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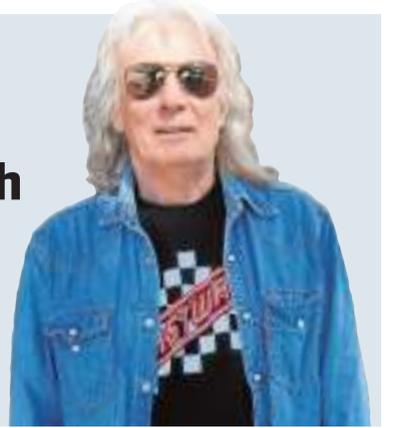
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"I would have spent my whole life with Motorhead"



Guitarist 'Fast' Eddie Clarke speaks of his past and present projects at his Marbella home **P30**

Costa del Sol is a long way off the EU's 50% recycling goal

Only 30% of solid urban waste is recycled in the province and in Spain as a whole

Experts doubt that the three treatment plants in Malaga will be able to help the province meet the EU directive that states that we should be recycling half of our solid urban waste by 2020. The figure at present

in this area is 30%, similar to the average for the rest of Spain. Catalonia is ahead however and Malaga's landfill and recycling plant managers have been hearing about the northern region's strategies. **P2**



Waves as high as 6.5 metres hit the Costa on Thursday. :: S. SALAS

Stormy seas return after a glorious Easter **P9**

A new, sustainable economy takes its first steps in Malaga as experts from around the world get together for the NESI Forum **P3**

Long-term British expats continue 'votes for life' campaign despite Theresa May's refusal to lift the 15-year rule before 8 June election **P18**



EXPO '92 - 25 YEARS ON

Royals and politicians return to the city for the anniversary of Seville's Universal Exhibition **P21**

The emeritus King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia with former PM Felipe González on Thursday. :: EFE

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Selective collection means that glass, paper and plastic can be recycled and reused. :: SUR

A tax on people who fail to recycle their rubbish?

Imagine that when you throw away your rubbish you have to insert an identity card into the container, so the authorities know how much rubbish you produce and what percentage of it you recycle. It may sound unlikely, but it could become reality before long. In Catalonia, in fact, it is already being considered as a way of monitoring the amount of rubbish each citizen produces. "We have to remove the anonymity with regard to rubbish," says the director of the Residue Agency of Catalonia, Josep Maria Tost, who criticises politicians for being "afraid" to introduce measures which may be unpopular but which go in the right direction. "It's not going to kill anybody to recycle more rubbish" he says.

The province is a long way from the EU target to recycle 50% of rubbish by 2020

Experts warn that the three landfill sites in the province have less than 20 years of useful life left and are calling for politicians to take action

:: NURIA TRIGUERO

MALAGA. Nobody wants to be close to rubbish: it smells bad and is unpleasant. Maybe that's why, or maybe because it is not a vote-winning matter, the politicians responsible for environmental matters in the province - the Junta de Andalucía, town halls and the provincial government - have no defined strategy to fulfil the targets set by the European Union for reusing, recycling and reducing rubbish by 2020.

By then, at least 50 per cent of paper, glass, plastic and organic waste is supposed to be recycled. In Malaga, as in Spain as a whole, it is about 30 per cent. The province is even further from meeting the targets for reducing the amount of rubbish which is taken to land-

fill sites: Brussels says this should only apply to 35 per cent, and in Malaga at present the figure is more than 60 per cent.

This grubby reality came to light recently at a day-long conference on 'The future of urban waste in Malaga province' which was organised by the Provincial Consortium for Solid Urban Waste and the provincial government, in collaboration with companies in the sector.

The managers of the three urban waste treatment plants in the province - Los Ruices, which is run by Malaga council; Valsequillo, in Antequera, which is run by the provincial consortium; and Casares, by the Mancomunidad de Municipios of the Western Costa del Sol - admitted that it is going to be "difficult" to comply with the European directive.

They also warned that there is no defined strategy to tackle the situation in the future. If the targets set by the EU are missed there will undoubtedly be fines imposed, which the councils will end up paying, and the dumps will also be-

come filled to capacity. The one at Valsequillo has a useful life of 15 years, Casares has 11 and the one in Malaga eight. In Malaga, too, there is little room to continue expanding the tip after that.

"Lack of political direction"

"The landfill sites are already a problem and it is going to get worse because there is no land available," said Ángel Castillo, from the provincial consortium. He explained that it is essential for the amount of rubbish which is not recycled to be reduced, and that means there needs to be a firm step in the right direction.

What measures can be taken to take this step forward in the direction set by the EU? The main one, according to the technicians who took part in the conference, is to introduce selective collection of organic waste: the famous 'fifth container' which has been in use for the past 20 years in Catalonia, where 10 per cent more rubbish is recycled than in the rest of Spain (40 per cent).

The director of the Residue

IN FIGURES

30%

of solid urban waste produced in the province of Malaga is recycled, a figure that is similar to the Spanish average but way behind the EU figure.

Agency of Catalonia, Josep Maria Tost, was invited by the Malaga provincial government to the conference to explain how this system was so successfully introduced in his region. In his opinion, the key was in introducing a charge to use the rubbish dump, so that it is cheaper for the town halls to recycle than to take the rubbish to the tip.

"Our policy is that of the stick and the carrot: the money we receive from the charge for using the dump means we can return funds

to the municipalities who do best and that helps them to finance infrastructure projects," he explained.

Selective collection of organic waste (which is used to make compost) is the key to significantly increasing the percentage of recycling, because it represents about 40 per cent of the total weight of a rubbish bag and is very likely to contaminate the rest.

In Malaga province, as there are no 'fifth containers', what is currently done in areas where there are composting plants, is to separate the organic waste from the remainder in the grey containers and use it for compost, but this is a costly and ineffective process and the result is low-quality compost because it is inevitably mixed with other materials.

Another way to progress in recycling is to raise public awareness. "We need constant and educational campaigns every single day, in the street and in businesses. It is no good doing one campaign every four years," said Josep Maria Tost.

Children are the best way of getting the message across. "We have seen that when we visit schools, selective collection in that area rises by up to 20 per cent," explained Ángel Castillo.

Another project is also under way to make it easier for hotels and restaurants, the major rubbish producers on the Costa del Sol, to recycle.

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A new, sustainable economy for the future takes its first steps in Malaga



IGNACIO LILLO

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More than 400 experts and speakers from 43 countries are in Malaga to share their experience of sustainable business

MALAGA. The new social economy took its first steps on Wednesday after the presentation of the Charter of Malaga at the New Economy & Social Innovation (NESI) Forum. The document, unveiled at the forum's first session, was put together with the collaboration of people from more than 50 countries across five continents. Its content (four pages in English) is summed up by its final commitment: "We dream of a new, more sustainable, fair, collaborative economy, centred around people, and today we commit to its co-creation."

The charter was read in front of an audience of more than 400 experts and speakers from 43 countries, who will come together in Malaga every day until Sunday to share their experience of social and ecologically sustainable business.

"Here in Malaga we have instigated a watershed moment for the history of the world economy," said NESI's main organiser, Diego Isabel La Moneda, a businessman resident in London who runs the Global Hub for the Common Good. "The charter shows that the economy is going to be for the good of the people, not for those whose main preoccupation is making money," he said, adding: "This will be spoken about in



The moment that the Malaga Charter is read out by business leaders, activists and citizens. :: SALVADOR SALAS

the same breath as the Declaration of Human Rights."

In essence, the idea is to create an economic model in which the objective is to prioritise the greater good over creating wealth, through cooperation and having social and environmental responsibility at

the centre of the decision-making process.

Among the concepts discussed on the forum's first day were eating locally-sourced food, sustainable criteria to consider when buying a home or clothing, shared mobility and non-pollutant modes of trans-

port, and fair trading.

Among speakers on the first day was Marcos Eguiguren, director general of the Global Alliance for Banking on Values, an international network of around 40 banks created on the basis of ethical and socially responsible investments. "We put peo-

ple above profits," he said.

Katerina Fortún, representative of the European Commission in Madrid, said that European funds can now be used for circular economy projects (a strategy which aims to reduce the need for materials and the creation of waste).

The second day of the forum focused on restructuring business for the common good, but also the role of money in society under the premise that "money was created as a way of regulating economic relationships between people." Now, however, "is a time that the financial system has stopped serving human needs."

Alternatives such as cryptocurrency, building societies, local currencies, a gift economy and crowd-funding were discussed. Susan Treadwell, representative of the Open Society Initiative for Europe, summarised by saying: "It's not about stopping the bad that's going on, but constructing something good ourselves."

NESI market

The NESI forum continues in the city until Sunday. The majority of events take place at the Palacio de Ferias with talks scheduled until Saturday in morning and afternoon sessions.

On Sunday, however, the public is invited to take part in the NESI market at the CAC contemporary art centre in Malaga. From 11am until 7.30pm, the centre will host a number of talks, documentary screenings and workshops to show local projects and proposals based on social innovation.

What is the new economy?

✉ I. LILLO

MALAGA. An amalgamation of several movements come together under the 'new economy' umbrella, with a common desire to transform the model of globalisation and find more collaborative strategies in business as well as government.

Several theorists differ in approach, but the general principles remain the same.

The Economy for the Common Good, led by Christian Felber, proposes a model of measuring the success or the failure of a business based on indicators which assess human qualities and levels of co-

operation, instead of profits.

Meanwhile, 'green economist' Gunter Pauli believes that it is possible to emulate nature in business processes, with a focus above all on primary education.

The social venture movement led by Peter Kolbrook brings together thousands of entrepreneurs

and directs reinvestment towards social initiatives which help to eradicate poverty at all levels.

There are other branches too such as the 'ethical bank' which invests its profits in development projects.

As many as 15 different movements are getting their voice heard at the ongoing New Economy & Social Innovation (NESI) Forum in Malaga, which started on Wednesday, organised with the support of the city hall and provincial government.

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Cudeca raises 3.6 million euros going into anniversary year



TONY BRYANT

✉ tonysureng@gmail.com

Susan Hannam was presented with the Golden Pin award for outstanding commitment to the foundation

euros in total last year and more than 30 per cent of this was revenue from their 18 charity shops.

Another two million euros came from wills, donations, events and contracts with the Junta de Andalucía. The rest came from members, public grants and interest.

Their expenses totalled 3.5 million euros, so they had a surplus of almost 70,000, which, as their financial director pointed out, was not a bad way to enter their silver anniversary year.

The Golden Pin

The event also provided the opportunity to present the coveted Golden Pin award. The Golden Pin is presented to someone who has shown outstanding commitment to Cudeca, and this year Susan Hannam received the award for her tireless enthusiasm and continued dedication.

BENALMÁDENA. The Cudeca Foundation has reason to celebrate this year, having now provided palliative care to patients in the final days of their lives for a quarter of a century.

During their annual results presentation last Wednesday, Joan Hunt, founder of Cudeca, explained that what had begun in a spare room in her house, has turned into the only cancer hospice in Spain. Today, 25 years later, Joan Hunt is just as determined as she was in 1992.

She expressed great satisfaction at Cudeca's track record, but she was quick to point out that without the help of the staff, volunteers and the general public, Cudeca might never have reached its silver anniversary.

"Volunteers are Cudeca's greatest asset. When we began we had just five or six volunteers, today we have almost nine hundred," Joan explained.

The presentation was an opportunity for Cudeca to show the progress they had made in 2016, and they announced that for the fourth consecutive year, they ended the year in the black.

Cudeca raised over 3.6 million



Susan Hannam is presented with Cudeca's Golden Pin award during Wednesday's presentation. :: T. BRYANT

Susan has been with Cudeca since day one and even though she officially retired in 2011, she is still very much involved in the charity.

"After my first meeting with Joan and Marisa, I told my husband about the project and explained that I wanted to be part of it. I am still here

today," Susan said emotionally.

"It has been a great pleasure to have been involved since the beginning," she continued.

Joan Hunt acknowledged Susan's tireless efforts by saying: "I can honestly say, with great joy in my heart, I am so pleased to pre-

sent Susan with a Gold Pin. She is part of the foundations and part of our family."

In a separate Spanish presentation on Thursday, another Golden Pin was awarded to Josefina Mateos Miembro, founder of Cudeca's psychology and social department.

Classical concert to mark 25 years of care

:: TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. The Cudeca Foundation will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary with a commemorative concert at the Cervantes Theatre in Malaga next Tuesday.

Under the direction of Salvador Vázquez, the Provincial Symphony Orchestra of Malaga will perform a classical concert featuring the music of Beethoven and Mozart.

The orchestra will be joined by Malaga soprano, Berna Perles, Chilean tenor, Rodrigo Orrego, and

Malaga pianist Cristina Alba Padial.

The show has been divided into two sections. The first will be opera and the second half will present the solo symphonic orchestra, performing works of the great classical masters

Tickets to the concert, which begins at 8pm, cost 12 euros and all proceeds from ticket sales will go to the Cudeca Foundation.

Tickets can be purchased in advance, or from the Cervantes ticket office on the night.

The orchestra and individual performers have waived their fee

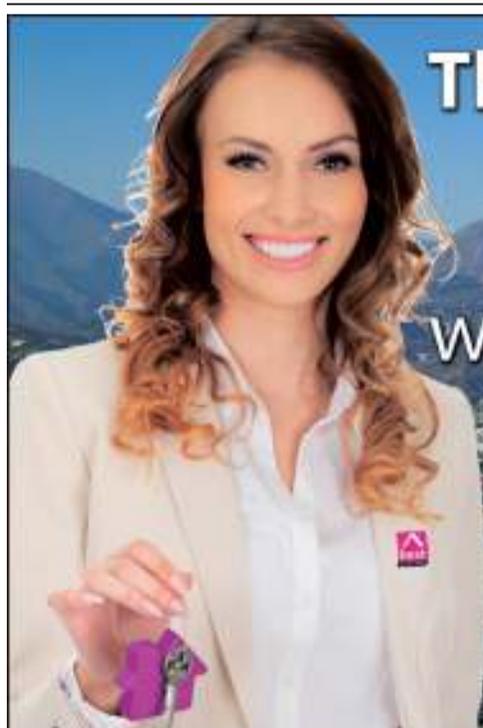


Rodrigo Orrego, Cristina Alba, Berna Perles and Salvador Vázquez. :: SUR

so that every penny raised will go to Cudeca.

The concert has been sponsored

by the Metro de Malaga, and the town hall and the provincial government of Malaga.



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National Police officer rewarded for his efforts to change the world

Gilberto Morales from Benalmádena has been recognised for his trips to India, Nepal and Greece to help out in humanitarian crises

:: ALBERTO GÓMEZ

BENALMÁDENA. Gilberto Morales, a member of the National Police force in Benalmádena, was recently named as 'Benalmádena resident of the year' (Benalmádena resident of the year) by the local town hall, for his efforts to provide aid to sufferers of humanitarian crises in India, Nepal and Greece.

In the summer of 2015, 44-year-old Morales raised around 1,500 euros from donations in order to travel to Nepal after an earthquake which recorded 7.9 on the Richter scale struck the country. More than 7,000 died and millions were left without basic essentials.

During that first trip, when he cycled alone along the frontier between India and Nepal, he handed out the money raised in envelopes to the people most in need, and saw faces "that I will never forget".

His eye-opening visit to the south of Asia saw him decide to continue his campaigns, which now take up the majority of his free time.

His next stop was Greece a year later to help the refugees trapped on the country's border with Albania. He visited eleven refugee camps and handed out 400 enve-



Morales poses with his award and his colleagues. :: A. G.

Morales returned to refugee camps in Greece to deliver nine pallets with food, medicines and blankets

lopes that he had asked friends, relatives and neighbours to fill with stationery, toys, sweets and other gifts for children.

He later returned to the camps where he had detected most need, this time with eight companions and nine pallets packed with clothes, foods, medicines, blankets, gas heaters and hygiene articles that had been donated by support-

ers around Spain.

Morales always uses a bike to get around on his trips and usually sleeps in a tent, although he says he is sometimes welcomed into churches and houses to spend the night.

In recognition of his work, Benalmádena town hall described Morales as "an example and inspiration in times of inexplicable violence in which it seems that life has no value and walls are put up to stop human beings who are searching for a dignified life".

The police officer has also set up a webpage, BikeBlog, where anyone can contact with him to get involved in his future campaigns.

HERE AND THERE



The building in the city which the museum occupied. :: SUR

Fortnight deadline given to bullfighting museum

MALAGA

:: **IGNACIO LILLO.** On Tuesday, a team from the Malaga provincial government ordered the withdrawal of the concession that allows the Museo Taurino, the city's bullfighting museum, to be housed in a building in the Plaza del Siglo, within the next fortnight.

The decision came after Juan Barco, a businessman from Extremadura and manager of the mu-

seum, failed to pay the annual fee for the past two years to the provincial authority, which in return provided the site for the museum.

The spokesperson for the Partido Popular, Francisca Caracuel, also announced that the government will keep the deposit of more than 150,000 euros that was paid at the beginning of the project, which will be used to pay back some of the money owed.

The provincial government has not yet decided what to do with the building, although a new cultural use for it is expected.

New tourism office in Alhaurín el Grande

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE

:: **F. T.** A new tourism office was opened last week on Calle Real, in the historic centre of Alhaurín el Grande.

The office, which cost around 25,000 euros to build, will offer all visitors information regarding the natural, cultural and gastronomic heritage of the municipality. The centre will also provide information on tourism within Malaga province.

CIOMijas staff file lawsuit against Junta

MIJAS

:: **I. GELIBTER.** Employees of the CIOMijas hospitality school, who have not been paid for 31 months, are to file a criminal lawsuit against the Junta de Andalucía for offences against their health and workers' rights. The training school has not opened for two years and is stuck in a bureaucratic impasse. Staff continue to go to work every day and say that the Junta isn't paying them because "it doesn't want to".

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A year under the shadow of suspicion

The judicial inquiry following Seprona's raid on Triple A last year has not yet got to the bottom of the allegations of irregularities that sparked the initial investigation



MÓNICA PÉREZ

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A dozen people are still under investigation, among them members of the organisation and volunteers, who continue their hard work to care for the animals

MARBELLA. "We continue to work for our animals. Someone has to. It's our obligation; that's why we're here." It is now a year since officers from the Guardia Civil's Nature Protection Service (Seprona) turned up at the Triple A animal shelter in Marbella as part of an investigation into allegations of animal cruelty. The matter was passed on to an investigating court that began a judicial inquiry that is still ongoing.

The court lists a dozen people who



The Triple A animal shelter is on the Ojén road in Marbella. :: JOSELE-LANZA

are under investigation, including those in charge of the association and volunteers, who, despite the situation, continue their work with the animals.

After a year of ups and downs, and

of differing versions of the work that the Marbella animal welfare shelter has been carrying out for nearly three decades, those responsible for the organisation remain cautious when faced with another press interview.

They firmly defend their work and maintain their innocence, but they know that, with a judicial investigation still under way, it's best not to enter into a debate.

"When all this is over, that will be the time to say a lot of things," said sources connected with the association, which is still waiting for the judge to reach a conclusion.

For the time being, all of those who were arrested, questioned and then released - but with the status of "investigados" - still have that shadow hanging over them. As they carry on with their activity at the shelter, this, they regret, remains under suspicion.

Meanwhile though, despite the judicial proceedings, the Asociación de Amigos de los Animales has maintained its activity, not just at the shelter but also in public, making its work as visible as possible.

"It's been a year since all that hap-

pened but we're still suffering the consequences. At first there were people who turned their backs, but they have gradually recovered their trust [in us] because they've seen that we continue to defend our animals as we always have done," says the organisation.

Open days, dog walks and other fundraising activities have been taking place over the last year as usual to keep the shelter going.

Triple A has survived for 26 years thanks to money raised through donations, membership fees and events. According to information provided by the organisation, the monthly running costs of the shelter on the Ojén road amount to 30,000 euros.

A group with support

The Seprona operation on 11 April 2016 came just days before the celebration of the centre's 25th anniversary. Over the years the association has received support and recognition from numerous private and public organisations (it received an annual subsidy from Marbella town hall) as well as from individuals who were all taken by surprise by the Guardia Civil's action.

The investigation had started several months before the premises were raided and focused on the suspected offences of animal cruelty, unqualified practice, misappropriation or falsification of documents, according to Seprona. So far the individuals under investigation have been questioned and paperwork provided in an inquiry that is expected to go on for another six months.

The association has pointed to a former collaborator, a lawyer, who could have brought the alleged irregularities, which they say never existed, to the attention of the Guardia Civil.

Regular Triple A collaborators consulted by this newspaper, admit they had their reservations following the events but that they will continue to support the organisation for as long as there is no court decision that supports the allegations.

The fifth Triple A Dog Walk takes place this Sunday

Triple A's fundraising activities continue, despite the court investigation, in order to keep the shelter up and running. This Sunday (23 April) the association is holding its fifth Dog Walk. All animal lovers are encouraged to take along their own dogs to the event or volunteer to walk one

of the association's dogs that are up for adoption.

The walk starts at 10am at Restaurante Manuka, on the seafront in Marbella. Participants are asked to pay a registration fee of ten euros, which includes breakfast and a goodie bag, before the walk along the seafront and back.

Triple A looks after an average of 500 dogs at any one time and has neutered around 5,000 stray cats in recent years.

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Three arrested for copper cable thefts that left thousands without landline

Repeated thefts of Movistar's phone wires have left thousands of residents around the province without landline and internet connections

:: FERNANDO TORRES

ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE. Guardia Civil officers have arrested three suspects believed to have been involved in the theft of large amounts of copper cables belonging to telecommunications provider, Movistar. The news came after thou-

sands of residents in Alhaurín de la Torre and also around Cartáma, Alhaurín el Grande, Mijas Costa and Mijas Pueblo were affected by the theft of the cables.

The thieves, who are from Malaga and have previous convictions, were caught red-handed stealing around 300 metres of overhead cables last week.

According to a Movistar spokesperson, the total length stolen by the trio over time has grown to approximately three kilometres, after the thieves systematically stole the cables each time they were replaced.

Movistar estimates that the

thefts have cost the company around 17,000 euros as their customers were unable to use their services. The Guardia Civil highlighted the consequent safety risks as residents were unable to contact the emergency services.

Mayor of Alhaurín de la Torre, Joaquín Villanova, has reassured residents that police are already working hard to prevent this kind of theft.

Movistar's spokesperson also confirmed that the stolen cables are being replaced, but as this is being done manually "it is not possible to estimate a date by which everything will be back to normal."

Smoke from fire kills man by flat door as elderly mother is rescued on balcony

:: FRANCISCO GUTIÉRREZ

MALAGA. A 50-year-old man died in a fire in his Malaga flat on Monday morning. His elderly mother, who had managed to get out on to the balcony of the eighth-floor property was rescued by a fire brigade crane.

The alarm was raised shortly before 8am when neighbours heard noises and saw smoke pouring from the home which is in the Ciudad Jardín district in the north of the city.

The victim was found by fire services behind the locked front door where he had apparently succumbed to the effects of smoke while trying to find keys. His body was partly blocking the door.

It is understood that his elderly mother, who suffers from Alzheimer's, had been sent to the balcony for safety by her son, where a fire brigade crane was able to rescue her in time.



The flames took hold rapidly, trapping the victim. :: NITO SALAS

HERE AND THERE

Trial over '24-hour-square' murder begins

MALAGA

:: **ÁLVARO FRÍAS.** The trial has begun of a 19-year-old man accused of stabbing another 19-year-old man to death in Plaza SolyMar in Benalmádena Costa in May 2014.

The victim was stabbed in the neck at the door of the Kiu nightclub in the area, also known as '24-hour square' at 6.50am, as he was leaving the club. He died three days later in hospital from his wounds.

Another youth, a friend of the victim who had just stopped to greet

him at the door of the club, was also caught up in the fracas and received wounds to the arm and abdomen.

Initially the attacker fled the scene however police picked up the accused nearby shortly afterwards.

Prosecutors are demanding up to 31 years in prison for the attackers and compensation of 160,000 euros for the victim and family.

In his declaration before the court, the man said he did not remember anything about the incident and that he had been drinking and taking drugs. He said he didn't carry knives, although an eight centimetre blade was found on him when arrested.

Briton arrested on Costa for London car theft

MARBELLA

:: **SUR.** A 33-year-old British man has been arrested by national police in Marbella following a tip off from UK police that he had taken part in the theft of two high-range vehicles from a car dealership in South West London in 2012.

The fugitive was found in Marbella in one of the stolen vehicles where he appears to have been hiding since the theft.

He had previously been arrested on charges of theft and the handling of stolen goods but has not been sentenced as he did not turn up to his trial at Guilford Crown Court.

10,000 euros lost in airport found in Sweden

MALAGA

:: **EUROPA PRESS.** The National Police have found the 10,000 euros that were lost by a Danish man in Malaga airport on 5 April.

In a statement released by the provincial police headquarters, it has been revealed that detectives located the cash in Sweden. The money ended up there after it had been found by a Swedish tourist who had come across the money in the airport and had taken it to Sweden as their flight was due to leave immediately.

The money has now been returned to its rightful owner.

Men quizzed over WhatsApp child abuse

MALAGA

:: **JUAN CANO.** Two men have been placed under formal investigation for taking part in a multinational network of WhatsApp groups that supposedly shared paedophile materials.

After a routine investigation of the internet, police came across links to suspicious images being shared across 96 WhatsApp chat groups with between 200 and

250 participants in each. Police were able to identify 136 users, 21 of whom are from Spain of which two of these live in Malaga.

In the operation to arrest the suspects, the two Malaga men's homes were searched. One is 38 years old and apparently is a junior football assistant who is training to be a coach. The other man questioned is a 20-year-old student.

Both men had had their telephones tapped to see if they had been involved in the storing and sharing of images of the abuse.

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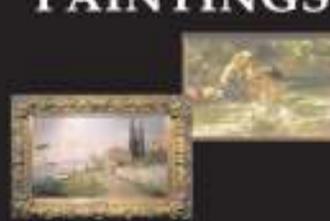
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High winds and waves force warnings to be activated across the area until Saturday

After balmy temperatures over Easter, an unsettled end to the week has seen people putting back on their winter clothes and officials worried about recent beach repairs

:: SUR

MALAGA. After summery temperatures over Easter, many Costa del Sol residents had already consigned winter clothes to the back of the wardrobe. However strong easterly winds over the last few days have forced many to think again, as weather warnings were put in place along the Costa del Sol and inland areas.

Worryingly for local authorities, who have just spent millions on restoring beaches and seafronts after winter storms, the winds have been whipping up waves of over six me-



Spectacular waves could be seen across the Bay of Malaga. **:: SALVADOR SALAS**

tres, causing fresh damage. Fishing boats and ferries have stayed in port.

The mountains around Ronda have been particularly affected by wind.

A weather warning is expected to stay in place in some areas until Saturday.

Summer looks bright for hotels after record number of tourists visited at Easter

:: PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. The Association of Costa del Sol hotels (Aehcos) revealed on Monday that Holy Week and Easter weekend saw a record number of tourists visit the coast for this time of year, which they believe bodes well for the summer period.

The attraction of Malaga city was evident in the fact that 90 per cent of hotel beds were occupied in the capital, which city mayor, Francisco de la Torre, confirmed was the highest figure recorded for Semana Santa of all time. In fact, a 10 per cent increase in business generated by the service sector was recorded as tourists took full advantage of the unseasonably good weather by going to the beach, watching the processions and sampling the nightlife.

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HERE AND THERE

Elderly foreign residents burgled**NERJA**

Thieves stole 3,000 euros in cash and 21,000 euros of jewellery from two elderly foreign residents' houses in Nerja town centre earlier this week, disguising themselves as inspectors from the company Sevillana-Endesa. According to police sources, the latest incidents come after a spate of burglaries in Nerja, La Viñuela and Torrox-Costa. Guardia Civil officers are investigating the incidents.

Hundreds sign petition against golf course**NERJA**

Residents' group 'Otro Nerja y Maro es posible', has collected over 700 signatures in a bid to prevent land owners, Sociedad Azucarera Larios S. A. (Salsa), from converting the old sugar factory and the land around it into an 18-hole golf course with 680 homes and luxury hotels. Salsa started negotiations with the town hall's previous administration, changing the town's PGOU. Mayor Rosa Arabal has said she does not agree with "some of the changes made."

Tractor driver survives 30-metre fall**SAYALONGA**

A resident of Sayalonga was injured when the small tractor he was driving fell 30 metres down a hill from a tarmacked road near to the town's municipal swimming pool. The incident happened at around 4.50pm on Tuesday. Mayor of Sayalonga, Antonio Jesús Pérez, confirmed that the tractor driver, who has not been identified, remained conscious throughout the rescue operation, to which local fire officers attended. The cause of the accident remains unknown.

Town halls unable to agree 2017 budgets due to internal conflicts

Projects and investments planned for this year have not yet got under way and Nerja councillors fear the loss of significant European funding

EUGENIO CABEZAS

MÁLAGA. Three out of the four biggest Axarquía town halls have failed to sign off this year's budgets, despite being at the end of the first quarter.

Councillors at Nerja, Torrox and Rincón de la Victoria town halls have been unable to reach agreements over the budgets, due to votes of no confidence, or the threats thereof, as well as internal differences.

Only Vélez-Málaga's tripartite administration, formed by the socialist PSOE, Partido Andalucía and independent Torre del Mar parties, has been able to sign off the 2017 budget, thanks to the support of independent councillor, José Antonio Moreno Ocón.

The three authorities have had to stretch out last year's budgets and in the case of Torrox, that of 2015. They will be unable to begin new projects and investments until this year's budgets have been approved.



A recent council meeting at Nerja town hall. :: E. CABEZAS

In Rincón de la Victoria, a four-way coalition was reduced to two parties when accusations of cronyism over the management of a cleaning company were revealed, while in Nerja and Torrox, ongoing threats of votes

of no confidence from opposition parties have delayed the decisions. In addition, councillors in Nerja have warned of the risk of losing five million euros of European funding if the budget is not approved soon.

Well water causes 150,000 euros of damage to town's boilers**E. CABEZAS**

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. An estimated 30,000 residents in Vélez-Málaga are experiencing problems with boilers, dishwashers and washing machines, damage amounting to 150,000 euros, due to abnormally high levels of lime scale in their tap water.

The town hall and water company,

Aqualia, have attributed the problem, which residents first started to notice at the end of 2016, to the connection to the Moilno de las Monjas well last summer. The well had not been used for some time.

"We recognise that the water from the well is harder and has more lime scale," said a spokesperson from the water company,

which assures customers that the water is "100 per cent drinkable" and that it "passes all the tests".

Although most of the town has been affected to some extent, residents in the Fortaleza and El Romeral neighbourhoods have been worst hit as 50 per cent of their supply comes from the well, according to the town's Izquierda Unida spokesperson, Miguel Ángel Sánchez.

An investigation is currently under way as to the legality of the work carried out by Aqualia to connect to the well.

Police force recruits four-legged help in the fight against drug crime**JENNIE RHODES**

ALMUÑÉCAR. Almuñécar police force have recently recruited a new member to their unit. Otto is a Belgian Shepherd, or Malinois, who will work with agents in the fight against crime in the Almuñécar area.

Otto made his debut at the beginning of April and was formally introduced to the town's residents by the councillor for citizen safety, Juan José Ruiz Joya, and Almuñécar's police chief, Manuel Ledesma, along with coordinator of the dog unit, Jesús Garrido.

Otto joins Negro, a black Labrador, in the fight against drug trafficking and consumption in and around Almuñécar.

"This new dog has just increased the dog unit in Almuñécar. It's a further service that we will offer to our citizens, whose main objective is fight against any type of drugs in areas near to schools, bus stations and promenades and police controls in this fight," said councillor Juan José Ruiz Joya.

According to Ruiz Joya, Otto has been trained to identify substances including hashish, cannabis, cocaine and heroin.



Otto has joined the fight against drug crime. :: SUR

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HERE AND THERE

Manilva initiates work on the town's rural lanes**MANILVA**

:: **L. PAVÓN.** Manilva is due to spend 6,000 euros on the first stage of a project which will repair the town's country lanes.

Manilva councillor for Agriculture, Diego Urieta, has announced that up to 14 kilometres of lanes will be repaired before and during the summer.

Work has already started in areas such as La Loma, Jacinto Porro, La Colada de Duque, El Pan Mariano and El Molino.

Urieta and the mayor Mario Jiménez also highlighted the importance of the improvements in creating better access between the town centre and its rural areas, as it would help develop a more successful vineyard and agriculture industry in Manilva.

It is possible that a second phase of repairs could commence after summer.

Goat brought to the table at gastronomic event**CASARES**

:: **L. PAVÓN.** The third edition of the gastronomic event 'Degusta Casares' will take place this weekend.

Stands will be showcasing local products while leisure activities have also been organised.

The event will have as its highlight products such as local goat cheese as well as goat meat, which are very typical of the area.



The event's presentation. :: SUR

Casares to have public wi-fi before summer**CASARES**

:: **L. P.** The local councillor for Communication, Juan Luis Villalón, announced on Monday that Casares will be equipped with free, public wi-fi before the start of summer. By this time connection will be available in Casares town centre, El Secadero and Casares Costa. However there are plans to spread the connection to other areas around the town in the future.

Corominas site revives programme of workshops and concerts

Within the next few weeks the Corominas megalithic centre will begin new workshops for secondary school pupils and resume its concert programme

LEANDRO PAVÓN

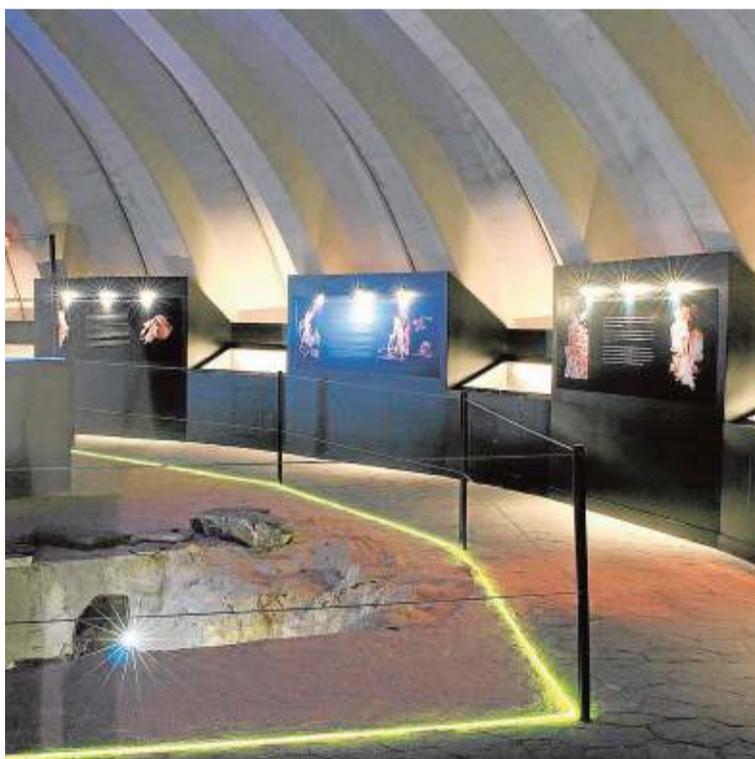
ESTEPONA. The five megalithic tombs dating back 5,000 years on the Corominas site in Estepona will soon be surrounded by music once again. A new programme of concerts and workshops for schoolchildren inside the visitor centre begins this weekend, it was announced earlier this week.

The Corominas necropolis hosted concerts for years due to its excellent acoustics. After the centre's management changed hands in January the concert programme was interrupted, however from this Saturday (22 April) residents and tourists will be able to enjoy concerts at the venue once again.

The lineup for the first concert includes flamenco guitarists Julián Bedmar, Bastian Eidler and Francisco Infantes, which will be followed by string and Brazilian-inspired concerts next month.

The centre's new management also hopes to bring more young visitors through the doors with the new workshops. These vary according to the age of the pupils participating. Cave painting workshops will be available alongside classes on how to be an archaeologist.

"We hide objects in a sandbox



Inside the Corominas centre, where prehistoric tombs can be seen. :: L.P.

and give the pupils the tools needed to find them and make discoveries like an archaeologist," informed manager Ludario Ocaña, in relation to the workshops designed for younger children.

Of course the workshops and concerts are not the only reason to visit the Corominas, as was stressed by Ocaña. "These dolmens were found during the construction of the AP-7 towards Guadiaro. The discovery confirmed that this area was populated around 5,000 years ago

and so far it is the only discovery of its kind from Cadiz to Almeria," he said.

A key motive behind the centre's new agenda is to raise 25,000 euros to invest in better signposting throughout the town so that visitors will be able to find the centre's location in Parque de los Pedregales more easily.

Tickets for Saturday's event were put on sale at 12 euros and include refreshments. Reservations can be made by calling 675942975 or 626912311.

Work begins on the installation of a new zipwire over Casares old town

Casares residents and visitors will soon be able to see the old part of town from a bird's eye view thanks to a new high speed zipwire

L. PAVÓN

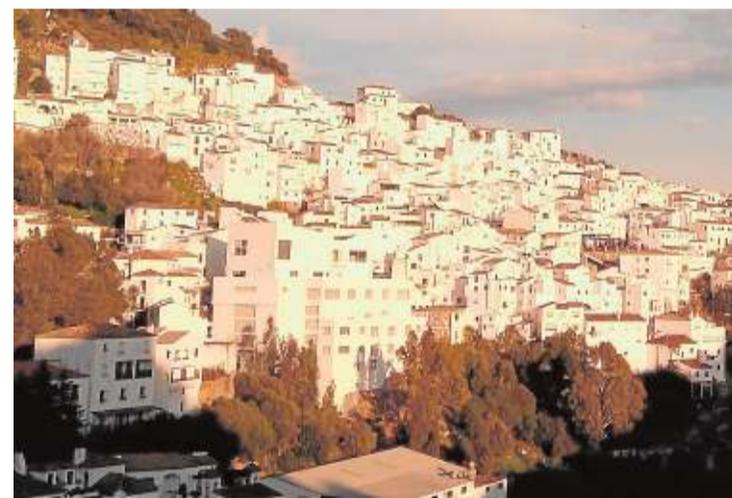
ESTEPONA. Recently Casares residents were asked by the council if they would like to see an overhead zipwire installed in the town, and after the majority voted in favour, work has started on its construction.

According to Casares councillor for Tourism, Rocío Ruiz, all the materials necessary for the installation will be acquired within the next two weeks. Fur-

thermore, various technicians have already taken the necessary measurements to ensure that the 300-metre-long wire, which is costing approximately 32,000 euros, will be up and running for residents and tourists alike by June.

The zipwire will begin at Paseo Panorámico del Chaparral in Puerto de la Cruz, and will stop in the Las Peñuelas at the end of Calle Molinos.

Councillor Ruiz has assured that the zipwire will be installed by a company that has already had a great deal of experience as it was responsible for the construction of the longest zipwire in Spain that crosses the border between Extremadura and Portugal, as well as others in Comares and Toledo.



Casares, on the western Costa del Sol. :: SUR



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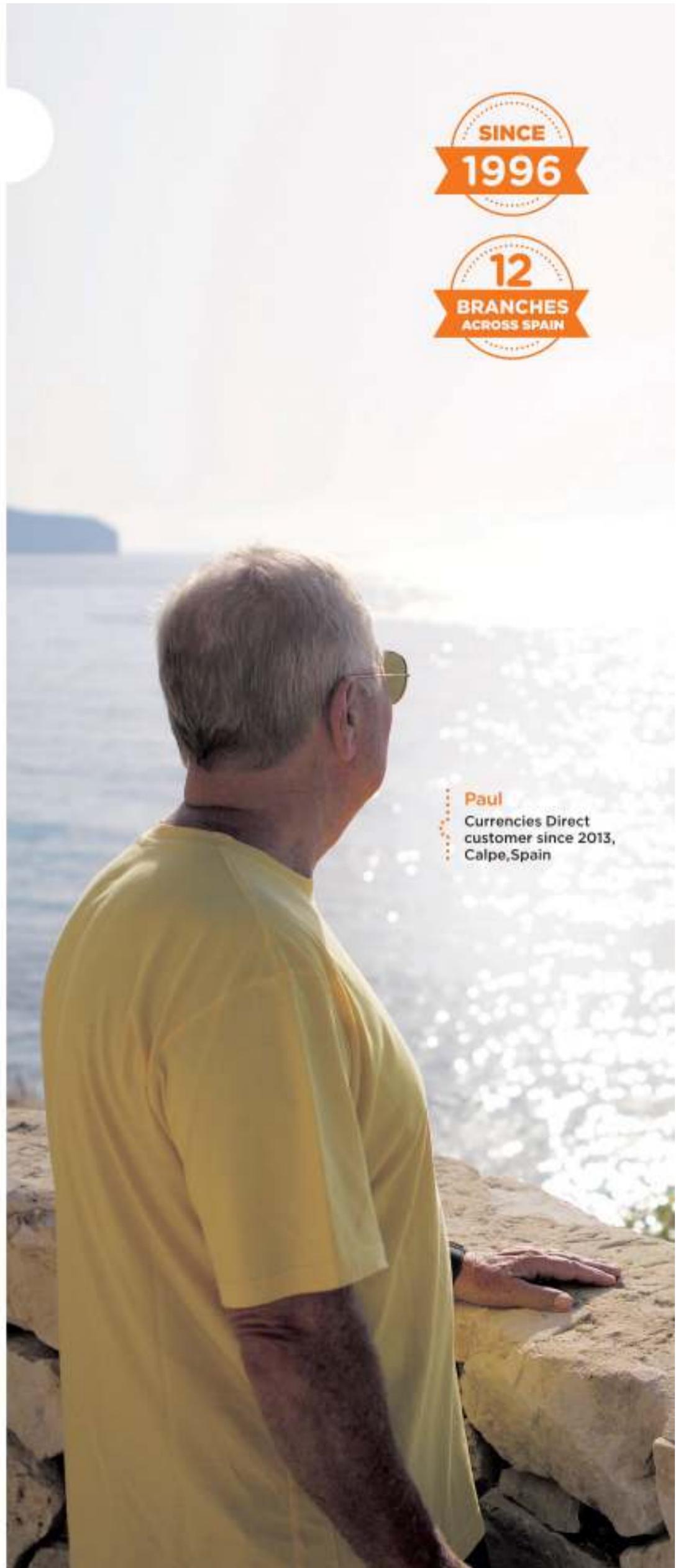
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Work commences to pedestrianise Arroyo de la Miel old town

The project will include improving drainage and sewerage systems in the areas, as well as putting in new gas and water pipes and street lighting

:: ALBERTO GÓMEZ

ARROYO DE LA MIEL. Work has started to pedestrianise Arroyo de la Miel's old town. The project, which is being financed by the Mancomunidad de Municipios Costa del Sol Occidental to the tune of 88,820 euros, will see improvements to Calle Velardo and Calle Vicente Aleixandre up to Calle Sierramar.

Mayor of Benalmádena, Víctor Navas, councillor Óscar Ramundo and Mancomunidad representative, José Eduardo Díaz, visited the site on Wednesday. During the visit Navas said that the works were "an attempt to homogenise the look of these streets, assimilating the design and aesthetics."

As well as pedestrianising the area, work will also take place to lay new gas and water pipes as well as phone lines and improve street lighting. Drainage and sewerage systems will also be put in place.



The work will be complete by the end of May. :: A. GÓMEZ

The objective of the work is to encourage more tourism and commercial activity in the area and is being done to complement existing plans to extend Tivoli.

A real estate group is looking to extend Tivoli into commercial and leisure space, maintaining the existing offer of amusements and rides. The new commercial space is planned for the east of the existing park and includes under-

ground parking with 2,000 spaces, a hypermarket, cinema, office space, an auditorium and a hotel.

The pedestrianisation of Arroyo de la Miel's old town, which is expected to be finished by the end of May, is part of a total of 400,000 euros that the Mancomunidad de Municipios Costa del Sol Occidental will be spending in Benalmádena, to which Arroyo de la Miel belongs, this year.

HERE AND THERE



The road has been compared to an airport runway. :: N. C.

Mixed views over new blue lights in Marbella

MARBELLA

There has been mixed reaction to the new blue lights on Calle Huerta Chica in Marbella, which were put in place to mark the road, which is now the same level as the pavement. Some neighbours' groups

have complained to the town hall that the road "looks like an airport runway" and that they are "not appropriate for the old town", while some shop owners on the street have said that they "are striking" and "pretty." Either way the new look has not escaped jokes on social networks, with memes of the road as a runway being shared among Marbella residents.

Funky Buddha Beach set to reopen soon

MARBELLA

M. P. Marbella's Funky Buddha Beach, which closed two years ago among controversy over the legality of its licences, looks set to reopen. The company behind the popular Marbella landmark has been working to ensure that the beach club adheres to a series

of technical requirements laid out by Marbella town hall. However, the exact opening date remains unclear. The company has suggested, via social media, that it will be open "this year" while sources have informed SUR that "no date has been set as yet".

A spokesperson for the Funky Buddha Beach told SUR: "If it is open for this season then good, if not we will be open for the next one."

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"Every child is different so an individual approach must be given"

"The concept of preschool education has recently been refreshed, it has acquired some new modern methods," reflects Elena Gatsenko, qualified psychologist and head of the El Campanario trilingual kindergarten in Marbella. "In our kindergarten, the emphasis is on fun. The children, from diverse backgrounds, learn through engaging group activities. They eat, play, do crafts and learn together; this in turn teaches them to communicate in English, Spanish and Russian."

This is one of the many reasons why the International Kids Club is among the best nurseries here on the Costa del Sol, she says.

"We prepare children for school. Unlike ordinary kindergartens, we welcome children from eight months to six years," she says, adding: "Our education has the approval of schools all along the Costa del Sol."

The centre reopened last year after a change of ownership and a thorough makeover. "We have bought lovely new furniture and all three classrooms, which overlook the golf course, have been fitted with under-



The International Kids Club has undergone a thorough makeover. . SUR

floor heating and antibacterial lamps to cut down on sick days," says Elena, who insists that it is no longer a "Russian centre", as was the case under the previous management.

All teachers at the International Kids Club are native speakers with great experience in their field. But that's not all: "In addition to the in-depth study of languages and the standard school curriculum (speech development, writing, reading, mathematics, logic, theatre, music,

drawing, dancing, tennis and environmental lessons), we also have our own garden, in which each child has his own vegetable patch or trees. We conduct cooking classes and use our own organic food when possible."

"The bottom line is that every child is different. An individual approach to teaching must be given," she concludes.

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More youngsters on Costa taking marijuana, says addiction charity

The Horizonte Proyecto Hombre association believes that cannabis is even being smoked by those as young as 12 years old

by NIEVES CASTRO

MARBELLA. An association in Marbella set up to help drug addicts, Horizonte Proyecto Hombre, is extremely concerned by the number of youngsters who are now smoking marijuana, even if many are only experimenting with it.

The practice of taking the substance is socially acceptable among young people and seen as something that can have a therapeutic effect.

This is the reason the association believes that the substance is being consumed by more and more adolescents on the Costa, especially those between the ages of 12 and 14.

The news was one of the main issues discussed at the press conference presenting the charity's annual report this week.

A gala dinner, which will see all proceeds go towards funding and sustaining the association's projects and which is taking place tonight (Friday) at the Hotel Fuerte

in Marbella, was also announced. Para-athlete Javier Mérida will be the guest of honour at the event.

Last year, the Horizonte Proyecto Hombre association helped a total of 14 teenagers and their families with problems of this nature.

Half of these needed support due to marijuana and tobacco consumption, while the other half had not started taking substances but showed signs of anger issues and lack of respect for authority.

The association's primary focus is to rehabilitate people of all ages addicted to drugs and other substances. Overall last year, 43 ad-

dicts and 74 families directly benefited from their support.

Drug addicts are treated by an educational and therapeutic process for a minimum of three years and the treatment is completely free of charge for those affected.

However, the association doesn't only help those with drug-related problems, but also assists those who suffer from addictions which do not involve substance taking, such as those addicted to social media and video games.

In the same way that marijuana is being smoked increasingly by young people, the association is



The warning came at their press conference on Tuesday. :: J.L.

worried about the age of new addicts to technology falling all the time, even though this trend has been more gradual.

For this reason, the Escuela de Familia part of the association or-

ganised around thirty sessions last year to encourage mothers and fathers from Estepona and Marbella to clear up any concerns that they had about balancing technology's influence on children.

Marbella calls on top legal 'wise men' to help it solve its town-planning deadlock

by H.B. / M.P.

MARBELLA. Faced with a legal town-planning maze of epic proportions, Marbella council has appointed a panel of top planning academics to help it find a way out.

Marbella has been going through years of turmoil since widespread planning abuse and illegal construction in the late 1990s and early 2000s. In 2010, the council approved a new master town plan, which aimed to compensate for the offences and clarify the legal situation for investors. However this plan was rejected by the Supreme Court and since then the town hall has had to fall back on a woefully outdated plan from 1986 for its day-to-day decisions. Some 30,000 properties are still officially illegal.

The team formed to help the council get out of this legal confusion is headed by four top Spanish university professors and has just won a 170,000-euro tender under a proposal led by the University of Malaga. Seeking external help in this way is unusual but business leaders have welcomed the move. The 'think tank' will review legal issues related to the rejection of the 2010 plan and prepare the groundwork for a new plan.

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More people giving up inheritance due to outstanding debts and taxes

Some 15 per cent of people in Malaga province who were left assets in 2015 did not claim them, a figure five times higher than before the last financial crisis

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. Receiving an inheritance can really help out in a tight financial situation for many people, however for some it can easily turn into a poisoned chalice instead. The double-edged sword of many legacies is born out in figures that show that more and more people in Spain are turning down their inheritance.

In the case of Malaga province, of the 10,466 inheritances that were processed last year, 1,610 ended up being disclaimed by their rightful beneficiaries. This figure has shot up from the 358 recorded rejections in 2009 in the province, at the start of the last financial crisis.

Across Andalucia, four times more people are giving up their inheritance compared to 2009, reaching over 14 per cent in 2015.

Nationally, an average of one person in ten now doesn't take up the property or assets left to them.

The reason behind the number



Inheritance could be costly. **SUR**

of rejections is that often the deceased person has debts higher than the value of the assets. Many homes have fallen in value below their purchase price and mortgages are often more than what a property is now worth.

On top of this, some regions of Spain, including Andalucia, charge a higher-than-average property inheritance tax and all town halls can charge their 'plusvalía' (added-value tax) on a property. Both taxes are now the subject of national campaigns to have them reformed.

It seems that the beneficiaries of wills are increasingly doing their sums and realising that an inheritance is not as attractive as it seems.

NUMBERS DISCLAIMING INHERITANCE Source: Colegio General del Notariado

YEAR	MALAGA	ANDALUCÍA	SPAIN
2009	358	1,856	14,603
2010	384	2,005	16,342
2011	498	2,443	18,395
2012	618	3,452	23,246
2013	965	4,809	28,787
2014	1,219	5,978	34,345
2015	1,537	6,829	37,623
2016	1,610	7,152	38,791

Man gets mortgage reduced from 1,000 euros to 45 euros a month

NURIA TRIGUERO

MARBELLA. A lawyer from Marbella could be about to see his monthly mortgage payments come down from 1,000 euros to 45 euros after a court ruling.

It follows a complaint he brought before Marbella judges about abu-

sive clauses in the mortgage contract with his bank.

In addition, the court said that Caixabank - that took over the mortgage from Cajasol - must pay back 55,149 euros it has overcharged since the mortgage started.

One clause declared null and void

is the so-called 'floor clause' (cláusula suelo) on his interest payments, which the bank had set at 4.9 per cent. The court said it wasn't explained to the man properly. A recent landmark EU decision has been forcing lenders to make refunds.

On top of this, the ruling says that the use of the IRPH rate (a borrowing rate higher than the standard euribor rate) was wrong. Finally, it said the 22.5 per cent rate for any late payment was abusive. The bank can appeal the decision.

MARK NAYLER
markanayler@gmail.com

THE EURO ZONE

RISK ASSESSMENT

In its most recent tweak to global growth forecasts, the IMF has hiked Spain's projected GDP expansion for 2017 to 2.6%, up from 2.3% in January. Although very slight, the increase is an indication that the body's economists see no immediate threat to Spain posed by Donald Trump; in IMF's January report, it wrote that growth forecasts would be adjusted in April "as more clarity emerges on US policies and their implications for the global economy".

In the spring meeting of the IMF, which began on Tuesday, the organisation's managing director Christine Lagarde saluted Spain for pulling itself out of a brutal recession. The praise is not undeserved, because Spanish GDP has enjoyed three consecutive years of growth and is now back to pre-crisis levels of health. Nevertheless, Lagarde said that there is still a long way to go before Spain can consider itself completely in the clear - and she correctly identified the main risks as coming not from the other side of the Atlantic, but from within Spain itself.

The threats posed to the continuation of Spain's GDP expansion - and in particular to productivity levels - stem from its labour market problems, as Lagarde pointed out. Part of the problem is what she called Spain's labour "duality" - a system in which workers on temporary contracts can be fired at a moment's notice with zero cost to the employer, whereas those on permanent contracts enjoy almost total im-

munity from such risks.

Temporary contracts are indeed the scourge of the Spanish labour market, rendering many workers without the stability or support required to forge satisfying careers. The Spanish government, at least, has recently pledged to create 250,000 more permanent positions in the public sector throughout 2017 and data from the employment agency Randstad in February indicated that in 2016 21.6% more contracts were made permanent than in 2015. This problem, it seems, has at least been acknowledged as such by the government, although a lasting solution will require Mariano Rajoy to overhaul some of his own labour market reforms of 2012/2013. Whether or not he's prepared to go that far remains to be seen.

There is another problem that Lagarde didn't refer to, though: long term unemployment. Spain's long term unemployment level currently hovers at around 9% - the second highest in the EU after Greece's 17% - and according to OECD data just over 50% of Spain's unemployed have been without work for twelve months or more. This is a serious problem, as the longer someone is unemployed, the more difficult it is for them to get back to work; as yet, the Popular Party government has not focused on helping this substantial cohort of workers back into employment. So long as this is the case, the rosy picture presented by the IMF's growth predictions won't match the reality for many Spanish households.

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UK general election on 8 June but still no votes for expats

Few people were expecting this week's announcement, as May has repeatedly stated that there was no need for an election

DEBBIE BARTLETT

MALAGA. British prime minister Theresa May took the country by surprise when she announced on Tuesday that she intended to call a snap general election on Thursday 8 June. To get around the five-year fixed-term rule, she needed the support of two-thirds of MPs in order to go ahead, and she achieved this with no problem on Wednesday: only 13 MPs voted against the proposal.

Predictably, there is a great deal of

speculation about the prime minister's reasons for doing this, as she has repeatedly stated that she would not be calling an election before 2020 because there was no need to do so.

Some commentators believe the government decided to go to the country before the negative effects of Brexit became apparent, to ensure that they have five more years in power.

Others suspect that it is a way of deflecting from the Tory expenses scandal, as a number of MPs and officials are being investigated over claims that they exceeded spending limits in the 2015 election and it is reported that some of them are likely to be charged in the near future.

There is also a feeling that May believes Labour is weak at the moment and stands no chance of winning an

election, and that she is expecting to win a landslide victory.

When making the announcement outside Downing Street, the prime minister said she was calling the election because she wanted a stronger mandate for the Brexit negotiations, accusing other parties of undermining the government's plans.

"At this moment of enormous national significance, there should be unity here in Westminster, but instead there is division. The country is coming together, but Westminster is not," she said.

No 'votes for life'

Whatever the reasons, they make no difference to the large number of British citizens who have been outside the UK for more than 15 years and are therefore unable to vote.

Despite the government pledging in its 2015 manifesto that it would abolish the arbitrary time limit and give all British citizens 'votes for life', nothing has been done and many expats who felt so badly let down when the 15-year rule was applied to the EU referendum last June are very disappointed that the government is refusing to implement the new legislation now, so they cannot vote in the general election.

As David Cameron did when pressed to allow long-term expats in the EU a say in the referendum, May says there is "no time" to put the relevant legislation into effect, but not everyone agrees.

The New Europeans group has started a snap campaign and has written to Chris Skidmore, the Minister for the Constitution, asking for the Votes for Life Bill to be implemented before parliament is dissolved, so that 5.5 million UK expats can vote on 8 June.

Signatures can be added to the campaign letter to Skidmore online at neweuropeans.net and there is also a petition on Change.org.

"Our relationship with British people will be just as strong"

Roy Pérez Councillor for Foreigners in Mijas

IVÁN GELIBTER

MIJAS. This is the municipality on the Costa del Sol with the largest number of British residents: 12,000 of them are on the population register. Roy Pérez, the councillor responsible for foreigners in Mijas, gives his views on the effects of Brexit.

-Mijas has more British residents than anywhere else in Malaga province. What effects has Brexit had on them so far?

-About 42 per cent of the population of Mijas is foreign, and 11,800 of them are British. We're talking about British people who are on the population register, but in reality there could be twice as many in Mijas. That's why we have started a campaign to encourage people who have never registered, or who have not renewed their registration, to do so.

-What are British people in Mijas most concerned about?

-The majority are pensioners, and what worries them most is that they might lose their free health care, that their pensions could be frozen, they could lose their rights and subsidies, there could be restrictions on working in Spain and, obviously, the fear that free movement of people between the UK and Spain could come to an end.

-Are more British people coming here now, or are many of them leaving?

-British people who were thinking of coming to Mijas to live may now be waiting to see what happens before they make the decision. However, British investors know that Mijas is a safe choice. **-Do you think Brexit is likely**



Roy Pérez. :: SUR

to have an effect on the economy of Mijas?

-There is uncertainty about how the negotiations between the British government and the EU are going to develop, so it's normal to be concerned in a way. Bearing in mind the emotional links, though, we believe that despite Brexit the relationship between Mijas and the British will remain just as strong.

-Are you carrying out any campaigns in Mijas?

-We have begun a campaign called 'Faltas tú: empadronate', which aims to increase the number of people who are on the population register of the municipality. That's because we want the census to be better, to be more accurate than it is now.



Theresa May announced the election on Tuesday. :: REUTERS

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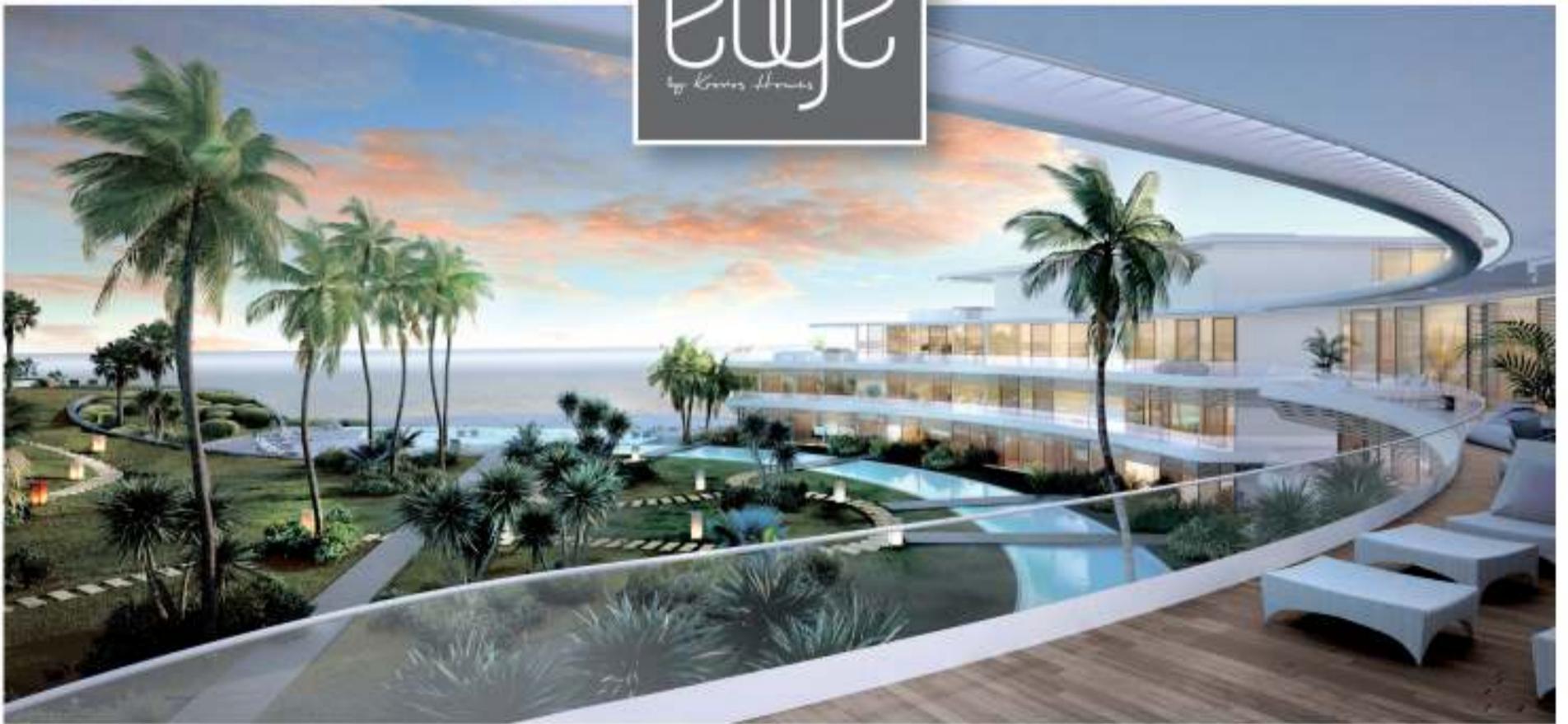
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IN BRIEF

Government confirms its plans if zombies attack**MADRID**

:: **A.A.** The government has replied to a tongue-in-cheek written parliamentary question about its plans for a zombie apocalypse by saying that if apocalypse meant the 'end of the world', there is not a lot it can do, and if it meant 'catastrophe' that, yes, there is a civil defence plan for catastrophic events. According to its

analysis, if by zombie the questioner meant people like 'The Walking Dead', it didn't see any likelihood of it happening, but if zombie meant someone removed from reality, then yes there were ways to deal with that.

The bizarre exchange came after senator Carles Mulet (Compromís) became fed up with waiting a long time for vague answers to his normal written questions. He noted that, in contrast, the government had answered his zombie apocalypse questions quickly and in precise detail.

Defence minister under fire over flags at half mast**MADRID**

:: **R.C.** The opposition PSOE party has complained that defence minister, María Dolores de Cospedal, has "brought her personal religious beliefs" to her job by allowing military buildings to fly the Spanish flag at half mast over Easter to mark Christ's crucifixion. They say it goes against non-confessional rules. The government has said it was upholding a popular tradition.



Cospedal during Holy Week. :: EFE

Seville Easter panic was 'not preorganised'**SEVILLE**

:: **SUR.** Authorities met this week to analyse what was behind sporadic incidents early last Friday morning during Seville's Holy Week processions that spread panic among crowds. Police have said that the disruption was down to 'common criminals' and was not organised. It followed a similar panic incident and stampede over a minor dispute over some seats during Malaga's 'El Cautivo' procession.



Ignacio González, escorted by Guardia Civil agents, arrives at his office on Wednesday. :: EFE

Former regional president of Madrid held over 60 million euros missing from local water company

Ignacio González of the PP is being investigated as the supposed head of a criminal organisation used to syphon off public funds via South America

:: SUR

MADRID. In the latest spectacular case of alleged corruption to hit Spain, the former president of the Madrid regional government was arrested on Wednesday, accused of being the head of a network of associates that

drained part of the region's public finances of 60 million euros.

Ignacio González, who led Madrid for the Partido Popular (PP) from 2012 to 2015, was held with eleven others in a day of high drama in the capital which saw Guardia Civil officers searching private offices and regional government buildings.

The case centres on the alleged use of the local, publically-owned water supplier to filter off funds via companies in South America. The main water company in Madrid is known as Canal Isabel II - after the canal that historically brought the city its wa-

ter. According to court documents, between 2013 and 2015, the Canal Isabel II company acquired other firms in Brazil and Colombia at inflated prices and a large part of the money spent then found its way back

Since 2012 police have been investigating into a penthouse acquired by González near Marbella

into the hands of those arrested.

In one example, a Brazilian company was bought for 21.4 million euros in 2013 but by 2015 it was showing in the Madrid public water company's accounts as a negative 5.5-million-euro asset.

This is not the first time that suspicions have arisen concerning the activities of Ignacio González. In 2008, private detectives videoed him and a former executive of the water company taking white bin bags into a building in Colombia, and leaving again empty handed ten minutes later. At the time, González explained away the bags. "They were towels, damn it!" he said and no further action was taken.

'Something smelt bad'

Since 2012, police have been investigating a 700,000-euro penthouse in Alhambra del Golf, west of Marbella, that González acquired about the same time as the incident in Colombia, over suspicions about the origin of funds to used to buy it.

In this latest operation, codenamed 'Operación Lezo', the accused also include former water-company executives and family members of González. González is also facing accusations of charging commission for the awarding of public contracts and illegally funding regional election campaigning for the PP party.

His name has also been linked to other interconnected and complex corruption cases which have been plaguing the PP in recent years.

The party has suspended his membership and current president of the Madrid region, Cristina Cifuentes, also PP, has claimed it was her administration that had helped uncover the alleged corruption. Before becoming president, she said: "The Canal smells bad [referring to the Madrid water company], and it's not stagnant water."

Rajoy called as a witness in 'Gürtel' case and will be first Spanish PM to testify in court**:: SUR**

MADRID. The Prime Minister, Mariano Rajoy, is to testify as a witness in an ongoing, high-profile corruption case. On a date as yet to be decided he will face questions as part of the first phase of the 'Gürtel' case either by videolink or in his own office.

It is eight and a half years since accusations surfaced that there was a corrupt network helping fund the Partido Popular (PP) between 1999 and 2005. Rajoy occupied various high-ranking positions in the PP party over that time, including directing electoral campaigns. It is alleged that campaigns were in part funded using illegal commissions from the awarding of public contracts.

Rajoy will be the first Spanish PM to testify in a trial but party sources were keen to clarify that he will only be called as a witness. He will not be questioned about allegations that his initials feature on handwritten notes from a former party treasurer relating to payments of black money, as these documents, known as the 'Bárceñas papers', are not in this part of the trial.

Opposition parties were quick to draw their own conclusions from the latest surprise announcement. Radical left-wing leader of Podemos, Pablo Iglesias, said: "Lots of corrupt people in the PP. We understand it, Mariano. Be strong."

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Royals visit Seville to mark Expo'92 anniversary

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia marked the 25th anniversary of the fair's opening at a series of events in the Andalusian capital

:: SUR

SEVILLE. Spain's King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia paid an official visit to the Andalusian capital, Seville, on Thursday, to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening of the city's World Expo. This week the country's first high-speed rail link, from Madrid to Seville, also celebrates the same birthday.

Don Juan Carlos, who abdicated in favour of his son, King Felipe in 2014, and Doña Sofia attended a reception in Seville's Alcázar setting off a series of festivities across the city remembering the event that started exactly a quarter of a century ago.

Seville hosted the World Expo on a reclaimed site at La Cartuja between April and October 1992. The expo coincided with the 500th anniversary of Columbus's discovery of America and was seen as a major boost to the Andalusian economy and Spain's international prestige,



Photo flashback to 1992. :: EFE

coming in the same year as the Barcelona Olympics.

Almost 16 million people visited the 215-hectare park where 112 countries had pavilions.

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia attended the original opening. At this Thursday's event there was an air of a reunion, with a lot reminiscence among politicians and dignitaries, past and present.

In 1992, the king and queen travelled on the brand-new AVE high-speed train from Madrid to Seville, the first line of its type in Spain and today [Friday] Mariano Rajoy will be in Seville to mark the anniversary of the line.

LEGAL ADVICE



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REF. R.E.M.

I am resident in the U.K., but I have a holiday home in Spain that I normally use two or three times a year. I have some friends who also own a house in Spain, and they told me that just for the fact of having a property in Spain, we are obliged to submit and pay a tax return. Is that so? Is it true that I have to pay a tax in Spain

even if I am tax resident in a different country?

Yes, I am afraid that your friends are right. Law establishes that all those people who own assets located in Spain, even if they do not reside here, are obliged to submit the non-resident tax, which must be submitted and paid every year as long as you still have an asset located in Spain. And not only that. Depending on the value of the asset, it might be possible that you are also obliged to pay "wealth tax", but unlike the non-resident tax, which is always payable, the wealth tax is only mandatory depending on the total value of your assets in Spain.

REF. C.O.N.

My parents are already elderly and have decided to sign a will in Spain. They have told my sister and me that they want the house they have in

our home country goes to my sister when they pass away, and regarding the property in Spain, they have the intention of transferring it into my name shortly, but in return I have to renounce my inheritance rights regarding the property located in our home country. We have no idea how to do this. How do we do this?

Right now you cannot waive your inheritance rights, since this can only be done at the moment that the inheritance comes in to force, when your parents pass away. Nevertheless, what you can do in advance is sign a statement before a notary, establishing that you have already received your part of the inheritance, so that when your parents pass away and the inheritance deed is signed, there is evidence that you have already received your part.

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Gibraltar's sports facilities to be completely transformed

The Gibraltar Football Association is to buy the Victoria Stadium for £16.5 million and convert it into a UEFA Category 4 national football stadium

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. The government has agreed to sell the Victoria Stadium to the Gibraltar Football Association for £16.5 million, including the old Victoria Sports Hall and the right to redevelop the area of Winston Churchill Avenue and the adjacent petrol station when the latter is relocated after the tunnel under the runway is built. The sale does not include the Tercentenary Hall or the rest of the

Bayside Sports Complex.

The government had originally proposed Victoria Stadium as the venue for a UEFA category 4 national football stadium but UEFA objected, so the GFA began to look at different locations to construct a new one. None proved viable, so last month the GFA told the government that UEFA had decided it would agree to the Victoria Stadium being used as long as the GFA acquired it outright.

The money from the sale will be used to completely transform Gibraltar's sports facilities, but the GFA will continue to allow the stadium to be used for some community events and by schools as long as they do not conflict with its own needs.

The GFA will pay for the stadium in three instalments with funds it

will receive exclusively from UEFA and FIFA. In addition, it will invest around £15m in the redevelopment of the Victoria Stadium and the old Sports Hall.

As a result, Gibraltar will benefit from a national football stadium which will be developed at no cost at all to the taxpayer.

Substantial works will be required to the Victoria Stadium, so UEFA Champions and Europa League matches will not be able to take place in Gibraltar this year.

The agreement with the GFA unlocks the potential to develop infrastructure for football and all other sports in Gibraltar to an unprecedented level and represents the largest investment in sport in the history of the Rock.



Gibraltar's emblematic Victoria Stadium sits right beside the International Airport. :: SUR

IN BRIEF



Gorham's Cave is a World Heritage Site. :: SUR

Chance to volunteer at Gorham's Cave

GIBRALTAR

D. B. The Gorham's Cave complex will soon be celebrating its first year as a Unesco World Heritage Site and the Gibraltar Museum has decided to mark the anniversary by giving local people the chance to help with the excavation this summer, which will take place between 19 June and

18 August. No previous experience is required as the volunteers will work under the direct supervision of specialists at all times.

Eight places are available and anyone who is interested in participating in the scheme should apply in writing to Dr Geraldine Finlayson, Gorham's Cave Complex World Heritage Site co-ordinator, The Gibraltar Museum, 18-20 Bomb House Lane, Gibraltar, or by email to geraldine.finlayson@gibmuseum.gi

Speed cameras come into operation

GIBRALTAR

D. B. Static speed cameras are now in operation on Devil's Tower Road, Europa Advance Road and Rosia Road. They will complement the mobile devices which are already used by the Royal Gibraltar Police. All speeding offences will be transmitted in real time to the offices of the GCPL, and the owners of the vehicles will be sent a Notice of Intended Prosecution.

Smoking banned at Bayside sports complex

GIBRALTAR

D. B. New regulations came into force on Thursday, banning smoking anywhere in the Bayside sports complex. Until now, smoking has only been prohibited in indoor venues.

Health professionals have always questioned the omission of sports complexes from the original law, as they are extensively used by children and are actively promoted as healthy places.



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Arroyo de la Miel exit ramp

I don't normally write to the papers, but since this affects not just myself but many thousands of motorists who use the 222 exit ramp on the A7, I feel I must get my 10 million euros' worth.

From what I see of the planned new above ground roundabout, or glorieta - I love that word; I use it a lot when talking to my clients on the coach. I tell them as a joke, "I might call my daughter Glorieta, but she might get around too much." OK so I am a tour guide with a weird sense of humour.

But seriously folks, as the plan looks to me according to your picture, it's NOT going work.

Traffic will pile up as it does now on the hill going down to Arroyo, because of the influx of traffic on the small glorieta at the Galp petrol station.

Unless a slip road to the left and right is built, the Junta is wasting its money. Nothing new then!

Just like the other many improvements started but never finished; if you want a list of them I would be happy to oblige.

Just one thing I do ask of the powers that be, of the folks who replace the light bulbs: Please replace all the lights that are out at the glorieta at the

flat hotel. It leaves the new bus shelter in darkness morning and night. These lights have been out for at least a year; it's an accident waiting to happen. The bus stop is used by many kids as a school stop, and by young women at night.

Right let's see the power of the press at work. Please pass on to whom ever you think can tackle these concerns.

BARRY I. RAVEN
BENALMÁDENA

News and entertainment

I'm a former journalist at the Los Angeles Times and other top American news organizations, and have just arrived in Spain.

I've been reading SUR in English, and wanted to compliment you on its quality.

Many of your stories are hard-hitting - like the one you did recently on the uncle of Bashar al-Assad buying 500 Spanish properties to launder money.

And your lifestyle, art and entertainment pieces are fun - like your recent interview with Antonio Banderas.

I read your edition cover to cover.

Keep up the good work!

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BY EMAIL

The geek shall inherit the Earth

PETER EDGERTON
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They're at it again. Our hipster chums in Silicon Valley are predicting the future for us. Apparently, sooner than we think, smart phones will become obsolete and we'll all be sporting augmented reality headsets.

Hang on a minute. Haven't we been here before? I can't remember what they were called (which fact tells its own tale) but it wasn't that long ago that we were all supposed to be wearing some ridiculous glasses in a bid to improve our day-to-day existence and enhance the very experience of living? Trouble was, nobody was prepared to look like a poor man's Elton John circa 1973, in return for a map of the surrounding area and line of dots guiding us to the nearest chip shop.

That's the trouble with geeks - their vision of the future is so narrow that it precludes any development that doesn't hold as sacred the advancement of technology. As far as I could gather - these new

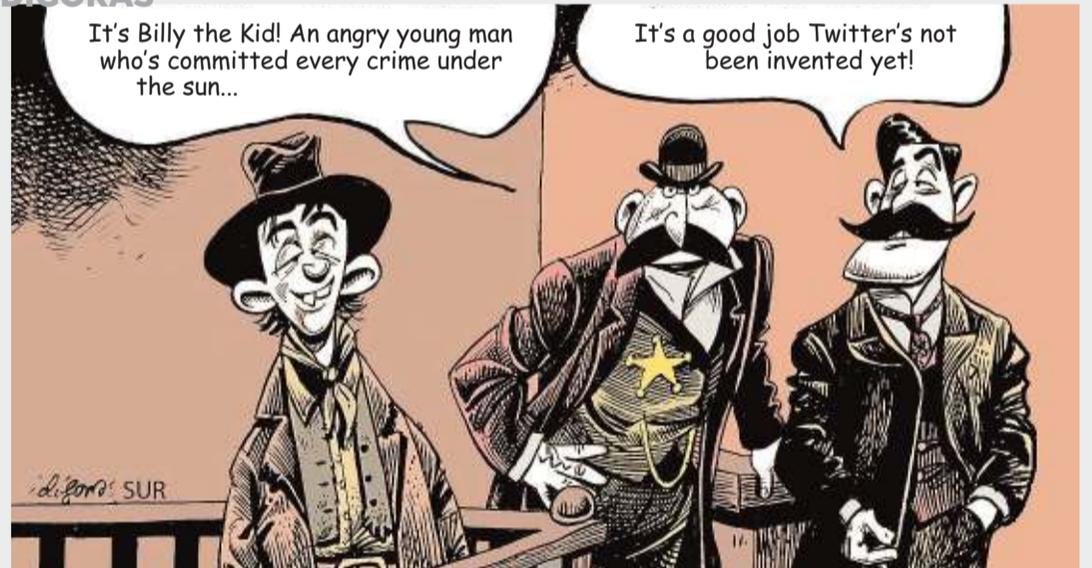
glasses will be more George Michael than Elton John (I'm not sure which would be worse, frankly) and will augment our reality with holograms and internet access and unicorns and stuff like that. Bli-mey, surely reality's complicated enough without exacerbating the situation. I can't help envisaging loads of people on the high street flailing around like Jeremy Vine on election night, each locked in their own hermetically sealed world, totally oblivious to their surroundings. So, a bit like now then but with snazzy specs and some waving limbs to boot.

There's another problem. If everyone is wearing identical specs, then we're all going to look very much the same. I have a hard enough time in the summer saying hello to people in sunglasses around Malaga. Either I offer a hearty greeting to someone I don't even know or I completely ignore someone I shouldn't. "Sorry, granddad - it's your sunglasses, I'm afraid."

No, someone needs to get down to Silicon Valley sharpish and interrupt the organic-coffee-table-tennis-beard-growing-championships in order to let these chaps know that they might be wrong. Once their eyes have stopped swivelling on their own axis at the very thought that they may actually be mistaken, you can explain in kindly tones that there's a very big chance that the next generation will rebel and discard the folly of their parents and grandparents (as new generations have always done down the centuries, in fact). They'll laugh heartily at their dad's endless pictures of his food and at people watching live concerts through their telephone screens and at couples sitting in romantic restaurants checking their TwitFace feeds. They'll chortle merrily at selfish - sorry I mean 'selfie' - sticks and, in fact, the totally egocentric nature of our absurd antics.

I, for one, have faith which, ironically, is something George Michael used to sing about.

IDÍGORAS



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It's Easter Saturday and Malaga is taking a rest from six days of processions. In one corner of the city a conversation is struck up spontaneously around a bottle of Montepulciano d'Abruzzo in Giuseppe's oyster bar. On one side is an Irishman who is already as 'malagueño' as they come, and on the other, a Dutch couple who hope to be the same shortly. It's their umpteenth visit to look for their dream retirement home in this same neighbourhood. They speak in English. For the couple it has been their first Semana Santa and they claim to have been close to tears watching the processions. They've followed them all, from various angles, as well as from thousands of videos on YouTube. The

Other Malagas

IGNACIO LILLO

'malagueño' suggests they take part in one of the processions next year. But before they reach that level of integration they aim to speak a little Spanish.

Between one video and another the woman complains that she hasn't been able to find anywhere that sells CDs of the processional

marches. No-one has the answer to such a simple question.

The conversation continues and the Irish 'malagueño' shows the Dutch couple several videos of Verdiales bands on his phone, and explains the ancestral musical traditions of the area. The repetitive sounds of the violin and the cym-

bals fill this Italian bar from the tiny loudspeaker as four European nationalities look on. All this is taking place at the foot of the iconic Victoria church where the tyres of the cars still screech on the bend due to the wax on the road, a sound that's almost as ancestral and 'malagueño' as the Verdiales music itself.

So why am I describing all this? Because I believe that this is the clearest example to show that Malaga has now gone beyond the 'malagueños' themselves, who are by no means the only champions of our traditions, our culture and our values. People from all over the world have discovered this corner of the Mediterranean and want to become part of it; to experience it,

get to know it and come to love it like the best of us. That's how it was during the last period of financial and social splendour in the city, in the 19th century, with its bourgeoisie and foreign surnames. And that's how it will be in the 21st century, in this new cycle of urban expansion. The success of Malaga over the next few decades will depend in part on the ability we have to listen to what these new voices can contribute; new sap for an ancient tree that has seen more than a few plagues that are being cured with fertiliser from around the world at its roots.

If you will allow me to paraphrase the famous quote by French poet Paul Éluard: there is another Malaga, but it's in this one.



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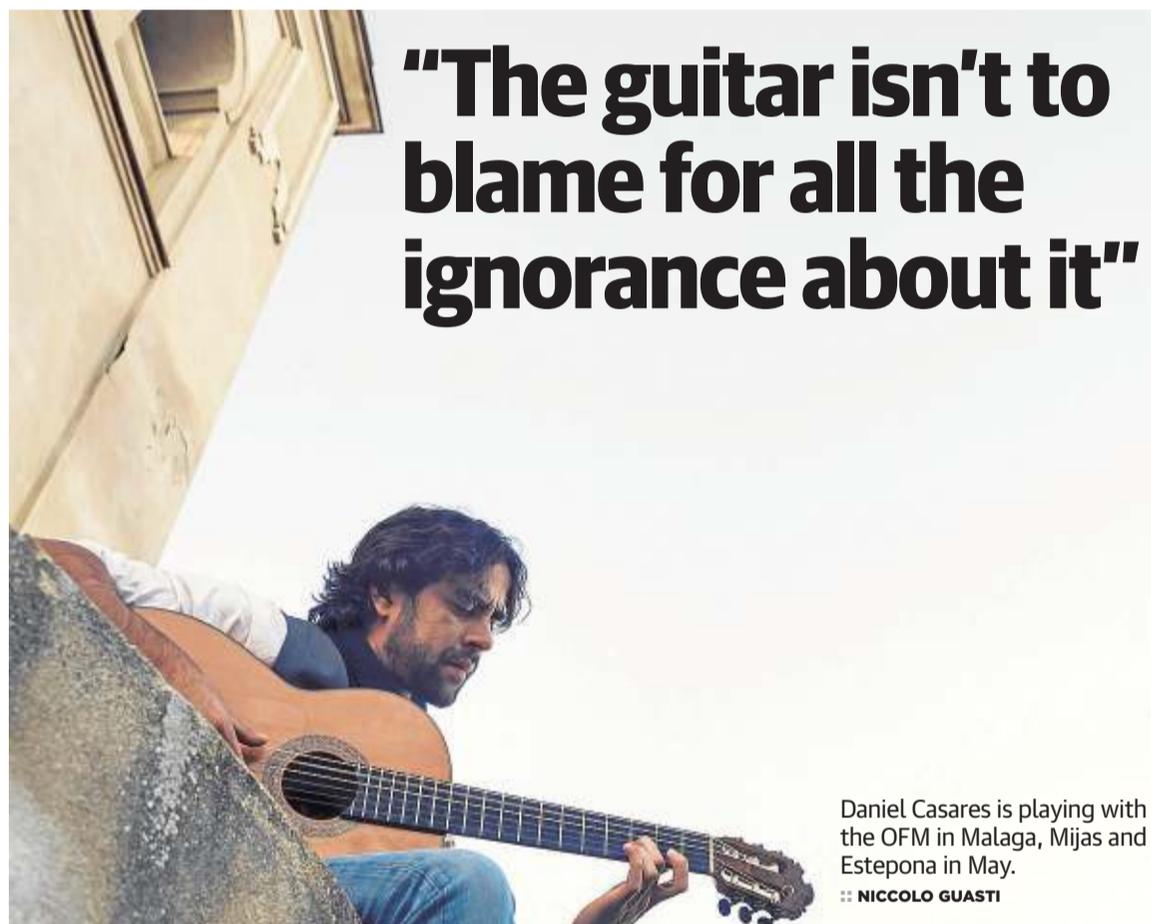
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"The guitar isn't to blame for all the ignorance about it"

Daniel Casares is playing with the OFM in Malaga, Mijas and Estepona in May.
:: NICCOLO GUASTI

Daniel Casares, a guitarist from Malaga who is touring the province with the OFM and the 'Concierto de Aranjuez' in May, says the authorities should do more to promote guitar music

REGINA SOTORRÍO

MALAGA. He says it is only his personal feeling, but Daniel Casares believes that the Rodrigo composed the Concierto de Aranjuez just so he could play flamenco. "It is the clas-

sical piece which is closest to us," says this local guitarist. When Daniel starts to play the first movement a 'bulería' comes into his mind and he speeds up the rhythm. And the second movement could well be a 'minera' or 'taranta' "because of its freer interpretation", he explains.

He feels more comfortable like this, thinking from a flamenco point of view: "Although I don't change a single note and I stick to Rodrigo's score, I play it with a flamenco technique, because that's what I am." And that is what he will be doing in three concerts in Malaga city, Este-

pona and Mijas with the Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra (OFM), conducted by Arturo Diez Boscovich. These are part of a tour, and will include the second part of La Luna de Alejandra, composed by Daniel himself and arranged by José Miguel Évora.

The Concierto de Aranjuez 'works' wherever it is performed. Proof of this is that the recitals in Malaga and Estepona are almost sold out, with a month still to go. However, that is not normal. "It's really difficult to fill a theatre with a guitar concert," he admits, but he doesn't blame the public for that. "They go to what

ON TOUR WITH THE OFM

► **The concert.** Daniel Casares and the Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Arturo Diez Boscovich, will perform the Concierto de Aranjuez and La Luna de Alejandra.

► **Malaga.** 12 May. Edgar Neville Auditorium. 8.30pm.

► **Mijas.** 13 May. Las Lagunas theatre. 7pm.

► **Estepona.** 14 May. Felipe VI auditorium. 6pm.

Daniel will also be performing with Dulce Pontes at the Cervantes Theatre in July

He has just launched his latest album, Palo Santo, in Seville

they know, just like I do," says Daniel, "so the responsibility lies with the people who are in charge of culture in our country. The guitar isn't to blame for the amount of ignorance there is about it."

He is sad that his instrument does not hold the prestige "it deserves" here. "In Japan, German or New York, Spain is represented by a guitar, not bagpipes or a piano or a flute," he points out. Even President Obama wanted to see him play when he was due to visit Seville. Nevertheless, here "people don't come to guitar concerts because they are not

played on the radio or TV, and there are no financial incentives to promote our culture among the public."

In the meantime, he is involved in different projects, many of them outside Spain. He has just performed in Portugal with Dulce Pontes, with whom he did a tour. On 1 July he will perform with her again at the Cervantes Theatre in Malaga, and then Latin America awaits him with a month-long tour.

'Palo Santo'

When he performs alone with the guitar, he allows himself "the luxury of doing what I like", mixing music from the past and present. His latest work, after his album Picassares, which paid tribute to Picasso, is called Palo Santo. He presented it for the first time on 3 April at the Maestranza in Seville, with more than 200 musicians on stage including the Triana Symphony Orchestra and the Tres Caídas de Triana cornet and drum band. Singer Rocío Márquez and dancer La Lupi were guest artists.

Palo Santo is the result of the admiration Daniel Casares has for the figure of Jesus, and it recreates moments of his life through flamenco music. It may be that it "is more in context" during Easter week, but he insists that it is timeless and universal.

"Everyone at some time in their life has celebrated a birth, fallen in love, experienced serious problems and been reborn in some way," he says. Palo Santo is the name of the wood used to built guitars and that is the way in which this story is told.

There has not been an immediate response to Palo Santo in terms of requests for international concerts, but Daniel Casares isn't bothered. "Malaga has to be next," he says.



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Have the English tired of St George?

Some people believe that England's patron saint should be defrocked and replaced by Saint Alban



TONY BRYANT

✉ tonysureng@gmail.com

St George has suffered many indignities since he was adopted by the English in the fourteenth century

TORREMOLINOS. Sunday 23 April is the day when English nationals celebrate St George's Day.

However, even though he is perhaps one of Christianity's most venerated saints, the English seem to have virtually turned their backs on him over the years.

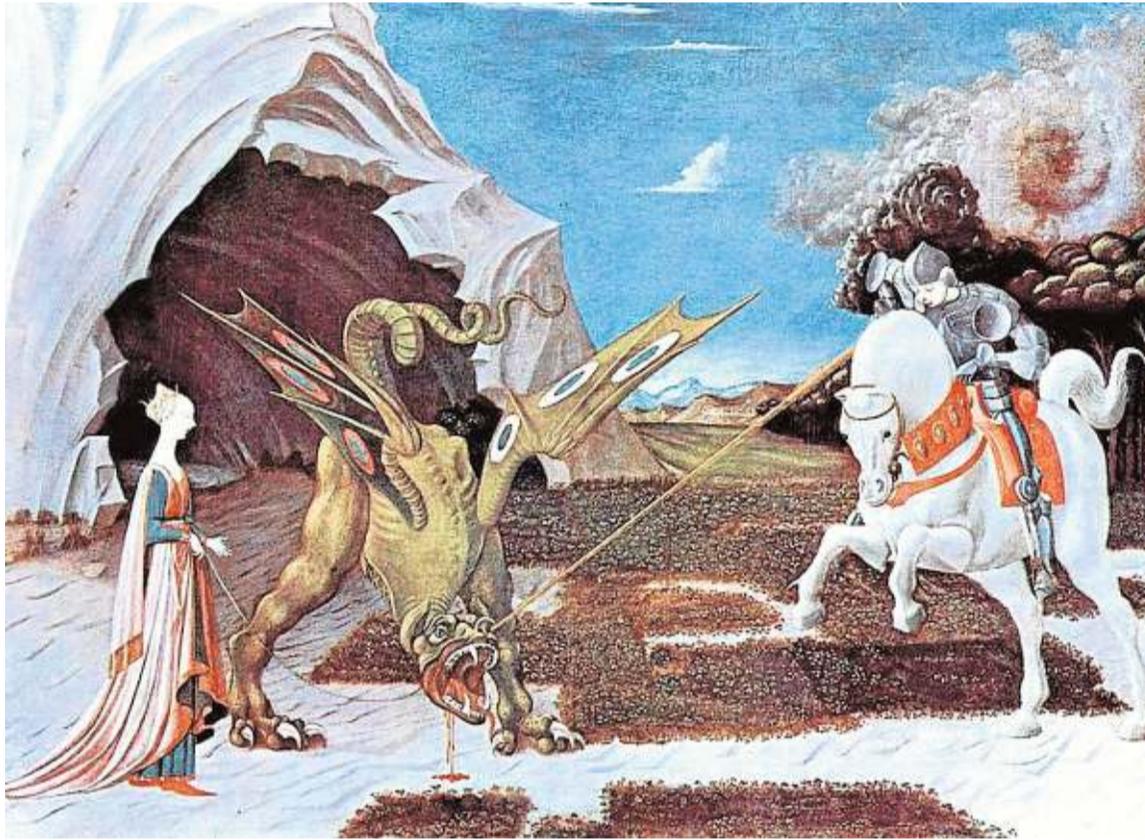
His achievements have been questioned by the scholarly and his life is something of a mystery, and much of what we know is based on legend.

St George is believed to have served as a soldier in the Roman army during the latter part of the 3rd century AD, but resigned in protest of the Emperor's persecution of Christians.

He was then imprisoned for refusing to renounce Christianity and was eventually beheaded by the Emperor Diocletian.

It was his celebrated combat with a dragon that set him apart from most of his fellow martyrs, and the account of this heroic slaying comes from the Golden Legend, which was written in the thirteenth century.

It is believed that he was adopted in England because the story in The Golden Legend was similar to an old Anglo-Saxon legend.



It was St George's celebrated slaying of the dragon that set him apart from most of his fellow martyrs. :: SUR

However, St George's Day celebrations are often more low key than the razzmatazz events connected to some of his fellow saints.

With the odd exception, celebrations are virtually nonexistent here on the coast and the day will often pass without much ado, largely down to the fact that many are unaware of the occasion.

A recent survey carried out in England claimed that only one in five people know that St George's Day falls on April 23. The same survey suggested that 25 percent of English people do not even know who their patron saint is.

It would seem that a good majority of English nationals prefer



St George's flag flies in Downing Street, London. :: SUR

It would seem that a good majority of English nationals prefer to celebrate St Patrick's Day

A recent survey claimed that only one in five people know that St George's Day falls on April 23

to celebrate St Patrick's Day in preference to their own martyr, and there are those who believe that England's patron saint should be defrocked.

A poll carried out by a British tabloid newspaper in 2003 suggested that St George should be ousted as England's patron saint and replaced by St Alban. This notion was also backed by several prominent clergy from the Church of England.

The major sources on St Alban's life were written hundreds of years after his death, and many of the later texts contain additions and embellishments that probably did not occur.

Alban and George

St Alban, who is venerated as the first recorded British Christian martyr, and St George lived in the same era, and were both beheaded by the Romans for refusing to renounce Christianity. Although knowledge of both men is based more on legend than fact, St Alban was English, whereas St George was not.

St George has suffered many indignities since he was adopted by the English in the fourteenth century and scholars have ridiculed his dragon slaying exploits.

He is identified with English ideals of honour, bravery and gallantry, but he was not English and he is not thought to have visited Britain. This alone may explain why so many remain sceptical of his suitability as England's patron saint: his association with other countries is perhaps another reason.

St George is not only the patron saint of England, but also of Aragon, Catalonia, Cáceres, Georgia, Lithuania, Palestine, Portugal, Germany, Greece and Moscow.

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He's also patron saint of soldiers, archers, cavalry and chivalry, farmers and field workers.

However, St George was not the first patron saint of England, that honour was originally held by St Edmund in the ninth century.

St Edmund's influence began to fade during the Third Crusade in 1199, when King Richard I visited the tomb of St. George in Palestine on the eve of a battle. Following his great victory the next day, Richard adopted St. George as his personal patron and protector of the army.

In 2006, an attempt was made to have St Edmund reinstated as patron saint of England, but the petition was rejected by the British government.

For the moment, it would appear that St George has managed to fight off his contenders in much the same way as he did the legendary dragon, and his patronage, at least for the foreseeable future, would seem to be secure.

In recent years he has been adopted as patron saint of Scouts. The Scout Association takes part in parades all across England on St George's Day; one of the biggest being the parade of the Queen Scouts that takes place at Windsor Castle each year.



A dragon is burned in Cáceres, Extremadura, where St George is also patron saint. :: SUR

Jorge, or Jordi, is venerated in Spain

In Catalonia and Aragon people buy books and flowers, particularly roses, to give to their loved ones on St George's Day

:: TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. St George is also the patron saint of Catalonia (San Jordi), Aragón (San Jorge) and Cáceres in Extremadura.

The legend popular all over Catalonia is said to have occurred in Montblanc, where a dragon con-

stantly attacked the kingdom. The petrified inhabitants decided to give two lambs every day to satisfy the dragon's hunger and prevent further attacks on the village. Soon the animals became scarce and so it was decided to draw lots to send a person and a lamb. One day a princess

was chosen to accompany the lamb, but a knight called Jordi slew the dragon and rescued the princess. From the blood that flowed from the body of the monster a red rose blossomed, which Jordi handed to the princess.

The king offered the knight all the riches he desired, but he preferred that they be allocated to the inhabitants of the kingdom. A church was built in his name, from which flowed miraculous water that was able to heal the sick.

April 23 is not a public holiday in Catalonia, however, special flower and book markets are held in the centre of cities and towns.

Many people buy books and flowers, particularly roses, to give to their loved ones on St George's Day.

The St George's Cross – Creu de San Jordi – is one of the highest civil distinctions awarded in Catalonia.

In Aragón, April 23 is a public holiday known as the Dis de Aragón.

Legend says that God sent St George, who descended from Heaven riding on a horse, to aid the King of Aragon, Pedro I, in his conquest of Huesca in 1096.

To celebrate this victory, Saint George's cross was used as the insignia of Huesca and Aragón.

As in Catalonia, roses and books are exchanged among individuals, often bearing ribbons with the colours of Aragon's flag.

In Cáceres, San Jorge festivities take the form of a grand parade including a figure representing the dragon that is later burned.

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The 'Houston' for dogs and cats

Pets from all over Spain are being taken by their owners to a veterinary clinic in Cordoba province for radiotherapy treatment which costs around 3,000 euros

|| CARLOTA EZQUIAGA

When Tono Calleja, a journalist from Asturias who now lives in Madrid, was told that there was something that could be done for his dog, he didn't hesitate. 'Laika' was five years old and had been diagnosed with inoperable intracranial tumour. She couldn't sleep, had difficulty in breathing, and when an emergency scan was done one Saturday evening the vet confirmed Tono's worst fears: the tumour could not be removed surgically.

However, she did suggest an alternative: in Cabra, a village in Cordoba province, she said, there was a veterinary clinic which was using an unusual technique. There was no guarantee that it would work, but it just might. It was a last resort.

The clinic to which she was referring was Ciovet, which has been open less than two years but has already become a benchmark in Spain for cancer treatments for animals. The owners are proud of being the only clinic in the country with a lineal accelerator, and it enables them to give radiotherapy treatment to its canine and feline patients if surgery or chemotherapy are not possible.

Cabra, a small town of 20,000 inhabitants, has become the 'Houston' for domestic animals: in the same way that cancer patients from all over the world travel to the Texan city in search of a 'miracle', four-legged patients visit this town in Andalucía.

Usually, when a dog is diagnosed with cancer, it is put down. "There



Laika, with her owner Tono. || R. C.



During a radiotherapy session. || R. C.

are a lot of people who can't afford to pay for their dog's treatment, or they are not aware that anything can be done for them, but an increasing number of owners consider their pets to be part of the family and decide to try to save them," explains Ana Ray, a vet at the clinic.

It is not a treatment that everyone could afford. Treatment lasting two or three weeks costs 2,783 euros, plus boarding costs if the owner can't take their dog home between sessions. Despite this, most of the pets come from outside Cordoba, many from northern Spain but also from Portugal and Gibraltar.

Some people stay in Cabra during the treatment. María José Guerrero, who runs a small hotel there, says more than 12 owners have stayed in her establishment, which has been adapted for animals. "We help the owners, we feed the animals, play with them....," she says. Others leave their pets in the hands of the vets at Ciovet, where there are carers 24 hours a day who phone them and send them WhatsApp messages with photos and videos every evening after the treatment. The staff at the clinic are well aware of how hard it is for pet owners to be apart from their faithful friends.

From humans to animals

Until a couple of years ago Ciovet, which is part of the Oncosur group, used to be an oncology centre for people. When they opened a new branch in Cordoba city, they decided to convert their old premises into a veterinary clinic, through an agreement with the Veterinary faculty in Cordoba, which is one of the most prestigious in the country.

As the cancer treatment is the same for humans and animals, they were able to make use of the same equipment. They only needed to acquire the anaesthesia equipment; this is not needed for people, but it is for the dogs because they have to be kept completely still. This is one

of the delicate parts of the process: although the treatment takes a very short time, there is always a risk in using general anaesthetic.

At present only dogs and cats are being treated at the centre: "More dogs than cats, because dog owners tend to be closer to their pets," says Ana Ray. "We could treat many types of animal, even exotic ones or small mammals, but there are also logistical problems. We wouldn't be able to get a horse onto the table, for example. We are limited by size."

It is not an easy decision to take. Tono Calleja was in two minds about it. "The night before I was due to take Laika to Cabra, I thought hard about it. It was a long journey and she was very ill. She was finding it hard to breathe, she looked dreadful... I honestly thought she was going to die that night," he says. Finally he decided that he would go, even though he kept wondering if he was doing the right thing during the treatment. "I kept asking myself, am I making her suffer?"

"She can walk on her own"

Now, after 11 sessions of radiotherapy, it is obvious that Laika has improved. Her back legs are very weak, and Tono and his father have made a type of chair so that she can walk on her own. "It's not very elegant, is it?" says Tono. "We made it with PVC tubes. But what's important is that now she can move without help."

It's still too early to say how Laika has reacted to the treatment. She will have another CAT scan in three months to see what has happened to the tumour, but so far Tono is satisfied. "Even if she lasts for another month, I have had another month with her. What is important is that during that month, she is well," he says.

He understands that not everyone shares his opinion. "Some of my colleagues say I'm mad, because it's only a dog. But she isn't only a dog, she's part of my family. I also realise that a lot of people couldn't afford it, because it is expensive. I had to ask my parents to lend me some of the money. But in the end, it costs the same as a holiday in Vietnam, so it just means that this year I won't be going on holiday!" he says.

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The Lyrids

A meteor or shooting star occurs when a tiny piece of space rock enters the Earth's upper atmosphere at very high speed. The friction with the air causes the rock to heat up and produce a short streak of light as the meteor burns up. If you go outside on any given night and wait long enough you will probably see at least one or two meteors. But at certain times of the year the Earth passes through the debris trail left behind by a comet and instead of seeing one or two meteors we get to witness a meteor shower of many meteors streaking across the sky.

The debris from the comet trail is usually many thousands of miles wide and so the meteor shower can last for several days (nights) as the Earth passes through it. At the moment the Earth is passing through the debris trail of Comet Thatcher and tonight and tomorrow morning we pass through the densest part of the trail and should see up to 30 meteors per hour



streak across the sky. Comet Thatcher is a long period comet taking about 415 years to orbit the Sun, the last time it was in our part of the Solar System was in 1861 and it won't be back until 2276. The meteors in the shower produced all seem to radiate from one point in the sky near to the bright star Vega in the constellation of Lyra the Lyre, or harp, and so the shower is named the Lyrid meteor shower.

You don't need any special equipment to watch the meteors;

simply wrap up warm and lie back on a reclining seat or sun lounger and look up. The meteors can appear anywhere in the sky but if you follow a line backward then they all emanate from near to Vega. Vega is one of the brightest stars in the sky and helps to make up the 'Summer Triangle' asterism; it can be found about half way up the sky toward the southeast. The most meteors will be seen during the early hours of Saturday and Sunday morning when our part of the Earth is heading directly into the debris field, and as the moon will be out of the way for most of the night this year's shower could be spectacular.

But be patient, it is no use just sticking your head out of the window during the TV adverts and hoping to see meteors. You need to be in an area away from streetlights and dedicate an hour or two to just looking up and you will be rewarded. Of course if you do see a shooting star be sure to make a wish as they always come true!

i More information :
www.costadelstars.com



F. TORRES

A TRADITIONAL EASTER FOR CÁRTAMA

More than a hundred Cártama residents celebrated Easter Sunday by gathering in the town's park to eat traditional Easter buns known as 'hornazos.' Over the years this tradition had been lost but last Sunday it made a comeback. Each hornazo had an egg inside but the pattern on top was individual as residents made their own unique bun before having it baked by the local baker.

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"There'll always be a place for heavy metal"

Eddie Clarke Guitarist

'Fast' Eddie Clarke, former guitarist with legendary British band Motorhead, talks at his Marbella home about the value of live music

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. He proudly wears a T-shirt bearing the name of his current band Fastway - which comes from his nickname 'Fast' (from the movement of his fingers on the guitar) and the surname of UFO bass player Peter Way - but in his heart he is still part of Motorhead, one of the most famous names in British heavy metal, with whom he toured the world in the 1970s and 1980s.

At the age of 66 Eddie Clarke is still going strong. He still has his leather jacket and long hair, although the image of a hard rock star is diluted somewhat when he says that he travels between the UK and Marbella (where he has had a home for over ten years) by car so his dog, Cookie, doesn't have to go in the hold of a plane.

It was sheer coincidence which led him to meet Lemmy Kilmister, bass player and vocalist with Motorhead, through another of the band's members, Phil Taylor. That was back in the 1970s and the three formed what is considered the classic line-up of the British band which, with Eddie, Phil and Lemmy, reached its peak of success with albums such as *Ace of Spades*, *Overkill* and *No Sleep till Hammersmith*, which catapulted them to the top of the heavy metal scene in Britain.

Eddie formed part of the band until 1982. His disagreements with Lemmy came to a peak over the album *Iron Fist*. Nearly 40 years later, he insists that he never wanted to leave.

"I never wanted to leave Motorhead. I was forced out by circumstances beyond my control," he explains. "Honestly, I would have spent my whole life in Motorhead and would have liked to have died on stage one day with them. They had different ideas and they decided I was no longer part of Motorhead, not me," he explains.



'Fast' Eddie Clarke, in Marbella, where he spends long periods of time and supports the local live music scene. :: JOSELE-LANZA

He feels no bitterness towards his former bandmates, with whom, he says, he would have liked to have shared a final concert. They both died within days of each other at the end of 2015.

"I was devastated. I knew they were not well and I visited Phil a few times when he was really ill. Lemmy I saw at the Classic Rock awards in November 2015 and he looked frail and I was very concerned."

Lemmy died a little over a month later, Eddie continues, and Phil died the same night as he last saw Lemmy.

"I would have loved to have played one more show with them. I always felt we had something very special and for me it was like losing two brothers. We had done so much together and achieved a lot at a time when things were pretty difficult. We never gave up and were rewarded with our success and memories," he explains.

After leaving Motorhead, Eddie Clarke began a new musical career

with Fastway. They are completely different projects and can't be compared, he says. Aware that tastes in music had changed and that those were hard times for the music business, Eddie went ahead with his projects with Fastway. Last year he did a tour of the UK with other legendary bands such as Saxon and Girlschool.

"I was kind of doing it as tribute to Phil and Lemmy and I wanted to see the fans one more time. Saxon and Girlschool supported Motorhead in the 70s. The fans seem to understand the link with the old days. Just for good measure on Saxon's encore I got up and did *Ace of Spades* and it really went down well. I have to say it was personally a very successful outing," he says.

And what is the situation for heavy metal music nowadays? "Like all music today I think it is struggling for the reasons I stated earlier. Things do move on and tastes change, but I do believe there will always be a place for heavy metal

"Honestly, I would have spent my whole life in Motorhead and would have liked to have died on stage with them"

"I like to support live music - I really believe there is no future without it"

bands, but I think it will get more difficult for the bands to thrive. I do hope things will change. I think we just have to be patient. Things have a way of coming round again..."

His love of live music has even led him to join the Marbella Association of Musicians, and he seems quite integrated into local life.

"I have some musician friends here in Spain and I like to support live music as I really believe there is no future without live music. So I thought it would be good to join the association," he says.

Eric Clapton, John Mayall and Jimmy Hendrix were his first influences in music. Nowadays, he says, he doesn't need outside influences. "Nothing guides me now, I let it all come from within myself. I think I have enough experience now to be able to do that," he explains.

He spends long periods of relaxation at his home in Elviria with his wife Mariko. Over 20 years ago he went on a car journey around the Spanish coast, and fell in love with Marbella straight away. His plans for the immediate future include more shows with Fastway and, perhaps, a new CD with some of his unpublished work from the past 30 years.

Does he have any plans to perform in Marbella? "No plans at present... but never say never!" he says.

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Vejer de la Frontera, coast and countryside

This delightful small town in Cadiz province will be celebrating its Spring Fair this week

:: JAVIER ALMELLONES

MALAGA. With barely time to draw breath after Easter week, the residents of Vejer de la Frontera, in Cadiz province, are already preparing for their Spring Fair and, as they do every year, they intend to celebrate it in style.

This has become one of the most popular events in Andalucía in April, and it retains very traditional atmosphere because as it also includes a livestock market which is considered unmissable by those from the farming sector.

For example, this area of Cadiz province is famous for the 'retinta' breed of cow, so hundreds of professionals from the farming sector and others with an interest in the local breed make a point of attending the fair every year.

Of course, there are plenty of other types of entertainment at the Vejer Spring Fair, and the four days of fun and partying begin on Wednesday night, when the lights at La Noria fairground are officially switched on. Among the attractions of this fair are flamenco performances, concerts and equestrian events which are certain to draw large crowds of tourists.

However, there is no need to wait for the Spring Fair to visit Vejer de la Frontera, as it is well worth exploring at any time of year. In the spring, though, this small town which stands on a hill overlooking the Atlantic coast does look particularly lovely.

These are perfect days for wandering around the streets of the historic town centre, with its narrow passageways, nooks and crannies and very Moorish layout, so visitors are advised to head for the area which is known as the 'recinto', inside the walls of what was once the mediaeval 'medina'.

To reach it, you need to pass through one of the gateways, such as the Segur, the Sancho IV and La Villa, to reach the lovely ancient buildings which stand inside. The entrances are beside the Mayorazgo and Corredora towers, the principal architectural features of this first length of walls.

Within these walls there are not only the oldest houses in the town, but also the castle, standing at the highest point. The fortress, which dates back to the 10th century, is still in very good condition and is well worth a visit. Inside, you can see not only distinctive architectural features from the time of Al-Ándalus, but also the mansion which once belonged to the Dukes



The famous tiled fountain in the Plaza de la España. :: TURISMO ANDALUZ



The fair includes plenty of equestrian events. :: T. ANDALUZ

of Medinaceli (among others).

Not far from there, between the walls, is the church of El Divino Pastor, which is believed to have been built on the site of an old mosque in this strategic Moorish square.

It was built between the last years of the 15th century and the early years of the 16th, in the styles of the time, which were gothic and

mudejar. Later, the church was extended, in late gothic style.

Close by is the convent of Nuestra Señora de la Concepción, which has some of the first Renaissance architectural features in Vejer. Nowadays it is no longer used for religious purposes; it houses the Municipal Museum of Traditions and Customs.

In a way, this building is respon-

sible for the name of the most famous passageway in the town, which is known as the 'Arco de las Monjas', or Nuns' Archway, a passageway which supports one of the walls of the convent.

There is also some interesting civil architecture in Vejer, especially the Marqués de Tamarón palace, situated beside the Arco de la Segur. It now houses the Casa de la Cultura (cultural centre) and the Casa del Mayorazgo, a Baroque residence which is joined to the Mayorazgo tower.

Among the emblematic places in the town centre is the Plaza de España. It dates back to the 16th century, when there was no longer any point in having the walls around the town. It has a remarkable fountain with tiles from Seville, dating back to the middle of the last century. Many local residents call this square the 'Plaza de los Pescaitos', because

of the pictures on the tiles.

Vejer's architectural heritage extends beyond its historic town centre, however. It can also be found in the rural area of Santa Lucía, where there are the remains of a Roman aqueduct, and on the road to Barbate, where you can visit the chapel of the Virgen de la Oliva, the patron saint of the town.

Also outside the town centre lies another famous feature of Vejer, the countryside which surrounds it. One way to discover the ecological attractions of this area is to visit the Dehesa Montanmedio, which is about five kilometres away. There you will find the NMAC Foundation's Contemporary Art Museum, which focuses on nature, creating an unusual symbiosis with the more avant-garde creations on display.

When exploring this area everyone almost intuitively ends up on the coast, especially La Breña natural park and the Marismas de Barbate, considered one of the most extensive areas of marshland in Andalucía. Before heading for the beach, it is a good idea to try some of the walking routes which are an excellent way of exploring this green area of the Atlantic coast.

Also in this region you can see the 'Tajo de Barbate', one of the most impressive cliffs on the Spanish coast. But of course, nobody should leave this area at this time of year without visiting one of the famous beaches, like the ones at El Palmar.

They are a type of paradise for anyone who wants to enjoy some peace and tranquility, between soft white sand and crystal-clear turquoise sea water.



El Palmar is the coastal area of Vejer.

Among all the tourist attractions of Vejer, we must not forget its gastronomy. Thanks to its location between the coast and the countryside, the variety is exceeded only by the quality.

Pork in lard, ecological beef and fish from the Atlantic are just a few of the many options available in the many good bars and restaurants.

FACTS & FACES



Salvador Campos from Marbella town hall and José Rivera, manager of Pepe's Bar.

The Venus tragedy remembered

MARBELLA. Nobody has forgotten the tragedy that occurred on 13 April 2015 at La Venus beach in Marbella.

Three people drowned that day, two disabled youngsters of 18 and 19 years of age and their 30-year-

old teacher, part of a group of Turkish students on an Erasmus exchange trip.

The Association of Beach Businesses held a simple but emotional tribute in memory of the deceased this week. A boat, loaned especially

for the occasion by Acuetime Marbella, took José Ravira, the manager of Pepe's Bar, and town hall representative Salvador Campos out to the spot where the tragedy happened so that they could throw floral tributes into the sea.

USA spring activities

COSTA DEL SOL

USA Foodies Group enjoyed a party at the Danish Tennis Club, Algarobo, Fuengirola where they were entertained by the talented Johnny Gee. The group celebrated the end of a successful year of events organised by Julie Cooke. New Foodies Group leader Eileen Edwards begins her programme of outings to Salamanca and Fuengirola in May.

Members recently went on a coach trip to Ronda and then to San Roque on Mr Henderson's Railway. Built by the British in 1890 through the almost impenetrable mountainous region from Algeciras to Ronda, it was used by British officers, their wives and civil servants to escape the confines of Gibraltar and experience the wild and beautiful Spanish countryside.



The Age Care group in Calahonda. :: SUR

Popular coffee morning now twice a week

CALAHONDA

Age Care Calahonda will now have two coffee mornings each week at the International Baptist Church.

Currently, the coffee morning is on a Tuesday and the new one will start on Thursday 4th May. It will include a knitting group,

whist, an IT workshop, a book club, bible Study, an art group, conversational Spanish and chair aerobics. Both days (11am-1pm) start with coffee and cakes. Lesley Berridge the welfare leader can be contacted on 696058954.

Age Care Coin's coffee morning has moved premises. It is now at the Asociación Fahala on the Polígono La Rosa, Alhaurin el Grande. The welfare leader is Delia Lambert tel: 696479207

Fuengirola Scouts search for new headquarters

FUENGIROLA.

The Fuengirola British Scout group is looking for a new meeting place after 20 years at the Ark Christian Fellowship hall. The Scouts and Guides will be unable to follow the church to new premises later this year and hope to find a suitable place to call their headquarters from September.

"This does not imply a closure of the units," Robert Troost, the Group Scout Leader stressed. "We see this as a chance to help the Scout and Girlguiding movements grow and we have a dream of eventually having our own dedicated meeting place."

Lynne Armitage, Brown Owl for the Brownie Unit in Fuengirola and also Commissioner for Girlguiding in Spain said: "We are appealing to the local community to help us in our quest for a suitable venue."

She explained that the groups are looking for a sizeable space, that is child-friendly with a strong roof and reasonable access for parents to drop off and collect children, as well as access to a toilet

and running water.

"In total, the units only meet for around eight hours a week on two nights so we are not in a position to rent premises on a monthly basis, but would prefer any rental to be at an hourly rate," Lynne added.

The group leaders are now busy approaching town halls as well as business and community leaders for help to find a suitable venue and parents and members of the local community have been invited to make suggestions.

Carol Wright, District Commissioner for France and Iberia, said: "Here in Fuengirola the children are lucky, because we have a team of dedicated leaders who turn up every week to offer the children a chance to expand their own horizons and personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society."

Suggestions to help the Scouts find a new home can be sent to robert.troost@britishscoutingoverseas.org.uk or lynneB-GIFC@gmail.com



A recent day out at the Baden Powell park in Malaga. :: SUR

Language exchange group appeals for more English-speakers

TORREMOLINOS. The Torremolinos Language Exchange is appealing for new members to join their weekly sessions. This is a new group that meets every Wednesday at 6pm in the Mata-

hambre restaurant in Torremolinos. The group is for both Spanish wishing to learn English, and the British who want to speak Spanish.

At present they have 40 members, but the most enthusiastic have been Spanish and more native English-speakers are needed. For information contact Frank Morris on 617731604.



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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

Congress passes gay marriage reform bill

21 APRIL 2005



DARYL FINCH

✉ dfinch@diariosur.es

There were celebrations among LGBT groups across Spain after the Spanish Congress voted in favour of the reform bill that would allow marriage between same-sex couples.

With 183 votes in favour, 136 against and three abstentions, Minister of Justice, Juan Fernando López Aguilar, announced that Spain would be only the third country to recognise the right of same-sex couples to marry, after Belgium and the Netherlands.



LGBT activists celebrate in the Congreso public gallery and, right, a couple drink champagne in Malaga's Plaza de la Merced. :: REUTERS / SUR

During the vote, which was applauded by the representatives of LGBT groups who witnessed the session from the public gallery, the

bill was approved by all the political groups except the Partido Popular (PP) and Unió.

One member of the PP, however,

former Mayor of Malaga and Minister of Health, Celia Villalobos, voted in favour, saying later that she was "following her conscience" rather than her party's policy.

Same-sex marriage was just one of a raft of measures proposed by socialist PSOE prime minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero; the bill also conceded same-sex couples the right to adopt children and also made it easier for married couples to get divorced.

According to the changes, couples could file for divorce three months after their wedding, rather than having to be officially separated for at least a year - or even earlier in cases of domestic violence.

However, as was to be expected, the law on gay marriage didn't go down well with hard-line conservatives nor with the Roman Catholic Church. In fact Spain's Bishops' Conference called the move an "error and an injustice".

In fact, when the bill was passed to the Senate, Spain's upper house, a veto proposed by the conservative PP, led by Mariano Rajoy, was approved.

This, though, was not enough to obstruct the will of the lower house which on 30 June 2005, approved the bill, overriding the

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Matrimonio	Marriage
Proyecto de ley	Bill
Diputado	MP
Casarse	To get married
A favor	In favour
En contra	Against
Reforma	Reform
Boda	Wedding
Pareja	Couple
Congreso	Congress
Senado	Senate
Consentimiento	Assent
Aprobar	To approve
Mismo sexo	Same sex
Abstenerse	To abstain
Proponer	To propose
Permitir	To allow
Iglesia	Church
Obispo	Bishop
Derecho	Right
Igualitario	Equal

Senate's veto, after Zapatero unexpectedly took to the floor to speak in support of the bill.

King Juan Carlos gave his royal assent the next day.

Approximately 4,500 same-sex couples married in Spain during the first year of the law.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

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DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

The Boxleaf azara

Also called the Vanilla Tree, this dainty shrub or small tree has very small dark-green glossy leaves and heavily scented yellow flowers in spring

The Boxleaf azara or Azara microphylla is a graceful perennial with downward arching branches. Once mature it can reach up to eight metres tall in ideal situations but is more likely to be around four to five metres if left to grow unchecked.

It is native to Chile and South America and a member of the Salicaceae family.

Azara will grow in sun or shade and is evergreen. The small leaves grow in pairs; the second leaf is tiny and not really a true

leaf but a leaflet. The flowers form in early spring in the leaf axils but they don't have petals, just fluffy stamens which exude a warm spicy scent which has been likened to white chocolate and vanilla.

In warm climates, orange-red berries appear in the autumn which attracts hungry birds. It is an evergreen although very cold weather may cause it to drop its leaves. It is not frost hardy and the base of the plant should be given a thick layer of mulch to protect the roots in winter.

Once established it will tolerate some short periods of drought but responds best to regular watering. It needs a well-drained soil to which plenty of organic material has been mixed in and will happily grow in borders or a large pot, in full sun or shade.

A. microphylla 'Variegata' is a variegated form that was developed in Ireland, the leaves are strikingly edged with cream and the flowers are showier than the A. microphylla. It is very slow growing and not as hardy as A. microphylla.

A. serrata, commonly called 'saw-toothed azara' has larger coarser leaves.

Azara is a low maintenance plant and rarely needs pruning. It can be propagated from semi-ripe cuttings taken in the summer.



A. microphylla 'variegata' and A. microphylla inset. :: OUTLAWGARDEN

READER'S PHOTO



:: RICHARD ASFOUR

BUTTERFLY ATTRACTION

Richard Asfour sent in this photo of a beautiful wisteria and a jasmine in his garden in San Pedro de Alcántara. He says, "Wisteria and jasmine attract Red Admirals (Vanessa Atalanta) to drink nectar in my garden."

GARDENING HINTS FOR APRIL

Why, what and how to feed

When to feed a plant isn't a direct science and is really down to a gardener's instincts backed up by a bit of basic knowledge. Container grown plants benefit from being repotted in fresh compost every year. However, even fresh potting compost has a limited supply of nutrients - six weeks supply on average, so after that your plant could start to lose vigour. Plants need a mix of nutrients, some in only tiny quantities, so care has to be taken not to overfeed. Gar-

den centres offer a wide range of plant foods specially tailored for different plants from promoting prolific flowering or luxuriant greenery. You will also find specific feeds for geraniums, orchids, acid loving plants, etc but a basic all round fertiliser will be sufficient for most plant's needs. How much feed depends on a lot of variables, how big the pot, how greedy the plant so the best course of action is to start off giving little and often and monitor the results.

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

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

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

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The molecular structure of DNA is shaped like a double spiral. :: R.C.

Secrets in the blood

DNA tests, which are now 30 years old, can reveal rare illnesses, fathers who didn't know they had children and unknown ancestors



SUSANA ZAMORA

On 10 September 1984 geneticist Alec Jeffreys had arrived early at his laboratory in Leicester. It was just an ordinary Monday like any other until, just after 9am, he had one of those 'eureka' moments which have occurred periodically in the history of science.

Jeffreys was carrying out an experiment in the dark room and he took an X-ray from the developing tank. He looked at the genetic material on the plate and within seconds he realised what he was looking at: the variations in the genetic code of the three people who had taken part in the test (the laboratory technician, his mother and his father) served to identify each of them, with no equivocation. He had found a genetic footprint which makes each person unique.

Since then, this DNA testing technique has proven vital in resolving crimes, identifying rapists and dead bodies, checking would-be immigrants' claims



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➤ and proving paternity. Although individuals of the same species share a large part of their DNA sequencing (deoxyribonucleic acid) there are also some highly variable aspects which are unique to them (genetic markers) and these are used for identification purposes.

It is now 30 years since that discovery was used for the first time to demonstrate a parental relationship and the British government accepted the result of a DNA test as evidence. On that occasion the immigration authorities had to admit their mistake after they had refused to let a young man from Ghana into the country, although his mother was living in Britain legally. They doubted that she really was his mother, and suspected that she was actually his aunt. The government asked the scientist for help and the genetic footprints showed that the young man was telling the truth.

Found guilty through DNA

From that moment on, there were so many requests for DNA tests that Alec Jeffrey's team at the Leicester laboratory couldn't cope with the workload. "It has gone crazy," he said at the time.

QUOTES

Enrique Samper

"The number of genetic tests is increasing by between 15 and 25 per cent a year"

Mercedes Alemañ

"The paternity test which people can do at home is just as reliable as the legal one"

He collaborated on the first police case which was solved through use of this new technique, known as the Pitchfork Case. DNA testing identified Colin Pitchfork as the man who had raped and murdered two teenage girls. After comparing the samples of semen from the girls' bodies and a blood sample of a person who was initially detained, it was shown that they did not match and the suspect was innocent. Pitchfork therefore became the first person to be found guilty through DNA evidence.

Since then gigantic steps have been taken in developing this test. It has gone from being a very expensive manual technique which only provided a small amount of very specific information, to an automated process which enables the first complete human genome to be sequenced (together with the

THE TESTS

Early diagnosis during pregnancy

Non-invasive prenatal tests detect genetic alterations associated with extra copy chromosomes through a simple analysis of a mother's blood sample.

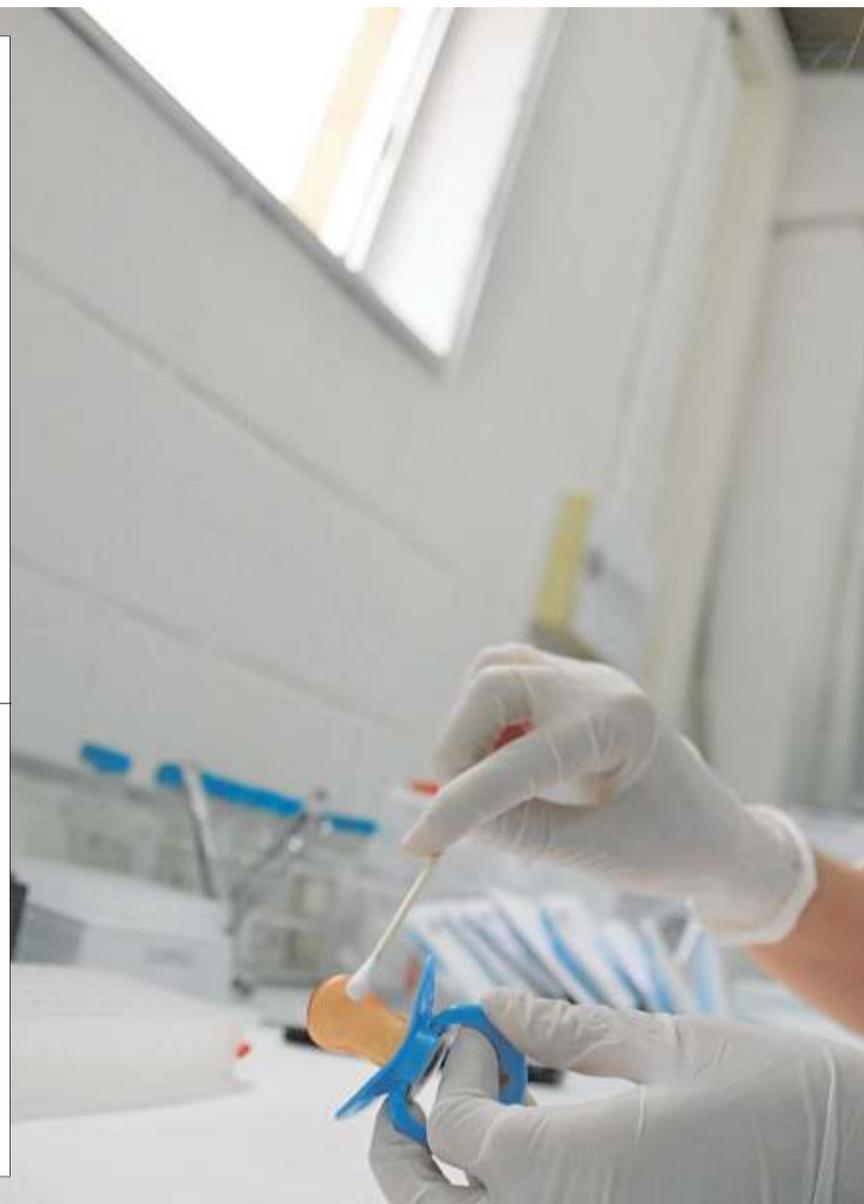
1,485

judicial requests for DNA analysis were received by the National Institute of Toxicology in 2015, to determine parenthood. In 2007, there were only 401.



Genetics are being applied to consumers

DNA studies provide crucial information for adapting nutritional and sporting habits to the genetic characteristics of individuals.



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genes contained in the chromosomes) something which occurred in 2004 after 13 years of work by an international consortium and a budget of three billion dollars.

"The difference is that nowadays we can read all the fragments which codify the proteins of the 19,000 genes of a person, and instead of taking a decade, it can be done in ten days and costs between 1,000 and 1,500 euros," says Enrique Samper, the president of NIM-Genetics (a biomedical company which specialises in genetic clinical diagnosis), who qualified in Biological Sciences at Michigan State University.

This technological progress and the progressive reduction in the cost of DNA tests has made them available to a large part of the population who, either from lack of knowledge about them or from a lack of resources, would previously have been unable to use them for early diagnosis or to demonstrate a parent-child relationship.

At present there are between 6,000 and 8,000 illnesses (of the 10,000 from which a human can suffer) which have a genetic base and originate from changes to DNA. These can be mutations or changes in the copy number of the



Alec Jeffreys. :: SUR

Though species share a large part of their DNA sequencing, there are also some highly variable aspects, genetic markers, used for identification

genetic fragments which lead to an illness, most of which are classified as 'rare'.

"Fifteen years ago, with the physical study of the chromosomes (every human cell has 46 chromosomes, half inherited from the father and the other half from the mother) we were able to determine one or two per cent of the causes of genetic illnesses. Nowadays we are approaching 60 per cent. This has made these tests necessary and, at the same time, affordable," explains Dr Samper. He expects there to be major growth in the sector in the next few years "because different studies show an increase of between 15 and 25 per cent a year in genetic tests."

Paternity tests are another field in which DNA plays a decisive role. "It is irrefutable. A cigarette end is worth more than 200 witnesses and a million bits of paper," says Fernando Osuna, a lawyer who specialises in paternity suits and who is known, among other cases, for that of bullfighter Manuel Díaz 'El Cordobés'. At present he is dealing with over 400 cases of this type and says "they are not all to claim an inheritance." He believes that when someone embarks on a paternity suit, which can

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➤ be a long and costly process, “they are also doing it for reasons of dignity, to know who their father is, or also to defend the honour of a mother who may have been disparaged for years.”

In 2015 alone, the National Institute of Toxicology and Forensic Sciences received 1,485 judicial requests for DNA testing to determine parenthood. When data about these tests began to be registered, in 2007, there were only 401.

The samples are kept with extreme care to avoid any type of contamination or irregularity in the testing process. The price of DNA testing by this institute is regulated by the Ministry of Justice: a test of this type costs 600 euros plus IVA if the father, mother and child are analysed, and if somebody else is analysed as well, there is an extra charge of 200 euros.

However, there is no need to go to court to clarify doubts about paternity. By making a simple phone call or filling out a form on the internet people can obtain a kit which produces results that are 99.99 per cent reliable. “The only thing that people have to do at home is take the sample. The analysis is carried out in the laboratory, and is as reliable as the legal valid-

DNA tests can cost as little as 169 euros and the results take just a couple of days

ity test,” says Mercedes Alemañ, the manager and technical director of Cefegen, one of the companies which sells these kits. Cefegen currently carries out between 800 and 1,000 paternity tests a year, 50 per cent more than when they began about ten years ago.

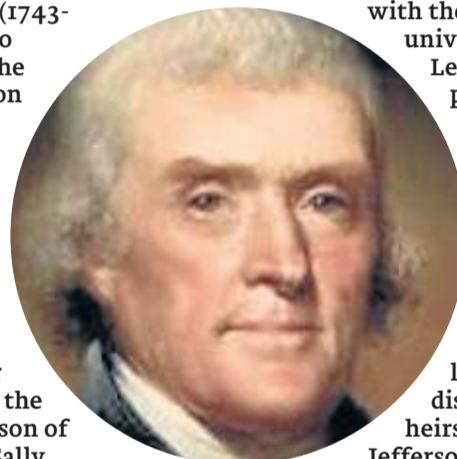
A large part of their success is due to their anonymity, but it is also due to their simplicity. “The person requesting the test has to collect oral epithelium cells from the inside of the cheek with a cotton bud and leave it to dry before sending it back to us in the kit we sent them,” says Mercedes Alemañ. In five days and for 199 euros, it will be clear whether or not they are the father.

In the search to know who we are and where we come from, man has found genetics to be his main

PATERNITY

The story of Thomas Jefferson's illegitimate son

One of the most interesting paternity tests was done in 1998, when genetic analysis led by professor Eugene Foster showed that Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), who drew up the Declaration of Independence and later became the third American president, was the father of at least the youngest son of his slave Sally



Hemings, who was given the name Eston Hemings Jefferson. The tests, in which Oxford and Leicester universities participated together with the Dutch university of Leiden, compared the DNA of the present descendants of Eston Hemings Jefferson with that of several legal and indisputable heirs of Thomas Jefferson.

ally. Whereas people used to rely on relatives' memories and historical archives to draw up their family tree, it can now be constructed from genes. From DNA tests and the enormous genealogical registers, data can be cross-referenced to see whether someone is de-

scended from Julius Caesar or Isabella of Aragon. Private companies, especially in America, offer tests which enable people to look back thousands of years. One of the most popular is 23andMe, located in Silicon Valley, which has DNA data of 1.2 million men and

women.

In their case, as well as discovering the regions from which a person originated, it is also possible (with consent) to make contact with unknown parents and even calculate what percentage of the DNA comes from the Neanderthals.

This new service, which is provided by about 20 companies round the world - the most important are Ancestry, Family Tree and MyHeritage - is relatively recent in Spain. The company DNA Solutions, originally from Australia and now with a base in Seville, confirms this trend and the great quantitative leap that occurred in 2015, when demand grew by 70 per cent compared with the previous year.

By analysing certain areas of DNA, they can establish which group of people with similar genetic profiles a person belongs to. They are called haplogroups: there are hundreds of them and they share a common past. Each one is associated with an ancient people (Celts, Vikings or Jews, for example) and geographic areas. The samples can be taken at home with a simple cotton bud. The cost? Between 169 and 299 euros. In just four months, family origins will no longer be a secret.

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The invisible illness

Although the condition can be fatal if not controlled, women have been told by doctors that they had period pains, wind or piles



ALBERTO GÓMEZ

✉ Twitter: @Agalmendres

Endometriosis affects more than ten per cent of women of fertile age, but it continues to be an almost unknown and invisible condition

MÁLAGA. “Endo what?” The diagnosis of endometriosis, which is nearly always late, comes as a blow to thousands of women like 41-year-old Ana Ferrer from Málaga, who spent a very long time consulting different doctors before finally discovering what was wrong with her. “For years, they made me think I was mad. They even sent me to a psychiatrist,” she says.

This condition, which consists of a growth of the endometrial tissue which covers the internal layer of the uterus, affects more than ten per cent of women of fertile age, according to the most cautious estimates. There is no cure for it, and the symptoms vary.

Some women have none at all, while others suffer pain similar to nephritic colic or even a heart attack. The general lack of knowledge about the problem and its association with menstruation means that sufferers are often ignored and diagnosis can be delayed by an average of eight to ten years.

Fed up with being dismissed by part of society and the medical community, some of the women affected by endometriosis have set up a group in Andalucía and are asking the regional government to draw up a plan for this illness.

They want units manned by specialists to be opened in each province and a multidisciplinary team to be set up to treat the most serious cases. Several sufferers from Málaga are due to meet the general director of the Sanitary Assistance department of the Andalusian Health Service, Juan Tomás García, in Seville, and they will propose that this multidisciplinary team should be based in Málaga due to its strategic location.

Until now, the provincial unit has consisted only of one consulting room and a specialist at the Materno hospital.

The endometrial tissue depends on the hormones of the menstrual cycle, which is why the discharge and bleeding coincides with pe-

riods. Most women have grown up being told that they are exaggerating and that their symptoms are nothing more than “normal” period pain.

It was insinuated to Ana that her attacks of pain, which were sometimes so bad that she fainted, could be due to a sexual injury. A doctor told Julia she had gastroenteritis. Izarbe, whose uterus has had to be reconstructed, was told that her test results were “perfect.”

Endometriosis is benign initially, but the growth of the tissue

can reach different organs and cause slight, serious or even fatal injury to the ovaries, intestines, bladder, stomach or lungs.

A guide published by the Andalusian Health Service confirms that it is a chronic illness with no known cause, and recommends that treatment should depend on individual cases. The different symptoms makes diagnosis difficult, and the condition is often only discovered when a woman is unable to become pregnant.

The health service admits that it has sometimes taken 12 years from the first symptoms to a definitive diagnosis. Women who come from families where others have also suffered from the problem have six times as much chance of developing it than others.

Risk of heart attack

Women with endometriosis are at greater risk of myocardial infarction, cancer, fibromyalgia and angina, according to a recent study carried out by the Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston.

Although this is one of the most common gynaecological conditions and one which some specialists believe could be the cause of half of all infertility cases, research into endometriosis is still in the embryo stage, a situation which many

THE FIGURES

10%

of the female population of fertile age suffers from endometriosis, an illness which may have no symptoms at all or cause severe pain, similar to that of nephritic colic.

No known cause

Associations of sufferers criticise the lack of research into this illness and blame “scientific androcentrism.”

8-10

years is the average time it takes to diagnose the illness, and the delay is linked to a lack of knowledge about its existence.

Period pains,

which are intense and continual, worse than normal discomfort, “are not normal,” and can often be a symptom.

50%

of infertility cases could be caused by endometriosis, according to experts.

women’s associations attribute to the ‘machismo’ which has existed in medicine for decades.

Because of the lack of research, society in general has accepted that menstruation is painful, a belief which is deep-rooted in our culture and means that many women do not consult a doctor about problems



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Endometriosis sufferers at the Materno hospital in Malaga where they believe the unit dealing with the illness needs strengthening. :: A. G.

related with their periods even though experts insist that intense menstrual pain "is not normal."

The principal problem with endometriosis is the formation of cysts which can cause pain, vomiting,

cramps, constipation, depression, tiredness, discomfort when urinating and during sexual intercourse, excessive bleeding during menstruation and diarrhea, among other symptoms. When the illness is badly

diagnosed, the treatment often involves anxiolytics and sedatives.

The Association of Endometriosis Sufferers says that scientific androcentrism "has perpetuated the discrimination and invisibility of

women in medicine," and it urges doctors to take a more gender-conscious perspective to achieve "equality in health" and overcome the idea that the pain is related to menstruation.

The lack of attention given to endometriosis reached the Spanish parliament last week, with a proposal by the Unidos Podemos political party which was approved unanimously.

The proposal, which described the condition as a "great silent epidemic", called for a national strategy, with the agreement of the regional communities, to improve the way the illness is dealt with and increase the funding for research.

In 2008 the Observatory of Women's Health had already produced a guide to treating women with endometriosis, but the associations of those affected say that most doctors are still unaware of its recommendations.

Endometriosis is classified into four levels of severity, a system developed by the American Society of Reproductive Medicine. These range from small lesions to serious health problems which can result in organs having to be removed, temporary or permanent disability or even death. Although there is no cure yet, early diagnosis is key to preventing complications and minimising symptoms.

Among the illnesses and consequences associated with endometriosis are infertility, chronic fatigue, continual pelvic pain, arthritis, cardiovascular accidents and hypothyroidism, a collection of risks which women who are affected consider "more than enough" for the administrations to put measures into immediate effect. 



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"We have lost jobs and partners because of the pain"

Four women talk about their ordeals and treatments before they were finally diagnosed with endometriosis

by A. GÓMEZ

MALAGA. Four women who have been seriously affected by endometriosis, where at least one of their vital organs has been affected by it, tell their stories to raise awareness

of the need to consult a doctor when suffering from intense period pains, and to call for greater specialisation and faster and more effective diagnosis. Some decided to become mothers before they discovered that the condition had made them infertile, and they have all lost jobs and partners because of a lack of understanding. "People think we just have simple period pain and are exaggerating, when in reality we can barely move," they say.

Izarbe Bernués, who is 27, lives in

Benalmádena. She has become addicted to morphine as the result of treatment for her pain. The first symptoms began in her teens. "Once a week, I would be in the Emergency Department," she recalls. Her temperature went up to 42.1°, but her analyses showed no infection. After being diagnosed, she was treated with Danatrol, a hormonal medication to induce the menopause. It made her body hair grow, gave her insomnia and hot flushes. She has also taken Lyrica, Dolantina and Tra-

madol, as well as morphine hydrochloride: "I'm a complete junkie," she says. She has had about a dozen operations, including one to reconstruct her uterus, because of the nodules throughout her body.

Elisabeth Santaolalla is 30 and suffered an ovarian complication as a newborn baby. Most of the doctors she consulted attributed her pains to those problems. "My first period was terrible, really painful, and that is how my life has been since," she says.

She has had several operations, including the removal of her ovaries. Before being definitively diagnosed with endometriosis after a laparoscopy, a doctor told her the problems were caused by internal hemorrhoids. He had to close down his clinic when she was later found to have 11 tumors in the colon, rectum, kidney and bladder, among other organs. Her fallopian tubes had to be removed and she suffers from joint and muscle pain, in addition to fibromyalgia, menopause, early osteoporosis and hypertension. "What hurts most is knowing that many of those conditions could have been prevented if I was diagnosed earlier," she says.

Julia Méndez is also 30 years old. She was born in Argentina and has been living in Spain for over a decade. She is an exception. She was diagnosed during her teens, although at that time treatment was limited to analgesics.

The pain decreased when she was pregnant, but returned years later, accompanied by heavy menstrual bleeding and anaemia. Even though she had been diagnosed with endometriosis in Argentina at a young age, in Spain she was told her pain was due to gastroenteritis and wind. Shortly afterwards, two cysts measuring six and five centimetres were discovered in her ovaries. The treatment resulted in a chemical menopause and depression.

"I wanted to go out, to spend a day with no pain, to have sex, live a normal life, but it was impossible," she says. The cysts had grown larger, injuring her intestine. Julia, who becomes tearful when she recalls the days when she couldn't take her son to school "because the pain was so bad I couldn't get out of bed," has been on the waiting list for surgery for more than three months, despite being classified as a priority.

Fainting

Ana Ferrer was sent to see a psychiatrist. The doctors believed she was exaggerating her pains, which began when she started menstruating. "I kept fainting at school, and I only weighed 42 kilos. They took me to several health service and private doctors, but nobody realised what was wrong with me," she says. When she became pregnant at the age of 20, the pains diminished in intensity but soon afterwards they came back "and were five times worse." A gynaecologist at the Materno hospital, who has now retired, finally diagnosed endometriosis. "He saved my life," she says. Two cysts measuring 11 and 17 centimetres were found in her ovaries. She had appendicitis and acute peritonitis and she was prescribed Decapeptyl, a medication used for prostate cancer and in assisted reproduction treatments to control ovarian function. Now she has relapsed again, after several months without serious complications.

"It is an illness that destroys relationships, because the treatments and drugs cause mood changes and there are times when it is impossible to have sex. People around you can't understand. They think you're being feeble because you can't put up with period pains," say these survivors, who are keen to raise awareness of this condition.

TESTIMONIES

Izarbe Bernués
27 years old

"I'm addicted to morphine because of the pain treatment. I've had several operations because I have nodules all over my body"



Ana Ferrer
41 years old

"They sent me to a psychiatrist. They thought I was exaggerating. The doctor who finally diagnosed me saved my life"



Elisabeth Santaolalla
30 years old

"What hurts most of all is knowing that many of these illnesses could've been prevented if I'd been diagnosed in time"



Julia Méndez
30 years old

"There were days when I couldn't even take my son to school because I was in so much pain I couldn't get out of bed"





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With the spring slipping imperceptibly into summer, 11&11 have already begun restructuring their menu to reflect the warmer weather. They have adapted the menu to reflect the best of the seasonal produce available at this time of year and are planning even more new, delicious dishes.

A sumptuous paella with fresh seafood, rice cooked in squid ink and the traditional Spanish 'fideuá' (like a paella but with fine noodles instead of rice), are just three of the new dishes to welcome the summer. The traditional gazpacho, tostas de anchoas and warm cod also grace a varied menu which still maintains their popular 'standby' dishes of grilled octopus, nachos, Thai noodles and quesadillas, among many other sought-after specialities. The list of delicious homemade desserts has a special addition every week, something a bit different to tantalise the taste buds such as a sweet beetroot tart or a tiramisu made with soft fudge.

Every weekend means live music at 11&11, with a variety of artists appearing over the next few months and they also open Sunday mornings to provide breakfasts for people attending the street market nearby.

The patriarch of the Rulli family, Óscar, runs one of the most well-known 'chiringuitos' in Estepona, El Madero. The eldest son and co-owner of 11&11, is the famous Mexican actor Sebastián Rulli. The restaurant is located in an idyllic position with fantastic views of the sea on the port of Estepona.

11&11 is available for bookings, parties and special events and there is free parking for clients in the port.

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A. J. LINN

WINE TOMORROW



Although matters are undoubtedly improving, your average Spaniard has about as much idea about beer as he does about tea. A beer is a caña, brand never specified, as most bars and restaurants are 'tied-houses' and only have one brand available. You need to visit Britain, Germany, Austria and most Eastern European countries to realise that a beer culture depends on variety.

The year-on-year fall in wine consumption in France and Spain, the world's foremost wine-producing countries, has been going on for more than a decade and appears unstoppable*. But why? The usual explanation is that the young have no interest in wine. It is considered to be for older people and you need to know what to order.

Finding myself the other day with a group of young would-be chefs from Marbella's Bellmar

Young people, although interested in wine, rarely get the opportunity to order it

cooking school, we were discussing this topic. As expected, several of them were interested in wine, but rarely got the opportunity to order it. As one of them explained, "When I go to a bar with a group and everyone orders a caña, how am I going to order a glass of wine? I will be asked what sort of wine and possibly whether Rioja or Ribera del Duero. Much less hassle to order a beer." Peer pressure, and in this way our incipient wine lover never gets to drink it.

The answer of course is to have wine on draught, the same as beer. Again northern Europe is leading and draught wine in bars is a common sight. It keeps better, is cheaper, less complicated (being labelled simply Dry White, Semi-dry, Young red, Matured red, etc) and as easy to order as asking for a caña. It also gets people back to the most elegant habit in the civilised world, taking a glass of wine.

**A report published a few days ago suggests that, for the first time as long as anyone can remember, Spain's national wine consumption may finally be on the rise.*

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In the family footsteps

The Roca brothers' restaurant has become a place of pilgrimage for lovers of good food and wine



Joan and Jordi Roca, in their kitchen. :: C. R.

El Celler de Can Roca in Girona, which opened in 2007, has been named the third best restaurant in the world this year

|| JULIÁN MÉNDEZ

The Japanese couple had booked a table for three at El Celler de Can Roca, which was classified as the best restaurant in the world that year, but when the great day arrived, the day for which they had been waiting 11 months, only two people came. Young and elegant, they allowed themselves to be led to their table, which was laid for three, and asked the waiter to leave it like that. The woman made herself comfortable on the wooden chair, took something from her handbag and put it on the empty seat.

"It was a little teddy bear," says Joan Roca, sounding as surprised now as he had been when this unusual event occurred. The couple asked for the teddy bear to be served the whole menu, and that's exactly what the waiters did. No questions were asked. "Every customer is important, but we will never forget [that couple]," says Joan now.

"We don't know why they did that, but it was very emotional, very symbolic for them for some reason," explains his younger brother, Josep 'Pitu' Roca. They are quiet for a moment, and then 'Pitu', the sommelier of the Roca family, relieves the tension by recalling another unusual visit, which also involved a toy. On that occasion it was a doll, and was carried by an extremely well-known and select food critic.

She was given a guided tour of the kitchen, the wine cellar and the restaurant, and as she went she gave the doll a running commentary on everything she was seeing. She sat the doll on the tables, the cookers and the counters, and asked it what it thought of everything. It was like something from a Buñuel film, they say.

We are sitting with the three Roca brothers in the front garden of the house they have turned into the restaurant. It is sunny, and at the tables

groups of Dutch, German and British clients are drinking champagne in large fluted glasses before going into eat. The garden is like a clearing in a leafy woodland. There is perfect tranquility.

The 'Roca triangle' is going on tour around Spain with BBVA this year, to export and share its science, a knowledge which more than anything else is based on an intangible wisdom, on this sense of peace, away from rush and hurry.

The younger brother, Jordi, who suffers from a neck ailment which obliges him to speak quietly, looks at everything with immense curiosity, like a mouse sniffing to make sense of the universe. He is the youngest of the three brothers, and arrived nearly a decade after Josep. "He took so long to get here, he was like the dessert course of the meal," their mother, Montserrat, jokes.

It was Montserrat who started the very first restaurant, and Joan was set to work as soon as he was old enough, helping her with the paella when he was just nine years old. In many ways, these brothers still resemble those children who used to lend a hand at Can Roca.

'Pitu', now an expert sommelier, used to fill the bottles with wine and enjoyed the forbidden pleasure of taking a sip of the Ponche Caballero and discovering the bitter taste of the Cynar liqueur. The two boys loved to feast on the calamares in batter made with flour and soda water, which attracted dozens of people to their parents' restaurant every Sunday, and they would play with some of the seven children of the people who used to own the tower which now houses their own restaurant, which according to the 'World's 50 Best Restaurants' guide is now the third best (after having topped the list in 2013 and 2015).

Playing, always playing

There is still a playful atmosphere at El Celler, and not only because of the photos of the boys in their short trousers and T-shirts at Can Roca in the 1980s. "The boys have spent their lives in restaurants, that's where they are happiest," says Montserrat, their

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“Our type of cuisine is a constant search for new ways to play,” says Joan as he looks thoughtfully at an old recipe for liquid caviar tortilla. “This needs a great deal of skill... you have to have made thousands of tortillas, as we have, for it to stay liquid. This is only for professionals.” As he speaks, he resembles the boy he used to be, the one for whom “smell” inspires a dish, who is now able to turn an aroma into sheer taste. Joan likes the idea of the liquid tortilla. He decides it will be part of the menu again. God, or Bacchus, will know what to fill it with.

We move now to the immense kitchen of El Cellar, passing Joan’s study, with its books, its Moai from Easter Island and the shirt signed by Messi hanging on the wall.

In the kitchen, there are meats cooking on the grill, ovens, Roners, spits cooking at a low temperature... a glass flask in movement, turning like one of Jupiter’s moons, but with a condenser, attracts our attention. “We are distilling the aroma of damp earth. We collected earth from our vegetable plot this morning and now we’re extracting its smell,” explains Joan.

That water loaded with mineral aromas and humus will then be placed in a refrigeration chamber made in Japan, which is designed to keep blood and human organs cold at a precise degree of temperature (-5.5° in this case). This supercooled earth water will change when it meets the plate and will become a stalagmite of ice, growing before the diner’s eyes like a delicious miracle of pure physics.

“It’s something we used to see when we were young at Can Roca. There were really cold bottles of fizzy water in the refrigeration chambers, and when you opened them ice would form in your mouth,” says Joan.

Distorting reality

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The three Roca brothers have spent their lives in restaurants. :: C. R.

ROCA TRIANGLE

The three pillars

On the other side of the award-winning El Cellar de Can Roca is La Masía Roca, the place in which research projects take place. Very close by is the Espai Mas Marroch (used for events, celebrations, weddings), which is the economic strength which guarantees the survival of the ‘gastro’ side of the business. The Roca brothers are also culinary directors of the Hotel Omm in Barcelona and the Rocamolesc ice cream parlours in Girona, Madrid, Barcelona and Platja d’Aro.

70

employees (cooks, stagiaires, front of house -17 waiters-, receptionists, cleaners) work at El Cellar every day to attend to a maximum of 55 clients.

Set menus

Since 2011 there have only been tasting menus. This year there are two options: the Clasic (180 euros plus another 55

with the wine pairings selected by Josep Roca) and the Festival, which includes 14 dishes, aperitifs and starters. That costs 205 euros, plus 90 for the wines chosen by ‘Pitu’.

1967

In April this year, Josep Roca and Montserrat Fontané opened Can Roca, on the road from Taialà. They served menus of the day to travellers and labourers. At weekends, people came for vermouths, cocktails and fried squid rings.

In the family footsteps

In August 1986, Joan and Josep opened El Cellar, adjoining the family business. Their first dish was hake with garlic and rosemary vinaigrette, from their contact with Roteta. They won their Michelin star in 1994.

2007

The three brothers moved to the Torre de Can Roca and opened the restaurant, which is currently number three in the world, there.

ries. “But there are also sparks of inspiration. Sometimes they can come at 2am, when you’re saying good bye to the customers. Other times, when you’re trying things, something unexpected happens. We try things out, we test them, we distort the variables and, sometimes, it happens. It is an entertaining form of paranoia,” says Joan Roca, as if he were talking about Matrix.

“There’s a story behind every dish. We didn’t do this in order to be the best restaurant in the world. We’re third best now, and that’s fine; when we no longer receive as many awards, we won’t worry about it,” he says.

Today, as usual, there are some amazing dishes on the menu (starfish with seafood cream and powdered prawn; truffle brioche; mackerel with tempeh of ganxet beans fermented for one, two and four weeks; civet of pigeon with its parfait...).

In the early days, they used to treat cuisine as something ‘evolutionary’, by improving on traditional Catalan recipes. “When I tried the parmentier of lobster for the first time, I decided that was going to be my soup!” says Montserrat.

Everything is a loop, everything is recycled. “We want to learn, to find out what every product can give. What we really want to do on this tour is to make direct contact with the suppliers, with the people who

National tour with BBVA: teaching the profession

Joan, Josep and Jordi Roca have been ambassadors for BBVA since 2014 and they have done three international tours in the summer months. This year they will be visiting seven regions of Spain and will choose 21 students, three from each area, who are studying at local catering colleges. These students will receive grants from BBVA and will have the chance to work as stagiaires in Girona for four months. This week, Josep Roca is heading for the Basque Country on a familiarisation trip, visiting txakoli and cheese producers, fishing wharves (such as the one in Getaria) and traditional markets.

understand the slowness of life, the cycles of nature. We will talk, we will get to know the people who grow teardrop peas, those who make cheese and catch fish. At the same time we want to promote our own agricultural products, from the place in which they started, from their origins. We have to listen to the suppliers,” says Josep Roca. The other aspect of the tour involves passing on the personal knowledge of Joan Roca, who has been teaching at the Catering and Tourism College in Girona for 22 years.

In the sedate ambience of the restaurant, clients can sit and reflect upon the world of the Roca brothers. There’s just one more dish to come: crayfish with mugwort, vanilla oil and toasted butter. In the glass, a shiny mature Chablis, selected by ‘Pitu’. The combination is like a spark on the palate, an unforgettable charge, never experienced before. This is all totally, utterly new.

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When flamenco meets art

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

ESTEPONA. It started as a simple idea, four small cameras, one on the ankle of dancer Juan de Juan, one on the wrist of the artist José Medina Galeote, one on the wall and one on a door. Then Juan de Juan started to dance and José to paint - following each others movements with glances and with rhythm.

They had met up several times before and had discussed the joint project at length. They spent hours watching the videos that they had recorded and polishing their technique.

"The goal is to achieve total synchronisation between the dance and the cadence of the lines I draw. We got to a point where there wasn't just timing, there was magic. This is very well-worked, very coordinated not only between us, but also with the musicians and the accompanists on stage," said José Medina Galeote about Aura, the show that fuses dance and drawing and that next Saturday will premiere in the audito-

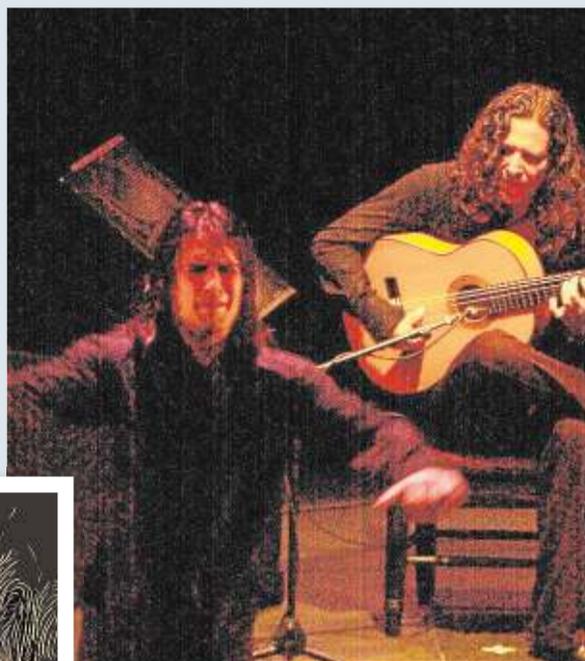
INFORMATION

► **What:** Aura is a combination of flamenco and art.

► **Performers:** Dancer Juan de Juan, with Joaquina Amaya, David 'El Galli', Antonio 'Canito', Paco de Amparo, Raúl Valencia, Rubén Escalona and Pepe Torres (guest artist) and the internationally renowned artist, José Medina Galeote.

► **When and where:** Saturday 22 April, from 9pm. Auditorio Felipe VI, Estepona.

► **Tickets.** 20€ online from www.mientrada.net or contact Tel: 902 646 289.



Juan de Juan, pictured left with guitarist Tomatito, and José Medina Galeote. :: SUR / NITO SALAS



rium Felipe VI in Estepona. The show is part of the 'Bienal de Flamenco' promoted by the provincial council (Diputación).

"I first had this idea several years ago but the technology wasn't there and neither had I found someone so similar to me in another artistic discipline to carry it out," said Juan de Juan.

"What José does is paint my aura; it's something that arises at that moment and stays fleetingly on the retina. Painting it immortalises that moment. It's like a dance with paintbrushes, transmitting that same feeling, but immortalised in another dimension," he continued.

Aura sees Juan de Juan on stage, accompanied by Joaquina Amaya, David 'El Galli', Antonio 'Canito', Paco de Amparo, Raúl Valencia and Rubén Escalona, and with Pepe Torres as guest artist. José Medina Galeote, paints to the rhythm of the dance on a tablet and his strokes then appear around the dancer and his companions.

"I'm going to work from the stalls. The work that I am doing will be projected on the background, but without shadows. The project is a technical prototype that we're going to do live," Medina Galeote says.

Aura, therefore arises as a narrative in which Juan de Juan and José Medina Galeote create a story through dance and painting.

"It's a very carefully designed and very powerful set. Juan has already been approached to take the project on tour," added the artist.

EXHIBITIONS

Paco Vivar Brinkmann
Gaucín. Until 22 April, El Cuartito, C/Nueva.

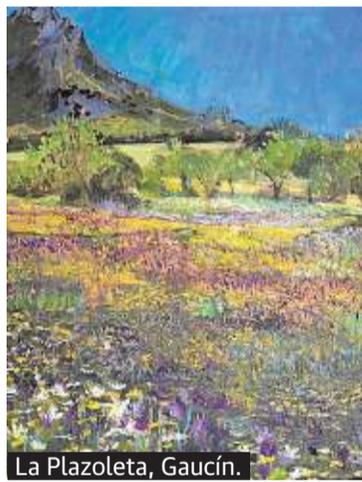
An exhibition of photos by Spanish photographer Paco Vivar.

La Plazoleta
Gaucín. Until 30 April, La Plazoleta.

An exhibition of paintings by Paddy Robinson and Jennifer Waterhouse.

Mercedes López Charro
Marbella. From 5-31 May. Kasser Rassu Art Gallery, Blvd Principe Alfonso de Hohenloe.

Mercedes works as a freelance illustrator drawing a wide range of lifestyle, fashion and food illustrations, using techniques such as watercolour and artist marker pens. www.mercedeslopezcharro.com



La Plazoleta, Gaucín.

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

Ludovic Cesari
San Pedro. Until 20 June. Bhubo Decoración

French born artist/photographer Ludovic Cesari is displaying a selection of his work.

New Longman's
Estepona. Until 4 May, Plaza de Manilva, 6

An exhibition of paintings by Steven Timmermans.

Alejandro Hermann
Marbella. Until 30 April, Museo Antonio López Torres de Tomelloso

An exhibition of paintings by Alejandro Hermann.

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'.

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www.unientradas.es
www.cudeca.org - 952 564 910

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'.

Paula Vincenti, Inside Out

Antequera. Until 29 May. Centro Unicaja 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.

Incredible Indians

Nerja. Until end of April. Museo de Nerja.



Paula Vincenti, Antequera

This exhibition by Gonzalo Gámiz illustrates the essence of India, its people and culture.

Arte Mijas

Mijas pueblo. Until 24 April. Casa Museo.

Seventeen Mijas artists will be holding a group exhibition with each artist contributing one piece for the "Open Studios" weekend, which will take place April 22-23. www.artemijas.weebly.com

Friends in Focus

La Cala de Mijas. Until 1 May, Centro Cultural de La Cala.

Photographic club, Friends in Focus, will be exhibiting some of their photos.

La Libélula art exhibition

Fuengirola. Until 30 April. C/Periana.

La Gatera.7 is exhibiting her work full of positive and fun messages. It consists of 15 prints.

Galería Krabbe

Frigiliana. Until 13 May. Galería Krabbe, C/Rosario La Joaquín.

An exhibition of collective art work entitled Landscapes A4.

CHARITY

TAIL's spring dog show

Torrox. 22 April, 12pm. The romeria ground by the Torrox river. Starting at noon for registration. Also stalls, bars and food. Tailtorrox@gmail.com or www.tailtorrox.es also on Facebook.



Landscapes, Galeria Krabbe

rox.es also on Facebook.

Charity Art exhibition/sale

Marbella. 21 April, 7-10pm. Ben Ezra Gallery, Av Tomás Pascual.

A charity raffle and gallery donation on any art purchased to Maiti Nepal, a non-profit organisation that helps victims of sex traffickers. Currently it operates a rehabilitation home in Kathmandu as well as transit homes at the Indo-Nepal border towns, preventive homes in the countryside and an academy in Kathmandu. Live performance by Veronica Malka of her new single 'Flawless'.

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.

Malaga Symphonic Orchestra Concert for Cudeca

Malaga. 25 April, 8pm. Teatro Cervantes.

A special concert by the Malaga Symphonic Orchestra for Cudeca's 25th anniversary. Tickets from www.unientradas.es or tel: 952 564 910

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.

Bangers & Mash Square Bash

Torre del Mar. 28 April, from 4pm. Kick Off Bar, C/Pasillo Bateria 9.

Fashion show at 4pm followed by Bangers&Mash at 6pm. At 7.30pm is a dog racing event 'pay as you bet'. Funds raised are to support the Battle Back programme, an MOD initiative to support seriously injured service men. In September a group of veterans will be coming to Spain to participate in golf tournaments at Baviera and Los Moriscos courses.



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MUSIC & DANCE

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.

Música Con Encanto

Marbella. 22 April, 8pm. Buchinger Wilhelmi. 20€.

A piano recital by Levon Avagyan. Tel: 689 000 944 www.musicaconencanto.org

I Encuentro Verdiales

Moclinejo. 23 April, 12pm. Los Palmas.

'Los Palmas con Encanto' is the first edition of the traditional 'encuentros verdiales' in Moclinejo. The groups of folk musicians are split into different styles, the Montes de Moclinejo, Benalgalbón, Primera del Puerto and Primera de los Montes.

Juventudes Musicales

Almuñécar. 24 April, 8.30pm. Casa de la Cultura. 8€

Arnaud Dupont (cello) and Javier Herreros (piano). Classical music concert by the JJMM (Juventudes Musicales).

String orchestra and choir

Almuñécar. 25 April, 8pm. Casa de la Cultura.

The Orquesta de Cuerda y Coro Montevive de Alhendín will be performing.

One for my Baby

Almuñécar. 26 April, 9pm. Casa de la Cultura. 9€ (7€ in advance)

A night of jazz, soul and funk.

La Noche de Nash

Almuñécar. 27 April, 9pm. Casa de la Cultura.

An evening of blues, soul and guest performers.

Showstoppers,

Benalmádena. 22 April, 7pm. Sun-

set Beach Hotel, Moonlight lounge. 5€

Hits from the musicals performed by children aged six to fourteen. Tickets from the hotel reception or tel: 652136520 / 617612361

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

Malaga. Teatro Cervantes

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 Roosev (violin).

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 choreo-

graphed 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. One free beer/tapa and other discount packages available when booking through Diario Sur Oferplan. Book now: <http://oferplan.diariosur.es/Website>: <https://clubjazzatcasadelrio@gmail.com>

Jazz concert

Almuñécar. 21 April, 9pm. Auditorio Casa de la Cultura

Ramón Cardo and the Noyora Boppers.

Atarfe Symphonic Orchestra

Almuñécar. 22 April, 8pm. Auditorio Casa de la Cultura

Classical music and flamenco

with conductor José Antonio Guerrero and singer Juan Pinilla.

Proyecto Mandariná

Nerja. 22 April, 9pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. 7€

The Nerja band will present their new repertoire which includes ska and reggae.

Retro party

Torre del Mar. 28 April, 9pm. Cafe del Mar. 25€ or 50€ VIP

Fuengirola 29 April, Cabaret Club Top European DJs Chief One, Lille Lars and Dan Rachlin will be presenting 70s and 80s music. Email: maddie@costa-events.com, tel: 686 722 349

Trío Cadenza

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

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

King's Day celebrations

BY TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. The streets and bars in La Carihueta, Torremolinos, will be decked out in bright orange next Thursday, in recognition of Koningsdag (King's Day), the national holiday of the Netherlands.

Dutch residents along the Costa del Sol will be celebrating the birth of King Willem-Alexander on 27 April, and in La Carihueta, a massive street party will take place between 3pm and 8pm.

The event, which is open to the public, has been organised by the cultural department of Torremolinos town hall, with the collaboration of the Voom Voom Club in La Carihueta.

The festival will include a street market offering Dutch handicraft products and the traditional food and drink of the Netherlands.

Visitors will be able to sample smoked sausages, sauerkraut, meatloaf and stamppot, a hearty stew of mashed potatoes, vegetables and meat.

There will be shows, attractions, and live music supplied by several bands and Dutch DJs, including Gösta, Gypsy Bros, Kobus Engels, Mike Sanders, Kees Diks and Bianca Voom.



Dutch residents will dress in orange in honour of their king . ::

The King's Day celebrations first began in 1885 and orange is traditionally worn as a show of respect for the Dutch royal family – The House of Orange-Nassau.

In a similar fashion to the Saint Patrick's day celebrations, Dutch nationals will be covered from head to toe in orange wigs, wacky clothes and face paint.

The festival has become a reference event for the Dutch community on the Costa del Sol.

Prior to Willem-Alexander's accession to the throne in 2013, King's Day was called Queen's Day (Koninginnedag), and was

INFORMATION

► **When:** Thursday 27 April.

► **Where:** La Carihueta, Torremolinos.

► **Information:** www.torremolinos.es

held on 30 April in honour of the former monarch, Queen Beatrix. With a large Dutch population, Torremolinos maintains strong historic ties to the Netherlands.

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FLAMENCO

Daniel Romero

Nerja. 28 April, 8pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. 8€
Daniel Romero performs pure flamenco.

Flamenco show

Estepona 21 April, 10pm. Peña Flamenca, Plaza Fuerzas Armadas. Doors open at 8pm. Reservations tel: 952 803 183

Flamenco performances

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

22 April. Mariola Martín.

24 April. Sandra Cisneros

25 April. 'Dando el cante. Cantes de Málaga'.

LECTURES

Phoenix Club

Torre del Mar. Bar La Vega

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



Cinemanía, Salon Varietés

through their lives. Price includes meal and a drink. Tel: 952 543 334 or go to www.lux-mundi.org / lux-mundi@lux-mundi.org

DFAS lectures

Benahavis. 25 April, 6.30pm. Benahavis Town Hall

Food as Art – A Culinary Journey through Time

TV food historian Annie Gray will be considering how food presentation was influenced by trends from the late Tudor period to the mid-20th Century. From delicate moulded pies to flamboyant stuffed turkeys, Annie will explore the idea of food as the ultimate ephemeral piece of art. www.benahavisdfas.com/events

Mijas Foreigners department

Mijas. 27 April, noon. Conference room, Town Hall

An informative talk in English about wills, inheritance taxes, the Red Cross services, funeral services, organ donation etc. Reservations: 952816443 frd@mijas.es

FESTIVALS

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

Romería

La Herradura. 23 April leaving at 11am from the hermitage.

The XVI Romería de Nuestra Señora de Fátima y Sagrado Corazón de Jesús to the Cerro de la Bandera. At approx 1.30pm there will be a performance by the dance group 'Sabor Andaluz'. Mass at 7pm.

Día de la Miel de Caña

Frigiliana. 24 April. Plaza del Ingenio

Tastings of dishes with 'treacle' as the main component. Dancing, flamenco, a hot air balloon, photo and painting competitions. www.frigiliana.es

III Feria del Pavo

Cañete La Real. 23 April.

Stalls selling products typical of the area, tastings of turkey cooked in different ways (this area produces 45% of Spain's turkey meat), live music and dancing.

II Festival Folclórico Sénior

Torremolinos. 23 April. Caseta municipal, Recinto Ferial. From 11am.

During the day there will be various demonstrations of the traditional customs of the regions of Spain. ➤

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Mods and Rockers revival

TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. The local mods and rockers will be polishing their Vespas and tuning their Triumphs in preparation for the forthcoming 'folk devils' soirée in Torremolinos this weekend.

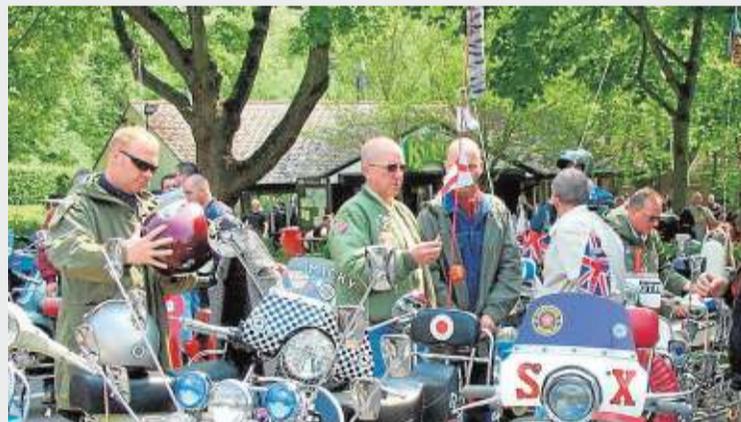
Under the banner of 'Mods v Rockers', a night of music and dance, harking back to one of the most emblematic musical eras, will take place in the municipal pavilion on the fairground in Torremolinos.

The event, which has been organised by the Sun Coast Rocking Club and the FTW Scooter Club, will begin at 9pm on Saturday 22 April.

Two live bands will perform a mixture of classic rhythm and blues and rock and roll, while six specialist disc jockeys will alternate the mood with ska, beat and soul music.

The rocker movement was centred around motorbikes, but the mods subculture focused on clean-cut Italian fashion and music. This festival will mix the two in order to recreate that wonderful ambient of 1960s England.

The town is expected to be over-



The mod movement favoured Italian scooters and fashion. :: SUR

run with customised Lambrettas and vintage motorcycles, a reminder of the thriving mods and rockers scene that existed in Torremolinos during the 1980s.

Unlike in Britain, where clashes between the two were a traditional part of a Bank Holiday weekend, the mods and rockers in Torremolinos were relatively tolerant towards each other.

The only battle taking place next Saturday night will be on the dance floor, when the mods' dance-till-you-drop routines will come up against the rockers' jitterbug jives.

Entrance to the Mods and Rockers festival is free, but organisers are predicting a full house, so early arrival is advised.

INFORMATION

► **When:** Saturday 22 April.

► **Where.** Caseta Municipal, Recinto de ferias

► **Tickets:** Free entry.

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Multicultural Feria de los Pueblos

BY TONY BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. The twenty-third edition of the Feria de los Pueblos will be held in Fuengirola from Thursday 27 April until Monday 1 May.

This popular festival, which will take place on the feria ground in Fuengirola, is a multicultural event promoting the gastronomy, culture and folklore of the 32 countries and regions that are participating.

The casetas are open from 1pm until 4am and visitors will be invited to sample the culinary delights of Europe, South America, Asia, Australia and Africa.

Among the countries that will be represented are Ireland, Germany, Brazil, India, Morocco and Thailand. Six regions of Spain will also be present including Andalucía and Castilla y León.

The casetas will be decorated with the country's individual colours and many of the visitors dress in their traditional costume.

There will be live music and dance performances in many of the casetas, and these will include calypso, reggae, flamenco and some good old fashioned rock and



Participants will dress in traditional attire during the multicultural festival in Fuengirola. BY TONY BRYANT

roll. Strada, a professional skater, will give demonstrations of inline skates acrobatics. This exciting show will be repeated from 2pm each day of the festival.

One of the highlights of the event will be the colourful parade of the participating countries, which will make its way from the Plaza de España and onto the feria ground at 11am on Saturday 29 April. As with last year's parade,

INFORMATION

► **When:** Thursday 27 April - Monday 1 May, 1pm to 4am.

► **Where:** Fuengirola fair-ground.

► **Parade:** Saturday 29 April at 11.30 from Plaza de España.

the UK will be represented by the Fuengirola Scout group.

This festival promises fun-packed evenings where the whole family is catered for. While the adults sample exotic drinks and culinary specialities, the children can enjoy the various activities and attractions.

An official programme and map of the feria ground can be obtained from the tourist office.

EVENTS

Yoga for babies

Torremolinos. 21 April, 5pm. Sala de Yoga, Centro Cultural Pablo Ruiz Picasso. Free.

Babies up to three years. Comfortable, loose clothing for both babies and parents necessary.

St George's day dinner and Cinemania show

Fuengirola. 23 April, 5pm dinner at Aroma, C/Moncayo (Fish Alley), 7pm show at Salon Varietés.

The show is 'Cinemania'. Tickets 30€ includes meal and show from the FOTA desk in Salon Varietés or tel: Val 951 313 257

Torremolinos Fashion Weekend

Torremolinos. 28, 29 April, La Plaza Costa del Sol.

Local boutiques and six designers will be exhibiting the latest fashions and trends on the catwalk.

Masculine and feminine clothing, clothing for children and babies as well as Flamenco fashions.

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 luxmundi@gmail.com or go to www.luxmundi.org

Lux Mundi fashion show

Torre del Mar. 3 May, 3.30pm. 4pm. 4€

Spring and summer fashion show of nearly new clothes, shoes and accessories. Refreshments.

Patios of Cordoba with Nerja Lions

Nerja. 10 May, departure from Nerja, pick up from petrol station Cajiz. 35€



Fashion weekend, Torremolinos.

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John Wick: Chapter 2: 17.10; 12.15 (Sat, Sun); 19.35, 22.05 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)

Boss Baby: 12.05 (Sat, Sun); 17.15 (Mon-Thurs)

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Beauty and the Beast: 19.00 (Tues)

John Wick: Chapter 2: 12.05, 16.30, 19.00, 21.30, 00.00

Life: 20.20 (Tues)

Boss Baby: 12.00, 17.00; 19.00, 21.00 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)

Fate of the Furious: 12.20, 17.00, 22.00, 00.30 (Fri-Sun); 19.45 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)

Going in Style: 18.25 (Tues)

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Boss Baby: 11.45 (Sun); 15.45, 17.45 (Fri-Thurs)

Fate of the Furious: 19.30; 15.40 (Fri-Sun)

Going in Style: 12.00 (Sun); 15.45, 18.20 (Fri-Sun); 18.00, 20.30 (Mon-Thurs)

John Wick: Chapter 2: 15.40, 20.20 (Fri-Sun); 20.10 (Mon-Thurs); 22.00 (every day)

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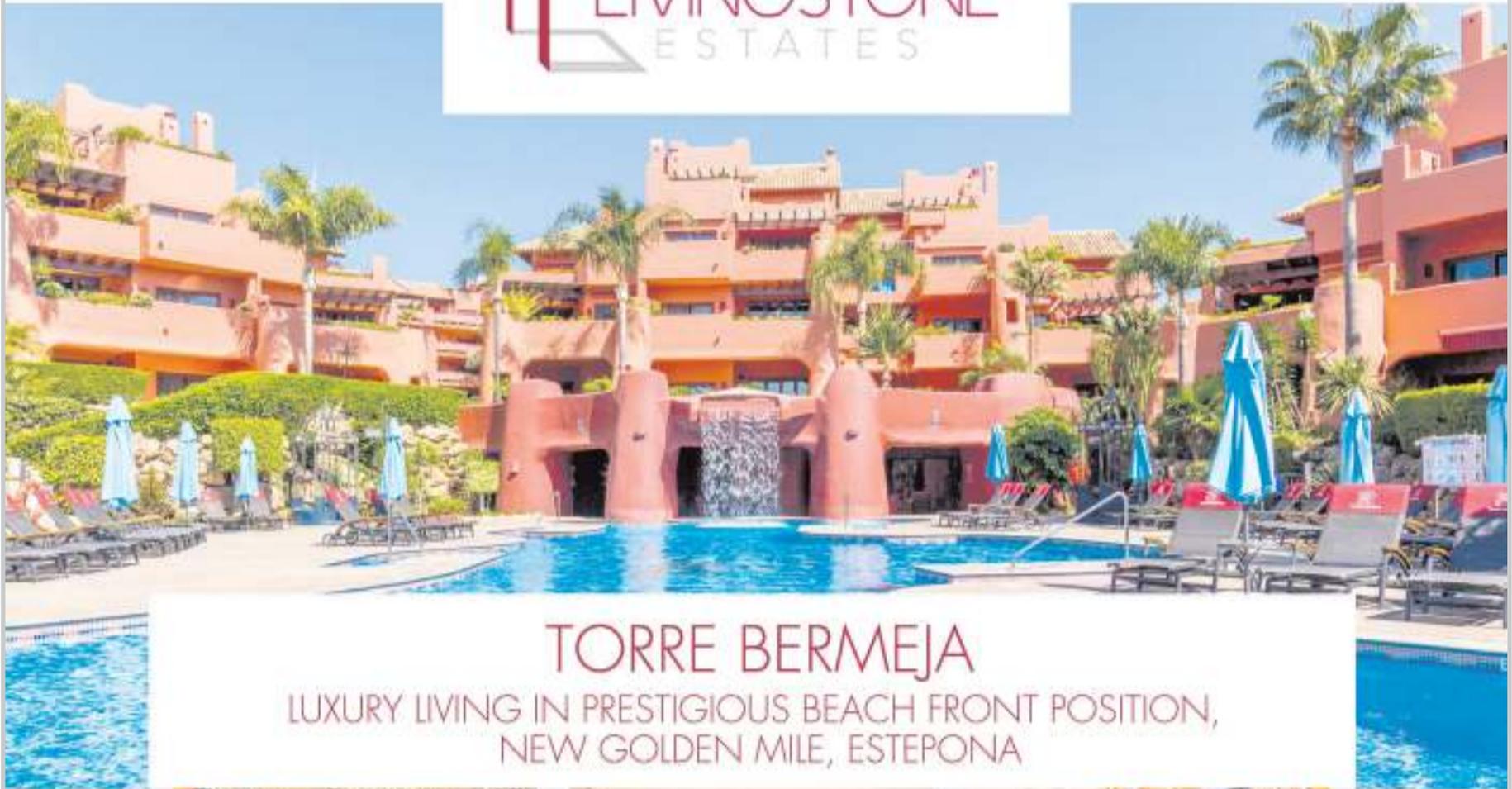
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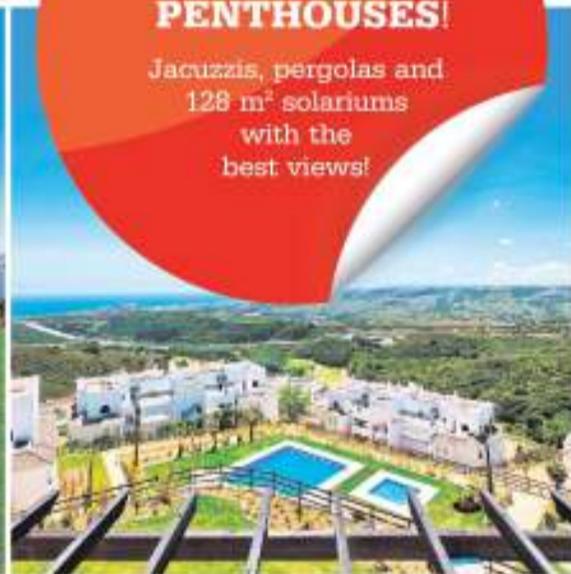
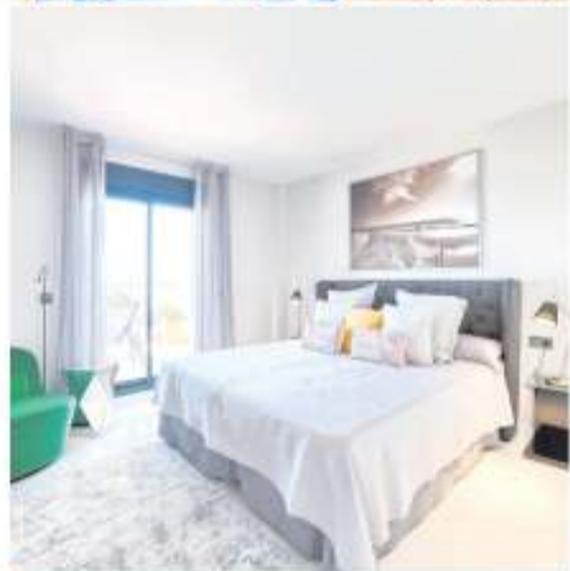
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Unstoppable Unicaja qualify for the playoffs

The Malaga side will be in the running for the league title after victory over Tenerife mathematically sealed their playoff place

:: JUAN CALDERÓN

MALAGA. Unicaja are on fire right now. The Malaga side recorded yet another victory on Wednesday night as they saw off Iberostar Tenerife (88-67), earning themselves a place in the playoffs in the process.

The home side were already well on their way to victory by the half-time break having racked up a ten-point lead in the opening two quarters. However, it wasn't until the third that they really put distance between themselves and the opposition. Nedovic was phenomenal, finishing the tie with 13 points, two rebounds and five assists for a performance evaluation score of 20.

Joan Plaza's side started the game where they left off against Andorra, with Fogg leading the attack and

88
67

UNICAJA
TENERIFE

scoring his team's first seven points. However, with Omic's progress halted by Niang, little by little the visiting defence found ways of stifling their opponents, ending the first quarter at 18-18.

The lack of control which characterised the first ten minutes then gave way to fluid play with the game changing with the introduction of Musli for the hosts and former 'cajista' Fran Vázquez for Tenerife. The Serbian gifted his side the lead (27-



Unicaja's lead at the end of the third quarter meant the tie was virtually over. :: ÁLVARO CABRERA

20) before the Galician, on his first return to the Carpena, scored four out of four to keep his side in the game (32-31, min 15). However, at this time, two tactical switches changed the outlook of the game completely: Vidoreta withdraw Vázquez while Plaza opted for a 'small' quintet, with Brooks and Suárez as pivots, and introduced Alberto Díaz.

Now, with strong defensive play and conviction in the three pointers, Unicaja raced to a 44-34 half-

time lead.

The break did little to change the outcome of the game, with Tenerife struggling to overcome their slump. The away side struggled to find the basket, while Nedovic scored eight points in a row, including three three-pointers. Waczynski's third three-pointer increased the advantage to 21 points (57-36) with just five minutes remaining of the quarter. At this moment, Alberto Díaz was withdrawn. His impact on the game was

immeasurable: in the time he was on the court between the middle of the second quarter and the end of the third, Tenerife only chalked up five points. With the scores at 65-41, the game was over.

But there was still time for some fun to be had and Nedovic laid on three superb assists which had the fans on their feet in an arena too empty for a side playing so well. Those who didn't turn up missed a fantastic game.

Andorra put to the sword as EuroCup is paraded at the Carpena

American Kyle Fogg's 24 points helped Unicaja overcome a difficult start to record a 93-69 win over Morabanc Andorra

UNICAJA 93 ANDORRA 69

:: ENRIQUE MIRANDA

MALAGA. Unicaja came into Wednesday's game with their confidence sky-high after a crushing 93-69 home victory over Morabanc Andorra on Sunday saw them register four wins in a row.

Joan Plaza's side presented the EuroCup trophy to the home faithful before the game, and used the momentum that they had built up from the historic triumph to overpower Morabanc Andorra.

However, the first quarter of the match did not go to plan, as a reckless and ill-disciplined Unicaja conceded 27 points in the first ten minutes and failed to lead at any point in the first quarter. Only baskets from Jamar Smith prevented the visitors from breaking away, with the first quarter ending 27-25 to the visitors.



Fogg led from the front and his 19 second-half points continued Unicaja's unbeaten run. :: S. SALAS

Unforced errors continued to a lesser extent in the second quarter for Unicaja, but it did not stop pivot Giorgi Shermadini from regularly setting up duo Andrew Albicy and David Jelinek to score, putting further pressure on the hosts.

Morabanc Andorra's excellent display drew a reaction from the Malaga side, who upped their game

from rebounds and used their substitutes to great effect to get back into the game. Dani Díez's excellent work after coming off the bench, in addition to Alberto Díaz's introduction, saw them make life more difficult for the visitors going forward, which consequently led to Unicaja taking the lead and going into half time 45-38 up.

Unicaja really took over in the third quarter and used their best offensive weapon, three-pointers, to widen the gap between the two sides. Smith and Jeff Brooks scored at the start of the quarter to put Unicaja into a 56-45 lead, before Kyle Fogg, who scored 24 points in 20 minutes, shattered the visitors' defence by scoring eight consecutive points, giving Plaza's side a ten-point advantage going into the final quarter.

Fogg could do no wrong on the day and maintained his scoring streak with some spectacular baskets. Andorra never gave up but there was little they could do given Fogg's form, with six of the American's seven three-point attempts resulting in baskets. Unicaja increased their lead to 20 points with just two minutes remaining, before going on to record a 93-69 victory.

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DEPORTIVO

2



MALAGA

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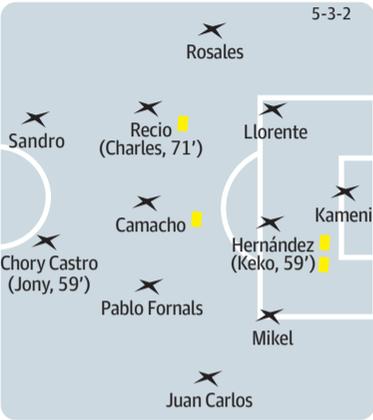


4-2-3-1



Unused substitutes: Tytoń (GK), Laure, Alentosa, Emre Çolak

5-3-2



Unused substitutes: Boyko (GK), Demichelis, Duda, Santos

STATISTICS

BALL POSSESSION

41% / **59%**

DEPORTIVO		MALAGA
2	Goals	0
8	Total shots	9
4	On target	3
4	Off target	6
1	Corners	4
1	Offsides	1
15	Fouls committed	15
3	Yellow cards	4
0	Red cards	0

Goals: 1-0 Joselu (47'); 2-0 Mosquera (67').

Referee: Undiano Mallenco. Yellows for Guilherme, Arribas, Carles Gil, Hernández, Recio, Keko and Camacho.

Venue: Estadio Riazor (20,300 spectators)

TABLE & FIXTURES

MATCHDAY 32

Results

Leganés - Espanyol	0-1
Betis - Eibar	2-0
Granada - Celta	0-3
Athletic - Las Palmas	5-1
Valencia - Sevilla	0-0
Deportivo - MALAGA	2-0
At. Madrid - Osasuna	3-0
Sporting - R. Madrid	2-3
Alavés - Villarreal	2-1
Barcelona - R. Sociedad	3-2

Fixtures

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

LEAGUE TABLE

TEAM	PTS	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
★ 1. R. Madrid	75	31	23	6	2	82	33
★ 2. Barcelona	72	32	22	6	4	91	30
★ 3. At. Madrid	65	32	19	8	5	59	24
★ 4. Sevilla	62	32	18	8	6	56	39
■ 5. Villarreal	54	32	15	9	8	46	26
■ 6. Athletic	53	32	16	5	11	45	37
7. Real Sociedad	52	32	16	4	12	48	45
8. Eibar	50	32	14	8	10	52	44
9. Espanyol	49	32	13	10	9	44	42
10. Celta	44	31	13	5	13	48	51
11. Alavés	43	32	11	10	11	31	39
12. Valencia	40	32	11	7	14	47	54
13. Las Palmas	38	32	10	8	14	51	57
14. Betis	34	32	9	7	16	35	51
15. MALAGA	33	32	8	9	15	36	49
16. Deportivo	31	32	7	10	15	35	50
17. Leganés	27	32	6	9	17	26	49
▼ 18. Sporting	22	32	5	7	20	34	64
▼ 19. Granada	20	32	4	8	20	27	68
▼ 20. Osasuna	17	32	3	8	21	32	73

Malaga pay the price for taking foot off the gas



KISHAN VAGHELA
Twitter: @KishV96

With safety almost assured Michel's side produced a lacklustre performance in which they rarely threatened

MALAGA. The victory over Barcelona seems a distant memory now for Malaga after they were brought back to reality following a 2-0 defeat to Deportivo de La Coruña at the Riazor on Saturday afternoon.

The Blue and Whites seemed comfortable in possession without serving up much penetration in the first period, before second-half goals from Joselu and Pedro Mosquera checked Malaga's progress in recent weeks.

Both sides' defences dominated the opening exchanges, with Deportivo and Malaga taking turns in enjoying possession in the first half an hour.

Roberto Rosales' left-footed strike from outside the box after



Joselu escapes marker Luis Hernández to head Depor into the lead. :: EFE

30 minutes, which was comfortably dealt with by Germán Lux, was the first attempt from either side, but it seemed to liberate both sides and proved to be the catalyst for action before the break.

Carles Gil should have done better from a curling strike two minutes later after a mistake from Luis

Hernández, with Carlos Kameni always behind the effort, before Juankar cut in and was denied by Lux six minutes before half time.

The first half had been a disappointment, but the start of the second period gave the match its much-needed impetus. Luisinho's cross two minutes in was con-

Second-half goals from Joselu and Mosquera brought Malaga back down to Earth

verted by Joselu, who held off the weak challenge of Hernández to head past Kameni for his first goal in over a month.

The goal saw Michel ring positive changes by sending on Keko and Jony for Chory Castro and centre-back Luis Hernández.

Unfortunately for the Blue and Whites, it was the 54-year-old's counterpart Pepe Mel whose changes paid off, with substitute Pedro Mosquera

tapping home from Watford loanee Juanfran's cross to double Deportivo's lead with just over twenty minutes to play.

Malaga churned out a couple of opportunities before the end, which could have set up a nervy finish for the side who had not won since their victory against Barcelona in mid-March. However, Deportivo survived the scares as Sandro's shot on the turn was comfortably claimed by Lux before Ignacio Camacho's dipping effort crashed against the bar a minute later.



Kameni can do little to stop Mosquera doubling his side's lead. :: EFE

Malaga will look to get back to winning ways on Saturday afternoon, with Valencia the visitors to La Rosaleda before a visit to Tony Adams' Granada completes the double game-week for Michel's side.

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Head coach Michel with sporting director Francesc Arnau at his presentation. :: ÁLVARO CABRERA

Malaga prepare for 'revolution' under Michel with safety assured

The former Olympiacos and Marseille manager will work together with sporting director Francesc Arnau to restructure the squad

:: SERGIO CORTÉS

MALAGA. Michel is planning a overhaul of the the playing squad this summer, the extent of which will be determined by the players in this next month.

The Malaga head coach has been left far from impressed at times by the lack of intensity shown in games, and admitted that some of

the players will have "to wake up" in the last month of the season if they are to be a part of his plans next season, stating that "the players know that they cannot fool me".

Michel demanded to be guaranteed a major say in decisions regarding wholesale changes before signing, and is looking to act immediately.

The 54-year-old is preparing to be ruthless in moves that will see loanees Denys Boyko, Juan Carlos Diego Llorente, Zdravko Kuzmanović, José Rodríguez and Adalberto Peñaranda return to their parent clubs, despite the latter having another year on loan to the Blue and Whites from Watford written into

his contract.

On the other end of the scale, Cifu, Ricardo Horta, and Adnane Tighadouini, on loan to Girona, Braga and SBV Vitesse, respectively, are not expected to be included in the first-team squad in the immediate future.

Veterans who are coming towards the end of their contracts, namely Wellington, Duda, Martín Demichelis and Charles are also set to be shown the door due to their age, with the first three players all over the age of 35 while there are not enough games remaining for the Brazilian striker to complete the 25 matches which would see his contract automatically renewed.

The team's spine the focus for the summer window

:: S. CORTÉS

MALAGA. A significant number of ins and outs are expected this summer at the club, with the top priorities fixed on strengthening the central areas.

Espanyol's Roberto is Michel's ideal signing in the goalkeeping

department, given that Denys Boyko and Guillermo Ochoa, the latter on loan at Granada, will most likely leave the club while Carlos Kameni's indifferent displays and injury problems are a concern.

Sandro's low release clause and interest from the Premier League

make his departure a certainty, while Ignacio Camacho's relations with the club have soured recently as there has been no contact between the two parties to revise and improve his contract.

Replacements for the pair will need to be sourced while a 'pure' number 9, needed since last summer, is a top priority.

With Bakary Koné, Llorente, Wellington and Demichelis set to depart, a new centre half will be recruited to complete the new spine.

The promotion dream is almost over for Marbella

An early penalty was enough to inflict back-to-back defeats on Miguel Álvarez's side

MARBELLA 0 SANLUQUEÑO 1

:: JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

MARBELLA. Marbella's home fixture against Sanluqueño on Sunday had a large impact on both ends of the table. The hosts' chances of promotion were dashed after the 1-0 defeat leaves them in seventh place, while the early penalty was enough for Sanluqueño to take three vital points which could be decisive in the outcome of the relegation battle.

Miguel Álvarez hoped the five drastic changes he made to the team that lost against Jaén last week, which he has accused of lacking desire, would bring a more successful 90 minutes. Regulars Kike Márquez and Lolo were punished with a place on the bench, while vice captain Andrés Sánchez missed the cut completely. The manager's changes, though, proved to be in vain.

A penalty for the opposition came as early as the 12th minute, although the opener could have come sooner with the first few minutes of the game fraught with imprecision, hastiness, and poor coordination between the five-man defence. Marbella keeper, Manu, dived the right way but it was not enough to prevent San-

luqueño's central midfielder, Parada, putting the visitors ahead.

For the remainder of the first half, the altered Marbella side showed the heart Álvarez was looking for as they fought for an equaliser, but it was also evident that the home side's nerves were affected by the importance of the game. Despite the efforts of Okoye, Petcoff and Añon, Marbella went in at half time with only one shot on target.

The hosts returned after the break equipped with a forgiven Kike Márquez, replacing Michele, who had home fans off their feet with a chance one minute later, before winning Marbella's first corner soon after. However, Sanluqueño's forward, Mawi, who gave an excellent performance, rapidly counter-attacked to find himself in one-on-one with Manu, who on this occasion was able to get a hand to the ball to stop the hosts conceding another.

Marbella's Ebwelle was equally as potent in retaliating, winning a number of freekicks for his side as he threatened defenders on the right wing. However, the hosts were unable to profit from set pieces, and late chances from Danilo and Zé Turbo were either denied by the woodwork or by Sanluqueño keeper Diego García. After six minutes of added time, Marbella still had not found an equaliser and they lost all three points along with their morale as they dropped to seventh place in the table, three places from the playoffs.



Okoye takes on the Sanluqueño defence. :: JULIO RODRÍGUEZ



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A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports
@robopalmer



The tables have turned

Real Madrid are backing youth while Barcelona will have to spend big to compete once again. How things change!

I'm not quite sure how one era ends and another one starts but I'm pretty sure we are in the middle of a transitional time where Real Madrid take the balance of power and Barcelona go away and have a significant period of soul-searching.

The short-sighted will blame Luis Enrique for the Barcelona demise as he clears his office desk this summer but I think that the problem is much deeper.

The manager is at the top of the pyramid and below he has sporting directors signing him players and youth team managers breed-

ing him future stars.

What has worked so well for a decade and a half at the Camp Nou is a steady flow of outstanding young players in all positions, allowing Barça to spend only on outstanding talents like Neymar or Luis Suárez.

The system is badly broken. There hasn't been a successful graduate from La Masia since Sergi Roberto - and he's now 25! Too many have failed the test and been sold off.

The signings that have been made are poor. The premise of last summer's spending was to bring in back up for the

established talent. The figure was close to 100 million euros and it has as good as gone down the drain. Only Samuel Umtiti looks to have made the cut, so that makes it about 75 million written off on sub-standard recruitments.

In previous years Barcelona have only needed to appoint a coach, someone to finetune the talent passed onto him. When Luis Enrique departs they need a good old fashioned manager who needs to bring the best out of what he inherits and make some significant additions. What they need is someone like -dare I say- Zinedine Zidane!

He's proven to be a fine manager of footballers and also a president with a penchant for spending millions on the finest players available on the market.

Zidane resisted the temptation, and maybe his president's pressure, to spend big. He delved into the club's playing resources to see what was developing and promoted Casemiro, Dani Carvajal, Lucas Vázquez and Marcos Asen-



Asensio has been one of several youngsters backed by Zidane. :: REUTERS

sio. There is a bigger plan. When Karim Benzema's legs tire, he has Álvaro Morata to deputise; when Ronaldo isn't effective, then Bale takes over; when any midfielder falls short of requirements, then Isco shines.

So for years Barcelona has been used as the model for all clubs to aspire to while Real Madrid was cited an institution that speculates to accumulate trophies.

This is the year that the tables are turned. Real Madrid's future is in the hands of exciting young players who will drive then on for the next decade with a sprinkling of 'galáctico' signings while Barcelona have to rebuild with a cheque book, with the pipeline blocked and no reserves of obvious talent.

As one era ends, another one is just beginning!

"Barbies can play too"

Despite facing a barrage of sexism, a junior girls football team have played their way to the top of the Catalonia junior boys league

:: FERNANDO MIÑANA

CATALONIA. AEM Lleida's junior girls team made history recently as they were crowned the winners of the junior boys league with four games in hand.

The team's manager, Dani Rodrigo, who works as a salesman for a hotel furniture company for his dayjob, was ecstatic in describ-

ing how the girls had "broken down barriers" while "combating sexism from the stands." He stated that the girls' male competitors were stronger and faster due to undeniable physical differences between the sexes, but explained how the girls' impressive technique and hard work meant they were able to beat their rivals time after time.

Ester Castells, the team's oldest player, at 14, revealed the extent of the criticism the young girls faced on the pitch: "Some of the boys laughed at us and some of them shouted insults, but the worst came from some of the parents who would say that we should be playing with dolls or cleaning,"

Ester explained. In fact the team's motto, "barbies can play too", which they have written on their shirts, was created when one mother of an opposing team told the girls they were only good for playing with barbies.

When the general coordinator of the team, José María Salmeón, opted for the more difficult route by entering the girls team into the boys league three years ago, he faced significant backlash from the girls' parents too, as the girls lost the majority of their games in the first season. However, by their second season, the girls had adapted to their new league, finishing third, before winning the league in style this sea-



The team pose in their 'league champions' T-shirts :: EFE

son, scoring the most goals, 93, and conceiving the least, 25.

It is an unprecedented victory for girls football in Catalonia. "We have

done a really great thing," said coach Dani. "The next generation of girls will be inspired by you," he told the girls proudly in the dressing room.

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Fuengirola tournament to put Finland's national sport in the limelight



TONY BRYANT
✉ tonysureng@gmail.com

Known as Finnish baseball, pesäpallo was first promoted as an Olympic sport during the 1952 Summer Olympics in Helsinki

FUENGIROLA. The Finnish community of the Costa del Sol is enjoying a year of celebrations to commemorate the centenary of Finland's Declaration of Independence. Under the banner of 'Finland: 100 years on the Costa del Sol of Spain', several cultural and sporting events have been organised at different locations along the coast.

One of these is the forthcoming

pesäpallo tournament, or Finnish baseball, as it is also known.

The tournament, which is sponsored by the Fuengirola town hall, has been organised by The Finnish Pesäpallo Federation - similar to the NBA in America - and Superpesis, the Finnish Premier League.

Pesäpallo, which means 'nest ball', is the national sport of Finland and it is popular around the country, especially in the Ostrobothnia region.

The most important difference between pesäpallo and baseball is that the ball is pitched vertically. This makes hitting the ball, as well as controlling the power and direction, much easier and gives the offensive game more variety and speed compared to baseball. Unlike baseball, catching the ball in flight is not an out, instead it forces the runner advancing at the moment of the catch to attempt to reach next base. If they succeed, there are no further consequences. If they fail, they are out.

The attacking team uses a colour-coded fan to inform players when



The sport is deeply rooted in the history of Finland. :: SUR

to run. The coach leads his team's offence by giving signals with the fan. The defensive team play is also directed by the manager's orders, and the hand signals of the players on the pitch.

Pesäpallo, which has some presence in Germany, Sweden and Switzerland, was invented by Lauri 'Tahko' Pihkala in 1920.

The sport is deeply rooted in the history of Finland as a nation and besides being a professional sport; it has become a national pastime.

The game has grown in popularity and its success as a spectator sport

is based on the unique combination of skill and teamwork.

Pesis, as it is affectionately known, was first promoted as an Olympic sport during the Summer Olympics in Helsinki in 1952.

The pesäpallo tournament will be held at the Elola sports complex in Fuengirola at 1pm on this Sunday, 23 April. The first game will pitch newcomers, Imatran Pallo Veikot, against Sotkamon Jymy, the former Finnish champions.

Before returning to Finland, the teams will donate most of their equipment to the Finnish School

in Fuengirola, as pesäpallo will soon be part of the school's sports curriculum.

Hannu Vuori, representative of the Finnish community of Fuengirola, told SUR in English that the tournament is expected to attract a large amount of interest, as it is the first of its kind in Spain.

"We have been informed that more than 1,000 fans have booked their flights to Costa del Sol in order to see the match. This will be an exciting game and we hope to make this a regular event in the future," he said.



R.K. JUDO CLUB COME OUT ON TOP AT REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

This years Andalucía judo championships saw three gold medals awarded to fighters from R.K. Judo Club, based in Estepona. Lisa Lindberg was the champion in the under 18 category, while Ben Barkby and Tom Whybrow came from behind to take golds in their categories. Ryan Whitehead also placed in the top 8 in his grouping. Their coach, Karen Barkby has expressed how proud she is of the results.

Fuengirola's Feria de los Pueblos to play host to acrobatic inline skating extravaganza

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

FUENGIROLA. Acrobatic inline skate shows will be coming to the Costa later this month at the town's Feria de los Pueblos.

The fair runs from 27 April to 1 May with skate demos scheduled to take place every day from 2pm in the fairground's market place.

Professional skater Strada will be present and is going to perform a number of shows during the evening and night, incorporating different speeds, technical movements



Acrobatic inline skating. :: SUR

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RAQUEL Young Brazilian brunette, sexy. Pº Marítimo, Nº23 Fuengirola 626039574

TORROX Mónica 30-ish, Spanish superbrunette, big breast, massages. Opposite supermarket Dia, block 88, 1st floor, door-2. Appointments. 633527010

THAI attractive, erotic massage, happy end, prostatic, relaxing. Visits. Benalmádena Torrequebrada Golf, beach. www.mememasage.com 602428556 whatsapp

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

CANCELADA: 2 beautiful hot girlfriends, playful. All services. 604109768

OPEN minded couple. She 40. 36DD Nymph looking for generous men voyeur/participant. Riviera. Phone, text, whatsapp 602539075

DIRTY old lady speaks English. In/ outcalls hotels. Fuengirola 632868590

LOVEMASSAGE Mature perfect hands, curves, breast unforgettable, All services. Benalmadena. 617695685

PRIVATELY educated, well-spoken, well dressed, slim, sophisticated English Rose, looking to accompany business men for lunch/ dinner. Hotel meetings only. Discretion assured. 699859054

ENGLISH ROSE privately educated, well spoken, well dressed, sophisticated and slim, looking to accompany business men. Lunch/ dinner optional. Discretion assured. 699859054

ESTEPONA. NANCY, 20, BEAUTIFUL, PLEASING, OUTCALLS, HOTELS. 24H. VISA. 603317023

MATURE Elegant lady. Voluptuous bust. All services. Only hotel & home visits. 687387680

40 EUROS: Elegant, sexy, blonde lady. Sweet, caring. Fuengirola. 625912315

ESTEPONA/ Benahavis Exit: 3 horny birds, slim, seductive. Tantra, prostate massage, French and more. Complete service. 602891749

LORA Cubana 22, fleshy lips, natural French. Locrimar. Nva.Andalucía. 673251634

NEW ROSSI Beautiful student. Natural French. Kisses. Massages. Nva.Andaluca 602531054

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, mature, massage, 602475138, 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.relaxenmalaga.com

MULATA 25, busty, slim, juicy French. All services. (Rodeito)Nva.Andalucía. 697219468

ASIAN Balines, Thai- Hilot massage attractive lady, simpathic, body-body, multiorgasmic, massage, stress free, luxury atmosphere, no rush. 604143788 Marbella.

NEW Argentinian, Asian, Russian multiorgasmic, sexy. Luxury atmosphere. Near Banús. 618448131

TRY SOMETHING different, Asian, European amazing pleasure, multiorgasmic, luxury, San Pedro/ Banús. 618448131

BRITISH blonde mature, slim sexy, all services incl oral CIM, Greek, GFE, over nights, great rates, let me be your guilty pleasure, service with a smile, discreet villa Coín.681614955 Zarah

FUENGIROLA Center: 4 beautiful señoritas, blonde & brunette. Discreet apartment. Easy parking. 603719177

NATALY (20) Pretty Turkish. Gorgeous body. Also out-calls/ 24H 611237548

TINA 19 years, Bulgarian. Very pretty, slim, big tits!! Work 24 hours. Out-calls. 652706624

ANA 25 Hungarian. Hot & horny. 24 hours. Out-calls. 611238013.

MIA (20) Dominican Republic. Pretty & sexy. Available 24 hours... 652590064

SWEET DREAMS Riviera del Sol. Reach the highest pleasure with 7 unforgettable ladies (various nationalities) Discreet and beautiful place. Open 24H Out-calls around the coast. Visit our web page: www.sweetdreamsescort.com Whatsapp: 611237548 Mobil: 652590064 - Call us to fulfil all your fantasies.

MISS LUCY Sexy girl. Bondage, foot-fetish, trampling, spanking, strapon. 604104187

LINDA: Blonde sexy, very attractive. Only outcalls. Pto Banus. 631185255

MARBELLA. New, Julia. 20 years, loving, discreet, natural french. 603135461 Avenida Arias Maldonado I. Iberest 1,apt 3-G

HELLO Slim, brunette, mature, 1 hour for complete and total passion. Marbella 674946727

RONDA. New, busty, super body, pleasing. Massage. Discreet. Visits. 602451846

NVA. ANDALUCIA: Beginner, beautiful brunette, sexy lingerie, 69. Natural French. Discreet apartment. Visits. 604143950

NVA ANDALUCIA: Malu sexy black Brazilian. Spectacular body, sexy blowjob. Discreet apartment. Visits. 677680928

FUENGIROLA: Erika 25, nice curvy body, will give you incredible pleasure. Only outcalls. 685266861

BEAUTIFUL young lady 4FemDom lovers. Beginners/Experienced. Own dungeon. www.MistressUrsulaDominatrix.com 672870066

ESTEPONA area: Attractive ladies, different nationalities, sexy, flirty. Full erotic complete service. In and outcalls. 622316969

BENALMADENA: Sexy Vicky, petite European. Fluent English. In/ Outcalls. 605382376

250 EUROS: All night. Honey, sexy blonde. Outcalls only. Fuengirola. 645131273

NEW Marbella center, Lisa, 27, high standing georgeous, exotic, beautiful, very horny charming smile and fit athletic body, 1.67 - 52 kg, long brown, curly hair, sexy, erotic, full massage, body to body, blowjob, kisses, deep troat and more, outcalls, incalls, speak English et parle francais. 632948212

MARBELLA center. Most hottest and beautiful filipina for everything. In/ outcalls. 602572579

MARBELLA. Paola, Andalucian, 22 years, very complacent. 24 hours. 622243076

MARBELLA, Monika, pretty mature, busty, all services, no rush. In/ out. 645617779

CAMILA 26, Beautiful blonde, pert ass, complete, pleasing. Avda. Jesus Santos Rein nº21-5B Fuengirola. (Next to Fairgrounds.) 631429217

BEAUTIFUL slim, model, tantra massage. Safe and clean place. English speaker. www.annatantra.com 633060678

PUERTO Banus next to Casino. Unforgettable experience for nice gentlemen with beautiful girl from Poland. 617700999

MARBELLA. Beautiful Brazilian girl. educated, discreet. Exclusives gentlemen. 603223295 (www.relaxenmalaga.com)

BRITISH brunette in Marbella. Incalls/ outcalls. Toned, large bust. Call or Whatsapp 651521485 Email: laid-on-jade@hotmail.com

ESTEPONA. Hot sue for horny men from 50 euros. 610312100

Male

RICKY Muscular body. Handsome. Also couples. Private apartment. Visits. 24hrs. 634033971

ALEJANDRO 24 years, sexual massage with happy ending. Own apartment. Outcalls. 24 hrs. 665344158

MALE to male, full body massage, Mijas Pueblo. 609321958

LAS CHAPAS handsome boy, superendowed. If you want unlimited sex and company, Call me 603202758

FUENGIROLA Male to male full body massage. Very discreet, private villa. 634004512

MARBELLA center, hot and sexy gentleman for your sexual desires. In/ outcalls. 602505802

GOLFERS massage and other soothing rubs by Jay (Singaporean). Puerto Banus 662576394

Transvestites

TRANSEXUAL Sophia, beautiful brunette, active/ passive, great bust, well hung. 662045252. Fuengirola. www.escortswow.es/sofiabiagg

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.violetaferer.com

PIETRA Trans: Stunning blonde, bodybuilder, voluptuous, huge surprise 10inches superendowed, very active and dominant. Full services including outcalls throughout Costa del Sol. Want a unforgettable moment call me!! 633190467 Fuengirola

MARBELLA center, gorgeous Thai ladyboy, slim, kissable lips, name it and you have it. 663612830

NEW! Stunning Japanese for relaxing massage and intimate moments. Friendly, milky, very sensual. Puerto Banus 602414398

TORREMOLINOS. Shemale Evelyn. Novelty. 130 breasts. Powerfull. Active/Passive. Sweet. 677692354

Massage

WWW.TANTRACENTER.ES PLEASURE WITHOUT LIMITS, SPECTACULAR MASSEUSE. MESSAGE EROTIC... WITH!!!SHOCKING END! 952216145/ 644452369

SAYAN. Tantra massage for ladies, gentlemen & couples. Ultimate bliss at a very nice place. Fuengirola. 952586339 /608977260 www.masajessayan.es

MARBELLA. Monik, sexy lady. Titled chiropractor,relaxing, therapeutic, Chinese techniques, magic hands, portable massage bed. Private apartment. Hotel Visits. 686740661

DISCOVER the benefits of tantric massages!! Feel the pleasure in your skin...635290724

FUENGIROLA Carolina, blonde, elegant, relaxing massage, full erotic massage. Whatsapp. Message: 634797230

MAIA, Fuengirola. Erotic, professional massage, body2body, happy ending. Miah, 647101046

PROFESSIONAL masseuse: Massages till end with optional end. 666770405 Estepona

44 YEAR old brunette, slender, natural French, Greek, toys, squirting, no limits, dungeon. Secluded facilities. Call 662913428 Check me out at: www.Lailalynch1.com

PURE ecstasy in Nueva Andalucia with young pretty independent masseuse. Erotic body, tantric and other completely relaxing massages in private apartment. 656350401

MARBELLA centre. New. Luxury center with wide selection of expert masseuse... Sensual, erotic. Nuru erotic tantra, body to body lingam and prostatic. Unique experience 4 hands, pleasant and exciting, double stimulation. Massage for couples. Open: 9:00am/9:00pm. Appointment: 952867663/ 690046233

FUENGIROLA: Madonna, Hot oil/horny massage with my boobs! Happy ending.632157758

ESTEPONA. Funny young latina, sex, massage. I speak English. 672536859

ESTEPONA: Professional Brazilian beautiful masseuse. Choose how to end! 622152511

MATURE man, qualified masseur. Excellent massages for men. Torremolinos, Carihuela. 639040128

touch4men.com Professional Erotic man2man massage. Incalls Torremolinos. Outcalls Costa del Sol. 628746407

TANTRAZENN Fuengirola: Indulge yourself in the hands of masseuses. Stimulate your senses. Welcome to the Tantra world. www.tantrazenn.com. 608016983

40 EUROS: Erotic, prostatic body2body massage. Happy ending. Fuengirola. 625912315

MASSAGE and fun! Genuine trained exotic male tantric masseur. 645291083

MARBELLA. Camila, beautiful, elegant, exotic, full body massage. Whatsapp 603169139 www.mysticmassage.es

VICTORIA, Marbella, long hair. Beautiful shape, horny, sweet, sensual erotic massage. Discreet place. 604229713

ASIAN qualified offer an authentic professional massage relieve, pain and stress, luxury, private. Marbella center. 604143788

NEW! Mature Thai lady. Sensational massages for gentlemen. Puerto Banus. 602600367

GORGEOUS Paola. Erotic, tantric, b2b massage. Foot fetishism. relaxingtouch.es 602448534

FUENGIROLA: Body2body massage with complete ending by beautiful lady. 645131273

www.masajesbudamalaga.com Luxury Tantra Spa with the best erotic massage and installations in the Coast. Relax & pleasure with beautiful girls. Tlf & Whatsapp 605265433

TORREMOLINOS: Do you want to have fun with 2 girls, blonde/ brunette? Exciting, erotic, body2body massage. 633578665

MIJAS Costa. Exotic, busty, mature, sexy, no rush. In/ out. 658039189

Various

VIAGRA (Kamagra) 100 mg, Cialis (Tadalafil) 20 mg, Jellies 100 mg. Wholesale & retail. Free delivery all areas. For the best products & service. 617740250.24 hrs.

Your ad could go in this space.

Contact SUR in English 952 649 669

or any SUR office or advertising agency.



THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



THE STARS

Aquarius
January 21 - February 19
Be positive at work and keep that smile on your face. This is the recipe for success.

Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Happy changes and interruptions to the status quo perk the week up no end! Next weekend in particular makes long-term happy memories.

Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Being in a high energy peak may make you feel impatient, especially if others seem to be dragging their feet.

Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
It seems that a sensitive soul is holding you back. Socially it is possible to cheer them up and pull yourself out of a rut.

Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Someone who had a tepid attitude to you is suddenly impressed. You may not understand, but do you need to?

Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Such a busy time! Friends make unexpected demands and, although you want to help, it can be tiring.

Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
A conflict between old friends is confusing. Should you become involved? Well, it is unlikely to help if you wade in without knowing the facts.

Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Don't like to blow your own trumpet? If someone steps in before you and takes a fine chance, you will be mad.

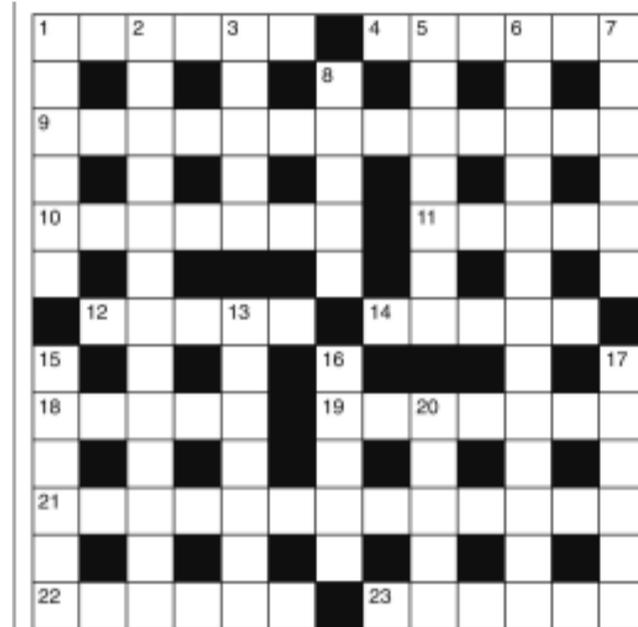
Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Someone needs you to make a special effort. Remember that actions speak louder than words.

Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Finances should be improving but someone may accuse you of being mean in this area. You don't have to make excuses.

Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
To be satisfied with your appearance at the moment may be hard. Why are you being so super-critical?

Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Have the confidence to put lots of energy into everything that you do. Know what it feels like to be winner?

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11238



- Across**
- 1 In favour of 59 being verbose (6)
 - 4 Calculate that the actors are out of bed (4,2)
 - 9 Inclined to be close to the left of the road (2,3,4,4)
 - 10 They may lessen the shocks in training, perhaps (7)
 - 11 Like a small laboratory put back in the wood (5)
 - 12 Noble self-esteem of kingly beasts? (5)
 - 14 Leather bits returned (5)
 - 18 People in competition? (5)
 - 19 Journalism that goes with a bang? (7)
 - 21 Blonde with right angle is above-board (4,3,6)
 - 22 General tendencies of their extremes to reach conclusions (6)
 - 23 Choose the Spanish in the religious group (6)
- Down**
- 1 There may possibly be hope for the moon goddess (6)
 - 2 Like a retired doctor? (3,2,8)
 - 3 She has some of their energy, of course (5)
 - 5 Actor gets upset about graduate tumbler (7)
 - 6 Action in the matrimonial court? (5,8)
 - 7 Some of the top rewards before the fighting started (3-3)
 - 8 Stop giving relief to 100 (5)
 - 13 Throw away little Diana's ticket (7)
 - 15 In favour of suitable return (6)
 - 16 She won't be missed now (5)
 - 17 The rise of a perfume (6)
 - 20 Equip for offence (5)

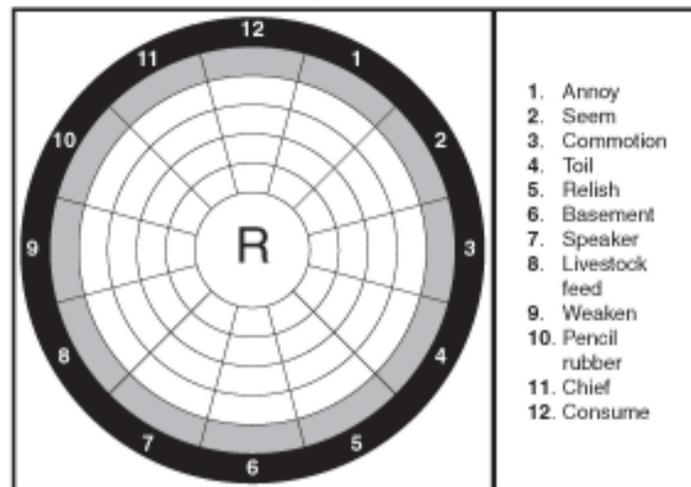
SUDOKU BY HANZO

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

	8			2	7		9	5
			7			6		3
6		9			4			
	2	1		8	9		4	
				7		9		6
			6					2
				9				8
	4				5			
3		2		6	8		5	7

CLOCKWORD

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter R in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of an Oscar-winning British actor.



- 1. Annoy
- 2. Seem
- 3. Commotion
- 4. Toil
- 5. Relish
- 6. Basement
- 7. Speaker
- 8. Livestock feed
- 9. Weaken
- 10. Pencil rubber
- 11. Chief
- 12. Consume

THE WORDPUZZLER



CAN you identify the words missing from the Shakespeare play titles listed below?

- 1. King ---
- 2. A Midsummer Night's ---
- 3. All's Well That --- Well
- 4. --- Caesar
- 5. The --- Wives of Windsor
- 6. A Comedy of ---
- 7. As You --- It
- 8. The Merchant of ---
- 9. Much --- About Nothing
- 10. Love's Labours ---

INTERNATIONAL RADIO

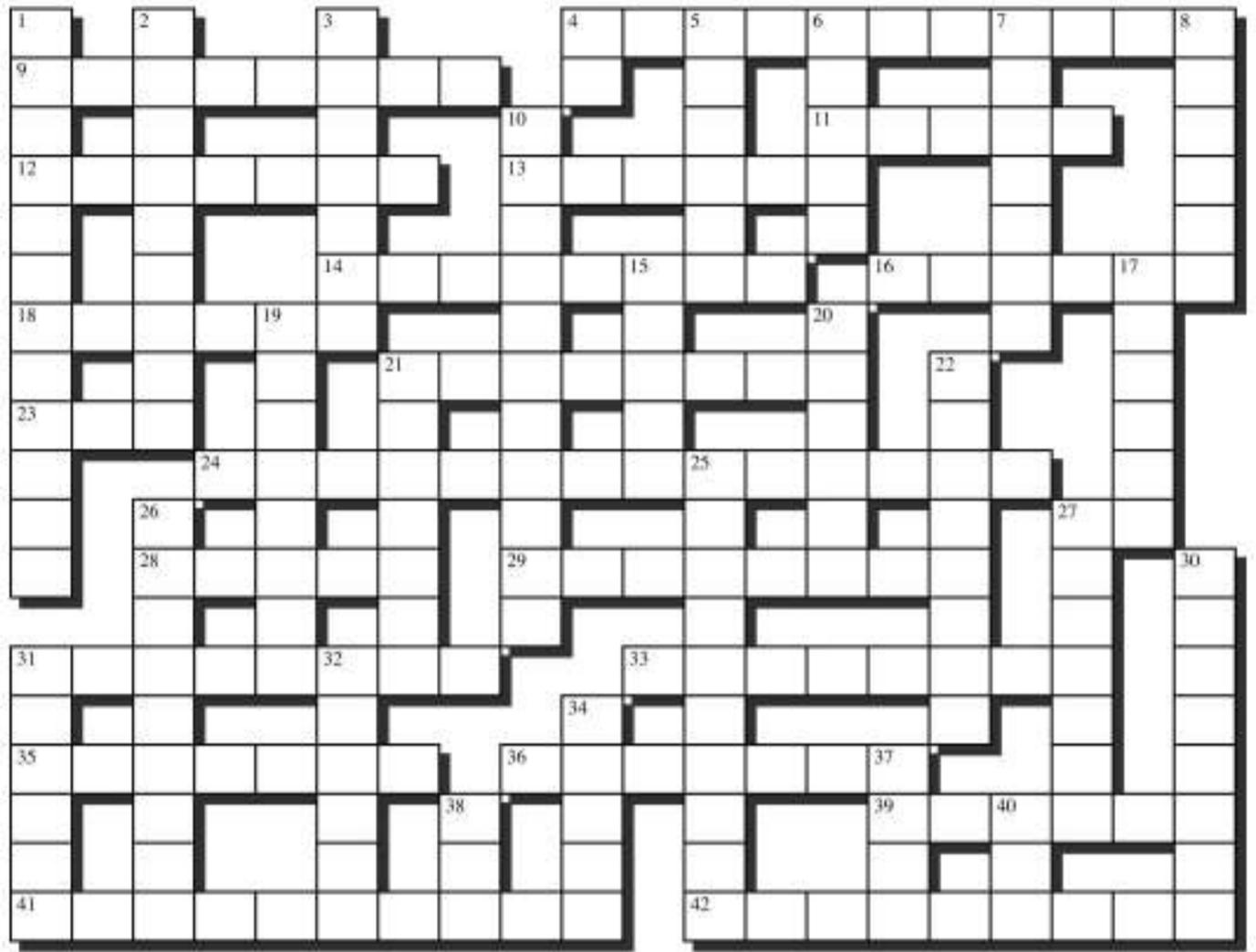
- Talk Radio Europe** (105.5 FM, Costa del Sol)
105.5 Axarquía
91.5 Costa del Sol East
91.9 Costa del Sol West
98.7 Gibraltar/Sotogrande
News, interviews, lifestyle, sport and BBC World Service.
- Spectrum** (105.5 FM, Costa del Sol)
Almería/Mojácar 92.6 FM)
24 hour music and entertainment
- Radio Mijas** (107.7 FM)
3 p.m. News, views and music
- Radio Sol Almirajara** (99.1 FM)
Nerja radio in English and German and night time World Radio Network
- Global** (93.6 and 96.4 FM)
All week round the clock music and entertainment
- HeartfmSpain** (88.5 FM Costa del Sol, 96.1 FM inland)
Music, entertainment, news
- Radio Radio Network** (96 and 98.3 FM).
Music 24 hours.
- Lick FM** (103.6 FM Marbella)
Urban music broadcast between Gibraltar and Calahonda
- Central FM** (98.6 FM, 103.8 FM).
All week, classic tracks and today's music broadcast to the Costa del Sol
- Rtv Puebla** (107.7 FM)
Monday evenings, Rock music memories. 7 - 9pm. email: radiopuebla.musicmemories@yahoo.com
Fb: Radiotelevision Puebla de Cazalla
- ACE FM** (106.8 FM)
Inland radio, news and music
The Beat fm (106 FM)
24 hours, music and entertainment

QUIZ

- QUESTION 1**
- From what country does Cotija cheese originate?
- 1. Mexico
 - 2. Britain
 - 3. Poland
 - 4. India
- QUESTION 2**
- The Barossa Valley is a wine producing region in which country?
- 1. Australia
 - 2. Italy
 - 3. Chile
 - 4. Spain

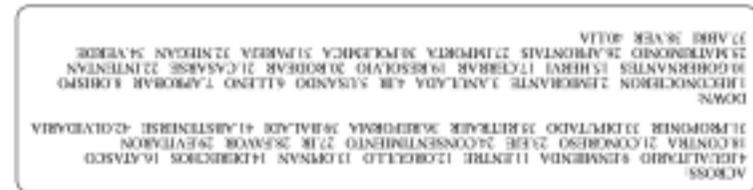
LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across**
- 4. Equal (11)
 - 9. Amendment (8)
 - 11. Between (5)
 - 12. Pride (7)
 - 13. They give their opinion (6)
 - 14. Rights (8)
 - 16. Jam (5)
 - 18. Against (8)
 - 21. Congress (8)
 - 23. Axis (3)
 - 24. Assent (14)
 - 27. To go (2)
 - 28. Favour (5)
 - 29. They avoided (8)
 - 31. To propose (8)
 - 33. Member of Parliament (8)
 - 35. To retract (7)
 - 36. Reform (7)
 - 39. Trivial (8)
 - 41. To abstain (10)
 - 42. He would forget (9)
- Down**
- 1. They recognised (12)
 - 2. Emigrant (9)
 - 3. Cancelled (7)
 - 4. To go (2)
 - 5. Using (6)
 - 6. Full (5)
 - 7. To pass (7)
 - 8. Bishop (6)
 - 10. Rulers (11)
 - 15. I boiled (5)
 - 17. To close (6)
 - 19. She solved (8)
 - 20. To surround (6)
 - 21. To get married (7)
 - 22. They try (8)
 - 25. Marriage (10)
 - 26. You confront (pi) (9)
 - 27. It matters (7)
 - 30. Controversy (8)
 - 31. Couple (6)
 - 32. They deny (6)
 - 34. Green (5)
 - 37. I opened (4)
 - 38. To see (3)
 - 40. He rolls up (3)

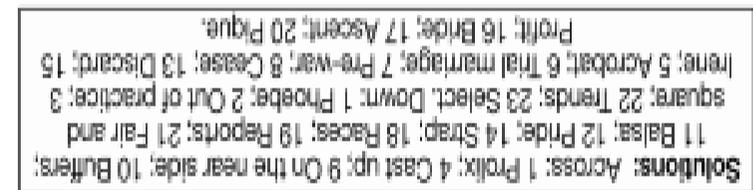


ANSWERS

Language Crossword



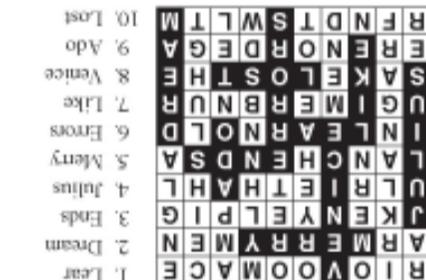
Cryptic Crossword



Clockword solution



Wordpuzzler solution



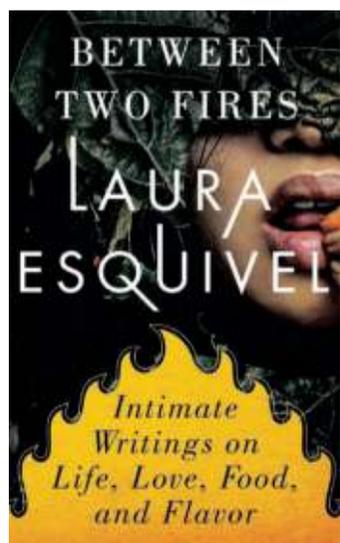
Sudoku solution

3	9	2	4	6	8	1	5	7
7	4	8	2	1	5	3	6	9
1	6	5	7	9	3	4	2	8
9	7	6	3	4	1	5	8	2
8	3	4	5	7	2	9	1	6
5	2	1	6	8	9	7	4	3
6	5	9	8	3	4	2	7	1
2	1	7	9	5	6	8	3	4
4	8	3	1	2	7	6	9	5

Quiz answers

Answer 1: Mexico
Of interest: This cheese is named after the town of Cotija in Michoacán, Mexico. It is made mainly from cow's milk and is white and salty, similar to feta cheese. However, as it matures it becomes hard and crumbly like Parmigiano-Reggiano earning it the nickname "Mexican Parmesan."
Answer 2: Australia
Of interest: The Barossa Valley wine region is one of Australia's oldest wine regions. The wine industry of the Barossa Valley was founded by German settlers and specialises in Shiraz wines.

BOOK OF THE WEEK



Between Two Fires
Laura Esquivel

Between Two Fires: Intimate Writings on Life, Love, Food & Flavour is a collection stories and recipes that delves into affairs of the heart, the spirit, and the stomach. Novelist Laura Esquivel reflects on the powerful relationships that shape us and the central role of food in them all. With imagination, intimacy, and humour, she writes about warm kitchens, loved ones and mouthwatering recipes. Under the guidance of the women that taught Esquivel to cook, she learned that there is magic in food and in those who prepare it.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“If you do what you always do, you’ll get what you’ve always gotten”

TONY ROBBINS

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Horizon	21/04	Palma	Alicante	07.00	18.00
Norwegian Epic	21/04	Arrecife	Barcelona	08.00	18.00
Club Med 2	22/04	Cadiz	Ibiza	08.00	23.59
Ocean Nova	22/04	Almeria	-	08.00	12.00
Thomson Celebration	23/04	Cartagena	Gibraltar	06.00	22.00
Costa Mediterranea	23/04	-	-	07.00	19.00
Mein Schiff 2	23/04	Gibraltar	Palma	08.00	20.00
Sea Cloud	23/04	Cadiz	Valencia	10.00	16.30
Horizon	23/04	Alicante	Tarragona	10.00	16.30
Costa Magica	24/04	-	-	07.00	13.00
Viking Star	25/04	-	-	08.00	18.30
Star Pride	25/04	-	-	08.00	19.00
Sea Cloud II	26/04	Cadiz	-	08.00	13.00
Thomson Dream	27/04	Cadiz	Cartagena	06.00	21.00
Star Legend	27/04	-	-	08.00	19.00
Ocean Majesty	28/04	Barcelona	Ibiza	06.30	18.30
Black Watch	28/04	Southampton	Valetta	08.00	17.30



Gangland shooting in Marbella

Filming for the third instalment of Rise of the Footsoldier, chronicling the story of notorious gangster Pat Tate, recently took place on the Costa

A story that ended in the Rettendon murders began on the Costa del Sol, scene of Tate's first taste of the criminal underworld

FRANCISCO GRIÑÁN

MALAGA. In Essex there was a time when just uttering his name would cause a deathly silence. So feared was Pat Tate, a gangland leader with strong links to the Costa del Sol, that his story ultimately met a violent end.

His story is now at the core of Rise of the Footsoldier: The Beginning, the third instalment and prequel to the hit British franchise.

To get to the root of Tate's story, the filming was brought to Marbella - the starting point of his rise to large-scale delinquency. Puerto Banús was one of the main locations for this production which is an adaptation of the true story behind the Rettendon murders of 6 December 1995, when Tate was shot dead inside a Range Rover alongside partners Tony Tucker and Craig Rolfe. It was on the Costa where the story begins, in 1988. It was here



A drone films at a 'high security' residence in San Pedro Alcántara. :: OBJETIVO 50

when the protagonist first entered the criminal underworld and made contact with dealers to acquire a large batch of ecstasy to sell in Southend nightclubs. The operation, however, didn't go as planned, and he was arrested and sent to prison.

This didn't hamper him, though, and the connections he made behind bars would help him to become a key component of the so-called Essex Boys.

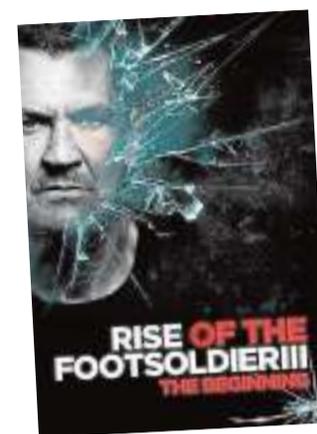
His weakness for Marbella saw him return to the Costa many times over the years, often on the run from the authorities back in the UK. In fact, an ill-advised trip to Gibraltar immediately set off alarm bells and saw him arrested once more.

Actor Craig Fairbrass, a regular face in British gangster films and also the



A still from the film shows Myers and Fairbrass in Puerto Banús. :: SUR

THE FILM



► **Title:** 'Rise of the Footsoldier: The Beginning'. UK, 2017.

► **Director:** Zackary Alder.

► **Cast:** Craig Fairbrass, Terry Stone, Roland Manookian, Jamie Foreman and Josh Myers.

► **Premiere:** Autumn 2017 (UK).

voice of Call of Duty, will play Tate once more in the third part of the saga which was filmed last month on sets in Marbella and San Pedro Alcántara, as well as in London.

Memoirs of a hooligan

Created by Julian Gilbey in 2007, The Rise of the Footsoldier saga arose from the story of the Inter City Firm (ICF), an English football hooligan firm to which the Essex Boys were closely associated. It was the memories of one of its members, Carlton Leach, who was a partner of Tate, which has inspired the trilogy.

Directed by Zackary Alder, Tony Tucker, a mobster who protected Tate, is played by Terry Stone - another household name on the gangster drama scene.

Roland Manookian, Jamie Foreman and Josh Myers complete the lineup for the shooting which was filmed with the use of drones on the Ronda road and the beach in San Pedro Alcántara, with the cooperation of Malaga company Objetivo 50 and drones from Helifilm.

The film will hit screens in the UK this autumn.

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