

## Sergio García caps off his best year yet

The Spanish golfer came out on top at the Andalucía Masters which took place at Valderrama at the weekend **P57**



# Catalan parliament decides how it will respond to Madrid

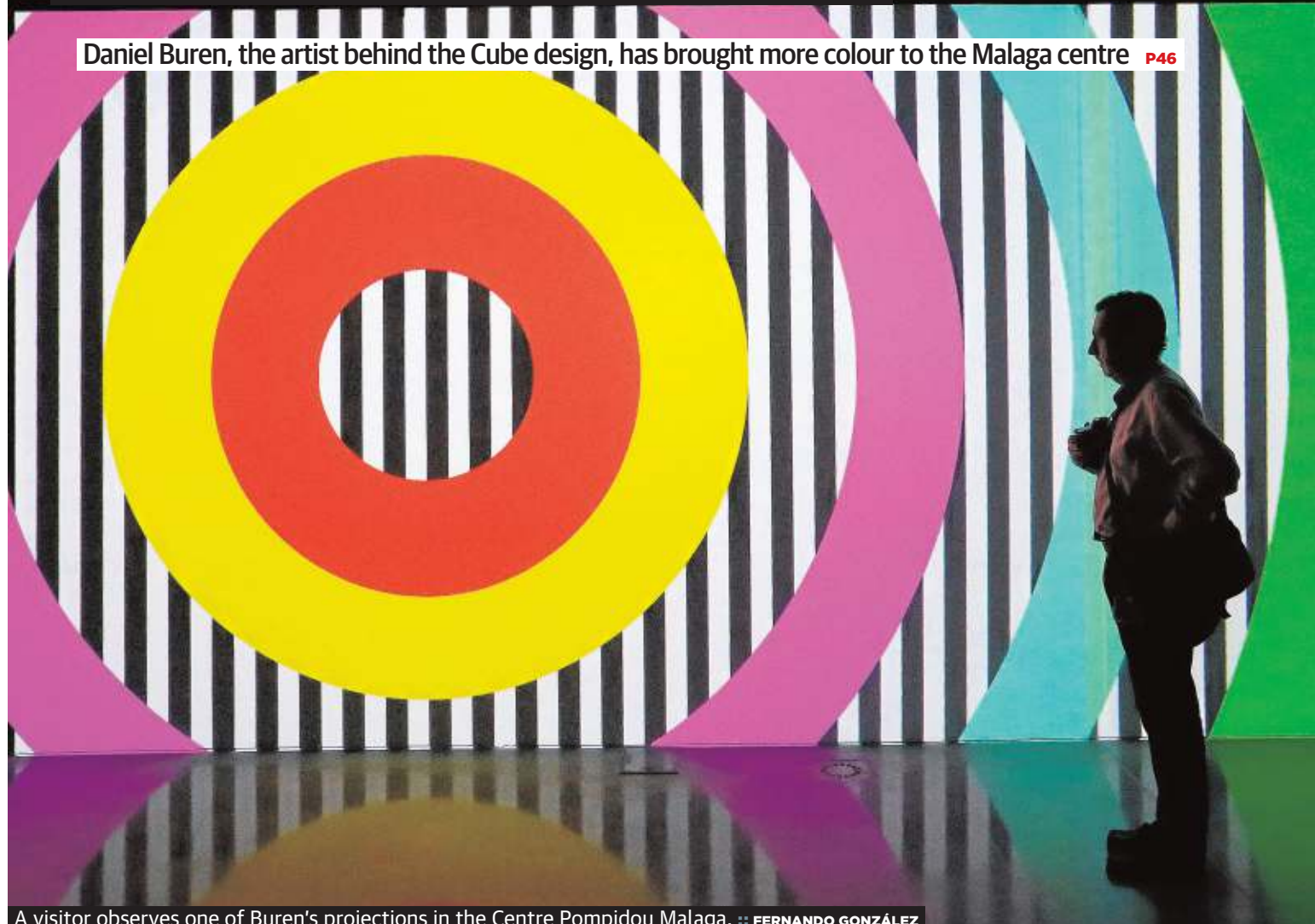
Carles Puigdemont backtracked on an earlier indication that he would call regional elections

After another week of uncertainty in Catalonia, at the time of going to press members of the Catalan parliament were debating how to respond to Madrid's decision to intervene imminently in the region. One option

in the debate was a quick-fire unilateral declaration of independence. Another was to call early regional elections, a move that president Carles Puigdemont had appeared to favour earlier in the day before saying he had insufficient guarantees. Last Saturday PM Rajoy said that the government would use Article 155 of the Spanish constitution to remove Catalan government leaders and call elections within six months. **P22**

## PROJECTIONS IN THE POMPIDOU

Daniel Buren, the artist behind the Cube design, has brought more colour to the Malaga centre **P46**



A visitor observes one of Buren's projections in the Centre Pompidou Malaga. :: FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ

## Numbers of domestic violence cases in the province shoot up 31%

Between April and June this year there were 2,079 reports of women suffering violence in the home **P20**

**The cup provides no relief for Malaga CF** who are still without a win this season after falling to Segunda side Numancia (2-1) **P61**

**Is the internet bad for our health?** One woman talks about her electromagnetic hypersensitivity **P40&41**

**Buying, decorating, moving or staying?** Don't miss the Home Fair in Marbella this weekend **P7 & SUPPLEMENT INSIDE**

**TRAVEL SPECIAL**

## Embark on a Joshua Tree road trip

Andrew Forbes takes us on a voyage through the high Mojave and low Colorado deserts **P30-32**



The famous Joshua tree. :: SUR

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# Marbella demands a fast-track solution to its worsening traffic problems

Residents and businesses are anxious for planned road improvements to be treated as a matter of urgency as traffic volume grows

The increasing number of visitors to the Costa del Sol in general, and Marbella in particular, this summer has highlighted the fragility of some of the town's infrastructure. There is an urgent need for road improvements. Marbella is the only town in Spain with more than 100,000 inhabitants that has no railway service, and every year the traffic jams in the peak tourist season get worse and worse.

Matters did improve when the tunnel at San Pedro Alcántara was finally built after decades of complaints, but now the problem has moved just a few metres away: the stretch between Marbella and Puerto Banús, in both directions. But that is not the only problem. To the east, on the A-7 between La Cala de Mijas and the arch at the entrance to Marbella (especially the stretch between the hospital and the arch) there are regular traffic jams even outside the tourist season.

Although the Ministry of Transport said last week that there are plans for a third lane to be built between San Pedro and Banús, there is concern that this project will take years to complete, like the scheme to improve the slip roads onto the A-7 at Las Chapas. This was first announced in 2007 and has not yet materialised.

"This project will happen. It is going to be a priority," insisted the deputy mayor for San Pedro, Rafael Piña. The third lane will cost 17.8 million euros and will include a pedestrian



MÓNICA PÉREZ

bridge over the road from Puerto Banús to Nueva Andalucía.

The plans for Las Chapas are more complicated, especially because land will have to be compulsorily purchased in order to improve the main access roads onto the dual carriageway between the arch and the hospital.

"I'm not a technician so I can't say what the best technical solution would be for these problems. What is clear though is that this summer there have been some very serious traffic problems. We are growing fast and the infrastructure can't cope, so something has to be done," said the president of the CIT Tourism Initiative Centre in Marbella, Juan José González. "The tunnel at San Pedro solved the problem we had at that specific point, but now there is massive congestion at Banús," he said.

"The situation at San Pedro is desperate because the tunnel hasn't really resolved anything. The problem is just a bit further up the road now," said the spokesman for Taxisol, Víctor Vázquez. The taxi association is one of the groups which is most affected by the traffic jams. "In summer it takes taxis longer to get from Marbella to Guadalmina than it does to get to Malaga airport," he added.

The same problem occurs at other times of year, as well. "The traffic jams started at Easter this year, and although things improved for a short while afterwards, by May the road was completely overcrowded," said the head of the Provincial Association of Transport Companies and Agencies of Malaga (Apetam), Juan Sierra. "Time wasted in a traffic jam



Tailbacks between Banús and San Pedro are daily in summer :: J-L

means money lost and it affects the quality of the service as well," he said, referring to the long queues which form on the A-7 between La Cala de Mijas and Marbella. "There are so many vehicles that the traffic has to move very slowly, but on top of that if there is an accident the road can be blocked for hours. That has happened several times this year," he explained.

## Making up time

This "criminal" situation, as Juan Sierra puts it, led his association to adopt measures some time ago to gain time on the roads. "The coaches that take people to Algeciras and the Campo de Gibraltar no longer stop for a coffee break at Sabinillas, to make up the half an hour at least that they lose in San Pedro," he said.

"Nobody seemed to take into account that this area is in the physical centre of the Costa del Sol. On one side San Pedro has Cadiz and Algeciras, and on the other it has Marbella. And to the north, the connection with the Ronda road and the access to Seville. San Pedro already has too much local traffic, but it is also expected to cope with all the vehicles heading for Ronda, Benahavís, Cadiz and Marbella," said Manuel Fernández Valdivia, the former president of the Pro-Independence Association of San Pedro Alcántara (ISP), who insists that the toll motorway should be opened up to cope with the overflow. "Not just at certain times of day or year; it needs to be permanently toll-free. It is the only alternative to the A-7, which is why these problems keep occurring," he said.

David Díaz, of the Small and Medium Business Association in San Pedro (Apymespa), believes the new infrastructure which has been created in the area had already become obsolete by the time it opened and, like Fernández Valdivia, he believes that there is already a problem with the



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## QUOTES

**Juan José González**  
President of CIT Marbella

**"We are growing fast but the infrastructure can't cope. Something has to be done about it"**

**Juan Sierra**  
President of Apetam

**"Coaches taking people to the Campo de Gibraltar no longer stop for a coffee break, to make up time"**

**Víctor Vázquez**  
Representative of Taxisol

**"In summer it takes longer to drive from Marbella to Guadalmina than to Malaga airport"**

**Land will have to be compulsorily purchased for the project in Las Chapas**



The A-7 between La Cala de Mijas and Marbella :: J.L.

volume of local traffic. As an example, he refers to the fact that two lanes merge into one in the 'Bulevar', and added, "The road to the industrial estate [the Ronda road] was not widened which makes it inconvenient for people to visit the local businesses there."

### No alternative to the tolls

The problems reaching Marbella by road have been steadily getting worse for years, and as a result not only has the local council urged the government to take urgent measures, but numerous social and business groups have been doing the same. One of the most common demands is for the government to abolish the tolls on the motorway. Earlier this year local residents, businesses and political parties joined forces to campaign for the motorway to be used toll-free in cases of accidents or when traffic on the old N-340 highway comes to a complete standstill.

The government gave its response in June. "The Ministry of Transport has no plans to cancel the tolls on the motorway when there are traffic jams on the A-7 between Fuengirola-Riviera del Sol-Marbella," it said in response to a question raised in Parliament.

Other groups have also begun their own battle, putting pressure on for a railway service to run from Malaga to Marbella and Estepona. At present the line stops at Fuengirola. The project was first considered many years ago, but it is still in the study phase.

Rotary clubs have started a petition to support the railway project, and some luxury hotels on the Costa del Sol, such as Los Monteros, have joined in, aware of the damage the traffic congestion on the roads does not only to their image but to that of the whole area.

# Malaga council proposes plans to relieve traffic congestion at the PTA

Priority will be given to buses and workers who arrive in private cars will be diverted along a one-way system from the main roundabout

## IGNACIO LILLO

**MALAGA.** The council's Mobility Department has proposed three new measures to ease traffic congestion at the Andalucía Technology Park (PTA) at rush hour, which it says could be completed in the short-to-medium term.

The PTA is home to around 600 companies with more than 16,000 employees, leading to severe congestion at busy times of day.

The report says priority needs to be given to public transport, and people should be encouraged not to use private cars.

The department suggests creating a special lane for buses and VAOs (high occupancy vehicles) on the A-7056 (the road from the A-357 Guadalhorce motorway), which, they hope, would encourage employees to car share.

Also, at the large roundabout at the main access (Plácido Fernández Viagas), traffic lights would give priority to those vehicles, which would be able to continue straight along Avenida Juan López Peñalver, the main road on the PTA. Private cars would



There are regular traffic jams at the entrance to the PTA. :: NITO SALAS

be diverted round a one-way system.

The department also suggests creating a direct access from the second bypass around the city. This would mean building a bridge (with two lanes in each direction) over the Campanillas river and widening the A-7058 and a small service road at Colmenarejo. These works would cost an estimated 14 million euros. It would mean there would be a direct

access from the second roundabout for workers arriving from the eastern side of the city and Rincón de la Victoria.

Mobility councillor Elvira Maeso says these projects would be "affordable" and have already been proposed to the Junta de Andalucía and the PTA management, and the technical aspect of the plans is already being studied.

## Speed camera to be installed on the A-397 Ronda-San Pedro road

### SUR

**MALAGA.** Work has begun to make the A-397 mountain road between Ronda and San Pedro Alcántara safer, especially on the stretch between kilometres 20 and 31, which

is a black spot for accidents. New road markings are being painted and signs are being replaced, and a speed camera is to be installed to monitor the road in both directions between kilometres 28 and 30.5.

There will be signs to warn motorists about the radar traps.

The A-397 is nearly 50 kilometres long and is very steep and winding for most of the route. In 2015 it was the scene of 70 accidents with victims: 35 cars and 19 motorbikes were involved in these, five people died, four were injured and admitted to hospital and 47 suffered injuries which were less serious.

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# Former animal shelter boss loses appeal as prison sentence is upheld

The provincial court has upheld the prison sentence of nearly four years handed down to former Parque Animal president Carmen Marín

**ALBERTO GÓMEZ TORREMOLINOS.** The former president of the Torremolinos-based animal shelter Parque Animal, Carmen Marín, has lost her appeal to the provincial court against the sentence handed down earlier this year.

Marín was found guilty of animal cruelty and falsification of documents following an investigation into the mass extermination of dogs and cats at the shelter. She was sentenced to three years and nine months in prison.

At the end of last week the provincial court upheld the sentence delivered by the Malaga court, concluding that the evidence proved that Marín gave instructions and took part herself in the “massive and unjustified” sacrifice of dogs and cats. She and her assistant, Felipe Barco, who has received a one-year sentence for cruelty, were aware of the agony suffered by the animals “seeing how they writhed, howled and urinated as they slowly suffocated, their muscles con-



Carmen Marín leaving the courtroom last year. **ALBERTO GÓMEZ**

tracting”, said the sentence.

Marín was arrested by Seprona officers in 2010 accused of sacrificing animals “without veterinary control”, using lower doses of the euthanasia drugs than those recommended which led to additional suffering for the animals. The paperwork sent to the town hall, which funded the shelter’s services, was “manipulated” according to the sentence. Many people took animals to the shelter thinking that a new home would be found for them.

She was also ordered to pay a fine of almost 20,000 euros, as well as to pay damages to the benefactors of the charity.

The judge, who issued the first sentence, called for a modification of the penal code to introduce stiffer penalties for animal cruelty. Marín could only be sentenced to a maximum of one year for cruelty, the rest of her sentence being for the falsification of documents. The public prosecution has called for Marín to be ordered to enter prison immediately following the proceedings.



The Guardia Civil have arrested ten people in the same gang. **SUR**

## Leader of drug gang arrested in Mijas

**MALAGA**  
**SUR.** The Guardia Civil, as part of their ‘Manneken operation’ in collaboration with the Belgian police,

have arrested the leader of a criminal organisation in Mijas. The Belgium-based organisation grow and distribute marijuana. Through this operation, Belgian police have located and arrested ten Belgian, Spanish, and French people in the same criminal network.

## Woman found with 51 cocaine pellets at airport

**MALAGA**  
**Á. FRÍAS.** A Brazilian woman was arrested at Malaga airport over the weekend for attempting to smuggle 51 pellets of cocaine into Malaga. The 50-year-old woman was on a flight from Brazil, with a layover in Zurich. Upon arriving in Malaga, she was searched after refusing to divulge her reasons for traveling to Spain. The woman had ingested 28 capsules, and had 20 in her vagina and three in her anus.

## Man confesses to stabbing policeman as trial begins

**MALAGA**  
**Á. FRÍAS.** The trial of former legionnaire, Julián Y. L., 64, accused of killing retired policeman Tomás A.M., stabbing him repeatedly with a 25cm-long, double-edged blade in the head, neck, chest and abdomen, has begun. The accused has confessed to his crimes but argues that he had killed the 74 year-old because he had ‘done him a lot of harm’ by revealing something he had told him in secret.

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# Andalucía reports another record-breaking summer, with over 25 million overnight stays

Junta announces new strategy to correct the decline in numbers of Spanish visitors to Andalucía this year

:: PILAR MARTÍNEZ

**MALAGA.** Andalucía's tourism industry has seen record figures between June and September this year, beating for the first time the 25 million overnight stays with 25.2 million, a 1.6% increase. Tourist destinations in Andalucía have seen 7.8 million visitors in total, a 2% rise. The Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE) revealed that September this year was the best in history, better than August 2009 and 2010.

Andalucía tourism minister, Francisco Javier Fernández, explained at a presentation this week that the rate of employment in tourist industries grew by 5% last month. "This figure means that employment is not threatened outside of high season. Now we are going to make an effort to ensure that this keeps going in October and November, up until the Christmas season", he declared.

The minister mentioned that despite the 7% rise in international tourists, Andalucía has lost 4.3% of its Spanish tourists. "We need to make more effort in the national market, because these are essential clients", he explained. On this topic, he said that "we cannot ignore the national market, which makes up 60% of visitors. These tourists prefer other types of holiday and shorter trips. We are going to make some structural changes based on this. We cannot lose sight of the national tourists, because they are our best clients, the most loyal, and they have saved us more than once".

When speaking about the impact of hotel prices on this market, he explained "there isn't a direct relationship between the increase of prices and the decrease in Spanish tourists. Andalucía has never been a place that people visit for



The tourism minister during the presentation this week. :: F.J. A.

the price, but for the relationship between quality and price. It has more to do with the emergence of new types of accommodation, like private-home lets, of which there are more than 17,000 in the province. Spanish people take advantage of the many rooms available".

Per province, only Malaga failed to increase the number of stays during the summer, with a decrease of 0.8% between June and September, compared to last year. Fernández highlighted this figure as Malaga is a place with huge turnover, with 38% of holidays in the region.

On the other hand, this highlights the strength of Malaga's previous tourist growth, and the figures demonstrate that the strategies to evenly spread tourism across the province and measures against seasonality to avoid geographical and temporal saturation are working.

## Tourism brought in 7 billion to the Costa this summer

:: P. MARTÍNEZ

**MALAGA.** The tourist industry contributed 7.12 billion euros to the local economy this summer. President of Turismo Costa del Sol, Elías Bendodo and Luis Callejón Suñé from the Costa del Sol hoteliers association revealed that the Costa del Sol attracted 7 million tourists, who spent 459 million euros between June and September this year, a 6.3% rise from last year.

Bendodo played down the drop in Spanish tourists in the holiday destination this year. The number of Spanish hotel guests fell by 8.6%, which Bendodo attributes to the appeal of international markets. "In times of economic recovery, Spanish people prefer to travel outside of the country. This is the only explanation".

The Costa del Sol experienced an

increase of 7% in British tourists, 19% in German tourists, 21% in northern European tourists, 32% in Dutch tourists, and 42% in Swiss tourists.

Suñé insisted that overall the business figures are positive, even though this summer registered 13.9 million stays, 0.6% lower than previous years due to the increase in reservations for tourist holiday apartments, for which there are no official statistics.

In the final stages of the year, Suñé hopes to maintain this tourism growth and reported that the airport is expecting to see an increase of 12% in passengers between November and January and is sure that the Costa will recover from the problems caused by the collapse of some low-cost airlines.

### HERE AND THERE



Furniture cannot occupy more than half of the pavement. :: SUR

### Bars lose outdoor seating space in Malaga

**MALAGA**

:: **JUAN SOTO.** Malaga city hall have ordered that a large number of terraces in the city occupy less space in the streets in order to create harmony between pedestrians and businesses. Under this new law, tables and chairs will not be able to

take up more than 50 per cent of the pavement. This will mean that a lot of bars and restaurants will have to downsize. This new ruling ensures that there will always be a space of at least two metres for pedestrians to walk through. Furthermore, in pedestrianised streets and throughout the historic centre, the installation of rigid awnings will be banned. Violators will be fined up to 3,000 euros.

### Ryanair will change baggage policy in 2018

**MALAGA**

:: **PILAR MARTÍNEZ.** Low-cost airline Ryanair has delayed the changes in their cabin baggage policy. From 15 January, regular ticket passengers will only be allowed to bring their smallest bag on board each. Any other baggage will have to be put in the hold, for no extra cost. Priority Boarding passengers, including the Plus, Flexi Plus, and Family Plus packages, will be allowed two cabin bags each.



Juan Carlos I. :: SUR

### Aircraft carrier visits Malaga this weekend

**MALAGA**

:: **SUR.** The Juan Carlos I aircraft carrier is visiting Malaga from 27 to 29 October. On Saturday 400 people will swear allegiance to the Spanish flag and the vessel is open to the public on Friday between 12pm and 4pm and Sunday between 10am and 5.30pm.

The ship is currently part of Group-2 of the Spanish naval fleet and has high protection capacity, making it ready for any mission.

The Juan Carlos I is the largest ship ever built in Spain, measuring 32 metres in length with 32 beams. The aircraft carrier is docked at the Dique de Levante dock, near the Muelle Uno shops.

### Seventy Legion soldiers go to Mali

**RONDA**

:: **V. MELGAR.** Seventy Spanish Legion soldiers based in barracks near Ronda left for Mali this week to participate in a new mission in Africa.

To mark the occasion, a military farewell ceremony took place in the Montejaque barracks last week.

The troops will stay in Mali for six months and they will be in charge of the security of the Spanish troops who are training the Mali army there. The mission will take place in the Sahel area.

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# "The foreign community is the most valuable asset we have compared with other areas of Spain"

**Pedro Fernández** Tax partner at Garrigues law firm

An opportunity to study in London set Pedro Fernández up for a career linked to the foreign resident community on the Costa del Sol

■ RACHEL HAYNES

**MALAGA.** The figure is frightening enough when you are living in your own country, but when you're in a foreign place the "taxman" becomes even more daunting. This personification of the tax system, turning it into one evil-looking misanthrope waiting to get his greedy hands on our hard-earned money, sums up how most of us feel about the issue: we're scared he's going to take more than his fair share, or that he's going to gobble us up for not giving him enough.

There is, however, a group of professionals who have devoted their careers to getting to know the fearsome creature, understanding his changes and interpreting his reasoning so that the rest of us sleep at night. Pedro Fernández is one of them.

Born in Malaga, Fernández was brought up in Cadiz but at 17 he returned to his home city, where he started a degree in Economics and Business Studies. However it was the still-little-known European mobility programme for university students that took him to London and started what was to become a truly international career. "I did the last two years of my degree at Greenwich. It was '90 to '92 so it was one of the first years of the Erasmus exchange," he explains.

On his return he walked straight into a job at Arthur Andersen, then one of the world's "big five" accounting firms. His international experience and language skills put him in a team that served the foreign community on the Costa del



Pedro Fernández specialises in tax law and international taxation at the Garrigues law firm. ■ FRANCIS SILVA

Sol. Tax law and international taxation, and all the cross border issues that arise when moving to another country, were to become his speciality.

"I've always been dealing with the same kind of issues - how foreign people who have settled here can structure their affairs to comply with Spanish legislation," he says, pointing out that the ideal structure is one where "they pay what they have to pay according to the law, but no more".

"You need to understand how institutions created in [people's] home countries behave under the Spanish tax system," says Fernández, referring to investment plans, pension schemes and, in the case of British residents, trusts. "When we deal with Brits in particular there's always a trust involved, an institution which is very widely used in UK but not known in Spain," he

adds as an example.

Fernández stayed with the organisation after Andersen first merged with, and was later absorbed by, the leading Spanish law firm Garrigues.

Now, after working with foreign residents and investors for 25 years, the specialist is well aware of the importance of foreign investment in this area.

"I've always thought a smooth and proper integration of the foreign community is essential for the economy of the province," he explains.

"This is beyond any doubt the most valuable asset that we have here compared with other areas of Spain and Andalucía.

"The minute we are able to integrate the foreign community here and they have legal certainty to invest in our companies, in our systems, to be part of our community,

A look at how Spain treats foreigners settling here

Pedro Fernández, who was promoted to Associate at Garrigues in 1997 and to Partner in 2003, will be speaking at the Linea Directa and SUR in English Essential Expat Advice Seminar at the Home Fair this weekend in Marbella. He will summarise how Spain treats foreigners settling here and when they are likely to be considered fully tax resident and therefore liable to report their worldwide income. He will also explain which structures within the law are suitable to manage new residents' future tax burden properly, and advise those already resident on changes that could result in a better tax position within the current regulatory environment.

this area will no doubt become the third in Spain in terms of economic power after Madrid and Barcelona," he says.

"We have that potential and the only way to cultivate that potential and make it real is to establish a proper relationship with the foreign community so that they feel at home here."

Perhaps foreigners coming to live here would feel more comfortable if they were able to benefit from a bit of "positive discrimination" on the part of the taxman, with a special regime similar to those recently set up in Portugal and Italy.

"Many foreign people who come late in their lives do not always understand that they should be assessed on their taxes in the same way as a Spanish resident or someone who has lived here all their life," says Fernández.

In its last tax reform in 2014, the Spanish government was about to consider such a regime - but in the end "didn't dare", according to Fernández, who believes that the tax system should not put people off moving to Spain.

"I think Spain offers a variety of legal instruments to arrange one's affairs to make sure that the tax burden is managed within reasonable levels, so I would encourage foreigners to settle here," he adds.

If the scary Spanish "taxman" was looking for an international relations officer, Pedro Fernández would be the man for the job.

## EXPAT TAX SEMINAR

► **English seminar.** Pedro Fernández will look at the tax system in Spain and how it treats foreigners with realty and financial assets.

► **Date and time.** Saturday 28 October, 12pm.

► **Venue.** Home Fair, Palacio de Ferias y Congresos, Marbella.

► **Admission.** Free. Confirm attendance to [forossur@diariosur.es](mailto:forossur@diariosur.es)

**"Spain offers a variety of legal instruments to manage tax within reasonable levels"**



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# Northern Ireland software firm to open Spanish base on the Costa

Neueda has selected a building on Malaga's Parque Tecnológico to move some of its staff from Belfast and to create fifteen new jobs

■ NURIA TRIGUERO

**MALAGA.** A Northern Ireland-based software development company has chosen the Costa del Sol to set up its Spanish base.

Neueda, a firm based in Belfast and which specialises in software delivery, training and consultancy, will invest 560,000 euros in the move to Malaga's Parque Tecnológico (PTA). Some fifteen jobs are expected to be created.

The company has explained that the decision to come to the area was in part based on its desire to increase its European presence ahead of Brexit and also to provide a base for some of its key employees who are from Malaga and will be moving home to work.

Paddy O'Hagan, Chief Operating Officer said: "At Neueda, we are fortunate to be able to attract, develop and retain talented, passionate people from diverse backgrounds. Given the uncertainty surrounding Brexit, we decided to establish an office in



Neueda's new base. ■ SUR

the eurozone to protect employee mobility and provide options for our current and future employees.

"Malaga provides us with another rich location to attract technical talent across Europe. We have a fantastic track record of recruiting from the region which has strong cultural alignment and excellent transport links with Northern Ireland which will ensure that it will quickly integrate with our teams in Belfast and London."

Neueda was founded in 2006 and is one of the leading technological companies in Northern Ireland.

Some 5,600 people work for foreign companies in Malaga's PTA

■ NURIA TRIGUERO

**MALAGA.** The Parque Tecnológico de Andalucía (PTA), on the outskirts of Malaga, has grown to be one of the main places in Spain attracting foreign technology companies and is "the leading destination for international research and development investment in Andalucía", according to José Luis Ruiz Espejo, president of the technology park.

The high-tech complex has 61 foreign companies, making up around 10 per cent of the total. However in terms of number of people employed, the international contingent makes up around a third of the park's total, with 5,600 staff on their books.

These overseas companies generate some 700 million euros in sales, which is 40 per cent of the park's total. Firms include Oracle, Ericsson, Accenture, IBM, Vodafone and TDK.

## Council 'plusvalía' death bonanza could end soon

Town halls continue to charge the full tax on family members inheriting a property

■ FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

**MALAGA.** Town halls on the Costa del Sol continue to enjoy millions of euros a year windfall from plusvalía tax charged when family members inherit a home, even if the heirs aren't selling the property.

The plusvalía is a tax that is based on an estimate of how much the land the property is built on has gone up

since it last changed hands, and has been at the centre of fierce criticism as, until recently, councils based valuations on outdated land values and charged it even when real property sales prices had gone down.

While that particular way of applying the tax has been slapped down by a judge and councils are reluctantly falling into line, there remains another controversy over the levying of the tax on the heirs of properties when they change hands on the Spanish land registry.

A national law allows town halls to reduce the tax in the case of inheri-

tance by up to 95 per cent but each town hall is free to put its own terms on what it lowers it by. Typically councils will only reduce it if the family member getting the property has been living there with the deceased beforehand.

For example, Estepona, Mijas, Benalmádena, Vélez Málaga and Nerja say that a beneficiary has to have been living with the deceased for the previous one to three years. In Marbella and Fuengirola, the tax is only reduced if it was the habitual residence of the deceased. The amounts add up. In Malaga city, of the 60 million euros collected through the tax in 2016, 19 million came from inheritances.

Now there may be a change coming, as a top court has ruled that Santander city council is discriminating against a son who didn't live with his deceased father.



**MARK NAYLER**  
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THE EURO ZONE

## IN THE DARK

**N**o one, absolutely no one, knows what's going to happen next in the Catalonia saga.

That is the only real conclusion to be drawn from the last few weeks, during which the Spanish media has been entirely consumed with the possibility of the region's proposed split from Spain: we've seen nothing but endless rolling "news" essentially filled with different people saying in different ways that they have no idea what's going to happen next.

That is especially true today, when the Spanish Senate convenes to vote on whether Mariano Rajoy's government should dust off Article 155 of the 1978 Spanish Constitution and effectively suspend Carles Puigdemont's Catalan leadership. Article 155 gives the national government authority to take direct control of a regional administration if its behaviour is threatening the unity of Spain. Up until now, its use has never even been considered. This is truly uncharted territory.

Political uncertainty about the next development in the Catalonia drama is reflected in the vagueness of predictions about its economic impact. So far, only two institutions have guessed (I choose the word carefully) an exact cost of the protracted standoff between Madrid and Barcelona. The Spanish government estimates that the conflict will slow Spain's economic growth next year by three-tenths of a percentage point, and has accordingly dropped its 2018 forecast from 2.6% to 2.3%. Spain's Independent

Authority for Fiscal Responsibility (Airef) thinks the impact could be greater, and has predicted GDP expansion slowing between four tenths of a percentage point and 1.2%; in more concrete terms, it predicts that the cost of the crisis for the Spanish taxpayer could be up to 13.4 billion euros.

Airef is erring on the side of caution in forecasting a bigger economic impact than that predicted by the Spanish government. And it's surely right to do so, not least because the Catalonia issue looks unlikely to be resolved by the end of this year. Indeed, Gonzalo Gortazar, the boss of La Caixa SA – Catalonia's biggest bank and one of the first to move its headquarters out of Barcelona after 1 October – said this week that the key factor is how quickly this mess can be tidied up: "If [the Catalonia crisis] drags on... obviously we will expect the impact on GDP [to] be a bit more than moderate," he said carefully.

"A bit more than moderate" is awfully vague, but it's all we're going to get for now, even from supposed experts. Foreign banks are also struggling to be more specific in their assurances to investors about Catalonia vs Spain: in a note released this week, American behemoth JP Morgan fretted to clients that "it's difficult to predict the intensity with which [Spain's] central government will respond [in applying] Article 155". That's because predictions depend on precedents and from here on in, there are no precedents for either Rajoy or Puigdemont to fall back on. They, too, are in the dark about what's going to happen next.

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# The return of an olive oil tradition

Using extra virgin olive oil produced from the fruit of your own trees is a privilege growing in popularity

## ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE

The Molisur company began pressing its customers' olives last month in a process which only takes a couple of hours

■ **AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ.** If you fancy producing your own olive oil, you don't have to own a mill. You can just take your annual olive harvest, or part of it, to a factory for processing and then return home with your very own oil a few hours later. Actually, this is nothing new, but it is a tradition which appears to be coming back into fashion.

The process is called 'maquila' in Spanish, and it consists of pressing the olives to produce the oil. In exchange for doing this, the factory will charge a sum which depends on how many kilos of olives it has pressed.

Not all mills offer this service, but one of those in Malaga province has turned it into an important part of its business: Aceites Molisur, in Alhaurín el Grande. For 15 years they have been making oil for anyone who requests it. The only condition this family firm imposes is that there must be at least 550 kilos of olives.

"That's not just because we say so; it's because that's the minimum that the machinery we use can process," says the company's commercial director Adrián Tirado.

This tradition received a major boost when the boom in construction came to an end, because for financial reasons many families decided to start harvesting their olives again, something they had given up. In fact, more and more people are now expressing a desire to produce oil from their own olives, but for their own consumption, not to sell.

"Some years when the olive harvest has been particularly good we have had 50 people on a waiting list and there have been queues waiting to get into the factory. At the moment, they are having to wait about a week and a half for an appointment. We try to adapt to what our clients want," says Adrián.

### Ready in two hours

The firm, which is investing 2.5 million euros on new facilities, says customers also have the option of picking their olives and having them turned into oil in stages, rather than all at once.

"That is a service we also offer, but what is important is that in two hours they can take their oil home with them, and they have been able to watch the whole production process," explains Adrián.

Molisur currently has 5,000 clients from 50 different towns and villa-



Different stages of the production process for extra virgin olive oil, which the growers will take home with them. ■ PHOTOS: SALVADOR SALAS



ges in Malaga province and elsewhere in Andalucía, and it presses about three million kilos of olives a year.

"We start in September, which is possibly earlier than any of the other mills, and we finish in January. People just love to use oil at home which has been made from their own olives," he says.

The equipment can process the olives of eight different customers every 15 minutes. A factory of this type would normally have about five members of staff, but Molisur employs 25 people. The firm says this enables it to offer a more personal service.

Because of the drought, people have been collecting their olives earlier than usual this year. "The first ones we are processing are the manzanilla variety, because they

are not usually used for eating. People who grow them bring them here to make oil from them," explains Adrián.

"Some people prefer to press the

olives while they are still green, to obtain oils with more polyphenols. That produces an oil which is quite spicy and bitter, which is seen as something positive for a good

### Production in Andalucía could be 10 per cent lower

Food cooperatives in Andalucía are expecting the 2017-2018 olive harvest to be at least 10 per cent lower than that of the previous season, during which 1,052,054 tonnes have been collected in Andalucía and

1,282,028 in the country as a whole.

A study which was carried out in July shows that fewer olives are expected from Jaén, Granada and Seville next year, although the figures for Cordoba should be similar to this year and Malaga will produce more.

In Jaén, which is the principal producer, next season's harvest could be 20 per cent lower than the 503,538 tonnes collec-

extra virgin olive oil," says Adrián.

Most of the mills in Malaga province have not yet begun pressing olives. Finca La Torre, which is the first to start, celebrated its first day of harvest on Wednesday this week. This mill, whose oil has won four consecutive 'Alimentos de España' (Foods of Spain) awards, welcomed authorities such as the head of the provincial government, Elías Bendodo, and the mayors of Antequera and Coín, Manuel Barón and Fernando Fernández, to mark the start of the new season.

Molisur is currently carrying out a major modernisation project, which includes new premises, 30,000 square metres in size, of which 6,000 will be taken up by the new mill. With this project, the company aims to increase its production to half a million litres a year, thanks to a third production line, which will be used when needed.

During the olive oil season the firm operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. When the customers' oil has all been produced, it works on producing its own.

The expansion project includes training classes for olive oil tastings and sampling, an information centre about olives and a 'world garden' with more than 200 varieties of olive trees from different countries and some 100-year-old trees. This will be unique in the province, and is the result of the company's commitment to olive oil tourism as a new line of business.

Molisur was designated the best green fruity virgin extra olive oil of the 2016-2017 harvest by the Malaga provincial government. The Italian firm Pieralisi, a world leader in manufacturing olive oil equipment, also awarded the company a prize at the Expoliva exhibition which took place earlier this year.

ted this year. Cordoba is expected to produce about 270,000 tonnes again, and in Granada there could be 25 to 30 per cent less compared with the 108,557 tonnes this year. In Seville, a reduction of only five per cent is expected compared with the 96,295 tonnes this season. Finally, if the forecasts are correct, Malaga will harvest 30 per cent more olives than the 46,836 tonnes picked this year.





# Brexit developments offer more certainty on citizens' rights

By Chris McCann, Partner, Blevins Franks

Following the latest round of negotiations, the UK and the EU have made some headway in some key areas affecting expatriates.

Most significantly, the Spanish foreign minister has reassured UK nationals living in Spain that they are welcome to stay, whatever happens. "If there is no deal", Alfonso Dastis stated, "we will make sure that the lives of ordinary people who are in Spain – the UK people – are not disrupted".

So what has actually been agreed and what issues are still under negotiation?

## Onward freedom of movement

Britain has proposed more flexibility for expatriates' freedom of movement by offering EU citizens in the UK "guaranteed rights of return". This means those lawfully resident in Britain before Brexit would be able to leave and freely return at a later date. Previous proposals only allowed a two-year window for this right.

The ball is now in the EU27's court to agree reciprocal rights for the movement of Britons within the bloc. As things stand, a UK national

resident in Spain, for example, would be unable to relocate to Portugal from April 2019 without having to apply for visas and permits as a non-EU citizen.

## Access to healthcare and pensions

Both sides have confirmed they will carry on reimbursing certain healthcare costs for citizens under the EHIC (European Health Insurance Card) and S1 schemes. They have also agreed to continue yearly inflation increases in state pension payments for nationals living abroad.

One area still to be resolved is the potential 'cliff-edge' for British personal pension and insurance payments. When current EU 'passporting' rights for UK financial services companies expire on Brexit day, these providers cannot legally make payments to Britons abroad. However, with both sides having a mutual financial interest in resolving this issue, it is likely to be addressed early in future negotiations.

## Legal protection for citizens

A former 'red line' area for Britain has been how much influence the

European courts should have over UK law after Brexit. The EU has maintained that EU citizens must continue to be protected by the European Court of Justice (ECJ) while living in the UK post-Brexit. The Prime Minister initially insisted that the UK would "take back control of our laws" post-Brexit and hold exclusive authority within its borders.

However, she has now offered more flexibility by signalling a future role for the ECJ in settling disputes on British soil. Crucially, she has also offered to incorporate legal protections for EU citizens into UK law to ensure Parliament cannot restrict these rights.

## The divorce bill

Long an issue of contention between the two parties, the Prime Minister has now confirmed that Britain will pay its financial dues until 2020. She also reassured the EU27 that they will not have to pay more or receive less as a result of the UK's exit.

However, the actual figure required to meet these promises is unclear. So far, she has only agreed to pay a divorce bill of around €20 billion up

to 2020, falling short of the estimated €50-€100 billion payment expected by the EU.

## Delaying full Brexit

In her speech in Florence in September, the Prime Minister requested a two-year transition period for Britain's exit. She pledged that Britain would continue to follow EU rules until 2021 – including freedom of movement and paying into EU coffers – in return for uninterrupted access to the single market.

## What happens next?

Following a two-day summit, the EU27 agreed to start internal discussions about moving onto the next phase of negotiation topics, including the transition period and trade arrangements. However, the UK is expected to provide a clearer financial commitment before these talks can begin in December.

Britain has now made concessions in three key areas – accepting free movement of EU citizens, paying its share of EU bills and maintaining the legal authority of the ECJ – which is widely seen as a positive step towards securing mutual

agreement. Although there is still a long way to go, Britons living in Spain can find reassurances here, especially regarding healthcare and state pension payments.

Amidst so much future uncertainty, however, it is important to understand how you could be affected and be as prepared as you can possibly be. A locally-based financial adviser who understands the interaction between both the UK and Spain tax systems can help keep you up-to-date with Brexit developments and find the best solutions tailored for you as an expatriate.

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

## With Brexit negotiations underway, do I need to take action to protect my wealth?

This is a good time for us to help you review your tax and estate planning, investments and pensions. We will ensure you are in the best position going forward and keep you informed of Brexit developments that may affect you. It may be worth acting now, under known rules, rather than waiting to see if the situation changes after Brexit.

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## Carlos Fernández remains in prison as extradition request is filed

A date for the case for the Malaya fugitive's extradition to Spain to be heard will be set in two weeks

:: HÉCTOR BARBOTTA

**MARBELLA.** The Argentinian court hearing the case against former Marbella councillor Carlos Fernández, who has been on the run from the Spanish authorities since 2006, formally received a request for extradition from the Spanish government this week.

The request, which was submitted both by fax and email just before the 40-day period after which he would have been released expired, means that Fernández will remain at the San Juan provincial prison where he has been since his arrest on 15 September.

Both sides now have two weeks



Fernández, after his arrest. :: SUR

to put together their case, with a date for the hearing to be set then.

Fernández is wanted by both the National High Court and the local

court in Marbella for a series of offenses, including embezzlement and accepting bribes as part of the Saqueo 2 and Malaya corruption trials.

## Marbella town hall to offer up land for a new school in Las Chapas

A secondary school between Río Real and the Hospital Costa del Sol will help ease demand elsewhere in the town

:: N. CASTRO / H. BARBOTTA

**MARBELLA.** Marbella town hall is set to offer up a plot of land in the Las Chapas area of the town to the Junta de Andalucía for the creation of a new school, as confirmed on Tuesday by the Education councillor, Carmen Díaz.

The council will offer up a plot of almost 12,000 metres, located between Río Real and the Hospital Costa del Sol. The regional government will therefore be able to include this in its 2018 budget.

The new secondary school would immediately serve pupils



The plot is located to the east of Marbella. :: JOSELE-LANZA

from Trapiche Norte, which has two primary schools - Colegio Mario Vargas Llosa and Colegio Xarblanca - neither of which have corresponding secondary schools, thus making a new facility "essential", according to the town council.

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## Legal proceedings given go-ahead against fragrance shop which installed giant screen

The screen, erected on Avenida Julio Iglesias, is forcing residents to "live with the shutters down and curtains drawn"

:: NIEVES CASTRO

**MARBELLA.** The case against a fragrance shop at the heart of Puerto Banús has been given permission to proceed by a court in Marbella after complaints about the visual impact of a large screen installed on its façade.

Ever since it was installed in July, residents have complained about strength of the light and the changing colours and tones. They say that the screen has forced them to "live with shutters down and curtains drawn".

The criminal complaint states that the "super gigantic" screen



The shop is located on a main street through Puerto Banús. :: J-L

with "neon and LED lights" stops residents sleeping and ruins the appearance of the port area.

Lawyer Dumet Grayeb, who is representing the community of owners, explained that this was

"the first time a court had intervened in a case of visual pollution in Marbella". However, while the wait for a judicial solution continues, Marbella town hall has administrative proceedings open. When asked by SUR, the councillor for public highways, José Eduardo Díaz (PP), confirmed that the business doesn't have a licence in place for the screen and that "the processes for its removal" were under way.

For his part, the owner of the fragrance shop, Muthana Alotaibi, said that he didn't understand the fuss caused by the screen: "I'm not causing any damage to the neighbours."

He said that he had applied for the appropriate licence but that he decided to turn it on in the summer "to brighten up the street" in a similar way that Christmas lights were permitted. He also said that he wouldn't turn it off unless told to do so by a court.

## Top regional court rules that request for CCTV cameras in Puerto Banús is excessive

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ

**MARBELLA.** The video surveillance commission of the Superior Court of Justice of Andalucía (TSJA) has ruled that the installation of CCTV cameras, 57 of which are in Puerto Banús, proposed by Marbella town hall are excessive.

According to town hall sources, 15 locations proposed have been rejected out of the total 76.

Cameras in areas around Muelle De Ribera, Plaza Antonio Banderas, Avenida Julio Iglesias and the port have been approved as they meet suitability requirements. However, in both Puerto Banús and the Puerto Deportivo marina, neither the recorded crime rates nor the cameras' potential impact on privacy justify the installation of so many cameras, according to the TSJA.



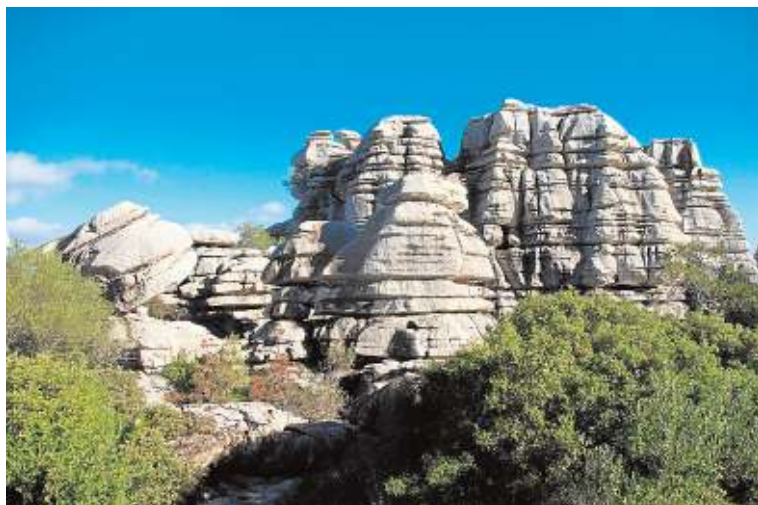
# Junta assures that mining will not go ahead in the Sierra de la Utrera

The provincial delegate for the Economy says that putting the area out to tender for mining activity is just part of the bureaucratic process

CHARO MÁRQUEZ

**CASARES.** The provincial delegate for the economy from the Junta de Andalucía has reassured Casares town hall that putting the Sierra de la Utrera out to tender for mining activity is a necessary step in order to proceed with the area's petition for protected status.

Mariano Ruiz Arujo said, according to town hall sources, that he expected no company to come forward with a proposal, and that if one did, it would be rejected by the Cultural department because of the ongoing process to have the area declared an Asset of Cultural



Sierra de la Utrera is home to a number of archaeological sites. :: SUR

Interest (BIC).

Despite these reassurances, Casares mayor, José Carrasco, was skeptical and said that the town hall would remain "vigilant".

The Sierra de la Utrera is very simi-

lar to El Torcal in Antequera, with its landscape shaped by the movement of water, offering undoubted scenic value. What's more, there are a number of significant archaeological finds located in the area.

# 23 arrested in connection with 13 marijuana farms uncovered on the Costa

Properties have been raided and drugs seized in Estepona, Manilva, Casares and Mijas

EUROPA PRESS

**ESTEPONA.** The Guardia Civil have arrested 23 people and seized more than 120 kilogrammes of marijuana in an operation which has located farms of the substance in 13 locations, spanning the western Costa del Sol, in towns such as Mijas, Estepona, Manilva and Casares.

In Estepona, officers have dismantled six of such farms, located in various rural and isolated locations, arresting seven people and seizing 200 plants and 25 kilogrammes of the drug.

The Guardia Civil were also able to bring down an organised crime ring in Manilva which operated out of a villa where the drug was cultivated. There they arrested

two people, both foreign nationals, seized 14 kilogrammes of the drug, 80 plants, 80 grammes of hashish, stills to prepare cannabis oil, 40 syringes of the oil, as well as a number of products created from the plant, including creams and pills.

Also in Manilva, police stopped a vehicle whose owner had been driving erratically. Inspecting the vehicle they found two sacks of marijuana in the boot, weighing 15.2 kilogrammes, leading to the driver's arrest.

In Casares, officers searched two properties, uncovering two indoor plantations, seizing 25 kilogrammes of drugs and 600 plants. Three arrests were made here.

A further four indoor farms were dismantled in Mijas, uncovered in various homes in high-end 'urbanisations'. A total of 14 people of varying nationalities were arrested.



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# Manilva has the lowest unemployment rate on the Costa del Sol

Despite the fall in jobless numbers in the town, unemployment levels are still far from pre-crisis levels

C. MÁRQUEZ

**MANILVA.** Manilva can now boast the title of the municipality with the lowest rate of unemployment on the Costa del Sol, with 16.02% of the population out of work.

It was the town with a population of between 10,000 and 40,000 people with the lowest number of jobless people in the province in September: 1,076.

It was followed by Alhaurín de la Torre which had 18.79%, according to data on the economic portal, Datosmacro.com.

In the second category, of towns with more than 40,000 inhabitants, Marbella was the leader. Its unemployment rate, however, is higher than Manilva's (16.04%).

The mayor of Manilva, Mario Jiménez, believes, though, that although the results are an improvement on last year, "we cannot be satisfied until everyone has a job".

He explains: "When we look at before the start of the economic crisis, we can see that this is not a significant drop."

In 2007, the town had an unemployment rate of 11.99% (589 people), which then rose to 18.88% (1,113 people) by 2008.

The mayor has attributed the fall this year to a number of programmes his local government team has carried out including training courses.



## NEW STRETCH OF COASTAL PATH OPENED

Estepona has now added another stretch to the ambitious 'Senda Litoral' coastal pathway project to connect the entirety of the Costa del Sol. A new path, more than three kilometres in length, was opened by provincial chief Elías Bendodo on Sunday, alongside Estepona mayor, José María García Urbano. The new section connects El Ángel with the town's marina.

# Repair work to the Manilva-Gaucín road set to be complete by mid-November

C. MÁRQUEZ

**MANILVA.** The Junta de Andalucía has announced that repair works to the A-377 road between Manilva and Gaucín have entered into their final phase.

The announcement has stated that the works, which will be finished by mid-November, will contribute to the improvement of movement between the Genal valley and the Costa del Sol.

The public works delegate in Malaga, Francisco Fernández, has underlined the value of these works, both in the sense that it will serve some 25,000 people who live in the Genal valley, Manilva and Casares, but also that it "opens the door to tourism, allowing many thousands more to discover one of the most attractive landscapes in the south of the peninsula".



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## HERE AND THERE

**Rubbish reminder as fly-tipping incidents soar****ALMUÑÉCAR**

✪ **J. R.** Almuñécar town hall has issued a reminder to residents that a free collection service for unwanted household furniture is available by calling the council before collection day. The call comes following an increasing number of such items being found dumped illegally around Almuñécar and La Herradura.

The Almuñécar number to call is 958 838 600 and for La Herradura it is 958 640 425 between 9am and 2pm Mondays to Fridays. The Almuñécar collection is on Friday mornings and items may be left on the road, with prior arrangement, on Thursday evenings, while the collection takes place on Tuesday mornings in La Herradura. Items may be left outside on Monday evenings, again with prior arrangement. The objective of the reminder is to reduce the problem of fly-tipping in the area.



Illegally dumped household items in Almuñécar. ✪ SUR

**Waste water station ready for testing in 2018****NERJA**

✪ **E. C.** Malaga's MP, Miguel Briones, confirmed on Wednesday that Spain's environment ministry has committed to the Nerja waste water station being ready for testing in 2018. Briones said that an agreement had been reached with the Unión Temporal de Empresas, which is overseeing the work being done by Isolux-Corsán-Corviam, to finish the outstanding work over the next few months.

# Police officers open fire on cars following chase round town centre

The drivers and passengers of the VW Golf and BMW Series Seven vehicles are thought to be connected with drugs and / or theft

**✪ E. CABEZAS / A. FRÍAS**

**TORROX PUEBLO.** Police in Torrox Pueblo opened fire on two vehicles suspected of being involved in drugs and/or theft on Monday night.

The quiet Axarquía town witnessed a police car-chase and the shootings last Monday when local police on patrol noticed three cars performing "suspicious and evasive maneuvers," according to sources close to the investigation.

**High-end cars**

The three vehicles, one Volkswagen Golf and two BMW Series, attempted to evade being pulled over, leading to a police chase on the outskirts of the town, according to the sources.

One of the cars, which was carrying two men of Spanish nationality, one with an address in Algeciras and the other with an address

in Ceuta, got away and drove towards Marbella on the A-7 motorway, where they were intercepted several hours later by local police. The men were identified by officers in Marbella and were arrested on suspicion of disobeying police orders.

The other two cars, each of which is believed to have been carrying four people of unspecified foreign nationalities, continued for a further three kilometres towards the town centre.



The car that was found. ✪ SUR

Despite reaching a dead end road next to the cemetery, the cars were able to turn round before the police caught up with them and continued their getaway. At that point officers on foot opened fire as the cars accelerated towards them, believing that they were going to be hit.

However, despite firing at the cars' wheels around eight times, they failed to puncture the tyres. "They didn't manage to damage the tyres due to the fact that the cars were top-end with very resistant tyres," said the sources.

The two cars got away and police as well as Guardia Civil along the coast were alerted immediately to the situation. The authorities are still looking for the two cars along with their drivers and passengers.

## Town Hall working with Murcia university to control tiger mosquito numbers

**✪ EUROPA PRESS****RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.**

Rincón de la Victoria town hall announced on Wednesday that it is carrying out a project to attempt to control the number of tiger mosquitoes which have plagued not just Rincón de la Victoria, but large parts of Malaga province this year.

Councillor Sergio Díaz explained that areas where high numbers of the mosquito have been found are being dealt with using a "biological treatment" which he assured was "not harmful" to humans or animals.

The town hall, which is working in conjunction with the company Andalucía Tratamiento de Higiene, said it is currently focussing on areas such as drainage systems, which attract the insects.

Rincón de la Victoria Mayor, Francisco Salado, said that the end goal was to "limit or regulate the existence of this species." He added that the town hall is also collaborating with the University of Murcia and that a number of traps have been installed in the town's gardens since June.

## ELECTRIC CAR POINT FOR AXARQUÍA TOWN

Canillas de Aceituno has recently installed a charging point for electric cars. It is one of just two towns in the Axarquía to offer such a service, with the other being Vélez-Málaga. The new charging point is on Plaza de la Constitución, next to the town hall.



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# Costa organisations welcome new expat support website

The new Support in Spain project developed by the University of Birmingham and the British consulate was launched in Mijas on Tuesday

by RACHEL HAYNES

**MIJAS.** British expat organisations on the Costa del Sol have welcomed news of a new website designed to offer support to older and vulnerable members of the community.

Support in Spain is an online guide aimed at British residents over the age of 50 as well as other foreign residents who may need extra help or advice.

The tool is the result of research carried out by Dr Kelly Hall, a lecturer in Social Policy at the University of Birmingham and specialist in international retirement migration, who was in Mijas on Tuesday for the launch of the project hosted by the local Foreign Residents Department.

Representatives of non-profit groups on the Costa del Sol, many of which bring together older members of the community, attended the event, among them Age Care, Age Concern, the Royal British Legion, Cudeca and U3A.

After a welcome by the Mijas Foreign Residents councillor, Roy Pérez, the British consul for Andalucía and the Canary Islands, Charmaine Arbouin, explained that the ageing expat population posed new problems for people in Spain to deal with, especially the need for care.

Accompanied by the two vice-consuls, Rosslyn Crotty and Dominic Jackson, as well as consular officers, Arbouin explained that they had approached Dr Hall in order to establish exactly what the issues faced by older and more vulnerable residents are and how to advise them.

"We are going to launch a new project that hopefully will make a difference to people's lives," said the consul.

Funding obtained through the

University of Birmingham helped get the project under way, with the aim of solving what Dr Hall had identified as one of the main problems experienced by older expats in Spain.

"People don't know who to turn to when in need of support," said the researcher, adding that the Support in Spain website, which went live on Tuesday, would answer questions about what help and benefits are available either from the Spanish authorities or through other organisations.

The website itself has been created by marketing consultant Neil Hesketh of Spanish Approach, who showed guests how to navigate the site which he described as "simple" and "informative".

He stressed that the website was not just aimed at older people needing help, who may not have access to internet in many cases, but also at their relatives, friends, neighbours or even GPs and social workers.

All the information has been translated into Spanish so that local people can also find out about what benefits foreign residents are entitled to, and what help and support is provided by non-profit organisations.

Hesketh pointed out that the site was a fluid, dynamic resource that



British consul Charmaine Arbouin (r) with others involved. **R. H.**



Representatives of Costa organisations at the launch. **R. H.**

could be updated at any time. He explained that links to the websites of other organisations were active and

that the information could be easily printed out and consulted on a mobile phone.

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## Woman gives birth to twin girls after doctors said she only had back pain

The new mum didn't realise that she was pregnant and made five trips seeking help ahead of the surprise arrivals

by JUAN CANO

**MALAGA.** The stomach and back pains were becoming "unbearable". Carolina, who suffers from obesity, went to her doctors in June to see what was wrong.

According to Gonzalo, her husband, the medical advice was that she had to slim down. Four more visits to doctors followed, of which three were to the hospital emergency department.

On the last visit to hospital it was discovered that she was not just pregnant with twins but that she was in labour as well. The family has now made a negligence complaint.

The two twin girls have been born in apparently perfect health, although the mother went into intensive care immediately following serious complications during the birth.

Each successive medical visit failed to show she was pregnant, and, on the third visit, Carolina, who is 38, also mentioned that she had



Gonzalo holds his two daughters in his arms. **SUR**

not had her period for four months. The diagnosis was the same - lower back pain.

Early in the morning on 6 October the pain was too much and Carolina and family went to Casualty again for the last time. This time the pregnancy was spotted and the girls, weighing 2.4 kilos and 2.2 kilos respectively, were born a minute apart

just before 8.30am.

A lawyer is now advising the family. Medical sources said that the woman did not at any time say she suspected she may be pregnant and that ongoing treatment with anti-depression drugs may have relaxed the unborn children and prevented their heart rate from being detected.



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# Hundreds call for "justice" in the case of little Lucía

Demonstrations were held in Pizarra and Alhaurín el Grande at the weekend to support the parents of the three-year-old who was found dead by the railway line

:: FERNANDO TORRES

**PIZARRA.** Hundreds of people joined demonstrations in Pizarra last Friday and Alhaurín el Grande

last Saturday to show their support for the parents of a toddler who was found dead by the railway line between Pizarra y Álora three months ago.

Lucía, who had turned three just days before the events of 26 July when she disappeared from the bar near Pizarra station where her family were having dinner. Her body was found early the next morning more than four kilometres away next to the railway line between Pizarra and Álora. She had been hit by



The black hand has become the symbol of the family's struggle. :: F.T.

a train and had died from a blow to the head.

Lucía's parents, Almudena Hi-

dalgo and Antonio Vivar, said in an interview with SUR at the end of last week that they would fight for

"justice" and to find out the "truth" about what happened that night. They believe it impossible for the toddler to have walked that distance alongside the railway line by herself in the dark.

In Pizarra on Friday, Lucía's uncle Francisco Vivar, acting as spokesperson for the family, thanked the more than a thousand people who joined the demonstration for their support. The family also spoke of their gratitude for the town halls of the areas involved.

The crowds walked to the railway line where Lucía's parents released two balloons. It was clear that no one there believed that the death was an accident.

More supporters turned out in their white T-shirts showing a black hand, a symbol that has come to represent the family's struggle to find the truth about what happened to Lucía, on Saturday in Alhaurín el Grande, where the family live.

## Palm weevil ravages trees at the Hospital Marítimo in Torremolinos

The insect tunnels inside the trees and has already killed several palms in the gardens of the hospital

:: ALBERTO GÓMEZ

**TORREMOLINOS.** The red palm weevil is capable of tunnelling for over a metre into the trunks of palm trees. The leaves of affected trees then turn yellow and dry up, the effects of the palm weevil can be deadly to the trees. The Torremolinos Hospital Marítimo has several gardens whose trees have been destroyed by this insect, and many of the palm trees have had to be cut down.

The ecologist group Torrenatura is outraged by the situation and has accused the town hall and the Junta de Andalucía of being "ineffective" in solving this problem, which has already killed ten palm trees, only four of which have been cut down.

According to the group, the authorities have not followed necessary measures. As soon as the palm weevil strikes, pesticides should be applied to the tree and, if it is unable to be saved, the tree should be destroyed. Other palms



The palm weevil can have fatal effects on palm trees. :: A.G.

in the area also need to be cut down immediately to avoid plague as, once its food source is taken away, the pest will quickly bury into a new trunk. The palm weevil will not bite people or animals.

The palm weevil is not the only problem that the hospital suffers as the building has visible deficien-

cies, such as cracking walls, uneven floors, rusty furniture, fallen shelves, and damp in operating rooms. These problems are difficult to salvage as the hospital is old and lacks funds. The government has promised a Centro de Alta Resolución de Especialidades (CARE) but this is yet to materialise.

### HERE AND THERE



Location of the new 'Sabor a Málaga' agricultural market. :: TB

### Prospective contract offered for new market

**TORREMOLINOS**

:: TONY BRYANT. Torremolinos town hall has put out to tender the contract for the construction of the town's future gourmet market, which is to be situated in the Plaza de Independencia.

Prospective companies have until October 31 to submit their bids for the project to refurbish the building, which currently houses the municipal tax collection offices.

The new market, consisting of 22 booths, will carry the Sabor a Málaga seal, an enterprise that promotes locally grown agricultural products.

### Mijas promotes cleaner and tidier streets

**MIJAS**

:: IVÁN GELIBTER. Mijas town hall has launched a campaign to make the town cleaner. The mayor, Juan Carlos Maldonado presented three campaigns last weekend, all dedicated to encouraging people to keep the streets clean. Maldonado wants to remind citizens of their role in keeping Mijas clean and

tidy. The campaign slogan is 'Mijas más limpia. No ensucies la calle' (Cleaner Mijas. Don't dirty the streets). The town hall has collaborated with the brand 'Mr. Wonderful' to design posters. Councillor Martín explained how the bright and colourful posters and campaign slogan are "trying to reach everyone, especially young people. If we succeed in reaching them from a young age, then they will be environmentally responsible adults".



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# Reports of domestic violence increased in Malaga province by 31% from April to June

In the second quarter of this year, 2,084 cases of domestic violence were reported to courts in Malaga province

## ÁLVARO FRÍAS

**MÁLAGA.** In the second quarter of this year, 2,084 reports of domestic violence were presented to courts in Malaga province, which was an increase of 31.6 per cent compared with the same period last year.

The figures were released earlier this week by the General Judicial Committee's Observatory against Domestic and Gender Violence, in a report which also showed that 2,079 of the reported victims of domestic violence during that time were women. That was an increase of 57 per cent; in the second quarter of 2016 there were 1,321 female victims.

"These figures are shocking," said the public prosecutor for domestic violence in Andalucía, Flor de Torres, who attributes the rise in the number of reports to greater awareness and more determination not to tolerate chauvinist behaviour.

"We have to bear in mind that in cases of domestic violence we are not dealing with absolute figures, because there are many cases which go unreported. These figures just make the problem more visible," she said.

She also pointed out that since the latest reforms, cases where perpetrators fail to comply with orders to keep away from their victims or other measures are now being heard by the courts which specialise in cases of violence against women instead of the criminal courts, and this is leading to a backlog of cases. In the second quarter of this year, there were 413 cases of this type.

Flor de Torres also said the system is failing when it comes to rehabili-



Staff at Malaga City Hall protesting about the most recent case of domestic violence . :: SUR

tating offenders: "Most of them re-offend because they don't understand that what they have done is wrong," she insisted.

The president of the observatory, Ángeles Carmona, said it was shame that "once again, the figures show that so few relatives of victims are reporting cases". For example, between April and June not one family member reported a case of domestic violence to the courts. "It is only by raising awareness in society that we can win the battle against domestic terror," she stressed.

The report shows that fewer people were sentenced for domestic violence by the Courts for Violence against Women. The figure dropped

## THE FIGURES

# 2,079

people reported that they were victims of domestic violence between the start of April and end of June this year.

# 1,838

cases were admitted by the courts in Malaga during the same period.

from 63.6 per cent of cases in the second quarter of last year to 62.3 this year. One reason that some perpetrators are not given sentences is that their victims refuse to testify. Flora de Torres explained that they are legally entitled to do so under Article 416 of the Criminal Prosecution Law.

## Exempt from testifying

The report shows that in the second quarter of last year 344 victims opted not to testify, in cases of domestic violence, while this year the figure was 233.

Ángeles Carmona said that although this is a more positive figure, there is still a need for more resources to be made available to assist wo-

Mijas group set up to help foreign victims of domestic violence

## I.GELIBTER

**MÁLAGA.** There was a third meeting in La Cala de Mijas this week of the Viogenex working group to prevent domestic violence among foreign residents, attended by local councillors and representatives of Cruz Roja, the Lions Club, the Local and National police forces and the Guardia Civil. As 40 per cent of the Mijas population is foreign, the local authority has set up this pioneering plan to ensure that they know how to report cases of domestic violence and reassure them that the authorities are there to help them. At this meeting, it was agreed that informative talks will be organised at local hotels.

men who have been badly treated, "so that nobody feels alone and without support in the difficult process of reporting a case like this".

"I want to pay tribute to the courage and the strength of women who report it and see the judicial process through," she said.

The figures also show that the number of requests for protection rose by 13.5 per cent between April and June this year, from 385 to 437.

The most recent fatal case of domestic violence in Andalucía was in Cuevas de Almanzora in Almería on Sunday, when a 38-year-old man, originally from Bolivia, killed his wife, also 38 and from Paraguay, before committing suicide.

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# Major campaign to reduce the use of plastic in Gibraltar

The government also plans to introduce legislation to ban the importation of products containing microbeads in the near future

DEBBIE BARTLETT

**GIBRALTAR.** The Gibraltar government has joined forces with several organisations and the local business community in a major initiative to reduce the use of plastic.

The Department of the Environment will be working closely with the Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society (GONHS) and the Nautilus Project and Environmental Safety Group (ESG) on the project, and numerous local businesses have now stopped offering plastic bags to their customers altogether, while Morrisons, Eroski and M&S have all agreed to



Many shops have already stopped offering plastic bags. :: SUR

substantially reduce the use of plastic bags in general and to do away with all single-use plastic bags.

The government had already taken steps to reduce the use of

plastic bags earlier this year by increasing the charge on them to 10p, and it says it will continue to do so. John Cortes, the Minister for the Environment and Climate

Change, says the Gibraltar government will also soon be introducing legislation to ban the importation of products which contain microbeads.

At the press conference, he said "I am incredibly excited in seeing how the government, business and NGOs have all recognised the importance of preventing plastic from getting into the environment and how we can all work together. This is something that is very real and relevant to Gibraltar given that we are virtually surrounded by sea that is rich in wildlife. This means that each and every plastic bag that gets into the sea could directly affect the wildlife around us. Our actions can and will make a difference, and I call on all businesses to join this movement and get rid of plastic."

Plastic has become one of the world's greatest dangers to the environment in general and wildlife in particular. Plastic bags were first introduced in the 1970s, and now between 500 billion and one trillion are used worldwide every year. Experts estimate that up to one million birds and 100,000 marine fauna are killed every year because of plastic debris.

## World Trade Center has already had a major impact on the Gibraltar economy

DEBBIE BARTLETT

**GIBRALTAR.** The World Trade Center in Gibraltar opened in February this year and the organisation commissioned the independent international economic consultancy Naime Ltd to study its impact on the local economy. That report was presented to the World Trade Centers Association in New York recently, and the results were extremely positive.

According to the Naime report, WTC Gibraltar contributes £65,000,000 to the economy when tax revenue, local spending multipliers and displacement ratios are taken into account. Up to 40 per cent of occupiers of the WTC are new to Gibraltar, which is higher than expected, and this is seen as a sign of sound confidence in Gibraltar despite the uncertainties of Brexit.

### IN BRIEF



Some of the winners of the 2017 festival. :: SUR

### Date set for next year's Song Festival

GIBRALTAR

DEBBIE BARTLETT. The Gibraltar International Song Festival 2018 will be held on Saturday 2 June and the closing date for entries is 12 January. The organisers say that although they have only just 'opened for business' they have already received some great songs which so far have been sent from the UK, Spain, Chile and Argentina.

This year's event was a huge success, with hundreds of submissions from 22 countries, and the show was livestreamed to Europe, Latin America and via YouTube.

The festival is a window of opportunity for local and international talent and not only helps to promote tourism to Gibraltar but also reinforces its reputation on the world music stage.

Further information can be obtained from [www.gibraltarsong-festival.com](http://www.gibraltarsong-festival.com)

### Queues to cross border again this week

GIBRALTAR

DEBBIE BARTLETT. There were lengthy queues for drivers crossing the border from Gibraltar to Spain on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, as Spanish frontier guards appeared to be carefully checking cars. The six traffic lanes approaching the border quickly became full and there were tailbacks into the town at times. Although the delays did not reach the levels of 2013, when drivers had to queue for several hours, many people were held up for over 45 minutes.

### Two arrested after high-speed chase

GIBRALTAR

DEBBIE BARTLETT. Two Gibraltar residents were arrested on Wednesday after a high-speed chase at sea by HM Customs and the RGP's marine squad. The incident occurred around midday, when their Spanish-registered semi-rigid inflatable vessel - which was also seized by the authorities - was spotted on the east side of the Rock. The two men were detained for operating and importing a prohibited item. They were both released on police bail.





# Catalan parliament discusses independence declaration as possible response to Madrid

After a split among separatist leaders and their advisers, Carles Puigdemont ruled out calling regional elections to ward off PM's use of Article 155

:: SUR

**BARCELONA.** People in Catalonia were living through possibly the tensest moment since the independence crisis began on Thursday afternoon, as the Catalan regional parliament debated whether making a rapid unilateral declaration of independence was an option ahead of Madrid intervening in the region.

Earlier in the day, in an atmosphere of constant change and uncertainty, it had appeared that regional president, Carles Puigdemont, was willing to call regional parliamentary elections.

Arranging an election had been seen as a way of stopping prime minister Mariano Rajoy imposing elements of direct control on Catalonia in the coming days, as the institutional crisis in Spain around separatist plans to create an independence republic in the region deepened by the hour.

The national Senate has this week been preparing to debate the application of Article 155 of the Constitution that allows intervention in an autonomous regional government in emergencies.

However, after delaying a lunchtime official statement, when he was expected to call for an election, and holding last minute talks with his deputy, Oriol Junqueras, Puigdemont finally appeared and spoke at 5pm before heading off to the parliamentary debate.

In his address the president said that he was leaving it for the regional parliament to decide how to respond to Article 155. "My duty is to exhaust every route to find an agreed solution through dialogue," he began.

"I have tried to secure the guarantees to hold these elections but we haven't been able to get a responsible answer from the PP party [ruling in Madrid] that has in fact added to the tension."



Puigdemont, Catalan president, announces that he was asking regional MPs to debate the options. :: AFP

He continued: "There is no guarantee to justify calling regional elections. I don't accept the Article 155 measures as they are unjust."

Earlier in the day it was rumoured that members of the Socialist PSOE party, who support the limited use of Article 155 to rein in the Catalan government, had been acting as brokers between Barcelona and Madrid as a last ditch effort to secure a regional vote rather than be forced to apply an element of direct rule.

## Splits deepen in separatists

There had also been a long, late night meeting of the pro-independence Catalan leaders and advisers in the regional president's offices on Wednesday, with resignations and evidence of splits emerging between ministers and advisers.

More moderate elements were favouring elections, with the more

radical side calling for Puigdemont to carry through on his electoral promise to take Catalonia to independence before it was too late and the Madrid government intervened with Article 155.

In the end, on Thursday, Puigdemont opted to let the regional parliament decide. Here the separatist parties hold a majority, but, at time of going to press, as the debate continued, it wasn't clear how MPs would decide to respond.

A vote for unilateral independence would plunge Spain into uncharted waters and speed up the intervention by central government in the region's affairs.

## Article 155 at the ready

Last Saturday ministers in Madrid decided, as planned, to table a plan to temporarily take back some devolved powers from Catalonia. The

use of these powers under Article 155 was being debated by the Senate on Thursday with a vote expected on Friday on its implementation.

All main national political parties except left-wing Podemos back the move, although there was debate over the extent of the intervention. The government's plan is to substitute Carles Puigdemont with a Catalan technocrat and call regional elections early next year after a "cooling off" period.

The climate of uncertainty continues to dominate all aspects of life in Catalonia. Pro-independence students from Barcelona university marched on the president's offices at lunchtime to demand he see through his independence plans.

Some 2,000 companies are believed to have now moved their registered offices out of the region.

## Amount of people in work returns to 2009 pre-crisis level, quarterly data shows

:: SUR

**MADRID.** Spain now has 19 million people in work, more than before the 2009 global financial crisis, data published on Thursday shows.

According to the figures released in the government's quarterly active-population survey (EPA), seen as more reliable than monthly social security data, between July and September this year, net unemployment fell by 182,600 to 3,731,700.

The national unemployment rate is now 16.38 per cent, the lowest percentage since the end of 2008.

During the third quarter of this year, 235,900 new jobs were created, (up 1.2 per cent), which means that the number of people in Spain in work at the end of September was 19,049,200.

The sectors of the population who have benefitted most from the increase are those that suffered the most over the last few years. There were 137,900 more jobs for young people and 39,800 more of those over 55 found work.

## Service sector out front

The biggest increase by far came in the service sector (236,400 more in work). Construction jobs increased by 21,000, but jobs in agriculture were down 55,000.

There was good news as well over the level of full-time contracts. These increased by 380,200 people from July to September while the number of part-time contracts dropped by 144,300.

## Numbers rise in Andalucía

There was less good news in the data for Andalucía, where unemployment rose slightly by 5,400 people, putting the jobless rate in the autonomous region at 25.41 per cent. Of the eight provinces in Andalucía, the highest rate of employment, according to the EPA is in Cordoba, with 30.21 per cent while Malaga has the lowest rate, at 20.88 per cent.

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Dastis speaking on The Andrew Marr Show on Sunday. :: SUR

## "Many Brits live or retire in Spain and we want to keep it that way as much as possible"

Spanish foreign minister Alfonso Dastis has promised that his government will ensure the lives of Britons in Spain are not disrupted in the event of a "no-deal" Brexit

:: DARYL FINCH

**MÁLAGA.** British people living in Spain will be allowed to stay in the country even if the event of a "no-deal" Brexit scenario, according to foreign minister Alfonso Dastis.

Dastis, speaking to Andrew Marr on British television on Sunday, said: "I do hope that there will be a [Brexit] deal. If there is no deal we will make sure that the lives of ordinary British people who are in Spain are not disrupted."

He went on to highlight the strength of ties between Spain and the UK "in terms of economic relations and also social exchanges", with figures from the Office for National Statistics showing that Spain is host to the largest number of British citizens living in the EU (308,805). Just over a third of them are aged 65 and over.

With over 17 million Brits coming to Spain every year, Dastis made his government's intentions clear: "We want to keep it that way as much as possible."

## Former Spanish PM joins the board of new UK free trade think tank preparing for post-Brexit

:: IÑIGO GURRUCHAGA

**LONDON.** A former Spanish prime minister has joined the international advisory board of a new free trade think tank set up by arch-Eurosceptic Tory politician, Daniel Hannan.

José María Aznar, who was conservative PP leader and prime minister of Spain from 1996 to 2004, will be one of the brains behind the Institute for Free Trade (IFT).

The IFT says it "makes the intellectual and moral case for free trade, and sees Britain's withdrawal from the European Union as a unique opportunity to revitalise the world trading system".

Aznar is known for his free trade and conservative views and is also a member of the board of Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation.



José María Aznar. :: EFE

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

### The Junta and the environment

Thanks to the SUR in English edition dated 20th-26th October, I am now aware of the magnificent job the Junta de Andalucía is doing with respect to its role as protector of culture and the environment across the region.

THIS  
WEEK'S  
WINNING  
LETTER

I learn for example that despite the opposition of both the green lobby group 'Ecologistas en Acción' and Malaga's very own Architects' Association, the Environment ministry for the Junta has given the green light to the building of a skyscraper monstrosity in the port area of the city, irrevocably altering the skyline to the beautiful and ancient city of Malaga. This new and ugly-looking building will act as a neon-flashing beacon and entry point to Andalucía, towering as it will over the lighthouse in the port, and is due in no time soon to house a luxury hotel and upmarket casino for jet-setting gamblers across the globe.

I learn too that despite the fierce opposition of over 1,000 local residents under the guise of the organisation Lirios de Mar, the Junta has also given the final green light to an extension of the promenade from Rincón de la Victoria to Torre de Benagalbón. This will have

the effect of destroying one of only four remaining natural sand dune stretches of coastline throughout Malaga province, and this latest decision will remove its status as a protected environmental zone at a stroke.

I learn further that the Junta has given the go-ahead to wealthy mining corporations to begin mining in the Sierra de la Utrera region of the province, an area of outstanding natural beauty and rich in archaeological finds. This once again despite the opposition of local inhabitants, this time led by the local council of Caesars town hall, who have categorised the decision as making "no sense".

May I thank the Junta for its fine work in protecting the cultural heritage of Andalucía and in considering the environmental impact on its decision-making.

I feel heartened and secure in the knowledge that financial interests have not been allowed to persuade the PSOE-led Junta to be led astray from its duty to the public to protect the region from those seeking to exploit Andalucía for reasons of pure and naked self-interest.

MARK FRANKLIN  
LA CALA DEL MORAL

### Drought

Instead of trying not to cause alarm in society, the authorities should try to get people involved, because that is what democracy and loving your neighbour are all about. Margaret Thatcher used to say that everyone should pay something for public services, no matter how poor they were, even if it was only a penny, because otherwise they wouldn't appreciate them and would think their maintenance was nothing to do with them.

With the lack of rain, and climate change, people are criticising Donald Trump now but I don't think we need to go that

high: the street is full of Trumps, who seem to think that water flows from their taps by magic. They're not "thinking globally, acting locally" as ecologists have always recommended. All I hear are complaints about the bad summer we've had, the lack of heat and sunshine... I've even heard some say it has rained a lot. It would be better to have water restrictions rather than everything being so easy: because like children, if adults are not taught to understand the consequences of their actions, we are depriving them of the ability to cope with things.

ADOLFO PALACIOS  
BY EMAIL

## Stinging in the rain

PETER EDGERTON  
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

Maybe it was because Steve Heighway, the pacy former Liverpool winger was watching, but we performed abjectly that day, losing one-nil to a goal resulting from some eye-watering Keystone Cops defending, left to trudge off home for some beans on toast with the victory songs of the opposition still ringing in our ears. We were only nine years old but our school team had blown the chance to reach the regional schools cup final which was to be played at Southport FC's ground - an opportunity that was unlikely to ever come again. God, it hurt. Well, for about fifteen minutes it did and then we forgot all about it and watched Hector's House.

The value of losing and failing at stuff is seriously underrated. I could fill the allotted word quota for this column with a long list of everything I've lost or failed at e.g. first driving test, grades for

university, football semi-finals (zillions), not to mention romantic relationships and myriad other gaffs that I won't bore you with here (never stopped you before - Ed.) The thing is, they were all excellent experiences - disappointing for a bit, of course, but then stashed away on the back burner to be used and learned from at a later date.

Contrary to conventional wisdom, it's good to lose (sorry to any Americans who've choked on their cornflakes reading this); not with the unerring consistency of the England football team, obviously, that's just being silly, but sometimes it gives you just the jolt you need.

In spite of the current risible fashion for school sports days where everyone's a winner, what we really need to do is introduce a sweeping educational reform act whereby all pupils from the age of five to eighteen are obliged to

fail or lose at something important before they're allowed to progress with their education. There's nothing more annoying to other children or, indeed, to adults, than those little upstarts who never fail at anything. So, schools need to find each student's weak points (woodwork, among others, in my case) and make sure they're examined rigorously on the subject, ensuring failure and thus building character. Extra kudos would be awarded to the school if the glint of a tear were spotted in the child's eye after the fact. Especially if he were seventeen years old and six feet tall. Youngsters need to know that failure, in moderation, is a good thing.

By the way, aged fourteen I finally got to play in a regional cup final at Southport FC's ground and, lo and behold, we won. That's the thing - winning is all the sweeter after you've lost a time or two.

### IDÍGORAS



## We like a good fight

ANA BARREALES

You have to be on one side or the other, for or against. Aristotle's 'middle way' is nowhere to be found these days. People accuse you of being neutral, turning the other cheek, tiptoeing past because you're neither 100 per cent or 0 per cent. When it comes down to it, we like a good fight, no half measures. And simplicity too, even though simplistic explanations can contain plenty of truths or lies, depending on who is giving them. So we just fight: getting something done is much more difficult.

In this context and with five parties represented at Malaga City Hall and a councillor without a party, all wanting to show people how necessary they are, it is quite miracu-

lous that a new bylaw about bar terraces has actually been drawn up. Basically it means they will have a bit less space, so pedestrians have more, and the Local Police will be able to issue fines and stop the terraces being used if necessary. This has taken four years of negotiations and meetings with bar owners, traders, the Business Confederation and even the Accessible Malaga Development Group. But still, we have a document approved by the governing team which will be presented at the next council meeting. We'll see what happens.

The other day councillor María del Mar Martín Rojo said they were trying to find a balance between the interests of very different groups and none of them was 100 per cent

in agreement. Fortunately. If anyone is ever 100 per cent convinced, it means something has been badly done.

At times we hope for impossible unanimity when we should be content with consensus. I remember a psychologist once saying that the best way to resolve a conflictive situation was to start from the premise that no matter what you do, 20 per cent of the people will think it is wrong. And accept that, because we humans always believe we are in the right.

The working group which is looking at future health needs in Malaga has just given its view of what the city's new hospital should be like. It's logical that something this important should generate debate, but I doubt there will be consensus. Even though it is urgent and necessary we run the risk of starting an interminable fight, searching for the perfect hospital. And as perfection doesn't exist, or everyone has their own idea of what it is, years of arguments could go by while we carry on patching up what we have. I hope I'm wrong.

**SUR** English

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

Editor in Chief:  
MANUEL CASTILLO

Publications Director:  
Pedro Luis Gómez  
Editor:  
Rachel Haynes

Advertising Manager:  
Emma Vera  
Commercial Director:  
Jorge Artero



## SOCIETY SCENE

# A 'Haywire' theatre production, bowls cup and donations

Many clubs and associations on the Costa del Sol continue to raise money for good causes and have a good time in the process

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

## The Royal British Legion Benalmádena branch closure

Unfortunately the Royal British Legion branch in Benalmádena has closed. The group was the first founded on the Costa del Sol back in 1987. Since then, new branches have formed along the coast and inland. Membership in Benalmádena had dropped significantly and the branch can no longer function so there will be no Poppy Appeal in the town this year.

## FOTA

### Dinner and a show

Friends of the Theatre Association (FOTA) in Fuengirola enjoyed a three-course meal, complete with cocktails, at a local restaurant recently before going to the Salon Varietés to see "South Pacific". FOTA's objective is to raise funds to help keep the Salon Varietés open, as it receives no grants or sponsorship and is completely self-financing. It also aims to provide its members with social events such as day trips, holidays, lunches, and dances. The FOTA desk is open at the Salon Varietés, C/Emancipación 30, Fuengirola, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11.30am to 1.15pm.

## Cudeca

### Coffee morning

A new coffee morning in aid of the Cudeca Cancer Hospice will be inaugurated at the Mamá Carmen Café in Torremolinos on Saturday 28 October. This new initiative, which will be held each Saturday morning, will take place be-

tween 11am and 5pm in the recently opened café, which is situated opposite the Hotel Palia Las Palomas in La Carihuela. The fundraising breakfast will include coffee, sandwiches and snacks, as well as a selection of homemade cakes donated by customers and locals. There will also be a raffle with prizes donated by local businesses. Half of all funds raised will be donated to Cudeca. More info: John Hennessy - 608 258 067 or jonjosephennessy@gmail.com

## Lux Mundi Torre del Mar Donating to Caritas

Lux Mundi regularly donate non-perishable food to the Caritas food bank but for the last coffee morning this month they are hoping to raise money to give to the charity. The coffee morning will be 27 October from 11am-1pm.

## International Theatre Studio 'Haywire' production

Audiences were entertained by a lively comedy last weekend as The International Theatre Studio Marbella put on their annual autumn production at Atalaya Park Hotel. The local amateur dramatic group performed Eric Chappell's "Haywire" over three nights.

The cast included familiar and new faces and new ITS members.

Alec Firth, a bookstore owner in his fifties, was a demanding role which saw Russell Hood on-stage from start to finish. His mother and wife were played by Carol Woolnoth and Eileen Audas, both experienced actresses with ITS. Rebecca Flowerdew, new to ITS, played Alec's attractive new assistant while fellow newbies Theo Wilkins and Chloe Quinlan took on the roles of his son and daughter respectively.

Having sent his wife off on a European tour for five days, Alec is planning a weekend escape to Marbella. However, unbeknown to the book



The ITS autumn production 'Haywire'. :: R. ARMSTRONG



The Age Concern concert was well attended. :: SUR



The finalists, runners-up and winners of the bowls tournament. :: SUR

seller, his estranged family is about to wreak havoc on those plans as they turn up on his doorstep one after the other: his wife brings home a puppy which needs taking care of; his mother checks herself out of her care home; his son arrives on crutches; his daughter is heavily pregnant and with no intention of marrying the baby's father.

The am-dram group portrayed the hilarious spiral of events that

thwarted the fifty-something's plans for a dirty weekend away. Audiences enjoyed the references to Marbella, being entertained with familiar scenes of sangria and Spanish music. [www.internationaltheatrestudio.org](http://www.internationaltheatrestudio.org) or Facebook (International Theatre Studio Marbella @ITSMarbella).

## Age Concern Charity concert

Age Concern held their first fundraising concert on 21st October at Hotel Tamisa Golf in Mijas to celebrate the third anniversary of Age Concern Fuengirola and Mijas.

Ricky Lavazza and Mario Ross performed a wide repertoire of songs at the concert which was followed by a raffle with prizes donated by Hotel Tamisa Golf, Torrequebrada Hotel and Casino, Sunset beach and many individuals. De Vere Finance laid on a coach to take concert goers from Fuengirola to the hotel.

In all, 1,300 euros was raised and all proceeds will go to the three social clubs in Los Boliches, Mijas Pueblo and La Cala, as well as the charity's welfare department which offers personalised support and advice.

## Miraflores Bowls

### Miraflores Drawn Triples

The Miraflores Drawn Triples competition took place this week with Carol Frost, Nancy Shaw and James Tyrer winning the cup.

The largest open bowls competition on the coast, the Miraflores Open, will be starting on Saturday 11th November. There will be events in three disciplines namely Mixed Triples, Mixed Pairs and Open Fours. The two main sponsors are Ibex Insurance and Currencies Direct. Entries close on 3rd November. Contact the club ([mirafloresbowls@hotmail.com](mailto:mirafloresbowls@hotmail.com)) to take part.

## La Cala de Mijas Lions Donation

The La Cala de Mijas Lions club have presented a cheque for 1,800 euros to the Spanish Federation Football Club Mijas. The presentation was made by Lions president, Julie Barry, who handed the cheque to football club's president, Francisco Rosales. The money is to help with the fees for children whose families cannot afford to send them to the football club for training.

The next Lions event will be the Christmas Fayre at the Tamisa Golf Hotel on 3 December at 11.30am. The Costa Soul singers and Father Christmas will be present. This is followed on 9 December with a Christmas dinner and dance at El Olivo restaurant. Tickets at 45 tickets from the Lions Shop in C/Torremolinos or tel: 677059061.

## What are you up to?

If you are involved in a club or association and planning events, trips or activities that would be of interest to other readers of SUR in English, we would love to hear from you:

Email: [surinenglish.su@diariosur.es](mailto:surinenglish.su@diariosur.es)

## Help Save Part of Malaga's International Heritage

The English Cemetery Foundation (La Fundación Cementerio Inglés de Málaga) urgently needs your help to maintain this beautiful place that is of great historical and cultural significance to the entire international community on the coast.

Not only is it a peaceful green space in the city but also the resting place for many distinguished Europeans.

### Please donate generously. Thank you!

There are many advantages in becoming a Friend of the English Cemetery. Find out more by visiting the website:

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IN THE FRAME

JENNIE RHODES  
✉ rhodes\_jennie@hotmail.com



# From Liszt to Radiohead and Mozart to Yes

**Daniel Fichera** Professional pianist

**The musician is bringing the concept of adapting rock songs for classical music to the Axarquía**

**D**aniel Fichera is a professional pianist originally from Michigan in the USA. He and his partner have lived in the Axarquía for 12 years. When they bought their first Spanish property in Chilches, Daniel, 58, says that the house was initially supposed to be “just for vacations” but he confesses that as time went by he “started to think more and more” about his time in Spain than in the USA. Eventually the couple made the east of Malaga their permanent home and now reside in Benajárf.

Although Daniel grew up in Michigan and started playing the piano at the age of five, he spent many years living in New York, where he attended the city’s music conservatory, studying classical music and training as a professional pianist. He says he mainly accompanied opera singers while living in NYC. The musician says of his move to Spain in terms of his career: “Here I have had more opportunity to play solo.”

Daniel Fichera is a well-known name in Almuñécar, Nerja and Torrox and has also performed at the Malaga music conservatory among other venues. He has also travelled back to the USA to perform there since he has been living in Malaga.

## Rock music for piano

Daniel doesn’t just perform classical pieces, however, and his forthcoming autumn concerts are set to reveal a new angle to his work; a coming together of classical and rock music. It’s already “a thing”



Daniel Fichera performs at a solo concert. :: SUR

## “Franz Liszt was the first rock star”

**J. RHODES**

**MALAGA** Symphonic Rock is quite a thing and orchestras are becoming more intrepid in their compositions. The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra has an album which covers versions of Bon Jovi’s Livin’ on A Prayer to Meatloaf’s Bat Out of Hell. Malaga’s Cervantes Theatre has seen Rock Symphonic recently performing classics by Pink Floyd, Queen and

Deep Purple, among others.

According to Daniel Fichera, the divide between the two musical genres is not so wide. Franz Liszt, he says, “was the first rock star. He used to pack out concert halls and had fans screaming at him. He goes well with Radiohead.” Daniel is giving those dedicated to rock the opportunity to delve into the world of classical music and vice versa.

as Daniel explains, in the USA and Europe and this year in Malaga there have been concerts of rock music performed by symphonies.

Choirs and orchestras have long performed tributes to groups such as The Beatles and Queen, but newer bands and heavier styles are being adapted for what are traditionally seen as classical musical audiences and settings. While the

piano is certainly no stranger to rock and pop music, perhaps the idea of entire rock songs performed solely on the piano is a newer concept.

Earlier this month at a concert in Nerja Daniel performed three songs by British alternative rock band Radiohead, at the cultural centre: True Love Waits, Exit Music (for a film) and You. After the concert Daniel said, “I think the

Radiohead was taken very seriously and got a very good response.”

In fact fans of Radiohead will know that the band’s guitarist and keyboardist, Jonny Greenwood, has a long history with classical music and has composed for and worked with the London Sinfonietta, been composer-in-residence to the BBC Concert Orchestra, for whom he wrote Popcorn Superhet

Receiver in 2005, and won a prize at the British Composer Awards in 2006.

Another rock band that has inspired Daniel over the years and that he is now embracing through the piano is English progressive rock group, Yes, who formed in the late 1960s. “I probably went to see them 20 times,” Daniel confesses.

Some adaptations of rock music for classical are similar in length to full symphonies and can last around 10 minutes, like in the case of the Yes pieces. However, the pianist explains that the Radiohead numbers last around three or four minutes, making them closer in length to the average rock or pop song.

## Difficult to memorise

Daniel says that rock pieces are, “very hard to memorise and play”, and that the compositions are “some of the hardest things” he has ever learned. However, the pianist adds that it’s nice to think that he is “broadening the audience of bands like Radiohead”.

He practices at home on his Steinway B, which he says he bought in 1992 while he was living in New York and one month before his debut at the city’s famous Carnegie Hall. It travelled with him to Spain when he moved here permanently in 2005. “I went into debt to get it,” Daniel says, but adds that the investment “has paid off” and in fact he will be celebrating its 100th birthday in 2018.

## Forthcoming concerts

The next concert Daniel will be giving, which will feature a combination of classical pieces as well as Radiohead and Yes, in what is billed as “An Eclectic Mix of Jazz, Progressive Rock and Classical Music” is on Sunday 19 November, 7pm, at the Molino de Cajiz and he has more dates “in the pipeline”.

**For further information:**  
[www.danielfichera.webs.com](http://www.danielfichera.webs.com)



**“The Radiohead and Yes compositions are some of the hardest things I have ever learned to play”**



DEBBIE  
BARTLETT

## WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

27 OCTOBER 2003

# Malaga celebrated the opening of its own Picasso Museum

**M**onday 27 October 2003 will go down in history in the city of Malaga, as the day when the long-awaited Picasso Museum finally opened to the public.

Pablo Picasso was born in Malaga, in the house in the Plaza de la Merced which is now run as a gallery and museum by the Foundation which bears his name.

Many of the paintings by this genius, who is considered the most influential artist of the 20th century, featured aspects of the city as he remembered it from his childhood, such as the pigeons in the square where he used to play, and the bullfights he watched with his father at La Malagueta.

The inauguration of the mu-

seum in the beautifully restored 16th-century Buenavista Palace in Calle San Agustín was a glittering occasion, as members of the artist's family and dignitaries from the local and regional authorities gathered to watch King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofía perform the opening ceremony.

The first temporary exhibition to be held at the MPM (Museo Picasso de Malaga) was called 'El Picasso de los Picassos', and comprised 87 oil paintings and sculptures which the artist had created between 1903 and 1971. It ran until the end of February 2004.

Most of the works on display had been donated by Picasso's daughter-in-law Christine, and grandson, Christine and Bernard Ruiz-Picasso, from their private collections; many had been left



King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofía with Christine Ruiz-Picasso. :: SUR

to them by Paul Ruiz-Picasso, the artist's elder son. Only three of the works were on loan from elsewhere: 'El retrato de la señora Canals' and 'Las Meninas' came from the Picasso Museum in Barcelona and 'La Celestina' from its counterpart in Paris.

The Picasso Museum of Malaga had been a long time coming to fruition. It was originally Picasso's own idea, which he first



Pablo Picasso :: SUR

discussed with the provincial delegate for Fine Arts, Juan Temboury Álvarez, back in 1953. They even considered creating the museum in the Buenavista Palace, but the project was

progressed no further.

During the 1990s, Christine Picasso helped the council to organise two major exhibitions, and it was in 1996 when the idea

of a permanent museum was taken up again.

Nowadays, the MPM is the most popular museum in Andalucía, and it was visited by 558,033 people in 2016. In addition to the permanent collection and temporary exhibitions, it also organises educational activities and concerts regularly take place in its auditorium.

**Bilingual crossword inside back page**

## LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Museo	Museum
Galería	Gallery
Artista	Artist
Inauguración	Opening
Rey	King
Reina	Queen
Palacio	Palace
Exposición	Exhibition
Colección	Collection
Pinturas	Paintings
Escultura	Sculpture
Cuadro	Picture
Palomas	Pigeons
Plaza	Public square
Corrida	Bullfight
Visitantes	Visitors
Permanente	Permanent
Temporal	Temporary
Actividades	Activities
Auditorio	Auditorium

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#### REF. D.E.R.

When the next-door neighbours go on holidays for a week or for short periods, they leave their two dogs alone in the house, in a wooden kennel that they have in the garden. From our courtyard we can see that the animals are sad, and although a friend of the family comes everyday to feed them,

they seem to be abandoned. We feel very sad for them, as they are two wonderful animals and they have never been noisy or caused any kind of problems. Is it illegal to abandon animals that way?

For it to be illegal it would have to be a case of mistreatment, and if the animals are looked after daily, they are fed and kept in good condition, and they do not show suffering, apart from the suffering caused by being temporarily deserted by their owners, it does not seem that it could be considered as a case of mistreatment. Law obliges that owners must look after their pets, but as long as there is not evidence of neglect, it would not be considered as a criminal offence of mistreatment, which may occur also in cases of abandonment.

#### REF. E.P.M.

My brother and I live in the UK and inherited the property that our parents had in Spain.

As we do not use it, and its maintenance implies costs, we have decided to sell it, but we have been told that as our parents bought it thirty years ago, we will have to pay a huge amount for the added value tax ("plusvalía"). My question is, if we can tell the buyer to pay the tax, or if we would have to pay it if the buyer refused.

The seller is responsible for the payment of the added value tax, although it can be agreed otherwise. If the buyer did not accept to pay the Plusvalía, and there were several sellers, the payment would be divided proportionally among them, irrespective of whether it would be possible that only one of them paid the whole amount and then ask the others to reimburse their respective shares. Nevertheless, it would be advisable to check the transaction, as if you sold the property at a loss, you would be exempt from paying the tax.

## A BEAUTIFUL MIND

RICARDO URDIALES GÁLVEZ  
PRESIDENT OF CUDECA

**T**he title of this article perhaps takes us back to that fantastic film from 2001, directed by Ron Howard and starring an excellent Russell Crowe, which tells the story of John Forbes Nash, winner of the Nobel Prize for Economics in 1994. Today that title is directed at another "beautiful mind".

In the early 1990s, I had the great pleasure of meeting Joan Hunt, the founder of Cudeca.

Joan and her late husband Fred were my neighbours and even back then I could tell that behind those expressive and lively blue eyes was an extraordinary woman, full of intelligence, humanity, tenacity and passion for life.

After Fred died of cancer that impression proved to be right. Joan was determined to build a hospice in the province of Malaga, where she lived, a place that she loved.

In 1992 the then Asociación Cudeca started its difficult journey, opening the doors of a small day centre for patients. Hard work, determination and a great deal of intelligence made it possible for Joan, along with the doctor Marisa Martín, to start the activity that so

many people and institutions recognise and are grateful for today.

In 2002 Joan Hunt received an OBE for her work to develop palliative care for cancer in southern Spain. Our "beautiful mind" has also received all kinds of recognition and distinctions, on a national, regional and local level. Among them is the Gold Medal awarded by the Malaga provincial government in 2013.

Now Fundación Cudeca has celebrated 25 years of providing medical and psychological care to more than 13,000 patients and their families in the province of Malaga. I have no doubt that the success of the Foundation is due principally to the spirit of its creator, to the fusion of two cultures, from the highest level of healthcare professionals to our biggest asset: the volunteers, who now number 900.

This "beautiful mind" chose our country to live and imported, with her immense humanity and generosity, a new form of caring.

Now Joan Hunt is 88 years old; and every time I see her she smiles at me with boundless vitality, and I say, "I hope you live longer than the Queen Mother!"

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ANDREW FORBES

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**T**he excitement of fulfilling a long-held dream was beginning to dissipate, with nervousness taking hold. The guide told us, "In addition to the two gallons of water per person, you need to make sure you have salty snacks and energy bars. It wasn't that long ago that someone got lost, couldn't find their way back to their car and died of dehydration. Remember, there's no cell service in the desert – you're on your own!"

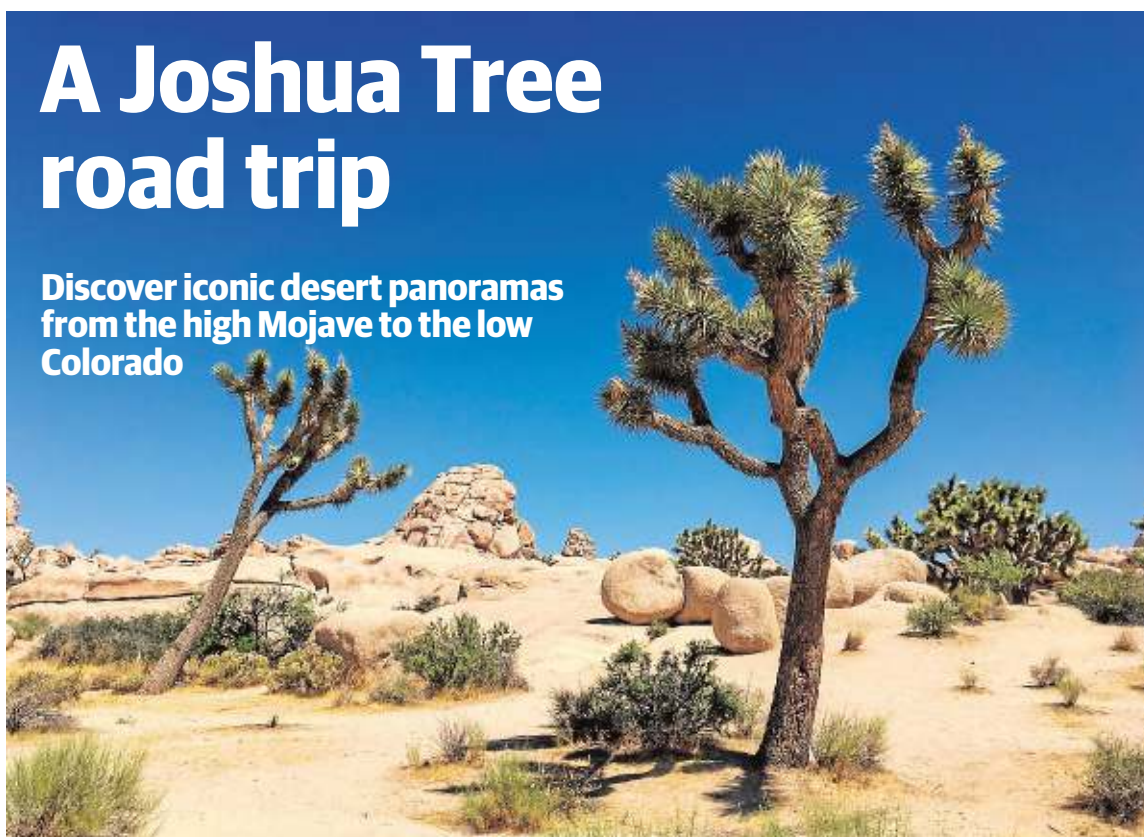
I was heading to the Mojave desert in southwestern United States. It's the driest, and smallest desert in North America, covering some 124,000 square kilometres of California and neighbouring Nevada.

After the blunt, yet well-meaning warnings of the information guide in one of the local visitor centres, I drove to the nearby 24-hour convenience store. I filled the small trolley with snacks, sandwiches, and gallon bottles of water.

"You're heading into the desert today then?" the cashier questioned as

# A Joshua Tree road trip

Discover iconic desert panoramas from the high Mojave to the low Colorado



Thanks to the band U2, these mythical plants became global icons. :: A. FORBES

she scanned the weighty bottles of water. "Don't worry; it's the weekend, there will be plenty of rangers out and anyway it's too hot to walk too far from your car – just enjoy the drive!"

## Joshua Tree National Park

I felt reassured. I had always wanted to discover the Joshua Tree National Park, one of America's 'high deserts',

named after the unique trees that are only found in this part of the world. I'm not sure why, but scenes of the otherworldly landscape, punctuated by the unmistakable Joshua trees, had captured my imagination ever since I could remember.

U2's late 80's album, *The Joshua Tree*, features the band in front of a tree on the album's back cover and inside sleeve artwork. Thanks to those

now famous photographs by Anton Corbijn, these almost mythical plants become global icons (sadly the tree photographed back in the 80s died in 2000). They are said to have been named Joshua trees by early US settlers, since the plants reminded them of the Old Testament prophet raising his hands in prayer. The trees are in fact yuccas, but grow tall with thick, hardy twisted branches topped with

spiky evergreen leaves.

## Desert cities

My base was Desert Springs, one of the nine desert cities to the south west of the Joshua Tree National Park.

The dry sunny climate is a favourite for holidaymakers, retirees and families looking for a better-value, better quality of life compared with the congested and polluted LA area. In the middle of the last century, the Hollywood elite were among the first to make the desert fashionable, escaping the intensity of life in the spotlight, for the chill culture of Palm Springs. It's a destination that has since become synonymous with the era of the Rat Pack of Las Vegas entertainers. In the 60s, 'Frank, Dino and Sammy' (that's Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr for the younger readers among you) put the area well and truly on the map.

Yet economic recession in the 70s slowed tourism significantly; a fact that has ironically contributed to Palm Springs' renaissance over recent years as a retro-chic resort for a new generation. Many of the classic mid-century modern villas, motels and hotels weren't torn down by developers – they were just left. Now many are restored and offer a captivating flavour of this glamorous era.

The low desert valley area has now grown to encompass nine desert interconnected communities, south of the Interstate 10 motorway – Palm Springs, Desert Hot Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Indian Wells, La Quinta, Indio and Coachella.

## Making your Spanish or British will?

In the 3 jurisdictions of the UK, England & Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland the role of an Executor – who often becomes a Trustee – is a personal obligation on the individual and a burdensome role. For this reason, most people either name their spouse or partner or a close family member. Where there are a lot of assets and tax issues to resolve a lawyer, law firm or accountant is often appointed.

The role of an Albacea appointed in a Spanish will – whilst literally translated as Executor – is quite different. An Executor in the UK gathers in the assets sometimes placing them, albeit temporarily, into his or her name. The assets must then be distributed by the Executor in accordance with the terms of the will.

In Spain the assets of the deceased are said to pass on death - *mortis causa* – to the beneficiaries. The Albaceas role is therefore an administrative one defined by law but not involving some of the personal obligations borne by an English Executor. As a law firm drafting Spanish form wills for British and other nationals in Spain for more than 30 years we have seen some of the conflicts that can arise.

For example, an Executor who puts the property in his or her own name in Spain when they are not a beneficiary and/or related to the deceased, may incur a potential tax liability many times higher than that of the spouse or children of the deceased.

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Palm Desert has been one of the fastest growing, with a well-planned infrastructure, making it popular with families and visitors. I had split my time between two resorts; the Westin Desert Willow Villas, with excellent facilities for families; and the Westin Mission Hills Resort Villas, which has two championship golf courses and spa.

Jim Moran, the general manager at Desert Willow Villas has a wealth of knowledge about the area. He suggested to me that the best way to enjoy the Joshua Tree National Park was to take a road trip from the north, driving south.

### All American

It was just light when I left Palm Desert and its early morning sounds of the stuttering water sprinklers refreshing the lush, manicured landscape. Within moments I was on the straight highway cutting through the dull ochre of the desert terrain, the heat of the sun already penetrating the windscreen. I stopped for breakfast in a classic American Diner off the Twentynine Palms highway, with a sign outside at least three times taller than the building. Once inside I was greeted by the comforting aroma of bacon crisping on the grill, eggs being fried and coffee warming in the pot (the waitresses were as sassy and friendly as in they are in the movies and yes, they do keep coming over to top up your mug with filter coffee).

At the park entrance, confident with my abundant water and supplies, I greeted the ranger with a smile.

Looking immaculate, wearing a Smokey Bear hat, and the traditional US National Parks grey and olive-green uniform, decorated with an arm patch and insignia, the ranger took my entrance fee, offered me a map, and wished me well. My adventure had begun.

### Living desert

Contrary to perceived wisdom, the arid desert is very much alive. Entering from the north in the Mojave, driving down to the Colorado Desert, one experiences an impressive terrain that is home to hundreds, if not thousands of species of flora and fauna. Like a school boy I was hoping to see snakes and tarantulas – frustratingly there seemed to be none in the heat of the day. But the Joshua trees did not disappoint; some were much older and taller than I expected and looked strikingly beautiful against the clear blue sky.

Driving deeper into the park, soon enough mobile phone coverage was lost. I was entering genuine wilderness. Dominating the view were extraordinary boulder piles – groups of rocks that were so awesomely huge they looked otherworldly. Dating back millennia and sculpted by violent tectonic forces and water erosion, it was hard to comprehend the scale of these huge outcrops – some taller than a 10-storey building. Little wonder climbers love the challenge they pose.

Black Rock Canyon offered an abundance of Joshua trees and desert shrubs. For the one of the best vistas in the park, I drove to Keys View. It's



The typical road-trip view you can only get in the States. :: SUR

a dead-end, but well worth the detour for the spectacular panoramas across the Coachella valley, and in the far distance, the crumpled terrain of the famous San Andreas fault.

Most of the roads are paved and in excellent condition, making it easy to explore in a normal rental

car. If you have a 4x4, then you can be a little more adventurous, taking the dirt tracks to places like Covington Flats where huge juniper, pinyon pine and Joshua trees grow - and the landscape was so still that one could feel the silence.

Heading from the elevated north

to south affords you amazing road trip views, the kind you can really only get in the States – the open highway stretching to the horizon, surrounded by wilderness, framed by mountains.

Before leaving the park, as you enter the Colorado Desert, make a point to stop at the Cholla Cactus Garden. There's a self-guided trail through a mass of these golden cacti that look spectacular against the backdrop of the mountains beyond. It was here I met a park ranger, who assured me that roads are regularly patrolled to identify people in difficulty.

### 0 to 50

It was early June when I visited, yet already temperatures were climbing to almost 50 degrees centigrade. Surprisingly the dry heat was very manageable. Yet if you want to hike or camp, then autumn is the time to visit, or spring when the desert begins to bloom. During winter the night temperatures can plummet to freezing.

The road trip through the park from the high desert to the south is easily done in a day, yet there is so much to see you'll want to take advantage of the multi-access pass and come back another time during your holiday.

Just remember, once in the park, you are pretty much on your own apart from maybe seeing the occasional park ranger or fellow visitor. There are no restaurants; nowhere to buy water and no phone coverage – this is wild country. I suppose the advice I had at the start of the day wasn't so alarmist after all.

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## THE INSIDER GUIDE

# Greater Palm Springs and Joshua Tree National Park

## ANDREW FORBES

The nine 'desert cities' of Greater Palm Springs, southwestern United States, offer a remarkably diverse travel experience: from the vintage Rat Pack glamour of Palm Springs and the golf and spa resorts of Palm Desert; to the awe-inspiring nature of Joshua Tree National Park.

## STAY:

### Mid-century modern masterpiece - Palm Springs

One way to be immersed in the history of the region is to stay in one of Palm Spring's iconic mid-century homes. Many are available for rent on platforms like HomeAway and Airbnb. You could be staying in mini architectural masterpiece!

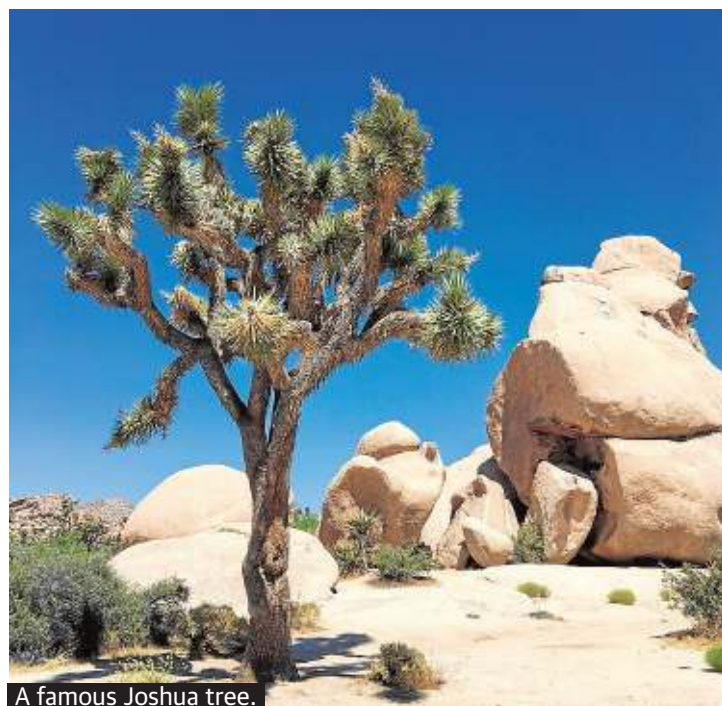
### The Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort, Spa & Villas - Rancho Mirage

This relaxed, good-value family resort includes a hotel with concierge service, a full spa, championship golf courses, restaurants, and adjacent self-catering villa apartments. Expect heated pools, water slide, and whirlpools, as well as tennis courts and a basketball court. For adults there is also an adults-only pool area, spa and sauna, as well as activities like horse riding and cycling. Dining options include the contemporary Italian Pinzimini restaurant with golf course view terrace.

### WestinMissionHills.com

### The Westin Desert Willow Villas - Palm Desert

I just loved this resort from the moment I arrived; maybe because there were frozen margaritas and a cheese board with crackers at check-in! The setting is beautiful, with spectacular views over the championship golf courses to the Santa Rosa mountains. The villas are well-appointed, with private terraces or balconies. The king size beds have Heavenly signature bedding; the contemporary kitchens are ideal for a self-catering holiday; and the stylish bath-



A famous Joshua tree.

rooms come with Heavenly bath robes and amenities. The team, led by general manager Jim Moran really knows how to make guests feel welcome.

The poolside atmosphere is great; there are BBQ grilling areas where you can prepare meals outside, but also a pool bar, coffee shop and restaurant if you don't want to step foot in the kitchen.

### Westin.com/DesertWillow

## EAT:

### The Purple Room

Billed as the 'Desert's Premier Supper Club', The Purple Room was undeniably popular with the Rat Pack in the 60's. Today Michael Holmes' Purple Room endeavours to capture the glamour and fun of that era with nightly live entertainment, drinks, dinner and dancing.

### PurpleRoomPalmSprings.com

### Azúcar - Palm Springs

This new farm-to-table restaurant



Agave Grill & Bar.



Azúcar.



Desert Willows Villas.

in the charming La Serena boutique hotel offers dishes with Spanish and Mediterranean influences.

### LaSerenaVillas.com/Azucar-Restaurant-and-Bar

### Agave Grill & Bar

Executive chef Carlos Mares at The Westin Desert Willow Villas Resort heads a kitchen that is adept at creating family-friendly holiday, all-American favourites like gourmet burgers or tasty nachos as well as more sophisticated dishes such as sea bass with herb crust or fresh kale from his kitchen garden, lightly fried in olive oil with salt, pepper and parmesan. It's a great place for cocktails too.

### Westin.com/DesertWillow

### Morgan's in the Desert - La Quinta

This hacienda-style restaurant continues the tradition of when Hollywood celebrities would escape to the desert for the simplicity of 'good food, good drink and good friends'. Choose from the vintage cocktail menu before ordering a classic Caesar salad and the short ribs from the grill.

### MorgansInTheDesert.com

## DO:

### Joshua Tree National Park

This is where two deserts meet; the high Mojave and the low Colorado. Discover a surreal landscape of vast boulders, unique Joshua trees, and beautiful cacti. Day trips by car are easy from any of the nine desert cities - or you can plan ahead and book a camp site, enjoy the hiking trails or rock climbing. Entry is 25 US dollars for a seven-day vehicle permit; camping, climbing permits and guides are extra.

### Nps.gov/jotr/

### Village Fest - Palm Springs

This Thursday-evening street fair brings together arts, crafts, food, and entertainment.

### VillageFest.org

### Palm Springs Art Museum

Three locations in Palm Springs and Palm Desert. The flagship gallery and theatre is surrounded by a sculpture garden. Admission is free.

### www.psmuseum.org

### The Palm Springs Aerial Tramway

The world's largest rotating cable cars take you on a ten-minute journey to the wilderness of the Mt San Jacinto State Park. If you don't fancy discovering the hiking trails, enjoy the restaurants and the view from the observation deck.

### PSTramway.com

### Golf - Palm Desert

There are said to be around 100 golf courses among the desert cities. For example, guests at The Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort can enjoy two PGA championship courses: the Pete Dye course and the Gary Player Signature Course.

### VisitGreaterPalmSprings.com

### The Spa at Mission Hills - Palm Desert

This spa and wellness centre specialises in signature honey treatments, such as massages and scrubs, using honey from the resort's own desert hives.

### SpaAtMissionHills.com

### The Shops on El Paseo - Palm Desert

Imagine Bond Street or Rodeo Drive in the desert, and that's El Paseo - plenty of high-end brands in an upscale setting. There's even a Wolfgang Puck Kitchen + Bar, for a stylish family meal.

### TheShopsOnElPaseo.com

### Desert Hills Premium Outlets - Cabazon

Just off the motorway, west of Palm Springs, you'll find the perfect excuse to stop before heading back to the airport - find plenty of international brands at outlet prices.

### www.premiumoutlets.com



Palm Springs Aerial Tramway.

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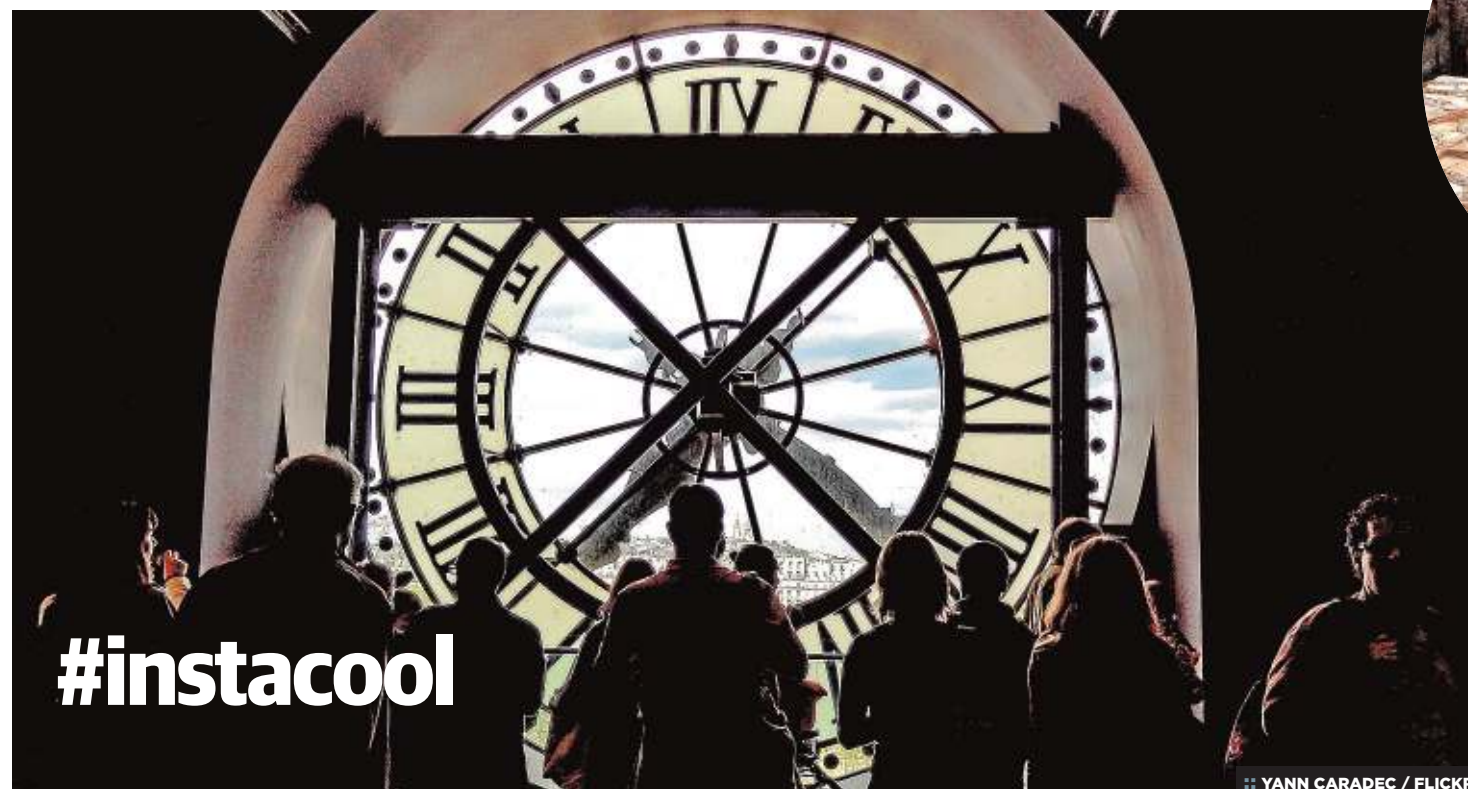
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## WHERE IN THE WORLD?



# #instacool

**P**hotography is coming back in a big way with smartphones now boasting high-quality cameras and Instagram being the medium of choice for many young people to share their own unique moments.

This clock face, located on the

top floor of a world-famous gallery, has become a hotspot for the 'Insta generation' for its unparalleled views over the city but also its potential for profound time-related hashtags.

While some may argue that the Instagram generation makes a

mockery of photography as a profession, those interested in the trade should perhaps visit the international fair of photography taking place just across the river from 9-12 November before taking a pop at capturing their own snap here.

It is also important to remember this coming month that as this clock strikes 11am on the 11th, this city, as well as many others across the world, will stop for a solemn moment of commemoration and, as a national holiday, many public buildings will in fact

be closed.

If you know where this clock is located and the name of the national holiday taking place next month, you could win a prize. Send your answers to [english@diariosur.es](mailto:english@diariosur.es) and put 'Where in the world?' as the subject. Please also include your address and telephone number so we can get your prize to you. Entries without these will not be considered.

Congratulations to Ursula Cutts who had the correct answer for last month's competition. She correctly identified the Maras salt ponds as our 'good cause attraction', located not far from its more famous sibling, Machu Picchu, in Peru.

Your prize will be with you shortly.

Send your answer to [english@diariosur.es](mailto:english@diariosur.es)



SEPTEMBER'S PHOTO

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# San Sebastián, sheer elegance

This northern Spanish city, known for its fine dining and curved beaches, wears its classiness lightly



MARK NAYLER

✉ markanaylor@gmail.com

**T**he elegant and wealthy city of San Sebastián sits on Spain's wild Basque coastline, twenty miles south west of the French border. It is a hugely popular holiday destination - particularly among Andalusians, who love its temperate climate and its greenery - and in recent years has become one of the world's great gastronomic cities. This well-deserved reputation is partly owed to the abundance of bars serving "pintxos", delightful bite-sized snacks that are the Basque country's answer to tapas; but it's also because you'll find more Michelin-starred restaurants per square metre here than anywhere else in the world except Kyoto in Japan.

Three of the city's nine Michelin-rated eateries have achieved the notoriously difficult feat of gaining three stars: Akelarre, Arzak - partly run by Elena Arzak, named the best female chef on earth in 2012 - and Restaurant Martín Berasategui, located in the charming village of Lasarte-Oria five miles south of San Sebastián. In the whole of Spain, only three other restaurants have attained this level of culinary perfection. The capital of the Basque country's Gipuzkoa region is also leading the way in training up-and-coming Spanish chefs, having opened the Basque Culinary Centre six years ago: it was the first institution in Spain to offer a degree in Gastronomy.

Impeccable foodie credentials aside, it's easy to fall in love with San Sebastián at first sight. Lining the final stretch of the Urumea river - which flows through the verdant countryside of north east Spain and out into the Bay of Biscay - its grand old townhouses look as if they've been transplanted straight from a Parisian arrondissement; the green hills of the Basque Country roll away behind their austere rooftops.

## Porsches and boutiques

Three beautiful, curved beaches back on to Brighton-esque promenades where the locals stroll to see and be seen. Unblemished Ferraris and Porsches growl softly at traffic lights outside cocktail bars and designer boutiques. Yet the city



View of San Sebastián and La Concha beach with Santa Clara island in the foreground. :: AFP



Tempting pintxos line up in a traditional bar. :: SUR

**You'll find more Michelin-starred restaurants per square metre here than anywhere in the world, except Kyoto in Japan**

doesn't feel flashy or tacky: Donostia, as the city is known in Euskera, wears its classiness lightly.

Parte Vieja is the city's second-oldest and most popular quarter. A compact barrio of pedestrianised streets, elegant dark-hued buildings and lively pintxo bars, it occupies an outcrop of land on the eastern side of Concha Bay. In its smart eateries and drinking dens, the ubiquitous pintxos are displayed in colourful buffets that run the length of the bar; their tastiest toppings include anchovies and picked green peppers, cured hams, morcilla (the Spanish equivalent of black pudding) topped with a fried quail egg and a sweet jam made from piquillo peppers, which is usually paired with goat's cheese or brie and drizzled with a balsamic reduction.

You'll find your own local within a few hours of arriving in San Sebastián, but try Bar Sport - popular with both visitors and locals, where the socialising spills out onto the street - and Bar Zeruko, whose chefs have won numerous prizes for serving the best pintxos in the region.

Parte Vieja is also the place to be at night. Stroll along Plaza Kaimin-

gaintxo - where the city holds its quirky Crab Festival every summer - and onto Kaiko Pasealeku (trying to pronounce the Basque street names as you go), which is lined with some of the best seafood restaurants on Spain's Atlantic coast. Carrying on to the end of this street takes you up some rather steep steps to the Naval Museum and a great spot for views out over Concha Bay, especially at sunset.

Later on, grab a copa from Casa Vergara or Bar Atari and join the locals on the steps of Saint Mary's church, an 18th century building with an elaborate Baroque façade. Plaza Constitución is the quarter's principal square and is surrounded by stately old buildings, the balconies of which bear numbers from when the space was used as a bullring. Admiring these over a cocktail on one of the candle-lit terraces is the perfect way to round-off an evening of pintxo-crawling in San Sebastián.

## Fine sand

Daylight hours in this gorgeous city, meanwhile, revolve around its three main beaches. The largest and most famous of these is Playa de La Concha, a half-kilometre stretch of fine sand and calm, shallow waters which is consistently named one of Europe's best city beaches. This is where locals and visitors flock, but La Concha's 100-metre width means it rarely feels crowded. If you fancy a break from the stresses of swimming and lying around, head to one of the chiringuitos on the actual beach rather than on the promenade

behind it: the latter places tend to be overpriced and the service in some is surly and slow.

To the east of La Concha and the old town, on the other side of the Urumea river, is the surfer's haven of Playa Zurriola, while the small and tranquil Ondarreta beach occupies the bay's western extremity. From Ondarreta, you can swim out to the Santa Clara island, which sits right in the middle of the bay; its attractions include a tiny beach that completely disappears in high tide and a chiringuito from which you can look back at the elegant curve of La Concha. Inland, shady paths scattered with picnic tables weave through the island's lush and uninhabited greenery.

San Sebastián has also become known as one of Spain's most culturally-dynamic cities. Indeed, last year it was named (along with Wrocław in Poland) as European Capital of Culture, in recognition of its impressive calendar of artistic events.

The Jazz Festival takes place in July and is Europe's longest continuously-running jazz festival; in August, the city's Musical Fortnight attracts the world's finest classical musicians, while the same month's Semana Grande features an international fireworks competition; and September, of course, sees the town hosting the achingly-cool International Film Festival, which gives out some of cinema's most coveted awards.

From world-class art and food to secret islands and beautiful beaches, San Sebastián seems to be the city that has everything.





Rugby players from New Zealand perform before guests and dignitaries, including the king and queen. :: EFE

## All Blacks haka dance at annual royal awards

The 2017 Princess of Asturias prize ceremony took place last week with recognition for significant contributions to society in eight varied categories

:: DANIEL ROLDÁN

**OVIEDO.** For an annual ceremony known for its elements of folklore from Asturias, northern Spain, the sight of All Blacks on stage demonstrating their famous haka dance provided an interesting change. The

New Zealand rugby team were winners of the 2017 Princess of Asturias prize for their contribution to sport. They were among the winners in eight categories that recognise outstanding contribution to society. Others included William Kentridge in the Arts; Les Luthiers in Communication and Humanities; Hispanic Society of America for International Cooperation; the writer Karen Armstrong in Social Sciences; Adam Zagajewski in Literature; the team behind the detection of gravitational waves in Science; and the European Union for Concord.

## THE NIGHT SKY

KEN CAMPBELL



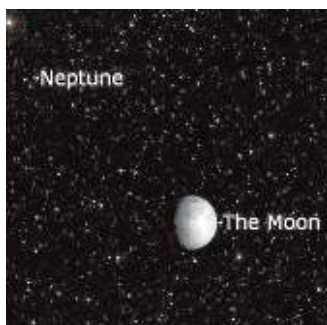
### The last planet

When Pluto was downgraded to dwarf planet status in 2006, it put Neptune as being the most distant planet from the Sun at almost 4.5 billion km. It is so far from the Sun that it takes almost 165 earth years to travel once around in its orbit.

Neptune's discovery in 1846 was by pure mathematics. French mathematician Urbain Le Verrier had calculated its position after observing discrepancies in the orbit of Uranus. Le Verrier sent the coordinates to his friend Johann Gottfried Galle at the Berlin observatory asking him to verify. Galle found Neptune on the same night he received Le Verrier's letter, within 1° of the predicted position. The discovery was hailed as one of the most remarkable moments of 19th century science.

At the same time in England, but unknown to Le Verrier, English mathematician John Crouch Adams was also carrying out his own calculations and observations of Uranus and he too came up with the same result. Unfortunately he mailed his results to the Royal Greenwich Observatory two days after Galle had discovered the planet and missed out on becoming the discoverer of a new planet.

Various names were proposed for the new planet such as Janus and Oceanus; Le Verrier wanted to name the planet after himself but this proved very unpopular as France had objected to Uranus being named after its British discoverer, Herschel. Eventually the name of Neptune the Greek God of the sea was adopted, thus keep-



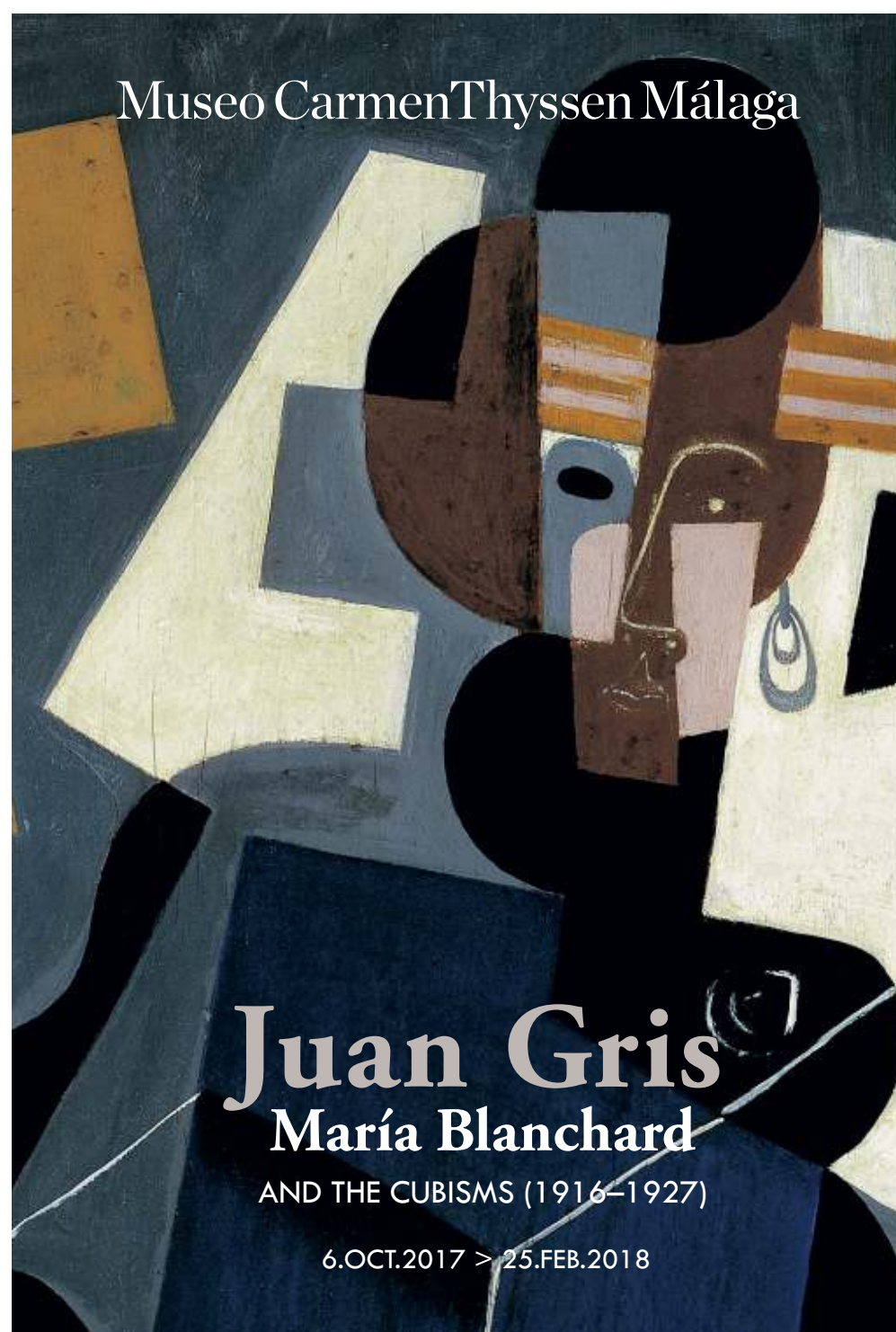
ing up with tradition of naming all of the planets (except Earth) after Greek Gods.

Neptune is the fourth largest planet in the solar system, it is slightly smaller than Uranus and, like Jupiter, Saturn and Uranus, is a gas giant made up of mostly hydrogen, helium and methane. Its atmosphere also contains icy clouds and the fastest wind speeds recorded in the solar system. Particles of icy methane and other gases give Neptune the deep blue colour that distinguishes it from green coloured Uranus. It has at least 14 moons in orbit around it.

Everything we know about Neptune comes from a NASA spacecraft Voyager 2 that flew past the planet in 1989.

You need good binoculars or a small telescope to see Neptune, but on Monday 30 October it will be less than 1° from the moon, helping you to find it easily. Look slightly above and a little to the left of the moon and if you see a tiny blue 'star' then you have found it!

More information :  
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## GARDENING

## Chinese dregea

**Dregea sinensis is a twining vine with star-shaped white, fragrant flowers and soft, green, heart-shaped leaves**

Dregea sinensis, common names Chinese Dregea and Watakaka, is native to Africa and Southern Asia. It is climber that can reach approximately three metres high by the same width once it is mature, which can take up to ten years. It can be slow to get established and may not really 'take

off' for three years but once it has settled in, Chinese dregea will provide masses of scented flowers from spring to autumn and is a great alternative to Jasmine for cover-

ing fences and pergolas.

The umbels of flowers are about six centimetres across and resemble those of Hoya, the wax flower.

They are white with a red or pink speckled centre and are very fragrant and will last on the vine

for about a week. After the flowers, long, brown seed pods about seven centimetres long form. The leaves are heart-shaped and are grey and fuzzy underneath. They will

stay on the vine all year round in temperate climates but in colder areas they may drop.

Chinese dregea is not frost hardy and will need protection in inland areas away from the coast. It is drought tolerant for short periods and will benefit from regular watering during the hottest months. Although not fussy about soil type, it will need to be free draining to prevent water-logging.

The best situation for this vine is a position where it will receive some shade from the hot afternoon sun. Too much sun will scorch the soft, green leaves.

Propagation is by seed or basal cuttings (new shoots cut from below soil level at the base of the plant).

There are some varieties available which have silver edged or variegated leaves and D. sinensis Hemsley is used in China to make goats' milk cakes, an extract from the plant works in a way similar to rennet.



Dregea sinensis and close up of flowers (inset). :: WIKIMEDIA

## READER'S PHOTO



:: JENNIFER GILES

## AUTUMN BLOOMING NERINE

Nerine bowdenii is a plant from South Africa and a member of the Amaryllidaceae family. It is a perennial bulb which flowers in the autumn. This lovely photo was sent in by SUR in English reader, Jennifer Giles.

## GARDENING HINTS FOR NOVEMBER

## Spring flowering bulbs

Autumn is creeping in at last although daytime temperatures are still quite high. Those two days (if you were lucky) of rain last week was perfect for softening the dry, hard earth and makes planting bulbs a lot easier. Now is a good time to get spring flowering and hardy summer flowering bulbs in the ground if you haven't already. Whether planting tulips, daffodils, lilies or any of the many other spring and summer flowering bulbs available, the basics are the same. Make sure the soil is free-draining, mix in some sharp sand if you're not sure, and aim to plant bulbs in groups of at least six; you get a much better, natural-looking

display that way. Dig a hole two to three times deeper than the height of the bulb from base to tip. Eg a 5cm bulb should be 10-15cm below soil level. Place the bulb in the hole with the nose up. This is usually the pointy end but not always! If in any doubt it is better to plant the bulb on its side rather than upside-down. Back fill with soil and tamp down firmly. Only water once actively growing and if you feed every seven to ten days with a high potassium fertiliser you will be helping to build up the bulb for next year's flowers. Stop feeding when the foliage dies back at the end of the season.

## 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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# Butterfly Skin reference centres open

Thousands of people in Spain suffer from the condition about which little is known

by MINDY BURROWS

**MÁLAGA.** Wednesday 25 October was International Butterfly Skin Day, a day which aims to raise awareness about a fairly unknown condition.

Epidermolysis bullosa, commonly known as Butterfly Skin, is a rare and incurable disease characterised by extremely fragile skin which can be wounded or blistered by any physical contact. It is estimated that between 3,000 and 5,000 people in Spain suffer from this condition and approximately 10 babies a year are born with it, yet very little is known about the illness. As a result, sufferers experience a very poor quality of life with frequent wounds that could be avoided if more was known about the condition. A study on the status of the health and social needs of people with rare diseases in Spain, (ENSERio), revealed that 56 per cent of participants have received inadequate treatment by healthcare professionals.

However, in July this year, the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality took the decision to open two reference centres for Epidermolysis bullosa (EB) in La Paz University Hospital, Madrid and Sant Joan de Déu-Clinic Hospital, Barce-



The Infanta Elena with people who have made it possible. :: SUR

lona. This news could be life-changing for some.

The centres were unveiled on Wednesday in an official ceremony at the La Paz Children's Hospital in Madrid. The reference centres are formed by teams of nurses, dermatologists, paediatricians and surgeons with the support of other disciplines such as haematologists, cardiologists

and nutritionists.

Head of La Paz Paediatric Dermatology department and head of the reference centre, Dr. Raul de Lucas, opened the presentation by explaining the current situation and characteristics of Butterfly Skin. He believes that "it is fundamental that the patients receive multidisciplinary sup-

port and that it is done in close collaboration with DEBRA Butterfly Children Charity".

Nieves Montero, president of Spanish association DEBRA, stressed how important the reference centres, which will carry out research and provide specialist consultations on EB, are for the Butterfly Skin sufferers and their families. However, Montero pointed out "this is just a step, there is still a long road ahead to ensure the best possible life for those affected with Butterfly Skin".

The Infanta Elena, the king's sister, who attended the ceremony, congratulated the charity for promoting the cause and thanked all those who have made the creation of the reference centres possible. She encouraged all medical professionals to continue their daily work in researching and treating rare diseases in order to provide a better future for sufferers.

Since the foundation of the charity, DEBRA Butterfly Children Charity has fought for the opening of a reference centre like the ones in Madrid and Barcelona for those with the condition to visit and specialist health professionals to work from. It is believed that around 50 people in Andalucía are affected by EB so ideally, a third reference centre would be opened in the region in the future.

It is hoped that as a result of the two reference centres, the quality of life for people with Butterfly Skin will vastly improve.



The king's sister with an affected child. :: SUR



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# A sight for sore eyes

## An English optometrist is raising funds for a charitable trip to Sierra Leone

by ASH BOLTON

**MARBELLA.** An Estepona eye specialist is set to fly to Sierra Leone next month to help improve the eyesight of some of the country's poorest people.

Jane Machin will join a team of five British optometrists who will help diagnose sight-related problems and provide training for local technicians and students.

Organised by the UK charity Vision Aid Overseas, the trip will see the team visit rural communities in the West African country, where lo-

cals don't have access to eye care.

Jane, 60, who works at Optica Machin in Estepona and has lived in Spain for 30 years, told SUR in English: "As optometrists we don't actually operate. Our role is to screen for eye problems. If they can be resolved by using spectacles, then we prescribe. We identify eye disease, for example glaucoma or cataracts. Those who need surgery, such as cataract surgery or surgery for tumours or trachoma, will be directed to the eye surgeons for either surgery or medication.

"The main problems we find are

simply the need for glasses and this can be easily resolved. Other issues are more challenging. Cataract is very common in Africa and can only be treated by surgery. Glaucoma is also common but is difficult to treat as the medication is not readily available."

Jane, who is now on her fourth trip with Vision Aid Overseas, having visited Uganda in 2012, Ethiopia in 2013 and Sierra Leone last year, explained that despite the latter having a population of more than seven million people, there is currently only one ophthalmologist, four cataract surgeons, one optometrist and 12 technicians to provide eye care to the entire country.

"Many rural areas have no access to eye care at all and so establishing clinics and training local technicians helps to provide eye care to those who so desperately need it," she added.

Jane, who was born in Essex and moved to Spain 30 years ago, said that Vision Aid Overseas exists so that children in African countries who can't see, can learn and get an education, and adults who can't see, can earn to support their families and contribute to their communities.

She explained: "This is done by outreach projects, where we take eye

care out to rural communities to make it accessible to them, but also by teaching and training, as we train local eye care workers. In Ethiopia and Zambia, we have established university courses in Optometry and in Sierra Leone we provide practical experience for the students.

"In addition, sustainable eye care facilities are also vital. Vision Aid Overseas supports the development of Vision Centres where patients can receive a walk-in eye examination, purchase an affordable pair of glasses and be referred for further specialist care if necessary."

As for her reasons for continuing

to support Vision Aid Overseas, Jane said: "It is very rewarding. I feel I have helped in a small way.

"I became a member of Vision Aid Overseas, as did my father, when it was first established over 30 years ago. Due to children and business commitments, I never went on a trip although it was something that I had always wanted to do and I had often discussed it with my father. In 2011, he died suddenly and I realised that sometimes you have to just go for what you want to do. My children inspired me to have a fund raising party and we raised enough sponsorship to finance the trip. I did it in memory of my father.

"I keep going back because there is still a lot to do and being a part of this project is actually a great privilege."

Vision Aid Overseas was founded in 1985 after a group of British eye specialists spent two weeks trying to establish eye clinics in Tanzania.

They tested the eyes of local people and dispensed secondhand spectacles collected in the UK. The charity now operates clinics in more than 23 countries and has helped hundreds of thousands of people in developing countries to see.

Jane needs to raise 1,000 euros for the trip so that the charity is not left out of pocket. To help fund Jane's trip visit [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/janestauntonmachin](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/janestauntonmachin)

Alternatively, there is a charity box at Optica Machin in Avenida Litoral, Estepona.

**i** [www.opticamachin.com](http://www.opticamachin.com)  
[www.visionaidoverseas.org](http://www.visionaidoverseas.org)



Jane with local children in Sierra Leone last year. :: SUR

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Lesley Berridge and Syd Weldon of Age Care with Eugen Roth. :: SUR

## Chiropractor says small changes make big differences

### :: SUR IN ENGLISH

Mijas-based chiropractor Dr Eugen Roth spoke to clients and volunteers at the Age Care coffee morning in Calahonda last week.

“Small changes can make big differences” was the theme of his talk which showed how small lifestyle changes can have significant effects on health and well-being. The essence of trying to make any change is to have compelling reasons for doing so, he explained, such as a need to improve sleep, energy, fitness, anxiety or coping with stress.

Diet changes to include more fresh vegetables, fruit, nuts and

seeds as well as certain spices can also make a difference said the chiropractor. He stressed the benefits of including a lemon a day in a diet and drinking sufficient water. It is also important, he said, to be aware of habitual patterns which may lead to not sleeping well or stress and to overcome these by relaxation, walking, swimming or making changes. Having a long siesta in the afternoon or watching exciting films prior to going to bed may be reasons for difficulty sleeping, he said.

After the talk the expert answered questions on eating, diet and health-related issues.

## Diabetes support group prepares for World Diabetes Day on Costa

Over 175 million people in the world have undiagnosed diabetes which can be fatal if untreated

### :: MINDY BURROWS

**MALAGA.** World Diabetes Day will be celebrated on 14 November. The Diabetic Support Group, which is part of English-speaking club La Cala de Mijas Lions, will be offering free glucose tests in various points around Malaga to mark the occasion.

The group believes these tests are absolutely vital and everyone should have their glucose levels regularly checked.

The support group was founded in 2003 when they felt that, due to language barriers and misinformation from doctors, recently-diagnosed diabetics needed a place to talk about diabetes with other sufferers in a friendly atmosphere. Since then the group has been helping foreign residents in Spain get information about the condition.

The group hold regular educa-

tion meetings in Fuengirola, but they also receive calls through their helpline where they can answer any questions or arrange a private, casual meeting with people who want to discuss the condition.

In Spain local GPs would only be able to give very short appointments to diabetics, which is why the support group offers this service.

It is believed that over 175 million people in the world are living with undiagnosed diabetes, which can be passed on genetically, developed through infections, or caused by the raised glucose levels provoked by stress. If diabetes remains untreated it can bring about serious health risks.

The La Cala de Mijas Lions Diabetic Support Group will hold their next meeting this Saturday 27 October at 10.30 am at HOGAR, Calle Paloma, Fuengirola. The group hosts regular events, as well as their educational meetings, involving sociable dinners, informative talks, and guest speakers.

To speak to someone in the support group, call their helpline on 607 879 450, or email annediabetics@gmail.com.

## Young San Pedro hairdresser gets WorldSkills award

### :: FRANCISCO GUTIÉRREZ

**MALAGA.** Last week, Abu Dhabi hosted the WorldSkills 2017 competition. The world championship consisted of 1,257 competitors from 58 countries competing in 51 different vocational skills.

Tomás Rivera, from San Pedro, was competing in the hairdressing category of the competition, which saw 33 competitors of 33 different nationalities completing various tests for ‘social and personal services’, which included cutting, colouring, blow-drying, and styling.

The 19-year-old was given a certificate of excellence for his skills at the competition. He was also the highest scoring Spaniard competing in the WorldSkills 2017 competition.

Rivera told SUR that he was “very happy and satisfied” with what he had accomplished in Abu Dhabi and he had surpassed his expectations.

Two other Spanish competitors earned medals of excellence. José Zarraga for 3D Animation and Games, and George Budeanu for Refrigeration and Air Conditioning.

Thomas is now training to become a beautician as well.

**HEALTH** Clínica SANDALF is a private outpatient medical clinic for Orthopaedic surgery, Trauma surgery, Ophthalmology, Urology, Physiotherapy, Osteopathy and Massage Therapy

## Knee Replacement May ‘Turn Back the Clock’ for Arthritis Pain

Knee replacement surgery may significantly ease pain and improve leg function and quality of life in patients with osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis (RA), a new study suggests.

While surgery doesn’t restore the same level of comfort and function patients had in their younger years, before they developed arthritis, knee replacement can serve as a time machine of sorts, turning back the clock to a point when patients were less disabled.

The vast majority of patients had their symptoms improve dramatically from the surgery, but this procedure is not a cure - RA patients will continue to need to treat their disease. Knee replacement is one of the most common surgeries, with about 720,000 people in the U.S. alone getting this procedure last year.

While the procedure is often done to relieve chronic pain in both types of arthritis (osteo,



Left: Reduced joint gap indicating complete loss of cartilage. Right: Total knee replacement with none-cemented femoral component and cemented tibia component.



Rheumatoid), doctors remain divided over which people are most likely to benefit. Patients were typically in their 60s and overweight. Most of them had been living with arthritis for at least a decade.

After surgery, improvements in pain and quality of life were more pronounced for patients with osteoarthritis. Surgery can help people with severe pain and disabilities that don’t respond to alternative treatments such as

weight loss, exercise, physical therapy and medication for osteoarthritis.

Patients are usually satisfied with the procedure, but they need to realize that it is good for pain relief, which is obviously important, but they might not get back to doing all the chores around the house, leisure activities and sports that they used to do.

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# Is the Internet affecting our health?

Fast, powerful wi-fi is almost everywhere we go nowadays but some people believe it is making them ill



Margoti began to suffer symptoms after her wi-fi was upgraded. :: SUR

Many doctors are sceptical but the WHO says electromagnetic-hypersensitivity exists and Sweden recognises it as a disability

**MALAGA.** Margoti Blanco Ayala returned home from a short trip to Madrid and sat down to check her emails. Within a very short time she started to feel ill and, thinking she had perhaps picked up a virus, went to bed until she felt better.

Once she had recovered, a couple of days later, she sat at her desk to use her computer again, and the same thing happened. Margoti, who lives in Jimena de la Frontera, then discovered that while she had been away her husband Guy had upgraded their wi-fi Internet to 4G.

"I was always fine when I used the internet in the house before. Nothing ever happened, but all of a sudden I started feeling very ill whenever I used the computer at home," she says. "So we wondered if it could be anything to do with the new 4G connection."

The next time Margoti tried to use



DEBBIE BARTLETT

✉ debbieb.editorial@gmail.com

the internet at home she was so ill that she was rushed to hospital, where she stayed for a week and underwent a barrage of tests. The doctors couldn't find anything wrong, and when she was well enough to be released they suggested that she consult a psychiatrist.

"I was willing to do that," she says. "It was possible that the cause was psychological, because they couldn't find any other reason. I just wanted to sort the problem out."

But then Guy and Margoti, who run a successful estate agency, visited a house which was about to come onto the market, and Margoti went upstairs to take photos. "Almost immediately, the symptoms started," she says. "I went back downstairs and asked if they had a 4G internet router switched on up there, and they had. I hadn't known that, so it made me think I was onto something and the problem isn't psycho-

logical." She left the property quickly, but still felt so ill that it took her several hours to recover.

The symptoms Margoti suffers are not minor. Guy says he thought she was having a stroke, on the occasions when she was taken ill at home. "Her face seemed to change shape," he says. "She couldn't move and was struggling to speak. Her voice became deeper than usual, and her speech was slow and slurred." Margoti says it makes her feel paralysed and heavy-limbed, her mind becomes foggy and she is completely unable to concentrate on anything. Although she had never experienced anything this severe before, she says she had never really liked using the internet on her mobile phone because it seemed to sap her energy, gave her a sensation of tightness in her head and sometimes made her feel nauseous.

## Hypersensitivity

In Margoti's case, as all the medical tests proved negative, most doctors were sceptical of her belief that she is responding physically to being 'blasted' by electromagnetic frequencies. However, there is a condition called electromagnetic-hypersensitivity (EHS), which is recognised by

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## The town in America where wi-fi has been banned

There are no mobile phones or wi-fi in the town of Green Bank, in West Virginia, because the government's massive, highly sensitive Robert C Byrd radio telescope is based there and anything which could interfere with its listening power is prohibited, 24 hours a day, every day.

Because of the telescope, Green Bank has been part of a government-enforced National Radio Quiet Zone since the 1950s, so the development of new technology has somewhat passed local residents by. The only permitted means of communication in the town and within a ten-square-mile radius of it are landline telephones and very slow wired internet.

This may seem inconvenient to many, but word has spread and the lack of technology has unexpectedly brought the town an influx of new residents and regular visitors: Green Bank has become a magnet for people who believe they are electrosensitive.

Sufferers are arriving in the town from all over the USA and most say they feel physically better. For many, though, adapting to a different, technology-free way of life is not proving easy.



the World Health Organisation. For several years now its website has included information about the condition, and it says that "the symptoms most commonly experienced include dermatological symptoms (redness, tingling, and burning sensations) as well as neurasthenic and vegetative symptoms (fatigue, tiredness, concentration difficulties, dizziness, nausea, heart palpitation, and digestive disturbances)."

The WHO says studies have shown that only a few individuals per million in a population show signs of EHS, although figures from self-help groups claim the number is much higher. Studies also seem to indicate that the problem is worse in some countries than others: the reported incidence of EHS has been higher in Sweden, Germany, and Denmark than in the UK, Austria, and France. In fact, Sweden was the first country to recognise electromagnetic hypersensitivity as a condition of functional impairment, or disability.

One study which concluded definitively that EHS does exist was carried out in 2011 at Louisiana State University, where researchers tested a woman who claimed to have EHS by exposing her without her knowledge to low-level pulsed electromagnetic fields. Every time without fail, in less than two minutes she developed physical symptoms including headache, twitching muscles, irregular heartbeat and others.

#### Affecting lives

The problem is, of course, that wi-fi and internet are everywhere

**"I feel paralysed and heavy-limbed, my mind becomes foggy and I lose all concentration"**

now, because it is a service that people expect. Margoti says her life is being badly affected by whatever is causing her symptoms: she has to avoid using the internet and regularly has to leave places because she starts feeling ill.

The couple changed their home wi-fi to a line-of-sight system in the hope that this would sort out the problem, but it involved a more powerful router (300 mbp instead of the previous 140) and Margoti suffered the same symptoms. She therefore believes she may be extremely susceptible to any type of powerful internet system. She has tried using a device to block the effects, but so far with little success. "They say it might not work straight away, because it takes people time to detox from the unnatural radiation," she says.

While hoping desperately to find a way of overcoming this problem, Margoti would also be interested in hearing whether other people have experienced anything similar, or believe they might be affected. She would also be grateful to hear from any doctors who have come across similar cases, or technical experts who may have information which could prove useful.

## ADVERTORIAL Foot and Sports Clinic

# Ten years of patient care

The Foot and Sports Clinic was founded by Dr Petr Spurek ten years ago. It is a private orthopaedic clinic in the centre of Marbella which offers patients remedial and surgical treatment of the highest quality.

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treatment and a quick recovery are a comprehensive treatment, an accurate diagnosis and good service. This is precisely the success of the clinic.

On Wednesday 11 October Dr Spurek invited friends, colleagues and patients to drinks and deli-

cious finger food at the bar Roka in Elviria, where over 100 guests enjoyed a leisurely late summer evening.

#### PHILOSOPHY

The concept of the Foot and Sports Clinic Marbella is to ensure a complete range of orthopaedic patient care with the support of state-of-the-art equipment and highly specialised and trained staff.

The clinic focuses on the patient's individual needs and demands to establish a personalised treatment plan. Their goal is to provide a full range of clinical exploration, diagnostic testing and treatments (conservative or surgical) of the highest quality from the initial consultation up to complete rehabilitation.



Dr Spurek (r) with his team at the tenth anniversary celebrations.

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We speak

## Dental clinic group opens fifth local facility

The new centre is situated in Los Boliches, Fuengirola, and covers 300 square metres

### ■ SUR IN ENGLISH

**MALAGA.** The Grupo Dental Clinics group has just opened its new facilities in Los Boliches, Fuengirola. The building, covering more than 300 square metres, features the latest technology and a modern, state-of-the-art design.

The new clinic is on Avenida de

Las Salinas, very near the train station and one of the busiest areas of Los Boliches. This is the fifth Grupo Dental Clinics centre on the Costa and there are plans to open new clinics in Nerja and Malaga.

Hundreds of patients of several different nationalities, as well as staff and suppliers, attended the opening ceremony last Friday evening.

Dr Ariel Bilbao Góngora, owner of the Fuengirola clinic, said that the new facility aimed to be "a leading light in dental care" in the area.



The reception area at the new clinic. ■ SUR

## The Hospital Costa del Sol named top hospital in Spain at 'Best in Class' awards

### ■ SUR

**MARBELLA.** The Andalucía public health service (SAS) has been given multiple honours at the national 'Best in Class' awards, which recognise the excellent management work in hospitals in Spain and their high quality of care.

The Hospital Costa del Sol in Marbella was named the best hospital in the awards.

The Hospital Reina Sofía in Cordoba won an award for the best service given to infectious patients and the prize for best HIV/AIDS service.

Four hospitals in Andalucía have been named best in Spain for each of their specialist services. The Antequera Hospital was a finalist in the best hospital awards as well, according to information from the Junta.



Hospital Costa del Sol. ■ SUR

## CANCER ASSOCIATION TO BENEFIT FROM PAELLA CONTEST

Rincón de la Victoria will be holding the town's 4th charity paella contest on Sunday in aid of organisations that help women suffering from breast cancer. The charities are AMUAXA, a women's association in Rincón de la Victoria; ASAMMA, the association for women who have had breast cancer surgery; and FMAEC, the Malaga foundation for assistance to cancer patients. The event will take place in the Plaza de la Constitución from 12 noon.



■ E. CABEZAS



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## Health service launches its annual flu jab campaign

Health centres across the province are vaccinating "high risk groups" against the virus as winter nears

:: ÁNGEL ESCALERA

**MÁLAGA.** The best way of avoiding flu this winter is to be vaccinated against it. The vaccination campaign, which began in 191 health centres in Malaga province on Monday, is aimed at the people who are most vulnerable to the virus, which includes those over 65 years old, chronically ill patients, pregnant women, medical professionals, community and public service staff (forces, security guards, firefighters), and those who work in prisons.

The general secretary for Public Health at the Junta regional government, Josefa Ruiz, explained that although the behaviour of the virus is unpredictable, experts believe that the number of cases will not be too high this year. They have reached this conclusion based on results from Australia, where the flu season has been moderate up to now.

The flu vaccination is manufac-

tured every year based on recommendations published by the World Health Organisation, using data tracking the virus's spread around the southern hemisphere, where the flu season starts earlier.

This year, the flu vaccine protects against three strains of flu; two type A and one type B. Malaga health officials have ordered 213,956 vaccines for the province.

Anyone who wishes to make an appointment to be vaccinated can do so in their health centre.

In addition, to maximise the accessibility of this programme for people older than 65, the highest risk category, it is possible to make an appointment online on the Servicio Andaluz de Salud 'InterSAS' website.

Appointments can also be made by 24 hour phone service or email, through Salud Responde, or by using the Salud Responde app, which is available to download for free on all mobile phones.

People who use the telecare service from the Junta de Andalucía can also book appointments through that.

When those who require vaccination cannot come to the health



A woman receives the flu jab this week in a central Malaga health centre. :: SUR

centre due to mobility restrictions, a medical professional can come to their home to administer the vaccination.

### Preventing it spreading

In order to prevent flu, it is important to cover your mouth, use disposable tissues and frequently wash your hands to protect against the virus. It can be transmitted through the air, coughing, or sneezing. To mark the beginning of the vaccination campaign, the provincial health

### HOW TO GET THE FLU JAB

► **Book by phone:** 955 545 050, saludresponde@juntadeandalucia.es, Salud Responde app.

► **In your health centre:** You can get the jab at your own centre

► **Online:** Via the InterSAS virtual office

delegate for the Junta, Ana Isabel González, accompanied by the Malaga-Guadalhorce district health director, Maximiliano Vilaseca, and the provincial head of public health services, Yolanda González, went to a central Malaga health centre on Monday.

Those older than 65 who live in shared residences or go to day care centres will be vaccinated systematically, as will those between 65 and 75 who have never received the vaccination before.

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# Craft beer in a champagne bottle

The first ecological, craft beer in Spain is produced by an entrepreneur in the Serranía de Ronda



The ecological beer is exported to Sweden, India, Germany, Britain and other countries in a champagne-style bottle

■ **VANESSA MELGAR**

**RONDA.** "This Christmas we can uncork a bottle of beer and make a toast with it," joked Jenny Heredia, a businesswoman and trainee microbiologist from Malaga who produces the first ecological craft beer in the province under the 'Puente Nuevo' label.

The new beer has been launched in a champagne bottle of 75 centilitres, sealed with wax. She is currently making two types of ecological craft beer, a blonde and a pale ale.

"The idea of using a champagne bottle came from the process of fermentation, which is like the age old method of producing champagne. First, the malt is baked, hops are added and it is tipped into a tank. There the first fermentation is carried out. Then it is left to ma-

ture and then bottled for the second fermentation," explained Heredia. It is a process that takes two months from start to finish.

The exports of Puente Nuevo continue to grow and it is starting to creep into Michelin-starred restaurants. The new beer has already travelled to Sweden, India, Germany and Britain, among other countries.

"I am receiving the biggest orders from abroad," she admitted and said that 50 per cent of products are sold outside Spain. At present, the brewery produces around 1,500 litres per month, although this figure varies according to the demand.

"We are starting to grow in Spain, although we mostly sell to gourmet shops," added Heredia who works alongside her partner, oenologist José Manuel Cózar.

## Production costs

At first, this businesswoman did not like beer, or so she thought. "I did not like mass-produced beer, but in London I could get craft beers and I discovered that I liked them and decided to make an ecological beer myself," she admitted.

By 'going ecological', production costs almost tripled and yet the retail price is similar to the rest of craft beers.

Puente Nuevo uses hops and malts from Belgium where, according to Heredia, "They are the best. They are hard to come by and top quality and they do not contain any chemicals." Some of the hops, though, are grown locally.

Heredia is a member of the Asociación de Mujeres Empresarias y Emprendedoras de Ronda y la Serranía (Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Ronda and the Serranía), which is run by another Ronda businesswoman, Yolanda Moreno. Moreno is organising a national convention for businesswomen in Ronda in November.

Heredia never imagined that her beer was going to be so popular. At the moment, there are only two types in production, but she has another in mind that she is keeping quiet for the moment.

"My pale ale is very balanced, very round, and I now have a blonde beer to accompany it. I also have another type of beer to put into production, although at the moment it is still just in my head," she said.

Jenny Heredia with a bottle of her ecological craft beer. ■ V. MELGAR



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Several times a year we learn from the local media that “Another international brand opens a store in Puerto Banús...” But it is not a one-way street. While new brands do indeed set up shop there, others leave. As the manager of a Swiss watch shop said to me recently, after confiding that the shop was about to close after ten years with the loss of 11 jobs, “Puerto Banús is not what is used to be”.

When the chief architect for the original Beverly Hills Project, Noldi

A. J. LINN

## HIGHS AND LOWS



Schreck, was asked by Madrid builder José Banús, to draw up a master plan for a beach-side complex of high-rise apartment buildings on his land in Nueva Andalucía, he argued that a Mediterranean village built around a yacht marina would be more attractive. At the 1970 opening party no expense was spared. Costing 48,000 euros back then, 300 waiters were brought down from Sevilla (obviously at that time there were only a few dozen locally) and 50 kilos of caviar was flown in. Prince Juan

Carlos and Sofia of Greece, the Aga Khan, Prince Rainier and Grace Kelly, Roman Polanski, Hugh Hefner and Christian Barnard were among the many famous guests. A young Julio Iglesias performed.

To start a new commercial complex from zero is tough as no-one wants to be the first. Banús shrewdly gifted front-line premises to a few local businesses such as Antonio's Restaurant and Menchu's bar, and the rest fell into place. It is alleged that King Fahd built his six palaces on the Golden

Mile not to be near Marbella, rather to be close to Puerto Banús. Back then the best restaurants were all in the port, not the town, and places such as Beni's, Cipriano, Club 31 and Antonio's were obligatory visits. So what do we have now? An almost unending variety of fast-food places: pizzerias, 'steakhouses', oriental joints, and a handful of good restaurants with mostly over-the-top prices. Local residents will almost unanimously tell you they never visit the port, since it is not what it used to be.

# Malaga cheeses are conquering Europe

The Argudo cheese factory in Campillos exports 200 tons of goats cheese to France and Italy each year

Master cheesemaker Pere Argudo moved to Malaga because of the quantity and quality of milk from the Malagueña goats, to satisfy demand from France and Italy

### ESPERANZA PELÁEZ

**MALAGA.** Pere Argudo was born in the foothills of the Pyrenees but came to Malaga with his family three and a half years ago, attracted by the abundance and quality of the milk from the Malagueña breed of goat. He is proud of the fact that his extraordinary soft cheeses are taking the name of Malaga to specialist shops and major restaurants in Paris, Turin and Milan. “We are one of the biggest local exporters. Around 85 per cent of our production, which will be 200 tons this year, goes to Italy and France,” he says.

Lact-Argudo, the company this master cheesemaker runs in Campillos with his sister Margarita and his children, Mateu (25), and Marina (22), is not easy to find. It has no website, is not on social media, and only recently appointed a local distributor (Comercial Galera).

The reason is that the Argudo family came here to satisfy the demand of a loyal European clientele who wanted more products; it was only later that they started exhibiting at trade fairs, after joining the Sabor a Malaga association.

“We don't see the Spanish market

as our main focus, because this type of cheese isn't in such demand here. It isn't traditional of this region” says Pere. “There is no section for cheeses like ours in local competitions but we are delighted that people like them and now that our labels identify our cheeses as being made in Malaga we are collaborating on promoting the quality and variety of local cheeses abroad,” he explains.

Pere Argudo began to make cheese from the milk of his own goats when he was 23 years old. In the 1980s, when the very traditional industry began to adapt to the demanding European sanitary regulations, he was the first producer in the region of La Garrotxa (Girona) to obtain a sanitary certificate and make his popular Garrotxa cheese, which nowadays is produced in Campillos under the name Gris de Montaña.

“There is a lack of goat milk in France and Italy, where the most cheese is consumed, so in 2002 I started to produce cheese for those markets. Even today, more than 50 per cent of goats milk from Malaga goes to France and because of that, and its quality, it seemed the perfect place to set up a business. A factory was up for sale in Campillos, so we came here. We modernised it and now it is working at full capacity,” says Pere.

Every day, the Quesos Argudo factory processes 6,000 litres of goat milk from local farms and produces 12 different cheeses, including the five specialities it sells under its own name, blue cheeses and others which are only made to order.



Malaga goats cheeses. :: DANIEL MALDONADO

**“There is a lack of goat milk in France and Italy, where most cheese is consumed, so I started to produce it for those markets; more than 50 per cent of goats milk from Malaga goes to France”**

In 2016, its ‘Briqueta de cabra’, a soft square cheese, won first prize in its category at the National Cheese Fair in Trujillo. It also makes Timbal de Cabra, Pastura, Raclette and the Gris de Montaña.

The process of making soft cheese is different to that of hard cheese because the whey is allowed to drain naturally, just being turned occasionally. Soft cheese needs a higher humidity so the rind ripens properly.

Throughout the whole process, the cheeses are looked after as if they were babies. Every Thursday, the week's production is rushed by re-

frigerated lorry to be sold in France and Italy. Mateu, who shares his father's passion for cheese, is in charge of the daily production.

“We are a team of 14, most of them young people who live locally. We can process this quantity of milk because we have optimised every step of the process. We have two shifts, one in the morning which carries out the production and one in the afternoon which does the cleaning (hygiene is absolutely essential in cheese production). It is hard work but it's ok - we always make sure there is time for a beer or two after work,” he laughs.





## CHARITY

**Theatre performance**

**Torremolinos.** 28 October, 8.30pm. Centro Cultural Pablo Ruiz Picasso. 6€

The production 'Lisistrata', performed by the Maravillas Alezeia Teatro, will raise money for the Cudeca Cancer Hospice.

**Halloween Charity Gala**

**Marbella.** 28 October, from 8pm. Salon Andalusia, Puente Romano.

Dress up in Halloween costume and join Puente Romano's "A Wicked Halloween" Charity Gala Dinner. Money raised from this event will be given to the Children's Trust which looks after children with brain injuries. The gala will include a welcome cocktail, three-course dinner and a tailor-made musical for Puente Romano featuring cast from London's West End Show 'Wicked'. Tickets 85€ for adults, 45€ for children will include selected beverages. Email: events@puenteromano.com or tel: 952820900

**Coffee for Cudeca**

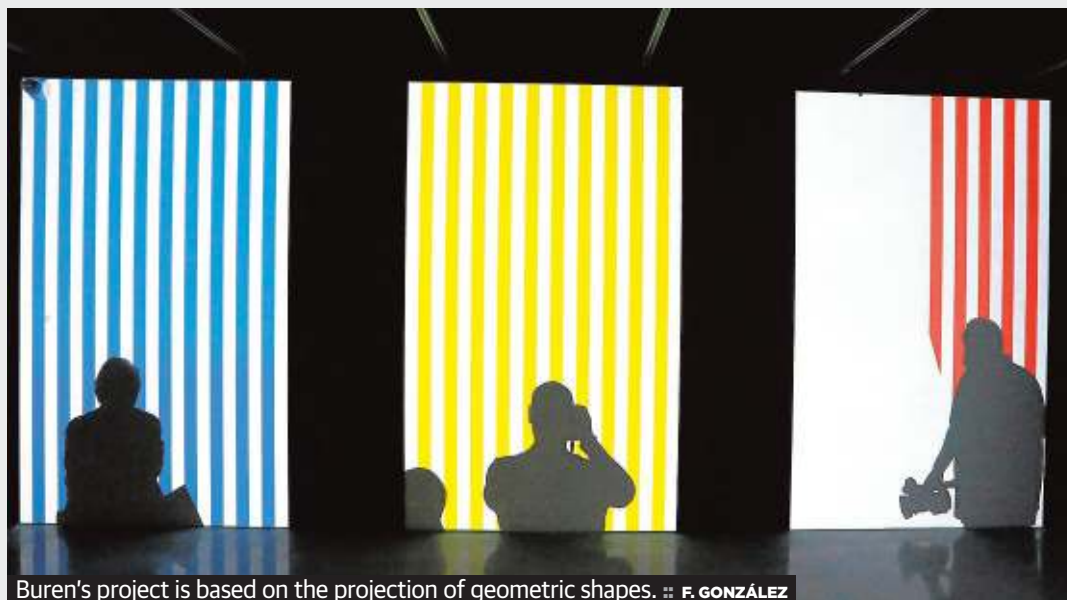
**Torremolinos.** 28 October, from 11am to 1pm. Mamá Carmen Café. The Mamá Carmen Café is organising the coffee morning to raise funds to help Cudeca through the sale of breakfasts. There will also be a raffle.



Dragtastic, La Cala de Mijas.

**Dragtastic Halloween Gala**

**La Cala de Mijas.** 28 October, from 8pm. Oceano Hotel, Torrenueva. The Mapuchi Goldies (Cudeca) Drag Queen Gala includes a fashion show by Sara Haley and her models showcasing the autumn and winter ranges. Johnny Baker will also be performing and will be followed by the Dragtastic show. Tickets 50€ include a glass of cava, three-course meal with half-bottle of



Buren's project is based on the projection of geometric shapes. :: F. GONZÁLEZ

## Buren returns to the Cube

:: ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

**MÁLAGA.** Daniel Buren, the artist who created the design on the iconic 'Cube' at the Pompidou Centre in Malaga Port, is now holding an exhibition of some of his other work at the same venue.

At the official opening this week, Buren explained that this is the only exhibition to mark the 40th anniversary of the Paris Pompidou Centre that is being held outside France.

Speaking on the 136th anniversary of Picasso's birth, Buren told those present that he met the genius artist from Malaga in France when he was 17 years old and studying art. Picasso invited

wine. tel: 952587550 or for more information: 663083249.

**Solidarity Party for AFAM**

**Mijas.** 4 November, from midday. AXV Alquería, Mijas.

Dance groups, monologues, Dimitri magician, Latin dance, Charanga and belly dancing. Raffle, hair and make-up demonstrations, artisan market etc. Asociación de Familiares de Enfermos de Alzheimer de Mijas.

**ADANA Christmas Fair**

**Estepona.** 19 November, Palacio de Congresos.

To reserve a table for this event contact Trisha Mansfield on

## DETAILS

► **When.** Until 14 January 2018

► **Where.** Pompidou Centre, Malaga

► **What.** An exhibition of the works of Daniel Buren, many of them projected onto bare walls.

him to his studio, and he was lucky enough to spend eight afternoons there watching the master at work.

Buren's temporary exhibition at the art centre in Malaga is

based on geometric compositions and plain colours. This artist is especially well-known for his urban art, such as the project on La Salve bridge in Bilbao a decade ago to mark the 10th anniversary of the Guggenheim, and another at the Grand Palais in Paris. One of his works can now be seen inside the Pompidou's 'Cube', taking on a different appearance as the day progresses and the light entering the building changes.

The president of the Pompidou Centre, Bernard Blistene, describes Daniel Buren as "the spirit of the Pompidou", and says this exhibition "gives rise to meditation and contemplation".

music from the 50s, 60s and 70s up to the present day. Funds raised will go towards DEBRA, a charity that



Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra, Malaga

supports children with delicate skin and SOS the animal charity. Tickets available from Martin's and Cristina's bookshops in Alhaurín el Grande.

**Caritas Christmas Market**

**Marbella.** 23-26 November, Palacio de Congresos.

Stands available tel: 607501122 or email: caridad@martinez-meyer.com



Constanza and Javier, Wall Bar

## MUSIC &amp; DANCE

**The Wall Bar**

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

**27 October.** Constanza & Javier. Jazz duet.

**28 August.** Hermanas Sister. Funk and international jazz.

**Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra**

**Malaga. Teatro Cervantes**

**3 November, 9pm. 5 November, 7pm.** Puccini's Turandot in three parts. Accompanying the orchestra are the Escalonia Santa María de la Victoria and The Coro de Ópera de Málaga.

**16, 17 November, 8pm.** Dvorak's Concerto for violin and orchestra in A minor Op 53 with violin soloist Andrea Sestakova. Followed by Tchaikovsky's

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**Malaga. Auditorio Edgar Neville**  
**10 November, 8pm.** Works by Turina (La Procesión de Roció Op 9), Albéniz, Frühbeck de Burgos, Mussorgsky and Ravel.  
www.orquestafilarmonicademala.com

#### Greatest Voices

**Fuengirola. 27 October. Salon Varietés. 7.30pm.**  
Ricky Lavazza presents a tribute to some of the finest voices of all time. With special guests Karen Danzig and Fibi McGregor.  
http://www.salonvarietestheatre.com

#### Malaga Philharmonic Chamber concerts

**Malaga. 14 November, 8pm. Auditorio del Museo Picasso.**  
Quintet for piano and wind instruments performing works by Mozart and Beethoven.

#### Entre Dos Aguas

**Almuñécar. 28 October, 9pm. Parroquia de la Encarnación.**  
The Almuñécar Town Choir and guest choir O de Cologne will be in concert.

#### Atarfe Symphonic Orchestra

**Almuñécar. 29 October, 8pm. Casa de la Cultura.**  
The orchestra will be performing 'Concierto Monográfico Tchaikovsky' featuring the Fantasy overture from Romeo and Juliet and Concerto for Violin and orchestra Op 35. Jesús Reina is the soloist.

**Arcos de Buenos Aires Tango Estepona. 27 October, 8.30pm.**  
Centro Cultural Padre Manuel. 10€

The Arcos de Buenos Aires Tango dance company will be performing. Tickets tel: 660 753 246

#### Violin recital

**Gibraltar. 9 November, 8pm. Convent Ballroom.**  
Violinist Guy Braunstein and pianist Ohad Ben-Ari will be in concert at the Convent Ballroom. The programme will feature compositions for violin and piano by Mozart, Beethoven, Sarasate, Elgar and Tchaikovsky. Tickets £20 from Sacarello's, The Silver Shop or www.buytickets.gi Reduced tickets available for senior citizens and students from John Mackintosh Hall. www.philharmonic.gi.



Guy Braunstein, Gibraltar

#### FLAMENCO

**Flamenco Abierto**  
**Vélez-Málaga. Peña Flamenca**

**Niño de Vélez, C/Tejeda. 10pm.**  
15€ (three concerts 35€)  
**27 October:** Raquel Heredia 'Le Repompilla', Manuel de la Curra and Rubén Portillo.  
**28 October:** Presentation of the 'Taller de Bulerías por fiesta' 5pm. Tel: 651332750 (English/French.)

#### Flamenco en el Museo

**Malaga. Museo de Arte Flamenca Peña Juan Brea. C/Ramón Francisco. 28 October, 8.30pm.**  
Mamen Ruiz, Luis 'El Salao', Yaya and Carrete.  
**29 October, 1pm.** Sandra Cisneros group with Miguel Astorga, José M. Millán 'Manú' and Sandra Cisneros.. Reservations: 687 607 526

#### Paola Almodovar

**Almuñécar. 27 October, 8.30pm.**  
Casa de la Cultura. 10€  
With guest artist Iván Vargas.

#### Música en familia

**Torremolinos. Centro Cultural Pablo Ruiz Picasso. Free.**  
**27 October, 8pm.** Dúo Belcorde will be playing tracks from well known films.  
**28 October, noon.** Dúo Belcorde will be playing tracks from Frozen, Beauty and the Beast, The Lion King and The Little Mermaid.

#### Daniel Casares

**Malaga. 27 October, 24 November, 22 December, 12 January, 9pm.**  
Picasso Museum. 25€  
Daniel Casares will be performing 'Picassares', a concert in tribute to Pablo Picasso and the 14th anniversary of the Picasso museum. Tickets www.ticketea.



The exhibition is situated in the post office in Torremolinos. :: SUR

## Camino de Santiago exhibition

:: TONY BRYANT

**TORREMOLINOS.** The post office in Avda de Palma de Mallorca in Torremolinos is currently hosting a new exhibition of photographs based on the Camino de Santiago.

Known in English as The Way of Saint James, the camino is a network of routes to the shrine of the apostle, Saint James the Great, in Santiago de Compostela in Galicia. The route is a form of spiritual path that finishes in the cathedral in Santiago, where tradition claims that the remains of the saint are buried.

The exhibition consists of 57 photographs, all of which are part of a recent photographic competition that focused on the popular Christian pilgrimage that began in the Middle Ages.

This exhibition, which is free, has been visiting different Spanish cities throughout 2017 with the aim of promoting the Camino de Santiago, and Torremolinos is its first stop in Andalusia.

Organised by the Spanish post office and La Comunidad de Peregrinos (association of pilgrims), the exhibition will continue until Thursday 2 November.

## Granada Jazz Festival

:: JENNIE RHODES

**GRANADA.** Tickets are already on sale for the 38th International Jazz Festival in Granada. This year's programme includes nine concerts taking place in the auditorio Manuel de Falla, Centro Lorca and Teatro Isabel la Católica.

The City of Granada Orchestra will be under the direction of Peter Biely, composer and musician David Defries and the New Gutbucket Academy, and will be opening the festival on Thursday 2 November in Auditorio Manuel de Falla, offering a programme include arrangement of Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn and original compositions by David Defries.

The Kyle Eastwood Quintet will be presenting their newest project, In Transit, on Friday 3 November at the Teatro Isabel la Católica and the Jacky Terrasson Trio will also be playing there on Saturday 4 de November.

The Robert Glasper Trio, along with DJ Sundance, will be crossing the boundaries of jazz, hip hop, R&B and rock'n' roll at the Teatro Centro Lorca, on Sunday 5 November.

On Wednesday 8 November, the cultural association, Ool-Ya-



Saxaphonist, Ernesto Aurignac will be performing. :: SUR..

#### INFORMATION

► **When:** 2 until 12 November

► **Where:** Various venues, Granada city

► **Tickets:** Teatro Isabel la Católica box office: Tel: 958222 907 Website: www.redentradas.com. or www.jazzgranada.es

Koo will be giving an exclusive concert, directed by Bob Sand-sun when they will be performing works for big bands at the Teatro Isabel la Católica.

Other performances will come from saxaphonist, Ernesto Aurignac, trumpeter, Wallace Roney and the Ron Carter Golden Striker Trio and closing the festival on Sunday 12 November will be Zenet.





# Live music and bowling

BY TONY BRYANT

**MIJAS.** Lovers of live music will enjoy the winter programme of concerts presented at the Que Bowling ten-pin bowling alley in Las Lagunas throughout November.

Organised by Martyn Wood, the man behind Big M promotions, and sponsored by Central FM, the winter programme will present some of the most popular tribute acts on the Costa del Sol.

Under the banner of Que Music, which began in September, a broad selection of local musicians and bands has been lined up, including Los Thunders, Honkey Tonk Cats, Queen of Magic and the Metal Gods.

Los Thunders, an ACDC tribute band, will perform on 3 November, while the following week will present local Rolling Stones tribute, Honky Tonk Cat. Also scheduled to appear will be Queen of Magic, on 17 November, and the Metal Gods, a heavy metal band who will serve up some of the most classic rock anthems on 24 November.

The concerts begin at 9.45pm each Friday night, and there will also be a Abba tribute gig on Saturday 12 November. This promises to be an excellent night for lovers of disco, as this act covers classic hits like Dancing Queen, Mama Mia and Take a Chance on



Los Thunders are appearing in Las Lagunas in November. :: SUR

Me.

Entry to all performances is free. The venue holds around 300 people and there is ample free parking for around 500 vehicles.

Those who like bowling can take advantage of their special offer of a game of bowls, a hamburger and a beer for seven euros.

Big M promotions is currently organising more tribute concerts to continue throughout December and the winter months.

Que Bowling is situated on the Camino de Coín (Mijas golf road) in Las Lagunas, in front of the Aldi supermarket.

## DETAILS

► **What:** Live tribute shows, featuring some of the coast's top musicians.

► **Where:** Que Bowling, Las Lagunas.

► **When:** Every Friday at 9.45pm.

❶ **information:**  
www.costadeldisco.com

# Evoking blood and fire

BY TONY BRYANT

**MARBELLA.** The Magpie International Art Gallery in Marbella is to host an exhibition of paintings by renowned French artist, Bernard Aubertin.

Red and Fire is a collection of his intriguing compositions that are characteristically splashed bright red. The artist sought to bring out the depth of the colour, and in turn, what he called the pictorial essence.

The colour red evokes violence, blood and fire, and it also embodies an infinite and anonymous purity. Many of the works consist of abstract compositions with infinite variations created by the spontaneous nature of flame.

Bernard Aubertin was inspired by fellow French artist, Yves Klein. He too worked passionately within the field of monochrome, a style that he adamantly adhered to throughout his career. Aubertin chooses a vibrant red hue just as Klein famously worked in blue.

The exhibition, held in collaboration with the Italian art gallery, Toro Arte Contemporáneo, will begin with a special inauguration



Bernard Aubertin creating his Rojo y Fuego art. :: SUR

at 6pm on Saturday 4 November.

Following the inauguration ceremony, there will be a show by Rebeca Ortega, a flamenco dancer from Seville known for her strong sense of rhythm, expression, elegance and skill executing the purest styles of dance. Tickets for the flamenco show cost 10 euros.

The Rojo y Fuego exhibition

can be viewed from Monday to Friday between 10am and 2pm and 4.30pm to 8.30pm, until Tuesday 19 December.

The Magpie Art gallery is situated in the heart of Marbella in the Calle Virgen de Pilar.

❶ **Information:**  
www.magpie.international

## LECTURES

### U3A Lectures

**Fuengirola.** Lux Mundi reference Library, free to members, guests 5€. Email: u3afuengirola@gmail.com

### Mixed bag talk: 'The Golden Road'

31 October, 11am-12.30pm. Ian Phillips will talk about the Silk Road in Central Asia, then and now.

## FESTIVALS

### Día de los Santos

**Malaga.** 1 November.

Across the whole of Spain there are celebrations for All Saints Day.

### Día del Tostón

**Marbella.** 1 November.

The first day of November every year is the Día de Tostón or roast chestnut day. Celebrated with picnics and roasted chestnuts.

### Fiesta del Conejo

**Parauta.** 11 November.

The town will be promoting one of its most important culinary traditions offering rabbit cooked in various ways. Folk music and dancing, flamenco and tastings.

### Feria del Jamón

**Campillos.** 12 November.

Around 60 companies will be offering jamón as well as other pork products. There will also be live music, activities for children etc.

## EVENTS

### All Saints' Day, Mexican style

**Malaga.** 31 October, 2pm until 2am. AlCasa Bar, C/Pozo del Rey 7. Free.

A typical altar and traditional 'Catrinas' (elegant ghosts). 'Catrina' make-up 8€ or two for 15€, Mexican food tastings. Book: 696045701

### Halloween in the gardens

**Torremolinos.** 28 October, 4.30-8pm. Jardín Botánico Molina de Inca.

Workshops, face painting, story telling, magic show and games. Teams of up to five must contain at least one adult.

### Halloween celebrations

**Almuñécar.** 31 October and 1 November from 5pm, Plaza del Ayuntamiento.

Bouncy castle, 'buñuelos' (fried buns filled with chocolate or cream), face painting, Mexican pastries, Elenco company theatrical performance etc.



Día del Tostón, TMarbella



Canaries, Torremolinos

**Estepona.** 31 October, 9pm Plaza del Reloj. Free.

A bouncy castle for the little ones early evening and the terrifying games start at 9pm in various points around the town. The games consist of various missions to escape from monsters and zombies acted by the La Farándula theatre group. Each participant has two lives (coloured bracelets) which will be lost if touched by a monster. When both lives are lost the victim becomes a monster...Registration to join in from 8pm in Calle Villa.

**La Herradura.** 28-31 October from 8pm. Castillo La Herradura..

'El Castillo de Terror' organised by the Grupo Enebro and the town hall.

**Torre del Mar.** 31 October. C/Del Mar, C/Dr. Fleming, C/San Martín and Paseo Larios.

Processions, children's activities including face paintings and balloon modelling. For adults the 'Pasaje del Terror' will open at 9pm in Paseo Larios.

**Torremolinos.** 31 October, starts at 5pm until midnight. La Plaza de La Nogalera.

'The Terror Mansion' will be situated in the plaza. There will be a fancy dress competition for adults and children, with registration in the square. Live music will begin at 10pm.

### Diwali Mela Festival of Lights

**Torremolinos.** 28 October, from 6.30pm. Plaza Nogalera.

Indian music, foods, henna tattoos, Bollywood dances etc.

### Painting competition

**Malaga.** 29 October, registration 9-11am. Museo Picasso Málaga. Free.

There are two categories, adults and children. Technique is open and participants must bring their own materials. The work must reflect the zone around the Picasso Museum. Paintings to be finished and handed in by 4pm. First prize 1,500 euros, 2nd, 1,000 euros and third 500 euros. Children's prizes include an easel, canvas and paints for first, canvas and paints for second and paints for third. www.waplama.com

### International bird competition

**Torremolinos.** Until 29 October, Palacio de Congresos. Free.

Breeders from six European countries will be competing at this competition with around 3,500 canaries. There will also be stands selling merchandise. The public can view the birds from 10am to 2pm, 4-9pm on Friday, all day on Saturday and 10am to 2pm Sunday.



**TAPAS Christmas Craft Fair**  
**Coín.** 4 November, from 11am to 2pm. *El Cruce*.  
Home made crafts, jams and preserves, pottery, cards, knitted items and a children's corner.

**Trip to Alcalá La Real**  
**Torre del Mar.** 8 November. Various departure points. 39€  
Transport, travel insurance, guided visit inside and outside the La Mota fortress, a visit to the cheese factory, lunch included. Lux Mundi Torre del Mar. Tel:952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

**Fashion Show**  
**Torre del Mar.** 8 November, 3.30 - 4pm. 4€  
An opportunity to purchase new and nearly new clothes, shoes and accessories. There will be a welcome drink and refreshments available to purchase during the interval. Lux Mundi Torre del Mar. Tel:952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

**Autumn hiking trails**  
**Mijas.** Every Saturday and Sunday at 9.15am.  
Guided hiking trails through the beautiful Mijas countryside. More details from the Mijas town hall tourist information office. Tel: 952 589 034 or email: turismo@mijas.es



Victor Tristante, Estepona

**Remembrance Day service**  
**Malaga.** 12 November, 10am. St. George's Church  
The service will be followed by a wreath laying ceremony in the English Cemetery.

**The Women of Malaga**  
**Malaga.** 31 October; 7, 14, 21, 28 November. Starting from C/Trinidad Grund at 9.30am.  
Ten routes will take visitors around the city tracing references to famous Malaga women like Trinidad Grund, Victoria Kent, Rosa de Gálvez and Sabina Muchart. The second phase of the activity will include a visit to the archaeological collection in the Museo de Málaga to illustrate the relevance of women during different historical eras. The event 'Mujeres en Ruta' was the idea of the Instituto Andaluz de la Mujer (IAM) and the Cultopia company. Email: cmu-ger.malaga.iam@juntadeandalucia.es

**Trip to botanical gardens**  
**Torre del Mar.** 23 November. Various departure points. 15€  
Visit to Gúzman garden centre,

Torremolinos and the Molina de Inca botanical gardens. Lux Mundi Torre del Mar. Tel:952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

**TIMS Christmas Carol Concert**  
**La Cala de Mijas.** 12 December, La Cala de Mijas town hall.  
The TIMS choir will be performing their yearly Christmas Carol concert and this year marks a special milestone for them, they will have been performing for Mijas Ayuntamiento for over 15 years.

**RAFA Costa de Sol Christmas dinner and dance**  
**Mijas Costa.** 15 December 7.30m. Hotel Tamisa Golf. 35€  
The Royal Air Forces Association-Costa del Sol branch is holding its annual Christmas dinner and dance. Dress smart, dinner jacket optional. Tickets from the hotel or tel: 952 567 412. www.rafacosta-delsol.co.uk

## EXHIBITIONS

**José F. Ríos**  
**Estepona.** Until 31 October. Plataforma del Arte Huber, C/San Antonio 17.  
An exhibition of works by painter and sculptor José F. Ríos.

**Victor Tristante**  
**Estepona.** From 1 until 20 December. Patio Top Garden Furniture, Ctra A7 km. 163. Urb El Pirata.  
An exhibition by local artist Victor Tristante. Inauguration party 6 October 7-9pm. Meet the artist while having a drink and nibbles. More info at www.patio-topgarden.es or estepona@patio-topgarden.es

**Shutterbugs**  
**Alhaurín el Grande.** Until 27 October. Casa de la Cultura.  
Fifty six photos will be on display including black and white and monochrome. www.shutterbugs-spain.org

**Museum Jorge Rando**  
**Malaga.** From 6 November until 25 February. Cruz del Molinillo,  
A temporary exhibition entitled

'Nacerán Nuevas Auroras' (the Birth of Colour) is currently on display. The museum also holds poetry and musical events.kontakt@museojorgerando.org.

**Female artists and surrealism**  
**Malaga.** Until 28 January.  
Misunderstood, fighters and rebels, in some cases eclipsed or abused by their male partners, their lives and reactions to criticism and social convention reflected in their art.

**Miguel Trillo**  
**Malaga.** Until 25 November, Exhibition room at the Rectorada of the University of Malaga.  
'Cromasiáticos' is the title of this exhibition of photographs of street gang members from the Far East.



Rando 'Auroras', Malaga

**Memento Mori**  
**Malaga.** Until 28 November, Galería Alfajar opposite the gardens of Malaga Cathedral.  
A collective exhibition with death as its theme. Death is often depicted in art and included in the exhibition are sculptures by Javier Huescas and paintings of cemeteries by Francisco Carreño and Javier Hidalgo.

**Francisco Leiro**  
**Malaga.** Until 7 January. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.  
An exhibition of sculptures completed over the last decade by Galician artist Francisco Leira whose work reflects fragility and human vulnerability.

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Guests enjoy last year's event at the Villa Tiberio. :: SUR

# Guy Fawkes gala fundraising dinner

by TONY BRYANT

**MARBELLA.** The Villa Tiberio restaurant in Marbella is holding its annual fundraising gala evening on Sunday 5 November.

The gala dinner, held in aid of the Cudeca Cancer Hospice and Unicef, will be hosted by Selina Mackenzie of Talk Radio Europe and the event will include live entertainment, an auction, a raffle, as well as a spectacular fireworks display to celebrate the Guy Fawkes night.

Well-known Marbella DJ, Steve Cline, will be the host of the charity auction and raffle and so there will be plenty of fun and amusement for all the family.

Tickets, which cost €75 each, will include a gourmet dinner and entry for the auction and raffle. Twenty-five euros from each ticket sale will be donated to Cudeca and Unicef.

Owned and run by fabled restaurateur, Sandro Morelli - former owner of Fulham Road's legendary Barbarella 1 and 11 restaurants - Villa Tiberio is an internationally renowned restaurant that attracts royalty, diplomats, and international celebrities.

The event will start at 7.30pm on Sunday 5 November.

Reservations can be made online at villatiberio@hotmail.com or by telephone: 952771799.

**8 / 13 November 2017**  
**International Jazz Festival of Málaga**

**STEVE COLEMAN AND FIVE ELEMENTS** 8

**RON CARTER 'GOLDEN STRYKER' TRIO** 9

**ELIANE ELIAS IN CONCERT** 10

**FANCINEmajazz** 13

**MEDESKI'S MAD SKILLET** 11

**DAVE HOLLAND TRIO** 12

All the concerts begin at 20.30 h.

teatro cervantes.es



# Halloween - Maroween

by JENNIE RHODES

**MARO.** Although Halloween celebrations are becoming more commonplace in the Axarquía a with town halls organising events such as fancy dress parades, nowhere puts on a Halloween party quite like the small village of Maro, which belongs to Nerja.

Each year residents decorate the streets on 31 October and, along with hundreds of visitors, go all out with an array of terrifying and impressive costumes to celebrate this spookiest of nights!

A traditional element of Maroween has always been roast chestnuts and baked sweet potatoes, which are traditionally eaten at this time of year. More than 400 kilos of chestnuts will be prepared as well as over 400 baked sweet potatoes.

There will be a street parade, fancy dress and photography competitions, live music and food trucks, as well as face painting and other children's activities.

The event will begin at 5pm on the square by the village church and continue into 1 November, which is All Saints' Day



Halloween is celebrated in Maro every year. :: SUR

with talks and a visit to the Nerja Caves. Numbers are limited. Visit Facebook: Maroween for details and reservations.

Other Axarquía towns to be organising Halloween activities include Caleta de Vélez. There will be a number of activities aimed at children starting at 5pm and the party will go on into the night.

## INFORMATION

► **When:** 31 October

► **Where:** Maro / Caleta

► **Contact:** Facebook: Maroween. For Caleta: [www.velez-malaga.es](http://www.velez-malaga.es)

## EXHIBITIONS

### Bad Taste

**Malaga.** Until 14 January. La Térmica, Avda de Los Guindos, 48. The exhibition forms part of the Festival de Cultura Basura. 'Suburban culture' take centre stage accompanied by conferences and prose by the filmmaker and writer John Waters.

### 'Picassiano'

**Malaga.** Until 21 January. Casa Natal de Picasso, Plaza de la Merced. The exhibition entitled 'Guernica y Otros Disastres' aims to bring a new approach to Guernica, Picasso's mural showing the horrors of war, on the 80th anniversary of the bombing of the village.

### Artistas Ecléticos

**Mijas.** Until 31 October. Mijas TRH Hotel. The Last Days Of Summer is an exhibition of works by Sinikka Ahokas-Gröhn, Elaine Carlton, Margit Björklund and Richard Wood.

### Dalí

**Mijas.** Until 6 November. Casa de la Cultura, Las Lagunas. C/San Valentín.

An exhibition about Salvador Dalí with his works split into five categories, Dalí and Don Quixote, Gala, eroticism and Dalí, surrealism and paranoia, religion.

### Julia Casado

**Mijas.** From 4 November until 30



Arja Linteri, Torre del Mar

November. Hotel TRH Mijas, C/Tamisa, Mijas Pueblo. The inauguration of this exhibition is 4 November 5-7.30pm. Tel: 635 250 240 [www.juliacasado.com](http://www.juliacasado.com)

### Inland Art Group

**Alhaurín el Grande.** From 31 October until 10 November. Casa de la Cultura.

Members of the art group will be displaying their work. More info: [marjoriearthurs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marjoriearthurs@hotmail.co.uk)

### Arja Linteri

**Torre del Mar.** Until 30 November. Restaurant Con Corazon Mari, C/Copo 42, Edf. Caracola. An exhibition entitled 'Lo Largo del Camino'.

### Nerja se Recuerda

**Nerja.** Until 5 November. Museo de Nerja. 4€ entry. An exhibition of paintings by artist Maurice Zalcman who spent much of his life painting the town and surrounding countryside of Nerja.



## MOVIE LISTING

From Friday 27 th October to Thursday 2 th November

ORIGINAL VERSION SUBTITLED SPANISH



### THOR: RAGNAROK

Director Taika Waititi  
Starring Cate Blanchett and Chris Hemsworth  
ACTION - 130 min.

Imprisoned, the mighty Thor finds himself in a lethal gladiatorial contest against the Hulk, his former ally. Thor must fight for survival and race against time to prevent the all-powerful Hela from destroying his home and the Asgardian civilization.



Friday 27: 18:15, 20:30, 22:45  
Saturday 28, Sunday 29 and Wednesday 1: 15:45, 18:15, 20:30, 22:45  
Monday 30, Tuesday 31 and Thursday 2: 18:15, 20:30, 22:45



### MARROWBONE

Director Sergio G. Sánchez  
Starring Anya Taylor-Joy and George Mackay  
THRILLER - 163 min.

Friday 27: 18:00, 20:15, 22:45  
Saturday 28, Sunday 29 and Wednesday 1: 15:45, 18:00, 20:15, 22:45  
Monday 30: 18:00, 20:15, 22:45  
Tuesday 31: 18:15, 22:45  
Thursday 2: 18:00, 20:15, 22:45



### BLADE RUNNER 2049

Director Denis Villeneuve  
Starring Ryan Gosling and Harrison Ford  
SCI-FI - 163 min.

Saturday 28 and Sunday 29: 15:30  
Wednesday 1: 15:30



### THE NUT JOB 2: NUTTY BY NATURE

Director Cal Brunker  
ANIMATION - 91 min.

Friday 27: 18:10  
Saturday 28 and Sunday 29: 16:10, 18:10  
Monday 30 and Tuesday 31: 18:10  
Wednesday 1: 16:10, 18:10  
Thursday 2: 18:10





## DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA



The screenings will take place at the Casa de la Cultura in Arroyo de la Miel. :: SUR



Photo from last year's film festival. :: SUR

## Independent film on the Costa del Sol

### 3 DAYS IN BENALMÁDENA

Car + festival

Journey time: 20 minutes from Malaga.  
Film festival: 8 hours.  
Visiting places of interest: 5 hours.



### JAVIER ALMELLONES

**B**enalmádena will be hosting the International Festival of Short and Independent Films (FICCAB) from 2 to 5 November, an event which is expected to attract large numbers of film fans. The main objective of the fes-

tival is to enable these films, which will never be shown in commercial cinemas, to reach a wider audience; they are alternative and different, but do appeal to many. Unusual, but at the same time renowned, directors will be gathering in this town on the Costa del Sol to present their latest works.

For many, FICCAB will be a trampoline onto bigger things, thanks to the format of short films, a genre which is becoming increasingly popular and not only among young people.

This year, 19 short films have been accepted for the competition, from over 600 hopefuls. Among them will be not only Spanish directors but also some from abroad. Entries have been received from France, Mexico, Australia and the UK, among others.

All the competing films will be judged by a panel of experts who are linked in one way or another with the seventh art.

This year for the first time, the event will include a cycle dedicated to the Russian Revolution, which took place 100 years ago.

Also, on Friday 3 November at 9pm there will be a special screening in the Casa de Cultura in Arroyo de la Miel of a documentary about the roots of flamenco and a medium-length film about the experiences of a family of gypsy artists who moved to Denmark to promote flamenco there.

The organisers of the festival have decided to extend it to all three areas of the municipality of Benalmádena, so for the second year, there will also be a Film Tapas Route, which starts on the same day as FICCAB and will continue until Sunday 12th. More than 30 bars and restaurants are expected to take part, offering unusual tapas named after films for just 2.50 euros.

There will also be live music and street theatre performances in different Benalmádena while the festival is taking place.



### QUICK GUIDE

#### What to see

**The Bil Bil castle:** A building in neo-Mudejar style, built in Benalmádena Costa in 1927. Avda Antonio Machado 78, 29630 Benalmádena

**Colomares Castle:** A remarkable building which pays tribute to the Discovery of America. Ctra. del Sol - El Viñazo, 29639 Benalmádena

**Church of St. Domingo de Guzmán:** Situated in Benalmádena Pueblo. Plaza Santo Domingo s/n, 29639 Benalmádena

**Stupa of La Iluminación:** Buddhist monument in Benalmádena Pueblo. Paraje El Retamar s/n, 29639 Benalmádena

**Puerto Marina:** Marina and leisure port in Benalmádena.

**Butterfly park.** Calle Muérdago s/n, 29630 Benalmádena.



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Discover history on every corner at [andalucia.org](http://andalucia.org)





## EXHIBITIONS

**Homes, Real Estate and Art Fuengirola.** Until 3 December, Homes, Avda Los Boliches. In her first exhibition entitled Patronas y Acuarelas, Barbara López demonstrates her spontaneous, organic style with sinuous and liquid forms and wide use of colour.



Homes &amp; Art, Fuengirola.

**Galería Centro de Bellas Artes Cómputa.** Until 28 October. C/San Antonio.

An exhibition of works by Jaime Adán. [www.galeriacentro.com](http://www.galeriacentro.com)

**Galería Krabbe**

**Frigiliana.** Until 2 December. Galería Krabbe, C/Rosario La Joaquín.

Armagedon and Haiku Fractal is the name of this exhibition which includes works by both Dorthe Krabbe and Jacinto Lara.

## O. V. FILM

SUR in English advises calling cinemas to check for any last minute time changes. Lunchtime and late night screenings weekends only.

### Cine Albéniz

C/Alcazabilla 4, Málaga. Tel: 902 36 02 95 or visit [www.cinealbeniz.com](http://www.cinealbeniz.com) or [www.unientradas.es](http://www.unientradas.es)

**Blade Runner:** 19.30  
**The Only Living Boy in New York:** 22.15

### Cinesur El Ingenio

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

**The Secret of Marrowbone:** 12.15 17.00 (every day), 19.15, 21.30 (Mon, Thurs)

**Thor: Ragnarok:** 12.30, 17.10 (every day); 19.50, 22.30 (Mon, Thurs)

### Cinesur Miramar

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

**The Secret of Marrowbone:** 12.25, 17.00 (every day, 19.15, 21.30 (Mon, Thurs)

**Thor: Ragnarok:** 12.05, 16.15, 18.45 (every day)

**Blade Runner 2049:** 21.10, 23.50 (every day).

### Cines Teatro Goya

For tickets and information call 951196665. [www.cinesteatrogoya.com](http://www.cinesteatrogoya.com)

**Blade Runner 2049:** 15.30 (Sat, Sun, Wed)

**The Secret of Marrowbone :**

15.45 (Sat, Sun, Wed); 18.00, 20.15 (every day except Tues), 18.15 (Tues); 22.45 (every day)

**The Nut Job 2: Nutty by Nature:** 16.10 (Sat, Sun, Wed); 18.10 (every day)

**Thor: Ragnarok:** 15.45 (Sat, Sun, Wed); 18.15, 20.30, 22.45 (every day).

### Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

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

Tel: 902 902 103 or visit [www.yelmocines.es](http://www.yelmocines.es)

**Annabelle: Creation:** 0.00 (Wed)

**Blade Runner 2049:** 12.05 (Sat, Sun); 23.40 (Fri, Sat, Tues)

### The Secret of Marrowbone:

12.45 (Sat, Sun); 16.45, 19.00, 21.15 (every day); 23.30 (Fri, Sat, Tues)

**Thor Ragnarok:** 12.30, 15.15 (Sat, Sun), 18.00, 20.45 (every day); 23.30 (Fri, Sat, Tues)

### Cinesur

Fuengirola, Centro Comercial Miramar.

[www.facebook.com/miramarcentrocomercial/](http://www.facebook.com/miramarcentrocomercial/)

**Woody Allen season:** 16.00, 20.00

**Celebrity:** 2 November.

**Sweet and Lowdown:** 9 November.



Dorthe Krabbe, Frigiliana

# Día de Todos los Santos

**MALAGA.** Across the whole of Spain, the 1st November is an important day. It is Día de Todos los Santos or All Saints' Day and in other Latin countries, Day of the Dead, but it isn't a macabre event in any way. It is the day when families remember loved ones who have passed away and get together in cemeteries to visit the resting places of their relatives. Many spend a few days beforehand cleaning, painting and laying fresh flowers around the niche in preparation for the special day.

More flowers are sold at this time of the year than any other and the cemeteries become adorned with colourful floral offerings.

Families may take food to enjoy at the cemetery, especially the traditional sweet cakes such as 'huesos de santos' (saints' bones), 'borrachuelos' (drunken cakes) and 'buñuelos' (fried pastries filled with chocolate or cream; it was believed with each one eaten, a soul was saved from purgatory).

Many traditions are dying out, there used to be three consecutive masses held on 2 November, one for the souls trapped in purgatory and the other two for the families of the dead. It was also usual to go to the theatre on the day and watch 'Don Juan Tenorio' by José Zorilla, mainly because the last act is held in a cemetery and the dialogue is about death.

In other Latin countries where 1st November is celebrated as Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), families remember their dead rela-



Día de Todos los Santos, Malaga.

tives in much the same way.

In Mexico, the celebrations for the Día de los Muertos are a mixture of Aztec and Christian traditions. 'La Catrina' (the elegant skeleton) is an iconic figure representing death and is depicted by a female skeleton, usually grinning broadly, wearing an elegant, colourful dress. Elaborate altars are set up and decorated with candles and everyday objects that the deceased person used.

For a chance to see an authentic Catrina, or even to get made-up like one, visit the AlCasa bar, Calle Pozo del Rey in Malaga on 31st October from 2pm. Make-up is eight euros for one person, 15€ for two. Book by telephoning 696045701. The bar will have traditional Mexican food and a decorated altar.

The Museo Precolombino Felipe Orlando in Benalmádena has an example of one of these altars set up especially for the celebrations and which is on display until 6 November.



A 'Catrina', AlCasa Bar Malaga.

## INFORMATION

► **When:** 1 November

► **What:** People all over Spain remember their loved ones who have passed away.

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# Sergio García caps off the best season of his career with victory at Valderrama

The Spaniard wins the Andalucía Masters for the second time and returns to the world top ten

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

**SAN ROQUE.** Sergio García has various reasons to be happy these days. Throughout the Andalucía Masters competition held at Valderrama over the weekend, the Spanish golfer was congratulated for a number of things: his recent marriage, the news he will soon become a father, his inclusion as an honorary life member of the European Tour, and his epic win in the Masters in Augusta. However, now he can add victory at Valderrama to the list - a victory that caps off his most successful season in his career so far.

García, who was not only the host of the tournament through his charitable foundation, but also the favourite among the home crowd, saw off strong competition from Dutchman Joost Luiten, with whom he shared the lead on Thursday and who scored

## FINAL STANDINGS

1. Sergio García (-12)

2. Joost Luiten (-11)

3. Daniel Brooks (-7)

4. Jamie Donaldson (-5)

5. Wade Ormsby (-4)

6. Anders Hansen (-3)

12. Adrián Otaegui (-1)

-. Pablo Larrazábal (-1)

36. Alejandro Cañizares (+4)

a spectacular albatross on Friday with perhaps the best shot ever seen at Valderrama.

On hole 15, Luiten attacked the lead García had earned by Sunday, but a bogey on the 16th, followed by a strong reaction by the Spaniard (a birdie on the 17th) meant that, as in 2011, the trophy would go to García.

The Castellón-born golfer finished with 67 strokes, 12 under par, one ahead of than Luiten.

## Strong support

Some 40,000 people attended over the course of the four days, made up of numerous nationalities but unanimous in their support for García.

Following the two runaway leaders were Daniel Brooks (-7), Jamie Donaldson (-5) and Wade Ormsby (-4) to make up the top five. Alejandro Cañizares, the only local player making the cut, finished four over par.

García dedicated the victory to his wife, Angela, and the child they are expecting. "They deserve it," he said. "I've been fighting all week so I could give them something. Luckily it worked out well."



García celebrates his triumph with wife Angela. :: EFE



Sergio García in front of his adoring public. :: EFE



The Centre Pompidou in Malaga. :: SUR

## Next year's Vuelta to kick off with time trial in Malaga city

The start of the ten-kilometre first stage will have the city's Centre Pompidou as backdrop

SERGIO CORTÉS

**MALAGA.** The image of Malaga and its iconic Centre Pompidou cube will dominate the opening stage of the

Vuelta a España next year when the province once more plays host to the starting point.

It has been confirmed that the 2018 race will get under way in Malaga with an individual time trial starting at the cube designed by Daniel Buren, before embarking on a ten-kilometre route which will finish in the centre, on Calle Márques de Larios.

This is the third time that the capital of the Costa del Sol has hosted the start of the race; it did so in 2000 and 2006, while Puerto Banús was chosen in 2016.

The Vuelta will start on 25 August 2018, later than usual, as the Tour de France has also been put back so that it doesn't clash with the football World Cup Finals in Russia.



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# "Hockey is played differently wherever you go so I'll have to learn what works here and adapt my game"

**Alex Hughes**  
**Fuengirola Lions**

Hughes has moved from one league-winning side to another, but in Fuengirola he will be the first Brit to ever represent the club

== DARYL FINCH

**FUENGIROLA.** When moving to a new country, it always helps if you can bring your passion with you. Alex Hughes, 24, is doing just that. Originally from Stoke-on-Trent (UK), Hughes recently moved to southern Spain to take on a new job and has immediately involved himself with the inline hockey scene on the Costa del Sol.

Hughes has been playing the sport ever since he was seven years old. In that time he has won three UK National Championship titles, the most recent of which was last season. He also played in the Oktoberfest tournament in Germany in September this year, and has previously played in tournaments in the USA.

Now, he is embarking on an all-new adventure here in Spain and will continue his fledgling career with the Fuengirola Lions.

**-What has attracted you to southern Spain?**

-I got the opportunity to move over here as a job came up, and I couldn't turn down the chance to live in the sun. My brother already lives over here so it wasn't a difficult decision.

**-How did you hear about the Fuengirola Lions?**

-A friend in the UK has played in southern Spain previously so he let me know a bit about the teams over here. I heard there was a rink in Fuengirola so I got in touch on Facebook. I don't really know much about the teams out here, other than the Lions were the champions last season. It will be good to get the season started and see how we can do.

**-How do you feel to be the first Brit to represent the side?**

-I don't really think of it like that, we



Hughes in training at the Santa Fe rink in Fuengirola. == SIMO TYNYS

are all just playing hockey!

**-What's it like mixing with the other nationalities?**

-I enjoy meeting people from different backgrounds, so it's a good experience for me. Hockey is played slightly differently in different countries, so I'll have to learn what works here and adapt my game.

**-Is there a lot of enthusiasm for inline hockey in the UK?**

-I've played for 17 years and there has always been great competition across all age groups. Hopefully that will continue as there are still people who put the time in to keep getting kids into the game, but of course it is still

only a small sport and most people have never heard of it.

**-How have you been welcomed so far?**

-Everyone I've met playing hockey over here has been really friendly. It's the hockey community, that's one thing that doesn't change.

**-What do you think the side can achieve this year? Are you excited to get started?**

-Of course - I'm about to start a new season in a new country! Coming from a league-winning team, into another league-winning team, obviously I'm hoping we can do the same again this year.

## Crusaders and Lions share the honours at youth tournament

Last weekend was the turn of the youngsters as a number of local sides, plus the Crusaders from the UK, faced off in the second International Junior Tournament. The tournament, divided into three age groups, was hosted by the Fuengirola Lions at the Santa Fe rink in Los Boliches, Fuengirola.

The Crusaders, who competed at the European championships

in the summer, set the bar high. Their 'infantil' team didn't concede a single goal, winning the final against the Fuengirola Lions 4-0.

Third were Sevilla who lost the semifinal to Fuengirola by 9-1 and won the bronze playoff against Sancti Petri.

The Crusaders also won all their games at 'benjamin' level, though the final, against the Lions, was extremely tight. Bronze went to Marbella.

At 'alevin' level, the Lions went through undefeated and finished ahead of Marbella and Sancti Petri.



Jongeneel gives the thumbs up from the water. == SUR

# Christian Jongeneel completes latest fundraising challenge

The Malaga swimmer crossed between the islands of Tenerife and Gran Canaria with the objective of rebuilding an orphanage in India

== CARLOS J. MARTÍNEZ

**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.**

Malaga swimmer Christian Jongeneel (Rincón de la Victoria, 1974) has completed yet another sporting challenge in the name of charity. This time, in aid of the Brazadas Solidarias project run by the Vicente Ferrer Foundation, the swimmer has crossed the 70 kilometres which separate the ports of Tenerife and Gran Canaria.

The announcement of the challenge took place last week in the presence of the mayor of Rincón de la Victoria and vice-president of the Diputación, Francisco Salado, who praised the work of Jongeneel, saying, "When he brought the idea to us, we had no hesitation in offering him help."

Jongeneel has always been involved in charitable causes, especially through the Vicente Fer-

rer Foundation which is currently undertaking a lot of work in India. "We are achieving wonderful things," said Jongeneel.

The foundation is currently aiming to rebuild an orphanage: "I am always thinking about the 25 or so young people who are going to have a better future. The dream is not just to finish the crossing, but to go to India and see what we have achieved," he said.

Seeing that conditions were good, Jongeneel set off on Wednesday evening at 5pm, accompanied by the 'Matador' boat and a Guardia Civil vessel, before arriving at Agaete port on the western part of Gran Canaria on Thursday morning.

Temperatures during the day average between 20 and 23 degrees but they drop considerably when the sun sets so Jongeneel, who was the first to take on this challenge without a wetsuit, wanted to tackle the low temperatures when he had most energy.

Donations to the cause, at the time of going to press, had reached 6,000 euros. However, supporters can continue to donate through the website migranodearena.org.

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## A LOOK AT LA LIGA

**ROB PALMER**  
Commentator, Sky Sports  
@robbopalmer



# Following in some big footsteps

**Gonçalo Guedes has made himself comfortable at his temporary home in Valencia and is already being compared to the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo and Luis Figo**

I'm not one for 'second comings' and 'next new' tags but... we could be about to see Portugal's latest contribution to the very top echelons of world football.

Step forward Gonçalo Guedes. He's actually stepped so far forwards defenders are finding it impossible catch him.

He was the first 18-year-old to play for Portugal since Cristiano Ronaldo, he shares the same agent and many of the same footballing attributes as the freshly-crowned FIFA World Player of the Year. However, I'd contend that his characteristics are more similar those of Luis Figo.

He may have been unfamiliar to most of us but he was identified as

a target very early in his career by the talent spotters in Manchester and Paris. PSG nipped in to pay 30 million euros to lure him from Benfica ten months ago but he struggled to get a peg in their locker room bursting with platinum players and so he was packed off to Valencia for his year abroad.

I'd seen him star for the Portugal under 21s in the Euros and so I was familiar with his incredible natural abilities. His foster club took a little time to make him feel at home but now he's unpacked, he's tearing the place up.

He's not all step-overs and posturing like the man I'm sure he idolised in his youth. He has the ability to start a run from deep, know-



Gonçalo Guedes (left) celebrates his first Valencia goal, against Sevilla, with Simone Zaza. :: EFE

ing as he strides forwards whether he's going to blast it towards the top corner or cut it accurately into the path of a colleague.

Already this season he's shown the vision to create five goals for his team mates and weighed in with three himself.

Every game he seems to reach a new level. He flew in a spectacular long-range effort against Real Betis and followed it up by brushing aside

Sevilla with two goals. One was particularly eye catching. He picked the ball up just inside the attacking half, outpaced three very capable defenders, halted his run, adjusted and flew it into the top corner.

Just like Figo, he has pace, accuracy, but most tellingly, an ability to read the intentions of defenders. What's more, Figo was also signed and loaned out for the first year of his contract (Figo stayed in Lisbon).

Back in Paris they still haven't witnessed the full force of Guedes as they are caught up in Neymarmania, but here's a question... who is most likely to win the Balon D'or first, Neymar or Guedes? You would get very good odds on the 20-year-old and it may be a very wise investment.

It promises to be an exciting bonus year for the long-suffering supporters of Valencia.



Pedro Fernández is a partner with Garrigues, the leading Spanish law firm, and specialises in tax law. He has practised in the Málaga office throughout his 25-year career and has been highly exposed to inbound investment in real estate and taxation affairs for foreigners coming to live in Spain. He will be presenting his views of the current regulatory environment affecting Britons living and wanting to live in Spain in view of the forthcoming Brexit.

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LINE-UPS


BARCELONA

2



MALAGA

0



4-3-3

Digne

Suárez (Alcácer, 83')

Umtiti

Iniesta

Ter Stegen

Busquets (Paulinho, 76')

Mascherano

Rakitic

Sergi Roberto

Deulofeu (Semedo, 72')

Messi

4-4-2

Rosales

Keko

Diego Rolan (Juanpi, 46')

Adrián

Peñaranda (Borja, 72')

Rolón (Cecchini, 68')

Chory

Juankar

Luis Hernández

Prieto

Bayssé

Unused substitutes:

Cillessen (GK), Piqué, Denis Suárez, André Gomes.

Unused substitutes:

Cenk (GK), Cifu, Álex Robles, Mula.

STATISTICS

BALL POSSESSION

65%

35%

BARCELONA

MALAGA

2

Goals

0

8

Total shots

11

4

On target

8

4

Off target

3

4

Corners

3

2

Offsides

4

10

Fouls committed

11

1

Yellow cards

4

0

Red cards

0

Goals.

1-0 Deulofeu (2'), 2-0 Iniesta (56').

Referee.

Pablo González Fuertes.

Yellows for Umtiti, Rosales, Luis Hernández, Adrián, Cecchini.

Venue.

Camp Nou (74,397 spectators).

TABLE & FIXTURES

MATCHDAY

9

LEAGUE TABLE

★ Champions League

■ Europa League

▼ Relegation

TEAM

PT.

P

W

D

L

GF

GA

★ 1. Barcelona

25

9

8

1

0

26

3

★ 2. Valencia

21

9

6

3

0

25

10

★ 3. Real Madrid

20

9

6

2

1

18

7

★ 4. At. Madrid

19

9

5

4

0

14

5

■ 5. Leganés

17

9

5

2

2

8

3

■ 6. Villarreal

16

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15

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7. Betis

16

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8. Sevilla

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9. Real Sociedad

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10. Celta

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11. Athletic

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12. Levante

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13. Espanyol

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14. Getafe

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15. Girona

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16. Deportivo

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17. Eibar

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3

20

▼ 18. Las Palmas

6

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7

7

22

▼ 19. Alavés

3

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1

0

8

3

14

▼ 20. MALAGA

1

9

0

1

8

4

20

# Refereeing decisions cost Malaga at the Camp Nou



dfinch@diariosur.es

Michel's team conceded in just the second minute from Deulofeu's flick which came after Digne had run the ball out of play

**MALAGA.** A trip to the Camp Nou is difficult even at the best of times. So with Malaga five points adrift of safety at the bottom of the table, they needed luck to be on their side. However, this deserted them as early as the second minute on Saturday night as Gerard Deulofeu converted Lucas Digne's cross after the ball clearly had gone out of play.

Stand-in rookie keeper Andrés Prieto stopped playing as the winger backheeled home, convinced, like his teammates, that the referee would stop play. The complaints fell on deaf ears, however, and the visitors had an uphill climb from the outset.



The Malaga players crowd the referee after the first goal. :: REUTERS

This didn't seem to deflate Michel's side as many would have expected, though. Instead, they maintained their shape and could even have grabbed an equaliser had Chory Castro got more purchase on his glancing header at the near post.

Despite Barça enjoying the majority of the possession, Malaga

again created a clear chance, Chory again failing to make appropriate contact to convert the cross.

The hosts, who barely got out of third gear in the first half, powered into the second and Lionel Messi brought a fine save out of Prieto, low to his left from a tight angle within minutes of the restart.

Prieto, however, could do nothing

to prevent the second goal of the game. A neat give-and-go between Messi and Andrés Iniesta resulted in the latter clipping the ball off the unfortunate Roberto Rosales' leg and into the roof of the net.

Luis Suárez, who has been struggling for form of late, then had two chances to bury the tie but squandered them both, later being replaced by Paco Alcácer.

Despite the deficit, Malaga continued to press forward and threatened the Barcelona goal with volleys from Keko and Juanpi; the former's striking Digne in the face, and the latter's skidding off the surface into the grasp of Ter Stegen.

Luis Hernández, who was immense at the back, also saw his header drift just wide of the German's left goalpost.

Prieto was called into action again in the closing ten minutes, plunging low to turn Paulinho's effort wide of the left post while Juanpi brought acrobatics out of Ter Stegen in stoppage time with his header.

Despite showing a great deal of character on the day, Malaga's barren run away from home continues.

The Blue and Whites remain rooted to the foot of the table, now six points from safety.


## Michel and Al-Thani speak out about officials

Malaga head coach Michel called for accountability on the part of referees after yet another incorrect decision cost his side a goal. He added: "Too many times this season bad decisions have cost us. The offside goal against Eibar, in Valencia, last Sunday... We can't blame our situation on referees, but they haven't helped us."

Club owner Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani, for his part, took to Twitter to ask the football association: "Where is the justice? You owe us respect."

No official comment has been made by the RFEF, but the yellow card incorrectly issued to Luis Hernández for handball has been rescinded.





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# Cup provides no relief for Michel

Two stoppage time goals mean first-leg defeat for Malaga who are facing Copa del Rey elimination at the hands of a lower-league opponent for the third consecutive year

NUMANCIA 2 MALAGA 1

ANTONIO GÓNGORA

**SORIA.** An epic stoppage time comeback piled further misery on Malaga as they searched for some respite from their league form when they took on Numancia in the last 16 round of the Copa del Rey on Tuesday night.

Head coach Michel said before the game that his side would be taking the competition seriously; the changes he made to the side were mostly enforced with Álex Robles in at left-back in the absence of injured trio Juankar, Federico Ricca and Miguel Torres.

Recio returned from suspension to play alongside Emanuel Cecchini and Adrián, who looked comfortable in a deeper role. It was the captain who opened the scoring with a superb freekick from the left flank, catching keeper Munir by surprise as it whipped in off the inside of his far post.

This was Malaga's first goal since



Rosales, in the foreground, dispirited by Numancia's late winner. :: AGENCIA LOF

the 3-3 draw at La Rosaleda on 23 September, but the Blue and Whites didn't look like adding to that tally with the side quite impotent overall in attack, with the returning Javi Ontiveros and Borja Bastón barely getting anywhere near the Numancia penalty area.

Numancia had a good opportunity off the head of Guillermo which flashed just wide but, on the whole,

Malaga defended well.

That was until stoppage time arrived and the hosts piled on the pressure and the Malaga defence buckled under the pressure of set pieces.

Failing to get enough distance on a near-post header from a corner, Nacho pounced on the lack of pressure, sending the ball in low at the unsighted Prieto's near post.

With 95 minutes on the clock, fans

of the team in blue and white then got an unwanted feeling of déjà vu when Escassi bundled home the winner, possibly from an offside position, as he followed in a header off the post. It was Dortmund all over again.

Thankfully the stakes were not as high this week and Malaga's cup hopes can still be resurrected in the second leg at La Rosaleda at the end of November.

## IN BRIEF

### Miguel Torres extends contract until 2020

#### MALAGA

**A. G.** Defender Miguel Torres has extended his contract with Malaga by a further two years, until the end of the 2019/20 season, the club has announced.

Negotiations had been ongoing for weeks, with the club keen not to lose a player whose versatility had proven vital in recent times on a free transfer.

The former Real Madrid full-back, 31, is now in his fourth season with the club since joining from Greek side Olympiakos.

### Spain-Costa Rica tickets go on sale next week

#### MALAGA

**E. MIRANDA.** Tickets for the friendly game between Spain and Costa Rica at La Rosaleda on 11 November (kick-off 9.30pm) will go on sale on Tuesday for Malaga season ticket holders and Wednesday for the general public (both at 11am). Tickets can be purchased from [www.rfef.es](http://www.rfef.es), [www.sefutbol.com](http://www.sefutbol.com) y <http://tickets.rfef.es/>. Tickets can be bought from La Rosaleda ticket office from Saturday 4 November. Prices will range from 20 to 60 euros. It has been announced that family packs will also be put on sale.

## Marbella lose unbeaten home record in controversial fashion

The club is considering taking action against the referee who only sent Ruano off seven minutes after giving him his second yellow card

JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

**MARBELLA.** Marbella can no longer

boast being the best home side in the division after losing that honour in controversial fashion on Sunday afternoon.

Badajoz inflicted Los Blanquillos' first home defeat of the season, and their second in a row overall, with a 1-0 scoreline.

A single goal from Ruano was the difference, scored in the seventh minute from the right wing; the forward



Corpas dribbles the ball past ex-Marbella man Álex Herrera. :: J. R.

chipped the ball over Wilfred into the far corner with his weaker left foot when everyone was expecting a cross.

Ruano, though, not only took centre stage for his brilliant attacking performance, but also for his role in the greatest controversy of the match.

With Marbella chasing the game, Ruano received a second yellow in the 87th minute - a moment which could have changed the outlook of the tie. However, it wasn't until the 94th minute that referee Arias Madrid realised his error and gave the forward his marching orders.

With Badajoz making it over the line with their three points intact, the decision makers at Marbella are now pondering what action, if any, should be taken in light of the dropped points.



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# The Malaga City Run attracts record numbers once again

Almost 20,000 people signed up for the ten-kilometre run through the city's streets

:: FERNANDO MORGADO

**MALAGA.** Just before the start pistol fired on the Paseo del Parque, it was announced on the megaphone that the 39th Malaga City Run had broken records once more, this year with 19,982 people officially taking part in the ten-kilometre circuit through the city's streets.

The event continues to grow in popularity every year and attracts a broad spectrum of people from serious athletes to enthusiastic amateurs, many of whom are backing charitable causes.

Katrin Goethals, an enthusiastic amateur from Belgium, stressed the good-natured atmosphere around the event: "It is fantastic; everyone is very supportive. There were people willing us on all along the route, which made it so much easier. I was at the finishing line before I knew it."

**An early lead**

Abdelhadi El Mouaziz was always going to be the man to beat and he proved so once again with a strong

performance seeing him open up an early lead after just two kilometres as the course headed west. The Moroccan, representing Cueva de Nerja-UMA, attracted a number of fans eager to cheer him on along the route.

He acknowledged them where he could, but ultimately paid them back with yet another win, his seventh in the competition, crossing the line after 30 minutes and 56 seconds. Mustapha Sabili (Bahía de Algeciras) and Javier Díaz Carretero (San Pedro Atletismo) came in 14 and 16 seconds behind, respectively.

**The women's podium**

The success for the Nerja club didn't stop there; Rebeca García, who also won comfortably last year, crossed the line with a time of 37 minutes and 33 seconds, almost a minute ahead of her clubmate María del Mar Serrano.

**For a good cause**

The official charities backed by this year's run include the Spanish Association Against Cancer, Cotolengo, the Andrés Olivares Foundation and the Malaga Autism Foundation, with profits of the run's official t-shirts, sold at three euros each, being distributed between them.



A sea of blue passed through the city's streets. :: SALVADOR SALAS



El Mouaziz opened up an early lead. :: FRANCIS SILVA

## Trocaero Marbella Rugby pick up bonus point and close in on the leaders

MARBELLA 46 ALMERÍA 8

:: JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

**MARBELLA.** Trocaero Marbella Rugby Club are making their presence known to the early leaders. The Costa del Sol side gave a masterclass in attack with a commanding 46-8 win over Unión de Rugby Almería who, even with their latest recruits, couldn't match the hosts.

Marbella racked up a bonus point, for scoring more than four tries, which lifts them up to fourth place in the División de Honor B, level on points with third, one point off second, and two away from the leaders, C.R.C. Pozuelo.

Trocaero Marbella, with four wins and just one defeat, are unbeaten at Bahía's Park where they will face Cisneros B on Sunday from 1pm.



Man of the match Tucconi. :: SUR

# Double European setback gives Unicaja work to do

Defeats to Olympiakos and Brose Bamberg in the space of a week leave the Malaga side 11th in the EuroLeague rankings

:: JUAN CALDERÓN

**MALAGA.** Unicaja's hopes of getting back to winning ways in the EuroLeague were dashed on Wednesday night when an organised Brose Bamberg side triumphed at the Carpena by 80-76.

Despite a strong performance from Nedovic, Joan Plaza's team were second best and now sit 11th in the EuroLeague rankings. Overall, it is now three consecutive defeats in all competitions.

**A tough week**

Defeat in Athens last Friday to Olympiakos (80-75) was quickly



McCallum goes for the basket against Brose Bamberg. :: Á. CABRERA

followed up by a 99-85 loss in the capital to Real Madrid on Sunday.

Unicaja are on their travels again today as they take on Valencia in

league action, before a return to the capital of the Costa del Sol on Sunday for a match against Movistar Estudiantes.



## EIC OFF TO ITALY WITH NEW KIT

The English International College (EIC) under-11 boys' football team were recently received their El Oceano-sponsored kit ahead of their upcoming tournament in Verona, Italy. EIC will face international schools teams from all over Europe in a four-day event in early November. EIC have previously won this competition at under-14 and under-19 levels twice.



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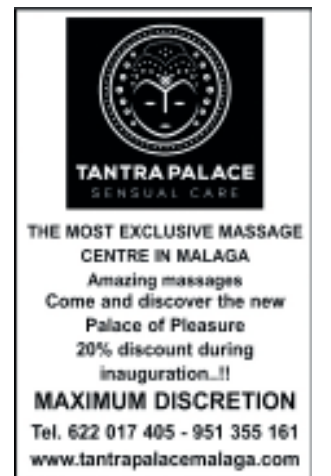
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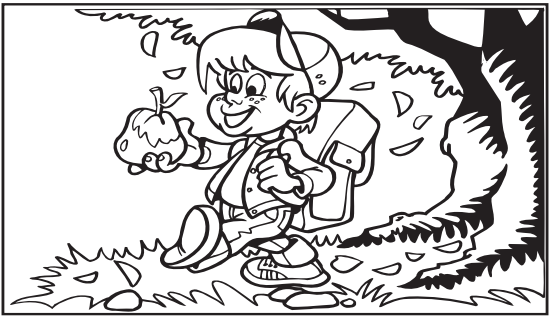
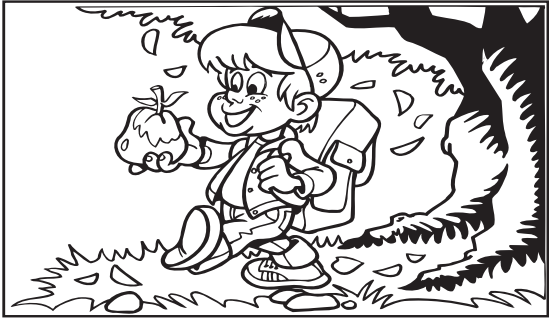
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THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES




THE STARS



**Aquarius**

January 21 - February 19


Conversations that lead to good decisions are going ahead this week. Be open and honest.



**Pisces**

February 20th - March 20th


A fresh approach is needed now, maybe just when you are lacking in energy. Still any effort to move on is worthwhile!



**Aries**

March 21st - April 20th


The sparkling side to your nature spins over into your love life. They do say that those who work hard tend to play hard.



**Taurus**

April 21st - May 21st


Loving distractions are everywhere and someone feels that they have to prove something to you. Your interest in them may be up and down.



**Gemini**

May 22nd - June 21st


There are no surprises for you on the work front. Determination to get things done and dusted does just that!



**Cancer**

June 22nd - July 23rd


After a few personal frustrations you could be feeling pretty peeved as next week begins.



**Leo**

July 24th - August 23rd


Others need to realise that your time is precious. A light, social time at the weekend is sorely needed.



**Virgo**

August 24th - September 23rd


Tying up loose ends is needed now to keep you balanced. Of course you tend to take on too much but with so much energy, is there any other way?



**Libra**

September 24th - October 23rd


Twists and turns this week make you wonder where it is all going but, by next weekend, the fog clears.



**Scorpio**

October 24th - November 22nd


Agitation should not be in your vocabulary this week. Peace and quiet progress certainly should.



**Sagittarius**

November 23rd - December 21st

Strange how some things that have been a thorn in your side can suddenly disappear, isn't it? Take a lighter attitude and 'go with the flow'.

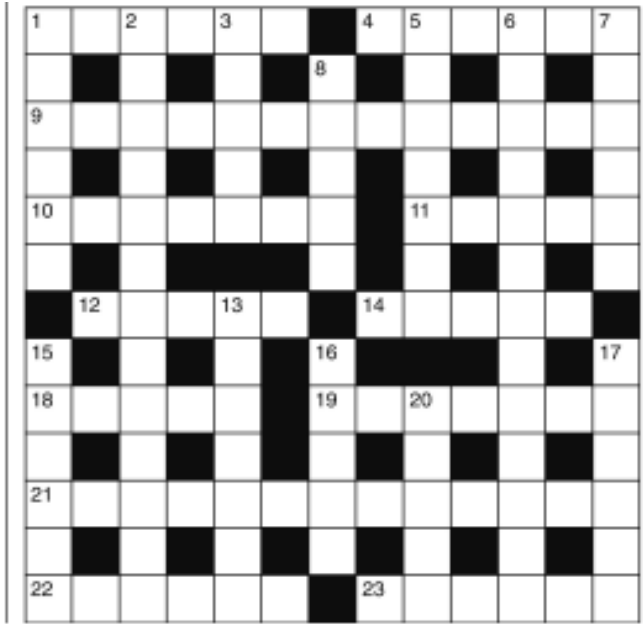


**Capricorn**

December 22nd - January 20th

Grab any chance to get ahead and try to stay single-minded. There will be plenty of time for play later.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11266



- Across
- 1

It's certainly not out of action (6)
- 4

Cold dishes for a boy on board (6)
- 9

Thoughtfulness is something to be taken into account (13)
- 10

Letter or note written by devout holy man to the French (7)
- 11

To do so some keep a rubber as expedient (5)
- 12

A trap set outside a second time (5)
- 14

Many take a break at the top of a hill (5)
- 18

Gains information about a sad disposition (5)
- 19

Bird most richly feathered in part (7)
- 21

Numbers are employed by him (13)
- 22

Awkward truths forcibly put forward (6)
- 23

It's knitted for a milk producer (6)

Down

1

Some increase in chest measurements (6)

2

He'll watch your step for you (7,6)

3

Create a vacancy, perhaps (5)

5

It doesn't pay him to be sporting (7)

6

Sort of feeling brought on by beastly alcohol? (6,7)

7

Lines for a child rising ten (6)

8

It may go to the head of servicemen (5)

13

How one may make progress on one's feet (7)

15

Ready to put a word in when required (6)

16

Summer's work is complete (5)

17

A drink that is diluted and cast out (6)

20

Now and again (5)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

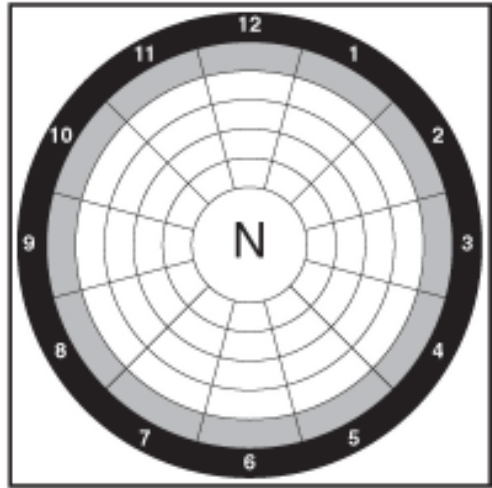
Instructions

Complete the square making sure that every row of nine numbers includes all digits from 1 to 9, every column includes all digits from 1 to 9 and every 3 by 3 subsection includes all digits from 1 to 9

				3		2		5
		7			6			
3	2		7				1	4
				7	9		6	
	8						4	
9		3	4					2
7					3	5		
		1						3
		5		8	1			6

CLOCKWORD

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter N in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a late U.S. actor.



1. Decaying

2. Procure

3. Infertile

4. Cricket side

5. Keep

6. Soup dish

7. Inn

8. Season

9. Farmer

10. Tutorial

11. Parentless child

12. Area

THE WORDPUZZLER

H	A	T	R	O	L	L	E	R	Y
E	U	R	O	M	I	E	J	O	L
L	G	E	C	O	F	S	O	A	V
T	R	D	K	O	E	U	H	R	E
A	U	R	I	S	N	M	N	A	S
P	L	A	N	E	T	M	A	S	T
F	E	L	D	O	W	A	L	T	Z
L	S	E	R	M	I	R	E	I	E
U	H	V	A	S	S	M	A	M	I
S	W	A	N	T	H	Y	M	E	L

CAN you identify the words missing from the titles of the Status Quo songs listed below?

1. Wild Side of ---

2. Paper ---

3. In the --- Now

4. Break the ---

5. Dear ---

6. Whatever You ---

7. Marguerita ---

8. --- Over Lay

Down

9. The Anniversary ---, Pt 1

10. --- All over the World

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91.5 Costa del Sol East

91.9 Costa del Sol West

98.7 Gibraltar/Sotogrande

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24 hour music and entertainment

**Radio Mijas** (107.7 FM)

3 p.m. News, views and music

**Radio Sol Almjara** (99.1 FM)

Nerja radio in English and German and night time World Radio Network

**HeartfmSpain** (88.5 FM Costa, 96.1 FM inland) Music, entertainment, news

**Lick FM** (103.6 FM Marbella)

Urban music broadcast between Gibraltar and Calahonda

**Rtv Puebla** (107.7 FM)

Monday evenings, Rock music memories. 7 - 9pm. email: radiopuebla.musicmemories@yahoo.com Fb: Radiotelevision Peubla de Cazalla

**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 is the scientific name for caustic soda?

1. Sodium chloride

2. Sodium hydroxide

3. Sodium bicarbonate

4. Sulphuric acid

QUESTION 2

In biblical terms the Decalogue is another word for what?

1. The Ten Commandments

2. The book of Revelations

3. The Bible

4. The ten plagues



LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across

1) Permanent (10)

5) Visitor (9)

11) They associate (7)

12) Smell (4)

13) You (2)

14) Palace (7)

16) Concerts (10)

18) Daybreak (4)

19) Years (4)

20) Temporary (8)

22) River (3)

25) Cloud (4)

26) It (2)

27) Auditorium (9)

30) Fright (5)

33) The (f) (2)

34) Gallery (7)

36) Expected (8)

38) To go (2)

39) Validity (8)

40) Hoop (3)

43) Picture (6)

44) I gave (2)

45) Collection (9)

47) Drainpipe (7)

49) Opening (12)

50) Surrealism (11)

51) Loan (8)
- Down

1) Paintings (8)

2) Museum (5)

3) We will demand (10)

4) To have (5)

6) Creeping thyme (6)

7) To type (7)

8) Not even (2)

9) Exhibition (10)

10) Help! (7)

15) Crocodile (9)

16) Crash (6)

17) No (2)

18) Rant (8)

21) Pigeons (7)

23) Month (3)

24) If (2)

28) You were transferring (pl) (12)

29) Activities (11)

31) Exceptionally gifted (11)

32) Lack (8)

35) Sculpture (9)

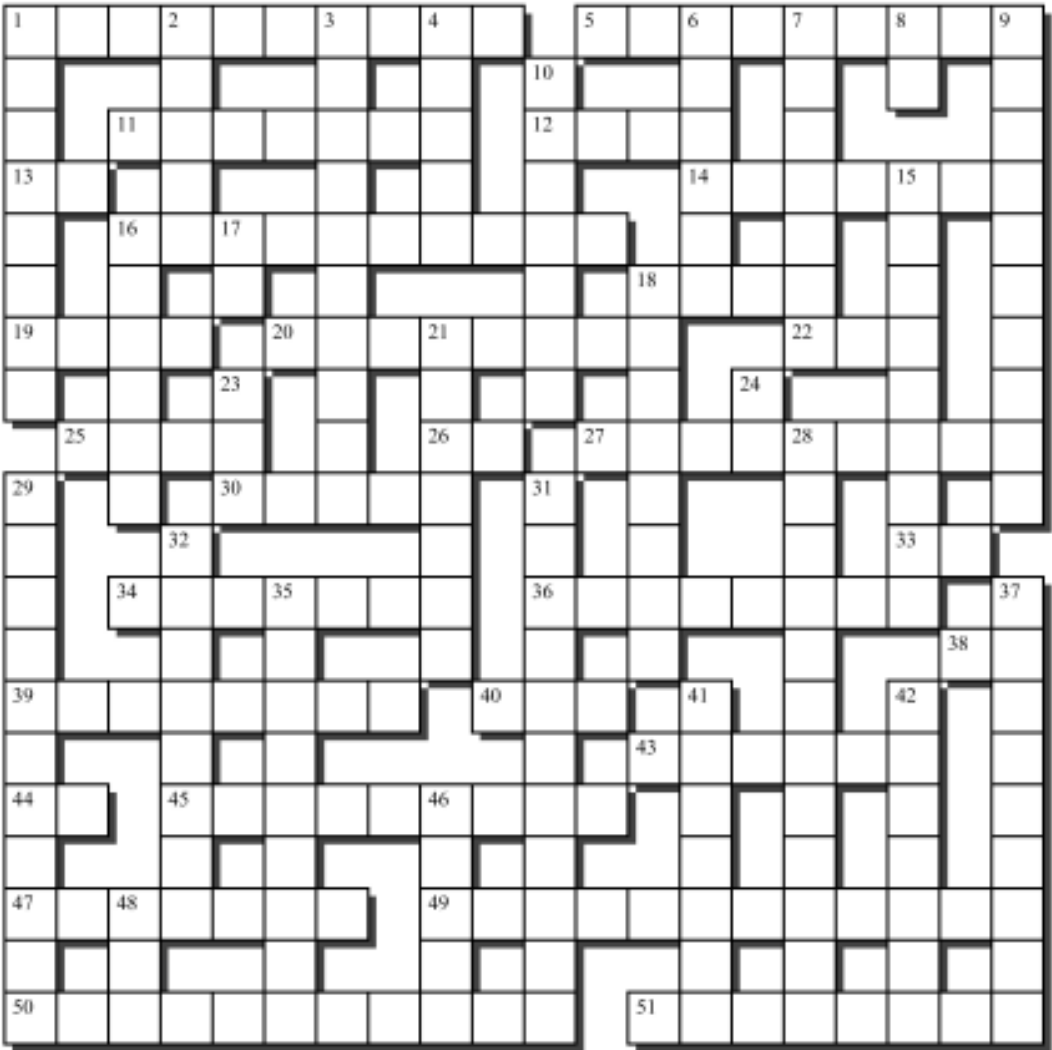
37) Piece (9)

41) To punctuate (7)

42) Bullfight (7)

46) Kids (5)

48) To be (3)



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

**Answer 1:** Sodium hydroxide.  
**Of interest:** Caustic soda is one of the common names for sodium hydroxide (NaOH), which is also known as lye. It is used for soap making, candle making, homemade biodiesel, frosting glass, making several foods, and for chemistry experiments.  
**Answer 2 :** The Ten Commandments  
**Of interest:** The Decalogue is an English term for the Ten Commandments. It comes from the Middle English 'decalog' from Late Latin 'decalogus' and Medieval Greek 'dekálogos'.

Cryptic Crossword

**Solutions:** Across: 1 Indeed; 4 Salads; 9 Consideration; 10 Epistle; 11 Erase; 12 Again; 14 Crest; 18 Reads; 19 Ostinch; 21 Mathematician; 22 Thrust; 23 Jersey; Down: 1 Inches; 2 Dancing master; 3 Evict; 5 Amateur; 6 Animal spirits; 7 Sonnet; 8 Bere; 13 Insteps; 15 Prompt; 16 Total; 17 Shandy; 20 Twice.

Clockword solution

**SOLUTION:** 1 Rotten, 2 Obtain, 3 Barren, 4 Eleven, 5 Retain, 6 Treen, 7 Tavern, 8 Autumn, 9 Yeoman, 10 Lesson, 11 Orphan, 12 Region, 13 Celebrity, Robert Taylor

Wordpuzzler solution

1. Life  
2. Plane  
3. Army  
4. Rules  
5. John  
6. Want  
7. Time  
8. Roll  
9. Waltz  
10. Rockin'  
11. Hat  
12. Roller  
13. Euro  
14. Rom  
15. I  
16. E  
17. J  
18. O  
19. L  
20. G  
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Sudoku solution

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7	9	2	6	4	3	5	8	1
8	6	1	5	2	7	4	9	3
4	3	5	9	8	1	7	2	6

Language Crossword

**ACROSS:**  
1. PERMANENTE 5. VISITANTE  
11. SUCIAN 12. OLOR 13. TU  
14. PALACIO 16. CONCERTOS 18. ALBA  
19. AÑOS 20. TEMPORAL 21. MÚSICO 25. NÚMERO 26. LUGAR 27. AUDITORIO 30. SUSITO 31. LA  
34. GALERÍA 36. PINTURISTA 38. R  
39. VIGENCIA 40. ARRO 43. CUADRO 44. DI  
45. COLECCIÓN 47. DESAGÜE  
49. INAGURACIÓN 50. SURREALISMO  
51. PRESTAMO  
**DOWN:**  
1. PINTURAS 2. MUSEO 3. EXHIBICIONES  
4. TENER 6. SERPOL 7. TECTEAR 8. NI  
9. EXPOSICIÓN 10. SUCORRO  
15. COCODRILLO 16. CHOCOLATE 17. NO  
18. ALQUILER 21. PALOMAS 23. MES  
24. SI 28. TRASLADABAIS  
29. ACTIVIDADES 31. SUPERDOTADO  
32. CARCENA 35. ESCULTURA  
37. FRAGMENTO 41. PUNTUAL  
42. CORRIDA 46. CHUROS 48. SER

BOOK OF THE WEEK



Zama  
Antonio Di Benedetto

Don Diego de Zama is a servant to the Spanish crown in remote Paraguay. Separated from his wife and children, he continuously schemes for professional advancement as he struggles with his mental and emotional state as isolation, bureaucratic setbacks, and self-destructive choices begin to compound themselves in his life. The novel is divided chronologically into three sections: 1790, 1794, and 1799, which focus on, respectively, Zama's sexual, financial, and existential conflicts.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Don't  
mistake  
silence for  
weakness,  
smart people  
don't plan  
out loud

ANON

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)					
Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Costa Mediterranea	28/10	-	-	07.00	19.00
Aegean Odyssey	28/10	Cartagena	Cadiz	07.00	23.59
MSC Magnifica	28/10	Genoa	Casablanca	12.00	18.00
Thomson Celebration	29/10	-	-	06.00	22.00
Westerdam	29/10	Cartagena	Cadiz	08.00	18.00
Mein Schiff	29/10	Cadiz	Valencia	08.00	19.00
Horizon	29/10	Alicante	Porto Torres	10.00	16.30
Costa Magica	31/10	-	-	07.00	13.00
Star Flyer	31/10	-	-	07.00	22.00
Star Breeze	31/10	-	-	08.00	22.00
Siver Spirit	31/10	Cadiz	Valencia	08.00	19.00
Corinthian	31/10	Cartagena	Gibraltar	08.00	23.00
Europa	02/11	Seville	Valencia	08.00	18.00
Sea Cloud	03/11	Valetta	Casablanca	08.00	19.00
Veendam	03/11	-	Cartagena	08.00	18.00
Oceana	03/11	Cadiz	Gibraltar	08.00	18.00
Mein Schiff	03/11	Palma	Gibraltar	08.00	18.00
Viking Sun	03/11	Cartagena	Cadiz	08.00	20.00





# Opening doors to a whole world of services

## The Lux Mundi ecumenical centre in Fuengirola held an open day offering information and entertainment



**TONY BRYANT**

✉ [tonysureng@gmail.com](mailto:tonysureng@gmail.com)

**FUENGIROLA.** The Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre in Fuengirola held its annual open day on Wednesday. The Christian foundation threw open its doors in order to inform the public of the wide range of services it offers, and the event attracted a steady flow of visitors throughout the day.

The ecumenical centre has developed - together with its sister centre in Torre del Mar - into a charitable organisation, which offers both spiritual and material assistance to local residents, expats and tourists.

A collection of photographs and newspaper cuttings relating Lux Mundi's history were displayed in the library area, while volunteers were on hand to explain the different religious services that the organisation offers. There was also information concerning the various courses and language classes,



Visitors enjoy the open day at Lux Mundi in Fuengirola. :: T.B.

trips, outings and support groups.

With the benevolence of the La Cala de Mijas Lions Club, who were present at the event, Lux Mundi also offers help and assistance to the local homeless people, operat-

ing a soup kitchen every Monday and takeaway food on a Thursday lunchtime. Other services include the loan of wheelchairs, crutches and walking frames.



Receiving the cheque :: T. B.

Visitors enjoyed refreshments and a selection of homemade cakes while being entertained by the local amateur musical societies, TIMS and A Touch of Class.

The Christian organisation, winner of the SUR in English Award in 1997, was also presented with a cheque for 500 euros, raised by the Gemini Masonic Lodge in La Cala de Mijas.

Lux Mundi has now been helping people of all nationalities for almost 50 years. Officially opened in December 1973, it has since evolved into a community that continues to respond to the needs of residents and visitors of different religious confessions.

The Fuengirola branch is maintained by the daily efforts of its volunteers, friends and benefactors. However, the centre is in constant need of volunteers who can help with the daily running of the facility.

"Our aim is to inform visitors of the range of services we offer and also to invite them to get involved with the foundation," Susan Bell, Lux Mundi's publicity agent said.



**CONCESOL**

FUENGIROLA • MARBELLA • ALGECIRAS - [www.concesol.com](http://www.concesol.com)

Expo: C/ Pirita, 3 - Pol. Ind. La Ermita - Taller: Av. José Manuel Valles, 2

Combined fuel economy: 3,8- 5,8 l/100 km, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 99 - 134 g/km.