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July 7th to 13th 2017
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SPECIAL

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POINTS**



Minister's visit starts the countdown to the end of Arroyo exit woes

During a visit to Malaga on Thursday Íñigo de la Serna also paved the way for city port development

Drivers who regularly use the Arroyo de la Miel exit on the A-7 motorway could soon see an end to the tailback misery they suffer daily. On Thursday Spain's minister for Public Works, Íñigo de la

Serna, visited this traffic black spot to lay the symbolic first stone of the works that, through the construction of a large roundabout, aim to solve the congestion problems at this junction. The minister admitted that residents had had to wait "perhaps too long" for the scheme. During his visit he also signed documents that will allow part of the city's port to be developed, a necessary step for the high rise hotel project to go ahead. **P2&3**

PADEL MOVES INTO MIJAS PUEBLO

The iconic white town lends its main square to sport, as donkeys step aside to make room for the World Padel Tour **P61**



Local player Carolina Navarro, in the stands that will be packed this weekend with fans of this popular racquet sport. :: FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ

It's been a busy week for Malaga CF who welcome Borja Bastón and Roberto as Sandro and Kameni head the other way **P5&59**

British Ambassador speaks of the relationship between the UK and the Costa at SUR forum **P14-16**

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Minister lays symbolic first stone for the works on the long-awaited Arroyo A-7 exit

The project, expected to cost more than ten million euros, involves the construction of a large roundabout and seven new structures

by ALBERTO GÓMEZ

BENALMÁDENA. Spain's government minister at the helm of Fomento (the ministry of Public Works), Íñigo de la Serna, was on the Costa del Sol on Thursday where one of his jobs was to lay the first stone of the works to build a new junction in Benalmádena.

The Arroyo de la Miel exit on the A-7, at kilometre point 222, is the main route into Benalmádena from the motorway and the scene of long tailbacks. Drivers travelling west who want to exit at this junction find themselves in long queues on the hard shoulder at the busiest times of day, a situation that has been aggravated by the summer holiday traffic.

The works that officially began on Thursday aim to solve the problem with a new two-lane slip road and a large roundabout, similar to the one at Plaza Mayor in Malaga.

With a budget of more than ten million euros, the works are expected to take around two years to complete. De la Serna announced on Thursday, however, that the firm contracted to carry out the work, Ferrovial, would try to reduce the time.

While this week has seen the symbolic start of the project, activity this summer will involve preliminary works, and the construction itself will get under way in October.

"It's not a complex situation technically-speaking, because there are many junctions of this kind on our roads, but the volume of traffic complicates the work," said the minister.



The minister helps unveil a plaque that marks the minister's visit to initiate the works. by ALBERTO GÓMEZ

This project, he admitted, had taken "a long time" to get off the ground, "perhaps too long".

The ceremony on Thursday was attended by the central government's representative in Malaga, Miguel Briones; MPs Celia Villalobos and Carolina España; the president of the provincial government, Elías Bendodo; the president of the Mancomunidad of the Western Costa del Sol, Margarita del Cid; and deputy mayors of Benalmádena and Torremolinos, Javier Marín and Maribel Tocón, respectively, as well as local councillors and business owners.

The works would mean "improvements in the quality of life of residents" said the minister and pointed out that this was the first project that provincial officials told him about when he became minister.

After the official ceremony the minister approached a small group of demonstrators who had been holding a banner demanding a fast solution. He asked them for patience after they explained their concerns about the delays in the scheme.

More lanes and longer slip roads - what drivers can look forward to in Arroyo

It was built almost thirty years ago for a fraction of the traffic levels it sees today but finally the A-7 exit at Arroyo de la Miel looks set to be upgraded to cope with the 15,000 vehicles a day that use it.

According to the plans, the length of the new stretch of road, including slip roads, is approximately 2.3 kilometres and the present layout for the junction

will be changed without altering its functionality.

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

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



Technical drawing of the new intersection. by SUR

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De la Serna offers scant news on Marbella railway plan

:: SUR

MALAGA The minister for Public Works used his visit to Malaga to update on progress on a variety of projects planned on the Costa del Sol.

The news he gave on the long-talked-about extension to the coastal railway line from Fuengirola to Marbella and Estepona wasn't significant however.

According to De la Serna, the ministry is still working on a study of three alternative routes; under the A-7 coastal road for 53 kilometres, which he feels will face technical difficulties as it will have to run almost all underground; a mixed option running on the surface more; and a third option, similar to the second, but with an extra stop at

the Costa del Sol hospital. Whichever option is chosen, it will be an extension to the existing Cercanías local railway with journey times of an hour and fifteen minutes to Marbella from Malaga, and so not provide much competition for the 45-minute journey by car.

De la Serna said that in September or October he hoped initial scale plans of the three possible options would be available for people to see. An environmental impact study would follow in 2018.

The minister also confirmed that the contract to build the new northern road access to Malaga airport from the A-7 outer ring road and Alhaurín de la Torre would be put out to tender in the autumn.



De la Serna (centre) with politicians at the gates to Malaga port. :: s. s.

Sign off from minister on city's port land-use blueprint

One of the main reasons for De la Serna to be in Malaga this week was to sign off on a delayed master plan document that clearly marks out what part of Malaga port has to be reserved for shipping and general port use as pub-

lic land, and what parts can be integrated more fully into the nearby city centre and so attract private investment. It is a continuation of the process that has seen more of the port precinct turned over for leisure use in recent years. The document is an important step for the city's and the local port authority's plan to get permission to build a tower housing a luxury hotel next to the cruise ship terminal.

Criminal gang arrested over 17-million-euro timeshare scam



Police officers count cash found during the raids. :: SUR

Thirty-six local arrests have been made, including the alleged British ringleader, over fraud involving holiday ownership resale

:: JUAN CANO

MALAGA. A gang accused of being behind conning 500 British people out of money for timeshare resales has been detained on the Costa del Sol. The alleged ringleader of those arrested is also from the UK.

National Police arrested 36 people in connection with the fraud that is thought to have brought in over 17 million euros. Among items seized in five raids across the area are luxury cars, including a Ferrari, a yacht, over 126,000 euros in cash, ten luxury watches and various precious stones.

Investigating officers say that the gang was involved in taking deposits from unsuspecting owners of timeshare with a promise to sell on the rights to annual holidays they had to other interested buyers or al-

lowing them to buy another holiday package instead of their timeshare. Victims were said to have handed over between 600 and 3,000 euros each as commission but never received anything back in return. The offences allegedly took place between 2009 and 2013.

In addition to the Costa-based British man, they say the man's wife, son and daughter-in-law were also at the heart of the operation, as well as a Malaga-based firm of lawyers that allegedly helped launder the money that was being collected.

Of the 17 million euros collected from the timeshare owners, some 12 million euros were net profit to the gang, say investigators, once commissions had been paid to a network of people dedicated to finding prospective victims and also laundering on the money afterwards.

In the case of the people who supposedly helped launder the money, those involved handed over details of their bank accounts, where the 'black' money was deposited in return for a commission from the gang. The profits were reinvested in property, officers believe.

The scam was first reported in October last year by a Benalmádena-based lawyer, who is representing 33 of the alleged victims. "Operation Manta", as it has been called by police, has seen five searches so far; three in private homes, one in a law firm and one in a Vélez-Málaga-based company.

National police chiefs in Malaga are saying that the detentions haven't finished yet as "arrests in different parts of the collaboration chain in other areas, mainly in the Balearics and Canary Islands" are pending.

They said that it has been a "very complicated" eight-month investigation, adding that the alleged head of the group and at least ten others were supposedly involved in another, similar, scam that came to light in 2015 and named at the time "Operation Tormenta".

The government's representative in Malaga, Miguel Briones, congratulated the force on their work so far, which, in his view, has helped to allay concerns in both the tourist industry and the British community on the coast.

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Benahavís jihadi fighter was trying to get hold of weapons

Ahmed Samsam, a 29-year-old Danish national, was held in custody last week over his links to so-called Islamic State amid fears he was planning an attack

:: SUR

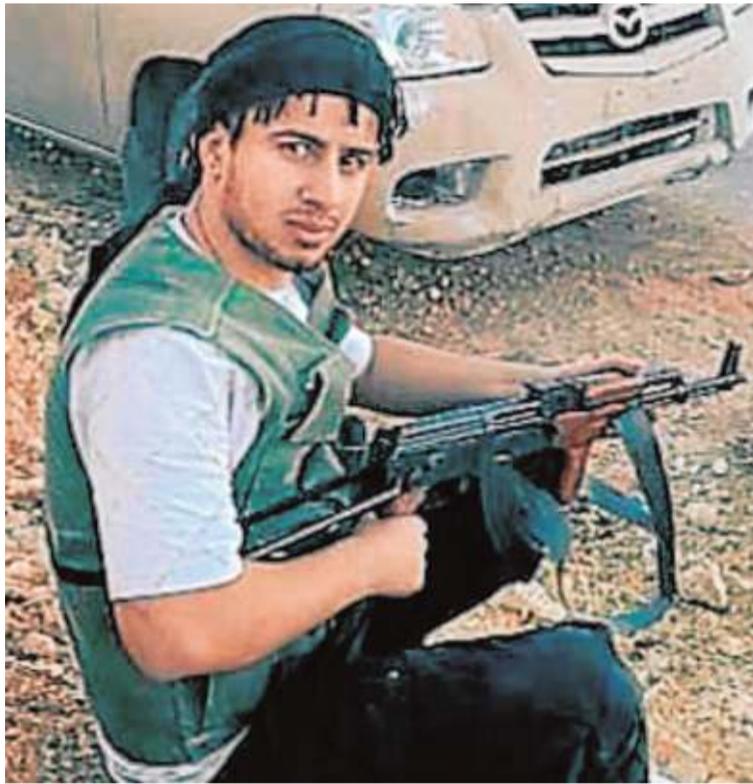
MADRID. Police continue to search for clues as to what a "dangerous" jihadist found on the Costa del Sol may have been planning.

Ahmed Samsam, 29, who was arrested in Benahavís last week, had been looking for ways to buy weapons and bullet proof vests in Spain before capture, government officials have said.

Samsam, of Syrian origin, was held in a hotel in the municipality, having been tracked down by Guardia Civil officers. He appeared in court in Madrid last Monday and was remanded in custody. The case is subject to a secrecy order.

Trained in Syria

Samsam travelled to Syria from his home in Denmark in recent years and joined the ranks of so-called Islamic State, fighting in the war there.



Samsam's social media activity showed his terrorist links. :: TWITTER

His arrest in Spain came as a result of a joint operation between the investigating court, the prosecutor's office and the Guardia Civil. Their investigations led them to

the hotel in Benahavís, but Samsam's intentions in Spain are still unclear.

What is clear, say investigators, is that he was trained by ISIS in

Syria, judging by his activity on social media, and that he engaged in recruitment and the spread of propaganda.

Investigators will continue to try to determine whether he was part of a wider network operating in Spain.

Born in Odense (Denmark), where his father arrived as a refugee in the 1980s, Samsam had a history of petty crime and, after turning 15, spent time behind bars on various occasions. However, on being released in 2012, he headed to Turkey before passing through to Syria where he was a member of a number of terror groups, including ISIS, alongside his brother Hamza.

On the Costa for two weeks

The pair returned to Denmark in 2015, where Hamza was killed, and since then, Samsam has quickly moved from place to place to avoid being held in Denmark. He had been on the Costa del Sol for a couple of weeks before he was arrested on 30 June.

Counter terrorism experts had been following Samsam's movements in Spain closely before he was tracked to the Benahavís hotel, however he was expertly using techniques to evade capture, the Guardia Civil has said.

Since 26 June 2015, when the Ministry of the Interior raised its terror threat level to four, Spanish intelligence forces have arrested some 179 jihadi terrorists in Spain and a total of 224 abroad since the start of 2015.

Marbella council takes steps to get heliport back and offer trips and sightseeing flights

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. Councillors in Marbella have agreed to start legal steps to recover control of the town's heliport.

Rights to the 14,000-square-metre piece of land near the Nagüeles area were granted in 2001 to disgraced former town-planning boss, Juan Antonio Roca. His company, Heli Ponto Marbella SL, was given permission to operate it for 50 years by the corrupt administration of former mayor, the late Jesús Gil.

With Roca's rule of the town planning department coming to a spectacular close with the huge Operation Malaya criminal investigation, the heliport is now in the hands of a third party which Roca's company rented it to.

Councillor Javier Porcuna has said the council will recover the site and put its management out to tender, so that helicopter links can be established with other places, notably Malaga and Madrid, to improve the attractiveness of the town to up-market visitors. It could also be used for sightseeing flights.

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112 REPORTS

Three bathers rescued after ignoring red flag

TORREMOLINOS

Three tourists, from France, Norway and Spain, were rescued off a Torremolinos beach after getting into difficulty on Wednesday afternoon. All three had gone into the water, ignoring the red flag warning which was flying at the time. A beach lifeguard went into the water to rescue them. The French bather was first to be taken out. The remaining two had to be rescued simultaneously due to the imminent danger they were in.

Woman killed by wasp in her home

MALAGA

A 75-year-old woman died last Saturday after being stung by a wasp in her home in the Puerto de la Torre district of Malaga. The incident happened about 10pm and an initial autopsy has indicated that the woman suffered an anaphylactic shock from the wasp sting which brought on a heart attack. The victim died at the scene. Emergency services attending the incident said that they saw several wasps by the property, which backs onto open countryside.

Guests cause 200k damage to top hotel

MALAGA

Managers at Malaga's well-known Malaga Palacio hotel have claimed that guests have caused over 200,000 euros' worth of damage across some twenty rooms. According to reports, last Saturday night guests inside a sixth-floor room broke the head of a ceiling sprinkler, setting off the fire-prevention system, which flooded rooms over a few floors. The guests have said the sprinkler broke when they hung some clothes from it. Police are investigating.

Huge prostitution ring preying on Costa's foreign tourists is broken up

A joint Spanish and Bulgarian police investigation has revealed how women were allegedly enslaved and forced to steal from clients in Puerto Banús

MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. Spanish and Bulgarian police have broken up an organised criminal prostitution network centred on Puerto Banús, Marbella.

In a joint operation, 34 people were arrested in both countries for supposedly forming part of a gang that was aiming to take control of the exploitation of women in the area stretching from Torremolinos to Puerto Banús.

Thirteen female victims, who had purportedly been lured to Spain from their native Bulgaria then forced into prostitution, were freed, police have said.

The investigation started in September 2014 after a Bulgarian woman, who had been held captive, managed to escape and went to police in Marbella.

The local investigation soon revealed the scale of the operation, with the alleged criminals travelling constantly between Spain and Bulgaria. As a result, Bulgarian police and justice officials became involved under the auspices of Eurojust.

The partnership between both countries unearthed a network of people in Bulgaria who looked for women in the poorest districts of the country, convincing them to come to Spain for a better life.

Once the victims agreed, the members of the group travelled with them to Malaga airport where they were met by other criminals from the network who took them to apartments in Torremolinos. Here they joined other women



Some of the items found during the raids. :: INTERIOR MINISTRY

The women were watched all day so that they didn't talk to each other

who were already in the country.

According to investigators, at this point the new arrivals were told that they would be working as prostitutes and were placed under constant guard. Those who refused were subjected to violence and warned that harm could come to their families back in Bulgaria. Many women had left children back home.

The women were obliged to find customers in the streets and bars of Puerto Banús, being taken there by

their minders daily. They then used hotels or apartments in the Banús area with their clients. Moreover, they were encouraged to steal personal belongings from the men they had met, including watches, credit cards and cash. Some women also used the stolen credit cards to withdraw money for the gang.

The level of control was such that those behind the ring even reportedly specified the profile of client that the women had to look for: foreign tourists wearing expensive items and preferably drunk. Money raised from the ring was sent back to Bulgaria, police say.

In total, 21 searches were carried out in Torremolinos, Marbella and Estepona and a further 15 in Bulgaria. Large amounts of cash, watches and sleeping drugs were found.

Guardia Civil officer suspected of causing fatal A-7 crash due in court over similar smash

SUR

MALAGA. Following last week's arrest of an off-duty Guardia Civil sergeant, suspected of causing an accident on the A-7 by Torremolinos that killed three tourists, more details have been emerging of the accused's reported lifestyle and problems with the law.

The officer, known only as Miguel C. L., tested positive after the tragedy on 28 June for alcohol and drugs. Sources in the investigation say that the sergeant had been overtaking dangerously and, after the crash, was found on the side of the motorway allegedly trying to flee the scene.

He is due to appear in court later this year in connection with another traffic accident in May 2014, accused of driving under the influence of alcohol. In that accident he is said to have left the scene and blood tests could not be carried out. He was found guilty of threatening behaviour in 2015 and has been subject of six internal Guardia Civil inquiries.



The arrested driver. :: EFE

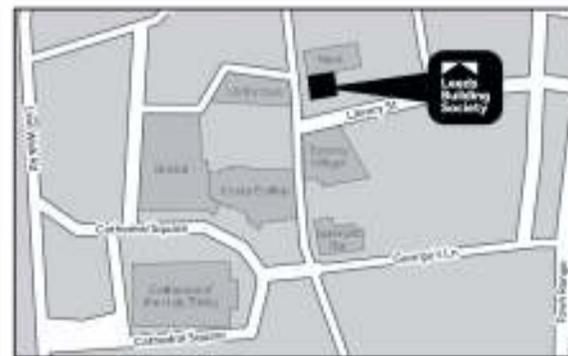
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Marbella council looks at "alternative document" to help owners register tourist properties

Many property owners lacking the first occupancy licence to register with the Junta could soon be provided with an alternative

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. Marbella town hall is currently exploring ways that will allow tourist properties which currently don't have a first occupancy licence, following the annulment of the 2010 urban development plan (PGOU), to comply with the Junta's requirements for tourist use.

Legislation introduced by the Junta de Andalucía regional government last year requires owners of private holiday accommodation to register with the Junta in a bid to improve standards. However, many Marbella residents wishing to rent to holiday-makers have been unable to sign up because of the missing licence.

Mayor José Bernal, speaking at a tourism committee meeting with the UGT and CCOO trade unions and the Andalusian Confederation of Businesses (CEA), said: "We are looking for solutions. But what we don't want is a way for people to bypass the law."

Now, the town hall is looking into

ways in which it can produce a document "of equivalent value" that can satisfy the Junta's criteria but also "unscrupulously obey the law". To this end, he sought clarification on whether any such document had to be issued by the town hall itself or another competent body.

The Junta tourism minister, Francisco Javier Fernández, said that local councils would have "complete autonomy" in producing "equivalent documents to the ones we demand" and called for greater collaboration to clamp down on "clandestine [rentals] and those who do not comply", especially with regard to online portals.



The tourism committee meeting was led by Bernal and Fernández. :: JOSELE-LANZA

HERE AND THERE

Eleven sea cleaning boats in operation throughout the summer

COSTA DEL SOL

:: A. GÓMEZ. Eleven 'quitanatas' boats will be in operation along the length of the western Costa del Sol throughout summer in order to keep the seas clean ahead of the expected arrival of some 14 million visitors to the region during high season.

The boats will "constantly" collect scum and other residue up to six nautical miles out to sea.

The service will cost 380,000 euros and will be funded by the Mancomunidad de la Costa del Sol Occidental, whose president, Margarita del Cid, described the operation as "essential" to maintaining clean beaches.

The boats will leave from ports in Manilva, Estepona, Puerto Banús, Marbella, La Bajerilla, Cabopino, Fuengirola and Benalmádena.

Puente Romano announces 276 new staff

MARBELLA

:: SUR. The Puente Romano Beach Resort & Spa has announced 276 new members of staff have been taken on as part of their summer recruitment drive.

This means that "there will be a total of 687 people employed to work in the accommodation of guests or at our eight outlets", said general director of the company, Jorge Manzur.



Teachers, parents and students gathered outside the school. :: P. R. Q.

Protest at British school after seven popular staff members lose their jobs

Some parents threaten to refuse to pay their fees after St George's School fired six teachers and a psychologist "on very questionable grounds"

:: D. FINCH / P. R. QUIROS

MALAGA. More than a hundred teachers and parents from British school St George's, located in the Malaga district of Cerrado de Calderón, gathered outside the school on Friday morning, a day after seven members of staff were dismissed for reasons they believe are "unconvincing".

The six teachers and one psychologist, who are among the longest serving staff members, were informed of their dismissal the day before the end of term.

In an email sent to parents and staff, the school management explained that they were "restructuring" in order to "improve the quality of teaching we provide".

Angered by this loss of, in the words of one parent, "nearly sixty years of teaching experience", the Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) signed a letter expressing concern over the school's practices, demanding that an urgent meeting be held with the school's directors, saying that otherwise fees for the first month of the next academic year would not be paid. A

statement from the PTA read: "These staff members have been dismissed on very questionable grounds. We are certain the school will not be the same without them and that their absence will lead to a lower educational standard."

The seven dismissed employees are Jim Riley, Head of History and KS4 coordinator; Alex Mitchell, Head of Science; María de la Cruz, A-level teacher; Araceli Gormati, reception teacher; Kirsty Ridyard, science teacher, Sixth Form and UCAS coordinator; Wendy Woods, support staff; and Remedios Aranda, psychologist. Gormati, Ridyard, Aranda and Woods were at the gathering and explained that they were informed of the news by email.

Since the news broke, a petition calling for their immediate readmission on Change.org has gathered more than 1,300 signatures, while a Facebook group called 'Support for St George's Teachers' has been gathering messages of support and testimonies that they hope can be used to support any legal case for overturning the decisions.

Former student Shona Allerton, who set up the group, said: "I'm not surprised by the amount of support as they are truly great teachers. We will be with them every step of the way."

SUR tried to contact both the owners and directors of the school but they were absent.



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Current pension and healthcare rights may survive Brexit

By John McCann, Senior Partner, Blevins Franks

It may be early days in the Brexit negotiations, but so far there is some reassurance for expatriates living in Spain and other EU member states:

On 26th June, Theresa May's government published their "fair and serious offer" on EU citizens' rights after Brexit. While this focuses on residency and benefits for EU nationals in the UK, it also pledges to protect existing pension and healthcare provision to Britons in Europe.

Subject to mutual agreements being in place, the Prime Minister committed to "continue to export and uprate the UK State Pension and provide associated healthcare cover within the EU".

What this means for pensions

Currently, Britons living in most countries outside the European Economic Area (EEA), such as Canada and Australia, have the value of their State Pension payments frozen when they leave the UK permanently. Retired expatriates within the EU/EEA are eligible for annual increases in line with the government's 'triple lock'

commitment – whichever is highest: the rate of inflation, earnings or 2.5%.

Theresa May's offer to "export and uprate" the State Pension means British retirees living in the EU post-Brexit can expect to continue receiving increases in their State Pension payments. Increases are set to stay linked to the triple lock until at least 2022.

While this is encouraging, most expatriates do not rely solely on their State Pension to fund their retirement. It is important to consider how your other pensions, savings and investment income can provide for your future, and how they may be affected by Brexit.

What this means for healthcare

The UK's offer on citizens' rights also provides some comfort that existing entitlements to free healthcare may continue for Britons in Spain after Brexit. The government will "seek to protect" current healthcare arrangements. For expatriates, this means healthcare costs would continue to be reimbursed by the UK through the S1 system (or

similar), and holders of the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) would remain eligible for free or reduced healthcare when visiting another EU country.

This is subject to the EU27 making similar guarantees for their nationals living in the UK. You may prefer to secure peace of mind by lining up private health insurance for your family.

The path to securing agreement

This is just the opening gambit of Brexit negotiations and there are no guarantees that this proposal will be accepted by other EU states. Theresa May has made it clear that her offer only stands if she can secure a reciprocal deal with the EU27 that they will provide similar concessions to their citizens living in the UK.

Crucially, both sides agree that securing reciprocal rights for citizens is an absolute priority.

Earlier in June, the EU27 pledged a lifetime guarantee of UK citizens' current rights in the EU – so long as Britain could match the terms. Some

feel the UK government's formal offer falls short of this. One sticking point on securing agreement is likely to be who has the authority to guarantee the rights of EU citizens in Britain. Mrs May has rejected the EU27 demand for the European Court of Justice to have jurisdiction, insisting British law should apply.

How best to prepare

Despite agreeing that citizens' rights are top of the agenda, it could take some time to iron out the full post-Brexit terms. Meanwhile, until Britain leaves the EU – on track for 29th March 2019 – there will be no change in your current rights and freedom of movement.

However, the final terms of any new reciprocal agreements could prove less favourable for expatriates than today. With under two years of certainty left, now is the time to review your residency, estate planning, investments, pensions and general tax planning options.

As well as securing your position, this can enable you to identify and take advantage of current opportunities that may have a

limited shelf-life, such as transferring your private UK pension funds without paying UK tax. Given these uncharted waters, it is sensible to look into the best currency mix for your investments and ensure you have a diversified portfolio – not overly exposed to UK assets – that can weather any Brexit turbulence.

Speak to a regulated professional adviser about how best to structure your finances and help prepare for the uncertainty ahead. Armed with the right strategy, you can make the most of your chosen lifestyle in Spain and adapt accordingly as Brexit negotiations take shape.

All information in this article is based on Blevins Franks' understanding of legislation and taxation practice at the time of writing; this may change in the future. It should not be construed as providing personalised taxation, investment or pension advice. You should take advice for your circumstances.

“With so much uncertainty over Brexit, how can I separate fact from fiction?”

Talk to the people who know.

We are closely following Brexit negotiations so we can make sense of the noise and keep you informed of the implications. You may want to take action now, under known rules, rather than wait to see what happens and risk missing opportunities.

Keep an eye on the Blevins Franks website for Brexit news - www.blevinsfranks.com/brexit - and contact us if you want to sign up for regular updates.

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The club celebrated its relaunch on 1 July with a party. :: JOSELE-LANZA

Funky Buddha Beach reopens after two-year planning delays

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. A well-known up-market Marbella nightclub has reopened its summer beach club venue, two years after it was shut down in a planning scandal involving Marbella town hall.

Funky Buddha Beach is now operating for the summer season next to El Pinillo beach, just east of Marbella's entrance arch where the Funny Beach go-karting track used to be.

The original beach club failed to open for the 2015 summer season after planning bosses at Marbella council noted irregularities

in the complex, which includes a swimming pool and changing rooms. The lack of planning permission mired the previous PP-led administration at the town hall in legal controversy. Although the former councillor for Planning was being investigated, the case was shelved when he died.

The owners of Funky Buddha Beach have had to apply for two planning licences in order to be allowed to finally open this year. One to take down the original offending structures and one to put up new installations. Up to 150 people are working at the reopened club.

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Nerja botanical gardens open to public despite no official agreement over management

The project, which started in 2011, was completed in July 2014 and houses hundreds of species of native and endangered flora

EUGENIO CABEZAS

NERJA. Nerja's botanical garden opened on Thursday last week, three years after work was completed on the site next to the Nerja cave.

Disagreements between the Junta de Andalucía and the Nerja cave foundation over the management of the gardens led to the 36-month delay, with neither body agreeing to take on full responsibility for the 26,000-square-metre facility.

Even during the opening event, which was attended by representatives from the foundation, Nerja town hall and Junta de Andalucía, it was apparent that an official agreement



Fiscal with Nerja Cave foundation and town hall representatives. :: E. C.

is still not in place. Mayor of Nerja, Rosa Arrabal, and Junta de Andalucía environment delegate, José Fiscal, both said that the two parties were

yet to sign anything formal which would lead to joint management of the gardens.

Work started to Nerja's botanical

garden in 2011 and was completed in July 2014 thanks to three million euros of European funds. The gardens, which form part of twelve botanical sites in Andalucía, are home to a large collection of endemic species and other plants including bulbs and orchids.

Native and endangered flora from the mountain regions of the Sierra Nevada, Montes de Málaga and Tejada, Almirajara and Alhama as well as plants found along the Málaga to Motril coastline form part of the collection. Fiscal spoke of the "importance of biodiversity" and "vulnerable flora" in the wake of the recent Doñana fires, which destroyed large areas of natural parkland recently.

The delegate also responded to a question about water levels in the Axarquía, saying that a meeting was due to take place and that there are plans to connect pools in the Chillar river to La Viñuela reservoir, in order to relieve the threat of drought.

HERE AND THERE

Hospital access road officially open

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

:: **SUR.** The new hospital access road which connects the main Avenida Juan Carlos I to the Axarquía hospital in Torre del Mar officially opened on Monday. The new route was built to relieve traffic from the Avenida del Sol in the Tomillar area of the town.

A7 closed after lorry and ambulance crash

TORROX

:: **E.C. / A. N.** All three eastbound lanes of the A7 motorway at Kilometre 286 near Torrox, were closed on Tuesday morning following an accident involving an ambulance and a lorry. The incident happened at around 7.40am when the two vehicles collided on a stretch of road between tunnels. Passengers in the ambulance were trapped, but unhurt, except for a nurse who was airlifted to hospital with serious injuries.

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Couple in their 70s, lawyer and interpreter arrested in baby buying scandal

EUROPA PRESS

MALAGA. A couple in their 70s have been arrested on suspicion of paying a Russian woman 100,000 euros for her baby. The couple were found, along with the baby, in a garage in an undisclosed area of the Axarquía last Friday. A lawyer and Russian interpreter have also been detained for allegedly arranging the journey to Spain for the biological mother who normally lives in Russia, the birth in a private clinic in the province and registering the birth. The investigation started in mid-May when the couple took the baby for a check-up and gave a number of excuses as to why the biological mother was unable to bring the child herself. The investigation has also revealed that false information was given about the baby's biological father.

Heightened security as fourth Weekend Beach Festival starts

Some local residents were left disappointed as they were unaware that the policy on Wednesday night being free for all had changed

JENNIE RHODES

TORRE DEL MAR. The fourth Weekend Beach Festival got under way on Wednesday evening under tighter security in the wake of recent terrorist attacks across Europe. National Police sources at the event, which around 30,000 people are expected to attend, confirmed that more officers had been deployed and road blocks had been set up to prevent vehicles entering the area.

Heavy storm clouds and light rainfall did not dampen spirits on Wednesday, although some locals were left disappointed as they were unaware that festival organisers had



Festival-goers gather under dark clouds for the first night. :: J. R.

changed the policy of making the first night free for anyone to attend.

Local Danish resident, Maddie Hjort, said, "This is the second year I have been unable to get in. Last year it wasn't made clear that they had changed the rules on allowing children in, so my son couldn't go,

and this year I haven't been able to get in because Wednesday is no longer free."

She added, "It's nice for local residents who don't necessarily want to go to the whole thing to at least attend on the first night." The festival runs until Sunday morning.

Sexist advert removed from town car park

TORRE DEL MAR

:: **E. C.** An advertising poster showing an image of a naked woman was removed from its billboard at the entrance to Torre del Mar's underground car park on Saturday when the news reached deputy mayor, Jesús Pérez Atencia. An investigation is under way to find the company behind the sexist publicity stunt and it remains unclear what it was advertising.

Town hall forced to apologise to bathers

TORROX COSTA

:: **E. C.** Torrox town councillors were forced to apologise to beachgoers on Monday when complaints were made about the presence of heavy machinery on the popular Ferrara beach. High waves last week had meant that repair work was necessary. However, one councillor said that Torrox wasn't the only town affected and that other beaches were free of machinery.

HERE AND THERE

Dog kennels in Torremolinos still facing problems**TORREMOLINOS**

ALBERTO GÓMEZ. Torremolinos town hall has reported that there is still no solution as to who will take over the running of the municipal dog shelter, the Parque Zoológico Municipal, formally managed by the Parque Animal association. The contract with current con-

cession holders, Home Animals (Canes), expired last Friday, and none of the three companies that were requested for tender have agreed to the terms of the contract.

Parque Animal was at the centre of a scandal in 2010, when officers from the Seprona environmental protection unit discovered dozens of dead animals in rubbish containers and freezers. Former president, Carmen Marín, was sentenced to nearly four years in prison for various charges.



Still awaiting a solution . :: SUR

New street and commercial guide for Torremolinos**TORREMOLINOS**

TONY BRYANT. Torremolinos town hall and ACET, the local traders association, have collaborated to produce a new tourist map and guide to the town.

The first print run of 110,000 copies will be available from hotels, hostels, apartments, travel agencies and the tourist information offices.

Picasso Cultural Centre car park now open to the public over the weekend**TORREMOLINOS**

TONY BRYANT. The car park of the Pablo Ruiz Picasso Cultural Center in Torremolinos is to open until 2am over the weekends during the summer. The town hall has decided to open the car park at those times so that visitors and tourists can enjoy the numerous cultural events planned to take place throughout July, August and September.

New ADIMI centre in Mijas brings hope to the families of children with intellectual disabilities

The new facility will enable children to reach their full potential and improve the quality of life for them and their families

TONY BRYANT

MIJAS. The long-awaited F Cruz Días ADIMI centre in Mijas officially opened last Friday.

ADIMI, an association for children with intellectual disabilities, was set up in 1999 by parents of numerous youngsters with varying levels of disability. In the same year, Roy Pieres and Francis Cruz Días, co-founders of CLC World, set up The Smile Foundation, to improve the lives of people on the Costa del Sol.

It became a dream of Francis to see the inauguration of an ADIMI centre, providing enhanced conditions and quality of life for disabled children and their families.

With the generous donation of land and funds from the Mijas town hall, and further donations from



Jordana Dias (centre) at the inauguration of the ADIMI centre. :: SUR

ONCE and the provincial government of Malaga, the centre became a reality. Sadly, Francis did not live to see his dream materialise and it is for this reason that the new centre is named after him.

The inauguration was attended

by Cristóbal Moreno, president of ADIMI, and Mari Carmen Carmona, councillor for Social Services at Mijas town hall. Also present were representatives from ONCE, Smile and the former mayor of Mijas, Ángel Nozal, who initiated the donation

of the land in 1999.

Jordana Días, daughter of Francis, also attended the inauguration in Mijas last Friday, during which, she said: "This morning marked an extremely important day for me. I feel honoured to represent my father at the inauguration of this centre. I could not think of a better way to pay tribute to him, as he was renowned for his kind nature and compassion to others."

The state-of-the-art facility, which cost 2.6 million euros, will provide a day care centre for profoundly disabled children. The centre will offer an in-hospital care service to give much-needed respite to families who devote their time to caring for their children.

Speech therapy, reading skills and theatre sessions are some of the activities that will be employed to enable the children to reach their full potential and to improve the quality of life for them and their families.

The President of The Smile Foundation, José Luis Mella, said: "It has been some time since we laid the first stone, but it is worth the wait to see the arrival of hope for so many families. We thank all of you that have made this a reality."

ADIMI hopes to fill the void in society for the care of children who have a disability and ensure the future well-being of those whose parents are no longer alive.

A book charting the story of ADIMI will be kept at the centre and will be available for all to see.

Mayor of Torremolinos voted 'influential ally' of the LGBTI community**TONY BRYANT**

TORREMOLINOS. Torremolinos continues to bolster its role as one of the most popular destinations for LGBTI tourism, thanks to the foresight and determination of the town's mayor, José Ortiz. The Mayor of Torremolinos has recently been voted one of the most influential allies of the LGBTI community in Spain. The mayor was ranked third by an online journal (El Confidencial), which published a list of people who stand out in the struggle for LGBTI rights and the fight against hate crime.

Over the past two years, José Ortiz and his government has supported an extensive programme aimed at the gay community and the publication highlighted the fact that Torremolinos has become the new Mecca of LGBTI tourism of the Costa del Sol.

Antonio Domínguez, president of the association of gay traders of Torremolinos (ACOGAT), said, "Torremolinos is back in fashion and the future is promising because the image of the city is changing completely."

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FOURTH OF JULY IN PICTURES

i More on this topic : Last man standing. See back page.



REMEMBERING THE SPAIN-USA STORY

The small town of Macharaviaya with big links to the USA celebrated the Fourth of July last weekend with a re-enactment of the Battle of Pensacola, for which members of the association of Damas y Granaderos dressed in 18th Century costume.

Uncle Sam in Spain

American associations on the Costa del Sol celebrated on Tuesday



STARS AND STRIPES IN ESTEPONA

The Estepona and Sotogrande chapter of the American Club held a grand Fourth of July party on Tuesday. Guests enjoyed a BBQ and live music, followed by a firework display.



ALL AMERICAN AT NERJA'S CLUB INTERNACIONAL

The Club Internacional de Nerja celebrated the Fourth of July with an all-American 'Bash' complete with a hot dog competition and quiz, as well as music from the 60s, 70s and 80s.

HERE AND THERE

Play area by historic tower is rejected

BENALMÁDENA

:: I.G. Benalmádena councillors have been told that the play park they have installed next to a historic tower in the Puerto Marina area will have to go. The Junta de Andalucía has ruled that the fourteenth century muslim-built tower is of special cultural interest and has told town hall officials that they should have known better than to place an attraction so close to it. The council has said that "it didn't know" it was a protected area.

Council gets a part of its racecourse back

MIJAS

:: I.G. The recent history of the management of Mijas' racecourse is mired in ongoing legal controversy and allegations between the council and the part-private company that had been running the complex. Now a key piece of land covering 350,000 metres surrounding the course has been returned to direct control of the council following a Junta ruling, to the relief of councillors.

Mayor meets consuls to strengthen ties

TORREMOLINOS

:: A.G. Mayor of Torremolinos, José Ortiz, has met with members of the Malaga-based consular corps. The mayor stated that he was keen to "strengthen ties and establish channels of communication with foreign residents in the municipality." At the meeting at the town's Palacio de Congresos were fourteen consular representatives, including those from Britain, Belgium and Denmark. Ortiz said he was keen to hear about foreigners' problems.

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“Brexit is a political reality but we must reach agreements to minimise the damage”



British ambassador Simon Manley spoke at a business forum organised by SUR about a number of Brexit-related issues

MALAGA. Simon Manley, British Ambassador to Spain, reiterated his government’s stance that there was “no going back on Brexit” at a business forum organised by SUR in Malaga.

The forum, which took place at the AC Málaga Palacio hotel last Friday, was led by SUR’s director of publications, Pedro Luis Gómez. It aimed to analyse the implications for the relationship between the United Kingdom and the Costa del Sol, as well as for the tens of thousands of Britons living here, in a post-Brexit world.

The ambassador was introduced by Elías Bendodo, president of the provincial government and Turismo Costa del Sol, who explained that from a tourism point of view, “Brexit has only had a positive effect,” with visitors numbers from Britain increasing.

Bendodo also expressed his desire for a positive outcome from the ongoing negotiations as “the British aren’t foreigners”. He says: “They’re ‘Malagueños’. They make up a large part of Malaga province’s population.”

Speaking in Spanish to an audience of mixed nationalities, the ambassador stressed the British government’s commitment to maintaining strong links with Spain and the rest



British ambassador to Spain Simon Manley during his speech last Friday. :: SALVADOR SALAS

of the European Union. “With Brexit we are leaving the EU but not Europe. We share the same values and we are still close neighbours,” he said.

Manley pointed out that while the British people voted to leave the European Union, it is still the UK’s wish to “continue working with our European neighbours”.

He added that despite Brexit, the UK wanted the EU to be a “success” and a project that was “strong, prosperous and secure”.

He described Brexit as “a political reality” but stressed the importance of “listen[ing] to both sides in the Brexit negotiations” in order to reach agreements that would “minimise the damage”.

One area which Manley was keen to highlight was a future relationship which was mutually beneficial, especially in terms of the economy: “In these Brexit negotiations we want to avoid any barriers especially in terms of the economy. In the 21st century it is key that we have free trade to have a strong economy and attract investment.”

Movement of people was also a priority, he said, explaining that the ‘settled status’, outlined in a 15-page Home Office document earlier in the week, would “give security and the same rights to EU citizens in the UK”.

He went on to praise the contribution of Spanish people to British society, outlining especially the heroism of Ignacio Echeverria during the recent London Bridge attack, while also pledging the UK’s unwavering support on security matters: “Our values and our resolve, when we work together, are much stronger than those of the terrorists.”

The role of SUR in English for Malaga's British community

A day after former SUR in English editor Liz Parry was presented with the British Empire Medal by the ambassador, current editor Rachel Haynes outlined the role of the newspaper for the British community on the Costa in the last three decades.

Haynes said that the newspaper had been a “benchmark” for forging links between two communities, “English-speaking foreigners, most of them British, and ‘Malagueños”.

“I don’t know if they knew back in 1984 that they were creating much more than just an English version of SUR,” she said, explaining that SUR in English helps to breach the language barrier that can isolate foreign residents from their surroundings.



Rachel Haynes. :: ÁLVARO CABRERA

Rights for students

A question and answer session took place after his speech, in which Manley was challenged on the rights of foreign students studying in the UK.

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Elías Bendodo. :: S. SALAS



Pedro Luis Gómez. :: S. S.

He responded: "We don't want to close our borders to students. The UK government will continue to support them."

He also outlined his government's aspirations to maintain access to the Erasmus programme, reiterating that any deals struck would have to be reciprocal. "We want the UK to continue to attract the most talented people in the world," he added.

Healthcare post Brexit

British residents' access to the Spanish health system was another point raised and the ambassador stated that the UK government would be pressing for the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) to be maintained, or something similar brought in in its place.

A categorical "no"

Manley, when asked about Gibraltar, categorically declared there would be "no joint sovereignty deal".

He did, however, agree that free movement across the frontier was crucial: "What impresses me about Gibraltar is its links with the surrounding area. We want to work together with Spain to guarantee the prosperity of Campo de Gibraltar."

The ambassador concluded his intervention, saying: "We have few allies with whom we have such a strong relationship as we do with Spain. We should celebrate the cultural, personal and historical links between our two countries and make our relationship even stronger."

The event was also attended by Mayor of Malaga, Francisco de la Torre; Partido Popular MP, Carolina España; British Consul for Andalucía, Charmaine Arbouin; and Vice-Consul Rosslyn Crotty; Director General of Prensa Malagueña, José Luis Romero; and Deputy Editor of SUR, Javier Recio, among other authorities, officials and members of the international community.



Manley, centre, listened to a range of concerns put forward by British residents. :: D. FINCH

Brexpats press ambassador on the lack of official information

Representatives from Brexpats in Spain put their concerns to the ambassador following the forum

BY DARYL FINCH

MALAGA. British ambassador to Spain, Simon Manley, sat down with representatives from Brexpats in Spain following the forum on Friday and heard a wide range of concerns affecting British peo-

ple resident in Spain.

While he could offer few concrete answers given that negotiations are in still at an early stage, he accepted that the lack of information was a problem.

Brexpats president, Anne Hernandez, told Manley that she felt the Home Office document issued on EU citizens' rights was "deliberately vague" and that the government's lack of information was driving "speculation and rumours" on social media.

Committee members also high-

lighted the public's reluctance to consult some official sources, such as the website gov.uk, especially the "particularly vulnerable", namely the elderly who have no internet access.

Manley, for his part, said it was important to "correct these bar room myths" but also for British residents to "get their house in order" by registering on the 'padrón'. Those most at risk, he said, were "those living outside the legal framework", especially in terms of taxation.

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THE FORUM IN PICTURES

PHOTOS: SALVADOR SALAS & ÁLVARO CABRERA



Pedro Luis Gómez, Jorge González, Francisco de la Torre, Simon Manley, Elías Bendodo, José Luis Romero, Carolina España, María del Mar Martín Rojo and Javier Recio. :: SALVADOR SALAS



Emma Vera, Simon Manley, Rachel Haynes and Neil Hesketh. :: A. CABRERA



Manuel Toledo, Antonio Pedraza, Judith Price, Juan Bosco and Luis Moret. :: A. C.



Sandra Wrightson and Rosslyn Crotty. :: A. C.



Mario Jiménez, Javier Recio, José Luis Sánchez Domínguez and British Consul Charmaine Arbouin. :: A. CABRERA



Victoria Westhead, Anne Hernandez and Sarah Hawes of Brexpats in Spain and Emma de Acedo. :: A. C.



Pablo Atencia, Carolina España, Gonzalo Schar and José Miguel Aguilar. :: A. CABRERA



Mayor of Manila Mario Jiménez, Vice-Consul Rosslyn Crotty and Manila Councillor Dean Tyler Shelton. :: A. C.



SUR in English Editor Rachel Haynes and Conservatives Abroad President Christine Rowlands. :: A. C.



José Carlos Escribano, María del Mar Martín Rojo and Jorge González. :: A. C.



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Delegation of US Congressmen in Gibraltar on a fact-finding visit

The three officials took the opportunity to thank Gibraltar for hosting US armed forces from different times in history to the present day

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. A delegation of three members of the United States Congress arrived in Gibraltar on Tuesday evening, on a fact-finding visit.

The Congressmen, who all serve on the Appropriations Committee, were the Committee Chair Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen (Republican, New Jersey), Congressman Ken Calvert (Republican, California) and Congressman Peter Visclosky (Democrat, Indiana), who is also the ranking Member on Defence Appropriations.

On Wednesday morning the Congressmen held a meeting with chief minister Fabian Picardo and deputy chief minister Dr Joseph Garcia at No 6 Convent Place. The American delegation thanked the government and people of Gibraltar for hosting the armed forces of the United States at different points in history to the present day, including during the Second World War.

Picardo briefed the Congressmen on the present political and economic position of Gibraltar, and reiterated the government's view that the US armed forces are very welcome in Gibraltar.

The delegation also met the Governor of Gibraltar, Ed Davies, whose official Twitter account later tweeted, "Thanks to the US Congressional Delegation for visiting Gibraltar to exchange perspectives on the regional Defence and Security situation."



Fabian Picardo and Dr Joseph Garcia with the Congressmen. :: SUR

More American accents will be heard on the Rock in a few days' time, as the Gibraltar-American Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its third trade mission at the Sunborn floating hotel from Sunday until Tuesday.

The aim of the trade mission is to promote business between American and Gibraltarian companies. More than 30 companies from the USA and other countries, three American Chambers of Commerce, two senior Congressmen and two American universities will be attending the event, and AmCham Gibraltar, as it is known, says this will be the perfect opportunity for local and American companies to make contacts and forge relationships with a view to doing business together in the future.

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Neanderthal child's tooth found in Gorham's Cave complex

This hugely important discovery was made in Vanguard cave and experts think the child may have been killed by hyenas

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. The Gorham's Cave complex in Gibraltar, which was declared a Unesco World Heritage Site almost exactly a year ago, is a gift that just keeps on giving in terms of historical importance.

This week it was confirmed that a strange tooth which had been recently discovered in Vanguard cave was a Neanderthal child's upper right canine milk tooth. The child

would have been aged about four or five. The area of the cave in which the tooth was discovered was not at a level where the Neanderthals would have been living, but was the lair of a spotted hyena, which could suggest that the child had been caught and killed by the animals, although at this stage that is just a working theory.

The tooth was found during the first excavation to be carried out at Gorham's Cave since it was designated a World Heritage Site last year. The excavations will continue in Gorham's and Vanguard caves until mid-August as planned, but in view of this extraordinarily important find the focus is likely to be on the same level in Vanguard.



The latest find. :: GIBRALTAR MUSEUM

The Gibraltar Museum is responsible for excavations at the site, and it contains interesting items which have been found there, as well as lifesize figures of a Neanderthal mother and child.

Unesco has officially registered the Gorham's Cave complex as "an exceptional testimony to the occupation, cultural traditions and material culture of Neanderthal and Early Modern Human populations through a period spanning more than 120,000 years." It was used for about 100,000 years and is situated on the east side of the Rock.

The site is of major significance in understanding the global story of human evolution and adaptation, and after 27 years of investigation a wealth of information has been obtained on where and how Neanderthals lived and behaved, what plants, birds and animals they were familiar with and ate and where they acquired materials for stone tools. For further information, visit www.gibmuseum.gi.

IN BRIEF

New commemorative stamp issue

GIBRALTAR

D. B. As part of this year's celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the first Referendum, in which Gibraltar voted overwhelmingly to remain British, the Philatelic Bureau has issued a commemorative set of stamps. They have been designed by Stephen Perera and feature photographs from the National Archive.

The set includes stamps to the value of 22p, 64p, 70p and £2 and there is also a £5 stamp which depicts the HM Queen Elizabeth II silhouette used on Gibraltar coins. This high value stamp is not issued very frequently but it was felt that on this occasion it was justified.



The high value stamp. :: SUR

Leader of the opposition steps down

GIBRALTAR

D. B. Daniel Feetham announced yesterday that he was stepping down as the leader of opposition party GSD. He will continue as a Member of Parliament for the GSD, but said he had not decided whether to stand again at the next election.

Mr Feetham said his political life as party leader had been taking its toll on his family, especially his wife and children, and that they have to come first.

He will be temporarily replaced as leader of the GSD by his deputy, Roy Clinton.

Disabled access to new football stadium

GIBRALTAR

D. B. The Minister for Equality, Samantha Sacramento, has set up a working group with the Gibraltar Football Association (GFA) to ensure that the new UEFA Category 4 national football stadium will be accessible to and inclusive of people with disabilities. "Football brings people together," she said, "and there should therefore be no barriers for people who have disabilities to also enjoy this sport, first hand, inside a stadium."

The new football stadium will be state-of-the-art and is part of a massive overhaul of the Rock's sports facilities.



Felipe González, José María Aznar and José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero at the event. :: A. FERRERAS

Past PMs line up to discuss Spain's constitution at SUR group forum

To mark 15 years of Vocento, publishers of SUR in English, three ex-heads of government came together in a rare show of unity

:: **RAMÓN GORRIARÁN**

MADRID. All three living former prime ministers of Spain spoke together at a public meeting for the first time on Wednesday. The forum at which they were special guests was organised by the parent company of SUR in English, Vocento, which is marking fifteen years this

year. The theme of the event was 'Forty years of democracy', following last month's anniversary of the first general election after General Franco's dictatorship ended in 1977.

Felipe González (PSOE), José María Aznar (PP) and José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero (PSOE) don't normally see eye to eye on many things,

so it was particularly significant that the three men sat together at the Vocento event and jointly defended the power of political dialogue and the Spanish constitution.

Referring frequently to plans by the regional government in Catalonia to hold an illegal independence referendum, all agreed that the solution to the Catalanian question was political dialogue. All three ex-national leaders shared the view that Catalanian independence wouldn't happen, but there was disagreement over the effectiveness of any constitutional reform.

Felipe González, prime minister from 1982 to 1996, said that consideration should be given to reforming the Spanish constitution to address Catalanian national concerns. In contrast, his two successors, Aznar and Rodríguez Zapatero, said they were against. González proposes a commission to review the document, but Aznar said that first Spain had to work out "what" it wanted changing.

Rodríguez Zapatero added that people "shouldn't get their hopes up" over what a constitutional reform might do to calm nationalist sentiment, a veiled comment aimed at the new leader of the PSOE, Pedro Sánchez, who has said he is in favour of modifying the constitution.

While González and Zapatero called for shared dialogue with pro-independence politicians, Aznar appeared to suggest that a way forward was to build an anti-independence political coalition in the Catalanian regional parliament.

Catalonia 'will be independent within 48 hours' if 'yes' vote wins on October 1st

:: **SUR**

BARCELONA / MADRID. Leaders of Catalonia's pro-independence coalition government have been giving the clearest details yet this week of what they plan to do to declare the region's independence from Madrid.

Carles Puigdemont, Catalanian president, said that if more people vote 'yes' than 'no', regardless of turnout, at the planned referendum on 1 October, then "within 48 hours" the region will proclaim independence from Spain.

The referendum has been declared illegal by the Spanish constitutional court and the announcement of further nationalist plans caused consternation in Madrid and among pro-Spanish Catalanian parties.

The Spanish government said that they would need "24 hours [instead of 48 hours] to stop the referendum" if it got to that point.

Meanwhile, Spanish prime minister, Mariano Rajoy, held his first formal meeting with newly re-elected opposition leader, Pedro Sánchez, of the PSOE party on Thursday. Both discussed how to react to the Catalanian question.

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PAMPLONA'S BIG DAY FINALLY ARRIVES

For residents of the capital of Navarre and a high number of national and international visitors, the long wait for the famous San Fermín festivities is over. Yesterday (Thursday) a rocket was fired from the town hall balcony in front of thousands of revellers to start the nine days of Pamplona's annual 'feria'. The first of this year's celebrated 'running of the bulls' was due to take place this morning (Friday).

Daughter gets father taken out of common grave at last, 78 years after he was shot

:: **J. V. MUÑOZ-LACUNA**

TOLEDO. It wasn't easy, but 91-year-old Ascensión Mendieta saw her dream of more than 70 years come true last Sunday. She finally put to rest in their own grave the remains of Timoteo Mendieta, her father, who was shot under General Franco's regime in November 1939.

Timoteo was a trade union leader in Guadalajara, central Spain. His wife and young Ascensión started to ask for him to be exhumed from one of the 16 common graves in the area's cemetery even before Franco died in 1975. But their efforts failed.

However Ascensión didn't stop trying and, in 2016, using an anti-Franco legal decree enacted in Argentina, managed to get a judge there to order a Spanish judge to find and dig up the body from the shared grave in Guadalajara.

Matching DNA, in May this year he was found and some 300 people attended the reburial in a plot in Madrid's main burial ground. Thirty other local families in Guadalajara have also been able to identify their loved ones as a result of Ascension's search.



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The company's premises on the technology park. :: SUR

British firm Ebury is to take on 40 more staff and open a new office in Malaga

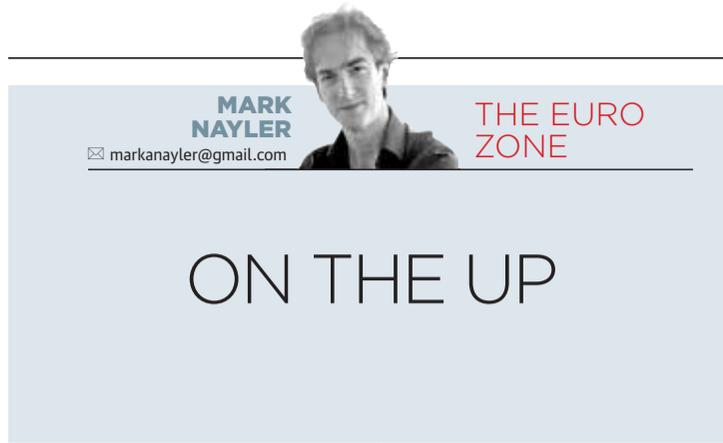
The company, which specialises in international payments and foreign exchange, is a pioneer in Europe

:: J. V. A.

MALAGA. Ebury, a fintech company specialising in international payments and foreign exchange, is to employ more staff in Malaga, where it set up its programming and development centre in 2014. The firm, which was created by Spanish entrepreneurs in London, is to take on another 40 professionals, in addition to the 80 who

already work in its office on the Andalusian Technology Park. They will all be specialists in computer engineering and programming, and Ebury says it will be opening a new office in Malaga city centre as a result of this expansion.

"Ebury's rapid growth is generating many attractive opportunities for professionals in the new technologies," says Venancio Gallego, the operations director. The company, which was a pioneer in Spain and elsewhere in Europe, has recently opened offices in Paris, Hamburg, Zurich and Athens, in addition to the ones it already has in London, Amsterdam, Warsaw, Madrid and Malaga.



ON THE UP

Until recently, I was under the impression that forecasting the annual growth of the Spanish economy must be an extremely complex business. I was wrong. All you need to do, it seems, is start the year with a fairly conservative estimate - in this case, certainly lower than 2016's impressive expansion of 3.2% - and then steadily increase it until you end up at the rate (or almost at the rate) by which the economy grew the previous year.

Speaking to reporters in Warsaw last Friday, Mariano Rajoy said: "On Monday we are going to change our forecast and we are going to say that this year we will grow by 3%."

This is quite a hike up from the Spanish government's previous prediction of 2.7% - but seeing as this figure has been creeping ever-upwards recently,

why not? In April, the IMF raised its own growth forecast for Spain this year to 2.6%, up from 2.3%. Not to be outdone, in May the EU adjusted its projection of 2.75% GDP expansion for the Spanish economy in 2017 to 2.8%.

But apparently even 2.8% was not quite optimistic enough for the Spanish government. Last month, Spain's Central Bank announced that the country's economy would expand by a robust 3.1% in 2017, rather than 2.8%. Before Rajoy's official statement on Monday that growth would be at 3% instead of 2.7%, this was the latest modification made to the now long-forgotten original prediction.

Confused? Don't be. We have now almost arrived at the rate by which the Spanish economy grew last year.

The next forecast will show

that everything is going as well as it did in 2016: in other words, sometime over the next couple of months or so, Luis de Guindos or Mariano Rajoy will announce that Spain's GDP will grow by 3.2% in 2017.

That it might well do is not the point. The point is that, for Spain at least, these fluctuating macroeconomic predictions are irrelevant. When the IMF raised its own forecast for the Spanish economy in April, it warned that the country still had a long way to go before it could consider itself economically stable. The fund said the fundamental problem was mass unemployment (currently at 18%) and a labour market in which most workers are on temporary contracts for just a few weeks' work.

Nothing has changed since then. According to the latest figures from the Labour Ministry, only 8% of the 88,000 new employment contracts signed in Spain in June were for long-term positions.

Unemployment amongst 16 to 25-year-old Spaniards remains above 40%. So long as Spain has these problems, its steady GDP growth is of secondary importance.

Nevertheless, I predict that it will expand by 3.2% this year - just like in 2016. So, you see: there's no need to worry.

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Dolphins for show

Spain has more marine parks than anywhere else in Europe, but protests increase over their shows with dolphins

ANTONIO CORBILLÓN

In Spain, dolphins swim against the tide. In the wild, these lovely creatures travel about 150 kilometres a day, but of course that is not the case for the 100 or so that are enclosed in pools in the 12 dolphinariums which have made Spain the king of marine attractions in Europe.

Most of these are in the Canary Islands. Last November a plane which had been converted into a mega-pool arrived at the Rancho Texas Park in Lanzarote from Germany, carrying four bottlenose dolphins which had been born and reared in captivity.

This is the latest marine park to open in a sector which is halfway between business and marine science. But they put on shows, with these enormous mammals leaping out of the water or performing pirouettes, and in that sense Spain is heading in the opposite direction to Europe.

"If there is any place where there is no sense in opening marine parks, it is the Canary Islands, because they have the largest variety of cetaceans in their open waters," said the presi-

dent of the Society for the Study of Cetaceans in the Canarian Archipelago, Vidal Martín.

In May France did an about-turn and closed its three marine parks (some of which were run by Spanish multinationals). Until then France was the country with the second largest number of these facilities on the continent, after Spain. A decree from the French Ministry of the Environment prohibited the rearing of these animals in captivity and the purchase of new animals, and demanded better living conditions for those that already existed.

In the UK there used to be 30 marine parks, but the last one closed in 1993. Ten years later, the European Union banned the imports of cetaceans that had been caught from the wild. Germany, Norway, Finland and Switzerland have all banned new facilities of this type.

In Spain the only step that has been taken in this direction is by Barcelona council. The mayor, Ada Colau, announced some months ago that the cetacean section of the zoo



A protester in Benalmádena last weekend. :: SUR

Peaceful protest in Benalmádena

Supporters of the environmentalist group *Ecologistas en Acción*, along with activists from *Resistencia Animal*, *Pacma* and other organisations, staged a

peaceful protest outside *Selwo Marina* in Benalmádena last weekend. Protesters called for an end to dolphins being kept in captivity in the park, which is the only dolphinarium in Andalucía. The protesters held signs with slogans such as "Show's Over Empty the Tanks".

was to close. As well as coming under pressure from animal welfare groups, the local authority believed it was unjustifiable to spend more than 10 million euros to renew the tanks in which the six dolphins were kept. Now it is considering which sanctuary in the Mediterranean they should be sent to, and plans to move them before the end of 2018.

The 'Barcelona way', as these organisations are calling it, is seen as a positive step by groups such as *SOS Delfines*.

"These aquatic zoos have multiplied to attract tourists, but they do nothing to protect the species and we will end up having as many dolphinariums as we do beaches," warns campaign spokesman Alberto Díez.

His colleague Andrea Torres, the biologist at the Foundation for Assessment and Action in Defence of Animals (FAADA), says the law regarding zoos in Spain "is very lax and doesn't talk about the freedom of the animals, only about safety". She also refutes arguments about them being a tourist attraction, in a similar way to zoologist Vidal Martín, in the Canary Islands: "Why would people want to see a dolphin dance in a pool, when we can see them in the wild?" she asks.

In fact, dolphin spotting in the waters of the archipelago is becoming a growing industry, and this doesn't only apply to the waters of the Atlantic. In the Strait of Gibraltar, orcas coexist alongside the tuna fishermen. In Valencia port and in other parts of the *Mare Nostrum* it is also easy to spot dolphins



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Two dolphins jump up to their trainer at the Oceanarium in Valencia.

HEINO KALIS/REUTERS

Dolphins in captivity around Spain



ISABEL TOLEDO

FACTS AND FIGURES

55%

of the more than 300 cetaceans which can be seen in European marine parks are managed by Spanish companies. Spain is home to more than 30 per cent of these parks.

A place in the sea

For years, experts have been wanting sanctuaries to be set up in the waters of the Mediterranean so that these animals can be gradually relocated there, although they admit that it would be costly.

phinariums in the EU do not fulfil biological requirements.”

The organisation’s CEO, Chris Butler-Stroud, complains that these centres “are principally developed as commercial companies in which the dolphins and whales are merely business assets.” Others go further. “They are money-making machines. They are turned into clowns to entertain customers and make the business owner rich,” says Vidal Martín.

In a Europe which is becoming increasingly resistant to shows using animals, more than 300 cetaceans are on display in its 33 parks to entertain visitors. They include orcas, porpoises and beluga whales. More than half of these centres are in the hands of Spanish companies, who have found a way of growing in a Europe where prices have dropped in the face of an uncertain future.

None of these species is at risk of extinction, so the debate about their use is on environmental and moral grounds.

“Nobody doubts they should be preserved ‘in situ’. What’s the sense in keeping a species caged up? Marine mammals are only happy in their ecosystems,” said Torres.

in the wild.

In addition to the bad reputation which is now being acquired by shows which use trained animals, there is something else which is important about the nature of these giants of the sea.

“Seeing them in captivity is awful,” said the director of the Bottlenose Dolphin Research Institute, Bruno Díaz. This marine biologist, who has written more than 50 scientific articles about their behaviour, insists that “their complex sensory system and very complicated communication system means they develop psychological problems in captivity”.

In the zoological sector, there are

“They are used as clowns to attract business, they are just seen as money-making machines”

quite a few dissenting voices that deny these arguments and consider them “simple prejudices which are used to carry out campaigns against zoos”, according to the vice-president of the Iberian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AIZA), Javier Almunia.

He runs the Loro Parque in Tenerife, a classic which attracts more than one million visits a year (tickets cost

35 euros, and it creates more than 400 direct jobs). He insists, “Scientific evidence shows that dolphins in zoos live better than in the sea.”

There is no sign of legal regulation in Spain becoming as strict as in the rest of Europe although, unlike business owners, environmentalists and scientists agree that this needs to be done. “There doesn’t need to be a big fuss about it, but a time limit has to be set so that the days of these marine parks are numbered in the medium term,” said Alberto Díaz.

The economic attraction for a country such as Spain, however, carries a great deal of weight. The recently opened Rancho Texas Park in Lanzarote hopes that its eight bottlenose

dolphins will enable it to sell a quarter of a million tickets a year, at 25 euros each.

The law demands that these centres draw up scientific plans and develop educational campaigns in order to exhibit the specimens, but practically none of them do this. A study by the UK’s Whale and Dolphin Conservation society concluded that “dol-

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THERE IS A PRIZE FOR THE BEST
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Hostesses and cycling

The recent crusade in the cycling world calling for the elimination of hostesses from the winners' podium, in order to put an end to the exploitation of the image of women, I believe was commendable and the initiative had my full support.

The problem would come however, when event organisers tried to decide who or what would replace the podium girls when it came to handing out bunches

of flowers and trophies, with all the corresponding air kisses.

Where this has already been put into practice, the vacancy has been occupied by politicians, who soon made this showcase their own.

Wouldn't it be more logical for it to be the young hopefuls in this sport who climb up onto the podium alongside the cycling greats in whose steps they aim to follow?

PACO RÚA
BY EMAIL

Airport dropping off
madness

For some 13 years I have been driving to drop friends off at Malaga Airport.

As a private car, you kept to the left at the approach to the airport building, drove along the side of the airport building, pulled into a space at the side of the road, then unloaded your passengers and drove off.

Sometimes it was busy, but it rarely took more than five minutes to complete the whole process.

Now a new system is in operation. Private cars queue up at an automatic ticket dispenser, which offers you 15 minutes free.

However, as each car must stop, pull out a ticket, then wait for the gate to open, there is a queue which takes time depending on the length.

Then you are not allowed to drive to the side of the airport building, where it would be easy to drop the passengers. Instead, you are forced into the car park, which is always busy.

We had to go all the way along the outside as the inner lanes had cars parking and blocking the lanes.

This meant there was a long queue of cars just dropping off and not parking.

The exit of the car park is past the end of the airport building, and is on the road with no spaces to stop. We had to stop at the edge of the road

and unload our passengers and their luggage.

They then had to force their way in front of the cars exiting the car park, to get back to the airport building.

Then you have to leave through a double gateway parking machine, to present your ticket. I just managed 15 minutes, after which a charge of 2.90 euros is payable.

The whole system serves no function and increases congestion. Who on earth decided on this system?

Probably the accountants who run the airport.

BARRY H WHITE
LA CALA DEL MORAL

Warning to dog
owners

We felt it might be appreciated by local dog owners to know the awful experience we have recently gone through.

It has been confirmed by our vet who carried out a post mortem on our much-loved dog, who died three weeks ago, that he suffered and died as a result of being poisoned.

The agony he must have endured during the last few days of his life must have been beyond belief.

We believe he ingested the lethal poison whilst on a walk from Chringuito Tubalitas towards Aldea Beach in Manilva.

A. DEAR
MANILVA

Hear my song

PETER EDGERTON
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

Many moons ago, I went to a big, posh party. It was held in an enormous mansion not far from London and lots of nineteenth-century household names whose stars had long since faded were in attendance. I was only eighteen but remember the pervasive sense of undefined melancholy that seeped into the palatial rooms and hovered above the endless gardens.

A very famous pop group was present and, at one point, we were all invited onto the front driveway to listen to their new song on a car cassette player. After a lot of air-kissing and the word "daaahling!" being bandied about for what seemed like an eternity, the bizarrely-permed and somewhat orange lead singer leaned into his Rolls Royce and pressed 'play'. The opening chords filled the evening air as the assembled crowd awaited the brand new melody in eager ant-

icipation. Sadly, it never came - the tuneless witterings which ensued were nothing short of risible; this wasn't so much a pop song as GBH of the ear drums. The four group members tapped their feet and nodded their heads gamefully while the party guests all stared at their shoes in unison before slowly shuffling off in search of some chicken and mushroom vol-auvents and, more importantly, a stiff whisky.

What on earth could have possessed this band of grey-haired rockers? A group which had had some of the biggest hits of the sixties, were wilfully kidding themselves twenty years later that they still had something to offer. I'm not sure they ever released another record after that fateful day.

This salutary tale came to mind this week, as I attempted in vain to complete a couple of half-finished songs that have been on the

boil for a few weeks now (never a good sign). Who, when push came to shove, would tell me if they were a load of old tripe? Nobody, probably, which would soon leave me playing to deserted rooms and blaming the lack of audience on the weather and the fact that Game of Thrones was on the telly.

It's always difficult for sportsmen and artists to know when to call it a day. You only hope that when the time comes, your friends will be brave and kind enough to take you to one side and whisper some pearls of wisdom in your ear.

"For God's sake, man, give it a rest, would you? Have you no shame?"

"No, no, it's a good one this. You'll love it... Tum tee tum tee tum... No, really. I made it up in the bath.... Tum tee tum tee tum... Wait! Come back! You haven't heard the chorus yet... Tum tee tum tum..."

SANSÓN

Better the devil
you know

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

Our summers on the Costa del Sol are starting to look more like an apocalypse film than a cold beer commercial - although some still deny climate change.

Looking back at the national news from the first week of summer, we recall fights between senseless individuals who drink as if they had no tomorrow or no liver; suffocating heatwaves; long tailbacks just to go to the corner shop; and a devastating fire that came with its own conspiracy theory that went viral as fast as it was easy to disprove. Now it seems we have to put out fires on social media as if we didn't have

enough to deal with in the real world. Neither is it plausible to blame all our woes on tourism and overcrowding, however much we need scapegoats to keep up the discourse with which we try to explain the world from our ideological standpoint. Then the San Juan celebrations came and the beaches looked like they'd been taken over by an army of animals, which is what we are, after all.

Somebody ought to invite Donald Trump, who has pulled the US out of the Paris Agreement as he thinks climate change is a ruse invented by the Chinese, to take a walk along the Costa del Sol on a day

when the hot 'terral' winds are blowing. He should be invited to try a journey in a car with broken air conditioning and queuing to leave the motorway at the Arroyo de la Miel exit at rush hour. Or to walk through the centre of Torremolinos at four o'clock in the afternoon where some criticise the project to build a pergola to provide shade for both residents, already weather-beaten but still vulnerable (the sun doesn't discriminate), and tourists, however much they've daubed themselves in sun cream.

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy should be the first to have an interest in sending the formal invitation to Trump, not because the visit would polish the image of Spain, which is even more colourful now with the institutional support for the LGBT Pride events and issues, but because the US president makes even the worst world leaders look good. You only have to look at the international news to understand why here, when the elections come around, many believe that it's better the devil you know.

SUR English

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

Editor in Chief:
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"I don't consider myself a prodigy"

Joey Alexander Jazz pianist



He's only just turned 14 and has already been nominated for a Grammy three times and praised by top jazz musicians. Today, Friday, he makes his debut in Spain at the Portón del Jazz festival in Alhaurín

MALAGA. He says he doesn't feel any different to other kids his age. "I just happen to play music," points out jazz pianist Joey Alexander (Denpasar, Bali, 2003). However this "normal" teenager has a tour of Spain, Italy, Ireland, Switzerland, France, Germany and Norway in his diary for July. Seven countries in a month for a boy who has just turned 14, an adolescent who puts Louis Armstrong and John Coltrane at the top of his list of favourite artists.

What to most of us seems rare, he

sees as normal. He has spent half of his still short life seated at a piano. He started learning at six, was invited to join jam sessions in Indonesia at eight and played with the great Wynton Marsalis at eleven. At that same age he became the first Indonesian musician to featured on the Billboard 200 chart with his debut album. Now he has two records, My Favorite Things and Countdown, and these have earned him no fewer than three Grammy nominations. Today, Friday, this young artist performs live in Spain for the first time on the first day of the Portón del Jazz festival in Alhaurín de la Torre.

Joey Alexander answers the telephone first thing in the morning in New York, the city he moved to with his parents three years ago when his career took an international turn. His talent soon became too big for Bali, his birthplace, and the Indonesian capital Jakarta was the family's next step, so that Joey could "better his craft and explore music more". And from there, encouraged by praise from Herbie Hancock and Marsalis himself, they headed for the Big Apple.

Joey's father Denny, at his side during our conversation, explains his early progress. "We believe it's God's gift and we're thankful every day,"



Joey Alexander brings his trio to Alhaurín de la Torre. :: CAROL FRIEDMAN

he says. But he's not afraid of any negative effect success at such a young age could have on his son: "Being afraid would destroy everything we have fought for and sacrificed for. And I think we just have to focus on the right thing," says Denny. "Fame is

not what we are aiming for; it's about growing and enjoying what you're doing."

And Joey does just that, he has fun playing his music, but "it's also serious", he says in the surprisingly deep voice typical of a boy turning into a

DETAILS

► **Concert.** Joey Alexander Trio.

► **Venue.** Finca Municipal El Portón in Alhaurín de la Torre.

► **Date.** Friday, 7 July. Support act 9.30pm and main act at 10.30pm.

► **Tickets.** 15 euros.

► **Information.** www.portondeljazz.es

"Fame isn't what we're aiming for; it's about growing and enjoying music," says his father

man. "I never thought about it as a game."

Improvisation has been more serious than just a hobby for him for much of his life. "I was doing jam sessions when I was eight. My parents took me to jazz clubs so I could see the musicians playing and every time there was a jam session they would ask me to come up and play something. That was the start for me," he explains.

- **But didn't you feel intimidated by the adults?**

- No, I just wanted to play.

However despite this unusual childhood, he insists: "I don't consider myself a prodigy." Neither does

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Saxophonist Kenny Garrett and vocalist Cecile McLorin, also at El Portón del Jazz

Joey Alexander's performance is just the start of Alhaurín de la Torre's Portón del Jazz festival which is now in its 20th year. Other big international names in the festival lineup are

singer Cecile McLorin and saxophonist Kenny Garrett. McLorin, who won a Grammy last year for her album *For One To Love*, brings her show *Woman to Woman to Alhaurín* next Friday, 14 July. She will be accompanied on stage by a six-strong all-female band. Friday 21 July sees Perico Sambeat on the El Portón stage, while the Kenny Garrett Quintet perform on 28 July.

he feel different from other adolescents of his generation.

"I happen to be playing music, loving music. Some kids my age do other things, they do dancing, some of my friends do art," he says.

But few 14-year-olds would put Louis Armstrong, John Coltrane and Aretha Franklin at the top of their favourite artists list, although this does also have space for Bruno Mars and Michael Jackson. These are names, though, that have influenced and inspired him; they're not his idols. "I don't idolise anyone," he adds.

Joey's music is the product of his instinct rather than any music training. His education, he says, has been the people he has had the "privilege" to share the stage with, such as Winton Marsalis and his orchestra. "I play with intuition but really understanding the music," he adds.

The pianist is aware that he has devoted his childhood to jazz, but doesn't feel like he's missed out on anything.

"I'm always thankful for playing this music, and I'm touring around the world - it's always a blessing for me," he says. His schooling is done online "so when I do my music, I still have time to do my schoolwork," he says. And when he's not doing either of the two, "I do a little bit of exercise, I watch movies and play games."

Joey, whose ambition simply involves continuing to play the piano - and getting the Grammy he has missed out on three times -, says he is looking forward to his concert in Spain, a country he has never been to before.

Earlier this week all he knew about this country were the few snippets he had been told: "I heard you have a big soccer team," he says, although he quickly admits he's not a big football fan. Fortunately he'd also heard "it's a beautiful place".

By the time Joey has finished his concert in Alhaurín de la Torre this evening, he's bound to know a whole lot more.

Classical music lovers enjoy free open air concert in Arroyo de la Miel

The production was a journey through classicism and romanticism and featured some of the most important operas of all time

BY TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. Lovers of classical music enjoyed a free concert in Arroyo de la Miel last Saturday night, during the inauguration of the town hall's Culture in the Streets summer programme.

The Partitura Philharmonic Orchestra, directed by the celebrated Malaga conductor, Juan Paulo Gómez, performed a show dedicated to Pablo Sarasate.

Born in Pamplona in 1844, Sarasate was one of the greatest exponents of the violin of all time and the concert reflected his musical and aesthetic vision in relation to the world of opera.

The production was a journey through classicism and romanticism and featured some of the most important composers and operas of all time, including *Carmen* by Bizet, *The Magic Flute* by Mozart and *The Poacher* by Von Weber.

More than 200 people enjoyed



The Partitura Philharmonic Orchestra in Benalmádena. BY T. BRYANT

the concert, which was held in Plaza Juan de Austria, in Arroyo de la Miel. The Avenida de Constitución was closed to traffic in order to improve acoustics and avoid unnecessary noise and the lights were dimmed to create a fitting ambience for the concert.

The orchestra received a stand-

ing ovation from the appreciative audience following the performance.

Classical music will be one of the highlights of this summer's cultural agenda in Benalmádena, and a series of free concerts are planned to take place throughout the season.

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IN THE FRAME

JENNIE RHODES
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Symbolic and spontaneous sculptures

Oliver Perry Sculptor and printmaker

This artist, along with Robert Harding, is behind the Three Cultures sculpture in Frigiliana old town



Oliver Perry is about to open his latest exhibition of sculpture in the Sala el Pósito, a former

granary on Plaza de la Constitución, in Vélez-Málaga.

The Pennsylvania-born artist is no stranger to exhibiting in Malaga; he first came to the province in 1968, aged just 27, and has stayed ever since.

By his own admission he was "very introverted" as a young man and "a loner", so he decided to learn a second language, thinking it would help him to communicate. He chose Spanish and thought he'd go to Mexico to learn, but eventually settled on Spain, having decided that Mexico was "very big" and that if he was determined to learn the language then he may as well come to Spain itself. He says he had "no reference and no map".

He boarded a cargo ship destined for Algeciras and from there made his way to Seville, Granada and then down through the Alpujarra and eventually to Nerja.

Ending up in Nerja was a complete coincidence. Oliver explains that he had taken a bus in Salobreña to Torre del Mar. However, the heat, combined with twists and turns on the N340 meant that many passengers were taken ill. "I couldn't stand it any more so I got off at the next stop, which was Nerja," he says.

Nearly 50 years later the area is still very much his home. He and his Belgian wife, Jenny, bought an old farmhouse near Frigiliana, which they have refurbished and added studios where Oliver creates



Iron sculptures in Oliver Perry's garden. :: JENNIE RHODES

"It's always nice when people want to visit"

:: J. R.

FRIGILIANA As well as an impressive list of European and American exhibitions, Oliver Perry has received visitors to his Frigiliana farmhouse and says that it is "always nice when people want to visit". His larger works form a fascinating sculpture garden, with the iron formations blending in among olive and pine trees.

A tall cross, open on one side, stands in its own rosary garden and stepping stone path, reflecting the images of crosses and virgins that believers adorn with flowers in towns and villages across Spain.

Visits are strictly by prior arrangement only and to find out more visit the sculptor's website. www.veroliver.com or email: veroliver12@ymail.com

his pieces.

His work has taken him around Europe and his very first exhibition, in the early 1970s, was in Washington DC, where his family moved to from Pennsylvania when he was a child. Since then he has exhibited in Spain, Germany, Denmark, Germany, Poland and again in the USA.

Oliver started out as printmaker

after arriving in Spain and in 1999 turned his hand to sculpting iron. He continues to sketch but more recently is perhaps better-known for his sculptures; the most recognisable is arguably the work he was commissioned by Frigiliana town hall to do in partnership with his fellow sculptor, Robert Harding, for the Three Cultures Festival.

The pair came up with a design

"There is tension but no violence and the female always has the upper hand in my work"

using Perry's iron and Harding's stainless steel, which integrated the Christian cross, Jewish star of David and Islamic crescent moon, and Oliver also sketched an image of the sculpture which is used on Three Cultures material and as a symbol around the town. The actual sculpture can be found at the bottom of Calle Santa Teresa, in the old town. Oliver says of the com-

mission: "It was great to be asked to do the commission as two foreigners living in the town - it really felt like we were accepted by the community."

Religious symbolism and in particular the cross is a strong theme in a lot of Oliver's work, with a number of open cross sculptures, the idea of which he says represents faith "flowing," allowing the believer "movement" within their belief. There are also smaller works dotted around the farmhouse representing Semana Santa iconography, including penitents bearing their crosses.

Another concept at the heart of Oliver's work is the relationship between bulls and the female form.

Oliver admits that the combination came about "by accident" when he was sketching what was supposed to be a woman and when he looked at it again he decided that his creation looked more like a bull. But the idea was born and Oliver has stuck with it in a lot of his work; the interface between bull and female symbolising "tension but not violence" as "the woman always has the upper hand in my work", admits the artist.

This latest exhibition is called "Hierro y Nudos" or "Iron and Knots", and includes a collection of pieces of iron which he moves around "spontaneously" and then adds pieces of string (or rope for larger works), which in his studio makes them look like a huge, fun interactive games, with many of the pieces taking on an almost human appearance, from entire families sunning themselves on deck chairs, to people working out in a gym.

Some of these, plus three of his larger pieces, which live in the land around his farmhouse, as well as collages, will form the exhibition in Vélez-Málaga, which opens on Tuesday 11 July and will run for a month.

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REF. T.A.B.

I live in a very quiet residential area, but for a while now we have been suffering with the presence of a group of young people racing motorbikes around the complex at full speed. They normally race at night, and it is a nuisance because they make a lot of noise and the following day the pavements are covered with

rubbish, beer bottles, etc. Sometimes, they even race in broad daylight, causing great danger, as some of the families have little children who play in the street and who could be run over. We have tried to speak to them, but they just shout and jeer at us. Fed up with the situation, I have managed to record a video of one of these races. Could it serve as an evidence to report these facts? Yes, the recording could serve as evidence. Nevertheless, take into account that to report those facts you do not need to provide evidence, as it would be enough to let the police know as a mere eyewitness. Anyway, the recording can obviously help in the investigations.

REF. L.E.C.

I am 74 years old; I live alone and have reduced mobility. I reside in Spain and would like to make a will designating my heirs. If I do it in my own handwriting and with-

out witnesses, would it be valid?

Yes, it would be valid but it has to meet certain requirements: you have to write it in full and sign it, and it has to expressly contain the date and time when you have signed it. The presence of witnesses is not necessary, but later the judge will have to check your identity by means of three witnesses. Nevertheless, there exists an option that is simpler: a notary could be contacted to go to your home and draw up a record of your last will - being an official document, you would avoid any kind of problems for your heirs once you pass away. It is important to bear in mind that if you do not speak Spanish, you will need someone (your lawyer or any other person of your trust and not a beneficiary of the will) who can translate your wishes to the notary.

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PET CARE

ERNY HARRISON



Pets and pools

Life in Spain has so much to offer that it is difficult to make a list of your favourite things. Barbecue evenings, relaxing in the sunshine and of course the swimming pool are among them.

When we first came to Spain we didn't put a swimming pool high on our list of priorities, but we soon changed our minds.

For those readers who have a pet there is one important thing to consider: swimming pool steps. If you have a metal ladder of access please replace it with steps. An upright metal ladder makes it impossible for your pet to climb out. It is a small job to put in some concrete and tiled steps and if your cat or dog falls in they will save its life. Contrary to general belief cats can swim if necessary, even if they don't like it.

Now that the swimming season is with us, have a good look at the safety of your pool. A cover for the winter is a splendid idea and of course any precautions you take to protect your own pet will also benefit other animals that might wander in uninvited.

To keep your pool spic and span you will need chemicals. Chemicals and pets don't go together. To avoid your dog drinking chlorinated water put some drinking bowls with fresh water around the pool and teach your dog to drink from them.

Should you allow your dog the use of the pool? There are good reasons why you shouldn't. It is unhygienic, it can clog up your filter system with dog's hair and chlorinated water is bad for your dog's coat. But then our Labrador came along...

It was not a matter of 'shall we or shall we not...' He doesn't give us any choice. As soon as the swimming pool is operational he is the first one in. There is no stopping him. Open the front door and he rushes to the pool and in he jumps. To see him enjoying himself so much is such a pleasure that we have blown caution to the wind.

A good hose down when he comes out keeps his coat in good condition and so far the filter system is coping very well.

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FACTS AND FACES



Lionel and Pat Fidler. :: SUR

Cudeca volunteers retire after 25 years

FUENGIROLA

Pat and Lionel Fidler have recently retired as volunteers at the Cudeca hospice shop in Fuenjirola after nearly 25 years. The couple, who will continue to collaborate as tin collection volunteers, worked as day team leaders for two mornings every week in the hospice shop.

When Pat and Lionel first contacted Cudeca's founder Joan Hunt early in 1993, the first hospice shop had just opened for two mornings each week. With their help they were able to extend opening to four mornings and later to six mornings.

On their last day at the shop, Pat and Lionel were presented with a certificate in recognition of their loyal support, as well as flowers and special greetings from their two teams.

The hospice charity now has more than 900 volunteers involved with its different programmes.



A scene of the play. :: SUR

Amateur dramatics in the Axarquía

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

The Axarquía-based El Valle Drama Group recently performed a one-act comedy play, *It Ain't Over Till The Fat Lady Sings*, to full houses over two evenings at El Trapiche restaurant. The comedy was directed by Steve Heugh and Margaret Heron and starred actors from this English-speaking amateur dramatics group. Money raised from the raffles over both evenings (350 euros) was donated to the charity Anne Axarquía, which provides educational and vocational support for young and older adults with moderate to severe learning disabilities. El Valle's next production will be a pantomime in December. For more information call 692551385.

Masons donate funds to help the Costa's elderly residents

MIJAS. The presidents of Age Care and Age Concern on the Costa del Sol, Syd Weldon and Andrew Toon, recently accepted cheques of 650 euros each from the Master of Gemini 51 Masonic Lodge, Michael Bedwell. The funds were raised thanks to a raffle at a recent "race night". Michael said he was delighted to donate the money to two worthy organisations and that

the characteristic of a Freemason's heart is charity. Age Care and Age Concern thanked Gemini Lodge 51 for its contribution to local charities.

Age Care coffee mornings in La Cala and Coín/Alhaurín are not operating in the summer. Anyone interested in volunteering in those areas should contact 635407255 or email info@agecarecosta.org



The presidents of Age Concern and Age Care with Freemasons. :: SUR

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"Hard work but a lot of fun"

Two Norwegian friends in Marbella dress contestants in major beauty events

❖ RACHEL ARMSTRONG

MARBELLA. From a spare bedroom in their Marbella apartment to the catwalk of the Miss Grand Spain finals in Seville, Norwegian friends Ann and Henriette have come a long way since they launched their online fashion boutique last year.

Ann Lukkien, 36, and Henriette Skáli Ward, 26, have lived on the coast for just over five years. Both were bored of seeing the same clothes and accessories on offer in local shops and the pair decided to set up an online store. So Bronze and Golden was born with the aim to bring "brands from all over the world" to Marbella.

Having worked previously as a model and in clothes stores back in Norway, Henriette had some experience of the fashion industry but it was a completely new venture for Ann, who says she offers her expertise to the "logistics" side of the business.

Initially they supplied stock from one brand - an exclusive Norwegian designer - but the girls soon realised that people also wanted "cheaper, more everyday type, options" and so started getting items from elsewhere around the globe. They now stock from Europe, Asia and South America, offering a range of clothing items and fashion accessories.

Since the birth of the brand's online presence, they have done various events around the Marbella area including a fashion show at Tibu in Puerto Banús, a launch at Ban Thai restaurant and a charity event at The Boardwalk, Marbella, to raise



Ann and Henriette. ❖ R. A.

funds for Alegria Animal Aid and Rescue.

The latest addition to this list is Miss Grand Malaga 2017 which took place in May. After being approached by organisers who had spotted the brand on Instagram, Ann and Henriette were responsible for dressing 48 models in swimwear and evening dresses for the finals.

Speaking to the girls about the experience, their excitement is infec-

tious. They explain how they chose the outfits to suit each contestant based on "colours and what would suit each body type". Although they tried to accommodate specific requests when possible, it was ultimately their decision as to who wore what.

"That's part of being a model," says Ann, who describes "seeing the models wearing [their] evening dresses, walking down the catwalk in the finals" as one of her personal Bronze and Golden highlights.

It was a big task to choose each model's attire for the catwalk, potentially influencing the result of the competition. However, Ann revealed that the process of choosing the winner was not based solely on appearances.

The finalists each had to take part in a series of interview questions to demonstrate their views on the "stop the war and violence" campaign and portray snippets of their personality and interests.

They need to be "likeable, sociable and easy to work with" says Henriette. "Speaking English is also one of the factors taken into consideration", as well as "having the ability to show empathy" through charity work, for example.

The Bronze and Golden pair were invited to form part of the jury for the semi-finals and final of Miss Grand Malaga and had the honour of awarding a sash to their personal choice in the "Miss Elegancia" category.

When asked how it felt to see the models parading their clothes on the catwalk, Ann and Henriette smile at each other and giggle: "Nice - really nice. Especially with our favourites that we've made a little space in our hearts for."

Finals this week

The girls have now been asked to provide the swimwear for the Miss Grand Spain finals which are taking place in Seville this weekend - and to say they are excited would be an understatement.

Would they ever have expected to be dressing models on a national stage when they first decided to launch their online boutique?

"Absolutely not," says Henriette, "There's a lot of stuff we've done that we never would have believed we would be able to do, let alone be asked to do!"

So, what does the future hold for the Marbella-based duo? They hope to continue with their pop-up shops (they are at Bono Beach every day throughout the summer) and organise more charity events, but they don't like to think too far ahead. "It all started with a bang; things happened quicker than we expected and we just went with the flow, so we haven't had time to make plans really," admits Henriette.

And what words of wisdom do they have to offer anyone else thinking about starting their own business in Marbella?

"Don't expect to make money straight away and be careful that people don't take advantage when you offer to do things for free," warns Henriette.

"It's difficult, it's tears, sweat and frustration but, if you work hard and you have the right people around you, it's amazing when things start to happen," says Ann. "It's very rewarding - a lot of hard work but a lot of fun."



One of the models dressed by Bronze and Golden. ❖ SUR



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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

7 JULY 1591

The birth of Pamplona's San Fermín festival

1 de enero, 2 de febrero, 3 de marzo, 4 de abril, 5 de mayo, 6 de junio, 7 de julio... ¡San Fermín! This popular Spanish song, known all over the country, shows how today's date can mean only one thing in Spain. 7 July is the feast of San Fermín, the patron saint of the region of Navarre and in whose name the famous bull running festival takes place in the city of Pamplona every July.

So, it seemed an easy topic then for this week's What Happened Today section. However a little research reveals that actually nothing happened on 7 July in history to warrant San Fermín being celebrated on this day.

According to the story of the saint, he died a martyr on 25 September of the year 303 AD, a date

that is celebrated in other places that have Fermín as their patron saint.

In Pamplona, however, the Church used to commemorate the feast of San Fermín on 10 October, but moved the festivities to 7 July in 1591, for one indisputable and sensible reason: the weather was an awful lot better in Pamplona in July than in October and the people were tired of washed-out celebrations. The other advantage was that in July the city already held a bullfighting festival so the change in date marked the start of the association of San Fermín with bulls.

The feast date is not the only thing about San Fermín (known as San Fermín of Amiens) that is a little hazy. In fact, it's not clear that he even existed at all and his story, of which academics have found no



The image of San Fermín is carried in procession on 7 July. :: SUR

historical evidence, can only be classed as a legend.

Like most legends though it has survived for centuries, however it was first recorded in Amiens, France, in the 9th century and reached Pamplona in the 12th century.

The story tells how Fermín was born in the third century AD, the son of an important Roman senator and a noble woman, both pagans. They were converted to Christianity thanks to the teachings of St Honestus and baptised by St Saturninus, the first bishop of Tou-

louse, France.

Fermín was later sent to Toulouse where he was ordained a priest and returned to preach in Navarre. However he then went back to France (then known by the Romans as Gallia - Gaul). There he is said to have converted thousands of pagans and settled in Amiens. At some point, though, he got on the wrong side of the Roman authorities and was imprisoned, tortured and beheaded.

However much truth there is in this tale, it certainly means a lot to the people of Pamplona who now

turn out into the streets for seven days of partying and bull-running in the name of San Fermín, who they ask for protection before they set off.

The festival, now known as the Sanfermines, gained international fame thanks to American writer Ernest Hemingway. It attracts thousands of international visitors, some of whom join in the bull-running early each morning.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Santo	Saint
Patrono	Patron
Leyenda	Legend
Mártir	Martyr
Obispo	Bishop
Festejos	Festivities
Corrida (de toros)	Bullfight
Encierro	Bull run
Mozo	Bull runner
Convertir	To convert
Decapitado	Beheaded
Feria	Fair
Senador	Senator
Toro	Bull
Celebración	Celebration
Tiempo	Weather
Escribir	To write
Cura	Priest
Predicar	To preach

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Some of the members of the youth orchestra. :: M. A. ROSADO SOUBIRON

Young musical talent for American independence

:: LIZ PARRY

MÁLAGA. The Joven Orquesta Provincial de Málaga (JOPMA) and the even younger Orquesta Escuela which feeds into it gave a concert in the MVA Cultural Centre in Málaga on July 4th, billing it as a tribute to Bernardo de Gálvez.

The orchestra association's president, Tania Schoham, explained to the audience that de Gálvez, a Spanish military leader born in Macharaviaya, had helped America in its quest for independence from the British, so the concert on Independence Day would celebrate the contribution made by the province of Málaga.

The first part of the concert, conducted by Iván Nuño Guerrero, was by the "Orquesta Escuela": musicians with an average age of eight

or nine who delighted the audience with Brahms Hungarian Dance n° 5 followed by Gabriel's Oboe (from "The Mission") by Ennio Morricone.

The main part of the concert was a beautiful rendition of part of the New World Symphony, composed by Antonín Dvořák, more than 100 years after the War of Independence, while he was living in the United States.

As an encore the orchestra played Suspiros de España by Antonio Álvarez Alonso, and part of Doña Francisquita, the zarzuela by Amadeo Vives. By popular request they then launched again into the New World Symphony, earning a standing ovation.

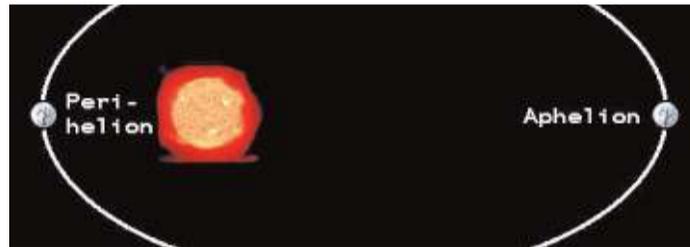
The orchestras' next concert is at the Auditorio Municipal in Mijas on July 9th at 9pm.

THE NIGHT SKY

KEN CAMPBELL



Earth at aphelion



You've probably noticed that it is warm in summer and cold in winter, but did you realise that last Monday 3 July the Earth was at its most distant point from the Sun, known as aphelion. Six months from now on 3 January, the Earth will be at its closest point to the Sun called perihelion.

So why is it so cold in winter and so hot in summer? Well if you lived south of the equator you would find that it is hotter in January than it is in July. The word aphelion, by the way, comes from the Greek word 'apo' meaning away, off or apart and 'helios' for the Greek god of the Sun.

The fact is that Earth's orbit is almost, but not quite, circular, so our distance from the Sun doesn't

change much. On Monday, we were about three million miles farther from the Sun than we will be six months from now. That's in contrast to our average distance from the Sun of about 93 million miles. The date for aphelion can occur on 4 July, it all depends on the time that it occurs and which part of the world you are in when it happens. On Monday it occurred at 20.11 UTC which means that for parts of the eastern world it was already 4 July.

So if the seasons are not caused by the Earth's distance from the Sun then what causes them? It's not a distance thing. We're always farthest from the Sun in early July during northern summer and closest in January during northern

winter. It's a tilt thing. Right now, it's summer in the Northern Hemisphere because the northern part of Earth is tilted most toward the Sun. Meanwhile, it's winter in the Southern Hemisphere because the southern part of Earth is tilted most away from the Sun.

Earth's varying distance from the Sun does affect the length of the seasons. That's because, at our farthest from the Sun, like now, Earth is travelling slowest in its orbit. That makes summer the longest season in the Northern Hemisphere and winter the longest season on the southern half of the globe. Conversely, winter is the shortest season in the Northern Hemisphere, and summer is the shortest in the Southern Hemisphere, in each instance by nearly five days.

In one year, the Earth travels about 585.6 million miles around the Sun at an average speed of about 30 kilometres per second. In other words, that's about 19 miles per second, or 67,000 miles per hour, or 110,000 kilometres per hour or 110 million metres per hour.

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MARK NAYLER



Different, but not so gloomy

Almuñécar has changed since Lee left in 1936, but its old town still holds the essence of Andalucía

The monument for Laurie Lee on the sea front in Almuñécar is easy to miss. A white-washed pillar about six feet high, it squats under a palm tree at the end of a line of trendy beach bars. It looks like the chimney of an old Andalusian house - or, as Lee joked when he saw a photo of it, something else that would be "indelicate" to specify. Rarely do people stop to look at it. Yet the two plaques it bears - one a dedication to the writer from the town hall dated 21 April 1988, when the monument was unveiled, the other a note added by Lee in 1995 - tell you that Almuñécar had a close relationship with the English Hispanophile.

Lee was living in this sleepy fishing village when Spain's Civil War broke out in the summer of 1936. By that point, as he writes in the closing chapters of *As I Walked Out One Midsummer's Morning*, Almuñécar had been a "split village" for several months: Republicans and Fascists had already started murdering each other in the taverns and on the streets. Forced back to "snoozing" England by the violence, Lee wouldn't return here until 1951, when he and his wife Kati made it the penultimate stop of their four-month tour of Andalucía.

Foreigners still visit this charming coastal town, but nowadays it is often overlooked in favour of Nerja, a more popular destination 30 kilometres to the west in the province of Málaga. This is partly because the beaches on Granada's coastline aren't as attractive as Málaga's: unlike those on the Costa del Sol, they are of fine shingle and rock and the sand is black and grey rather than yellow. Yet the bathing in Almuñécar is wonderful and the seafront is lined with smart and lively chiringuitos where you'll still hear more Spanish than any other language. Hemmed in by a



Almuñécar, where tourism took over from fishing as the main industry long ago. :: ENCAR NOVILLO

jagged curve of mountains - which give it a "micro-climate" all of its own - this former fishing village has a refreshing, alternative ambience that distinguishes it from the tourist meccas to the west.

But in 1951, returning fifteen years after his departure from Almuñécar, Lee was saddened by what he found. Back in 1936, the village had quickly aligned itself with the Republican cause, its fishermen and farmhands whispering excitedly to each other about the advent of a "world Republic". But Franco's tanks soon rolled in to bomb their homes and their hopes. The revolution had failed and Spain's wealthy landowners had not been overthrown: awaiting the poet was a "depressed and desolate" little town suffering under the Generalísimo's grim dictatorship.

Lee had seen Almuñécar burst into revolutionary hope for a few

months in 1936, much as George Orwell saw Barcelona flourish in the expectation of a "classless society" at the same time. Both writers were swept up in the worker-led resistance to Franco's rebellion and enlisted as volunteers for the International Brigades early in the Civil War. Yet in the end, the result of the Republicans' efforts was to be forty stifling years of fascism. No wonder Lee was disappointed.

In 1951, as in 1936, fishing was still the dominant industry in Almuñécar, but the paucity of the waters off Granada's coastline meant that the daily catches - and the sums they fetched - were pitiful. After ten in the morning, Lee observes, the penniless fishermen "had nothing to do" and simply fell asleep on the beach, face down in the sand, "sleeping the ebb of their lives". It is a singularly depressing image.

In 2017, fishing no longer defines

In the eighties Lee refused to return, describing the Andalusian coastline as a "concrete cliff of filing cabinets for tourists"

Almuñécar. There are a few little boats at the end of the beach (that look like they're used more for pleasure than for fishing) and you can still see some locals sitting on the rocky outcrops, half-heartedly waiting for a tug on the line. But now the main industry here is tourism, as evidenced by the high-rise, monochrome slabs of concrete facing the sea.

These ugly 1970s hotels and apartments are symbols of a coastline much changed since Lee's visit 66 years ago - but despite the advent of mass tourism, Almuñécar has not been stripped of its charm. The old town is lovely: extending up the hillside above the beach, it is a compact network of steep lanes and white houses - many colourfully adorned with flowers and ceramics - not unlike Granada's Albaicín. Friendly locals, their skin dark and leathery from sun and sea, sit outside their houses surrounded by cats and dogs, watching people walk past as they gossip - as much a defining scene of Spanish street life now as it was in the early fifties. Yet Lee described this quarter as "grey, almost gloomily Welsh". Is it possible that the poet's own gloominess during his visit to Almuñécar affected what he saw there?

In 1987, when the BBC was filming a TV adaptation of *As I Walked Out* in Almuñécar, Lee somewhat haughtily refused to return, describing the Andalusian coast as a "concrete cliff of filing cabinets for tourists". Not all Andalusian towns have been spoilt in the way Lee suggests: indeed, despite having its share of "concrete filing cabinets", Almuñécar remains noticeably Spanish. Unfortunately, though, the same could not be said for many of the south coast's former fishing villages, since transformed by "English" pubs and beach resorts. By the late eighties, certainly, the Spain that had inspired the high-flown romanticism of *A Rose for Winter* was disappearing.

Nevertheless, the essence of Andalucía is just as enthralling and enigmatic now as it was 66 years ago - "neither Catholic nor European but a structure of its own, forged from an African-Iberian past which exists in its own austere reality." If Lee could come back today he'd have to search a little deeper for the Spain he knew and loved, but he would still find it.

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

Andalucía



The International Guitar Festival in Cordoba ends on Sunday. :: TURISMO ANDALUZ



The Torres Oscuras auditorium (Torreperogil). :: T. A.



QUICK GUIDE

What to see, Cordoba

Mosque-Cathedral. The most important Islamic monument in the West. Calle Torrijos, 10. 14003 Córdoba.

Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos. Moorish fortress which was the residence of the Catholic Monarchs Campo Santo de los Mártires, s/n. 14004 Córdoba.

Medina Azahara. A town dating back to the 10th century Ctra. Palma del Río, km. 5,5. 14071 Córdoba.

Synagogue. Jewish temple built in the 14th century. Calle de los Judíos. 14001 Córdoba.

What to see in Torreperogil

Torres Oscuras. Remains of the old Don Pero castle. Calle Las Torres, 22. 23320 Torreperogil (Jaén).

Church of Santa María La Mayor. Originally Gothic, but it was then reformed in the 16th century. Plaza de la Villa, 17. 23320 Torreperogil (Jaén).

JAVIER ALMELLONES

Music festivals in Jaén and Cordoba

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Journey to Cordoba: 1 hour and 30 minutes from Malaga.

Journey to Torreperogil: 2 hours 30 minutes from Malaga.



Every summer Andalucía resembles a huge musical stage, thanks to the wide range of concerts and festivals which take place in the region at this time of year, especially in the evenings. Two events which are well worth a visit are the music cycles which are happening in Cordoba and Jaén this month.

In Cordoba city, the last stage of the International Guitar Festival takes place this weekend, with concerts from renowned musicians such as Imelda May, the group Amaral, José Antonio Rodríguez and Tomatito, among others.

This event, which is now in its 37th year, is famous for

including some very well-known names and different styles of music, from the most classic to the most avant-garde.

It began on Friday 30 June and the concerts have taken place in different settings in the city centre, from the Grand Theatre to some of the most charming and emblematic districts.

At this time every year Cordoba becomes the capital of guitar music, thanks not only to a programme which includes flamenco and jazz artists and groups, but also because this event, which lasts for ten days and finishes on Sunday, is so popular.

Just as this festival comes to a close, another musical

event is about to begin in the province of Jaén: it is called 'Jaén en Julio', and is actually five different festivals in one.

Today (Friday) and tomorrow, the first of these takes place in Torreperogil. It is called 'Un Mar de Canciones', which translates as 'A Sea of Songs', and this year it pays tribute to poet Miguel Hernández and Chilean singer-songwriter Violeta Parra.

This festival, which is taking place for the 17th year, is held in the Torres Oscuras auditorium, and performers include MClan, Road Ramos, Muerdo, La Dstyería and Bel and Elsa Bhör. There will be plenty of activities to coincide with the concerts, such as storytelling, children's entertainment, exhibitions and comedy shows.

'Jaén en Julio' (Jaén in July) will then continue next weekend with Blues Cazorla, followed by Etnosur (Alcalá La Real), Imagina Funk (Torres) and Vértigo Festival (Martos).



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DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

Wavy leaf privet

This form of privet is a tough, non-invasive and versatile plant with attractive foliage and beautiful scented flowers

Ligustrum japonicum 'Recurvifolium', or wavy leaf privet, is a hardy shrub or small tree. It is an evergreen with glossy, dark-green leaves which have wavy edges. The curled leaves are slightly lighter underneath and give the effect of movement, a fact appreciated by flower arrangers.

In addition to the attractive foliage there are the showy panicles of white, lilac-like flowers that appear from spring until midsummer. The delicate sprays are scented and will continue to appear until the weather gets too hot.

Privets have a reputation

for seeding themselves freely but the black berries of 'Recurvifolium', are not eaten by birds and therefore are not spread so easily.

Once established, *L. japonicum* 'Curvifolium' is drought-resistant.

It will tolerate being close to the sea and is cold-hardy. It is

not fussy about soil type either, although it will not survive in waterlogged soil.

It can withstand extreme heat although it will prefer a semi-shaded position to full sun.

Although most commonly used for hedging (it can be cut back hard in winter and can be sculpted to any size or shape), wavy leaf privet is also used to create a fast-growing screen, a specimen plant and will also thrive grown in a container. Removing the lower growth when it is about a metre tall will encourage it to form a multi-trunked tree.

Light pruning can be carried out in the summer and it may be advisable to remove the black berries if there are children or dogs around as they are poisonous. Any heavy pruning should be carried out in the winter. Winter is also the best time to transplant it if necessary.

All privets are easily propagated from cuttings from softwood in the spring or hardwood in the winter. Softwood cuttings usually root quicker, sometimes ready to be transplanted by early summer whereas hard wood cuttings take longer and are best with a 'heel' of the main stem attached.



Ligustrum japonicum 'Curvifolium' and flowers (inset). :: SUR

READER'S PHOTO



:: GRAHAM AND PAT FARRER

A SHADY RETREAT

Graham and Pat Farrer sent in this photograph of their courtyard garden at Los Collados, Aguilas. "Shady plants behind the palm tree are hydrangea, swiss cheese plant and fatsia. Plants in front of the tree get more sun and flower all summer," they explained.

GARDENING HINTS FOR JULY

Planning for spring

This time of year is ideal for increasing your plant stock or safeguarding what you have by taking cuttings. Cuttings taken now are from semi-ripe wood which means they are neither soft with new shoots, nor hard, woody last year's growth. Ideally you should aim to choose stems that are somewhere in between and that are not in flower. Plants to take cuttings from in July include Artemisia, Agastache, Aster, Arctotis, Diascia, Fuchsia, Gaura,

Helianthemum, Lavender, Osteospermum, Penstemon, Rosemary, Salvia, Thyme, Verbena and Pelargonium. Cuttings dry out very quickly in the heat so keep them in a cool, shady place preferably covered with a plastic bag. Unfortunately this environment will encourage mould to form so try to remove the bag for a few hours every day and take out any cuttings that turn mouldy before the spores spread to others.

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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Fabrics dyed with tea offer protection from ultraviolet rays

Research has shown that when cotton is dyed with some tea extracts it provides protection from the sun, a solution which is more ecological than present methods

EUROPA PRESS

Joint research carried out by scientists at La Fe Institute of Health Research and the Polytechnic University of Valencia has shown that dyeing fabrics with tea extracts provides protection from ultraviolet rays, according to a report which has recently been issued by the hospital.

The team of researchers used three types of tea (green, red and black) to dye cloths made from cotton and then analysed the results for sun protection.

The cloth which was boiled with extract of red tea showed the highest level of ultraviolet protection, and the level was much higher than the others. However, all three showed acceptable sun protection values.

Dr Natividad Sebastià, who works with the research team at La Fe Institute, says these results

could lead to an option which is "more environmentally friendly and could be sold as an alternative to current sun protection fabrics, which contain metals."

Meanwhile, María Ángeles Bonet-Aracil, of the Polytechnic University of Valencia (Alcoi campus) stresses that this study, which focused on the treatment of textiles with different products, including tea, was "the starting point for a reevaluation of residues from different industries. It was not intended to be a way of finding alternative applications for food

products."

The results of this research will open the door to new applications for specific clothing for people who are especially sensitive to the sun (for example those suffering from solar urticaria or chemical photosensitivity, or patients with cancer).

The research project has been featured in the 'Dyes and Pigments' magazine, and it was carried out thanks to a grant for joint projects between research teams at the Polytechnic University of Valencia and La Fe Institute of Health Research.



Those especially sensitive to the sun can wear adapted clothing. :: sur

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How to prevent and relieve stings in summer

When choosing a repellent, it is important to check its DEET concentration to be sure it will be effective

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. The dreaded tiger mosquito, wasps, bees, jellyfish... there is a long list of 'bugs' which we are likely to come across in the summer months, a time of year when we spend more time outdoors.

Although tiger mosquitos are proving to be a problem and GPs are seeing numerous patients who have been badly bitten, there are plenty of others to look out for. Is there a way to prevent a bite or sting ruining our holidays or a stroll on a summer's evening after work? Doctors say there is, but there are two things to bear in mind: prevention, and immediate action.

Prevention

As a preventive measure, doctors recommend using repellents, especially in the evenings, and these should be applied to the skin and clothing.

"It's important to remember to apply repellent to your clothes because tiger mosquitos, for example, can bite through them," explains Adriana Beccalli, a pediatrician at the Clinical Management unit at the health centre in San Pedro Alcántara, in Marbella. She says that during the summer months about 40



Children catch jellyfish on a Costa del Sol beach. :: JOSELE-LANZA

per cent of patients seen by pediatricians are suffering from bites or stings, especially in cases where the swelling is affecting the eyes, face and legs.

When buying an insect repellent,

Dr Beccalli recommends buying one from a pharmacy and making sure it contains a high concentration of DEET (N,N-diethyl-toluamide). This is a versatile and effective repellent for insects.

"There are plenty of products which are sold as repellents but we have no scientific evidence to show how effective they are," she says. For young children she recommends natural products, such as those with

citronella, whether in the form of roll-on or patch, and using mosquito nets in the house and on prams and cots.

Another preventive measure to be carried out at home is to make sure you have nothing containing water, because these will undoubtedly attract flying insects.

In the case of bees and wasps, prevention involves using your common sense: don't go near places where they congregate, don't walk barefoot on grass or other surfaces where they might be, don't make sudden movements in their presence and don't wear brightly coloured clothes. Avoid strong colognes and perfumes, too, as these can be attractive to wasps and bees.

Action

If you have been bitten or stung by mosquitos, bees or wasps, the first thing to do is to wash the bite or sting with water and soap, and if it is not very serious use products such as Talquistina.

In the case of a violent reaction, especially with severe swelling, apply something cold "but don't put ice directly on to the skin, wrap it in a cloth," advises Dr Beccalli. Using cortisone cream and taking antihista-

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Some mosquitos bite through clothing. :: SALVADOR SALAS

mines can also help to relieve the pain and itching. If the sting is from a bee, it is important to remove the sting and then apply something cold.

Adriana Beccalli also says it is important to seek emergency treatment if the inflammation from a sting or bite affects an eye, the face or the neck, especially in the case of a child.

Jellyfish

Rule number one in the case of a

jellyfish sting, says the doctor, is to resist the urge to rub the area. This type of wound should be washed with salt water or physiological serum and the remains of any tentacles should be removed. An application of something cold is also recommended and necessary, although in this case it should be applied for longer than for mosquito or bee stings, between 15 and 30 minutes. Cortisone creams and

antihistamines will help to ease the pain and itching.

Although most consultations at health centres are for mosquito bites which are seriously inflamed or persistent, Dr Beccalli points out that in recent years there have been more cases of serious bites. Why is that?

“We need to analyse it from an epidemiological point of view,” she says. “What we are seeing are cases where skins are more sensitive to bites or stings, and that has a lot to do with the smell of the perspiration. Some types of skin react differently, and in some cases the inflammation can be quite serious.” She quotes a case at the health centre in which she works, of two children who had to be admitted to hospital because they reacted so badly to bites and needed antibiotics. “That’s why it’s so important to keep an eye on children if they have been bitten or stung by an insect,” she says.

Trips abroad

When travelling abroad, it is just as important to know the risks and the effects of insect bites or stings. “You should always take a repellent product with you, have any vaccinations you may need before you go, and above all be well informed and advised,” says Dr Beccalli.

In a situation like this some websites can be very useful for travellers, such as that of the Ministry of Health or the Spanish Association of Pediatrics.

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Rejuvenating ovaries, the latest in fertility research

Techniques are being used to explore how to reverse the effects of aging and even how to stimulate sleeping follicles with stem cells from bone marrow so women can continue to have children after the menopause

|| LINDA ONTIVEROS

Although average life expectancy in developed countries is longer than it was 50 years ago, and is now 85 years for women, the time when the menopause occurs has not changed. Nowadays many women want to have children later in life, but in many cases their bodies won't allow it, because of what is known as 'ovarian aging'.

"The ovaries start to age when a woman is 38 and they do so very quickly from 41 onwards," says Dr Antonio Pellicer, president of the IVI Foundation and professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at the University of Valencia.

When this happens it means that few ovules are available, and they are low quality. "That means we have a real problem which is almost im-

possible to solve: women want to have children at a later age than they did 50 years ago," he says.

Ovarian aging increases, for example, the possibility of having a child with Down's syndrome and nowadays the only solution is to use donated ovules, something which many couples don't want.

"We are trying to reverse the effects of aging on the ovules, and obtain ones which are high quality," says Dr Pellicer. "On one hand we are working on being able to create ovules from the woman's own stem cells, something which could be possible within ten or 15 years, and on the other hand we are working with follicles/ovules which are sleeping, because those even exist when the menopause occurs. Nobody knows how to wake them up and make them grow, but in the past two years

A woman's ovaries start to age when she is 38 and do so very quickly from the age of 41

Within 10 to 15 years it could be possible to create ovules from women's own stem cells

we have developed two techniques which seem to work in certain cases, although regrettably not in all."

With regard to creating ovules from stem cells, the research has been carried out on adult cells which are reprogrammed. Then, using growth factors and co-cultivating them with other cells in the body, the researchers have managed to create ovules in mice. "They have had an apparently normal life and have even shown an ability to reproduce," says Dr Pellicer.

For the other technique, two different studies are being carried out. In one, the sleeping ovaries are cut into pieces to activate them; this is an experimental concept from Japan, where it has been carried out under the direction of Dr Kazu Kawamura. At the IVI Foundation, however, they are not using a phase of



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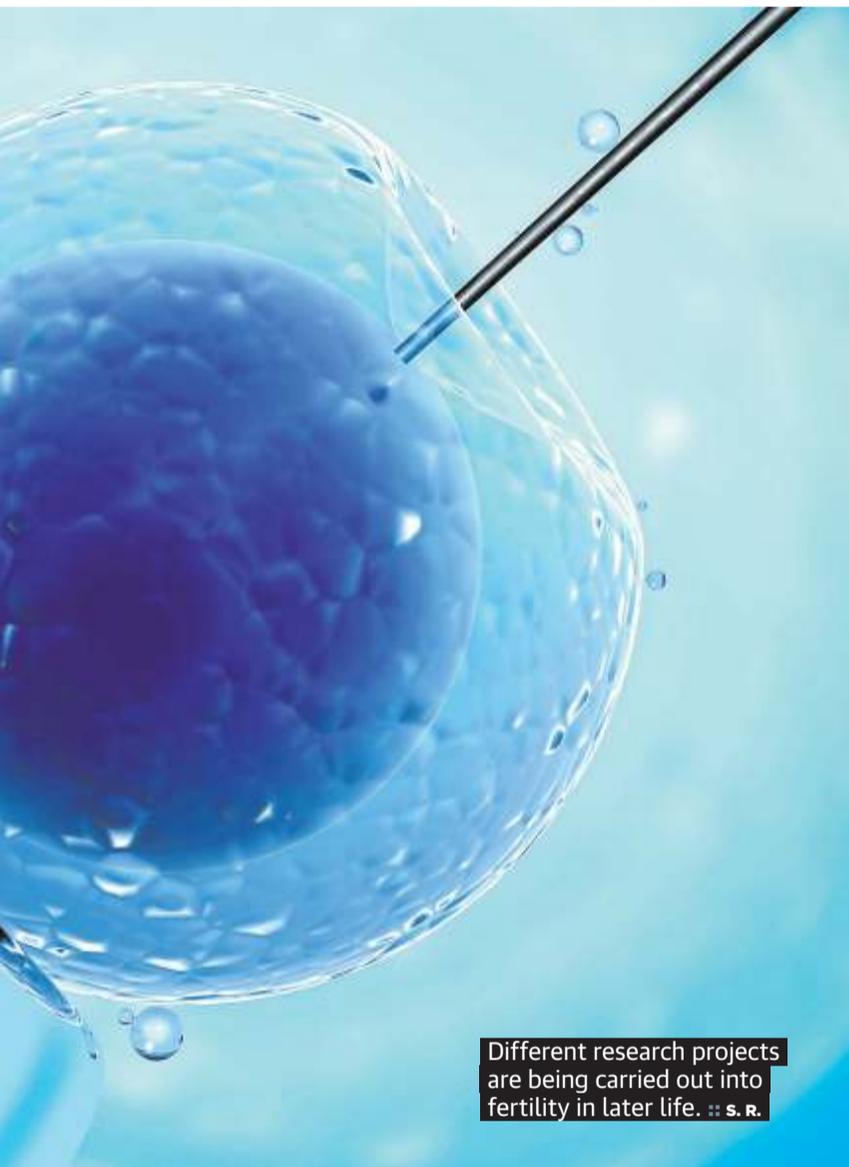
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Different research projects are being carried out into fertility in later life. :: S. R.

cultivation in vitro of the tissue, which enables the process to be completed in less than an hour.

The other technique, carried out in collaboration with La Fe Health Research Institute, stimulates the sleeping follicles/ovules with stem cells from bone marrow. "We have had some promising results, but I have to stress that there is still a very long way to go," explains Dr Pellicer.

Beneficiaries

"At present the only patients to benefit from these treatments are those who have recently had an early menopause, let's say within the past two years," says Dr Pellicer. "We work to apply them to women in whom the reserve of ovules is diminished. However, until now there have been no treatments for patients whose ovarian reserve has run out. This means that when this work has been optimised, it will be a substitute for ovule donation."

The search for solutions to this infertility problem in older women is extensive and includes several interesting lines of research. At the IVI Foundation, the medical team is trying to understand, through about 300 projects, the influence that environment has on sterility, how to improve the implantation of ovules through a test to predict the moment at which the woman's uterus is most receptive for an embryo to be implanted, to establish new ways of treating myomas and endometriosis, both of which af-

THE EXPERT

Antonio Pellicer

President of the IVI Foundation and professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at the University of Valencia since 1999. He has been the head of the Faculty of Medicine and Odontology of Valencia since 2006 and head of the obstetrics and gynaecology department of La Fe University Hospital since 2009.



Antonio Pellicer.

Career

He studied medicine at the University of Valencia (1978), where he also obtained his doctorate (1980) and went on to study reproductive medicine at Yale University (USA) and the University of Mainz (Germany). He founded the Valencian Infertility Institute (IVI) in 1990, and is a member

of the Executive Committee of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology and the International Federation of Fertility Societies. He is on the National Commission for Assisted Human Reproduction and is co-editor of the Fertility & Sterility journal.

Recognition

He has received numerous awards during his career, such as the Annual Meeting Prize Paper from the American Society for Reproduction (on seven occasions), 25th Society for Gynaecological Research President's Award (2002), the Rey Jaime I Prize for Clinical Medicine (2004), a Gold Medal from the Illustrious Official College of Doctors of Valencia (2006), the Lilly Foundation Prize for Biomedical Clinical Research (2008) and he is doctor honoris causa at the Polytechnic University of Valencia (2011).

fect a great many women, and how to reproduce in the laboratory and in 3D the functions of the uterus.

"The human species is somewhat imperfect from a reproductive point of view and we have to learn how to distinguish normal

embryos from abnormal ones," concludes Dr Pellicer. "There are many factors which can affect sterility, in women and in men, and we are trying to work out a healthy way of optimising fertility in human beings."

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“Hello, my name is Ana and I’m your nurse”

The Carlos Haya hospital has produced a set of guidelines to humanise the way patients are treated in intensive care

ÁNGEL ESCALERA

MÁLAGA. For patients in intensive care units of hospitals, little things can mean a great deal. Things like someone holding their hand, smiling, saying please, thank you and sorry, for example. For staff, it is important to have a good relationship with patients and treat them as nicely as possible, and with that in mind the Carlos Haya hospital has drawn up a code of good practice for nurses and

doctors in intensive care. These guidelines were presented this week at a conference about making health care more human, which took place at the Andalusian School of Public Health.

The first point in the guidelines stresses the importance of introducing yourself to patients: “Hello, my name is Ana and I’m your nurse,” for example. The second is to address the patient by their name: “How are you feeling today, María?” and the third involves using so-called ‘magic words’ to facilitate communication (hello, goodbye, please, thank you and sorry). The fourth point refers to knowing whether the patient has officially registered their wishes regarding treatment in advance, and the fifth advises staff to respect patients’ beliefs,



Hospital staff with the guidelines. :: SUR

wishes and values.

The sixth point says that staff should be attentive to patients and keep them well informed throughout their stay (holding their hand, smiling and listening to them properly). The seventh says that patients should be involved in decisions, and

the eighth asks for patients’ privacy and confidentiality to be respected.

The ninth point refers to pain relief and sedation, offering emotional support and being flexible about visiting times.

The tenth gives advice about supporting families and providing them

with emotional support as well.

The guidelines will be followed in the intensive care unit at the Carlos Haya for the next 12 months, and then used as a starting point for raising awareness among nursing staff in general about the need to treat patients in as human a way as possible.

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SKIN CANCER WARNING

Volunteers from the Spanish Cancer Association, AECC, took to the seafront in Malaga this week as part of a public awareness campaign to warn of the risks of skin cancer. Bathers were offered information about protection and detection.



:: SUR

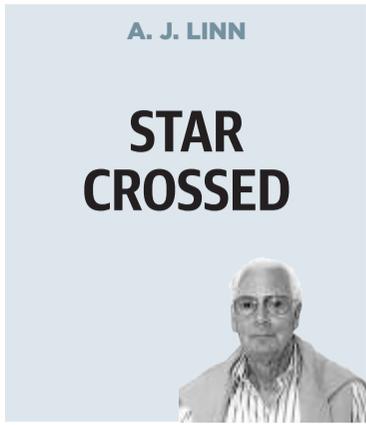
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We speak:

One of France's best-known chefs, Alain Senderens (1939-2017), died last week. Alain was among the first innovators of what we knew as nouvelle cuisine, and he also introduced the concept of maridaje – 'marrying' food with wine. By 1978 his Parisian restaurant L'Arpège had achieved three Michelin stars, which he would later reject so as not to continue to be bound by a criteria that no longer interested him. His restaurant became far more profitable.



More chefs than ever are rejecting Michelin stars for their restaurants. (The stars are awarded to the restaurant, never to the chef). Belgian Fredrick Dhooghe, another Michelin refusenik, claimed he wanted to recover his freedom and cook a roast chicken occasionally. Julio Biosca's family had a restaurant in a Valencia village since the last century. In 2009 it got its first star. However Julio's regulars didn't like the type of cooking that was expected by the carloads of Micheliners that began turning up, so he

asked the Guide to omit his restaurant. 'Our food is simpler now and we have dropped the tasting menu.' Joan Borràs did the same at his Hostal Sant Salvador in Girona, and Miquel Ruiz, of Tristan, Mallorca, turned his back on the star-spangled high life and now runs a local bar in Denia.

The supposition is that restaurants with Michelin stars make more money, when the facts show the opposite. Pascal Rémy, a Guide inspector for 16 years, has no problem telling people that the stars

bring more problems than solutions. The economy of the restaurant changes radically – provoking a vicious circle whereby maintaining the Michelin style of cuisine inflates costs and deprives chefs of the culinary freedom they previously enjoyed.

The last word must go to Marco Pierre White, who, when he turned in his three Michelin stars in 1999, commented that he was not prepared to be subject to the judgement of people who knew less about cooking than he did.



The finalists pose with the members of the jury. :: JOSELE-LANZA

The best sardine in Malaga

The jury considered the flavour, the preparation, presentation and cooking method of the sardines on skewers

CHARO MÁRQUEZ

MARBELLA. Grilling sardines threaded onto canes ('espetos') over hot coals while on the beach is an emblem of summer in Malaga. It is also an art form and the SUR newspaper recently organised a competition sponsored by Schweppes to find the best espeto in Malaga.

The judges' winner was Hamza Hentat of the El Canarias Playa beach bar in Torremolinos and the winner of the public vote was Antonio Jiménez of El Madero beach

bar in Estepona.

El Canarias Playa has been in the Plaza del Remo in Torremolinos for more than fifty years. Hamza Hentat explained that his secret to success was to put the fattest sardines closest to the coals and not to use too much salt.

The jury, presided over by Enrique Bellver, food critic for SUR, took into account all aspects of the preparation, the flavour and the presentation of the sardines.

Manuel Triviño from the Pesquera beach bar, where the event was held, oversaw the cooking of the sardines and commented, "Some people turned the sardines several times but you should only turn them once, when the eye of the sardine changes colour."

The basic principle that every

'espetero' worth his salt should know is to make sure that the spine of the sardine is always under the cane so that when it is turned over the soft flesh does not fall away.

Marbella's mayor, José Bernal, explained that history books going back three hundred years point out that Marbella has the tastiest sardines, "No one anywhere in the world should miss the opportunity to taste this delicacy," he stated.

The title of 'Mejor espetero' was first held by Miguel Martínez Soler known as 'Miguelito el de las sardinas' who thought up the idea of cooking fish on lengths of cane and standing them in the sand next to a fire. He advised King Alfonso XII that they should be eaten 'with your fingers', when the monarch visited his beach bar in 1885.

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Penguins on an iceberg between Zavodovski and Visokoi.



Detail from one of the photos. :: F. GONZÁLEZ

after travelling the world for several decades, and realised that the vegetation which had formed the landscape during his childhood had disappeared.

His wife, Lélia Wanick, decided to replant a woodland with native species and, as the trees grew, animals and new life returned.

Salgado then decided to start a new series of photographs about threats to the environment, although the result is actually a powerful tribute to the exuberance of nature, divided into five sections: 'The southern confines' (The Falkland islands, South Georgia, the Sandwich islands and the Valdés peninsula), 'Sanctuaries' (Galapagos, Indonesia and Madagascar), 'Africa' (from the Algerian desert to Botswana, passing through the triple frontier of Congo, Ruanda and Uganda), 'Lands of the north' (Canada, Alaska and Russia), 'The Amazon and marshlands' (a trip through several Latin American countries).

'Genesis' is Salgado's third major series, following on from 'Trabajadores' (Workers) and 'Exodus', which was exhibited by the Malaga provincial government at the Sala Alameda (which no longer exists) in 2003.

'Genesis' is Obra Social La Caixa's latest venture in Malaga city. It has previously organised exhibitions of Rodin, Manolo Valdés and Henry Moore, to mention some of the most important.

The impressive nature of Saldago

The display consists of 38 photographs taken by Sebastião Salgado in some of the planet's most isolated places

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ MALAGA. When the sun is beating down and it is over 30 degrees in the shade, you almost feel like hugging the gothic beauty of the iceberg which nature and time have created between the island of Paulet and the South Shetland archipelago in the Weddell Sea in the Antarctic. You want to be one

of the penguins in the colony at Baily Head on Deception Island, or to wait for the snow storm which crosses the Bryce Canyon National Park in Utah, USA.

All these photographs are in black and white; or actually, in the infinite range of greys calibrated by Sebastião Salgado during four decades of work on the other side of the camera.

These are scenes of impressive beauty, almost entirely featuring nature, and they can now be seen in the Plaza de la Constitución in Malaga, in the exhibition called 'Genesis'. It has been organised by Obra Social La Caixa and will con-

THE EXHIBITION

► **Title.** 'Sebastião Salgado. Génesis'.

► **Where.** Plaza de la Constitución, Malaga.

► **When.** Until 19 July.

► **Guided visits.** Saturdays at 7pm and Sundays at 12 noon.

tinue until 19 July.

The collection consists of 38 im-

ages taken during 32 trips made by this Brazilian photographer between 2004 and 2012. These journeys took him to the Antarctic, Zambia, Madagascar, Botswana, Siberia, the Galapagos islands, Alaska and the Amazons. Extreme heat and cold, the ocean and the desert: they were all focused in the lens of Salgado, who worked for the Magnum agency for 15 years and won the Príncipe de Asturias Prize for the Arts in 1998.

It was Salgado's place of birth which led to 'Genesis'. The information which accompanies the exhibition says that he returned to the village in which he was born in 1990



PROGRAMMING
Friday 7th June to
Thursday 13th July



WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES
Starring Andy Serkis and Judy Greer
FICTION · 140 min.
Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13: 16:00, 19:00, 22:00



BABY DRIVER
Starring Ansel Elgort and Kevin Spacey
ACTION · 113 min.
From Friday 7 to Tuesday 11: 15:50, 18:10, 22:45
Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13: 15:45, 18:00, 22:00





PULP FICTION
From Friday 7 to Tuesday 11: 22:00





IT COMES AT NIGHT
Starring Joel Edgerton and Kelvin Harrison Jr.
HORROR · 97 min.
From Friday 7 to Tuesday 11: 16:15, 18:30, 22:30
Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13: 20:15, 22:20





DESPICABLE ME 3
From Friday 7 to Tuesday 11: 16:00, 18:00, 20:00
Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13: 15:45, 17:45, 19:45





GIFTED
From Friday 7 to Tuesday 11: 15:30
Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13: 16:00





WONDER WOMAN
From Friday 7 to Tuesday 11: 17:40
Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13: 16:30



EXHIBITIONS

'Des-figuraciones'

Marbella. Until September. *Galería Yusto/Giner, C/Madera 7.* Yusto/giner turns to the abstract for its summer exhibition with paintings from Fernando Clemente, Paloma Gámez, José García Vallés, José Piñar and Daniel Solomons.

Axel Miret

Archidona. Until 23 July. *Sala de Exposiciones, Plaza Ochavada.* An exhibition of paintings by Belgian artist Axel Miret entitled 'Alma y Corazón'.

Olor de Malaga

Malaga. Until 25 July. *Museo de Patrimonio Municipal. Paseo de Reding.*

An interactive exhibition that takes the visitor through the history and customs of Malaga by sights and smells.
www.museodelpatrimoniomunicipal.malaga.eu

Artistas Eclécticos

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

Livia Oliveira

Mijas. Until 10 July. *Centro Cultural la Cala de Mijas.* An exhibition of paintings by Livia Oliveira Alencar.

Oliver Perry

Vélez-Málaga. 11 July until 11 August. *Sala El Pósito.* British artist Oliver Perry is exhib-

iting his work 'Hierros y nudos'.

Maite Morillos and Pilili

Almuñécar. Until 8 July. *Sala de Exposiciones, Casa de la Cultura.* An exhibition of art by Maite Morillos and Pilili.

Luz de la Vida Summer exhibition

Cómpeta. Until 15 July. *Galería Luz de la Vida.* International artists are exhibiting pieces of their work which includes sculpture as well as paintings and ceramics. Facebook: [galerialuzdelavida](https://www.facebook.com/galerialuzdelavida) or online www.luzdelavida.es

Emma Plunkett and Manuel Morego

Granada. 8 July until 6 August. *Jardín Nazari, C/Blas Infante.* A joint exhibition of art work.

CHARITY

Contessa of the Costas

Fuengirola. 8 July, from 7.30pm. *The Cabaret Club next to Bioparc.* A night of glamour, laughter and song with Guapatini. Frank Skott will also be performing. In aid of Cudeca. Limited tickets: bookings contact Louise tel: 642199952. Info tel Louise or Carlos: 663 083 249.

Cudeca Gala dinner

Malaga. 14 July, 9pm. *Restaurante José Carlos García. Muelle Uno.* A special charity gala dinner to celebrate Cudeca's 25th anniversary.



'Des-figuraciones', Marbella.

sary at the Michelin starred restaurant with live music and a luxury prize raffle. Tickets 85€. Reservations: angelkrebbers@cudeca.org

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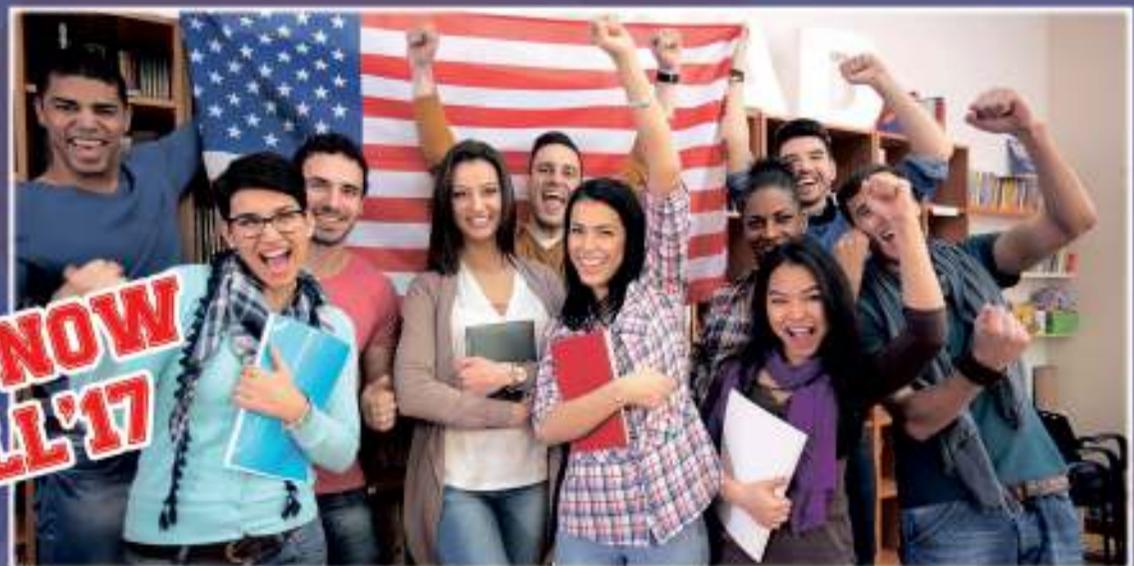
Ahaurín el Grande. 14 July, 7pm. *La Cuchara restaurant.* If you wish to enter items for sale at the auction contact AID at least 24 hours in advance. Commission 15% will go to the charity. Contact: Chris 628239174 - Joe 626942427. Unsold items must be collected at the end of the Auction.
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Livia Oliveira, Mijas.



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8 July Delirium Blues Fusion.
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Gema Cabanas

Marbella. 8 July, 10pm. Music Café Marbella, Elviria. Paseo Guatemala, 8.
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Ocean Foot & Bar

Malaga. 8 July, 10.30pm. Hotel Vincci. C/Pacífico.



Manuel Morego, Granada

Summer concerts

JENNIE RHODES

TORRE DEL MAR. The west end of Torre del Mar's promenade is being converted into a summer-long concert venue, with 48 artists performing throughout July and August.
Mondays will be given over to jazz, blues and swing, while Wednesdays are all about flamenco. Other nights will see a combination of pop, Cuban and 90s music as well as comedy and shows aimed at children.

On Mondays, audiences will be able to see Los Alquimistas, Jazz Quart, CustomBlues Band, Dana Andrews Project and Befunkpop, while on Wednesdays, flamenco artists will all be accompanied by the guitarist, Rubén Portillo, creator of the 'Flamenco Abierto' movement.

INFORMATION

▶ **When:** Throughout July & August, 10pm

▶ **Where:** Torre del Mar promenade (west end)

▶ **Further info:** For full programme visit: www.musica-malaga.com/al-del-rebalaje-torre-del-mar/

All performances will start at 10pm and are free.

Batakumtum. Patricia Quiraga and Juanito Rossler. Jazz and bossanova.

Funky Town Festival

Torremolinos. 8 July, 8pm. Plaza La Nogalera.
Pino D'Angio will headline a line up of artists playing disco and funk music from the 70s, 80s and 90s.

Cuban music

Almuñécar. Palacete La Najarra. 9 July, 10.30pm. The Cuarteto Quimbao will be in concert playing

traditional Cuban music.
12 July, 10.30pm. A tango extravaganza.
13 July, 10.30pm. The Roza Lazar Quartet will be playing jazz.

Cervantes Summer concerts

Malaga. Teatro Cervantes. 9 July, 8.30pm. Capercaillie
13 July, 10pm. At Malaga bullring, Franco Battiato.

'Julio Musical'

Malaga. Gibralfaro.

9 July. Rocío Márquez and Fahmi Alqhai.

12 July. Malaga Philharmonic.

28 July. Insostenible Big Band.

29 July. Ximo Tébar.

Malaga. Alcazaba. Patio Surtidores.

13 July. Daniel Martínez.

20 July. Ensemble Músicos Concerto Málaga.

All concerts are at 10pm and tickets 10€ from www.mientrada.net or tel: 902646289 or from post offices.

Rob Sas Band

Estepona. 13 July, 11.45pm. Louie Louie Bar. 8€ in advance, 10€ on the door.

Manilva. 15 July, 8pm. Castillo de la Duquesa.

'Hot Castle Rock'. Three bands, The Rob Sas Band, Queen Of Magic and Deeper Purple. Free entrance with bar and food available.

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

Malaga. Teatro Cervantes

8 July, 8pm. II Festival Mosma.

Music of the silver screen. Conducted by Arturo Diez Boskovich and Trevor Jones. www.orquestafilearmonicademalaga.com

Malaga. Castillo de Gibralfaro

12 July, 10pm. Swan Lake and the Nut Cracker suite by

Thchaikovsky, Coppelia by Delibes, Romeo and Juliette by Prokofiev and Masquerade and Spartacus by Katchaturian.

Conducted by Gonzalo Berná Pic



Gema Cabanas, Marbella

Joven Orquesta Provincial de Málaga

Mijas Pueblo. 9 July, 9pm. Auditorio Miguel González Berral. Free. The Malaga Municipal Youth Orchestra will play excerpts of Rossini's Barber of Seville, Vives from Doña Francisquita and Brahms Hungarian Dance.

Starlite

Marbella. From 13 July until 26 August. La Cantera de Marbella. <https://www.ticketea.com>
Forty five consecutive days of music with some of the biggest names in the music industry such as Elton John and Art Garfunkel, Anastacia and Pretenders.

Teatro Marbella 'Dreamers'

Marbella. 14 July, doors open at half past midnight. Camino del Ángel. Dreamers was a legendary Marbella night club from 2000 to 2011. The theatre is going to recreate a

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'Dreamers' night with DJs Nilo, Patrick Martin and Andrea Privitera. Tickets: <http://teatromarbella.com/es/tickets/> or reservations: <http://teatromarbella.com/es/reservation-book-your-table-in-the-club/>

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 Mijas Town Hall every Thursday from 9pm. The event is organised by the Foreign Residents Department in collaboration with Martyn Wood of Big M Promotions.

13 July. The Rolling Steves 60s and 70s pop rock duo.

20 July. Magnet man and Jens Malling, Reggae/Ragga rock bands.

Juveniles & Kids Move with Grace

Torremolinos.

7 July, 9.30pm. Plaza de Andalucía. Free.

La Carihuela.

10 July, 9.30pm. Plaza Chiriva For younger children. Free.



Queen of Magic, Manilva

Jazz concert for Cudeca



Juan Galiardo brings his cool jazz to Marbella on Saturday. :: SUR

:: TONY BRYANT

MARBELLA. The Buchinger Wilhelmi Clinic in Marbella has organised a jazz concert in aid of the Cudeca Foundation.

This will be the second consecutive year the clinic has held the fundraising concert and organisers are hoping that this

year's event will attract even more people.

The concert, which will take place in the gardens of the clinic, will feature a performance by the Juan Galiardo Quartet.

The Juan Galiardo Quartet is a renowned international jazz band that has performed all over the world

INFORMATION

► **When:** Saturday 8 July.
Show starts at 8.45pm

► **Where:** The Buchinger Wilhelmi Clinic in Marbella. Tel: Cudeca 952 565 910 or e-mail: pr@cudeca.org

and they have recently taken their distinctive style of jazz to Japan, America, UK, France, and Portugal.

The quartet is made up of musicians of national and international prestige, including Juan Galiardo on piano; Santi de la Rubia, tenor saxophone, José López, double bass; and José Luis Gómez on drums.

Tickets for the show cost 15 euros and can be purchased from Cudeca or from the Buchinger Wilhelmi Clinic

All funds raised at the concert will be donated to the Cudeca Hospice in Benalmádena.

FLAMENCO

Festival of Sound
Fuengirola.

8 July. Castillo Sohail. La Oreja de Van Gogh.

21 July. Castillo Sohail. Siempre Así.

Jazz Wednesdays in the CAC
Vélez-Málaga. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo. Free.

12 July. Lucía Rey Trio.

19 July. Trinidad Jiménez Quartet.

Paseo del Compás

Mijas. 7 July, 9pm. Paseo del Cómipas.

Carlos Haro on guitar, Delia Menbrique and Antonio Luque vocals, Carmen Rios and Cristóbal García dance.

Flamenco concert

Almuñécar. 7 July, 10.30pm Pal-

acete la Najarra.

Sergio Lupe will be in concert.

La Corte de Faraón

Torremolinos. 8 July, 10pm. Auditorium Príncipe de Asturias. 17€

The Teatro Lírico Andaluz id performing the zarzuela 'La Corte de Faraón'. Tickets in advance only from www.unientradas.es or Viajes Pinsapo

Ciclo Flamenco

Almuñécar. 8 July, 10.30pm. Parque El Majuelo.

The V Ciclo of Flamenco dance with 'Sacromonte', Juan Andrés Maya and Iván Vargas.

FLAMENCO



La Oreja de Van Gogh, Fuengirola

Museo Flamenca Juan Brea
Malaga.

8 July. In the museum.

Miguel Astorga vocals, Manu on guitar and Manuel Roldán dance.

13 July. In the museum.

Rocio Alcalá vocals, guitar Fran Moya and Tatiana Saceda dance. Thursdays and Saturdays 9.30pm. info@flamenka.com

FESTIVALS

Fiestas Mayores de Estepona

Estepona. Until 9 July, fairground. Concerts, shows, equestrian events, children's activities etc. Procession of giants and papier mache heads on the Tuesday. ➤



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Pure José Manuel Soto

TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. The Torremolinos town hall and Aguas de Torremolinos, have organised a grand charity concert in aid of Cudeca.

The concert, which will be held in the municipal auditorium, next to the fairground in Torremolinos, will present José Manuel Soto, one of Spain's most celebrated pop singers.

Jose Manuel Soto was one of the main exponents of the light rumba styles in the late 1980s and 90s. He achieved his greatest success with his composition, 'Por Ella' (For Her), a song covered by many artists, including Roberto Carlos and Los del Rio.

INFORMATION

► **When.** Saturday 22 July, 10.30pm.

► **Where.** Municipal auditorium Torremolinos.

During the concert in Torremolinos, José Soto, who is currently touring Spain, will perform songs from his latest album, 'Puro Soto', recorded to celebrate the 56-year-old musician's 30 years in the music business.

José, who was born in Seville in 1961, has recently received the distinguished Medalla de la Ciudad

de Sevilla, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Spanish pop music.

During a press conference to advertise the show, councillor for social services, Pedro Pérez, who was accompanied by the president of the local water authority, Pedro Peña, and Ángel Krebbers of Cudeca, praised the "commendable work" that Cudeca has undertaken throughout its 25 years of existence in the province of Malaga.

The concert, which will start at 10.30pm, will be held on Saturday 22 July. Tickets will be priced at 10 euros in advance and 12 euros from the box office on the day of the concert.



José Manuel Soto will bring his light rumba-based pop music to Torremolinos on 22 July. :: SUR

➤ Feria de Árchez

Árchez. Until 9 July, Feria ground.

The axarquía village of Árchez celebrates the Feria de Nuestra señora de la Encarnación.

EVENTS

Gastronomy fair

Torrox Costa. Until 9 July, Avda del Faro del Torrox.

Around thirty local companies part of Sabor a Málaga will be offering their products at the fair as well as

tasting sessions and workshops. Products include wine, olive oil craft beers, preserves etc.

Plaza Mayor Summer festival

Malaga. Until 26 August, 9.30pm. Plaza Mayor. Magic shows, circus acts, music from local bands and the Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra and much more. www.plazamayor.es

Malaga's Roman Theatre Festival

Malaga. The Roman theatre. 10pm. 20-25€

Until 9 July. El Cerco de Numancia.

12-15 July. El Asno de Oro.

19-22 July. El Eunuco.

Tickets and information: www.juntadeandalucia.es/cultura/teatrosromanos/ and www.elcorteingles.es.

Craft fair

Puerto Banús. Until 31 August.

Plaza Antonio Banderas.

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Lighthouse tours

Torrox. Every Thursday.



Teatro Romano Malaga.

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Cine Albéniz

C/Alcazabilla 4, Malaga. Tel: 902 36 02 95 or visit www.cinealbeniz.com or www.unientradas.es

Pulp Fiction: 22.15

United States of Love: 16.30, 18.25, 20.20

Maudie: 19.50, 22.30

Colossal: 16.30, 22.00

Cinesur El Ingenio

Avda. Juan Carlos 1, Vélez-Málaga. Tel. 667 77 31 87.

Despicable Me 3: 21.40, 23.40 (every day); 12.15 (Sat, Sun); 17.15, 19.15 (Wed, Fri-Sun); 17.40, 19.40 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)

Pulp Fiction: 20.00 (Tues)

Baby Driver: 12.05 (Sat, Sun); 16.55 (every day)

It Comes at Night: 17.45, 20.40 (Tues); 23.30 (every day)

Wonder Woman: 12.30 (Sat, Sun)

Cinesur Miramar

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

Despicable Me 3: 12.00, 16.30, 18.30 (every day)

Baby Driver: 12.10, 16.00, 18.20, 20.35, 22.50 (every day)

Wonder Woman: 12.10, 16.10 (every day); 20.30, 23.30 (Mon, Tues)

It Comes at Night: 15.45, 17.45 (Tues)

Patriots Day: 16.00, 18.30, 21.15, 00.00 (Tues)

Pulp Fiction: 19.00 (Tues)

The Man with the Iron Heart:

16.15, 19.00, 21.45, 23.45 (Tues)

Cines Teatro Goya

For tickets and information call 951196665. www.cinesteatrogoya.com

Despicable Me 3: 16.00, 18.00, 20.00 (Fri-Tues); 15.45, 17.45, 19.45 (Wed, Thurs)

Gifted: 15.30 (Fri-Tues), 16.00 (Wed, Thurs)

Wonder Woman: 16.30 (Wed, Thurs); 17.40 (Fri-Tues)

Baby Driver: 15.45, 18.00, 22.00 (Wed, Thurs); 15.50, 18.10, 22.45 (Fri-Tues)

It comes at night: 16.15, 18.30, 22.30 (Fri-Tues); 20.15, 22.20 (Wed, Thurs)

War for the Planet of the Apes: 16.00, 19.00, 22.00 (Wed, Thurs)

Pulp Fiction: 22.00 (Fri-Tues)

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

Centro de Ocio Plaza Mayor, Avda. Alfonso Ponce de León.

Tel: 902 902 103 or visit www.yelmocines.es

Baby Driver: 12.10, 14.50

Despicable Me 3: 12.15, 16.15, 18.15, 20.15, 22.15

War for the Planet of the Apes: 12.30, 15.15, 18.00, 20.45, 23.30 (Wed, Thurs)

It Comes at Night: 22.20 (every day except Wed, Thurs); 14.45 (Wed, Thurs)

Wonder Woman: 12.30, 15.10, 17.45, 20.30 (every day except Wed, Thurs); 12.40, 23.10 (Wed, Thurs)

Cinesa

La Cañada, Marbella.

Cavalleria Rusticana Pagliacci: 13 July 7.30pm. With tenor Jonas Kaufmann recorded at the Salzburg Festival.

www.cinesa.es/Eventos



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A young archer who is aiming to reach the top of her sport

Cristina Fernández, who is 27, has won her third Andalusian title in Olympic archery and hopes to be in the top ten at the Spanish Championships

by EUGENIO CABEZAS

TORROX. Cristina Fernández González was always attracted by the idea of archery although she didn't start to practise it until about four years ago, when she was studying landscape gardening in Huelva. "My flatmates asked me what I would like as a birthday gift, and I said I'd like an archery set," says this young woman from Torrox, who has just won her third consecutive Andalusian title in Olympic recurve archery at La Carolina (Jaén).

"I like it because it's difficult. It may look simple, but you have to be

INFORMATION

► **Name.** Cristina Fernández González.

► **Date of birth.** 27 May 1990, in Torrox.

► **Profession.** Studied landscape gardening, works in the family nursery.

► **Sporting career.** She took up archery in Huelva in 2013, and was Regional Champion in 2015, 2016, and 2017. This weekend she is competing in her third Spanish Championship.

who trains up to five days a week at the Spanish Federation's premises on El Viso industrial estate in Malaga.

She is coached by Carlos Marín, a delegate of the Andalusian Federation in Malaga, and Elías Cuesta, a trainer at the High Performance Centre in Madrid. The only two facilities of this type in the country are in Madrid and Ibiza. Alicia Marín, the number one in Spain, is from Madrid, and so is Mónica Galisteo, another well-known name in archery.

After winning the Champion of Andalucía title in 2015, 2016 and 2017, the challenge which Cristina now faces is to place herself among the ten top archers in the country in the competition which is taking place in Salamanca this weekend.

As well as competing in the individual category, she will be competing in the mixed pairs section with Daniel Moreno, who is from Malaga and who will also be competing as an individual after coming third in the

very focused, very strong physically and mentally and you have to continually correct the movement of your body so the arrows hit the target and don't go astray," says Cristina,

Fernández, after winning her third Andalusian Championship. :: SUR

Los Corsarios need funding so they can compete

The American football club from Malaga plans to start a crowdfunding scheme to raise 10,000 euros

The club, which was only founded a year ago, hopes to be able to meet the cost of participating in the Andalusian League next season

by MARINA RIVAS

MALAGA. Last month, it was one year since Los Corsarios American football team took its first steps in this sport. This amateur team is the only one in Malaga city, and the players have been training hard all year in the hope that next season they will be able to compete as a club.

If that dream comes true they, like Los Potros club in Fuengirola, will make Malaga and Seville the only provinces in Andalucía with



The team trains twice a week in Malaga. :: ALEJANDRO AGÜERA

This amateur American football team is currently the only one based in Malaga city

two teams competing in the Andalusian League.

It is an ambitious dream and, of course, a very expensive one. For that reason Los Corsarios, led by coordinator Rafael Márquez, have decided to start a crowdfunding scheme to finance their new adventure. This is an online method of financing in which anyone who is interested in a project can provide some money towards it. One of the most famous web platforms for crowdfunding for sporting causes

is 'Apontoque'.

Los Corsarios hope to raise at least 10,000 euros to cover the costs of competing in the league. In fact, that sum wouldn't cover all the costs, but it would give the team the push it needs to start making its dream come true. The costs include 1,500 euros to sign up for the league, and around 3,600 euros to federate all the players, at 200 euros each. In addition, there are the costs of travel, referees, equipment, helmets and protection which are necessary for this sport (these are paid for by each player), and the cost of renewing training materials and renting the pitch, which is about 400 euros.

At present there are 32 players in the team, most of them aged around 23 or 24. All but one are inexperienced - the exception is a player who competed in the Spanish First Di-

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regional competition in Jaén.

In her two previous attempts at the Spanish championships in 2015 and 2016, which were held in Cambrils (Tarragona) and Valladolid, Cristina Fernández was among the top 30 of a total of 60 contenders. "It's very difficult to get into the top ten, but I'm getting good results and I'm very hopeful," she says.

Cristina, who works in the nursery which her family owns in El Peñoncillo area, explains that the archery competitions are organised in two relays of 36 arrows. "You have six rounds in each relay, with six arrows, and you're given four minutes to shoot them," she says.

The scores are marked on the target, which is at a distance of 70 metres, so for ten points the archer has to aim for a diameter of barely ten centimetres. "About the size of a cake plate," says Cristina, who competes with the Asirio club from Huelva even though she left the city in 2014.

"Archery is very popular there and when my friends gave me the set and told me there was a club in Huelva I went straight there to book a place. There was a waiting list, but I can be a real nuisance at times and they gave up in the end and let me join," she admits.

It doesn't cost a great deal to start

practising archery: normally about 100 euros. However, in Cristina's case, she has bought a bow which is suitable for Olympic competition and that, with the arrows, cost around 2,000 euros.

"Not many people take up archery, although it has been an Olympic sport for many years. There aren't many federations in Spain," she says. At a provincial level about 350 people are licenced to practise archery, out of around 3,000 in total in Andalucía.

In the recent regional competition, another girl from Malaga, Helena

She took up archery while living in Huelva, after receiving a bow and arrows as a gift

González, came third in the same category as Cristina, and another four competitors were also from this province: Antonio Villalobos, who won a gold in the 'ari' section, and Antonio Arcas, who took the bronze. Fernando Rengel achieved a silver in 'long

bow', as did Alberto Robles in 'standard'. That competition took place in difficult conditions, in extremely high temperatures.

"You have to concentrate really hard when you're competing. The referees are very strict and check everything very carefully, from your equipment to your scores and, of course, your time," says Cristina.

Archery range in Torrox

This young archer believes that one of the great advantages of her sport is that it can even be practised by people with some type of disability,

whether physical or sensory.

"My dream is to set up an archery range in Torrox, and the council is already working on preparing a site in the Calaceite area, because there isn't one between Malaga and Motril," she says.

So, in order to encourage more people in Torrox and other villages in the Axarquía to try their hand at archery, this young champion has created the 'Club Arco Güi'. "I really hope we can begin training soon in the Calaceite area. The town hall has begun to get the site ready. We are really excited," she says.

vision with the Los Osos team from Madrid. "They are all beginners, but they are learning bit by bit and they are very keen to learn and to play. Some were already fans of the sport, so they knew the rules, and that makes it easier," says Rafael Márquez. There are another five people on the technical side of the team, but Rafael is the most experienced and he founded the club.

A computer engineer by profession, he has spent his life working for a major company all over the world, including the USA and Slovakia. He spent less than a year in America, but was instantly attracted by this sport. This is not surprising, as it is hugely popular there. However, it was his ten years in Slovakia that he really learned it.

"I became an assistant for a league team and also for the Slovakian national team," he says. "I also went to other European countries like the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary, and I saw how popular American football was becoming."

However, in 2014 his work brought him back to Spain, firstly to Barcelona, where he was the coordinator for the Barbera Rookies in a year in which the team rose again to the Spanish First Division, as high as it could go.

Months later, he returned to Malaga and his passion for this sport led him firstly to head the junior team of Los Potros club in Fuengirola and then to start setting up Los Corsarios, of which he is the founder. Currently it is the only American football club in Malaga city, but he wants to take it a step further and start competing seriously.

The players train every Monday and Thursday at the José Gallardo pitch in Portada Alta, and are already becoming excited about the thought of turning their hobby into something much more important.

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One in one out; Borja Bastón replaces Sandro

The forward, 24, couldn't settle in the Premier League but will be hoping to recapture the form he showed during his time in LaLiga with Eibar

by A. GÓNGORA / D. FINCH

MALAGA. Malaga have completed their third signing of the summer after Swansea City striker Borja Bastón signed a year-long loan deal on Tuesday.

The deal agreed between the two clubs is highly favourable for Malaga, who have not had to pay a loan fee and will have a third of the player's wages covered by the Welsh side.

The paperwork was pushed through in time for the forward to join his teammates for the start of

preseason.

Bastón, 24, joined the Swans last summer in a 18-million-euro deal from Atlético Madrid on the back of a successful loan spell with Eibar for whom he scored 22 goals in 38 appearances. However, he failed to make an impact in the Premier League, appearing just 14 times.

His arrival on the Costa came less than an hour after Premier League side Everton confirmed the signing of Sandro Ramírez. Malaga's top goalscorer last season joins the Toffees after scoring 16 goals in all competitions and leading his country to the final of the under-21 European Championships.

The Canarian, 21, opted to head to England despite interest from Atleti after the Madrid side's transfer ban complicated matters for all parties. Both had agreed to pay his six-million-euro release clause.



Borja Bastón signs on a one-year loan deal from Swansea City. by MALAGA CF

Deal agreed with Wolfsburg for Camacho departure

A 13-million-euro deal has been agreed with the German side but the move is pending the approval of owner Al-Thani

by S. CORTÉS / D. FINCH

MALAGA. His name has never been far from the gossip columns, but now Ignacio Camacho is set to leave Malaga for good, with German side Wolfsburg agreeing a deal with both player and club.

A 13-million-euro offer has been accepted by the Costa side, who will be owed further performance-related extras.

The midfielder was heavily linked with West Bromwich Albion in the January transfer window but a deal was blocked a day before deadline day by club owner Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani. It is understood that his approval is the only obstacle to a deal being completed at present.

An exit has been on the cards for at least two years, but the club have blocked any deal that has come in



Ignacio Camacho. by SUR

so far. This time, though, Malaga are obliged to let him go - not financially but rather because relations between the player and club have soured over the past season, with the breakdown in contract negotiations contributing heavily.

There has also interest from an unnamed Italian club since LaLiga rivals Valencia dropped their interest because of financial constraints, but the midfielder, who joined from Atlético Madrid in 2011, has his heart set on a switch to Germany and was absent from the first day of preseason training.

IN BRIEF



Kameni after arriving at Istanbul airport. :: SUR

Kameni completes Fenerbahçe switch

MALAGA

:: **A. G.** Carlos Kameni has brought the curtain down on his Malaga career as he completed his move to Fenerbahçe on Wednesday. The Turkish side announced on social media that an "agreement in principle" had been reached on Tuesday and by the following morning he had passed his medical.

Malaga agreed to terminate the 33-year-old's contract so he could sign a three-year deal with the Istanbul side on much improved terms. Though the player hadn't expressed a desire to leave, the arrival of Roberto from Espanyol, whose signing was confirmed later in the day, would have seen his game time limited.

Roberto joins on a free transfer and will be reunited with Michel, with whom he worked at Olympiakos.

Jorge Meré expected at Dutch training camp

MALAGA

:: **S. C.** Malaga have reached an agreement with Sporting Gijón for the loan of centre-back Jorge Meré. The player, who represented Spain at the Under-21 European Championships, will join up with his new teammates in time for their

training camp in the Netherlands on 19 July, after being granted extended holidays. The Costa club have taken advantage of a release clause in the player's contract which granted him a loan move to a LaLiga side in the event of Sporting's relegation. While an agreement is in place, there will be some anxiety, though, that another team could yet swoop in and activate his 15-million-euro release clause.

Michel's son Adrián officially unveiled

MALAGA

:: **SUR.** Though agreed many months ago, Adrián González was officially presented as a Malaga player on Monday.

The 29-year-old, son to head coach Michel, joins from Eibar on a free transfer, signing a three-year deal.

The versatile midfielder will bring much-needed experience to a squad whose average age has fallen significantly with the departures of Duda, Welington and Demichelis.

Striker Charles signs for LaLiga rivals Eibar

MALAGA

:: **SUR.** Brazilian forward Charles has joined Eibar after his contract with Malaga expired on 30 June.

The 33-year-old, who joined from Celta Vigo in 2015 and was the club's top scorer in his first year with the club, was kept out of the side last season by a combination of injury and the form of Sandro Ramirez, preventing him from playing the required games for an automatic renewal.



A LOOK AT LALIGA

ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports
@robbopalmer



Crossing the divide

The fortunes of Iago Aspas and Borja Bastón in England show that Sandro might not have it all his own way

If I had a euro for every time an Evertonian asked me about the talents of Sandro Ramirez, I'd probably have enough to spring his incredibly low buy-out clause.

The Malaga supporters reading this know what a steal it has been for the Premier League team but the club have pulled off their own sharp deal by bringing Borja Bastón back to LaLiga.

In theory Sandro should fit into the English game with his robust approach, endless running, guts and determination. His goal scoring record is impressive too. So that's what I've told the 'Blue Noses'. My quiet disclaimer has been: "That's what I said about Iago Aspas though."

Aspas also headed for Merseyside after earning a goal-scoring reputation at Celta and returned with the memory of just one FA Cup goal for Liverpool against Oldham.

He put it down to language problems but, in truth, Sandro doesn't have a lot to beat when it comes to Spanish forwards who have headed to the Premier League in recent times.

Nolito claimed his daughter's face had changed colour and it



Sandro and Iago Aspas (inset). :: EVERTON FC / AFP



hermit. This shows how a career can turn. In 2016 he was a Spain regular, hero in Vigo and Pep Guardiola considered him a talent worth investing £14 million into.

Nolito isn't the only investment into Spanish footballing property that hasn't brought dividends. Lucas Pérez was handed the prestigious number nine shirt of Arsenal after his £17-million signing from Deportivo where he was one of LaLiga's deadliest strikers. He only weighed in with one Premier League goal in his first season and

if squad numbers were distributed on importance then he'd be in the high numbers.

So it doesn't appear that Sandro has too many acts to follow. Maybe his role model should be Fernando Llorente who arrived in Swansea without any great fanfare from Sevilla who were happy to move him on. He adapted so well to the British game with 15 goals, now Chelsea are reportedly interested in enticing him to the capital.

The Sandro deal appears to be a winner for everyone. Everton get an enthusiastic young striker at a great fee, Malaga bring in a forward in Borja Bastón who is desperate to relaunch a Spanish career that saw him with a better than one in two goal ratio, and Swansea offload an unhappy player who is happy to be back in the sunshine again.

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Walking football trend spreads to Marbella



RACHEL ARMSTRONG

A walking football club, aimed at men and women of all ages, has been set up in Elviria and welcomed former professional Adam Virgo to a recent session

MARBELLA. Walking Football Spain was founded by Adam Chandler, 51, who has always been a keen sports player and played football most of his life. However, having experienced knee problems over the past ten years, he was told he could no longer take part in impact sports.

After witnessing a new trend of walking football sweep the UK over the past few years, Adam decided to take up the challenge back in Marbella "to get back into playing football and also as a way of meeting new friends".

However, he could not find a club

in the local area and so chose to start his own club.

He said: "In the UK, it is primarily aimed at the over 50s. However, we have not set an age limit as I was in my 40s when I had my knee problems. I want it to be open to men and women of all ages who want to play football but, for whatever reason, can't or don't want to play normal speed football."

Having seen the popularity of the sport in the UK, Adam hopes that demand will also be high in Marbella due to the number of senior expats, golfers and tourists. It is a great opportunity for those who can no longer play normal speed football but want to maintain fitness levels and hone skills.

The club meets every Thursday morning in Elviria at the Estadio Santa María. Adam said it is mainly men who have been along to the sessions so far but he "would love to be able to start a women's team soon".

He describes it as "perfect for men and women of all ages to play together" as it is non-contact and, of course, non-running. The sessions include a warm-up and normally a match for 40 minutes with plenty of refreshment breaks.

Adam has been delighted with the reaction from locals who had, like him, been trying to find a walking football club on the coast without success. He said they have also had a great response from U3A in Fuengirola, who are now bringing a team of players down to play each week.

The aim is to expand the sessions further along the coast and start a few more games each week, eventually with tournaments. Adam said: "There is great demand from all the 1,000 clubs in the UK to come out to Spain for a long weekend to play walking football. Many of them already fly out to play in tournaments in the Algarve, so we want to offer them the chance to play on the Costa del Sol."

The club was joined by ex-professional footballer Adam Virgo a few weeks ago. Virgo played for Brighton, Celtic and Bristol Rovers before his career was cut short by a serious knee



Virgo with Walking Football Spain founder Adam Chandler. :: SUR

injury. He is now a pundit and commentator on various shows including TalkSport, BT Sport and Channel 5's Football Tonight. He intends to join the group again when he is back in Marbella this month.

The walking football sessions are open to all ages and take place every

Thursday, 10.30am - 11.30am, at the Estadio Santa María, Calle Joaquín Rodrigo, Las Chapas (Elviria). For more information contact Adam Chandler by email at adam@walkingfootballspain.com.

walkingfootballspain.com



Walking football is suitable for all ages but is primarily aimed at the over 50s. :: SUR



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UNDER 21S FALL AT THE FINAL HURDLE

Spain's under-21 side were well beaten in the European Championship final in Krakow (Poland) last Friday, falling 1-0 to a German side who had eliminated England on penalties in the previous round. A stunning header from Mitchell Weiser was the difference on the scoresheet but the Germans, who also celebrated Confederations Cup victory at the weekend, were far superior, with and without the ball.

:: JANEK SKARZYNSKI / AFP

The world of padel comes to Mijas

Mijas Pueblo has been transformed to accommodate the Cerveza Victoria Mijas-Costa del Sol Open which runs until Sunday

IVÁN GELIBTER

MIJAS. For the next few days, Mijas will be the centre of the padel world as the town hosts the Cerveza Victoria Mijas-Costa del Sol Open, part of the World Padel Tour.

Until Sunday, some of the biggest names in the sport will be facing off in the specially constructed arena, with spectacular views of the sea and the mountains, on Virgen de la Peña in Mijas Pueblo, next to the viewpoint.

The tournament's official presentation took place on Tuesday, headed by the town's mayor, Juan Carlos Maldonado, who said: "This demonstrates that Mijas is an outward-looking town and one that has a lot of opportunities on offer."

He was joined by the event's organisers, as well as players Álex Ruiz, Seba Nerone, Cecilia Reiter and Carolina Navarro.



Carolina Navarro on Wednesday in a match she won with relative ease. **WPT**

Navarro, the greatest player in the history of the sport, is from Malaga so has "double motivation" to do well.

"The people here encourage you and support you, and I think in the end that will help us," she said, alongside partner Cecilia Reiter.

"The women's side of the tour right now is very even. I know it will be difficult but I think we can win."

When asked about the arena, she added: "I could never have imagined that an arena with stands this size could have fitted in here. When I first arrived, I thought the views were amazing, probably one of the best arenas I've seen in a long time."

Tickets are almost sold out, but can still be purchased from ticketea.com. Day tickets can be purchased for as

little as four euros.

Huge crowds are expected, especially over the weekend, and 50 temporary jobs have been created as a result. These include for the provision of two buses which have been put on to ferry spectators from the designated parking area to the arena.

The matches run from 10am until 8.30pm, with the semifinals pencilled in for Saturday morning and the grand finals, men's and women's, taking part on Sunday from 7pm.

Four SIS students make the Great Britain junior padel team

SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. Four students from Sotogrande International School have recently been selected to represent the Great Britain junior padel team at the World Championships this October.

Frankie Batt, who has been to three previous world championships is Great Britain junior padel team captain and will be playing in the under-18 boys category. Ben Burgess will play in the under 14 boys category, and Charlotte Brain and Tilly Payne will play both in the under 14 girls.

This year the 11th World Junior Padel Championship is being held in Malaga at Club El Candado. Two years ago the championship was in Mexico, and the GB junior padel boys team claimed bronze, with Batt and his partner only narrowly losing to the eventual world champions Spain.

Training is already well under way and the players will take part in a series of clinics and training sessions over the summer. Many of the rest of the GB team will be using Sotogrande as a training base over the coming months.



DOUBLE WIN FOR R.K. JUDO CLUB IN CARDIFF

Judokas Ben Barkby and Lisa Lindberg returned from Cardiff victorious after claiming gold at the recent Brain Tumour Charity judo tournament, in the National Sports Centre. Both were handpicked to represent R.K. Judo Club Spain at the competition, which attracted around 200 competitors from pre-cadet boys and girls to veteran men and women. Under British Judo Association rules, Ben fought in the pre-cadets under 42kg category and Lisa in the cadets under 63kg and senior Kyu grade women. Both met some good players along the way but won their respective finals on full point scores.

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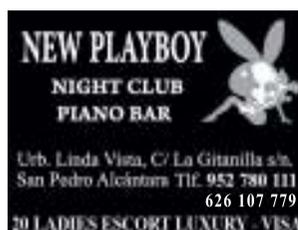
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RIVIERA. Hello, lover! I'm Daniela, Latin American with fire in my veins. My long legs and big tits will drive you crazy. 616368985

NEAR Elviria, Amanda, Brazilian, 25, with a beautiful body, slim with natural tits. Nymphomaniac and perverted. Really wild. 616368985

RIVIERA, Mariana, Polish brunette with green eyes. Pretty, sensual, very hot. A stylish lady who'll give you more pleasure than anybody. 648814653

VICKY, spectacular blonde Brazilian. Affectionate and compliant. Sensual, nymphomaniac. Incalls and outcalls. 24 hours. VISA. 608949543

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1 HOUR 50E! Transvestite Fany, Spanish, beautiful, superendowed. 691762717 Torremolinos

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TRANS feminine latina, mulata, big breast, endowed. Discreet. Marbella. 640809430

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Cómpeta: 11.30am 3rd Thurs Axareducación.

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Marion Winter, 952863926

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thefraa@hotmail.com 658426227

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952 543 334.**Fuengirola:** 952474840

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www.americanclubcostadelsol.com
Fuengirola, Mijas, Benalmádena:
David Kylan 653274392.**Malaga:**
Rosella Parmiter 952400006. **Marbella:**
Carol Lewis 951778717. **Estepona:**
Frazier Gardella 952804693.

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Calle San Roque. Tel: 952793059.

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952432235/952 242844

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Pueblo. britsocietyspain@hotmail.com

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Meets weekly. Jan/Joan 952835947

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Torre del Mar: Gael: 951067723

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icsalobrena@hotmail.com

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President Finola Sloyan: 607340523

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618680148. Facebook.

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663459103. www.benahavisdfas.com

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Joe 694442331 wednesdayjoe@gmail.com

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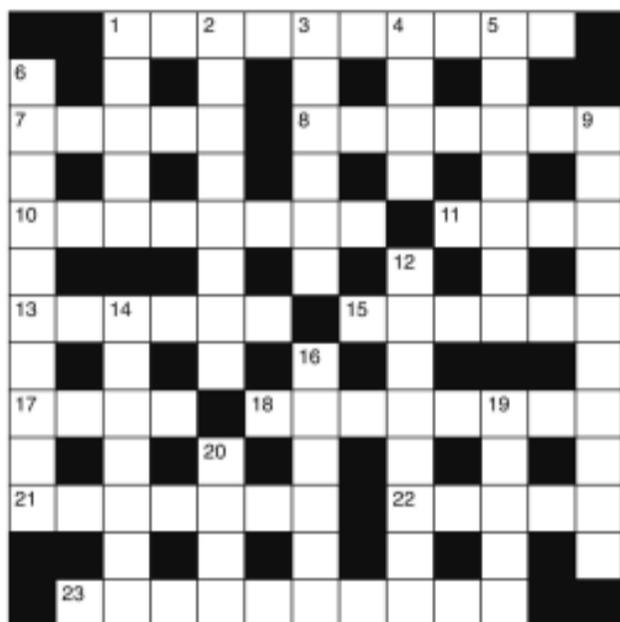
THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



THE STARS

- 
Aquarius
 January 21 - February 19
 You are not short of patience but neither do you suffer fools gladly. Remember that some are not as well equipped as you in dealing with life.
- 
Pisces
 February 20th - March 20th
 You are not as alone as you sometimes feel. The more you talk to others the more you will realise this.
- 
Aries
 March 21st - April 20th
 There is no need to push hard for what you want. A softer approach can get you exactly what you need.
- 
Taurus
 April 21st - May 21st
 Feel like starting at the beginning again? Rather than a rush to move forward, sit down and set out a proper long-term plan.
- 
Gemini
 May 22nd - June 21st
 Long-term dreams begin to show the possibilities. Don't be afraid of any small delays.
- 
Cancer
 June 22nd - July 23rd
 This is a time for close cooperation with others. Take up the chance to shine and show what you can do.
- 
Leo
 July 24th - August 23rd
 Appreciating what you have and living in the moment is what this week is all about.
- 
Virgo
 August 24th - September 23rd
 Be ambitious and reach as far as you can. Even then, look beyond to what the future could hold.
- 
Libra
 September 24th - October 23rd
 Someone approaching you with a smile could be waiting to trip you up. Annoyed by negative people? Forget them.
- 
Scorpio
 October 24th - November 22nd
 Both your love and talents shine a path before you. When you let others see this they have a yearning to be close.
- 
Sagittarius
 November 23rd - December 21st
 Bring a partner closer by sharing their concerns. Resisting changes in some areas of your life is fine.
- 
Capricorn
 December 22nd - January 20th
 In taking a slower and more mature approach you are proving something: that you are trustworthy.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11249



Across

- 1 Michaelmas, for example - six hours long? (7-3)
- 7 They're bitter because there's nothing in the jumble sale (5)
- 8 Not understanding how a failing business is run (2, 1, 4)
- 10 Became a member of the retinue and was present (8)
- 11 Manage to get through a tidal wave (4)
- 13 He has a variety of hats for the moors (8)
- 15 Girl going back to Virginia as a slave (6)
- 17 Food for an outlaw (4)
- 18 He's expected to be on the beat (8)
- 21 Royal Engineer in the platoon put on the parade-ground? (7)
- 22 Kind of antelopes seen round the East (5)
- 23 Reformed from crooked ways, we hear, but reduced to poor circumstances (10)

Down

- 1 Leave nothing inside the sporting ring (5)
- 2 A drink from the basin (8)
- 3 The kind of missile that makes a crater (6)
- 4 The way the staff takes in the first letter (4)
- 5 Romantic reconstruction of a room by us (7)
- 6 Down-to-earth devices (10)
- 9 Decent attitude appears to take in the ranks (10)
- 12 A woollen town in Wales (8)
- 14 The report of a census, one hears (7)
- 16 A desperado also appears in the piece (8)
- 19 Dynamited - that's what the underground worker did (5)
- 20 Major or minor, it's among our satellites (4)

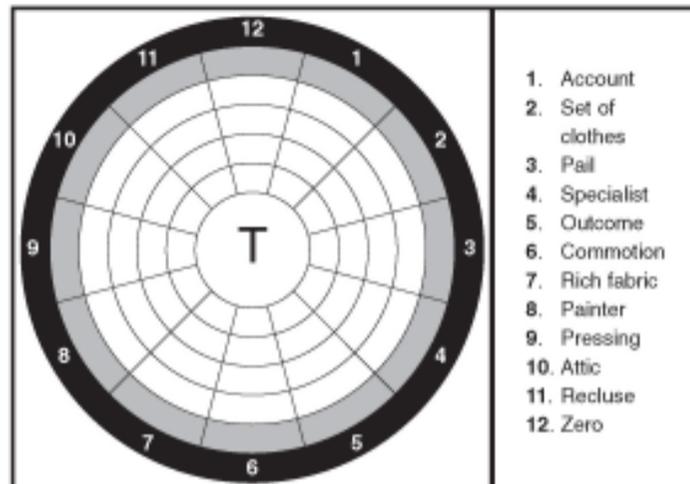
SUDOKU BY HANZO

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

			9		3		5	
7	5		4	1		9		
	3				7			6
3		2						9
		4	1		9	7		
		8	3		5	6		
	2				4			
			5			2		7
9	1	7	6			4		3

CLOCKWORD

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter T in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a U.S. actor.



- 1. Account
- 2. Set of clothes
- 3. Pail
- 4. Specialist
- 5. Outcome
- 6. Commotion
- 7. Rich fabric
- 8. Painter
- 9. Pressing
- 10. Attic
- 11. Recluse
- 12. Zero

THE WORDPUZZLER



CAN you identify the drinking vessels from the clues listed below?

- 1. Acrobat
- 2. Muppet lab assistant
- 3. Nerve, commonly
- 4. Nickname for prison
- 5. Anagram of belgot
- 6. Gullible person
- 7. Sailing vessel
- 8. Trophy
- 9. Vitreous substance
- 10. Woodwind instrument

INTERNATIONAL RADIO

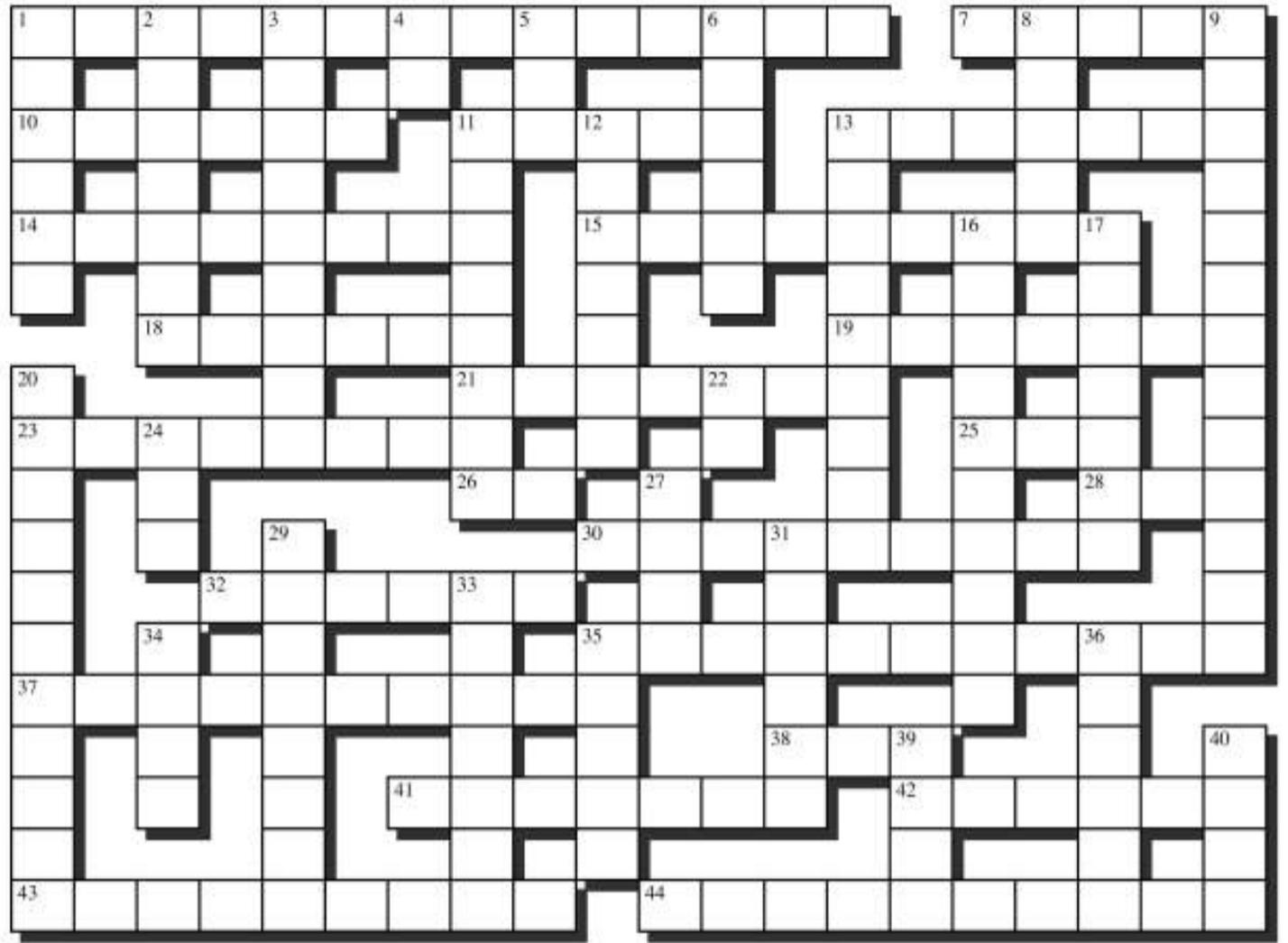
- Talk Radio Europe**
 105.5 Axarquía
 91.5 Costa del Sol East
 91.9 Costa del Sol West
 98.7 Gibraltar/Sotogrande
 News, interviews, lifestyle, sport and BBC World Service.
- Spectrum** (105.5 FM, Costa Almeria/Mojácar 92.6 FM)
 24 hour music and entertainment
- Radio Mijas** (107.7 FM)
 3 p.m. News, 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
- 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

QUIZ

- QUESTION 1**
What does IBM stand for in the name of the IT company?
 1. International Business Machines
 2. Ian, Barry, Michael
 3. Internet Business Merchandise
 4. International Banking Machines
- QUESTION 2**
Who designed the first mechanical computer the 'Difference Engine'?
 1. Alan Turing
 2. Konrad Zuse
 3. Steve Jobs
 4. Charles Babbage

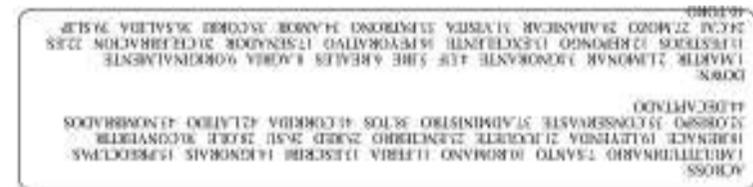
LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across**
- Mass (14)
 - Saint (5)
 - Roman (6)
 - Fair (5)
 - I wrote (7)
 - You don't know (pl) (8)
 - You worry (9)
 - He is reborn (6)
 - Legend (7)
 - Toy (7)
 - Bull run (8)
 - Network (3)
 - Its (2)
 - Bravo! (3)
 - To convert (9)
 - Bishop (6)
 - You preserved (11)
 - I administer (10)
 - Cough (3)
 - Bullfight (7)
 - Heartbeat (6)
 - Appointed (pl) (9)
 - Beheaded (10)
- Down**
- Martyr (6)
 - Lemon grove (7)
 - Ignorant (9)
 - Phew! (2)
 - I will go (3)
 - Royal (pl) (6)
 - Sour (f) (5)
 - Originally (13)
 - Festivities (8)
 - I replace (7)
 - Excellent (9)
 - Derogatory (10)
 - Senator (7)
 - Celebration (11)
 - It is (2)
 - I fell (3)
 - Bull runner (4)
 - To fan (8)
 - Visit (6)
 - Patron (7)
 - Love (4)
 - I ran (5)
 - Way out (6)
 - Underpants (4)
 - Bull (4)

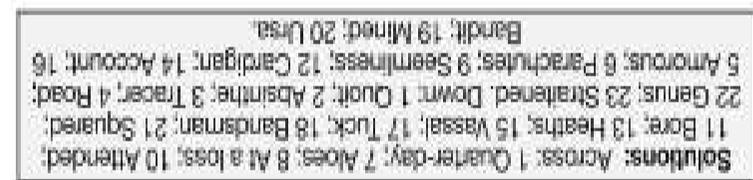


ANSWERS

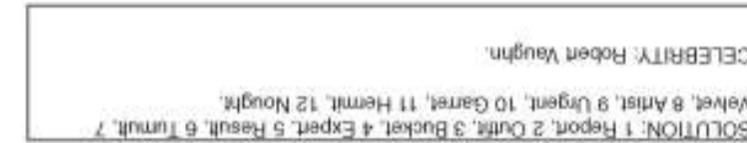
Language Crossword



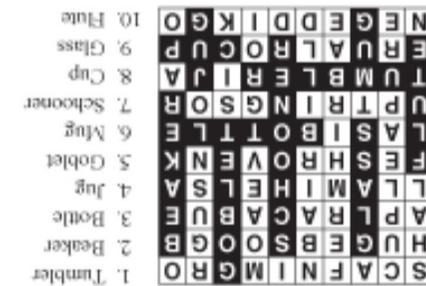
Cryptic Crossword



Clockword solution



Wordpuzzler solution



Sudoku solution

9	1	7	6	8	2	4	5	3
4	8	3	5	9	1	2	6	7
6	2	5	7	3	4	8	9	1
1	9	8	3	7	5	6	2	4
5	6	4	1	2	9	7	3	8
3	7	2	8	4	6	5	1	9
8	3	9	2	5	7	1	4	6
7	5	6	4	1	3	9	8	2
2	4	1	9	6	8	3	7	5

Quiz answers

Answer 1: International Business Machines.
Of interest: IBM started in 1911 producing punch card tabulating machines. In 1953, it introduced its first computer, the 701. During the 60's and 70's, IBM came to dominate the field of mainframe and minicomputers and is now the largest computer company in the world.
Answer 2: Charles Babbage
Of interest: English mathematician Charles Babbage (1791-1871) invented the Difference Engine No. 1. It was the first successful automatic calculator. Babbage is sometimes referred to as "father of computing."

BOOK OF THE WEEK



On the edge
Rafael Chirbes

Rotting corpses are discovered in the marshes on the outskirts of Olba, Spain – a town wracked by despair after the burst of the economic bubble, and a microcosm of defeat, debt, and corruption. Esteban is stuck in this town, his small wood working factory bankrupt, his investments stolen by a "friend," and caring for his ancient father, a thwarted, joyless man, with whom he shares a sour relationship. Chirbes gives a stark portrait of Europe in the aftermath of the economic crisis that saw Spain included as one of the 'PIGS' of the financial meltdown.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life

BERTHOLD AUERBACH

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Balmoral	07/07	Cadiz	Almeria	08.00	22.00
Riviera	08/07	Cadiz	Cartagena	08.00	19.00
Tui Discovery 2	09/07	Cartagena	Vigo	06.00	22.00
Silver Spirit	10/07	Cadiz	Cartagena	08.00	19.00
Star Breeze	14/07	-	-	08.00	19.00
Panorama II	15/07	Motril	Motril	07.00	04.00






An award for the last man standing

The American Club honoured its oldest member at its Fourth of July celebrations



TONY BRYANT

✉ tonysureng@gmail.com

FUENGIROLA. American expats along the Costa del Sol came together this week to acknowledge the Fourth of July Independence Day celebrations.

The Fuengirola chapter of the American Club of the Costa del Sol held a celebratory lunch at the Caribbean Mermaid bar in the port in Fuengirola on Tuesday.

The stars and stripes were out in force, as more than 20 members of the club, the first to be established on the coast, met to commemorate the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, and also to honour the club's longest serving member.

Troy Davis, who celebrated his ninety-first birthday last Saturday, helped establish the American Club in Fuengirola in 1974, and the sprightly ex-serviceman is still active in the club today.

Troy is the last surviving original member of the club and for this rea-



David Kylen, Troy Davis and Rosella Parmiter enjoy Independence Day in Fuengirola. :: TONY BRYANT

son his colleagues presented him with a special souvenir poster that read, 'In Honor of Troy Davis - The last man standing'.

Born in Virginia in 1926, Troy first arrived in Fuengirola for a holiday

with his wife in 1963. Following two tours in Vietnam, he returned to live there in 1972.

"When I first arrived here, there were around 500 Americans living in Fuengirola. I was approached by

the American Consulate, who suggested that we start a club, seeing as there was nothing like it at that time," Troy explained to SUR in English.

Aside from his long association

with the club and the fact that it was July 4th, Troy had another reason to celebrate, because his daughter had flown in from Paris to help him enjoy the occasion.

The president of the Fuengirola chapter, David Kylen, spoke of his admiration for Troy: "Troy has been here since day one. He was one of the people who helped to establish the American Club here in Fuengirola, and so we are giving him an honorific gesture to mark his achievements this afternoon."

The club has now been running for 43 years, although the members have dwindled over the last decade. The club had almost 600 members when it first began, but like so many expat societies along the coast, it struggles to entice new members.

Rosella Parmiter, former president of the Malaga chapter of the American Club, said: "All of the American clubs have seen a vast drop in their membership numbers, because many of the original members have either died, or returned home, and the younger generation is not too interested in joining."

At present, Marbella and Fuengirola have around 30 members each; Estepona has approximately 60 and Malaga, just ten. The branch in Torremolinos closed down several years ago.

The chapters meet monthly for luncheons or dinners, usually with a guest speaker, and they organise special events at Thanksgiving, Christmas and the Fourth of July.

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