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February 2nd to 8th 2018
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A smattering of white and pink

Get out and enjoy the extra colour the almond blossom brings to the landscape at this time of year **P40**



MARBELLA ALL SET FOR THE DAVIS CUP

Spain and Great Britain will face off at Puente Romano tennis club this weekend **P4&50**

The teams line up with the mayor of Marbella at Thursday's draw in San Pedro. :: JOSELE-LANZA

Gale force winds and rough seas claim Costa beaches as victims

Storm defences are again being questioned after sand was stripped away from beaches in Malaga, Torrox and Benalmádena

Gales and rough seas battered the Costa del Sol last Sunday and Monday as wind speeds of up to 95 km/h were recorded, the highest since 2007. Much of the damage was felt in Malaga city as branches, walls and lampposts were felled by the inclement weather. A woman was rushed to hospital in the city on Sunday after being blown off her bicycle and hitting her head

on a lamppost.

As the clean-up continues, the focus returns to storm defences to protect the coastline. Malaga and Torrox suffered especially as the waves stripped Huelin and Ferrara beaches of their sand. There is better news for Benalmádena though, as plans to extend an existing breakwater have been approved by the central government. **P2&3**

The train to Marbella is on the agenda again

but political squabbles rage on over the best way to connect the town **P6**

Former Marbella mayor Julián Muñoz is back

behind bars after video footage emerges of him dancing at a party **P16**

Exposed text messages from ex-Catalan leader

shed doubts over the future of the independence movement **P22**

SPORT

Hectic deadline day concludes a busy January for Malaga CF

Deals for Brown Ideye, Maxime Lestienne and Isaac Success bring the window total to seven **P53**



Brown Ideye, Maxime Lestienne and Isaac Success. :: SUR

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Rough seas near Malaga city on Monday. :: SALVADOR SALAS



Huelin beach in Malaga has lost sand again. :: S. SALAS



Ferrara beach in Torrox after the stormy weather.

Beaches in Malaga and Torrox stripped of sand in this week's stormy weather

Considering the strength of the wind and waves the province's coastline came out of the storm quite lightly

The government has promised to extend beach defences in Benalmádena to reduce wave damage

:: I. LILLO / A. GÓMEZ

MALAGA. The high winds and rough seas that hit the Costa del Sol last Sunday and Monday could have done much more damage. The Spanish meteorological agency issued an amber weather warning when gusts of up to 95 km/h were recorded, the strongest since 2007, when wind speeds of 108km/h were measured in Malaga.

The amber warning was also in place due to the sea conditions with waves of more than five metres in height battering the shores. In Marbella and Manilva wave heights of six metres were recorded, while the figures for Mijas and Malaga show

4.5 metres. Despite the height, however, experts explained that the force of the waves hitting the shore was smaller and the beaches retained their sand more than in other relatively less fierce storms.

Exceptions, however, are the Huelin beach in Malaga city and Ferrara in Torrox. In Huelin, where the waves invaded the promenade, the maintenance of the beach is the responsibility of the ports authority, which already has plans in place to distribute some 25,000 cubic metres of sand along the worst-hit stretch.

In the case of Ferrara, which often bears the brunt of the weather fronts, the breakwater built recently

MALAGA'S STRONGEST GALES ON RECORD (AEMET)

1st 132 km/h

Recorded in Puerto Banús, 15 December 1975.

2nd 130 km/h

Recorded at Malaga Airport, 27 January 1948.

3rd 108 km/h

7 March 2007.

4th 104 km/h

2 March 2001.

5th 95 km/h

28 January 2018.

has only partly solved the problem. The town hall has called this week for the central Coasts authority to build a second defence barrier.

The government agreed on

Wednesday to extend an existing offshore breakwater in Benalmádena to provide greater protection to beaches such as Las Gaviotas, which has suffered particularly in recent



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:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

storms. Damage has also been caused to Malapescuera and Santa Ana.

The breakwater project has been approved, said the central government representative Miguel Briones, although work cannot start until the general state budget has been passed by parliament and the environmental impact report has been submitted.

The plans, to cost more than half a million euros, involve an 80-metre extension of the current breakwater, "a more than definitive solution" to the beaches' lack of stability, said Briones.

The mayor of Benalmádena, Víctor Navas, said that the project could be carried out sooner if the government approved the town hall's proposal to finance the work using municipal funds, an investment he said the local authority could manage.

While local councils assess the damage caused by this most recent storm, "there is time" said the Coasts authority to have the beaches ready for the Easter holidays.

Sunday's strong winds caused over 250 incidents across the province

Malaga city activated its emergency plan after fallen walls, trees and lampposts affected traffic

:: J. HINOJOSA / I. LILLO

MALAGA. The gale force winds that hit the province of Malaga on Sunday led to over 250 incidents, said the emergency services.

At half past three in the afternoon the state meteorology agency (Aemet) measured a wind speed of 94 kilometres per hour at its station at Malaga Airport and raised the severe weather warning from yellow to amber, both for gales and rough seas.

The most serious incident the emergency services dealt with was the case of a 67-year-old tourist who was blown off her bicycle into a lamppost on the seafront near the Sacaba Beach roundabout on the western edge of Malaga city. The woman was rushed to Carlos Haya hospital with serious head injuries.

The majority of calls were related to fallen branches and lampposts causing damage to buildings and cars.

Diners in a beach restaurant in Huelin were taken by surprise when the awning covering the seaside terrace blew down and the fire brigade was called in to help pick up the pieces. Part of the wall around the playground of the García Lorca primary school, in the Soho district, was blown down, falling onto a vehicle on the adjacent street.

In Fuengirola, a man was injured after being hit in the head by the lid of a water tank which was blown loose by the wind. He was taken to the Costa del Sol hospital in Marbella. This was one of several incidents registered in the Fuengirola area, including the partial collapse of a wall onto a van in Los Boliches.



The fire brigade had to intervene when a beach restaurant's awning blew down in Huelin, Malaga. :: N. SALAS



The wall of the García Lorca school, in Malaga's Soho, was pulled down in the gales. :: FRANCIS SILVA

In the same area, the collapse of a hoarding, as well as fears over the safety of another, halted the Cercanías train service between 3 and 5pm.

In Benalmádena Costa, a glass roof was blown off a restaurant on the promenade, while fallen branches caused the partial closure of the main Avenida Manuel Fraga

into Torremolinos.

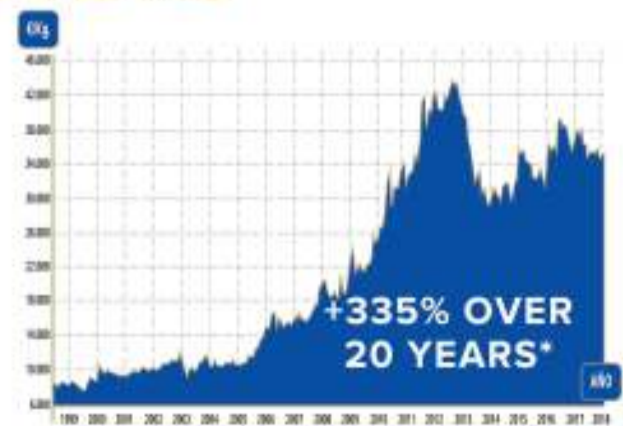
The weather conditions carried over into Monday and the regular ferry service between Malaga and Melilla was cancelled.

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The tennis fixture, which starts today, promises to boost local hotels and businesses as well as promote tourism to the area

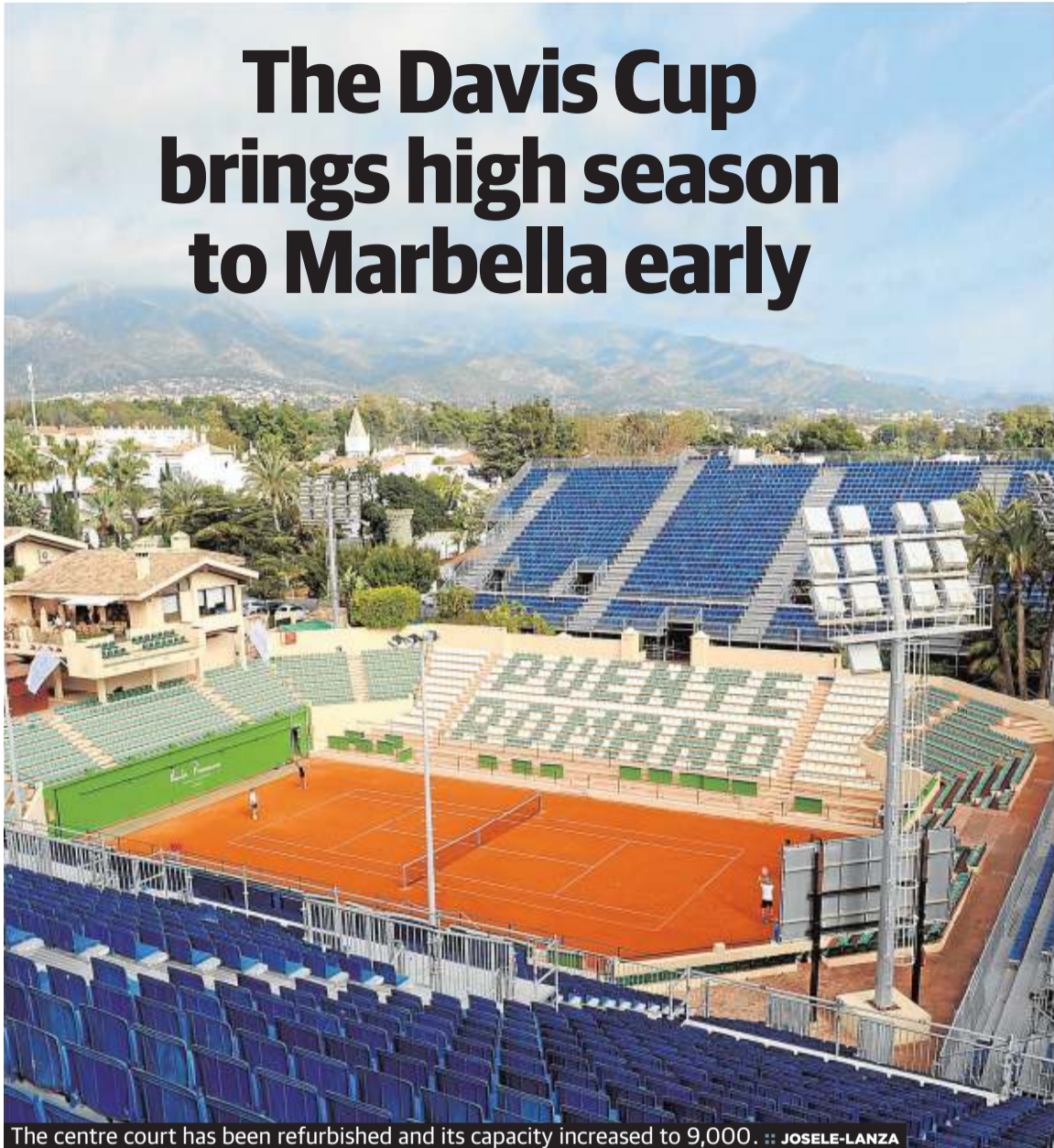
MARBELLA. President of the Spanish Tennis Federation, Miguel Díaz, said a few weeks ago that the choice of Marbella for the first knockout round Davis Cup clash between Spain and Great Britain had the unanimous backing of the side led by Sergi Bruguera - in spite of competition from Granada. The fact that the tie could be played at sea level and on the team's favoured clay all played a big part in the decision.

However, the decision came down to a number of other factors, including the climate, the services available and Marbella's past experience of hosting the Davis Cup. The first occasion was in 1989 when Spain took on Mexico at the Puente Romano, the venue for this week's action beginning today, Friday. The most recent was in 2009, but at the bullring in Puerto Banús when Spain faced Germany in one of the arena's last public events.

On that occasion, the tennis was worth around ten million euros to the town; this time, though, it will be difficult to reach that figure given that the match-up of nine years ago took place in July and was also a quarterfinal.

The cost to the coffers

Throughout Marbella, residents and visitors will have noticed changes including repairs to uneven walkways, spruced-up green areas, new parking spaces and bus stops, as well as British and Spanish flags lining the streets. These improvement works have set the town hall back an estimated 150,000 euros.



The centre court has been refurbished and its capacity increased to 9,000. :: JOSELE-LANZA

This is in addition to the cost of hosting the event itself for which the council had to pay a 484,000-euro fee (IVA included) to the Spanish Tennis Federation, as well as a further 536,727 euros to temporarily increase the capacity at Puente Romano.

These costs were covered in part by regional and provincial governments and the Mancomunidad of the western Costa del Sol - each supplying 150,000 euros. The town hall will also get 50 per cent of revenue from ticket sales and advertising.

Marbella mayor Ángeles Muñoz believes that this chance to host the prestigious competition is "an opportunity" to make this an atypical February in terms of hotel occupancy and profits for businesses.

Likewise, Luis Callejón, president of the Association of Hoteliers (AEH-COS), said: "Without doubt we need an event of this scale every month on the Costa del Sol to combat seasonality. It's important to have cultural or sporting events to ensure that the town is full all year round."

Early figures suggest that hotels

in the town expect to be 70 per cent full, with high occupancy especially in four and five-star hotels and those offering packages including tickets.

An affinity with the Costa

President of the Centre for Touristic Initiatives (CIT Marbella), Juan José González, is optimistic that businesses will do increased trade: "We now have a great chance to promote the Marbella brand," he said, explaining that with the matches almost certainly attracting scores of British fans, it was also an oppor-

tunity to increase loyalty among the Costa's most frequent visitors.

The British are certainly taking this seriously. The Spanish Tennis Federation have confirmed that the matches will be broadcast live on the BBC and that the Lawn Tennis Association would be sending "high-level representation".

What's more, the British royal family will be present in the form of the Duchess of Gloucester, according to SUR sources.

An influx of people

This weekend's matches are expected to be a sell-out with just a few hundred tickets still available going into the final week.

With centre court at Puente Romano being expanded to accommodate 9,000 spectators, tickets for some 8,500 seats (whether for the whole tournament or individual days) went on sale to the general public with the remaining 500 going to the Federation.

To this total, you also have to add the between 800 and 1,000 people involved in organisation, the coaches and technicians behind the competing teams, as well as the 300 accredited journalists from 50 countries.

Thanks to initiatives launched by the town hall, many more people have been flooding into Marbella to participate in a number of tennis-related events at various points around the town. "We want everyone to feel a part of the Davis Cup, especially off the court," said mayor Ángeles Muñoz.

Ease of access

With 1,400 new parking spaces around the Golden Mile and 25 free buses laid on to ferry ticket-holders to Puente Romano every 15 minutes from both Marbella and San Pedro, it is hoped that the town will show to the watching outside world that it is capable of hosting further large-scale events like this in the future.

Now, the rest is up to players on the court.

i For more about the British and Spanish tennis stars' preparations, see page 50.



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New €1,000,000 reduction for inheritances in Andalucía

By John McCann, Senior Partner, Blevins Franks

There is good news for residents in Andalucía – the region has gone from being the most expensive for inheritance tax to one of the cheapest. When the new regional budget entered into force on 1st January 2018, it included a significant change for succession and gift tax to protect close family from this tax, especially on death transfers.

Inheritances

A new €1,000,000 reduction has been introduced in Andalucía for inheritances (so not for lifetime gifts). It is in addition to the other reductions available (relative's reduction, main home reduction, etc.) in this region.

The inheritance itself can be of any value, but the maximum reduction will be €1 million. Anything above will be taxable at the usual succession tax rates (from 7.65% to 36.5% in Andalucía, with multipliers of between 1 and 2.4).

The €1m reduction will only apply if both the following two conditions are met:

1. The beneficiary must be within Groups I and II (ascendants,

descendants, spouse); and

2. The beneficiary's pre-existing wealth is no more than €1 million. If it is over €1 million at the time of the death, the new reduction is not applicable at all. For Spanish resident beneficiaries, worldwide assets are taken into account for this purpose, but for non-residents only Spanish assets count.

This is a variable reduction of up to €1 million, so the maximum reduction you can get is €1 million – this amount includes the other succession tax reductions already applied by the taxpayer (relative's reduction of €15,956 for Group II beneficiaries, main home reduction, etc.).

The good news is that this is available for each beneficiary. So if you have, for example, three children, they could each receive up to €1 million tax free (providing they are not already worth over €1 million and the Andalusian rules apply to them on your death).

The previous €250,000 relief on inheritances and variable reduction up to €200,000 for inheritances between €250,000 and €350,000 no longer apply.

Here are some examples to illustrate this new reduction:

Example 1

- Taxable base of the inheritance: €1,000,000
- Pre-existing wealth of beneficiary: less than €1m
- Relative's reduction for inheritances (Group II): €15,956
- Main home reduction: €175,000
- Variable reduction: €809,044 (€1,000,000 - €15,956 - €175,000)
- Taxable amount: Nil
- Final tax due: Nil

Example 2

- Taxable base of the inheritance: €2,000,000
- Pre-existing wealth of beneficiary: less than €1m
- Relative's reduction for inheritances (Group II): €15,956
- Main home reduction: €175,000
- Variable reduction: €809,044
- Taxable amount: €1,000,000
- Final tax due: €281,158

Example 3

- Taxable base of the inheritance: €1,000,000
- Pre-existing wealth of the beneficiary: more than €1m

- Relative's reduction for inheritances (Group II): €15,956
- Main home reduction: Nil
- Variable reduction: Nil
- Taxable amount: €984,044
- Final tax due: €289,101 (including the multiplier effect)

Lifetime gifts

The new rules for lifetime gifts are not as beneficial as those for inheritances. However, there are two key reforms. In brief:

1. There is a 99% reduction for gifts on the main home if the beneficiary is a descendant and has a recognised disability, provided certain conditions are met.

2. There is a 99% reduction for gifts to acquire or expand businesses, again, certain requirements apply.

Do you and your heirs benefit from these new rules?

This is good news if you are resident in Andalucía and receive an inheritance from a parent, or wish to pass assets onto spouses and children when you die. Unless your, or your beneficiaries', wealth is over €1 million you should now escape large succession tax bills.

The local government calculates that around 95% of Andalusian taxpayers will pay no inheritance tax in future.

Caution needs to be taken if you have beneficiaries with pre-existing wealth over €1m because they will not benefit from the new reduction. Also note that it only applies to those who are eligible to benefit from the regional Andalusian rules. If not, the much more expensive state rules apply.

If you have wealthy heirs, or wish to leave an inheritance to people other than your spouse and children, ask Blevins Franks for personalised advice on how you may be able to reduce their succession and gift tax liability. Blevins Franks has been advising expatriates in Spain on their tax and estate planning for 40 years. www.blevinsfranks.com

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

Brexit. The clock is ticking.

The EU and UK have agreed to preserve the rights of UK nationals who are resident in the EU before Brexit. If you already have official residence status you can look forward to a secure future in Spain. If you do not, you need to take action now to formalise your position. We can advise you.

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

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Minister confirms government's commitment to extend local train service to Marbella

The Socialist party has called for the national PP government to scrap the idea of extending the Cercanías and build a faster train instead

HECTOR BARBOTA
MARBELLA. Spain's minister for Public Works, Íñigo de la Serna, came down to Marbella on Saturday, 27 January, to reveal the first phase of the central government's study concerning extending the province's existing Cercanías (C1) local railway line as far as Marbella and Estepona.

The project would cost between 2.3 and 3.8 billion euros depending on the route chosen. Two are currently on the drawing board: one, more expensive, would run almost entirely underground following the A-7 dual carriageway closer to the coast; and the other cheaper option would run mainly above ground further inland, parallel to the AP-7 toll motorway, going underground only to approach stations in built-up areas, with a separate branch to the Costa del Sol Hospital.

A more exact estimate of the cost of the proposed lines depends on the results of the geotechnical surveys



Minister Íñigo de la Serna and mayor Ángeles Muñoz. :: J-L

already under way, explained the minister. In either case the lines would have significant technical difficulties.

"We have very complicated terrain, a highly populated working area with a lot of residential developments and areas that, while still undeveloped, are designated for urbanisation," said De la Serna.

The study carried out by the min-



José Bernal and Miguel Ángel Heredia. :: SUR

istry predicts that in the year 2024 between 4.6 and 5 million passengers would use a new stretch of railway from Fuengirola to Marbella and between 7.44 and 8.15 million would use the entire line as far as Estepona. It is estimated that slightly more passengers would use the version of the line under the A-7 dual carriageway as this would run through more densely populated areas.

The next step, explained De la Serna, will be for the ministry to put the two initial proposals through a public consultation period, and then submit the report to the Environment ministry for an impact assessment. Then the plans could start to be drawn up, explained the minister.

De la Serna's visit to Marbella, where he walked through the old town with the Partido Popular (PP) mayor, Ángeles Muñoz, PP MP for Malaga, Carolina España, and the president of the PP-run provincial government, Elías Bendodo, came just three days after the Junta de Andalucía was at the centre of a controversy concerning a possible train service to Marbella.

The Socialist-run regional authority had to rectify on Thursday last week after a preview of the content of a long term plan for land

use on the western Costa del Sol failed to allow for a future fast train line to Marbella, currently the only town in Spain with more than 100,000 inhabitants that has no railway service.

On Monday the Junta described the minister's proposals launched at the weekend as "insufficient" and said that Marbella needed a "more ambitious" railway plan.

Local PSOE MP, Miguel Ángel Heredia, and former Socialist mayor of Marbella, José Bernal, went one step further on Tuesday and filed a motion with parliament calling for the government to give up its plans to extend the local Cercanías railway and invest in a faster line instead.

The proposed line, said the Socialists, would leave the journey time between Malaga and Marbella at one hour and 15 minutes. This, they said, would be no competitive alternative to road travel as "you can cover the same distance in just over half an hour on the AP-7".

They also said that the C1 local line between Malaga and Fuengirola was already overcrowded and De la Serna admitted on Saturday that with the government's plan changes would need to be made to the existing line to absorb the extra passengers.

What the area needs instead, said Heredia, is a faster international gauge railway line, with a direct link to Marbella from Malaga via the airport.

The Socialist MP criticised the minister for coming to Marbella with an "empty" promise and a half-finished study for a local line that lacks the features the town needs.

A photograph of a wedding couple. The groom is on the left, wearing a white tuxedo with a black bow tie. The bride is on the right, wearing a white wedding dress and a floral headpiece. They are looking at each other and smiling. In the foreground, there are pink and white flowers.

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A photograph of a modern bathroom interior. It features a white bathtub, a toilet, and two sinks with mirrors above them. The walls are light-colored, and there is a small framed picture on the wall.

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A photograph of a modern kitchen interior with white cabinets and a countertop.

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Work to start soon on new Russian Orthodox church near Estepona

Funds are still being raised for the striking onion-domed building that will have a cultural centre and is a scaled-down version of an earlier planned project in San Pedro

CHARO MÁRQUEZ

ESTEPONA. The town hall in Estepona has recently approved the use of a council-owned plot of land for the Costa's first purpose-built Russian Orthodox church. The building, which will also have a cultural centre alongside, will be put up in the Arroyo de las Cañas area, east of the town near the A-7 motorway.

The charitable foundation that is coordinating the project and is still raising funds has said the building plans "are urgently being finished" to meet a strict timetable imposed by the town hall.

The council says that the foundation has a month from when the building licence was granted (11 January) to start work and that construction has to be finished within 18 months. A statement by the group of Russian-speaking residents and businesses backing the church said: "We are doing all we can to implement the project."

The church and cultural centre, which will be built on the 5,844-square-metre plot of land, will also arrange special events to promote Russian and Orthodox cultures and host Russian language classes.

The Orthodox church congregation on the Costa del Sol is the only one in Andalucía and is made up of Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians, Georgians and Moldovans.

For many years it has been rent-



Artist's drawing of the Costa's first dedicated Orthodox church. :: SUR

ing different venues to hold its services on the coast but it has long had a dream of owning a dedicated building in the traditional onion-domed Orthodox style.

Only the third in Spain

The foundation behind the plans for what will be the first Russian Orthodox church building in Andalucía and only the third in Spain has only recently turned its sights to Estepona after reaching an agreement with the town hall there over a land grant. In 2013 Marbella council had offered a site at Azalea Beach, San Pedro, however local residents objected.

The budget for the construction on the new site is over 1.1 million euros, less than the original four-million-euro project proposed for Marbella, and the money is being raised through donations.

Estepona town hall has granted rights to use to land for 75 years free of charge as the foundation is a charitable organisation.

HERE AND THERE

Junta considers national park report

MÁLAGA

F. T. The Junta de Andalucía's environment minister, José Fiscal, has presented to other regional ministers a favourable report on the bid for the Sierra de las Nieves mountain range to become a national park. The move marks the first step in the bureaucratic process to have the designation approved by ministers in Madrid as well. Ministers in the central government are also simultaneously studying the proposal, said Fiscal. Once approved, the Unesco-protected range will be the third National Park in Andalucía after Sierra Nevada and Doñana.

Council sets sites on running Cabopino port

MARBELLA

M.P. Marbella council has asked the Junta de Andalucía's permission to take over running the marina in Cabopino, which has been without any formal management for two years since the last licence agreement expired. Currently the previous licensee is carrying on basic maintenance work while the Junta, that owns the port, is yet to officially ask for new tenders to run it long-term. The entrance is now silted up, blocking access for larger boats.



Popular Cabopino. :: J-L

Golf courses work with water supplier to optimise resources while drought risk persists

MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. Representatives of some 40 local golf clubs met with western Costa water supplier, Aco-sol, and the Andalusian Golf Federation last Friday to discuss ways to keep their golf courses green as the risk of drought restrictions continues. It was the latest in a series of meetings to ensure continued cooperation leads to the best use of increasingly scarce water supplies.

Almost 90 per cent of Costa clubs already use treated wastewater from sewage plants rather than normal water to irrigate their courses, a point that club managers said they wished to make the general public more aware of. Investment in new irrigation technology was also promised.

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JOSELE-LANZA

WET AND WINDY RUN IN SUPPORT OF RED CROSS

Some 300 runners in the third annual Centro Plaza fun run defied the elements in Marbella last Sunday in aid of a good cause. The strongest participants even covered an eight-kilometre route that started from Hotel Pyr, Puerto Banús and ended at the well-known shopping plaza in Nueva Andalucía.

More disabled facilities for Estepona beaches

ESTEPONA

C.M. Estepona council has announced that it will install extra facilities on the resort's beaches for people with reduced mobility next summer. Canopies to give extra shade will be put up on Arroyo Vaquero, El Saladillo and Casasola beaches and the existing shades on El Cristo, El Padrón and La Rada beaches will be replaced. These will be larger, measuring some 25 square metres, and will be put up alongside the shower units on the beaches which have been adapted for limited mobility use. All chosen beaches have disabled access. The council will also continue to offer its assisted-bathing service this summer using special equipment acquired in 2015.

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New MRI machine signifies end of referrals for Axarquía patients

The hospital is one of five in the province to receive the latest generation version of the magnetic resonance imaging equipment

AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

TORRE DEL MAR. Regional health service managers accompanied Nerja Mayor, Rosa Arrabal, on a visit to the Axarquía hospital in Torre del Mar on Wednesday to see its new MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) machine, which was first used earlier this week.

The new equipment, which cost 1.1 million euros, means that patients living in the Axarquía will no longer have to be referred to Malaga hospitals for scans.

As well as investment in the machine itself, the hospital has also spent 100,000 euros on modernising facilities related to the MRI department, including patient waiting and changing rooms as well as staff preparation areas.

Spain's national health representative for Malaga, Ana Isabel González, said during Wednesday's visit that the new equipment would allow for "faster and better results



The Axarquía hospital's new MRI machine. :: SUR

with improved precision and quality."

The MRI machine will be used to help detect diseases related to the brain and heart, as well as prostate and breast cancer. It will also allow surgeons to plan surgery and medical professionals to carry out studies.

In 2017, the Axarquía hospital referred 7,342 patients to other hospitals

for MRI scans. However, with the arrival of this latest generation equipment all such appointments can now be given in the hospital in Torre del Mar.

The other four new MRI machines are located in the Hospital Universitario Virgen de la Victoria, Hospital Valle del Guadalhorce and Hospital Universitario Regional de Málaga.

PORTUGUESE GUITARIST WINS ANDRÉS SEGOVIA COMPETITION

24-year-old Joaquim Santos Simões from Coimbra, Portugal won first prize at the 33rd Andrés Segovia International Guitar Competition held in La Heradura last week. Santos Simões won 10,000 euros and a professional standard guitar made with materials from Canada and Madagascar by the Granada luthier, Aarón García Ruiz. The winner will go on to perform at the Úbeda 2018 international music and dance festival.



:: SUR

HERE AND THERE



Fewer people visited the Nerja in 2017. :: J. R.

Nerja caves visitor numbers dropped by 10.4 per cent in 2017

NERJA

E. CABEZAS. A fall in visitor numbers at one of Malaga's most popular tourist attractions, the Nerja caves, has been attributed to a change in visiting rules and hours.

A 10.4 per cent drop in numbers was recorded last year, but

according to manager of the caves, Luis Díaz, it was the first fall after four years of growth in numbers. The timetable and visitor numbers change was put into practice at the end of 2016 following advice from scientists working there in order to better conserve the caves. However, the town's museum saw a 16 per cent growth in numbers, which Díaz attributed to the 'cuevatren' which takes visitors between the caves, town and Maro.

First sewage treatment plant protest planned

NERJA

E. C. The first demonstration over delays to the completion of Nerja's sewage treatment plant is due to take place tomorrow, Saturday, after authorisation to organise the event was given by the national government. The protest will start at the town hall at 11am and head towards the main treatment plant, near the Fuente del Baden residential area. All residents and organisations are invited to take part.

Spanish citizenship talk to be held in Nerja

NERJA

J. R. An event is to be held on Wednesday 7 February about how to apply for Spanish citizenship. The talk will be given by local language academy, Aprendo Idiomas, and will be aimed at British residents who may be considering becoming Spanish citizens in view of Brexit. The talk will cover how to start the application process, requirements and level of Spanish needed. It will take place in the Salon de Actos at the town hall starting at 11am.



One of the rescued horses. :: PN

Man arrested for ill-treating five horses

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

A. P. A 65-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of ill treating the five horses he kept at his finca in Vélez-Málaga last week. The alarm was raised by local animal rights groups who reported the conditions of the animals to police. When officers arrived at the finca the animals were found to be malnourished and there was no evidence that they had access to food or water. Two of the horses required urgent medical attention and were suffering from chronic illnesses. The animals were taken to nearby animal rescue shelters.

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Soroptimists launch guide to assist foreign victims of domestic abuse

:: IVÁN GELIBTER

MIJAS. An international women's organisation has launched a guide to assist foreign residents on the Costa del Sol and Malaga province faced with experiences of domestic violence.

Presenting the new guide by the local branch of Soroptimist International recently were Mijas's councillor for Equality and Social Services, Mária del Carmen Carmona, and councillor for Foreign Residents, Roy Pérez.

Mijas is one of the municipalities in Malaga province with the highest proportion of foreign residents and the guide, explained the councillors, is useful in breaking down the language barrier when victims are faced with the distressing situation of making a complaint against domestic violence.

The presentation was part of a project working group called Viogenex that meets every three months in Mijas to coordinate measures against domestic violence. The new guide includes, among other things, a translation of the forms that need to be filled in when reporting abuse.

Mijas council passes 2018 budget at last

Spending plans were agreed with the help of one opposition councillor's abstention, but the plan 'to improve' IBI tax collection was voted down

:: IVÁN GELIBTER

MIJAS. Mijas council approved its 2018 budget at last on Monday against the odds.

The town hall, which is run by a minority coalition of Ciudadanos and Socialist councillors, was facing a difficult challenge ahead of the council session as the opposition parties, Partido Popular and CSSP-Podemos,

had said they wouldn't support the plans. In the end, one councillor, a Podemos member but non-aligned in the chamber, changed her negative vote to an abstention in return for a verbal promise on additional spending, and so the budget went through. It was seen as a surprise success for Juan Carlos Maldonado, who holds the mayoralty with just five Ciudadanos councillors. Mijas is the largest municipality in Spain with a Ciudadanos mayor.

There was less success for the motion to move IBI local tax collection to the centralised department run by the Diputación provincial authority in order to improve efficiency. This move was voted down.



Mijas councillors meeting in the council chamber on Monday. :: I. G.

HERE AND THERE



The beer is now made in Malaga again. :: NITO SALAS

New Victoria brewery up for design award

MALAGA

:: N. T. The new Victoria brewery, located between the airport and Malaga city, has been nominated

for a design award by Archdaily, a leading architectural website. The brewery was designed by Malaga studio, Gana, and will compete with 60 others for the title 'Building of the Year 2018'. The brewing of Victoria beer returned to the city last year after a two-decade absence.

Plaza Mayor to add food outlets in 16m revamp

MALAGA

:: N. T. Plaza Mayor shopping centre, near the airport, is to remove some of its cinema screens and open an improved variety of food outlets as part of a 16-million-euro revamp that will be carried out in tandem with the ongoing construction of a new designer outlet village next door. The owners will also improve the entrance area next to the railway station.

Animal-rights groups to march against hunting

MALAGA

:: SUR. Representatives of some 60 groups campaigning for animal rights are expected to take part in a march in the centre of Malaga on Sunday, 4 February against hunting and, in particular, the conditions that hunting dogs have to live in. The protest will also be carried out at the same time across 30 other provincial capitals. The march starts in Malaga at 12pm.

Town hall says Urbaser will keep rubbish clearing contract

:: IVÁN GELIBTER

FUENGIROLA. The mayor of Fuengirola, Ana Mula, told a council meeting this week that the current owner of the concession to collect rubbish and carry out some street cleansing in the municipality will see out the full four years of its contract after all.

Mula's reassurances come after the company, Urbaser, told street cleaning workers' representatives two weeks ago that it wanted to give up its contract, citing breach of contract by the town hall, causing uncertainty for employees and residents across the town.

Councillors at the meeting at Fuengirola town hall agreed a motion to refuse Urbaser a "negotiated exit" from its four-year renewable contract, which started in 2016.

The mayor also took the opportunity to issue a message of calm to residents of Fuengirola: "So that we all stay calm, Urbaser has said

it will continue carrying out services until the end of its contract.

"It will be for the initial four-year term, because the option to renew beyond that is voluntary," she added, "We are going to keep insisting that the contract is carried out to the letter."

The dispute with Urbaser was said to be centred on unexpected costs and uncertainty over land the town hall was said to have promised the company use of to carry out its services. The council says that Urbaser has no grounds to cancel its contract on that basis.

Sources at the council said that one of the reasons that Urbaser cannot give in its contract is that it would make it harder to tender for work at other local authorities in the future. A Socialist party councillor has also said that the company's action could be linked to negotiations over working conditions with staff.

The galleon Andalucía opens to visitors in La Línea this weekend

The ship is a replica of the 17th-century Spanish galleons that made Spanish trade with the Philippines and the Americas possible

:: BEN CLARKE

MALAGA. In the early hours of Tuesday morning, the galleon Andalucía left the port of Alicante bound for La Línea de la Concepción. It arrived in the town's main marina on Thursday morning and will remain there until Sunday, 4 February.

The ship is a replica of a Spanish galleon, which for over three centuries traversed the Caribbean, the Atlantic and the Pacific, uniting continents and cultures and transporting fantastic merchandise from all corners of the globe. The 55-metre vessel returned recently to Spain from a world tour and visits La Línea for the first time, putting an end to a voyage which it began last spring.

The ship is made of iroko and pine wood, has five decks and its sails have a surface area of nearly 1000 square metres. A floating museum of Spanish maritime culture,



Spanish galleons were among the nation's largest ships. :: SUR

the vessel travels the world to spread word of its special history.

It has already travelled over 50,000 nautical miles via oceans and seas, including the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian Ocean, Chinese Sea, the Caribbean and the Mediterranean. It recently returned to Spain from the United States and Canada, where it had visited the entire east

coast, the Great Lakes and more than 70 cities.

During its stay in La Línea the replica galleon will be open to the public every day until Sunday, 4 February. Visitors will gain a unique opportunity to view the vessel, learn about life aboard, the way its sails work and even what to do in the case of a pirate attack.

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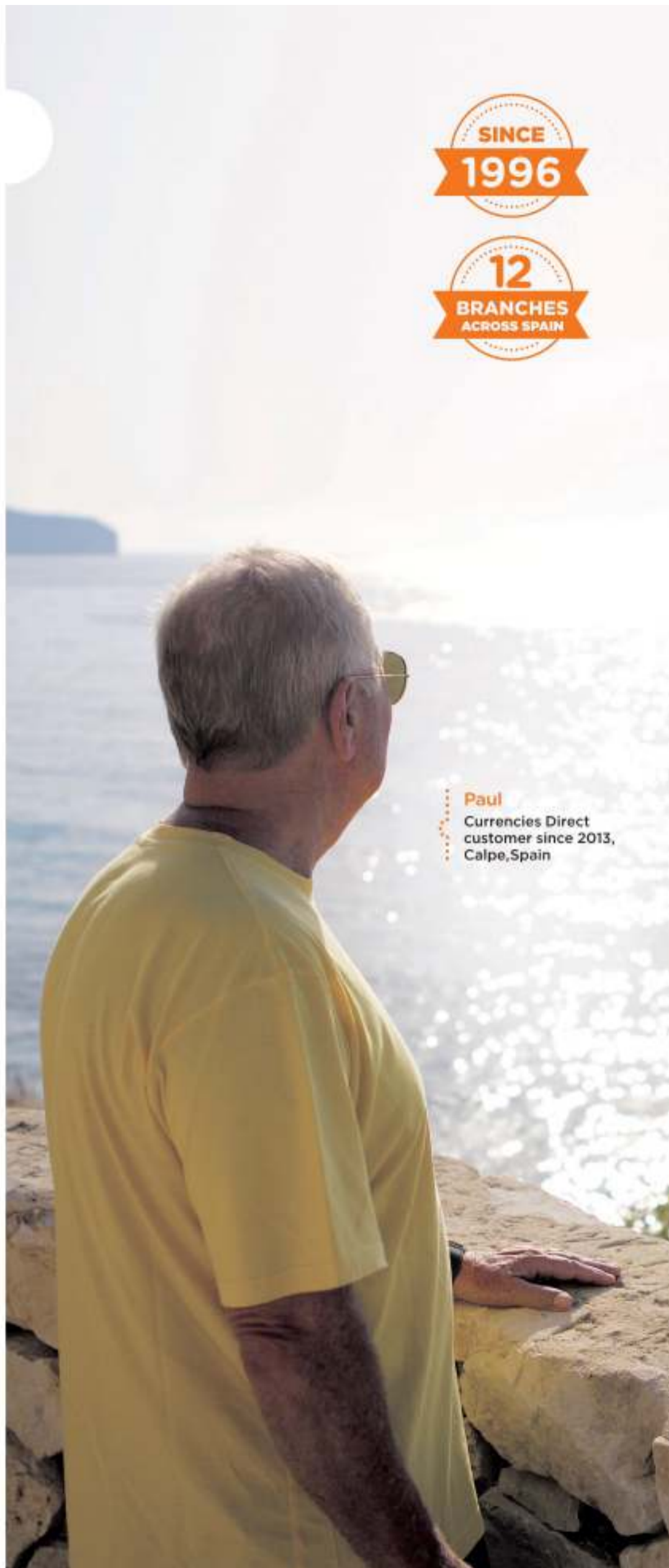
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Cockerels take centre stage during Coín's annual bird show

The fifth edition of the popular poultry fair brought together more than 600 stunning birds, half of which had been bred in Coín

by TONY BRYANT

COÍN. Coín celebrated its popular Feria de Gallinas Andaluz Sureñas last weekend. The fifth edition of the southern Andalusian poultry fair moved its location to the La Trocha shopping park this year, where hundreds of visitors marvelled over more than 600 stunning birds, more than half of which had been bred in Coín. The fair included some of the finest looking cockerels and hens, all bred purely for show.

The three-day show was organised by the poultry association, Recryme and Coín town hall.

The event, which also presented specially bred doves and turkeys, was opened by the mayor of Coín, Fernando Fernández and the president of Recryme, Francisco Alfonseca.

The jury of the morphological competition took into account the different aspects of the breed, such



More than half the cockerels on show were bred in Coín. :: SUR

as size, weight, plumage and colour.

All exhibits were pure breeds of a type recognised by the poultry association, and it is the points allocated for each feature which decide the quality of the bird and ultimately it's placing.

The exhibition finished last Sun-

day, when trophies were awarded to the winners of the different categories.

There was also a poultry painting competition involving art students from the local college in Coín. The winners of the competition will have their work displayed in Coín town hall.

Landscaping work ahead of schedule in Torremolinos

The town hall has released a 3D video that shows how the centre will look on completion

by TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. The landscaping of the new pedestrian area in the centre of Torremolinos is currently ahead of schedule and the first stage, which began on January 8, is set to meet the May deadline, municipal workers confirmed this week.

The first stage began in the Avenida Palma de Mallorca and saw the installation of new underground infrastructure, and municipal workers have now reached the junction of Avenida Isabel Manoja

and Calle Cauce. This week work also began in Calle La Cruz at the opposite end of the main square.

During an inspection of the work, mayor of Torremolinos, José Ortiz, met with local traders to ensure that the work is not preventing normal commercial activity. The pavements have been unaffected at this stage, and the town hall reported that there have been no major problems so far.

"The work is moving forward at great speed and therefore our deadlines will be met," the mayor explained.

A computerised 3D video that shows how the Plaza Costa del Sol and the new boulevard will look on completion can be seen on www.torremolinos.es.



The mayor inspects progress on the work in Torremolinos. :: T. B

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Mother of missing Torremolinos man appeals for help from the general public

■ A. GÓMEZ

TORREMOLINOS. The mother of Antonio Ortega, a 32-year-old man who went missing last week in Torremolinos, has appealed for help from the general public. In a video published on social media she asked for anyone with any clues to her son's whereabouts to come forward. "We're desperate," she finished.



Antonio Ortega. ■ SUR
Antonio, who needs medication for a mental illness, is 1.80 metres tall, weighs around 72 kilos and has short dark hair. He was last seen when he left his home in Calle Murillo Bracho (near Avenida del Lido, the road down to Bajondillo beach) to walk the dog on Monday 22 January. He was wearing black tracksuit bottoms, a white sweatshirt with a red hood and blue trainers and had not taken his keys or his ID card with him. The dog is also missing.

Relatives and friends have spent the last few days giving out flyers with Antonio's photograph and more than 65 people joined a search party coordinated by the emergency services at the end of last week.

Julián Muñoz back inside after footage of him dancing in a bar emerges

The former mayor of Marbella, who had been released from prison under electronic surveillance due to poor health, was recalled

■ JUAN CANO /
ÁLVARO FRÍAS

MÁLAGA. Former mayor of Marbella, Julián Muñoz, who has been convicted in several cases of corruption and embezzlement, has been taken back into custody this week after a video showed him in a pub dancing 'Sevillanas' with a certain degree of agility.

Muñoz was called back to the CIS (Social Integration Centre) that had been supervising his release under electronic surveillance, a privilege that was granted in February 2017 on the grounds of his poor health.

When he arrived at the centre in Algeciras, his electronic tag was taken from him and he was told to remain in a room at the centre until further notice.

"A judicial outrage"

His lawyer, Antonio García Cabrera, has appealed against the decision calling it a "judicial outrage", stating that Muñoz had "not violated any [condition of his release]".

Muñoz had been granted the "third grade" privilege which al-



Julián Muñoz. ■ EFE

lows prisoners to leave the jail during the day to work, or carry out another approved activity, and spend the night in their cells. His poor health (Muñoz has terminal cancer) had led to him being allowed to live at home but controlled by an electronic tag.

Last week the website El Español published the video of Muñoz dancing with a friend at a party in the Trafalgar bar in Calahonda.

New sentence

That same week he had been handed a new sentence of six months in prison for corrupt practice and embezzlement in the Minutas II case.

Ex-mayor of Torremolinos criticised over 'anti-gay' comments

■ SUR

TORREMOLINOS. The former PP mayor of Torremolinos, Pedro Fernández Montes, who is in a dispute with his own local party, which is currently split into two factions, drew criticism this week from his own colleagues, rival politicians and gay-rights groups over a statement he has published that suggests, among other comments, that the current PSOE council is encouraging "cheap" gay visitors to the increasingly LGBT-friendly resort.

After widespread protests over his perceived homophobia, beleaguered Fernández Montes then took to Facebook to defend his views, adding that he once had gay councillors on his team.

Malaya 'mastermind' granted day release from prison to work with charity

■ EFE

MADRID. Juan Antonio Roca, the mastermind of the Malaya urban planning corruption ring in Marbella, is to be allowed to leave prison during the day to work for a charity after more than a decade behind bars.

The privilege was granted by

the penitentiary surveillance judge, José Luis Castro, against the criteria of the prison authorities.

Castro cited a number of reasons for his decision: Roca will soon have served two thirds of his sentence, his conduct in jail has been "excellent", he has assumed respon-

sibility for the crimes committed and has shown regret in public.

Roca has offered to work as a volunteer with the NGO Cáritas Málaga's Nuestra Señora de la Merced centre that works towards the reintegration of prisoners.

Roca has been convicted of corruption-related crimes in several cases, Saqueo I and II, Minutas, Belmonsa, Urquia and Malaya. He was first arrested and jailed in 2006 and has been behind bars without a break since 2008. He still has more than 100 cases waiting to go to court, however his sentence would not exceed 20 years.

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Officers entering the caravan. :: SUR

Drugs and weapons recovered from caravan of man accused of corruption of minors

A 62-year-old was arrested in Benalmádena on Tuesday in connection with supplying drugs and having sexual relations with minors

:: J. C. / A. F.

MALAGA. National Police officers have seized drugs, weapons and computer material from the caravan owned by a 62-year-old man, who was arrested in Benalmádena on Tuesday accused of the corruption of minors and drug offences. Investigators have identified 15

possible victims to whom he allegedly offered presents (from clothes to mobile phones), drugs and money to gain their trust. He seemingly used this technique to enable him to maintain sexual relations with some of them.

Following his arrest, officers seized two shotguns, around a kilo of marijuana, a set of scales, archery equipment, a mobile phone, a camera, a tablet, various CDs and a memory card. Investigations are ongoing to see if there are any images of the minors on the devices.

Investigations started after a 14-year-old was reported missing before being found in his mobile home.

FIVE DETAINED OVER 4 TONNES OF 'STOLEN' ORANGES

Five people have been arrested over the alleged theft of four tonnes of oranges in the Seville municipality of Carmona. Two vehicles were stopped after their driving aroused suspicion and both were found to have had large quantities of oranges, without paperwork. The vehicles' occupants claimed to have "found them on the ground" and that they were for their own consumption.



:: EFE

112 REPORTS

Teen arrested over Carrefour Alameda fire

MALAGA

:: J. C. / A. F. Police have identified two teenagers as the suspected perpetrators of a fire at a Malaga branch of Carrefour on Sunday.

The youths, 15 and 13, were traced to the incident, immediately suspected to be an act of arson, because of a video of the incident that they allegedly uploaded to Instagram.

The older of the pair was placed under arrest.

Soldier reports drugging and sexual assault

ANTEQUERA

:: J. C. / A. F. The military court has opened an investigation after a female soldier reported being drugged and sexually assaulted. According to her report, the beer she was drinking at a celebration on 10 January had a "funny taste". She was then taken back to the barracks by a superior who slept with her. She, however, only knew this because he told her the next day. She also has "vague recollections" of another man "holding" and "moving" her.

Two homes raided by Guardia Civil imposters

MIJAS

:: J. C. The Guardia Civil are investigating two cases of homes being raided in Mijas in the past week. On both occasions, the perpetrators, wearing balaclavas, entered the properties, posing as armed Guardia Civil officers.

The first, in Las Lagunas, was thwarted by neighbours who discovered what was happening; the second was more successful, with the occupant tied up and beaten and property stolen.

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Inheritance tax reductions - Andalucía

This year 2018 brings good news for family members who inherit property and assets in Andalucía. The regional tax has been reduced, with spouses, children, parents and those registered as partners - parejas de hecho - receiving an increased tax allowance of 1,000,000€ per beneficiary.

Spanish inheritance tax is a donee tax. This means that if you and your spouse are joint owners of a property whose tax value is just under 2,000,000€ and you receive one half, you would not pay succession tax in Spain.

Unlike previous deductions, this new allowance applies even if the beneficiary receives more than the amount of the allowance. It acts therefore in the same way as the nil rate band in the UK. So if you inherit 1,100,000€, you deduct 1,000,000€ and only pay tax on the 100,000€.

At present this applies to all European Union residents which currently includes the UK. It is going to be important to know if these allowances will remain post Brexit. Many lawyers and accountants fear this will not be the case and Inheritance taxes could return to pre-2015 levels. The important thing is to obtain information now on what inheritance tax could become payable, and what measures might need to be taken post Brexit.

We are also holding an English wills day at our Nerja office on 21st February with Free consultations. Individual circumstances vary so do please contact us for further information or a consultation on 952 527 014 or email info@decottalaw.net

New housing projects have increased by nearly 60% to the highest level since 2008

Last year architects approved plans for 4,895 properties to be built in the province, with an investment of 825 million euros

■ NURIA TRIGUERO
MÁLAGA. Figures issued last week by the Malaga Colegio de Arquitectos confirm the recovery of the construction sector in Malaga province. Last year the association, which has to approve all construction plans before permission can be granted, put its stamp on 61 per cent more residential properties than the previous year: a total of 4,895, the highest figure since 2008. The rate of growth is almost three times that of 2016, when it was 24 per cent.

For the head of the association, Francisco Sarabia, these figures reflect “sustained growth” - they have increased for three consecutive years - so it can now be said that the sector is coming out of the economic crisis. However, he stressed that the numbers are still small compared with the pre-crisis period.

“In 2006 we approved plans for 45,000 homes in Malaga,” he said, although he believes that number

NEW PROPERTIES APPROVED						
Figures refer to number of homes Source: Colegio Oficial de Arquitectos de Malaga						
MUNICIPALITY	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	% CHANGE
MÁLAGA	303	166	712	878	1,214	+38%
Torremolinos	5	41	203	102	143	+40%
Benalmádena	63	66	158	119	159	+34%
Fuengirola	81	2	95	141	291	+106%
Mijas	12	86	105	282	516	+83%
Marbella	80	143	492	173	252	+46%
Estepona	46	12	24	487	800	+64%
Manilva	1	5	0	17	73	+329%
COSTA WEST	288	355	1,077	1,321	2,234	+69%
Rincón de la V.	14	15	59	111	276	+149%
Vélez-Málaga	80	35	73	91	168	+85%
Torrox	1	2	5	27	18	-33%
Nerja	5	5	92	55	69	+25%
COSTA EAST	100	57	229	284	531	+87%
Antequera	15	24	53	11	21	+91%
Campillos	4	1	2	3	1	+67%
Cártama	8	9	1	4	20	+400%
Pizarra	1	1	2	4	11	+175%
Álora	5	1	1	3	4	+33%
Coín	5	1	10	10	14	+40%
Ronda	14	19	13	32	21	-34%
Alh. de la Torre	11	19	65	65	139	+114%
Alh. El Grande	7	10	6	10	20	+100%
Archidona	19	3	7	10	9	-10%
INLAND	89	88	160	152	260	+71%
REST	124	132	276	406	656	+62%
PROVINCIAL TOTAL	904	798	2,454	3,041	4,895	+61%

was disproportionate and that 20,000 to 25,000 a year would be reasonable for the province now. If the present rate of growth is maintained, he expects that level to be reached in four or five years.

Sarabia warns that a new property bubble cannot be ruled out, because “this would not be the first time that people have failed to learn from a crisis,” but the president of the association of builders and developers ACP, Emilio López, doesn’t agree. In fact, he thinks it is unlikely.

“Prices are going up moderately and they are starting from levels which are 30 per cent lower than before the crisis. Also, developers used to be able to obtain a loan without having to put any money down, because banks were financing everything. Now, a developer has to provide money, have a good project and have sold some properties if they want a loan,” he said.

López is pleased about the way the construction sector is reviving, and believes that this year, barring anything unusual happening, the figures will be even better.

Francisco Sarabia, however, offers a note of caution: the regional government’s reform of planning laws, which is being prepared at the moment, could mark a “turning point” in the evolution of the construction sector, he said, because information obtained by the Colegio shows that urban growth will be restricted as part of the aim of creating “consolidated towns”.

Investment in the 4,895 residential properties approved in 2017 totalled 825 million euros, according to the Colegio. Of these, 1,145 were houses, with an investment of 259 million euros; 3,625 were apartments, at 555 million; and 125 of the plans were for subsidised housing, which had almost disappeared from the property market.

The number of residential properties completed in 2017 doubled, to 2,583. In this sense, last year was the best since 2012, when 2,755 homes were finished. Francisco Sarabia attributes this to the fact that the first developments planned after the crisis are now being completed.

The coast is the attraction

The growth in new projects applies to nearly all the municipalities in the province, apart from a few exceptions such as Ronda and Torrox.

Malaga city heads the list, with plans being approved for 1,214 homes: an increase of 38 per cent compared with last year. It is followed by two towns on the western coast: Estepona, with an increase of 64 per cent (800 properties) and Mijas, where the figure practically doubled to 516. In Marbella the increase is more modest, with 252 properties of which half are houses.

Construction is also recovering on the eastern Costa, where almost twice as many plans were approved in 2017, with Rincón de la Victoria in the lead. Most municipalities in the inland region of the province also saw an increase last year, although the figures there are much lower.

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Qatar Airways confirms its plans to launch a route from Malaga to Doha

The airline will increase its investment in the Spanish market, expanding on its bases in Madrid and Barcelona

■ PILAR MARTÍNEZ
MÁLAGA. Qatar Airways recently announced its plans to launch a direct route from Malaga to Doha this year at the International Tourism Fair in Madrid (Fitur). In the presentation, Senior Vice President for Europe, Jonathan Harding, and the Country Manager for the Iberian Peninsula, Marimar Laveda, said that the company was encouraged by the growth of the Spanish market and would be launching 19 new routes, one of which will be Malaga-Costa del Sol.

The representatives confirmed that the route to Doha would launch in May of this year, but no further details have been given, and it is not yet possible to book flights. Among the other new connections offered by Qatar Airways are Pattaya, Thailand; Penang, Malaysia; Canberra, Australia; San Francisco, USA; Chittagong, Bangladesh; Mykonos, Greece; Accra, Ghana and Lisbon, Portugal, among others.



Jonathan Harding and Marimar Laveda at Fitur. ■ SUR

Scandinavian airline SAS will create a new hub in Malaga

■ PILAR MARTÍNEZ
MÁLAGA. The strong growth of the Scandinavian market on the Costa del Sol has encouraged Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) to strengthen its presence at Malaga Airport.

The company presented its tax balance this week and confirmed that it will also open a new hub

in London.

Data shows that SAS flew 31.5 per cent more flights to Malaga in 2017 compared to the previous year - around 105,000 passengers.

Air France is due to launch a new route between Malaga and Lyon, and triple the number of flights between Malaga and Paris-Orly.

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Malaga's exports beat the two-billion-euro mark in one year for the first time

Agricultural produce, electrical equipment and textiles are the goods most exported from the province where overseas trade has grown 52% in a decade

■ SUR

MALAGA. The 'Made in Malaga' label is gaining strength as the province beat the two-billion-euro mark in exports last year. Between January and November 2017, Malaga sent products to the value of 2.05 billion euros out of the country, 216.8 million more than in the same period of 2016.

This record figure was announced at the end of last week by the Junta de Andalucía's delegate for Malaga province, José Luis Ruiz Espejo, during a visit to the firm General Elevadores GE XXI, in the Andalusian Technology Park.

Ruiz Espejo also said that the province's exports had grown by 52% in the last decade. The number



Ruiz Espejo offered the figures at the GE XXI headquarters. ■ SUR

of firms based in Malaga that regularly export their products overseas has risen by 62% to more than 4,400. "Ninety per cent of the Malaga and Andalusian [exporting] firms are small and medium-sized enterprises," he added.

The Malaga products that are most sold outside Spain are olive oil, fruit and vegetables, meat products, electrical equipment and textiles.

Of the 2.5 billion euros in exports, 378 million correspond to

fats and oils, 324 million to fresh fruit, 217 to electrical equipment, 181 to meat products, 116 to knitted garments and 106 million to non-knitted apparel.

The main markets for Malaga's exports, according to Ruiz Espejo are in the European Union: France with 355 million euros, Italy (326 million) and Portugal (170 million euros). Germany is in fourth place, followed by the US, UK, Morocco, China, Netherlands and Japan.

Zara and five other Spanish brands among the world top 500

■ SUR

MADRID. Zara, Santander, BBVA, Movistar, Repsol and Iberdrola have kept a place within the Brand Finance annual ranking of the world's 500 most valuable brand names. El Corte Inglés has entered the list, which is headed by Amazon, for the first time.

According to the survey, the

highest valued Spanish brand is Zara, with a value of 17.5 billion dollars (14 billion euros) and an annual increase of 21.2%. Santander is close behind, increasing 1.7% to 16.2 billion dollars (13 billion euros).

Within the ranking, Zara, which is part of the larger Inditex group, is number 82, rising eight places in the year, while Santander falls

from 81st to 92nd place.

BBVA (11.6 billion dollars) rises from 177th to 131st, Movistar (11.4 billion dollars) from 136th to 132nd and Repsol (four billion dollars) from 483rd to 443rd; Iberdrola (3.9 billion) fell back from 407th to 468th position.

Department store group, El Corte Inglés has entered the list for the first time in 434th position, with a value of 4.1 billion dollars "due to its employees and customer service" and for being "one of the country's biggest wealth generators".

THE EURO ZONE
MARK NAYLER

A ROUGH DEAL



It's hardly been the most auspicious start to 2018. In what is surely a sign of things to come, Mariano Rajoy's minority government is once again having trouble securing approval for this year's budget. If this sounds all-too-familiar, it's because last year Spain had to wait until June for a spending plan to be approved.

The circumstances responsible for causing 2017's delay have not changed: Rajoy's Popular Party (PP) is still hamstrung in congress and depends on the support of other parties, some of which are openly hostile towards the conservatives. If backing for the 2018 spending plan is not forthcoming by 31 March, says the government, this might be a budget-less year.

The reasons for the current hold-up illustrate the deal-based nature of modern Spanish politics, and how ineffective such a method of government is. Ciudadanos, the centrist newcomer that has now overtaken the PP in the polls, is withholding support for the 2018 budget over corruption. Party leader Albert Rivera has told Rajoy that he can forget Ciudadanos' backing unless PP senator Pilar Barreiro, who is under investigation in a cash-for-contracts case, is removed from office.

He is right to do so, even though the Barreiro case is but a small part of the corruption that taints Spanish politics. Indeed, when the PP and Ciudadanos made a pact in August 2016, the older party pledged - obviously with its fingers collectively

crossed under the table - to tackle corruption within its own ranks. This was one of the conditions upon which Ciudadanos agreed to support Rajoy in congress and marked "the beginning of a love affair" between the two parties, as a PP spokesperson gushed when the deal was signed.

Since then, you'll have noticed, numerous PP politicians have been fired over corruption allegations, and the scandals have stopped breaking. Wouldn't it be refreshing if that were true? Instead, the "love affair" between Ciudadanos and the PP has long since exited its honeymoon period and corruption still plagues the PP.

The Basque Nationalist Party (BNV), meanwhile, is refusing to back the proposed 2018 budget because of the PP's handling of Catalonia. BNV president Andoni Ortuzar stated back in December that Rajoy won't have his vote "until Catalonia has legitimate and legitimised institutions" - a call for the central government to hand back control of Catalonia to the Catalans. Right now, that seems as unlikely as the PP deciding to do something about its more questionable senators.

As far as this year's spending plan is concerned, it looks like we're in for another delay of at least six months, a zombie government unable to pass new fiscal policy, and an economy on cruise control. Cristóbal Montoro, Spain's budget minister, might as well start working on 2019's spending plan: maybe that way it has a chance of being passed sometime next year.

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Gibraltar's first sewage plant is due to open in 2020

This week saw a major step forward in this much-needed but highly complicated project, which has taken several years to plan

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. An important step forward was taken towards Gibraltar's first sewage treatment plant this week, with the announcement that the government has awarded an Advanced Works Contract to a joint venture company formed by NWG Commercial Services Limited (Northumbrian Water) and Modern Water.

The company will carry out the design and survey work which is required for final planning and environmental approvals and will also carry out preliminary site works for the treatment of sewage

in Gibraltar.

Once these are completed, work can begin on the overall project, which will not only treat the whole of Gibraltar's sewage but also handle storm flows.

Modern Water will be responsible for the design and build portion of the contract. Once that phase of the project has been completed, Northumbrian Water will run the plant for 20 years under a sub-contract with AquaGib.

If all goes according to schedule, the on-site works will begin within the next few months and the plant should be completed in 2020.

The new plant will be located at the Brewery Crusher site near Europa Point. It will be odourless and covered, so it will not have a negative impact on views in the area or the Gorham's Cave World Heritage Site.

This major step forward in a

much-needed project has been welcomed by the government. John Cortes, the Minister for the Environment, Energy and Climate Change, said he was delighted at the announcement, which fulfilled a commitment made by the government several years ago. "On a personal note, as an environmentalist, I take pride in being a part of leading the further developments of Gibraltar's environmental credentials and the delivery of Gibraltar's wastewater treatment works," he said.

Meanwhile the chief minister, Fabian Picardo, said he was very happy to see that following the detailed work carried out so far, there was now going to be progress on treating Gibraltar's wastewater.

"It has taken us time to be able to progress this as we had to start literally from scratch and the technical aspects of the work required was extraordinarily complex and challeng-



Densely-populated Gibraltar has never had a treatment plant. :: SUR

ing," he explained.

One of the difficulties in treating sewage in Gibraltar is the fact that, unlike most countries, the lavatories are flushed with sea water and therefore special bacteria are needed which can survive in sea water and break down the sewage. In the past the EU

has criticised Gibraltar for its outdated - almost historic - sewage system. No fines were imposed, but the authorities on the Rock were required to provide a proper means of treating its waste.

The new plant will cost in the region of £22 million.

IN BRIEF



Dr Garcia addressed the Friedrich Naumann Foundation. :: SUR

"Gibraltar shouldn't be used as a whipping boy", deputy CM tells think tank

GIBRALTAR

DEBBIE BARTLETT. The deputy chief minister of Gibraltar, Dr Joseph Garcia, addressed the Friedrich Naumann Foundation think tank in Brussels this week and told them it would be manifestly unfair to use Gibraltar as a "whipping boy" who was made to suffer the conse-

quences of Europe's wider disagreements with the United Kingdom.

He also said that nobody had anything to gain by excluding Gibraltar from the transition or the future relationship agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom, at the talk called 'Gibraltar: The Other Brexit Land Frontier'.

Although over 96 per cent of Gibraltarians voted remain in the 2016 referendum, as a British Overseas Territory Gibraltar will be leaving the EU alongside the UK.

Schools closed due to stormy weather

GIBRALTAR

DEBBIE B. Several schools closed and parents were asked to keep their children at home if possible earlier this week when the Rock was hit by gale force winds which brought down scaffolding and tree branches. An investigation is being launched into scaffolding which became detached from Ocean Spa Plaza. Some roads had to be closed to traffic, and the Upper Rock Nature Reserve and Gorham's Cave viewing point were closed as a precautionary measure.

Extended bus timetable on Mount Alvernia route

GIBRALTAR

DEBBIE B. The number 7 bus route has been extended so the last bus from Mount Alvernia residential home now leaves at 7.30pm, following a change to the evening mealtime at the home: this used to be at 5 and is now 5.45pm. The improvement to the bus service has been made in response to requests from visitors to the home. All bus routes in Gibraltar can be tracked in real time using the online Bus Tracker Web App (<http://track.bus.gi/>).

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Message 1. "We're living through the last days of the Catalan Republic again..."

Message 2. "The plan from Moncloa [Spanish PM's residence] has triumphed. I only hope that it's true and thanks to that everyone can leave jail, because if not this ridiculous story is historic..."

Message 3. "I suppose that you know that this is over. Our followers have sacrificed us. Me at least. You will be regional ministers (I hope and wish) but I'm already sacrificed, just as Tardà [a separatist politician] said".

Message 4. "I don't know how long I have to live (a lot I hope!), but I will dedicate it to putting some order into these two years and protect my reputation. They have hurt me a lot with slurs, rumours, lies that I've put up with for the common goal. That's now expired and it'll be my turn to dedicate my life to defending myself."

Photos of Toni Comín (l) and Carles Puigdemont superimposed on the image caught by chance by the Telecinco television channel. :: SUR

Text messages reveal climbdown by Puigdemont in Catalan presidential bid

The regional parliament's speaker had postponed a vote on the new leader of the Catalan government after a ruling by the Constitutional Court

:: SUR

BARCELONA. The ongoing saga of whether the ex-president of Catalonia, Carles Puigdemont, will be voted in as president again by regional MPs, even through he is in self-imposed

exile in Brussels, took an unexpected turn on Wednesday morning with revelations on a television show.

The programme on Telecinco published details of private mobile phone messages sent on Tuesday evening by Puigdemont to one of the other Catalan MPs 'exiled' in Belgium with him. A TV camera had inadvertently picked them up when the MP, Toni Comín, was scanning his phone in the audience at an event in Leuven, near Brussels. The images revealed the supposed frustration of Puigdemont and his will-

ingness to give in his fight to be sworn in as president again.

Debate postponed

The mobile phone texts from Puigdemont to Comín in Belgium came soon after the speaker of the Catalan parliament had postponed Tuesday's planned debate in Barcelona over who should be the next regional president.

As reported last week, Carles Puigdemont, as leader of the largest separatist party, had been proposed as the only candidate to head the Cata-

lan government but his exile in Brussels complicated the situation. Up to the last moment nobody was sure if he would try to return to Spain, and face certain arrest in ongoing investigations over the illegal declaration of independence in Catalonia last October, or if regional MPs would try to vote him in by video conference link from Brussels.

In the end, neither scenario happened as speaker, Roger Torrent, decided to postpone the investiture debate in reaction to a declaration from Spain's constitutional court

that Puigdemont couldn't be voted in remotely and had to appear in the Barcelona chamber in person.

This would only be possible, the ruling said, if the Supreme Court judge investigating Puigdemont and other separatist leaders gave permission. The resolution, which was sought by central government, in effect cut off Puigdemont's options.

The speaker said that the debate would be reconvened once "the proper guarantees" were in place for Puigdemont to attend, without specifying how that would happen.

In the private mobile phone texts broadcast across Spain, Puigdemont said, "This is over. Our followers have sacrificed us" and the Spanish government's plan had won.

There was delight among pro-Spain politicians and central government, seeing Puigdemont's private thoughts as proof that their strategy to remove him from front-line politics had succeeded. Some said that the texts exposed in public a view about the impossibility of investing Puigdemont that the independence parties had held in private for some time.

Possible legal action

Both Puigdemont and Comín complained on social media about the publication of the texts and legal action may follow, according to their lawyers. However the immediate effect of the publication was to open up more division between the separatist parties that together hold a majority in the Catalan parliament after December's election. Some separatist supporters told reporters that another pro-independence candidate for president should be proposed to regional MPs as soon as possible so the Catalan government can return to normal and Madrid's temporary suspension of some devolved powers can end, amid an emerging consensus that declaring independence unilaterally wasn't working.

At the time of going to press, the speaker of the regional parliament, Roger Torrent, maintained that Puigdemont was still the only candidate to be Catalan president and no new date had as yet been fixed to summon MPs for the debate on his investiture.

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Interim Brexit report highlights concerns

Professor Karen O'Reilly has published a document following her conversations with Brits living in Spain on the impact of the referendum

✪ JENNIE RHODES

MALAGA. Following her research trip to Malaga in October 2017, Professor Karen O'Reilly has published an interim report on the initial findings of the Brexit Brits Abroad research project.

The report, 'What Does Brexit Mean for British Citizens Living in the EU27?' can be found on the Brexit Brits Abroad website (www.brexitbritsabroad.com). It highlights the initial themes from O'Reilly's conversations with Britons living in Spain with regard to Brexit. Over the course of the project so far, the professor has gathered opinions from pro-remain and pro-Brexit camps about the UK's departure from the EU and its impact on them.

Some of the key messages from her work include, "The British abroad are a far more diverse group than are represented by the mass media, politicians and commentators," and



Prof. O'Reilly in October. ✪ J. R.

"Brexit is affecting people now both financially and emotionally."

The project will continue throughout this year and O'Reilly plans to be back in Malaga later in 2018 to progress with her research, which is fed back to the UK in a Changing Europe and to government departments.

The professor of sociology and anthropology is currently employed part time by Goldsmiths, University in London, to work on the Brexit Brits Abroad research project, which is researching the impact that Brexit is having on Britons living in other EU countries.

Guidelines aim to explain lengthy EU and UK Brexit negotiations

✪ J. RHODES

MALAGA. The organisation British in Europe has published guidelines explaining how the agreement reached by the UK government and the EU negotiators, following the first round of Brexit negotiations, which concluded in December 2017, affects Britons living in other EU countries.

"Where does the December agreement leave me?" (www.britishineurope.org) picks out the most relevant areas of the paper and explains what was agreed in clearer terms than the terminology used in the original document.

The first round of negotiations prioritised citizens' rights, in particular over continued access to healthcare and pensions, which have been guaranteed, in principle. What the summary does not allude to is the fact that the issues agreed on so far are only agreements in principle and that the UK/EU document states that "nothing is agreed until everything is agreed". There was no clear conclusion at the end of the first round of negotiations as to continued freedom of movement and as such British citizens' rights to move to another EU country post-Brexit.

Brits encouraged to write to MPs ahead of second reading of Votes for Life Bill

✪ J. R.

MALAGA. Groups campaigning for the rights of Britons living abroad are encouraging citizens to write to their UK constituency MP to ask them to back the Votes for Life bill.

The second reading of a Private Member's Bill, which is being led by Glyn Davies, Conservative MP for Montgomeryshire, is due to be heard in the House of Commons on Friday 23 February.

While Private Members' Bills do not generally form part of planned UK government legislation, Votes For Life, which would scrap the cur-

rent law that UK citizens who have lived outside the country for more than 15 years do not have the right to vote in UK elections, has been part of the Conservative Party's manifesto for the last two election campaigns (2010 and 2015). However, they have failed to act on the pledge.

Ninety-six-year-old World War II veteran, Harry Schindler, who lives in Italy, is well-known across Europe for his long-running campaign to get the law changed and has been an active voice in the current mobilisation.



UK and EU flags outside the Houses of Parliament. ✪ SUR

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**THERE IS A PRIZE FOR THE BEST
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Money wasted

Torre del Mar used to have a rudimentary fenced off dog beach facility which last year's January storms swept away. Such was the power of the water, which completely swamped the whole beach and removed all traces of the facility, that I said to my wife at the time, "Well, it will be pointless replacing it because the same thing will happen the next time we have a storm surge."

However, over the summer of 2017 the authorities decided to create an even better dog park on the beach, which I must admit was very impressive. But I continued to think it was taking a massive gam-

ble with public money knowing that it would only take one high tide to do similar damage.

Sure enough, this week has seen strong winds, high tides and huge waves. When I went to check on the dog park, it was gone. Completely washed away.

It is such a shame that this foreseeable event could not have been considered before they put so much time and effort into creating this facility.

Can we be assured that the authorities will not do the same thing again? I don't think that stretch of beach to the west of the town will ever be safe from the waves.

ANGUS SILVIE
TORRE DEL MAR

**THIS
WEEK'S
WINNING
LETTER**

Hamburgers

Peter Edgerton's article "Too cool for fuel" (26 January) appears to make the assumption that the word Hamburger relates to ham. Not so! The origin of Hamburger comes from the workers in the meat industry in Hamburg who emigrated to Chicago to satisfy the demand for labour in the rapidly growing meat industry around the buffalo in the surrounding area.

The workers were permitted to take the less appetising meat without charge. This meat was minced and placed in buns to make a wholesome meal and the result was called Hamburger after the home town of the workers. No ham was involved.

I have worked in Hamburg and Chicago so have the story from both sides.

HARRY PETERSON
BY EMAIL

Stamps for charity

I'm looking for support for my stamp appeal to raise money for the Bone Cancer Research Trust, the leading charity dedicated to fighting primary bone cancer in the UK, and would

love the support of your readers. We are looking for used and new postage stamps from the UK and overseas.

Please save your new and used stamps; whether you get a few stamps a year for your birthday or you get lots from your friends from all over the world, or you can even save them from the bin at work!

Instead of throwing away your stamped envelopes, we can raise vital funds to help us continue with our research, providing information and raising awareness as well as offering support to those who need it.

Primary bone cancer can occur at any age, but affects mostly children, teenagers, young adults and the elderly. On average 12 people every week are diagnosed across the UK and Ireland. The survival rate for this disease is just over 50% and this has not changed in the last 25 years. With your help we can work towards changing this, so more people have a chance to live.

Stamps can be sent to: BCRT Stamp Appeal, 20 Bowers Road, Benfleet, Essex, England, SS7 5PZ.

TERRI BUSH
APPEAL COORDINATOR, UK

Seeing stars

PETER EDGERTON
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TripAdvisor is very useful if you own a business. I've lost count of the number of customers, especially tourists, who have visited The Shakespeare after having read our online reviews and we're very grateful for that.

For those readers unaware of the mysterious workings of such things, it goes like this: you visit an establishment and then, according to your level of satisfaction, and as a member of TripAdvisor, you post a review of your experience and rate the place from one to five stars. Some people don't even bother with the critique and simply offer the star rating. Lazy lumps.

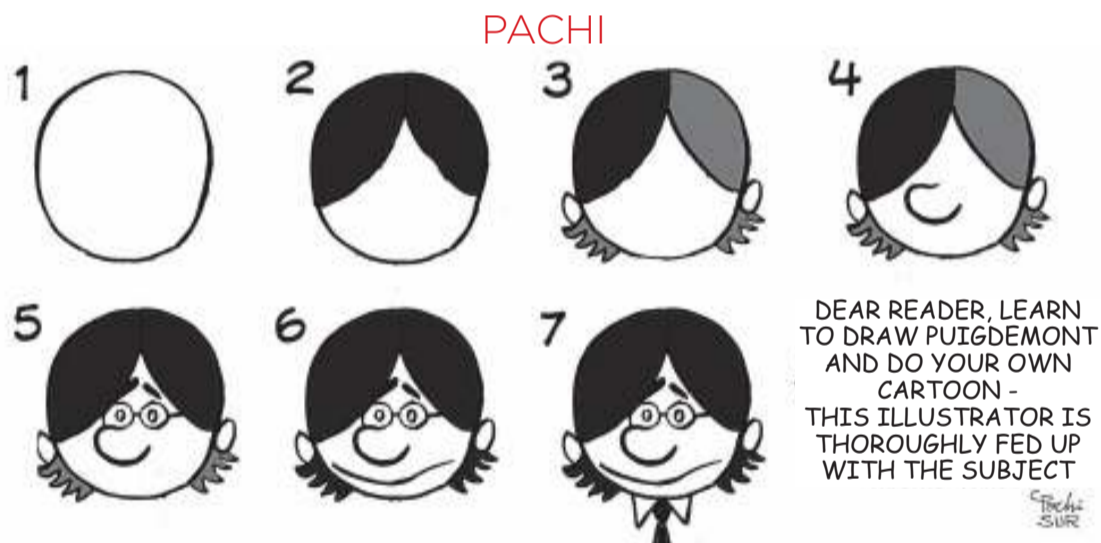
Obviously four or five star ratings are most common if your business is any good but, even then, you'll get the odd one star from someone with a perceived grievance or sometimes, sadly,

from a rival business owner attempting to drop a spanner in the works. We've had two one-star ratings so far, the first from someone who was very angry about being rudely spoken to by a bloke in a red shirt who he presumed worked for us. Unfortunately, it turned out it was just a random rude bloke in a red shirt - so that was just a misunderstanding. The second one-star wonder was, frankly, mad as a box of frogs. His behaviour was wholly obnoxious all evening until he took umbrage at being asked to put a sock in it and leave (I'm paraphrasing) by staff and other customers alike. He must have decided to take revenge by posting his rambling tirade of fictional criticisms online. Neither of these examples was worrying because we hadn't done anything wrong in either case.

Three-star ratings are the interesting ones, especially if

they're posted without a review to accompany them. Three stars? That's like somebody saying your concert was "very nice" after you've played for two hours solid and had to change your t-shirt four times because of the effort involved. You'd much rather they said, "I didn't really like it, I'm afraid. Nice t-shirts, though." If these customers were to put up reviews next to their three-star ratings what on earth would they be? "Lovely beer but, blimey, the landlord's let himself go since the last time we were here"? Or "Perfect cosy lighting but I'm afraid I distinctly heard Kenny Loggins on the playlist"?

No, TripAdvisor needs to take out the two and three-star options and leave just the fours and fives for satisfied customers plus, of course, the one-star option - for any random boxes of frogs that might care to pass by.



Getting there

RACHEL HAYNES

Having the car you take for granted suddenly forced off the road for several weeks sheds a whole new light on how we move from one place to another. Forced to find an alternative to just grabbing the keys and running out the door, I've recently had a nostalgic reunion with the Fuengirola train line after several years' absence and discovered that the wonders of the Malaga city bus service stretch far beyond my imagination's capacity.

So with all the fuss in the last week over who has the best idea for a train to Marbella I have been able to look at the issue with the interest of a public transport user.

The conservative government's half-finished preliminary study concerning a possible extension of the C-1 Cercanías local line was offered up as a major step forward by the minister on Saturday in Marbella - and immediately criticised by the socialist opposition who want a faster, more direct alternative.

The minister's billion-euro scheme, especially the expensive version that would tunnel under the coast road, allowing for stations in most built-up areas along the western Costa del Sol, is certainly attractive (except for the view). Commuters who make the daily journey between Calahonda, say, and San Pedro, would appre-

ciate being able to hop onto the train every morning.

What's harder to digest is the idea of the local train being used by tourists landing at Malaga Airport and heading for Marbella, instead of hiring a car or taking the bus. First of all, where would they sit? The trains to Fuengirola are already packed, and then their journey, much of it holding onto a pole clutching a suitcase between their legs, would take well over an hour, nearly double the journey time by car.

So both parties have a point; in fact both their projects are necessary. But if we're only allowed to have one (you can't have your cake and eat it, even in Marbella), the debate could go on for years and the western Costa has already been waiting too long for a railway line.

I hope it's not too naïve to suggest that politicians decide based on the general interests of the area and give up what is turning into a game of political oneupmanship.

Meanwhile, thank goodness for wonderful friends who lend you their car to drive to Marbella.

SUR English

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Learning about the area's 'liquid gold' in English

Over 70 people attended Riogordo's first olive oil tour and tasting in English last Saturday

JENNIE RHODES

✉ rhodes_jennie@hotmail.com

RIOGORDO. Foreign residents from across the Axarquía attended the event which started off at the town's Agro-olivarera cooperative. Participants were able to see first-hand how the olives are sorted upon arrival when they are brought in by local olive growers, through to the mixing process and finally bottling and labelling. The tour was given by a representative of the cooperative and English interpretation was provided by Leila Lawson, who has lived in the town for 16 years and provides a link between the town hall and foreign residents.

Visitors learned how none of the olive is wasted: the fruit itself obviously goes into the olive oil but the stones are also separated and crushed by machines before being used in pellets for heaters and the leaves used for animal feed among other things.

Following the tour, participants moved onto Riogordo's ethnographic museum where an explanation of the different varieties of olives that are grown in the region, as well as when the olive harvest takes place, was given in English by Alfredo Ribero, Director of Labsur - where olive oil from the area is sent for testing and tasting before it is sold.

The expert compared olive oil to fruit juice, explaining that like buying orange juice, consumers have the choice between 100 per cent freshly squeezed or brands which use concentrate or even add chemicals, which is essentially the difference between extra virgin olive oil, virgin olive oil and just olive oil.

He also explained that the Verdial



Visitors are shown how to taste the olive oil. :: J. RHODES

variety of olive is only grown in the Axarquía and grows more organically on the mountainous terrain of the area, while other varieties can be grown "intensively" on flatter areas, with trees planted in long, straight rows. Ribero pointed out the difficulty of this method in the east of Malaga area and added that the olive oil produced here is "more organic" due to the very nature of the land and collection methods available. While big machinery can be used on flatter land, olive harvesting in the Axarquía still relies on fairly traditional methods of collecting the fruit from the ground after using hand-held machines to 'shake' the olives from the trees.

The audience learned that olives have three stages of maturity; when

the fruit is still green in October, when it is beginning to turn black, between the end of October and early November, which is considered the optimum picking time and when the fruit has already turned black which is later in December and into January. He pointed out that the word 'envero', which is sometimes seen on olive oil labels, is the Spanish term to describe the optimum stage of maturity of the olive.

Tight controls

Nowadays, Ribero explained, olive oil is one of the most controlled products in Europe, with the International Olive Council which was established in Madrid in 1959 through

OLIVE OIL KEY FACTS

► **Envero.** Spanish word given to the optimum stage of maturity of the olive. There are three stages of maturity and the envero stage is the optimum one for extra virgin olive oil.

► **Verdial de Vélez.** Is the variety of olive indigenous to the Axarquía; the area to the east of Malaga province.

► **International Olive Council.** Established in Madrid in 1959 to control standards and quality

the United Nations, keeping a check on standards. A panel of 11 experts must taste each batch of olive oil and it goes through a process of rigorous chemical testing before it is bottled and sold.

While participants tasted the 'liquid gold' as olive oil is known in the area, they were taught how to identify good quality oil, through its taste, which they were told should be peppery and slightly bitter, but not acidic.

The English-language event was organised by the town hall, ethnographic museum, cooperative and Leila Lawson, as a precursor to the town's annual Molinda festival which celebrates this important industry.

This year's event will be on 23, 24 and 25 February, when visitors will be able to see how olives were traditionally milled in the past, using a mule to turn the wheel that pressed the fruit.

There will be tours of the cooperative (in Spanish), tastings and other activities mainly based at the town's ethnographic museum. Further information: Facebook: La Molienda de Riogordo



Olive oil production. :: J. R.

Olive oil is one of the most controlled products in Europe through the International Olive Council

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REF. G.U.M.

While crossing a zebra crossing, a car ran into me and I suffered various injuries. A police patrol car was nearby and they breathalysed the driver, with a positive result. A friend has told me that due to this, the insurance company can refuse to pay me compensation for the injuries I suffered. Is that true?

No, it isn't. Insurance companies are obliged to face the payment of the damages caused by the insured in an accident, normally at no cost to him/her. Nevertheless, in certain cases, as when the driver is under the influence of alcohol, it is considered that it is a clear negligence on the part of the driver, and therefore, the companies usually oblige the insured to pay the expenses. Therefore, in this case, the insurance company is obliged to pay you the corresponding compensation, irrespective of whether they later claim it from the insured. But that is between them and does not affect you.

REF. R.O.T.

Two years ago I bought a house in a complex made up of thirty properties, all of them identical. The complex only includes a road with fifteen houses either side, and there are no communal gardens or swim-

ming pool. However, each year we have to pay the community fees, which even though it is not high (around 150€ a year), we don't receive anything in return. I think that having a community that offers nothing is nonsense and I would like to know if there is a possibility of leaving the community renouncing the services that it supposedly offers (and that are nonexistent).

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The passionate performance stole the audience's hearts. :: EFE

Amaia and Alfred will represent Spain in Eurovision

The ballad *Tu Canción* (Your Song) was chosen by 43 per cent of audience votes on the reality TV programme *Operación Triunfo*

:: MIGUEL ÁNGEL ALFONSO

MÁLAGA. Alfred and Amaia will represent Spain in the next Eurovision Song Contest, which will take place in Lisbon between 8 and 12 May.

The duo gained 43 per cent of the audience's vote at a special edition of *Operación Triunfo*, a music reality television programme, with *Tu Canción*, a piano ballad about first

love composed by Raúl Gómez and Sylvia Santoro.

"I think that we've experienced something real and this had been appreciated by the public. They're a delight," Gómez said of the young singers, who are favourites to win the final of the talent show this coming Monday.

Operación Triunfo was first aired in 2001 and became one of the most popular Spanish television programmes of all time in its first few seasons, but later struggled to compete with other shows such as *The X Factor* and *The Voice*. It was cancelled in 2011. However, its 2017 reboot has seen a huge resurgence in its popularity.

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IN THE FRAME

TONY BRYANT
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Making music to assist cancer care

Steve Hughes Musician and composer

One Wish Steve has recorded songs for the Macmillan nurses and the Cudeca hospice

The Costa del Sol is home to numerous expat musicians, singers and composers, some of whom have been at the forefront of the British music scene, and others who have spent their lives on the boundaries of it.

Some of these people have retired to a quiet life on the coast, while others have dedicated their time and experience as performers to raise funds for, and awareness of, certain worthwhile causes.

Steve Hughes, a Calahonda-based expat singer-songwriter, has rubbed shoulders with numerous iconic artistes of the 1960s and 70s, yet he is better known as an artist who has dedicated most of his adult life to helping others with his music.

Born in a small village in Northamptonshire in 1949, Steve grew up in Milton Keynes. He became a mod in 1965 and grew obsessed with the new craze of music and fashion that was emerging in Britain.

Steve was just 13 when his parents bought him his first guitar and he soon formed a group at a youth club in Milton Keynes. His band began gigging in cinemas and dance halls, and their break came while playing at the Palace Ballroom in Wolverton, where they were spotted by a music manager. With his help, the band went on to support many Tamla Motown artists who were gigging in Britain at the time, including Edwin Starr, The Stylistics and The Foundations.

The group disbanded after sev-



Steve has lived on the Costa del Sol since 2001. :: TONY BRYANT

A name to honour a young boy's wish

:: TONY BRYANT

MALAGA The stage name, One Wish Steve, derived from the musician's involvement with a UK-based cancer charity called One Wish. Steve recorded a song to raise funds for a young boy called Mitchell, who was in need of treatment for neuroblastoma cancer. The musician struck up a friendship with Mitchell and was heartbroken when the

youngster lost his battle with the disease. Steve had promised the boy that he would start using the stage name in order to keep his cause alive, a promise that began in Spain.

"I decided to use this name because I had promised Mitchell that I would continue to raise awareness of this dreadful disease; it keeps Mitchell's name alive," Steve says passionately.

eral members got married, Steve included, and so his musical career was put on hold for a while.

It was a career change some years later that rekindled Steve's passion for live performance. In 1992 he became the oldest Red Coat in the UK, after gaining employment at the Butlins Holiday Camp in Minehead.

"I was a lot older than all the

others who were applying, but I was given the job because the manager thought I had the perfect personality and character. It was an absolutely incredible time," Steve says, smiling as he remembers the period.

During his time at Butlins, Steve was reunited with some of the musicians he had been associated with during the 60s, as sev-

eral of them were then doing the holiday club circuit.

The year before moving to Spain, Steve recorded a single called No Good Blues for the Macmillan nurses in the UK, and this was to initiate his passion for raising funds for cancer research.

"Macmillan did a wonderful job with my father before he died of cancer, and I decided to try to do

something in return. The song did quite well and we raised around 3,000 pounds," Steve says.

Steve and his wife, Sandie, came to the Costa del Sol in 2001, after falling in love with the area during several holidays, and it wasn't long before he began performing at the clubs and music bars along the coast.

"My music has always been important and I think I have achieved my goals, although it has been my wife, Sandie, who has been a driving force and long suffering inspiration. I owe such a lot to her," Steve points out.

One of the venues that Steve began to perform in regularly was the Millenium bar in Calahonda, and it was at this time he began his association with Cudeca. It was also the period that he started using the stage name One Wish Steve, the name that most people know him by today.

Steve has enjoyed a long and lasting association with Cudeca and he is currently preparing this year's fundraising event at the Millenium Bar, which takes place on 31 March.

The 68-year-old musician, who still wears his hair styled in the classic mod fashion, has recently become involved with a project that will take him back to his roots. He has teamed up with Steve Seviour, another well-known local musician, and they have recently written and recorded a track which has been submitted for a forthcoming film.

The song is called Brighton and is based on Steve's experiences on the British mod scene of the 1960s. The film is a follow up to the 1980s blockbuster mods and rockers movie, Quadrophenia.

"It's not a sequel, but a follow up to what happened to the characters of the original film. We will have to see what happens, because the film isn't finished yet," Steve says with a hint of optimism.



On stage. :: SUR

"My wife has been a driving force and long suffering inspiration. I owe such a lot to her"






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PLAY GOLF AND SAIL ON THE COSTA DEL SOL

Delivering dance, from Germany to Malaga

Marina Miguélez returns to Málaga ready to introduce the public to her artistic discipline

■ FERNANDO TORRES

MÁLAGA. Many artists have left Spain for a whole host of reasons. Some leave for their vocation, others out of necessity. Ten years ago a young woman from Malaga went to Germany in search of stages where she could display her passion: contemporary dance.

Marina Miguélez has been a dancer in Interdans (Belgium), choreographer at the Cultural Festival of Bad Homburg (Frankfurt) and at the International Sola Dance Theatre Festival (Stuttgart).

Between 2008 and 2015 she for-

med part of the Nuremberg State Ballet and in 2016 she debuted in the equivalent in Staart. While there she received a prize from the German minister of Culture for her contributions, but Miguélez wants more, and she wants to achieve it on home turf.

This Saturday she will launch 'No se baila en la cocina' (Don't dance in the kitchen), her own production through which she hopes to relate to the public: "Dance can be enjoyed by everyone."

She wants to establish a connection between her discipline and her city, whose residents "rarely appre-

THE SHOW

► **Two pieces.** 'Within' and 'No se baila en la cocina' comprise Miguélez's performance.

► **Where.** In the Sala Gades, on February 3 at 9pm. It will be performed every Saturday and Sunday in February.

► **The aim.** To bring contemporary dance into the public imagination, including those who know nothing about the discipline.



Marina Miguélez. ■ SUR

ciate dance".

"The idea is to create a high quality performance, but one that will be inclusive, to attract people who previously haven't previously enjoyed live dance."

Miguélez wants to break down the barriers that separate her vocation from the wider public, sometimes due to lack of information, sometimes due to prejudice. "We have to stop the attitude of 'I don't understand dance, so I won't enjoy it,' we have created a powerful performance to capture the attention of the audience, and we're sure that they will enjoy it and want to share the enjoyment that dance provides."

This is the first time that the choreographer puts on her own show in her native city of Malaga. The performance is made of two parts, 'Within' and 'No se baila en la cocina', which will demonstrate the range and intensity of modern dance.

New reality show to focus on English-speaking property owners in Spain

HGTV is looking for energetic couples and families who are searching for a new home on the Costa del Sol

■ TONY BRYANT

MÁLAGA. A new reality television series aimed at expats living along the Mediterranean coast is to be filmed on the Costa del Sol next month. Mediterranean Life will tell the stories of native English speaking families who are renting or buying a property in Mediterranean Europe.

The HGTV satellite television company is currently casting for the new series, which is similar to popular television show, House Hunters International.

Filming of the show will begin in the second week of March and the on-line channel is looking for energetic people who are in love with the Mediterranean lifestyle.

A leading developer of engaging lifestyle content in the home, food and travel categories for television, the internet and emerging platforms, HGTV's global networks and web sites reach millions of consum-

ers across North and South America, Asia, Europe, Australia, the Middle East and Africa.

"If you and your family are planning to, or are in the process of, relocating to the idyllic Mediterranean coast, we would love to hear your story. We are currently casting for Mediterranean Life and we are looking for energetic individuals, couples and families who are passionate about their search for a new home or vacation property. We are always on the lookout for upbeat personalities and we will begin filming in Andalucía in the second week of March. If you are interested in being on the show, please get in touch, Barbara Kaczmarczyk, of HGTV, told SUR in English.

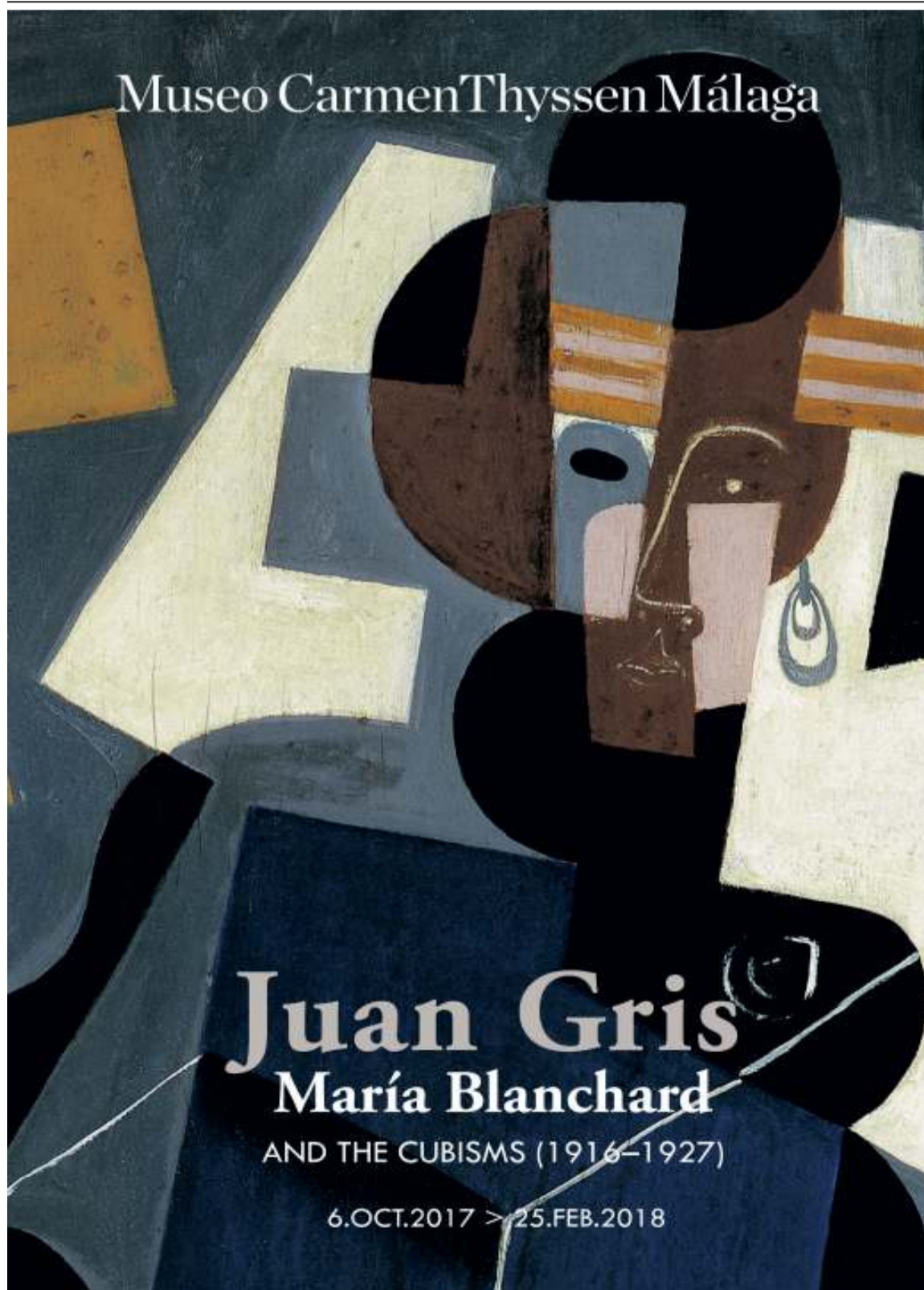
Anyone interested in being on the show should send an e-mail with their story to mediterraneanlifecasting@tvn.pl. Make sure to include your e-mail, name, phone number, location and a photograph.

The show will be broadcast in the USA on HGTV and the producers are hoping it will create an opportunity to promote the region and show that it is not as hard as it may seem to relocate to Mediterranean Europe.

HGTV, which reaches over 40 million households in the US, is owned by Scripps Networks Interactive.



HGTV presenters will be on the Costa del Sol in March. ■ SUR



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DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

Zaluzianskya capensis

Round purple buds open into dainty pinwheel white flowers in the evening releasing a pungent scent of marzipan, vanilla and honey

DENISE BUSH

Exquisitely fragrant in the evening, Zaluzianskya capensis, commonly known as Midnight Candy

or Nightscented Phlox, is native to South Africa and can be used as a container plant or for ground cover.

It is a member of the Scrophulariaceae family (fig wort) of which there are around 60 species. The stems are brittle and sticky, as are the aromatic, narrow leaves and the white, pinwheel flowers only open when the sun goes down, releasing their dense perfume all night long. The flowers close up as the temperature rises during the day.

Midnight Candy is usually grown as a container plant on a patio but it can also be grown as ground cover, forming a compact mound between 45 and 60cm high. It is not hardy and should be brought indoors in the winter or given protection from frosts. Although it is fast growing, flowering in the summer from a spring sowing, it is not long lived.

Dead heading will encourage Midnight Candy to continue flowering and after a light shearing, it may produce a second flush of blooms. It needs full sun or partial shade and a rich soil. It is not drought resistant and will benefit from regular watering but the soil must be free-draining.

Propagation is relatively easy; producing new plants either from the prolific seeds that can be collected from the dried seed capsules, or from stem tip cuttings.

Zaluzianskya is named after a Bohemian botanist from the sixteenth century called Adam Zaluziansky.



Zaluzianskya capensis with the reddish buds (inset). :: SUR

READER'S PHOTO



:: TOM MCCLENAGHAN

SHOW STOPPING CYMBIDIUM

This amazing Cymbidium orchid belongs to Tom McClenaghan who says he has had it for seven years and apart from watering it occasionally and repotting it, he hasn't paid it much attention. It produced some long stems before Christmas and has been flowering ever since. They say orchids thrive on neglect...

GARDENING HINTS

Fascinating facts about carnivorous plants

Most people are familiar with at least one carnivorous plant, the Venus Fly Trap made famous by Seymour's Audrey II in the Little Shop of Horrors. The Venus Fly Trap grows in boggy areas where the soil is short of nitrogen so the plant looks for another way of getting the nutrients it needs. Pitcher plants attract creatures looking for a drink. They fall in and are digested by the liquid in the 'cup'. Some of the biggest species can even di-

gest rodents. One of the Nepenthes species of Pitcher plants acts as a shrew's toilet; it provides a shrew sized perch and a supply of nectar the shrew can enjoy while doing its business. The plant extracts the nitrogen it needs from the faeces. Sundews trap insects by slowly embracing them with sticky arms while they are feeding on the nectar. They then slowly digest the trapped prey at their leisure.

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?

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JENNIE RHODES



WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

2 FEBRUARY 1497

Celebrations start in Tenerife for Our Lady of the Candelaria

Our lady of the Candelaria is celebrated every 2 February in a number of towns and villages across Spain, South America and even in the Philippines.

The celebration is particularly important in the Canary Islands and notably in Tenerife, where the legend of Our Lady of the Candelaria comes from, but also in Colmenar in the Axarquía, and the two places are linked through her.

Legend has it that two Guanche (native Berber people of the Canary islands) goatherds discovered a statue of a woman bearing a child in one hand and holding a green candle in the other (hence "Candelaria"), on the beach of Chimisay, Tenerife in 1392. This was before the island was conquered some years after the Spanish Reconquest, in 1496.

The legend goes that one of the

goatherds tried to throw a stone at the statue, but his arm became paralysed and the other tried to stab the finger of the statue with a knife but it was his own finger that was stabbed instead.

Antón, a Guanche who had been enslaved and converted to Christianity during the Spanish Reconquest, returned to Tenerife after his release and recognised the statue as that of the Virgin Mary. She became widely acknowledged as a Catholic symbol by the Guanches, who moved her to the cave of Achbinico (also known as San Blas) and the first celebration of Our Lady of the Candelaria took place on 2 February 1497.

Our Lady of the Candelaria was declared patron of the Canary Islands in 1559 by Pope Clement VIII.

The original statue was a medieval gothic sculpture with dark colouring and clothing, which was



Shrine of Our Lady of the Candelaria, Colmenar. **sur**

washed away during a storm in 1826 and replaced with the replica in 1830.

The image is the most important in Tenerife and even today the cave is one of the most important pilgrimage centres on the Canary islands.

Candelaria is widely prayed to for protection against epidemics, plagues, droughts and eruptions of Mount Teide and other volcanoes.

In Colmenar, Our Lady of the Candelaria is one of the town's two

patron saints. According to legend, a shrine in her honour was built on high ground as a sign of gratitude from sailors from the Canary Islands whose lives



had been saved by local people during a violent storm that hit their ship just off the coast of Malaga during the 17th century. Ever since then

Our Lady of the Candelaria has been celebrated on 2 February in the town.

The Colmenar shrine is known as Ermita del Santuario or Con-

vento de la Santísima Virgen de la Candelaria.

A procession takes place through the streets of the town, terminating at the shrine with a fireworks display.

Our Lady of the Candelaria is also patron saint of Benagalbón and Genalguacil, as well as villages in Seville, Cordoba and Granada. In Jaén the festival is known as La Virgen de las Roscas.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Our Lady	Nuestra Señora
Canarias	Canary Islands
Celebración	Celebration
Leyenda	Legend
Candela / Vela	Candle
Estatua	Statue
Pastor	Shepherd / Goatherd
Ermita	Shrine / Chapel
Piedra	Stone
Cueva	Cave
Indígena	Indigenous / Native
Peregrinaje	Pilgrimage
Dedo	Finger
Brazo	Arm
Canarias	Canary Islands
Reconquista	Reconquest
Agradecimiento	Gratitude
Marinero	Sailor
Sustituir	To replace

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:: SUR IN ENGLISH

T.I.M.S. choir Christian unity service

T.I.M.S. Choir took part in a special service at Malaga Cathedral on 21 January. The service was organised by Lux Mundi Fuengirola as part of a week of special services for Christian unity and featured readings from church leaders from the many local Christian churches. The choir was led by musical director, Margaret Williams and accompanied by Dawn Boardman. Members rehearse in Fuengirola on Monday mornings and at 7pm every Wednesday in St Andrew's Church Hall, Avenida Jesús Santos Rein, Los Boliches. The choir members are always happy to welcome new members. Call the president Gilly: 654 891 790.

Shutterbugs Photographic Group Focusing on nativity scenes

The new Museo de Belenes in Mollina was the destination for the latest Shutterbug shoot. The photographers were pleasantly surprised by the nativity displays that covered a vast area. The general opinion was that the displays themselves were very artistic, each containing small cameos through windows or doors using numerous well crafted figures and creating views with perspective. All agreed there was a bountiful supply of material for the photographer and said they would certainly make a return visit with friends and family. They ended their visit with a typical Spanish lunch served in the museum's restaurant.

For more information regarding

Shutterbugs Photographic Group check www.shutterbugs-spain.org. For information on the Museo www.museodebelenes.com

ADANA

Dog charity goes mushing

The team from the Adana animal shelter accepted an invitation recently to take part in a "mushing" event organised by a group of local canicross enthusiasts and Manilva town hall. President Mary and treasurer Reg, accompanied a team of volunteers with ten Adana dogs. Mushing, a sport involving dogs running with their owners on foot, sledges or bikes, is fast becoming a very popular. After the event a reception and prize-giving was held in Manilva and Adana had a table with information leaflets advertising its work.

Provincial Grand Lodge Cheque presentation to butterfly skin charity

Since 2015 the Provincial Grand Lodge of Andalucía has raised a total of 61,480 euros for Butterfly Skin (EB) sufferers and their families. To raise the funds, the Masons of Andalucía organised different events across the region such as charity dinners, book sales, concerts, races and even a sponsored parachute jump. Nieves Montero, president and founder of DEBRA, the butterfly skin charity, said that it not only values the financial help but also recognises the efforts the Masons have made towards spreading knowledge and awareness about the condition.

La Cala Lions Help for the local fencing club

The President of the La Cala de Mijas Lions Club, Julie Barry, recently presented a cheque for 1,000 euros to Luis Hernanz, coach for the Fencing Club in La Cala de Mijas. The money will be used to purchase ma-



Shutterbugs leader John Campbell at the museum in Mollina. :: LANA CAMPBELL



The fencing club with the cheque from the La Cala Lions Club. :: SUR

terial, licences and grants. The members' ages range from 8 to 58 and they are all in training for the championships in May, which are being held in La Cala. The Club was started 12 years ago and plays a vital role in the local community.

The funds were raised through many Lions events and by the volunteers in the shop in Calle Torremolinos, La Cala de Mijas. The shop is open Monday to Saturday 10am to 2pm. Volunteers and donations are always welcome. Call: 677059061.

What are you up to?

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

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T.I.M.S. choir perform in Malaga Cathedral. :: SUR

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Miraculous moringa: a new product from Malaga

Malaga company Nature's Best Moringa Spain is promoting this little known health product

:: ESPERANZA PELÁEZ / DENISE BUSH

MALAGA. New beneficial health products arrive on the market every year, and moringa is one of the most acclaimed. The problem is how to incorporate these unknown foods into the diet and, above all, how to use them in the kitchen.

The Malaga company Nature's Best Moringa Spain, has found a format that is also trendy: powdered moringa leaves, which can be used to make green smoothies, in salads, pastry or bread, vinaigrettes, tortillas, pasta and various seasonings.

But what exactly is moringa? Moringa (*Moringa oleifera*) is a tree native to India, related to the humble cabbage. It is commonly called the drumstick tree (because of the shape of the seed pods), horseradish tree (because the roots are said to taste like horseradish) or benzoin tree (from the oil extracted from the seeds).

It was first grown in the province of Malaga in 2007 in the Axarquía as a possible 'superfood' of the future.

It is credited with innumerable nutritional properties and health benefits and is extremely rich in iron, calcium, potassium, vitamin A, vitamin C and E, amino acids,



Moringa oleifera. :: WIKIMEDIA

minerals and protein.

It is said to improve the immune system, regulate blood sugar levels, act as an antioxidant and have anti-inflammatory properties.

It was first commercialised in capsule form, but being a Brassica, its flavour is similar to that of cabbage but with a spicy touch, so the firm Nature's Best opted for a powdered format which is easily dissolved into foods and beverages.



A. J. LINN

NOUVELLE OR NOUVEAUX?



Nouvelle Cuisine. The phrase needs no translation into any language. French master chef Paul Bocuse (1926-2018), generally acknowledged as being its originator, died last week. Born into a restaurant-owning family in the Lyon area, his first star dish at age seven was veal kidneys with creamed potatoes. Although World War II interrupted his career, he fought at the front and was decorated.

Bocuse's formative years started with a stint in Paris but, returning to his beloved Lyon, he decided to turn classical French cuisine inside out. Bearing in mind that nothing had changed in restaurant kitchens for centuries, and Escoffier's methods using cream and butter to make sauces masked the flavours of the meat and fish, it was probably about time. Bocuse's lighter touch achieved a massive following, but precisely because his imitators took matters to ridiculous extremes, he finished up criticising the "minute portions, almost raw vegetables and confusion of exotic tastes". Rather surprising, when he had earlier declared his own innovations to have been like a "young girl wearing a see-through blouse compared with a beauty of the 1900s heavily corseted".

Bocuse's Auberge du Pont de Collonges achieved its first Michelin star in 1961, and the third in 1965. In its heyday his empire em-

braced 20 restaurants from USA to Japan.

Internationally recognised as a great chef, he also had a reputation for vanity. His restaurants exhibited life-size Bocuse figures and photographs all over the walls. Things started to go sour in 1976 when he was quoted as saying that women were good cooks but never good chefs, and when it was revealed that during his 30-year marriage he had shared his wife with two mistresses and many lovers, he famously said "Food and sex have much in common." The revelation that he had hidden undeclared funds in a Swiss bank's numbered account did not help his image, but when he died in the same bed in which he had been born, and slept for most of his life, many French hearts went out to him.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Garnacha Mítica

Campo de Borja is not a well-known region, which is why its wines are great value. As its name suggests this red is made from Garnacha grapes, once the reigning champions in Spain before Tempranillo took over. No pretensions of being a great wine but at under two euros (mainly at Mercadona) it's not to be sniffed at.



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We speak

Healthy lifestyle habits could prevent four out of ten cases of cancer

WORLD CANCER DAY

In Spain the most common tumours are colorectal, prostate, lung, breast, bladder and stomach

DANIEL ROLDÁN

MADRID. A diet rich in vegetables, fibre and fruit and low in red meat; getting regular exercise, not smoking and drinking alcohol in moderation, or preferably not at all. If people followed these recommendations for a healthy lifestyle, four out of ten cases of cancer could be prevented, according to the Spanish Society of Medical Oncology (SEOM). However, people need to be persuaded to follow this advice, just as in the battle against smoking. The report was published ahead of World Cancer Day, which falls on Sunday 4 February.

"Spain is one of the countries where people smoke the most, despite the anti-tobacco laws," says Dr Ruth Vera, president of SEOM. Statistics show that nicotine addiction is now 24% in Spain; this is lower than a decade ago, but is still high. "Increasing the price of cigarettes and banning smoking in more places are the two best ways of fighting this addiction," says Dr Luis Paz-Ares, president of the National Technical Committee of the Spanish Association against Cancer.

Dr Vera also says there is a lack of awareness in Spain that smoking can

cause other cancers, such as in the mouth, stomach and oesophagus. Tobacco causes one-third of all tumours.

"A healthy lifestyle is very important, and we also have other preventive tools such as the vaccine against cervical cancer, and screening for breast and colon cancer. We are also finding out more about the molecular changes associated with the appearance of tumours and there are new drugs to block those changes, as well as to regulate the immune system," explained Dr Vera during the presentation of the report 2018 Cancer statistics. This study shows that

last year 228,482 new cases were diagnosed, but the number of patients who survive cancer has continually increased in recent years. Nowadays, 53% survive at least five years. "There are more people with cancer because they live longer," said Dr Vera.

The most common types of cancer (for both sexes) were colorectal (34,331 cases), followed by prostate (30,076), lung (28,370), breast (26,370), bladder (14,677) and stomach (8,284). The incidence in Spain is similar to other European countries. Globally, the most common are colorectal, prostate, lung and breast.

The report shows that cancer is the second most common cause of death in the world, and 8.8 million people died from it in 2015, according to the World Health Organisation. The number of deaths caused by tumours is expected to rise to over 14 million by 2035. In Spain, within 17 years there will be 315,413 new cases of cancer, according to the WHO. Tumours were also the third cause of hospital stays, after illnesses of the circulatory and respiratory systems. However, figures show that tumours are the principal cause of death in Spanish hospitals (24%).



QUEEN LETIZIA SPEAKS AT MADRID CANCER FORUM

Queen Letizia was guest speaker at the 6th Forum Against Cancer in Madrid on Thursday, organised by the Spanish cancer association, AECC. She is pictured above with the presidents of the AECC and its Scientific Foundation, the Health minister Dolors Montserrat and directors of the Reina Sofía museum which hosted the event.

Over 7,000 new cases of cancer were diagnosed in Malaga province in 2017

The incidence of cancer is still increasing, and so is the cure. Last year 7,406 new cases were diagnosed in Malaga province, which was slightly higher than the 7,334 diagnosed in 2016.

These figures are from the Observatory of Cancer in Spain, which was presented by the Spanish Association Against Cancer (AECC) earlier this week. In Malaga there are 455 cases of cancer per 100,000 inhabitants, which is below the Spanish average of 491.

Of the 7,406 cases diagnosed in the province last year, 4,478 were men and 2,928 women. Nationally, 228,482 new cases of tumors were diagnosed (not including non-melanoma skin cancer), of which 137,234 were in men and 91,248 in women.

In both sexes, the most common cancer among the Spanish population was colorectal (15 per cent of the total), prostate (13 per cent), lung (12 per cent) and breast (11 per cent).

In Malaga province last year there were 1,092 colorectal tumors, 983 prostate, 935 lung, 878 breast and 468 bladder. These five were the most common.

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The Vélez youngster whose singing made him a celebrity and won him a Grammy nomination has received international messages of support and encouragement wishing him a quick recovery

The young singer from Vélez-Málaga, Adrián Martín, who turned 13 on Sunday, has been in the Hospital Materno Infantil in Malaga since 21 January, due to a complication with his condition of hydrocephalus, or water on the brain. He underwent a third surgical intervention to replace the valves that he had in his brain for more modern ones on Wednesday (his current valves were six years old) and to help drain the accumulated liquid.

Adrián was taken to the Malaga hospital early last week after feeling "unwell, with intense headaches and vomiting". After several



An archive image of Adrián Martín with his first CD. :: NITO SALAS

tests, the doctors confirmed that that the catheter of one of the valves had broken, and so they operated in order to replace it. However, the surgeons were not satisfied with the result of the operation, and the following day Adrián underwent

further surgery. In this second intervention, the surgeons used an external drainage system to better control the pressure in the skull before the next operation that the boy was scheduled for.

In between his second and third

operation, Adrián was taking a course of painkillers, recommended by his doctors, so that the ventricles in his brain would be as open as possible for surgery.

The news of the hospitalisation of Adrián Martín spread around the

world. A huge number of people sent messages to him and his family wishing him a fast recovery.

So far, Adrián has received messages of support from the local actor Antonio Banderas; from the singers Rosario and Natalia Jiménez; likewise the president of the council, Elías Bendodo; the mayor of Vélez, Antonio Moreno Ferrer; and the presenter Don Francisco from Teletón Chile. Banderas posted on his Twitter: "Come on champion. You're a tough guy, you'll recover quickly! We want to see you on stage again!"

New operation

Natalia Jiménez said she hopes that he will recover quickly, "so that we can keep singing together and you can keep blowing me kisses like you always do! I love you a lot and I hope that you recover quickly." Sources from his family told SUR that they are surprised and incredibly grateful for the many displays of support and affection that he has received. "We would never have imagined that our son was so well loved around the world," said his father, Rafael.

Adrián's singing went viral after his sister uploaded a video of him singing 'Qué bonito'. Since that pivotal moment nearly three years ago, his career has escalated dramatically, culminating in his nomination for a Latin Grammy award.

His family said that he was doing well after his last operation, but was still suffering from frequent headaches.



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cancel my contract regardless of the age or policy usage. Moreover, there is no age-related premium increase, which is fair enough from my point of view». Erk Petersen - Policy 31.273-02.

«I cannot emphasise enough how essential it is to have the annual checks which are offered by ASSSA». Marion Poole-Policy 22.411.

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«The medical service I received was second to none. Everything went smoothly, both in terms of appointments and medical care». Monika Krupica - Policy 16.977.

«The hospital and staff were excellent. The operation was carried out by a first-class professional». Geoffrey Roland Smith

- Policy 34.518.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

«Customer service is exceptional. There is no language barrier and this is very helpful to me». Kerstin Lübke - Policy 31.465.

«What makes the difference between one insurance company and another is having a professional, compassionate person who is willing to help». Rosemarie Töbler - Policy 14.808. «I would like to emphasise the swiftness with which ASSSA managed my treatment before and after my surgery and the importance of relying on their professional support». Stuart J. Cohen - Policy 31.812.

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Specsavers Opticas raises €6,000 for the deaf-blind

The donation will fund 407 hours of interpretation for the deaf and blind across Spain

BY BEN CLARKE

MALAGA. Eyecare company Specsavers has announced that it collected over €6,000 for the charity Fundación ONCE para la Atención de Personas con Sordoceguera (FOAPS) between July and December 2017.

The donation will fund 407 hours of interpretation for the deaf and blind. As well as funding, the campaign has raised awareness of the issues that the deaf-blind face and the outstanding work that FOAPS does. Specsavers pointed out that as a company it is well aware of the issues faced by sensory impairment, and it is delighted to help in whatever way it can.

FOAPS is a branch of the charity ONCE formed in 2007 to develop programmes to help deaf-blind people. It has a strong focus on facilitating education and employment, improving their quality of life and



The cheque was presented at the ONCE offices. :: SUR

encouraging integration into wider public life. FOAPS provides interpreters who help the deaf-blind to communicate and interact with the world.

FOAPS' Director Esther Requena Olea expressed her gratitude: "We would like to say thank you for the

6,107€ donated by Specsavers Opticas to FOAPS, which will hugely benefit the 400 people that we support in Spain. We hope that we can continue this work in the future as your financial support and the awareness that you have raised has been invaluable."



The meeting was attended by twenty patients and relatives. :: SUR

First English-speaking Cancer Support Group in Marbella

The meetings, supported by Cudeca, will be held on the last Friday of every month

BY BEN CLARKE

MARBELLA. The first meeting of the Cancer Support Group in Marbella took place last week on Friday 26 of January in the cafeteria of the Hospital Costa del Sol. The event was hosted by Marion Winter, the group's coordinator, and Susan Hannam from the local Cudeca Foundation, and was attended by around twenty people.

The discussion was focused

around the course of the patients' treatment and what the patients and their relatives do to maintain a good quality of life.

Further meetings will be hosted on the last Friday of every month at 5pm. Future discussion topics will include depression, the side effects of medical treatment and alternative medicine.

Marion was pleased to inform attendees that the scheme has received sponsorship funds from the local British consulate. Thanks to the funding, free coffee and cakes will be provided in future.

For more information call Marion on 952 863 926.

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The popular shows never begin before 10.40pm. :: V. ALEXANDR / FOTOLIA

TV is stealing our sleep

People in Spain stay awake longer because prime viewing time here is one of the latest in Europe. Doctors are calling for scheduling to be changed

ANTONIO PANIAGUA

Here in Spain, television is keeping us awake at night and affecting the quality of our sleep. People who enjoy spending their leisure time in front of the TV are often likely to stay up until 2am to watch the end of the latest reality or chat show. But why should that be that the case in this country and not others?

One reason is to do with the programming strategy. The TV companies want to keep their audience figures high, so they design their schedules between the news and their most popular programmes in such a way that people will remain fixed in their seats until the early hours. This is not innocuous, however: it seriously affects people's sleep. In the UK, for example, people tend to go to bed around 11pm, but in Spain they do so an hour later.

Spain is not a good country for sleeping, and doctors at the Spanish Sleep Society (SES) are among those who are calling for television schedules to be reviewed.

This institution, which is formed by 400 specialists in different fields of medicine, has raised the alarm about the problem.

Its president, pneumologist Joaquín Terán-Santos, warns that putting off the time of going to bed is a type of 'self-harm' which has a serious effect on health. Staying up late on a regular basis raises the risk of obesity, hypertension, inflammatory processes and ischaemic cardiopathies.

"In our country there is a chronic lack of sleep and many people are only sleeping between five and six hours a night," he says. He also points out that children's performance at school suffers if they spend too long watching television.

Although some people claim that television can induce sleepiness, Dr Terán-Santos rejects the idea. He explains that, just like alcohol, TV just produces a "fragmentary" somnolence which is not compatible with a healthy lifestyle. It is not recommended because it is not a refresh-

ing sleep and it means the body cannot carry out its repair work at a psychological, immunological and cardiovascular level.

Spain has one of the latest prime times in Europe. In theory, the channels broadcast their star programmes at 10pm, but in reality none of them do so until after 10.40pm.

In Germany, the peak viewing time is from 8pm until 11pm. In France it is even earlier: from 7pm to 10pm. Here in Spain, it is normal for viewers to still be watching at 11pm. In fact, when something like Gran Hermano VIP (the Spanish version of Celebrity Big Brother) or the finals of La Voz (The Voice) are being shown,

the peak viewing time is nearly always after midnight.

Children's programmes

Strange though it may seem, in Spain even programmes aimed at families and children are broadcast late in the evening. For example the Junior Masterchef show that finished recently started at around 10pm and ended in the early hours of the next morning, on a weekday.

Some time ago TVE and the Ministry of Health signed an agreement that children's programmes would not be shown late at night, but that didn't last long. The broadcaster stopped complying with the agreement, once it realised that its audience figures at that time of day were dropping rapidly.

The Union of Associated Commercial Television Channels (Uteca) argues that the TV stations adapt their schedules to people's own timetables. "The programmes are shown when people want to watch them, and that reflects the working hours here in Spain. Prime time doesn't determine people's behaviour: it is the time with the highest audience because it has adapted to people's behaviour," say sources there.

The CEO of Telecinco, Paolo Vassile, once went even further and criticised this form of "dictatorship which wants to tell people what time to go to bed".

Two years ago Ana Mato, the then Minister of Health, tried to persuade TV stations to bring their news programmes forward by between half an hour and an hour, but she was unsuccessful.

Another factor that extends the Spanish viewer's time in front of the TV is the length of the different TV series. In Spain the number of children watching TV between 10.30 and 11.30pm is higher than at 6pm.

This is considered so serious that in 2013 the European Commission took action against Spain for failing to guarantee the protection of children's interests.

PEAK VIEWING

Spain

Nearly every TV channel shows its most popular programme after 10.40pm. 'Gran Hermano VIP', the finals of 'La Voz' or 'MasterChef' often end in the early hours of the morning.

Germany

In Germany, peak viewing time is between 8 and 11pm.

France

In France peak viewing time is even earlier: from 7 till 10pm.

UK

In UK peak viewing time is between 8 and 11pm.

Agreement

TVE agreed to bring its prime time scheduling forward but reneged when series such as 'Cuéntame' and 'Águila Roja' began to lose viewers.

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DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA



A general view of Lucena, surrounded by olive groves. :: Sur

The 'pearl' of Sepharad

TWO DAYS IN LUCENA

Car + walking

Journey time: 1 hour and 10 minutes from Malaga. **Exploring Lucena:** 4 hours. **Exploring surrounding area:** 4 hours.



JAVIER ALMELLONES

Few places in Andalucía are able to boast such cultural and scenic wealth as Lucena. This historic town in the Sierra Subbética of Cordoba has a special link with the Jewish culture, to such an extent that it is known as the 'pearl' of Sepharad. In fact, this town enjoyed a wealth of cultural splendour between the ninth and 12th centuries, because it was home to several Jewish communities.

There are still some important remains from that period, such as one of the many Jewish cemeteries dating back to

the time of Al-Ándalus. This complex contains more than 300 Jewish tombs which were built between the years 1000 to 1050; it was found more than ten years ago, during the works to build a bypass around the southern part of the town. One of the emblems of Lucena, the Castillo del Moral castle, is also from the same period; it now houses an archaeological and folk museum.

No visitor to Lucena can fail to notice its ecclesiastical heritage, and among the most important churches are those of Santiago, San Mateo, Santo Domingo de Guzmán and San Pedro Mártir de Verona.

Special mention should also be made of one of the most emblematic religious buildings of the region, the Royal Sanctuary of María Santísima de Araceli, which is in the Sierra de Aras.

This chapel, which was originally built in the early 17th century, has one of the most amazing views in Andalucía, because from there you can see five different provinces: Cordoba, Malaga, Seville, Granada and Jaén.

Other tourist attractions also lie outside the town, such as the Olivino Wine and Gastronomy Centre, in the small village of Navas de Selpillar.

Nor should visitors miss the chance to explore the outlying village of Jauja, the birthplace of the bandit El Tempranillo. There, the Romantic Banditry Information Centre stands opposite the San José church, and just a short distance away you can see a Moorish flour mill, which still stands beside the Genil river.



Moorish mill in Jauja. :: SUR



QUICK GUIDE

What to see in Lucena

Royal Sanctuary of La Virgen de Araceli.

18th century chapel dedicated to the patron saint of Lucena. Carretera CO-6218, 14900 Lucena.

Olivino wine and gastronomy centre.

A wine and olive oil information centre. Calle Navas, (the old station building), Las Navas de Selpillar, 14511 Lucena

Banditry Museum. An exhibition centre about romantic banditry in Andalucía. Calle Iglesia 51, Jauja, 14911 Lucena.

Castillo del Moral. Now the Archaeological and Folk museum of Lucena. Pasaje Cristo del Amor, 14900 Lucena.

Jewish cemetery: Dating back to the year 1000. Ronda Sur-Ctra. Santuario, 14900 Lucena.



View of the castle and the town. :: SUR





The almond tree flowers over the course of the last days of January and the first days of February. :: **FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ**

Malaga, in white and pink

The flowering almond tree changes the local landscape at this time of year

JAVIER ALMELLONES
✉ jalmellones@diariosur.es

This striking colour contrast is a good excuse to visit the Axarquía, Valle del Guadalhorce and Sierra de las Nieves areas

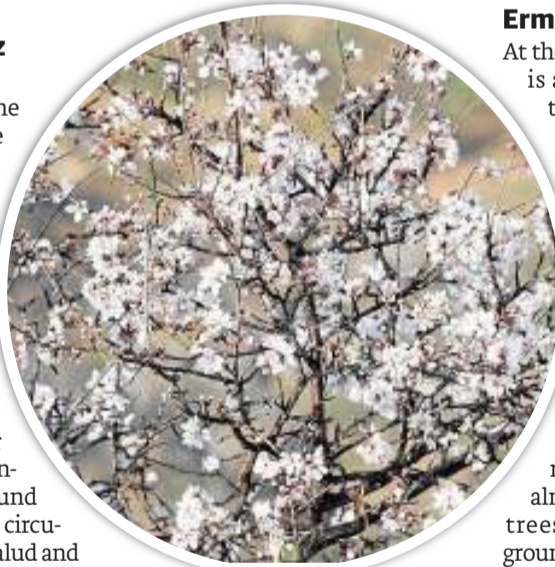
MÁLAGA. During the last days of January and the first days of February the colours white and pink dominate the countryside of Malaga province, thanks to the flowering of the almond tree. This tree offers a powerful contrast of colours in many parts of the prov-

ince, such as the Axarquía, Valle del Guadalhorce and Sierra de las Nieves areas. This seasonal spectacle is a good excuse to amble around the local countryside in order to enjoy its natural beauty. In fact, there are several routes that are particularly well suited for viewing almond trees in flower. Here are some of them.

Casabermeja Torre Zambra
A good way to get close to the almond trees or to gain an interesting perspective is to follow the hiking trail that runs from the village to Torre Zambra, an Arab watchtower that gives a panoramic view over the local area. From this vantage point you can also see as far as the cranes in Malaga port on a clear day.

Arenas The top of the Bentomiz castle
From this small village in the Axarquía province there are many walks for visitors to see almond trees in flower. The old Arab fortress of Arenas affords an excellent panoramic view of both the almond trees and the local hiking paths.

Totalán Cerro Corona ascent
Olives and almonds in flower currently form a surprising contrast in most of the area around Totalán. Hikers can walk the circular route of the Paseo de la Salud and stop at the Mirador del Algarrobo to enjoy their surroundings. Anyone who visits the village should climb the Cerro Corona burial mound to



An almond tree in flower.
:: **F. GONZÁLEZ**

gain a better view over the area.

Montes de Málaga Contadoras-Pocopán
As well as its dense pine forest, the Montes de Málaga mountain park has a wide range of other trees. One of them is the almond tree, which is prolific in certain areas of the park.

Malaga-Almogía Junta de los Caminos-Almogía
The Camino Mozárabe, a pilgrimage route that runs from Málaga towards Santiago de Compostela, is surrounded on both sides by an abundance of almond trees.

Malaga Ciudad Jardín-Puerto de la Torre
In the foothills of the Montes de Málaga, there are several routes very near to Malaga city from which visitors can enjoy almonds in flower.

Cártama-Alhaurín de la Torre Torrealquería circular walk
The circular route from the town of Cártama to the border of Alhaurín de la Torre offers not only several vineyards and olive groves, but also almond trees which follow the route right up until Torrealquería.

Guaro Puerto Chiribénítez
In the Sierra de las Nieves mountains there are several interesting routes in villages like Guaro or Monda. One of the best is the hike to the Chiribénítez pass.

Between Cártama, Almogía and Álora Ermita de las Tres Cruces
At the edge of the village of Almogía is a path replete with almond trees. Another option is the route that runs from the Estación de Cártama to the chapel (ermita). Once there, it's worth going for a stroll to enjoy the beautiful almond blossom.

Ardales Valle del Turón
One of the best views in Ardales is from the path that runs to El Burgo on the Turón river. From there each winter almond trees in flower and olive trees can be viewed in the foreground, with a backdrop of the Valle del Guadalteba. It's worth walking a bit further and enjoying one of the stages of the Gran Senda de Málaga long-distance footpath.

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JAVIER
ALMELLONES

AROUND MALAGA

A village with something magical about it

Almargen is especially famous for its prehistoric Goddess of Fertility and its river with medicinal waters



A general view of Almargen with its backdrop of wind turbines. :: J.A.

1 day in Almargen

Car and walking.
Journey time: 50 minutes from Malaga.
Exploring: 4 hours

Location. Between the Serranía de Ronda and the Guadalteba Valley.

Prehistory. The municipal museum houses the stone icon of the Goddess of Fertility.

Nature. Just outside the village is the source of the Salado river, which has medicinal waters.

Architecture. The main church, dedicated to the Inmaculada Concepción, is in the village centre.

Countryside. Mainly agricultural.

Waters that cure and a prehistoric icon which makes miracles. There is no doubt that Almargen has a certain magic. The name of this village means 'the two meadows' in ancient Arabic and nowadays it is still a haven of tranquility. Although it was first documented in the Middle Ages, its territory was inhabited long before that. In fact, archaeological remains have been found from the Copper Age onwards. These include the artificial caves of El Almirón and very valuable items such as swords and a stone icon of the Goddess of Fertility, carved more than 3,000 years ago and still visited by those who want children. These and other remains can be seen in the municipal museum, which bears the inscription 'A frontier in the first kingdom of the Iberian Peninsula'.

In the centre of the village is the church of Inmaculada Concepción, which was originally built in the 16th century although its present appearance is due to the remodelling it underwent at the end of the 17th. It is a simple building with traces of a variety of styles, such as Mannerist, Baroque and Mudéjar. The interior houses one of the most valuable Gothic altarpieces in Andalucía.

Beside the church, the buildings around the village square are fine examples of the traditional style of the villages of the Vega de Antequera and the countryside of Seville province.

The Salado river passes through Almargen, known for its medicinal waters thanks to its high iodine content. The source of the Salado is in the area known as Casa Blanca, just a few metres outside the village. There you can see how these miraculous waters burst from the ground. They are recommended for all types of digestive and degenerative problems.

Where to eat

El Coto. This roadside restaurant is a good place for lunch before or after visiting Almargen. There is a menu of the day on weekdays, including many traditional local dishes featuring meats, fish and stews. It is also good for breakfasts, especially toast with lard or ham.

Carretera Jerez-Cartagena
km 121,
29330 Almargen.
Telephone: 952 182 151

Where to stay

El Cuarterón. This hostel, which also has a restaurant, is one option for accommodation in this charming village. It is situated in one of the avenues leading into Almargen but is close enough to walk into the centre of the village, which is where the most traditional architecture is to be found.

Avenida El Saucejo 111,
29330 Almargen.
Telephone 952 182 162.

MORE EXCURSIONS

'La Matanza' festival

Ardales

Guadalteba Valley.

The village of Ardales, in Malaga province, pays tribute to its local gastronomy on the first Sunday in February each year, with the 'Fiesta de La Matanza', the traditional pig slaughtering festival. At this event, visitors can not only enjoy all sorts of pork dishes but also watch how the meats are cured by hand. The first treat of the day will be 'botones' (bread rolls) filled with some local specialities such as salami, black pudding or chorizo sausage.



Lunchtime will bring the chance to sample the local-style meat stew.

On Sunday, from 11am in the main square of Ardales.

'La Candelaria' celebrations

Colmenar and Benagalbón

Axarquía region.

This weekend two villages in La Axarquía, Colmenar and Benagalbón, will be holding their Candelaria celebrations.

Although these are not the only places which pay tribute to the 'Virgen de la Candelaria', which originated in the Canary Islands, they are among the most spectacular. In Colmenar this is the end of a week of festivities which began last Sunday when the images of the virgin and San Blas were carried from their shrine to the church, and this Sunday they will be carried in procession through the village streets.



On the same evening the people of Benagalbón will take their images of La Candelaria and San José in procession.

The festivities take place from today till Sunday in both places.

The Day of San Antón

Árchez

Axarquía region.

Two weeks after the Day of San Antón the village of Árchez holds its own special tribute to the saint with music, a procession and other traditional activities.

One of the highlights will be a horse race which takes place from 4.30pm. Another is the 'romería', or pilgrimage, which begins around midday. The day will be completed by a meal of rice and meat, an artisan craft market on the esplanade beside the Turvilla river, and music performances



from different entertainers including the winner of the 'Yo Soy del Sur Peques' children's TV talent competition.

The celebrations take place on Sunday, in different parts of Árchez village.



Balkenhol, surrounded by his works 'Schmerzensmann' (2009), 'Mann mit dunkelblauem Hemd' (2012) and 'Frau mit blondem Haar' (2012). :: NITO SALAS

Balkenhol moves indoors

The artist who created 'Moving man' at the entrance to the Contemporary Art Centre is holding a powerful retrospective exhibition

The display features wooden sculptures which German artist Stephan Balkenhol has created during the past ten years

MÁLAGA. Some outdoor works of art become such a part of everyday life that they end up as emblems of their location. In Malaga, one of these is 'Moving Man' (2002), Stephan Balkenhol's sculpture of a man which is outside the entrance to the Contemporary Art Centre (CAC Malaga).

The figure has been looking into the building for 15 years now, and it has just watched some of its fellows being taken inside. They feature in a powerful retrospective of this German artist's work, which opened this week.

As Balkenhol explained at the opening, 'Moving Man' is unusual: his work normally focuses on upright, inexpressive, mysterious and absent figures, almost forced out of blocks of wood. "My sculptures don't tell stories. There is something secret in

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ



them. It's not down to me to reveal what that is; it's for the spectator to discover it," explained the artist, who is a contemporary benchmark for European figurative sculpture. More than 30 pieces of his work from the past ten years are now on display at the CAC until 22 April. However, about half were completed during the past year, so the common thread and the subtle evolution of his work are evident.

For example, the man in black trousers and white shirt carved in bas-relief in 'Raumkörper, silber, Mann' (2010) seems the same as the one swimming in 'Man with fishes' and who stands amid houses and empty streets in Relief Mann vor vier Häusern (both from 2017). They have the same attire, the same flat colours in the polychromy, the same rustic finish in the carving but, nevertheless, Balkenhol abandons the neutral



►►► **Evolution.** The exhibition features works from the past ten years, during which time Balkenhol has explored new ways of representing characters:: NITO SALAS



THE EXHIBITION

► **Artist.** Stephan Balkenhol.

► **Where and when.** CAC Málaga. Until 22 April.

► **Opening times.** Tuesdays to Sundays, 10am to 8pm.

► **Entry.** Free.

background to give his work a 'stage' and the leading figure sometimes looks straight at the spectator.

"I like there to be continuity, but I believe my work is more complex now. It covers other themes and representations," said Balkenhol. Fernando Francés, the director of the CAC Malaga, describes these sculptures as "symbols or metaphors" of common man, and the artist as someone who "thinks about life on the street, a creator who is difficult to define within one aesthetic trend."

Religion and sexuality

Balkenhol's work travels "from the intimate to the political" in search of the interior conflict in what he is looking at. For example, in the central area of the main room, several metres above the ground in a type of Romanesque altar are several religious-type sculptures: a man with a naked lacerated body in 'Schmerzensmann' (2009), is displayed beside 'Maria' (2012) holding the character in white shirt and black trousers in her arms like Baby Jesus. A middle-aged couple dressed in contemporary clothes in 'Mann mit dunkelblauem Hemd' (2012) and 'Frau mit blondem Haar' (2012) also form part of the composition.

One of the most suggestive pieces is the naked couple lying on their backs, legs and arms apart, in two half-circles, as if they are on an altar for sacrificing or relaxing post-coital pleasure. There is more sensuality with 'Hermaphrodit' (2013), while 'Trep-penrelief' (2009) offers a type of visual game with wood in the form of an accordion. Looking from one side, you see a woman. From the opposite side you see her male companion, and from anywhere else the bodies seem to intermingle.

"I'm interested in the figure itself, not in beauty," says Balkenhol, so visitors should know what to expect. Some sculptures are like wooden mirrors; there are many static characters. There is silence. For noise and movement, you have to go back into the street, where Moving Man is waiting.

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EXHIBITIONS

Bola Barrionuevo

Malaga. Until 8 February. *Galería Benedito C/ Niño de Guevara, 2*
A local artist, Barrionuevo has captured the city of Malaga from a bird's eye view.

Museum Jorge Rando

Malaga. Until 25 February. *Cruz del Molinillo, 12.*
A temporary exhibition entitled 'Nacerán Nuevas Auroras' (the Birth of Colour) is currently on display. Email: kontakt@museojorgerando.org.

Rafael Heredia

Malaga. Until 27 February. *Alfajar Sala, C/Cister.*
An exhibition entitled 'Mediterráneo' by Rafael Heredia.

Axel Miret 'Paso'

Malaga. Until 2 March. *El Retorno de Lilith, C/Cobertizo del Conde 6, in Plaza de la Merced.*
Belgian artist Axel Miret will be exhibiting a selection of his works.

Homes Real Estate and Art

Fuengirola. Until 23 February. *Avda Los Boliches, 86.*
Miguel Angel Barri, Swedish national of Mexican origin and Daniel Del Valle, Cuban, are holding a joint exhibition of colourful paint-

ings and engravings.

Posters

Mijas. Until 12 February. *Casa de la Cultura de Las Lagunas.*
An exhibition consisting solely of posters created by artist Antonio Suárez-Chamorro between 1997 and 2017 for the Instituto Superior de Economía Local.

Salvador Madueño

Mijas. Until 26 February. *Casa Museo de Mijas.*
An exhibition of sculptures.



Salvador Madueño, Mijas.

Robert Hardy

Mijas. Until 6 March. *Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.*
'Robert in Sepia' is an exhibition of works by Robert Hardy.

Alberto Tarsicio

Torre del Mar. Until 12 February. *Tr3s Puertas, Avda Andalucía*
The exhibition is entitled *Una Revolución*. www.facebook.com/tr3spuertas

Prisca Sinay

Vélez-Málaga. Until 27 February. *Sala El Pósito, Plaza de la Constitución.*
Dutch artist Prisca Sinay will be exhibiting a selection of her mixed media works.

Taylor and Martín

Nerja. Until 17 February. *Sala de Exposiciones Calle Cristo.*
Brendon Taylor and Maribel Martín are holding a joint exhibition of their works.

The "Indaliano" Movement

Antequera. Until 16 March. *Centro Unicaja de Cultura.*
An exhibition of works by several influential artists from this mid-twentieth century movement, including José Gómez Abad, Antonio López Díaz, Miguel Cantón Checa and Jesús de Perceval.

Jaime Pimentel: Sculptor

Benalmádena. Until 10 June. *Centro de Exposiciones.*
The icon of the town of Benalmádena, the statue of the little girl, was created by Jaime Pimentel.

The Tabacalera's new exhibition of Russian art

MALAGA. The Russian Museum in Malaga is in the process of changing its annual and temporary exhibitions which means that until 10 February the art gallery part of the museum is closed.

The new annual exhibition is entitled 'Radiante Porvenir. El Realismo Socialista Soviético' and consists of 132 art works of which 108 are on loan from the Museum in Saint Petersburg and are valued at more than 30 million euros. The collection covers the period from the 30s to the 50s, an extremely controversial time in Russia's history. The artists whose work is shown in the exhibition include Isaac Brodsky, Aleksandr Gerasimov, Olga Yanovskaya and Valetín Serov.

The museum's temporary exhibition is also being changed and from 10 February until 26 August the space will feature works by Russian artists around the world.

The collection 'La Mirada Viajera. Artistas Rusos Alrededor del Mundo' will consist of 105 pieces including works by Joseph Krachkovsky, Clement Redko, Konstantín Makovsky and Aleksandr Deineka among others.

The collection's third exhibition, also open until August, includes 13 works by Mikhail Shvartsman.



Isaac Brodsky's Lenin on a Tribune. :: SUR

INFORMATION

► **Where.** Colección Museo Ruso San Petersburgo, Tabacalera building, Malaga.

► **New main exhibition.** 'Radiante Porvenir. El Realismo Socialista Soviético'. Soviet Socialist realism. 10 February 2018 to February 2019.

► **Temporary exhibitions.** Russian Artists around the World and Mikhail Schwartzman. 10 February to 26 August 2018.



Vasnetsov, temporary exhibition.

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(Near Carmen Thyssen Museum)

CHARITY

Torremolinos Charity Gala

Torremolinos. 3 February, 8pm
Centro Cultural Pablo Picasso, 10€.
This charity gala, hosted by Noval David, Tomás Rivera and Natalia Barone, is raising funds for Malaga's Multiple Sclerosis Charity. Call: 658976852.

Hair to Care 2018

Fuengirola/Benalmádena. 10 February. Petros in Los Boliches, The Salon in Benalmádena Pueblo and Cecilia Rossi in Arroyo de la Miel.

The three hairdressers' salons will be donating their day's takings Cudeca Cancer Hospice. They will also be holding a charity raffle. For 4€ (which will go to Cudeca), Baldos restaurant in Los Boliches will be offering paella.

Age Concern Concert

Estepona. 6 March, 7.30pm. Huber Palataforma de Arte, C/San Antonio. 10€.

The concert is being organised by Clarice Williams with her newly-formed choir, The Good Vibrations Singing Sessions. Reservations: Tony 654179279 or call 951318234.

MUSIC & DANCE



Rob Sas Band. Estepona.

Rob Sas Band

Estepona. 3 February, 11.45pm.
Louie Louie Bar.
The Rob Sas Band in concert.

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

Malaga. Auditorio del Museo Picasso

6 February, 8pm. Recital with María Espada and Kennedy Moretti. Music by composers Richard Strauss, Brahms, Schumann, Fouré, Poulenc,

Punk rock revival party

:: TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. Those who took part in the revolution of dyed-hair, ripped jeans and offensive T-shirts in the mid-1970s might be interested in a special punk rock revival night that is being staged in Benalmádena Costa next week.

The event, which will be held in the Bonanza Bar on Saturday 10 February, will include a special guest appearance by legendary Spanish punk band, The Castro Zombies, and UK rockers, DC Spectre.

The Castro Zombies perform a style of thrash-rock made famous by the Ramones and The Misfits, while DC Spectre, who perform underground punk/rockabilly, will be launching their new CD, which was produced by Rat Scabies, member of 70s icons, The Damned.

Other bands to appear at the gig are UK punk band, The Accused, voted number 14 in the world in the Record Collector Magazine punk chart, and The Reinfected, a high energy English punk revival band based on the Costa del Sol.

The music will continue between acts with top punk sounds presented by the Punky Reggae



Castro Zombies will perform in Benalmádena next week. :: SUR

DETAILS

► **What:** Punk rock concert.

► **Where:** Bonanza Bar, Benalmádena Costa.

► **When:** Saturday 10 February.

Disco and there will be chance to buy nostalgic punk memorabilia from the collectors series, DIY.

The show, which is free, begins at 9pm, and the night promises to be a must for live music lovers. Old punk rockers will be able to relive their youth while pogoing the night away to the music of The Sex Pistols, The Clash and The Buzzcocks..

The punk revolution, which shook England with the ferocity of a native uprising, began in the summer of 1976 after The Sex Pistols hurled a string of four-letter abuse at Bill Grundy on live, prime-time television.

Touldrà and Fernando Obradors.
www.orquestaafilarmonicademalaga.com

Malaga. Auditorio Edgar Neville

9 February, 8pm. The orchestra will be playing pieces by Guridi, Sarasate, Turina and Jiménez. With Jesús Reina on violin.

Municipal marching band

Caleta de Vélez. 3 February, 7.30pm. Caleta church.
A concert by the municipal band.

Enrique Oliver Trio

Nerja. 9 February, 8.30pm. Hotel Plaza Cavana.

The Enrique Oliver jazz trio consisting of Victor Ross (double bass), Marius Rivier (drums) and Enrique Oliver (sax) will be in concert. Bookings and tickets from Ventana Abierta, C/Pintada 8. Tel: 690 073 871 www.ventana-abierta.es

Pablo Alcázar

Nerja. 2 February, 9pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. 10€
Spanish guitar player Pablo Alcázar presents his new album 'Mediterráneo'.



Bianca Morales, Jazz Trio, Nerja.

Bianca Morales Jazz Trio

Nerja. 3 February, 9pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. 10€
Bianca Morales - half Afro-Cuban, half Finnish - is a renowned recording and performing jazz vocalist and composer. She will team up with two Spanish jazz masters: Diego Suárez (piano) and José A. Serrano (bass) and will perform original songs from the When in Rome-CD and jazz tunes from The Great American Songbook.

Blues Band de Granada

Almuñécar. 3 February, 8pm.
Teatro Casa de la Cultura Almuñécar. 10€.
Tickets: Viajes Ecuador, Casa de la Cultura or call 603822827

The Rockin' Race Jamboree

Torremolinos. Until 4 February; 7pm; Auditorio Príncipe de As-

turias; 35€.

The 24th edition of this four-day festival includes performances from Chris Montez of 'Let's Dance' fame, as well as performances from Wayne Hancock, James Intveld, Kim Lenz, Deke Dickerson, Big Sandy and his Fly Rite Trio, Si Cranstoun and Scotty Baker. The ticket price includes a free CD. www.rockinrace.com.

Jonathan Santiago

Mijas. 10 February, 9.30pm. Las Lagunas Theatre.

The artist presents his new album, a tribute to Juan Gabriel
www.ticketmaster.es

FLAMENCO

Pepe Flores

Almuñécar. 9 February, 8pm.

Auditorio Casa de la Cultura.
'Entre Amigos' dance performance. Tickets: ticketea.com or bravoentradas.com or Viajes Ecuador / Casa de la Cultura.



Pepe Flores, Almuñécar.

Flamenco recital

Almuñécar. 10 February, 9pm.

Auditorio Casa de la Cultura.
In memory of the 'desbanda' (the flight of people from Malaga during the Civil War) with paco Moyano vocals and Antonio de la Luz guitar.

Noche Flamenca

Nerja. 16 February, 9pm. Centro Cultural villa de Nerja. 12€

Granada dancer, Agustín Barajas, presents a flamenco dance show with the different styles of flamenco. Accompanied by singers Fita Heredia, Manuel Heredia and Asunción Heredia; by dancer Kika Quesada and by guitarist Marcos Palometas.



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Prepare to let your hair down for carnival

by TONY BRYANT

MALAGA. Towns along the Costa del Sol, as in the rest of Andalucía and Spain, are gearing up for carnival, the first major festival of the year after the Three Kings wind up Christmas. Traditionally celebrated in the week before Ash Wednesday, carnival is an opportunity to let off steam before the prohibitions of Lent.

Carnival events in Malaga are gaudy and ostentatious and the main purpose of the proceedings is to poke fun at the government, the church, or anyone currently in the news. The preliminary rounds of the Concurso de Agrupaciones (satirical singing group contest) have been taking place since the middle of January, with the grand final in the Cervantes Theatre on Friday (today).

Tomorrow, Saturday, the carnival god and goddess will be chosen and the colourful parade takes place on Sunday. Celebrations continue in the Plaza de la Constitución and the surrounding streets throughout the week, while the hugely popular carnival drag queen contest will be held on 9 February. Saturday 10 February sees the display of the "gods and goddesses" fantasy costumes from 6pm, and



Satirical song routines are a major part of carnival events in Andalucía. :: SUR

the Battle of the Flowers, a brightly coloured parade with confetti and streamers in Calle Larios at 7.30pm. The carnival ends on 11 February with the burning of the giant 'boquerón' on the Malagueta beach.

Torremolinos celebrates carnival later, between the 16 February and 9 March. The main parade will leave the Plaza La Nogalera at 7pm on Saturday 24 February and embark on a journey through the streets of the town. The traditional burning of the sardine will

take place on the beach in La Carrihuela on 25 February. The Gran Gala de Carnaval will be staged in the Principe de Asturias auditorium on 9 March at 9pm.

Cártama Estación holds its carnival on 10 February. Along with street performances, there will be a competition with prizes for the most original costumes. The following Saturday carnival is celebrated in **Cártama Pueblo**, with a parade from the town hall at 5pm.

Outrageous costumes, flamboyant wigs and teetering heels are all part of Carnaval

Carnival in **Benalmádena** is celebrated from 9 until 18 February. The Drag Queen contest in the Plaza Mezquita in **Arroyo de la Miel** at 9.30pm on Friday is full of glamour, with outrageous cos-

tumes, flamboyant wigs and teetering heels.

The ball will be held in the Plaza del Alguacil, **Benalmádena Pueblo**, at 6pm on Saturday 10, followed by the election of the carnival prince and princess in Plaza Mezquita at 1pm on 11 February. The grand parade through the streets of **Arroyo de la Miel** takes place on 17 February, followed by the burning of the lizard on the Santa Ana beach at 1.30pm on Sunday.

Carnival in **Marbella** starts this Sunday and continues until Saturday 17 February. Satirical musical groups will entertain in the streets throughout the week, while various competitions and performances will be held in the Teatro Ciudad de Marbella and the Palacio de Ferias. Marbella's extravagant carnival parade will leave the Parque de la Represa at 5.30pm on Saturday 17 February.

Carnival is celebrated in **Vélez-Málaga** on 2 and 3 February while **Nerja** will be partying from 8 until 11 February with parades, live music and dancing.

More information and programmes of events in other towns and villages can be found on town hall websites and Facebook.



MOVIE LISTING From Friday 2th to Thursday 8th February

ORIGINAL VERSION SUBTITLED SPANISH



EARLY MAN

Director Nick Park
Voices Tom Hiddleston and Maisie Williams
ANIMATION - 89 min.



Friday 2: 17:50
Saturday 3: 16:00, 17:50
Sunday 4: 11:45, 16:00, 17:50
Monday 5: 17:50
From Tuesday 6 to Thursday 8: 17:30



THE POST

From Friday 2 to Sunday 4: 20:30
From Monday 5 to Thursday 8: 20:15



FERDINAND

Saturday 3: 15:50
Sunday 4: 11:45, 15:50



THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING, MISSOURI

Director Martin McDonagh
Starring Frances McDormand and Woody Harrelson
DRAMA - 141 min.



From Friday 2 to Sunday 4: 18:10, 20:30, 22:45
Monday 5: 18:00, 20:15, 22:30
Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7: 17:40, 20:00
Thursday 8: 17:30



DARKEST HOUR

From Friday 2 to Sunday 4: 20:20, 22:45
Monday 5: 20:00, 22:30
From Tuesday 6 to Thursday 8: 22:30



MAZE RUNNER: THE DEATH CURE

Friday 2: 17:50
Saturday 3 and Sunday 4: 16:00, 17:50
From Monday 5 to Wednesday 7: 17:40
Thursday 8: 17:30



THE GREATEST SHOWMAN

Friday 2 and Saturday 3: 18:00
Sunday 4: 11:45, 18:00
From Monday 5 to Wednesday 7: 17:45



**MARATHON
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LECTURES

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Art History 'David Hockney's Secret Knowledge' (film)..

7 February, 11am-12.30pm.

This film screening ties in with previous lectures on Hockney.

History's Greatest Women :

'Katherine Swynford and Isabella of Spain.'

6 February, 11am.

Treasures of the World 'Japan to China'.

2 February, 11am.

This talk includes the Forbidden City and Ming Porcelain.

9 February, 11am.

India to Sri Lanka, including the Giant Buddha, Cochin spices and the Taj Mahal.



Hockney documentary, Cinesa.

Speaking Spanish and Spanish Nationality

Nerja. 7 February. 11am, salon de actos, town hall.

The conference, organised by Nerja's Foreigners Department, will be attended by Nerja language school "Aprendo Idiomas" who will be giving information on Spanish courses and how to obtain Spanish nationality if you have been resident for over ten years.

ACEIA ELT conference

Malaga 28 February. Hotel Serco-tel, Calle Héroe Sostoa, 17.

The Asociación de Centros de Enseñanza de Idiomas de Andalucía is holding its annual conference offering the opportunity for English Language Teaching professionals from all over the region to

Russian opera stars



Alexander Zakharov. :: SUR



Marina Konovalova. :: SUR



Lyutsiya Italyanskaya. :: SUR



Vladimir Vorobyev. :: SUR

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. Three principal soloists and an accomplished pianist from the Moscow Opera will be in concert in Antequera, Estepona and Granada next week. Tenor Alexander Zakharov, soprano Marina Konovalova, mezzo soprano Lyutsiya Italyanskaya and the pianist Vladimir VoroByev will perform works from the operas of Tchaikovsky, Verdi and Puccini. Tickets from Sonar Discos (Antequera); www.venta.enterticket.es (Estepona) and www.entradascajagranada.es (Granada).

THREE CONCERTS IN MALAGA PROVINCE

► **6 February, 8pm.**

Antequera: Teatro Municipal Torcal, Calle Cantareros, 8.

► **7 February, 8.30pm.**

Granada: Teatro CajaGranada, Avda de la Ciencia, 2

► **8 February, 9pm.**

Estepona: Teatro Auditorio Felipe VI, Calle Juan Benítez.

get together and enjoy a morning of training workshops given by ELT professionals from all over Spain. More information: www.aceia.es

EVENTS

Rastro Cultural

Malaga. 2 February, 9 March, 7pm until midnight. La Térmica, Av de los Guindos.

Stands selling all kinds of collectables as well as home decor, vintage clothing etc. Also live music and a afashion show, skating rink and more.

Bollywood Dance Classes

Torremolinos.

10 February, 24 February, 6pm.

Caseta Fitness. Indian dance classes. Anyone interested should sign up in the office of the Palacio San Miguel Sports Centre. www.torremolinos.es

Valentine's Day singles' dinner

Mijas Costa. 14 February. Hotel Tamisa Golf.

Solo Sol will be hosting a dinner for singles at Hotel Tamisa Golf. Bookings: email solosol@email.com or call: 722336978.

Lovers' Dinner

Mijas. 10 February. Restaurante Valparaíso. 35€.

There will be live music and 4 different menus to choose from.

Coach excursion to Gibraltar

Torre del Mar. 15 February. Various departure points. 12€

Transport, travel insurance included. Passport necessary. Lux Mundi Torre del Mar. Tel: 952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@luxmundi.org

Trip to Arcos de la Frontera

Fuengirola. 7 February departing 8am from bullring and 7.55am Feria ground. 36€

Full details contact Fundación Lux Mundi Fuengirola, C/Nueva 3. Tel: 952474840

Art trip

Torre del Mar. 13 February. Various departure points. 5€.

Visiting La Galeria at Villa Olivia in Periana by coach to see Martin Tatlock's paintings as well as those of other artists.

Book launch

Órgiva. 8 February 6pm. Sierra Nevada Outdoor shop.

Launch of Walking and Trekking in the Sierra Nevada with its author Richard Hartley.

O. V. FILM

SUR in English advises calling cinemas to check for any last minute time changes. Lun-chtime 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

Three Billboards Outside Ebbing: 18.15, 20.15 (every day).

Call Me By Your Name: 16.00, 20.15, 22.15 (every day).

The Pentagon Papers: 18.15, 22.20 (every day).

Cinesur El Ingenio

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

The Pentagon Papers: 12.00, 16.05 (every day).

Darkest Hour: 12.15, 16.25 (every day).

Three Billboards Outside Ebbing: 19.00, 21.20 (Tues).

Cinesur Miramar

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



Bollywood dance classes.

Maze Runner: The Death Cure: 16.00 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).

The Pentagon Papers: 16.30 (every day).

Phantom Thread: 12.05, 16.00, 18.35, 21.10, 23.45 (every day).

Three Billboards Outside Ebbing: 17.55 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).

Darkest Hour: 16.00 (every day).

Cines Teatro Goya

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

Darkest Hour: 20.00 (Mon); 20.20, 22.45 (Fri-Sun); 22.30 (Mon-Thurs).

Maze Runner: The Death Cure: 16.00 (Sat, Sun); 17.30 (Thurs); 17.40 (Mon-Wed); 17.50 (Fri-Sun).

Fifty Shades Freed: 17.00 (Thurs 8 Feb).

The Post: 20.15 (Mon-Thurs); 20.30 (Fri-Sun).

The Greatest Showman: 11.45 (Sun), 18.00 (Fri-Sun); 17.45 (Mon-Wed).

Ferdinand: 11.45 (Sun); 15.50 (Sat, Sun).

Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri: 17.30 (Thurs); 17.40, 20.00 (Tues, Wed); 18.00, 20.15, 22.30 (Mon); 18.10, 20.30, 22.45 (Fri-Sun).

Early Man: 11.45 (Sun); 16.00 (Sat, Sun); 17.50 (Fri-Mon); 17.30 (Tues-Thurs).

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

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

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

Early Man: 14.00 (Sat, Sun); 16.00 (Tues).

Maze Runner: The Death Cure: 15.50 (daily except Thurs).

Phantom Thread: 12.00 (Sun); 16.30 (Mon-Thurs).

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Kitchen page 47
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Glass curtains page 49



Kitchen

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The Spain team training on the Puente Romano centre court. :: JOSELE-LANZA



Feliciano López, with team captain Sergi Bruguera. :: JOSELE-LANZA

Spain, strong favourites for Davis Cup victory

In-form Kyle Edmund has been ruled out for Great Britain through injury

Marbella's Puente Romano is ready to host the Davis Cup clash between Spain and Great Britain this weekend

:: **SUR DEPORTES / DARYL FINCH**

MALAGA. The Spanish team received a welcome boost on Thursday afternoon as the draw for the Davis Cup first round fixtures this weekend revealed that Great Britain would be without Kyle Edmund, ruled out through injury.

The British number two (26th in the ATP ranking) had trained with the team during the week but has been not able to overcome the minor hip injury he suffered in his semifinal defeat to Croat Marin Čilić at the Australian Open at the weekend.



Top-ranked British player Kyle Edmund has been ruled out. :: J-L

DAVIS CUP DRAW

► **Friday 2 February.** Albert Ramos-Vinolas v Liam Broady; Roberto Bautista-Agut v Cameron Norrie.

► **Saturday 3 February.** Pablo Carreño Busta / Feliciano López v Dominic Inglot / Jamie Murray.

► **Sunday 4 February.** Albert Ramos-Vinolas v Cameron Norrie; Roberto Bautista-Agut v Liam Broady.

Edmund joins Andy Murray on the treatment table for Great Britain whose side comprises Dominic Inglot, Jamie Murray and Davis Cup debutants Liam Broady and Cameron Norrie.

The fixtures for the weekend's action at the Puente Romano ten-

nis club in Marbella were drawn at midday on Thursday at the Trápiche de Guadaiza cultural centre in San Pedro Alcántara.

With Edmund and Murray both out, Spain captain Sergi Bruguera reserved his top-ranked player, Pablo Carreño for Saturday's doubles fixture (2pm). He will partner Feliciano López -at the expense of David Ferrer- against Jamie Murray and Dominic Inglot in what is likely to be Great Britain's best shot at picking up a point.

This means that today's fixtures, which get under way from 11am, will see Albert Ramos and Liam Broady, and Roberto Bautista and Cameron Norrie face off.

The fixtures on Sunday are battles between Ramos and Norrie, and Bautista and Broady, but Spain coach Bruguera will be hoping they will be of little consequence.

Should the scores be 3-0 after the doubles match on Saturday, Sunday's games will be the best of three sets instead of five, and the fifth game won't be played at all if there is a four-point lead.

Bruguera, speaking at one of a number of community commitments during the week, said: "Everything is going very well. The players are looking great, they are in good form and we are all looking forward to Friday."

"The court is perfect and the installations are spectacular, as is always the case in Marbella."

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A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports
@robbopalmer



A difficult transition

Success in one league can never guarantee it elsewhere

It can be quite mystifying why some footballers can't transfer their skill-set from one country to another, their talents getting lost somewhere in customs.

This week Sandro Ramírez and Roque Mesa fly back in the direction of the sunshine hoping they have left the grey skies that had enveloped their careers back in Britain.

They're not the first to have to rebuild their reputations after a failed attempt to make an impression in the Premier League. In fact, they are in esteemed company.

If you take a look at the top ten scorers in La Liga, you will discover that half of them have also played in the Premier League; only Luis Suárez was a success in both.

Iago Aspas is the top-scoring Spaniard, yet was a player devoid of confidence at Liverpool. Simone Zaza didn't score a single goal in the

colours of West Ham yet he's recorded an average of one in every two games at Valencia alongside Rodrigo, who boasts a single goal against Wigan Athletic as his best moment at Bolton Wanderers. Cristian Stuani was a little more prolific with five goals in his one Premier League season at Middlesbrough; now he's the goals-man at Girona.

They follow other talent like Roberto Soldado, Victor Valdés and Claudio Bravo who didn't translate their abilities. There's Álvaro Negredo, Nolito and arguably Jesús Navas who made little impact at Manchester City.

Now Aymeric Laporte has to live up to the reputation that persuaded the same club to part with £57 million this week.

These are all footballers who have proven to be top class at their Liga clubs. Roque Mesa was the main

character in the Las Palmas story and Sandro Ramírez the undoubted star of Malaga.

There can be so many obstacles to overcome and talent can be way down the list. An unsettled family is often high on the agenda; language difficulties too.

Often it is the sudden change of climate and culture. Nolito claimed his daughter's face changed colour in sunless Manchester. Gerard Piqué joked that his Manchester United team mates survived on a diet of burgers and beer; his countryman Ricardo was ticked off for bringing a leg of Spanish ham into the club canteen.

It works the other way too. Rafa Benítez tells me how, during his spell as Osasuna boss, he once fined Englishman Jamie Pollock for missing a game because he overslept. The Englishman's excuse was he thought all games



Diego Forlán: A flop in Manchester, a star in Spain. :: AFP

kicked off at 3pm.

At a less elite level, I played football in America and was scalded by the coach for tackling during practice. Apparently tackling is reserved for match days only!

Once I played in a high-level game against Spanish opposition and brushed an opponent. He went rolling to the floor, I genuinely thought he was suffering some kind of seizure and rushed to his aid. Ap-

parently, it was our coming together that sent him theatrically rolling.

It's a busy pipeline these days, if not a really successful one both ways. Diego Forlán is the striking example of a so-called failure in England who was a hit in Spain.

It works both ways. Michael Owen never lived up to his Ballon D'or billing at Real Madrid and there's enough said about Gary Neville's spell in Valencia.

Marbella fight to the death for all three points

Triumphant in San Fernando, Marbella are now second place, four points behind leaders Cartagena

SAN FERNANDO 1 MARBELLA 3

OPTA SPORTS

SAN FERNANDO (CÁDIZ). Marbella gained all three points from an exciting and hotly contested fixture in San Fernando on Sunday.

In spite of the weather, both teams tried their hardest to win the game, and this made for a match that was full of opportunities and where the

most important players were the two goalkeepers.

The match started out with an attacking onslaught from San Fernando, who came onto the pitch full of energy. They would certainly have scored then had it not been for the brilliance of Wilfred.

After just three minutes, the Marbella defence looked all but beaten until the goalkeeper rushed to sweep the ball out from under Óscar Martín's feet. The striker managed to get a shot away, but it was saved.

The rebound fell to Carri, whose shot from pointblank range was, incredibly, saved by an outstretched hand. The second rebound fell to San Fernando, but the shot was well wide.



Corpas, amid the action of the first Marbella goal. :: OPTA

In the 30th minute, Marbella had their first major opportunity. A close-range shot was repelled by Miguel Guerrero, the home goalkeeper, who also put in an impressive display on the day.

A long-range shot from Carri, and an attempt by Pau Franc after 40 min-

utes at the Marbella goal were both kept out by Wilfred. Corpas had a real chance just before the break, but it was saved by Miguel.

The second half maintained the rhythm of the first, as it became clear that both teams were vying for the three points. The deadlock was bro-

ken when an incredible pass from Chus Hevia found Corpas, whose shot flew inside the far post.

The home side didn't let Marbella lead for long. A ball from Galindo fell at the feet of Pedro Ríos who, unmarked, fired the ball past Wilfred to level the score.

From then on, the match became frenetic, as the attacks from both sides were constant. In the 69th minute a brilliant move from Corpas, Chus Hevia and Carlos Julio led to a shot that was saved by Miguel.

After Wilfred denied a thumping Óscar Martín shot in the 83rd minute, just when it seemed as if the match would end a draw, Marbella's pressure forced Nano Cavilla into scoring an own goal, and a well-placed Luis Rioja shot put the game to bed in the final play of the match.

The result of Marbella's tenacity is second place in the division. Los Blanquillos sit just four points off leaders Cartagena.

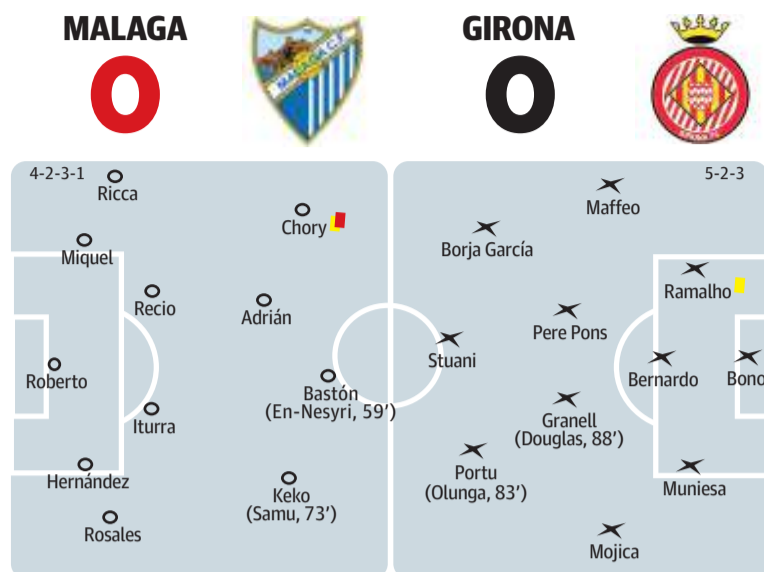
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LINE-UPS



Unused substitutes: Prieto (GK), Diego González, Rolón, Juanpi, Bueno.

Unused substitutes: Iraizoz (GK), Planas, Aleix García, Timor, Kayode.

STATISTICS

BALL POSSESSION

44% MALAGA **56%** GIRONA

	0	Goals	0
7	Total shots	7	
2	On target	1	
5	Off target	6	
5	Corners	4	
3	Offsides	2	
18	Fouls committed	7	
2	Yellow cards	1	
1	Red cards	0	

Goals: None.

Referee: Alberto Undiano. Sent off Chory Castro for a second yellow card (78').

Venue: La Rosaleda (22,125 spectators).

TABLE & FIXTURES

MATCHDAY
21

Results

At. Madrid - Las Palmas	3-0
MALAGA - Girona	0-0
Athletic - Eibar	1-1
Sevilla - Getafe	1-1
Leganés - Espanyol	3-2
Barcelona - Alavés	2-1
Villarreal - Real Sociedad	4-2
Deportivo - Levante	2-2
Valencia - Real Madrid	1-4
Celta - Betis	3-2

Fixtures

At. Madrid - Valencia
Las Palmas - MALAGA
Girona - Athletic
Eibar - Sevilla
Getafe - Leganés
Espanyol - Barcelona
Alavés - Celta
Betis - Villarreal
Real Sociedad - Deportivo
Levante - Real Madrid

LEAGUE TABLE

	★ Champions League	■ Europa League	▼ Relegation
TEAM	PT	P	W D L GF GA
★ 1. Barcelona	57	21	18 3 0 59 10
★ 2. At. Madrid	46	21	13 7 1 32 9
★ 3. Valencia	40	21	12 4 5 42 25
★ 4. Real Madrid	38	20	11 5 4 43 19
■ 5. Villarreal	37	21	11 4 6 32 24
■ 6. Sevilla	33	21	10 3 8 27 29
7. Celta	31	21	9 4 8 38 30
8. Eibar	29	21	8 5 8 26 33
9. Getafe	28	21	7 7 7 26 21
10. Girona	28	21	7 7 7 29 29
11. Leganés	28	20	8 4 8 20 21
12. Athletic	27	21	6 9 6 24 23
13. Betis	27	21	8 3 10 35 44
14. Espanyol	24	21	6 6 9 18 28
15. Real Sociedad	23	21	6 5 10 36 40
16. Levante	19	21	3 10 8 18 30
17. Alavés	19	21	6 1 14 17 31
▼ 18. Deportivo	17	21	4 5 12 24 46
▼ 19. Las Palmas	14	21	4 2 15 16 50
▼ 20. MALAGA	13	21	3 4 14 14 34

An opportunity missed for Malaga

BEN CLARKE

✉ english@diariosur.es

Malaga controlled Saturday's tie against Girona but couldn't get the breakthrough before Chory Castro's red card

MALAGA. It was a close affair on Saturday night as José González led his new side at La Rosaleda for the first time. With the team's defence reliable throughout, it was the usual shortcomings which meant that Malaga couldn't find the breakthrough goal and claim all three points as they failed to create much in the way of an attack.

La Rosaleda had an excitement to it, despite the windy and rainy conditions. Malaga started well; Keko narrowly missed the bottom left corner after nine minutes and this was quickly followed by a thumping effort from José Recio on the edge of the box, which flew wide of the left post.



Youssef En-Nesyri couldn't find a winner after replacing Borja Bastón. :: NITO SALAS

The creativity of the duo allowed Malaga to exert pressure on Girona's defence, which was desperate at times; Jonás Ramalho received a yellow card for a cynical challenge on Adrián on 33 minutes.

Keko again came close with a header that was palmed away by Bono in the Girona goal, low to his right.

However, Girona held firm and

the pressure they imposed in their own half ensured that most of Malaga's chances were off target.

The visitors looked dangerous on the counter-attack, especially when Malaga committed too many men forward, but they struggled to show this until the second half, when they re-emerged particularly energised.

Johan Mojica was effective, using

his pace to create a lot of chances for Girona from the left wing. It was from that side that they fashioned their best chance of the match when Cristian Stuani beat keeper Roberto to Álex Granell's free kick, but lifted his header just over the crossbar.

Girona's rise worried González on the Malaga bench and he moved to bring on both Youssef En-Nesyri and

Samuel García - the latter receiving a warm welcome on his return 'home'.

The game started to open up for both sides. A powerful Granell strike from the edge of the box was deflected off the back of a Malaga defender, but the resulting corner was then wasted. Malaga broke on the right wing in response, but Roberto Rosales's cross to En-Nesyri was headed over under pressure.

At a time when they had the game where they wanted it, Malaga's search for the winner was dealt a severe blow in the 78th minute when Chory Castro picked up his second yellow for a bad foul on Marc Muniesa.

However, despite the setback, the home side controlled their opponents well with their organisation and shape. Though they conceded two chances, a long-range effort from Borja García and a curling shot from Stuani, neither were allowed sufficiently close to goal to trouble the keeper.

A foul on Recio in stoppage time gave Malaga a late chance, but Adrián's block on the defender, which turned into an inadvertent shot, saw the ball float across the face of goal as Malaga's supporters behind the goal tried to suck it over the line.

A point isn't the worst result given the circumstances, but having controlled the game so well, Malaga will be left rueing the two points that escaped them.

The Blue and Whites remain bottom of the table on 13 points.



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Malaga go all out in a record-breaking transfer market in bid to avoid relegation

The Blue and Whites recruited seven new players in the January transfer window, one more than their record of six in the 2010-11 season

:: DARYL FINCH

MALAGA. With their top flight future hanging in the balance, Malaga have moved to further strengthen their attacking line with the deadline day signings of Maxime Lestienne and Isaac Success.

These signings were announced on Wednesday, hours after the club formally presented forward Brown Ideye who finally completed his move following a lengthy delay.

Sporting director Mario Husillos has been a busy man this month, bringing in a club record seven signings in the January window. This eclipses the record set in the 2010-11 season when the club recruited Sergio Asenjo, Martín Demichelis, Julio Baptista, Willy Caballero, Enzo Maresca and Ignacio Camacho.

However, this time round the outlook is very different. Malaga sit bottom of the table and have moved quickly in an attempt to preserve their La Liga status.

Having already brought in Ignasi Miquel, Manuel Iturra, Alberto Bueno and Samuel García, many thought that the signing of Brown Ideye would be the last. His loan move from Chinese club Tianjin Teda was formally announced on Monday.

The Nigerian, 29, whose move to China didn't pay off, returns to Europe where he has had something of a nomadic career, representing the likes of Dinamo Kiev and Olympiakos.

Known for his strength, Malaga hope he will be able to lead the line, once he returns to full fitness.

The former West Bromwich Albion forward passed his medical last Wednesday but many feared the deal would fall through after negotiations took longer than expected with the player's numerous representatives.

Ideye said at his presentation on Wednesday: "I am very grateful to be here. I had many sleepless nights waiting for this deal to go through."



Maxime Lestienne. :: MALAGA CF



Brown Ideye. :: NITO SALAS



Isaac Success. :: NITO SALAS

"I am a goal scorer and I hope to help the team as much as I can."

Last-minute surprises

Just as it looked like Malaga's business was done, there was still frenetic activity behind the scenes at La Rosaleda.

It was known that the club wanted to bring in a wide player, but that was dependent on offloading the likes of Javi Ontiveros, Cifu, Alex Mula and Cenk Gonen.

In the end, the first three secured moves away (to Real Valladolid, Albacete and Tenerife, respectively, on loan) while Gonen was released, freeing up space in the squad for the Blue and Whites to bring in their remaining targets.

After moves for Sandro Ramirez and Michael Krohn-Dehli didn't materialise, Malaga still managed to secure the high-profile arrivals of Isaac Success and Maxime Lestienne.

Lestienne, 25, who normally op-

erates from the left, joins on loan until the end of the season from Russian side Rubin Kazan.

Despite his age, Lestienne is well travelled. After a successful spell in his native Belgium with Club Brugge, Lestienne completed a big-money move to Qatar with Al-Arabi. However, he never played for the team and after consecutive loan spells with Genoa and PSV, he joined Rubin in the summer of 2016.

Forward Success, who can also operate on the wing, joins on loan from English side Watford until the end of the season.

At Malaga, the 22-year-old will be reunited with coach José González. The pair coincided at Granada in the 2015-16 season during which Success scored six goals as the Andalusian side avoided relegation.

Though Malaga now have ample cover in all areas, it should be noted that the latest arrivals join on the back of long spells out of action.

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All-British final at the International Inline Hockey Tournament in Fuengirola

Scape Goats from the south coast of England lifted the trophy after a weekend of close action at the Santa Fe rink in Los Boliches

BY DARYL FINCH

FUENGIROLA. British side Scape Goats ran out winners as the Fuengirola Lions hosted the ninth International Inline Hockey Tournament last weekend at the Santa Fe rink in Los Boliches.

For this event, four teams came from the UK, one from Finland and three from southern Spain, of which two were the Fuengirola-based teams: Barona and Lions.

All of the match-ups were extremely tight; none more so than the last game on Saturday when Scape Goats beat the Lions with just a fraction of a second left on the game. The Fuengirola team were winning until just 30 seconds to go, but the side made up of players from the south coast of England equalised and bagged the winner just before the buzzer.

At the end of the first day, two British sides, Blizzards (from Nottinghamshire) and the aforementioned Scape Goats, topped group A and group B, respectively.

Sunday's match day signalled the start of the quarterfinal stage which was competed at a high intensity.



The winners presented with their trophy on Sunday. :: SUR

At the end of play the final was disputed between Londoners The Others and Scape Goats, after the former saw off Blizzards in the semis 3-1 and the latter beat Stokemon, from Stoke-on-Trent, 2-1. Scape Goats claimed the trophy with a 3-1 win.

The trophies were presented by Fuengirola town hall's councillor for Sport, Pedro Cuevas.

Despite the inclement weather ripping one of the hall doors off, the event was a huge success with

a strong attendance both at the rink and across the globe with more than 20,000 people tuning in to watch the final online.

One of the organisers, Jari Nyman, said: "We are pleased with the numbers so for the April tournament, we plan to announce the programme well in advance and do live streaming as much as possible."

Next weekend the Fuengirola Lions will be in Liga Sur action in Murcia.



Pau Quemada scoring on Wednesday against the US. :: I. GELIBTER

Strong start for Spain in the 5 Nations tournament

The Spanish team have won their first two matches and take on Scotland and Canada this weekend in Benalmádena

BY IVÁN GELIBTER

BENALMÁDENA. The Spanish men's hockey team have won both of their matches so far in the 5 Nations hockey tournament, which is hosted between Malaga's Carranque sports complex and the Retamar hockey centre in Benalmádena.

The other participants are Canada, Ireland, Scotland and the

United States.

On Tuesday Spain faced Ireland in a hotly-contested match which was settled in the final few minutes. Spain won 3-2, with Miralles, Iglesias and Lleonart the goalscorers in a team that has been growing in both confidence and ability in recent years.

Wednesday saw Spain play the United States. Beltran scored an excellent field goal after a strong Spanish attack. Four minutes later, a well-rehearsed penalty corner fell to Quemada who brought the score to 2-0.

Spain will face Scotland at 12pm on Saturday and Canada at 11am on Sunday. Both games will be played in Benalmádena.

Spain's handball stars make history with first European win

Los Hispanos bagged their first European championships win as they beat Sweden in the final in Zagreb, 29-23

BY VÍCTOR BORDA

ZAGREB. It was fifth time lucky on Sunday as Spain's men's handball team won their first European title in a close battle in Zagreb.

They secured the win in the second half of an incredible game. Sweden, who won the first half by two points, were only able to score nine more in the second.

The Spanish team's defensive 5-1 formation was crucial to achieve the result. Álex Dujshebaev, as the striker, caused the Swedes a lot of problems. One of the key turning points was the goalkeeper substitution, when Corrales came on for Sterbik.

Sterbik had been sensational in

goal, and managed to save the majority of shots from a Swedish side in very fine form. However, Corrales, who was called up at the last minute, played a vital role in

Spain's victory.

Spain's triumph has secured the team places in both the World Cup in 2019 and the European competition in 2020.



Captain Viran Morros lifts the trophy. :: ANTONIO BAT / EFE

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Medical	061	Foreign Residents Dept.	952589440		
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	952800249				
Taxi Service	952802900				
Tourist Office	952800913				
Town Hall	952801100				
Foreign Residents Dept.	952809031				
FUENGIROLA					
Bus Station	952475066				

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)					
Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Aidacara	03/02	-	-	08.00	18.00
MSC Orchestra	08/02	Funchal	Civitavecchia	08.00	14.00
Norwegian Spirit	11/02	Funchal	Alicante	07.00	17.00



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Great Britain	C/. Mauricio Moro Pareto 2- 2. Málaga	952352300	France	1, Plaza de Santa Cruz, Seville	954293200
USA	Av. Juan Gómez 8. Ed. Lucía 1-C. Fuengirola	952474891	Italy	Calle Lagasca, 98, Madrid	912106910
Belgium	Avda Ricardo Soriano 20-3C, Marbella	951516019	Austria	Alameda de Colón 26, Malaga	952600267
Denmark	Calle Córdoba 6 404, Malaga	952211797	Finland	Calle Blasco de Garay, 7, Malaga	952212435
Norway	Avda Los Boliches, 60, Edf Rosenkranz, Fuengirola	952667955	Saudi Arabia	Mauricio M. Pareto 2 bloque Sur 2º, Malaga	952310358
Canada	C/Cervantes, Edif. Horizonte, Malaga	952223346	Greece	Salitre, 16, Malaga	952311847
Germany	Mauricio Moro Pareto 2, Malaga	952363591	Iceland	Paseo Marítimo 91, 29640 Fuengirola	952661200
Sweden	Calle Córdoba 6, 5th floor, Malaga	952604383	Philippines	C/Marqués de Larios 4, 2º, Malaga	952222757
Ireland	Avda. Los Boliches, Fuengirola	952475108	Hungary	Av. de Andalucía 26 29007 Malaga	952308393

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AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS
English meetings: 602553470
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DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP
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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.
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Costa del Sol, www.rafacostadelsol.co.uk
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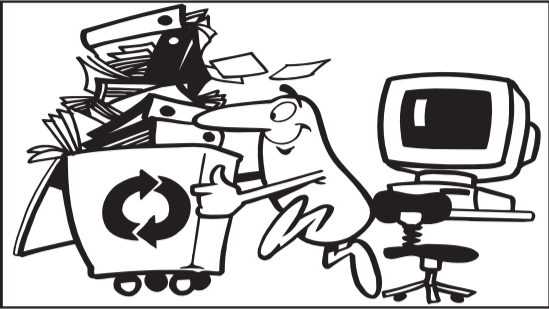
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ENGLISH-SPEAKING CLUB MALAGA
English/Spanish conversation. englishspeakingclubofmalaga.blogspot.com.es
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Meets weekly. Jan/Joan 952835947
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Trish: 952668081
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Joe 694442331 wednesdayjoe@gmail.com
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Walks. Fuengirola. www.thefieldclub.es

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THE ANDALUCIAN GARDEN GROUP
Alh. el Grande. 952119767/952455213
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www.axarquীগardenclub.blogspot.com
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Malaga. AlCasa Bar, C/Pozo del Rey. Tues 9pm until late Tel: 951106311 David.
INDIAN COMMUNITY
indiancommunitymalaga@gmail.com Tel: 952477171 / 627108987
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Photographic club. imagegroupspain.com
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THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



THE STARS

- 

Aquarius
January 21 - February 19
The possibilities for being a bit mad and enjoying yourself are many this week. Take the chance to indulge yourself.
- 

Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Making a splash is right up your street. Enjoy getting out and about and seeing some pretty quirky people.
- 

Aries
March 21st - April 20th
At this dynamic time of the year we tend to revisit past mistakes. Then we determine not to repeat them!
- 

Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Wanting to give happiness to others is a strong desire right now. Could this have been triggered by contact with someone you admire?

- 

Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Clearing the decks is no bad thing if a new start is needed. Just don't throw out something that you will miss later!
- 

Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Taking up a new activity may mean spending a few pennies. There could be big results in satisfaction though. You need something to get your teeth into.
- 

Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Loving Venus is a strong influence on you right up to next weekend. Why not arrange something special?
- 

Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Have fun but stay grounded is the message. Things can move quickly when your heart and mind are engaged.
- 

Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Love may set your mind spinning in all directions, cuddling and dreaming together can ground those thoughts.

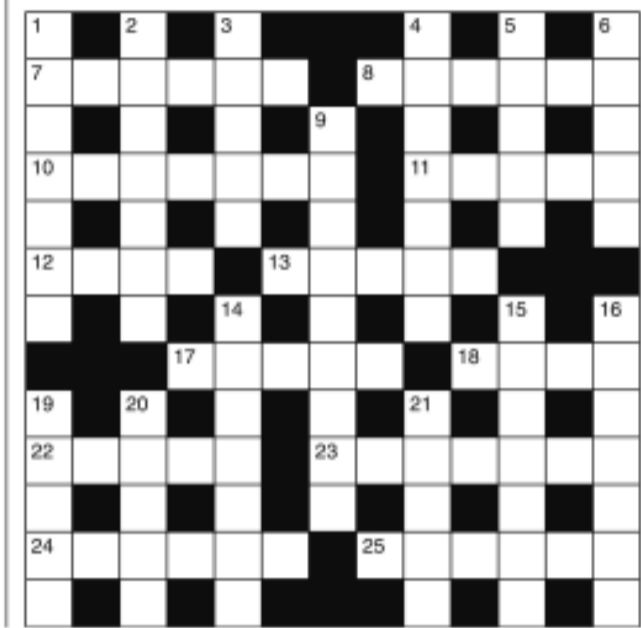
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Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Family members may be keeping quiet about needing some help, so investigate and read between those lines.
- 

Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
As friends flit in and out of your life, make the most of their way of seeing things and their experiences.
- 

Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Invite round someone who is fun to be with. Make the conversation interesting by asking some humorous questions.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11280



Across

- 7 Rushes about and puts you in your place (6)
- 8 At holiday times it may be busy or in repose (6)
- 10 Go off in a bad temper? (7)
- 11 Left out until rewritten (5)
- 12 I was first out, but refused to admit it (4)
- 13 Northern blockhouse (5)
- 17 It's useless to fight (5)
- 18 Grain of discomfort (4)
- 22 Love to make an entrance, we hear (5)
- 23 The only luggage that one needs? (7)
- 24 Temporary shelter in which there's an occupant (6)
- 25 A label on the French pieces of furniture (8)

Down

- 1 Use this and all's well, presumably (4-3)
- 2 Beaten by a whisker (7)
- 3 Demonstration by printers and photographers? (5)
- 4 Determined to attack (3,4)
- 5 Sweet money (5)
- 6 Condition in which one will live in America (5)
- 9 It's taught by one of worldly knowledge (9)
- 14 Shows or hides (7)
- 15 Incompetent celebrity? (7)
- 16 He breaks down in the course of an investigation (7)
- 19 Game requiring many skills (5)
- 20 Money charged for looking after strays (5)
- 21 Gather facts from a different angle (5)

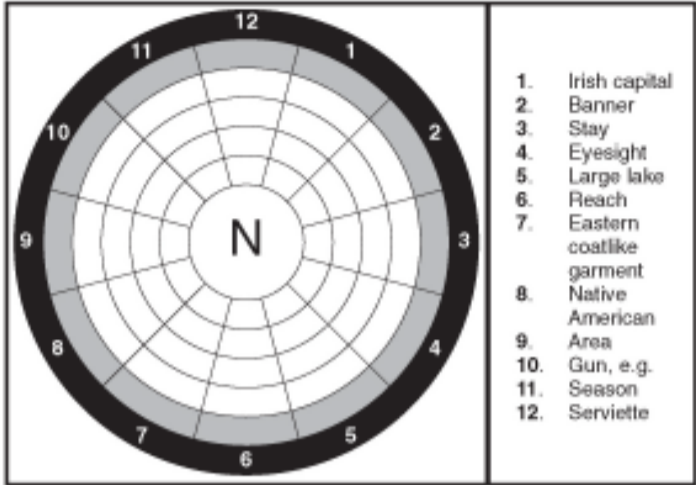
SUDOKU BY HANZO

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

	9			2		8		1
5	7							
6				8	4		3	5
7	8	1		9	5	6		
			8					2
		3		4		5		
		6		7				9
	2			5				4
		5		3		1	6	

CLOCKWORD

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter N in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of an Irish actress.



THE WORDPUZZLER



CAN you identify the places represented by the registration letters listed below?

1. E
2. ET
3. IS
4. RCH
5. IL
6. GBJ
7. C
8. ROK
9. RC
10. ADN

INTERNATIONAL RADIO

Talk Radio Europe
105.5 Axarquía
91.5 Costa del Sol East
91.9 Costa del Sol West
98.7 Gibraltar/Sotogrande
News, interviews, lifestyle, sport and BBC World Service.

Global (93.6 and 96.4FM)
All week round the clock music and entertainment

Radio Radio Network (96 and 98.3 FM). Music 24 hours.

Central FM (98.6 FM, 103.8)
All week, classic tracks and today's music broadcast to the Costa del Sol

ACE FM (106.8 FM)
Inland radio, news and music
The Beat fm (106 FM)
24 hours, music and entertainment

Spectrum (105.5 FM, Costa Almeria/Mojácar 92.6 FM)
24 hour music and entertainment

Radio Mijas (107.7 FM)
3 p.m. News, views and music

Radio Sol Almijara (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

QUIZ

QUESTION 1

Cynophobia is fear of what?

1. Dogs
2. Cats
3. Swans
4. Horses

QUESTION 2

According to the proverb, when should you not change your horses?

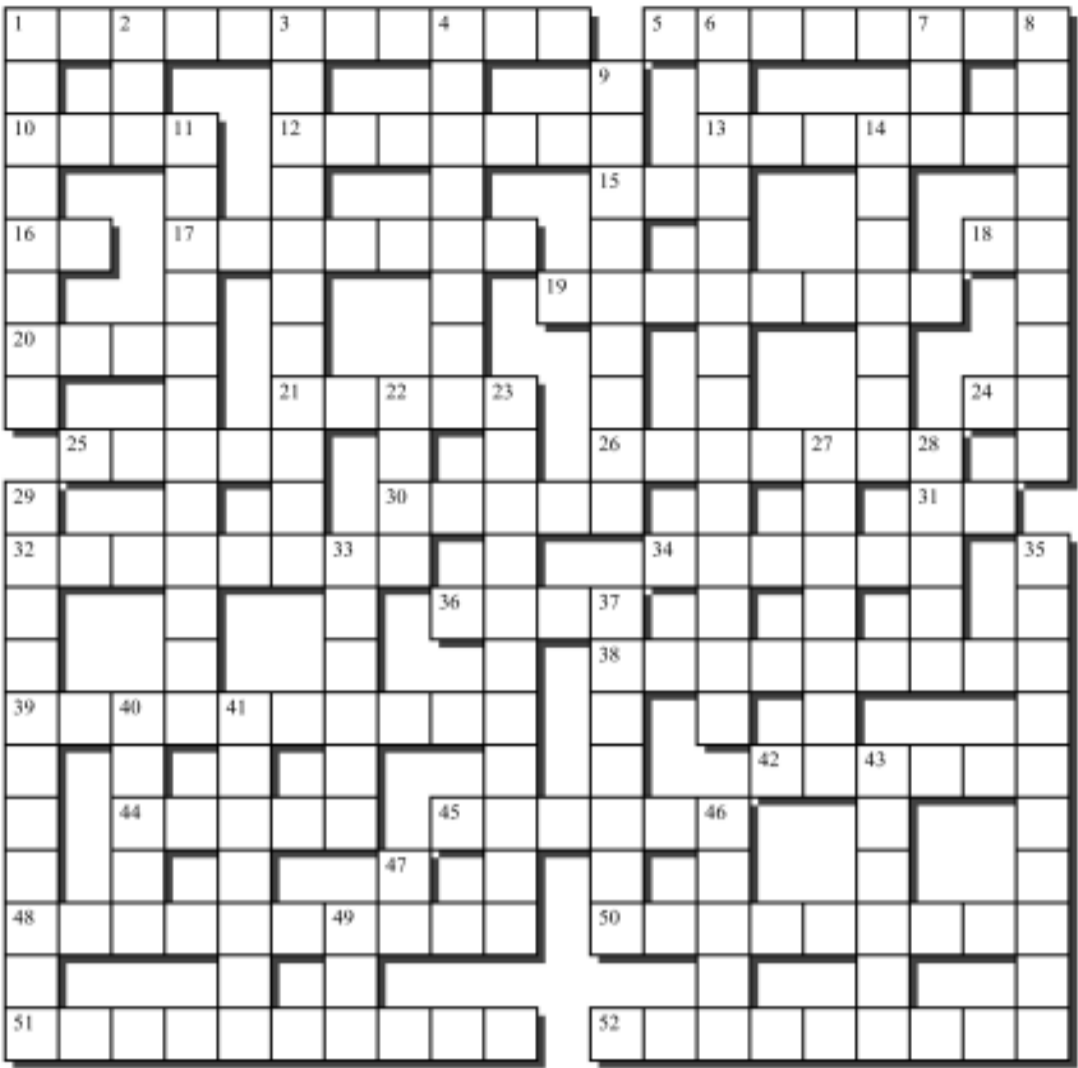
1. Mid season
2. Midsummer
3. Midstream
4. Mid race

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across

 - 1) Celebration (11)
 - 5) Shepherds (8)
 - 10) Nothing (4)
 - 12) Candle (7)
 - 13) You reveal (7)
 - 15) Estuary (3)
 - 16) D (musical note) (2)
 - 17) With you (7)
 - 18) If (2)
 - 19) Legends (8)
 - 20) Here (4)
 - 21) Islands (5)
 - 24) My (2)
 - 25) Goodbye (5)
 - 26) Shrines (7)
 - 30) You must (5)
 - 31) Phew! (2)
 - 32) Assessed (8)
 - 34) Lady (6)
 - 36) Leisure (4)
 - 38) Football-loving (9)
 - 39) Swallow (10)
 - 42) Name (6)
 - 44) Cave (5)
 - 45) Stone (6)
 - 48) Cliff (10)
 - 50) I restricted (9)
 - 51) Slavery (10)
 - 52) Procession (9)
- Down

 - 1) Canary Islands (8)
 - 2) Battle (literary) (3)
 - 3) Reconquest (11)
 - 4) Indigenous (8)
 - 6) Gratitude (14)
 - 7) Role (3)
 - 8) To replace (9)
 - 9) Relatives (9)
 - 11) Archipelago (12)
 - 14) Statue (7)
 - 22) Side (4)
 - 23) Underwater (11)
 - 27) Theologist (7)
 - 28) Soft (5)
 - 29) Pilgrimage (11)
 - 33) Daily (f) (6)
 - 35) Protection (10)
 - 37) To cause offence (7)
 - 40) Fight (5)
 - 41) Our (f) (7)
 - 43) Means (6)
 - 46) I isolate (5)
 - 47) Hal (2)
 - 49) I read (3)



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

companion that it was not best to swap horses when crossing a stream.”
but I am reminded of a story of an old Dutch farmer, who remarked to
have not permitted myself to conclude that I am the best man in the country;
the then president Abraham Lincoln, to step down. He replied to his critics: “I
Of interest: At the height of the American Civil War, there were demands for
Answer 2: Midstream
the fear of dogs. Most Cynophobics generally fear large dogs.
Of interest: Cynophobia (from the Greek: kýon “dog” and phobos “fear”) is
Answer 1: Dogs

Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 7 Ushers; 8 Resort; 10 Explode; 11 Unit; 12 Lied;
13 Igloo; 17 Scrap; 18 Com; 22 Adore; 23 Holdall; 24 Tenant; 25
Tables. Down: 1 Cure-all; 2 Whipped; 3 Proof; 4 Set upon; 5 Lolly; 6
State; 9 Geography; 14 Screens; 15 Notable; 16 Analyst; 19 Darts; 20
Pound; 21 Glean.

Clockword solution

SOLUTION: 1 Dublin, 2 Ensign, 3 Heron, 4 Vision, 5 Lagoon, 6 Altair,
7 Kaffir, 8 Indian, 9 Region, 10 Weapon, 11 Autumn, 12 Napkin.
CELEBRITY: Dervla Kirwan.

Wordpuzzler solution

1. Spain
2. Egypt
3. Iceland
4. Chile
5. Israel
6. Jersey
7. Cuba
8. Korea
9. Taiwan
10. Yemen
11. Israel
12. Spain
13. Egypt
14. Iceland
15. Chile
16. Israel
17. Jersey
18. Cuba
19. Korea
20. Taiwan
21. Yemen

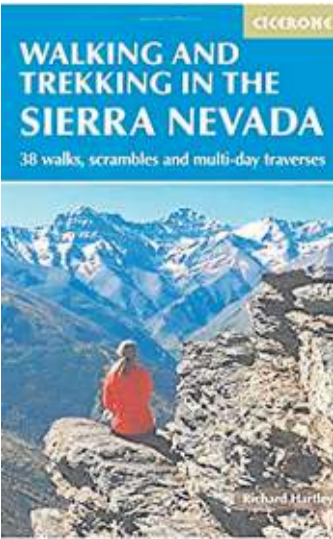
Sudoku solution

8	4	5	9	3	2	1	6	7
9	2	7	6	5	1	3	8	4
1	3	6	4	7	8	2	5	9
2	6	3	1	4	7	5	9	8
4	5	9	8	6	3	7	1	2
7	8	1	2	9	5	6	4	3
6	1	2	7	8	4	9	3	5
5	7	8	3	1	9	4	2	6
3	9	4	5	2	6	8	7	1

Language Crossword

ACROSS:
1. CEBRACION 5. PASTORES 10. NADA
12. CANDELA 13. REVELAS 15. RIA 16. RE
17. CONTIGO 18. SI 19. TENDAS
20. QUI 21. SI LAS 24. MI 25. ADIOS
26. EMITAS 30. ERAS 31. UF
32. EVALUADO 34. SORORA 36. OCO
38. FUTBOLEO 39. GOLONDRIÑA
40. NOMBRE 44. CUEVA 45. PIEDRA
48. ACANTILADO 50. RESTRINGI
51. ESCALAVITUO 52. PROCESSION
DOWN:
1. CANARIAS 2. ID 3. RECONQUISTA
4. INDIGENA 6. AGRADECIMIENTO 7. RO
8. SUSTITUIR 9. PARIENTES
11. ARCHIPELAGO 14. SIEMPRE 22. LADO
23. SUBACUATICO 27. BOLOGO
28. SUAVE 29. PEREGRINAJE 33. DIARIA
35. PROTECCION 37. OFENDER 40. LUCHA
41. NUESTRA 43. MEDIOS 46. AISLO
47. JA 48. LEI

BOOK OF THE WEEK



Walking and Trekking
Richard Hartley

Richard Hartley a local guide who has lived in the Alpujarra since 2002 has written this guide with 38 walks and beautiful images of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, in Granada. The format is a pocketguide, which makes it easy to carry. The guide includes some easy walks and others which are demanding treks, some over several days. All walks are illustrated with maps and beautiful photos. This guide is essential for everybody who loves to discover the Sierra Nevada Mountain range. www.sierranevadaoutdoor.es

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The best
lack all
conviction,
while the
worst are full
of passionate
intensity

W. B. YEATS

THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

We want you to be snap happy

In recent times, the region has been subjected to a number of natural phenomena: icy weather, snow, flooding, terrifying gale-force winds and even more recently, several earthquakes.
Nowadays, with no one ever too far from a smartphone, we can capture these moments almost instantaneously and send them off to whoever we want.
We would love to see your photos so send us your snaps and you could even

see your photo become the cover photo on the SUR in English Facebook and Twitter pages.
As always, there are a number of ways you can get in touch with us. You can send your photos by email to surinenglish.su@diario-sur.es or, for those of you who are using social media, you can Tweet them at us @SUR_English or load them onto our Facebook page (/surenglish).
As always, we look forward to hearing from you!





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Crown princess given Order of the Golden Fleece

King Felipe VI presented the award to his eldest daughter as he celebrated his fiftieth birthday

by M. E. ALONSO

MADRID. Felipe VI celebrated his fiftieth birthday this week with a ceremony in the Palacio Real in Madrid in which he awarded his twelve-year-old daughter, Leonor, the Collar del Toisón de Oro (the Chain of the Order of the Golden Fleece), which once belonged to his own grandfather, the late Juan de Borbón. "I have chosen to share this special day with you to emphasise, with the utmost solemnity and symbolism, our personal and institutional commitment to Spain," he said.

Following recent political turmoil in Catalonia, the king drew attention to the Spanish constitution and reaffirmed his support for the country in the face of its current problems. His commitment was symbolised by the figure of Leonor, who will now begin her official activity as heir apparent to the Spanish throne.

"Today there might seem to be a lot of demands and responsibilities," explained Felipe to his eldest daughter, "but you should remember that you have the support of many people who want the best for Spain, for the Crown and for you."

The king expressed his hope that the princess will learn "little by lit-



The Spanish royal family at the ceremony. :: EFE

tle, the traditions and duties" of the Crown and the responsibilities that of her position as the future queen.

It is a task that she has been prepared for from birth and for which she will be also supported by her grandfather, King Emeritus Juan Car-

los and wife Queen Sofia.

King Felipe's and Queen Letizia's diary next week includes an official visit to Málaga on Tuesday, 6 February for a cultural awards ceremony at the Centre Pompidou.

"Always stand by the Constitution"

The king, with an acknowledgement to recent events in Catalonia, reminded his daughter of the importance of the Constitution in modern democratic Spain. "All of your actions should be guided by the greatest sentiment of dignity and exemplariness, by honesty and integrity," Felipe told Leonor, who listened attentively to her father.

In his speech, the king discussed the lessons he had learnt both as a father and as head of state, advising his daughter to be guided "always by the constitution, implementing and observing it" and taking "the concerns and feelings" of Spain's citizens into her heart.

He also praised his father's pivotal role in the transition to democracy.



King Felipe smiles at his eldest daughter. :: EFE

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