a fine reputation which he or she is zealous to maintain. The papers including vaccination will be genuine.

If you prefer a mixed breed dog then go to a registered rescue centre where you will be surprised by the quality and variety of dogs. The vaccinations will be in order.

Pass this information on to anyone you know who is contemplating a purchase of a pet. A lawyer friend of mine, has a sign on his desk: "To believe is good but not to believe is better."

THE NIGHT
SKYKEN
CAMPBELL

Your star sign?

Everybody at some time or another has read their 'stars' in the newspapers and we are all familiar with our own individual star sign, be it Virgo, Gemini, Taurus, Leo etc. But how many people realise that these are all real constellations in the sky?

Since the beginning of time humans have looked up at the moon, planets and stars and, with no better understanding or explanation as to what they could possibly be, they became wrapped in stories and myths. It was also presumed that they must have some supernatural influence on people's lives. Probably one of the first things that ancient man noticed about the stars was that at different times of the year, as the Earth went around the Sun, different stars were visible. And the Sun, the moon and the five 'wandering stars' - which we now know are planets - moved across the sky in a very narrow band. This narrow band is called the ecliptic and with imagination twelve different constellations were picked out and were christened the Zodiac.

It was believed that the position of the Sun, in relation to the signs of the Zodiac on the day you were born, would influence your personality and your life. The position of the stars could also have an outcome on events that were about to happen. People who could study the movements of the stars and planets became in great demand by rulers to help them predict forthcoming events. Virtually every nation had their



own Royal Astrologer to help with important decisions. When Halley's Comet appeared in 1066 it was deemed an omen to William to set off and conquer of Britain.

Some astrologers expanded on their work and studied the sky with great accuracy and so serious astronomy was born, as in-depth complicated mathematical calculations were needed to measure the movements of the moon or a certain planet for a particular date. Today the Astronomer Royal has replaced the Royal Astrologer and Martin Rees now fills that prestigious position in the UK.

The original signs of the Zodiac and the dates they are meant to cover were invented thousands of years ago. Because of movements in the Earth's orbit (precession), the star sign that you believe is yours is almost certainly not the constellation where the Sun was on the day you were born!

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DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

The Fringe Tree

A stunningly beautiful shrub or small tree with long panicles of ribbon-like scented flowers followed by attractive blue-black berries in autumn

Chionanthus virginicus is a large, deciduous shrub or small tree in the Oleaceae family (olive) and is native to the US. It has glossy, dark green, pinnate leaves that turn golden in autumn and long clusters of fragrant white flowers from spring, just as the leaves emerge. Fringe trees have male and female

flowers on separate plants and it is impossible to tell them apart unless they are in flower. Fortunately they are both stunning when in bloom although the male has the slight advantage with showier, longer petals.

The fringe tree is quite hardy

although it may suffer some frost damage and even die-back in very harsh winters. It is fast growing and prefers free-draining acid soil although it will also grow in alkaline soil. It needs full sun or partial shade and should be kept moist. The

Fringe tree is also resistant to pollution. When fully grown it can reach three metres high by the same width.

It is sometimes catalogued as *C. pubescens* and common names include, the Fringe tree, Old Man's Beard and Snowflower.

After the long panicles of flowers (up to 20cm long) have faded in the autumn, dark blue or black berries form which attract birds. The fruits which are about 18mm long, do not have much flesh and contain up to three seeds.

The dried bark, peeled from the roots, was once made into a tea and used by native American Indians and European settlers to treat inflammation of the eyes, mouth ulcers and gums. It is used in homeopathy to treat liver disorders and gall bladder problems. It is believed to reduce the sugar content in urine and stimulate appetite and digestion.

The Fringe tree can be propagated successfully from seed sown as soon as the fruit has ripened. The flesh needs to be removed and the seed rinsed before sowing. However germination can take up to 18 months. Another way to increase stock is by layering the lower stems.



C. virginicus (centre) and the berries (inset). :: SUR

READER'S PHOTO



:: MARGARET REED

A GERANIUM IN ITS PRIME

Margaret Reed sent in this photo and says, "This geranium is on my terrace. I bought it 8 years ago for 1.99 euros, and it flowers 52 weeks of the year."

GARDENING HINTS FOR APRIL

Pruning Forsythia

The bright yellow flowers of the Forsythia have faded heralding the time to prune. It is when the leaves start to appear that the buds for next year's flowers start to form under the bark so the time to get the secateurs out is now. Forsythia is very hardy and can be cut back to the ground if necessary but usually all that is needed is a bit of thinning out and the

shortening of some of the more untidy branches. Aim to cut out completely about a quarter or a third of the oldest stems and then remove some of the whippier growth to allow light to get in. If you need to, you can also reduce the height if it's starting to look a bit untidy but keep in mind that the natural form of this shrub is tall, elegantly arching branches.

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

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

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



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BRIT BACK

POLLY
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Home thoughts from abroad

While Easter has become the 'new Christmas' in the UK, Malaga keeps true to a traditional Semana Santa

Myriads of memories and experiences come from the years I lived in Spain but it is Semana Santa in Malaga which has left one of the most lasting impressions.

It seemed so intensely, addictively sensual - the strange sight of hundreds of men swaying in unison under a vast oak platform which bore the stricken form of a dying Jesus Christ or the distraught Virgin Mary, a single diamond teardrop on her pale face; the city streets reeking of molten wax and the night air filled with the heady scent of lilies and thick clouds of incense; the funereal sound of slow stepping brass bands or sudden silence, the shouts of devotion and the wailing saetas.

Easter in England is an entirely different affair. God and the church barely seem to feature. Instead it is characterised largely by chocolate eggs. The supermarket shelves are groaning with the products of a £200 million annual industry and besides the basic children's versions there are now a whole raft of more sophisti-

cated 'artisan' offerings - the mini eggs within Heston Blumenthal's life-like egg, nestle on edible soil, there's a gin and tonic flavoured egg and an avocado shaped egg, a Marmite chocolate egg - could anything be more British? - and a whopping 4.5 kilo creation which contains 22,500 calories and costs 250 quid.

It's not just eggs though. Easter crackers,

bunny bunting, rabbit ear headbands, lurid plastic baskets for collecting the prizes from an egg hunt and even Easter paper chains adorned with chicks are all on sale. "Easter," screech the headlines, "is the new Christmas!"

And while Spanish families take to the beaches of the Costa del Sol in large cheerful groups for the first long holiday of the year and the chiringuitos roll up their shutters for the beginning of the season we have fun runs and craft fairs to attend.

In my part of East Anglia this weekend's listed events include a Tudor themed 'Easter-tide' at the local manor house which features 16th century style hot cross buns and a joust-

ing tournament with the 'Knights of Middle England' at the nearest medieval castle. It all seems so innocent, so quaint compared with the sacred and earthly delights of Semana Santa.

For me, though, Easter here means spring and after many warm winters in southern Spain I had forgotten the real sense of joy which heralds the end of months of gloomy days and long cold nights. At this time of year Britain is at its most picturesque, a tourist board's dream come true. Yes, there really are woolly lambs bouncing in green meadows and yes there are pale yellow primroses and cowslips in the ditches and yes, the air is soft and hawthorn blossom drifts lazily in the breeze and every tree is heavy with sticky buds ready to unfurl into leaves and new life.

"Oh to be in England, now that April's there," wrote Robert Browning whilst homesick in Italy in 1845. Last weekend when the temperatures hit 25°C and all of Britain rushed towards the sunshine like lemmings over a cliff, fiercely ignited barbecues and turned pink with pleasure at the sudden heatwave it seemed hard to argue with that.

Polly Rodger Brown returned from Spain to the UK last year. In this column she reflects on different aspects of life in both countries.



Easter egg cup cake in UK. :: SUR



Holy Week in Malaga. :: SUR

FACTS AND FACES

Lions donate 3,000 euros to animal shelter

MIJAS

Pat Coleman of FAMA (Foundation for Abandoned and Mistreated animals) recently received a cheque for 3,000 euros from La Cala de Mijas Lions Club president Paul Butler. The animal shelter, which opened in 2003, can now tile the dog runs making cleaning much easier. To volunteer or adopt contact Pat on 620354885.



Pat and Paul with volunteers.

Perfect weather for Lux Mundi's Easter Bazaar

TORRE DEL MAR

Lux Mundi has sent out thanks to all those who supported their recent Easter Bazaar, especially those who donated cakes and gifts or gave their time to help. The lovely weather encouraged many residents to visit the bazaar and browse the variety of stalls and to sit and enjoy home-made cakes and refreshments.



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

Andalucía

The burning of Judas in El Burgo

This village in the Sierra de las Nieves brings Easter to an end by adopting an unusual tradition

The tranquility of this peaceful village is shattered on Easter Sunday when an effigy filled with gunpowder is set alight

✪ JAVIER ALMELLONES

EL BURGO. Resurrection Sunday is celebrated in very different ways in Malaga province. One of the most unusual places to visit and experience this for yourself is the village of El Burgo, in the heart of the Sierra de las Nieves.

For more than 70 years, local residents have been following a tradition which is normally found in the north of Spain, the 'Quema de Judas', or Burning of Judas. In fact, it was a priest from the Basque Country who took advantage of being posted to El Burgo to introduce this unusual way of bringing Easter week to an end.

On Easter Sunday, although a procession takes place as well, the main event of the day is seeing how this cloth figure, which is filled with gunpowder, burns and explodes.

The giant Judas, who is always used to symbolise something negative, will be set alight at 12.30pm in the Plaza de Abajo.

The figure, which every year has certain similarities to a different character with dark and sinister connotations, is around six metres high, which gives an idea of the importance attributed to this custom in this village in Malaga province. After being set on fire, the figure is gradually destroyed as the people of El Burgo celebrate the Resurrection of Christ and triumph over sin.

This tradition from northern Spain, which has been classified as a Festival of Interest to National Tourism by the Andalusian regional government, attracts a large number of visitors every year.

This weekend would also be a good time to explore the rest of the village, which was the birthplace of two famous names from history, Commander Benítez, who was known for his bravery during the Riff War, and the feared and bloodthirsty José Mingolla, nicknamed Pasos Largos, who was the last bandit in Spain.

Turbulent past

The village of El Burgo stands on a hill from which there are views over a large part of the Turón val-



This village in Malaga province is situated in the heart of the Sierra de las Nieves. ✪ JAVIER ALMELLONES



The 'Quema de Judas' is unusual in southern Spain ✪ J A RUIZ G.

ley. With a location as strategic as this, it would have been impossible for there not to have been a castle during the most turbulent period of its history. In fact there was one, but nowadays it can only be seen from some of the oldest parts of the village.

Until the 18th century the for-

ress was in good condition, but then it was partly destroyed by an earthquake which hit the area halfway through that century.

Despite its dilapidated condition, Napoleon's troops used the castle as a refuge in 1812, but they almost completely demolished it when they left. Today, you can see

The Burning of Judas tradition was introduced by a priest from northern Spain 70 years ago

El Burgo has a great deal more to offer, including walks through the beautiful countryside

several of its walls and the remains of some of its 12 original towers.

Country walks

From El Burgo, you can walk almost as far as the source of the Turón river, which flows through the village. There are some interesting routes, such as the one called 'La Acequia de los Molinos', and it is often possible to spot different types of fish and turtles in the water as you walk.

At the start of the route you can see the 'Puente Viejo', or Old Bridge, whose size indicates that it was never built for vehicles. Continuing upstream and leaving the village behind, a track on the left takes you alongside the Turón river to El

Dique dam, one of the most popular places with local people in the summer months.

To reach the source of the river you need to take a narrower path which leads off from the main track, and is one of the stretches of the Great Trail of Malaga walking route.

For a more extensive view over the surrounding countryside you can drive as far as the Guarda Forestal viewing point, which is situated on an elevated area at El Viento pass, on the road between Ronda and El Burgo.

Between Los Sauces recreation area and Las Camaretas hill, in the municipality of El Burgo, you can also see some spectacular pinsapo trees, some of which are extremely large. Although this is not the densest woodland in the province of Malaga, it is worth taking a look by walking along some of the circular tracks which leave from the area known as Los Sauces, which is beside the old 'Sierra de las Nieves' convent.

Among the most outstanding routes in this area is the one which leads to the neighbouring village of Yunquera, as it passes through mixed woodlands where the rare pinsapos, oaks and other species of mountain vegetation coexist in perfect harmony.

Men over 40 are most at risk of being overweight

According to a study carried out by Anibes in Spain, males over this age are more likely to suffer from obesity

by S. R.

The scientific magazine PLoS ONE recently published an article on the link between general and abdominal obesity and physical activity, smoking, sleep and level of education.

The article featured a new ANIBES scientific study, which was coordinated by the Spanish Nutrition Foundation (FEN) and produced some interesting new data. The aim of the study was to analyse the Spanish adult population between the ages of 18 and 65 and look at the relationship between

different socio-economic factors and lifestyle, including physical activity, and excess weight, general and abdominal obesity.

"The results show that in Spain, being male and over the age of 40 is associated with a greater risk of excess weight and general and abdominal obesity," says Dr Rosa María Ortega, the director of the VALORNUT research group and the head of Nutrition at the Complutense university in Madrid.

"They also indicate that people with a higher level of education who spend more than 150 minutes a week



by S. R.

doing vigorous physical exercise have a lower risk."

Gender is a factor

Excess weight, general and abdominal obesity were found to be significantly higher in men who took part in the ANIBES study. "While 40.5 per cent of the men were overweight, only 31.4 per cent of women were.

In terms of general obesity, 22.7 per cent of the men were suffering from that, compared with 17.3 per cent of the women. Finally, 64.7 per cent of the men suffered from abdominal obesity, while 52.5 per cent of women did," explains Dr Ortega.

Scientific literature has suggested before that gender alone can be a factor in body composition, oxidation

and the movement of fats, because sexual hormones affect not only the amount of body fat but also the way it is distributed.

"If we look at this study, men's increased risk of becoming overweight or obese could be determined by differences between men's and women's physical activity or eating habits," says the doctor.

This study also took into account sociodemographic characteristics such as people's level of education, their work and their income.

"We were able to see that a university education is inversely related with excess weight and general and abdominal obesity," says Dr Ortega. "People's level of education can influence health and body weight because it is related to knowledge of health and lifestyle habits, including diet and physical activity."

With regard to family income, "it is interesting that those who didn't answer that question (23.6 per cent) showed a lower risk of abdominal obesity, so it could be that the people who didn't say how much they earned are from those groups with the highest income and socio-economic level," she says.

In addition to studying how physical activity and the amount of energy expended are related with obesity and excess weight, the study also showed that the amount of sleep can also have an influence. People who sleep for seven or more hours a day seem to have a lower risk of general and abdominal obesity, and the risk reduces still further in those who sleep for at least eight hours.

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The Costa del Sol collaborates with a Danish cancer prevention campaign



MÓNICA PÉREZ

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The campaign will focus on raising awareness among Scandinavian residents and tourists of the risks of sunbathing without skin protection

MARBELLA. A few months ago, the Danish Association against Cancer launched a campaign aimed at the most popular holiday destinations for tourists from that country, including Spain, asking them to collaborate in preventing skin cancer statistics in Denmark from rising any higher.

The campaign, called Help a Dane (www.helpadane.com/spain) went viral and the Costa del Sol, where the health authorities have spent eight years working on a sun protection project, has responded by focusing its

strategy this summer on Scandinavian tourists. As well as the Junta de Andalucía, the Danish consulate in Malaga and the town halls of Marbella, Manilva, Ojén, Torremolinos, Benahavís, Casares, Estepona, Istán, Benalmádena, Fuengirola and Mijas will also be taking part.

The campaign is directed at Scandinavian residents as well as tourists, and it aims to encourage them to protect themselves against the sun, reduce the incidence of sunburn and ensure that cases of skin cancer are diagnosed early.

According to the official figures, Denmark has a rate of 19.2 cases of melanoma for every 100,000 inhabitants. It is followed by Norway (with 18.8), Sweden (18) and Finland (12.6). In Spain overall the rate is 6.9, although on the Costa del Sol it is higher, at 17.

The campaign will be carried out in places where it is easiest to reach the public and ensure that the message is direct and is taken on board. These include 14 health centres as well as the Costa del Sol hospital, the CARE in Mijas and the HAR in Benalmádena. The campaign will also be promoted in the Swedish

schools in Fuengirola and Marbella, the Danish and Norwegian schools in Benalmádena and the Finnish school in Fuengirola. In addition, it will also focus on tourist offices, car hire offices, the media, Scandinavian airlines and tourism companies which work with clients from those countries and wish to take part.

What is the best way of getting the message about the risks of sunbathing across to tourists who are coming here precisely to spend a few days enjoying the climate?

That was one of the questions raised during the recent presentation of this campaign at the Andalucía Lab, which was led by the manager of the Costa del Sol hospital, Torcuato Romero, and Marbella's councillor for health,

Ana Leschiera. Representatives of the public administrations and private entities associated with the foreign population who reside or spend the summers on the Costa del Sol were also present, and they asked several questions which the campaign will bear in mind.

"In two or three days they want to get as much sun as possible," explained Juan Valentin, the representative of the Playa Senator hotel chain, which is the first to become involved in the hospital's sun protection campaign. "It can be quite difficult to tell people about the risks of sunbathing, when that is exactly what they plan to do during their short stay."

Manilva's councillor for foreigners, Dean Tyler Shelton, said the message given by the hotels should be less direct and more subtle.

"Why don't you place an information sticker in the bathroom, beside the one asking people not to waste water? It would be quite subliminal, but the message needs to be got across because obviously anyone who is diagnosed with skin cancer isn't going to want to come back," he said.

Schools, health centres, tourism companies, the regional government and town halls are all getting involved



Nuria Delgado, Torcuato Romero,

A question of balance

Those responsible for the campaign stress that the strategy upon which they are working includes the need to balance the warning message with

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Marisa Moreno and Ana Leschiera. :: JOSELE-LANZA

the interests of the tourism sector, as well as the scientific evidence of the benefits of the sun for body and mind, as Magdalena de Troya, the campaign director, explained.

"We need the sun and there is no need to give a negative message about it. We have to provide advice from a positive point of view," she said. "It is important to remember that

Danish people spend six months of the year in the dark. They come here for a bit of sunshine which their brain also needs," explained the Danish consul in Malaga, Marisa Moreno.

With these points in mind, tourism companies are now starting to see the problem and come up with ideas of raising awareness of the risks but without damaging their business. Manuel Martínez, who runs a luxury charter company, for example, explained that he is having discussions with a sun cream company about giving samples to his clients.

"Danish people are not aware of the risks from the sun. I see them spending hours and hours on the beach. They are desperate for sunshine. It's a good idea to remind them that sunbathing is OK, but that they need to be careful. This campaign is necessary," said Annete Skou, who is Danish and the coordinator of the foreigners department in Mijas.

Jesper Pedersen, the president of the Costa Press Club, said the media has a role to play in giving positive messages.

"We're not here to frighten anybody, because this is a preventive campaign," he argued, something with which the campaign coordinator, Nuria Delgado, strongly agreed.

PARTICIPANTS

Marisa Moreno

Danish consul in Malaga

"We have to give a positive message. Danish people spend six months in the dark and come here precisely to get some sun."

Annete Skou

Coord. Mijas Foreign Res. Dept.

"Danish people are not aware of the risks from the sun. I see them spending hours and hours on the beach. This campaign is necessary."

Juan Valentín

Playa Senator hotels

"It can be difficult to give a negative message about sunbathing to tourists who have come here for exactly that reason."

Magdalena de Troya

Campaign director

"We have to maintain a balance between the need to give a warning message and the interests of the tourism sector."

Jesper Petersen

President Costa Press Club

"We are not here to frighten anybody. This is a preventive campaign and the media should express that aspect of it."

"We have to turn this campaign by the health authorities into something which becomes fashionable and well-accepted by the public," she said.

Teenage anorexia sufferers are at risk of relapse

EEF

The brains of teenagers who suffer from anorexia do not change even after treatment, according to experts on eating disorders. This increases the risk of a relapse and also shows "subtle but important" differences in comparison with the brains of people who have never had to fight this illness.

This was the message given recently by Dr Marina Díaz Marsá, head of the eating disorder unit (TAC) at the San Carlos hospital in Madrid and president of the Psychiatry Society of Madrid.

In a statement, the doctor said that "the suspicions we have had about the neurobiological impact of anorexia have been supported by continuous studies." The latest piece of research found that the brains of the patients in the survey still focused on the idea of rewarding starvation and the wish to be thinner.

Science has not been able to ascertain whether "these neurobiological differences are present before someone develops the illness, or whether they are physical predictors of it or whether they are the 'scars' which are left by a prolonged lack of food," explained Dr Díaz Marsá.

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Ana Isabel González, Torcuato Romero and hospital representative Pedro López attended. :: J. LANZA

From Mona Lisa's squint to one of The Three Graces with cancer

An exhibition at the Costa del Sol hospital looks at how medicine evolved between the 15th and 20th centuries, through 53 reproductions of major works of art



MÓNICA PÉREZ

✉ mperezg@diariosur.es

The display, which originally marked the 40th anniversary of the Reina Sofía hospital in Cordoba, can now be seen at the Costa del Sol hospital in Marbella

MARBELLA. You may never have noticed, but the left breast of one of the women in the painting *The Three Graces*, by Rubens (the model on the right of the picture) is smaller than the right one, the nipple is retracted and she has a lesion on the supere externo quadrant, which could indicate advanced breast cancer.

Neither might you have considered that in Sorollo's work *¡Aún Dicen Que El Pescado Es Caro!* the central figure has a lacerated and contused wound with severe hemorrhage, a sign of shock; or even that the famous Mona Lisa, who looks as if she is trying to hide a squint, suffers from facial paralysis, which is reflected in that outline



▲ **Laparotomy (Vicente Castell Domenech (1871-1934).** "Laparotomy is the opening and surgical exploration of abdominal and pelvic organs to diagnose illnesses which cannot be identified by other means." :: SUR

of a smile, alopecia hidden beneath a wig and a skin condition called scleroderma.

There are many different ways of looking at works of art and what they tell us. They talk of an era, and of customs of the time, and an exhibition which opened this week at the Costa del Sol hospital invi-

tes visitors to also reflect upon the medical aspect. This display of 53 reproductions of works by famous artists between the 15th and 20th centuries highlights the way in which medicine has developed over all these years. It is a type of diagnosis carried out through art.

On their canvases, the artists



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▲ **The Three Graces (Rubens 1577-1640).** "On the model on the right, the left breast is smaller than the other, the nipple is retracted and she has a lesion on the superexterno quadrant. That suggests that the model was suffering from advanced breast cancer," says the description of the painting. :: SUR

The exhibition 'Arte y medicina' can be viewed in the Costa del Sol hospital in Marbella until 5 May

portrayed health conditions and operations, which enabled them to explain medical matters (symptomatology and the treatment of prevalent illnesses) when diagnostic tools such as radiography and scanners didn't exist.

"This exhibition has a double objective. On one hand, it shows how medicine has advanced in the form of techniques, treatments and operations, but it also humanises the medical profession, by showing human reactions to illness," explains the head of projects at the Reina Sofía hospital in Córdoba, Pedro López, who officially presented the exhibition earlier this week. It was first held to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Córdoba hospital last year, and is now going on tour.

'Arte y medicina' can be seen in the corridors of the hall at the Costa del Sol hospital until 5 May. Each painting (most of them are reproductions from the Prado Museum) is accompanied by a description which includes details of the symptoms and treatment of the health condition which is alluded to in the picture.

In Sorolla's painting of 'Padre Jofré Protegiendo a un Loco', we see the monk defending someone who is considered 'crazy' from insults and aggression by a group of children. "This is a clear reflection of the attempt made by some

groups in the 15th century to integrate those with psychiatric illness into society," explains Pedro López.

'The Quack Toothpuller', by Teodor Rombouts, shows a moment during a peculiar dental extraction. 'Barbers, and later surgeons, were the precursors of oral and maxillofacial surgery, which became officially regulated in 1952' says the commentary which accompanies this reproduction.

Selection of works

Professionals from all the medical specialities at the Reina Sofía hospital were responsible for choosing the work of art which was most relevant to their department, under the supervision of the curator of the exhibition, art historian Luis Gómez.

"Medicine, history, art and tradition are brought together in this display, which is an invitation to see how health evolved and how the diagnosis and treatment of illness changed during each period of history," he explains.

Velázquez, El Bosco, Sorolla, Goya and Murillo are just some of the artists whose works have been selected for this unusual exhibition, in which for example we discover that the god Vulcan, in Velázquez's painting La Fragua de Vulcano, has an asymmetrical hip, which makes one suspect that he suffered from coxarthrosis. Or in the painting called El Albañil Herido, by Goya, where the subject has "multiple injuries, probably from an accident at work such as falling from scaffolding," and Los Últimos Sacramentos (El Albañil Herido), by Rafael Romero de Torres, which portrays emergency treatment being carried out, in this case for someone also suffering from multiple injuries.



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"I like to devote myself to the care of those who are in need of it and I could not be happier since I started working for The Good Care Group." As a professional carer, he says, "I am committed to give 100% to my work which in turn makes other people's lives happier."

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Lucas Orlando is a carer with The Good Care Group. SUR

deed "very special".

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Insomnia may be linked to higher risk of heart attack or stroke

Chinese researchers have found a significant link between lack of sleep and cerebrovascular accidents

EUROPA PRESS

Researchers at the Medical University in Shenyang, China, have discovered that people with insomnia could be at greater risk of a heart attack and stroke, according to a survey published in the 'European Journal of Preventive Cardiology'.

Sleep is "essential for biological recovery" and human beings spend one third of their lives asleep, says Dr Qiao He, but more and more people these days complain about not getting enough sleep. According to some statistics, as many as one third of the German population has suffered from insomnia at some time.

Although previous research has shown that a lack of sleep can have negative effects on health, until now attempts to find a relationship between insomnia and heart problems or stroke have not been very consistent.

This latest analysis looked at the link between symptoms of insomnia and the incidence of or death from cardiovascular illness (acute myocardial infarction, and coronary disease and heart failure), cerebrovascular accidents or a combination of both.

The symptoms of insomnia are difficulty in getting to sleep, staying asleep all night, waking up early or unrefreshing sleep. In total, the researchers analysed 15 studies in which



S. R.

160,867 people took part. During the different stages of monitoring, which lasted between three and 29.6 years, 11,702 adverse events were registered.

A significant link was noted between difficulty in getting to sleep, staying asleep or non-refreshing sleep and the risk of cardiac illness and cerebrovascular accident, but there appeared to be no increased risk when waking up early.

"We found that difficulty in getting to sleep, staying asleep or not feeling refreshed after sleeping is associated with a 27.11 per cent and 18 per cent higher risk of heart attack or stroke respectively" explain the researchers.

They admit that more research is needed in order to completely understand the underlying mechanisms which explain this risk, although previous studies suggest that insomnia can change the metabolism and endocrine function, increase the activation of the sympathetic nervous system, raise blood pressure and levels of inflammatory and proinflammatory cytokines, which are also cardiovascular and cerebrovascular risk factors.

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Although the 'torrija' can be made all year round, Easter is the traditional time to eat this sweet, sticky treat

MÁLAGA. Although it was first documented in the 15th century - "honey and lots of eggs to make a torrija" - in a poem by Juan del Encina, the origins of the torrija can be traced back to the Romans.

This sweet treat was originally made with bread soaked in water, syrup, wine or milk and given to women who had just given birth. In some Sephardic recipes it is still referred to as 'mother's bread'.

Torrijas first started appearing in recipe books in around 1600 although there were many different forms dependent on the prosperity of the household.

In wealthy houses in the 18th and 19th centuries, torrijas were served as an aperitif with a glass of wine and was not restricted to any particular time of the year.

How they developed into an Easter specialty is not clear but perhaps they became a treat after the strict abstinence demanded by religion.

Torrijas are very traditional in



'Torrijas', a traditional sticky Easter treat. :: A. G

Spain, although there are many similar sweets in other countries, especially in France, Portugal and Latin America, the latter was probably introduced to torrijas by Spanish conquerors.

In France they call their version of the torrija pain perdu ('lost bread'). A delicious French version of the torrija is offered by Cati Schiff of Dulce & Salado restaurant, Fuengirola.

"Instead of frying them in oil, once soaked they are caramelised with but-

ter," said Schiff, who prepares them daily throughout Easter week.

For two of the most famous bakers in Malaga, Antonio García (El Colmenero in Alhaurín) and Antonio Cárdenas (La Canasta), the secret of good torrijas is “good bread, the best honey in the world and lots of love”.

Nowadays, instead of using left over bread, torrijas are made with specially prepared sliced loaves. "This stays moister and we can control the end result better," said Antonio García, from El Colmenero.

Crème pâtissière is also used in making torrijas but not just any cream will do. "It should be handmade and the torrijas should be fried in olive

oil," added Antonio García.

José Miguel Guzmán, of José Miguel Pasteleros (Alhaurín el Grande), makes a mini-torrija. "As we can not make it contain fewer calories, we make it smaller," he said.

The sweet potato torrijas made in Alhaurín el Grande date back to the 1940s when, after the Civil War, there was a shortage of bread so cooked sliced white or red potatoes were used instead,” explained Antonio García, who also mentions the torrijas made by his grandmother which “were made with very hard bread soaked in water with salt and then fried”.

The bakery El Mimbres has launched a sugar-free version. "We have tried to respect the traditional sweet faithfully but have made it sugar-free," explained Álex Toledo, spokesman for the company.

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LA CALA DE MIJAS

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

A LA CARTE MENU

The À la Carte menu has a choice of starters ranging from nine to 12 euros and includes succulent scallops, gravalax and crab tartare with Thai green curry mayonnaise.

Main course prices start at 17 euros for a delicious wild mushroom risotto with fresh truffles and go up to 30 euros for a juicy 8oz fillet steak with chunky chips, onion purée, sun dried tomatoes and wild mushrooms with foie gras or pepper sauce. There is also confit of lamb with parmesan crumb and and red wine jus or if you would prefer fish, try the turbot with lime mash, baby spinach and pea puree or hake with petit pois and a bacon emulsion.

The dessert list is equally mouth watering with a choice of panna-cotta with roast pineapple and mango gel, crème brûlée with strawberry sorbet or Nutella cheesecake with ice cream.

There is also a tasty cheese platter with fig conserve and a comprehensive wine list to make sure you have the perfect wine to go with your meal.

ABOUT THE OWNERS

Joffrey Charles was raised in Normandy. He has worked for the past decade in fine dining restaurants in Mont Saint Michel, Val D'Isere, Corsica, Dublin and London. Joffrey has an incredible passion for producing creative and beautiful food



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



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

that is memorable and delicious.

Lisa Burgess created her own dress label and online clothing company and has been a stylist for TV3 in Ireland for the past decade.

Joffrey's will be open on Mondays starting from Easter Monday. Opening times are from 6pm to 10.30pm Monday to Saturday.

Joffrey's Las Mimosas
Address : Carr de Cádiz, km200, Urb. Las Mimosas, La Cala de Mijas.
Tel: 658 748 919/952493909
reservations@joffreyslasmimosa.com

A. J. LINN

THE BEST BEEF IN THE WORLD



One thing that demonstrates Spain's development as a gourmet paradise is the range of different meats currently available. Some of us may remember when the best, indeed only, option, was freshly killed small bullocks that were put on sale in the market within hours of their demise. Tough and tasteless.

Ask around these days where you can eat good meat in any town from Malaga to Estepona and the choice is stunning. There are dozens of options, many offering a choice of meats from five continents, but the holy grail of a dedicated carnivore is Spanish ox, or buey. These huge creatures, that can weigh as much as 2,000 kilos, once used as working animals, are now bred only for the table. Less than 100 animals are killed yearly, and their meat is usually hung for up to three months, although not without problems.

Restaurants that specialise in this type of very expensive meat (a portion can cost from 90 euros upwards) have been fined for keeping meat that is unfit for human consumption. Typically a restaurant specialising in such meat will offer cuts from animals up to 15 years old and hung for 100 days.

You can eat what the New York Times refers to as 'the best beef in the world' at 'El Txoco de Luis Salinas' restaurant in the El Corte Inglés of Marbella, and very good it is too, although some may consider it over the top in price, as well as concentration of taste. For really dedicated carnivores, it is however an experience not to be missed. Salinas has an identical operation in Malaga's El Corte Inglés.

An alternative choice, just a hundred metres away on Puerto Banús's first line, is Jack's Smokehouse, one of the Metro Group's admirable restaurants. You can choose between a Longhorn 28-day dry-aged NY strip loin, a prime Irish fillet, a 40-day dry-aged Galician tomahawk steak, an Argentinian rib eye, or a chargrilled lamb loin. As the restaurant name suggests there is also a selection of smoked meats on the menu, and, the tuna salad is made with fresh seared tuna. Prices are certainly more in line with what you would expect to pay in such circumstances, and an outstanding wine list also makes it worth a visit.

The smallest village in the province hides a secret recipe to make almond cheese

:: VANESSA MELGAR

ATAJATE. Besides the usual traditional pastries on offer at Easter there is one speciality that isn't made anywhere other than Atajate. With just 170 residents and just one bakery, Panadería Rocío' which started business in 1942, Atajate is the smallest village in the province.

Besides making bread and pastries for the locals it also, on spe-



Almond cheese. :: PABLO CASTRO

cial occasions, makes almond cheese to a closely guarded, secret recipe that has its origins in Moorish times. The cheese contains almonds, sugar, eggs and cinnamon.



International Musical Show

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Ludovic Cesari's art photography

MARBELLA. Ludovic Cesari (1984) is a French-born artist who currently lives and works in Italy, although he is constantly travelling around the world looking for a given moment he can capture on film. His art shifts between deep reflection and apparently trivial images, building his own language.

This exhibition, the artist's first in Spain, consists of a selection of twelve photographs, some of them in large format, of different settings such as unexplored forest and concrete structures. All of them are different, but in some way they share the same spirit, with a theme that unites them all.

Adolfo Sánchez Flores, the Red House Art Director who curates the exhibition, has brought it to Bhudo Decoración in Marbella where it will be on display from 21 April until 20 June.

INFORMATION

► **When.** 21 April - 20 June.

► **Where.** Bhudo Decoración, San Pedro de Alcántara

► **Contact.** hi@redhouse.gallery or tel: 627 422 917



EXHIBITIONS

Exotic Vibrations

Mijas. *Mijas Tourist Office, Mijas Pueblo.*

Seven international artists living and working on Costa del Sol will be displaying original artworks in oils, pastels, watercolours, textiles, silk paintings and acrylics. Also greeting cards and miniature art.

Ernst Kraft

Malaga. *Botanical gardens 'La Concepción'.*

A sculpture 'The Tree of Life' by Ernst Kraft will be on permanent display in the gardens on the lawns next to the pond. The minimalist structure of iron rods is five metres tall and is based on the pre-pharaonic pictogram representing the union of heaven and the underworld.

Biennial Contemporary Art

Marbella. *Cultural Centre*

Kunsthhaus Berlin, Poligono Nueva Campana local 2 Nueva Andalucía. In collaboration with the Fred Friedrich Foundation, Marbella Town-Hall and the Mexican Ambassador in Spain, Don Raphael de la Madrid. Fifteen local and international artists are exhibiting their work. info@redaktionkhbm.de.

Bullfighting exhibition

Malaga. *Permanent exhibition. Centro de Arte de la Tauromaquia, in the old Patronato de Turismo building, Plaza del Siglo.*

300 pieces by artists such as Picasso, Dalí, Goya, Benlliure and Zuloaga, will be on display. They include sculpture, paintings, posters, clothing and other items connected to the world of bullfighting.



Kandinsky, Malaga

The Russian museum

Malaga. *Edificio Tabacalera, Avda Sor Teresa Prat. Tues-Sun 9.30am - 10pm.*

The Russian museum's seasonal exhibition until 16 July is called 'Kandinsky y Rusia' and comprises 78 pieces by well known Russian artists such as Kandinsky. The annual exhibition is entitled La Dinastía Románov and includes many portraits of Russian royalty before the last Tsar and his family were assassinated in 1918.



Museo Carmen Thyssen Málaga

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EXHIBITIONS

Galería Seshat

Estepona. *Polígono Industrial.*

A new art gallery has opened in an unusual position, in the industrial estate in Estepona. The first exhibition will include works by Goyo Domínguez, Isidoro Lázaro, Sergi Marñines, Chico Montilla and Paco Meléndez.

María Zambrano

Vélez-Málaga. *Permanent exhibition. Palacio de Beniel de Vélez-*

Málaga. Monday-Friday, 9am-2pm. An exploration into the life and works of Málaga-born philosopher and writer María Zambrano. For further information call 952500244.

Malaga Glass Museum

Malaga. *Permanent exhibition. Plazuela Santísimo Cristo de la Sangre.*

The glass museum has two new glass panels on display that have been painstakingly restored. They were both made by the Spanish company Mauméjean.



M. López Charo, Marbella

Art Gallery Costa del Sol

Mijas. *A permanent exhibition at the new art gallery in the Club House 'Cerrado del Águila'* Paintings, drawings, sculptures and ceramics are on display by artist such as Pedro Bueno, Teresa M. Martín and José B. Angulo.

Picasso ceramics

Mijas. *Permanent exhibition. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo, Mijas, Calle Málaga, 11am - 7pm.* An exhibition of 44 ceramics created by Malaga artist, Pablo Ruiz Picasso.

Ruiz de Luna

Malaga. *Museo Municipal del Patrimonio (MUPAM), Paseo de Reding.* An exhibition dedicated to the Ruiz de Luna ceramic dynasty. Around 300 pieces are on display including ceramics, drawings, watercolours and sculptures.

José Hernández

Villanueva del Rosario. *Casa de la Cultura.* An exhibition of art work and letters belonging to artist José Hernández. The artist gifted around 20 works to the town shortly before his death in 2013. He spent long periods at Molino El Tejar while creating his pieces.

'Neighbours III'

Malaga. *Permanent collection. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo, Calle Alemania.* Works by local Malaga artists are on display in 'Neighbours III'. Many different techniques and subjects are included.

Museum Jorge Rando

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

Gallery Art Club

Fuengirola. *Plaza Picasso, Old*

Town.

A new art gallery with monthly exhibitions of contemporary art. www.galleryartclub.com

Carromato de Max museum

Mijas Pueblo. *Permanent exhibition.* An extensive collection of miniature art.

Cruz Herrera Museum

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

Jim Rattenbury

Gaucín. *Until 14 April, 12-6pm. Alborán studio, Camino de Gibraltar.* A retrospective exhibition of works by Jim Rattenbury spanning thirty five years. www.jim-rattenbury.com For private appointment tel: 675 707 036

Paco Vivar Brinkmann

Gaucín. *Until 22 April, El Cuartito, C/Nueva.* An exhibition of photos by Spanish photographer Paco Vivar.

Benezra Gallery

Marbella. *Until 30 April. La Quinta, between Marbella and San Pedro.* The new, international exhibition is entitled 'Horse artistry'. info@art-investments.com or benezragallery.com

Mercedes López Charro

Marbella. *From 5-31 May. Kasser Rasser Art Gallery, Blvd Principe Alfonso de Hohenloe* Mercedes works as a freelance illustrator drawing a wide range of life-style, fashion and food illustrations, using techniques such as watercolour and artist marker pens. www.mercedeslopezcharro.com

Picasso's birth place

Malaga. *Until 11 June, Sala de Expo-*

siciones, Casa Natal de Picasso Picasso's birth place houses two exhibitions, both running until June. The first, entitled 'Arte Recuperado (1916-1957)' contains a selection of works by several Spanish artists on loan from Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía. The second, 'Junto al aura de Picasso', consists of works that harmonise with Picasso's style and execution such as Tàpies, Julio González and Miró.

Japanese art

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

Rando y Ciriza

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

Travis Somerville

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

Fausto Velázquez

Malaga. *Until 31 May, Fundación Unicaja, Plaza del Siglo.* 'Frida Kahlo, La vida como obra de arte' is an exhibition of paintings by artist and collector Fausto Velázquez. The artist was inspired to recreate the photos of Frida and her life in a series of paintings.

Jia Aili

Malaga. *Until 18 June, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.* Jia Aili is an emerging Chinese artist whose works reflect the dra-

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Magpie Art Gallery, Marbella

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Paula Vincenti, Antequera

matic changes in Chinese society since the year 2000.

Magpie International Gallery. Marbella. Until 18 May. C/Virgen del Pilar. 200m from port. An exhibition of photographic art by British artist Ginny Aston entitled 'Reflections on Reflections'.

Francisco Javier Valverde Malaga. Until 3 June, Galeria Columna JM, Duquesa de Parcent. An exhibition of paintings by Francisco Javier Valverde entitled 'Oleoramas del Parque del Oeste'.

Faces in a family album Malaga. Until 30 June, Sala 17, La Térmica. A selection of photographs taken by film producer Isobel Coixet of some of the stars in the films.

'Lo Aparencia de lo real' Malaga. Until 10 September. Museo Carmen Thyssen, C/Compañía, 10. Three generations of Spanish artists are represented in this exhibition which reveals the artists' attempts to create illusions of reality.

Paula Vincenti, Inside Out Antequera. Until 29 May. Centro Unica de Cultura, C/Cantareros. Argentinean artist Paula Vincenti exhibits a selection of her works.

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

Francisco Rodríguez Moclinejo. Until end of April. Town Hall. An exhibition of drawings by this artist.

Incredible Indians Nerja. Until end of April. Museo de Nerja. This exhibition by Gonzalo Gámiz illustrates the essence of India, its people and culture.

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

Arte Mijas Mijas pueblo. Until 24 April. Casa Museo. Seventeen Mijas artists will be

holding a group exhibition with each artist contributing one piece as a run-up to the "Open Studios" weekend, which will take place April 22-23. Visitors to the Open Studios will have the opportunity to see how the artists work. Route maps to the studios are available at the Mijas tourist office and the Casa Museo. www.artemijas.weebly.com Arte Mijas 2017 is sponsored by the Culture Department of Mijas Town Hall.

Friends in Focus La Cala de Mijas. Until 28 April. Centro Cultural de La Cala. Photographic club, Friends in Focus, will be exhibiting some of their photos.

Artistas Ecléticos Mijas Pueblo. Until 19 May. Clínica Veterinaria, Avd México 21. Works by Sinikka Ahokas-Gröhn, Elaine Carlton and Margit Björklund. www.artistasecticos.com

Torremolinos Chic Torremolinos. Permanent exhibition, Casa de los Navajas. A permanent exhibition of photographs taken in the 60s and 70s entitled Torremolinos Chic. It features around twenty photographs including one of the legendary Bridget Bardot posing on Carihuela beach in a Cordobés hat.

Galería Krabbe Frigiliana. From 15 April until 13 May. Galería Krabbe, C/Rosario La Joaquín. An exhibition of collective art work entitled Landscapes A4.

Leila Cherkaoui Torremolinos. Until 18 April. Town Hall. Signe Sans Signe is an exhibition of paintings by Moroccan artist Leila Cherkaoui.

Happy Artists Mijas Costa. Until 1 June, BocArte Restaurante, C/Cómpeta. Paintings by the accomplished An exhibition of works by Astrid Zehetner, a local Norwegian artist.

itinerARTE Mijas Costa. Until 17 April. Sala exposiciones Las Lagunas, C/San Valentín. An exhibition of art by contemporary artists..



Francisco Rodríguez, Moclinejo

Daniela A. Rivero Verástegui Mijas Pueblo. Until 20 April. Centro Cultural de La Cala, Bulevar de la Cala de Mijas. An exhibition of prints, collage and

drawings.

Graffiti Extravagance Fuengirola. Until 11 May. Double Tree by Hilton, Reserva del Higuero. A solo exhibition by internationally known street artist, Victoriano. Organised by Artmoves.

Frontera Líquida Benalmádena. Until 18 June. Centro Andaluz de la Fotografía. A visual record of Andalucía and Morocco.

CHARITY

Easter dinner Mijas Costa. 14 April, 8pm. Tamisa Golf Hotel. 33€. A three course menu and welcome drink, live entertainment and raffle to raise money to support the Refugio del Burrito (Donkey Sanctuary) in Fuente de Piedra. Tel: Tamisa Golf reception 952 585 988 or Inga 654 513 380 email: starbabies5@gmail.com



Sunday markets for Cudeca Los Boliches. 16 April. From 11am. Ilunion Hotel, Plaza San Rafael. Free entry. Everything from quality bric-a-brac to antiques as well as art. To book a stall tel: Tom Allan of the Cudeca Goldies 661402134

Cudeca's 25th anniversary Marbella. 21 April, 7.30pm. Nikki Privé bar and restaurant. 69€. The Cudeca Goldies are celebrating Cudeca's 25th anniversary with a concert and a gala evening at the Nikki Privé bar and restaurant, Marbella. Guest are welcomed with the canapés and cava, followed by a message by Cudeca's founder and Honorary President Joan Hunt O.B.E. Live entertainment is provided by Mr Maph and Simone Lisa, Mel Williams, the trumpet player Rubén Hernandez as well as DJ's Antonio and Junior D'Acosta. There will also be a raffle and auction. A complimentary bus will be supplied from the Shell petrol station Benalmádena (6.30pm) and also from Roman archways at Fuengirola fairground entrance (6.55pm) leaving the venue at 12.30am so please book your seat: Carlos: fundraiser@cudeca.org or tel: 663 083 249. Twenty-five euros of which goes to Cudeca Hospice. Reservations: <https://cudecanikki-privé.eventbrite.es>



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CHARITY

Dance festival for Lupus

Mijas. 22 April, 7pm. Teatro Las Lagunas. 5€

Many different styles of dance at this special performance called 'Bailupeando' to raise funds for the Asociación Malagueña de Lupus.

Four paws walking

Marbella. 23 April, 10am. restaurante Manuka, Plaza del Mar.

The annual dog walk along the boulevard organised by Triple A animal rescue centre. Register by email: events@tripleamarbella.org.

MUSIC & DANCE



Hermanas Sister, Wall Bar

The Wall Bar

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

21 April. Susan Valery and Adrian Lombardi. Jazz and vocals.

22 April. Hermanas Sister. Funk and international jazz.

Sacred music choir

Benalmádena Costa. 16 April,

7.30pm. Virgen del Carmen.

The Coral Ciudad de Benalmádena and the Coral Ciudad de Marbella are in concert performing religious music.

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

Malaga. Teatro Cervantes

20, 21 April, 8pm. Édouard Lalo's 'Spanish symphony' in D minor, George Gershwin's 'An American in Paris' and Arturo Márquez's 'Danzon n°2'. Conducted by Manuel Hernández Silva. Soloist Svetlin Roosseff (violin).

Kempinski Easter jazz lunch

Estepona. 16 April, Kempinski's La Cabaña del Mar.

Live jazz from the Cotton Jazz band and a three course meal. Book a table: www.kempinski.com/estepona

The Beach Boys to perform at Fuengirola Pop

REGINA SOTORRÍO

MALAGA. Fuengirola Pop festival has taken place every year since 2007, and every year is supposed to be the last. However, this year, thanks to the fundraising music fans, the alternative festival will celebrate its tenth anniversary in style by welcoming The Beach Boys to headline at the Sohail castle.

The combined efforts of Fuen-giPop association, the driving force behind the event, and the event's promoter, Bemusic, are responsible for securing the legendary Californian band, who will perform on Saturday 24 June.

The following night, La Casa Azul, a prolific Spanish electro-pop band, will also headline at the castle after years of the festival trying to secure them.

In total, 15 local and international bands will perform at the event.

Andalusian bands, Los Amébas, Hawaii Five and The Smoggers will be joined by New York's Paul Collins and Madrid's Imperial Surfers.



The Beach Boys will headline the festival. :: REUTERS

INFORMATION

► **When:** Thursday 22 - Sunday 25 June

► **Where.** Fuengirola.

► **Further information:** Ticket prices vary depending on the night. A ticket for The Beach Boys is expected to cost 55 euros

The Sohail castle will only host the headliners. The Pogs pub, in the centre of Fuengirola, will be the venue for the majority of the performances, with the action continuing at Las Palmeras Hotel from midnight onwards.

This year the festival, which will take place from Thursday 22 June to Sunday 25 June, is expected to produce a cocktail of pop, rock, punk pop, garage, surf and soul.

Marco Carola

Torremolinos. 15 April, 9pm. Auditorio Municipal Príncipe de Asturias. 25€. VIP from 250€

Marco Carola is one of the most important international artists of techno and house music. Tickets from www.local29.com

A capella quartet 'Reflections'

Calahonda. 18 April, 10.45am. Calahonda International Baptist Church Age Care association are organising a concert by the A capella quartet 'Reflections'. Tea, coffee and cakes will be served prior to the performance.

Tribute to Joe Cocker

Estepona. 20 April, 9pm. Auditorio Felipe VI

Band 'Mad Dogs' perform a concert in tribute to Joe Cocker including Cry me a river, Feelin' alright, The



'Reflections', Calahonda

letter, Sticks and stones, Something, First we take Manhattan, You are so beautiful etc. www.auditorioestepona.com, tel: 673567052

Cinemanía

Fuengirola. 21-25 April, 8pm (Sunday 7pm.) Teatro Salon Varietés

A multi musical extravaganza with excerpts from Les Misérables, Jersey Boys, Saturday Night Fever, Oliver, Legally Blonde, Glee, Aladdin and more. Directed and choreographed by Alexandra Avery. Tickets: http://www.salonvarietestheatre.com

Jazz festival weekend

Alozaina. 29-30 April, Casa del Rio.

Weekend of live jazz and art in 19th Century Villa. Bands play jazz classics, smooth, jazz funk & jazz improvisation. Scheduled are Siobhan Riordan (Sarah Vaughan & Ella

Fitzgerald), Carlos Pino (jazz funk), dmcq (improv jazz) and Jose Carra (smooth jazz). One free beer/tapa and other discount packages available when booking through Diario Sur Oferplan. Book now: http://oferplan.diariosur.es/ Website: https://clubjazz.eu Email: clubjazzatcasadelrio@gmail.com

Trío Cadenza

Nerja. 21 April, 8pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. 10€

Soprano, flute and piano performing music by composer Eduardo Ocón.

Capoeira Na Beira Do Mar

Marbella. 14, 15, 16 April, 8pm. Fri 5pm. Heliport; Sat 10am - 2pm 5-7pm. Avda del Mar; Sun 12am-2pm. Beach at the marina.

Brazilian capoeira (martial art/dance), samba, maculelé (group dancing in a circle) and traditional singing at the tenth edition of Evento Internacional de Capoeira Na Beira Do Mar.

FLAMENCO

Daniel Romero

Nerja. 28 April, 8pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. 8€

Daniel Romero performs pure flamenco.

Flamenco performances

Malaga 8pm. Museo de Arte Flamenco Peña 'Juan Breva', C/Ramon Franquelo 15.€

15 April. Bastián Soto.

20 April. Kike 'El Indio'.

22 April. Mariola Martín.

LECTURES

Freethinkers

Fuengirola. Café Manila, Paseo Marítimo Rey de España, 77, Los Boliches.

Artificial Intelligence, is human intelligence becoming redundant?

14 April, 6.30-8pm. Introduced by Athalie Crouch. Would you feel happy if your illness was diagnosed by a robot doctor, and will this soon be possible? What are the advantages and dangers of handing over complex decisions to computerised systems? www.facebook.com/groups/costadelsolfreethinkers/

Phoenix Club

Torre del Mar. Bar La Vega



Cudeca 25th Anniversary Concert



Málaga Symphonic Orchestra
conducted by Salvador Vázquez with the collaboration of
Berna Perles, Rodrigo Orrego & Cristina Alba

25th April - 20:00h

Teatro Cervantes de Málaga

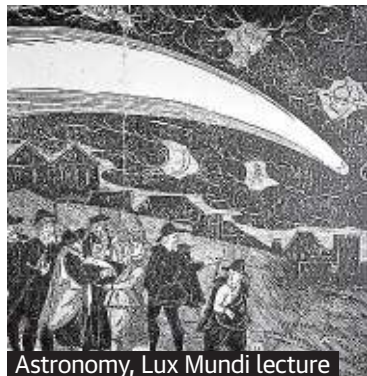
Tickets donation: 12€

www.unientradas.es

www.cudeca.org - 952 564 910

24 April. 12.30pm. the Guardia Civil will be giving a talk on: crime prevention, current crime, true stories, neighbourhood watch, animal cruelty, traffic matters and reporting procedures.
Tel: 951067723 or email phoenixsocialclub@yahoo.co.uk, web page: www.phoenixsocialclub.co.uk.

Lux Mundi talk and dinner



Torre del Mar. 27 April, 5pm. *Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, Avda Moscatel.* 12€
Astronomers through the ages
A talk by Peter Cadman about how people started using the stars and constellations to guide them through their lives in the two hemispheres and then how it developed with the Arabs, Greeks and Romans continuing up through the middle ages to present day. Price includes meal and a drink.
Tel: 952 543 334 or go to www.luxmundi.org / luxmundi@luxmundi.org

FESTIVALS

Koningsdag
Torremolinos. 27 April, 3 -8pm. *La Carihuela*
The Dutch national 'Day of the Monarchy' will be celebrated with craft stalls, Dutch cuisine, exhibitions and concerts plus a lot of orange.

Día de Aceite Verdial
Periana. 23 April.
The day starts with a traditional breakfast of mollete and olive oil. There will be tastings, craft stalls, and strolling bands. www.periana.es

EVENTS

The Passion of Christ
Riogordo. 14, 15 April.
'El Paso' is an annual event at

Easter which interprets the life of Christ. The whole village takes part in the event which attracts thousands of visitors every year.

Ecological market

Mijas. *Parque Andalucía. Second Sunday of the month and the last Sunday of the month in the Bulevar de La Cala.*
Ecological food and environmentally friendly products are on sale.

Trip to Gibraltar

Torre del Mar. 20 April. *Various departure points.* 12€ (Coach trip to Gibraltar. Passports required. Tel.952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org. Webpage: www.lux-mundi.org

Sea Life Jurassic Oceans

Benalmádena. *Sea Life Aquarium*
The Plesiosaurs and the Megalodon lived in the oceans millions of years ago and are represented in the new exhibition at SeaLife Benalmádena. The exhibition includes an interactive activity for children which allows them to discover the skeleton of a Plesiosaurus and the tooth of a Megalodon with holgrams to help demonstrate the size of these extinct creatures and other dinosaurs.

Visit the patios of Cordoba
Fuengirola. 8, 9 May, *various pick up points.* 95€ dble, 125€ sgle
Price includes B&B accommodation in 4* Hotel Selu, bus and transfers, guided tour of the patios, travel insurance and VAT. Tel: 952 474 840, e-mail luxmundif@gmail.com or go to www.luxmundi.org

Patios of Cordoba with Nerja Lions
Nerja. 10 May, *departure from Nerja, pick up from petrol station Cajiz.* 35€
Ticket price includes travel, lunch, entrance to Viana Palace and shuttle bus to Medina Azahara. Bring the 'over 65' card if you have it to avoid paying extra to get in the palace and for the Medina. Payment by 1 May. Tel: 952 526 980 (English); 639 980 001 (French), 693 706 900 (German, English, Spanish).

Visit Valencia

Lux Mundi. 8 - 12 May, *various pick up points.* 403€ double, 455€ single
Price includes B&B accommodation in 4* Hotel Rey Don Jaime. Tel Fuengirola: 952 474 840, e-

The Ogmores Male Voice Welsh choir



:: SUR IN ENGLISH

LA CALA DE MIJAS. The Ogmores Valley Male Voice Choir will be performing at the annual spring concert this year in La Cala de Mijas. The concert, arranged by the Foreigners Department of Mijas Town Hall will be on 18 April at 7pm in the Salón de Actos.

The choir was founded in 1982 and consists of over 30 male singers. It has performed throughout the UK and Europe and will present a special spring

DETAILS

► **When.** 18 April, 7pm

► **Where.** Salón de Actos, La Cala de Mijas town hall.

programme of songs for this occasion.

For more information and to book a seat at this free event, contact the Foreigners Department of the Mijas Town Hall tel: 952 58 90 10 or email: frd@mijas.es



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mail: luxmundif@gmail.com or go to www.luxmundi.org or Torre del Mar tel: 952 543 334 e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

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Torre del Mar. 5-7 May. *Various departure points.* 225€ pp. 35€ single supplement.
Price includes coach, catamaran and coach in Morocco, half board

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

O. V. FILM

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Cine Albéniz

C/Alcazabilla 4, Malaga. Tel: 902 36 02 95 or visit www.cinealbeniz.com or www.unientradas.es
It's a Wonderful Life: 20th April only 20.15
Moonlight: 18.20, 20.20, 22.20
Jackie: 16.15, 19.45, 21.45

Cinesur El Ingenio

Avda. Juan Carlos I, Vélez-Málaga. Tel. 667 77 31 87.
Boss Baby: 12.05 (every day); 17.15, 19.15 (Tues)
Life: 16.10 (Tues)
Fate of the Furious 8: 19.45, 22.30 (Mon, Tues, Thurs); 12.05, 17.00 (every day)
Beauty and the Beast: 16.00 (Tues)

Cinesur Miramar

Avda. de la Encarnación, Fuengirola. Tel. 952 19 86 00.
Beauty and the Beast: 16.15 (Mon-Thurs)
Smurfs: The Lost Village: 16.00, 18.00 (Tues)
Ghost in the Shell: 16.30 (Mon-Thurs)
Life: 15.55, 18.00 (Tues)
Boss Baby: 12.00 (Frid-Sun); 17.30, 19.30 (Mon-Thurs)
Fate of the Furious 8: 12.05, 17.00, 21.45, 00.15 (every day); 19.45 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)
Going in Style: 16.00 (Mon-Thurs)

Cines Teatro Goya

For tickets and information call 951196665. www.cinesteatrogoya.com
Boss Baby: 11.45 (Sun); 15.45, 17.45, 19.45 (Frid-Thurs)
The Fate of the Furious 8: 15.40, 20.00, 21.30 (Frid-Thurs)
Life: 22.00 (Frid-Thurs)
Smurfs: The Lost Village: 12.00 (Sun); 15.45, 18.15 (Frid-Thurs)
Ghost in the Shell: 18.10 (Frid-Thurs)
Beauty and the Beast: 11.45 (Sun); 20.15 (Frid, Sat, Mon-Thurs)

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

Centro de Ocio Plaza Mayor, Avda. Alfonso Ponce de León. Tel: 902 902 103 or visit www.yelmocines.es
Beauty and the Beast: 16.45 (Wed)
Life: 19.20
Boss Baby: 13.15, 15.30 (Frid, Sat Sun); 17.30 (Frid-Tues)
Fate of the Furious 8: 13.00 (Frid, Sat Sun); 16.15, 19.00, 21.45 (Frid-Tues)
Denial: 17.50 (every day)
Going in Style: 12.25 (Frid, Sat Sun)

Cine Club

Centro Cultural Padre Manuel, Estepona. Free entry until auditorium is full
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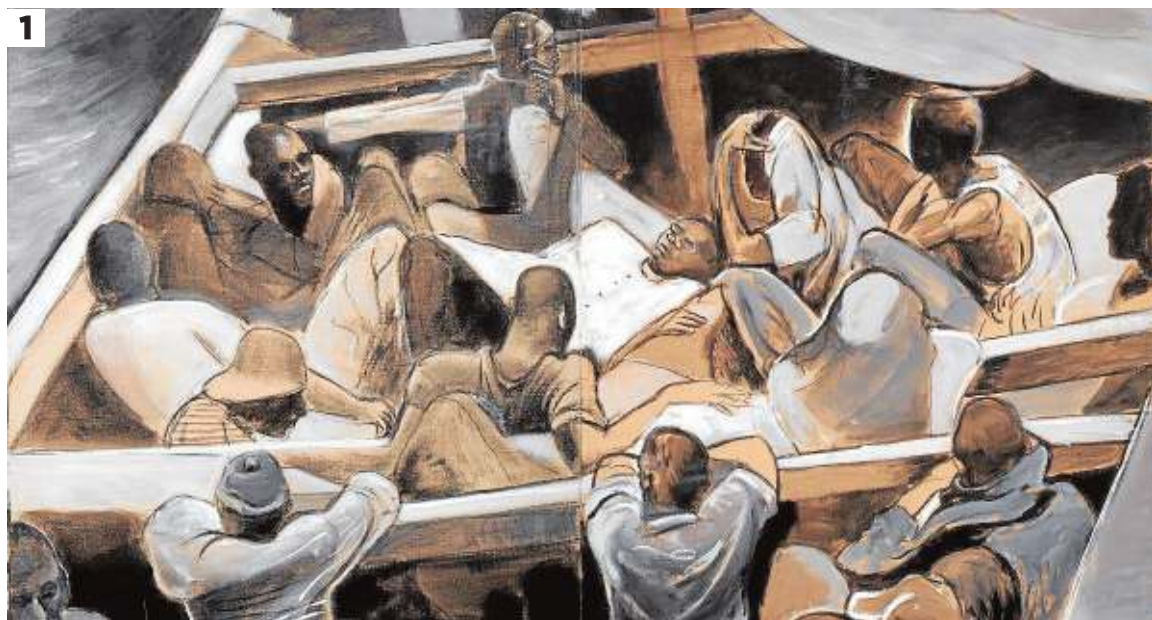
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1. 'La barca de Medusa', inspired by Gericault's classic work. :: SUR

2. His work focuses on the tragedy of immigration. :: SUR

3. Detail of one of the works in the exhibition at the Convento de Santo Domingo in Ronda. :: SUR

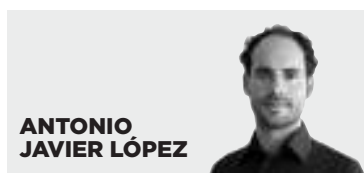
4. The artist, Rafael Alvarado. :: SUR



Alvarado: an artistic obsession with refugees

The painter from Malaga has focused on immigration for years

More than 70 works are on display at the Convento de Santo Domingo in Ronda, all on the theme of the tragedy of immigration



ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

@ajavierlopez

MÁLAGA. Ever since his beginnings in the world of art several decades ago he has taken a subject, explored it, then left it alone. Sometimes he has returned to it, sometimes not, and in that way, progressing in circles, he

has forged his career. For more than ten years now, Rafael Alvarado has focused on a single theme: the tragedy of immigration.

"I have never spent so long on one thing. Even I don't know why I have focused on this for all this time," says

Rafael, who is displaying more than 70 works about the migrant drama in an exhibition called 'El viaje: sombras que habitan 2006-2017' at the Convento de Santo Domingo in Ronda.

"In a way it is a continuation of what I did at the Municipal Heritage Museum in Malaga in 2013. Some of those large-scale works are also on display here, but there are many others as well," Rafael says about his new project, where he once again raises awareness of 'the wretched of the Earth', as Frantz Fanon titled his popu-

THE EXHIBITION

► **Artist.** Rafael Alvarado (Malaga, 1957).

► **Title.** 'El viaje: sombras que habitan 2006-2017'.

► **Venue.** Convento de Santo Domingo. C/ Armiñán, 11. Ronda.

► **Dates and times.** Until 30 April. The exhibition can be seen from Monday to Saturday, from 11am to 2pm and 4 to 8pm, and on Sundays from 11am to 2pm.

lar book about the excesses of colonisation, particularly in Africa, and some of its consequences.

"The subject has been the same for a long time, but this exhibition aims to make people observe more of the process of my work: my obsession for choosing a theme, repeating it, so it has already become a pretext and what is truly important transcends the subject; in other words, it focuses

more on the purely artistic aspect," he says.

A member of Colectivo Palmo, the group which started the campaign for the Aduana building to be converted into the Malaga Museum, and one of Malaga's most outstanding artists in recent decades, Rafael reflects upon the double aspect of his work: "I have always expressed social concerns in my work, but it is also an investigation into expressive resources. There is a greater emphasis on the pictorial and a greater capacity to abstract, to interpret," he says. "In principle, it is an emotional question. The first thing is that the subject must have an impact on people's consciences, that's the 'leitmotiv'. It's something that moves you and from that emotion comes the work itself, which is something else. You start to forget and realise that the work has its own value. You want a visual impact, you want it to work compositionally, for it to be fresh and immediate, for it to reflect in some way what I feel, maintaining the concern through the language of art."

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Marbella - Elviria

Beautiful villa in the best area of prestigious Elviria offers 3 bedrooms, a very spacious lounge with dining area and kitchen, beautiful garden with pool and jacuzzi, gas heating, A/C, alarm system, a double garage and several storage rooms. The Villa is set on two levels and has beautiful sea views from the first floor. Plot: 1100m², Built: 377m² **Price: 950.000€.** Ref: V170201



Marbella - Bahía de Marbella

Imposing villa offers a large living-dining room w/fireplace, office, kitchen, utility room and a guest toilet. Upstairs has a small living room, leading to a master en-suite bedroom and another office, separate 2 bedroom guest apartment, basement/garage for 3 cars, a hobby room & a wine cellar. Lovely garden with covered terraces and BBQ area, private pool, sauna house & shower and 24 hours security. Plot: 1589 m², Built: 650m² **Price: 2.200.000€.** Ref: V160501



Marbella - Los Monteros

Andalusian Style Villa 200m close to the beach offers 5 bedrooms and 5 bathrooms on 2 levels. To fully enjoy the stunning sea views, the living room, kitchen and a guest toilet was built on the upper level. Cozy lounge with a kitchen in the lower pool area, on the top a guest bedroom en suite, a sauna oasis and an indoor pool. The garden is decorated with a Mexican flair, surrounded by many precious cacti. Plot: 2385m², Built: 611m² **Price: 3.190.000 €.** Ref: V170301



Marbella - El Rosario

This beachside villa features elegance and a large interior, offers an elegant hall, generous living room and dining room, large kitchen with dinning, utility room, 2 master bedrooms en-suite with lounge, dressing room and private huge terrace with sea view. A total of 9 bedrooms and 8 bathrooms on 2 levels. Landscaped garden, spacious swimming pool, gas central heating, A/C, garage for several vehicles. Plot: 2.701m², Built: 1076m² **Price: 3.200.000€.** Ref: V160401

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Sergio García is finally crowned Masters champion

After 18 attempts the Valencia-born golfer takes home the Green Jacket after beating Englishman Justin Rose in a dramatic tiebreaker

== RACHAEL BREAKS

MALAGA. In his 19th Masters campaign and 74th major appearance, García finally won his first major victory on the Augusta National green in Georgia on Sunday.

Nicknamed "El Niño" after achieving the lowest amateur score in the 1999 Masters Tournament, the golfing world has expected García to win a major since he launched his professional golfing career aged just 19. However, after 18 campaigns and 12 top-five major finishes it always seemed to be just beyond his reach. As of yesterday, though, García can no longer claim to be the best player to have never won a major.

This year the Spaniard had a somewhat turbulent competition. He let a three-shot lead slip away on the first nine, he was two strokes down after 12 holes and seemed destined for an even greater deficit after a poor drive on the 13th hole.

However, García in fact made an epic comeback from the 13th



The champion, holding the Masters trophy, pays tribute to the late Seve Ballesteros. == REUTERS

hole onwards, making a birdie at the 14th hole and an eagle at the 15th from 14 feet, working his way into the top two.

The final was incredibly tense as García found himself in a tie-breaker against rival and friend, the 2016 Olympic champion Justin Rose, after both players had finished on 9 under par after 72 holes.

García was finally crowned champion on the first extra hole when he holed a birdie putt after his European Ryder Cup teammate could only manage a bogey.

"Deserved win"

The champion was first congratulated by Rose who told him, "Nobody deserves it more than you do."

Later, Rose also highlighted the significance of the win after the number of near misses García has had to bounce back from.

"If there's anyone to lose to, it's Sergio. He's had his share of heart-break," Rose said.

Wearing the iconic green jacket, García hailed the influence of previous Spanish champions, José María Olazábal and the late Seve Ballesteros.

"This is amazing. To do it on Seve's 60th birthday and to join him and Olazábal, my two idols in golf my whole life, it's something amazing," he said.

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Fit

Friday 14 and Saturday 15: 15:45, 17:45, 19:45

Sunday 16: 11:45, 15:45, 17:45, 19:45

From Monday 17 to Thursday 20: 15:45, 17:45, 19:45



THE FATE OF THE FURIOUS 8

Director F. Gary Gray · Starring Dwayne Johnson and Jason Momoa
ACTION · 136 min.

+12

From Friday 14 to Thursday 20: 15:40, 20:00, 21:30



LIFE

Director Daniel Espinosa · Starring Jake Gyllenhaal
HORROR · 104 min.

+12

From Friday 14 to Thursday 20: 22:00



SMURFS, THE LOST VILLAGE

Director Kelly Asbury
ANIMATION · 90 min.

Fit

Friday 14 and Saturday 15: 15:45, 18:15

Sunday 16: 12:00, 15:45, 18:15

From Monday 17 to Thursday 20: 15:45, 18:15



GHOST IN THE SHELL

Director Rupert Sanders · Starring Scarlett Johansson
ACTION · 120 min.

+12

From Friday 14 to Thursday 20: 18:10



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

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

Fit

Friday 14 and Saturday 15: 20:15

Sunday 16: 11:45, 20:15

From Monday 17 to Thursday 20: 20:15

LINE-UPS

MALAGA

2

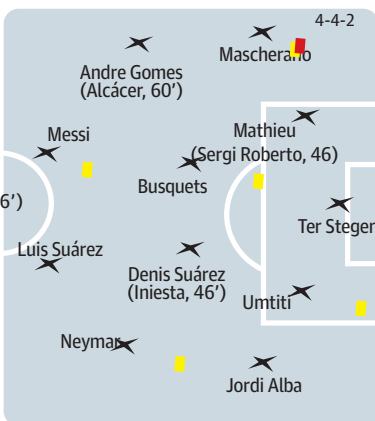


BARCELONA

0



Unused substitutes: Boyko (GK), Demichelis, Mikel and Duda



Unused substitutes: Cillessen, Digne, Aleñá and Carbonell

STATISTICS

BALL POSSESSION

33% / 67%

MALAGA BARCELONA

2	Goals	0
7	Total shots	9
4	On target	3
3	Off target	6
2	Corners	3
6	Offsides	3
26	Fouls committed	20
3	Yellow cards	4
0	Red cards	1

Goals: 1-0 Sandro (31'); 2-0 Jony (89')

Referee: Gil Manzano. Yellows for Juanar, Recio, Ricca, Mascherano, Jordi Alba and Umtiti. Red for two yellows for Neymar (65')

Venue: La Rosaleda (28,314 spectators)

TABLE & FIXTURES

MATCHDAY

31

LEAGUE TABLE

★ Champions League ■ Europa League ▼ Relegation

TEAM	PT	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
★ 1. R. Madrid	72	30	22	6	2	79	31
★ 2. Barcelona	69	31	21	6	4	88	28
★ 3. At. Madrid	62	31	18	8	5	56	24
★ 4. Sevilla	61	31	18	7	6	56	39
■ 5. Villarreal	54	31	15	9	7	45	24
■ 6. Eibar	50	31	14	8	9	52	42
7. Athletic	50	31	15	5	11	40	36
8. Real Sociedad	49	30	15	4	11	43	41
9. Espanyol	46	31	12	10	9	43	42
10. Celta	41	30	12	5	13	45	51
11. Alavés	40	31	10	10	11	29	38
12. Valencia	39	31	11	6	14	47	54
13. Las Palmas	38	31	10	8	13	50	52
14. MALAGA	33	31	8	9	14	36	47
15. Betis	31	31	8	7	16	33	51
16. Deportivo	28	31	6	10	15	33	50
17. Leganés	27	31	6	9	16	26	48
▼ 18. Sporting	22	30	5	7	18	31	58
▼ 19. Granada	20	31	4	8	19	27	65
▼ 20. Osasuna	17	31	3	8	20	32	70

Results

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

Fixtures

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

Michel's perfect game plan sees shock victory

Malaga defied all odds with a 2-0 win against the Catalan giants, their second victory in the space of a week

RAACHAEL BREAKS

MALAGA. Michel's side dealt an unexpected blow to Barcelona's title challenge at La Rosaleda on Saturday night with a solid performance that caught the favourites on the counter-attack to yield two goals for the underdogs.

The game began predictably with the visitors enjoying most of the possession and Malaga giving the ball away on the few occasions they had it. Malaga keeper Carlos Kameni was forced into action in the 13th minute, to acrobatically block a Hernández own goal, as the visitors applied pressure in the home side's penalty area early on.

Just two minutes later, Kameni made another impressive save in a one-on-one with Luis Suárez to deny the striker from putting Barcelona ahead with their first shot on target.

As the first half progressed, the visitors continued to dominate while Malaga struggled to keep the ball. However, Barcelona were unable to profit from their possession as Ney-



Sandro puts Malaga ahead on a remarkable night for the hosts. :: NITO SALAS

mar and Suárez found it difficult to contend strong challenges from centre half Llorente and right-back Rosales in the final third. Neymar's corners were also of little threat and Messi's free kicks were either the wrong side of the cross bar or blocked by the wall. Nevertheless, for the first 30 minutes the visitors were undoubtedly the stronger side.

However, Malaga's defensive game plan paid off in the 31st minute in one of their many counter-attacks. A very well-placed long ball from left-winger Juanar, who was deep into his own half, found a sprinting Sandro, who coolly tucked the ball past keeper Ter Stegen and the home side's first shot supplied their first goal.

The goal seemed to provide a boost

in confidence for the underdogs as the last 15 minutes of the first half saw more attacking play. In addition, Kameni and his defence remained effective in frustrating Barcelona's sterling strike force each time they fought for an equaliser.

As the teams returned from the break, Luis Enrique hoped the introduction of Iniesta and Sergi Roberto

for Mathieu and Denis Suárez would bring a more successful 45 minutes for his side. However, in the first 15, much of the play resembled that of the end of the first half, with Barcelona holding the ball but Malaga unsettling Mascherano and Umtiti on the counter-attack.

As the half unfolded Barcelona continued to unnerve the home fans as they pressed for the equaliser. However Messi continued to squander free kicks, one just 20 yards out, and Suárez and Neymar were unable to compensate as their shots rarely challenged Kameni. When the latter was dealt a second yellow for a poorly timed tackle on Llorente in the 65th minute, a Malaga win was suddenly looking very likely.

The home side thought they had the deal sealer in the 71st minute, but substitute striker Peñaranda's goal was unfairly ruled offside. However, one minute before time, Jony proved a good replacement for Juanar as he scored the hosts' second goal after being nicely set up by Fornals.

The hugely unanticipated final result means that Malaga, the only side in La Liga to achieve two clean sheets against the Catalan giants this season, are now nine points clear of the drop zone while Barcelona's title challenge at the opposite end of the table has not become any easier.



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EXCELLENCE The marina which places the emphasis on boat owners' needs has won the prestigious 5 Gold Anchor award for high quality service and facilities for five consecutive years

ALCAIDESA MARINA, AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW

LA LÍNEA

Spain may have been suffering from a serious economic crisis in recent years but some businesses have gone from strength to strength thanks to their high standards and commitment to putting their clients first. Alcaidesa Marina is one of these, and can be justifiably proud of its achievement in having won the prestigious 5 Gold Anchor award for high quality and service for five consecutive years.

ALCAIDESA IS DIFFERENT

Anybody who visits Alcaidesa Marina for the first time will immediately see that it is different. For one thing, its location with fabulous views of Gibraltar, makes it an inviting marina for boat owners and boat lovers alike. However, the ambience is also different. Alcaidesa believes ports should be places where the emphasis is on boats, not on shopping, restaurants and nightlife for those who actually prefer to keep their feet firmly on terra firma. As a result, this is a quiet marina in which boat owners can enjoy a good night's sleep, undisturbed by late-night revellers and loud music.

This does not, however, mean that it lacks facilities: there is a very good restaurant, Alcaidesa Lounge Bar, which serves Spanish cuisine at reasonable prices and the tapas bars and restaurants - and of course excellent shops - of La Línea and Gibralt-



tar are just a five or ten minute walk away respectively.

EASILY ACCESSIBLE

Alcaidesa Marina is totally focused on boat owners' needs. For a start, location. The port is perfectly located for cruising the Costa del Sol to the east or the Costa de la Luz to the west, and North Africa is only a few nautical miles away.

For those who need to travel by air to or from the UK, Alcaidesa's proximity to Gibraltar airport makes it an extremely attractive and effortless option. Just a few minutes away on foot or by car, it cuts travelling time and hassle down to a minimum.

Other factors which most boat owners need to take into account, whether berthing their boats temporarily or permanently, are the facilities and the cost. Alcaidesa wins on both counts.

STATE OF THE ART FACILITIES

In terms of services, this marina provides 24 hour, deep water access, effective security including CCTV, key coded gates at the bridgeheads, lighting, modern water and electricity supplies, showers and lavatories, and free WiFi.

There are fuelling facilities (tax free for genuine commercial vessels), the assistance of professional staff, a 75 tonne travel hoist so that essential maintenance and

repairs can be carried out in a fully secure gated area, and a chandlery for stock and supplies.

The marina has 625 berths including finger berths with side-to access for boats up to 15 metres and stern-to berths for those up to 100-metre superyacht size.

COMPETITIVE COSTS

And what, you are probably asking does all this cost? Well, there's even more good news in that respect. The annual and short-term rates are all highly competitive. For example, in 2017 the estimated annual berthing rates including the T5 and T0 taxes are 3,025 euros for a boat which is 10 metres long, 3,521 for 12 metres, 4,961 for 15 metres, 6,632 for 18 metres, 8,155 for 20 metres and 11,331 for 25 metres (prices do not include IVA).

It therefore comes as no surprise that in 2016 Alcaidesa Marina experienced a 25 per cent increase in annual clients and a 60 per cent rise in the number of people leaving their boats in the port for the winter.

INNOVATION

Another reason that Alcaidesa has won the coveted 5 Gold Anchor award so many times is its innovative ideas from the marina team headed up by marina manager Tony Valbuena. The latest "try before you buy" offer enables SUR in English readers

who are owners of boats less than 15 metres in length to berth them in the port for up to two nights free of charge during the months of April and May this year, upon quoting the promo code 'surad01' (terms and conditions apply).

It is little wonder, then, that Alcaidesa Marina has already made a name for itself, not only as a place which is easily accessible, with state-of-the-art facilities and where boats and boat owners take priority, but as an example for others to follow.



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A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER

Commentator, Sky Sports
@robbopalmer

Adams lands in Granada

The former Arsenal captain has been brought in to coach the struggling Andalusian side

As I write, there will be sportswriters checking out the availability of budget flights to Granada to see first-hand what Tony Adams is letting himself in for.

There are similarities to the appointment of another England stalwart, Gary Neville, who decided he'd test himself in La Liga with Valencia.

Unlike the former Manchester United star, Adams isn't staking his career on what is bound to be a short spell in charge of a hapless team; he's tried management in three different countries and hasn't really succeeded.

The former captain of Arsenal now advises captains of industries on their sporting investments and therefore distances himself from any harsh judgements. He's emerged from the bunker for seven games as the Andalusian club appears to be heading down a division, and he'll move back into the war-room once his duty is served.

So what will the journalists and fans intrigued by Adams appointment find when they investigate?

Granada is a wonderful place for a gap year, bursting with history and a great place to learn; thousands of students head there every year for a year abroad. This parallels the football club which welcomingly opened the doors to young foreign football visitors last summer: seventeen new signings



Tony Adams pictured on Tuesday with his Granada shirt, alongside the club's vice-president Kangning Wang. :: REUTERS

arrived from every part of planet football.

Their distinction this season was becoming the first La Liga club to select a team made up of eleven different nationalities.

Tony Adams doesn't speak Spanish but in this changing room that isn't necessarily a problem. The talent is drawn from as far apart as Iceland, Ghana, several South American countries and the owner is Chinese.

I say talent, they are mainly football students on a learning course from their parent institutions including four from the Premier League.

It was a panicked recruitment drive last summer when the new owners completed the deal and very few of the playing staff will remain beyond May. Two experienced coaches have struggled to shape them into anything but a

relegation-threatened team.

To be frank, Adams isn't going to have any more success than he did in China or Azerbaijan and, like Neville, he's doing a favour for an influential friend. Owner John Ji-ang is trusting him to shape the club for the future after inheriting a mess last summer.

It is more a watching brief as Granada, a city known for its ruins, will rebuild from the foundations. The plan is to nurture young Spanish talent rather than rely on the football tourist trade.

Adams isn't putting his reputation on the line, not that he has one as a manager! The ship is lurching and his job is to guide it into the boatyard for refurbishment rather than let it sink completely.

So, the man who was once cruelly depicted as a donkey isn't over here to make a Spanish ass of himself.



Marbella dropped out of the top four last Saturday. :: OPTASPORTS

Marbella drop out of play-off places following Jaén defeat

2-0
REAL JAÉN - MARBELLA

Two goals from set pieces in seven second-half minutes saw Miguel Álvarez's side drop to seventh on goal difference

:: OPTASPORTS

JAÉN. Marbella suffered a setback to their Segunda B promotion play-off hopes after a 2-0 defeat to Jaén at the Estadio Municipal La Victoria on Saturday evening.

The result saw Miguel Álvarez's side drop out of the play-off positions for the first time this season, although they are still level on points with fourth-placed Villanovense.

Jaén began the better side and could have taken the lead three minutes in, but Vitu's shot passed just wide

of the post, before Marbella's Añón was denied by Jaén keeper Felipe Ramos just before the ten-minute mark.

Marbella's confidence grew as a result and nearly twenty minutes later Okoye smashed his effort against the post after a run that began from the halfway line.

The second period followed much the same pattern as the first, with Jaén again creating the first chance, which Víctor Andrés put narrowly wide. The visitors were then once again denied the lead by Ramos, who tipped Kike's effort on to the post.

The game was opening up but surprisingly it was from set pieces that the game was decided.

Rafa Mella headed past Manu with twenty minutes to go after a neatly worked throw-in, before Santi Villa killed the game from a direct free-kick seven minutes later to secure all three points.

Next up for Miguel Álvarez's side is the visit of second-bottom Atlético Sanluqueño on Saturday. Kick-off is at 5pm at the Estadio Municipal.

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Jugar **BIEN**

Getting the Crusaders marching again

Cricket has seen its peaks and troughs in this area, but the game is slowly developing again, as proved by the Costa del Sol Crusaders

== KISHAN VAGHELA

CÁRTAMA. The Costa del Sol Crusaders' comeback onto the local cricketing scene has mirrored the growth of the game in Spain as a whole.

The importance of a match three weeks ago, when the Crusaders played host to the Piratas de Pinatar, a side from the town of San Pedro del Pinatar, around 40 kilome-

tres north of La Manga (Murcia), was something the club based in Cártama revelled in. The Crusaders defeated the visitors in the first Twenty20 match before the Piratas de Pinatar came back in the second game to tie the series 1-1.

The matches against the Murcia side saw Spain international cricketer Ravi Panchal visit the facilities at the Cártama Oval. These have come a long way from the turf nursery owned by David Cooper, the man responsible for founding the Costa del Sol Crusaders ten years ago.

Cooper was eventually convinced to convert that land into facilities that could accommodate cricket teams touring from the United King-

dom, but as the number of touring sides dried up, the local cricket played suffered a similar fate.

There was a lack of cricketing activity in the municipality until four years ago, when Cooper was asked by friend Previn Menon to turn his farm into a ground that could be used by Combined Colleges Cricket Club from Marbella.

The Costa del Sol Crusaders have since emerged and have been facing the likes of Malaga Cricket Club, Nerja Cricket Club and the Fuengirola Lions on a regular basis at the Cártama Oval.

However, the contribution that teams on tour make to the cricket club is considerable, with the Crusaders having welcomed Greystones Cricket Club from County Wicklow in Ireland almost a month ago. This was one of three touring sides to have used the facilities at the Cártama Oval this year.

Teams from Dubai, New York and Hampshire also competed in a six-side International Twenty20 Festival at the Cártama Oval in September last year, before the annual flurry of touring sides from the UK arrived in October.

However, Cooper's aspirations transcend those of just hosting foreign sides and non-competitive cricket matches.

"We really want to start the league up again. I know we can get three

[teams] but ideally we would want four," he added. The league had been running for the previous two years, but this year it has had to be withdrawn for the time being due to an apparent lack of numbers from other sides.

The same cannot be said for the Costa del Sol Crusaders, with the club captained by Dane Jesper Hensen, who used to play first and third-grade turf cricket in South Australia's capital city Adelaide, growing every year and becoming more diverse in the process.

"The diversity of the club is one of our strengths. We have had Australians play for us in the past, we still have quite a few South Africans in the side as well as members from Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan, so we have people from all walks of life," Cooper stated.

While the club has not suffered on the social diversity front, a mixture of age groups is still of utmost concern.

"I have been very keen to try and encourage local children to play cricket and have told local schools that I have arranged with coaches from British independent schools to give them coaching for one or two hours. But we haven't had one child come, which is disappointing and frustrating, given that most of the cricket at schools here is Kwik cricket and is played in the playground," he declared.

Twelve-year-old Harry Scott's achievements are therefore all the more pertinent. This week he took part in the Junior Cricket Academy in La Manga, an event which saw former South Africa batsman Herschelle Gibbs attend and coach the youngsters.

Cooper would like to mirror the number of facilities available in La Manga in Cártama, with a new 7,000-square-metre lake for carp fishing almost complete and plans to add changing rooms and nearby accommodation in the works for the professional football teams that frequently visit.

Although possible golf, rugby and baseball facilities are also in the offing, there is no doubt that it is cricket that is leading the way forward for sport among the international community in the municipality.



David Cooper. == SUR

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Seamer Ravi Panchal (bowler) was the latest high-profile name to have played in Cártama. == EGAN STEVEN DANTIS

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f t y v p i

Conquering the European hangover

70-78 OBRADOIRO - UNICAJA

Joan Plaza's side were not at their best after their historic triumph, but superb shot accuracy ensured they carried on their positive momentum

ENRIQUE MIRANDA

MALAGA. Malaga's basketball team Unicaja lacked fluency but made their quality show as they defeated relegation-threatened Obradoiro 78-70 in Santiago de Compostela on Saturday evening.

Joan Plaza's side, following their European exertions and subsequent celebrations in Malaga the following day, could almost have been forgiven for a defeat against a team fighting for their lives at the bottom of the Liga Endesa table.

However, barely 72 hours after defeating Valencia to take the EuroCup title, Unicaja relied on their accuracy from their 29 efforts, of which 15 were three-point baskets, to secure victory and continue the team's positive momentum.

As was expected, Joan Plaza's side seemed to lack freshness at the beginning of the game, which consequently saw Obradoiro take a 6-0 lead thanks to two three-point baskets from Deividas Dulkys.

The visitors fought their way



Nedovic, who struggled to make an impact on the game, takes part in an attacking move. :: AGENCIA LOF

back into the game through American duo Jeff Brooks and Jamar Smith, the latter managing to score 19 points in the game, including five three-pointers.

The two Americans scored and gave three assists each in the quarter, peppering the Obradoiro basket with three-point efforts that eventually put Unicaja into an

eight-point lead.

That lead was cut in half at the end of the first quarter, and in the second quarter the Malaga side's 24-20 lead was overturned as Obra-

Unicaja lacked fluency but made their quality show in a game barely 72 hours after they took the EuroCup title

doiro began to dominate, with the Unicaja defence granting the likes of Txemi Urtasun and José Pozas far too much room to manoeuvre in.

Despite their sloppiness in possession and losing out on several offensive rebounds, Unicaja managed to draw level at 37-all going into half time, largely thanks to Carlos Suárez's three-point baskets.

The third quarter saw the affair become quite tight, as the baskets scored by Obradoiro's Shayne Whittington, Artem Pustovyi and Mickey McConnell were cancelled out by points scored by Dani Díez and Smith, with the score 58-57 to Unicaja going into the final quarter.

Unicaja pushed at the beginning of the last quarter and regained their eight-point lead as a result of scoring seven points without reply. Obradoiro once again managed to reduce the deficit, but three-pointers from Smith and former Obradoiro idol Adam Waczyński decided the game in favour of Joan Plaza's side.

Unicaja's next game sees them play host to MoraBanc Andorra at the Martin Carpena stadium at 12.30pm on Sunday.



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British mixed martial arts fighter takes Spanish title in Las Palmas

Jay Cucciniello knocked his opponent out in the third round; taking the title from the local boy in front of 4,000 people

BY TONY BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. A British mixed martial arts (MMA) fighter has taken the coveted Spanish featherweight title during the recent Ansgar Fighting League championships.

Jay Cucciniello reached the finals, which were held in Las Palmas last Saturday 25 March, after triumphing in a fight in Barcelona last year.

His victory in the Canary Islands has made him the first British fighter to take a major trophy on Spanish soil.

Originally from Peterborough, the 30-year-old has long had an interest in MMA, formerly known as NHB (no holds barred), an aggressive combat sport whose rules allow just about anything in the ring - or the cage.

Jay's interest in the sport began as a child, weaned on a diet of Jean-Claude Van Damme and Steven Segal movies.

However, his father died while he was still a child and this affected him considerably and he began to "wander off the tracks a little".

He eventually joined the army and this helped channel his energy and install some discipline into his life. However, two tours of Iraq and Afghanistan left their mark on Jay and he struggled when trying to return to civilian life on leaving the army.

Jay became attracted to the huge MMA scene that had evolved in the UK and he was soon training in karate, judo, kick boxing and wrestling, but after several fights, he basically threw in the towel.



Jay 'the Mellow Fellow' Cucciniello (right) knocked Requeijo out in the third round of the fight. :: SUR

"When I was a kid I loved watching martial arts movies with my dad and I would practise what I saw on television, but his death affected me badly. I also lost six friends during tours in the Middle East and so when I came out of the army I was bumping off walls," Jay told SUR in English.

He eventually came to Spain to try to sort out his life, but at first, this did not work either.

He settled in Fuengirola, which he now considers home, but he still had a void in his life and he quickly realised it needed filling.

One of the turning points for Jay was when he met his girlfriend, Taylor, for it was she who helped the unstable fighter get back into the ring.

He began a strict six-days-a-week,



The champion with his belt. :: T. B.

four-hours-a-day fitness schedule and set his sights high, for he knew that if he focused and pushed himself enough, he could enter one of the major MMA competitions.

A short while later, with three successful fights under his belt, Jay wanted a chance to compete in the Ansgar Fighting League, Spain's premier MMA league.

He wanted to dive in head first and have a crack at the title, which was held by three-time champion, Daniel Requeijo, and so he contacted the promoters.

"I didn't want to tiptoe about; I wanted to make some noise and create a name for myself here in Spain, and that's exactly what I did," the politely-spoken fighter declared.

His gentle nature has earned him the nickname, 'Jay the Mellow Fel-

low Cucciniello', although the new Ansgar champion is anything but gentle in the ring.

Even though this is an aggressive sport, Jay has never been badly hurt.

"I have never been seriously damaged in the ring, certainly nothing worse than what Afghanistan did to me," Jay says with conviction.

He was eventually given the chance to perform in the AFL, but he would first need to fight Kiko Marinho, ranked third in Europe.

Jay believes the promoter intended this contest to be a warm-up for Marinho to have a shot at the title.

His big chance came from a comment made by the promoter, who, believing Jay stood no chance, claimed he would put him up for a title shot if he knocked his opponent out in the first round. Jay did just that.

"The fight was insane. This guy is a good component who has fought all over the world; it was one of the craziest fights I've ever had," Jay says with excitement in his eyes.

Jay was awarded the title of 'Knockout of the Year' for this fight, but his heart was still firmly set on the title shot, and this came in March of this year.

He spent the next twelve weeks training for the title fight, drinking five litres of water a day and sticking to a healthy Mediterranean diet.

He was confident that he could take the title, although he did not realise that the championship was to be held on the anniversary of his brother's death.

Jay's sibling, who had died tragically young, was also a big fan of the MMA, so this gave Jay an added incentive to win.

His determination and dedication paid off, because Jay knocked Daniel Requeijo out in the third round; taking the belt from the local boy in front of 4,000 people.

He is the featherweight champion of Spain and he now has his sights set on Japan; although for now, he can sit back and wait to see what the promoters send his way.

"I dream deep, my goal now is to fight in Japan. It would be awesome if I could end my career in Japan," the mellow fellow concluded.

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ESTEPONA: Pretty young charming girl. Special Tantra massage. 602891749

MARBELLA. Enthusiastic, madure, curly red hear, slim for socialize. 674946727



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BENALMADENA: Bianca sexy blonde, big tits. Private discreet apartment. Hotel visits. 631146080

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FUENGIROLA: Oriental young beautiful Japanese. Complete services. Outcalls. 24hrs. 693988340

NVA ANDALUCIA: Beautiful blonde, big tits, superbody, lingerie, sexual toys, 69, French watersports, massage. Discreet apartment. Visits. 645898573 Juliana

NVA ANDALUCIA: Malu Brazilian mulata Carnival dancer, fantastic body. Discreet apartment. 677680928

CANCELADA: 2 beautiful hot girlfriends, playful. All services. 604109768

MARBELLA: Blonde Brazilian.. Do you want to taste a sweet inside my pussy? Massages. 619442117

FUENGIROLA Scandinavian sweet mature blonde, slim &Fit (size10), happy horny. Hotel visits. 649181051

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DIRTY old lady speaks English. In/ outcalls hotels. Fuengirola 632868590

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NEW FUENGIROLA: Sharon Russian, beautiful blonde, delicious breast. 603719177

ESTEPONA.TAMARA SPANISH, BEAUTIFUL, 25, SADO, NO LIMITS. 24H. VISA. 604192305

MATURE Elegant lady. Voluptuous bust. All services. Only hotel & home visits. 687387680

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ESTEPONA/ Benahavis Exit: 3 horny birds, slim, seductive. Tantra, prostate massage, French and more. Complete service. 602891749

NEW ROSSI Beautiful student. Natural French. Kisses. Massages. Nva. Andaluica 602531054

LORA Cubana 22, fleshy lips, natural French. Locrimar. Nva. Andaluía. 673251634

PUERTO Banus next to Casino. Unforgettable experience for nice gentlemen with beautiful girl from Poland. 617700999

SPECTACULAR ladies, pretty and compliant. Exclusive services. Unbeatable attention. Luxury chalet. Whatever you want!!! 24h. Visa. VISA. www.butterflygirls.es 951274723, 637138703

NEAR Elviria, Vicky, blonde Brazilian nymphomaniac with fire in my veins. I love sex to the limit. I'll receive you in sexy lingerie. 50 ¿ 650237102

MIRAFLORES, Paola, mature Brazilian, passionate, wild and horny. I'm the lover you can enjoy everything you want with. 24h. 608949543

RIVIERA. Andrea, passionate Colombian. I'm always ready and horny because I love sex and enjoying it with someone new like you. I want you to come and come, till you stop me and say no more¿ 650237145

CALAHONDA, Valentina, 27, sex goddess, nymphomaniac, horny and multi-orgasmic. I'm a real volcano, but very friendly and understanding. Incalls and outcalls. 24h. 650237102

LUXURY escort. Alina, Russian, 25. With a spectacular body and wild mind, I'll offer you everything you have always desired. Sex without limit and guaranteed pleasure. 616368985

SADOMASOCHISM. Totally equipped dungeon. Leather and latex clothing, toys, outfits, really wild. 648814653

MARBELLA Carmen, Massage, 602475138, kissing, big ass, Greek, French till end. Avenida Arias Maldonado 1, Iberest 1, apt 3-G

MÁLAGA Japanese. Young beauties. All services. Outcalls. 24hrs. 688181075 www.relaxen-malaga.com

MULATA 25, busty, slim, juicy French. All services. (Rodeito)Nva.Andalucía. 697219468

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NEW Argentinian, Asian, Russian multiorgasmic, sexy. Luxury atmosphere. Near Banús. 618448131

TRY SOMETHING different, Asian, European amazing pleasure, multiorgasmic, luxury, San Pedro/ Banús. 618448131

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HOT HOT Hot Fuengirola: 3 willing girls are waiting in their luxury villa for you. English spoken 24h. 602570272

NATALI (18) Turkish. Lovely photo -model. Out-calls/ 24H 611237548

MELISA 18 yrs. Hungarian very pretty. 24h Out-calls. 611238013

TINA from Bulgaria. All kind of services. Work 24 hours 611237884

RUSSIAN 27... blue eyes, brunette. Try my professional massage + all other services... 611238013.

JESSICA ...espectacular Colombian doll. I work 24 hours... Call me: 611238013

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MARBELLA. New, Julia. 20 years, loving, discreet, natural french. 603135461 Avenida Arias Maldonado l. Iberest 1, apt 3-G

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NERJA Alice. Massage sensual. Body beautiful. Natural breast. 642022387 www.relaxen-malaga.com

ESTEPONA. Cristal, slim, tall. All services, greek, natural french. 633487004

NEW FUENGIROLA: Victoria 50, blonde, 120 natural breast. Discreet. 677607223

FUENGIROLA: Erika 25, nice curvy body, will give you incredible pleasure. Only outcalls. 685266861

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ESTEPONA area: Attractive ladies, different nationalities, sexy, flirty. Full erotic complete service. In and outcalls. 622316969

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TRANS feminine latin, mulata, endowed, big breast. Marbella. 640809430

NEW BENALMADENA Aysha Trans mulata, 22cms. Party girl. Drinks. 24hrs. 695973362

TRANVESTITE Violeta, young(+18), endowed, horny, milky, 140 bust, very feminine, 24h. 660867374 Fuengirola www.violetaferrer.com

ESTEPONA. TRANVESTITE MELANY, 20, MILKY, BUSTY, OUTCALLS, 24H. VISA 660874904

1 HOUR 50E! Transvestite Fany, Spanish, beautiful, superendowed. 691762717 Torremolinos

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MAIH, Fuengirola. Erotic, professional massage, body2body, happy ending. Miah, 647101046

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FUENGIROLA: Madonna, Hot oil/horny massage with my boobs! Happy ending. 632157758

ESTEPONA. Funny young latina, sex, massage. I speak English. 672536859

FUENGIROLA: Relaxing, Tantra massage. Silk hands. Ending optional. In/outcalls. 645131273

ESTEPONA: Professional Brazilian beautiful masseuse. Choose how to end! 622152511

MATURE man, qualified masseur. Excellent massages for men. Torremolinos, Carihuela. 639040128

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40 EUROS: Erotic, prostatic body2body massage. Happy ending. Fuengirola. 625912315

MASSAGE and fun! Genuine trained exotic male tantric masseur. 645291083

ASIAN qualified offer an authentic professional massage relieve, pain and stress, luxury, private. Marbella center. 604143788

BEAUTIFUL Masseuse Paola. Erotic, tantric, b2b massage. relaxing-touch.es 602448534

VICTORIA, Marbella, long hair. Beautiful shape, horny, sweet, sensual erotic massage. Discreet place. 604229713

MARBELLA. Camila, beautiful, elegant, exotic, full body massage. Whatsupp 603169139 www.mysticmassage.es

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FUENGIROLA: Diana 952 580 142 / 635 716 285

BENALMÁDENA: Publi Ocio del Sur 670 886 299. Graham 605 022 121

MIJAS: Carrefour Mijas 952 580 726 / 670 643 488

MIJAS COSTA: Sonja Bryce 626 539 298

ESTEPONA: Carmen 609 569 878

SOTOGRADE/GIBRALTAR 616 263 687

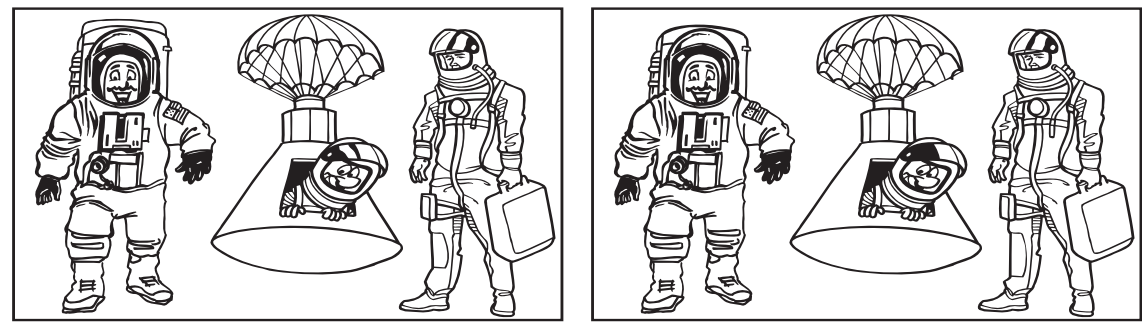
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THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES





THE STARS

 **Aquarius**
January 21 - February 19
So what if you don't have a lot of cash to splash around? Don't let anything negative creep up on you and that goes for those negative people, too!


 **Pisces**
February 20th - March 20th
Two possible paths present themselves to you this week. Is there a reason why you just can't go down the middle?


 **Aries**
March 21st - April 20th
Living in the present as opposed to worrying about the future frees your mind and heart.


 **Taurus**
April 21st - May 21st
Why worry about things that may never happen? Freedom so often comes from within us.


 **Gemini**
May 22nd - June 21st
Some situations and attitudes can change midweek and leave you feeling awkward.


 **Cancer**
June 22nd - July 23rd
With the spring has come a naturally lighter feeling and more than a bit of optimism. Try to put frustrated thoughts behind you.

 **Leo**
July 24th - August 23rd
Be kind when wanting to criticise a loved one. Understand that no one is perfect.

 **Virgo**
August 24th - September 23rd
Change your clothes, appearance, cushions or attitude. Whatever revs you up. Leap into the new season.

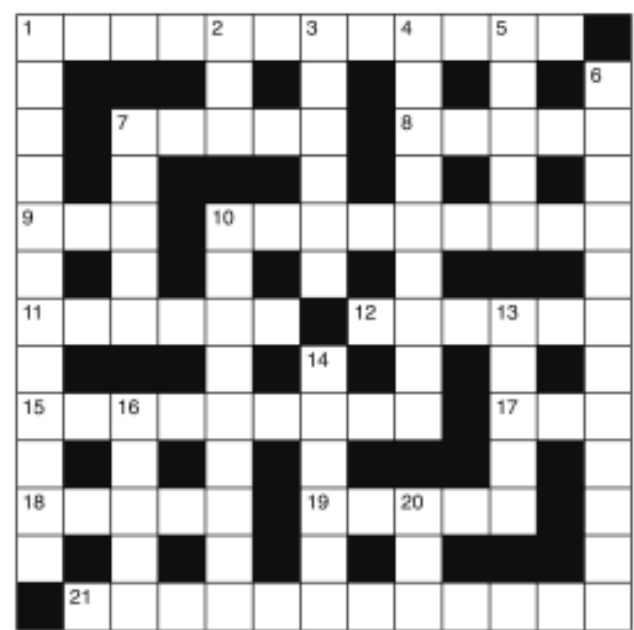
 **Libra**
September 24th - October 23rd
You will find that a more balanced attitude solves most problems, even if the answers are pedestrian!

 **Scorpio**
October 24th - November 22nd
The temptation to go back to an old but familiar situation should be reconsidered.

 **Sagittarius**
November 23rd - December 21st
If you expect everyone to fall in with your wishes then there will be disappointment. Others have their own agenda and it may not tally with yours!

 **Capricorn**
December 22nd - January 20th
Something in your approach seems to be sending you out of kilter. Get out in the fresh air and smell the roses!

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11237



- Across
- Down
- 1 Mistake by a key worker (7,5)

7 French word to accompany a coat of arms ... (5)

8 .. the kind of word to hear and understand (5)

9 Show weariness when the fellow comes back (3)

10 Differently align the back stove (9)

11 Slavonic language showing refinement (6)

12 Mass-produced legislation? (3,3)

15 They create a stir in the pot season! (9)

17 Public transport is endlessly active (3)

18 To live in Essex is tempting (5)

19 Boost southern water supply (5)

21 How one may see a film at a reduced rate (2,4,6)
- 1 Educates the clay worker to be an expert on railway stock (12)

2 In classics I tried to take an examination (3)

3 Work hard with an apt catchphrase (6)

4 Ethnic disturbances that could upset the sport of kings? (4,5)

5 Translate a note describing a kind of meal (5)

6 Travellers following stable bearings (5,4,3)

7 Decoration badly made by learner (5)

10 Version of prose tale that's a bit of a bloomer! (4,5)

13 Bella changes the name tag (5)

14 Tool used by archers? (3,3)

16 Properly adjust a file, we hear (5)

20 I depart after the end of June (3)

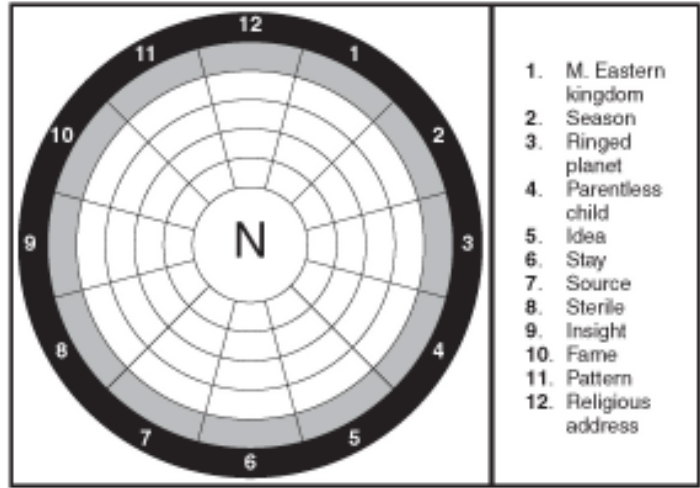
SUDOKU BY HANZO

Instructions
Complete the square making sure that every row of nine numbers includes all digits from 1 to 9, every column includes all digits from 1 to 9 and every 3 by 3 subsection includes all digits from 1 to 9

3				6		7		
	7			9				5
	6				4			8
	8			3			7	
	2				9			
	5				8		4	1
		2	1					
7		1			2	5		
				8				

CLOCKWORD

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter N in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a U.S. actor.



THE WORDPUZZLER

E	L	B	A	C	I	C	I	A	N
N	V	I	C	A	R	H	O	R	D
C	A	S	T	N	E	E	G	D	O
U	R	H	O	O	B	L	E	E	K
R	O	O	F	N	O	D	E	A	N
A	C	P	I	S	W	E	X	C	A
T	H	E	M	P	A	R	S	O	N
E	I	F	U	O	E	M	I	N	S
A	M	U	I	P	L	O	R	E	T
S	P	E	R	E	C	T	O	R	Y

CAN you identify the clergymen from the anagrams listed below?

1. Acteur

2. Dane

3. Annco

4. Aprons

5. Craiv

6. Coamed

7. Corret

8. Dreel

9. Phobis

10. Eppo

INTERNATIONAL RADIO

Talk Radio Europe
105.5 Axarquía
91.5 Costa del Sol East
91.9 Costa del Sol West
98.7 Gibraltar/Sotogrande
News, interviews, lifestyle, sport and BBC World Service.

Global (93.6 and 96.4FM)
All week round the clock music and entertainment

Radio Radio Network (96 and 98.3 FM). Music 24 hours.

Central FM (98.6 FM, 103.8)
All week, classic tracks and today's music broadcast to the Costa del Sol

ACE FM (106.8 FM)
Inland radio, news and music
The Beat fm (106 FM)
24 hours, music and entertainment

Spectrum (105.5 FM, Costa Almeria/Mojácar 92.6 FM)
24 hour music and entertainment

Radio Mijas (107.7 FM)
3 p.m. News, views and music

Radio Sol Almjara (99.1 FM)
Nerja radio in English and German and night time World Radio Network

Heartfmspain (88.5 FM Costa, 96.1 FM inland) Music, entertainment, news

Lick FM (103.6 FM Marbella)
Urban music broadcast between Gibraltar and Calahonda

Rtv Puebla (107.7 FM)
Monday evenings, Rock music memories.
7 - 9pm. email: radiopuebla.musicmemories@yahoo.com
Fb: Radiotelevision Peubla de Cazalla

QUIZ

QUESTION 1

In French tradition, what flies to Rome and bring back Easter eggs?

1. Storks

2. Church bells

3. Priests

4. Rabbits

QUESTION 2

The New York Easter Parade takes place in which street?

1. Wall Street

2. Broadway

3. 5th Avenue

4. Madison Avenue

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

Across

1. Advertising (10)

6. Television set (9)

11. Wave (3)

13. Picture (8)

14. Film (8)

15. I sent (5)

16. Sea inlet (3)

17. He dubs (5)

18. Aerial (6)

20. I fell (3)

21. Mine (7) (3)

22. They launch (6)

25. Diode (5)

26. Private (7)

27. He laughs (3)

28. To hoist (4)

30. Faith (2)

31. It is (2)

33. Soap opera (10)

35. Never (5)

36. Ace (2)

37. She ties (3)

38. Without (3)

39. He calls off (8)

40. Public (7)

41. News programme (10)

44. To cancel (6)

47. Interview (10)

48. Content (9)

Down

1. Schedule (12)

2. The (7) (2)

3. They were eating (6)

4. Documentary (10)

5. It gives (2)

6. Season (9)

7. To legalise (9)

8. I came (4)

9. Service (8)

10. Repeated (pl) (9)

12. To switch off (6)

18. Owl (2)

19. Independent (13)

23. Air (4)

24. Coverage (9)

26. To speed [sth] up (10)

29. Even (7)

30. False (5)

32. I will go out (6)

34. Quiz show (8)

39. Series (5)

42. You give (3)

43. D (musical note) (2)

45. I read (3)

46. One (2)

ANSWERS

Language Crossword

ACROSS

1. PROGRAMACIÓN 2. LA COMIDA 3. DOCUMENTAL 4. EL COMEDIANTE 5. EL SEÑALIZADOR 6. EL TELEVISOR 7. EL AVIÓN 8. EL DUB 9. EL SERVIDOR 10. EL REPETIDOR 11. LA OLA 12. EL GATO 13. EL PANTALLÓN 14. EL CINE 15. EL ENVÍO 16. EL PUERTO 17. EL DOBLAJE 18. EL AVIÓN 19. EL SERVIDOR 20. EL CAÍDO 21. EL MÍNIMO 22. EL LANZAMIENTO 23. EL DIODO 24. LA COBERTURA 25. EL SERVIDOR 26. EL PRIVADO 27. EL RÍO 28. EL LEVANTAR 29. EL PAR 30. LA FÉ 31. EL ES 32. EL SALIR 33. EL SOAP 34. EL CUIZ 35. EL NUNCA 36. EL AS 37. EL LAZAR 38. EL SIN 39. EL LLAMAR 40. EL PÚBLICO 41. EL PROGRAMA 42. EL D 43. EL D 44. EL CANCELAR 45. EL ENTREVISTA 46. EL UNO 47. EL CONTENIDO 48. EL CONTENIDO

Clockword solution

CELEBRITY: Jason Roberts.

SOLUTION: 1 Jordan, 2 Autumn, 3 Saturn, 4 Orphan, 5 Notion, 6 Herman, 7 Origin, 8 Barren, 9 Acumen, 10 Renown, 11 Design, 12 Sermon.

Wordpuzzler solution

ELBACICIAN

AMUIFLORET

EIFUOEMINS

THEMPARSON

ACPISEWEXCA

ROOFNODEAN

URHOOBLEEK

CASTNEEGDO

NVICARHORD

2 Dean

3 Canon

4 Purson

5 Vicar

6 Deacon

7 Rector

8 Elder

9 Bishop

10 Pope

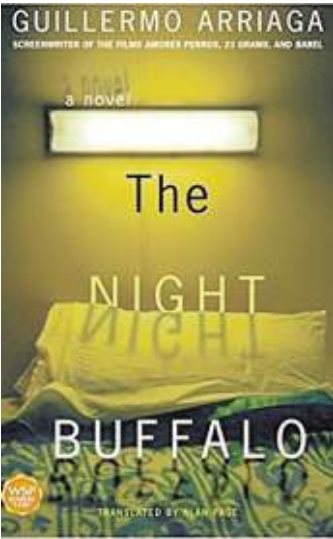
Sudoku solution

5	4	6	9	8	3	2	1	7
7	3	1	6	4	2	5	8	9
8	9	2	1	5	7	4	3	6
9	5	3	7	2	8	6	4	1
6	2	7	4	1	9	8	5	3
1	8	4	5	3	6	9	7	2
2	6	5	3	7	4	1	9	8
4	7	8	2	9	1	3	6	5
3	1	9	8	6	5	7	2	4

Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 1 Typist's error, 7 Motto, 8 Catch, 9 Mod, 10 Rearrange, 11 Polish, 12 Mob law, 15 Teaspoons, 17 Bus, 18 Exit, 19 Swell, 21 in slow motion, Down: 1 Transporter, 2 Sit, 3 Slogan, 4 Race, 5 Caten, 6 Three wise men, 7 Medal, 10 Rose petal, 13 Label, 14 Bowsaw, 16 Align, 20 Ego.

BOOK OF THE WEEK



The Night Buffalo
Guillermo Arriaga

Internationally acclaimed writer Guillermo Arriaga weaves a luminous, insightful story of love and friendship, passion and betrayal, lunacy and mental illness. Set in Mexico City, The Night Buffalo revolves around the mysterious suicide of Gregorio, a troubled young man who was betrayed by his best friend Manuel and his girlfriend Tania. Gregorio bequeaths a small box to Manuel, full of scribbled notes filled with menace making Manuel feel that his friend is threatening him from beyond the grave.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Leave a
rumour long
enough, give
it the right
soil and it'll
grow into a
fact

ANON

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
MSC Magnifica	14/04	Funchal	Civitavecchia	08.00	14.00
Thomson Celebration	16/04	Gibraltar	Mahon	06.00	22.00
Mein Schiff 2	16/04	Cadiz	Valencia	07.00	18.00
Horizon	16/04	Alicante	Ibiza	07.30	19.00
Silver Spirit	17/04	Gibraltar	Cartagena	07.00	19.00
Wind Surf	17/04	-	-	08.00	19.00
Black Watch	17/04	-	-	08.30	19.00
Wind Star	18/04	-	-	08.00	19.00
Clio	19/04	Gibraltar	Cartagena	07.00	16.00
Star Flyer	21/04	Palma	Alicante	07.00	18.00
Norwegian Epic	21/04	Arrecife	Barcelona	08.00	18.00





Easter Sunday Jazz Lunch Kempinski Style!

Sunday 16th April

Experience fine dining and the sweet smooth sounds of Jazz in El Mirador from 13.00hrs to 16.00hrs. Price of 75€pp including buffet style starter and dessert stations, a main course from the A La Carte menu, cava and tea and coffee. Accompanied by live music by the Cotton Jazz Band.

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Dr Hoskin brings his family to see his dolmens

British researcher Michael Hoskin brought four generations together at the site he helped turn into World Heritage

REGINA SOTORRÍO

ANTEQUERA. At his 87 years of age Michael Hoskin has explained

the mysteries of the Antequera dolmens in countless lectures and articles. At the end of last week, however, the British archaeoastronomer and Emeritus Fellow of the University of Cambridge revealed their secrets to his most important audience yet - his own family. Four generations - 25 people - joined him inside the tholos of El Romeral to hear why this Andalusian town and its history has been so important in his life and career.

"I wanted them to see it and understand why I've devoted so much time to this," said the scientist. It was Hoskin's devotion to these prehistoric Mediterranean structures that led to his discovery of the "unique" orientation of the Menga dolmen, the "perfection" of the tholos of El Romeral and the "interesting" construction of Viera. And it was this discovery that helped put the dolmen site in Antequera on the UNESCO list of World Heritage.

This was just the start. "There are



Hoskin and his family inside El Romeral. REGINA SOTORRÍO



Hoskin and the mayor in front of his bust. REGINA SOTORRÍO

still mysteries to be solved: Why are there three different dolmens and only one of each type? I don't have the answer," he said in Antequera last

Friday. His research involved the study of the orientation of more than 3,000 megalithic structures in the Mediterranean area and served to confirm the unusual position of the Menga dolmen, his "favourite".

This is the only one he had found that had been positioned, not in relation to the sun's rays, but in line with something terrestrial, the huge rock, in the form of a sleeping giant, known as the Peña de los Enamorados. "That's why I wear this medal," he told his family, fingering his Gold Medal for Merit in Fine Arts awarded

by the Spanish government.

During the Hoskin family's visit, the mayor of Antequera, Manuel Barón, and the central government representative in Malaga, Miguel Briones, unveiled the sculpture placed in Hoskin's honour at a new lookout point. His bust, of course, faces the Peña de los Enamorados.

Hoskin said you only "understand the dolmen" after you've spent some time inside. His family agrees. "We've heard him talk so much about Antequera, but only by coming here can we understand what it means," said his granddaughter Megan Hoskin.

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