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SPORT

Malaga CF start winter pick-up plan

The club, currently bottom of the league, signed Catalan player Ignasi Miquel this week **P60**



Costa leisure centre still on agenda after British property giants merge

Plans are still going ahead for the entertainment complex in Torremolinos after the purchase of Intu

The British firm Hammerson, which owns numerous shopping centres and retail parks throughout the UK and Europe, has announced that it is to buy fellow property giant Intu, the developers behind plans for a huge attraction in

Torremolinos. Hammerson has said, however, that the Costa del Sol centre, which promises to be the biggest retail and leisure centre on the Mediterranean will still go ahead as one of its key projects for its new era. Torremolinos town hall is waiting for central government to approve road access plans for the new centre before it can be given the go ahead within the town's PGOU development plan. **P3**

UTOPIA UNVEILED AT THE POMPIDOU



The collection at Malaga's branch of the Parisian contemporary art centre has been completely renewed **P46&47**

François-Xavier Lalanne's sheep sculptures can now be viewed in Malaga. :: SALVADOR SALAS

Thousands join Brussels rally in favour of Catalan independence

The election campaign in Catalonia began this week while some key separatist leaders remain in jail

Belgian police say that 45,000 people, most of them thought to have travelled from Catalonia, joined the rally in Brussels on Thursday in favour of independence in Catalonia, alongside their former leader Carles Puigdemont. **P22**

The Finnish community in Fuengirola thrives as the country celebrates 100 years of independence **P26-28**

When Spain started opening up its hearts. The history of transplants on international anniversary **P40-41**

Andalucía commemorates the 40th anniversary of shooting at autonomy protest march **P2**

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Malaga remembers anniversary of 1977 shooting during march for Andalusian autonomy

Forty years ago the city lived through its tensest moments since the Civil War when a killing by police marred a peaceful protest and sparked riots

:: SUR

MALAGA. People in Malaga took part in commemorations this week to remember a dark day in 1977 that led to the tensest scenes in the city since the end of the Spanish Civil War several decades before.

Some 2,000 politicians and members of the public marched through Malaga city centre last Sunday four decades after another demonstration of 200,000 locals turned violent in the period after General Franco's death.

The peaceful rally in 1977 had been organised to urge central government to allow the Andalucía region to achieve devolved power in the shortest period possible. It was felt that Madrid was denying Andalucía "a historic right".

As the march on 4 December 1977 was finishing, an overreaction by officials and police to the crowd's high spirits led to an innocent young trade union activist being shot. Manuel José García Caparrós, who was 18 years old, died on his way to hospital.

The police action, in a period when Spain was living a nervous transition from dictatorship to democracy, caused shock and outrage across the city and region, and there were three days of disturbances.

On Monday last week, the exact anniversary day, today's local leaders and dignitaries paid tribute to Manuel José and his ashes were reburied in the city's official garden



A long Andalusian flag was unfurled as part of the week's events. :: F. G.

of remembrance.

Raising the flag

Back on 4 December 1977, the tensions had started to rise when a protester climbed up the front of the Diputación provincial authority's building on the Plaza de la Marina to raise the Andalusian regional standard, against the wishes of the authorities. He was detained on the balcony and riot police sent out.

Four decades later, politicians stood on the same balcony last Mon-

day and symbolically raised the now official and well-recognised regional green and white flag.

Many people have also been paying tribute this week by laying flowers at the site of the shooting of García Caparrós, on the corner of the city's main Alameda avenue and the Alameda de Colón, near the suburban railway's underground terminus. The victim's sisters also took part in this week's events.

Comment: page 24



Then and now. Above, a protester tries to raise the Andalusian flag in 1977 and, below, politicians stand on the same balcony last Monday with the green and white standard. :: SUR



Why was the 1977 march and death so symbolic for Malaga?

In 1977 Spain was getting ready for democracy and a new constitution was being drawn up. The document stated that some regions, which historically had had the right to self-government, could quickly set up new autonomous parliaments with extra powers. These included Catalonia, the Basque Country and

Galicia. Initially it wasn't foreseen that Andalucía would be in that first wave of devolution and instead the region looked set to follow a longer, five-year process, along with the rest of Spain. On 4 December some two million people joined festive marches across the region, claiming the right to be treated the same way, on what was dubbed at the time the first Andalucía Day. By the next year, Andalucía had been granted its wish and began the fast-track route to gaining devolved status.



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LONDON OFFICE

Hammerson buys Intu and plans to go ahead with its Torremolinos project

TORREMOLINOS

The owner of Brent Cross retail centre will merge to form a property giant, and build the biggest retail and leisure centre on the Mediterranean

The British company Hammerson, which owns major shopping and retail centres in the UK including Bicester Village, The Bullring in Birmingham, Brent Cross (London), Highcross (Leicester) and many more, has announced that it has plans to acquire the Intu group, one of its biggest competitors, to create a giant property and development business worth billions of pounds.

After the merger of these two businesses, which are among the top property companies in Europe, the new group will continue with plans to build on the Costa del Sol, where Intu has already designed a project for the biggest shopping and leisure centre on the Mediterranean.

This complex, to the north of the Palacio de Congresos in Torremolinos "will be very important" for the new company, which will be called Hammerson but will still use the Intu brand on its signs in the retail centres.

Representatives of Hammerson say that the Costa del Sol is a growing region which is of great interest to developers. The forthcoming merger will make the new group the second largest property company listed on the stock market in Europe, after the French Unibail-Rodamco.

Hammerson and Intu believe this move will expand their possi-



Image of how the 'shopping resort' in Torremolinos will look. :: SUR

bilities of growth in Spain and Ireland, and will enable them to respond to the rapidly changing preferences of consumers. In Spain, Intu owns 50 per cent of the Xadadú (Madrid), Puerto Venecia (Zaragoza) and Parque Principado (Asturias) commercial centres, and it has spent months finalising its new project in Torremolinos, where it already owns land.

Intu's concept of developing to adapt to new consumer habits and attract clients, in a sector where online shopping is gaining ground, involves the construction of 'shopping resorts', large centres with a combination of shops and open-air areas with many different attractions.

In Torremolinos, as well as the commercial areas, which will take

The merger will make the group the second largest listed on the stock market in Europe

The retail and leisure centre in Torremolinos will have a circus, big wheel, ski slope and climbing area

up about one-third of the space, the company plans to incorporate a resident circus, a big wheel, a wind tunnel, a wave pool, climbing area, a lake, a ski slope, a large screen and an aquarium.

Hammerson has not said whether it will modify the plans drawn up by Intu, although sources at the company say that as a larger group it will be "in a more favourable position" to carry out different projects.

In the document issued this week, Hammerson said that the Torremolinos project will be similar to some of Intu's most successful shopping centres, such as Merry Hill, Lakeside and Watford.

The new group will have a pan-European portfolio of retail and leisure assets valued at 23.7 billion euros.

Project pending ministry's road access decision after partial PGOU approval

A. GÓMEZ

TORREMOLINOS. The use of the land north of the congress centre for the new commercial and leisure centre project was not included in the part of the town's new PGOU (town master plan) that was approved earlier this week. The scheme is still waiting for a favourable report from the central government regarding road access. In October the town hall sent three possible solutions to the Roads Department at the Ministry of Public Works to facilitate vehicle access to the new centre from the main roads.

New developments

The partially approval of the new PGOU for Torremolinos by the regional government comes after a ten-year administrative tug-of-war between the Junta and the Town Hall. It paves the way for numerous development projects in the town, including plans for 6,000 new homes. Despite this designation of new areas for construction, the town hall states that Torremolinos will still have a ratio of green areas of 18.12 square metres per inhabitant, higher than the minimum legal ratio (five square metres) and the ratio recommended by the World Health Organisation (ten square metres). The new plan also includes the construction of a park with cycle tracks and footpaths in the hills.

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HERE AND THERE

Prison sentence over chiringuito reforms**MARBELLA**

:: **SUR.** A judge has found against the owner of a chiringuito beach bar in Puerto Banús over controversial building work he carried out. The owner of Levante Beach chiringuito was accused of a planning offence for demolishing the existing building and putting up another on the site that didn't meet planning guidelines. The owner is appealing and says he has complied with his building licence at all times.

Improved Cercanías but not to Marbella**MALAGA**

:: **I.L.** The government has said that it will do its best to improve capacity on the Cercanías rail line to Fuengirola but made no commitment to extend the line to Marbella. Transport infrastructure minister, Íñigo de la Serna, made his comments last Friday on a visit to Antequera for the start of trials on the new high-speed AVE line to Granada. Local leaders have called for an urgent improvement to the overused train service on the Costa.

Victims of train crash look for damages**MALAGA**

:: **I.L.** Some of those affected by last week's derailment of a Malaga to Seville train during heavy rain have started proceedings for possible damages. Their Seville-based lawyer said that there was "a malfunction" on the service that caused the accident that wounded 37 people. Meanwhile, a judge in Seville has asked for reports on the state of the train and the line and on what happened, as part of the legal investigation into the accident.

Anger over Fuengirola's history museum that only has one room

The council says that poor visitor numbers were behind its decision to scale down the displays, but it hopes to show some items again in Sohail castle

IVÁN GELIBTER

FUENGIROLA. Opposition politicians in Fuengirola have criticised the council for "neglect" of the town's historical legacy by shutting down parts of the local museum.

The Museo de la Ciudad, near Bioparc, has just one exhibition room currently open, despite a broader collection with many more items when it first opened.

Inaugurated in February 2003, there were fourteen rooms in its 1,700 square metres. In addition there was a room dedicated to art, a cultural library and a restoration workshop. Part of the collection included local archaeological finds from the Phoenician and Roman



The size of the exhibition space was reduced in 2013. :: **I.G.**

eras. There was also a collection of items from the town covering up to the 1950s. Now the museum only features temporary exhibitions covering 500 metres.

The council says the visitor numbers were too low to keep the whole building open but hopes to set up a new archaeological display in Sohail castle.

WORK TO START ON UNFINISHED DOLMENS MUSEUM

The Junta de Andalucía hopes to have the museum and interpretation centre at the Dolmens prehistoric site in Antequera ready to have display items placed in it by the middle of 2020. Regional culture minister, Miguel Ángel Vázquez (left), made the announcement on a visit to the site on Thursday. The opening is a condition of its UNESCO status, granted last year.



:: **ANTONIO J. GUERRERO**

Building licence approved for new San Pedro health centre

HÉCTOR BARBOTA

MARBELLA. The long-awaited new San Pedro health centre got the go ahead from the town hall on Monday when the council approved the building licence.

Work is due to start early next year on the site. The Junta de Andalucía, that is responsible for the health service, put the design of the project worth 4.3 million euros out to tender in June this year and, under the previous mayor of Marbella, had said it would start work in February 2018.

The new building, to replace the existing centre on a nearby site, was first approved by the council in 2010 but plans were subsequently put on hold during the years of the financial crisis.

According to district mayor for San Pedro on Marbella council, Rafael Piña, the new council had committed to speeding up planning permission and "now we hope that the Junta starts the process of awarding the contract and beginning the building work on these much needed health facilities".

Initially Marbella council had offered to help finance the work to help get it started, however a juridical report later overturned this idea

The site covers 3,000 square metres and provides primary healthcare services not just to San Pedro but also to Nueva Andalucía, Benahavís and the eastern side of the Estepona municipality.

Rafael Piña has also announced that he has met with the Junta over the delayed future new school for the El Ingenio area of west San Pedro.



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112 REPORTS

German woman killed in Torrox Costa accident

TORROX
:: **A.F. /J.C.** A 70-year-old German woman was killed last Friday afternoon by a car in Torrox Costa. The victim was hit by a white Seat at around 2.30pm in the centre of the resort. The previous night a 48-year-old was killed in another vehicle accident in the Cártama area of the province.



The scene in Torrox Costa. :: SUR

Italian mafia leader arrested in Benalmádena

BENALMÁDENA
:: **A.G.** Police have held "an important leader" of the Ndrangheta mafia, based in Calabria, Italy. Officers were following instructions from the Italian authorities. The man was detained in the pizzeria he owns in Benalmádena and was wanted on a drugs charge going back to 2012. He was said to have been directing the drug operations since his brother was held in 2014, also in Benalmádena.

German man in intensive care after stabbing

MALAGA
:: **A.F.** A young German man was in intensive care this week at Malaga's Carlos Haya hospital after police found him wandering around the Guadalmar area with a stab wound. A 28-year-old Moroccan man was found closeby with a knife and was arrested. Medical staff said that despite the seriousness of the injury, the victim's condition was improving.

Detention centre for youth who killed her baby

MALAGA
:: **J.C.** A Malaga court has sentenced a teenager to five years in a detention centre and three years supervision for fatally wounding her baby while giving birth. The girl was 17 at the time of the crime and arrived at the Costa del Sol hospital with the injured child. The prosecution said that she intended to kill the child as it was an unwanted pregnancy. Her lawyer has said she will appeal.



The seizure of high-quality cocaine is the biggest in Spain eighteen years :: AFP

Massive haul of cocaine found on ship in Algeciras port

The drugs had been hidden in a consignment of bananas which had come from Colombia and was due to be delivered in Catalonia

:: **SUR / AFP**

ALGECIRAS. A joint operation between the authorities in Spain and Colombia has resulted in the seizure of 5.8 tonnes of cocaine in a container in Algeciras port (Cadiz

province).

The haul had an approximate black-market value of 210 million euros.

The drugs were found on a container ship hidden in a consignment of bananas. The ship had arrived from Medellín, in Colombia, and was on its way to El Prat de Llobregat, in Catalonia.

During the operation, the police arrested a Spanish man who lives in Barcelona and runs the import section of a fruit and vegetable distribution company. He is be-

lieved to be the person who contracted the container.

Two alleged accomplices were also detained, one Portuguese and the other from Honduras. They also live in Barcelona.

In a statement, the Spanish interior ministry said this is the largest haul of this type of drug ever to be seized in Spain from a container, and one of the largest in Europe. The statement also indicated that investigations are continuing and more arrests cannot be ruled out.

Immigrant drowns after jumping off a boat at Maro

:: **A. FRIAS/E. CABEZAS**

MALAGA. A man drowned earlier this week after jumping into the sea from a small boat as it approached a beach known as Molino del Papel, in Maro. He was one of 35 immigrants on board the semi-rigid boat, which was reported to have left Bouyafar in Morocco around midday on Sunday and disappeared. The occupants of the boat, which was three and a half metres long, included six women and a child.

A search-and-rescue operation was put into effect by the Spanish authorities, including three rescue aircraft and an Air Force plane. The boat was spotted around 5.30pm on Monday, when it was close to the Spanish shore.

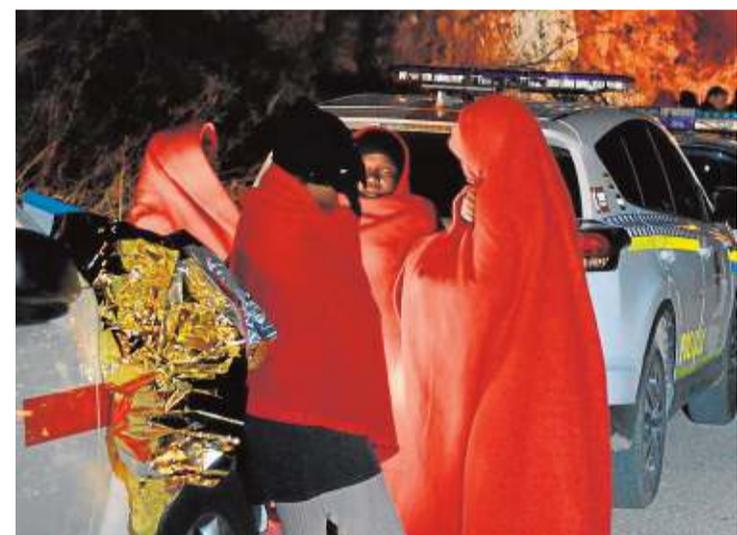
The man who died is believed

to have jumped into the sea in deep water before the boat reached the shore, and drowned almost immediately.

The other occupants of the boat were assisted by Red Cross and medical personnel when they had disembarked onto the sand.

The Maritime Rescue Service says that while searching for this boat, one of its planes spotted another which was carrying around 30 people. A rescue boat was sent to pick them up and take them to Motril port.

So far this year 1,953 immigrants have been rescued after crossing from North Africa to the Malaga coast. The number of people trying to enter Spain via the same route has grown exponentially, and is already double that in 2016.



The immigrants disembarked on a beach at Maro. :: SUR

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"The cruel sacrifice of animals shouldn't carry the same sentence as petty theft"

Fernando Germán Benítez Chief Environmental Prosecutor in Malaga



ALBERTO GÓMEZ

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TORREMOLINOS

The prosecutor who handled the case of the animal shelter in Torremolinos wants harsher penalties for very serious cases

Although it has had a lower profile, the Environmental Prosecution office in Malaga has played a key role in the trial of the president of the false animal protection centre in Torremolinos, Carmen Marín, who was sentenced to nearly four years in jail for falsifying documents and ill-treating animals.

The Chief Environmental Prosecutor, Fernando Benítez, admits that this case particularly affected him, and he has nothing but praise for the "effective and intelligent" investigation which was carried out by the Guardia Civil's Nature Protection Unit, Seprona. He recalls the impact of discovering what had happened - hundreds of animals were destroyed, suffering an agonising and unjustified death so that Carmen Marín could make money - and he says harsher penalties are needed for cases of animal ill-treatment which are "exceptionally serious, such as this one".

-What was your first impression when you heard about the Parque Animal case?

-I realised that an offence of fraud concerning the donations made by people who took animals to the shelter was absent from the investigation. They weren't large amounts of money. Most people donated 50 or 60 euros, but altogether they came to quite a sum and that could have been fraud. I would have liked to have followed that up, but I didn't have any more documentation or new evidence which would enable me to do that. That part of the case is now being handled by the court in Torremolinos.

Also, the falsifying of documents had been excluded from the summary procedure. I pressed for that to be included, because I thought it was very important, and that was the start of a fierce legal battle; between us, on one hand, because we wanted to overturn the provisional dismissal of the offence of falsifying documents, and the defence, which wanted it to be cancelled altogether.

-What affected you most about what had happened?

-Some cases have a particular impact



Fernando Benítez, in his office. :: A. G.

and this is one of them, not only because of the awful images and the witness reports, but because it is hard to imagine that there are people who are dehumanised to such an extent. It's almost incredible that someone who sells themselves publicly as a protector of animals has such contempt for animal suffering and kills hundreds of animals in an extremely cruel way for purely financial reasons. I was amazed that the situation had gone on for so long without anyone putting an end to it.

-In your accusation, you said that the animals were writhing in pain for hours.

-There were witnesses who said so during the trial. Nothing was the product of invention or imagination. Carmen Marín admitted that this happened simply to save money on the euthanasia products. She injected an amount which was not recommended, into parts of the body which were not suitable, and with no sedation. Instead of giving the injections intravenously, she did it anywhere in the body. That makes intramuscular absorption of the product much slower.

-What do you think of Seprona's investigation?

-I think it was exemplary; firstly because it brought an end to this terri-

ble situation, and secondly because it meant the case could come to trial. They carried out an investigation on the ground which was efficient and intelligent, and they collected enough material for us to evaluate what had been happening there. There were plenty of pictures, documents and witnesses.

-In the conclusions you said you would have liked to have been wrong.

-The defence maintained that this was a set-up, out of revenge or ill will towards Carmen Marín. I would have liked them to have demonstrated that, because it would have been preferable if this had not happened, but there was irrefutable evidence. The witnesses, the documentation and the experts' reports coincided about what had happened. And unfortunately, it was dreadful.

-What role did Torremolinos town hall play in this?

-During the trial Seprona said that the town hall had not collaborated with the investigation, and had even helped Carmen Marín to falsify documents. That wasn't part of the proceedings, but the officers said town hall staff were expressly told not to talk to Seprona. They said Marín was given the files with the invoices for incinerating the animals so they could be altered and then given back. That was proven, as the sentence shows. It points out that she was given favourable treatment.

-And is that legal?

-I have never known a case like it. Normally people can get a copy, although it isn't easy, but this is the first time I have ever heard of a public administration giving somebody a file so it can be modified and then re-registered.

-And why was she given that favourable treatment?

-I've heard a number of rumours, but I haven't analysed them from the point of view of proven facts.

-It seems strange that, despite the seriousness of what had happened, Carmen Marín was sent to prison for falsifying documents and not for ill-treating animals.

-It's strange that falsifying documents can result in up to three years in prison, while cruelly sacrificing thousands of animals only results in a maximum of one year, which can be extended to 18 months. It seems disproportionate that this behaviour has a penalty of 18 months in the worst of cases, when people are given the same sentence for stealing a wallet with 400 euros inside. It shouldn't be like that. We are calling for a new sentence to be available for exceptionally serious cases like this one, which deserve a much harsher penalty, so people can be given more than two years in prison.

Proposed bill

-Have you officially proposed that?

Carmen Marín starts prison sentence in Madrid jail

President of Parque Animal, the false animal protection centre in Torremolinos, Carmen Marín, started her prison term last week after voluntarily reporting to the

Victoria Kent social integration centre (CIS) in Madrid after receiving notification to do so. From there she was transferred to a prison in the Spanish capital.



Carmen Marín

The defence team for Marín, who has been sentenced to three years and nine months behind bars, for the most part for falsification of documents, has been appealing, so far unsuccessfully for her sentence to be delayed, citing health issues.

They have submitted a request to the Ministry of Justice for a reprieve, alongside several medical documents outlining various physical and psychological problems she is suffering but the sentence is, at present, being upheld.

-As a prosecutor all I can do is call for it in court, recommend it in my report and include it in the minutes for the Malaga Prosecution Authority. I have been doing that for two years. The judge also referred to it in the sentence, and the College of Lawyers has taken the matter to parliament. I believe it is to be presented as a draft bill.

-It seems that social sensitivity has advanced more quickly than the law regarding ill-treatment of animals.

-This type of matter is usually way down the list. We are a relatively young democracy and we come from an agrarian society. It is only recently that society has started to think of animals as sentient beings and not as mere possessions belonging to their owners. The crime of ill-treatment of animals has been common in the UK and Germany for a great deal longer, and the penalties are higher. Our Penal Code excludes animals which live in the wild, while Germany, for example, protects all animals with a vertebral column and central nervous system because it knows that they are capable of experiencing suffering. In Spain, the crime was introduced in 2003 and there were two important reforms in 2010 and 2015. Each reform widened the sphere of application and the penalty. I believe we're making progress in that sense.

-What about bullfighting? How does that fit into this context?

-It's a delicate question. I can only give my opinion as a citizen. I don't like bullfighting; I would prefer it to be abolished. Some regions have done that, without much of a backlash, and some festivals have abandoned their cruelest elements. However, I must stress, that is just my personal opinion.



Was there anything in the UK Budget for expatriates?

By John McCann, Senior Partner, Blevins Franks

Phillip Hammond's second Budget was widely seen as fairly subdued, but was there anything of note for Britons living in Spain?

Personal tax

Expatriates earning UK income may benefit from a slight increase in the personal allowance. From 6th April you can earn £11,850 before paying UK tax (formerly £11,500). Unlike the previous Chancellor, Hammond has made no suggestion of limiting this tax relief for non-resident British nationals in the future.

For the first time, the marriage allowance will be extended to widows and widowers, enabling 10% of the personal allowance to transfer to the surviving partner. Effective from 29th November, claims can be backdated up to four years.

Higher rate taxpayers are set to be marginally better off, as the upper threshold for 40% tax rates increases in April from £45,001 to £46,350 (Scotland remains at £43,000).

These changes align with the government's pledge to increase

basic rate to £12,500 and the higher rate threshold to £50,000 by 2020.

Savings

The band of UK savings income that can be earned tax-free stays the same at £5,000, and the annual ISA subscription limit remains unchanged at £20,000.

However, expatriates need to remember that investments like ISAs lose their tax-efficient benefits once you are no longer UK resident. Not only are non-residents ineligible to open and save into ISAs, any interest earned becomes liable to taxation in Spain. You should instead explore investment alternatives to suit your unique circumstances and aims.

Pensions

Despite speculation, there were no changes to pension tax relief or transfers.

The State Pension will increase 3% in line with inflation – as defined by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) – from April. This represents an extra £191 a year for those who started drawing benefits before 6 April

2015; £250 for others. It has already been established that British expatriates in the EU will continue to receive these cost-of-living increases beyond Brexit.

The lifetime allowance will also increase with inflation. This means you can accrue an extra £30,000 on top of the £1 million in pension benefits from April 2018 without incurring 25% or 55% tax penalties.

Property

The biggest Budget headline was the immediate stamp duty relief for first-time buyers – and those buying in high value areas like London – of up to £300,000 on properties under £500,000.

A 3% stamp duty surcharge remains in place for the purchase of second and subsequent homes, although this now no longer applies where ownership shifts, for example, as a result of divorce or re-mortgaging. Expatriates should note that overseas property counts here, so additional stamp duty may be payable if you own your home abroad and buy another in Britain, even if it is your only UK property. Different stamp duty rules usually

apply in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

If you retain a UK property that is unoccupied, you could see your council tax rates doubling next year. In a bid to discourage empty properties, Hammond has handed local authorities the option to increase council tax premiums by 100% on properties vacant for two years or more.

Meanwhile, the annual capital gains tax exemption will track inflation by increasing to £11,700 from April (£5,850 for most trusts).

Non-residents who own interest in commercial UK property are set to be subject to tax on gain for the first time. Currently, 'non-residential capital gains tax' only applies to residential property (on gains since 5th April 2016) but is due to be charged on the sale of any UK real estate or land, whether owned directly or indirectly, from April 2019 (excluding Scotland).

With these extra measures, it is worth reassessing whether holding UK property is the most tax- and cost-efficient option for your capital.

The UK economy

While there was not much in the way of handouts or cash-grabs in this Budget, there was a sharp downgrading of the UK economy's growth forecast. Falling to 1.5% from the 2% forecast in March, it is the largest adjustment since the financial crisis, expected to drop to 1.3% post-Brexit before reaching just 1.6% in 2022.

In this climate of sluggish growth and Brexit uncertainty, it is a good idea to seek specialist, personalised advice, especially if you are concerned about any of the Budget measures. A specialist in cross-border taxation can guide you on the interaction between UK and Spanish taxation and the tax planning opportunities available.

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Pupils to perform at Christmas market to raise money for film

The Erasmus project has funded school exchanges between IES Trayamar in Algarrobo and schools in France, Germany, Italy and England

:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

ALGARROBO. Pupils from the Trayamar secondary school in Algarrobo will have a stall at the town's Christmas market this weekend in order to raise funds as part of an Erasmus programme they have been taking part in.

While a 20,000 euro Erasmus grant funded the exchange visits, the school still needs to raise money to be able to screen a film they have made as part of the project in Malaga next year. On 8,9 and 10 December, pupils will be selling cakes, soaps and hand-crafts as well as a CD featuring songs from the musical film which they have made in collaboration with schools in France, Germany, Italy and the UK as part of the project. In addition to the stall, the group will be performing songs and dances from the film at 4pm on Friday.

Culmination of experiences

The project, 'Mira Adelante' (look ahead) has seen pupils from the school participate in school exchanges with teenagers from the other countries over a two-year period and the musical is a culmination of their shared experiences.

Juan and Carmen (Spanish), Marie and Tristan (French), Laura and Gi-



Pupils and teachers from Algarrobo in Paris in 2016. :: SUR

useppe (Italian), Rebecca and Daniel (British), and Katharina and Max (German) are the protagonists in a story of the search for a brighter future, in which their lives are brought together by fate. In a journey which takes them to different countries they overcome a series of difficulties and eventually find the essence for a life without borders which highlights the values of friendship, solidarity and love.

The other European schools involved with the project are Collège Alberto Giacometti in Paris, I.C. Padre Pino Puglisi de Palermo, in Sicily; Lisa Marie Gimnasium, in Böblingen, Germany and the Lindsay School in Alnwick, England.

French teacher, Pilar Sánchez, said that the project has led to "friendships and comradeship that they are going to remember their whole lives."

Nerja Police prevent gambling addict from committing suicide

:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

NERJA. Police officers were able to prevent a 41-year-old man from committing suicide by jumping off the 80-metre high viaduct which forms part of the A7 motorway and crosses over the Chillar river in Nerja on Monday.

An officer, who wishes to remain anonymous, managed to get close

to the man, who is from Malaga, by talking to him for almost half an hour, before taking him by the arm to prevent him from jumping. "There were several very tense moments and it was very unpleasant," said the officer, adding, "he was making the sign of the cross and his intentions were clear."

Officers coned off the area around

the incident and controlled traffic over the bridge.

The man, who confessed to having serious financial problems due to a gambling addiction, was taken to the health centre in Nerja where he was attended to after suffering a panic attack.

Viaducts such as the one in Nerja, as well as Maro and Torrox are often the scenes of suicides and a security fence has recently been erected along the Totalán viaduct which forms part of the A7 near Rincón de la Victoria following requests from residents who live near the area.

HERE AND THERE



Damián Ramos and Sebastián Guerrero. :: A. P.

Vélez-Málaga company launches goat cheese, wine and pecan nut flavoured turrón

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

:: **A. P.** Bakers Damián Ramos and Sebastián Guerrero from the Ramos cake shop in Caleta de Vélez have just launched their latest turrón creations. The new flavours are Malaga goat cheese, Pedro Ximénez wine from the bodega Cortijo la

Fuente de Molina and organic pecan nut from the Gualadhorce river in Coín. The pair are already well known in the area for flavours including mango and avocado.

"We've been thinking of making turrón with cheese for a while and now we've done it. It's taken us a year, since we launched the avocado turrón in 2016," explained Ramos.

The bakers have a stall at the Christmas market on the paseo del parque in Malaga as well as selling the products at the shop in Caleta.

Security guards hired to prevent avocado thefts

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

:: **A. P.** Collectives of avocado growers are approaching security companies for quotes to hire staff. The move comes after an increasing number of growers have reported thefts from their fields and blame high prices for the problem. Francisco Torre is one such grower who has recently contracted a security guard after losing more than 1,000 kilos of the fruit; which he says "has a value of around 2,500 euros". The collectives have also asked police to carry out checks at street markets and control fields at night using helicopters.

Councillor "knew nothing" about dump

NERJA

:: **E. C.** Nerja environment councillor, Jorge Bravo, told the judge in the 'Operation Rubbish' case that he knew nothing about the illegal rubbish dump in Río de la Miel in Nerja until 31 August 2016. Speaking in court in Torrox on Monday he said that he only found out about it after police ordered it to be closed in summer last year. On Friday Mayor Rosa Arrabal, also denied prior knowledge of the dump.

Extra clothes banks installed around Rincón

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA

:: **E. C.** Rincón de la Victoria town hall has renewed an agreement with the Spanish NGO, Organización Social de Acción Humanitaria (OSAH), or Social organisation for humanitarian action in English, which was first signed in 2011. The new agreement will see a further five containers for unwanted clothes and textiles being added to the seventeen already located around Rincón, La Cala del Moral, Torre de Benagalbón and Benagalbón. OSAH helps vulnerable people and families at risk of social exclusion in Malaga.



Avocado theft in Malaga . :: SUR



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Runner completes 1,000-kilometre feat against leukaemia in honour of Pablo Ráez

Iván González finished his great journey on Sunday hugging the father of the man who died nine months ago

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. Since his leukaemia diagnosis in 2015, 27-year-old Iván González, from the small Asturias town of Illas, has radically changed his life. The father-of-two suffers from the incurable chronic leukaemia, for which he has to have continuous treatment. He did not let his illness put a halt on his life, instead he started running. Today, he is one of the best long-distance runners in the country. Last weekend he completed his impressive 1,000 kilometre run to pay homage to Pablo Ráez, a young man from Marbella who died after transplant complications nine months ago. He ran 600 kilometres and cy-



Iván González, Paco Ráez, and Octavio Pérez at the finish line. :: J-L

cles 400 kilometres, from Avilés to Marbella.

As well as paying tribute to Pablo Ráez, who he never managed to meet, the aim of this great feat was to raise

awareness about bone marrow donation, and to collect money on www.1000kilometroscontralaleucemia.com.

In the final few kilometres of this

eight-day journey he was joined by Paco Ráez, Pablo's father. They were met like heroes at the finish line, with applause and tears. Especially from Iván's parents and wife.

Iván received recognition at the Asociación de Voluntarios de Oncología Infantil (AVOI) event which was celebrated last weekend in the Marbella Palacio de Congresos.

As a gesture of his gratitude, Paco Ráez gifted Iván with the medal his son received some years ago after taking part in the Ronda 101 kilometres challenge for the first time. "I've got a lot out of this but what I feel most excited and emotional about is this," Iván said, pointing at the medal, which hangs around his neck.

Iván passed through 88 towns in 10 provinces with his team of four people who monitored his health along the way.

"The hardest bit was the first part, in northern Spain. In the freezing, desolate areas the kilometres became

a lot longer. But we fought against the weather and against the pain and it was fantastic," assured the athlete, who was surprised to "finish in such good health".

He is overwhelmed by the response he has received from the general public. "So many people who have opened their doors to me and given me everything even though they don't know me. It has been worth every metre," he said. He maintains that he would "do it over again one thousand times". "But after a bit of a break of course," he joked.

"You think about 1,000 kilometres in a car and you think... wow. Imagine doing that walking or by bike without getting anything out of it, only for the desire to raise awareness. It's amazing," an emotional Paco Ráez remarked.

Now, Iván González continues with his other personal challenge, facing leukaemia every single day. It is under control at the moment so he can prepare for his next sporting competitions.

"Pablo Ráez's legacy brought Iván and me together," explained his personal trainer Octavio Pérez. "He has done this 1,000 kilometres for Pablo and for all the children who suffer this illness."

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Marbella town hall orders urgent removal of invasive plants in the dunes

A specialised company is carrying out the work in Río Real, La Adelfa, El Alicate and Artola-Cabopino

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. Due to the rapid growth of invasive plant species which are threatening ecosystems on the Marbella coastline, the town hall has had to begin urgent eradication plans, which involve public and private resources, costing 22,000 euros. Contractor, Malagueña Forestal, has started the eradication process in the Marbella ecological dune reserve and in the natural dunes of Artola-Cabopino.

In Río Real, where the situation is the worst, the team is removing canes, weeds, acacia, yucca, agave and castor oil plants; in La Adelfa, they will carry out the vital pruning of 63 pine trees and 57 broom shrubs and mov-



Work has begun on the dunes in Marbella. :: SUR

ing of further acacia shrubs, and El Alicate will see the removal of further cane plants. Finally, in Artola-Cabopino, canes and acacias will be taken away.

"All of these species are invasive and stop the growth of indigenous plants in the dunes," explained en-

vironment councillor, Manuel Cardaña.

The councillor stressed that the dunes in Marbella are the "only healthy ones in all of Malaga province", and has designed flyers to raise awareness of the importance of this vital coastal ecosystem.



Authorities at the reopening of the A-377. :: C.M.

Road improvements on A-377 finish ahead of schedule

:: CHARO MÁRQUEZ

MANILVA. The roadworks to improve the A-377 road, which connects Valle del Genal with the Costa del Sol, has finished ahead of schedule. The work was completed in 10 months rather than the planned 12. The road improvements required an investment on 4.3 million euros.

The regional development minister, Felipe López, said that the work has succeeded in "standardising the layout of the road, and widening it", which has made it safer for the 1,600 people which use it daily. The improvements will ease access between Gaucín and Manilva.

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The Gran Recogida achieves its goal with over 600,000 kilos of food

Bancosol's two-day campaign in supermarkets across the province finished last Saturday with double the amount collected on Friday

:: P. PINEDA / A. SALAZAR

MALAGA. The sixth edition of the Gran Recogida foodbank collections met all expectations last weekend. Over two days, the people of Malaga showed their generosity donating food products in different supermarkets all over the province. The goal was to at least equal the results of previous years' collections, and it was easily met.

Over Friday and Saturday, 600,000 kilos (600 tonnes) of food was collected. A third of the total was collected on Friday, but Saturday, as predicted by the vice-president of Bancosol and coordinator of the Gran Recogida, Joaquín Jiménez, was the most successful day. A total of 400,000 kilos of food was collected, doubling the figure from the day before. Thanks to this, the vice-president of Bancosol declared this year's



A volunteer collects food in a Malaga supermarket. :: FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ

campaign to be a "total success". This year's collection was very varied. Bancosol began a campaign recently to ask for a variety of food to be donated, and not just rice and pasta. Joaquín Jiménez confirmed that the majority of people had been aware of this, and that this year they had received a lot of baby food, a specific example given of

other items needed. "This campaign has been characterised by people's awareness," he remarked. In regards to which supermarkets collected the most food, as with every year, the bigger ones were more successful. Carrefour Los Patios and Carrefour Alameda came out on top in Malaga.

In addition, 2017 has seen some heart-warming stories, like that of Pablo Muñoz. He is eleven years old and from Estepona. For the last two weeks the boy has been preparing for this big event and wanting to do his bit to help. To do so, he made homemade cupcakes which he sold around his

THE FIGURES

600

tonnes of food were collected in Malaga province during this year's Gran Recogida last Friday and Saturday.

400

tonnes were collected on Saturday alone, double the amount collected on Friday.

neighbourhood. With the money raised, Pablo went to his local supermarket on Saturday and bought nonperishable food items which he then donated to the Gran Recogida.



Pablo Muñoz

For the event, the participation of some 4,000 volunteers was needed. This year the collection introduced a new scheme of sorting all the foods donated into categories, so that they could be taken away for distribution immediately. For this task, 600 volunteers were needed. The Bancosol foodbank helps a total of 49,000 people in the province of Malaga, through a number of different charities.

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Peter the Great's frigate open to the public in Malaga this Saturday

The Shtandart, a replica of an 18th-century vessel, is a sail training and museum ship

:: DARYL FINCH

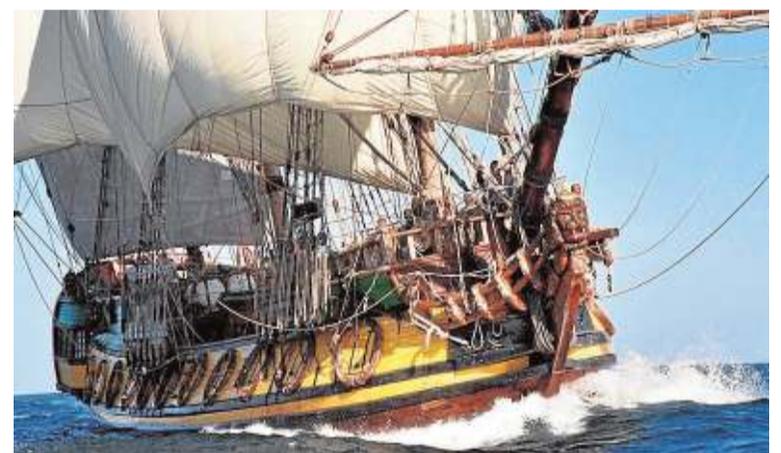
MALAGA. Russian sail training and museum ship, the Shtandart, will dock in Malaga tomorrow, Saturday, where it can be viewed by the general public.

On the way to Spain, the Shtandart has travelled 2,000 nautical miles from the UK, through the Bay of Biscay, Portugal and Gibraltar.

The Shtandart is a replica of an 18th-century naval frigate and royal yacht. The original ship was built by Russian tsar Peter the Great in 1703 after his trip to Europe where he learned shipbuilding techniques.

At the time, Spain, England and the Netherlands had the best fleets on the oceans and the Shtandart aimed to combine their most outstanding features.

The modern ship was built in Saint Petersburg in 1999 by a group of enthusiasts. The project is run by volunteers, who maintain and sail the ship. For the last 15 years, the Shtandart has been sailing around Europe as a sail training ship, with a young international crew on board. Together with the professional crew,



The ship has travelled 2,000 nautical miles on its journey to Spain. :: SUR



The modern ship was built in Saint Petersburg in 1999. :: SUR

trainees take part in tall ship regattas, sailing festivals and historical filmings. In fact, last summer the Shtandart came first in Baltic Tall Ships Races.

When docked at ports, as will be the case at Malaga's Muelle Uno on Saturday, the ship is open to the public as a museum dedicated to the traditions of the so-called Age of Sail. Visitors to the museum ship can experience the living conditions of 18th-century sailors firsthand from 9am to 6pm. Entry costs three euros for adults and is half price for children.

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THE WEEK IN PICTURES



ANTONIO BANDERAS JOINS THE TEAM AT MALAGA'S FAMOUS EL PIMPI BODEGA BAR

Malaga-born Hollywood actor, Antonio Banderas (centre), celebrated this week becoming a shareholder in Malaga's iconic El Pimpi. The restaurant plans to expand by opening a catering school and is to set up a charitable foundation.



CLOTHES STACK AT ARCHIDONA JAIL ENTRANCE

Volunteers brought clothing to the illegal immigrants temporarily held in the unopened Archidona jail this week and had a two-hour wait before police let it go inside.



FLAGS OUT ON CONSTITUTION DAY

Wednesday was the 39th anniversary of Spain's constitution. The day was marked in Marbella's Orange Square as well as throughout Spain



FIRST RUSSIAN EMBASSY REMEMBERED IN CADIZ

The Russian ambassador to Spain was in Puerto de Santa María (Cadiz) on Tuesday to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the first Russian embassy in this country. A plaque was unveiled and the good relations between the two countries stressed.

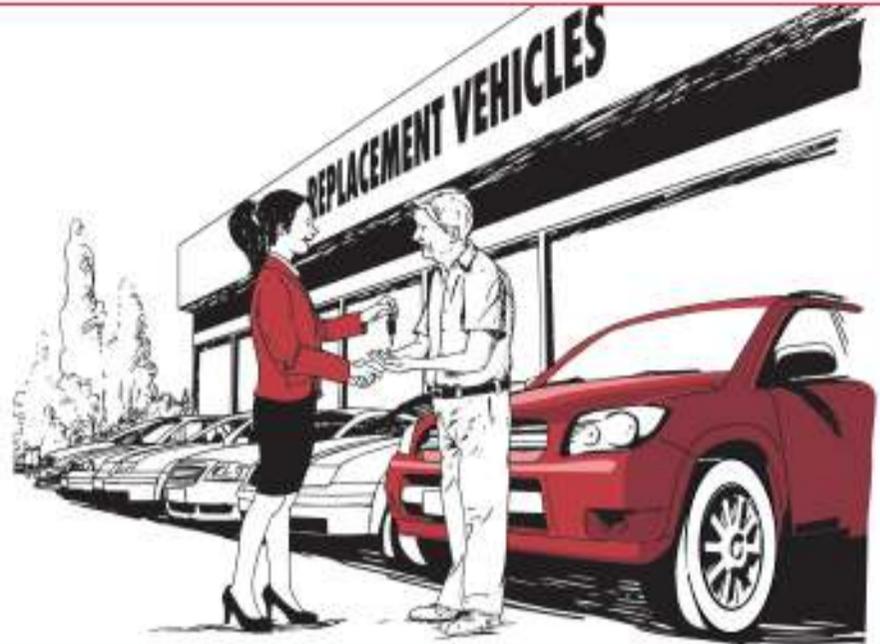
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Scientists linked to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation hold their annual meeting in Ronda

Among the experts trying to find solutions for the whitefly which affects yucca plants are a team of researchers from La Mayora

AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

RONDA. A group of 40 scientists from different countries, chosen specifically by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, were in Ronda for their annual meeting this week. They are trying to end hunger in Africa by studying ways to prevent whitefly spreading viruses to different plants and causing repeated famines.

Among the group were a team from La Mayora Institute of Subtropical and Mediterranean Horticulture (IHSM), which was created by Malaga University and the



The scientists who were specifically chosen by the Foundation, in Ronda :: SUR

Senior Scientific Research Committee (CSIC).

The Malaga representatives were doctors Jesús Navas and Elvira Fi-

allo, technician Remedios Tovar and Tanzanian student Happyness Mollel.

To carry out this project, which

is called Cassava Whitefly, the scientists were given a grant of 17 million dollars from the Natural Resources Institute (NRI) of the Uni-

versity of Greenwich in the UK, which had been provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The NRI is leading the project, but researchers from many other countries are also taking part.

La Mayora has been carrying out research into whitefly and the virus it transmits for 20 years; the insect affects many vegetables and fruits in Spain, including tomatoes, peppers, melon and green beans, among others.

The whitefly of the African yucca transmits many viruses to plants, some of which have caused devastating pandemics in East Africa. The numbers of whitefly have increased to an unprecedented level, and they are also spreading rapidly towards West Africa.

The Cassava Whitefly project began in October 2014 and will end in October 2018. The progress made so far, and the importance of the problem, means it is likely that the Foundation will finance a second phase, from 2018 to 2022, with the aim of being able to apply the knowledge which has been gained and design effective and longlasting methods of controlling the plagues of whitefly.

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HERE AND THERE

Private school land grant causes anger

ESTEPONA

:: **C. M.** Socialist councillors in Estepona have slammed the ruling PP group for what they say is preferential treatment for new private schools instead of state education. The local PSOE says that too many pieces of land belonging to the council have been given over to private educational establishments. "The

town hall has to make sure that children's education doesn't depend on the depth of the parents' pockets," they explain.

It comes as Mayfair International Academy looks to open a 350-place private school in Estepona on council land.

The ruling PP group has responded by saying that it is the PSOE-controlled regional government that is responsible for state education and that it is up to them to present their plans to the council.

Water supply in Manilva to be improved

MANILVA

:: **M.P.** The district water company for the western Costa del Sol, AcoSol, is to invest a million euros in improving the water supply to Manilva. The work should take five months when started and involves opening up a disused storage tank in the higher part of the El Hacho residential development and connecting to a main tank supplying the village from the coast.



Estepona gives land for first Russian church

ESTEPONA

:: **C.M.** The town hall in Estepona is to give over free of charge a piece of land worth 700,000 euros for the construction of Andalucía's first Russian Orthodox church. The total project, when previously presented for construction in Marbella, was due to cost 3 to 4 million euros, to be raised by donations to the Iniciativa Orthodoxa foundation.

Judge orders Benalmádena to demolish unlicensed apartments

The Hotel Vista de Rey was given planning permission in 2001 with a special decree that has been declared invalid by the Andalusian court

:: **ALBERTO GÓMEZ**

BENALMÁDENA. A Malaga court has given Benalmádena town hall three months to demolish the three-star Hotel Vista de Rey near the Torremuelle train station. The case dates back to 2001 when the then mayor, Enrique Bolín, granted planning permission for the building through a special decree.

Torremuelle residents took the case to the courts and in 2011 the Andalusian High Court (TSJA) upheld a sentence that declared the decree null and void. Appeals lodged by the local council and the developers were overturned and in the most recent ruling the judge has warned that if the three-month deadline is not met by the town hall the Junta de Andalucía will step in to make sure the order is carried out.

Vista de Rey is an 'aparthotel' and as such requires a licence for commercial-residential use, however according to the local planning regulations the area is reserved for hotels with a minimum of four stars. The Torremuelle aparthotel has three stars and also exceeded the maximum construction volume permitted in the area by 700 square metres.



The holiday apartment building in Torremuelle. :: A. G.

The establishment has 61 studio apartments, 46 garage spaces and communal areas. The Torremuelle residents association maintains that some of the apartments have been sold, and questions the legality of the transactions.

Benalmádena town hall has said that this is a case that was "inherited from previous councils" and that the municipal legal services would study the sentence, which could be appealed. At a council meeting last year the Town Planning councillor, Óscar Ramundo

said that the licence had been granted by the former mayor despite unfavourable reports from the municipal architect as the plans exceeded the maximum construction permitted. Ramundo said, however, that a possible demolition "could be interpreted as disproportionate" and the breaches in regulations could "probably be legalised". This latest sentence puts the town hall in a predicament as the local authority's past appeals have been rejected and court costs are mounting up.

Mijas and Fuengirola to share costs of improvements to dividing road

Residents on one side of Calle de La Unión, live in Mijas while their neighbours across the road are in Fuengirola

:: **IVÁN GELIBTER**

MIJAS / FUENGIROLA. Road improvements to Calle de La Unión are to cost nearly a million euros and are to be carried out by the local town halls, in plural.

This street runs along the boundary line between the municipalities of Mijas and Fuengirola and so residents on one side live in one town and their neighbours across the road belong to the other.

On Friday the mayor of Mijas, Juan Carlos Maldonado and his counterpart in Fuengirola, Ana

Mula, signed an agreement in which the two councils promise to collaborate with one another to carry out road improvements.

"The understanding between the two councils has given rise to this joint scheme which will cost nearly a million euros and we hope to start in the first quarter of 2018," said Maldonado.

"We have come to an agreement for the good of our residents. This is the line of collaboration that we will continue in the future," he added.

"We are responding to a demand that the people have been making for some time," said Ana Mula, who added that not only would the scheme affect the surface but it would also mean new drains, sewerage pipes and other utilities. The work will take six months to complete.



Maldonado and Mula with the plans for the improvements. :: I. G.

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Pioneers in holiday rentals

For 15 years Spain- Holiday, based in Malaga, has been an exclusive portal for tourist accommodation

A Danish computer programmer came up with the idea when he was working for an estate agency on the Costa del Sol.

MALAGA. In 2000, a young Danish traveller, qualified in IT, decided to look for work in southern Europe to get away from the cold weather in Scandinavia. He was offered a job sooner than he expected, with an estate agency in Fuengirola, to design a website to advertise the properties it had for sale. He soon realised that many of the houses were being bought by foreigners, who were only going to spend a couple of months a year in them.

"I thought: these properties are going to be empty for ten or eleven months at a time. I need to do something about this. So I did," says Claus Sorensen, who is now the founder and CEO of Spain- Holiday.com, which is based in Malaga and has been established for 15 years. "For me it was easy, because in Denmark people had been renting houses for holidays since the 1950s. I knew there was a future in this, but at first it wasn't so easy because Spanish people were very reluctant to rent out their properties. Now, though, they have embraced the idea with a passion," he explains.

He started with around 100 properties owned by foreigners, offering to advertise them free of charge on a website. It only cost him 100 euros to set up his project: a website for holiday lets. This predecessor to the now gigantic Airbnb, which started small in 2002, now offers over 11,700 properties all over Spain, including villas in Marbella which rent for 28,000 euros a week in high season.

"For the first 14 months the own-



Jannich Petersen and Claus Sorensen, at the office in Malaga. :: ÁLVARO CABRERA

ers of the properties didn't pay anything. Then, when there were 500 properties on the website, I started to charge 125 euros a year to advertise. I knew it would work," he says. And it certainly did: The turnover this year is expected to be 1.9 million euros, rising to three million in 2018 after it starts to charge a commission for bookings. This is what the big platforms do, the ones which have transformed the tourism industry and revolutionised the idea of holiday accommodation to the extent that there is now more self-catering accommodation on offer on the Costa del Sol than hotel places.

This pioneer in holiday rentals has no fear of competition from the major companies. He insists that the future lies in specialisation, which is something he envisaged right from the start.

"We only offer properties in Spain,



The Spain-Holiday office. :: ÁLVARO CABRERA

with international clients in mind so they can enjoy the destination to the full. That is something unique. That's

why I'm not worried. There is an active market and we have the advantage that we live here and we know the essence of the product and the destination. We are constantly updating our content and information," he says. He started off with one employee, Helea de Vliegner, who is Dutch. She still looks after foreign clients who want to rent out their properties. Helea translated the initial website into Dutch, while Claus Sorensen did the same into Danish. Today the portal has versions in 13 languages, ranging from the traditional English and German to Swedish, Polish, Russian, Portuguese and Finnish. These same languages can be heard in the office, where there are now around 20 employees, all of whom speak at least two languages. This is appreciated by the owners, as well as would-be clients.

Work ethic

"In Denmark we have a philosophy of work in which everyone is at the same level. Responsibility is delegated, we listen to the employees and accept that mistakes are part of learning. The idea is that the staff are happy because they feel part of the company and nobody has to control the hours they work or what they do. That gives the best results," explains Jannich Petersen, the general manager. Most of the staff are aged about 30, and the majority are foreigners who are living on the Costa del Sol.

"We have published more than 200 articles about the city of Malaga and 78 videos in 13 languages. In the past year, the portal received 852,000 visits to properties which are for rent and 933,000 visits overall," says Kaajal Mansukhani, the head of Communication.

From the time the business started, it is estimated that over two million tourists have stayed in a property rented through Spain-Holiday.com, which since last May has insisted that owners in Andalucía comply with the new regulations and register with the tourism authorities in order to be able to advertise their property.

Sorensen says it is a myth that tourists choose the cheapest properties for holidays. He says 80 per cent of clients are prepared to spend money; they are mainly families who want the comfort that they can't find in a hotel, or groups of friends who want privacy. Most are British.

One of the most expensive villas, which has room for 20 people, is already booked for 40 days next summer. The clients will be paying 50,000 euros. "That's why hotels, no matter how much they transform themselves, will never be able to offer the privacy which tourists are looking for these days, and that's why holiday properties are so successful," he insists.



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'Flora of Gibraltar', a new online identification service, is launched

The website is a natural successor to a book called 'The Flowers of Gibraltar', which was published in 1996, and contains more species

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. A new online flora identification service was launched on Wednesday this week by the Gibraltar Botanic Gardens and Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society (GONHS).

The website, 'Flora of Gibraltar' is the culmination of years of work by the GONHS Botanical Section and technical staff at the botanic gardens.

As was explained at the launch on Wednesday, this has been the first attempt to provide an identification guide to the entire native and naturalised vascular and bryo-



Minister of the Environment John Cortes (right), at the launch. **SUR**

phyte flora of Gibraltar.

The website provides information on the identification, distribution and ecology of all of the plants of Gibraltar, and it includes maps and photographs for all the plant species which have been

identified on the Rock.

This online project is the natural successor to 'The Flowers of Gibraltar', a book which was written by Leslie Linares, Arthur Harper and John Cortes and published in 1996.

However, the online nature of the current project means that it can include more species, images and information, and can continue to be updated with information as further understanding is gained of Gibraltar's flora.

The website is an educational resource of considerable potential which can be used by the public, schools and students at the University of Gibraltar. It is a scientific tool, but it is also user-friendly and expertise in botany is not required for its use.

Gibraltar's minister for the Environment, Professor John Cortes, who was present at the launch, congratulated the team for their achievement, complimenting them on "an outstanding piece of work, which will be an important tool for research and for education, and a logical conclusion of the botanical work of both GONHS and the Botanic Garden. Not only is it full of information," he said, "but the non-specialist will find the photographs a delight to behold. Few countries of our size can boast such a comprehensive online flora."

Anyone wishing to access the website can find it at www.floraofgibraltar.myspecies.info

Swift response to oil spill limits damage to the environment

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. A minor oil spill occurred at Western Arm in Gibraltar on Wednesday at about 1pm, but the problem was quickly resolved.

The incident happened when a yacht which was refuelling suffered an overflow from the tank vent on deck. The yacht crew immediately deployed absorbent booms and pads into the sea and were able to contain the spill within the immediate vicinity of the yacht. Most of the oil in the water had drifted south and was contained between SKS Tanaro and the Detached mole. It is estimated that between two and four litres of Luboil made its way into the sea, and swift action by the crew and pollution response teams meant that it had limited impact on the environment.

IN BRIEF



Officers Christian Borrell and Ernest Danino at the Expo. **SUR**

HM Customs at Security Expo 2017 in London

GIBRALTAR

D.B. Senior officers from Gibraltar's HM Customs department recently attended the UK Security Expo at Olympia in London, and were able to hold meetings with their counterparts from the UK Border Force.

The Security Expo is a major event which tackles some of the

most challenging threats to citizens, borders and infrastructure. It provides a unique and secure environment for security experts to come together to share experiences and gain the knowledge needed to address current and emerging security challenges.

The show attracts 10,000+ international visitors to London from Government, Transport & Borders, Major Events, Military, Law Enforcement, Emergency Services, CNI and the public and private sectors.

Christmas charity event raises nearly £1500

GIBRALTAR

D.B. The Ocean Village Magic Christmas event last weekend raised £1,476.26 for the Research into Childhood Cancer charity, and it was the most successful fundraising event in the history of Ocean Village.

Children and adults alike enjoyed musical shows, Santa's Grotto, meeting Disney characters, mulled wine, mince pies, face painting and a host of other activities, all in an excellent cause.

New schools programme begins at Notre Dame

GIBRALTAR

D.B. The Gibraltar government has announced that work has already begun on the first part of its ambitious reform of schools on the Rock, at Notre Dame First School in Winston Churchill Avenue.

The government has apologised for any inconvenience caused to residents during the works, which will be carried out on weekdays between 8am and 7pm, and occasionally at weekends, before the Christmas break.

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BBVA LAUNCHES 'ESTARSEGURO' (BE SAFE), A PLAN THAT MAKES IT EASIER TO MANAGE AND SAVE ON INSURANCE



BBVA's EstarSeguro Plan helps families and self-employed workers in their finances and day-to-day lives.

Life is full of the unexpected. Unforeseen situations which, if not dealt with in the right way, can end up being very costly, both financially and personally.

To cover these possible circumstances, it is necessary to have insurance policies in place that guarantee peace of mind, however these can often become a headache themselves. As well as the usual insurance policies to cover homes or health, there are others to cover services or assets which can result in true chaos within families' finances.

To stop that happening BBVA has launched an exclusive product for its clients, the EstarSeguro (BeSafe) Plan. This plan allows all insurance policies to be grouped together and paid for month by month, in a single monthly payment at no additional cost. All available via multiple channels (through offices, mobile and web), with no minimum time or minimum premium, and with bonuses of up to 15% on all policies.

WHAT ADVANTAGES DOES THE ESTARSEGURO PLAN OFFER?

- 1 It allows premiums of all included insurance policies to be grouped together in one payment.**
- 2 It enables payment to be split into 12 months, with no interest or additional costs.**
- 3 It applies a bonus of up to 15 per cent on all policies included depending on the number of insurance policies included.**
- 4 The client can include insurance policies at any time and with no additional cost at an office, online or via smartphone.**

"The aim of BBVA's EstarSeguro Plan is to offer clients a better experience, as it helps them plan their insurance payments using a private, virtual card with no costs, which is exclusively for paying for the insurance policies included in the plan," Carmen Campillo, Head of Insurance for the Southern regional management, explains.

Also, as Rosario Romero, a BBVA Commercial Manager in San Pedro de Alcántara, affirms: "The main advantage of the EstarSeguro Plan is that it is a completely free, innovative service that allows our clients to group payment of their insurance policies together in a single monthly payment, with no deferment interests, maintenance fees or continuity commitment."

This service includes almost all personal insurance policies. "The clients can include their life insurance, home insurance, car insurance, health insurance, accident insurance, temporary incapacity insurance..... Plus, there is no minimum num-

"The EstarSeguro Plan allows insurance policies to be grouped together and paid for comfortably month to month, in a single monthly payment with no additional cost"

ber of policies or minimum premium amount to gain access to it."

The plan is valid both for existing clients and for those who take out new policies, and can be managed at any time through an office, online or with a mobile phone.

"It is a very comfortable and flexible service. The client can choose which insurance policies they want to incorporate



BBVA

Horizonte BBVA

“The aim of BBVA’s EstarSeguro Plan is to offer the client a better experience, as it helps to plan insurance payments using a private virtual card with no costs”

The plan is valid both for existing clients and for those who contract new policies and can be managed at any time, at an office, online or with a mobile



Manuel Rodríguez Hernández, Small and Medium Companies Manager in Málaga.



Rosario Romero Rodríguez, Commercial Manager in San Pedro de Alcántara.

in this form of monthly payment and which they don’t want included. Moreover, they can include or exclude policies at any time, even if they have not yet expired or are in a split payment period. And all this with no additional costs, at an office, on the website or via the BBVA app. Plus, the service has an exclusive, nationwide customer attention telephone service,” Romero affirms.

It is precisely this flexibility that the clients who have already contracted BBVA’s EstarSeguro Plan value the most. “The users appreciate, on the one hand, the chance to pay their insurance comfortably, in monthly instalments, without having to pay interest. And on the other that, thanks to this service, they know exactly how much they spend each year on insurance and can make more precise savings or expenses forecasts”.

“Often, when we pay for insurance annually, we can’t remember how much the premium is for each different policy, or when we will be charged. With the EstarSeguro Plan, we consider insurance payments to be another monthly payment, just like the mortgage, electricity or phone bill, and we tend to adapt our income to these fixed expenses,” Romero clarifies.

It isn’t surprising, therefore, that as the manager explains, most of the new clients who are visiting branches of the bank have had it recommended to them by friends or relatives who already use the service and are very satisfied with it.

AN ALLY FOR THE SELF-EMPLOYED

BBVA’s EstarSeguro Plan is a great ally for groups such as self-employed workers, who suffer a series of disadvantageous elements during their working lives and retirement compared to salaried, employed workers, especially in the areas of health, incapacity, savings and public pension.

As Manuel Rodríguez, BBVA Small and Medium Companies Manager in Málaga, explains: “As well as the benefits it provides to the general public, the EstarSeguro Plan is of particular interest to self-employed workers, who tend to have variable income. The very essence of the plan



Carmen Campillo, Head of Insurance, Southern regional management.

is that payments are fixed and monthly. This allows self-employed workers to make better financial plans and considerable annual savings, while covering all insurance provisions which are especially important for this group to protect both their businesses and their families, and therefore ‘Be Safe’.”

Moreover, thanks to this service, the discounts and bonuses increase as more coverage of any type or modality is added.

MOBILE AND WEB MANAGEMENT

In keeping with BBVA’s digital philosophy, clients can manage the insurance policies included in the plan themselves, via mobile phone or the website, enabling them to include policies, consult their over-



BBVA’S COMMITMENT TO SMALL AND MEDIUM COMPANIES

As well as insurance for self-employed workers and private individuals, BBVA has a wide range of insurance policies for small and medium sized companies, vital to guarantee the safety of the business, cover common incidents such as theft, breakage, electrical or water damage, etc.

For civil liability matters, the entity has two options, SegurNegocios

(Business) and SegurPy-mes (Small and Medium Companies), related to anything that can affect the income or profits of the business and therefore the assets or incomes of the management team. It also has BBVA-SaludPymes (Health) group policies for employees and relatives, which covers all these needs at unbeatable value for money.

“The EstarSeguro Plan is of particular interest for self-employed workers who tend who have variable income”

Thanks to this service, the discounts and bonuses increase as more coverages of any type and modality are added

all position or contract new coverages.

“Clients can consult their plan, their receipts, simulate adding new policies, etc. on the BBVA APP and on the website. The client will also receive regular mail reports every month with all the information on their payment, premiums, insurance policies included, discounts applied, savings and bonuses obtained thanks to the plan, achieving great agility and improved time management which is so necessary today,” Rodríguez stresses.

Also, clients have a free, exclusive consultation telephone service at the BBVA Contact Centre: 91 224 98 00, a support channel to provide personalised service to clients interested in the BBVA EstarSeguro Plan.

Euro arrest warrant withdrawn for former Catalan president

Three top regional leaders are still under arrest as election campaign starts in Catalonia and PM stands firm on any constitutional reform

:: SUR

MADRID / BARCELONA. The Supreme Court has made the surprise decision to withdraw the European Arrest Warrant issued for the ex-president of Catalonia, Carles Puigdemont, and four ex-regional ministers.

All five have been in Brussels since late October when they were removed from power by Madrid over their separatist activities in Catalonia. During that time Belgian courts had been considering Spain's now-cancelled extradition request.

The move was explained as a way to ensure that any eventual trial in Spain covers all the offences they



Some ex-ministers released. :: R.C.

are accused of. Belgian law takes a different view of rebellion and sedition offences and it was realised that an extradition may only have been agreed to on lesser charges, which would have meant a softer trial for those politicians who were

seen to flee the country than those who stayed behind and were arrested in October.

On Monday the Supreme Court freed on bail more of the other ex-Catalan officials who were being held while investigations into them continue. Only three are still detained; former vice president, Oriol Junqueras, and the two Jordis, leaders of separatist movements. The judge said that there was a risk they would repeat their alleged offences during the Catalan election campaign.

The campaign started on Tuesday with opinion polls showing a very close race between pro-independence parties and the others.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has restated his view on a muted national constitutional reform to address the strength of the separatist movement in Catalonia. "For me, all Spaniards should decide on what Spain is and not just a part of them," he said.

BRUSSELS RALLY IN FAVOUR OF CATALAN INDEPENDENCE

An estimated 45,000 people marched in Brussels on Thursday in support of Catalan independence. Protesters were seeking to raise awareness across Europe of their demands and what they see as repression from Spain. So far the European Union, based in the city, has rejected all approaches from the Catalan independence movement. The ousted regional president, Carles Puigdemont was at the head of the rally.



Rajoy is greeted by May at the door of Number 10. :: EFE

May gives Rajoy support on Downing Street visit

:: SUR

LONDON. Spanish Prime Minister, Mariano Rajoy, met with his British counterpart, Theresa May in Downing Street on Tuesday. It is the first official visit by Rajoy to London since May became prime minister in 2016. Ahead of a working lunch, both leaders praised the

strength of the relationship between the two countries and stressed the desire to work together over Brexit.

May also showed her support for Madrid and its handling of the ongoing political crisis in Catalonia, saying she would not recognise a separate Catalan state.

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Unemployment in Malaga has increased after the summer

Since August the province has lost nearly 19,000 jobs, of which 17,000 were in the hotel and restaurant sector

NURIA TRIGUERO

MALAGA. The Costa del Sol and Malaga province is still paying the price of seasonal tourism. For the fourth consecutive month, unemployment rose in November, and the increase was particularly high. In fact Malaga, after the Balearics, was the second Spanish province in terms of rising unemployment and loss of jobs.

The month ended with 4,566 more people unemployed, bringing the total to 158,330. It is the biggest increase in November since 2012 and contrasts with the general trend in Andalucia, because in the region as a whole unemployment dropped by 3,114.

The services sector has mainly borne the brunt of the increase

since the summer. Numerous jobs ended in the hotel, restaurant and commercial industries when the peak tourist season ended on the Costa del Sol. In November, there were 5,190 more unemployed in this sector in Malaga province. Industry was also affected, although to a lesser extent, with 51 more people out of work, but unemployment reduced in construction (-446), agriculture (-8) and those who have never worked before (-221).

Social Security affiliation also suffered a notable reduction in November. Malaga lost 9,683 registered workers, (-1.64%), compared with the previous month.

This was the second worst provincial figure after the Balearics, where 78,975 jobs ended.

Again, there was a contrast with the region of Andalucia as a whole, where 11,786 people registered with Social Security in November, especially in Almeria and Seville, where five thousand more people registered in each.

The independence crisis in Catalonia is said to be affecting unemployment

In November unemployment in Spain as a whole increased by 7,255 to a total of 3,474,281, according to figures just released from the Ministry of Employment. The government pointed out, however, that this increase is actually lower than the same month last year, when an extra 24,841 people registered as looking for work.

In some regions the increase was higher than others. After the Balearics, Catalonia was the most affected entire region, with a rise of 1.78% (7,400 people). The uncertain situation regarding the bid for independence is said to have contributed to the problem.



MARK NAYLER
markanayler@gmail.com

THE EURO ZONE

UNFAIR PLAY

This week saw the Basque Country's president Iñigo Urkullu defending the region's special financial deal with Madrid. Known as the Cupo Vasco and hardwired into Spain's 1978 Constitution, this pact enables the northern region to collect its own taxes and choose how much money it returns to the Spanish government every year.

The Basque premier was not only responding to Ciudadanos' recent criticism of the Cupo Vasco - who have branded the deal "unfair and [against] the principle of solidarity" - but holding it up as the model for a "new decentralised system" for the rest of Spain. Implied in his remarks, of course, is the idea that giving Catalonia the kind of fiscal autonomy enjoyed by the Basque Country would go a long way towards defusing the tensions over Catalanian secession.

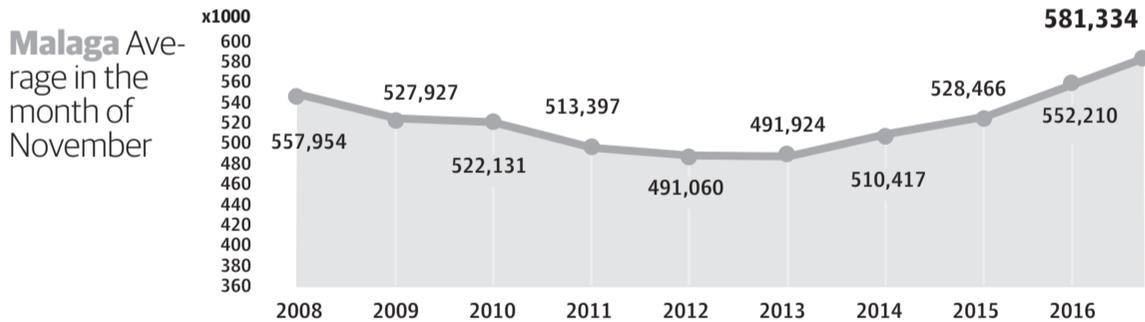
Urkullu argues that the Basque deal, which has just been renewed for another five years by Mariano Rajoy's government, ensures that a region has the resources it needs for public spending. This is guaranteed, he says, if you decentralise tax-control and allow regions to raise or lower taxes as they need to. And against the argument that doing so lays the legal basis for domestic tax havens, he says that the average tax burden in the Basque Country has been higher than in the rest of Spain since 1981. Urkullu also points out that the region pays 6.24% of state costs despite only accounting for 6% of the country's GDP.

The Basque premier's remarks go to the heart of the economic case for Catalanian secession. Separatists say that they want to divorce Spain because Catalonia - a wealthy region that accounts for a fifth of Spain's GDP - pays more to Madrid in taxes than it receives back for public spending. Never mind, for the moment, the dubious statistics often evinced to support that claim. Or the frequently-made objection that economics is nothing but a smokescreen disguising political and cultural desires for secession. Leave those things aside for now, because the real question here is one of fairness.

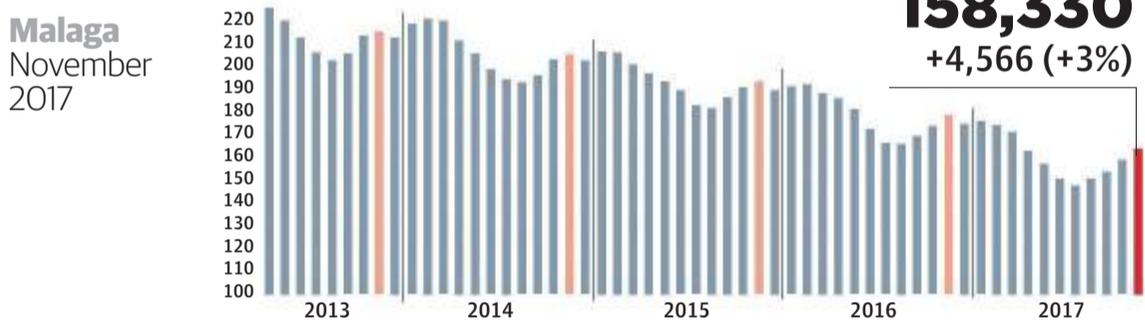
Urkullu's argument for a "new and decentralised" approach to regional tax affairs in Spain deserves serious consideration - but only if what's being proposed is that all regions are given a similar deal. The rest of Spain will be justifiably furious if Rajoy is seen to be considering, as a UK newspaper recently suggested he is, giving something like the Cupo Vasco to Catalonia and only Catalonia.

In its outspoken opposition to the Basque arrangement, Ciudadanos - the centrist party now being billed as the leader of Spain's "pro-Constitution" camp - has drawn furious criticism. Predictably, its loudest detractors have been Basque politicians, who brand the party as promoting quasi-Franco nationalism. Hardly: all Ciudadanos has done is highlight the unfairness of a situation in which some regions have greater fiscal autonomy than others.

Affiliation of workers with Social Security



Registered unemployed



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THERE IS A PRIZE FOR THE BEST
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An excess of information

One of the biggest differences between living in the country or a town or city is how stressed people in the city seem to be. They are rushing around all day, chasing after time.

And it's true that living in a city can be stressful, but leaving aside pollution and noise, there is a type of stress that comes from a modern vice that we all now share: the need to know what's going on, all the time.

Being aware of everything that happens was throughout history vital for survival, but in the old days you only found out about the few tragedies that happened in your village or town.

But today we are constantly being notified of accidents, massacres or terror attacks that happen anywhere in the world.

Something similar happens in politics: we find out about every minor and irrelevant step in negotiations on which our lives may depend, but that seem to take place in slow motion. We have to be alert because all these issues are important, but keeping up that level of alertness creates anxiety.

This continuous updating of news could result in fatigue syndrome through excess information, a condition that can be very bad for our health and could take years off our lives.

Learning to switch off these sources of information could save your life.

Keep informed, but with caution.

CRISTINA CASTRO
BY EMAIL

Grassroots football

I was deeply troubled when I saw the story this week of the young female referee who was subjected to such vile abuse from the terraces.

There is nothing new about unsavoury behaviour in football stadiums, but it was the nature of the abuse that upset me most.

Not only was the victim a young girl, 17, but the perpetrators were even younger... some potentially as young as 14.

We have to ask, where are these youngsters learning this behaviour? Why in 2017 are we still hearing such vile sexist remarks?

Such unfortunate events remind us that we still have a lot of work to do - especially in the world of football. Last week across the leagues in England we had teams showing their support for LGBT communities. In other walks of life, this wouldn't be necessary. But the fact that not a single active player in a major league has 'come out' shows what a hostile and horrible place football can still be.

In some respects, football is one of the most inclusive things on the planet, yet in others it's still in the Stone Age.

This needs to change.

JEREMY HOLLANDS
ÁLORA

Christmas is for
animals too

It's that time of year where we animal lovers need to reach out to everyone that has a pet, farm animal or comes into contact with God's creatures during the year.

Please don't forget your animals over Christmas. The nights are dark, it is cold and wet and many of us will be going away. Make sure somebody is taking care of them and if your neighbours have pets, why not volunteer to look after them?

Also if you plan on giving a pet for Christmas think about visiting one of the rescue centres on the Costa del Sol rather than buying a new pet. You will be giving someone in need a new home and much love.

Many volunteers like us will be working all over Christmas to make sure dogs, cats and other animals are looked after but many more will be brought in in distress.

TRISH DALEY
ESTEPONA

Dignity forty years on

MANUEL CASTILLO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

We Andalusians have to get out that sense of insistence that we've had hanging up in the wardrobe for the last forty years, since the time two million people took to the streets with the simple objective of not being treated as lesser citizens than others. That 4 December 1977, Andalucía shut up those who wanted to be more and be better than the rest in a two-speed Spain.

In Andalucía, nationalist sentiment has never really taken root and "Andalusianism" has oscillated between show and political necessity, because territories always need an epic story to focus people's hope.

Andalusians have always been united more by dignity than by territory, more by hunger than by power, with that apparently care-free air that comes from wisdom rather than pretension. Andalucía is Spain's huge reading room, where the greatest civilisations left their

mark over thousands of years and whose legacies can be seen in any part of the region and in our DNA.

The passage of Greeks, Romans, Phoenicians, Visigoths and Muslims sculpted the character of an erudite, bright, vivacious people whose history doesn't need to be reinvented in school text books.

Andalucía stands its ground, because it knows about conquests and invasions, because it was an empire and its people suffered under princes, kings and the upper classes. Here, in Andalucía, many have come along to exploit it, as happened with the thriving metal industry, that moved to the Basque Country, or textiles, that went off to Barcelona.

Spain always overlooked Andalucía, and when it didn't, it was because people from here were in charge in Madrid. That's what happened with Cánovas and with González; and a handful of ministers who have always fought our corner. I'm sure. If it wasn't for them

the high-speed train wouldn't have reached Seville first then Malaga, nor would we have an airport like we have on the Costa.

Despite this, Andalucía is the region that best fits in with Spain. Perhaps that's why it's down to us to lead the defence of a model of territorial organisation based on solidarity and where all Spaniards are equal. And it's this task that we Andalusians need to turn our attention to just like we did forty years ago. Andalucía can be trusted and shouldn't let Catalonia or the Basque Country, or paranoid governments in Madrid, get away with redesigning an unequal Spain with the pressure of a check book or disloyalty.

The system of financing the autonomous regions is a long battle where much more than a budget is at stake. What is at stake is Andalucía's dignity. And that's when, without all those flags and borders, the Andalusians always rise to the challenge.

IDÍGORAS



Against all odds

PETER EDGERTON
MUSIC MAKER

It'll be my birthday on the 27th of this month. I'm loathe to mention it, really, principally because of the myriad problems it'll inevitably cause the poor receptionist at the SUR in English offices. Let's face it, nobody likes to be on the receiving end of a tsunami of expensive gifts sent from far and wide all for another person's benefit, do they? Nevertheless, that, I fear, will be her lot come the end of December. Life simply isn't fair.

Anyway, where was I? Ah, yes, birthdays. The trouble is, this year it'll be an odd one. I don't mean odd in the sense of strange (although lying on the sofa, chomping on

handfuls of Cheesy Wotsits, slurping beer and binge watching Frasier might be considered by some to be a bit of a weird way to celebrate another year of waddling aimlessly about on the planet); no, I mean odd in the sense that it'll be an odd-numbered birthday and they're always much less palatable than the even numbered ones.

I first noticed this phenomenon in my twenties; the fact is, being twenty-six seemed a much more attractive proposition than being twenty-five somehow - younger even (forgive the pun). Why this should be, I've absolutely no idea but it never fails - every even num-

bered birthday celebration since then has been greeted with a certain joie de vivre, a happy recognition of not having snuffed it in the previous twelve months. By contrast, the odd numbers have always brought with them a softly creeping shadow of foreboding as if The Grim Reaper had just won one of those children's odds and evens finger-display games with my guardian angel. It's all very unnerving, let me tell you.

Not to worry, though, the good news is that, come the 28th, I'll have a whole twelve months to look forward to an even numbered birthday in 2018 and that's a pleasure in itself. In the meantime, this year I'll put on a ridiculous paper party hat, blow into one of those unfurling hooter things with a feather on the end, adopt a defiant rictus grin and graciously accept the good wishes of the assembled masses. I've had years of practice at all of this so nobody will even know of my deep inner turmoil on the day in question. It's all very odd.

SUR English

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A piece of Finland in the sun

Fuengirola is home to the second largest community of Finns outside Finland in the world, after Sweden. They started to arrive in the 1970s and now number over five thousand. This week they celebrated the centenary of their country's independence



SUSANA ZAMORA

FUENGIROLA. When Finland won six medals in the Olympic Games in Montreal and Lasse Artturi Viren became, in 1976, the first athlete in history to win the 5,000 and 10,000 metres on flat ground in two consecutive Olympics (he had won two gold medals in Munich in 1972), a large part of the country started looking towards Spain. Specifically, to Los Pocos, a small area on the outskirts of the town of Fuengirola, in Malaga province. There, Teuvo Raivo Hakulinen found the climate and conditions to be ideal for training top level Finnish athletes, especially in the winter months, when Finland was practically covered in snow and the days were very short and dark.

In 1974, he set up the Permanent Training Centre for Athletes and since then Fuengirola has become increasingly popular with Finnish people. An exceptional climate, with an average temperature of 18 degrees and more than 3,000 hours of sunshine a year, and the quality of life, have made it a mini-Finland.

It is now home to 5,213 Finns, the second largest Finnish community outside Finland in the world after Sweden, and is the second most numerous foreign nationality after the British (6,722). These are the official figures, but the true number is much higher because there is a floating population. It could be over 25,000. "Most of those are tourists who come

here for a short holiday," say sources at the Finnish embassy.

"Fuengirola is now known as Finland's most southerly town," says Rodrigo Romero, the councillor for Foreign Residents. This town, which has a population of 85,346, accounts for 96 per cent of Finns who have come to live in the province. Minna Kantola is now one of them; four years ago she threw up a comfortable life and stable job in the Finnish town of Tampere, where she taught Marketing and Languages (she speaks German and Swedish) at a local school. She had been happily doing that for five years, but she had always wanted to travel abroad and, after deciding against France and Germany, she came to the Costa del Sol for the first time in 2003.

It only took two months for her to make the decision which would change her life; she returned home to tell her employers that she was

leaving for ever.

She had nothing here: no home, no work, no family or friends, but even so, in October that year she started from scratch in Fuengirola. One month later she had a job in a bank, attending to Finnish clients, although the salary came as a bit of a shock: it was only half that in her own country, where she had been earning about 2,000 euros a month, gross. "I knew the salaries were lower here, but the taxes are as well, so that made up for it," says Minna, who now runs the Sofia Opisto Institute. She set up this cultural project after seeing an advert in a local Finnish newspaper in 2015, placed by the Ministry of Education in Finland, looking for someone to set up and coordinate it.

"In Finland, learning is for life and the government wanted to offer classes for adults here in Fuengirola (they include Spanish language, music, computer studies, gastronomy, history of Spain and keep fit). Today, we are a cultural association, registered in Finland, which receives half as much grant as previously, but that is compensated by the fees from the 2,600 students who come here every year," she explains.

Enduring the darkness

Despite the "excessive bureaucracy, low salaries and long working days," Minna says she has no wish to return to Finland. "I love my country and miss my family, but the darkness there is very hard to cope with. In winter, it is already night-time at 3pm. Maybe when I retire I'll spend the warmer months there, between April and October," she says.

Suvi Kauranen is another Finn with no plans to return home. She

"A sauna at home is essential. It's somewhere to go and think about things when there are problems"

Some Finnish companies send workers to Fuengirola as a reward or incentive



Life in Fuengirola. Sami Lindberg (above) has remade his life in Fuengirola, where he works in a herbalist shop. Below: pupils and teachers at the Sofia Opisto Institute, a

cultural centre for Finnish residents. The Finnish School (right) is the only one outside Finland to offer the Baccalaureate.

:: S. ZAMORA/F. GONZÁLEZ/R. C.

came to Andalucía on a sabbatical year with her family and ended up putting down roots in Fuengirola.

This is possible in Finland, where the government pays part of the salary (between 70 and 80 per cent) during the year and covers their job temporarily with somebody who is unemployed. Many people in Spain would consider this a dream come true, but even in Finland it is not possible for everyone. The conditions are that you have to be working a full day (or 75 per cent), have worked for less than 20 years and been with the same company for at least 13 years.

Suvi decided to do this after several close friends died suddenly. "We woke up to reality and thought that people don't always live long enough to enjoy their retirement. Also, my husband and I thought it would be good for our marriage to get away from the stress which was causing us problems."

She says that year, 1988, was a turning point and although they went

back to Finland, things were not the same. In fact, it was a mistake. "My relationship wasn't going well, my two children kept reminding me about Spain and in March 1992, when it was snowing heavily, I decided I needed to make a change. I gave myself six months to prepare for the move, and so that my three and four-year-olds could learn Spanish. By the October, I was opening a restaurant in Los Boliches," she says.

She now owns a golfing business, organising package holidays for Finnish tourists, and an estate agency, which is beginning to pick up again after the crisis. However, Suvi thought that her role of entrepreneur, mother and even councillor (she was in charge of the Foreign Residents department in Fuengirola from 2007 to 2010, when Esperanza Oña was mayor) was not enough, and decided to give something back to the community which had given her so much by setting up the SOS Costa del Sol group. This is a non-

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THE FIGURES

5,213

Finns are on the population register in Fuengirola, the second largest expat community in the world after Sweden. Two other Spanish towns with a large number of Finnish residents are Alicante (1,006) and Barcelona (763). In 2016 alone, 722,937 people travelled from Finland to Spain.

Top of the ranking

Finland is recognised by different international organisations as the most stable, safe and free country in the world, with the most independent judicial system, the greatest press freedom, the leader in education and the fourth lowest poverty rate, according to the OCDE. It also has the third lowest crime rate and is the fifth happiest country on Earth, after Denmark, Switzerland, Iceland and Norway.

are very distant, and there is hardly any physical contact when we greet each other," he explains.

Many of the Finnish people in Fuengirola live in the area of Los Paços: 1,847 have settled in this small district of single-storey houses, which has its own church, grocery stores with signs in Finnish (and they stock different varieties of the liquorice they like so much) and which is reached via the road called 'Avenida Finlandia'. One of the reasons for this is that in 1991 the Finnish School was created there, and it now has 317 students, 27 teachers and 49 employees. Of the six Finnish schools outside that country, this is the only one offering the Baccalaureate, given the large number of families who have moved there permanently or are spending a sabbatical year there, says one of the teachers, Minttu Alonen, who after meeting her Spanish partner on the Erasmus programme at Tampere university looked for work in Spain. "The Finnish School needed a maths teacher and I was lucky enough to get the job," she says. She says the Finnish children in Fuengirola are more open, but they follow the same educational programme as they would in their own country. The educational system in Finland is one of the best in the world, although Minttu says there are no secrets to this: pupils work in groups, classes are participatory and exams are designed so that they can show what they have learned.

This area lacks nothing. It even has a call centre, which has been run by the Barona company since 2015, to handle claims against fines which are issued in Finland and to assist clients of some Finnish phone and electricity companies. The 230 staff are all Finnish, but they earn Spanish salaries says Paula Manso, the office manager. It is also the headquarters of the XChange Programme, a type of "working Erasmus", whereby its facilities are used by employees of other Finnish companies (earning their normal salaries), but at a distance of 4,000 kilometres from home. "They do it to reward the workers, or to motivate them," says Paula. There is a problem, however: after a year in Fuengirola, they don't want to go home.

"I live five minutes away, and it's like being on holiday all year round," says Sami Lindberg. He came to Fuengirola in 2002 after hearing about it from friends, after living in Denmark for 15 years. He had recently been divorced from his husband and couldn't continue working as a hairdresser because he had developed allergic reactions to some of the cosmetic products.

"I was feeling really depressed," he says. Now, he works in a herbalist shop and says his quality of life has improved greatly, especially with regard to his homosexuality. "In Finland, we have our place, but people don't really approve of us," he says. Sami feels that "Finnish people have forgotten how to live," and he admires the ability of Spaniards to enjoy life while they work. He also admires the way people treat others here, although it came as a surprise at first. "We Finns

profit-making association, run by volunteers, with a 24-hour telephone hotline, open 365 days a year to help out in emergency situations by providing Finnish-Spanish interpreters.

Nowadays, Suvi has no doubts. "If I had to choose, Spain would be my country," she says, despite the fact that she thinks the Spanish are noisy, doesn't like the fact that they all speak at the same time and, especially, that they don't respect other people's time. "When the Spanish say 'tomorrow', it's just a manner of speech. If you arrange something with them for the next day, they might turn up the following week," she says.

Katia Westerdahl's was only a girl

when she came to live in Fuengirola. Her father, a marketing director, set up the magazine 'Olé' in 1985. "He was a visionary; he realised that many retired people would come here and that they would need information," she explains. She now publishes the magazine, which prints 15,000 copies a month, maintaining her father's original idea: the magazine informs her compatriots about the realities of Spain, and covers subjects such as taxes, social security and health care. Although Finnish by birth, she says she feels Spanish, "and so do my children, who were born here."

However, like her neighbours in the residential community in which

she lives, her home has a sauna. It's in the DNA of natives of this Scandinavian country. "For us it is essential. It's somewhere to go and think about things when there are problems," says Katia.

However, this woman's heart is divided. She can't have dual nationality (Spain has no agreement with Finland) and "I can't give up my own because my two grandfathers fought for the independence of my country. It would be a betrayal of my origins," she explains.

The Finnish dream

The dream of many of Katia's fellow Finns is to sunbathe on the beach:

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"The concept of Finnish national identity was born under Russian rule"

Dr Hannu Vuori President of the Council of Finnish Communities on the Costa del Sol

by **ALEKK M. SAANDERS**

BENALMÁDENA. Hannu Vuori is the president of the Council of Finnish Communities on the Costa del Sol, the largest in Spain. A doctor of international prestige, Vuori has lived on the Costa del Sol for more than ten years. A lover of Finnish glass, his private collection was on exhibition in Torremolinos last month. Now, 100 years after Finland gained independence from Russia, Dr Vuori speaks to SUR about the turbulent history of his country in the first half of the 20th century.

- Hannu, how did the story of Finland's independence begin?

- The establishment of the [Russian] republic in 1917 [after the abdication of Grand Duke Nicholas II] was a significant impetus for the establishment of Finland's independence. On 28 November 1917 the Parliament of Finland took over supreme power in the country and a new government was formed. On 4 December, the chairman of the Senate, Mr Svinhuvud, addressed the authorities of foreign states, in particular to the constituent assembly of Russia, with a request to recognise the political independence and sovereignty of Finland.

- Later it was called the "declaration of independence of Finland".

- Correct. On 6 December 1917, the Finnish Parliament approved that statement by voting - 100 against 88. The day became a national holi-

"The essence of independence does not lie in self-recognition"

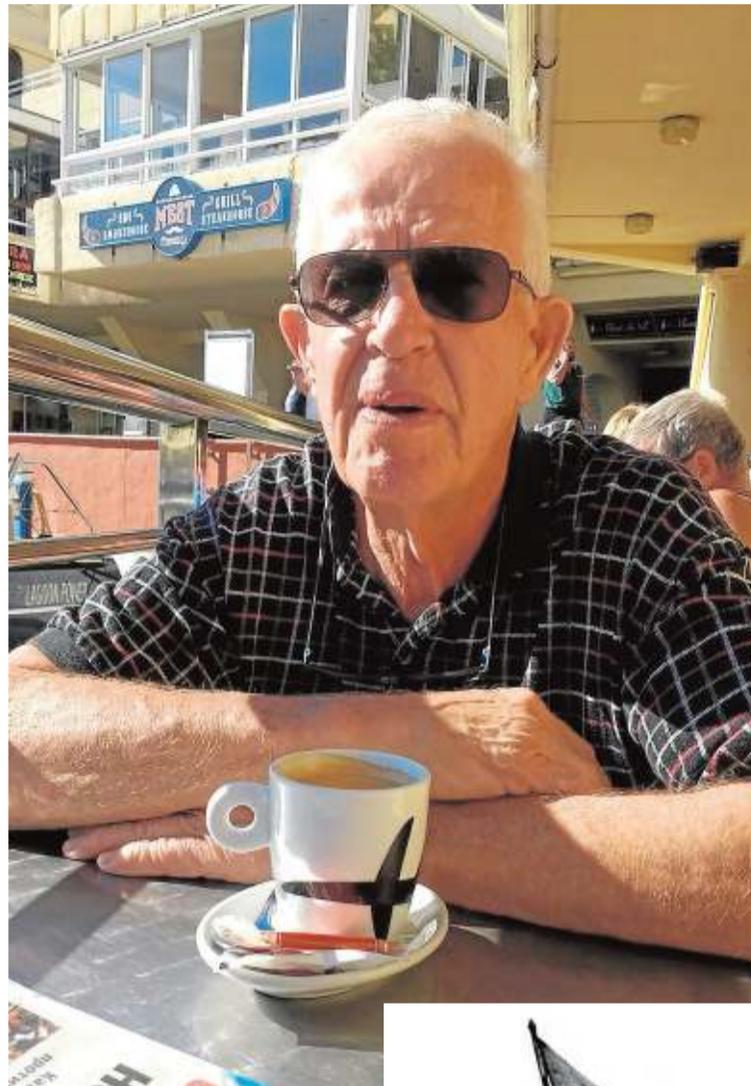
day - Independence Day.

- Let's go back to the period of dependence...

- Until 1809, we were one of the provinces of the Kingdom of Sweden. The transition of Finland under the rule of Russia in history is in many ways regarded as a progressive era, particularly in the area of economic development. Industrialisation had begun. Railroads, ports, canals were built. In those years also the concept of "Finnish national identity" was born because, as a Finnish statesman said, "We are not Swedes, we don't want to become Russians, let's therefore be Finnish." Important contributions were made by Finnish writers, poets, musicians. It should be noted that Finland had a special status in the Russian Empire. The head of the Grand Duchy of Finland was a grand duke. And indeed, he was a Russian tsar himself. It is important to note that in Russia, the tsar was an absolute ruler; in Finland a constitutional monarch. By the way, I think that if Finland had been part of Sweden, then that would still be the case.

- If everything was so good with Russia, why then did you need to proclaim independence?

- Because towards the end to the Russian era, all those good and liberal beginnings stopped. The subsequent tsars, including the last monarch Nicholas II, pursued the policy of Russification of possessions. This affected the Poles and Finns. For example, Finland had always used its own postage stamps. Then suddenly they were substituted by Russian ones. In addition, there was a great push to increase the use Russian language. The Finns did not like it. So the rights of indigenous people were infringed. In general, the national question took some steps back.



Dr Hannu Vuori in Benalmádena. Right, a group of soldiers put up the Finnish blue and white flag after the declaration of independence in 1917. **by A. M. S. / SUR**

- And then the October Revolution came to the rescue and, especially, Lenin ...

- It has to be said that the Finns first helped Lenin, when he had to hide from the Russian police. In Tampere, the house where he was hiding, was converted into a museum to Lenin. They say that Lenin agreed to accept Finland's independence as a kind of gratitude for the hospitality of the Finns. Many historians do, however, believe that the reason was much more pragmatic. At that time of Troubles, Soviet Russia hardly managed to defend itself from "White" generals, both in the Far East and in the south. So to have another front near Petrograd could hardly be afforded. Therefore, Finland's separation at that period for the new government seemed to be a remarkable solution. **- Here, in the context of the latest developments with Catalonia, the following question arises: in the**

eign state only if Russia recognised it. Therefore, the Finnish government turned to Lenin. Thus, on 18 December (31, N. S. - New Style date), 1917, the independence of the Republic of Finland was recognised by the government of the Russian Soviet Republic, and on 23 December, 1917 (5 January, 1918 N. S.) by the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of Soviet Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies. By the way, during the first week of 1918, Finland's independence was recognised by seven countries.

- But why is there no monument to Lenin in Finland after all he did?

- Because of subsequent bloody events that did not take long to unfold. At the end of January, civil war broke out in Finland between the so called "Reds", the radical left, led by the Council of People's Commissioners of Finland; and the "Whites", bourgeois-democratic forces of the Finnish senate. It was a terrible time for the country. Finland was on the verge of starvation because of the constant shortage of food. At the same time, both sides of the confrontation resorted to extrajudicial executions and terror. The "Reds" were supported by the Russian Soviet Republic, while the "Whites" received military support from the

German Empire. Antipathy to Russia stemmed from the fact that in the end the national character of the war of liberation against Russia and the "Reds" was emphasised. The victorious "Whites" did not forget the support Russia had given to the "Reds".

- And then also the so-called Finnish War with the USSR ...

- There is a Soviet version and Finnish version of the origin of that war. I will say only one thing. Most Finns are of the opinion that the Soviet Union somehow regretted "granting" independence to Finland and that's why tried to "return" it. By the way, they thought that

this would be done in three days, but everything lasted much longer, because the Finnish Communists did not support the Soviets. After the war, the USSR took 11 per cent of the territory of Finland with the second largest city of Vyborg. According to the data, Finland had to resettle 430,000 Finnish residents who were forced to leave the areas ceded to Russia.



declaration of independence, was Russia's opinion (recognition) really important?

- Of course. After all, the essence of independence does not lie in self-recognition. It is essential to get recognition from the countries that have importance. For example, both Sweden and France were ready to recognise Finland as a new sover-

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"The translator's job is to find the best version of a writer's style in another language"

Elvira Navarro Author



MARK NAYLER

The author of *A Working Woman* explains how the translator of the English version traced the steps of her character in Madrid herself as part of the translation process

Andalusian writer Elvira Navarro is under no illusions about the stylistic influence possessed by translators. "A translated book," she tells me by email in Spanish, "has a co-author: the translator. Their job is to find the best version of [the writer's] style in a foreign language, so necessarily your style changes."

We are discussing her powerful and disturbing 2014 novel *La Trabajadora*, translated into English as *A Working Woman* by Christina Macsweeney and released earlier this year by the US publisher Two Lines Press. Navarro is a pleasure to correspond with: always prompt in her replies - a gift for a journalist with a deadline - she is open and friendly, soon signing off with "hugs" instead of "regards".

The Huelva-born novelist couldn't have found a better "co-author" for *A Working Woman*, the book with which SUR in English concluded its Found in Translation series last week.

Macsweeney is a celebrated translator of Latin American authors and last year won a prize for her English version of a book by Mexican writer



Elvira Navarro. :: SUR

Valeria Luiselli. Her translation of *La Trabajadora* is marked by a directness that challenges and, at times, shocks the reader. In this sense, it reflects the uncompromising narrative voice of the original Spanish version. As Macsweeney told the San Francisco-based Centre for the Art of Translation last month, "What really drew me into this novel was the way it posited me as an active reader. There was no way I could, or wanted to, sit back passively and wait for the narrator to explain what was going on."

Just how closely, I wonder, did Macsweeney and Navarro collaborate on *A Working Woman*? Navarro, 39, claims that her English is "very

bad" and that she was therefore of "little use" to Macsweeney during the translation process. But interestingly, she reveals that there is far more to translating a book than just converting sentences from one language into another: "[Christina] took the trouble to come to Madrid to explore the neighbourhoods through which the protagonist of the novel moves, which demonstrates her commitment and her enormous generosity and enthusiasm. We had a very nice meeting and I made her a map showing the journeys of Elisa, the novel's main character."

Elisa's "journeys" take the form of nocturnal walks through Madrid's gritty suburbs, during which she

"A book shouldn't think about readers but, once written, find its own"

contemplates her own life and that of her mentally unstable flatmate Susana. In these crucial passages - which reveal Navarro's virtuosic descriptive talent - Madrid becomes a character itself, contributing as much to the novel's unsettling atmosphere as the complex relationship between Elisa and Susana. Making a city live on the page in this way is no small feat - one that, in this case, was the result of a joint effort by novelist and translator. Although Navarro says she can't fully assess *La Trabajadora*'s English version, she is sure that Macsweeney's three-dimensional approach to translating has resulted in a "fabulous" book.

Navarro's own experiences of living in the Spanish capital - indeed in the same suburb in which Elisa rents her tiny flat - were a major part of her inspiration for *A Working Woman*.

"The story is based on a text that I wrote in 2003," she explains, "when I shared a flat in the Carabanchel neighbourhood of Madrid and was looking for work. At that time I saw the horizon of my middle class expectations fade away [and] the difficulty of finding work when...president Aznar [José María Aznar, conservative prime minister of Spain from 1996 to 2004] was cackling that 'Spain is doing well'." Like her narrator, Navarro also worked as an external proof-reader for a publishing company, an insecure position that paid badly when it paid at all: she once went for six months without

receiving a cent, "and it was then that the idea of a novel about precariousness became strong. The character of Elisa is based on this biographical substratum".

Navarro's mention of Aznar - who in 2003 selected Mariano Rajoy to succeed him as leader of the Popular Party - prompts me to ask her what she thinks about the current situation in Catalonia. Is it damaging Spain's international reputation? Her scathing reply suggests that to do so would be difficult: "Spain's reputation has been damaged for centuries, ever since it stopped being an empire and developed an inferiority complex that it still hasn't left behind. The Catalonia problem is an old one; whoever knows a little Spanish history will not be seeing anything new."

We shouldn't be fooled, warns Navarro, by the secessionists' argument that Catalonia's wings are being clipped by a repressive government in Madrid: "[The independence movement] is not the liberation movement of an oppressed country, but one of the Catalan élites, who don't want their money going to the poor regions of Spain. It's also a smokescreen to divert attention away from the serious corruption cases of the Catalan élite."

Although her thought-provoking novels are now reaching an international audience, Navarro says she never thinks about a non-Spanish public when working: "It would be useless, because there is not one reader but many types of readers. A book shouldn't think about readers but, once written, find its own." Now, thanks to her "co-author" Macsweeney, *A Working Woman* will bring "amazement and other universes" to non-Spanish readers - exactly the things that Navarro was discovering in books at the age of eleven, when she decided to become a writer.

ELITE

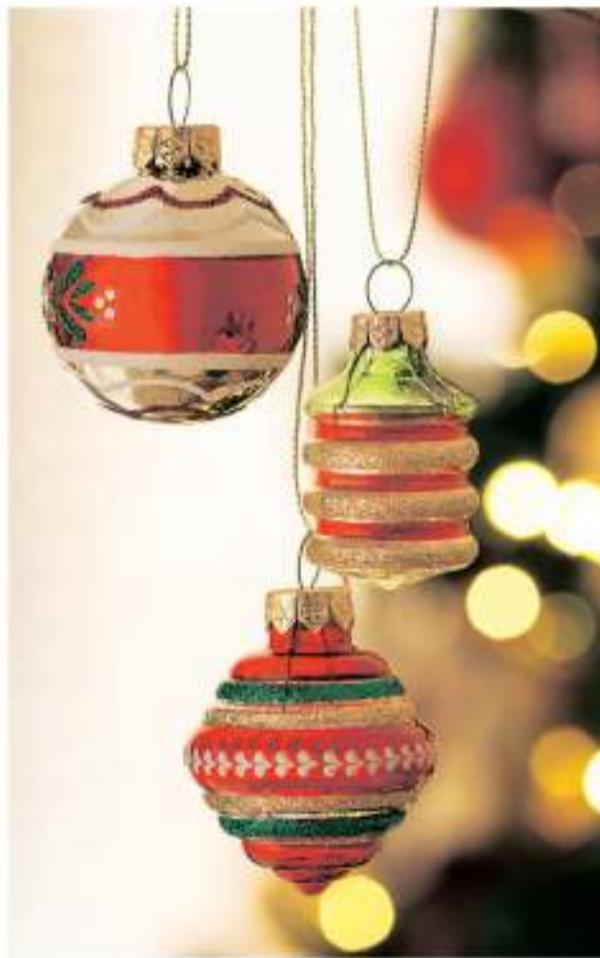
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SOCIETY SCENE

Moustaches and coffee mornings for a good cause

Groups and associations around the province continue to find novel ways to raise money for local charities

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

Cudeca Cancer Hospice Roger's birthday bash

Roger Humpidge celebrated his 70th Birthday in Benahavis and managed to raise money for Cudeca Cancer Hospice at the same time.

Guests attending the party gave a prize for the raffle instead of giving a birthday present to Roger, raising 670 euros in total.

Anyone wishing to hold a similar event in aid of Cudeca Hospice is invited to call Carlos: 663083249.

Coffee morning

The first edition of the Coffee Mornings at Mamá Carmen Café in Torremolinos was held recently in aid of Cudeca Cancer Care Hospice. Nearly 85 euros was raised at the event which was organised by John Hennessy with help from numerous volunteers.

Showstoppers

Banana Studios performed a tribute

to the West End shows which included Grease, Les Miserables, Copacabana, Mamma Mia and Matilda among others last month and raised 820 euros for Cudeca.

Prostate Cancer Research Movember

Friends of The Olive Tree Bar in Coin grew their beards and moustaches for 'Movember,' to raise cash for Prostate Cancer Research. Their efforts raised 130 euros.

Mark Wheeler was judged the winner and received a cup and a medal. All participants were then given the choice to have their whiskers publicly removed by razor, enduring a finishing off Sweeney Todd style which earned an extra 215 euros for the charity.

La Cala Lions Fundraising fair

The La Cala Lions held their Christmas Fair at Hotel Tamisa Golf recently and raised 3,000 euros for the local community. At the fair, the Lions presented a cheque for 952 euros to the Encina Laura charity which has a day centre for mentally handicapped individuals and another for 500 euros to Ruth Mokler, chair of the Royal British Legion. Their next event is the annual dinner and dance on 9 December at El Olivo restaurant in La



The La Cala Lions present cheque to Ruth Mokler of The Royal British Legion. :: sur



The bearded bunch at the Olive Tree Bar in Coin. :: sur



Cudeca coffee morning at the Mamá Carmen Café. :: sur

Cala. Tickets are 45€ from The Lions Shop in C/ Torremolinos 12 or tel: 677059061.

Mijas Photography Group Photo exhibition

The Mijas Photography Group consists of international photography enthusiasts from Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Norway and the UK. Formed in spring 2015, the group meets fortnightly in Mijas Pueblo, and members bring their photographs for discussion. By sharing knowledge and experience in a friendly, encouraging and supportive atmosphere they all contribute so that everybody benefits. Members are also encouraged to interact via the social media forum. Many of the group's images will be on display in their exhibition at the Casa Museo de Mijas from 8pm, 15 December until 7 January.

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:

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IN THE FRAME

TONY BRYANT
tonysureng@gmail.com

The gypsy Fred Astaire of flamenco

José Losada - El Carrete **Dancer and choreographer**

The flamboyant flamenco dancer has delighted audiences around the world for over 60 years

The flamenco world is full of flamboyant gypsy performers who started their careers in the back streets of Andalucía and went on to achieve fame and fortune while performing on some of the most coveted stages in the world. One of these is a 77-year-old dancer called José Losada, a man who has dedicated his whole life to performing, teaching and promoting the art of flamenco dance.

José, otherwise known as El Carrete de Málaga, is a dazzling showman whose dance routines have delighted audiences in Europe, Asia and America for more than 60 years.

He acquired his artistic name, which means spool or reel, from his mother, a dancer called La Carreta who made a living selling the potent-smelling 'biznaga' flowers in the streets of Antequera: his father worked as a donkey shearer.

Fred Astaire

José began dancing in the streets when he was four, performing for tossed coins in order to help his family survive. As a child, he would sneak into the local cinema to shelter from the cold and it was here that he developed his love of the movies and Hollywood. José's fascination with dance began after watching Fred Astaire on the silver screen and this is still obvious in his dance routines today. José's dance style is erratic to say the least and he can make the most sombre flamenco styles come alive with his energetic, rattling



One of Malaga's most flamboyant flamenco dancers. :: SUR

"I don't know how old I am"

:: T. BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. In 1996 José began a ten-year stint as a resident dancer in Los Tarantos in Torremolinos, and it was here that he would meet the man who would re-launch his career.

Flamenco writer and producer José Luis Ortiz Nuevo was astounded by José's life story and he persuaded him to tell his story by way of a grand flamenco

extravaganza.

"Yo no se la edad que tengo", which is based on the fact that José claims to not know his correct date of birth, was written and directed by Ortiz Nuevo and it premiered in Malaga in 2007. The show then went to Seville, Madrid and numerous other venues in Spain and Europe, and since then, El Carrete has enjoyed his second-coming.

footwork.

"I became absolutely fascinated with Fred Astaire and would practise his dance routines in the street. I remember wondering how he could create such complicated rhythms with his feet and it was then that I decided I must dance like him," José explains to SUR in English.

Malaga was a hive of activity

during the 1950s and the city centre would be swarming with American servicemen whose ships docked in the port. During the day José worked as a shoe-shiner, although he subsidised his earnings by selling contraband that was hidden in a concealed compartment of his shoe-cleaning box.

One of his first professional engagements was at the tablao El

Refugio in Malaga, and it was the owner of this establishment who gave him his first suit and dancing shoes. It was a place that would become his temporary home, because he was allowed to sleep in the storeroom at the back of the bar. He also danced in the Taberna Gitana and from here he went to the popular Bodegas El Pimpi, where he became part of the fla-

menco group, Los Vargas. It was during this period that José would rub shoulders with famous stars like Sean Connery, Frank Sinatra and Anthony Quinn.

The young dancer was soon to discover the exciting new flamenco scene that was taking place 12 kilometres along the coast in Torremolinos.

One of his first jobs in Torremolinos was at the fashionable night club, El Mañana, but it would be in the tablao El Jaleo, where he would shine like a star amongst the stars. Camarón de la Isla, who called José the 'monster', was said to have been mesmerised by his dance and would often turn up unannounced to perform with him.

Los Angeles

In 1977 José move to Los Angeles where he worked in a flamenco tablao in Santa Monica and it was there that he would be captivated by the American jazz scene. He had gone to Santa Monica to marry the daughter of a writer he had fallen in love with in Torremolinos. Her family were wealthy and José lived like a "film star".

"I lived in a beautiful apartment and had fancy cars and the life of a star, but I began to miss Spain, especially my children, whom I had left back home with their grandparents," he says.

A rash decision saw El Carrete return to Spain in 1979 and, after a short stint in Madrid, he returned to Torremolinos, where he is still as popular as ever.

His life story has been the content of a successful show and a book, and he will shortly have a street named after him in Torremolinos. Is there anything left for him to do before he hangs up his dancing shoes?

"Yes, of course. I want to dance in New York and have El Carrete, the Gypsy Fred Astaire illuminated in neon lights," he says.



Inspired by Fred Astaire.

:: M. CHAPLOW

"I became fascinated with Fred Astaire and would practise his dance routines in the street"



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DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

The balloon plant

A food source for the Monarch butterfly, the balloon plant has small white blooms and eye catching round, yellow seed pods

The botanical name for this plant is Gomophocarpus physocarpus but it has many easier to pronounce common names including balloon plant, balloon cotton bush, bishop's balls, and swan plant. It is a species of milkweed and was previously called Asclepias physocarpa.

The balloon plant is a perennial shrub native to south east Africa

but has been introduced to many countries around the world, becoming naturalised in most of them including the Mediterranean.

When the balloon plant is fully grown it can reach two

metres high. It has long narrow leaves and small white flowers with purple accents which appear all year round in moderate climates. The large, balloon-like seed pods form after the flowers have been pol-

inated by wasps, usually the harmless mud dauber wasps but other species have also been known to visit the flowers. The seed pods turn a tan colour before splitting open releasing the small brown seeds which have silken hairs to aid wind dispersal.

The balloon plant grows quite tall and lanky and may need staking or it can be cut back in spring to promote bushier growth. It is not frost hardy and will need protection in the winter in colder inland areas. It can however, withstand some drought. It will flower best in full sun but can be grown in partial shade.

Propagation is by seed or by stem cuttings but as all parts of this plant are poisonous gloves should be worn when handling it. Although the balloon plant is toxic to humans and animals, the Monarch butterfly larva is not affected and stores the poisonous alkaloids in their bodies, which passes from pupa through to adult stage, and makes them taste foul to predators.

In traditional medicine, the dried leaves are ground into a powder and taken like snuff to treat headaches and the milky latex is said to make warts disappear. The seeds, when blown out of the pods are said to act as a charm to placate ancestors and the fresh stems plunged into mole holes are said to deter moles.



Main photo taken by reader David White. :: SUR

READER'S PHOTO



:: JENNIFER GILES

A BREATH OF SPRING IN WINTER

Jennifer Giles sent in this incredible photo of some beautiful white Narcissi that are in full bloom already.

GARDENING HINTS FOR DECEMBER

Safe to prune

There's always something that needs doing in the garden and now that the colder weather is here it's safe to cut back acers, vines and mid to late-summer flowering clematis without them 'bleeding' excessively. Hardwood cuttings can be taken now and are probably the simplest to do as they are taken from dormant deciduous trees and woody plants. Choose a pencil-thick stem of this year's growth

and remove any unripened green growth at the tip. Make sure you cut just below a bud to give you a cutting between 10 and 15cm long. Rooting hormone applied at this stage will help. Push cuttings into a container filled with a mix of potting compost and perlite or coarse sand. Make sure that two thirds of the cutting is below the soil. Water in and place in a cold frame if you have one, and wait until spring.

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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JENNIE RHODES



WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

8 DECEMBER 1854

The first Feast of the Immaculate Conception in Spain

Today, 8 December, is the second of two public holidays in Spain in early December. The first is 6 December, or Constitution Day (Día de la Constitución) which marks 6 December 1978 when the new constitution was approved following the end of the Franco regime.

Two days later is Día de la Inmaculada Concepción (Feast of the Immaculate Conception), which has been celebrated in Spain since 1854 when Pope Pius the ninth, through the Papal Bull 'God Ineffable' (Ineffabilis Deus) gave the Spanish Crown the privilege of allowing priests in Spain and its territories to wear blue vestments in honour of this important day.

Contrary to popular belief, the Immaculate Conception celebrates the conception of the Virgin Mary

and not her son, Jesus Christ. Christians and especially Catholics believe that on 8 December, Saint Anne, the Virgin Mary's mother, became pregnant with Mary through natural means.

According to the New Testament, God chose Mary from the moment of her conception to be the mother of Jesus and so Mary was, from the very first moment of her existence, pure and without sin.

The date is exactly nine months before Mary's birth, on September 8th, which is also celebrated in Catholic countries as the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Although Malaga celebrates Our Lady of the Victory on that day.

Immaculate Conception day is celebrated as a saint's day by the Catholic church in Argentina, Brazil, Korea, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Phil-



Women carry Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception in Arroyo. :: SUR

ippines, Spain, the United States, Uruguay and Portugal. It is also recognised by the Protestant church in some countries.

Since 1953, the Pope, as Bishop of Rome, has visited the Column of the Immaculate Conception in

Piazza di Spagna in the city, to offer expiatory prayers commemorating the event.

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception has been the patron saint of Guaro in Malaga since 1854 and every year on 7 and 8 of December

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Inmaculada Concepción	Immaculate Conception
Festivo	Public holiday
Diciembre	December
Papa	Pope
Cura	Priest
Pecado	Sin
Embarazada	Pregnant
Testamento	Testament
Puro	Pure
Gracia	Grace
Nuestra Señora	Our Lady
Iglesia	Church
Existencia	Existence
Nacimiento	Birth
Obispo	Bishop
Expiatorio	Expiatory
Madre	Mother
Mancha	Stain
Salvador	Saviour

there are processions through the town and other religious acts.

There are also processions in Arroyo de la Miel, where the women of the Rocio brotherhood process through the streets carrying a statue of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. She is also patron of Sierra de Yeguas, Alameda, Teba and Almargin.

i Bilingual crossword inside back page

THE NIGHT SKY

KEN CAMPBELL



Orion the hunter

Of all the constellations in the night sky, Orion has got to be the one of the most famous and easiest to recognise. It contains some of the brightest stars and its distinct figure dominates the sky throughout the winter months. Orion can be seen rising in the east at around 8pm lying on his side and resembling a 'bow tie' shape but as the night progresses, and Orion rises higher in the sky, he assumes his upright status.

Orion was a great hunter in Greek mythology who boasted that he could kill any creature in the forest. The Gods were angered by this boast and so sent Scorpio the scorpion to sting Orion in the heel and kill him. Orion and Scorpio are now placed on opposite parts of the sky and never appear in the sky together.

Looking at the constellation of Orion notice the colour of the star in the upper left hand corner, this is Betelgeuse a huge red giant star so big that if it was placed where our Sun is then its outer edge would reach almost



to Jupiter! Its bright red colour is easily seen and compare it to the colour of the blue/white star Rigel in the bottom right hand corner of Orion. Betelgeuse is close to the end of its life and is thought to be the next candidate to explode in a supernova. At 642 light years away from us it may already have exploded and we are just waiting for the light to get here. Luckily it is too far away from us to cause us any harm but

when it does eventually explode it will be a spectacular sight in the sky.

Look to the three stars in a straight line that represent Orion's belt, although they all look to be grouped together and approximately the same brightness they are in fact at vastly different distances from us. They were originally thought to represent the three kings that visited the infant Jesus.

Just below Orion's belt is an area that looks distinctly fuzzy in appearance, this is Orion's sword. Through a telescope or even binoculars you can see that there is something strange about this star, it is not a star but is the Orion nebula. This is a huge gas cloud about 1,300 light years away where new stars are being formed. It is one of the closest and brightest nebulas to the Earth and is easily seen with the naked eye.

Take your time to become familiar with Orion as he can be used to find many stars and constellations visible in the winter sky.

i More information :
www.costadelstars.com

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REF. P.S.A.

I live in a rented apartment, and some time ago I had an argument with the landlord, as he refused to give me the money I had had to pay for some repairs to the property. In order to recover the money paid, I decided to stop paying the rent for two months, but now I have received an eviction claim. Is

there anything that I can do to avoid the eviction?

Yes, you can avoid the eviction by paying at any moment, before the trial, the amount for the rent that you owe. Nevertheless, you have to take into account that this is valid only as long as this is the first time that this situation happens, as in case of recurrence, that is, if you had already avoided eviction by these means in the past, the payment before the hearing will not be valid, and the owner will be able to enforce the eviction and you will not be entitled to oppose.

REF. N.O.O.

I work as a truck driver. Last week, when I was driving the truck belonging to the company, I was stopped by the Guardia Civil, and received a fine because the truck had not performed the official inspection (ITV). The amount of the

fine was not particularly high, but when I came back to the office and gave them the fine, they told me that as I was the person driving, I should pay it. I consider that this is not the case, as I am only the driver and not the owner of the truck. Can the company oblige me to pay the fine?

In principle, they can't. The company, as owner of the truck, is responsible for it, and therefore the company is the one that has to be up to date with the payment of the taxes, official inspections, the repairs in case of breakdown... Therefore, in principle, the company is the one that has to pay the fine. A different question would be that the fine had been issued for speeding or bad parking, for example, in which case you would be responsible for the payment as you were the one driving the car at the time the offence was committed.

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Stalls offered lifestyle, financial, and health advice. :: SUR

Residents find lifestyle ideas and advice at 50 Plus show

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. Insurance, health, gardening, dental, and creative companies came together last weekend at the 50 Plus Lifestyle Expo to offer advice and answer questions. This year's exhibition took place at the IPV Palace in Fuengirola for the first time and was attended by hundreds of expat residents of the Costa del Sol.

Eric Knowles, from television show Antiques Roadshow, attended the two-day event, giving free valuations. Stalls offered free eye and hearing tests, bridge lessons, spa treatments, dance classes, and many other useful tips and activities.



The Liberty Seguros team. :: SUR

Liberty Seguros insurance company was among the firms with a stand at the exhibition and said that it was a great opportunity to answer the frequently asked questions that clients have, and give advice on any insurance queries.

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Opening up our hearts

In Spain 8,000 hearts have been transplanted since 1984, when Dr Caralps repeated the success of Christiaan Barnard, who performed the first operation of this type 50 years ago

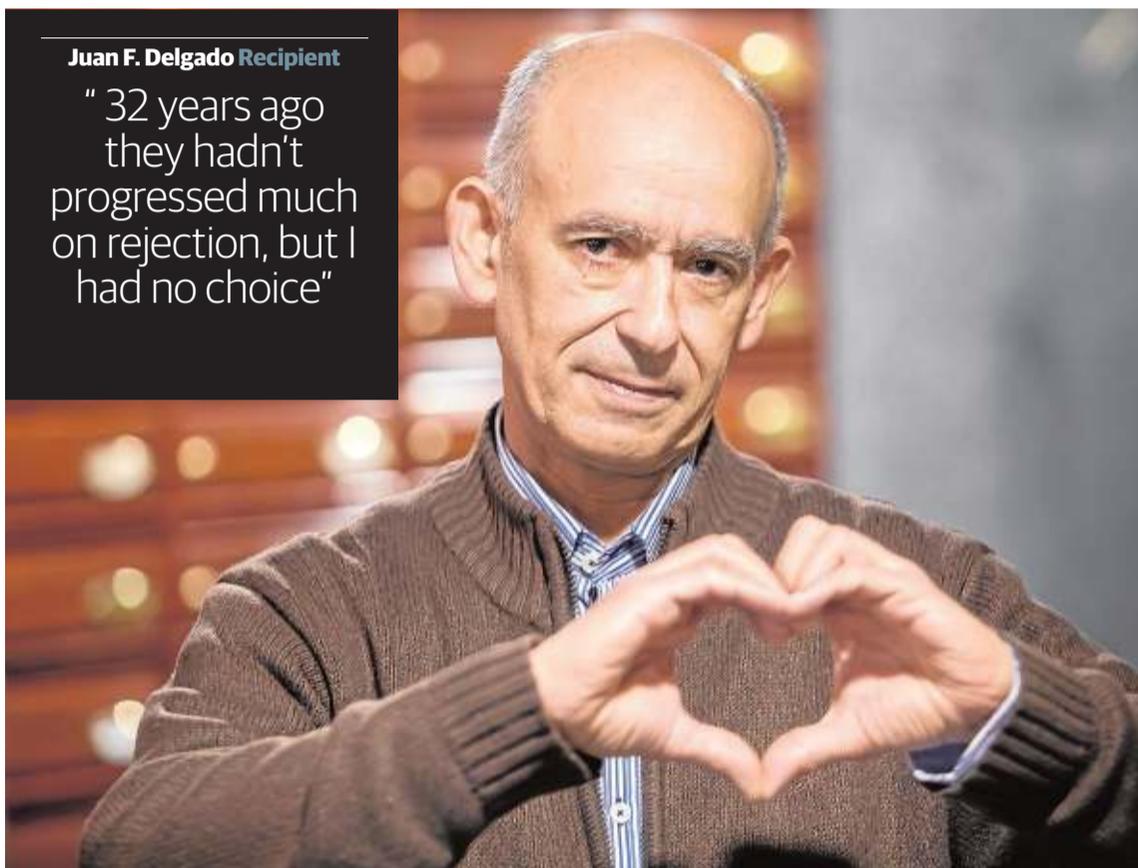
ISABEL IBÁÑEZ

When Juan Francisco Delgado woke up after the operation, he asked the surgeons what state the heart they had just removed from him had been in. "It would have lasted six months," they told him. That was 32 years ago. He is the second longest-living heart transplant patient in Spain - the first, who received a transplant one year earlier, is not very well at present.

Delgado was one of the pioneers on a list which now includes 8,000 people in Spain, 427 of them children. It is 50 years since South African doctor Christiaan Barnard carried out the first heart transplant ever, giving Louis Washkansky, a 56-year-old grocery store owner, the heart of Denise Darvall, a 25-year-old office worker who was killed when she was hit by a car. He survived for 18 days, and the world went crazy.

Delgado was only seven years old when that story hit the news headlines, and obviously had no idea that he would be affected one day. When he was 14 he was diagnosed with a cardiomyopathy, and he spent a decade in and out of Emergency Departments until the doctors suggested a transplant.

"They hadn't got much further with the rejection problem in those days, but there was no alternative. I was horrified. I thought they might have been wrong, but they said I might not have another chance, so I decided I would just have to do it. One day they phoned and said they had a heart, but there was another compatible patient whose condition was



Juan F. Delgado Recipient

"32 years ago they hadn't progressed much on rejection, but I had no choice"

Juan Francisco Delgado is the second longest-living heart transplant patient in Spain, having lived 32 years with someone else's heart. He is 57 years old now, and lives in Burgos. :: TOMÁS ALONSO

worse than mine, so he got it and I waited another two months. During the first year I hardly left the hospital because of the rejections, but here I am today, alive and well."

He works as caretaker, eats a healthy diet and takes his medication. He discovered the identity of his donor by accident, although by law they are anonymous; the only information recipients are given is the weight and height, cause of death and, sometimes, the age and sex. But curiosity and obituary notices can often help.

Shortly after Barnard's success, in 1968, Dr Cristóbal Martínez Bordiú, Franco's son-in-law, tried to carry out a heart transplant in Spain; for many, this was seen as an attempt by the regime to make a name for itself. However the patient, a plumber from Galicia, died within a few hours, so fame evaded them. Spain had to wait another 15 years for it, because this long story has two phases: before and after the milestone in 1983 when approval was given to a drug which is an effective immunosuppressant, to stop rejection.

It was on the night of 8 May 1984, at the Santa Creu i Sant Pau hospital in Barcelona, that Dr José María Caralps carried out the first successful heart transplant in Spain: the recipient, Juan Alarcón, who was 29, survived for nine months.

"The operation had been scheduled earlier but there was a delay," recalls Caralps. We played cards, we played ludo, we even slept a little, and then at four or five o'clock in the morning they told us the organ had arrived, by which time we had used up all our adrenaline. Anyway, everything went as planned and when we saw that the new heart was functioning we were really happy. I had mentally carried out that operation millions of times."

He didn't, however, receive the recognition he expected. "Not one surgical team rang to congratulate us. People didn't like the fact that we were daring to do something that nobody else had dared to do," he says. He has now relocated 200 hearts.

Barnard also faced criticism. Caralps was in the Maimonides hospital in New York doing three transplants on dogs every day when the news of his successful transplant came through.

"There was a huge cheer, because there were a lot of people preparing for this at the Maimonides. I remember hugging a Japanese colleague, because it confirmed that what we were doing was viable and would save thousands of lives," he says.

<p>José Mª Caralps Cardiologist "Not one medical team in Spain rang to congratulate us on being the first"</p>	<p>Lorenzo Silva Cardiologist "A girl we operated on in 1984 came to see us recently. It was emotional"</p>	<p>J. M. Gil-Jaurena Children's surgeon "When you see the heart start beating again, it's magical"</p>
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Many people, however, were suspicious of Christiaan Barnard. Norman Shumway, from whom he had learned the technique, was in the USA at the time, trying to resolve the problem of rejection. "Many people believed he had really carried out the transplant. Also, at that time South Africa was a controversial place because of apartheid, and when Barnard came to give a talk, not one black doctor attended the cocktail party," says Dr Caralps.

With Grace of Monaco

Barnard almost became a Hollywood 'star'; he was seen driving around in a convertible car, and dancing with Princess Grace of Monaco, as Lorenzo Silva, the head of the Acute Cardiac Care Unit at the Puerta de Hierro hospital, which holds the record for heart transplants in Spain (about 900), recalls. He was nine years old when Barnard made history.

"My father was a rural doctor and was excited about the news. I also remember that Barnard had arthritis in his hands; I remember his wife, and when he got married again..."

This cardiologist was present when the first transplants were carried out in Spain. "In 1984, we did a re-transplant on an 11-year-old girl. It was very exciting to go into the operating theatre with Dr Figueras and also Dr Alonso-Pulpón - he is one of the people who is responsible for heart transplants in Spain being where they are today," he explains.

Silva says the therapy for rejection and quality of life has improved a great deal. "The hospital mortality rate is

IN FIGURES

7,023

heart transplants were carried out in the world in 2016 (the total so far is 126,670, according to the World Transplant Register).

World leaders

Spain is the world leader in transplant patients per million inhabitants, with 102.3, much higher than the average in the EU (64) and above the USA average (99.9).

Up to 100 people

are involved in a heart transplant: surgeons, cardiologists, anaesthetists, nurses, laboratory and Intensive Care staff, and immunologists studying the compatibility of organs.

about 13 per cent, but survival is 80 per cent in the first year and 70 per cent after five years. After 11 years, half are still living."

Sometimes, however, things don't go well; he recalls one young man with a congenital heart condition. "He looked like a child. I remember him phoning his mother when a donor was found. He was sobbing. He was terrified. And he died on the operating table. It was really awful."

Juan Miguel Gil-Jaurena, the head

of the children's cardiac surgery unit at the Gregorio Marañón hospital, has had similar experiences. He was even threatened by a couple who lost their teenage son. "You are so sorry about what has happened; you feel so bad. You ask yourself whether if you had done anything differently it would still have happened. You end up in an insane loop of self-reproach. We do the very best that we can," he says.

Most of the time, results are positive: he operates on about ten children a year (under-18s, and young people with congenital heart conditions), which accounts for about 10 per cent of all heart transplants in Spain. The survival rate is between 85 and 90 per cent.

A child needs a heart which is a bit bigger than his or her own, and as there are so few donors there are sometimes 'size discrepancies'. "Don't let this frighten you," says Dr Gil-Jaurena, "but two years ago we had a donor who weighed ten kilos and a recipient who only weighed three; we had to leave his chest open for several days while it settled. He's doing well now. We are lucky because the smaller the patient is, the better they adapt." With children, it is difficult to give an idea of the waiting list. Once a two-month-old baby needed a transplant, and a heart arrived the same night. On the other hand, a three-year-old had to wait six months with an artificial heart.

Does he still find his work emotional? "That moment in the operating theatre when you see the heart starting to beat again is just... magical," he says.

Pigs and machines

The number of donors is unlikely to increase; the future lies in the transplant of transgenic and artificial hearts

I. IBÁÑEZ

"The first transgenic transplants of pig hearts in humans will take place in 1996," the newspapers of the 90s used to say, but the 'mad cow' crisis and the spread of Aids put a stop to the idea of xenotransplants for fear that humans could be contaminated by retrovirus present in the animals. Nowadays, programmes like CRISPR-Cas9 have succeeded in eliminating the genome in pigs which are bred specifically for this.

Scientists now predict that in six or seven years a human will be able to receive a pig's heart. Juan Carlos Izpisua is one of the Spanish scientists working on this: in Murcia they have a farm which breeds pigs in order to develop human organs. The process consists of removing the cells of the organs, leaving only their 'scaffolding', and then repopulating them with human stem cells, but new options are needed.

"In Spain about 250 hearts are grafted every year," says Dr Lorenzo Silva, "but the demand is higher. We need three times as many donations. And those aren't going to

increase much, despite the excellent work of the National Transplant Organisation (ONT), which exports its model all over the world. We are the leaders in this field."

Fortunately, there are far fewer deaths on the roads these days, and most are from cerebrovascular accidents. The average age of a donor between 1984 and 1993 was 26 and a half, and it is now 43. Nowadays over-45s account for 57 per cent of the total, compared to the previous 7.5 per cent.

A year ago, the Navarra Clinica Universitaria hospital fitted the first complete permanent artificial heart. The patient carries an external pump in a backpack which makes two capsules work instead of the two ventricles, which propel the blood. The Spanish Cardiology Society (SEC) says this technique will equal or even surpass transplants in forthcoming years, as is happening now in the USA. Also, 3-D technology will eventually be able to construct organs in vitro with cells, biomaterials and biological molecules.

Would Juan Francisco Delgado, who had a transplant 32 years ago, accept a pig's heart? "Goodness... we'll have to see how things go, but I guess if it means you can lead a normal life... when you are in a terminal situation, like us, you're prepared to consider anything," he says.



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"A vaccine against the virus that causes bronchiolitis could be a reality in five years"

Asunción Mejías Researcher at the Vaccinations and Immunity Centre at the Nationwide Children's Hospital of Columbus

This scientist from Malaga has spent 20 years in the USA researching RSV and she says her objective is to discover a treatment

✪ AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

MALAGA. Asunción Mejías, who studied medicine at Malaga university and has worked in the paediatric department at the Gregorio Marañón hospital in Madrid, has been in the USA since 2001, carrying out research into the human respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). She is now a world expert on the subject, and last week she organised the ResVINET conference in Malaga to bring together the greatest experts on RSV, an infection that is the second most common cause of infant mortality. The aim was for the more than 300 participating researchers to share their knowledge, and see what can be done to develop vaccines against RSV.

–What is respiratory syncytial virus, exactly?

–It is a virus which causes bronchiolitis in children. In some it can

start with catarrh, but in most cases it progresses and affects a lung. It is one of the most common causes of hospitalisation of children in their first year of life, in Spain and the world in general.

–Does it only affect children?

–No, adults as well. What happens is that when it occurs in adults it is more viral, a little less benign. An adult's lung is more developed, and they also have a certain degree of immunity.

–Which time of year is the most problematic?

–In Spain and the rest of Europe it is a winter virus; it starts in late October or early November and lasts until the cold weather ends. The winter months, in other words. In some tropical countries it exists all year round.

–What makes RSV different from other viruses?

–This virus leaves no memory. When someone gets measles or chickenpox, they get it once, but with respiratory syncytial virus children can be infected several times. It can also be the case that the first time the virus comes into contact with the host, the baby's condition is serious. In developed countries they are admitted to hos-

pital, but in undeveloped or developing countries they aren't, and they can die.

–Why is this virus so dangerous for children?

–Malaria is the main cause of child mortality, and RSV is the second. It is a huge problem in a child's first year of life. Also, as people get older, it can be very serious in the elderly. Children don't have a developed immune system and in elderly people the immune system wears out.

–Is it contagious?

–Yes, very contagious. It is transmitted through contact, through secretions. It's very difficult to stop it being transmitted. Washing your hands is the most important thing.

–Is there any effective treatment?

–So far the treatments tend to be supportive. Fundamentally, in serious cases: oxygen, intravenous liquids and suction of the secretion. However, in the past five years great efforts have been made to develop new therapies and vaccines, and new antivirals as a treatment.

Strategies for prevention

–What is the research into RSV focusing on?



Asunción Mejías. ✪ A.P.

–On prevention. There are different strategies. The worst age is two months, when the immune system is still very immature. There is a small risk in giving a vaccination, which can sometimes have a negative effect of some type. What we are thinking of is vaccinating mothers, as we do for flu or whooping cough, so it is passively transferred to the baby and later, when the baby is six months old, giving another type of vaccine. Another strategy is to develop antibodies, which can be given to the baby at birth and can prevent the infection during the first five or six months of life. But all this is still

in development and being researched.

–And what about elderly people?

–We are at a stage in which there is a great deal of emphasis on this and many foundations and specialist companies want to produce vaccines, because RSV is a very serious virus. The World Health Organisation has set itself the objective of finding a vaccine.

–What are the other effects?

–We know that when a baby is infected, and it is a serious infection, about 50 per cent will develop episodes of wheezing afterwards. Those can last until they are 11 years old, and they are very intense in the first three years. There are studies which have shown that by giving monoclonal antibodies to prevent acute infections, these after-effects can be prevented. The impact this will have when RSV can be prevented or treated will be enormous.

–Are monoclonal antibodies an effective treatment?

–It is a preventive treatment. Until now the focus has only been on children at high risk. Now there is an attempt to develop new therapies which can be applied to the whole population.

–When could there be a vaccine against RSV?

–In five years we will have, at least, one type of vaccine, the maternal one. In five to ten years we will have developed some type of strategy, but it is not easy. First we need to find out exactly how the virus acts. The effort is enormous. In my case, we are working in the United States to develop a vaccine which can be given to an older baby intranasally. It's an attenuated virus vaccine. There are different vaccines, depending on the target population. There are about 50 projects under way at present.

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ALL EARS

ALFONSO SÁNCHEZ



Can hearing aids be sexy?

I am just starting a new relationship and have to have a hearing aid; can hearing aids be sexy?

As hearing loss is not defined by age this is an important subject and one open for discussion, so maybe we need to delve a little deeper. Hearing aids have definitely evolved; they are now far more sophisticated and incredibly discreet.

So back to the question, can hearing aids be a sexy thing? Still no? But surely hearing is sexy?

Listening to each other's needs, thoughts, dreams and aspirations, to which many successful relationships will bear testament, is essential. A great relationship relies on strong communication.

Imagine not being able to hear your partner clearly. This

will not only result in you missing out on important matters and subjects, even moments of impulsive humour, but it will negatively impact the relationship by blocking important intimate messages and even the whispering of sweet nothings! Then, of course, we should reverse the situation and be the fatigued partner who is having to repeat the message, over and over - you get the point? The passion is gone on the second request to repeat.

When hearing aids are so invisible, why not remember how important the art of conversation and communication really is? Failing to hear the spoken word of your loved one is certainly not as sexy as hanging off every word and responding accordingly. Who wants not to be heard? Who wants not to hear?

I have a hearing aid which was great at first but now I am experiencing problems hearing. What should I do?

If you are an existing hearing aid user experiencing difficulties with your hearing, it could be something as simple as a build up of wax (cerumen) in the ear. This condition is very common.

However, if left untreated this wax can encourage a multitude of negative effects to your hearing ability and could even damage your device.

Please never try and remove this wax yourself.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to give us a call or pop by and see us and make an appointment for your free hearing test and examination.

Alfonso Sánchez is Senior Audiologist at Sontec Hearing Centres. Tel. 952667403

Take note:

A build up of wax could make it more difficult to hear, even with a hearing aid

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Torremolinos joins World Aids Day awareness campaign

The mayor of Torremolinos and several councillors helped create a huge red ribbon with umbrellas last Friday

BY TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. Torremolinos participated in events commemorating World Aids Day last Friday. Organised by the Torremolinos town hall and several local LGBTI groups, a programme of informative, educational and recreational activities were staged at different locations in the town.

World Aids Day, commemorated on 1 December every year since 1988, is dedicated to raising awareness of the pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection, and mourning those who have died of the disease.

In 2016, Torremolinos joined the Paris Declaration, a platform aimed at the prevention, detection and early treatment of the illness with the ultimate goal of eradication by the year 2030. Torremolinos became the fifth city of Spain, behind Seville,

Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia, to join the initiative.

This year's events began with a meeting held outside the town hall, when the mayor of Torremolinos, José Ortiz, and several members of his council participated in the deployment of a huge red ribbon formed by 20 umbrellas.

The red ribbon is the global symbol for solidarity with people infected with HIV and those living with Aids.

Informative advice

Following the presentation in Plaza Blas Infante, the emphasis shifted to the town centre, where the Spanish Confederation of LGBTI (Colega) manned an informative stand offering HIV tests and advice about protection from sexually transmitted diseases as well as free condoms.

Other activities included a special World Aids Day gala that was held in the Pablo Ruiz Picasso Cultural Centre. The show, which was attended by the councillor for equality, Aida Blanes,



Symbol of solidarity with people infected with HIV. **BY T. BRYANT**



Aida Blanes with the polyphonic choir. **BY SUR**

presented the LGBTI Polyphonic Choir of Torremolinos, the only one of its kind in Andalucía.

The grand finale was held in the bar Eden in La Nogalera on Friday night, where a benefit drag show was staged by some of the town's top entertainers. The show was put on to raise money for Apoyo Positivo, a Malaga-based association that of-

fers advice and assistance to those infected with HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

There has been a significant reduction in HIV diagnoses for gay men due to frequent testing, rapid treatment and PrEP, a medicine that lowers the chance of infection and stops HIV from taking hold and spreading throughout the body.

For help and advice about sexually transmitted diseases, contact info@apoyopositivo.org

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Colmenar and Benaoján are both holding food festivals this weekend. :: SUR



Meats from Benaoján. :: SUR

Villages united by their pork and ham

TWO DAYS IN BENAJOJÁN AND COLMENAR

Car + festivals

Journey time: 25 minutes from Malaga to Colmenar and 1 hour and 25 minutes to Benaoján.



JAVIER ALMELLONES

The Spanish have a saying: "Del cerdo, hasta los andares." It means that they eat just about all of this animal, and this will be highlighted this weekend in two villages in Malaga province, Benaoján and Colmenar, as they are both holding gastronomic festivals

which are based around pork and its derivatives.

Colmenar

Colmenar, which is situated between the Upper Axarquía and the Montes de Malaga, will be celebrating its 'Mosto and meats' festival on Sunday 10 December.

This is the ideal opportunity to buy some very traditional foods direct from local producers and at very reasonable prices. These days, Colmenar is home to several companies which produce hams and other pork products.

However, as well as these and the delicious locally-produced wine, there will be other products from Colmenar, which is known as being one of the best 'larders' of Malaga province.

Cheeses made with the milk from Malaga goats, extra virgin olive oil, traditional confectionery and honey will all be

available for purchase at this festival in the centre of the village on Sunday.

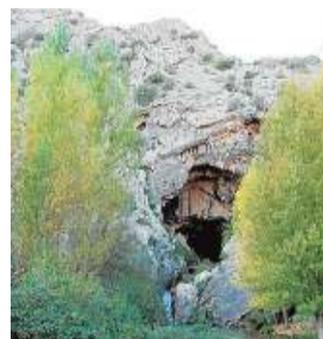
In addition to the large market with local products, one of the major attractions of this event is the Tapas Route, which includes free tastings of these small delicacies in different bars and restaurants in the centre of the village.

Benaoján

On the other side of the province, in the Guadiaro Valley, the village of Benaoján will be celebrating its Meat, Tourism and Artisan Craft Fair on Saturday and Sunday. This is another excellent chance to see and buy these types of traditional products.

Benaoján, which used to be famous for its number of pork and ham producers, is now equally, if not more, famous because of the quality of the foods it produces. In fact, many people in the area take this opportunity to go to Benaoján for this festival and stock up with delicacies before Christmas.

This annual festival also includes an interesting programme of activities during the weekend, including a ham cutting competition and free tastings of typical products.



QUICK GUIDE

What to see in Benaoján

Cueva del Gato. Natural monument formed by a cave from which water cascades into the Gadaures river. The Sierra de Grazalema Natural Park.

Cueva de la Pileta. A cave which is classified as a Historic-Artistic Site. It contains Paleolithic art and neolithic remains. Situated by the MA-8401 (in the direction of Jimera).

El Rosario church. The main church of Benaoján, originally built in the 17th century. Plaza San Marcos, s/n.

What to see in Colmenar

Church of La Asunción. The main church, which dates back to the 17th century. Plaza de la Iglesia.

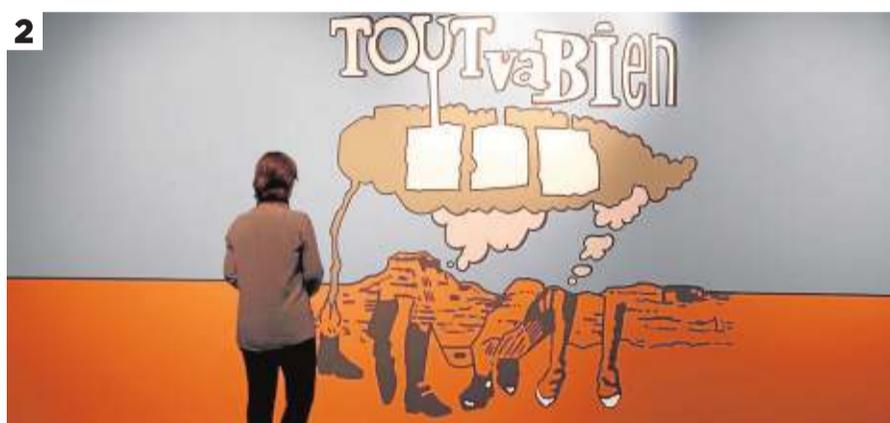
Honey museum: Permanent exhibition about honey and bees. Calle Pósito, 1, 29170 Colmenar.



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1. François-Xavier Lalanne's 'Flock of Sheep' presides over the final room in the exhibition. :: SALVADOR SALAS

2. 'Tout va bien' (Everything's going well), says the work by J.-M. Alberola which greets visitors. :: SALVADOR SALAS

3. Scurti's eye-catching tin bed. :: S. SALAS

4. Frank Stella created 'The Old Lady of the Garden' (1986). :: SALVADOR SALAS

5. 'Dyad' (1978-79), by Antonio Saura. :: S. SALAS

6. Picasso is featured in this collection, this time with a 'The Spring' (1956). :: S. SALAS

7. 'Head of Montserrat Shouting' (1942), by Julio González. :: S. SALAS

8. Marc Chagall's 'The Fall of Icarus' is one of the most outstanding pieces in the new collection. :: S. SALAS

9. 'Development in Brown' (1933) by Vassily Kandinsky, beside Malevich's '[Feeling of danger]' (1930-31) :: S. SALAS

The Pompidou unveils its new collection with a look at modern ideas of Utopia



ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

@ajavierlopez

The new semi-permanent exhibition in the Cube building will continue until the end of 2020

MALAGA. It was 502 years ago that Tomás Moro imagined a half-moon shaped island, whose inhabitants shared the work and the produce they grew, chose their representatives in meetings and refused to resort to violence to resolve disputes. He called it Utopia, and since then the name has symbolised something as ideal as it is unattainable. It is also the focus of the new collection at the Pompidou Centre in Malaga, which was inaugurated this week and will continue until the end of 2020.

This new collection, 'Modern Utopias', contains far fewer works than

the last one - 63, to be exact - and features 20th and 21st century artists who have reflected upon "the aspirations of men", as the assistant director of the Georges Pompidou Modern Art Museum in Paris, Brigitte Leal, describes them. The works are displayed in six separate rooms.

Room 1 The grand utopia

The first room features works from the early 20th century, with a focus on the birth of modern art and the avant-garde. The colourful 'Rhythm, Joie de Vivre' by Robert Delaunay (1930) sets the stage for the rest of the exhibition: large-size works with an optimistic content. Others include 'Summer Entertainment' (1934) by André Masson and Pablo Gargallo's 'The Prophet' (1933-36); the sculpture called 'Prometheus Strangling the Vulture' by Jacques Lipchitz (1936), and the model of an ideal city by Kazimir Malevich, called 'Alpha' (1923-1978).

Also on view are Julio González's bronze sculpture 'Head of Montserrat Crying' (1942) and 'My Sky is Red' (1933) by Otto Freundlich, fitting preludes to the distilled uneasiness of 'A Maïakovski' (1976), in which



Manolo Valdés and Rafael Solbes of the Equipo Crónica group look back at the past without anger.

Room 2 The end of the illusions

Anyone searching for major names in the history of art will find some of them here: Picasso, Malevich, Chagall and Kandinsky, almost rubbing shoulders with one another.

The first work in this room is Picasso's bucolic 'The Spring' (1956), which came four years after his last political work and shows his de-

light at life in his mansion on the Côte d'Azur.

Visitors come next to the trio comprising 'Development in Brown' (1933) by Vassily Kandinsky, '[Sensation of Danger] The Running Man' (1930-31) by Kazimir Malevich and 'The Fall of Icarus' (1974-77) by Marc Chagall, before moving on to more contemporary artists such as Erik Bulatov and his 'Spring in a Workers' Rest House' (1988), 'Final Summer' (2002) by Adam Adach and the video 'My Country, So Young, It

Cannot Be Defined!' (2001) by Cuban artist Tania Bruguera.

Room 3 Together

It is perhaps in this room that the difference between this new 'semi-permanent' collection and the last one is most noticeable. The previous exhibition contained a large number of important works by a variety of artists; this one is much more minimalist.

The change of style is also obvious: the disturbing mobile structure by Jean Tinguely has now been replaced by a double bed in the form of a tin can: 'N. Y., 06.00 A. M.' (1995-2000), by Franck Scurti, while the space occupied by 'Tatah's polyptych is now taken by 'Dyad' by Antonio Saura (1978-79). Also on display are 'All Together' (1995) by Jaffe Shirley, and the contemporary version of 'Luncheon on the Grass' (1964) by Alain Jacquet, among others.

Room 4 The shining city

Le Corbusier used the term 'shining city' to describe one which is more organised, comfortable and ecological. The model of 'habitable space' by



the Swiss architect for the Tiergarten in Berlin has influenced the video called 'This Is No Time For Dreaming' (2004) by Pierre Huyghe.

The most eye-catching piece in this room is, unsurprisingly, 'Cosmos' by Boris Achour (2001), which is over two metres in diameter and weighs 60 kilos.

**Sala 5
Imagining the future**

Architecture is mainly featured in the fifth section of this display, including the model of an underwater city imagined in the 1970s by Jacques Rougerie and the 'Cherry Blossom Palace' by Cristina Díaz and Efrén García. Other designs include the sea-front promenade in Benidorm by Carlos Ferrater and Xavier Martí, the Dutch pavilion for Expo 2002 in Hannover by the MVRDV studio and the interesting modular design by Carlos Arroyo for the new town hall in Oostkamp, Belgium (2008-2012).

**Sala 6
The Golden Age**

Once again this room, which is the principal exhibition space at the Pompidou Centre, contains some of the most impacting works in the collection, including 'Old Lady of the Garden' by Frank Stella, 'Personages and Birds in the Night', by Joan Miró, 'The Pond of No' by Roberto Matta, and 'Flock of Sheep' by Françoise-Xavier Lalanne 1965-1979), among other thought-provoking creations which reflect the hopes, ideals and disappointments of 'Modern Utopias'.



MOVIE LISTING
From Friday 8th to
Thursday 14th December

ORIGINAL VERSION SUBTITLED SPANISH



STAR WARS: THE LAST JEDI
Director Rian Johnson
Starring Daisy Ridley and John Boyega
ACTION · 152 min.



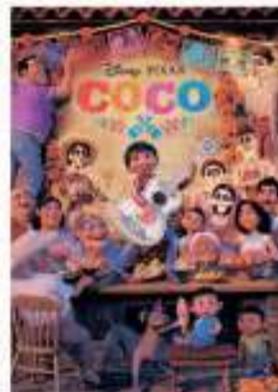
Thursday 14: 00:10



PADDINGTON 2
Director Paul King
Starring Hugh Bonneville and Sally Hawkins
COMEDY FAMILY · 104 min.



Friday 8: 11:45, 16:15, 18:15
Saturday 9: 16:15, 18:15
Sunday 10: 11:45, 16:15, 18:15
From Monday 11 to Thursday 14: 18:15



COCO
Director Lee Unkrich and Adrian Molina
ANIMATION · 128 min.



Friday 8: 11:45, 15:40, 18:00
Saturday 9: 15:40, 18:00
Sunday 10: 11:45, 15:40, 18:00
From Monday 11 to Thursday 14: 17:45



MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS
Director Kenneth Branagh
Starring Penélope Cruz and Johnny Depp
CRIME · 114 min.



Friday 8: 15:45, 20:30, 22:45
Saturday 9: 15:45, 20:30, 22:45
Sunday 10: 15:45, 20:30, 22:45
From Monday 11 to Wednesday 13: 20:15, 22:30
Thursday 14: 20:15, 22:00



JUSTICE LEAGUE
Director Zack Snyder
Starring Ben Affleck and Henry Cavill
ACTION · 119 min.



From Friday 8 to Thursday 14: 22:30

EXHIBITIONS

Victor Tristante

Estepona. Until 20 December. Patio Top Garden Furniture, Ctra A7 km. 163. Urb El Pirata. An exhibition by local artist Victor Tristante. More info at www.patio-topgarden.es or estepona@patio-topgarden.es

Playmobil nativity scene

Malaga. Until 12 January. Salas Minorance, Archivo Municipal, Alameda Principal. The Association 'Click Clack' have set up a nativity scene using 3,000 Playmobil figures and 20,000 pieces in total including the scenery etc.

Galería Benedito

Malaga. Until 14 December. C/Niño de Guevara. Artist Andrés Mérida is exhibiting several paintings of flamenco singers and guitarists.

JM Galería

Malaga. Until 1 January. Duquesa de Parcent 12. JMshow will be inaugurated today, 1 December at 8pm. It consists of photos, paintings, drawings and sculpture by various artists. www.galeriajm.com or email: galeria@galeriajm.com

Pat Graham

Malaga. Until 5 January. Centro Cultural Provincial María Victoria Atencia. American photographer Pat Graham is exhibiting a collection of his photos taken with a polaroid camera. The theme of 'Pasado Perfecto', as the exhibition is called, is urban cultures.

Buren at the Cube

Malaga. Until 14 January. Pompidou Centre, Malaga port. Daniel Buren, the artist who created the iconic design on the 'Cube' at the Pompidou Centre, is exhibiting more of his work at the museum.

Jaime Sordo

Malaga. Until 14 January. Sala de

La Coracha, Museo del Patrimonio Municipal, Paseo de Reding. Free. In the annex to the MUPAM is an exhibition of contemporary photographs from the collection Los Brazales belonging to businessman Jaime Sordo. The exhibition is entitled 'Escenas: acción y representación' and includes work by Pierre Gonnord, Per Berclay, Regina José Galindo and many others.

Antonio Yesa

Malaga. Until 16 January, Galería Alfajar opposite the gardens of Malaga Cathedral. 'Cualquier lugar es Bueno', is the name of the exhibition by Antonio Yesa.



Antonio Yesa, Galería Alfajar

Francisco Leiro

Malaga. Until 7 January. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo. An exhibition of sculptures completed over the last decade by Galician artist Francisco Leiro whose work reflects fragility and human vulnerability.

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 hor-

rors of war, on the 80th anniversary of the bombing of the village.

Ignacio Tovar

Malaga. Until 21 January. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo. 'Cantándote Bajito' is the title of the exhibition by Ignacio Tovar who interprets the poetry of flamenco in his paintings using the full spectrum of colours on his palette.

Dance Practice

Malaga. Until 8 January. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo. The video entitled Dance Practice was made in 1995 by Douglas Gordon, Jonathon Monk and Dave Allen. It shows a mix of music and dance, combining the music of the 60s with contemporary art.

Mijas Photography Group

Mijas Pueblo. From 15 December until 7 January. Casa Museo de Mijas. A collection of photos taken by a group international photographers.

Alfredo Opisso

Mijas Pueblo. Until 10 January. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo. An exhibition of works by Alfredo Opisso.

Loida CriadoMore

Mijas. Until 7 January. Casa de la Cultura Las Lagunas.

An exhibition of photographs taken by Liado CriadoMore entitled Women 5.2.

Pablo Druille

Mijas. Until 11 December, Casa Museo de Mijas. 'Mundo Tatana' is an exhibition by Argentinian artist Pablo Druille.

Galería Krabbe

Frigiliana. From 9 December until 20 January. Galería Krabbe, C/Rosario La Joaquín. The Christmas collective exhibition will feature the work of six female Danish artists: Anne Juul Christophersen, Marianne Frank, Luise Haugen, Tine Helleshøj, Caroline Krabbe and Ann-Lisbeth Sanvig. galeriakrabbe@gmail.com

El Universo Mágico

Vélez-Málaga. Until 12 December. Convento San Francisco. A mixture of reality and fantasy in this exhibition of paintings by Antonio Higaldo.

Asia Adentro

Vélez-Málaga. Until 12 December. Sala El Pósito. An exhibition of stunning photos taken by Pablo Berenguer Palma.

Salvador Dalí

Macharaviaya. Until 8 January. Museo de los Gálvez. The collection of paintings all fea-



Acompalia, Motril

ture horses, a subject that fascinated the artist. www.macharaviaya.es

Acompalia Art

Motril. Until 16 December, 7-10pm Wed-Sat. La Fábrica de Azúcar. A charity art exhibition to raise funds for Acompalia, an association in Granada and the Costa Tropical that cares for terminally ill patients. Live music on 2 December with Fernando Gallegos, 9 December The Chamber Players and on 16 December Wazifa, a Reggae funk band.

CHARITY

Refugio del Burro dinner

Marbella. 8 December, 7.30pm. Conrad's Restaurante, Avda del Prado, Nueva Andalucía. 42€ A three-course dinner to raise

Christmas traditions fair

TONY BRYANT

MALAGA. Benalmádena is to host the ninth edition of the Festival of Christmas Traditions on Saturday 9 December. Organised by the Benalmádena foreign residents department and various local expat associations, the festival is the first in a string of activities taking place in the municipality over the Christmas period.

The event will be held in the Plaza de la Mezquita in Arroyo de la Miel and will present the traditional Christmas festivities of more than a dozen different countries, including Venezuela, Chile, Brazil, Cuba, India and the UK. The festival, which will be inaugurated by the mayor of Benalmádena, Víctor Navas, will begin with a presentation parade of all the countries and associations involved. Live music and dance shows from around the world will take place throughout the afternoon. These will include performances by the Santo Domingo de Guzmán Choir, the Ballet African Sunugal from Senegal, the Bolly Danz of India and the Danza Huella de Chile.

Several British organisations will also participate, including the popular Banana Studios dance group and A Touch of Class, who will be performing their festive Christmas Crackers show. Complete with traditional characters like Captain Hook and the Ugly



Festive pantomime with A Touch of Class. :: SUR

Sisters, the show is sure to include all the slap-stick humour of pantomime.

All of the participating countries will be offering their traditional Christmas food and drinks, from the customary mulled wine and mince pies to more exotic dishes from South America and Asia.

There will be plenty of activities to keep children occupied, including a bouncy castle, face painting and festive games and competitions. There will also be a special visit from Father Christmas, the Slavic Santa Ded Moroz, and the Three Kings.

DETAILS

- **What:** Christmas Traditions Festival.
- **Where:** Plaza de la Mezquita, Arroyo de la Miel, Benalmádena Costa.
- **When:** Saturday 9 December.

The festival, which is free, begins at 11am with traditional Christmas music performed by the International Novaschool Choir.

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money for the refuge. 20€ of each ticket goes to the charity. Lottery and auction. Reservations: 951319554 or email: starbabi-es5@gmail.com

Cudeca Christmas Concert Benalmádena. 8 December, 8pm. Moonlight Lounge, Sunset Beach Hotel. 12€

The annual Christmas Cudeca concert will include performances by Italian mezzo-soprano Simona Mango and Russian soprano Olga Bykova accompanied by Malaga pianist María Perez Blanco. Tel: 663083249

Día de los Perros

Alhaurín de la Torre. 10 December, 10am-6pm. Parque de los Patos. Stalls, obedience demonstrations, raffle, parade of dogs looking for homes. Money raised goes to the local dog refuges.



Dance Practice, Malaga

Age Care Concert

Calahonda. 12 December, 10.45am. Baptist church. The Costa Soul Singers will be performing at the Age Care coffee morning.

Cudeca Light a Light

Benalmádena. 15 December, 6pm. The Cudeca Cancer hospice. Avda. del Cosmos, Arroyo de la Miel. A children's choir will sing at this annual event that is dedicated to loved ones who have passed away. Father Christmas will make an appearance and there will be a glass of 'Christmas cheer' and a piece of cake for everyone. Anyone wishing to dedicate a light can do so online at www.lightupcudeca.org

FAMA Christmas party

Mijas. 16 December, 7pm. Tamisa Golf Hotel. 40€. Three-course traditional Christmas dinner (vegetarian option), wine and beer, entertainment and raffle. Te:620354885 or email: patricia-marycoleman@gmail.com

Biker's toy run

Torremolinos. 16 December, from 11am. Plaza de la Nogalera. The motorbike club Komando Amimoto have organised a Toy Run again this year. Around 100 bikers, dressed as Father Christmas, will be driving around the town collecting toys that will be then passed on to underprivileged children.

Christmas Day with AID

Coín. 25 December, from 1.30pm. Los Cabaes restaurant. 39.90 euros. Full Christmas lunch with live entertainment from Geoff Jameson. No children under 13. Book in advance from AID second hand warehouse in Alhaurin el

Grande. Tel: 626942427.

MUSIC & DANCE

The Wall Bar

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

8 December: Play On. Alberto Soler (bass) and Lola Casemeiro (vocals) The best international ballads, jazz, pop and rock.

9 December: Daphne & Nicky Trio. Jazz and bossanova.

El Trío

Malaga. 9 December, 7pm. La Cochera Cabaret, Avda de Los Guindos. 18€

"The most famous Spanish Jazz trio ever" will be playing. The trio consists of Jorge Pardo, Carles Benavent and Tino Di Geraldo.

Yin Yazz

Almuñécar. 9 December, 8pm. Auditorio Casa de la Cultura. 6€ in advance, 8€ from box office. Jazz fusion with Jesús Mata (sax), Roberto Joyas (drums), Pedro Arousa (bass) and Ian Arthur (piano).

Dance show

Torremolinos. 9 December, 8pm. La Casa de la Cultura. Free. La Sultana dance academy will be performing ballet, flamenco and modern dance in this special Christmas show.

The Four Seasons concerts

Malaga. 10 December, 7.30pm. Sala Unicaja de Conciertos María Cristina. C/Marqués de Valdecañas. By invitation.

The Concerto Málaga string orchestra will be performing the first of four concerts. Invitations can be collected from the concert venue between 5 and 7pm weekdays only (not week ends or bank holidays).



Four Seasons concerts, Malaga

A meeting of choirs

Torre del Mar. 10 December, 5pm. Parroquia de San Andrés.

The choirs Ntra Sra de Covadonga, Parroquial de San Juan, Peña Buena Amistad, Luz del Alba, Peña Nerjeña, Romero del Trapiche, Pastoral de Frigiliana, Peña Axarquía, Parroquial Torre del Mar and Pastoral y Danzas Torre del Mar will be in concert. Entry is one kilo of non-perishable foodstuffs for the food bank in the town.

Music at Christmas

Mijas. 10 December, midday. Parque Andalucía, Las Lagunas. The choir Peña Flamenca Unión de Cante will be performing.

The handicraft fair in the Valle del Genal



Stalls selling local produce and arts and crafts. :: AYTO BENALURÍA

BENALURÍA. The Feria de Artesanías Valle del Genal has become one of the most important festivals in the Serranía de Ronda. The handicrafts fair brings together art and crafts from all over the region including wooden furniture, ceramics, paintings and sculpture, local produce and foods and wines.

Besides the crafts there will also be live music, cookery demonstrations, workshops (places by reservation) tastings and exhibitions including one of model windmills in the Casa de Rafaela. One activity that always at-

INFORMATION

► **Where.** Benalauría.

► **When.** 8 - 10 December, 11am - 8pm.

► **Contacts.** oficinadeturismo@benalauria.es

tracts many visitors is the olive pip throwing competition which this year will be on 9 December at 11am.

Ballet on ice

Malaga. 11 December, 8pm. Teatro Cervantes.

Cenicienta (Cinderella), based on a story by Charles Perrault and The Snow Queen by Hans Christian Anderson. The Moscow Ice Ballet will be performing to Tchaikovsky's music. Tickets : www.unientradas.es or www.teatrocervantes.com

Swan Lake

Malaga. 13 December, 8pm. Teatro Cervantes.

The Classical ballet of San Petersburg will be performing Swan Lake. Tickets : www.unientradas.es or www.teatrocervantes.com

Chamber music

Malaga. 14 December, 8pm. Sala Unicaja de Conciertos María Cristina. C/Marqués de Valdecañas.

The Philharmonic Society have organised a concert with music by composers Mozart (Quintet in A major for clarinet and strings KV 581) and Schubert (Piano Quintet in E-flat major, Op. 44).

Torremolinos choir

Torremolinos. 14 December, 7.30pm. Next to the nativity on the lower floor of the town hall.

The Coral Polifónica de Torremolinos will be singing traditional carols and popular songs.

Christmas Concert

Almuñécar. 15 December, 8pm. Iglesia de la Encarnación. Traditional Christmas carols sung

by the Coro Infantil Pedro Mena (Pedro Mena children's choir).

TOPS Christmas show

Alhaurín el Grande. 15, 16 December, 8pm. Venta La Recta. 10€ TOPS are presenting an evening of laughter, fun and Christmas spirit at their Christmas show. Tickets from Martin's and Cristina's bookshop, Alhaurin el Grande.

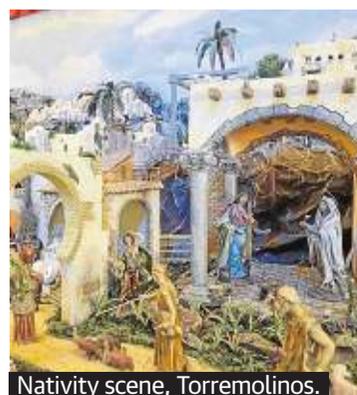
Ecumenical carol service

Torre del Mar. 16 December. 6pm. San Andrés church.

Carols sung by the Spanish choir "Amigos de Lux Mundi", the German choir "Con Los Cantores", director Lisa Kropp, and the TIMS English choir, director Margaret Williams. Lux Mundi Torre del Mar. Tel:952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

Christmas Choir Concert

Nerja. 16 December, 9pm. Iglesia de el Salvador.



Nativity scene, Torremolinos.

Free entry to this concert although a collection will be made in the interval with funds going to buy food for children this Christmas.

A Night of Tango

Nerja. 16 December, 9pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. 15€.

La Porteña Tango Trio have recently completed a tour of Russia and visited more than twenty countries. The show will include a guest appearance by Eugenia Giordano

Coral CoraXalia

Cómpeta/Vélez-Málaga. 15, 16 December 8pm. Free.

The choir will be performing Friday 15th at the mortuary chapel in Cómpeta and Saturday 16th at the Convento de San Francisco in Vélez Málaga.



Ice ballet, Malaga

TIMS Christmas concerts

Fuengirola.

9 December, 7pm. El Corte Inglés. Mijas.

12 December, 6pm. La Cala de Mijas town hall.

13 December, 7.30pm. The Danish Church, Calle Cipres, Las Lagunas.

Torre del Mar.

16 December, 6pm. St Andrew's the Apostle parish church.

Malaga.

21 January, 8pm. Malaga cathedral.

Collegium Musicum

Fuengirola. 17 December, 7pm. Hotel IPV Palace and Spa (former Beatriz). 10€

Optional tapas and drinks party after the concert 15€. Tickets: from the hotel or email: info@colmus.org or tel: 952775492 / 696620872

Marbella. 18 December, 8.30pm.

Iglesia de la Encarnación, Marbella Old Town.

FLAMENCO

Flamenco en el Museo

Malaga. Museo de Arte Flamenca Peña Juan Breva. C/Ramón Francisco. Email: info@flamenka.com 9 December, 8.30pm. Bastián Jiménez dancing, Miguel Astorga singing, José Manuel Millán "Manu" guitar. Reservations: 687 607 526.

Camarón de la Isla tribute

Torremolinos. 9 December, 9pm. Príncipe de Asturias auditorium.

The world's most celebrated flamenco singer will be remembered 25 years after his death in a special concert in Torremolinos. Tickets 15€ in advance, 25€ on the door. >

FLAMENCO

Herencia de Sacramonte

Almuñécar. 8 December, 8pm. Casa de la Cultura.

Antonia and Jara Heredia. Tickets from the Casa de la Cultura or from Viajes Ecuador.

La Lupi Flamenca

Malaga. 9 December, 8pm. Teatro Cervantes.

A performance by the La Lupi flamenco dance company of 'La Paula'. www.lalupiflamenco.es Tickets from www.teatrocervantes.com



Marina Heredia.

Ballet Flamenca de Granada

Almuñécar. 10 December, 7pm. Casa de la Cultura.

A flamenco show entitled 'Carmen'.

Libres y Flamencas

Malaga. 15 December, 9pm. Auditorio of the Picasso Museum
Flamenco music, song and dance

Marina Heredia

Almuñécar. 16 December, 8pm. Auditorio Casa de la Cultura.

A Christmas concert with Marina Heredia and special guest Curro Albaicín. Funds raised go to the brotherhood of the Santísimo Cristo Alado a la Columna (Cristo de los Gitanos). Tickets: www.bravoentradas.com or tel: 722261209

LECTURES

The Arts Society lectures

Fuengirola. 11 December, 4.30pm. Salon Varietés Theatre. Guests 10€ www.theartsociety-costadel-sol.org

Nerja. 12 December, 6pm, Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. Guests 10€ www.theartsocietynerja.com

The Honourable East India Company: Chinese Export and Chiniserie.

This lecture explores the way in which the East India Company developed its trade and facilitated the increasingly sophisticated and profound exchange of ideas between East and West. The currency and balance of trade is explained and methods of production are illustrated with a number of Chinese export pieces including Chinese painted silks, furniture and porcelain. Lecturer Vivienne Lawes

Lux Mundi Art Appreciation Group

Torre del Mar. 11 December, 10.30am. Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre. 2€

Last Chance Animal Rescue Concert

BY TONY BRYANT

MIJAS. The Last Chance Animal Rescue home is set to host a charity Christmas concert in order to raise extra funds to run the centre over the festive period. The grand tribute concert will be held in Capone's Karaoke and Music Bar in Bonanza Square, Benalmádena Costa, on Monday, 11 December.

The show will consist of an Abba tribute performed by Orla and Laura Elen, and a special Christmas Divas concert featuring Siobhan, Laura Carter and Orla. There will also be a performance by the 'Soul Man' Frankie B, and all of the entertainers will join together at the end of the night for a grand finale of Do They Know It's Christmas?

The event will begin at 9pm and all the proceeds from tickets, which cost five euros, will go to the Last Chance Animal Rescue Centre.

The revenue from the prize raffle, and 20 per cent of the bar takings, will also be donated to the charity and the organisers are appealing to the public for more prizes to be entered in the



Laura Carter. BY SUR

draw.

Based in Coín, the aim of the charity is to find loving homes for the huge number of abandoned animals they receive every week. As with many charity organisations, Last Chance do not receive any government funding and so they rely entirely on donations and fund raising events.

For more information, call Inez Robinson: 633 320 313

The Private Life of Masterpieces: The Christ of St John the Cross by Dalí: There will be a short introduction about the artist followed by a DVD followed by a lively discussion. Refreshments available.

EVENTS

Gastronomy Festival

Manilva. 8, 9 December from 10am. Plaza de la Vendimia.

The I Feria Gastronómica 'Saborea Manilva' will include a gastronomy market selling local products, a baking competition, a campaign for responsible eating and the main event, the wine competition which is open to vineyard owners in Manilva. On Friday 8th, the town hall will be holding the Christmas lights switch-on in the Plaza de la Vendimia at 7.30pm.

Street market

La Herradura. 9 December, from 5pm. Plaza de la Independencia. Stalls selling all sorts of products plus chocolate and churros and a collection point for food stuffs for Caritas. A percentage of funds raised will go towards the three kings parade in La Herradura.

Living Waters Festival

Fuengirola. 9 December. 10am-6pm. Living Waters Community Fellowship, Las Rampas.

This new Christian foundation is holding a charity event with live entertainment provided by Alice Reay, Monkey Tennis, Dex Rock Blues and others. Tel: 675542878

Age Concern trip to Malaga Christmas lights

Estepona. 15 December. Various departure points. 12€ members, 13€ guests.

A trip to see Malaga's Christmas lights. Tel: 951318234 to reserve a place or pop into the shop in Calle Zaragoza, Estepona during shop opening hours, Monday to Friday 10am to 1.30pm. Payment will be needed by 9 December.

Lux Mundi trip to Montefrío and Huétor Tajar

Fuengirola. 13 December. Various departure points. 39€

Coach trip to Montefrío and Huétor Tajar. Vist the Monumental Nativity and Olive Museum. Lunch is included. Tel: 952 474 840, e-mail luxmundif@gmail.com or go to www.lux-mundi.org

RAFA Christmas dinner

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.rafacostadelsol.co.uk

Conservatives Christmas Lunch

La Cala de Mijas. 13 December, 1pm. Joffrey's restaurant, Las Mimosas. Conservatives Abroad are holding their annual Christmas Lunch. Tickets 35€ which includes a three course meal with a bottle of wine per couple. Reservations: john.conservativesabroad@hotmail.co.uk

BCC Christmas Lunch

Marbella. 14 December, 2pm. La Sala Banús, Calle Juan Belmonte. The British Chamber of Commerce in Spain holds its annual Christmas lunch. Tickets are 33 euros for members and 39 euros for non-members. Contact 634648945 or andalucia@britchamber.com

Lux Mundi Christmas Lunch

Fuengirola 15 December, 1.30pm. Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre. 12€ minimum donation.

A Christmas lunch for people without their families this year. Booking essential. Tel 952 474 840, e-mail luxmundif@gmail.com web. www.lux-mundi.org

La Cala Lions dinner and dance

La Cala de Mijas 9 December, El Olivo Restaurant. 45€

Tickets for the event which includes dinner and live music by the Revival band, can be bought from The Lions Shop in C/Torremolinos 12 or tel: 677059061.

Age Concern dinner and dance

Mijas Costa. 22 December 7.30pm. Hotel Tamisa Golf. 30€

Age Concern Christmas party with entertainment provided by singer Laura Elen. 20% discount off bar prices for all Age Concern guests and transport to and from the hotel 12€ return per person with a minimum of 40 guests booking the coach. Tickets from Age Concern Charity shop in C/Francisco Cano 56 in Los Boliches or the Hotel Tamisa Golf Tel: 686289904

CHRISTMAS FAIRS

Christmas at the Arboretum

Marbella 17 December, 11am-5pm. Finca El Trapiche.

Environmental charity Arboretum Marbella are holding a Winter Fair with stalls selling Christmas gifts and organic produce, a kids zone, food and drink, special activities, live music and an introduction to their new project "Suerte de Tierra". There will be music and dance and a theatre workshop. www.fundacionarboretum.org



Lecture, Fuengirola

Christmas market

Gibraltar Until 23 December. Wed, Thurs noon until 8pm, Fri, Sat 10am until 10pm. Line Wall Road. Cultural Services and the Gibraltar Artisans market are joining forces for the run-up to Christmas. There will be craft stalls, entertainment, demonstrations, mulled wine, mince pies, face painting etc.

Christmas craft market

Alozaina. 8, 9, 10 December, 12 noon until 3pm and 4pm until late. Aula de la Cultura, Calle Calvario. The Alozaina Christmas Craft Market offers original artwork and other craft products and activities for children. Contact isabeldelasnieves@outlook.es or artealozainagroup@gmail.com for more information.

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

The Bookshop: 20.15, 22.15.

Life and Nothing More: 16.00.

The Killing of a Sacred Deer: 18.00.

The Sense of an Ending: 18.15.

Cinesur El Ingenio

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

Coco: 17.10 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)

Murder on the Orient Express: 18.30, 21.00 (Tues)

Wonder: 18.00, 20.15, 22.30 (Tues).

Suburbicon: 12.25, 17.15 (every day).

Café Society: 20.00 (Thurs).

Nutcracker suite ballet: 20.00 (Tues).

Cinesur Miramar

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

Coco: 19.30, 22.15 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)

Murder on the Orient Express: 12.10, 16.45, 19.15, 21.45, 00.15 (every day)

Wonder: 16.15 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).

The Sense of an Ending: 18.00, 20.15, 22.25 (Tues).

Suburbicon: 18.00 (Tues).

Star Wars: The Last Jedi: 00.05 (Thurs).

Cines Teatro Goya

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

Paddington 2: 11.45 (Fri, Sun); 16.15 (Fri, Sat, Sun); 18.15 (every day).

Murder on the Orient Express: 15.45, 20.35, 22.45 (Fri, Sat, Sun); 20.15 (Mon-Thurs), 22.30 (Mon-Wed); 22.00 (Thurs).

Justice League: 22.30 (Fri-Thurs)

Coco: 11.45 (Fri, Sun); 15.40 (Fri, Sat, Sun); 17.45 (Mon-Thurs); 18.00 (Fri-Sun).

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

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

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

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Coco: 16.00, 18.35 (Fri-Thurs), 12.30, 16.00, 18.35 (Sat, Sun).

Suburbicon: 13.00 (Sat, Sun), 17.55 (Tues).

Wonder: 21.00 (every day).

AROUND MALAGA

The Sierra de las Nieves at its most natural

JAVIER ALMELLONES

The Sierra de las Nieves is considered one of the most environmentally valuable areas of Andalucía, so it is hardly surprising that this mountain range has been officially classified as a Natural Park and International Biosphere Reserve.

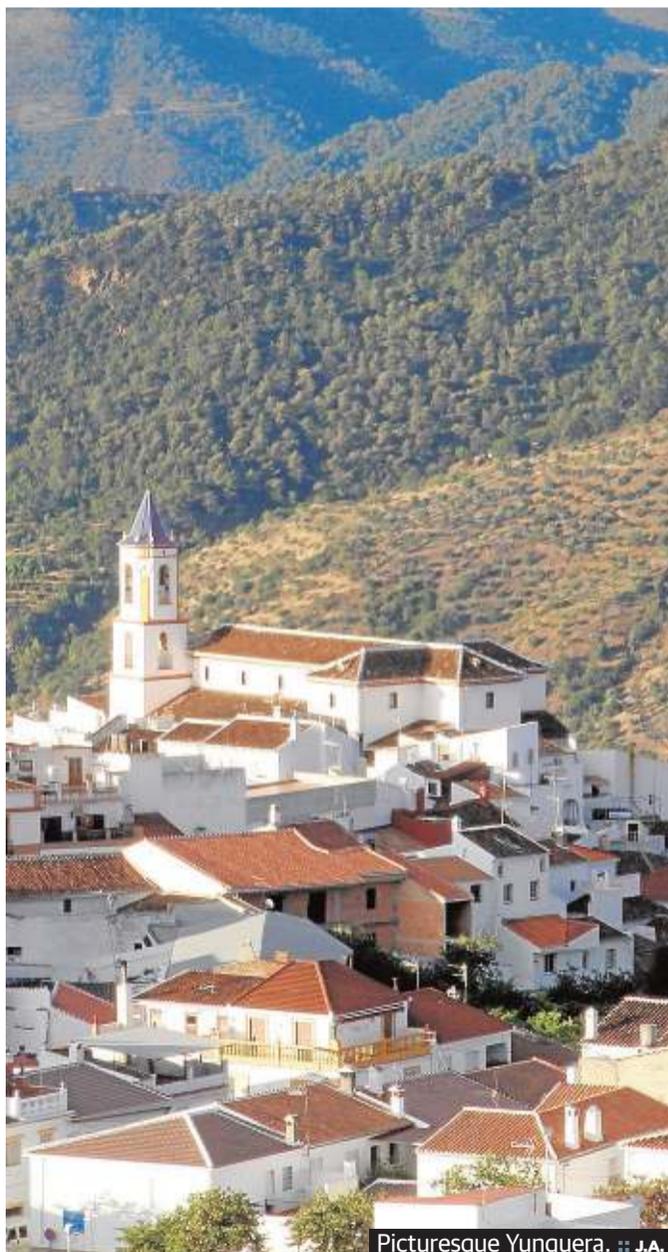
The villages of Tolox, Yunquera, Alozaina, Casarabonela, Monda, Guaro, Istán, El Burgo and Ojén are all situated within this natural park, and part of the protected area is in the municipalities of Ronda and Parauta.

In terms of ecological interest, the villages of Yunquera, El Burgo and Tolox, in the foothills of the Sierra de

las Nieves, are particularly outstanding.

The first of these, Yunquera, has the most direct contact with the protected area. In fact, there are several walking routes among the magnificent woods of pinsapos; they pass interesting old ice pits, and some emblematic viewing points.

However, Yunquera also has other important attractions for visitors to enjoy, such as its church of La Encarnación, for example, in the oldest part of the village; its watchtower, which is at the entrance to the village; and the chapel of Porticate, which is four kilometres away.



Picturesque Yunquera. :: J.A.

Casarabonela

History. This village in Malaga province can boast a wealth of interesting historical buildings and a rich heritage among beautiful surroundings. Apart from what remains of its castle, there is the church of Santiago, the Sacred Art Museum, and several chapels and shrines which are also well worth seeing.

There are also some very interesting natural collections, such as the Botanical Garden of Cacti and Succulent Plants, and Los Mizos mill.

What to see: The church of Santiago, the Cactus Garden, the old fortress, chapels, fountains and shrines.



El Burgo

History. The birthplace of the notorious bandit Pasos Largos and the heroic commander Benítez is set among stunning scenery, as can be seen by following some of the walking routes which go up to the highest peaks in the natural park. Another option is to marvel at the views from the 'Guarda Forestal' lookout point.

Another important feature of El Burgo is the Turón river, which flows across its territory.

What to see. The San Agustín church, source of the Turón river and the Guarda Forestal lookout point.



Monda

Magic. This village in the south of the region invites visitors to take a journey back in time, visiting its ancient laundry trough, which has now been restored, and the House-Museum of Mari Gloria. In this private home you can see hundreds of items and tools which were commonly used just decades ago. In the village you can also see the church of Santiago, the castle (which is now a hotel) and the remains of a Roman road.

What to see: The laundry trough of La Jaula, the Mari Gloria museum and the church of Santiago.



Tolox

Tradition. Although its Moorish castle no longer stands, the layout of Tolox still dates back to the times of Al-Ándalus, as a stroll through the streets will confirm. It also offers many attractions, especially with traditions such as the 'Día de los Polvos' and the Festival of 'Las Mozas'. It is also closely associated with the mountains which surround it. In fact, the highest peak, La Torrecilla, is within its territory, and so it is one of the deepest caves in Spain, the GESM chasm.

What to see: The village centre, spa and La Torrecilla.



Alozaina

Agriculture. The variety of olive known as 'aloreña' predominates the landscape around this village, which is between the fertile Guadalhorce Valley and the rugged Sierra de las Nieves. In fact, olives are the main product of this village. However, it boasts plenty of other attractions, such as its Andalusian remains, especially the María Sagredo tower and the remains of the castle. Its outlying hamlet of Jorox is also a lovely place to visit.

What to see: The Santa Ana church, María Sagredo tower, remains of the castle and the hamlet of Jorox.



Istán

Water. Few villages have such a close association with water as Istán. As well as the Río Verde flowing through it, and being the home of La Concepción reservoir, there are historic fountains and ancient channels so that a walk through the village streets is always accompanied by the sound of water.

In the nearby area, there are two very special enclaves: the Holy Chestnut Tree and the Canalón Pool, in the Río Verde.

What to see: The Holy Chestnut Tree, Canalón Pool, viewing points, La Concepción reservoir and El Chorro fountain.





Showcasing local foods

This year's Gran FERIA Sabor a Málaga sees 90 companies promoting the gastronomy of the province

:: SUR

MÁLAGA. The Gran FERIA Sabor a Málaga this year is in the Paseo del Parque and is running from midday until 10pm every day until Sunday.

The event showcases local products including the traditional Spanish Christmas sweets (turrón or nougat) and cakes (mantecados and polvorones which are small cakes flavoured with lemon, chocolate, rum etc, among others). There will also be stalls selling the best local cured ham and cooked meats, different breads, extra virgin olive oil and even speciality gins.

This year is the fifth edition of this festival and there will be approximately ninety stalls offering gourmet and local products.

Besides the commercial side of the festival, complementary activities such as tastings, presentations, cocktail workshops with Victor Varela, provincial champion Young Barman. María Rojo, creator of the Chatidieta (the Chati diet), will be demonstrating healthy Christmas cooking and bloggers Reme Reina and Mari Ángeles Sánchez will be encouraging children to cook for Christmas. Manuel Morales will be matching Malaga wines with festive desserts and Ángeles Ballesta with Belén Díaz will be presenting traditional Spanish sweets for Christmas.



Stalls will be selling local produce throughout the day. :: SUR

The company Pastelería Ramos from Vélez-Málaga who in the last few years have created an innovative list of sweets, chocolates and turrónes, will be presenting their new turrón which contains goat cheese and sweet PX wine.

Craft beers will be available to sample as will cooked meats, cheeses and olive oils.

During the event, a selection of chefs from various areas of the province will be show cooking live. They include Serán Sergio Garrido, Andalusian representative for Eurotoques (a community of chefs dedicated to Real Food) and chef at

Vincci Posada del Patio; Aitor Perurena, from Restaurante 1870 and Estudio Gastronómico; Daniel García Peinado, chef at AOVE; Roberto Soler, director of the Escuela de Cocina Sabores de Torre del Mar; José Manuel Marfil, chef of Restaurante El Convento, and Carlos Navarro Björk, Japanese cookery expert and finalist in the World Sushi Cup in Tokyo 2016.

The last day of the festival will be celebrated with live concerts. Visitors who purchase products during the event will be entered into various raffles for hampers and gift packs from Sabor a Málaga.

A. J. LINN

EATING BEHIND BARS



Some people have limited choice when it comes to where and what they eat. The request by the Belgian authorities to the Spanish government regarding what sort of treatment the Catalan rebels could expect to receive should they be extradited to, and detained in, Spain, lifted the curtain slightly on culinary aspects of the prison regime.

Apparently the food is not too bad, surprising perhaps when the budget per prisoner is 3.66 euros daily to cover everything. In nearly all the prisons the inmates are responsible for the preparation, cooking and serving of meals, although in some exceptional cases outside caterers are employed.

There has never been any lack of enthusiasm on the part of the prisoners to learn cooking, and in another famous ongoing prosecution, the Gürtel case, the principal defendant, Francisco Correa, asked for his appearance in a court hearing to be got through as quickly as possible so he wouldn't miss too much of the cooking class he had signed up to at Picassent jail.

In some Spanish penitentiaries the regime includes producing fruit and vegetables on prison land and in some cases caring for farm animals. In Britain they have gone a step further and opened restaurants accessible to the public.

Brixton jail's restaurant 'The Clink' is run entirely by convicts, many of whom have learnt their skills in prison. Not all though. Previous to the ban on asking the prisoners why they were locked up, one of them had answered a questioner that he was a professional chef, and was serving time for having killed his sous-chef in the kitchen of his restaurant.

In America the best-known prison restaurant is possibly the Serving Time Café in Utah, unique until recently for being staffed by female time-servers. Unusually for a fast-food eating-place, the clientele is mostly male and seems in no hurry to leave.



Brixton restaurant. :: CLINK CHARITY

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Removals page 54
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A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER

 Commentator, Sky Sports
@robbopalmer


The managerial carousel

In the Premier League big-name managers take it in turns to lead clubs of a certain standing, while in La Liga it is the complete opposite

You must have seen the argument over in the Premier League that the same old faces are just rotating clubs on the managerial merry-go-round while the elite are signing the superstar managers? Over here in La Liga it is the complete opposite.

Pep Guardiola, Jose Mourinho, Rafa Benítez and Mauricio Pochettino all made their name in Spain before heading to the top clubs in England. Now there is a new breed of manager breaking through!

In La Liga we don't have the likes of Sam Allardyce, David Moyes, Alan Pardew and Tony Pulis who take it in turns to lead clubs of a certain standing. The



British media only know big names from Spain, like Zidane. :: REUTERS

Premier League currently has eight British managers (if you count Chris Hughton as Irish) compared to La Liga which has seventeen Spanish managers.

Only Ernesto Valverde at Barcelona, Quique Sánchez Flores at

Espanyol and Marcelino at Valencia could really be regarded as established in the top flight, the rest are developing with their clubs.

There are some great characters emerging.

One of my favourites is Pablo

Machin at Girona. This is a man who has the backing of the Manchester City money men and a squad bolstered by young players enjoying a gap year away from the reserve team of the Premier League club, yet he has stuck to his principles. He's used the players Pep Guardiola has sent him sparingly and largely stuck with the spine of the team that won promotion to the top league for the first time ever. He's also insistent on playing his own formation with a back three and already masterminded the shock result of the season by beating Real Madrid.

The man challenging him for unsung hero is Asier Garitano who began his coaching career in the lower leagues, starting in the footballing outpost of Alicante. When he arrived at Leganés in 2013 they didn't even have their own training ground and they were struggling in the third tier of Spanish football. In a short space of time and on a limited budget he guided the club from the suburbs of Madrid onto the football map. There's a big chance they could be on the European map as currently they sit in 7th place.

Getafe are close in a couple of

ways, one point in the league and just a couple of junctions along the M45 orbital. They too are managed by an emerging leader. José Bordelas looks younger than his fifty-three years, especially when you learn that this is his 11th club! He was actually assisted by Garitano in Alicante and he's spent seasons in Benidorm.

He's bespectacled and looks respectable on the touchline but there's a bit of the loveable rascal about him. Last week when Valencia lost their first game of the season their captain was left bemoaning the state of the pitch. One suspects that Bordelas gave the groundsman a couple of days off.

Even though he guided Alavés back to the top flight in 2016 they decided they needed to replace him. Their loss was Getafe's gain and he won promotion for a second year in a row. Now his combination of bargains, free transfers and veterans are establishing themselves in the top 10. The club that nobody loved is regarded as romantic all of a sudden.

The British press only knows Zidane and Simeone but the next generation of top coaches are evolving each with their own personalities and quirks.

Marbella keep up the pressure at the top with win in Melilla

A superb goal from Luis Rioja in the dying minutes sealed the win for the Costa side

MELILLA 1 MARBELLA 2

:: OPTASPORT

MELILLA. Marbella picked up a deserved victory on their travels to Melilla on Sunday which keeps the pressure on at the top of their Segunda B group table. The Costa del Sol side are level on points with leaders Cartagena, behind only on goal difference.

The visitors came out on top in a game they had under their control from start to finish, only conceding by virtue of a set piece.

Marbella had to weather a storm in the opening exchanges but nerves were settled in the 26th minute when full-back Carlos Julio gave his side the lead in fortuitous circumstances after his miskick created space for him to convert on the second attempt.

The goal calmed the away team who settled into a compact defensive shape, cutting off the supply lines, and attempting to strike on the counterattack.

This almost produced a second

for Marbella at the start of the second half but keeper Dani Barrio came out on top in the one-on-one with Corpas.

Melilla knew that if they were to find a way back into the game, it would come through a set piece. And so it proved. Nacho Aznar climbed highest to meet Pelu's perfectly-weighted corner to level up the scores in the 67th minute.

Dani Barrio again came to the rescue, this time getting the faintest fingertip on the ball to divert Ferrón's effort out for a corner.

In the 85th minute came the moment of controversy. When Nacho



Marbella celebrate scoring in Melilla on Sunday. :: OPTASPORT

Aznar took a tumble in the Marbella penalty area, he, like everyone else in the ground, was convinced he had won his side a penalty to win the game. However, the protests caused the home side's minds to wander and

they were caught out by a quick ball over the top to Luis Rioja who powered a low left-footed strike into the far corner of the net to seal all three points with just minutes left on the clock.

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MALAGA



LEVANTE

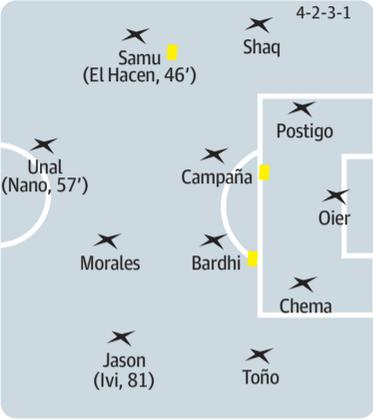


4-4-2



Unused substitutes: Prieto (GK), Cifu, Ian Soler, Rolán.

4-2-3-1



Unused substitutes: Raúl (GK), Pedro López, Cabaco, Luna.

STATISTICS

BALL POSSESSION

55%

45%

MALAGA **LEVANTE**

0	Goals	0
14	Total shots	6
3	On target	3
11	Off target	3
7	Corners	2
6	Offsides	5
9	Fouls committed	13
1	Yellow cards	3
0	Red cards	0

Goals: None.
Referee: Ricardo De Burgos.
Venue: Estadio La Rosaleda (17,886 spectators).

TABLE & FIXTURES

MATCHDAY 14

Results

Barcelona - Celta 2-2
Leganés - Villarreal 3-1
Sevilla - Deportivo 2-0
Athletic - Real Madrid 0-0
MALAGA - Levante 0-0
At. Madrid - R. Sociedad 2-1
Las Palmas - Betis 1-0
Eibar - Espanyol 3-1
Getafe - Valencia 1-0
Girona - Alavés 2-3

Fixtures

Valencia - Celta
Villarreal - Barcelona
Deportivo - Leganés
Real Madrid - Sevilla
Levante - Athletic
R. Sociedad - MALAGA
Betis - At. Madrid
Alavés - Las Palmas
Espanyol - Girona
Getafe - Eibar

LEAGUE TABLE

★ Champions League ■ Europa League ▼ Relegation

TEAM	PT	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
★ 1. Barcelona	36	14	11	3	0	36	7
★ 2. Valencia	31	14	9	4	1	33	13
★ 3. At. Madrid	30	14	8	6	0	23	7
★ 4. Real Madrid	28	14	8	4	2	25	11
■ 5. Sevilla	28	14	9	1	4	19	14
■ 6. Villarreal	21	14	6	3	5	22	18
7. Leganés	20	14	6	2	6	12	13
8. Getafe	19	14	5	4	5	20	15
9. Real Sociedad	19	14	5	4	5	28	26
10. Celta	18	14	5	3	6	26	21
11. Betis	18	14	5	3	6	23	28
12. Girona	17	14	4	5	5	18	22
13. Eibar	17	14	5	2	7	16	27
14. Levante	16	14	3	7	4	14	20
15. Espanyol	16	14	4	4	6	11	18
16. Athletic	14	14	3	5	6	14	18
17. Deportivo	12	14	3	3	8	17	27
▼ 18. Las Palmas	10	14	3	1	10	11	32
▼ 19. Alavés	9	14	3	0	11	10	24
▼ 20. MALAGA	8	14	2	2	10	11	28

Fans turn on Michel after dire home draw



DARYL FINCH

✉ dfinch@diariosur.es

The head coach drew criticism after a limp goalless draw against newly-promoted Levante at La Rosaleda

MALAGA. For the first time during his reign, the fans' ire was directed at head coach Michel following a disappointing home draw to Levante on Friday night.

Having won their last two home games against Celta Vigo and Deportivo La Coruña, respectively, this tie against recently-promoted opposition was one they would have been expecting to win. Yet, matchwinning chances were few and far between.

Malaga knew that Levante, managed by their former head coach Juan Muñoz, would be well organised and yet offered very little creativity from the middle of the park.

In the 42nd minute forward Adal-



Diego González rues missing his side's best chance of the game. :: NITO SALAS

berto Peñaranda came close with a shot from just outside the area that had Oier Olazábal taking no chances at his near post, but besides that, there was very little action to report for either side in a bland first half.

The hosts stepped on the gas af-

ter the break and José Recio was claiming a penalty after seeing his shot ricochet out past Oier's left post for a corner. The referee was unmoved and replays showed that the Malaga captain was clutching at straws.

However, from the resulting cor-

ner came Malaga's best chance of the game. Defender Diego González, deputising at left-back in the absence of Juan Kar, raced onto the centre after losing his marker but his volley was too controlled and was gathered by Oier on the second attempt.

González came close once again in the 57th minute when he resurrected Roberto Rosales' deep cross from the right, getting the better of the defender at the back post but failing to get enough whip on his volley which struck the side netting.

Two substitutes almost combined to break the deadlock when Javi Ontiveros carried the ball to the byline before hanging the ball up for Borja Bastón who ought to have kept his header down.

With the onus on Malaga to attack, disaster almost struck in the dying moments when keeper Roberto had to come to the rescue to deny a certain winner from Nano Mesa who was sent clean through on goal by a rapid counterattack.

Disaster was averted but at this stage of the season, a point against a direct rival is not good enough for the Blue and Whites who at the end of play on matchday 14 are once again bottom and four points from safety.

This provoked chants of "¡Michel vete ya!" (Michel out!) at full time as the head coach's tactics were brought into question.

The former Olympiakos man has so far been immune to criticism, but following a Copa del Rey exit at the hands of Segunda side Numancia, the fans' patience is starting to wear thin.

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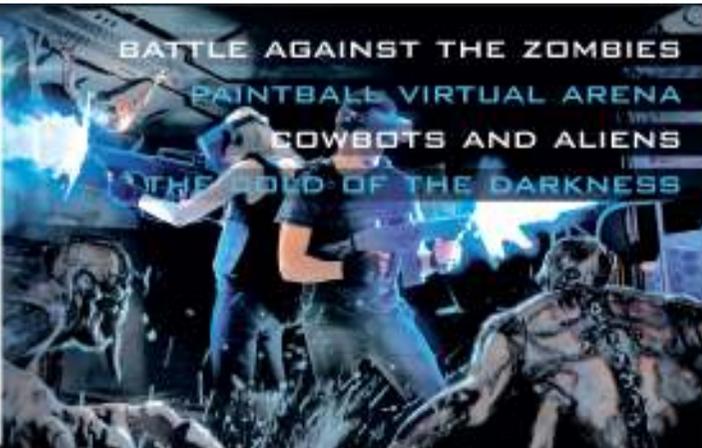
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History is not on Malaga's side

Only Espanyol in the 2003-04 season have stayed up with the same points haul as this current Malaga team



PEDRO LUIS ALONSO
Twitter: @Plalonso27

MALAGA. Despite seemingly turning a corner, Malaga are back at the bottom of the table after the disappointing home draw against Levante. Not only was the performance underwhelming, but not picking up all three points against a direct rival is a major setback in the side's quest for survival.

The gap to the newly-promoted side could have been reduced to five, but it remains at eight and instead of reeling them in, Levante, as well as Deportivo, Athletic and Espanyol, have been given a boost.

Malaga's current situation has become all the more alarming given that only once in history has a side



Luis Fernández, in the dugout at La Rosaleda. :: SALVADOR SALAS

remained in the top flight (in its current format) with just eight points after 14 matchdays.

In that case, Espanyol finished the 2003-04 season with an incredible 43 points after an unexpected turnaround in fortunes which resulted in a 16th-place finish after being bottom.

Conversely, Real Valladolid, who were 11th at this stage, ended up being relegated in the same season (they finished 18th) - demonstrating that sides' fates are sealed over the course of nine months and not three.

So what did Espanyol have to do to escape trouble? Essentially they turned enough draws into wins, racking up 11 victories (and only two draws) from matchday 15 until the end of the campaign.

A change in management

After the 13th matchday, Espanyol opted to remove Javier Clemente as boss after just one win and two draws. In his place the club went for another manager also known for his man management and no-nonsense approach, Frenchman Luis Fernández.

During his time at the helm, he led the side to 11 victories, two draws and 14 defeats - enough to steer them clear of trouble.

This was the Espanyol side with Toni between the sticks (though Erwin Lemmens also played), and outfield players such as Raúl Tamudo (who scored 19 goals that season), Maxi Rodríguez, Mauricio Pochettino, Cyril Domoraud, Pierre Womé, Alberto Lopo, Jordi Cruyff, Fredson, Iván de la Peña, David García, Tayfun Korkut and Alex Fernández, among others.

Despite a strong reliance on Tamudo, the team always went for the win, even though this tactic resulted in some resounding defeats (including a 5-2 at La Rosaleda).

In the end, they racked up 35 points from the remaining 72, almost 50 per cent.

While it's possible that Malaga won't need as many as 43 points to gain safety this year, given the performance levels of their nearest rivals, the fact that only one team has stayed up with their current number of points gives plenty to think about.

Malaga sign defender Ignasi Miquel after Fifa block Sergio Sánchez return

The versatile defender arrives primarily to provide cover for the injured Juankar at left-back

:: SUR DEPORTES

MALAGA. After Malaga's transfer

plans were thrown into chaos earlier this week by a Fifa ruling, the club have moved quickly to sign Ignasi Miquel who joins from CD Lugo, signing a four-year contract.

This signing ends Malaga's search for a versatile defender to cover the injury to left-back Juankar who has been ruled out for the rest of the season. Sergio Sánchez, who played for

Malaga from 2011 to 2015, was originally earmarked with head coach Michel announcing that his signing would be completed last week.

However, the defender on loan at Espanyol from Russian side Rubin Kazan, has already played for two sides this campaign and therefore cannot play for a third, according to Fifa rules. An appeal (Sánchez only played 45 minutes for Rubin) was unsuccessful and the Blue and Whites had to look elsewhere for reinforcements.

This summer Miquel, from Barcelona, had renewed his contract with Lugo until 2020. However, Malaga paid 350,000 euros to terminate this

contract in order to recruit the Catalan centre-back. The 25-year-old, who played for Arsenal from 2011 to 2014, can also be utilised as a left-back.

Further recruits

In January, a holding midfielder will be the major priority but this will not be a simple operation as the club will most likely have to sell first. As reported by SUR in English last week, Emanuel Cecchini, Cifu and Cenk Gonen have been told they are surplus to requirements. However, this week, they have been joined on the transfer list by Youssef En-Nesyri who is searching for game time ahead of the World Cup this summer.



Rolan and Rosales. :: S. SALAS

Malaga's three non-EU players all on the verge of Spanish nationality

:: SERGIO CORTÉS

MALAGA. Malaga's hand in the winter transfer window could be strengthened with all three of their non-EU players on the verge of getting their Spanish nationality confirmed.

La Liga clubs are allowed a maximum of three non-EU players each per squad, places currently occupied by Venezuelans Roberto Rosales and Adalberto Peñaranda, and Uruguayan Diego Rolán.

If one, or indeed all, receive Spanish nationality before the end of the transfer window, it would allow Malaga to sign players from South America - a region their scouts know well and one where bargains can be found.



Ignasi Miquel arrived in Malaga on Wednesday. :: SALVADOR SALAS

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Barona Fuengirola top Andalusian inline hockey league

Fuengirola Lions' second side sit top of the early league table by virtue of goal difference

BY DARYL FINCH

FUENGIROLA. The Fuengirola Lions are fielding two sides as they look for success in the Andalusian inline hockey league this season.

Barona Fuengirola and Fuengirola Lions both played two games each on Sunday; the latter started against Malaga, beating them 10-3, followed by a Barona game against Sancti Petri who turned out with fewer players than the minimum required so forfeited the game 0-1.

Later in the evening Barona played against Ceuta Bulldogs and beat them

comfortable (16-3) after which the Lions played against Búhos Xauen from Granada in the tightest contest of the day.

Búhos goalkeeper Ignacio Pelayo would prove to be tough opposition after keeping a clean sheet in the previous game. But when the Lions managed to open the scoring, Búhos equalised almost immediately. Youngster Imad Tiouk and captain Carlos Palafox then gifted the side a two-goal lead which was pegged back to 3-2 by Rene Delbouille to make it a nervous finish. However, both Fuengirola teams left with a 100 per cent record, but Barona sit on top of the league by virtue of goal difference.

The next games for the Fuengirola Lions will be in the Liga Sur games on 16 December in Murcia.



Desperate defending to try to thwart Barona. BY SIMO TYNYS



The Fuengirola Lions celebrate scoring. BY S. TYNYS

Marbella Davis Cup bid had the "unanimous" support of the Spain team

BY MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. "The captain Sergi Bruguera put the proposal to his players and the support was unanimous," said Spanish Tennis Federation president Miguel Díaz.

Díaz, who was speaking at the official presentation of the Davis Cup clash between Spain and Great Britain last week, said: "Marbella is ideal. It is a clay surface and it is at sea level."

The clash, which will take place from 2 to 4 February is going to be "special", he said, "and the players know it". Marbella mayor Angeles Muñoz added that the Puente Romano, where the games will be played, is "an icon of tennis".

The town hall is now looking for 200 volunteers to help with the three-day event. Applications must be handed in by 9 January.



BY R. GARCÍA

THE EIGHTH FUENGIROLA OPEN AT EL CHAPARRAL

El Chaparral Golf Club recently hosted the eighth Open de Golf de Fuengirola, organised by Club de Golf La Bandera. After the competition, competitors and organisers enjoyed a meal and prizegiving ceremony, during which club president Christian Far thanked sponsors for their support.

Sporting world comes together to support young lineswoman subjected to sexist abuse

Eva Alcaide spoke out on Twitter about the abuse she received during an Andalusian second division youth game

BY SERGIO CORTÉS

MALAGA. An assistant referee who received sexist abuse from the stands at a Segunda Andaluza youth game in Alhaurín de la Torre has received support from across the footballing world after her story went viral on Twitter this week.

Eva Alcaide, 17, claimed on social media that she was "harassed" by a group of youths "no older than 17" who had hurled insults constantly during the first half of the Alhaurín de la Torre game against Fuengirola-Los Boliches.

Alcaide said on her Twitter account (@EvaAlcaide28), among other comments, the group said things

like: "Look at that ass!", "Are you a virgin?", "I hope you don't drop the soap in the shower otherwise I'll have to take you from behind" and "I'm going to have to come on the pitch and have some of you."

The fans, after the team of officials complained to the stewards, were ejected at half time.

"It's not normal nor fair that I have to hear comments like this while I'm doing what I love most. I felt completely hounded on a football pitch which is supposed to be a place for everyone to enjoy," said Alcaide.

Since Alcaide's comments went viral, she has received support from across Spanish football, including from Madrid club Rayo Vallecano and rugby referee Alhambra Nieves.

Former Malaga and Real Madrid defender Fernando Sanz tweeted: "What a disgrace that these things are still happening (...). Don't let them take away your love for football."

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Chaplaincy Office 952580600.

Los Boliches, St. Andrew's Edif. Jupiter, Avda Padre Jesús Cautivo 44. Sung matins (BCP) Mon, Tues, Thurs 9am. Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am.**Benalmádena Costa**, San José chapel, 9.30am;

Sung Eucharist (Common Worship) 1st, 3rd, 4th Sun; sung MP 2nd Sun

Calahonda, Ermita de San Miguel, 9.30am.

Sung Eucharist (Common Worship) 2nd and 4th Sun; sung MP 1st and 3rd Sun.

Alhaurín el Grande: Cemetery Chapel Sun. at 11.30am. All age service 1st Sun; MP (Common Worship) 2nd Sun; sung

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Costa del Sol (West)**San Pedro**, Sunday 10a.m. (Holy Communion) Parroquia Virgen del Rocío.**Sotogrande**, Sunday 12 noon. (Holy Communion 2nd & 4th Sundays) La Iglesia de Nuestra Sra. de la Merced. Chaplaincy House. www.costachurch.com**Nerja**: Sun 12 noon, San Miguel church, Wed. 9.30am. (Church shop, C/Malaga 952 522 460.) Rev. Geoffrey Johnston, 952521339.**Almuñécar**: Capilla de Nuestra Señora del Carmen, (Fishermen's chapel) Chinasol. Sun. 9.30am. (not August) Priest as Nerja.**Torre del Mar**: St Barnabas IERE, 11am. Morning Prayer 1st and 3rd Sunday, H.C. 2nd and 4th. Lux Mundi centre. 952030461.**Gibraltar**: Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Sun 10.30. Tel. 78377.**Benalmádena Costa**: Songs of Praise, Interdenominational church service, Castillo Bil Bil. Sun. 5.30pm. Oct. - May. 648666152.

MUSLIM

Marbella: Mezquita del Rey Abdulaziz. Friday 2.30pm. 952774143.**Fuengirola**: Mezquita del Centro Cultural Suhail, Parque Doña Sofía. Friday worship 2.30pm. Tel 952473916.**Malaga**: Mezquita, C/San Agustín 11. Friday 2.30pm. 952228595.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Marbella: Santo Cristo del Calvario Church, Avda. del Calvario: Holy Mass in English, 11am. every Sunday. Tel: 952774 899.**Fuengirola**: Capilla San José, Las Rampas (Upper Level), Daily Mass (in English): Mon-Fri 11am. Sat 7pm. Sun 11am.**Fuengirola**: Lux Mundi, C/ Nueva, 12 Sun.**Arroyo de la Miel**: Mass in English Parroquia de la Inmaculada, Sunday 1.30pm.**Calahonda**: Ermita de San Miguel, 12 Sun.**Benalmádena Costa**: Parish Church of La Virgen del Carmen, Avda. Bonanza. Bilingual mass English/Spanish Sunday 10am.**Torre del Mar**: Lux Mundi, Avda. Moscatel, 1-11. Saturday. Winter 5pm, summer 6 pm. 952543334.**Chiclana (Cadiz)**: Nstra Señora de Europa church, Urb. Novo Sancti Petri, RC Mass in English and German, Sunday 10.30am**Pueblo Nuevo de Guadiaro - Sotogrande (Cadiz)**: Mass in English, Saturday 7pm and Sunday 10.30am at Santuario de la Divina Misericordia**Malaga**: Catholic mass in English, Avenida Santiago Ramón y Cajal, Ciudad Jardín. 11.30am Sunday. 952260760.

METHODIST CHURCH

Gibraltar: Methodist Church, 297 Main Street. Sun 11am and 8pm. +350 200 77491/+350 200 40870. Rev. Fidel Patron.**Sotogrande**: La Iglesia de Nuestra Sra. de la Merced 1st and 3rd Sundays 11.45a.m. For more info. call 952 895 102.CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
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JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Arroyo de la Miel: Avda Del Cerro de Viento, s/n. Tues. 7.30pm. Sat. 4.30pm. Tel. 952561170.**Fuengirola**: Kingdom Hall, Plaza Hispanidad, Service Meeting, Fri 7.30pm. 952469082.**Malaga**: C/José Palanca, 20. Service Fri 8pm. Tues 7.15pm.**San Pedro**: C/ Amor 6, Fuente Nueva. English: Sun 11am & Wed 7.30pm.

Tagalog: Sun 1.30pm & Tues 7.30pm. Kingdom Hall 952788855.

Torrox Costa: Local 17, Urb Costa de Oro. Sun 11 a.m., Weds 7pm. Tel. 952526740.**Torre del Mar**: Calle Infantes, Conjuntos Islas del Sol. Scandinavian Sun 6pm, Thurs 7pm. German Sun 11am and Fri 7pm.**Coín**: Calle Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente. Weds 7.30pm, Sun 11.30am. 952499239.EVANGELICAL CHURCH/
BAPTIST CHURCH**Los Boliches**: Evangelical Church, Paseo Marítimo 77. Sun:Worship and Bible teaching, 4pm. Weds: Bible study and prayer 7.30pm. Tel 952460728**Torremolinos**: Evangelical Community Church. Sun service 11am. C/Gregorio Marañón 4. 952384706**Torremolinos**: Gloryhouse International Christian Center. African Pentecostal style. Sun 11am C/ Danza Invisible, 7/8, Bloque D, Nogalera. Pastor Moses. 679740825, 951210300**Nerja**: Fellowship of the King, Pasaje San Miguel, Sundays at 10.30am. 952 969 058 / 958 658 439.**Nerja**: Community Bible Fellowship, C/ Pintada 35, 2nd floor. English/ Spanish Worship, Sunday 10am. 952521776.**Caleta de Vélez**: Cornerstone International Church. Barrio Cooperative Ntra Sa del Carmen. Sunday 11.30am. 634 540 519**Calahonda**: The Evangelical Christian Fellowship, Ermita San Miguel. Sun 4.30pm. Rev. Peter Riggall, 952 588 160.**Arroyo de la Miel**: Arroyo Baptist Church, Sun 4pm. Conjunto Zodiaco, Edif. Aries, C/ Sagitario. Tel. 95244796/952386716.**Calahonda**: Baptist Church, Calle San Jeronimo 1, Worship Sunday 11 am with Sunday School. 952832533.**La Línea**: Asambleas de Dios. C/San José, 41. Thurs 9pm. Sun 11am & 8 pm.**Marbella**: Int. Christian F'ship. Sun 11.30 Ed. Milla de Oro. Tel. 952 932 216 .**Mijas Costa**: Iglesias Internacional Costa del Sol, C/José de Orbaneja 10. Sun 11am and 7pm; Thur 7pm Tel:636 422 7**Puerto Banús**: Christian Church (The Wave) Worship Service: Sun 11am. The Wave Café: Wed 11am. Prayer: Fri 12pm. 637408194/5 puertobanuschurch.com**Salobreña**: Fellowship of the King. Various locations. Sundays at 10am Tel.635 358 808 / 958 645 027**Almuñécar**: Fellowship of the King. Casita Málaga, Parque El Majuelo. 2nd & 4th Sundays, 11.00am . Tel. 958 881 358**Almuñécar**: Evangelical Reformed Church, C/ Torres Quevedo 5. T958 639 529, 677 699 490. Sunday 11 a.m.**Torremolinos**: Christian ministry. Healing of traumatic memories. Tel.604199751**Gibraltar**: Brethren Assembly, Queensway Quay. Sun 11am, Minister F. Baldachino.**Benalmádena Costa**: Elim Family F'ship. Sun 11am. Pastor Dave 695115496

www.elimfamilyfellowship.com

San Pedro: Elim Family Fellowship. Sun 3.30pm. 695 115 496**San Pedro**: Faith Baptist Church. Sun 6.30pm, Edif Manantial. Tel: 911820806.**Fuengirola**: Ark Christian Fellowship Family Worship. Sun 11am, C/Rio Darro 2, Plaza Juncal. Tel.: 952 592 171.**Fuengirola**: Costa del Sol Bible School, Healing Clinic and "The Beauty of Holiness". Rev. Joyce McNaughton 663706806.**Fuengirola**: The Way, Christian Counselling Ministry. Tel. 634369414/ 951135441.**Malaga**: Believers Loveworld Inc.(Christ Embassy) Sunday 11am, Wed 7pm, Sat 5pm. C/Cantimpla 11, Av. de Europa

951955354/672805789.

Marbella: House of Judah (Jewish & Gentile Believers) Bilingual Fri. Worship 7.30pm - NH Marbella Hotel Tel: 605924555.**Mijas Costa**: Baptist, Bi-Lingual services Sun 11.30am and 7pm; Thur 7pm Tel:636 422 717 www.libertadmijascosta.com**Heaven's Gate Pentecostal Church Int: Benalmádena**: Carril de Sirocco 1, Worship- Sun 11am- 6pm, F'ship- Friday 7.30pm, 602392139**Fuengirola**: Christian Family Centre Int. Worship Sun 1pm, Fellowship Tue 7pm Church auditorium, C/Jacinto Benavente, 10. Tel: 605329074**Granada**: Avda Andalucía, 53, La Chana, Worship- Sun 6pm, 605329074**Malaga**: Avda de Europa, 69, Worship- Sunday 9am, Fellowship- Wednesday 7.30pm, 605329074

DUTCH EVANGELICAL

Fuengirola: Skandinaviska Turistkyran. Ed. M del Carmen. Paseo Marítimo 77 Los Boliches, Sundays 9.30.**Torremolinos**: Sun 11.30 in Holland Huis. Avenida Carlota Alessandri 12.CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
(PRESBYTERIAN)**Fuengirola**: Sun 10.30am at Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, C/Nueva 3. Tel 952638245 or 952475474.**Gibraltar**: St. Andrew's Church, Sun 10.30am. Tel 20077040.**Torre del Mar**: Sun 11am, Legend's Bar, C/Don Cipriano Maldonado Jiménez.

BAHAI

Bahai Information Office, C/Ricardo Soriano, 35, Marbella.

Marbella: 952 90 21 21**Fuengirola**: 951 259 742.**Malaga**: 952 214 052.**Benalmádena**: 952 442 424.**Alhaurín de la Torre**: 952411496.**Rincón de la Victoria**: 952 402 870.**Gibraltar**: +350 200 73287.

SYNAGOGUES

Torremolinos: Beth Minzi, Av. Palma de Mallorca 55; Castillo San Luis, Local 14. Daily services. 952052550.**Marbella**: Beth El, Urb. El Real, Km 184. Services, Fri in summer 8.30pm winter 7pm Sat & holidays 10am 952859395

QUAKERS

Malaga: Quakers (Society of Friends). Info: zvi@gotadsl.co.uk

NORWEGIAN SEAMEN'S CHURCH

Calahonda: El Campanario, Av del Cortijo 3. Sun 4 pm, 952939800

www.sjomannskirken.no/costadelsol

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**Fuengirola**: Sat 10am. Bible study, worship Calle Palangreros, 60. 952456672 / 633716651 ww.adventistasfuengirola.es.

CONSULATES

Great Britain	C/. Mauricio Moro Pareto 2- 2. Málaga	952352300
USA	Av. Juan Gómez 8. Ed. Lucía 1-C. Fuengirola	952474891
Belgium	Carretera de Cádiz, km 202, 29649 Mijas Costa	952599159
Denmark	Calle Córdoba 6 404, Malaga	952211797
Norway	Avda Los Boliches, 60, Edf Rosenkranz, Fuengirola	952667955
Canada	C/Cervantes, Edif. Horizonte, Malaga	952223346
Germany	Mauricio Moro Pareto 2, Malaga	952363591
Sweden	Calle Córdoba 6, 5th floor, Malaga	952604383
Ireland	Avda. Los Boliches, Fuengirola	952475108
France	1, Plaza de Santa Cruz, Seville	954293200
Italy	Calle Lagasca, 98, Madrid	912106910
Austria	Alameda de Colón 26, Malaga	952600267
Finland	Calle Blasco de Garay, 7, Malaga	952212435
Saudi Arabia	Mauricio M. Pareto 2 bloque Sur 2º, Malaga	952310358
Greece	Salitre, 16, Malaga	952311847
Iceland	Paseo Marítimo 91, 29640 Fuengirola	952661200
Philippines	C/Marqués de Larios 4, 2º, Malaga	952222757
Hungary	Av. de Andalucía 26 29007 Malaga	952308393

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCIES		
Emergency operator	112	
National Police	091	
Local (municipal) Police	092	
Medical	061	
Fire	080	
Guardia Civil	062	
Sea Rescue	900202202	
Crime report	902102112	
ENGLISH-SPEAKING HELP		
Samaritans in Spain	900525100	
Alcoholics Anonymous	600379110	
Age Care	952933409	
Age Concern (Estepona)	608458555	
ANDALUSIAN HEALTH SERVICE		
Salud Responde (doctors' appointments & advice)	955545060	
ESTEPONA		
Bus Station	955038665	Tourist Office 952768760
Taxi Service	952802900	Town Hall 952761100
Tourist Office	952802002	Foreign Residents Dept. 952768760
Town Hall	952809000	
Foreign Residents Dept.	952809031	
FUENGIROLA		
Bus Station	952475066	
Taxi Service	952471000	
Tourist Office	952467625	
Town Hall	952589300	
Foreign Residents Dept.	952589440	
MALAGA		
Bus Station	952350061	
Railway Station	902240202	
Taxi Service	952345693	
Tourist Office	951926020	
MARBELLA		
Bus Station	955038665	
Taxi Service	952774488	
TORREMOLINOS		
Bus Station	902143144	
Taxi Service	952380600	
Tourist Office	952371909	
Town Hall	952379400	
Foreign Residents Dept.	952374231	
BENALMADENA		
Bus Station	902450550	
Taxi Service	952441545	
Tourist Office	952442494	
Town Hall	952374231	
Foreign Residents Dept.	952442494	
VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA		
Bus Station	952503162	
Taxi	952540016	
Town Hall	952559100	
Tourist Office	952541104	
GIBRALTAR		
General emergency	199/112(mobiles)	
Fire/ambulance (emergency)	190	
Tourist Office	(00350) 20074950	
Taxi	(00350) 20070027	

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Costa Pacifica	10/12	-	-	08.00	18.00
Norwegian Spirit	11/12	Funchal	Alicante	07.00	17.00
Norwegian Spirit	21/12	Funchal	Alicante	07.00	17.00
Norwegian Spirit	02/01	-	-	07.00	17.00
MSC Orchestra	06/01	Funchal	Civitavecchia	08.00	14.00
Norwegian Spirit	12/01	Funchal	Alicante	07.00	17.00
Norwegian Sprit	22/01	Funchal	Alicante	07.00	17.00



CLUBS

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Puerto de la Duquesa: 634717317 / duquesaportrbtlspainsouth@gmail.com
Mijas Costa: 615758959. **Fuengirola:** 952468106. **Costa del Sol-Torre del Mar:** 628343198 **Nerja:** 952526423. **Los Romanes:** 618293749. **Torremolinos:** 952112141 **Welfare** 654254799. **Coín:** 663157776 **www.coinrbl.info** **Marbella:** 952774572 **www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/marbella** **Alhaurín el Grande:** 952112118/637134616. **Albox:** etgoodey@yahoo .co.uk **Benajárfes:** 685413642. **Mollina:** 957535211. **Riders' branch:** 952514226 /653108415

BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

andalucia@britchamber.com 951203094

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

English-speaking groups. 600379110.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS

English meetings: 602553470

POSITIVELY PINK ASSOCIATION

Breast cancer. **www.positively-pink.com**
 info@positively-pink.com

DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP

Fuengirola. Anne Bowles: 607879450
 annediabetics@gmail.com

MY WEIGH, WEIGHT LOSS

www.facebook.com/myweighspain
 952583907/ 663674804

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

Estepona: Janet 69445754/Ben 7557048
 006. Bar Cristobel, Thurs 6pm.

CUDECA SUPPORT GROUPS

952 564 910 or susanhannam@cudeca.org
Estepona: ACE Club 11.30am 1st Thurs.
Nerja: Cáritas 11.30am 2nd Thurs.
Cómpeta: 11.30am 3rd Thurs Axareducación.

MABS CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Fourth Tuesday, Miraflores Club, Marbella,
 11.30 a.m. 952833568/ 647054945

CANCER SUCKS SPAIN

Cancer support group. 662446388
 Facebook & cancersucksspain@outlook.com

AGE CARE ASSOCIATION

Coffee mornings: from 11am-12.30 pm.
Benalmádena: Mon, Bar Pitanza;
Calahonda: Tues, Thurs, Calahonda Int.
 Baptist Church; **Fuengirola:** Wed, Bar Salon
 Varietés; **Coín:** Thurs, Pépe's Bar; **Los Boliches:** Frid, Hogar de Jubilados. Advice:
 635407255 info@agecarecosta.org

AGE CONCERN

Estepona and Manilva: Lifeline 608458555
 acesteponaymanilva@ageconcernespana.org /
 www.acesteponaymanilva.org
Fuengirola: Los Bolichos, Thurs 11am-1pm.
 Pensionista building near station.
Mijas: Mijas Pueblo, Thurs 11am-1pm.
 Oasis Bar. La Cala de Mijas, Fri 11am-1pm
 Bar Conrisa. Lifeline (Fuengirola and Mijas):
 652537615.

ANREM - RESIDENTS & FOREIGNERS

info@anrem.org 630927226 anrem.org

FOREIGN RESIDENTS' ASS. ANDALUCIA

thefraa@hotmail.com 658426227

LUX MUNDI ECUMENICAL CENTRE

Torre del Mar: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org
 952543334. **Fuengirola:** 952474840

ROYAL AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

Costa del Sol, **www.rafacostadelsol.co.uk**

CONSERVATIVES ABROAD

conservatives.costadelsol@gmail.com

INTERNAT. LABOUR GROUP

Fuengirola: Alf Brewer 952449408

ASSOC. FRANCÓFONOS

All French speakers welcome. 951087994

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Almuñécar to Torrox nerjaclub@yahoo.com
 or **www.americaninternationalclub.com**

NEDERLANSE CLUB COSTA DEL SOL

Tel: 952473545. Various Costa locations

AMERICAN CLUB OF COSTA DEL SOL

President: R. E. Parmiter
www.americanclubcostadelsol.com
Fuengirola, Mijas, Benalmádena:
 David Kylan 653274392. **Malaga:**
 Rosella Parmiter 952400006. **Marbella:**
 Carol Lewis 951778717. **Estepona:**
 Frazier Gardella 952804693.

ACE AMERICAN CLUB OF ESTEPONA

Calle San Roque. Tel: 952793059.

ENGLISH-SPEAKING CLUB MALAGA

English/Spanish conversation.
 englishspeakingclubofmalaga.blogspot.com.es

WELSH SOCIETY

Arroyo de la Miel. Debbie 626292707

THE BRITISH SOCIETY

Sandra Addison 952 568 291 Benalmádena
 Pueblo. britsocietyspain@hotmail.com

BRITISH ASSOCIATION MARBELLA

Meets weekly. Jan/Joan 952835947

ENGLISH PHOENIX CLUB

Torre del Mar: Gael: 951067723

INTERNAT. CLUB OF SALOBREÑA

icsalobrena@hotmail.com

ASOCIACIÓN IRLANDESA

President Finola Sloyan: 607340523

IRISH ASSOCIATION OF SPAIN

618680148. Facebook.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Arroyo. Martin 952383883/654859075

INTERNATIONAL CLUB ESTEPONA

www.siberme.com. 952802549.

OUT OF AFRICA CLUB

Trish: 952668081

U3A LEARNING FOR PLEASURE

U3A Fuengirola, University of the Third Age,
 learning for pleasure. Joining fee of 30
 euros. For more information:
 http://u3afuengirolacostadelsol.com Also
 on Facebook U3ACostadelsol

BRITISH SCOUTING MOVEMENT

1st Fuengirola Scout Group.
 Robert Troost 610755995
www.fuengirolescouts.com
1st Sotogrande Scouts and Cubs.
 Mike Wilson 951403204

NADFA

Costa del Sol: **www.costadelsoldfas.com**
Nerja: 952533373. **www.nerjanadfas.org**
De la Frontera: San Roque Club.
www.nadfas-delafrontera.org **Gibraltar:**
gibdfas.webs.com **Benahavís:**
 663459103. **www.benahavisdfas.com**

MARBELLA BUSINESS NETWORK

Joe 694442331 wednesdayjoe@gmail.com

THE SENDERISTAS

Multi national walking group.
www.senderistas.eu

THE FIELD CLUB

Walks. Fuengirola. **www.thefieldclub.es**

COSTA CHORDBUSTERS

Anne Bowles. 952464184

THE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC SOCIETY

Mixed choir. Gilly Bareford, 952573983.

COLLEGIUM MUSICUM COSTA DEL SOL

International choir/orchestra. 952775492.

CANTOLIBRE CHOIR

Amateur singers Estepona. 692558 041

NEW SAYDO SINGERS

Every Tuesday: Kate: 685563764
 jj2devine@yahoo.co.uk

R.T.'S LINE DANCE CLUB

Calahonda / Fuengirola / Benalmádena.
 Bob 952931754 or 697441313.

BOOGIE SHOES LINE DANCE CLUB

Estepona, The Roadhouse Bar. Thurs 19.45

MISSISSIPPI COASTERS

Line dance.Fuengirola.Bob 697441313.

JIVE DANCE CLUB

jivespain.com 635717211.

MODERN JIVE

Benalmádena/Fuengirola.Howard
 631813877 **www.dance-jive-Spain.com**

JJ'S COSTA DEL SOL DANCE CLUB

Ballroom, Sequence & Latin 627658925

FOTA, FRIENDS OF THE THEATRE

Desk open Mon/Wed/Fri 11.30am-1.15pm.
 Salon Varietés, Fuengirola. 952584268.

INTERNATIONAL THEATRE STUDIO

San Pedro district. Tel 952884034

THESPA-ENGLISH SPEAKING PLAYERS

Dinner and Drama. Los Boliches.
 622454422. **www.theatrecostadelsol.com.**

NERJA HISTORY GROUP

Talks/trips. Christina Sinclair 687602057
 email: nerjahistorygroup@yahoo.com

ESTEPONA FLORAL ART CLUB

esteponafloralartclub@hotmail.com
www.facebook.com/esteponafloralartclub

FLOWER ARRANGING CLUB

Venta Platero (Coin-Cartama road)

THE ANDALUCIAN GARDEN GROUP

Alh. el Grande. 952119767/952455213

THE AXARQUÍA GARDEN CLUB

www.axarquiagardenclub.blogspot.com

ANDALUCIA BIRD SOCIETY

952817843 **www.andaluciabirdsociety.org**

COSTA PRESS CLUB

www.costapressclub.com

COSTA WOMEN

www.costawomen.com/ 677251058

TANGENT CLUB & EX-LADIES CIRCLERS

952886772 mbl63@hotmail.co.uk

41 CLUBS & EX-ROUND TABLERS

Costa del Sol: 952818772 / 627462410
 Nerja: 952529611 / 677090665

MIJAS ARTS CENTRE

Classes 952485867, **www.mijasartes.com**

PATCHWORK AND QUILTING

www.quiltersdelsol.org

COSTA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

952961735 **www.photoclubspain.com**

ASTRONOMY COSTA DEL SOL

astronomycostadelsol.com 616679453.

LODGE EUROPEAN FRATERNITY 52

Tel:658655511 or 646436967

NERJA CHICK-LIT BOOK CLUB

New friends, great books! 693373530

LIONS CLUBS

Malaga Ilusion: May Ramirez 616613705;
Leos: Gonzalo 627712351; **University:**
 Sara 626835485

Marbella Costa del Sol: Jacqueline Dueñas
 619755031; **Marbella Francófono:**
 Rosalyn Bakker; 952884340; **Marbella German:** T. Heyden 667760230; **Marbella Decano:** M. Álvarez 619414119; **Mijas La Cala:** Julie Barry 608315704; **Mijas:** Jose Guasp Borreda 639 080 569; **Nerja:** Elke Lange 693706900; **Puerto Banús Cosmopolitan:** Egidia Ingels 68032009; **Rincón de la Victoria:** Doris: 952407824

TOASTMASTERS PUBLIC SPEAKING

Al-Andalus Toastmasters Club #1788:
 Donna 956 840 497. Rota, Cadiz.
The Achievers Toastmasters Club #5183:
 Nueva Andalucía, Percy 646533112.
Gibraltar: Luis 606460025. **Malaga:** PTA
 English / Spanish, Claudia 685965867.

FREEMASONS

Fuengirola: Norman Hay 674755024.
Calahonda: Mike Williams 644133186.
Los Boliches: Paul Clueit 667156806.
Mijas Costa: David Mantle 952934193.
Coín: Ian Bushnell 611020641.
Alhaurín: Vic Dean 952450678.

ROTARY CLUB

Benalmádena: 952441440 **Benahavís:**
 670604392 **Estepona:** 952800999.
Fuengirola/Mijas: 648292146. **Marbella:**
 952821121 **San Pedro:** 951318381
Marbella - Guadalmina: 952888077.

OVER 40S SINGLES CLUB

Estepona: El Limonero Tel: 952806759

ARROYO SOCIAL & WELFARE CLUB

Arroyo de la Miel. Jean 952563580.

TORREMOLINOS & DIST. SOCIAL CLUB

Wed am. Rosaleda Bar. Mike 626880722.

ARROYO FRIENDLY CLUB

Benalmádena. 952446935.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

653771625 **www.soroptimist.es**

HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

Mijas: 606761942. Malaga: 654633430.

AMIGAS DE CASA

Vva del Trabuco. 952751424/952751304
www.trabucotimes.com/amigasdecasa.htm

CLUB CHARITY AND PLEASURE

Estepona. President Mary 952896820

COLMENAR DISTRICT SOCIAL CLUB

Marjorie 951163071.

TENNIS CLUB 'EL CAPITAN INT'

Torre del Mar. Patrick 675391967.

THE GOOD COMPANIONS CLUB

Los Boliches. Tel: Tony White 951661201.

CLUB DE BÉISBOL COSTA DEL SOL B.B.C.

952202940 / 952464468. Mijas

AIKIDO TOMIKI SHODOKAN

Different levels. Tel: 952131670, Malaga

TAEKWONDO CLUB

Fighting Dragons Club Benalmádena. Mike
 618149373 **www.vipfitness.tv**

CALAHONDA BRIDGE CLUB

Club Naranja. 952198789 / 670593 232.

ACE BRIDGE CLUB

Fuengirola. Deanne Mutter: 747771404.

NERJA BRIDGE CLUB

Joan 952520579 or Trevor on 952524743

LOS BOLICHES BRIDGE CLUB

Dominiques. Mon & Fri. 645684756

ATALAYA BRIDGE CLUB ESTEPONA

www.atalayabridgeclub.com. Wed, Thurs,
 Sun. 952880595/609548595(whatsapp)

CASTILLO BRIDGE CLUB

Tel: 655459576 **www.bridgewebs.com**

ST ANDREW'S BRIDGE CLUB

Los Boliches. 697769170 / 952667861.

COSTA DEL

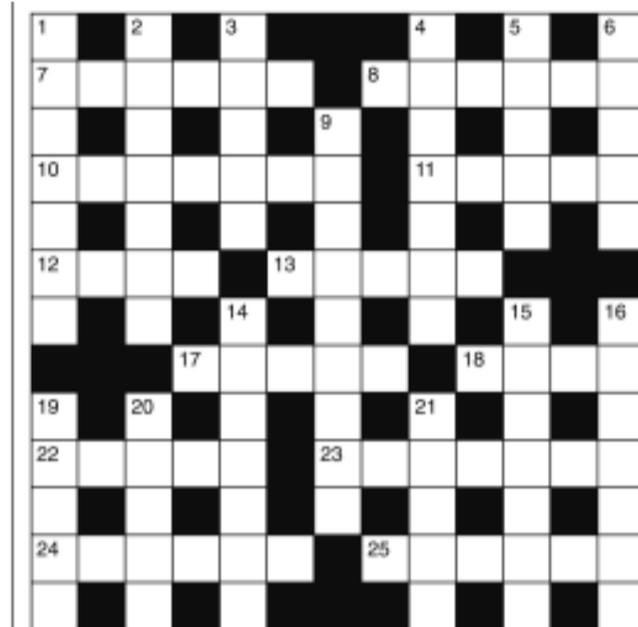
THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



THE STARS

- 
Aquarius
 January 21 - February 19
 A journey brings memories of childhood. Do you feel that you are going in the right direction?
- 
Pisces
 February 20th - March 20th
 Coping with chaos is not your favourite thing but you can be remarkably good at it when pushed.
- 
Aries
 March 21st - April 20th
 A certain restlessness makes you feel the need for change and yet there are things that you want to stay the same.
- 
Taurus
 April 21st - May 21st
 Even though it is a busy period, keep up those healthy choices. Plan ahead to make sure that your favourite people can be with you in the holidays.
- 
Gemini
 May 22nd - June 21st
 A lack of energy could be due to a lack of incentive. What area of your life makes you feel less enthusiastic?
- 
Cancer
 June 22nd - July 23rd
 Accept invitations. You don't have to stay all night if you don't want to. Choose your words carefully.
- 
Leo
 July 24th - August 23rd
 Not everyone is as charming as you but do your best to ignore any negative comments.
- 
Virgo
 August 24th - September 23rd
 Your sparkling social side starts to bloom this week. What is busy now can only get busier.
- 
Libra
 September 24th - October 23rd
 Get stuck in and get others organised this week. This is not a time to hide your talents. Take the lead and others can be inspired by your example.
- 
Scorpio
 October 24th - November 22nd
 Avoiding people who seem to be out of control is a good idea. There is much that needs your immediate attention.
- 
Sagittarius
 November 23rd - December 21st
 Combine a bit of travel with doing something entirely different. Knowing how to make the most of life is one of your strongest talents, Sagittarius.
- 
Capricorn
 December 22nd - January 20th
 Go after what you want and hope for success. Getting further down the line and wondering 'what if' is not for you!

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11272



- Across**
- 7 No robe for the fairy king (6)
 - 8 European should shine? (6)
 - 10 Naughty class exhibit behaviour to be frowned on (3,4)
 - 11 Piles of 6 (5)
 - 12 Reports from all quarters (4)
 - 13 It could be money but not from the sinking fund (5)
 - 17 Chastise for putting the bits back (5)
 - 18 Excursion's destination is ancient city (4)
 - 22 The inn appears to be overheated to the Spanish (5)
 - 23 Slightly wet doctor hasn't quite reached 11 (7)
 - 24 Voted parrot-fashion? (6)
 - 25 He's cad to be hunted (6)
- Down**
- 1 Nice mob join together (7)
 - 2 Lower in disappointment (3-4)
 - 3 Engine enables doctor to go to rubbish tip (5)
 - 4 He had to be a rash person (7)
 - 5 Without a following, perhaps (5)
 - 6 Particular stage of 19 (5)
 - 9 Such weapons presumably don't require well-developed limbs (5,4)
 - 14 Stopped working when given a market stand (7)
 - 15 Competition for examination understudy (7)
 - 16 Would be angered if it exploded (7)
 - 19 The form of 11 (5)
 - 20 Nevertheless not moving (5)
 - 21 Could be power (5)

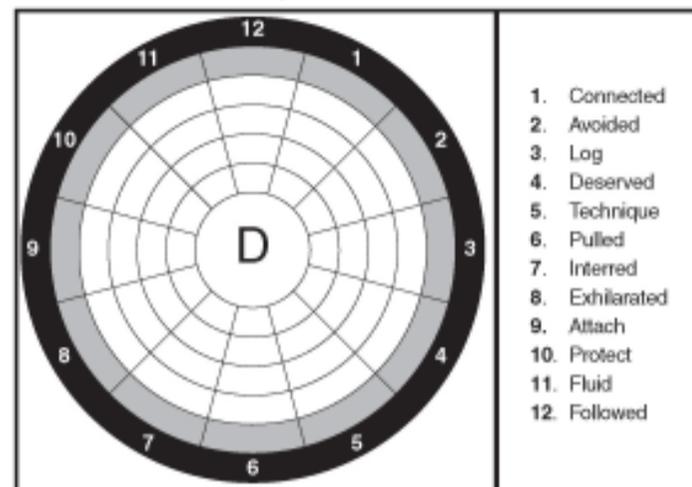
SUDOKU BY HANZO

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

					4	2		
	2		1	6				7
5	6					1		
	7	8			9		2	
							1	
9			2	7		5		
			9	8				
2	8							4
4					6			

CLOCKWORD

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter D in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a British TV prankster.



- 1. Connected
- 2. Avoided
- 3. Log
- 4. Deserved
- 5. Technique
- 6. Pulled
- 7. Inferred
- 8. Exhilarated
- 9. Attach
- 10. Protect
- 11. Fluid
- 12. Followed

THE WORDPUZZLER

E	D	R	E	A	M	P	L	E	R
G	A	M	A	D	I	E	S	H	E
W	I	S	H	A	S	S	H	I	M
I	W	O	C	H	S	T	A	N	D
B	E	P	L	U	T	H	P	D	U
R	A	M	O	U	R	S	P	E	K
O	N	U	V	G	A	I	Y	R	E
L	I	F	E	N	M	E	E	V	N
C	E	A	R	V	I	P	O	E	T
E	L	O	B	E	B	O	N	Y	O

- CAN you identify the words missing from the titles of the Stevie Wonder songs listed below?
- 1. I Ain't Gonna --- For It
 - 2. For Once In My ---
 - 3. He's --- Know It All
 - 4. --- and Ivory
 - 5. --- Birthday
 - 6. Never Had a --- Come True
 - 7. Sir ---
 - 8. My Cherie ---
 - 9. I ---
 - 10. Part-time ---

INTERNATIONAL RADIO

- Talk Radio Europe**
 105.5 Axarquía
 91.5 Costa del Sol East
 91.9 Costa del Sol West
 98.7 Gibraltar/Sotogrande
 News, interviews, lifestyle, sport and BBC World Service.
- Spectrum** (105.5 FM, Costa Almeria/Mojácar 92.6 FM)
 24 hour music and entertainment
- Radio Mijas** (107.7 FM)
 3 p.m. News, views and music
- Radio Sol Almirajara** (99.1 FM)
 Nerja radio in English and German and night time World Radio Network
- HeartfmSpain** (88.5 FM Costa, 96.1 FM inland) Music, entertainment, news
- Lick FM** (103.6 FM Marbella)
 Urban music broadcast between Gibraltar and Calahonda
- Rtv Puebla** (107.7 FM)
 Monday evenings, Rock music memories. 7 - 9pm. email: radiopuebla.musicmemories@yahoo.com
 Fb: Radiotelevision 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

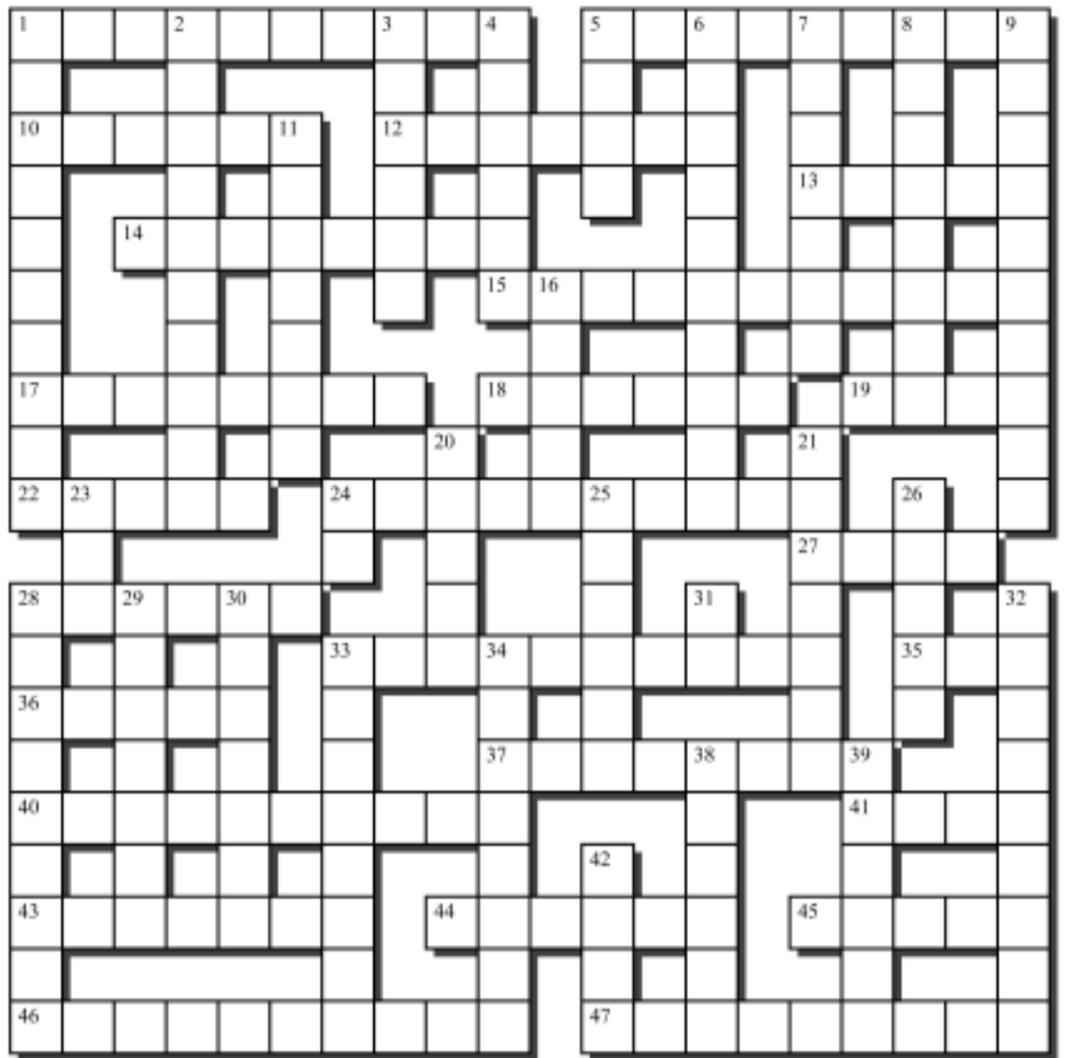
QUIZ

- QUESTION 1**
- What is the name of an angle greater than 180° but less than 360°?
- 1. Obtuse angle
 - 2. Acute angle
 - 3. Reflex angle
 - 4. Right angle
- QUESTION 2**
- How many vertices are there on a tetrahedron?
- 1. Thirteen
 - 2. Twelve
 - 3. Eight
 - 4. Four

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across**
- 1) To intervene (10)
 - 5) December (9)
 - 10) Short-sightedness (6)
 - 12) They were hunting (7)
 - 13) It surrounds (5)
 - 14) Saviour (8)
 - 15) Stupefied (f) (11)
 - 17) Loving (pl) (8)
 - 18) Grace (6)
 - 19) Harp (4)
 - 22) Atheists (5)
 - 24) Testament (10)
 - 27) Pure (f) (4)
 - 28) Page (6)
 - 33) Sloppy workers (10)
 - 35) To hear (3)
 - 36) I will dare (5)
 - 37) Cloisters (8)
 - 40) Existence (10)
 - 41) Well (4)
 - 43) He installs (7)
 - 44) Sin (6)
 - 45) Skiing (5)
 - 46) Birth (10)
 - 47) Prayers (9)

- Down**
- 1) Immaculate (10)
 - 2) Expiatory (10)
 - 3) Born (6)
 - 4) I will pray (6)
 - 5) He must (4)
 - 6) Conception (10)
 - 7) Verse (7)
 - 8) To bless (8)
 - 9) Pregnant (10)
 - 11) Unfavourable (7)
 - 16) Serious (f) (5)
 - 20) Oyster (5)
 - 21) To weigh up (7)
 - 23) Aunt (3)
 - 24) You (2)
 - 25) Stain (6)
 - 26) Tree (5)
 - 28) Procession (9)
 - 29) Thank you (7)
 - 30) Our (7)
 - 31) To go (2)
 - 32) Beliefs (9)
 - 33) Blackmail (8)
 - 34) Riding school (8)
 - 38) Lady (6)
 - 39) Bishop (6)
 - 42) Hand (4)



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

Of interest: An acute angle is an angle that measures between 0 and 90°, a right angle measures 90° and an obtuse angle is an angle that measures between 90° and 180°. A reflex angle measures more than 180° and less than 360°.

Answer 2: Four

Of interest: In geometry, a tetrahedron (plural: tetrahedra or tetrahedrons), also known as a triangular pyramid, is a polyhedron composed of four triangular faces, six straight edges, and four vertex corners.

Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 7 Oberon; 8 Polish; 10 Bad form; 11 Heaps; 12 News; 13 Float; 17 Strap; 18 Tour; 22 Hotel; 23 Moisture; 24 Polled; 25 Chased; Down: 1 Combine; 2 Let-down; 3 Motor; 4 Hothead; 5 Final; 6 Phase; 9 Small arms; 14 Stalled; 15 Contest; 16 Grenade; 19 Shape; 20 Still; 21 Might.

Clockword solution

SOLUTION: 1 Joined, 2 Ended, 3 Record, 4 Earned, 5 Method, 6 Yanked, 7 Buried, 8 Eased, 9 Append, 10 Defend, 11 Liquid, 12 Ensued.

CELEBRITY: Jeremy Beadle.

Wordpuzzler solution

E	D	R	E	A	M	P	L	E	R
G	A	M	A	D	I	S	H	E	
W	I	S	H	A	S	S	H	I	M
I	W	O	C	H	S	T	A	N	D
B	E	P	L	U	T	H	P	D	
R	A	M	O	U	R	S	P	E	K
O	N	U	V	A	I	R	E		
L	I	F	E	N	M	E	E	V	N
C	E	A	R	V	I	P	O	E	T
E	L	O	B	B	E	R	O	N	Y

1. Stand
2. Life
3. Mistrust
4. Ebony
5. Happy
6. Dream
7. Duke
8. Amour
9. Wish
10. Lover

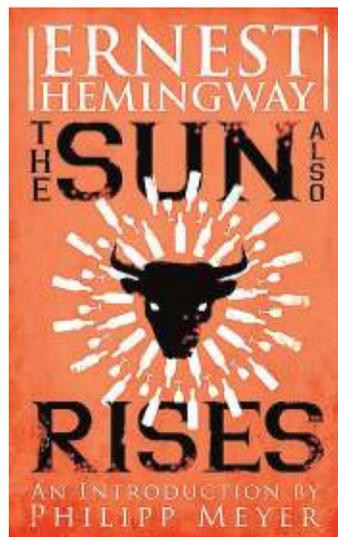
Sudoku solution

4	9	7	5	2	6	8	3	1
2	8	5	3	1	7	6	9	4
3	1	6	9	4	8	7	5	2
9	4	3	2	7	1	5	8	6
6	5	2	4	8	3	9	1	7
1	7	8	6	5	9	4	2	3
5	6	9	7	3	2	1	4	8
8	2	4	1	6	5	3	7	9
7	3	1	8	9	4	2	6	5

Language Crossword



BOOK OF THE WEEK



The Sun Also Rises
Ernest Hemingway

The Sun Also Rises is a 1926 novel written by American author Ernest Hemingway about a group of American and British expatriates who travel from Paris to the Festival of San Fermín in Pamplona to watch the running of the bulls and the bull-fights. Hemingway began writing the novel on his birthday (21 July) in 1925, finishing the draft manuscript barely two months later in September. It has been called 'his most important novel' by scholars and since it was published it has been continuously in print.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Don't worry when you are not recognised, but strive to be worthy of recognition

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

Christmas is coming...

As soon as we get into December - or in some cases even earlier - the same questions are repeated in conversations: Have you put your tree up yet? Have you done your shopping yet? Have you been to see the lights yet?

For many of us this long holiday weekend to celebrate the Constitution and the Immaculate Conception provides the perfect opportunity to get some of those "yet" questions out of the way.

Meanwhile a look at this week's What

To Do pages offers plenty of ideas - Christmassy or otherwise - to keep you busy all week, from Christmas fairs to concerts and exhibitions.

But if you'd prefer not to be rushing around, then simply enjoy this week's edition of SUR in English.

Perhaps you have some news that may interest our readers?

If so email us at sur.english.su@diario-sur.es or Tweet them to us @SUR_English

We are also on Facebook @surenglish





Catering for language learning

Foreign residents visit La Cónsula to help students with their English



✉ Twitter: @MindyHABurrows

MALAGA. The ability to speak English is a crucial part of any industry, with a British Council study revealing that over 80 per cent of employers believe that the English language is a vital part of success in their companies.

The hospitality industry is no exception; being able to greet customers, serve them, and communicate with them in their mother tongue is “an essential part of success in hospitality”, as articulated by Antonio López Parra, the English teacher at La Cónsula catering and hospitality college in Malaga. This is why he got together with the Gerald Brenan Cultural Association (ACGB) to organise the ‘Brunch with Brenan and Hemingway’ event last Friday.

The morning combined a Spanish and English language exchange with Spanish and English cuisine, with the aim of encouraging the students at the school to converse in English with the members of the ACGB, many of whom are British. López Parra gave the examples of French, German and English as languages which increase employability among hospitality students.

The future chefs and maître d’s all understand the value of speaking multiple languages in their fields of work given the high number of non-Spanish speakers who come to the Costa del Sol.

“The restaurant here is currently closed, but when it is up and run-



Students, staff, and members of the language exchange outside La Cónsula. :: M.B.

ning lots of tourists come into the restaurant and it is good to speak English with them,” said hospitality service student Antonio.

“The students start their day with English lessons, at 8am,” explained Ana Escabias, the English teacher at the Benalmádena Pueblo catering and hospitality collage. “It makes them focus and start their day thinking about English,” she said, to demonstrate how the structure of their timetable is important to their learning.

The students make lunch for the staff in both centres every day, and the English teachers refuse to speak Spanish to them while they serve them. There are also German lessons at the schools.

To demonstrate what they have

“Speaking to customers in their mother tongue increases customer satisfaction; it is an essential part of success in hospitality”

“Learning a language improves communication with other people and helps us to accept mistakes”

gained from their English classes at La Cónsula, catering and hospitality students had prepared presentations in English for the event with the ACGB last week. They told the stories of English-language writers Ernest Hemingway and Gerald Brenan, and spoke of their enthusiasm for speaking Spanish and English.

This presentation was accompanied by another from the members of the ACGB language exchange about Brenan’s diet; the members of the ACGB are mostly Spanish and British and gave their talk in a bilingual format.

Lola Ortega Muñoz, president of the Gerald Brenan Cultural Association, stressed the values of language learning beyond a professional level.

“We are people, we are trying to improve communication with other people and the language exchange helps us to accept our mistakes as part of learning,” she said.

The talks were followed by a tour of the centre’s stunning gardens and then a meal made and served by the students. The “brunch” comprised of mostly traditional English breakfast foods, with fried and scrambled eggs, grilled tomatoes, bacon, and sausage, as well as some Andalusian classics like porra, tortilla, and ajoblanco.

While enjoying the meal, guests from the ACGB language exchange relished the opportunity to practise the Spanish they had been learning or to help the students who were serving them with their English, with several offering to speak to the students afterwards.

The catering students had designed the menu themselves. “They were all very interested to cook English food, especially the dessert team who love to learn international recipes and were really keen to make scones and other English cakes and pastries,” said López Parra. Staff are hoping that the restaurant attached to the school in Churriana will be opened once again in January.

The language exchanges at the Gerald Brenan Cultural Association, which happen every Wednesday, are all free, and run by volunteers. Classes start off with members reading Spanish and English texts and then speaking about unprepared themes.

On Friday 22 December the ACGB is having an event in the culture room at El Corte Inglés in Malaga. During this evening, there will be a screening of South From Granada, the film based on the book by Gerald Brenan, with English subtitles, followed by conversations about the film in both language.

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