

"Sandro is a hit with the fans; we will work hard to keep him here"

Malaga CF sporting director Francesc Arnau discusses his plans for the big summer ahead **P66**



Latest crime survey shows sizeable rise in home break-ins on the Costa del Sol

One property is broken into in Malaga province every two hours, as figures rise by 26 per cent

reveals that every day between January and March twelve homes in the province received unwanted visitors.

Total domestic burglaries in the area reached 1,161 in this period.

Among the largest percentage rises were in resort towns on the coast, including Fuengirola, Rincón de la Victoria and Vélez-Málaga. Mijas topped the list with the highest amount of home break-ins.

The increase in burglaries helped push up crime overall in the province, with the ministry's data showing a six per cent rise.

Some other types of crime also increased, notably drug-related offences and violent robbery.

In Spain overall, crime rose 1.7 per cent, the data showed. **P5**

Latest crime figures, released by the Spanish interior ministry, show that domestic burglary has risen by over 26 per cent compared to a year ago across Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol.

The data, comparing the first three months of this year with 2016, re-

Sánchez wins re-election as PSOE party leader

The former Socialist leader saw off competition from favourite and Andalusian president Susana Díaz to take 50 per cent of the vote



REUTERS

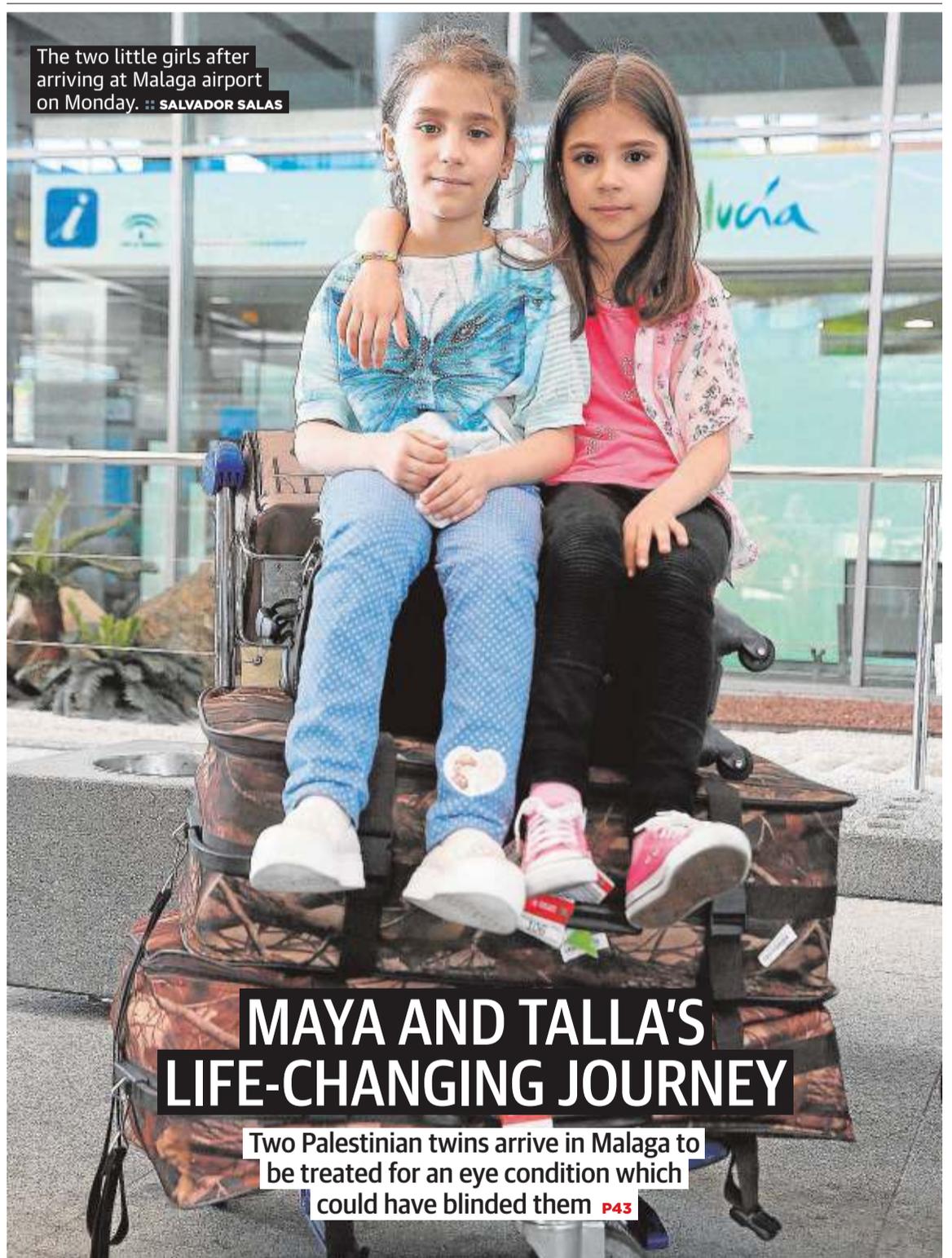
Members of Spain's Socialist PSOE party have put their former leader, Pedro Sánchez, back in the role of secretary general. In last Sunday's primary election, in which more than 74,000 people voted, Sánchez gained over 50 per cent support, ahead of main rival Susana Díaz. He takes over the divided party, seven months after resigning from the post. **P22**

Sun, sand and great hiking routes. Andrew Forbes takes us on a trek across Fuerteventura in our Travel special **P36-41**

Spain stands in solidarity with Manchester terror victims. Silence was held across the country for the 22 victims **P19**

A case of the disturbing online suicide game 'Blue Whale' is reported in Andalucía for the first time **P6**

New bicycle hire scheme 'Redibike' touches down in Gibraltar in a bid to reduce the Rock's carbon footprint **P23**



The two little girls after arriving at Malaga airport on Monday. **:: SALVADOR SALAS**

MAYA AND TALLA'S LIFE-CHANGING JOURNEY

Two Palestinian twins arrive in Malaga to be treated for an eye condition which could have blinded them **P43**

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Hey, big spenders: Malaga airport is top

Passengers leaving the Costa del Sol spend more per person in the shops than in any other airport in Spain

A third of total airport turnover comes from retail services; new food outlets and even slot machines are being added

PIJAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. When passengers go to catch their flight at Malaga airport, there's no way for them to escape the duty-free shopping these days as the route from security control snakes past rows of glittering shelving. However, for the 16.6 million people that pass through every year it seems they just can't get enough of it.

The Spanish airport authority, Aena, has said that Malaga airport tops the list of the most spent per passenger in shops and restaurants in all the country's airports.

The main duty free shop is now the epicentre of a lively, bustling shopping plaza, and the number of shops and eateries is increasing in line with passenger numbers.

It is of special interest to exclusive brands, because they consider this the ideal way to have a presence in Malaga. In fact, some products can only be found at the airport because shops elsewhere on the Costa del Sol do not stock them.

The steady trickle of customers brings the total turnover of shops, restaurants and rental car offices at the airport to about 300 million euros a year, which is about one-third of the airport's overall income, says José Manuel Fernández Bosch, director of commercial services at Aena.

Most of this money is spent by travellers in nearly 15,000 square metres of retail space, of which



Passengers making their way through the duty free shopping area at Malaga airport. :: SUR

about 7,000 square metres are taken up by cafés and restaurants. Food sales are becoming increasingly important.

The rest of the space is almost equally divided between the general shopping area and the duty free section. In total, passengers can choose between 25 stores, seven of them offering tax-free shopping.

The reason so much money is spent here per passenger is the profile of the customer. Fernández Bosch says a high percentage of

foreign tourists use these airports, and many are travelling for holidays and leisure purposes. This means that they are in the mood for spending, buying gifts for the family or going home with local produce which they have enjoyed during their stay and want to take back to their own countries. That is why passengers in Malaga spend more than those in the busier airports in Madrid and Barcelona, where more people travel regularly on business and are not interested in shopping. Alicante airport also

Malaga has a high proportion of foreign passengers who love to go shopping

has a high spend per passenger for the same reasons.

Last year 14,341,618 passengers at Malaga airport flew to or from a foreign city, which was 16.4 per cent more than in 2015. Of those, nearly 5.5 million were from the UK, and it is the British who spend most at the airport overall. However, it is the Russians who spend more per person.

"A third of the passengers are British, and they love shopping here. They spend more at the airport than the Germans. Scandina-

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IN CONTEXT

16.6

million passengers used Malaga airport last year, and had the opportunity to shop or visit the restaurants which take up 15,000 square metres of space in the terminal building.

Which product is sold the most?

By units, vodka is sold most at Malaga airport, although by sector the top seller is perfume. In terms of drinks, gin is the second most popular.

15,000

products are on sale in the duty free shops at Malaga airport, with perfume being the most popular section.

The attraction of local produce

An increasing number of passengers are buying products from Malaga these days. The most popular is local wine, with about 60,000 bottles a year being sold. There are plans to expand the range of products from Malaga in the future.

Improvements to the duty free shops

The seven duty free businesses at Malaga airport, which currently occupy over 3,200 square metres of space, are due to be refurbished this year to adapt them to new trends, with new fittings and the introduction of new brands.

2

million drinks are served each year in the bars and restaurants at Malaga airport. Just one operator serves 1.2 million of these drinks.

Chocolates, still a classic gift

The traditional Toblerone or classic bag of sweets never seem to go out of fashion. Sources at the airport calculate that about one million of these are sold every year.

1.5

million sandwiches and snacks are sold each year in the 7,000 square metres of restaurants and bars in the airport in the capital of the Costa del Sol.



The new arcade. :: SUR

“People are anxious to get that stage over and done with, and when they have been through security they are more relaxed and inclined to have a coffee or a drink and buy perfume,” he says.

The shops and restaurants generate 1,000 of the 6,000 jobs at the airport, and while sales in the restaurant sector in Spain as a whole are increasing by 1.9 per cent, in airports the increase is 15 per cent, which is why there is plenty of demand for airport premises.

Fernández Bosch also says that new services are being incorporated into the airport, and the first slot-machine gambling arcade has just opened in Malaga. A similar one is being considered in Alicante.

“In this unit you can use slot machines or play electronic roulette. We thought hard about the project and decided to use Orenes, which is a highly specialised operator. The room is 180 metres in size,” he says.

The product that sells the most is...“vodka”, reveals the Aena director. And the busiest month? Although the highest numbers of passengers use the airport in July and August, surprisingly more sales are made in September.

The first slot-machine arcade in an airport has just opened at Malaga

vians also spend quite a bit, but the Russians spend the largest amounts of money individually. We are also seeing that the ruble is beginning to recover after falling for a year. It is a very interesting market, and in fact there are signs in Russian in the duty free

shop,” says Fernández Bosch. Walking through the shopping area, it is striking that the shops seem so empty, but they are not worried about that. “That’s what this business is like,” says one shop assistant. The stores are never crowded. In the central duty free

shop, a Dutch couple pick up some chocolates and a bottle of Malaga wine. “We want our family to try it,” the couple say. Fernández Bosch continues, “The way people shop here is different. It’s another concept, and the shops make money. The ones

which sell the most here take about 2.5 million euros, and some of the restaurants can take as much as five million.” Although there are shops in the check-in area, more people use the ones in the departure lounge, after passing through security.

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Two arrested in connection with latest break-ins in Arroyo de la Miel

Following a recent wave of burglaries in shops and businesses, police have caught two alleged thieves red-handed

SUR

ARROYO DE LA MIEL. Police have detained two of the men thought to be responsible for the latest surge in shop burglaries in Arroyo de la Miel. According to sources, the pair were caught red-handed at a convenience store in Calle Ciudad de Melilla, just 500 metres from the other shops that have also been subject to recent break-ins.

A police investigation began in September after a number of businesses in Benalmádena reported break-ins. Various members of two gangs were arrested in March, but the thefts continued. Around ten different shop owners in the centre of Arroyo de la Miel have reported burglaries over the last few weeks, including a pharmacy, a beauty salon, a bar, a driving school, a tattoo parlour, a hearing-aid centre and an off-licence.

One of the two men arrested this week, a 33-year-old resident who has been detained six times previ-



The pharmacy that was recently targeted by the thieves. :: A. G.

ously, is thought to be the ringleader of a third gang carrying out the recent break-ins.

From their investigation, police have discovered that the perpetrators used shears, crowbars and screwdrivers to help them get through windows and doors in the early hours of the morning, before breaking into the shops' cash registers wearing gloves to avoid leaving fingerprints. The thieves targeted shops that did not have security systems, information which was obtained from a gang member who worked at a local sur-

veillance company. The police also have discovered that the thieves used local properties to hide their tools and the stolen items.

Just before the arrests shop owners had expressed their concern over the matter. Owner of the beauty salon affected, María Victoria Benítez, explained that she had installed CCTV after 18,000 euros' worth of equipment was stolen recently.

Many other shop and business owners in the area believed that the existing police presence was not sufficient to tackle the problem.

112 REPORTS



An area of Puerto Banús where the products were sold . :: J.-L.

Four arrested in counterfeit goods fraud

MARBELLA

HÉCTOR BARBOTA. National Police officers have arrested four Romanians who were selling fake items of clothing where there were large numbers of passing tourists, including in a shopping

centre in Marbella town and a shopping area in nearby Puerto Banús.

The prices of the 1400 pieces of clothing seized by police ranged from 60 to 900 euros, and could therefore have been sold for 220,000 euros.

The four men involved were arrested on charges of fraud and breaking copyright rules.

Tow truck kills 82-year-old man on motorway

MARBELLA

C. M. An 82-year-old man who was knocked down accidentally by a tow truck when walking on the A-7 motorway near Marbella on Saturday night has died. Guardia Civil sources stated that the man from Mijas wasn't known to be suffering from any mental illness and that the accident was being investigated.

Three-year-old dies after pool incident

MÁLAGA

E. C. A three-year-old has died after an incident at a swimming pool on Sunday in Rincón de la Victoria. The child fell into the pool and began to drown but was quickly rescued. Medical services managed to get the boy breathing again, but he remained in a critical condition and died early on Monday.



27

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Number of homes burgled on the Costa shot up in first three months of 2017

Break-ins rose by 26.2 per cent across Malaga province, the only area of Andalucía to see an increase, with the largest rises recorded in coastal resorts

:: **ÁLVARO FRÍAS / JUAN CANO**

MALAGA. Every day twelve homes are burgled across Malaga province. In the first three months of this year, the number of domestic break-ins shot up across the area, especially in certain parts of the Costa. The news of the worrying increase came with last week's publication of the latest three-monthly crime statistics from the national interior ministry.

From January to March there were 1,161 domestic burglaries in Malaga province and the Costa del Sol, compared to 920 in the same period last year, an increase of 26.2 per cent.

Malaga is the only province in Andalucía where the number of robberies of this type increased, despite a number of recent high-profile police operations to dismantle organised gangs who have been targeting homes.

The coastal resorts in particular have seen the highest increase. Most affected include Fuengirola (which saw an increase of 200 per cent), Rincón de la Victoria (where there was a 357 per cent increase), and Vélez-Málaga municipality (an increase of 71.4 per cent). Inland, Ronda increased by 200 per cent.

Crime overall has increased in Malaga and the Costa del Sol by almost six per cent, rising from 17,349 recorded offences in the first three months of 2016 to 18,366 in the same period of this year.

Crimes such as drug offences (up 24.1 per cent) or violent robbery (up 12.3 per cent) contributed to the overall rise. The number of sexual offences also increased, by 14.1 per cent.

The only two real pieces of good news in the latest Malaga province figures published by the government are a fall in common theft

CRIME FIGURES FOR JANUARY TO MARCH 2017

Type of crime	2016	2017	Var. % 16-17
1 Intentional homicide	7	4	-42.9
2 Attempted intentional homicide	10	10	0.0
3 Assault	149	152	2.0
4 Kidnap	1	0	-100.0
5 Sexual violence	99	113	14.1
5.1 Rape	6	12	100.0
5.2 Other sexual offences	93	101	8.6
6 Violent robberies	375	421	12.3
7 Overall burglaries	1,286	1,564	21.6
7.1 Domestic burglaries	920	1,161	26.2
8 Common theft	6,208	6,057	-2.4
9 Theft of a motor vehicle	532	535	0.6
10 Drug offences	174	216	24.1
TOTAL CRIMINAL OFFENCES	17,349	18,366	5.9

(by 2.4 per cent) and homicide (by 42.9 per cent).

Andalucía

The rise in crime levels in Malaga province was only exceeded in the Andalucía region by Seville province (an increase of 10.1 per cent) and Granada province (an increase of 7.6 per cent).

The biggest fall was in Jaén province, where reported crime dropped eight per cent, followed by Almería (down 3.4 per cent), Huelva (down 3.1 per cent), Cadiz (down 1.3 per cent) and Córdoba, where there was no change.

Overall in Andalucía, crime increased 3.3 per cent in the first three months of 2017.

Across Spain

At a national level, crime rose 1.7 per cent compared to the first three months of 2016, reaching 496,307 reported criminal offences.

Among the biggest percentage increases in the number of offences at a national level was for intentional homicides, up 6.8 per cent compared to 2016, with 78 reported offences.

DOMESTIC BURGLARIES

Number of offences

Town	Offences
1. Mijas	156
2. Marbella	146
3. Malaga city	144
4. Estepona	114
5. Fuengirola	69
6. Torremolinos	42
7. Benalmádena	41
8. Vélez	36
9. Rincón	32
10. Ronda	24
11. Alhaurín de la Torre	22
12. Antequera	9

Guardia Civil warn against the unregulated use of tobacco in 'shisha' bars

:: **ÁLVARO FRÍAS**

MALAGA. The Guardia Civil have recently carried out 85 inspections in bars and cafes that offer shisha pipes to their customers, in an effort to clamp down on the lack of regulation surrounding one of the latest smoking fads. In one of their inspections they found a 12-year-old girl smoking a pipe, which proved the importance of the operation.

In a statement last Friday, the central government's representative in Malaga, Miguel Briones, said that the operation is taking place to combat "the lack of control that has been witnessed in establishments offering shisha". The Guardia Civil also warned that shisha is not just a 'treacle' of different flavours, but contains tobacco too. They added that this is not a problem if it is sold and smoked legally. There are three ways in which this can be done: the customer can bring and use their own tobacco, or the bar either provides gelatinous tobacco substitutes or sells the tobacco in packets from cigarette vending machines.



Miguel Briones. :: EFE

Danish man arrested over March motorcycle murder in Marbella

:: **J. C. / A. F.**

MARBELLA. Police have made two arrests in connection with the death of a 30-year-old motorcyclist in Marbella in March this year. The victim was shot in head.

The first person to be held was a man of Arabic origin, who was released with charges after being questioned. The second person is a Danish man held last Monday and refused bail on suspicion that he is the murderer.

The attack took place at about 9.30pm on 5 March in the area of Lomas de Río Verde, between Puerto Banús and Marbella centre. A pizza-delivery rider found the victim's body next to the bike in a badly lit roadside ditch. There were no witnesses to the attack.

The victim was identified by

police only as Karim, originally from Ceuta and of Moroccan origin, and the murder is believed to have been a revenge killing related to drugs.

The detained Danish citizen is suspected of having left a nearby restaurant with the victim as the passenger on the motorbike before carrying out the killing. CCTV images have been found of the pair. The detainee has admitted discussing a deal with Karim over hashish the same night but denies the killing.

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"When I saw how it ended my heart froze" - mother talks of online suicide game discovery

A mother in Marbella went to the police after her teenage daughter showed signs of taking part in the disturbing online suicide game 'Blue Whale'

:: JUAN CANO

MALAGA. "I didn't know anything about Blue Whale. But then I searched it on internet and found lots of references and realised my daughter had been following the game. When I saw how it ended, my heart froze." These are the words of a mother from Marbella, speaking under the pseudonym of Maria, describing how she felt on discovering her teenage daughter had been doing a series of disturbing challenges set out by the online suicide game, Blue Whale.

This is the first case of its kind to be reported in Andalucía, and luckily Maria has been able to intervene before her 14-year-old daughter potentially carried out the last and most chilling of the 50 challenges: "Jump off a tall building. Take your life."

However, other parents have not been able to interrupt the process as the game is estimated to have incited the suicides of up to 130 teenagers in Russia, Maria's home country, and is also known to have affected vulnerable teens in other parts of Spain.

Maria hopes that by telling her story she can warn parents about the "game", as she believes they are the only people capable of "rescuing" their child once they have begun the series of challenges.

The concerned mother had noticed that her daughter's academic performance had deteriorated recently, but her suspicions were raised considerably when her daughter opted to wear a long-sleeved shirt to a pool party on a hot day, when everybody else was wearing swimsuits.

"It seemed really strange to me," she said, "I grabbed her wrist and I saw 'F57'." The teenager had carved a code associated with the game into her left wrist with a sharp object, possibly a knife. "I asked her what it meant and why had she harmed herself like this, but she didn't answer," Maria explains.



The arm of another teenager who was found to be "playing" the suicide game. :: SUR

Maria's daughter was speaking on the phone to her aunt, who lives in Russia, when her mother spotted the F57 'tattoo'. Her aunt overheard Maria's questions, and, knowing that F57 was associated with the Blue Whale suicide game, she asked her to pass the phone to her mother.

Never out of sight

After searching "Blue Whale" on the internet to learn more about why her daughter had been behaving unusually, Maria describes her horror when she saw how the game ended. She then called another Russian relative, who is a police officer. "He told me that it was an extremely dangerous game, that I should not let her out of my sight for even one minute, that I should go to the police immediately," she explains.

On returning home from the police station at the beginning of this month, Maria then discovered another three cuts on her daughter's left forearm, which had seemingly been there longer than the F57 cut. "I tried to speak to her but she closed up completely and wouldn't touch the subject. I mentioned 'Blue Whale' and she clammed up. The only thing she would say was that F57 was a lucky number," said Maria.

The worried mother asked why

"Parents need to be on top of what their children are doing on the computer"

then hadn't she just used a marker pen instead of scarring her wrist, to which her daughter replied, "I had to do it this way." But when Maria asked who had instructed her to do it "this way", the young girl became silent again.

While Maria continued to try to talk to her daughter, the family

searched for clues on the girl's social media accounts. The police officer in Russia found two photos that had been uploaded to Instagram which caused more distress for the family.

One photo shows the girl, with her back to the camera, standing on the wall of a derelict house, with her arms raised to create a cross-like shape. The other photo has clearly been taken from the rocks of a cliff in the Calahonda area, and shows the girl floating face down in the sea without moving. "From what I have read, I think it symbolises the dead whale," said Maria who believes both photos have been taken to complete two of the sinister 50 challenges set

out by the game.

Since the day she discovered the F57 symbol and the photos, Maria still hasn't got any answers from her daughter. "Someone must have helped her. I don't know who took these photos, nor when they were taken."

Maria explains how her daughter very rarely went out alone: "She's always so busy, with school and training sessions, and I take her to those," she says. "The only thing she does alone is walk the dog," Maria adds. "There were a couple of days when she was gone for longer than usual, but I didn't think anything of it."

In fact the teenager hasn't even got a mobile phone - "it broke some time ago" - and she is only allowed to use internet for homework. Now her parents have also stopped her from using her Instagram account.

The mother says that she is very grateful for all the help that has been provided by her daughter's school and psychologist and hopes sharing her experiences will help to prevent this happening to anyone else. "Parents need to be on top of what their children are doing on the computer because when they open that window we don't know what they're going to find."

"I try to make my daughter understand that the internet is a Pandora's box, that we don't know who is on the other side. I tell her that I love her very much, that she is my life and I can't lose her, and she just responds, 'Don't worry mum, I'm not going to do anything'," Maria says.

A macabre "game" that ends in suicide

:: J. C.

MALAGA. Blue Whale is considered responsible for the deaths of more than 130 teenagers around the world, many of which have occurred in South America and

Russia, the country from which it originates. The game consists of 50 challenges which end in suicide. Some of the challenges include waking in the middle of the night to watch horror films assigned by the participant's "administrator", but others demand self-harm, the extent of which becomes increasingly severe.

The administrator "can make participants follow all their instructions", says Maria, the Marbella resident who discovered that

her 14-year-old daughter had been influenced by the game.

Maria believes the game traps teenagers who don't know how the game ends. Then they feel they can't stop once they've started the 50 challenges, or tell their parents for fear of being punished. Maria believes her daughter had carried out between 17 to 20 of the Blue Whale challenges. Fortunately she has been able to intervene before her daughter reached the end.

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Will your family benefit from the new UK inheritance tax threshold?

By John McCann, Senior Partner, Blevins Franks

6th April 2017 saw the introduction of an inheritance tax reform that will reduce the amount of tax paid by most estates. Announced in the 2015 summer budget, it effectively increases the inheritance tax threshold to a potential £1 million. This figure is for a couple, and the increase will happen gradually over four years and only applies to property – with a number of limitations.

The Residential Nil Rate Band (RNRB)

The inheritance tax rate is fixed at 40%, with a tax-free threshold (the 'nil rate band') of £325,000. When this allowance is not used, or only partly used, you can transfer the balance to your spouse or civil partner. So the threshold for a surviving spouse can be as high as £650,000.

The £325,000 allowance will remain in place and is frozen until the end of the 2020/2021 tax year. However, estates will now benefit from a second, additional allowance, the new Residential Nil Rate Band.

The final 'family home allowance'

will be £175,000, but it will be introduced gradually from April 2017 as follows:

- £100,000 in 2017/18
- £125,000 in 2018/19
- £150,000 in 2019/20
- £175,000 in 2020/21.

From 2021 onwards the allowance will increase in line with the consumer price index.

As with the regular nil rate band, you can transfer the allowance to a spouse/civil partner in line with existing principles. This makes a total potential threshold for a couple of £1 million by 2020.

Limitations on the allowance

First of all, it only applies to property which is inherited by direct descendants, so children (including adopted and stepchildren) and grandchildren. You need to have lived in it at some stage. Assets besides the family home do not receive any extra allowance, and only one property can qualify.

Secondly, a limit is imposed. Where an estate is worth over £2 million the residential nil rate

band is tapered, £1 for every £2. Estates valued at over £2.2 million do not receive this allowance at all (they still get the standard £325,000).

This £2.2 million value applies to your whole, worldwide estate, not just to property. So it includes your savings and investments, trusts, pay outs from life insurance policies, pension lump sums received on the death of a spouse/partner, cars, furniture and personal belongings such as jewellery. It also includes applicable gifts given away over the last seven years. Debts and liabilities are deducted from the total.

Trusts

Since the residential nil rate band is only available where property is passed directly to children and grandchildren, this will not apply to many trusts. For example, discretionary trusts will be excluded, since the assets are technically owned by the trust, not by your descendants. Some types of trusts do qualify, if the property is deemed to pass directly to the beneficiaries.

So if you own property in a trust, if

you have not already done so you need to seek advice as soon as possible to establish what you need to do to protect your family from paying unnecessary tax.

Expatriates and the new allowance

If you are UK domiciled, you are liable for inheritance tax on your worldwide assets – liability does not depend on residence. Domicile law is complex; you can live in Spain for many years and remain a UK domicile.

You can claim the new additional family home allowance on a property in Spain, provided it is your main home.

In spite of this new nil rate band, the UK's Office for Budget Responsibility still expects the government to take £1.8 billion more in inheritance tax receipts over the next five years than was forecast just last November. Rising house prices and booming stockmarkets mean asset prices are rising, pushing more families further into the inheritance tax net. It would also mean that more estates pass the £2.2 million limit for the property

allowance, which could see them lose the £175,000 allowance. Inheritance tax on £175,000 is £70,000, so this could really affect your heirs.

Seek advice, and sooner rather than later, on how to protect your family and other heirs from inheritance tax. It gets more complex for expatriates because of the domicile issue. You need specialist cross-border estate planning advice to establish where you are domiciled and the most effective solutions for you. It is important to understand how the UK tax interacts with Spanish succession tax and what steps you can take to avoid or mitigate these taxes for your heirs.

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

“I own property in a trust. Will my heirs still receive the new family home allowance for UK inheritance tax?”

Talk to the people who know.

The new main residence nil rate band only applies to residential property directly left to descendants. Unfortunately this means most types of trusts are excluded. If you own your home in a trust, contact Blevins Franks to discuss your options.

Blevins Franks specialises in cross-border estate planning and can help you achieve your wishes for your heirs and mitigate inheritance taxes.

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Walkathon attracts 1,600 supporters

The Benalmádena promenade was invaded by a column of orange shirts as walkers joined the event to raise funds for the cancer hospice charity

:: SUR

BENALMÁDEN A. Around 1,600 supporters took part in this year's Cudeca Walkathon event in Benalmádena on Sunday morning. Walkers were able to choose routes of ten, five or two kilometres, starting and finishing on the beach near the Sunset Beach Club.

All participants were given an orange T-shirt to wear, helping the organisation achieve its aim of raising awareness of its work to provide palliative care to those in the final stages of terminal illness.

The walkers prepared for their trek with the help of Cudeca's physiotherapist Carolina Martín, who took them through a warm-up routine.

Meanwhile activities for all the family took place throughout the morning on the seafront. Refreshments came in the form of a giant paella and live music was provided by Mel Williams, the Naima belly



Cudeca supporters filled the seafront with orange on Sunday. :: SUR

dancers, R-Jay, Motown & R'n'B, DJ Buyo and Consuelo Lallay.

Prizes were awarded for the participants who raised the most sponsor money and top fundraisers again this year were Bentle and Kim Gottlieb, who won a seven-night stay in Portugal, courtesy of Diamond Resorts International, for their efforts.

In second place were the Soroptimists, who received a medical check-up worth 1,000 euros provided by Vithas Xanit Hospital Internacional; and the third prize of two nights in a hotel of the Sunset Beach chain in Ireland was won by Chris Knapp.

The winners of the award for the

most numerous group went to the Jacaranda school in Benalmádena, who won a selection of tickets to local attractions.

Walkathon donations can still be made on the website www.cudeca-events.org or through the Cudeca account at La Caixa: ES48 2100 7681 3523 00060031.

Four wheels for the next Cudeca fundraising event

:: T. BRYANT

BENALMÁDEN A. One of the next events organised to raise funds for the Cudeca Cancer Hospice in Benalmádena is a charity car rally. The event, which is sponsored by Porsche dealer Sportwagen Marbella, will be held on Saturday 3 June. Registration of vehicles will take place at the showroom at 10am.

The cars will depart at 10.45am and embark on a planned route that will take them around the countryside surrounding Marbella, finishing at Las Brisas Golf Club for lunch at around 2pm.

Welcome drinks and a three-course lunch with wine will be served, after which, participants will enjoy a parade of the participating cars. The lunch costs 30 euros and there will also be a special prize draw.

The event has been organised by the Porsche Owners Club of Andalucía, the Ferrari Owners Club of Andalucía and the Rotary Club Marbella Guadalmina.

Organisers stress that the participants do not have to be owners of luxury cars, as any make and size of vehicles are welcome to take part. For more information, contact Lorraine Powell on 619099310.



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150 million euros invested in the renovation of hotels in Torremolinos

The resort enters into the summer season as a tourist destination with a firm commitment to quality

BY TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. The hotel sector of Torremolinos has invested more than 150 million euros in reforms and improvements to several of its key hotels.

During an informative meeting attended by hotel directors, tourism professionals and travel agents, José Ortiz, mayor of Torremolinos, praised the efforts of the industry in their joint effort to make the town a leading tourist destination.

The mayor claimed that the extensive works carried out on the hotels would help the town hall's drive to revitalise Torremolinos. "Today has reflected the commitment of the hoteliers of our town and now we can compete in a high-level market, which is something we could not do previously," the mayor explained.

He emphasised the importance of the commercial heart of Torremolinos; claiming that the remodeling and pedestrianisation of the Plaza Costa del Sol had generated a lot of interest from investors.

"Torremolinos is transforming and it needed this remodeling so that we can recover some of the ground lost to other competitors," he said.

Several directors and representatives of large hotel chains installed in Torremolinos presented varying refurbishment projects, and these include the transformation of the Hotel Meliá Costa del Sol and the Hotel Don Paquito.

The director of the former, Carlos Franco, announced the opening of the hotel's new convention centre, the renovation of the thalassotherapy centre, as well as reforms in the restaurant, bars and solarium.

The 19-million-euro project is due to be finished in 2018 and will include the installation of two roof-top terraces with swimming pool, restaurant and bar service.

After an investment of six million euros, the former Hotel Don Paquito is preparing to reopen as The Essence Boutique Hotel and Spa. This 1970s hotel has been completely transformed and will offer a solarium and Turkish baths.

Jaime Floyer, director of the Sol Don Hotels, said that the company would invest more than 22 million euros in a three-year strategic plan to reform their hotels in Playamar. Major refurbishments have already been carried out on the Sol Don Pedro and the Sol Don Pablo, and work is due to begin on the Sol Don Marco next year.

The Medplaya Pez Espada - a landmark hotel in Torremolinos that opened its doors in 1959 and launched the concept of luxury hotels on the Costa del Sol - has also undergone extensive work recently and will shortly open a new annex with 30 junior-suites.

The MS Hotels chain has presented a project to convert the former Aguardamar Apartahotel into a complex of 130 suites, complete with indoor swimming pool, solarium and Jacuzzi. The director of the establishment,



The Sol Don Pedro hotel in Playamar has recently undergone major renovation work. BY TONY BRYANT

Andrés Lombardi, said, "We have made a commitment to quality rather than quantity."

As well as major reforms, Torre-

molinos has witnessed the opening of several new establishments, like the recently inaugurated Luxury Boutique Hotel.

This 36-room hotel is especially focused on Muslim-friendly tourism and offers certified Halal cuisine and prayer rooms.

The new Club Hotel Riu Costa del Sol also opened for business at the start of the summer season. This all-inclusive family resort on the seafront in Playamar, which has 596 rooms, incorporates the old Riu Belpaya and the Riu Costa Lago hotels.

Torremolinos has also seen the opening of the Ritual Hotel, the first hotel in Torremolinos to specifically target gay men. This 138-room apartahotel, which has a strict adult only policy, offers a roof top infinity pool, complete with nudist area and cocktail bar. Pets are also allowed.

Torremolinos, one of the top European destinations to celebrate a honeymoon, according to the American Travel and Leisure Magazine, is striving to become the main cultural and touristic destination on the Costa del Sol. The recent renovation of many of its tired looking hotels, not to mention the rehabilitation of the town centre, should bring them a step closer to achieving this.

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RYANAIR JOINS FORCES WITH SPANISH AIRLINE AIR EUROPA

Ryanair has sealed an alliance which allows it to advertise Air Europa's long-distance flights on its website. Customers can now look for and reserve seats on Air Europa flights from Madrid to 16 countries in North, Central and South America on www.ryanair.com. The agreement was announced in Madrid on Tuesday by the executive director of Globalia, Javier Hidalgo, and the chief executive of Ryanair, Michael O'Leary.

CIOMijas staff are excused from work for "safety reasons" after third robbery in a week

BY IVÁN GELIBTER

MIJAS. Five workers at CIOMijas hospitality school, who were recently revealed to have been working for 32 months unpaid, have been excused from work indefinitely by the training centre's liquidators.

The measure has been taken due to concerns surrounding the staff's safety, after the CIOMijas building was subject to break-ins on three nights in one week. However, the liquidators have stated that once internal and security issues are dealt with, work will resume as normal with a high level of security, after one worker threatens to stop coming to work unless a security firm is hired.

Lux Mundi open day attracts many new faces

:: J. RHODES

TORRE DEL MAR. Lux Mundi Torre del Mar welcomed a number of new faces to its open day last Friday. Around 150 people attended the event, which was held in order to show people the numerous activities organised by the centre.

Volunteer, Sue Bell, said, "We have

seen a lot of new faces. The morning was particularly busy and quite a few Spanish people have come too."

The centre is particularly keen to attract more Spanish users as it points out that it is not "just for foreigners but for everyone to integrate".

Christine Grimsdale and Joy Buckle, who were looking after the découpage stall, said, "It's a wonderful place. We have fun with the activities but it's really the friendship and support which is important." Other activities on show included painting, photography, excursions, a German group and prayer group.



Joy Buckle and Christine Grimshaw at the open day. :: J. R.

HERE AND THERE

Termites stop train station renovations

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

:: **A. P.** The discovery of termites' nests in the old train station in Vélez-Málaga has meant renovation works to the building have had to stop. Work began in March this year to convert the building, which is near to the existing bus station, into a terminal for passengers. According to mayor Antonio Ferrer, work is expected to be on hold for at least 10 days to rid the area of the nests.



The councillor and volunteers.

Councillor catches up with Age Care coffee morning

BENALMÁDENA

:: **SUR.** Benalmádena's councillor responsible for foreign residents' affairs, Ana Scherman, recently paid a visit to the weekly coffee morning organised by Age Care Association. The councillor chatted to volunteers and the elderly clients who get together every Monday morning at Bar Pitanza in 'Bonanza Square'. The group, made up of around 40 English-speaking residents, is led by volunteer Gina Foster, who has organised the group for many years and often provides help for elderly residents during the week. The organisation, which has the support of the local town hall, is looking for volunteers to join Gina and the group in Benalmádena. More information is available on the charity's website www.agecarecosta.org.

New pedestrian crossing at St Anthony's

MIJAS

:: **IAN GELIBTER.** St Anthony's College will have a new pedestrian crossing by the end of next week. Until now parents, pupils and teachers have had to put themselves at risk when crossing the road near the school, as the nearest pedestrian crossing was two kilometres away. However the new crossing, which local residents have been requesting for 10 years, will help put a stop to this. The local councillor for Infrastructure said the crossing will "provide the road safety that is necessary in all parts of the town".



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Vélez-Málaga to receive 10 million euros from the EU to promote cultural heritage

Historical sites including the Arabic fortress, Las Claras monastery and coastal watch towers form part of the restoration project

by A. PELÁEZ / J. RHODES

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Vélez-Málaga is to receive 10 million euros of European Union funding for a project to develop and promote the old part of the town centre.

European Regional Development Funds (ERDF), known in Spanish as FEDER, are channeled through the Ministry of Finance and known as Integrated Sustainable Urban Development (EDUSI). Their main objective is to improve quality of life in part of, or all of a city or town.

In Vélez-Málaga, the money will go to the Edusi BIC Vélez group, which was formed to apply for the funds and is made up of town hall staff who consulted residents and residents' organisations.

The EU money forms 80 per cent of the total investment in the

project, with Vélez-Málaga town hall providing the other two million euros.

The money, which was the maximum amount the town had hoped for in its application, will go towards individual projects in Vélez-Málaga old town as well as other historic landmarks in the district. Vélez-Málaga old town is recognised by the Junta de Andalucía as an area of cultural interest.

Specific projects include the restoration of the Arabic fort in the town, the old Castillo de Torre del Mar and the ten watch towers that fall within the district, with a view to promoting them as tourist attractions.

A further project proposed by the town hall is its acquisition of the Real Monasterio Nuestra Señora monastery, otherwise known as 'Las Claras', on Calle Félix Lomas. Although the plans for the monastery are yet to be confirmed, the town hall would like to transform it into a cultural hub.

Deputy mayor of Vélez-Málaga, Marcelino Méndez-Trelles, said earlier this week that the town could see "a profound transforma-



View of Vélez-Málaga. :: SUR

Ronda, Marbella and Benalmádena miss out on EDUSI funds

Ronda, Marbella and Benalmádena received the news that their applications for EDUSI funding had not been successful at the same time as Vélez-Málaga was told about their 10-million-euro payout.

tion" thanks to the money. Councillor for Employment, Mará José Roberto, added that the end objective of the EDUSI plan is to "create employment".

Vélez-Málaga missed out on EDUSI funds in the first round in October 2016, when 40 million euros went to Malaga city, Estepona, Nerja, Antequera, Ardales, Álora and Abdalajis.

ERDF money is awarded to areas within EU countries for regional development projects.

In Ronda and Marbella the opposition Partido Popular (PP) parties were quick to blame the current leaders of their respective town halls for missing out. Marbella councillor, Félix Romero, said, "There are few towns in Andalucía that are more deserving of this type of grant than Marbella," while Ronda has announced that it plans to reapply for the five million euros it had hoped to receive.

Mayor accuses parties behind vote of no confidence of "spurious interests"

by EUGENIO CABEZAS

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.

Current mayor of Rincón de la Victoria, Encarnación Anaya (PSOE), has accused the tripartite pact of the Partido Popular (PP), Ciudadanos and the Partido Andalucista (PA) of having "spurious interests and fear of justice" after they presented a vote of no confidence to the town council last Monday.

The tripartite pact aims to remove the current socialist mayor, whose PSOE party currently shares a coalition leadership with Ahora-Rincón Podemos. If the vote of no confidence, which is scheduled to go to the town hall's next plenary meeting on 5 June, is passed, former mayor, Francisco Salado (PP), would be returned as the town's leader.

Salado has been in office twice before, once from 2005 until 2007 and later between 2011 and 2015. In 2015 he received the most votes in the local elections, however a PSOE-Podemos coalition toppled him. At the heart of the vote of no confidence is the ongoing investigation into mismanagement of cleaning company EMMSA.

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Estepona's real population could be as high as 120,000, says council

Calculations based on refuse collection and water usage, among other figures, suggest a rise that is not reflected in official statistics

CHARO MÁRQUEZ

ESTEPONA. The population of Estepona could be nearly double the number stated in official statistics published in January 2016, according to a report released by the town hall.

Last year's figures stated that 67,000 people were currently residing in the municipality, while the recent claim puts the figure closer to 120,000 residents.

This year's official statistics, which declare the population of Estepona to be a little over 70,000 residents, are yet to be approved by the national statistics institute and therefore cannot be taken into account.

Specific indicators, including water usage, refuse collection and a housing census, are therefore being used as potential guides to the real number.

According to data gathered, the quantity of solid waste collected in



A housing census suggested the figure could be 147,000. **C. MÁRQUEZ**

2016 would put the average population of Estepona at 112,146, rising in the month of August to nearly 145,000, largely due to tourism.

Over 41,000 metric tonnes of waste was collected in 2016, with a monthly average of just under 3,500, with peaks again in July and August of nearly 4,500 metric tonnes.

Water usage statistics published in April this year suggest that the average population of Estepona in 2015 was in fact bordering on 120,000, with it rising to 160,000 in the summer months.

Finally, the data recorded from

the housing census dates back to 2011. Despite being old data, it suggests that the population at the time was just over 145,000, which has been estimated to have increased to 147,000 in the six-year period since.

The official population figures have a knock-on effect on the money that the town hall receives from the state to fund services.

A population of 67,000 would see Estepona receive just under 14.5 million euros, but that figure would jump to 26 million euros if the 120,000 figure is accurate.

HERE AND THERE



The current state of works in the square. **SUR**

Manilva revamps historic church square

MANILVA

C. MÁRQUEZ. The town hall in Manilva has begun works in the Plaza de la Iglesia de Santa Ana to revamp the square.

The works will see the wall which

currently separates it from adjacent areas knocked down and a flight of steps built to further expand it.

As a result, the square will recover a design similar to the one that it had 50 years ago.

Residents have demanded the change for a while, believing that it limits space for Holy Week processions and other festivities.

Work to start on new hospital in June

ESTEPONA

C. M. Work on a new hospital, located in the Santa María area of Estepona, will begin on 7 June and is expected to be completed by the beginning of 2019. In the meantime, Estepona council will continue to provide free transport for residents having to travel to the Costa del Sol hospital in Marbella.

Car park closed while work is undertaken

MANILVA

C. M. The public car park situated next to the local police station in Manilva will be closed from 29 May so that improvements can be made to its interior. The council estimate that work will take two weeks, after which, it will open again and remain free for users.

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After graduating with a Masters in Philology and Law from St Petersburg State University, Irina joined the expat community in 2002 when she moved to Sweden following work commitments. Since then she has mastered at least four additional relocations

and lived in several different countries including Sweden, Germany, Switzerland and Spain.

Irina and her husband decided to leave their highly-paid but stressful jobs for a more relaxed life in Spain in 2009, initially moving to Tenerife. Together they built from scratch an estate agency that became a market leader and successfully sold it several years later before moving to Malaga. Irina's unique wealth of experience in business while living as an expat, and the number of languages and knowledge of Spanish bureaucratic procedures that

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Founder Irina Saltmarsh

SPONSORED FEATURE



Police removing evidence from the Estepona home of one of the detainees (file photo). :: AFP

Estepona town hall corruption inquiry finishes after almost 12 years

The investigating judge has interviewed 113 witnesses and 94 people continue under formal investigation over the 2003-2008 'Astapa case'

HECTOR BARBOTTA

ESTEPONA. The news broke in June 2008 when police arrested then-mayor of Estepona, Antonio Barrientos of the PSOE party, other councillors and council workers after a tip off from two other Socialist council-

lors in November 2006.

Since 2006 a judge has been diligently carrying out an investigation before bringing the case to trial. Some 113 witnesses have been interviewed, 26 police reports written, 800 volumes of documents have been collated and the final report ahead of the trial is 226 pages long. Of those questioned, 94 are still formally under investigation. The inquiry has taken so long that three people being investigated have died.

Court documents show evidence of systematic irregularities in Estepona town hall from 2003 to 2008,

under mayor Antonio Barrientos.

It alleges that there were three different accounting systems: one for the correctly declared finances; a second one covering the donations, sponsorships and other payments from those looking for favours; and a third one covering personal gifts made to town hall officials.

In one part, the court report says that of 1,056 reports of town planning offences over the period, only 212 resulted in fines, a loss of 43 million euros for town hall funds. The case will now go to trial.

Former Marbella council bosses quizzed over planning vote

HECTOR BARBOTTA

MARBELLA. Former councillors and officials at Marbella town hall have been appearing before an investigating judge this week to explain their role in the approval of the town's master plan (PGOU) in 2009. Public prosecutors have complained that 22 last-minute changes to the PGOU

plan were "slipped through" before a full council vote on the document and allege that councillors weren't aware of what they were voting for.

The case centres on changes by the coordinating architect after the planning committee signed off the document. These included a change whereby a piece of land classified as

in Marbella was moved to being part of neighbouring Benahavis. Marbella mayor at the time, Ángeles Muñoz, had property on that land.

Under investigation are the former municipal vice-secretary and the former planning councillor. The ex-mayor cannot be called as she is now a senator and so can only be questioned by Supreme Court judges.

Witnesses appearing said the last-minute boundary change was ordered by the Junta de Andalucía.

Ironically, the disputed plan was eventually overturned by the Junta for different legal reasons.

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MALAGA

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Other services include the removal of viruses, the installation of software or operating systems, unlocking phones from any country and the transfer of files from one device to another.

Fix's professionals can also be on hand to offer consultation regarding the purchase of a new phone or computer, capping off a truly all-round service.

SPONSORED FEATURE



Emergency measures announced to bring water to inland villages

Some 6.5 million euros will be spent to improve supplies, as reserves get low and big infrastructure-improvement projects fail to get off the ground

:: SUR

MALAGA. The Diputación, the provincial authority, has announced that it will spend a total of 6.5 million euros this year to improve water supplies to some 70 villages in the province, most of them inland.

The news comes as the dry summer months start and local wells and reservoirs are at very low levels, since heavy downpours over the winter and spring have failed to replenish them enough. The village of Campillos, in the north of the province, has already resorted to tankers to bring in water, even though the dry season has hardly begun.

Around four million euros will be spent on 70 pre-planned projects, including renewing piping and storage tanks, prevention of seepage and investigation of new sources in the 70 villages. It is hoped that the problems in Campillos will be partly resolved by one of these schemes.

In addition, 2.5 million euros of budget surplus from 2016 will go towards further emergency remedial water supply work in fifteen towns and villages.

As well as concern about water lev-



Tankers supplying an inland village last year (file photo). :: SUR

els in Campillos and nearby villages, several communities in the mountains around Ronda are getting ready to bring in tankers. More water is needed for homes and crops over the summer as here, the poor quality, old piping cannot cope with demand.

No sign of new infrastructure

Major infrastructure projects to help alleviate water shortages in the long term have yet to be started by the Junta de Andalucía, however.

On the coast, the Junta says it doesn't plan to budget for the 65 million euros needed in order to be able to pump excess water from Marbella's La Concepción reservoir eastwards to the Axarquía, which needs better water supplies.

In the north of Malaga province, local mayors have met to encourage the Junta to start a promised investment in a pipeline from Cordoba province's Iznájar reservoir to their inland villages nearby.

HERE AND THERE

Aqueduct to be declared asset of cultural interest

ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE

:: F. TORRES. The Junta de Andalucía is to declare the Fuente del Rey aqueduct an asset of cultural interest.

The administrative process for the 18th-century structure to become an asset of cultural interest began last Friday, the Culture delegate said.

The aqueduct is extremely stable, given that the masonry has been laid and bound together by lime mortar.



Panoramic of the Fuente del Rey aqueduct. :: SUR

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Speed in Finland, claim in Fuengirola

A local call centre handles customer services for the Finnish traffic authorities



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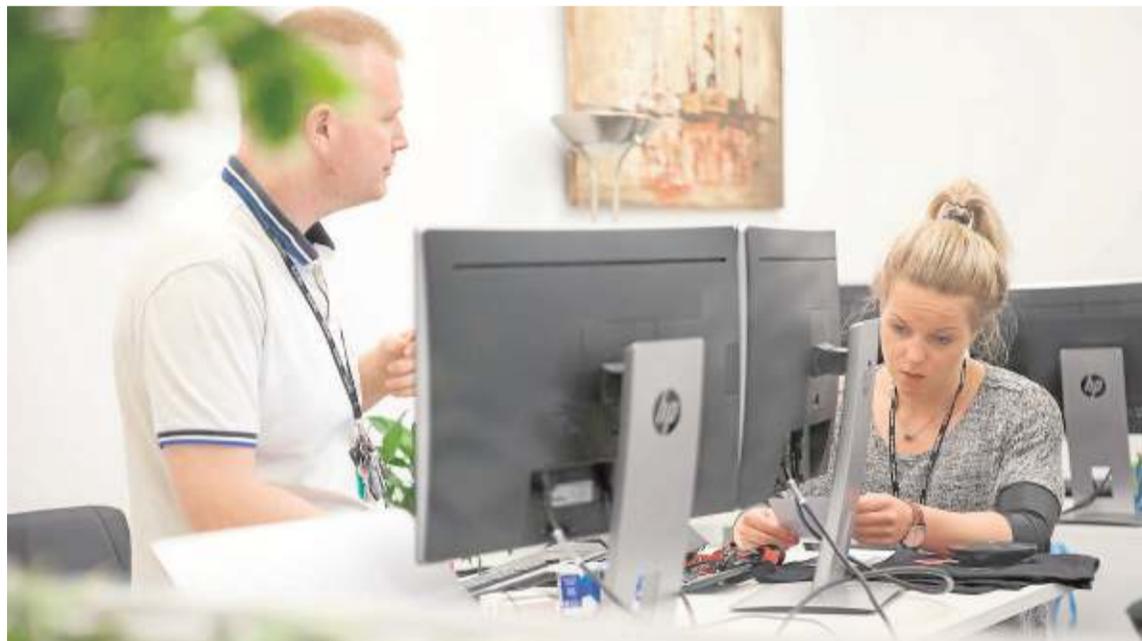
FUENGIROLA

Barona, a company that employs 185 Finnish people in Fuengirola, also provides customer services for phone and electricity companies

In Finland, not everyone pays the same amount for a traffic fine. As an example of the progressive country it prides itself on being, Finland sets traffic fines in accordance with the offender's income, so they have the same impact on everyone. However, although the amounts may be different, those who receive a fine do have something in common: everyone has to dial the same phone number to appeal against them, or to arrange to pay by instalments, among other options.

What most of them don't know, though, is that these calls from anywhere in Finland to the country's traffic department are actually answered in Fuengirola, home to the largest community of Finnish expats in the world.

Barona (which employs 8,000



About 70 people answer calls for the Finnish traffic department at the call centre in Fuengirola. :: I. G.

people worldwide) runs this service through a call centre in the town, and 185 members of staff work there. The office manager is Paulina Manso, who came to Málaga 20 years ago and has been in Spain longer than any of the others.

"All the staff are Finnish and most of them have come specifically to do this job," she says.

The services provided by Barona for the Finnish traffic department are very similar to those of its counterpart in Spain, but rather more modern.

"We have a customer service department, and people can pay their

road tax through us, report the loss of their driving licence and pay traffic fines or appeal against them," explains Paulina.

"The difference with a call centre is that in Finland people can deal with things online or via social media. For example, you can pay a fine or appeal against it via our official Facebook page," she says. At present the company is training staff on how to assist customers via a chat service, which will be "faster still".

Although most of the business handled by Barona in Fuengirola is traffic-related - 70 members of

staff work exclusively in that department - the company also handles work for other types of Finnish business.

"A Finnish person who has to ring the main electricity or telephone companies for some reason will also be speaking to someone on the Costa del Sol," says Paulina.

The reasons the company, which is currently advertising for more staff, decided to set up in Fuengirola are clear.

"The salaries here are lower than in Finland, so the costs are cheaper, but despite the fact that they will be earning less, people who

live in Finland find the idea of working in Málaga, at least for a couple of years, very attractive, especially because of the climate," she explains.

She also considers that there is a great potential for growth. "There are 185 of us here at present; by the end of the year there will be over 200, and we have space for about 400 staff altogether," she says.

A working 'Erasmus'

The office, which has several empty areas, is also the base for a government programme which Paulina describes as a type of working Erasmus. There is a pool of people who are offered the chance by their companies to work remotely from another country, in this case Spain. They normally stay for between six months and a year, and they are paid at the same rate as they would be in Finland.

"For these people, it is important that they earn the same as they would at home, despite the climate and quality of life in Fuengirola," says Paulina. "So we don't just have people answering the phone here; there are a lot of people doing very different jobs," she explains.

Fuengirola is the favourite destination for Finnish citizens on the Costa del Sol and they make up one of the largest foreign communities in the town. Official figures show that in December 2014 there were 4,500 Finns on the population register, a much higher figure than those from other Scandinavian countries: 1,750 Swedes, 1,200 Danes and 800 Norwegians.

However, the real number of Finnish people in Fuengirola is probably even higher, because many people come regularly for short periods and have not registered at the town hall.

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Spain reacts to Manchester terror attack

Spanish prime minister, Mariano Rajoy, and foreign minister, Alfonso Dastis, are among those who condemned the attack in which 22 people were killed

■ SUR

Spain has joined many nations around the world in condemning Monday night's atrocity in Manchester, where 22 people, among them children, were killed in a suicide attack at the end of an Ariana Grande concert at the Manchester Arena.

Police continue to hunt and dismantle the 'network' behind the bomber, confirmed as Salman Abedi, 22, with at least five men arrested in the Greater Manchester area in connection with the attack, which Islamic State has claimed responsibility for.

On Tuesday morning, Spain's prime



Many of those caught up in the attack at the concert venue were young people. ■ AGENCIES



minister, Mariano Rajoy, offered his condolences to the families affected and gave his "best wishes for the victims' speedy recovery".

Spain's foreign minister Alfonso Dastis was left "distressed" by the attack, and offered his solidarity "to all the victims and the British people" as well as total support to the British government, while Pedro Sánchez, the newly re-elected leader of Spain's socialist PSOE party, also condemned the attack and called for "unity to stop so much fanaticism".

At least 64 people were injured in the suicide bombing, which left those surviving escaping in terror and several children separated from their parents.

In response, British prime minister Theresa May chaired an emergency meeting of the government's crisis committee, Cobra, early on Tuesday morning and announced that the terror threat level would be raised to critical, with military personnel deployed on the streets to aid the police in their operations.

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Silence across the country to remember the victims

Public institutions around Spain held a minute's silence to remember the people who lost their lives on Monday night

■ DARYL FINCH

MALAGA. At midday on Tuesday, public institutions across the country held a minute's silence for the victims of the attack the night before.

Prime minister, Mariano Rajoy, was joined by British ambassador, Simon Manley, to remember the 22 victims, many of whom were children, of the suicide attack. They were accompanied by members of the PM's team as well as staff at his La Moncloa official residence.

King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia oversaw a minute's silence, also attended by deputy prime minister Soraya Sáenz de Santamaría



Simon Manley with Mariano Rajoy at Moncloa on Tuesday. ■ REUTERS

and president of the Generalitat, Carles Puigdemont, before the awarding of La Caixa scholarships to help 120 students to study abroad.

MPs, including Albert Rivera, also paused for a moment to remember the casualties at the Puerta de los Leones of the Spanish parliament. They were accompanied by Tim Hemmings, Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy.

Around the province

Flags at Malaga city hall were at half mast on Tuesday as local political leaders gathered on the steps, at the same time as their counterparts at the Diputación, to remember those caught up in the tragedy.

Similar scenes happened outside the Central Government building and La Térmica cultural centre in Malaga.

Elsewhere along the Costa del Sol, various ceremonies were held outside town halls to commemorate the dead.

The attack is the most serious terrorist attack committed in the United Kingdom since the attacks on the London transport network on 7 July 2005.

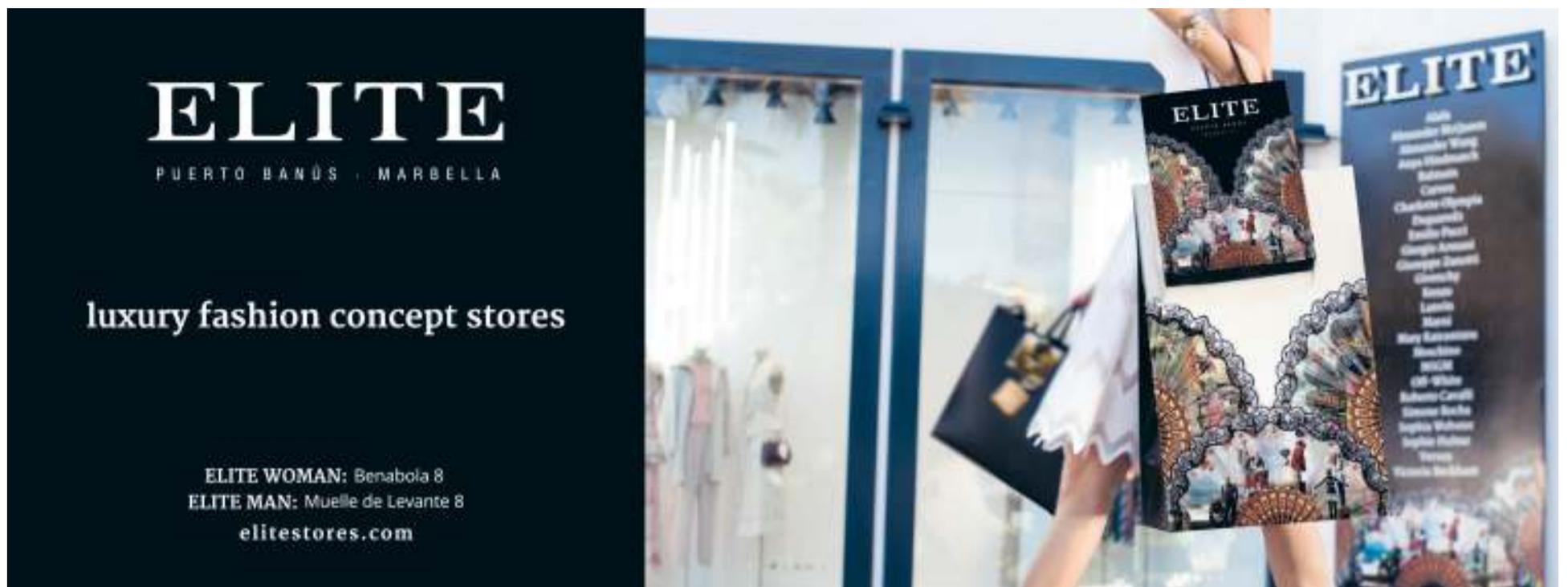
National terror-threat level remains unchanged despite wave of arrests

■ M. SÁIZ-PARDO

MADRID. Following the attack in Manchester, the Spanish authorities didn't feel it was necessary to raise the terror-threat level, which is currently on four out of a possible five.

An increase would only occur in the event of an "imminent attack" which security forces believe isn't currently the case. This is despite the arrest of two Moroccan men in Madrid on Tuesday, 43 and 22, who were believed to be "prepared to commit an attack on European soil using the same modus operandi we've seen in cities in the UK, Germany, Belgium and France".

Since June 2015, security forces in Spain have arrested 164 people in connection with potential terror offences.



Pedro Sánchez is back. After eight months as a political outcast, the former Socialist leader once again took control of his party on Sunday, defeating establishment favourite Susana Díaz - head of the PSOE in Andalucía - in doing so.

Some commentators are expressing concerns that the reinstated PSOE leader will prove an obstacle to the passing of legislation, in particular the annual budget. But while it's undoubtedly true that Mariano Rajoy's job is about to become harder, equally true is the fact that Sánchez has plenty to sort out within his own party before he can present a credible opposition to the conservatives or effectively challenge their economic policies.

In any case, those concerned that Spain's macroeconomic recovery may be derailed by further governmental paralysis can look to last year to assuage their fears.

In 2016, Spain trundled along



for 10 months without a proper administration, yet still posted GDP expansion of 3.2% - the same as in 2015.

The shambles that was Spanish politics last year tells us that, on a macro-level at least, Spain's economy can run itself. And it will do so again if renewed, Sánchez-led opposition to Rajoy creates more political deadlock.

That is not to excuse the impasse of last year - politically and reputationally-speaking, it was

very damaging for Spain - but simply to remember that its economic impact barely registered.

Even if that weren't true, though, a party in as much internal disarray as the PSOE doesn't present much of a threat to the PP.

Though Sánchez won the leadership contest with 50% of the vote last Sunday, 40% of Socialists voted for Susana Díaz, who is favoured by the more pragmatic, rank-and-file party

members.

It was mainly her supporters who stood back to allow Rajoy back in as prime minister last autumn, thereby opening up a chasm within the Socialist party.

On one side of this deep gorge are the centrist pragmatists, whilst facing them across a so-far-unbridgeable gap are the grassroots hardliners who want Rajoy out at any cost.

This camp is closer to radical Podemos - whose loathing for the PP boss sometimes seems more visceral than political - than moderate Socialists would like; indeed, for such members, Pablo Iglesias' party is little more than a collection of leftist loonies whom the PSOE leader should keep at arm's length.

Only if Sánchez can somehow unite these two sides of his own party will Rajoy face a robust adversary in congress; until he does, passing legislation and approving budgets will be no more difficult for Rajoy's government than it already is.

Report finds that one in four 15-year-olds in Spain cannot understand a utility bill

DANIEL ROLDÁN

MADRID. Spanish school pupils aged 15 years are finding it more and more difficult to understand the bills that arrive at the family home. This is according to an influential PISA report on standards in education across countries, produced by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

In the last similar report, three years ago, 16 per cent of 15-year-old students in Spain didn't pass level two of the test, which covers being able to understand basic financial documents.

The latest survey results show this figure has risen eight points to 24.7 per cent. This is two points above the average (22.3 per cent) of the fifteen countries or regions surveyed by the OECD.



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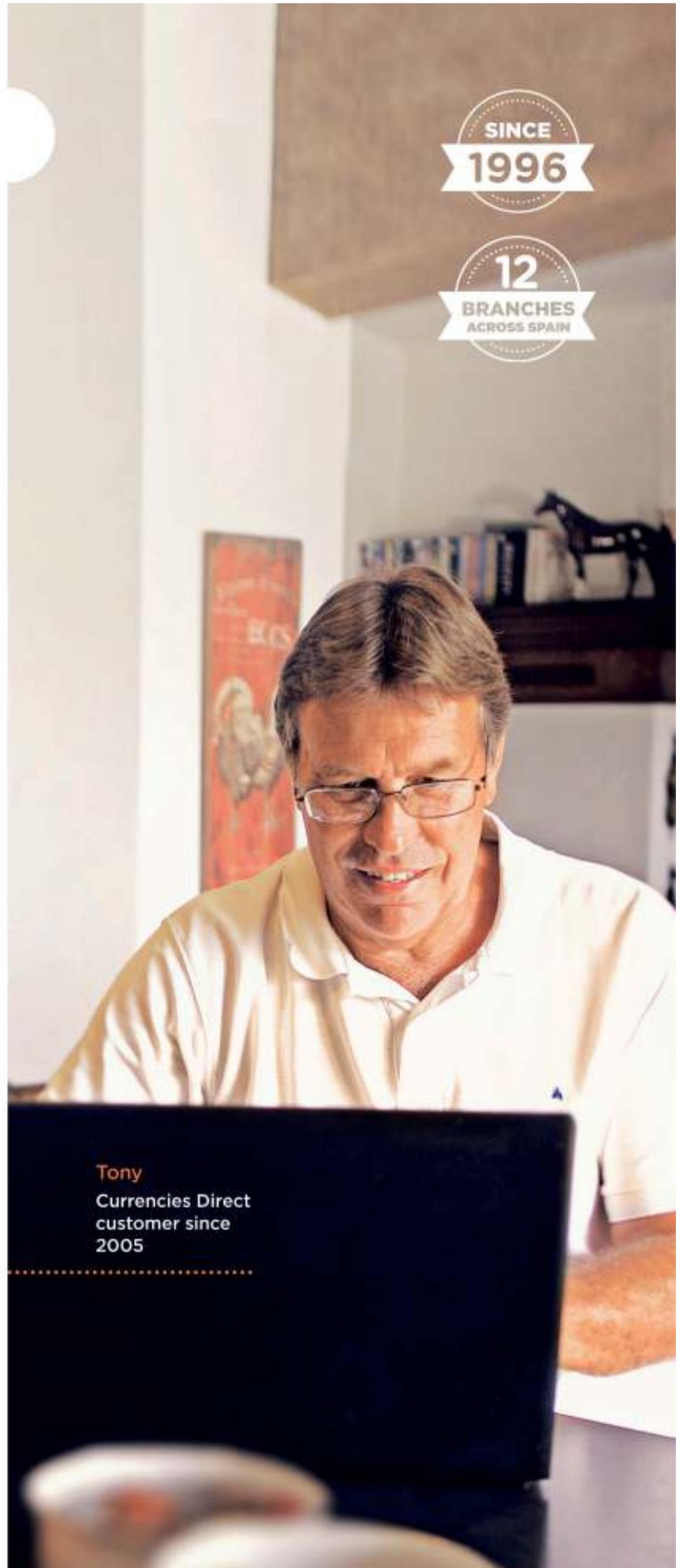
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The re-elected leader celebrates with supporters at the party's HQ after winning last Sunday's vote. :: EFE

PSOE chooses Pedro Sánchez to be its next party leader

The former party head beat favourite Susana Díaz and returns to the helm to face the challenge of guiding a divided Socialist party back towards power

:: SUR

MADRID. Members of Spain's Socialist party, PSOE, have put their former leader, Pedro Sánchez, back in the role of secretary general. In last Sunday's primary election, in which more than 74,000 people voted, Sánchez gained over 50 per cent support, ahead of his main ri-

val and favourite to win, Susana Díaz, the president of Andalucía, who claimed just under 40 per cent. The third candidate, Patxi López, a former speaker of parliament, was supported by nearly 10 per cent of the voters.

Sánchez returns to the helm of a divided PSOE with the majority of party heavyweights having backed Susana Díaz. The numbers of grassroots supporters who turned up at his election rallies, however, should have come as a warning to those who were confident that Díaz would become the new secretary general.

Sánchez's re-election opens a period of uncertainty. He no longer has a seat in parliament and faces

the challenge of leading a solid opposition to the PP's minority government through the Socialist MPs, more than half of whom expressed their support for Susana Díaz.

Sánchez won the allegiance of the grassroots Socialists with his "No is no" stance that would have prevented the current conservative prime minister, Mariano Rajoy, from forming a government and forced a third general election.

Rather than give in to the party grandees and abstain in Rajoy's investiture vote in October last year, Sánchez resigned from his seat and from his position as party leader. Since then the PSOE has been run by an interim caretaker committee.

IN BRIEF



Messi leaves court in Barcelona last June (file photo). :: AFP

Supreme Court upholds Messi's 21-month prison sentence

MADRID

:: **M. BALÍN.** The Supreme Court has rejected the appeal launched by Lionel Messi's defence lawyers against the 21-month suspended prison sentence handed to the famous Argentinian footballer by a Barcelona court last year.

Messi and his father were ac-

cused of failing to declare his image rights to the Spanish tax authorities from 2007 to 2009, thus avoiding 4.1 million euros in tax.

His father, Jorge Horacio Messi had his sentence reduced from 21 to 15 months by the top appeal court.

Neither men will go to jail, however, as the sentence is below two years, but Lionel will be required to pay a fine of 2.1 million euros.

UNESCO warns of risks to Doñana nature reserve

SEVILLE

:: **M. D. T.** In its latest report on the risks faced by the Doñana coastal wetlands in Huelva province, UNESCO has warned that the area is close to being put on its 'at risk' register. The organisation is urging the national and regional governments to do more to protect the park's water supply before February next year. In addition they want dredging to stop in the nearby Guadalquivir river.

Catalonia invites PM to negotiate independence

BARCELONA

:: **EFE.** The president of Catalonia, Carles Puigdemont, has sent a letter to Spanish prime minister, Mariano Rajoy, formally inviting the national government to begin talks over the independence of Catalonia. The regional government says in the letter that it is "completely willing to look for an agreed political solution". The Madrid government continues to steadfastly refuse to discuss the issue.



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New 'Redibike' bicycle hire scheme comes into operation in Gibraltar

The system will not only benefit local residents, but also tourists and cross-border workers who commute to and from the frontier

BY DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. People in Gibraltar are being encouraged to leave their cars at home for environmental reasons and use one of the new bicycles which are available under the 'Redibike' scheme which has just been launched. This is also seen as an excellent way for tourists to move around the Rock and for cross-border workers to commute to and from the frontier. The scheme is the latest in the government's Sustainable Transport Plan.

There are 105 bicycles available in 120 docking points at 13 locations between the airport and New Mole House, and they can be used 24 hours a day as they are fitted with lights. They also have a carrier, locking device, bell and protected driveshaft propulsion system to reduce potential mechanical problems.

An interactive map of docking station locations, together with



The bikes are available from 13 different locations. :: SUR

registration information can be easily accessed on the scheme's website www.redibike.gi. The website also allows users to see how many bicycles are available at each docking station and how many free docks are available to return the bicycles.

Users are allowed to rent up to three bicycles simultaneously at any given time. There is also an App available for Android and iOS systems from the respective App

stores.

Gibraltar's Minister for Infrastructure, Paul Balban, said at the official launch that not only will the 'Redibike' scheme help encourage the use of alternative and sustainable modes of travel, but it will also help keep the local population fit and healthy.

Further information about the bicycle share scheme can be obtained by phoning (+350) 200 47000 or emailing info@redibike.gi

IN BRIEF



The multicultural food festival will be on 10 June. :: SUR

It's nearly Calentita time again

GIBRALTAR

BY D. B. The annual Calentita food festival will be taking place on Saturday 10 June from 7pm to 1am in Grand Casemates Square, Market Place and Corral Road. This popu-

lar multicultural event is now in its 11th year, and this year the food stands will include British, Indian, Polish, Thai, Chinese, Spanish, and vegan specialities, among others. 'Calentita' takes place in a street party atmosphere, and a full programme of events has been planned and will be announced in the near future.

Newcastle Building Society to close

GIBRALTAR

BY D. B. The Gibraltar government has been notified by the Newcastle Building Society that the local branch is to close, after 27 years on the Rock. It will continue to honour existing mortgages, but the office is due to close down in October. Eight staff are likely to be affected by the closure.

Book-Crossing event on Saturday 3 June

GIBRALTAR

BY D. B. Book lovers take note - as part of the Spring Festival, there will be a Book-Crossing event at the cathedral of St Mary the Crowned on 3 June between 11am and 2pm. This is an ideal opportunity for keen readers to leave books they have read for others, and take home new ones to enjoy.

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

For Pedro Sánchez read Jeremy Corbyn

So Pedro Sánchez has triumphed in the election to become the new leader of the PSOE. While this appeared to be against all the odds when Susana Díaz turned it into a three-horse race, the 187,000 'militantes' of the Socialist party voted 50% in favour of Pedro Sánchez to become their new 'secretario general'. This scenario is reminiscent of the rise of Jeremy Corbyn to the leadership of the UK Labour party. The extreme left wing of the Labour party used to be known as Militant Tendency, however this has been transformed into the movement known as Momentum which has become the power base of Jeremy Corbyn.

Like Pedro Sánchez, he also became leader of the Labour party following a vote of several hundred thousand activists. His landslide victories to become Labour leader as well as to hold on to it gave belief to the Labour faithful that he was their man. The electorate, however, have failed to buy into this and the polls indicate a serious haemorrhaging of Labour support while the announcement of a June 8th election has resulted in many Labour MPs fearing that they are likely

to lose their seats.

While Pedro Sánchez was an earlier incarnation as leader of the Socialist party, he was ultimately forced out following his intransigence to the formation of a government. During this period he presided over a party which was losing popularity and votes to the incipient party of the extreme left, Podemos.

It seems apparent that the election of a party leader by a small number of militants is no guarantee of electoral success on a national scale. Voters can be very capricious and it does not augur well for Jeremy Corbyn in the forthcoming general election nor for Pedro Sánchez in the popularity stakes with most of the Socialist "barons" and former leaders not on his side.

Should he continue with his intransigent "no means no" then the Partido Popular will be unable to legislate and Mariano Rajoy may find himself being forced to call yet another general election this autumn resulting in a further erosion of the Socialist vote, just as is likely to happen to Jeremy Corbyn on June 8th.

PETER SANDERSON
BY EMAIL

Building beaches

In response to your interesting article "Town moves a step closer to saving its beaches with breakwaters" (May 12th 2017):

Before tourism, there were beaches on the Costa del Sol. Fine, long sandy beaches. So what has happened that now beaches have to be managed by replenishing sand and building breakwaters and groynes? Is the sand being removed by global warming, causing severe weather and sea level rise? That bears investigation. Perhaps though, beaches have always been reduced in size by the winter storms and built up in the summer by gentle weather. That is what I was taught at school anyway. So why not wait for summer? Beaches occur naturally and chiringuitos should follow the beaches, not the beaches follow them. A non-interventionist policy would leave quite a large amount of money that is spent on moving

sand. This money might be spent in a way that addresses specific concerns of tourists. A questionnaire at airports would reveal what concerns them most and it may not be the size or location of beaches. It may be water quality for safe bathing which at Nerja is going to be foul again for another season for want of money. Or spend the money on projects for the homeless who have also lost something most prized, not a beach but their dignity.

Whatever you do, beloved Costa del Sol, do not build breakwaters and groynes. Once you start, sand is constantly taken away and deposited beside the groyne. The place where the sand has come from then needs a groyne and it is impossible to halt this process, ending in a line of groynes to the horizon. It happened to much of the south coast of England.

NEIL SMITH
CÚTAR

Don't speak

PETER EDGERTON
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

Being a pop star must be a discombobulating experience. One minute you're miming into a hair brush in front of your bedroom mirror and, next thing you know, you're miming into a microphone on national television.

What comes next is the worrying bit. Once you've got the attention of thousands of people, the media wants your opinion on all kinds of things. Early on, it's not too taxing: what's your favourite film? What do you have for breakfast? Why did you call your album *The Damage My Parents Did To Me?*, etc. Later, however, it becomes a whole different story. Suddenly, you're being asked for your slant on the Middle East Crisis, whether God exists and, if your house was burning down, whether you would you save your wife or your mother.

At this point, two different types of personality emerge - the more intelligent chaps who shy away from

the deeper questions, instinctively aware that they're just pop singers. It's the others that are really scary - the ones who actually start to believe that what they think about life's profundities is important.

Sting and Bono are probably the two most famous proponents of this pompous approach. Unfortunately for the latter he once tried his preaching on the good people of Glasgow at a gig and it wasn't a good idea.

Apparently, the diminutive singer began to clap his hands very slowly and very deliberately above his head on stage, pausing for dramatic effect between each strike.

'Every... time... I... clap... my... hands... like... this... a... child... in... Africa... dies...'

A couple of seconds of bemused silence fell over the crowd, who'd only come to hear *With Or Without You*, before a lone voice broke the spell.

'Well stop @*#*#@# doing it then!'

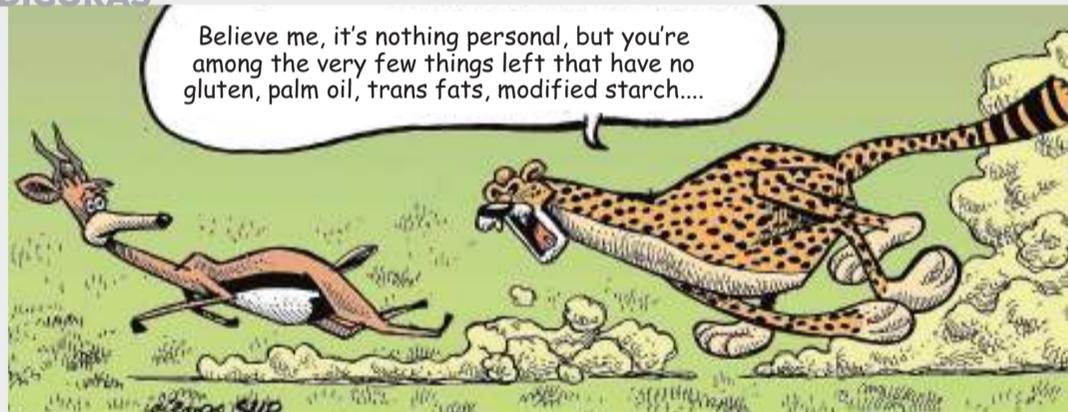
Cue raucous laughter and a short bloke in leather pants duly taken down a peg or two.

People don't like being preached at, especially by pop stars. Still, at least Bono has written some insightful lyrics on occasion. Katy Perry, by contrast, certainly has not. Yet there she was this week, imploring everybody to live together in peace and harmony. It was excruciating, sounding as if she were reading aloud something a fourteen-year-old girl had written on her pencil case.

What on earth did she think was going to happen? That all the world's political and religious leaders were suddenly going to stop dead in their tracks, shaking their heads mumbling 'Crumbs, why didn't we think of that?'

No, pop stars, should stick to singing pop songs. Moreover, if at any point, they need reminding of that fact, they should be obliged to undertake a month-long tour of Glasgow.

IDÍGORAS



Obese, slim and other distortions

ANA BARREALES

With so much talk about pressure to be thin, it turns out, according to a recent survey, that 80 per cent of people suffering obesity are happy with the way they look and almost all of them are convinced that their weight is perfectly fine.

I'm not sure whether this is terrible or terribly good. Being overweight is bad due to diabetes, cholesterol, the heart, joints and endless other ailments, but liking the way you look is great for the spirit; being happy with yourself, just like that, naturally, with no coaching or anything, is priceless.

If we followed every single medical recommendation (from dental floss to exercise, rest, not sitting for

too long, not standing up for too long and a long list of dos and don'ts) we would undoubtedly be healthier, but we wouldn't have time to work or hardly even to live.

Obese people who think they look thin are not the only ones who have a distorted view of reality. The adolescents who get caught up in Blue Whale, the macabre chain that involves passing tests and can lead to suicide, have a deformed view of fun, and of what is a real challenge.

The forensic psychologist who specialises in children, Javier Urrea, believes that this type of behaviour is due to a failure to reflect on one's own actions, which is typical during the transition from childhood to adulthood, although fortunately the majority realise and stop in time.

Some of the challenges are very dangerous, such as swallowing a spoonful of ground cinnamon in one go without water, which can cause asphyxia or a collapsed lung, but probably seem harmless to a 15-year-old.

That is really not that far away from some of the adolescent foolishness that I remember, such as a competition to see who could eat the most sandwiches without drinking water. It was nothing in the style of Paul Newman eating 50 hard-boiled eggs in *Cool Hand Luke*, but rather stupidity combined with greed; you didn't risk your life but it was revolting.

No one is free from distorted views. Look at what has happened with the old Astoria cinema in Malaga; many of those who either love or hate Antonio Banderas' cultural project probably know nothing about it, but the issue has evolved in such a way that now no one talks about the idea, but just about the man. Antonio or not Antonio, as if that were the question. It's the same stupidity as when a debate turns into a dog fight, where egos can be as uncomfortable as a high horse, but no one wants to get down.



Using experience and skills in a new post

Françoise Rajewski President of Acompalia

Acompalia has a busy summer ahead with a number of fundraising events in Granada and Malaga

Françoise Rajewski isn't your typical 'expat' charity president. For a start, at just 40, she is still very much of working age, and she has a number of piercings.

Originally from France, Françoise has lived the UK, Ireland, Poland and Belgium, where she met her Belgian husband. The couple moved to Jaén in 2007, largely due to the fact that her husband's second language is Spanish.

They are both translators by profession and Françoise speaks fluent English and Spanish. She studied these at university along with Polish and says she simply loves words and languages.

Being able to communicate easily in a number of languages, says Françoise, is key to her new position with Acompalia, a Granada-based charitable organisation offering support to terminally ill patients and their families in the province. It gets its name from a fusion of the words 'accompany' and 'palliative'.

Fundraising has always been an important part of the new president's life and she says that she was involved in her first charity work at the age of nine. Later, as an au pair in the UK she helped with the Marie Curie cancer organisation and wherever she has lived she has always done her bit.

Françoise knows she has a challenge ahead of her with fundraising for palliative care. "Cancer sells," she says. "It is relatively easy to raise money for cancer charities, but there are two things



Françoise with volunteers at the golf day. :: J. R.

Palliative support free of charge

:: J. RHODES

MOTRIL. Acompalia supports terminally ill patients and their families in Granada province. It provides services free of charge that help patients live each remaining day as fully as possible. The charity offers a helpline, company, legal and interpretation / translation services as well as grief sup-

port. They are looking for volunteers and organisations and individuals to collaborate with. For further information visit: www.acompalia.org

you don't talk about in Spain and they are Franco and death."

However, in the short space of time that the fundraiser has been in the post, she seems to have got an awful lot of things moving. Last Friday the Golf in Nerja Society, GINS, organised a charity golf day

at Los Moriscos golf club in Motril, which was supported by local rum distillers, Ron Montero.

There are also big plans for summer and Acompalia is one of Costa Women's chosen charities for this year. There will be a summer party hosted by the women's group in

July as well as a concert in Almuñécar in August and a gala dinner later on in the year.

Françoise is keen to stress that there is nothing fun and nothing to sell when it comes to palliative care, but her view is that Acompalia wants to ensure that patients have "life until the end, not the end of life". She adds, "Along with making sure that foreign patients that don't speak Spanish get the translation and interpretation help they need, we also try to grant them their wishes - if they fancy a glass of red wine, or whatever it is, I think they should have it."

Acompalia is a truly multinational organisation, with foreign and Spanish volunteers on board as well as a local English-speaking Spanish lawyer and vice-president. While most patients and families are non-Spanish, Françoise says that more Spanish people are using the services. "There isn't much funding for palliative care in Spain and it's badly needed. The Spanish family structure isn't what it used to be with children moving away from their parents to work and pressures of modern life."

With a number of languages up her sleeve, a get-on-and-do-things attitude and having seen people close to her touched by cancer and also in need of care, the new president of Acompalia is in a good position to get the charity really rolling. There are bigger future plans for a hospice and paediatric facility too. "Sadly death doesn't just touch adults," she says. But to begin with Françoise hopes to combine her talents, passions and "incredible and dedicated" volunteers to raise awareness and of course funds, for a charity which looks like it is going from strength to strength.



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Coín celebrates annual orange festival with local gastronomy

The highlight of the festival on Sunday was the arrival of the traditional "soup" of potatoes, peppers, tomatoes, bread and garlic

BY TONY BRYANT

COÍN. More than 8,000 people enjoyed the twenty-first edition of the Fiesta de la Naranja in Coín last Sunday.

This popular festival, which was declared a festival of cultural interest by the Malaga provincial government in 2004, coincides with the harvest of the local oranges.

The festival serves to promote tourism in the town and focuses on local gastronomy, handmade pottery, ceramics and artisan products typical of Coín.

Visitors were invited to sample homemade dishes like the potato, cod and orange salad made by members of the brotherhood of the Virgen de la Fuensanta. There was also a multitude of cakes, sweets and drinks, all of which could be purchased in the street market in the main square.

The highlight of the festival was the arrival of the traditional "Sopa



Helpers dish out orange and cod salad at the event. BY T. BRYANT

Hervía", made with potatoes, peppers, tomatoes, bread and garlic.

This tasty dish, which was prepared by local chef, Felix Mesa, was once the staple diet of land workers and it is a reflection of the high quality produce grown in and around Coín.

The music was supplied by a "Tuna" group from Malaga University, a minstrel-style choir whose members wear thirteenth century dress play traditional instruments

and sing serenades.

There were several competitions, including the best homemade orange-based desserts and the best photograph on Coín's social media profile. The winners honorary orange trophies were presented by Fernando Fernández, Mayor of Coín.

The mayor said, "This year has been a great success because we have so much to offer the visitor and this is why this has become an award winning festival."



BY TONY BRYANT

EXPATRIATE COMMUNITIES UNITE

Hundreds of people enjoyed glorious sunshine during the foreign residents' day festival in Torremolinos last weekend. More than 20 countries participated in the event and all offered a taste of their traditional gastronomy, music and folklore. The Irish Association of Torremolinos performed a spectacular routine of the River Dance, and there were also displays of Indian and South American music and dance.

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THE NIGHT SKY



KEN CAMPBELL

Super spring tide

The moon travels around the Earth at 2,288mph, which means it can travel roughly its own diameter every hour. In one orbit around the Earth it travels 1,423,000 miles. The time it takes to do one orbit around the Earth is 27.32 days and this is known as a sidereal month. The time between full moons is 29.53 days and is known as a synodic month.

The difference in the two times is due to the fact that the Earth is also moving, but in relation to the Sun. Therefore the moon has to travel a little more than one full orbit before it is at the direct opposite of the Earth away from the Sun.

Its orbit around the Earth is not circular; it is elliptical in shape bringing it closer to the Earth at certain times. At its closest point (perigee) it is about 225,300 miles away while at its furthest point (apogee) it can be 251,900 miles away. If perigee occurs at the time of the full moon then it can appear about a third larger in the sky than if the full moon occurs at apogee. This event has been christened a Super Moon. The next Super Moon will occur on 3 December with perigee occurring the day after.

The full Super Moon of 14 November last year was the closest full moon since 1948 and it won't

come this close again until 25 November 2034.

Tonight, Friday 26 May, the opposite of a full Super Moon will occur. The moon will be at its closest perigee point at the same time as it is between the Earth and the Sun and is a new moon. Because the moon is new you won't be able to see it but you may notice its effect. The moon's gravity is responsible for the tides on Earth. As the Earth spins, the moon's gravity causes the tides to bulge towards it creating high and low tides. But the Sun's gravity also has an effect on the tides so when the Sun and the moon are aligned, the tidal effect is doubled and we get extra high spring tides.

Today, the Sun and moon will align at almost exactly the same time that the moon is at perigee and so the Earth could witness super high tides.

Some people are even predicting earthquakes and tsunamis occurring but we'll just have to wait and see. When the moon is about half full and at right angles to the Sun, then the Sun and the moon cancel out the tidal effects and we get weaker, neap tides.

More information :
www.costadelstars.com

Thousands turn out for dreamlike tenth edition of 'Noche en Blanco'

A night of culture brought residents and tourists out in their droves to visit museums and attend concerts, among 220 different events

REGINA SOTORRÍO MALAGA. Thousands of Malaga residents and tourists packed the streets of the city until the early hours of Sunday morning for the tenth edition of the 'Noche en Blanco'.

Long queues were once again seen outside various museums in the city during a night of culture, with most of them offering free entry to visitors.

Some 700 visitors entered the Centre Pompidou during the first hour-and-a-half of the 'Noche en Blanco', while around 6,000 people visited the CAC museum before it closed at 11pm.

Several concerts also took place on the streets, with 8,500 hip-hop enthusiasts attending the semi-final of the Batalla de los Gallos competition, which was won by the Malaga group Airbag were the final act in a packed Auditorio Eduardo Ocón for the pop rock festival.

Other musical highlights included the concerts given by the Fundación Hispania Música outside the cathedral and the concert in the Plaza Obispo which saw young musicians perform in an event organised by the Fundación



Queues outside the Centre Pompidou. :: SUR



Virtual reality and a piano performance at the cathedral. :: SUR



Musical de Malaga.

The night was set up to encapsulate dreamlike emotions, and the School of Architecture did just that with their two events, which were the most in-demand of the night due to their uniqueness and originality.

In the University of Malaga's 'Rectorado' building, visitors, with the help of guides dressed in red

costumes, were immersed into virtual reality and were taken to the seabed where they were surrounded by enormous jellyfish and spiders.

Meanwhile, at Muelle Uno, a row of 13,000 white canvas paintings created a dreamlike atmosphere in an event accompanied by clarinet music and dancing.



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FACTS & FACES

EU-funded project sees secondary school pupils visit Poland

MALAGA

Four students from the IES Huelin school in Malaga visited the John Paul II high school in the Polish town of Gorowo recently.

The visit was the final part of a year-long EU-funded business project and they were joined in Poland by schools from England, Finland, Italy and Germany.

The trip allowed the students the opportunity to share their final mini-company design for their school, including present-

ing a liquidation plan, which was then evaluated.

Students also had to make a presentation of each country's spring flowers and plants to encourage them to share their culture with their foreign counterparts by showing them educational resources of art.

The students also visited Olsztyn's castle, where Copernicus lived and made his astronomical calculations, as well as a science and technological park.



The Malaga students received certificates for their project. :: SUR

New chairman for Tangent Costa del Sol

ESTEPONA

Enid Southerby-Smith has taken over from Cathie Chappell as the chairman of Tangent Costa del Sol, with her first meeting taking place this week in Estepona.

Southerby-Smith described the position as "an honour" and is looking forward to "a very enjoyable and busy year ahead".

The new chairman has organised several events for the coming year, the most immediate being the Ascot-style Ladies Day in June, with all proceeds going to the DEBRA charity.

A dinner in November has also been arranged to mark 20 years of Tangent on the Costa del Sol, an event which will see founder members Julie and Richard Wood attend.

Lions Club fashion show raises over 3,000 euros

LA CALA DE MIJAS

The La Cala de Mijas Lions Club Spring Fayre and Fashion Show raised over 3,000 euros for the community.

The event was held at the Tamisa Golf Hotel, where nearly 100 people enjoyed sat down for a buffet, which was followed by a fashion show from 15 models who showed off beach wear, day wear and evening wear from a Lions charity shop in La Cala.

The next Lions event will be the Charter Summer Ball on 9 June. Tickets cost 45 euros and can be bought by calling the Tamisa Golf Hotel on 952 58 59 88 or the Lions shop on 677 05 90 61.



Paul Butler, the President of the Lions Club, at the event. :: SUR

Mixed voice choir sings at Alhaurín chapel

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE

The International Music Society, TIMS, a mixed voice choir on the Costa del Sol, sang by invitation at a Praise Service in the cemetery chapel in Alhaurín El Grande on 14 May.

Among other hymns, the choir sang Scottish composer and choir-master Sir Hugh Robertson's All in the April Evening and Italian composer Caccini's Ave Maria.

The choir, which was formed on the Costa del Sol in 1988, sings in four-part harmony and has members of at least eight different nationalities. It is looking for new members, especially new male voices.



Enid Southerby-Smith. :: SUR

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JENNIE RHODES



WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

26 MAY 1802

South American 'Liberator' marries his perfect jewel

Simón Bolívar, Venezuelan soldier, politician and one of the most prominent figures in the independence of many South American countries, married María Teresa del Toro y Aleyza in San José church in Madrid on 26 May 1802. Bolívar, who had come to Spain from South America to continue his studies, was just 19 when in 1800 he met his future wife, who was two years his senior.

With the permission of both families, each from the Spanish aristocracy and political classes, the two were married.

Bolívar described his bride as "A perfect jewel, priceless."

However, the marriage was to last just eight months, as on 22 January 1803 María Teresa tragically died from yellow fever

in Caracas where Bolívar had returned with his young bride shortly after their marriage. They had left Spain on 15 June 1802 and arrived in Caracas on 12 July.

Simón Bolívar promised that he would never marry again and despite allegedly having numerous lovers, he remained true to his word until his own death on 17 December 1830 in Santa Marta, Colombia.

The church, San José, on the corner of Calle Libertad and Calle de Gravina in Madrid is no longer standing and the parish of San José was moved to another part of the city in 1838. Yet a plaque in the new church, situated on Calle Alcalá, says that it is where the couple wed, which is, according to historians, technically incorrect.



Edgar Ramírez and María Valverde in *The Liberator*. :: SUR

Bolívar went on to become arguably the most significant figure in the history of many South American countries and in particular Bolivia (named after him), Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Venezuela and Peru, establishing them as sovereign states independent of Spanish rule.



Simón Bolívar.

His legacy as 'El Libertador' (The Liberator) lives on and is

still often cited by Latin American leaders, most notably the late Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez until his death in 2013.

The Venezuelan film *Libertador* (The Liberator) was released in 2013, starring Edgar Ramírez as Simón Bolívar and Spanish actress, María Valverde as María Teresa del Toro y Aleyza. The bio-

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Militar	Soldier
Político	Politician
Casarse	To get married
Iglesia	Church
Familia	Family
Fundador	Founder
Independencia	Independence
Destacado	Prominent
Esposa	Wife
País	Country
Legado	Legacy
Amante	Lover
Estado	State
Aristocracia	Aristocracy
Acontecimiento	Event
Líder	Leader
Parroquia	Parish church
Carrera	Career
Noviazgo	Courtship
Fiebre	Fever
Fallecimiento	Death
Incertidumbre	Uncertainty
Relación	Relationship
Citar	To cite / To quote
Negociación	Negotiation

graphical film follows the life of Bolívar and includes his short-lived relationship and marriage with María Teresa as well as his political and military career.

f Bilingual crossword inside back page

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BY OSIM

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REF. M. T. P.

In the community of owners where I live, some of the owners have suggested installing a lift. I live on the first floor and I am not going to use it, and taking into account that the building has three floors, I think a lift is unnecessary. For this reason, I want to know if I can oppose this decision. I would

also like to know if I am obliged to pay the same as the rest of the owners.

In order to install a lift, it is necessary to have the decision approved in a meeting (three fifths of the owners representing three fifths of the participation shares are enough to have it approved). If this quorum is reached, you will be bound, even if you have voted against it, and you will have to pay according to your participation share.

REF. B.O.O.

I own an apartment in Spain. Four months ago, I signed a rental contract with a woman, but unfortunately I have just been informed that she has died in a car accident. The point is that I have found someone interested in buying the property, but in order to sell it I need to evict the tenant's boyfriend, who is living there. I have told him to go,

but he does not seem interested in moving out. I have someone interested in the property, and I need the money, but I do not know what to do as obviously the buyer does not want to purchase if the flat is occupied. Can the boyfriend refuse to leave the property, even when he does not appear on the rental contract?

Given the circumstances that you have described, the man is not entitled to stay in the apartment. The tenant's boyfriend would have the possibility of staying in the property if he could prove that he had been living with her there for a certain period of time, but in this case, given the little time passed since the rental contract was signed and the little time that they would have hypothetically lived together, he is not entitled to keep occupying the property.

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An outstanding concert from Collegium Musicum

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

FUENGIROLA. Over 90 voices and 45 orchestral musicians, conducted by Annemarie Philipps, performed music by Mendelssohn, Elgar and Beethoven at the first of three performances of Collegium Musicum's spring concert in Fuengirola on Sunday.

The orchestra and choir were joined by the Camerata Singers of Sotogrande as well as soloists Siân Winstanley (soprano) and Juan Carlos Mera-Euler (bass).

"This combination of part profes-

sional and part amateur instrumentalists and voices, combined with the exacting standards of Annemarie, has produced a performance of such quality that every single participant can be extremely proud of their achievement. The passion of both soloists was evident and the Colombian bass's ebullient performance was 'from the heart,'" writes enthusiast Morris Bishop.

The last of the three spring performances is on 28 May at 8pm in the Nuestra Señora de la Merced church in Sotogrande.

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WILDLIFE

PETER HARRISON



Reversing the trend

With so many animals facing extinction, it is always nice to hear when numbers are on the rise thanks to human intervention

When the news is usually about animal species in decline and facing extinction it is refreshing to hear of those on the increase, especially when it is due to human intervention. Someone cares.

The Iberian lynx, one of the world's most beautiful yet endangered animals had declined to less than a hundred fifteen years ago. However, due to careful captivity breeding and intensive study of the lynx, they are now over three hundred (though I am wary of exact figures as this animal is elusive and very secretive by nature).

I felt an enormous sense of privilege on 5 January 2002 when I spotted a lynx on the land adjacent to our house in El Chorro. Usually when I spot something rare my binoculars are in the house or car but not on this occasion. I could hardly believe my eyes.

It is much larger than a giant cat and its pricked-up ears and distinctive coat left me in no doubt. Normally nocturnal, in daylight they may snooze on the branch of a tree, before hunting for rabbits, their favourite food, at night.

Breeding the lynx in captivity is not easy. The gestation period is around seventy days. The number of kittens is usually two or three and in captivity the death rate is high. It gives great credit to those humans who have succeeded in achieving the increase in survival.

A few years ago the lynx would usually be found in the Doñana National park but the park itself is now in danger due to irrigation problems and so the lynx is more widespread in Spain.

What caused the sad decline of this beautiful creature? Hunting to make profit from the pelts is a

factor. It is an illegal offence but this does not stop people keen to make money, and wealthy people in various countries with more money than compassion provide a ready market.

More land is being swallowed up for building or arable crops thus depriving the lynx of its natural habitat. The decline in rabbit population mainly due to myxomatosis and farmers' war on bunnies has also shrunk the food supply. Trapping, although illegal, is also responsible for the decline as farmers who are anxious to protect livestock, continue to lay traps to catch rabbits, which also inadvertently catch the curious lynxes hunting them. Car accidents also kill many lynxes which is perhaps the result of its night time movement and camouflage coat.

I would love to see the lynx again but am resigned to the fact it is highly unlikely.

One word of caution. Do not approach a lynx. You may mean well but the animal sees an approach as an attack. It may run away but will defend itself if cornered. Children are especially vulnerable with their sense of curiosity.

The search for best sardines in Malaga

Restaurants go head to head in the Diario SUR competition which hopes to find the province's best sardine espeto

CARMEN ALCARAZ

MALAGA. There are few things that define the Costa del Sol quite like a freshly-grilled sardine 'espeto' (skewer), accompanied by a cool glass of 'tinto de verano'. For this reason, Diario SUR has teamed up with La Casera, the brand famous for its pre-made tinto de verano, to help residents find the best espeto in the province.

From 26 May until 11 June, almost 100 chiringuitos and restaurants along the coast will take part in the first 'Ruta del espeto' competition.

The contest is a celebration of the typical Malaga dish that has

been eaten here since the end of the 14th century, while at the same time promoting the restaurants and chiringuitos that make this dish for thousands of residents and tourists every day.

Many of the participating restaurants can be found in Fuengirola, Torrox, Marbella and Malaga city. However, for any readers interested in taking part in the search, a bilingual guide, found inside the Spanish edition of SUR today (Friday), contains the complete list of all the competing restaurants, with some information about each one.

Each chiringuito and restaurant will serve espetos, priced between four and seven euros, alongside a complimentary glass from La Casera. Diners can then rate the restaurants from one to 10 on www.rutadespeto.es between 26 May and 11 June, which automatically enters them into raffle which offers a three-day romantic holiday as its prize.

Professional food critics will also judge the restaurants based on the quality of their barbecues and, of course, the flavour of their sardines. The winners of both the public and judges' vote will also receive prizes.



GRAHAM EDGE

A TASTE OF THE MIDDLE AGES IN BENALMÁDENA

Residents and visitors to Arroyo de la Miel were given a taste of the Middle Ages at the weekend as a medieval market rolled into town. Period music and entertainment captured the imagination of the crowd made up of various age groups. Those present could sample food and drink from the various stalls and come away with souvenirs and gifts.



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The open road leading to the 'Montaña Roja', a vertiginous remnant of the island's fiery and violent creation.

✦ A. FORBES



Fuerteventura for all seasons

The second largest island of the Canarian archipelago is justly renowned for its hundreds of beaches and world-class surfing spots; but find time to explore inland



ANDREW FORBES

✉ Twitter: @andrewforbes

As the Spanish would say, I'm 'inquieto'. I have a restless spirit that means that I just love to explore; and when it comes to visiting a new place, it's rewarding to discover the hidden aspects of a destination.

So my first trip to Fuerteventura was an opportunity to get to know the second largest of the Ca-

nary Islands. For a holiday in the sun, many don't want to hit the highways or byways of this volcanic island; but instead head to the beach. It is hard to argue with that approach, especially when you consider that the Canary Islands have one of the world's most temperate and agreeable climates. Fuerteventura boasts an average temperature of 25 degrees centigrade, and some 3,000 hours of sunshine a year. It's basically pretty much a sure thing you'll enjoy plenty of sunshine on your holiday, whatever the season.

Beyond the beach

Before I arrived I had a few ideas of what to expect. I knew that the

wild Atlantic wind that sweeps across this low-lying island has made Fuerteventura a favourite amongst the surf and kiteboarding fraternity. I also recalled seeing images of the island's striking landscapes of broad beaches, volcanic peaks and vast sand dunes – but I also anticipated an island highly developed for mass tourism, a destination for inexpensive beach holidays where visitors rarely leave their all-inclusive resorts.

Yet within moments of leaving the airport, it was clear that this sparsely populated island is far from over developed. The country road north from the capital runs close to the coast, cutting through a rocky and craggy volcanic land-

scape, alive with colour from the stones, lava and flowering shrubs.

As I drove north, the empty road continued, as if directly towards the 'Montaña Roja', a vertiginous remnant of the island's fiery and violent creation. It's the type of scene that could only be in the Canary Islands – offering a feeling of space, light and nature that directly contradicts any perceptions of Fuerteventura as over-developed.

Sculpted dunes

I soon arrived at Corralejo's natural park. It had been a long-standing desire to see first-hand the huge, dynamic sand dunes of this part of the island; to be awed by the wind-sculpted landscape, echo-

ing the Sahara.

Before the area was protected, developers, sadly, had managed to scar a portion of this magical terrain, building two monolithic concrete hotel blocks; yet overall the huge area is largely untouched and quite extraordinary. The adjacent shoreline and beautiful beaches, including the popular El Caserón beach, and the Playa Grande that stretches for kilometres, have small bays popular with beginner surfers.

The nearby village and port is the go-to place for boat trips, snorkelling excursions and visits to the nearby Lobos Island, an uninhabited, volcanic remnant, offering yet more beaches and surfing.

The Gran Hotel Atlantis Bahía Real is between the village port of Corralejo and the natural park. Although offering family-friendly holiday packages, it avoids that clichéd Canarian holiday experience. From its colonial architecture, its staff in traditional folk dress, to local cuisine in the restaurants, this resort looks to celebrate its provenance rather than offer little England in the sun.

On my first night, I fell asleep in my sea-view room to the sound



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of Atlantic waves hitting the shore; happy to have begun exploring this lesser-known Canary island.

Inland bound

To truly shatter any remaining misconceptions about Fuerteventura, one must travel inland. The early settlers of the island lived a humble life, and goats became an integral part of Fuerteventura's economy and culture. The simple 'campo majorero' of those early goat farmers still exists across the island, in huge swathes of protected terrain.

For a quintessential countryside experience, I stayed a night at the Mahoh Rural Hotel. A 19th century house with traditional volcanic stone walls, this rustic B&B with an informal restaurant, offered a place where one can mix with a chilled crowd; visitors interested in hiking, nature and local food.

From Hotel Mahoh it's a 40-minute winding drive to the former capital, Betancuria. This charming, although unashamedly touristy village, is within the valley of Vega del Río Palmas, a truly striking landscape that combines rocky outcrops, with a meandering dry river bed, surrounded by old palm trees. This is the epicentre of the island's hiking routes. Here you have access to the unspoilt countryside and the chance to pass historic architecture such as the neoclassic 18th century church, La Ermita y Santuario de Nuestra Señora de la Peña. This area offers a snapshot of period life in



It is hard to pick a favourite out of Fuerteventura's 150 beaches. :: SUR



The valley of Vega del Río Palmas offers a truly striking landscape. :: A. FORBES

Fuerteventura that is hard to reconcile with the resorts of Morro Jable in the south – it is like two different worlds.

Yet even in the developed south, one can easily leave the resorts, and within moments be within the largest natural park on the island, the Jandia Peninsula. If you're adventurous, hire a cross-over type rental car and take the mountain pass through the rocky, otherworldly landscape across the peninsula, and down to Cofete. The views are exceptional. You will be rewarded with some of the most striking and iconic vistas of the island, and what's more, once down by the beaches at Cofete you will have a glimpse at the world of surf. These beaches are not for bathing; but the impressive breaking waves provide great conditions for surfers honing their skills.

Coast to coast

For more photogenic coastline, but with easier access, visit El Cotillo, on the north-west coast of the island. High cliffs go on for kilometres, leading down to broad beaches with breaking waves and plenty of white water. From the village, there is a stony track you can hike or take a car down for a few kilometres, to discover the relatively peaceful El Aljibe de la Cueva beach.

With a long weekend or a typical week's holiday there is time to not only find a favourite from Fuerteventura's 150 beaches, but also head inland to discover its culture, history and landscapes.

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THE INSIDER GUIDE



Gran Hotel Bahia Real.

Fuerteventura

ANDREW FORBES

A holiday-maker's favourite and a surfer's paradise; Fuerteventura boasts some of the archipelago's finest beaches but also an interesting interior landscape and history.

STAY:

Gran Hotel Atlantis Bahía Real - Corralejo

To the north east of Fuerteventura is the protected natural park of Corralejo – an extraordinary landscape of vast sand dunes that run adjacent to the stunning shoreline. Close to



Betancuria Village.

this remarkable part of Fuerteventura one finds this five-star spa resort. A family-friendly property, built in the style of a grand hacienda, with most guest rooms orientated for views out over the beach, the Atlantic, to Lobos Island and the coast of Lanzarote beyond.

For foodies, there's more than just the family buffet restaurant, pool bar and trendy Coco Beach Club. Guests and non-residents have the choice of three upscale restaurants: Las Columnas, offering contemporary Spanish cuisine; Yamatori, offering Japanese dishes and Teppanyaki show cooking; and the fine-dining La Cúpula de Carles Gaig, where the menu has been created by the Michelin-star chef Gaig.

Swimming pools are set among sub-tropical, courtyard gardens, sheltered from Fuerteventura's Atlantic breeze; while for tranquillity away from the younger ones, try the resort's SPA Bahía Vital with heated pool with hydrotherapy circuit, gym, and treatment rooms offering well-

ness and beauty therapies.

AtlantisBahiaReal.com

Hotel Rural Mahoh - La Oliva

This charming nine-room inland hotel, with renowned country-style restaurant, is well-positioned for exploring the authentic Fuerteventura.

Built in the typical Canarian architectural style, using volcanic stone, the hotel dates to the 19th century. The Mahoh, probably the best rural property on the island, has an all-year swimming pool and delightful landscaped gardens of succulents. Beyond is access to many of the islands hundreds of kilometres of hiking trails.

Rooms are comfortably presented with vintage furniture, some with four-poster beds. Each space has its own distinctive style and character, but all have exposed volcanic stone walls. Some rooms offer views of the countryside and the nearby historic windmills, while others overlook the internal courtyard garden.

Breakfast can be enjoyed in the restaurant, on the terrace or in the gardens. The ambiance is laidback and friendly. Owned by island environmentalists, Tinín Martínez and Zaragoza Estévez, Hotel Rural Mahoh is 30 minutes' drive from the airport (just south of the island's modest capital, Puerto de Rosario); about 10 minutes to the beaches at El Cotillo (ideal for the catching the best sunsets); and within 40 minutes of the island's historic former capital, Betancuria.

Mahoh.com

EAT:

Restaurante Santa María - Betancuria

There are more goats on Fuerteventura than residents; and it's not just their cheese that is world-class. Roast kid is a real delicacy on the island, and the Casa Santa María restaurant is one of the best-known places to try this local dish.

Manager Mónica is very welcoming and together with her team are

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happy to help with menu suggestions. For a local taste, order the artisan cheese, served with marmalades of tomato, fig and cactus, before trying the slow-roasted kid, served with a rich jus.

There are two dining rooms, one with a North African style, the other more colonial Spanish. The garden courtyard has seating too, if you want a more relaxed setting or somewhere to enjoy a drink from the bar.

The restored Casa Santa María is on the charming village square, opposite the 17th-century Santa María church, and beside the property's own museum sharing insights into the culture, history and flora and fauna of the island.

Betancuria, Fuerteventura's capital until 1834, is set within an attractive valley, where towering palm trees line the meandering dry river bed; a good place for hiking.

CasaSantaMaria.net

Restaurante Mahoh - La Oliva

Open to non-residents of the hotel, this rustic style eatery, with wooden tables and chairs and open kitchen, is one of the best-reviewed restaurants on the island. The menu is of local dishes such as the classic Canarian 'papas arrugadas' (wrinkly, small new potatoes served with two 'mojos' sauces), seafood and fish from the nearby Atlantic waters, vegetarian dishes, and a

wide choice of meat prepared on the wood-burning grill. Canarian, Spanish and a few international wines are available.

Mahoh.com

Coco Beach Lounge & Club - Corralejo

This contemporary beach club is on the Hotel Atlantis Bahía Real property, and is a good option for a sea-view lunch, dinner, classic cocktails or tropical shakes for the kids. Both the smart dining space, surrounded by glass, and the large outside terrace, are elevated over the shore, offering magnificent views across to Lobos Island. The menu includes seafood, salads and tapas served in a modern style.

AtlantisBahiaReal.com

El Mentidero Café - El Cotillo

El Cotillo, on the island's west coast, is a beautiful bay of calmer, clear waters, and pale sand. This trendy café offers quality snacks and drinks during the day.

Later, head to one of the informal beach bars for a sundowner, watching a Fuerteventura sunset.

[Facebook.com/MentideroCafe](https://www.facebook.com/MentideroCafe)

DO:

Boat trip to Lobos Island - Corralejo

It's touristy but fun. In the port is a choice of operators, including the



Restaurante Mahoh.



Windsurfing.

Celia Cruz boat, offering family outings to the island on glass bottom boats, as well as sunset cruises. For a more private affair, hire the Freebird catamaran for the day, and just chill, snorkel and enjoy the island.

Search 'Barco Celia Cruz Freebird' on Facebook

Kiteboarding and Windsurfing

Water sports are undoubtedly one of the biggest draws for visitors to the island. The Rene Egli water sports shop, by Melia, is one of the most recommended. For surf shops, the 'Visit Fuerteventura' website

has approved listings.

Rene-Egli.com
VisitFuerteventura.es

Hiking - Jandia

Pack your boots, and prepare to enjoy hundreds of kilometres of hiking routes across the island. In the south, the protected Jandia peninsula is rich in birdlife, and home to the island's highest point, Pico de la Zarza. In the same area is the Penitas Ravine, one of the most stunning landscapes in Fuerteventura. Hiking is also a wonderful way to see the other volcanic peaks on the island including the sacred Tindaya.

Museums

The island has worked to preserve its cultural and historical identity, and across Fuerteventura one finds a network of small museums. I particularly liked the Ecomuseo de La Alkogida, a small hamlet of seven authentic rural houses, where volunteers share the lifestyle of a bygone age, from pottery, to bread making. I should also mention the Museum of Majorero Cheese; after all, Fuerteventura's goat's cheese is recognised as being the best in the world.

VisitFuerteventura.es

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WHERE IN THE WORLD?



APRIL'S PHOTO

Something's fishy about this

BY MARCO SCHIAVON

The smell of fish will soon engulf this neighbourhood, considered the oldest in the city, as residents, as well as tourists from far and wide come together to celebrate the patron saint of fishermen (as well as lost things, travellers and mariners,

among many others).

The saint is particularly revered here in his home town and his holiday is among the most important in the country.

To mark the occasion, the narrow streets and stairways of this quarter are draped with coloured

lights, streamers and paper lanterns. Most significantly, though, sardines are grilled en masse in the street in front of houses and restaurants as a nod to the saint's miracle which saw fish raise their heads above water to listen to his sermons.

This is also a particularly important day for single women who carry out all sorts of rituals to implore the saint, known also as the matchmaker saint, to help them find a worthy husband. One such ritual includes filling your mouth with water until you hear a man's

name mentioned.

If you know the name of saint's day and that of the neighbourhood pictured, you could win a prize. Send your answers to english@diariosur.es and put 'Where in the world?' as the subject. Please also include your address and telephone number so we can send the prize to you.

Congratulations to Mike Davey who won last month's competition for correctly identifying the Palafoxiana library in Puebla (Mexico). He also identified Cinco de Mayo as the holiday often celebrated in the USA.

Your prize will be with you shortly.

Send your answer to english@diariosur.es



PROGRAMMING Friday 26th May to Thursday 1st June



PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES

Director Joachim Rønning and Espen Sandberg
Starring Johnny Depp and Javier Bardem
ADVENTURE · 129 min.



Friday 26: 17:50, 19:50, 22:15
Saturday 27 and Sunday 28: 15:50, 17:50, 19:50, 22:15
Monday 29 and Tuesday 30: 17:45, 20:15, 22:00
Wednesday 31: 17:50, 19:50, 22:15
Thursday 1: 17:45, 20:15, 22:00



GET OUT

Director Jordan Peele and Rhona Rubio
Starring Daniel Kaluuya and Allison Williams
HORROR-MYSTERY · 104 min.



Friday 26: 20:30
Saturday 27 and Sunday 28: 15:45, 20:30
Monday 29: 20:00, 22:45
Tuesday 30: 20:30, 22:40
Wednesday 31: 17:45
Thursday 1: 22:40



MISS SLOANE

Director John Madden
Starring Jessica Chastain and Mark Strong
DRAMA · 133 min.



From Friday 26 to Sunday 28: 21:30
Monday 29 and Tuesday 30: 22:30
Wednesday 31 and Thursday 1: 20:00



ALIEN: COVENANT

Director Ridley Scott
Starring Michael Fassbender and Billy Crudup
HORROR · 123 min.



Friday 26: 19:00
Saturday 27 and Sunday 28: 16:00
Monday 29: 18:00
Tuesday 30: 17:45, 20:00
Wednesday 31: 21:30
Thursday 1: 17:45



GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2

Director James Gunn
Starring Chris Pratt and Zoe Saldana
ACTION · 137 min.



Saturday 27 and Sunday 28: 16:00
Monday 29 and Tuesday 30: 17:45
Wednesday 31: 18:30

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

Andalucía



The capital of the Costa Tropical has an excellent climate in the summer. :: TURISMO ANDALUZ



Aerobatics are part of the festival :: T.A.



BASIC GUIDE

◀ **What to see**
Santuario de Nuestra Señora de la Cabeza. The main church in Motril, which was built over an old Moorish castle. Cerro de la Virgen, s/n. 18100 Motril

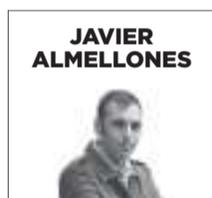
Port. Marina, fishing and commercial port. Recinto Portuario s/n. 18613 Motril.

Sugar Cane Museum. An interesting collection, situated in an old sugar mill. Avenida Marquesa de Esquilache, 4. Ingenio de La Palma. 18600 Motril.

Fuerte de Charcuna. A castle situated by the beach of the same name. Pedanía de Charcuna, 18730 Motril.

Where to eat
La Espicha. Andalusian seafood cuisine. C/. Dr. Tercedor, 8. Bajo 4, La Fabriquilla, 18600 Motril. Telf. 958 977 911

Where to stay
Hostal Tropical. Accommodation in the town centre. Avenida Rodríguez Acosta, 23. 18600 Motril. Telf. 958 600 450.



JAVIER ALMELLONES

Motril by land, sea and air

2 days in Motril

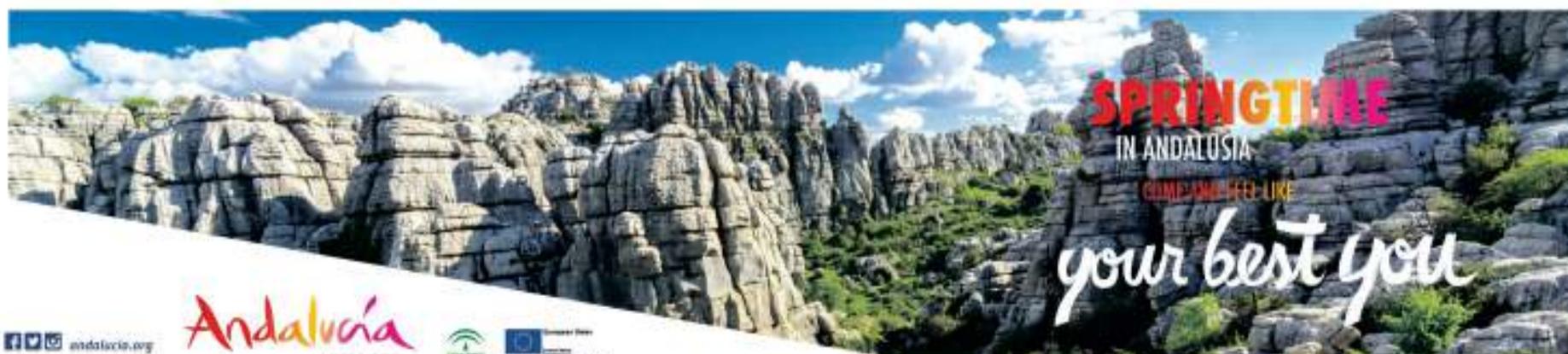
Car + walking
Journey: 75 minutes from Malaga.
Visit to the air show: 4 hours.
Cultural visits: 3 hours.
Port and beaches: 4 hours.



Every year the International Air Festival in Motril gives this town on the Costa Tropical a completely different perspective. This year will be the 12th time the event has taken place, and about 60,000 people are expected to gather on the beach on 11 June to watch several displays, including one by the Air Force's PA-PEA patrol with the C.16 Eurofighter and HE-24 (S-76) helicopter. There will also be plenty of other attractions for visitors, including a Harrier AV-8B PlusII and a Spanish Naval SH-60B helicopter, which will be taking part for the first

time, as well as the Jas 39 Gripen aircraft from the Hungarian Air Force. Also taking part in this year's edition will be aerobatic pilot José María Gázquez in his Extra 300, and Russian pilot Svetlana Kapanina, world aerobatic champion and the most decorated woman pilot in aviation history. **A tropical summer** The Air Festival marks the official start of the summer season in this town in Granada province, which is considered one of the best places in Andalucía for a holiday. Motril is considered the capital of the Costa Tropical, and its climate lives up to the name given to this

stretch of the coast. The region is quite famous because sugar cane is still grown there as well as different sub-tropical fruits, something which gives the landscape an indisputably exotic look. Agriculture is still an important part of the economy of this town, which is at the foot of the Sierra de Lújar mountains. As well as its fertile land, the Mediterranean has also been fundamental for thousands of years as a source of food for the area's inhabitants. Nowadays the coastline is, in addition, an excellent tourist destination, with charming beaches such as La Joya, Poniente and Carchuna, and one of the most important ports in Andalucía. Other places of interest in Motril include the Santuario de la Virgen de la Cabeza chapel, which dates back to the 17th century, and the Pre-industrial Sugar Cane Museum.



DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

The rosy rice flower

The rice flower is a small shrub with dark green, glossy leaves and masses of pink or white flowers in the spring

Pimelea ferruginea, or the rosy rice flower, is native to Australia and New Zealand. *Pimelea* is a genus with around 80 species in the Thymelaeaceae family; a group that includes the heavily scented shrub *Daphne*. Unfortunately the *Pimelea* is hardly scented at all, with only *P. suaveolus* (scented banjine) described as having a faint, sweet fragrance.

However, what *Pimelea ferrugi-*

nea lacks in fragrance it makes up in flower power. From spring onwards, the compact, bushy shrub is smothered in dark pink 'pom-poms' or clusters of flowers which attract lots of pollinating insects. The blooms form right on the ends of the branches and are usually

shades of pink, although there are some white varieties.

Whether for a cottage garden border, ground cover or specimen plant, there is a species of *Pimelea* that will fit the bill. They form a mound of dense foliage and need free-draining, slightly acidic soil. They all love

hot, dry climates, will tolerate being near the sea and usually will withstand light frosts, however they are not drought tolerant and do not like high humidity.

Although they do best in full sun, they will also survive partial shade although they may become a bit

leggy.

After flowering, a light trim should promote a second flush of blooms. *Pimelea* doesn't need much maintenance; an occasional trim should keep it compact and a good shape. Avoid cutting back into old wood as this may cause die-back.

Cuttings taken from the new season's growth usually root easily. Use a rooting medium that has lots of sharp sand mixed in to help drainage. Unfortunately the seeds are rarely viable.

Pimelea ferruginea is used in topiary because of its dense growth and the flowers are popular for use in flower arranging.

The genus name comes from the Greek word 'pimele' meaning 'fat' and probably refers to the oily seeds. All parts of the plant are poisonous to horses, sheep and cattle.



Pimelea ferruginea and a pale pink form (inset). :: SUR

READER'S PHOTO



:: ANN PENNINGTON

BOUNTIFUL BOUGAINVILLEA

This has been a good year for bougainvillea with exceptional growth and masses of blooms as illustrated in this photo sent in by SUR in English reader, Ann Pennington.

GARDENING HINTS FOR MAY

More gardening tricks

1) Use nappies to line flower pots; apparently the adult ones are best as they contain tiny beads that absorb liquid and turn it into a gel, thus conserving water for the plant to take up as it needs it.
2) Mix potting compost with cat litter (this tip was sent in by Lyn Newman): another way to conserve moisture in the soil. Lyn uses cat litter that's advertised as '100% pure' and says it doesn't adversely affect her plants at all.
3) To keep plants in containers cool, place the pot into a slightly bigger one with an air gap between the two. This tip

is also from Lyn Newman.
4) Cut an old T-shirt into strips and use to tie in climbing plants.
5) Lay sheets of old newspaper over soil and then cover with mulch, this will help to retain moisture and suppress weeds.
6) Keep your used teabags and, before composting, toss them in a bucket and keep it topped up with water. After a few days this water can be used to water your plants. Alternate with ordinary watering as the tea, although adding nitrogen, can make the soil too acidic.

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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Twins' eyes look to Malaga for hope

Two Palestinian sisters have been brought to the Costa del Sol for eye surgery

The twins, who suffer from a condition which could lead to blindness, have been brought here for treatment by an association which helps Palestinian children

∴ **ÁNGEL ESCALERA**

MALAGA. Maya and Talla are twins from Palestine. They are eight years old and suffer from keratoconus, a condition which stops them seeing normally and can even lead to blindness if not treated.

The two little girls arrived at Malaga airport on a flight from Istanbul earlier this week, with their mother and Palestinian doctor Fayez Bibi, who trained in Cuba as a specialist in internal medicine. The girls will be diagnosed and treated free of charge at the Antonio Moreno eye clinic in Malaga. If necessary, they will undergo surgery for a cornea transplant.

Maya and Talla, who live with their family in the Meh-Meh Palestinian refugee camp, on the border of Israel, Syria and Lebanon, have been brought to Malaga by



The Palestinian twins at Malaga airport. ∴ **SALVADOR SALAS**

an association called Asociación Palestino Andalusí para la Infancia (APAINF).

The president of the NGO, Rafael Aldehuela, and its manager, Vanessa Celestino, were at the air-

port to collect the girls, their mother and two Palestinian women aged 18 and 20, who will also be treated at the Antonio Moreno clinic. One of them was shot in the eye during the war in Leba-

non when she was two years old. The other has keratoconus, like the twins.

Rafael Aldehuela said the association has 800 members and it organises charity markets all over

Spain to raise funds to help sick and disabled Palestinian children from refugee camps.

Those who receive help and are brought to Spain are from extremely poor families or have been injured in the war in Syria.

The NGO receives assistance from Cordoba, Pontevedra and Bilbao councils, who have allocated them a site for the charity markets so they can raise funds. The association is also grateful to the ONCE Foundation, the Ronald McDonald Foundation and the Costa del Sol Tourist Board for their support.

Accommodation

While they are in Malaga, the sisters will be staying at the Ronald McDonald house. "Antonio Moreno is an ophthalmologist who collaborates with us. At his clinic he will provide the treatment the girls need to overcome their sight problems," said Rafael.

APAINF covers all the costs of bringing the patients to Spain: flights, paperwork, accommodation etc.

This week another child will also be arriving in Malaga: Taher, a Palestinian boy, lost a leg in an explosion in the war in Gaza and the association has decided to help him. He will be treated by Ortopedia Poyatos, who will provide him with an artificial leg so he can walk.

"We would very much like Malaga council to bear us in mind and help us with our projects as well," said Vanessa Celestino.

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Researchers and members of the Diabetes Cero association at the conference. :: SUR

specialists explained the six studies being carried out in prestigious research centres which are part of hospitals around the country. One is at CABIMER, the Andalusian Centre of Molecular Biology and Regenerative Medicine, where former Health minister Bernat Soria leads the project. Others are in Madrid, the Basque Country and Catalonia.

Different aspects

At the conference, the six research projects were given 105,000 euros in total. Three received 25,000 euros each, from money which has been raised at charity events by the association since it was set up in 2014, while the other three received 10,000 euros, thanks to the support of the SED Foundation of the Spanish Diabetes Society.

The clinical tests being funded by the association all aim to put an end to child diabetes, but from different angles. For example, one project is trying to reprogramme the patients' own skin cells to make new cells which are beta producers of insulin, and another is working on regulating the immune system so that it automatically regulates the beta cells which are destroyed when the auto-immune attack begins. The association's future support for research projects will be determined by an advisory committee and based on the results of the research to be presented at next year's conference.

"Since our first conference we at Diabetes Cero are even more determined, because people are now more aware that research needs our help.

"We are now focusing on raising as much money as we can to continue supporting these projects, and we will hold another conference next year," said Manuel Castro.

Childhood diabetes association calls for support to fund six research projects

The first national conference held by the Diabetes Cero association of families affected by the illness was attended by 400 health professionals and patients

NIEVES CASTRO

MARBELLA. Heartened by the results of its first national conference in late April, the Diabetes Cero (Dt0) association is now trying to raise funds to continue research projects discussed at the event. The 400 health professionals from all over Spain who went to Écija, Seville, for the conference agreed on the need to finance six pieces of re-

search to tackle type 1 diabetes, the one that affects children.

The association, currently preparing to become a foundation, is made up of 14 delegations in different Spanish provinces. The branch in Malaga is the largest and most important in terms of members and fundraising ability: 40 per cent of the money given to the research groups so far has been collected at charity events in the province.

That is why the coordinator of Diabetes Cero Malaga, Manuel Castro, who lives in Marbella, is now calling for support so that research currently being carried out by top scientists and pioneering centres can continue.

The next fundraising event will be a concert to pay tribute to leg-

endary rock bands (AC/DC, Queen and The Police), which will take place on Saturday 22 July in the Plaza de la Nogalera in Torremolinos, from 6pm onwards.

Manuel said the conference in

Écija was a landmark for the association because it was the first time patients and health professionals had joined forces to raise funds for research.

During the conference, Spanish

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► **Become a member.** From 20 euros a year, by clicking on the Socio Amigo section of the association's website, www.diabetescero.com

► **Shopping.** Buy products from the Tienda Solidaria (Solidarity Shop) on the website.

► **Challenges.** Search for 'diabetescero' on the migranodearena.org platform and take part in the challenges set by the association.

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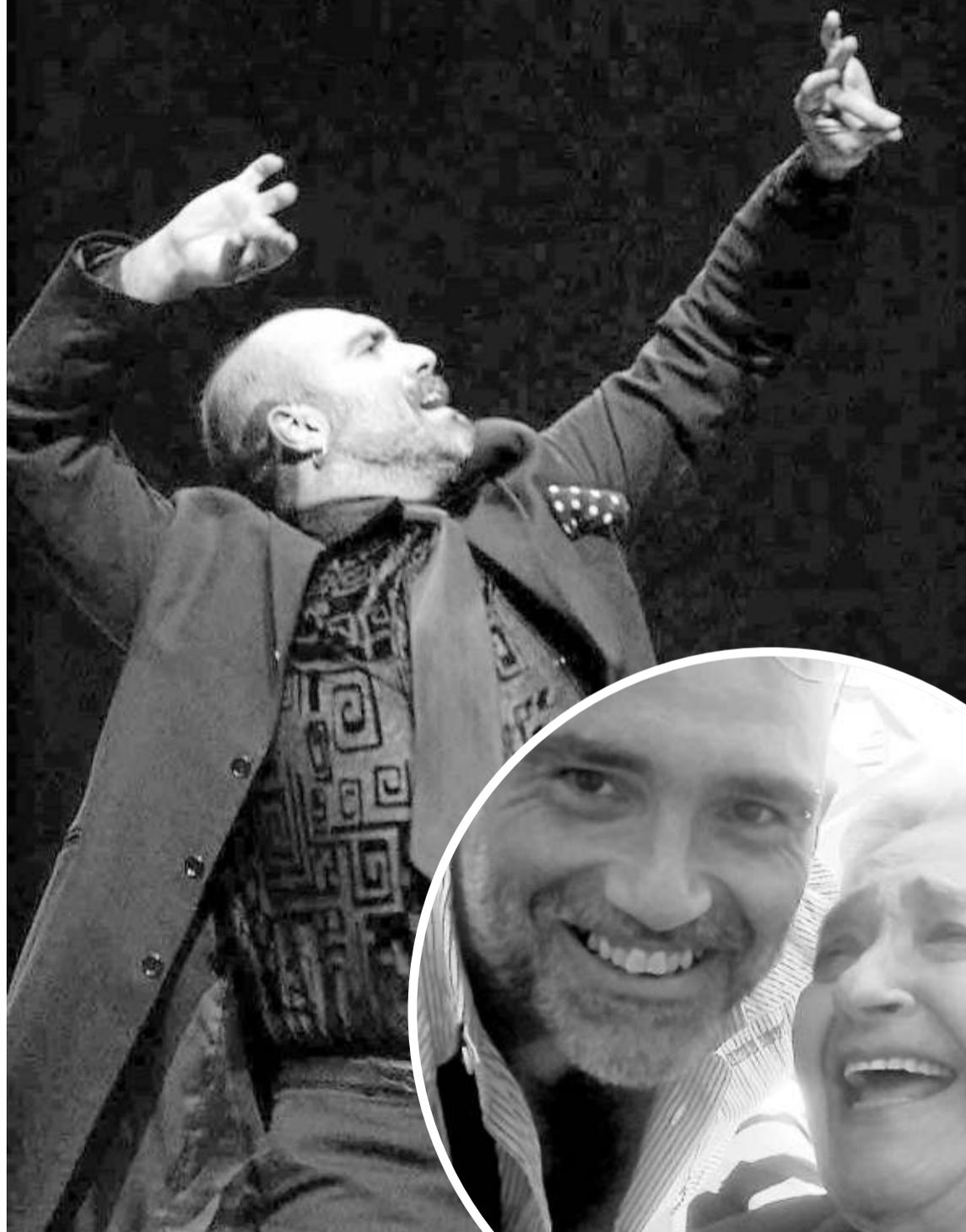
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Flamenco makes memories

Dancer and choreographer Paco Mora has designed a music-based therapy to help Alzheimer's sufferers



The initiative will begin in late May or early June at private care homes in Extremadura, where Mora lives, and will then be expanded

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

MALAGA. It began as a bit of fun, a way of entertaining his mother, who was starting to lose her memory, but it ended up being a flash of sheer inspiration.

"My mother's illness gave me a lot of time to think, to write, while I was looking after her. We started

trying to recall her memories through song, because for her generation everything happened with flamenco as a soundtrack in the background," says Paco Mora.

For four years this dancer and choreographer from Malaga has been developing his Flamenco para Recordar project at home, and within a few weeks it will become a collective experience through an initiative in day centres for the elderly in Extremadura, where he now lives.

"Independently of the medication she was on, I noticed that after the flamenco there was pro-

gress in my mother's emotions and moods. One of the most important aspects of any therapy is the relationship between the carer and the patient.

"I don't find it easy, but with this type of experience I have an incentive to be with her, to have fun with her and to recall her memories, and that brings you closer to the person who is ill and eases the burden a bit," says Mora, who since 2013 has been the director of the Arts Centre of Badajoz.

Memories revived

Mora was also the director of the show Malaga which in 2005 opened the provincial government's first Flamenco Biennial. He has taken his shows to Japan and France and on the big screen he played a leading role in the film Salomé (2002) by Carlos Saura.

The dancer decided to take a break from his career to look after his mother, Carmen Mora, who is nearly 86, and from whom he acquired, as well as the surname for his professional career, a love for flamenco music and dance.

"On Mother's Day we had one of the most incredible experiences since we embarked on this project over four years ago. I took my mother a bunch of flowers and so forth, and after giving her her breakfast she asked me to dance.

So I danced, and she became very emotional. I asked why she was crying, and she started to tell me that she had wanted to be a dancer, but her father wouldn't let her because he said that was only for women of ill repute.

"Then I saw her tears change to happiness, because she was realising that I had been able to become what she had wanted to be. It was incredibly emotional, and it was a lovely way of getting the mechanisms of her memory to work for a few moments," he says.

Carmen features on the project's Facebook profile, singing La Niña de Fuego along with Alberto Moreno. That song that Manolo Caracol made famous opened a door in Carmen's memory: "My father, may he rest in peace, loved me to sing to him. He loved flamenco, so I used to sing and dance for him," she says, laughing and smiling amid the mists of forgetfulness.

There is another video with Carmen saying to Paco, "Put some flamenco on for me." And then comes the voice of Miguel Poveda singing the song Esos Cuatro Capotes

Artists, teachers and others in the world of culture are supporting the initiative

The therapy focuses on improving the relationship between carer and patient

and Carmen wants to get up and dance, but her legs don't respond, so she enthusiastically does the arm movements and stamps her feet, rebelling if only for a moment against the paralysis of her muscles and her memory.

Having seen this progress in his mother, Mora decided to take it to a bigger stage.

"One option was to do it the usual way: create a project, look for funding and then you either do it or you don't, but I decided to do it differently this time. To create the project and then look for people to collaborate with me, which is when I realised how important social media sites are. Antonio Canales posted it on his Facebook wall and within a short time I had support from people like Cristina Hoyos, Rafael Amargo, and many others," he says.

More than entertainment

Artists, teachers and others in the world of culture are supporting this initiative, which is about to take a crucial step forward.

"We are finalising the details to try it in day centres run by the Junta de Extremadura and private care homes. What I want to do is to offer an alternative to the usual therapies, and we are planning to start at the end of May or in early June. We are thinking of an initial therapy programme which lasts for three months, and then we'll look at the results. We're starting with private care homes, and will then expand to others," he says.

The next phase of the project will include the participation of a psychologist, physiotherapist and occupational therapist.

"This therapy isn't just a form of entertainment. We are very aware that we're not going to cure the illness, or anything like that, but I am convinced that we can at least put an obstacle in the way of its development, in conjunction with medical treatment. By creating a routine around something they like, you can achieve major progress in the patients' emotions." And we mustn't forget the carers, whose emotions will also benefit from the project.

Mother and son.

Paco Mora and Carmen, united in a therapy based on flamenco. :: SUR

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A kick in the teeth

Four out of every ten people in Spain have stopped going to the dentist because of the economic crisis. "Things are the same as 20 years ago: people are worried about what they can afford to eat, rather than what they are going to eat it with"



SUSANA ZAMORA

Ten years of economic crisis have left their mark on people's spending power in Spain, and a lack of money has also had an effect on their dental health. Many of those who used to visit the dentist regularly, aiming for perfect, blindingly white teeth, have found themselves with no choice but to restrict their visits and only go when absolutely necessary.

"Spanish people have never looked after their mouths very well, but things nowadays are the same as they were 20 years ago: people have to worry more about what they can afford to eat, rather than what they are going to eat with," says Óscar Castro, the president of the General Council of Dentists of Spain.

In the early years of the economic recession, research was carried out by Granada University, using a 'Survey into Living Conditions' which had been drawn up by the National Institute of Statistics (INE). It showed that people were not visiting the dentist as often as they used to, especially the more vulnerable groups (the un-

employed and those with little money).

Now, José María Suárez, president of the College of Odontologists of La Coruña, says the situation has not improved: four out of every ten patients no longer go for regular check-ups. "By 2007 and 2008 we had reached acceptable levels of dental health, but from then onwards things changed. We are seeing more dental problems which are exclusively related to the crisis. It has been like a kick in the teeth for Spanish people," he says.

The patients themselves, according to the latest White Book of Dental Health, which was published by the Spanish Dental Association (Consejo General de Dentistas) in 2015, corroborate this: the first reason why people don't visit the dentist is because they don't have any dental problems; the second is because they can't afford it.

Consequences

The result? There has been a three per cent increase in dental caries in adults aged 35 to 44, and it has become a problem which currently af-

fects 95 per cent of the population in this age group; a sharp rise in bruxism, a condition associated with stress - "because people who are tense and worried tend to clump their teeth, wearing them down and causing dental fractures"; an increase in extractions that could have been avoided if the problem had been caught in time; and more periodontal illness, an infection which affects the gums and destroys the bone which supports the teeth. About 73 per cent of the population in Spain are affected by this.

Experts say that stress and smoking are two factors which have contributed to the problem.

"Periodontal illness needs constant treatment; if people stop going for checkups, those who suffered from it previously will get it again. In the end, they may have saved a bit of money by not going for regular checkups, but the problem gets worse and they then have to spend far more on long and costly treatments," says Antonio Bujaldón, vice-president of the Spanish Periodontics Society.

All the specialists we consulted agreed that prevention is always the

"Genetic code determines some dental illnesses, but so does people's postcode"

cheapest option in the long run. However, surveys show a different picture: although for 84 per cent of people in Spain it is "important" to visit the dentist at least once a year - according to the White Book - the reality is that only 50 per cent of them do so, placing Spain among the EU countries with fewest visits to the dentist, above only Romania, Hungary and Turkey.

The experts say that dental health has never been a priority for the Spanish, and even less so during times of crisis, partly because of a lack of education, partly because of a fear of the dentist and also because of the cost.

Dental health appears to be low down the list of priorities, not only for the people but also for the health service. Services covered by the Ministry of Health only include "the treat-

ment of acute odontological processes", such as infections, dental traumas and the removal of unhealthy teeth. Implants, the extraction of healthy teeth and orthodontics are expressly excluded, as are cosmetic dental treatments.

The Ministry of Health has no qualms in admitting on its website that children's dental health in Spain "could be improved and, especially, is not equal to that of some other countries, so this could be described as inequality."

Location is important

The president of Spanish odontologists, Óscar Castro, says that many dental illnesses are determined by the genetic code, but someone's postcode also has an influence: "Depending on where you are born, you will have a better or worse mouth," he says. In his opinion, it is a shame that there are 17 different health systems in Spain, one in each autonomous region.

"Dental health should be covered by the public health service as a priority, because it is incredible that they will not pay for a filling but

IN FIGURES

Treatments. The Observatory of Oral Health in Spain shows that in 2016 more people went to the dentist for simple treatments, but more complicated procedures such as cosmetic dentistry, whitening and dentures dropped by 27 per cent.

Professionals. There are 35,000 dentists in Spain, one for every 1,167 inhabitants, three times higher than WHO recommendations (one for every 3,500).

Faculties. Spain has more Odontology faculties than any other European country, 23 in total, including private ones.

Work. Only two per cent of patients say they have had difficulty doing their job because of dental problems.

Clinics. About 80 per cent of patients go to an independent private clinic; 11 per cent to one approved by their insurance company; and eight per cent to a franchise.



they will for a heart transplant,” he says. “It is the great paradox of our health system and it is short-sighted, because some illnesses begin or become worse as the result of bad dental health, such as diabetes, premature births and many cardiovascular problems. They all have to be treated”.

In the Basque Country and Navarra, there is a pioneering plan for children’s dental care (PADI), which has been in operation since 1991 and is a benchmark for the whole country. It is based on four factors: public financing, mixed services (public health and private dentists), specific clinical protocols to guarantee a focus on prevention, and a system of payment per treatment.

A similar scheme is also used in Andalucía, Aragón, Baleares, the Ca-

nary Islands, Extremadura and Murcia. In other regions children’s dental care is funded exclusively by the regional health system, except Castilla-La Mancha and Castilla y León, where there is a mixed system - basic dental care under the health service and more specialised services by the private sector, with payment per treatment.

At present there are about 35,000 dentists in Spain, nearly three times the number recommended by the World Health Organisation. This, and the system, has resulted in a proliferation of clinics, some of which are criticised for charging low prices to attract clients, but providing a low standard of care in return. As Óscar Castro describes it, in some cases the clinics work on “a system of low-costs and maximum profits”.

A variety of models in the rest of Europe

Spain is part of a small group of countries in southern Europe, together with Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Malta, where the system is essentially private, with hardly any government funding, and patients have to pay at least 90 per cent of the cost. The other countries have a dental health system which is either State-funded or mixed, according to the report from the Spanish Dental Association. As well as the Spanish model and the other Mediterranean countries, the study highlights five others:

The Eastern European model (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) involves a traditional health service system, but since the Berlin Wall came down the trend has been moving towards private treatment.

The ‘Bismarck’ model (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany and Luxembourg) is different because there is practically no free dental treatment. In this case, dental care is provided by the private sector with payment per treatment (generally official rates) and patients are reimbursed afterwards by insurance companies.

The British model is based on dental services provided by private dentists with contracts with the health authorities. Some services normally have to be paid for, but are free for under-18s, students, pregnant women and people with limited resources.

The hybrid model (Ireland and Holland) is mid-way between the ‘Bismarck’ model (for the adult population) and the British model (free dental care for children).

The Nordic model (Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden) consists of a public dental service which is accessible to everyone, free for children (in some cases up to the age of 19) and with extensive facilities for adults. In the case of Sweden and Denmark, orthodontics are included for children, and in Finland free dental treatment is provided for priority groups (under-18s, people with psychological disability, those with chronic illnesses and recovering addicts).

Experts say neglecting dental health can lead to more serious problems in the future

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Obese, but feeling slim

More than 80 per cent of overweight people do not admit they have a problem



ÁNGEL ESCALERA
✉ aescalera@diariosur.es

The Spanish Society for the Study of Obesity highlights the risks that excess weight poses for people's health

MALAGA. They look in the mirror and think they're fine. They're satisfied with the image in front of them and they don't notice any excess weight. This is the case with over 80 per cent of people whose weight puts them in the category of "obese". Even though they are kilos overweight, they don't admit it and so do nothing to resolve a problem which directly affects their state of health.

A survey released recently by the Spanish Society for the Study of Obesity (Seedo) shows that only 17.8 per cent of people who are



More than 55 per cent of people in Spain are overweight. :: SUR

obese admit it. Carrying extra kilos can result in diabetes, high cholesterol and triglycerides, high blood pressure and joint pains, among other health problems.

Most Spanish people in the initial stages of obesity are very relaxed about the situation and do not think that excess weight will damage them in any way, explains the president of Seedo and director of the endocrinology and nutrition units at the Carlos Haya and Clínico Universitario hospitals, Francisco Tinahones. It is especially common for older people to fail to see their size, often because they mistakenly believe that being plump is sign of good health.

One thousand people from different places in Spain took part in the Seedo survey.

Dr Tinahones says that 20 per cent of obese people are metabolically healthy, but the remaining 80 per cent face illnesses which affect their quality of life and are dangerous. Being overweight is a warning sign. As soon as it occurs, and before people get any fatter, they should change their lifestyle, eat a healthy diet (the Mediterranean one is best) and take regular exercise.

"More than 55 per cent of the Spanish population between the ages of 18 and 65 weigh too much," says Dr Tinahones. Of those, 18 to 20 per cent are already showing signs of obesity.

In the doctor's opinion, people who are obese do not see it as be-

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ing a real problem, and that attitude needs to be changed because otherwise the health system faces huge costs.

“The figures show that people’s perception of obesity is so low that it is difficult to get them to do anything about it,” he says.

Stop snacking

One thing which contributes to extra weight is snacking between meals. More than 60 per cent of obese people do this, and they usually eat food which is high in calories. On the other hand, fewer than

30 per cent of people who are not overweight eat between meals. Experts say that if the urge to eat something is really powerful, the best options are fruit, carrots or lettuce leaves.

For those who want to get rid of extra kilos, the first step is to admit that they are overweight or have become obese. According to Seedo, everyone has to find their own remedy.

“There is always a solution for excess weight. You have to find out what it is, and apply it,” says Dr Tinahones. He insists it is essential

to change lifestyle habits, eat a healthy diet and take regular exercise.

By restricting calories (eating less and better) and becoming less sedentary, people can lose weight, stressed the expert. Three basic rules are: sleep well (restorative sleep prevents obesity), don’t snack between meals and take exercise (walk, swim, or cycle).

Obesity can be beaten, but in order to do so it is essential that the person who is overweight realises they are not quite as slim and healthier as they think they are.

Doctors recommend walking between 8,000 and 10,000 steps every day

■ A. ESCALERA

MÁLAGA. One way to prevent excess weight and obesity is to be active, take exercise, and not spend your spare time on the sofa or in your favourite armchair. Moving about, practising sport regularly and maintaining an active life are all factors in keeping the kilos at bay.

The president of the Spanish Society for the Study of Obesity, Francisco Tinahones, spoke to SUR recently when he was attending the European Obesity Conference in Oporto, in Portugal, and he

stressed the need for people to exercise in order to prevent excess weight and obesity.

He recommends walking, taking between 8,000 and 10,000 steps every day, which is the equivalent of a 70 to 80 minute walk. “People should aim for one million steps in 100 days,” he says.

However, the survey carried out by Seedo shows that more than 30 per cent of people with obesity spend more than five hours of their leisure time sitting down.

This is extreme, and encour-

ages weight gain because the calories are not being burned off.

Avoiding a sedentary lifestyle is key to overcoming obesity. Dr Tinahones says that as well as walking fast, other healthy habits are cycling, swimming and muscular exercise. Each person needs to choose the type of activity that is best for their physical condition.

In addition to exercise, it is vital to eat a low-calorie diet based on cereals, vegetables, pulses and fruit, to tackle excess weight and obesity.



Representatives of the clinic and Sinclair with one of the winners.

Cosmetic treatments come up in the draw

Six lucky winners will receive free treatment at the Clínica Dr. Campos Advanced Training Symposium

■ SUR IN ENGLISH

MARBELLA. An event organised by a Marbella-based clinic last weekend gave six guests the opportunity to try out cosmetic treatments free of charge. Clínica Dr. Campos held the prize draw to

find patients to take part in its Advanced Training Symposium held in collaboration with the international aesthetic dermatology company Sinclair Pharma.

After a talk on the characteristics and benefits of three Sinclair products, the draw took place for various treatments, including Silhouette Soft repositioning threads, Ellanse facial redensification and Perfectha hyaluronic acid filler.

Post-treatment creams were also included in the draw, which was followed by a cocktail party.

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Ibuprofen or paracetamol?

Experts have warned against taking these two common painkillers without being sure of the side effects they can cause

EUROPA PRESS

On numerous occasions we use medication without even trying other methods that could relieve and alleviate our pain and suffering to the same degree.

"There is a natural tendency to use medicines as a first port of call. They are the quickest way to relieve pain, but a lot of the time other activities such as relaxing or eating are equally sufficient remedies when, for example, you have a headache," said Dr Antonio Torres, from the scientific-medical society SemFYC (Sociedad Española de Medicina de Familia y Comunitaria).

"Ibuprofen is just one of these drugs that we tend to take without adequate medical knowledge. Medicines are not without risk and some people do not know how to take them. Today I was speaking with a person whose 70-year-old mother was taking five ibuprofens a day," the specialist added.

Paloma Casado, who works in medicine management at the Spanish company of primary care physicians, SEMERGEN, maintains that there is an excessive consumption of ibuprofen in today's society.

"Ibuprofen is taken more frequently than paracetamol nowadays, and the typical daily dose has also gone from 650mg to one gramme. It also has something to do with culture, as everyone wants to take the most powerful thing to make the pain go away as quickly as possible," she stated.

Since ibuprofen is "quite effective", Casado believes that our buying habits are changing, with more people



Latest buying habits suggest ibuprofen is the preferred medicine. :: SUR

WHAT TO TAKE WHEN

► **Inflammation.** If there is predominant inflammation, then ibuprofen should be taken. If not, paracetamol is initially advised for pain.

► **Mild pain.** Paracetamol is advised if you have pain in your knee after falling over, for example, or for a normal headache.

► **Migraines and fever.** Ibuprofen is advised for migraines, while both can be used for a fever, though paracetamol should be tried first.

now opting to purchase ibuprofen. However, she also highlights there is also a lack of knowledge regarding its side effects on the stomach, for example.

"Just like all anti-inflammatories it can cause gastritis and can affect the kidney. Studies were carried out nearly two years ago which showed that taking too many ibuprofens and anti-inflammatories increases car-

diovascular risk," Casado declared.

She therefore believes it is important to take ibuprofen with a stomach protector, especially for those people who suffer gastric problems, or after eating.

Antonio Torres warned that neither ibuprofen nor paracetamol are medicines that "can be taken lightly". "Paracetamol has a very well-established safety profile but that does not mean that there are no risks involved. It is a drug that above a certain dose can cause damage to the liver," he added.

Torres also warned that although it is thought that paracetamol is not as strong as ibuprofen, that is "not the case".

He pointed out that the "big difference" that exists between the two is that ibuprofen has an anti-inflammatory quality that paracetamol doesn't, which not only relieves the symptoms, but also the cause of the pain, which, for example, could be a wisdom tooth or a sore throat.

Both specialists stated that medication should only be taken after seeking medical advice given that doctors are the best placed to guide.



A class taking place in one of Yoga Marbella's studios. :: GARY EDWARDS

Free classes on offer at Radiant Yoga Marbella's Open Day

RACHAEL BREAKS

MARBELLA. Radiant Yoga Marbella is celebrating its fourth anniversary with an Open Day on 3 June, which also aims to raise

money for the David Toms Support Fund.

Regular attendees and newcomers alike will be able to participate in a number of different classes

free of charge on the Open Day, including Rocket Ashtanga, Yin Yang Yoga, Aerial Yoga and Hot Strala Yoga. The centre has stated it welcomes people of all nationalities to the classes as the teachers speak English, Spanish, Swedish, French, German and Russian.

Guests will also be able to enjoy the recently revamped yoga studio, shop for yoga clothing and enjoy a selection of healthy, Ayurveda-inspired food and drink served throughout the day.

On the same day Radiant Yoga are also holding the launch and reading of the spiritual book, *The Light, A Book of Knowing*, along with a gong meditation workshop.

Founding teacher, Lori Sjollem, urges anyone interested in attending to book a place beforehand. For more information visit www.yoga-in-marbella.net, email info@yoga-in-marbella.net or telephone 639845185.

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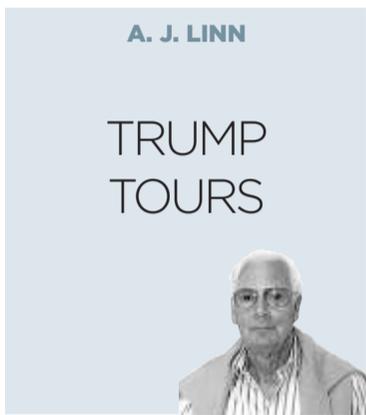
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Whatever your feelings about US president Donald Trump, there may be some sympathy for him as he jets around the Middle East this week. Apart from the fact that his advisors have asked his hosts to keep the speeches short, and to be sure to include his name several times so he will be jolted back to full attention, his schedule has him working from early dawn to late dusk with little time to relax. Referring to himself as a 'home-



body', his personal lifestyle has totally unprepared him for such a gruelling schedule, but the worst part may be the meals he is served. Like his father, who ate every day of his adult working life in the same Italian restaurant in Queens, the Donald's Manhattan diet revolves around fast food. McDonald's hamburgers and Kentucky Fried Chicken are the mainstays, with the occasional grilled steak, so well cooked it needs ketchup to make it edible. He eats fish and shrimps once in a while

but there are no reported sightings of him ever eating vegetables or fruit. As a lifelong teetotal, Coke is the default liquid refreshment.

It is probable that his advance team will have tried to persuade Trump's hosts to keep it simple. Memories of Prince Charles invited to partake of a whole roast baby camel at a Saudi banquet, may have been on their minds. Better not to even give a passing thought to sheep's eyeballs. Trump's other little foible is his phobia about germs. He doesn't

actually expect to be served by waiters wearing gloves, but one of his get-outs when rumoured to have hired prostitutes to urinate on the Moscow hotel bed Obama had slept in, was this particular phobia about cleanliness. "I am very much a germphobe," he told reporters.

Trump's level of gastronomic delight may be best illustrated by his praise for First Lady Melania's cooking. "She has a lot of imagination," he once said. "She makes spaghetti and meat sauce."

Improving a great recipe

The Marbella All Stars event addressed the ways to boost the gastronomy sector in Malaga and Marbella



An exhibition of gourmet trends ended the event. :: JOSELE-LANZA

:: NIEVES CASTRO

MARBELLA. The Asociación de Amigos de la Alta Gastronomía (association of friends of haute cuisine), backed by the Malaga brand Sabor a Málaga, brought together chefs, business owners, hotel managers, suppliers and distributors, vintners, nutritionists, journalists and gastronomy bloggers at the second edition of Marbella All Stars this week.

The last day of the two-day event was for networking in La Cabane of the Hotel Los Monteros. Professionals voiced their concerns and suggestions to boost Malaga's gastronomy industry at nine 'round tables'. They concluded that all though the

sector was very strong, there was some scope for improvement.

The need to improve infrastructure in Marbella and the problems with the A-7 bringing tourists into the area, was highlighted. As was the need for healthy, fresh food and the distributors asked for more flexi-

bility from the authorities for loading and unloading.

SUR food critic Enrique Bellver underlined the importance of promoting wine tourism and suggested strategies for increasing the 'Rutas de Vino' and creating activities to attract visitors.

EXHIBITIONS

Open Studios Art Event
Gaucín. 26-28 May, 2-4 June.
Gaucín village.

Stroll around the village and visit the open studios to talk to the artists and watch them work. www.artgaucin.com or tel: 634809747



Jorge. Rando, Malaga

Mercedes López Charro
Marbella. Until 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

Legendary vinyls
Marbella. From 1 June until 31 July.
Auditorio Felipe VI.

'Portadas míticas' is an exhibition of legendary records from the 70s and 80s such as 'Even in the quiet-

Music festival nearly sold out

by JENNIE RHODES

TORRE DEL MAR. The Weekend Beach Festival, which is now in its fourth year, has already confirmed acts including The Prodigy and Sepultura as well as well-known Spanish artists, Estopa, Mala Rodríguez and Chambao. Organisers of Torre del Mar's increasingly popular Weekend Beach Festival announced last week that this year's event has almost sold out, with just under two months to go before it gets under way. 85 per cent of the full weekend tickets have been sold as well as 90 per cent of tickets that include camping.

Since the first event in July 2014, the Weekend Beach has managed to position itself as one of Spain's most anticipated summer music events, attracting visitors from all over the country and beyond.

"Weekers", the name given to festival-goers, pitch their tents on land behind the three-stage festival ground and the whole area is located just behind the town's beach, behind the fashionable Bahía de Tanit, Berebere and Café del Mar beach bars.

The proximity of the beach, along with a Mercadona on the doorstep (or tent peg) and the convenience of Torre del Mar with nu-



The Prodigy will be performing at the festival. :: SUR

INFORMATION

► **When:** From 5 until 9 July.

► **Further info:**
www.weekendbeach.es

merous bars and restaurants, adds to the appeal.

The festival has in the last three years been extremely well-organised and had a relaxed feel to it. Local police, the town hall and organisers have cooperated to ensure

safety yet maintained a relatively low profile. Even the prohibition of the 'botellón' (drinking alcohol on the beach or in the street) seems to be relaxed for the duration of the festival which this year will take place from Wednesday 5 until Sunday 9 July.

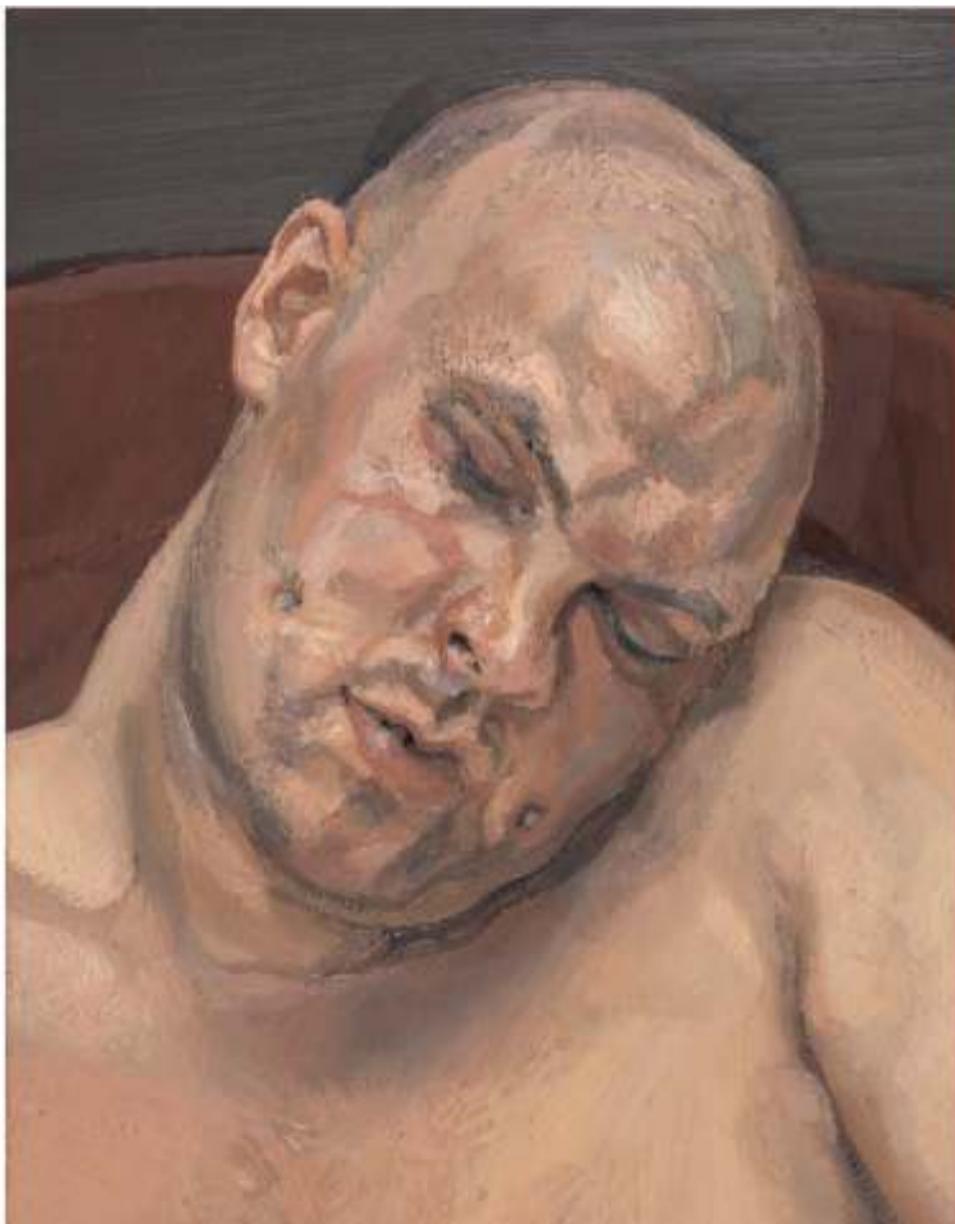
A form must be completed for anyone under the age of 18 attending, if they are accompanied by an adult. Further information including the under-18s form, full line-up and ticket sales can be found on the festival website, www.weekendbeach.es

est moments...' by Supertramp, or the Spanish and American editions of 'Sticky Fingers' by The Rolling Stones. The American version of this single showed Mick Jagger's jeans, while the Spanish edition showed a disturbing picture of bloodied fingers sticking out of a can.

Magpie International Gallery.
Marbella. Until 18 June. C/Virgen del Pilar. 200m from port.
'The journey of the soul' is an exhibition by Gabrielle Ange. She works in oil on canvas, acrylic, mixed media and charcoal and makes murals and other decorations for apartments, hotels, wineries etc.

Roberto Matta
Marbella. From 3 June until 26 May 2018. Museo Ralli, Urb Coral beach. Temporary exhibition of the Chilean artist Roberto Matta of surrealist abstract art. His works represent his own vision of the world and art through the invisible, the psyche, the cosmos, without losing reference to his origins or nature. Tel. 952 85 79 23 / marbella@rallimuseums.org

Museum Jorge Rando
Malaga. Until 30 September. Cruz del Molinillo, 12
An exhibition entitled 'El Nacimiento del Color' (the Birth of Colour) is currently on display. It includes over 100 works by Jorge Rando. The museum also holds musical events.



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Bacon, Freud and the School of London

Until 17 September 2017



Art with a taste of Spain

BY TONY BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. Popular Irish artist, Roger Cummiskey, will inaugurate his latest exhibition in Fuengirola next week.

'Sabor de España' (Taste of Spain) is a solo exhibition of paintings with Spanish-related themes.

This colourful collection of oils, acrylics and watercolors demonstrates the artist's unique style and includes several paintings of Don Quixote in different guises.

Cummiskey, president and founder member of the Andalusian International Artists Group, specialises in paintings that take their themes and titles from the wanderings and writings of James Joyce, Samuel Beckett and Miguel de Cervantes.

His paintings have been exhibited in galleries all over the world, including the International Art Exhibitions in London, Stockholm and New York.

The exhibition, which runs from Friday 2 until Friday 30 June, will be held in the Arte y Cocina Restaurant Gallery in Fuengirola, a relatively new establishment that combines fine dining with creative art.



'Después de la batalla'. :: SUR

A special inauguration party to launch the exhibition will be held between 6pm and 7.30pm on Thursday 1 June. The exhibition can be visited Tuesday to Sunday between the hours of 6pm and 11pm.

More information on www.rogercummiskey.com

INFORMATION

► **When:** From 1 until 30 June.

► **Where:** Arte y Cocina Restaurant Gallery. Free entry.

EXHIBITIONS

Peter Doig

Malaga. Until 25 June, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo. 'Studiofilmclub' is an exhibition by Scottish artist Peter Doig. It consists of posters created by the artist advertising films for his cineclub in Trinidad and Tobago.

Marc Montijano

Malaga. 27 May, 7pm. Galeria Columna JM, Duquesa de Parcent. 'Celebratio Vacuum' is the title of the exhibition by renowned artist, Marc Montijano.

Picasso's birth place

Malaga. Until 11 June, Sala de Exposiciones, Casa Natal de Picasso. Picasso's birth place houses two exhibitions. The first, entitled 'Arte Recuperado (1916-1957)' contains a selection of works by several Spanish artists on loan from Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia. The second, 'Junto al aura de Picasso', consists of works that harmonise with Picasso's style and execution such as Tàpies, Julio González and Miró.

Fausto Velázquez

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

Arte Recuperado

Malaga. Until 11 June. Casa Natal de Picasso, Plaza de la Merced. A selection of paintings entitled 'Arte Recuperado 1916-1957' is on loan to the Casa Natal. It includes works by Spanish masters including Josep Togores, Esteban Vicente, Alberto Sánchez and Pablo Gargallo among others.

Francisco Javier Valverde

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

Arte y superación

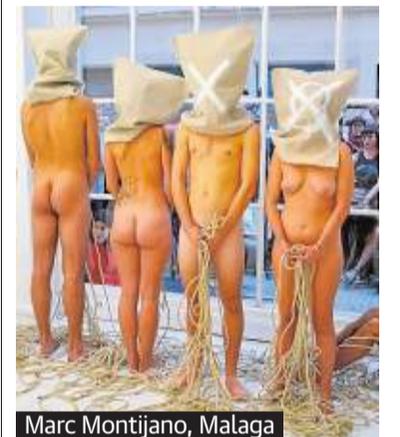
Malaga. Until 23 June. La Sala Moreno Villa. An exhibition of art works by international renowned artists of the Mouth and Foot Painters Association.

Faces in a family album

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

Painting after postmodernism Belgium-USA

Malaga. Until 2 July, Palacio episcopal, Plaza del Obispo. This exhibition has been brought to Malaga by Roberto Polo, patron of The New York Metropolitan Museum of Art. It consists of a collection of paintings by eight Belgian and eight American artists.



Marc Montijano, Malaga

Bacon, Freud and the London School

Malaga. Until 17 September. Picasso Museum. This exhibition is the result of an agreement between the Tate in London and the Picasso museum in Malaga. It features 90 works covering eighty years by renowned artists such as Freud, Bacon, Kossoff, Ronald B. Kitaj, Michael Andrews, Euan Uglow and Paula Rego. www.museopicassomalaga.org

Artistas Eclécticos

Mijas Pueblo. Until 21 July. Clínica Veterinaria, Avd México 21. Works by Sinikka Ahokas-Gröhn,

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Medvediev, Mijas

Elaine Carlton and Richard Wood.
www.artistaselecticos.com

Costa del Sol Photographic Society exhibition

Benalmádena. Until 26 May, *Casti- llo Bil Bil*

Open Monday 10am-1.30pm. Tues- Frid 9am-2pm and 4-10pm.

Antonio Carmona

Torremolinos. Until 31 May, *Salon de Actos y Exposiciones Casa de Cultura, C/Horacio Lengo*

An exhibition of paintings by Anto- nio Carmona entitled 'La discapaci- dad a través de la cultura' (disability through culture).

Happy Artists

Mijas Costa. Until 1 June, *BocArte Restaurante, C/Cómpeta.*

Paintings by the accomplished An exhibition of works by Astrid Ze-

hetner, a local Norwegian artist .

Elaine Carlton

Mijas. Until 31 May, *Hotel TRH Mijas.*

An exhibition entitled 'Organic' by artist Elaine Carlton. It explores the growth of living things and is created from natural products. wool, silk, rayon, cotton and metal.

Valerii Medvediev

Mijas. Until 5 June, *Sala de Patio de las Fuentes, Mijas town hall.*

An exhibition of sculptures by Rus- sian artist Valerii Medvediev.

Frontera Líquida

Benalmádena. Until 18 June. *Centro Andaluz de la Fotografía*

A visual record of Andalucía and Morocco.

Marlou Smits and Meta Wolters

Calahonda. From 2 June until end of August, *Restaurante Federika, Av De España.*

An exhibition of paintings by Mar- lou Smits and Meta Wolters.

María Zambrano

Vélez-Málaga. Permanent exhibi- tion. *Palacio de Beniel de Vélez- Málaga.* Monday-Friday, 9am-2pm.

An exploration into the life and works of Málaga-born philosopher and writer María Zambrano. For further information call 952500244.

Galería Krabbe 'Solstice'

Frigiliana. Until 25 June. *Galería Krabbe, C/Rosario La Joaquín.* A new solo exhibition of artwork by Carline Krabbe entitled 'Solstice'.

Robert Bell

Periana. Until 31 May. *La Galería, Villa Olivia.*

Reservations and for viewings of the exhibition of photographs by Robert Bell can be made by email: info@lagaleria.eu or by tel: 951139153

Tres Abstractos III

Rincón de la Victoria. Until 9 June. *Casa Fuerte de Bezmiliana, Av del Mediterráneo.*

An exhibition of abstract art by Fernando de la Rosa, Óscar Pérez and Perry Oliver.

CHARITY

Car museum week for charity

Malaga. Until 28 May. *Museo Automovilístico de Malaga. Avda Sor Teresa Prat*

Various activities are planned at the Malaga Automobile and fash- ion museum in aid of charity. The charities supported include Asocia- ción Ángeles de la Noche who help people who live in difficult circum- stances and the Asociación Mercador which supports families of stroke sufferers. Motoring clubs

such as the Club 2CV have got to- gether to organise the IICaravana Solidaria which will take place on 28 May to raise funds for the Fun- dación Andrés Olivares. The charity works to improve the lives of chil- dren suffering from cancer and other chronic disease.
www.museoautomovilmalaga.com



Marlou Smits, Calahonda

Anniversary charity concert

Benalmádena. 26 May, 9pm.

Moonlight Bar, Sunset Beach Club.

To celebrate their 30th birthday, the Sunset Beach Club are hold- ing a concert presented by Ricky Lavazza with special guest Vikki Rae. they will be performing tributes to Michael Bubl , Rob- bie Williams and Adele. Tickets 10  include canapes on arrival tel: 695887366. Funds raised will go to Debra (butterfly chil- dren), Barrets Town and Make a Wish charities.

'Mi Baile solidario'

Mijas. 27 May, 7.30pm. *Teatro Las Lagunas. Camino de Albero.* 3  in advance, 5  on the door.

The dance academy Ana Mar a Ti- neo will be performing to raise funds for Cudeca Cancer Hospice.

Dog Show

La Cala de Mijas. 28 May, from 11am. *Algeria Stables.*

A fundraising event for the FAMA (Foundation for abandoned and mistreated animals). Stalls selling food and drinks. Tel:620 354 885

Open Gardens Charity event

Granada. 27/28 May. [www.face- book.com/opengardensandalucia/](http://www.facebook.com/opengardensandalucia/) #opengardensandalucia

Three stunning gardens will be opening their gates to the public to raise funds for Acompalia, Valle Verde Animal Rescue and La Chocolatada charities. The gardens are Jardin de la Alpujarra, Orgiva Tea Garden and Jardin Nevada. Tickets for all three gardens cost 5 , under 12s cost 2.50 .

Perroton 3km run

Marbella. 28 May. Leaving at 9am from Marbella marina. 10 

www.perroton.org

The welcome packs for runner and dog can be collected 27 May from the marina between 11am and 7pm. 30% of funds go to the Perro- ton charity. Register at the Corte Inglés pet care department in Malaga, Marbella or Mijas Costa or online: www.depor- ticket.com.

Mijas and Ukraine friendship day



The presentation of the programme of events.

MIJAS. This Saturday, 27 May, the Ukraine and Mijas Friend- ship Day takes place, organised by the Foreigners Department of the Mijas town hall, in col- laboration with the Ukraine Con- sulate in Malaga.

The event will take place in the main square, from noon to 6pm. This is part of a series of friendship days that the Mijas Foreigners Department has been organising with different coun- tries such as Sweden, the Neth- erlands, Finland, Denmark, Ger- many, the United States, Ireland and the United Kingdom.

The Ukraine ambassador from Madrid, Anatoliy Scherba; the

INFORMATION

► **What.** A day of Ukranian cul- ture, concerts and dancing.

► **When.** 27 May, from noon.

► **Where.** Mijas main square.

Ukraine consul in Malaga, Oleg Vlasenko, and the mayor of Mi- jas, Juan Carlos Maldonado, will inaugurate the day with the un- covering of a plaque at the Mur- al of Nations next to the tour- ist office.

Visitors will be able to savour

typical food and drinks from the Ukraine as well as Ukrainian handcrafts and products. There will also be representatives from Ukraine Social Associations and businesses on the Costa del Sol, like the Clinic BORIS.

Performances will be held right through the day from 12.30pm until 6pm. Ukrainian dancer Valeryi Bryuzgin will be performing and there will be typical Ukraine folk dancers, singers, acrobats and more. Groups of dancers and associa- tions from Malaga, Madrid and Murcia will be taking part in this event.

Pupils of the Ukrainian School in Malaga will be holding an ex- hibition in the plaza and chil- dren's workshops will keep the kids busy with handcrafts and games.

Running parallel to the Ukraine Friendship Day, an art exhibition will be taking place at the tourist office. Two Ukrai- nian artists residing in Spain, Olga Timofeyeva and Vasyly Tretyakov, are exhibiting their works which can be seen until 2 June.

Roy P rez of the Mijas For- eigners Department stated: "Mi- jas is a multicultural municipal- ity and this type of event gives us the opportunity to get to know other cultures and tradi- tions, in this case from the coun- try of Ukraine."

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CHARITY

Treasure Hunt

Marbella. 28 May, 11am. 25€ pp. A treasure hunt in the town centre to raise funds for the photographer David Toms who was seriously injured in an accident. Teams of five people, one person goes free. Tickets from Manifesto designs. Tel: 952 880 923.

Cabaret for cats (and horses)

Alhaurín el Grande. 3 June, food from 7pm, show at 9pm. Venta La Recta. Tickets (for show only) 10€ Aongs from the 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's and 90's with Scott Walker, Bobby Darin, and Michael Buble to Diana Ross, Roberta Flack and Adele. All proceeds will go to "Gift of Life" Cat Rescue Centre and A.R.C.H. (The Andalucía Rescue Centre for Horses). Tickets from Papeleria Martin or Cristina's paper shop. To book a table tel: 952 112 057.



Porsche owners' club, Marbella

Charity car run

Marbella. 3 June, 10am meet. 25€ donation to Cudeca Meeting for coffee and registration at the Porsche Sportwagen showrooms. Run starts at 10.45am arriving at Las Brisas Golf Club at around 2 pm for lunch (30€). Organised by the Porsche and Ferrari owners Andalucía clubs and the Rotary Club of Marbella. Sponsored by C.S. Porsche Sportwagen Marbella. Contact: lorrainemarbella@gmail.com or tel: 619099310

Guinness Book of World Records attempt

Andalucía. 3 June, 30 towns. The event called 'Verbenavoi', (organised by the Asociación de Voluntarios de Oncología Infantil) intends to get 30 towns and villages singing a 'verbena' (street party) simultaneously. It is aimed at raising funds for rebuilding the isolation rooms in the Oncology ward of the children's hospital in

A festival of guitars



The Paco Seco trio. :: SUR

RONDA. The International Guitar Festival is returning to Ronda from 6 to 10 June.

It unites Spanish guitar players from across the world and is the initiative of the Guitaronnda cultural association.

The festival has been planned by artistic director Paco Seco, renowned international guitar player and event promoter, and Lucy Stewart, festival organiser in collaboration with Turismo de Ronda, RC Strings, Real Maestranza de Ronda, Stephen Hill Guitars and other sponsors.

The festival will consist of five concerts with musicians from Spain, Italy, Costa Rica, Turkey and Portugal including the Paco Seco Trio, Manuel Montero, Roberto Fabbri, José Carlos Gómez, Ruiz del Puerto, Sinan Ayyildiz and Cuarteto Concordis.

Malaga. It is also hoped to be entered in the Guinness Book of World Records. www.verbenavoi.com

AID Charity Auction
Alhaurín el Grande. 9 June 7pm. La Cuchara restaurant, Polígono Rosa.

Every second Friday of every month a charity auction to raise funds for Animals in Distress. 15 per cent of each item sold goes to the charity. Donations and items to sell 24hrs before, tel: Chris 628 239 174 / Joe 626 942 427

Summer gala
Marbella. 11 June, 7.30pm. Villa Tiberio. 85€

DETAILS

► **Where.** Convento de Santo Domingo, C/Armiñán.

► **When.** 6 -10 June.

► **Tickets.** 10€ adults, 5€ children. Ticket for all the concerts 35€.

► **Information.**
www.rondaguitarfestival.com

The concert is not restricted to flamenco music but is open to all genres such as classical, contemporary, improvised, Turkish etc.

Tickets can be bought from the Casa de la Guitarra, the Santo Domingo convent, the tourist office and Solyocio.com.

Sandro Morelli is hosting the Children With Cancer UK Summer Gala at Marbella's Villa Tiberio Restaurant. Following an aperitif in the garden, there will be a three-course dinner with wine and coffee, as well as live entertainment, dancing and an auction with celebrity items. 25€ of each reservation goes to the charity. Tel: 952771799

MUSIC & DANCE**The Wall Bar**

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

26 May. Adolfo Rodríguez. 60s pop.
27 May. Billy Preacher and Dani Harp. Blues, rock'n'roll, American

folk. Guitar and harmonica.

1 June. Brown Sugar Duet. Manuela Nelom and Javier Palomo

2 June. Enrique García. Music of the 60s and 70s.

Collegium Musicum

Sotogrande. 28 May, 8pm. Nuestra Señora de la Merced.

The concert focuses on Mendelssohn but will also include pieces by Elgar and Beethoven. Tel: 952475840 email: info@col-mus.org

Saturday concerts

Malaga. 27 May, noon. Museo Unicaja de Artes y Costumbres Populares (MUACP). Plaza Enrique García Herrera

Saturday morning concerts start next Saturday with a recital by Graciela Yuste and Mariano González Birqui entitled 'Tangos de Arrebal'.

Piano recital

Cajiz. 27 May, 8pm. Molino de Cajiz. Pianist Juan José Muñoz Cañivano will play music by composers Chopin, Grieg, Ramirez, Lecuona and Gershwin (Rhapsody in blue).

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra**Malaga. Teatro Cervantes**

26 May, 8pm. A. Bruckner's 4th symphony in B flat major. Conducted by Carlos Domínguez Nieto.

1, 2 June, 8pm. Concerto n° 21 in D major for piano and orchestra by Mozart and Symphony n°2 in D major Op 61 by Schumann.

Conducted by Manuel Hernández Silva. www.orquestafilarmonicademalaga.com



Harry be Goode, Mijas

Sundown Sounds**La Cala de Mijas.**

Sundown Sounds are a series of free open air concerts held in the plaza in front of the La Cala de Mi-



Brown Sugar Duet, Wall Bar

jas Town Hall every Thursday from 9pm. The event is organised by the Foreign Residents Department in collaboration with Martyn Wood of Big M Promotions.

1 June. Harry B. Goode - Finnish Guitar vocalist, playing classic hits of the past 40 years (in English).

Beatles Festival of Legends

Mijas. 2 June, 9pm. Auditorio Municipal. 18€.

The Silver Beats, Beatles tribute band; Neil Tudor, Paul McCartney look-alike/sound-alike; Phil Melia from the Pete Best band and Buddy Walker as Buddy Holly. Tickets tel: 609 488 572 Info and online ticket sales: www.thefestivaloflegends.com

Ruta del Rock

Torremolinos. Until 28 May, town centre.

The majority of the events are taking place in the town centre. A full list of concerts is available from cultural office in Plaza Andalucía.

End of term guitar concert

Mijas. 1 June, 7pm. Teatro Las Lagunas. Free.

Students of classical guitar will be performing in a special 'end of term' concert.

Gospel Concert

Mijas. 4 June, 11.30am. Finca Nandrup, C/José Orbeneja, Calahonda.

Iglesia Internacional Costa Del Sol will be holding the first Gospel Celebration service on Pentecostal Sunday. Pastors Stephen and Valma Merrick will be hosting the Gospel service and welcome all nationalities and denominations.

South Moon

Fuengirola. 3 June. Sohail castle.

The festival returns with Ellen Allen, Tiga and Agoria headlining a list that includes Maceo Plex, Ame, Adriatique and Shall Ocín, Deep techno and Deep house.

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Piano recital with David Huh Nueva Andalucía. 3 June, 9pm. Vasari Centre, Urb La Alzambra. The award winning pianist David Huh will be playing pieces by Haydn, Ravel and Schumann. www.musicaconencanto.org

la Constitución, opposite town hall. A special spring concert by the municipal band.

FLAMENCO

Dance companies Carmen Werner, Vaivén Circo and others will be performing The Danza Fernando Hurtado company will also be performing at the theatre at 10am on 26 May and on the Balcón de Europa at 6pm.

Flamenco en la Costa Almuñécar. 26 May, 10.15pm. Jar-

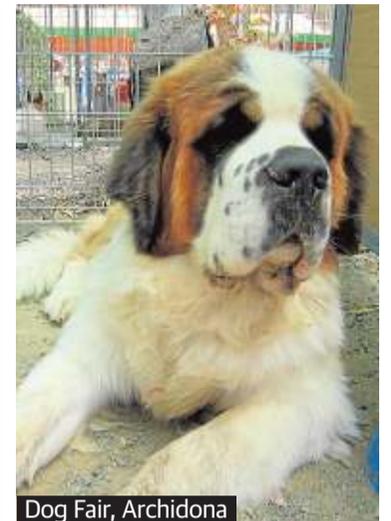
Danza Fernando Hurtado Nerja. 26-27 May, Teatro Villa de Nerja

Spring concert Almuñécar. 27 May, 9pm. Plaza de

dines de Zoraya, Parque El Majuelo. A flamenco show and also the Spanish Petanca championships.

End of term guitar concert Mijas. 31 May, 7pm. Teatro Las Lagunas. Free. Students of flamenco guitar will be performing in a special 'end of term' concert.

Museo de Arte Flamenca Peña Juan Brea Malaga. 27 May, 8pm. C/Ramón Franquelo. Chelo Soto singing, Luis el Salao guitar, Yaya clapping and Carrete dancing. 01 June, 9pm. Auditorio Edgar Neville, C/Pacífico. 'Calle Los Negros'. Tickets www.mientrada.net



Dog Fair, Archidona

Feria del Perro Archidona. 2, 3, 4 June. This year will be the 25th anniversary of the festival. ochavada.com

Agricultural Fair Antequera. 2-4 June. The Feria de Primavera Agrogant is celebrated in the fairground. Pure breed Andalusian horses, livestock shows, concerts and dance performances. www.antequera.es



The cast of the play at 'Lark in the Park' 2015. :: R. ARMSTRONG

The 'Lark in the Park' returns

:: RACHEL ARMSTRONG BENAHAVIS. The International Theatre Studio will hold their annual outdoor charity event, 'Lark in the Park', in the Parque Leonera, Benahavis on Sunday 4 June to raise money for Age Concern España. Locals are invited to take a picnic, refreshments, blankets - and their dancing shoes - for an evening of entertainment in aid of the charity which, run by volunteers, aims to give older people the opportunity to remain independent for as long as possible.

'Lark in the Park' will begin at 6.30pm with a one-act play performed by the local amateur dramatic group. The interval will be time to enjoy a picnic in the gardens of the park before a second half of live music from Stella, Sam Oliver and Karen Danzig gives the

INFORMATION

► **When.** 4 June, 6.30pm.

► **Where.** Parque Leonera.

► **Tickets.** Minimum suggested donation 13€. www.internationaltheatrestudio.org

audience the chance to dance.

ITS will bring David Tristram's "Last Tango in Little Grimley" to Benahavis in a directorial debut by Martin Curd, who first got involved with the theatre group two years ago.

It is a fast-paced comedy about a fictional amateur dramatic group struggling to stay afloat until the under-pressure director comes up with an audacious plan.

Martin, 49, admits that directing for the first time is a challenge. "Having overall control of the play is a bit nerve-wracking, especially since most of the actors I am working with have far more experience than I have," he said.

He feels "honoured" to take on the challenge, though, and is looking forward to "hearing the audience laugh at the ridiculous scenarios and the comic lines delivered with great timing by the cast".

Admission to the event is by donation for Age Concern España with a suggested minimum donation of 13€ per person.

Tickets are available online (www.internationaltheatrestudio.org), from the following outlets: Time in Spain in Estepona Port, Viva in San Pedro or Cath's Cards in Benavista, or on the door.

FESTIVALS

Romería de San Bernabé Marbella. 4, 6 - 11 June. The romería to the Parque de Nagüeles takes place on the 4 June. Concerts, dancing and lots of activities during the following feria which runs from 6 until 11 June.

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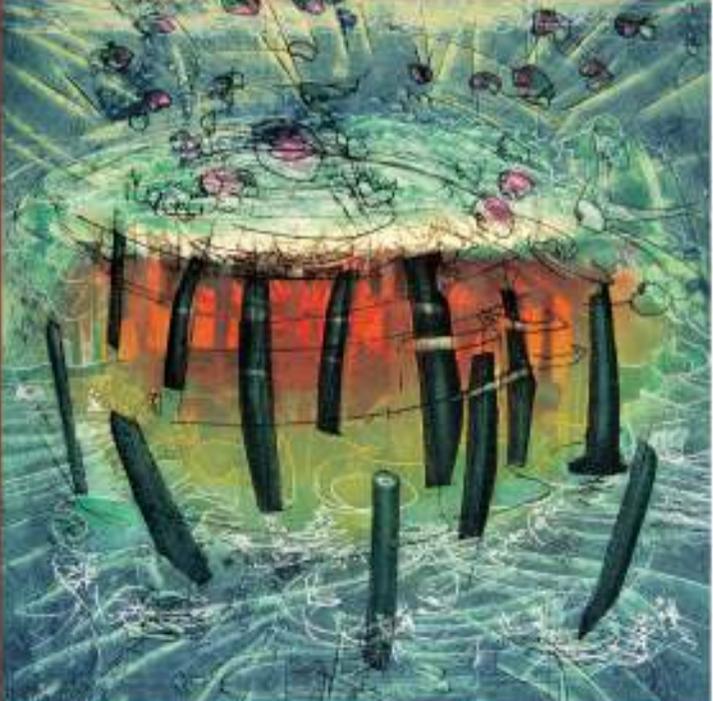
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EVENTS

Search and rescue display

Torremolinos. 26-28 May. *Parque de la Prevención.*

Members of the National Police will rappel into the park from a helicopter on 26th. At 11.45am there will be a police dog show and at 6pm there will be a demonstration by the traffic police (both repeated Saturday). Simulations by firemen at 11am on Saturday and Sunday of a car accident. Sunday, 1pm there will be a foam party.

Classic car rally

Sotogrande. Until 28 May.

Some of the most prestigious cars in the world will be travelling from Seville to Sotogrande to take part in the Sotogrande Grand Prix.

DFAS art, music and dance

Sotogrande. 21 June, 11am -

2.30pm. *La Cabaña de Sotogrande.* Interactive demonstrations of pottery and dance and over 25 artists and artists exhibiting. Art, sculpture, photography and pottery as well as stalls selling crafts, antique clothing, jewellery etc.

An evening of worship

Nerja. 1 June, 8pm. *Cuevas de Nerja*

An evening of worship and praise with UK worship Leader Danny Oates and Howard King of the Elim Group. aleluyafestival.simplesite.com

Thespa

Fuengirola. 31 May, 6.45pm. *Los Boliches, Masonic Hall.* 16€ members, 18€ guests. Includes meal. 'Green Favours', written by Frank Vickery followed after the meal by 'What's for Pudding' written by David Tristram. Tel: 622 454 422 www.theatrecostadelsol.com or email: thespabooking@gmail.com

Auditions

Fuengirola. *Salon Varietés.* 3 June, noon. Auditions for cast members for 'Wrong turn at lungfish' due for production 17 November. Tel: Steve: 877972205

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Guardians of the Galaxy 2: 16.20 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)

Alien Covenant: 12.10 (Sat, Sun); 16.30 (Tues)

Get out: 12.00 (Sat, Sun); 17.00, 19.05, 21.15 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)

Cinesur Miramar

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Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead men tell no tales 3D: 20.10, 22.30 (Mon-Thurs)

Get Out: 11.50, 16.10

Alien Covenant: 19.20, 22.05, 00.30

Guardians of the Galaxy 2: 12.10, 16.10

Miss Sloan: 16.30 (Mon-Thurs)

The Circle: 19.00 (Tues)

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Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead men tell no tales: 15.50 (Sat, Sun); 17.50, 19.50, 22.15 (Fri, Sat, Sun, Wed); 17.45, 20.15, 22.00 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).

Get out: 15.45 (Sat, Sun); 17.45 (Wed); 20.00, 22.45 (Mon); 20.30 (Fri, Sat, Sun, Tues); (Fri, Wed); 18.00 (Sat-Tues); 20.20, 22.30 (Fri, Mon-Wed); 22.40 (Tues, Thurs); 22.45 (Mon).

Miss Sloan: 20.00 (Wed, Thurs); 21.30 (Fri-Sun); 22.30 (Mon, Tues).

Alien Covenant: 16.00 (Sat, Sun); 17.45 (Tues, Thurs); 18.00 (Mon); 19.00 (Fri); 20.00 (Tues); 21.30 (Wed).

Guardians of the Galaxy 2: 16.00 (Sat, Sun); 17.45 (Mon, Tues); 18.30 (Wed).

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Alien Covenant: 16.00

Guardians of the Galaxy 2: 16.00; 13.15 (Sat[3D])

Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales: 18.20, 20.55 (Mon-Fri); 23.30 (Fri); 12.30, 15.40, 18.20, 20.55 (Sat, Sun); 23.30 (Sat); 22.40 [3D]

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Torremolinos Pride

TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. A star-studded line-up of artists is set to perform at the third edition of the Pride 2017 festival in Torremolinos next weekend.

Headlining the colourful LGBT festival will be Israeli singer Dana International, winner of the 1998 Eurovision song contest. Other stars to appear will be Barei and Soraya, also former Eurovision contestants, along with Celia Flores, daughter of former child star, Marisol and celebrated flamenco dancer, Antonio Gades.

The main events of the festival, which will begin on Thursday 1 and continue until Sunday 4 June, will take place in the Plaza La Nogalera.

The compères will include popular drag artists Majestic Lion, winner of the recent Gala Drag Queen Carnival in Torremolinos, and Nacha the Macha, a Spanish singer/actress who has received considerable fame on both stage and screen.

Thousands of people are expected to converge on the town to enjoy four days of constant partying. The streets will be filled with colourful parades and carnival-style floats of every design imaginable and the centre of the town will be transformed by the biggest gay event of the year.

Last year's Gay Pride event attracted around 30,000 people, making it the most popular Pride event in Andalucía.

During a recent press confer-



Colourful processions will fill the centre of Torremolinos. :: SUR

INFORMATION

► **When:** Thursday 1 - Sunday 4 June.

► **Where:** Plaza La Nogalera, Torremolinos.

ence to announce this year's festival, Aida Blanes, councillor for Culture, highlighted the plight of lesbian, bisexual and transgender women due to double discrimination over both their sexuality and gender.

She explained that the town hall is preparing a programme that is based on the social and cultural demands in the fight for

sexual freedom.

"It is fantastic that Dana International is participating at the festival this year, because she was the first transsexual woman to win the Eurovision Song Contest and she is an active fighter for the rights of the LGBT population," the councillor said.

The festival begins each day at 1pm and will offer a series of concerts, drag shows, exhibitions and beach parties, and the fun will continue until well into the early hours.

According to the ACOGAT, Gay Business Owners Association of Torremolinos, the Pride festival is a great economic boost for the town. Last year the hotels reported 100 per cent occupancy during the festival.

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New boy Eyenga gets Unicaja over the line in quarter-final first leg

LIGA ENDESA PLAYOFFS

The 27-year-old, who has joined for the rest of the league season, scored 21 points on a memorable debut, giving Joan Plaza's the advantage going into tonight's game

UNICAJA 76 TENERIFE 65

∴ JUAN CALDERÓN

MALAGA. Unicaja have one foot in the semi-finals of the league playoffs after a 79-65 victory over Iberostar Tenerife at the Palacio de los Deportes.

The hosts were made to work hard for their victory, which they secured largely down to 21 points from new signing Christian Eyenga.

Tenerife set the pace from the get-go thanks to three-pointers from Aaron Dornekamp, who has been one of the finds of this league season. Unicaja were struggling to score baskets themselves, managing only four baskets from 17 attempts, and as a result trailed 8-15 in the opening five minutes.

However, new boy Eyenga stepped up and his five points from two baskets led Unicaja into scoring 11 points while conceding just two, which put Joan Plaza's side into a 19-17 lead just before the end of the first quarter.

Unicaja's game suffered for large parts of the second quarter due to a lack of three-pointers, with only one scored in thirteen minutes. Never-



Unicaja will look to confirm their place in the semi-finals of the playoffs with victory in Tenerife on Friday. ∴ **ÁLVARO CABRERA**

theless, with Tenerife once again having regained the lead, Carlos Suárez and Nemanja Nedovic stepped up when their team most needed them, scoring three long-range efforts between them to put Unicaja into a ten-point lead at half-time.

Tenerife were not about to give up and continued to deny Unicaja the opportunity to put clear daylight between the two sides. A few minutes passed by which threatened to make or break the match for the visitors. Unfortunately for Plaza's side, four scores from Frenchman Tariq Kirk-

say ensured Tenerife made it all to play for in the final quarter, with the score 57-54 to the hosts.

Plaza deployed Eyenga to plug the gap that Kirksay was using to punish Unicaja with his three-pointers. However, not only did the new signing manage to halt the Frenchman's advances, but he succeeded in counter-attacking, with his 14 points in eight minutes ending Tenerife's hopes of victory and ensuring Unicaja are just one step away from a semi-final berth.

The second playoff quarter-final takes place in Tenerife tonight.

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4-2-3-1

Unused substitutes: Boyko (GK), Demichelis, Juankar, Michael Santos.

REAL MADRID

2

4-3-3

Unused substitutes: Casilla (GK), Nacho, Vázquez, Asensio.

STATISTICS

BALL POSSESSION

50% / 50%

MALAGA	REAL MADRID
0	2
19	15
5	8
14	7
9	7
2	6
5	8
2	0
0	0

Goals: 0-1 Cristiano Ronaldo (2'); 0-2 Benzema (55').

Referee: Ricardo De Burgos.

Venue: La Rosaleda (27,855 spectators).

TABLE & FIXTURES

MATCHDAY 38

Results

Barcelona - Eibar 4-2
Sevilla - Osasuna 5-0
Valencia - Villarreal 1-3
Deportivo - Las Palmas 3-0
Celta - Real Sociedad 2-2
MÁLAGA - R. Madrid 0-2
Sporting - Betis 2-2
Granada - Espanyol 1-2
At. Madrid - Athletic 3-1
Leganes - Alavés 1-1

Top scorers

37: Messi (Barcelona)
29: Suárez (Barcelona)
25: Cristiano (R. Madrid)
19: Aspas (Celta)
16: Griezmann (Atlético) / A. Aduriz (Athletic)
15: Morata (R. Madrid)
14: Sandro (Málaga)

LEAGUE TABLE

★ Champions League ■ Europa League ▼ Relegation

TEAM	PT	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
★ 1. R. Madrid	93	38	29	6	3	106	41
★ 2. Barcelona	90	38	28	6	4	116	37
★ 3. At. Madrid	78	38	23	9	6	70	27
★ 4. Sevilla	72	38	21	9	8	69	49
■ 5. Villarreal	67	38	19	10	9	56	33
■ 6. Real Sociedad	64	38	19	7	12	59	53
7. Athletic	63	38	19	6	13	53	43
8. Espanyol	56	38	15	11	12	49	50
9. Alavés	55	38	14	13	11	41	43
10. Eibar	54	38	15	9	14	56	51
11. MÁLAGA	46	38	12	10	16	49	55
12. Valencia	46	38	13	7	18	56	65
13. Celta	45	38	13	6	19	53	69
14. Las Palmas	39	38	10	9	19	53	74
15. Betis	39	38	10	9	19	41	64
16. Deportivo	36	38	8	12	18	43	61
17. Leganes	35	38	8	11	19	36	55
▼ 18. Sporting	31	38	7	10	21	42	72
▼ 19. Osasuna	22	38	4	10	24	40	94
▼ 20. Granada	20	38	4	8	26	30	82

Real bag title on big day for Malaga old boys

Weligton, Demichelis and Duda received a rapturous reception as they waved goodbye to La Rosaleda

DARYL FINCH
dfinch@diariosur.es

Malaga finish the season in 11th place despite allowing Los Blancos to secure the league title

MALAGA. There have been few occasions at La Rosaleda to match this one in recent years and the home faithful didn't disappoint; a sell-out crowd turned out to witness the final game of the season and one that would decide the destination of the title.

It was an especially momentous occasion pre-match as fans showed their appreciation for club legends Weligton, Duda and Martín Demichelis, who all announced this week that they would be hanging up their boots.

Zinedine Zidane has made a habit of rotating his squad for away games this campaign, but with the league title on the line, the Real coach was taking no chances and stuck with the exact same team which saw off Celta midweek.

However, few expected the title favourites to get off to such an electric start, taking the lead within 90 seconds thanks to their talisman, Cristiano Ronaldo.

Former Blanco Luis Hernández was certainly culpable in the build-up; his misplaced pass fell straight to home boy Isco who threaded through the Portuguese who had the easiest of tasks to round Kameni in goal.

The in-form home side showed no sign of laying down, though,

Zinedine Zidane celebrates winning the league title with his players. :: AFP

Demichelis, Duda and Weligton before kick-off. :: NITO SALAS

Even a late Barcelona comeback against Eibar couldn't spoil Real Madrid's party

in-mouth moment just before the break when his header looped narrowly over the bar.

However, not long after the second half resumed, Real grabbed the all-important second goal with Karim Benzema pouncing on the rebound after Kameni saved superbly from Ramos' header. By this stage, with Barcelona trailing 2-0 at home to the unfavoured Eibar, Real were cruising.

With Madrid minds now on the Champions League final in June, they could afford to rest players and give minutes to the likes of Mateo Kovacic, James Rodríguez and Álvaro Morata.

Malaga themselves brought on Charles and Duda for their final appearances in a Malaga shirt while Demichelis had to be satisfied with being an unused sub.

With the game petering out to its inevitable conclusion, Mikel showed there was still life in his team with an ambitious volley which needed tipping over via a deflection, while Charles terribly miscued his near-post flick to the amusement of the home faithful.

Chory could have bagged a consolation but his strike rattled the crossbar.

In the end it was easy for Los Galácticos who, despite Barcelona's late comeback against Eibar, did what they needed to do and secured their first La Liga title in five seasons.

Malaga, meanwhile, rounded off their impressive end to the season with an 11th-place finish.

especially former Barcelona man Sandro Ramírez who seemed to be on a one-man mission to send the title to Catalonia. First, he forced Keylor into a neat save at his near post with a low drive, before showing his strength from set pieces, with the keeper needed to pull off a superb top-corner save from a freekick and be on his toes to stop a corner going straight in under his crossbar.

After a sustained spell of home pressure, Real started to find their way back into the game with Kroos bringing a sprawling save from Kameni before the Cameroonian did fantastically well to throw a hand onto Ronaldo's low shot, getting defender Mikel out of jail for letting the ball run across the face of goal.

Keko gave Los Blancos a heart-

Football fans have short memories, that much is true. And it's far from unreasonable for many Malaga fans to want to forget Juande Ramos' ill-fated second spell at the club.

Perhaps it's fair to say that Malaga have ended the season exactly how many fans would have expected had you asked them before the season began. After significant reinforcement and a 100 per cent win record during pre-season, optimism was extremely high. In came Jony, Keko and Sandro - all raw and much-sought-after talents - and in Ramos they had a manager with a proven track record. Seven months and two managers later, that optimism was shattered and the club were, without doubt, facing up to a relegation battle.

When Michel walked through

DARYL FINCH



LESSONS TO BE LEARNED

Despite a strong finish to the campaign, it would be difficult to call the season a success

the door, the feeling that the club was back on track was almost immediate - even if the results weren't.

With the former Madrid man at the helm, that potential has slowly turned into an exciting brand of football and, much more impor-

tantly, there have been results to match.

Rightly so, the fans have taken to the new man and are excited that their team can compete with anyone, as evidenced by the comfortable 2-0 win over Barcelona and a run of six wins out of seven be-

fore Sunday's game.

Given the circumstances, an 11th-place finish is nothing to scoff at. But for a team which had their sights set on challenging for Europe, questions need to be asked.

Juande Ramos was a bizarre choice of boss given his prolonged leave of absence from the top European leagues. At the age of 61, it was clear he wouldn't be in it for the long-haul - mirrored in the lack of vision for his side which he chopped and changed from week to week. To then appoint Marcelo Romero as his replacement not only showed a lack of vision, but also a lack of ambition.

To be fair, performances did improve under the Uruguayan, but football is a results business, and he was out the door within two months.

Perhaps the most baffling ele-

ment of this whole saga is that Michel was available all along, raising the question: why wasn't he appointed in the first place?

Signings too have been disappointing. While Llorente and Sandro eventually lived up to expectations, some certainly haven't. Few tears will be shed when Bakary Koné, Michael Santos, Adalberto Peñaranda and Denys Boyko are sent packing.

What's more, this week we waved goodbye to Duda, Weligton and Demichelis but why players aged 36, 37 and 36, respectively are anywhere near the first team beggars belief.

It is still relatively early days for the inexperienced sporting director, Francesc Arnau. Hopefully he will have learned from his mistakes and the club can make a flying start going into 2017/18.

Arnau refuses to give up on keeping Sandro at the club

BY ANTONIO GÓNGORA

MALAGA. Despite reports of interest from Atlético Madrid in Sandro Ramírez, this season's top scorer, sporting director Francesc Arnau is refusing to accept that his departure is a foregone conclusion.

Speaking at an hour-long press conference on Tuesday, he said: "He is a player who can go on to reach the very top. Of course his value now far exceeds that of his release clause [six million euros] but at the end of the day, it's the player that holds the key."

"We'll do everything possible to try and keep him here; the fans have really taken to him," he added.

Despite interest from Premier League clubs Everton and Tottenham Hotspur, it is the team from the capital which have leapt to the front of the queue as they prepare for the pos-



Sandro skips past Sergio Ramos on Sunday. BY NITO SALAS

sible departure of Antoine Griezmann. Whether they are able to complete any move, though, is dependent on the outcome of the TAS ruling into

their transfer activity.

In the meantime, Arnau insists that the club have plans in place should Sandro, as well as Ignacio Camacho, leave. Real's Mariano is believed to be a key target to reinforce the attack, while Arnau admits that a goalkeeper and a central midfielder are on the list of priorities.

"This will be a difficult window," he said, explaining that he feels it is unlikely that the club's business will be complete in time for the start of the new season. He also revealed that as yet, no bids have come in for any player which is the "best news of the year".

to clear up some personal matters. A place for Duda within the club's structure is still a possibility but a move to a new club is also on the cards. Meanwhile, former head coach Marcelo Romero remains on the payroll as the club decides how best to utilise his experience.

Demichelis to join the coaching staff

Francesc Arnau also announced that Martín Demichelis will be taking up a role on the coaching staff to replace the outgoing Weligton who returns to Brazil

A dream treble for Mijas community football club

BY TONY BRYANT

MIJAS. The Field of Dreams Community Football Club in Mijas is celebrating a treble after three of their junior teams triumphed in their respective leagues this season.

The community football club encourages children to develop their skills in order to play high-level football, and the hard work has obviously paid off, because they have just completed their best season yet.

The under 10s, 12s and 14s all finished top of their leagues and nobody was more pleased than the club's founder, Matt Gore.

"I am so proud of all of our play-

ers; they have worked so hard and are always looking to improve themselves. This makes what we do all worthwhile," the coach explained.

However, the club still has one hurdle to overcome. They are desperate to find a local business to sponsor the trophies for the winning teams.

"We are currently looking for companies or people to sponsor trophies or just to make a donation so that we can reward these children for all of their hard work," Matt said.

The presentation will be held at Finca Naundrup in Calahonda on Sunday 4 June.



The under 10s team celebrating their victory season. BY SUR

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CALM AND CLASS

Zinedine Zidane has created a harmonious squad and is consequently drawing envious looks from Barcelona

In the end it was the “Quiet Man” getting tossed up into the night air like a rag doll and later doused in champagne as he addressed the press.

Zinedine Zidane has swung the balance so dramatically in his short tenure that Barcelona may have to tear up their famous blueprint and concede the power has shifted for the foreseeable future.

Champions League title in his 27th game – tick, Club World Cup for Christmas – tick, La Liga title in his first full season – tick, next the first domestic and European double in 59 years.

He doesn’t attack the opposing manager with words or a sly push, he doesn’t parade along the touchline, he rarely makes any memorable statements. Shankly used to make the people happy, Zidane just keeps the players happy.

Cristiano Ronaldo has scored less goals, played fewer games, been left at home and even substituted yet his ego is well and truly massaged. Every player has been given playing time and 21 of them have weighed in with goals this season. It is a shared success. Zidane has created harmony where previously there was acrimony.

He really doesn’t need to improve the squad and hardly anyone will want to leave this celebratory group but there will be inevitable movement.

The President has resisted a ‘galáctico’ signing for a couple of years and he will be keen to have his picture taken with the latest platinum addition. I expect David De Gea fits the bill. There’s absolutely nothing wrong with the current keeper Keylor Navas but De Gea is Spain’s number one

and will be for many years.

De Gea’s signing would fulfil the wishes of Florentino Pérez while Zidane would be calling for cover at centre back, for the ageing Pepe and the ball-winning department of midfield where there’s little cover for Casemiro who is going to collect cards and knocks as an occupational hazard.

Real may not have to invest at all if Diego and Marcos Llorente return

better players after their loans to Malaga and Alavés, respectively.

Lucas Vázquez, Dani Carvajal, Nacho Fernández and even

Álvaro Morata were similarly schooled in Madrid before furthering their education elsewhere; returning as more complete players.

How the tide has turned. A few years ago Barcelona was the club that promoted from within and was lauded for their academy, now this is the club that is going to spend heavily to play catch-up.

It reminds me of the time when the Johan Cruyff era ended and Bobby Robson took over. Two decades on and it appears that Ernesto Valverde is the wise older head who will be asked to bring calm and organisation to the Camp Nou.

It could be argued that Barça’s best was better than even Real Madrid’s but the problem was lifting themselves for the so-called easier games. Their four damaging defeats came against Alavés, Deportivo, Celta and Malaga. Ninth-placed Alavés were the top ranking of these lesser lights.

To quote the 80s pop group The Human League, you have stood the test when “your worst is better than their best”.



Marcelo with Zidane. :: REUTERS



Zidane was an active part of Sunday’s title celebrations. :: REUTERS

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COSTA CHORDBUSTERS
Anne Bowles. 952464184
THE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC SOCIETY

Mixed choir. Gilly Bareford, 952 573 983.

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Amateur singers Manilva. 692 558 041
SAYDO MALE VOICE SINGERS
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Estepona, The Roadhouse Bar. Thurs 19.45
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952961735 www.photoclubspain.com
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THE STARS

Aquarius
January 21 - February 19
Waiting a few weeks before burning any bridges allows you to start building new ones.

Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Romantic meetings come through a mate who you have not seen for some time.

Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Resist being too influenced by first impressions and appearances as you may catch someone on the hop!

Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Delaying accepting a tempting romantic offer could pay off. With your mind very changeable, avoid making any decisions that cannot be changed later on.

Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Many small moves can bring about great changes even though you may need to go in a different direction.

Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Go for walks and enjoy the beach or countryside. Do what you really enjoy whenever you are able.

Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Someone who you keep meaning to contact is still waiting. Do your best to make them happy, even if it takes a bit of time.

Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Avoid being so relaxed that you let someone take advantage of your goodwill.

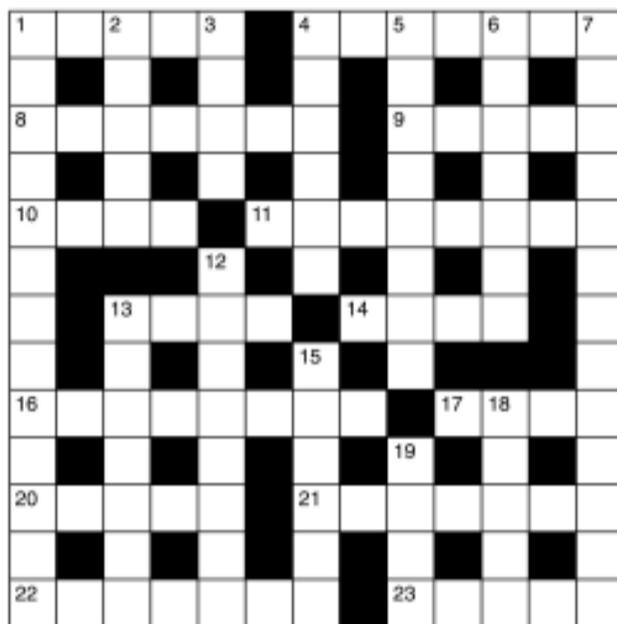
Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Cash flow is improved midweek when you tackle a project alone, but not for long, so make the most of it.

Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Flowing more freely are both cash and love this week. Sounds good? You are reminded of how wonderful life can be.

Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Keep an eye out for those who say one thing and then do another. Hesitation and body language will give you a clue.

Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Spin-offs from work generate some great social moments. Indeed, mixing business with pleasure can really pay dividends.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11243



Across

- 1 Shows partiality for sporting combinations (5)
- 4 You need craft and French culinary vessel (7)
- 8 Rose Walker (7)
- 9 In the East, a militant language (5)
- 10 Showing benevolence in goods rather than money (4)
- 11 Poisonous gas discharged with a certain amount of current power (8)
- 13 Pass around a mineral (4)
- 14 Circle overhead (4)
- 16 Here you need to give yourself airs (8)
- 17 This will undermine the breakwater (4)
- 20 No clear profit put back into this joint (5)
- 21 Swallow one cocktail (7)
- 22 Was successful on the green, we hear - keep putting up some resistance (4,3)
- 23 An invention that has had revolutionary results (5)

Down

- 1 Produces a little friction with light results (7,1,5)
- 2 Devil doctor in dreadful end (5)
- 3 Where one is tempted to buy southern drink (4)
- 4 Sally is vexed about it being brought up (6)
- 5 At the front - that's where the transport driver is (2,3,3)
- 6 When afflicted by this, one hopes to get back to normal! (7)
- 7 One who has called several times will get this account (9,4)
- 12 Spanish dance introduces into the Gulf and Angola (8)
- 13 Officer may well have been shelled, we hear! (7)
- 15 The upset around the wood will provide cover in battle (6)
- 18 Love stricken about one girl (5)
- 19 Declaration of lottery winners is an attraction (4)

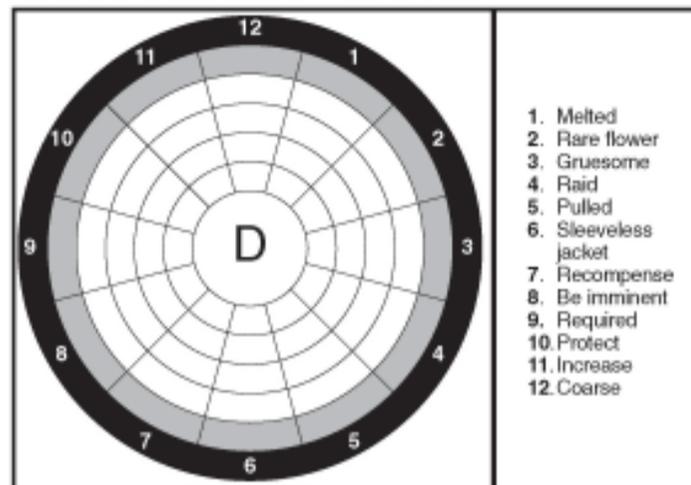
SUDOKU BY HANZO

Instructions
Complete the square making sure that every row of nine numbers includes all digits from 1 to 9, every column includes all digits from 1 to 9 and every 3 by 3 subsection includes all digits from 1 to 9

7			4	9	2			8
	8					4		2
5					1			6
					3			
3	1					5	4	
8			1	7			2	
1			9				3	7
4	3		2			6	5	
		9		5	8			

CLOCKWORD

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter D in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a late British music-hall comedian.



- 1. Melted
- 2. Rare flower
- 3. Gruesome
- 4. Raid
- 5. Pulled
- 6. Sleeveless jacket
- 7. Recompense
- 8. Be imminent
- 9. Required
- 10. Protect
- 11. Increase
- 12. Coarse

THE WORDPUZZLER



CAN you identify the first names of the composers listed below?

- 1. Mendelssohn
- 2. Orff
- 3. Prokofiev
- 4. Purcell
- 5. Dvorak
- 6. Stravinsky
- 7. Franck
- 8. Bartok
- 9. Liszt
- 10. Beethoven

INTERNATIONAL RADIO

Talk Radio Europe
105.5 Axarquía
91.5 Costa del Sol East
91.9 Costa del Sol West
98.7 Gibraltar/Sotogrande
News, interviews, lifestyle, sport and BBC World Service.

Global (93.6 and 96.4FM)
All week round the clock music and entertainment

Radio Radio Network (96 and 98.3 FM). Music 24 hours.

Central FM (98.6 FM, 103.8)
All week, classic tracks and today's music broadcast to the Costa del Sol

ACE FM (106.8 FM)
Inland radio, news and music
The Beat fm (106 FM)
24 hours, music and entertainment

Spectrum (105.5 FM, Costa Almeria/Mojácar 92.6 FM)
24 hour music and entertainment

Radio Mijas (107.7 FM)
3 p.m. News, views and music

Radio Sol Almirajara (99.1 FM)
Nerja radio in English and German and night time World Radio Network

HeartfmSpain (88.5 FM Costa, 96.1 FM inland) Music, entertainment, news

Lick FM (103.6 FM Marbella)
Urban music broadcast between Gibraltar and Calahonda

Rtv Puebla (107.7 FM)
Monday evenings, Rock music memories. 7 - 9pm. email: radiopuebla.musicmemories@yahoo.com
Fb: Radiotelevision Puebla de Cazalla

QUIZ

QUESTION 1

What is a 'shaduf' (sometimes spelled 'shadoof')

- 1. A beef kebab
- 2. A type of snake
- 3. An Indian taxi driver
- 4. A tool for irrigation

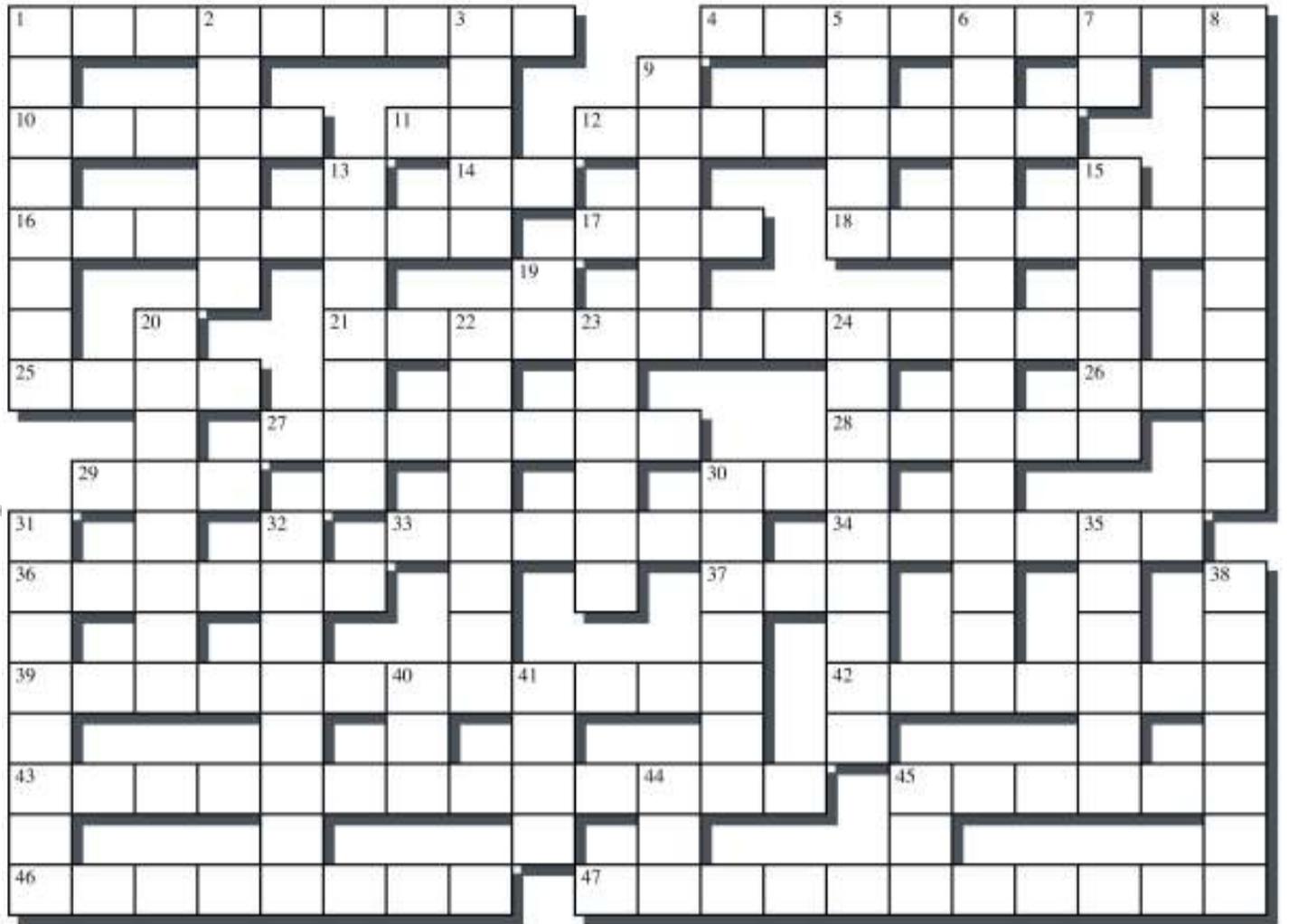
QUESTION 2

Who wrote the book 'I, Robot'?

- 1. Isaac Asimov
- 2. Charlotte Bronte
- 3. Arthur C. Clarke
- 4. Ray Bradbury

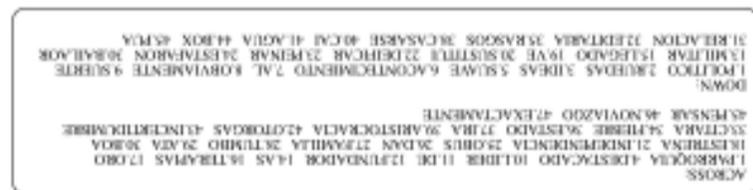
LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across**
- Parish church (8)
 - Prominent (9)
 - Leader (5)
 - Of (2)
 - Founder (8)
 - Age (2)
 - Therapies (8)
 - Gold (3)
 - He wears (sth) for the first time (7)
 - Independence (13)
 - Shell (military) (4)
 - They give (3)
 - Family (7)
 - I knock down (5)
 - He lies (3)
 - Feather scarf (3)
 - He will quote (6)
 - Fever (6)
 - State (8)
 - She will go (3)
 - Aristocracy (12)
 - You award (7)
 - Uncertainty (13)
 - To think (6)
 - Courtship (8)
 - Exactly (11)
- Down**
- Politician (8)
 - Wheels (6)
 - Thoughts (5)
 - Smooth (5)
 - Event (14)
 - To the (2)
 - Obviously (10)
 - Luck (6)
 - Soldier (7)
 - Legacy (8)
 - She sees (2)
 - I replaced (5)
 - To isolate (8)
 - To comb (6)
 - They swindled (9)
 - Flamenco dancer (7)
 - Relationship (8)
 - I would edit (8)
 - Features (6)
 - To get married (7)
 - I fail (3)
 - Water (4)
 - Fill stop (3)
 - Tooth (comb) (3)



ANSWERS

Language Crossword



Cryptic Crossword

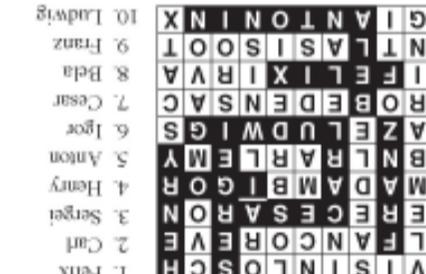
Solutions: Across: 1 Sides; 4 Skillet; 8 Rambler; 9 Tarnish; 10 Kind; 11 Fire-damp; 13 Coal; 14 Halo; 16 Melodies; 17 Mole; 20 Tenon; 21 Martin; 22 Hold out; 23 Wheel; Down: 1 Strikes a match; 2 Demon; 3 Sale; 4 Sortie; 5 In the van; 6 Lumbago; 7 Telephone bill; 12 Fandangos; 13 Colonel; 15 Helmet; 18 Olive; 19 Draw.

Clockword solution

SOLUTION: 1 Thawed, 2 Orchid, 3 Mordid, 4 Mermaid, 5 Yanked, 6 Tabard, 7 Reward, 8 Impend, 9 Needed, 10 Defend, 11 Expand, 12 Rebel.

CELEBRITY: Tommy Trinder.

Wordpuzzler solution



Sudoku solution

6	7	9	3	5	8	2	1	4
4	3	8	2	1	7	6	5	9
1	5	2	9	6	4	8	3	7
8	4	6	1	7	5	9	2	3
3	1	7	6	2	9	5	4	8
2	9	5	8	4	3	7	6	1
5	2	4	7	8	1	3	9	6
9	8	1	5	3	6	4	7	2
7	6	3	4	9	2	1	8	5

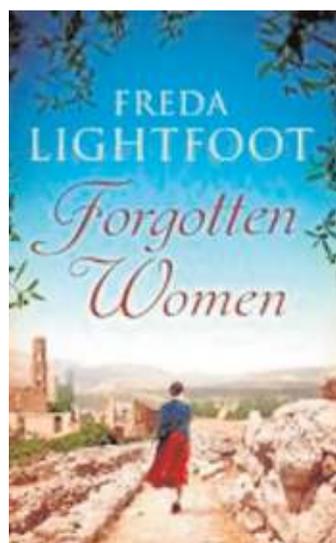
Quiz answers

Answer 1: A tool for irrigation invented in ancient times and is still used in India and Egypt. It consists of a long tapering pole with a bucket on one end and a counter-weight on the other. It is mounted on a tripod and works like a seesaw.

Answer 2: Isaac Asimov

Of interest: 1. Robot is a collection of science fiction short stories by American writer Isaac Asimov. The stories originally appeared in Super Science Stories and Astounding Science Fiction magazines between 1940 and 1950 and were then made into a book.

BOOK OF THE WEEK



Forgotten Women
Freda Lightfoot

It is 1936 and Spain is on the brink of civil war. Across Europe, young men are enlisting in the International Brigade to free their Spanish brethren from the grip of fascism, leaving sisters and lovers at home. But not all women are content to be left behind. In Britain, Charlotte McBain and Libby Forbes, are determined to do what they can; in Spain, Rosita García Díaz, cannot stand by and watch. Three brave women, inspired by patriotism, idealism, love and even revenge, dare to go into battle against tradition and oppression.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Day by day
nothing
changes but
when you
look back
everything is
different

C. S. LEWIS

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Tui Discovery 2	28/05	Gibraltar	Palma	06.00	22.00
Sea Cloud II	29/05	Ibiza	Cadiz	14.00	18.00
Star Pride	31/05	Almeria	Gibraltar	08.00	22.00
Variety Voyager	01/06	-	-	07.00	18.00
Tui Discovery	01/06	Cadiz	Cartagena	08.00	18.00
Panorama II	03/06	Motril	Motril	07.00	04.00
Tui Discovery 2	04/06	Ceuta	Vigo	06.00	22.00
Celebrity Reflection	04/06	Barcelona	Gibraltar	07.00	19.00
Silver Spirit	10/06	Cartagena	Gibraltar	08.00	23.59





Period drama on the Caminito del Rey

An amateur theatre group from Ardales relives the visit of King Alfonso XIII to the walkway that is now a major tourist attraction

by **FERNANDO TORRES**

ARDALES. Visitors to the Caminito del Rey gorge walkway were taken back in time at the weekend when they came across the incongruous sight of a royal party from the 1920s - wearing modern-day hard hats.

Fifteen actors from the Ardales amateur dramatics society marked the 96th anniversary of the inauguration of the hydroelectric power plant at El Chorro by reenacting the visit by King Alfonso XIII in 1921 to sign off the works.

It was that visit that gave the path, built around the side of the steep gorge to provide access for the hydroelectric company's workers, its name - the Caminito del Rey.

The modern-day dramatisation of those events, repeated over two days, included the signing of the documents to mark the end of the works at the spot known as the Sillón del Rey, complete with a speech from the king, before the group set off around the walkway.



The king and his entourage wore the compulsory 21st century hard hats with their 1920s period costume. **FF.T.**

As in the original visit, the king was accompanied by Rafael Benjumea, the engineer in charge of the hydroelectric works, the mayor and bishop of Malaga of the period as well as other dignitaries.

The visit was faithful to the re-

ports of the time, with Alfonso XIII describing the plant as a "technological wonder, pioneer in Spain and Europe". The group stopped, as documented in 1921, near the dam where the engineer offered the king



The reenactment of the signing of the papers. **FF.T.**

technical explanations of the works that would take supplies of drinking water and electricity for the whole province.

The reenactment helped the visitors lucky enough to have tickets for the special dramatised tours understand the significance of the visit for Ardales and the entire province.

The modern-day royal party ended their trip at the Cueva del Toro bridge although in the 1921 visit, the king went on to Pizarra, where he spent the night, before going to Malaga the next day for more official engagements.

Last week's drama had been organised by Ardales town hall and the Caminito management. Pedro Cantalejo, archaeologist, director of the Ardales Museum and one of the actors, said that their aim was for future anniversaries to be marked with more activities. The reenactment, he said, had settled a debt with the people and the province.

"The king's visit changed and boosted the area both in terms of industry and tourism," he said. The reopening of the renovated path in 2015, he added, had "revived this beauty spot and it was fitting to pay tribute to the monarch who gave it its name".

The mayor of Ardales, María del Mar González, who took part in the visit dressed in period costume as a member of high society, praised the enthusiasm with which the group had prepared the event.



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