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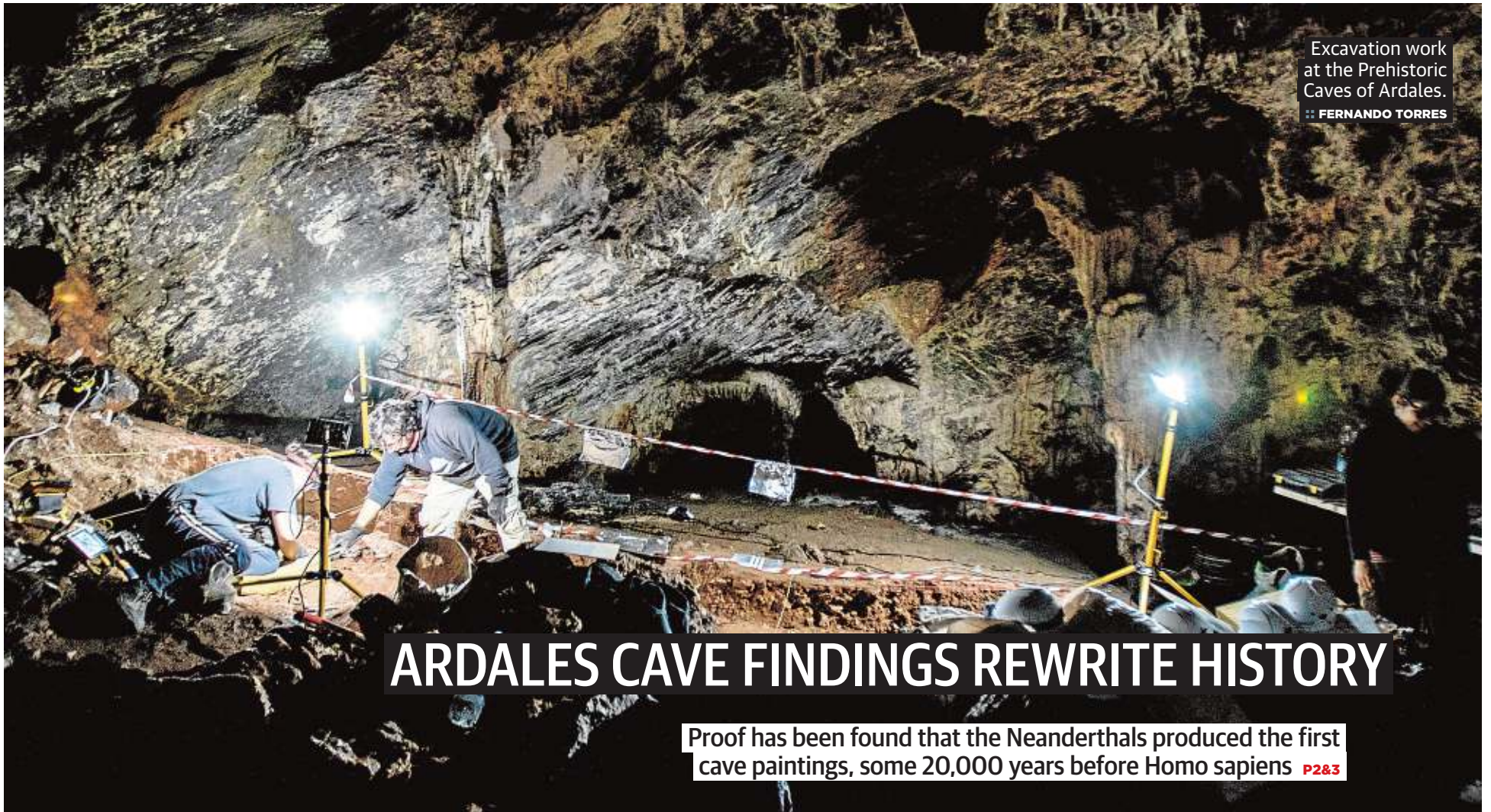
March 2nd to 8th 2018
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FOOTBALL

Yet another miserable week for Malaga CF

Two defeats from two games sees the club facing what could be a very costly relegation **P52&53**



Excavation work at the Prehistoric Caves of Ardales.
:: FERNANDO TORRES

ARDALES CAVE FINDINGS REWRITE HISTORY

Proof has been found that the Neanderthals produced the first cave paintings, some 20,000 years before Homo sapiens **P2&3**

Goatherd killed and two badly beaten in brutal late-night raid on Casares farm

Investigators suggest that the assailants were looking for a rival gang's drugs and the raid was a case of mistaken identity

Investigations are ongoing after a 37-year-old man was killed and two other men badly injured when armed men burst into an isolated farm in Casares on Monday night and tortured the victims for four hours.

According to the survivors, five

hooded people with weapons stormed the property and demanded to know where the drugs were kept.

Guardia Civil investigators say that the evidence so far points to a mix-up by the attackers searching for the drugs of a rival gang. **P4**

Forecasts predict heavy rainfall across Spain for the next few days

Andalucía Day events and incoming flights to Malaga Airport have been disrupted **P7**



Tourists try to avoid the rain in Malaga. :: SALVADOR SALAS

New prison in Archidona finally set to receive inmates in the coming weeks, bringing an end to years of delays and protests **P10**

Manilva residents share 88-million-euro jackpot win in last week's Euromillions draw - four times the annual municipal budget **P12**

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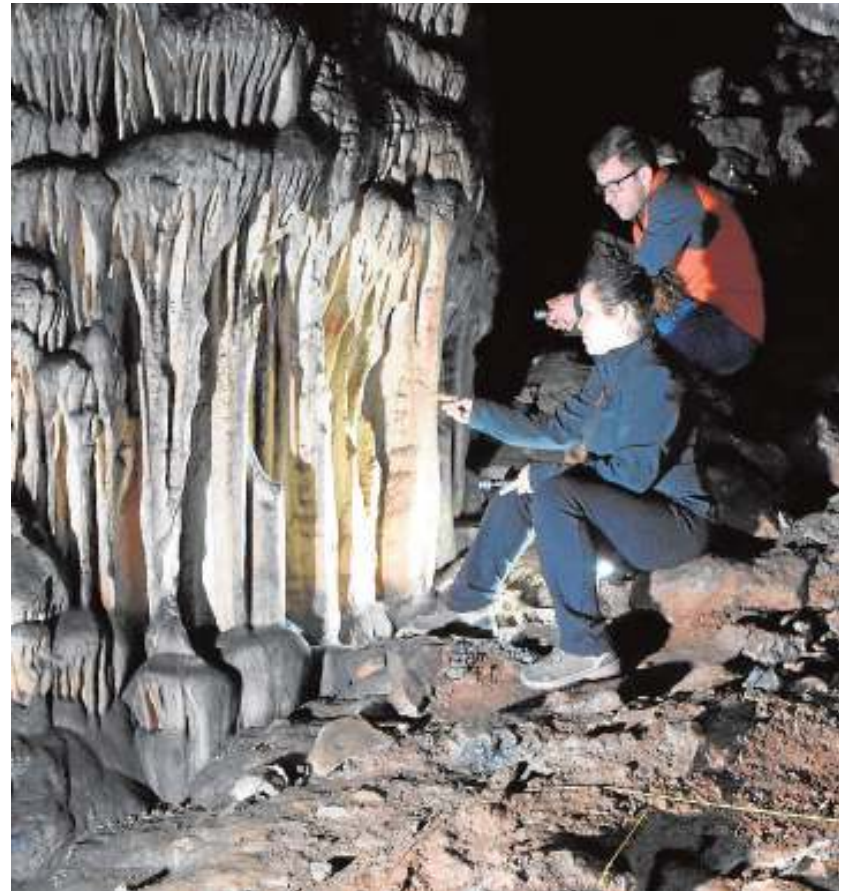
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One of the paintings which has been dated at the Ardales Cave. :: F. TORRES



Two archaeologists work on one of the geological formations at the Ardales Cave, on which there is a red painting that is now attributed to the Neanderthals. :: P. C.

Ardales, the birthplace of cave art

A team of scientists have proved that paintings in the cave are 20,000 years older than our species

FERNANDO TORRES

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Researchers from different countries concluded that the oldest art in Europe was not carried out by Homo sapiens but by Neanderthals

MALAGA. The prehistoric cave of Ardales continues to be full of mysteries, but the scientific community is gradually uncovering more of them. This archaeological site, which was forgotten for centuries and discovered by the first researchers nearly 100 years ago, has been the subject of a new international study and the results have just been published in the prestigious journal, Science.

According to datings from the precise uranium-thorium technique, the wall paintings in the cave are 20,000 years older than the time most historians have believed that prehistoric art began. Together with the caves of Maltravieso (Cáceres) and La Pasiega (Puente Viesgo, Cantabria),

which were also studied, Ardales was the home of one of the first paintings in humanity. Researchers have concluded that the most ancient art in Europe was not, after all, produced by Homo sapiens, but by the Neanderthals.

The research, which was carried out in different stages by academics and institutions from five countries, used the uranium-thorium method (known in the field of science as U/Th dating). This procedure, as Pedro Cantalejo, who is responsible for heritage in Ardales and for the cave, explains, "enables us to date the incrustations and calcitic formations which are in direct contact with the wall paintings". It enables definite dates

to be known for the calcitic incrustations associated with figures in paleolithic style, especially those which were not done with organic materials.

"This overcomes the limitations of 14 AMS carbon and the problem of preservation," says Cantalejo, "because during this process none of the colouring material of the figure has to be removed." It also avoids possible contamination of the sample, in that the uranium series dates geological processes and does not produce contamination during the collection or subsequent handling in the laboratory.

As the extensive article in Science explained, U/Th dating enabled the researchers to confirm that the wall paintings at Ardales, Maltravieso and La Pasiega are the oldest in the world. "It can be certified that the origin of the art goes back at least 65,000 years,

not 40,000," concludes the study. The dating shows that a red line in La Pasiega cave was painted at least 64,800 years ago, that a negative red hand in Maltravieso cave was drawn at least 66,700 years ago and a formation of speleothems in Ardales cave was decorated with elongated or pseudo-ellipsoidal red concentrations at least 65,500 years ago.

These results bring a new focus to the scientific debate about the origin of cave art in the world, a conversation which has been heightened in recent years due to new findings. Traditionally, artistic abilities have only been attributed to the first populations of modern humans who arrived in Europe. Despite this, "in the past few years several discoveries have been made which suggest that earlier human groups such as the Neanderthals used to paint their bodies red and paint or






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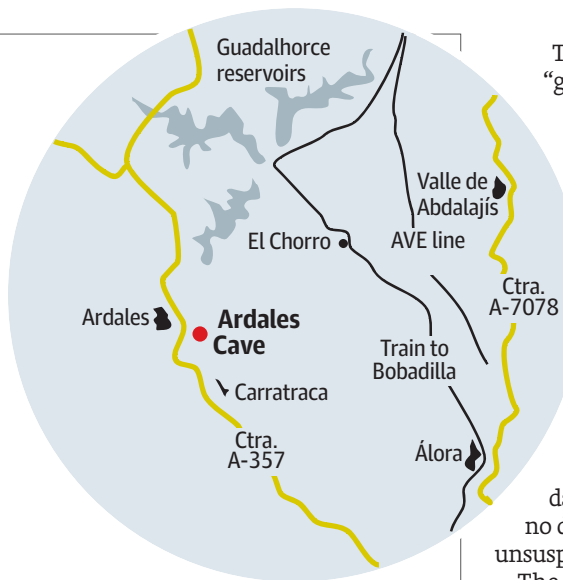
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Detail of one of the paintings.
:: PEDRO CANTALEJO

This conclusion shows the "great potential of the sites in Malaga," says Cantalejo, for whom it is also a way of validating the efficiency of new technologies applied to methods of archaeological study. The Ardales Cave contains more than 1,000 prehistoric drawings from the paleolithic period. They were studied, catalogued and published in 2006. Since then, these new mechanisms have enabled definite dates to be known and there is no doubt about their previously unsuspected age.

The results of the study in the Science journal were presented by the University of Cadiz, which participated in the project, last week. The presentation was attended by Professor of Prehistory José Ramos; the director of the Neanderthal Museum in Germany, Gerd-Christian Weniger; the chancellor of the university, Eduardo González Mazo; the Junta de Andalucía's Minister of Culture, Miguel Ángel Vázquez; and the mayor of Ardales, María del Mar González.

International funding

The project was funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (UK), National Geographic Society (USA), Max Planck Society (Germany) and the Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Award (UK). Ardales council provided support for the field work.

Dr Gerd-Christian Weniger of the Neanderthal Museum is proud of the results of this project. "It is the end of a process which has taken many years; we know that this will change the way in which we study history," he said, and it also will put an end to a discussion between experts which has lasted over 25 years.

The mayor of Ardales said she had been excited to form part of the process by providing logistical support for the research. She explained that the cave has always been, and always will be, important for the municipality. "We have a great affection for it," she said.

The Ardales cave still has more stories to tell. The gallery over the main chambers has not yet been excavated and experts believe there used to be a connection with the Sima de las Palomas chasm in Teba. The works would be costly and complicated, but they would shed further light on the fascinating history of this small village in Malaga province.

"This discovery means that books on the History of Art are going to have to be changed"

José Ramos Professor at UCA and coordinator of the excavations

One of the greatest experts on the history of Ardales and a key figure in the research, analyses the results of the study

:: FERNANDO TORRES

MALAGA. José Ramos, from the University of Cadiz, is the director of the excavation works in Ardales and Teba. He was involved in the project and coordinated part of the works, in which he has been involved since 1985. For him, these results are recognition of very essential work.

—These results have led to numerous tributes from the scientific community. How do you feel?

—Very happy, especially because I have been working in the cave since 1985; I have spent half my life in there, so personally it is very satisfying. Another good thing is that this has happened in Andalucía, which traditionally has always been in the background and is now in the forefront. The fact that a public university was involved, and that this was an international project, are also important: science should be interdisciplinary. Finally, southern Spain was where everything started. I don't say that in a nationalistic sense, but because it was logical. The climate here was better.

—So the Neanderthals are in the news again...

—This changes the paradigm of what we have been studying in the past. There were signs beforehand, but the physical confirmation of these datings came from the Max Plank laboratory, which is a benchmark in science.

—For those who don't know much about prehistory, how important is this finding?

—It will change the books about History of Art. In science methodology it is what we call a change of paradigm. It means that everything we have been studying is, in fact, older



José Ramos in the Sima de las Palomas. :: FERNANDO TORRES

than we realised. It was a really surprising result and has numerous cultural and anthropological implications. People have always thought that modern humans were the great artists and engineers, but the Neanderthals have their rightful place in history now.

—They say the history books will have to be changed.

—That's the change of paradigm. There will be other big surprises to come. Everything has to be looked at again. We have always said that art began 40,000 years ago with modern man and now we know it was 65,000 years ago. Neanderthals were very similar to us, that is the great lesson to be learned from all this.

—Does it put an end to discussions about the cultural abilities of the Neanderthals?

—The steps are the following: you measure the incrustations over the art with Uh/T. You do a battery of tests in one of the best laboratories

in the world. The dates make sense. The Neanderthals were alive at that time. It was a hypothesis, and now the hypothesis has been proven.

—How did you feel as the results came through?

—We found out in the summer. We had met several times to check and collate the data. We prepared the article and the Science journal reviewed it extremely carefully. The fact that they published it says a great deal.

—What does being the birthplace of cave art mean to Ardales?

—In the cave there is still a lot of unexplored material which will lead to major discoveries. We mustn't be blasé; tomorrow it could turn out that another cave is 2,000 years older. However, we are looking at the result of a lifetime's work, with Pedro Cantalejo. Ardales is a small place but the council has supported us in every possible way. Despite its size, it has shown that with tenacity great things can be achieved.

QUOTES

Pedro Cantalejo
Head of the Ardales Cave

"We can certify that the origin of cave art dates back at least 65 years, not 40,000"

Gerd-Christian Weniger
Neanderthal Museum

"It is the end of a process which will change the way in which we study history in the future"

carve small signs on bones and stones," says Pedro Cantalejo.

In the case of the Ardales Cave - situated in the extreme west of Europe and considered to be a home of the last Neanderthals - chronological research supports the results which are being obtained from the archaeological excavations carried out by the international team from 2011 onwards.



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Goatherd killed on a Casares farm in brutal late-night raid

Two others were beaten at the property on the Manilva border and police suspect the attackers were a drugs gang who went for the wrong target

:: C. MÁRQUEZ / J. CANO

CASARES / MANILVA. One man was killed and two more badly beaten on Monday night when armed men burst into an isolated farm in Casares municipality alongside the border with Manilva. Guardia Civil investigators say that the evidence so far points to an error by a gang searching in the wrong place for the drugs of a rival gang.

The man who was killed was a 37-year-old goatherder. He was watching television around 10pm on Monday with a colleague in the simple farm building. In the next room the owner of the farm, a 72-year-old man from nearby Manilva, was asleep.

According to the account of the two attack victims who survived, five hooded people with weapons burst into the property and demanded to know where the drugs were kept. What followed was four hours of torture in which the men were hit and kicked. All three were



A funeral van at the rural property on Tuesday. :: C.M.

tied up, however one of the goatherds put up a harder fight, dying from his injuries.

The ordeal lasted until around 2am on Tuesday, when the attackers, realising that one person had died, fled the scene, taking the victims' telephones and stealing a four-wheel-drive Mitsubishi outside. This was found nearby by Guardia Civil. The surviving goatherd was able to free himself after some time and reach Manilva to raise the alarm.

Investigators say that the victims have no police record and appear to

be innocent, suggesting that the attackers had gone to the wrong place. The modus operandi, including the rural location on the Malaga-Cadiz provincial border, is in line with past activity by drugs gangs who search out the isolated safehouses where rivals have stashed the drugs, police have said.

The niece of the owner said on Tuesday that there were "only goats and wind" on the land and that fortunately, by chance, the profoundly deaf sister of the owner, who normally slept there, was ill and was staying with family in Manilva.

IN BRIEF

Four years sought for Guardia Civil A-7 driver

MALAGA

:: **Á. F. / J. C.** The prosecutors' office in Malaga is asking for four years in the forthcoming trial of the off-duty Guardia Civil officer who is alleged to have caused a fatal pile up on the A-7 motorway near Torremolinos on 28 June last year.

Investigators say that the sergeant tested positive for alcohol and drugs and was driving at 149 km/h in a 100 km/h area. Despite the severity of the alleged offence, prosecutors say that the current law only allows them to ask for four years. Three tourists died in the accident.

Frenchman held on Euro warrant in Marbella

MARBELLA

:: **SUR.** A 29-year-old French man with a European warrant issued for his arrest has been held by police in Marbella. The man, originally from the French city of Nantes, is alleged to have kidnapped and tortured a man, under a contract from a third party, with three accomplices in December. The victim was burnt and had a finger amputated. The attack is said to be related to drugs. The wanted man was found in a property near Marbella. His alleged offence carries a sentence of 30 years in France.

Verdict upheld in Mijas police officers drug case

MALAGA

:: **Á. F. / J. C.** The Supreme Court in Madrid has upheld the sentence for drug trafficking imposed by a Malaga court on five Local Police officers in Mijas. They had been found guilty of taking drugs from dealers to sell themselves.

The long-running case had to be tried twice after the first appearances in court were declared void over doubts over secret recordings used to incriminate the officers when they were first held

as long ago as 2009.

At the second trial in Malaga, which also included legal action by Mijas council against the men, the officers were found guilty and sentenced to between five and four and a half years each.

Judges said that the men had abused their position, surprising drug dealers with a patrol car to force them to run off and leave the drugs which they then collected. The officers knew that if they were ever stopped with drugs they could falsely say it was part of a legitimate anti-drug operation. A private individual who helped hide the drugs had his sentence reduced.

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Three changes to UK domicile rules that could cost you money

By John McCann, Senior Partner, Blevins Franks

Changes to the UK domicile regime come into force last year that could prove costly for expatriates. They were confirmed when the Finance Act was approved in November, to take effect retrospectively from 6th April 2017.

Whether you are planning to move to Spain or currently live here and thinking about returning to UK – even temporarily – these changes could affect your tax liabilities. Make sure you understand what the new rules mean for you and your family.

1. New time thresholds make UK domicile 'stickier'

Previously, it was possible to shed your UK domicile of origin (if you are British-born) after living abroad for three years and acquiring a domicile of choice in your new country of residence. Now it will take four years, during which time you will be generally subject to UK taxation, including inheritance taxes on your worldwide estate. However, it is notoriously difficult to shake off UK domicile when it comes to inheritance tax, so do not assume

that time abroad will shelter your estate.

Meanwhile, the time threshold for non-domiciles living in the UK has reduced. Now, foreign-born residents will automatically be deemed UK-domiciled for all tax purposes after living in Britain for 15 out of the last 20 tax years – previously 17/20. Thus at this point, they become subject to UK inheritance tax, as well as income and capital gains taxes, on their worldwide income and gains, even if they are domiciled overseas.

2. Returning Britons can be taxed immediately

Britons living offshore long-term may no longer be able to claim 'non-dom' status if they move back to the UK, even if their permanent home is overseas and they intend to eventually return there.

Under the new rules, if you were born in the UK (having a UK domicile of origin) and then acquire a domicile of choice in another country, as soon as you return to Britain you are deemed

UK-domiciled. This immediately puts you in the firing line for UK income and capital gains tax.

This can prove costly for expatriates who unexpectedly or temporarily relocate to the UK, for example, due to family illness or for children's education. In this case, wealth and financial planning that has been structured to be tax-efficient for a life overseas could instantly become exposed to UK taxation.

However, a 12-month grace period is in place for inheritance tax purposes to avoid capturing Britons who plan to stay only temporarily in the UK. Unless you have been resident in the UK for at least one of the two years before returning, you should not be immediately liable for UK inheritance tax. If you have a Will, you should prioritise updating your Will and consider restructuring your assets to factor in your new tax liability.

3. All UK homes fall within inheritance tax range

Before 6 April, inheritance tax would not generally apply to UK

residential property owned through a corporate structure, which in turn was directly or indirectly owned by a non-domicile, known as an 'enveloped dwelling'. Now, regardless of how it is owned, all UK residential property is subject to inheritance tax.

This further diminishes the previous tax advantages of holding UK properties in this way. With such structures often used for significant property portfolios, this change is likely to prove profitable for HM Revenue and Customs. No tax relief is available for 'de-enveloping' property, so if you hold UK residential property within an enveloped structure, take care to understand all available options and associated costs, and review alternative methods to manage your inheritance tax exposure going forward.

What action should you take?

Domicile and cross-border taxation are highly complex, so specialist advice is essential, especially if you are considering relocating, or a significant amount of inheritance

tax is at stake. Blevins Franks experts can help you determine your domicile status, how UK inheritance tax interacts with Spanish succession tax, and what steps you can take to minimise unnecessary taxes for your heirs.

If you are looking to potentially return to the UK – even temporarily – take personalised advice as soon as possible, ideally before leaving Spain to enable any tax-efficient restructuring of your wealth and assets. However, as these latest changes are new and untested, it is a good idea to review your financial planning in any event to make sure it remains suitable for your personal situation and goals.

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; individuals are advised to seek personalised advice.

Will your heirs still have to pay inheritance tax in Andalucía?

Andalucía has introduced a significant reform for succession and gift tax, which means your spouse and children could receive inheritances of up to €1 million tax free. Contact Blevins Franks to find out exactly how this will benefit your family, and if you can protect other heirs from this tax. We have 40 years' experience advising expatriates in Spain on their tax and estate planning.

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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Drought measures postponed until April in view of rainfall

The Junta de Andalucía has assured the Axarquía that any restrictions will only apply to growers and that domestic water supply will not be affected

AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Ahead of the forecast substantial rainfall in the Malaga province this week, environment advisor for the Junta de Andalucía, José Fiscal, announced on Tuesday that a drought situation would not officially be announced in the Axarquía until after Easter.

A drought was initially due to be declared in January and was delayed until February. However, a further postponement was made earlier this week due to the weather forecast.

Fiscal gave assurances that any cuts to water supply in the Axarquía, as a result of the drought, would only affect growers and that domestic supplies would not suffer restrictions, despite the current



La Viñuela reservoir is currently just 21.39% full. :: E. CABEZAS

situation being considered "severe".

The tropical fruit industry has already been subjected to drastic cuts in supply and since 1 December has only had access to 40 per cent of its normal amount of water from La Viñuela reservoir. The restrictions are in place for the entire hydraulic year, which ends in October.

The reservoir, which is the main source of water for both growers and domestic use for all 33 municipalities in the area, was at just 21.39 per cent of its capacity on Wednesday, with 35.39 cubic hectometres. This time last year La Viñuela was standing at 64.78 cubic hectometres; almost double the current reading.

Junta stalls multi-million-euro Arenas retirement home project

EUGENIO CABEZAS

ARENAS. Mayor of Arenas, Laureano Martín, has criticised the Junta de Andalucía's decision to delay the multi-million-euro retirement home and hotel project in the village. Although the project, launched by a Belgian investor, was given the green light by the Junta last summer, the regional government has since decided that the proposed site for the building is classed as land not designated for construc-

tion. Speaking last Friday, Martín said that the project would "contribute to improving the economic conditions of the village, which is suffering from a large population loss, due to its lack of employment opportunities".

The mayor added that the project plans are "very respectful of its natural surroundings and there are already buildings in the area which are being legalised to conform with the Andalusian law".

The project plans, which were released last summer, demonstrate how the building, which would comprise a residence for older people and a hotel area for visitors, respects the local landscape and provides space and light as well as an area for residents to be able to grow their own organic produce.

A verdict is expected some time this year as to whether the project will be allowed to go ahead.

According to a study into the project carried out by CADE (Centro Andaluz de Emprendimiento) Algarrobo technical expert, José Luis Fenech, the initiative "could change the negative socioeconomic trend in Arenas and the surrounding area".

HERE AND THERE



The María Zambrano park's new look. :: E. C.

Birds return to park after modernisation

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

E. C. Some species of birds have returned to the pond at Vélez-Málaga's María Zambrano park since a renovation, including improved filtration and oxygenation of the water, took place earlier this year.

Parks and gardens councillor, Marcelino Méndez-Trelles, visited the park earlier this week to see how work to redevelop the space is going. He explained that the main focus was the pond and the next phase will involve modernising the sports facilities, such as the tennis courts, and cleaning up the whole park, about which the town hall had received a number of complaints.

Belgian dies when car comes off N340 road

ALMUÑÉCAR

E. C. A 48-year-old Belgian man from Vélez-Málaga was found dead when his car came off the N340 road, near to the Cantarriján beach and Cerro Gordo west exit on Saturday. Officers believe that the man had suffered a heart attack or was asleep at the wheel prior to the accident, as there were no brake marks at the scene of the accident.

Residents to get vote on promenade project

TORRE DE BENAGALBÓN

E. C. Mayor of Rincón de la Victoria, Francisco Salado, has said that residents of Torre de Benagalbón will be able to vote for their preferred outcome to the controversial promenade development. Local residents have been campaigning to save the area, which they say is home to one of the province's last natural sand dune ecosystems.

Police break up Chinese shop criminal gang

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

SUR. Three people have been detained and a further two are being investigated following a police operation to break up a criminal gang operating along the coast of the Axarquía. The operation, named 'Pekín-Urano', started in October 2017 when commercial establish-

ments, in particular Chinese-run shops, in the area reported forced entry and theft of money from cash registers. The gang members were found to have criminal records for similar offences. However, they were paying third parties who had no previous records to give their details in order to hire vehicles in exchange for money. Gang members then carried out the raids using the vehicles hired in other people's names.

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BRYANT



Heavy rain disrupts Andalucía Day celebrations along the Costa del Sol

Coín cancelled its events and Benalmádena town hall moved its celebrations inside because of the poor weather forecast

■ TONY BRYANT

MALAGA. Due to the atrocious weather that was forecast to hit Andalucía on Wednesday, some town halls along the Costa del Sol were forced to cancel, or relocate events organised to celebrate Andalucía Day. Plans to commemorate the 1980 referendum - in which the Andalusian electorate voted for the statute that made Andalucía an autonomous community of Spain - had to be rapidly changed, although the rain did hold off long enough for some towns to proceed with their events.

Continuous rain in Coín forced the town hall to abandon their traditional celebration in the Plaza de Alameda, while in Benalmádena Pueblo, the decision was taken to move the planned open air event to the cultural centre in Arroyo de la Miel.

The festivities in Mijas went ahead and people enjoyed a typical Andalusian breakfast supplied by the Tamisa Asociación de Vecinos, while various activities took place in the Virgen de la Peña pensioners centre.

Fuengirola also managed to hoist the Andalusian flag and enjoy the Himno de Andalucía, which was performed by local flamenco singer, Virginia Gámez.

Torremolinos was forced to cancel the artisan street market that was to be held in the Plaza Costa del Sol, although the rain stayed away long enough for around 500 people to enjoy a programme of flamenco music and dance. The town also proceeded with the inauguration of a new tiled plaque inscribed with the words of the Hymn of Andalucía. The town



Celebrations in Torremolinos were virtually unaffected by rain. ■ TB

paid tribute to Blas Infante, the locally-born writer and politician, affectionately known as 'The Father of Andalucía', with a floral wreath-laying ceremony outside the town hall at midday. This was followed by the unveiling of the plaque, which is situated in the Plaza de Andalucía.

Blas Infante wrote the lyrics to the song, which was adopted as the official hymn of the region in 1981. The unveiling was attended by the mayor of Torremolinos and various members of the town hall.

The afternoon's activities in the town were abandoned due to the rain.



Downpours on Malaga's Paseo del Parque. ■ SALVADOR SALAS

Much-needed water arrives at last and it will stay rainy

■ SUR

MALAGA. The missing winter rain on the Costa del Sol and across Malaga province started to arrive this week, bringing welcome relief to the area's gardens and farms, as well as those wor-

ried that lower-than-average levels in reservoirs could mean drought restrictions over the summer.

Weather forecasters are expected to keep an amber weather warning in place today (Friday), with up to 80mm of rain in some areas, and more is forecast to fall at times for the next few days, with a generally unsettled but mild outlook.

Between Wednesday and Thursday this week some 70mm of rain fell at Malaga Airport and on Thursday morning an amber weather alert was in place until midday due to the rainfall, high winds and waves.

Near San Pedro a lorry skidded on the A-7 blocking the road for a while and in Vélez-Málaga three people became trapped in a car by a swollen river. At Malaga Airport on Thursday afternoon, eight planes were diverted to other airports due to high winds of up to 90 km/h.

The steadier nature of the rain has been welcomed, giving time for it to soak into the ground and not run off, say experts. By Thursday night, La Concepción reservoir near Marbella and La Viñuela in the Axarquía had benefitted, however the first rains had had little impact on levels in the Guadalhorce reservoirs.

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NEW CUDECA FURNITURE STORE OPENS ITS DOORS

Cudeca opened a new furniture store in Torremolinos on Thursday. Situated in Plaza Unión Europea, the new shop will sell quality second-hand furniture, bric-a-brac and ornamental items. This is the 20th shop the cancer care hospice organisation has opened since it was founded by Joan Hunt in 1991.

Renfe approves plans for works on La Nogalera station

■ ALBERTO GÓMEZ

TORREMOLINOS. The refurbishment of the station de Cercanías in the plaza de La Nogalera, in Torremolinos, is a step closer to getting off the ground. Renfe announced yesterday that it had approved the tender for works for the total redevelopment of the station, which currently is in violation of the accessibility law with no lift, among other shortfalls.

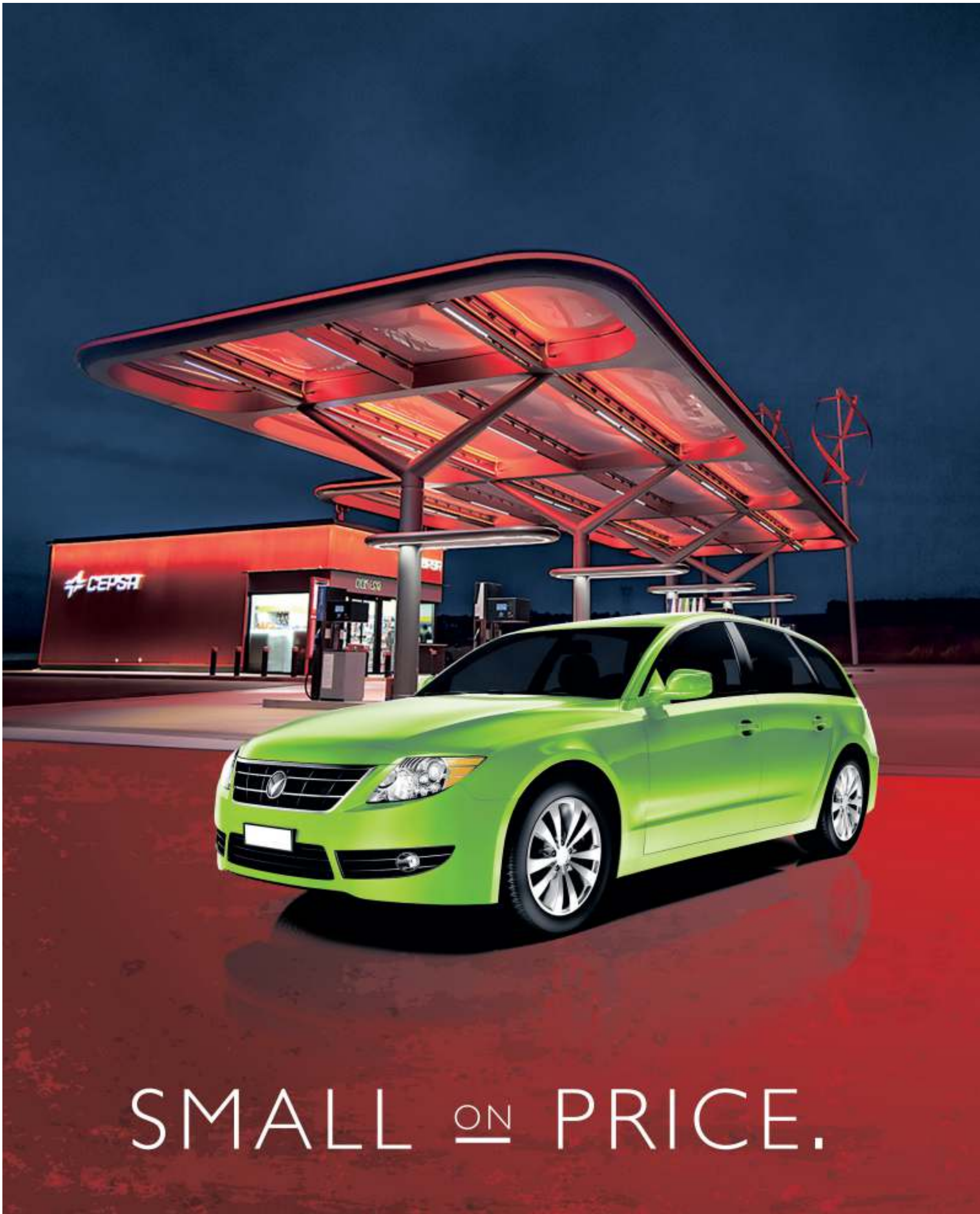
The project, which has been delayed for years by the Ministry of Development, will now go ahead following an investment of 7.5 million euros, one of the largest sums invested in the town in recent years. The works, which will take place over the space of 18 months,

will include the installation of lifts, the extension of the platforms and the creation of a timetable that can be viewed in all major parts of the station.

Renfe will improve facilities to allow blind people to better navigate the station, as well as better signage.

The current fittings will be completely revamped, especially the electric works. These are the only details that the organisation has discussed in detail as of yet.

The works should solve the ongoing problem of lack of accessibility in the station, one of the most popular in all of Malaga province. It is used by over 6,000 passengers per day.



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IN BRIEF

High tech PTA park to get vital new parking spaces

MALAGA

■ **N. TRIGUERO.** Malaga's expanding high-tech business park, the PTA, is to get some relief from its eternal parking problem when 560 new parking spaces enter into service in the coming months. The park's managers have also said they continue to look for a solution to the congested entrance roads.



The PTA park near Malaga. ■ SUR

Council forced to pay out 360,000 euros to staff

MIJAS

■ **I. GELIBTER.** Mijas council has been told it has to pay 360,000 euros in compensation to staff for irregularities in employment contracts and conditions. According to sources, the amounts relate to decisions under the previous PP administration and include 233,000 euros for recontracting media staff as self-employed and 60,000 for illegally transferring the contracts of racecourse staff.

Faster planning process on way for Mijas Pueblo

MIJAS

■ **I. GELIBTER.** The town hall in Mijas has said that some 8,000 residents in historic Mijas Pueblo will be able to modify their homes and businesses faster in future. Applications will now be dealt with by new council rules and not have to pass through the regional government's culture ministry. Up to now something as simple as changing a window can take several months.

De la Torre says he will stand again as city mayor

MALAGA

■ **SUR.** Malaga city's long-standing conservative mayor, Francisco de la Torre, has said he will stand again as PP party candidate in next year's local council elections. He had been expected to stand down as he is 75. Opposition parties said the mayor was forced to stand again as the PP was lacking other candidates with the charisma of De la Torre. He has been mayor since 2000.

New local prison put into service in inland Archidona

■ FERNANDO TORRES

ARCHIDONA. The new prison for the Malaga area was officially opened on Monday, five years after construction finished.

The building, known as Malaga II, is near Archidona, in inland Malaga province, and is designed to relieve some of the pressure on the existing Alhaurín de la Torre jail near Malaga city.

Attending the opening was the national minister for Security, José Antonio Nieto, who explained that the first prisoners would start being transferred from other jails over the next two weeks. He added that the facility has 1,008 cells for over 2,000 inmates.

The prison has been marred by controversy ever since it was built and dignitaries on Monday were met by loud protests from prison-worker unions who were criticising the de-



Government and local officials tour the building on Monday. ■ NITO SALAS

lays in putting it into service.

After construction the building was kept empty as the government didn't have the budget during the financial crisis to fund its operation, but still had ongoing maintenance costs as it had to have round-the-

clock security and floodlighting.

Recently it was used as a temporary detention centre for illegal immigrants, causing outrage from charities and welfare groups. Protests by inmates during this period resulted in 160,000 euros in damage inside.

Malaga city to publish list of legal, approved holiday lets

■ PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. From now on, people wanting to rent a tourist apartment or house in Malaga city will be able to check online first to see if the accommodation is officially registered with the Andalusian regional government and therefore complies with the law.

Malaga council's tourism department has said that by publishing the list it aims to improve the offer for visitors and provide good-quality competition for traditional hotels. At the moment

there are 2,600 homes registered with space for 13,000 tourists to stay, says the council. The list is currently in pdf format on the Spanish version of the malagaturismo.com website and is due to be extended to the English version.

At the same time, the council has approved the setting up of a telephone hotline so members of the public can report any irregularities in tourist self-catering accommodation or make recommendations. The telephone number is 010.

City council approves five-star hotel tower project for Malaga's port area

■ ANA PÉREZ-BRYAN

MALAGA. The project to build a 135-metre tower housing a five-star hotel in Malaga's port moved a step closer last week when the city council voted by a majority to back the project. The PP, PSOE and Ciudadanos parties supported to move. A

spokesperson for Ciudadanos summed up the majority opinion of councillors. "Malaga needs more five-star hotels to carry on generating wealth for the city," he said, going on to quote figures that say that the 115-million investment will generate 350 jobs when it is finished and 1,280 while it is being built.

The main opposition to the scheme came from the Malaga Ahora and Malaga para la Gente parties as well as one independent councillor.

The tower, which still has to finish the planning application process, would be built next to the cruise ship terminal.

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Citizens' council to advise on best way to run Marbella's beaches

The town hall has put the contract out to tender for lifeguards for the resort for the next two years, but it won't be in place by Easter

by M. PÉREZ / N. CASTRO

MARBELLA. Councillors in Marbella have put forward for public consultation their idea for a committee made up of the local community to make recommendations on how best to manage the resort's beaches.

The citizens' council will be made up of 17 members and three of these will be selected at random from the town's electoral role. Other members will be a mix of appointed representatives covering councillors, beach workers, local businesses, environmental groups, sports associations and fishermen, among others. Among the



File photo of lifeguards on a central Marbella beach. by JOSELE-LANZA

proposed responsibilities are monitoring the quality of the council's upkeep of the beaches.

Lifeguard contract

Meanwhile the council has put out to tender the contract for staffing the fifteen lifeguard stations along

the resort's coastline from Cabopino to San Pedro. The contract, worth two million euros covers two years from March/April to October. As the tender has gone out later than planned, this Easter a temporary provider of lifeguards will be contracted in the meantime.

Manilva residents celebrate winning 88 million euros from Euromillions jackpot

The lucky winners, a club of nearly 100 people, now have between them the equivalent of four times the local council's annual budget

by CHARO MÁRQUEZ

MANILVA. The Euromillions draw last Friday was kind to many residents in the municipality of Manilva, who, thanks to them buying their regular ticket as part of a

neighbourhood community group, were able to increase their chances of winning. Their winning ticket was confirmed by the lottery ticket sales office that sold it, in the Carrefour Gran Sur-Torres in La Línea. This office is also owned by a Manilva family who in turn coordinates the group of residents.

There were two winning tickets last Friday (5 + 2): one was sold in La Línea and another in the UK, so both tickets won between them 174 million euros.

The ticket office boss explained

that the prize in Spain has been shared out between residents of La Línea and Manilva, a total of around 80 people. Each one of them spend between 10 and 200 euros on tickets per month, so those that bet the least will win around 800,000 euros and those that bet the most 3.5 million euros.

He added that two weeks ago the same group of people would have been the winners of the 4+1 prize, "but we don't bet in the Tuesday draw so victory at that time eluded us". He said that among the prize winners are lots of young couples, working families and several unemployed people, and that the money will change all of their lives for the better. Manilva council has congratulated the winners, who now have between them over four times the area's annual municipal budget.

IN BRIEF



The Monday market in central Marbella this week. by JOSELE-LANZA

Marbella to update street-market bylaws to bring more stability

MARBELLA

by N. CASTRO. Stallholders at the four weekly street markets in Marbella municipality are to benefit from new local bylaws being proposed.

Councillors want to increase levels of investment and the markets' attractiveness to residents and tourists by extending the duration of licences from four to 15 years.

In addition stalls will soon be

able to be run by cooperatives as well and there will be streamlined application and inspection procedures.

The current bylaws are legally outdated, which is preventing both the town hall and stallholders applying for regional government grants to improve the markets.

The new plans are currently undergoing a standard process of public consultation and modification before being approved.

They will affect the well-known markets in San Pedro (Thursdays), Marbella (Mondays), Nueva Andalucía (Saturdays) and Las Chapas (Fridays).

San Pedro local mayor defends street closure

MARBELLA

by M. PÉREZ. The district mayor for San Pedro on Marbella council, Rafael Piña, last week defended his plan to permanently close to traffic Avenida Marqués del Duero, the main access road into San Pedro, following recent landscaping works.

In the heated debate in the council chamber, Piña, who is from OSP, the San Pedro autonomy party, said it was a commitment he made to residents and promised a public referendum to decide.

No other political group, including his PP allies, has yet come out in favour of the idea.

Town's tourist numbers increase 18% in January

MARBELLA

by M. P. Marbella council has said that the number of visitors to the resort increased by 18 per cent in January compared to the same month last year.

Almost three quarters of the total 28,630 visitors were foreign tourists, the data shows. In separate data released by national government, the number of hotel nights booked in January in Marbella rose by 14 per cent on 2017. Foreign visitors' stays in hotels in Marbella increased by 20 per cent.

This compares well to national data, where foreign hotel guest numbers increased by under one per cent.



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The Costa del Sol goes in search of more winter tourists at the ITB in Berlin

Around 900,000 Germans came to the province for a holiday last year, which was an increase of 13.5 per cent

■ PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MÁLAGA. The Costa del Sol is going in search of more German tourists in the winter at the ITB travel fair in Berlin, from a market which suffers low temperatures at this time of year and could enjoy a continual spring if they were to come to Malaga province.

The president of Turismo Costa del Sol, Elías Bendodo, said this week that at this year's ITB, which begins on 7 March, the tourism authorities will be focusing on selling the destination as a great place to visit in winter and a paradise for lovers of golf, culture and nature. He explained that the numbers of German tourists increased by 13.5 per cent last year, and 900,000 came to the Costa del Sol for a holiday, of whom more than 300,000 stayed

in hotels. The figure means that this destination received one-third of all the German visitors who came to Andalucía.

"In what was the Costa del Sol's best year ever for tourism, German visitors generated income of 1.5 billion euros. It is important to bear in mind that Malaga prospers thanks to tourism, and the money that people spend, consume and invest during their stays," he said.

Bendodo pointed out that Germany is the second most important source market for the Costa, and that is why the area would be represented at the ITB from 7 to 11 March.

"The ITB is a great opportunity to consolidate this growth. German tourists love history and nature, so the Great Trail and the Caminito del Rey are major attractions," he explained, and said the aim is to attract German visitors in the autumn and winter, especially.

With this in mind, the Costa del Sol tourist board has prepared a publicity campaign for the tourism fair, on one of the most important TV

channels and in cinemas. Also, in September, another campaign will be carried out at travel agencies and on trains.

The representatives from the Costa del Sol have a busy agenda ahead at the ITB, with 50 meetings to try to reach agreements with airlines and tour operators. "To achieve our aim of increasing the volume of business for the Costa, the tour operator has to be our ally. We hope to sign agreements with Germania, TUI, Olimara and TSS Group, among others," he said.

Bendodo explained that another objective is to differentiate the Costa del Sol from its competitors Tunisia, Turkey, Greece and Egypt, at a time when these are recovering. He believes it is necessary to improve the air connections between Germany and the Costa, especially since Air Berlin went bankrupt.

The Costa del Sol receives 3.8 per cent of all German visitors who stay in hotels in Spain and 32.9 per cent of those in Andalucía, which is why it is so important to highlight the hotels in the province to the German



Germany is an important source market for the Costa del Sol. ■ M. FDEZ

market.

Last year, six major German airports were the departure points for three out of every four passengers who flew to Malaga from that country. These were Frankfurt, Berlin, Dusseldorf, Munich, Hamburg and Cologne.

Eight out of every ten Germans who come to the Costa del Sol are attracted by the sunshine and beaches, 27 per cent by the culture

and 14 per cent to enjoy the rural areas of the province. These are very active tourists: more than 77 per cent of them visit other municipalities during their stay, and on average they go to two. With regard to the level of satisfaction, they seem very happy with their experience, scoring it over nine points on a scale of one to ten. In fact, 97 per cent say they would recommend the destination to relatives and friends.



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"Language tourism is one of the most profitable and attractive"

Ignacio Peyró Director of the Cervantes Institute in London

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

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The director of the Cervantes in London stresses the importance of having a global language and the importance of Spanish for thousands of tourists

MÁLAGA. Ignacio Peyró, the director of the Cervantes Institute in London, says language tourism has been steadily gaining strength in recent years. The Cervantes Institute cooperates with Malaga council and the provincial government to boost this type of tourism, which generates over 110 million euros on the Costa del Sol, and he stresses the importance of "a global language" such as Spanish, which is spoken by over 600 million people all over the world.

How do you see the situation regarding Spanish in the UK?

—About two months ago the British Council presented a report about the languages which are most necessary for the future of Britain. This is important, because the British Council is a major institution and it doesn't often issue reports, so when it does it is worth taking notice of what it has to say. The study focused on ten different parameters, and it concluded that the most recommended language for Britain's future after Brexit is Spanish. After that come Chinese and French.



Peyró says the number of people learning Spanish has increased. :: SUR

Has that resulted in British people being more interested in learning the language?

—Yes, it appears so. Spanish is the language which is most in demand in the universe, and in the medium term it is going to become the first foreign language in the British educational system. In fact, it is already the first language in the Baccalaureate in somewhere like London. At the Cervantes Institute in London, for example, during the past five years more and more people have been signing up to learn and of course that doesn't only apply to the city; more than half a million people in the UK are studying Spanish. The report by the British Council confirms that the number is rising: just ten or 15 years ago, who would have thought that would be the case?

What role has the British Council report played?

—A highly prestigious institution is recommending Spanish to one of the most important economies on the planet; that is a success for all Spanish speakers, without a doubt, in terms of cultural diplomacy. It is recognising the importance of Spanish: its relevance to the economy, its demographic potential, the value of its culture... around 600 million people in the world speak Spanish. It is the second native language, the third most-used in search engines, the second on social networks and Wikipedia. Such recognition is vital, even for those of us who speak Spanish, because of the value of having a global language.

In November, during the World Travel Market, you stressed the im-

portance of language tourism, especially for Malaga.

—As was said recently at the Malaga Education Week, this is a tremendously interesting type of tourism. Someone who wants to learn Spanish and comes to Spain, to Andalucía, to Malaga, is someone who spends time there. They are not limited to a short visit; they live there for a while. The province and the city become part of their life, because we're talking about a young person, who will be affected by this experience of a longer stay and contact with another culture. When someone comes to learn Spanish they go back to their own country as an ambassador for Malaga, Andalucía and Spain. Over time, they will also return to the place in which they studied and will bring other people with them. They are a singularly active form of promotion.

What are the attractions of this type of tourist?

—They are people who spend money, and not just because of the time they spend in Malaga, although on average a tourist who comes to learn Spanish spends about four weeks with us. They are also active, keen to see new things and integrate into the life of the city. They go on excursions, use the cultural facilities... and there is another major advantage: language tourists are able to help us develop tourism in inland areas, for example, as they know very well in the two Castillas. And, as if that were not enough, they are very connected travellers, who post about about their positive experiences on social media.

The UK is one of the principal source markets for tourism in Malaga province. Is that also the case for language tourism?

—Malaga city and the whole province of Malaga, with its cultural, leisure and gastronomic infrastructure, can offer an unbeatable experience. The British love it; they already know it,

QUOTES

The language
"Recognising the importance of Spanish is vital for us, because of the value of having a global language"

Influence
"Businesses and the public sector in Malaga and the province are all committed to language tourism"

and that is also a great help. There are few places in which they feel so comfortable. And Malaga is the Andalusian city with the most specialist centres and those accredited by the Cervantes Institute for learning Spanish. But most towns in the province also have these centres, such as Benalmádena, Frigiliana, Nerja, Marbella and Rincón de la Victoria. Businesses and the public sector are all committed to this type of tourism, and the tourists respond to that. Malaga, along with Madrid and Salamanca, is the most popular destination for foreigners who want to learn our language. Andalucía and Malaga are leaders in language tourism.

Is the private sector interested, or just the public one?

—Language tourism is very profitable, for everyone from the academies to the rental sector. According to calculations from the Costa del Sol Tourist Board, this type of tourism generates 110 million euros directly and indirectly a year, and employs 1,500 people.

Are language tourists satisfied with their experience?

—According to surveys, and I'm thinking of one by Turespaña in particular, language tourists are very satisfied with their experience. In that survey, a few years ago, they gave it a score of 8.5 out of 10. More recent figures show an even higher level of satisfaction, especially in Malaga and the Costa del Sol. Only one in every 100 tourists say their stay was negative. That satisfaction also has a multiplying effect, because it means they are likely to repeat the experience.

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Inditex falls seven per cent on the stock exchange to its lowest in three years

The fall saw the loss of 5.9 billion euros in the market value after figures for the most recent financial year were worse than expected

by D. VALERA

MADRID. Last Friday, 23 February, was a black day for the Spanish company Inditex, the world's largest fashion group. Share prices in the company fell 7.06%, its worst performance since 2009. Put another way, the company lost 5.92 billion euros in value. The price of a share in the company is now 25 euros, its lowest value in three years. It is a setback for the multinational, which has revealed that its financial forecasts for the fiscal year ending in January had been overly optimistic.

This is the company's worst economic performance in a decade. Not the surprise victory for Brexit in the UK referendum, the unanticipated election win for President Donald Trump in the US nor the jihadist terrorist attacks in several European cities - Barcelona and Cambrils included - have had such a dramatic effect on the Galician company than the events of the last year.

Things started to worsen for the group, founded by Amancio Ortega, during the middle of the financial year when JP Morgan lowered the share price forecast on the company by 6.5%. From then on the group's share price began to fall rapidly.

After these falls in share price the company admitted in a conference that sales figures in the last fiscal quarter, which in its case finished at the end of January, would be worst than those of the previous year. Specifically, the market estimated that the fall would be between around 4 and 4.5%. The company's pre-tax profits are also estimated to have fallen by around 10%. Furthermore, the company will likely suffer from an



The president of Inditex, Pablo Isla, in a press conference. :: EFE

increase in the value of the euro.

Although shareholders will have to wait for the release of the official figures from the company on 14 March, it's certain that these pessimistic projections will have a significant effect on the market. In spite of everything, the fall looks like it is bottoming out and the share price will stabilise. Whatever happens, the effects will be felt across the industry, with other textile giants like H&M also being affected. In fact, clothing sales generally were lower in autumn

due to the high temperatures, which reduced the number of clothes sold.

Another effect of the fall is an increase in the number of discounted garments, which will have an effect on the company's margins. Experts estimate that the worse figures for last quarter will lead to lower sales at catalogue price (without a discount).

These poor results are indicative of the Ibex-35 index as a whole, which was down over 9% in February.

Spanish economy finished last year with 3.1% growth, official data just released shows

by SUR

MADRID. The Spanish economy grew 3.1% in 2017 thanks to an increase in consumer spending and a higher rate of investment, data released on Thursday by the government has confirmed.

The national GDP figure

showed an increase of 0.7% in the fourth quarter of last year, slightly slower than in previous quarters, meaning the economy grew slightly less than in 2016, when it expanded by 3.3%. Last year was the third consecutive year that GDP increased more than 3%.

Household demand was up 2.4% in the year and investment was up 5%, (including 6.1% for investment in equipment and 4.6% in construction). Exports grew 5% and imports grew at almost the same pace, up 4.7%.

Of the 3.1% growth, 90% came from an increase in overall domestic demand.

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AN ONGOING DISPUTE



This week saw Spain have another crack at regaining some power in Gibraltar, thus making the latest contribution to an argument it's been having with Britain since the early 18th century. Spanish foreign minister Alfonso Dastis told the UK's Financial Times last weekend that Spain wants to take joint control of the territory's airport with the UK post-Brexit, as well as having more say on tax evasion and smuggling.

Fair enough, you might say. Requesting that Spain have a say in the management of Gibraltar's airport is hardly a flag-waving, tub-thumping demand to reclaim this weird place. He told the FT that regaining sovereignty of Gibraltar - which Spain lost to Britain in 1713 after the Wars of Spanish Succession - is not on the agenda right now, but that it's still a long-term goal. So, viewed just by themselves, his latest requests seem entirely reasonable, given that Gibraltar is located on the Iberian Peninsula and that hundreds of Spanish workers stroll over the border from La Linea de la Concepción every day to work there.

That's not how Dastis' proposals will go down in London, though. May's (completely hopeless) government is likely to maintain that Britain's withdrawal from the EU won't make Gibraltar any less part of Britain than it is now, so there is no reason that it should share management of the air-

port with Spain post-Brexit. But lurking behind that argument is a territorial dispute that goes back right back to 1713, when Britain was ceded Gibraltar as part of the Treaty of Utrecht.

This document officially gave the British hegemony over Gibraltar's old town (today a bizarre combination of British high street shops and pubs with Genoese and Andalusian architecture) and port, but it said nothing of the surrounding waters, nor of the isthmus. The isthmus is the thin strip of land that connects the Rock to Spain, and on which the airport is located - a strip of land which Spain maintains is Spanish and the UK says is British. The same goes for the 426-metre-high Rock itself, mention of which was also omitted in the 1713 treaty. Dastis said early last year that Spain wants all these parts of Gibraltar back under Spanish jurisdiction.

In London, his latest requests will be seen as the first small steps towards doing precisely this; and as such, they're probably going to be firmly rejected. And so the 300 year-old dispute over the Rock continues, fuelled on either side by national pride, stubbornness and disagreement over the contents of a document dating from 1713. Perhaps if the UK saw Spain dilute its power in its northern African territories of Ceuta and Melilla, it would be prepared to compromise a little. Come on, Dastis: set an example.

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Two special events to mark International Women's Day in Marbella next week

Costa Women and 1230 The Women's Company have organised a free networking evening and the sixth annual IWD conference

DEBBIE BARTLETT

MALAGA. Thursday 8 March is International Women's Day, which has been celebrated every year since 1914. Its origins can be dated back to 1908, when 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter hours, better pay and voting rights. The movement is now present in over 100 countries and in some places it is an official holiday. The aim is to celebrate, respect and appreciate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

The theme for International Women's Day this year is #PressforProgress and two major and influential groups, Costa Women and 1230 The Women's Company, are joining forces and organising two special events for businesswomen in Marbella. The first is a free open network-



Women's Day events will be taking place over the coming week. :: SUR

ing evening at Our Space on Wednesday 7 March from 6pm to 8pm.

On Thursday 8th, the sixth International Women's Day Conference will take place at Andalucía Lab in Marbella. This is a full-day event with a mix of interviews, speakers, stands and networking and is presented as the "must attend" event of 2018.

The nine international speakers

will be talking about topics relevant to businesswomen such as the effective use of social media, attracting the right clients, creating products and building a business which fits your lifestyle.

To book tickets and for more information:
www.1230.co.uk/marbella-spain-2018 / www.costawomen.com

Satisfaction from anti-Brexit groups as Votes For Life Bill goes to committee stage

JENNIE RHODES

MALAGA. Remain in Spain has said that it "welcomes the progress made with the second reading of the Overseas Electors Bill" which aims to give Brits living abroad a 'vote for life' in UK elections, instead of the current 15-year cut-off period.

The second reading of the Private Member's Bill brought by Welsh Conservative MP, Glyn Davies, took place on Friday 23 February. It gained support from the Conservative and Liberal Democrat benches and opposition from some Labour MPs. It was supported by Mike Gapes MP, the president of Labour International. The bill was passed and will now go to the committee stage.

John Moffett, vice chair of Remain in Spain, said in a press release, "In the centenary year of women getting the vote, it is fitting that the process of restoring the vote to overseas electors has begun. These people have been disenfranchised by the 15-year rule."

Sir Roger Gale, Conservative MP for North Thanet, suggested that the Bill "should be renamed the Shindler Bill" after 96-year-

old Votes for Life campaigner, Harry Shindler. A second world war veteran from the Battle of Anzio who now lives in Italy, Harry has fought to have the 15-year rule repealed.

According to an article written by Minister for the Constitution, Chloe Smith, on 23 February, under existing laws "British expats are estimated to have among the lowest level of voter registration of any group, with only around 20 per cent of eligible expats registered to vote for the June 2017 general election."

British Empire Medal for accountant based in Spain since 1960s

John Kiddell, a former accountant and resident of Madrid, was presented with a British Empire Medal (BEM) for his services to the British community in the city, by British Ambassador Simon Manley, at an event held in his Residence on Tuesday. Mr Kiddell has lived in Spain since the 1960s.

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No trace of eight-year-old boy who disappeared on short walk near Almeria on Tuesday

ALMERIA

■ **SUR.** Fears are growing for the safety of an eight-year-old boy who disappeared on the 100-metre walk from his grandmother's house to his cousin's home on Tuesday afternoon.

Family and friends say that Gabriel Cruz Ramírez knew the short walk very well in the hamlet of Hortichuelas, in Níjar, near Almeria, and is unlikely to have

become disorientated, leading them to fear the worst.

Speaking on Thursday morning, the boy's father said: "My son hasn't got lost, somebody has taken him."

Some 200 volunteers have been searching the area every day since the disappearance but police and emergency workers said on Thursday that they were still no closer to working out what has happened to Gabriel. They said that so far nobody has been in touch with them or the family to ask for a ransom.

The boy is described as weighing 23 kilos, of slight build and wearing black Adidas trousers with white stripes and a red hooded jacket.



Missing Gabriel Cruz. ■ **SUR**

Socialist party says PM should call general election if agreement can't be reached on 2018 budget

MADRID

■ **SUR.** The leader of the PSOE socialist party, Pedro Sánchez, increased the pressure on the conservative PP government this week to reach a quick agreement on spending plans for this year or call a general election.

Mariano's Rajoy's government has still not secured approval for its 2018 budget and rivalry between the two main opposition parties, the PSOE and the centrist Ciuda-

danos, which is growing in popularity, has seen increasing public posturing on the lack of approved spending plans.

As last year, Rajoy needs the support of Ciudadanos and Basque and Canary Island nationalist MPs in the Madrid parliament to get his plans through. However the PNV, the Basque nationalist party, is refusing to approve any budgets until the government ends its suspension of some autonomous powers in Catalonia.

Finance minister, Cristóbal Montoro, said this week that he hoped to present the plans "before Easter".

Ciudadanos leader, Albert Rivera, has said he prefers to see approved budgets rather than a general election, but says he will negotiate hard with Rajoy, especially on pensions.

Barcelona hosts annual World Mobile Congress amid Catalan separatist tensions

The city's mayor refused to attend a welcome ceremony for King Felipe but went on to join organisers and dignitaries at the opening events

■ **SUR**

BARCELONA. The World Mobile Congress took place in Barcelona this week against a backdrop of continued political tensions in Catalonia and efforts by organisers and public authorities to stress that there has been no ill-effect on the annual event, which has a huge impact on the local economy.

The meeting is the biggest global trade fair for the mobile telecommunications industry and Barcelona has hosted it since 2006. Although some had questioned the organisers' willingness to stay in the city long term with ongoing political disputes, the head of the event, John Hoffman, confirmed that the contract with Barcelona was still in place until 2023.



King Felipe (left) with mayor of Barcelona, Ada Colau (right). ■ **EFE**

Despite the organisers' commitment and calls for secessionist and unionist sides to put on a united front to show the best face of the region, there was controversy when mayor of Barcelona, Ada Colau, refused to attend an official reception ceremony for King Felipe. Neither did representatives of the pro-secession Catalan parliament take part.

Colau, who leads the local party affiliated to left-wing Podemos, has never said if she is for or against the separatists and explained she missed the official welcome in objection to the hard tone of the king's speech last Autumn against the Catalan separatists and a lack of empathy.

Colau did go on to attend a dinner afterwards and the main opening ceremony of the event the next day, alongside the king and national government ministers. She told the media that she had told the king privately afterwards that he should adopt a more conciliatory attitude to Catalonia, and that the king had replied that he was only doing his duty to defend the constitution.

Catalan parliament votes to uphold Puigdemont as legitimate president

The Catalan parliament this week used its first session since the suspension of regional autonomous powers by Madrid and last December's elections to pass a motion in support of Carles Puigdemont as the rightful president of Catalonia. It also reaffirmed the plan for independence as voted for in last October's banned secessionist referendum. The motion, which was voted on by the separatist-MP majority and boycotted by the main constitutional parties, stopped short of reaffirming last October's declaration of independence amid fears that legal action would be taken against the new MPs. The pro-Spain parties did not succeed in their call for the chamber to vote to start the two-month countdown to choosing a new president or call new regional elections, amid continued deadlock with Puigdemont in self-imposed exile in Belgium and unable to return.

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Government reacts strongly to post-Brexit proposals

The Gibraltar government responded to Spain's demand for joint control over the airport and the EU's wish to apply a veto to the transition period

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. Gibraltar has been in the international news twice this week, firstly because of a statement by the Spanish foreign minister Alfonso Dastis, saying that Spain wants joint control of Gibraltar airport post-Brexit, and again on Wednesday when the EU's draft legal text on the Withdrawal Arrangement proposed that Spain's extra veto under Clause 24 should also be applied to any transition period relating to Britain's withdrawal from the European Union.

The Gibraltar government was quick to respond on both occasions. With regard to the claim on the airport, it stressed that sovereignty is and has not been a matter for discussion, and pointed out that "the joint management of the air terminal, on a purely commercial basis, between Gibraltar and Spanish business interests was provided for in the agree-



Fabian Picardo, chief minister of Gibraltar. **SUR**

ment signed at Cordoba in 2006 between the then Governments of Gibraltar, the United Kingdom and Spain. This did not happen because Spain has not yet given effect to this and other relevant parts of the agreement."

The second statement from the Gibraltar government took a different tone. Angry at the EU's footnote regarding the Clause 24 veto, which says that nothing which affects Gibraltar can be agreed between the EU and the UK post-Brexit without

Spain's approval, it said that this "constitutes a disgraceful affront to a small British country that voted by 96% to remain in the European Union".

Pointing out that the text is only a draft and that it does not represent the view of the United Kingdom, the statement stressed that the Gibraltar government will mobilise all options available if any attempt is made to activate the Clause and exclude Gibraltar, whatever the consequences might be for the wider progress of Brexit.



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IN BRIEF



Gibraltar celebrates World Wildlife Day

GIBRALTAR

D. B. Saturday 3 March is World Wildlife Day but Gibraltar is to begin its celebration today, with an exhibition at the Gustavo Bacarissas Galleries in Casemates.

'The Magic of Birds' will be officially opened at 6.30pm and consists of over 100 stunning photographs taken by Stewart, Geraldine and Clive Finlayson, who make up the Finlayson Nature Photography team.

The exhibition will be open daily until 28 March, from 10am to 1pm and from 3pm to 7pm.

Drama Festival takes place this month

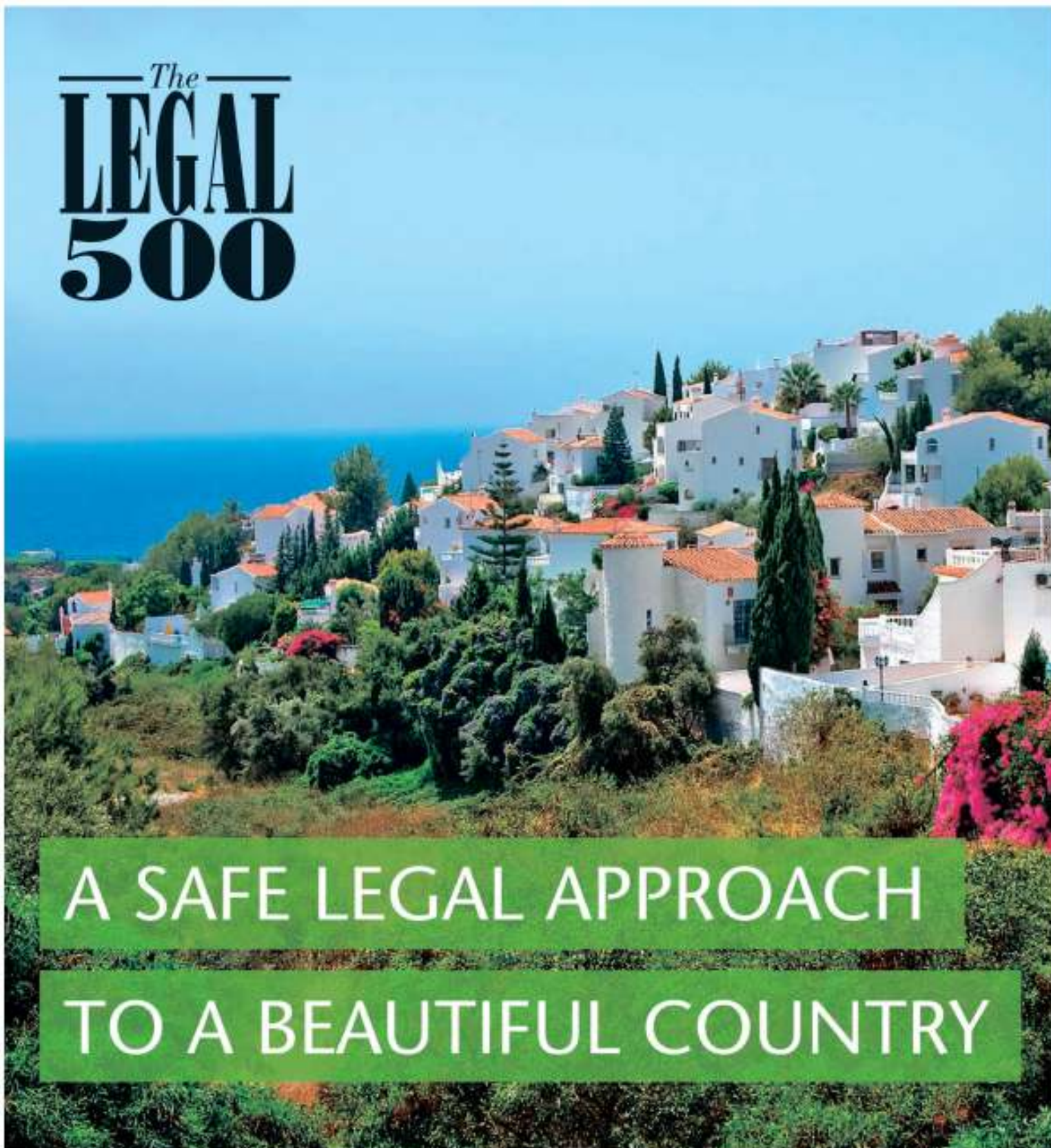
GIBRALTAR

D. B. The popular Gibraltar Drama Festival will take place from Tuesday 20 to Saturday 24 March at the Ince's Hall Theatre. Tickets are now available from the John Mackintosh Hall between 9.30am and 4.30pm or can be purchased at the door on the nights the performances take place.

Tickets for the festival cost £5 each night from Tuesday to Friday and £10 for the Gala Night on Saturday 24th. Season tickets are also available for £25, or a season ticket for students costs £20.

TOURISM WEBSITE UPDATED

The Gibraltar Tourist Board (GTB) has just updated its website www.visitgibraltar.gi again, to give it a fresh new look including more image and video content and a version in Spanish. Ease of navigation has also been improved to make it faster to access the most popular sections. The website will be made available in other languages over the coming months.



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National Theatre at the cinema

Last Thursday I had an unexpected and fantastic surprise as well as a disappointment.

On Wednesday last week I had been shopping in Vialia when we spotted that the National Theatre Live was transmitting from the theatre their production of Stephen Sondheim's 'Follies'. This production has had five-star reviews from all the critics in London and having seen it I was blown away and think five stars was justified.

It was a really terrific evening but the disappointment was that it was one shared by only about 40 people. With the province only having am dram in English and many claiming to be Sondheim fans I was perplexed. It is a great bargain with tickets for a top rate musical in London costing up to 300 pounds and tickets for a top rate musical at the Yelmo 13€.

Part of the explanation for the poor attendance is that last September I was told that Vialia weren't doing National Theatre Live any more just opera and ballet and partly because I had seen no publicity. It was fortunate that shopping last Wednesday we

needed a coffee and went upstairs past the cinema and saw one billboard. I would have expected the Yelmo company to have better publicity personnel.

It was infuriating that we had missed seeing 'Angels in America' last November but at least we know that Billie Piper is in the NT production of 'Yerma' by Lorca on March 8th, another play that has received rave reviews. I hope a lot of others know it too.

The NTLive isn't like cinema or TV or being in the theatre but a little bit of each of those and a good way of seeing what we never could down here. It isn't a question of asking the English community for support but pointing out that here is something really enjoyable of great quality at low cost and if audiences continue to be small it may be lost. I find it extraordinary that the cinema didn't publicise it more so it is up to all who complain that one of the things missing here is a lack of quality theatre to keep an eye out.

You can't get much better than what is being offered at NTLive without spending a fortune and going to London.

GRAHAM CHERRY
TORREMOLINOS

Hotel annoyance

I am writing in response to the article by Albert Gómez, published in SUR in English, February 9th to 15th, supporting the LGBTs. I would like to point out that Torremolinos was never against this group; in fact they were always encouraged to work with all the clubs and shops. I believe I have grounds and sufficient experience to comment. I first came to Torremolinos in 1960, then I returned in 1967 to open the Tiffany's Discotheque, which was a big success. Tiffany's welcomed a wide range of public, from the authorities of Malaga to the 'cream' of the people from Marbella. There was never any sex discrimination.

It is absurd for David Taboras to say that the owners of the Hotel Ritual have invested 22 million euros to remodel the hotel. He does not specify that they

added another four storeys to the existing building which obstruct the view of the sea, palm trees and gardens from the bungalows on the other side of the driveway. To make matters worse they have covered the building with ugly brown tiles (similar to public toilets in London) and added neon lights along the entire length of each floor, giving the impression of being in a red light district. To add insult to injury the hotel has an open-air bar on the roof in the summer where loud disco music is permitted to blare out until 2am. Not everyone is on holiday in Torremolinos in the summer.

The owners and residents of La Roca are not complaining about the LGBTs, but about the vulgarity and the noise. As a result, the value of the properties has been reduced considerably.

EVE FIELD
TORREMOLINOS

Reason to believe

PETER EDGERTON
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

The much-maligned Málaga Metro (how's that for alliteration?) is going to come in handy over the

next few weeks. After a hiatus of many months, I'm finally going to start rehearsing some new songs with a view to recording them. The studio where we'll be working is, as our Spanish friends say, 'at the fifth pine tree', i.e. the back of beyond. At first I thought I'd be involved in some kind of mini triathlon in order to get there (I haven't got a car) but, no, it turns out it's just a stone's throw from a Metro station. Glory be.

On the face of it, there's no justifiable reason to record music these days, except for fun which, admittedly, is a pretty fine reason. Not that long ago, I used to make recordings and sell enough of them to fund the next one with maybe

just enough left over to get a kebab on the way home. These days, I'm pretty sure sales will barely cover the cost of the kebab.

There are many well documented reasons for this development including the fact that we're simply too used to getting our music for free, that there's far too much of it about and, anyway, everyone's shelves are too full of Ed Sheeran CDs to fit anyone else's on there, even if they wanted to.

All kinds of marketing gimmicks have been rolled out in order to encourage people to cough up for music that they can readily get for nothing on myriad streaming services but none of them have really worked. The only vaguely sound reason to record these days is to get your music out there so that when you do some gigs, enough people will turn up to make ten-

hour van journeys with three sweaty blokes eating pizza worthwhile. It used to be the other way round, of course - bands would make losses on touring in order to promote their music live and then make profits on record sales. This reversal of roles is all to the good in the long run, I suspect - working hard for your income is a noble pursuit whatever your profession... and musicians should be no exception.

In the meantime, I'll be catching the Metro out to the fifth pine tree each week, practising and recording for no immediately apparent reason but safe in the knowledge that ploughing forward is always our best option. In the absence of any real logical justification, I'll stick with 'having a bit of fun' which, come to think of it, sounds just about perfect.

IDÍGORAS

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TIMES



Feeling guilty

ANA BARREALES

It's several decades now since women started to dismantle the establishment that underpinned society. When we joined the job market en masse, new needs were created (nurseries, care homes for the elderly) and new expressions came into play, such as "juggling work and family", something that didn't exist before because it seems that men didn't need to find a balance between personal life and work, and "working mothers" (it's funny that no one has ever used the term "working father").

Of all of these concepts, the most striking is the sense of guilt women have for not spending enough time with their children. Men apparently don't suffer from this, nor are they asked about it, or feel pressure

from society to feel it.

Many women still feel bad about having a job or a working day that doesn't coincide exactly with their children's school hours. It's as if their work wasn't as necessary as a father's and when it comes to being at home, the opposite occurs - a woman is indispensable.

Leaving aside the breastfeeding period, which tends to be a matter of months, not years, why should children need their mother to spend more time with them than their father? Habit and many years of history close our eyes to reality: the ideal situation is for the children to be with both parents and we shouldn't compensate for this impossibility always on the same side. This is teaching them inequality.

In the workplace, when someone asks to work fewer hours to look after their family it's assumed that they only work because they need the money, and are not concerned about their professional career, even though this isn't true. Nobody seems to be alarmed that the majority of workers reducing their hours for family reasons are women.

We thought that progress in equality would be slow, but steady, but there are obstacles in the way. And those guilty feelings are not disappearing but going from not spending enough time with the family to abandoning a professional career.

The salary gap is not just a man and woman doing the same job in the same firm earning different wages. That would be too easy to denounce. The salary gap involves professional categories, bonuses, management positions that require long hours drinking with the boss and lies about how we ought to feel about "abandoning" the home.

The next liberation movement should be to earn freedom from those guilty feelings.

SUR English

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Couple gear up for epic bike tour to raise money for breast cancer prevention charity

Having been affected by the illness Chris O'Hare and Gabriella Gratrix are combining a love of cycling with their fundraising skills

by JENNIE RHODES

TORROX COSTA. Chris O'Hare, 42, and his partner, Gabriella Gratrix, 45, are relaxing in the mid-February sun in a bar on the N-340 road that runs through Torrox Costa when I first meet them. Both a picture of health and sipping fresh orange juice, the only thing that gives away their story is Gabriella's hair which is just beginning to grow back after a course of chemotherapy.

The couple are staying in a converted prison van in Torrox, while preparing themselves for their five-year round-the-world bike ride, which will take them across all the continents and through some of the harshest conditions on earth. They will set off from the Nightingale Centre at the Wythenshawe Hospital, which is home to the Prevent Breast Cancer charity; the charity they will be raising money for, on 9 July and aim to finish in Madagascar some five years later.

This isn't the first international cycling tour they have ever done; in 2016 the bike-mad pair cycled through Southeast Asia between March and May and then from their home town of Blackpool through France and along the coast of Spain, taking in Malaga, in summer of the same year. They have always raised money for charities and say that their trips are "self-funded".

Fight against cancer

This next project, however, is enormously personal for Chris and Gabriella. They have been personally af-



Chris and Gabriella with their bikes and converted van in Torrox in February. by J. RHODES



The pair on the road in Cambodia in 2016. by SUR

ected by cancer, having lost two close friends in recent years and Gabriella was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer in spring 2017 and subsequently underwent both a double mastectomy and the removal of 18 lymph nodes from her right arm.

"We were all geared up to go back to Southeast Asia on 1 March," recalls Chris. "We had everything arranged and then the results of Gabriella's mammogram came through," he adds.

Gabriella's family has a history of cancer and following the loss of her close friend Patricia to breast cancer, she decided to get checked. "I was working on cruise ships and didn't have much time to make doctor's appointments," she explains. "But Pat's death and knowing my family history made me realise that I really

needed to do something about it."

Following surgery, Gabriella had to undergo a course of chemotherapy which inevitably led to hair loss. She now has to have Herceptin injections every three weeks, for which the couple travel back to the UK. "There are days when I have felt really tired especially during the chemo but I make myself keep active," the former professional dancer explains. She puts her recovery down to the fact that she is very active and leads a healthy life. "Apart from when I look in the mirror I feel like nothing's happened to me," she adds.

Go and live life

Her consultant, who is a keen cyclist himself, said that there would be no problem in the couple moving to Spain and encouraged them to do the bike ride. "He told me to go and live my life," Gabriella smiles.

While they have been in Torrox, Gabriella and Chris have had a promotional video made for the project and are in regular contact with the Prevent Breast Cancer PR department in Wythenshawe, who are organising the promotional side of the bike ride for them.

Chris and Gabriella will cycle over 100,000 kilometres and plan to do an average of 500 kilometres per week. They appear completely unperturbed about the potential challenges and even dangers of cycling through some countries and are confident that they will find help along the way.

"You always find people and cheap accommodation and we have a tent," they assure me.

For further information and how to donate / sponsor:
www.chrisandgabsworldcyclingtour.com / promotional video:
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Artists Siobhan Riordan and Daysury Valencia celebrate black cultural heritage in their exhibition

MALAGA. Café de Estraperlo, in the trendy district of Soho, has been open for three years, and is co-owned by Mark Holness, from the UK, and José Luis Gallardo Olmos, of Malaga. The name means “contraband”, and is a reference to the area’s importance as a hub of imported products after the shortages created by the Spanish Civil War. Since the middle of February, the cafe has been home to a more recent import: talent. A series of paintings aims to promote a positive image of black people throughout history and underline the cultural contribution of black residents to Malaga society. International artists Siobhan Riordan and Daysury Valencia spoke to SUR in English about their work.

–Can you tell me a bit about your backgrounds and how you got into art?

–Siobhan: I’ve been an artist since I was in primary school in Birmingham. I’ve always been drawing and had talent. My Jamaican dad was a painter and my Irish mum was creative. In secondary school I focused on art and the creativities. At university I did a bachelor’s degree in illustration and printmaking, so I’m basically creative all the way through. I love jazz singing, but it can take a long time to realise that process; the way society is, it can take a while for you to get your foot in the door. I’ve lived in the UK, Ireland and Malaga so until you actually settle down it’s hard to spread your roots.

–Daysury: I was born in Colombia but I grew up in Gothenburg, Sweden. I’ve always been creative, sitting in my room creating things with my hands, writing and drawing. I was encouraged to draw in secondary school. My teachers thought that I



Daysury (left) and Siobhan, pictured underneath their self-portraits in Café de Estraperlo. :: B. CLARKE

had a talent for it. I’m also into storytelling through music and film. At high school I studied theatre and TV production, and then at university media production. I’m multi-disciplined, I sing in choirs and dance. I also draw a lot in black and white with charcoal and paint with oil. I came to Spain a little over a year ago and I’ve felt very encouraged to exhibit my paintings here.

How did this exhibition come about?

–Siobhan: I’ve been in touch with Mark for the last three years here. I did a painting for a friend of Nina Simone, who’s a big fan. Mark saw the painting and came up with the idea of doing an exhibition centred around blackness, getting some artists together from that culture to create a sense of community. I knew that Daysury was talented and wanted to work with her.

–Is this your first exhibition on black identity?

–Siobhan: Yes. I think it’s something we will both develop. There are a lot of Spanish people who haven’t heard of Juan Latino [the 16th century black scholar at the university of Granada].

–What influences your art?

–Siobhan: At the moment I’m very influenced by Jean-Michel Basquiat. I loved his expressiveness and the quickness with which he painted. I’ve recently become a lot more expressive, abstract and fluid and strong with my lines. I’ve always been influenced by music, jazz, hip hop and R’n’B. I really like Herbie Hancock, his songs are fifteen minutes and that’s how quick that the paintings have to be.

–Daysury: I’m still so new to it. I think that my work has a strong Latin American influence, it’s very colourful and vibrant. I love the intense work of Diego Ribero and his Amazonian lushness. I think that right now I’m developing my own expression. I’ve start to look at black

Siobhan Riordan
Artist

“We will both develop our work on black identity. A lot of Spanish people haven’t heard of Juan Latino”

Daysury Valencia
Artist

“I come from a different world, and that’s what I bring with me. The subjects I cover are a big thing here”

artists and how they use colours, but with this project I’d like to investigate more. I like music without vocals; I prefer to be influenced by the mood of the music. I often talk to my paintings as I have a very strong con-

nection with my canvas.

–When did you move to Malaga?

–Siobhan: I came fifteen years ago, straight out of university, to study Spanish in Seville. I ended up staying in Andalucía; I love the people more than anything. There was a pull of Caribbeanness, the warmth and the coast, and it’s very easy to go back home when you want to.

–Daysury: A year ago, some of my family came down to southern Spain and needed help looking after their girls. My job in Sweden had just ended and I saw coming to Malaga as an opportunity.

–Does your work often contain political or feminist elements?

–Siobhan: There are more women than men in the gallery here. I used to be very political; I weaned off it a bit but it’s very relevant for this kind of exhibition. Artists should express something that’s relevant today. I think that there’s a difference between the English and Spanish

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THE EXHIBITION

► **Venue.** Café de Estraperlo, Plaza Poeta Alfonso Canales, 4, 29001 Malaga.

► **Dates.** Until the end of April.

► **Content.** Blackness: An exhibition on Black Identity is a series of portraits of black musicians, artists, politicians and others who have contributed to culture and history.

method of communication. I've been here fifteen years, but the cultural influence can suffer. I don't think that I've changed my style. I'd like to be accepted in Spain, but I get my influence from Jamaican-Irish culture. I can't try and create work for the Spanish market, there's no point. -Daysury: I want to do an exhibition to question cultural norms. I feel that being in Spain, I have to think about how far can I go. Here people might feel that things are taken too far; in Sweden I can generally do what I want.

-**Have you been influenced by Malaga's arts scene?**

-Siobhan: Malaga is very accepting of who you are. It doesn't mean it influences the ideology behind your art work, but it does allow you to express yourself.

-Daysury: I come from a different world from here, and that's what I bring with me. I'm even more excited to produce my own type of art, because the subjects I cover are more of a big thing here. We need to question things, and I want people to open their minds to new subjects.

-**What projects are you working on at the moment?**

-Siobhan: I've been working on art a lot recently, so I'd like to get back to being a jazz singer. I'd like to work on myself as a person, that's the whole process of life. I see myself and my art as very much works in progress. I'd like to create a new range of work around the phrase "Work in Progress" and the contrast between what we believe and what we think. That's what the #WIP on my self portrait refers to.

-Daysury: I'd like to do a feminist exhibition.

Mammoth fundraising challenge for determined Paris Marathon runners

Tim and Milly are aiming to raise over 2,000 euros for Cudeca by participating the race in the French capital next month

:: TONY BRYANT

MIJAS. Two determined expats are currently undergoing an intensive training routine in order to compete in next month's Paris Marathon to raise money for Cudeca.

Tim Hulbert and Milly Fitzgerald have been in training for the last four months, which is standard procedure for regular marathon runners, but Tim and Milly have never attempted a marathon before. In fact, they are not keen runners, but decided to take on the massive challenge to push themselves to the absolute limit.

Tim was born in Leicester and suffered from asthma as a child, although he got into cycling as a teenager and this helped his condition and improved his health.

The 47-year-old wealth manager at DeVere financial advisors in Mijas will be accompanied by his boss Milly.

Born in Lithuania in 1987, Milly would hide behind trees to avoid school sports events, although she later took up dancing and gymnastics. She is no stranger to mammoth fundraising tasks. A keen hiker, Milly once walked up Kilimanjaro to raise money for Cancer Research UK. Because of her successful Kilimanjaro climb, Milly was asked to do something for Cudeca. As Tim's father had died from cancer, the pair decided to run the marathon to raise money for the Cudeca hospice.

They both realise what a tre-



The novice runners are hoping to complete the Paris Marathon in approximately four hours. :: SUR

mendous task they have undertaken and are gradually increasing their training schedule in preparation for the big day.

"We didn't realise what a massive challenge this would be for two novice runners, especially seeing as we are both suffering with previous sports injuries," Tim told SUR in English.

Tim and Milly are expecting to finish the marathon in around four hours - which is not bad for novice runners - and they have set their target at raising two thousand euros.

"At this current point the furthest we have run is half a marathon and gradually will be increasing the distance prior to the mara-

thon. Obviously our target is as much as possible, but it would be great to raise over 2,000 euros," Tim explained.

St Patrick's Day party

The financial advisory organisation is holding a special fundraising St Patrick's Day party at the Valparaiso restaurant on Saturday 17 March at 8pm. The party will include a three-course dinner complete with drinks, an auction, raffle and a night of star-studded entertainment. Tickets for the party cost 45 euros and those wishing to donate items for auction are asked to contact Milly on milda.fitzgerald@devere-spain.es. The event has been or-

ganised to raise awareness of, and boost funds for Tim and Milly's participation in the Paris Marathon on 8 April.

DeVere has set up a special sponsorship page where people can support the couple, or sponsors can be pledged on luke.turner@devere-spain.es or by telephone: 952903205.

"The commitment from the pair of them extends far more than the day itself. Cudeca are extremely grateful to Milly and Tim for carrying out this athletic challenge and we look forward to welcoming them home after achieving their goal by crossing the finish line in the French capital," explained Cudeca fundraiser, Carlos White.



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The other 'Torcals' of Malaga province

Although El Torcal in Antequera is the most famous, there are other outstanding areas of rock formations in the province, in places such as Cartajima, Manilva, Cortes de la Frontera and Alfarnatejo

FRANCISCO
GUTIÉRREZ

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Malaga has a wealth of unusually-shaped karst rock formations and many of these areas are hardly known by geologists or tourists, says José Manuel García Aguilar

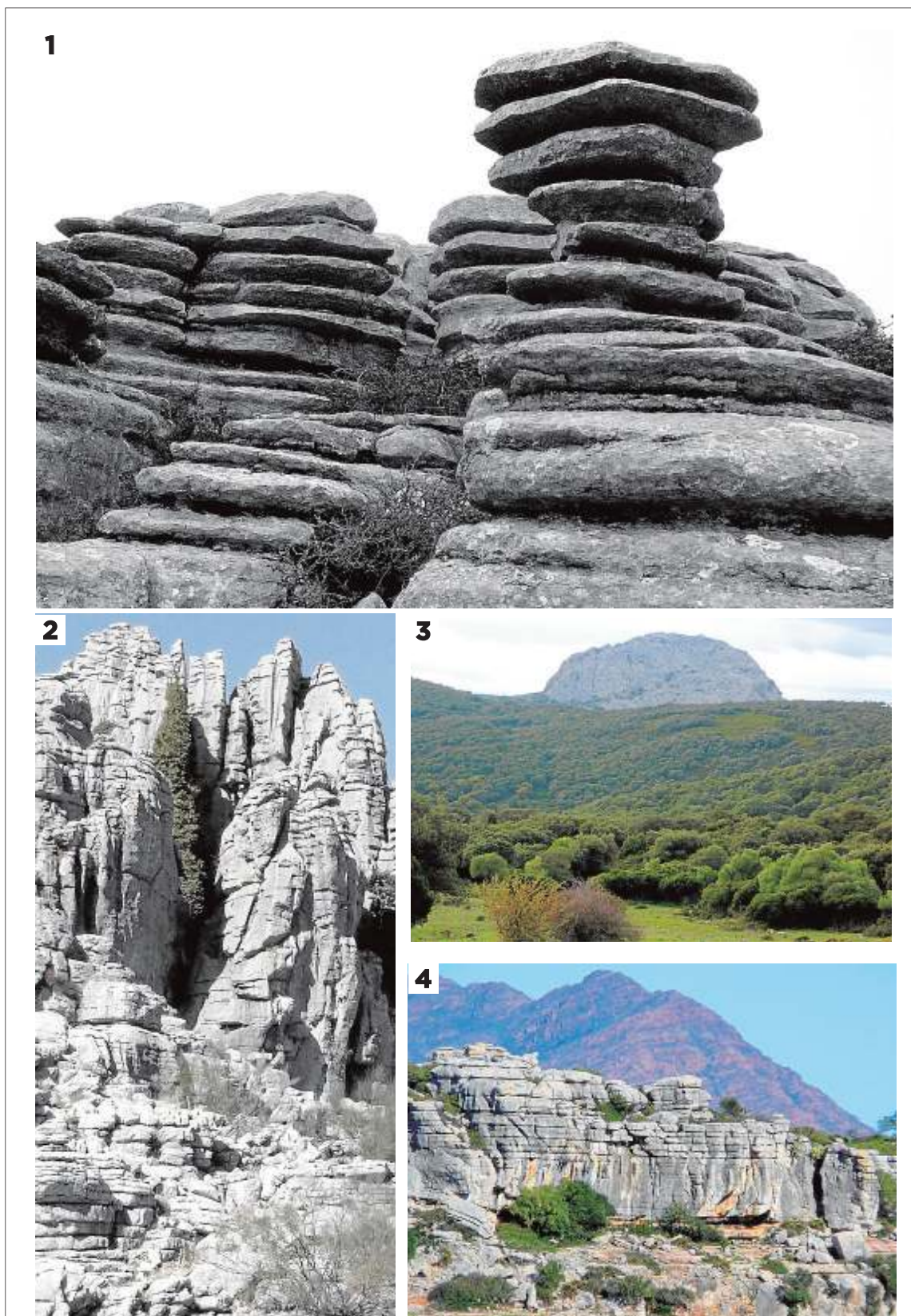
MÁLAGA. El Torcal in Antequera is one of the symbols of Malaga province. The strangely shaped rock formations in this area of the countryside never go unnoticed, and over the years it has become a major tourist attraction. In fact, together with the Nerja Cave, it is the most important geological formation in Malaga province, says geologist José Manuel García Aguilar, who has included this and other natural enclaves in his book 'Patrimonio geológico de la provincia de Málaga', the second edition of which has just been published by the University of Malaga.

El Torcal de Antequera is considered one of the most important karst landscapes in Europe and is Malaga's principal natural wonder. It was declared a Site of Natural Interest as long ago as 1929, and was the first protected area in Andalucía to receive national classification. In 1978 it became an official nature reserve, and in 1989 obtained the category of 'paraje natural', an area of outstanding beauty. In 2014 it received additional protection as a Special Conservation Area.

El Torcal is located in a mountainous area, facing east-west, with a length of approximately 11 kilometres and a maximum height of 1,377 metres at the Camorro Alto peak. The landscape has been configured over thousands of years through erosion of the limestone rocks.

The stacked layers of these rocks, like piles of 'biscuits', are very typical and some formations have been given nicknames due to their appearance: 'El Tornillo' (The Screw), which itself is classified as a natural monument, 'La Catedral' (The Cathedral) and 'El Sombrero' (The Hat).

There are also numerous fossils in these rocks, such as ammonites and belemnites, pelagic marine animals which were common during the Jurassic period, explains José Manuel, who is a biology and geology teacher at Los Boliches secondary school in Fuengirola and also works with Malaga university.



1. El Torcal de Antequera. 2. El Torcal de Cartajima. 3. Peñón del Berrueco in Cortes de la Frontera. 4. Torcal de Sierra Utrera, in Manilva. :: JOSÉ MANUEL GARCÍA AGUILAR

Los Riscos de Cartajima

However, Antequera is not the only place in Malaga province to have interesting 'Torcals', as José Manuel explains in his book. To the north of Cartajima there are others, known as the 'Riscos de Cartajima'. These cover an area of 22.2 square kilometres and comprise grey limestone rocks which are similar to those of El Torcal, although in this case the rocks are mainly from the early and middle Jurassic period.

They contain remains of fossilised algae, indicating a marine origin and are either horizontal or inclined in 'screw' shapes.

"The steep internal edges create a sequence of eye-catching, almost vertical cliffs reaching heights of between 15 and 35 metres with ridgelines that seem to have been cut in the form of oddly-shaped towers. It makes a unique image, and one which is very different from those we see in other areas of

this type in the province," says José Manuel.

Sierra de Utrera

About two kilometres from Manilva is the 'Torcal' of the Sierra de Utrera. This is "another notable example", says José Manuel García, because it is oval in shape and faces north-south, with lengths of 2.3 and 1.2 kilometres, a surface area of 4.4 square kilometres and an average height of around 300 metres

above sea level.

The differences in height create a rocky promontory about 200 metres high, in the form of an isolated mountain.

This area has also developed an aquifer which is linked to a thermal spring at the Baños de la Hedionda, where the sulphuric waters maintain a temperature of about 22 to 23 degrees Celsius.

Peñón del Berrueco

Another area of rock formations which José Manuel says is of interest is the 'Torcal' of Peñón del Berrueco, which is in Cortes de la Frontera, on the border with Cadiz province.

This one is considered an outstanding site of geological interest because of its karst phenomena and exceptional isolated mountain morphology. It is about 120 metres high, with a circular ground area which is 550 metres in diameter and an average height of 850 metres above sea level.

This same municipality is also home to another, the 'Torcal' of Mottillas, which covers an area of 0.72 square kilometres, has a perimeter of five kilometres and an average height of 500 metres above sea level. It consists of Jurassic limestone rocks.

"The karst shapes here are very beautiful, dominated by horizontal cavities and over six kilometres of galleries, such as the Cueva del Agua (Water Cave), landforms of different heights, corridors and strata stacked in unusual shapes," explains José Manuel.

The wealth of karst rock in Malaga province is also reflected by the presence of other 'Torcals', "most of which have barely been explored from a geological point of view", he says.

One particularly important area has been found in the Sierra de las Nieves, where there are two areas of grey limestone and dolomites from the late Triassic-early Jurassic period in the areas known as El Navazuelo and El Puerto de los Pilones. The second of these is large, about 6.4 square kilometres in size, and is at the heart of the Natural Park, beside the track up to the Torrecilla peak.

"There are also extensive 'Torcals' in the higher parts of the Sierra de los Merinos and Sierra Llana, between Ronda and El Chorro. In addition, there are Jurassic calcareous reliefs to the north of Atajate, situated at a considerable height, which indicates an intense network of tectonic fractures," says José Manuel.

Finally, there is the 'Torcal' to the north of Los Tajos de Alfarnatejo, which covers an area of 2.6 km². The access to this area is signposted on the MA-4103, south of Alfarnatejo, and a hiking route leads up to it.



Holy Week, a unique experience in Andalucía. :: SUR

Get ready for the emotion of Semana Santa in Andalucía

Holy Week in southern Spain promises an experience for all the senses: the smell of incense, the emotion of the saeta singing and the silent devotion

With Palm Sunday just three weeks away, preparations are in full swing at the dozens of religious brotherhoods (cofradías) that will be taking their images out in procession during the Semana Santa celebrations. Thousands are involved in the processions across Andalucía, while hundreds of thousands more are finalising their holiday arrangements to make the most of the Holy Week events as spectators.

From the smallest brotherhoods in the region's many white villages to the huge operations in the provincial capitals, the Semana Santa processions attract the crowds; a mixture of devotees, hardened enthusiasts and astounded first-timers.

A stage for Passion

The streets and squares of Andalucía are soon to become the scene for an event that every year celebrates the final days, crucifixion and resurrection of Christ from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday.

Andalucía celebrates the Passion

in a week of fervour and devotion as people follow images of great artistic value through the streets where the scene is set by the warm light of candles, the colour of the tunics and the music from the marching bands.

Around the region

Each of the region's provinces offers its own unique experiences: the emotion of the "madrugá" in Seville; the mass devotion for El Cautivo in Malaga; the journey of the Christ of the Gypsies in the hills of Sacromonte in Granada; or the solemnity of the "Santo Encierro" on Good Friday in Huelva

Other unforgettable moments include the start of the procession of "El Abuelo" from the Camarin de Jesús in Jaén; the passion in the streets of the traditional white villages of Cadiz; the silence of the streets of Cordoba, interrupted only by the singing of a 'saeta' or the sound of the bell giving instructions to the bearers; and the "meetings" of images in Almeria.

Easter holidays in Andalucía offer a unique opportunity to experience the region's most important and characteristic religious and cultural events. However this does not prevent visitors and residents from enjoying the region's other attractions, among them 800 kilometres of coastline, world-famous monuments, mountain scenery and excellent cuisine.

A day to queue to make three wishes

During Lent, as the procession dates approach, numerous events take place as part of the run-up to Easter. In Malaga city today, Friday 2 March, visitors will be able to witness one religious tradition that causes long queues to

form outside the church of Santiago in Calle Granada. Between 8am and midnight the church will be open for people to go and pay homage to the image of Christ of Medinaceli, celebrated on the first Friday on the month of March. According to tradition, devotees place three coins at the feet of the image and make three wishes.

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REF. L. I. P.

We live in a small community of 25 apartments. We have the right to use the terrace of the block together with two of our neighbours. One of them has recently rented the apartment and the tenants never use the terrace, but we know that they have given the keys to some friends so that they can access it and use it whenever they

want. We do not oppose to the tenants using the terrace, but for security reasons we do not want people from outside the community to access the terrace. What can we do?

It is necessary to check if the statutes of the community make any reference to the use of the terrace. In the event that this was not regulated, it would be advisable to take a decision in an owners' meeting, as even if it is true that the owner (or tenant) has the right to use the terrace, it should not be forgotten that the terrace is shared with another two owners, and giving the keys to other people could exceed the right of use that they have.

REF. W. O. L.

My son and daughter-in-law have decided to separate. They have three children (my grandchildren) and until the separation we all lived together in the same house, which is mine. I guess that due to this, she de-

cided to take the children and move to her parents' house in Fuengirola, which they only use when they come on holiday. My daughter-in-law has asked for a divorce, and as we did not have a good relationship. I guess that she will try to prevent me from contacting my grandchildren, whom I have not seen since they went away. As paternal grandmother, do I have any right to visit my grandchildren?

There is not a specific law that takes into account the grandparents' rights to see their grandchildren. However, the Civil Code establishes that in cases of separation of the parents, when one of them prevents the children from contacting the grandparents, they can ask at Court for visiting rights. Therefore, if your daughter-in-law does not allow you to meet the children voluntarily, you will have no other option than to go to Court.

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SOCIETY SCENE

Bridge tournament winners, donations and dogs

Children from the Victor de la Serna school collected food, blankets and other items for the ADANA dog refuge

■ SUR IN ENGLISH

RAF Association

Calling all serving or ex-RAF

The Costa del Sol Branch of the RAF Association wants new members. The club offers friendship, help and support to the 'RAF family'. This includes current and former serving RAF personnel, their spouses, widows, widowers and other dependants. From something as simple as a chat to financial support in a time of need, the Association is there to help.

The majority of this support is delivered by local branch members, on a voluntary basis. The RAF Association Branch brings together like-minded people and arranges social events ranging from informal quiz nights to a formal dinner and dance with entertainment.

Anyone who is serving or who has served in the RAF, or just wants to offer support can come along to one of the meetings. The first Tuesday in the month the club meets at Restaurante Los Morenos, Alhaurín el Grande at midday and the third Monday in the month at Bar El Jardín, Arroyo de la Miel, Benalmádena at 2pm. The RAF Association runs the annual Wings Week appeal and local branch volunteers are often at the Iceland store in Mijas raising funds to help those in need.

For more information, contact Costa del Sol RAF Association Branch at www.rafacostadelsol.co.uk

La Cala Lions Club

Donation to the homeless

President of the La Cala de Mijas Lions Club, Julie Barry, recently presented a cheque for 9,053.22 euros to Joyce Gyimah, founder of the homeless association ADINTRE. The money will be used to purchase

a massive fridge freezer to go into their new premises in Fuengirola.

Joyce started working, on her own, for the homeless in 2002. From this small beginning, she now has over 80 volunteers helping her at the centre where those in need can receive food, clothes, furniture, take a shower and participate in workshops to learn a trade, enabling them to get back into society.

Funds, donated by the Lions Club, are raised through many Lions events and the 50 volunteers in the shop in Calle Torremolinos, La Cala de Mijas.

ADANA

Children collect for dog refuge

ADANA, the Estepona dog rescue and rehoming charity, recently visited the Victor de la Serna School in Estepona to pick up an enormous quantity of dog food and blankets collected by the pupils. ADANA board member, Reg Winkworth, and administrator, Carlos Delgado, went to the school to pick up donated items and to thank the pupils.

Carlos invited them to visit the ADANA 'perrera' to see how their efforts have helped the charity's work caring for dogs in need.

Trumps Bridge Club

Annual tournament

The Trumps Bridge Club annual tournament was held recently in the Caves Restaurant in Maro, followed by dinner.

The tables split into two sections (red and blue) playing identical boards. Winners of the red section were Nan Cowie and Bob Mitchell while winners of the blue section, and the overall winners, Marion Talbot and Sue Cobley, were presented with the David Leake Trophy by Sue Moulden.

What are you up to?

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

Email: surinenglish.su@diariosur.es



The overall winners of the Trumps Bridge Club tournament. ■ SUR



La Cala Lions Club presents the cheque to Joyce Gyimah. ■ SUR



Pupils collected food and blankets for ADANA. ■ SUR



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JENNIE RHODES

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

2 MARCH 1944

Government introduces national identification documents (DNI)

On 2 March 1944, General Francisco Franco's government passed a law to issue all Spanish citizens with a personal identification number (DNI).

The Council of Ministers approved the introduction nationwide for "total efficiency for the unquestionable accreditation of the individual".

A public competition was held to design the first DNI and it was won by Aquilino Riusset Planchón who was awarded a prize of 30,000 pesetas. The rules of the competition were that the document had to fit inside a wallet, have enough space for the required text, a fingerprint and a photograph and ink that could not be altered by light.

Although the law was passed in 1944, it wasn't until 1951 that the first document was issued, with fingerprints as well as parentage

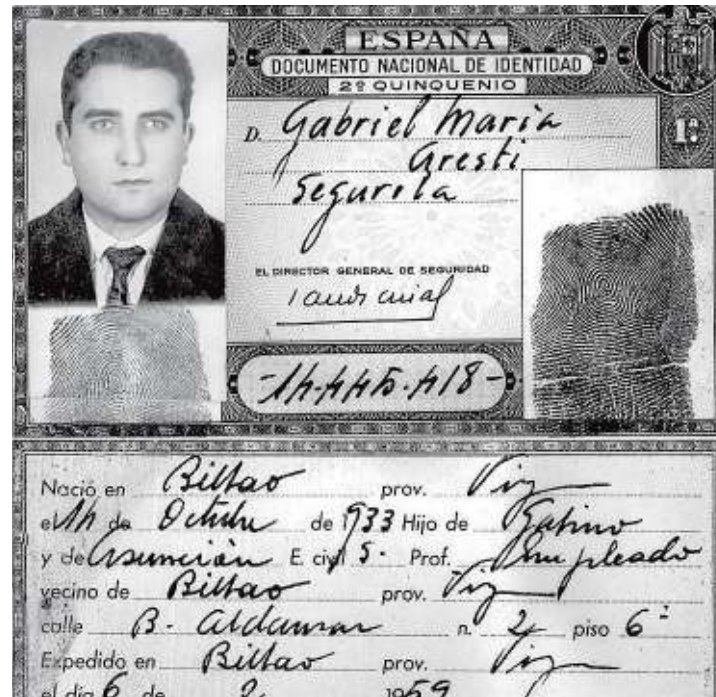
and address.

General Franco himself was given the first ever DNI, with the number one, and his wife, Carmen Polo, and daughter, Carmen Franco, were issued with numbers two and three respectively. Number 10 to 99 were reserved for members of the royal family.

Since the issuing of the first DNI, the documents have evolved along with technology. Until 1981, they included a box which determined the owner's profession.

In 2004 a pilot project was launched by the Spanish ministry of the interior with a view to introducing electronic DNI cards. The cards would contain the owner's digital signature and photograph, using facial imaging technology. A chip would hold other information, including a digital fingerprint.

In 2006 the first electronic, laminated national identification card



An early example of a DNI (1959). :: SUR

was issued in Burgos and was the same size as the current EU driving licence.

All Spaniards are issued with an eight-digit number and a control letter, which stays the same throughout the person's life.

The format remains largely unchanged today, although the fingerprint is no longer part of the data.

Like a passport, the card must be renewed every 10 years at a national police station.

DNI numbers can be used for identification in all situations, from going to the bank, to buying houses and travelling within the European Economic Area (EEA) and some other countries. The DNI number is also used for issuing Spanish driving licences.

It is legal requirement to have a DNI from the age of 14 and to produce it when required to do so by an officer of the law or face a hefty fine. Nevertheless being asked by

the police to show ID for no reason is uncommon, unless it is a routine part of an incident or when another offence has been committed, such as speeding.

To apply for DNI, it is necessary to have Spanish nationality. The equivalent number for foreigners is the NIE (Número de Identificación de Extranjero), which starts and ends with a letter and contains seven numerical digits.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Documento	Document
Identidad	Identity
Solicitar	To apply for
Tramitar	To process
Caducado	Expired
Número	Number
Cartera	Wallet
Huella dactilar	Fingerprint
Impreso	Form
Casilla	Box (on a form)
En vigor	Valid
Fecha	Date
Expedir	To issue
Ciudadano	Citizen
Electrónico	Electronic
Pasaporte	Passport
Renovar	To renew
Letra	Letter
Obligatorio	Compulsory



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Evidence in Civil Proceedings

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Debt orders

If you are seeking to **reclaim monies** owed to you, proof of facturas or invoices is essential if the money is owed for services rendered or goods supplied. These invoices must carry Iva if chargeable. **Delivery notes** or acceptance of terms signed by the recipient are also required. A private loan can be enforced if signed by both parties but it is always far better to sign a Notarial deed of recognition of debt.

Maintenance for children

We are often asked to make claims for **unpaid maintenance**. There can be an evidential problem if the payments have been made in cash basis with nothing in writing. If you reach agreement about payment it is in the interests of both parties to have a formal record of the payments. The person making the payments will then have proof, and the person receiving can show if payments stop or they need to apply for an increase.

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IN THE FRAME

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From science fiction to Moorish Spain

David Penny Writer and author

This British author had published four novels by the age of 29; he then stopped writing for 40 years

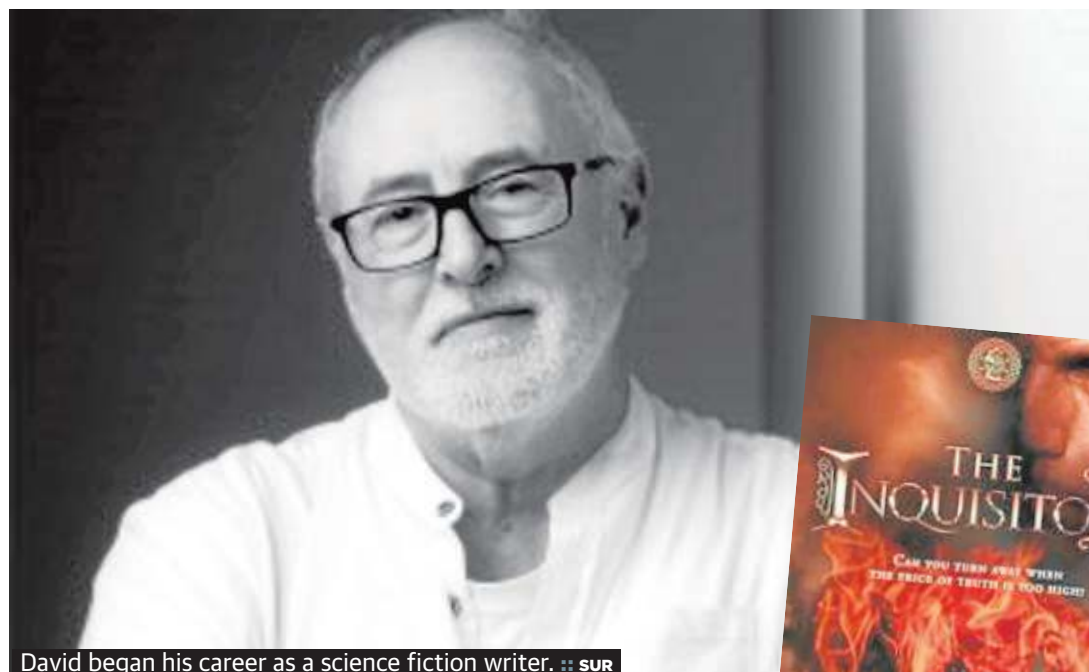
Born in London in 1950, David Penny began writing at a tender age and was initially obsessed with science-fiction. He read avidly and wrote even more and eventually started seeing his work in amateur fanzines.

At the age of 23, a short story was accepted by Galaxy magazine – his first payment for writing. At the age of 24, his first novel, *The Sunset People*, was accepted for publication and David was taken under the wing of a literary agency. Three other science fiction novels followed, but David enjoyed a “dissipated and wasteful (but not wasted) youth”, doing little other than writing, growing his hair and following an alternative artistic lifestyle.

In his mid to late twenties real life intruded into his blissful state of affairs and in order to survive he sought paid employment. Following various early jobs, David became a science laboratory technician at Welshpool High School and it was here he met his wife Megan. After the couple married, David started a software business, where he worked with his wife until they both retired in 2016.

Megan has always supported her husband with his writing – although she did admit that when she read his first book, she was afraid she might not like it and was so relieved when she realised he could actually write.

Unfortunately, as the years passed, the achievement of his ambitions was not matched with



David began his career as a science fiction writer. :: SUR

Passion for science fiction initiates career

TONY BRYANT

MALAGA David's passion for writing began with science fiction. Without having a clue what he was doing he managed to land a book deal and agent at the age of 23; four novels followed between 1974 and 1979.

The first, *The Sunset People*, is garnished with aliens, ferocious creatures and the remnants of the human race. The

following books focused on strange legends, time travel and the walking dead.

He no longer writes science fiction, although he admits it is hard to ignore it when writing his historic novels.

“I’m not writing science fiction now, except certain fantastic elements keep creeping back in however hard I try to keep them out,” David says.

monetary reward. He received just £200 in advance for each of his first four books, but none of the books earned beyond their advance.

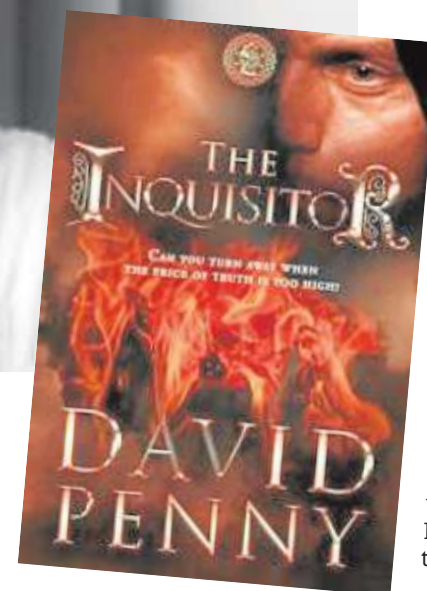
“Fortune shone on me because I sold a paperback translation in Germany and received the astronomical sum of 500 pounds. It paid for our engagement ring,” David explains to SUR in English.

His family commitments and

the need to study for an Open University degree, forced David to put his writing career aside, although the urge to create fiction remained.

Now enjoying retirement, David has started writing again after a break of four decades, but this time he has chosen to pursue an independent publishing route.

“I was traditionally published at the age of 24, when I began writ-



“I was traditionally published at the age of 23, when I began writing science fiction novels”

ing science fiction novels, before stopping for over 40 years. When I started to write again the world had changed and I discovered I could now upload my work to Amazon and see it for sale within hours,” the author says.

David lives in the small village of Dymock, close to the Gloucestershire and Herefordshire border, although he spends much of

the year in the Axarquía region. He first visited Spain at the age of 16 as part of a school trip that introduced him to the Alhambra palace and the Albaicín. He did not return for more than 40 years.

He started making two or three trips a year for various research purposes, mainly in Malaga, which remains his favourite Spanish city.

“The Axarquía was a region we knew very little about until we came in search of a place to buy. We wanted somewhere away from the coast, but within striking distance, and somewhere with a real sense of Spanish culture. The Axarquía offered all of that, plus mountains, good food, and very twisty roads,” he explains.

He is currently working on the Thomas Berrington series of historical mysteries set in late 15th century Moorish Spain. The first two books in the series were awarded the Indie Brag Medallion for work of a high standard and were shortlisted for the 2015 M.M. Bennett award for Historical Fiction.

“The Thomas Berrington series came to me in one of those instant flashes of inspiration sometimes a writer is lucky enough to get,” David declares somewhat modestly.

The fifth instalment of the Thomas Berrington mysteries, *The Inquisitor*, which focuses on an English surgeon summoned to investigate a series of murders in Seville during the turmoil of the Inquisition, was released in January and has already received a five-star rating on Amazon.

David is currently writing both the sixth – which is set in Malaga – and the seventh books in the Thomas Berrington series. In addition, there is a prequel in the works that tells of how Thomas started his journey from England to Spain at the age of 13.

When he is not writing, David walks his beloved dog, Max, and

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Spanish language students honour the works of 'Generation of 50' poet

British, Russian, Iranian, Polish and Danish students recited more than 20 pieces by celebrated children's poet, Gloria Fuertes

BY TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. As part of its Mes del Poesía (poetry month), the Foreign Residents Department at Benalmádena town hall hosted a special day in honour of the popular Spanish children's poet, Gloria Fuertes. The event was held in Arroyo de la Miel on Tuesday and was attended by Ana Scherman, Benalmádena councillor for Foreign Residents.

A group of more than 20 Spanish language students, including British, Russian, Danish, Polish and Iranian, took part in the event, each reading one of the poet's most popular works.

Norin Kenny, who moved from Dublin to Benalmádena in 2005, read *La Pata Mete la Pata*, a poem about a noisy duck and a piglet.

"We participated in last year's recital and we also attend the Span-



Students took turns at reading the works of Gloria Fuertes during the poetry event. BY TONY BRYANT

ish language courses. It is a lovely way to integrate and learn about Spanish culture," Norin told SUR in English.

Organised by language tutor Ana Torres, the event included a talk about the poet's life and work.

Born in Madrid in 1917, Gloria

Fuertes was linked to the 'Generation of 50', the first Spanish literary movement after the Civil War. She defended equality, pacifism and the fight for the environment. She became popular during the 1970s following her collaboration on children's television shows.

"This is a cultural day to let everyone know about our rich Spanish poetry. It is very difficult for the students, because the reciting is complicated in another language. I feel very proud of all of them, because they all put the greatest effort into it, Ana explained.

New sponsor to bring technology and funds to the Lions Diabetic Support Group

BY SUR IN ENGLISH

MIJAS. La Cala de Mijas Diabetic Support Group, run by La Cala Lions, recently received a donation of 250 euros from its new sponsor, the home entertainment firm Cencion. Danyelle Heyfron, representing the company, presented the cheque on behalf of Cencion CEO Ashraf Sharif to Anne Bowles, together with Lions president Julie Barry, and a group of members outside their charity Shop in La Cala de Mijas.

Cencion, which manufactures its own set-top box and multimedia player, provides access to hundreds of diet and health applications and has teamed up with the Diabetic Support Group to help bridge the gap between technology and day-to-day family health, as well as promising ongoing sponsorship throughout the year.

The Diabetic Support Group meets every month in Hogar, Calle Blanca Paloma 1, Fuengirola. The next meeting is on Good Friday, 30th March, at 10.30 am, when there will be a talk on therapy for pulmonary problems. Contact Anne Bowles on 607879450 or email annediabetics@gmail.com.

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DENISE BUSH

GARDENING

Spiraea nipponica

Spiraea is a hardy, deciduous shrub native to temperate regions of the world with densely-packed clusters of pink or white flowers

Spiraea is a member of the Rosaceae family and is a genus of around 80 to 100 species. It has narrow, oval leaves (lanceolate)

which are usually toothed. The tiny white or pink flowers appear from late spring and through the summer and either form in

densely-packed umbrella or grape-like clusters. They are a magnet for pollinating insects, especially butterflies.

Spiraea nipponica forms a dense, upright shrub approximately two metres high by two metres wide with blue-green leaves.

As the name suggests, it is native to Japan. The white flowers form on arching stems and is commonly called

Spiraea Bridal Wreath, although this name seems to be used for various species including S. vanhouttei and S. X Arguta, the latter being one of the earliest in the genus to flower.

All species enjoy being in full sun although a little shade in the afternoon in the summer will prevent scorching. Spiraea is not fussy about soil, as long as it well drained, and will withstand some drought once established.

The flowers form on new growth so pruning should be carried out in late winter. Spiraea is fast growing and can be sheared after flowering to keep it tidy. It makes an ideal hedge or specimen plant for a cottage garden border or can be grown in a container.

Spiraea contains salicylic acid which is used in the preparation of aspirin and its curative properties were used as to treat inflammation by American native Indians. They also used it as an emetic and to treat venereal disease.



S. nipponica 'Snowmound' and close up of blooms. :: YOUTUBE

READER'S PHOTO



:: DANIEL RUBIO

WILD IRISES HERALD SPRING

Daniel Rubio from Archidona sent in this photo of just one clump of the thousands of wild irises that are covering part of the hillside near his home. Iris lutescens is native to the Mediterranean and lies dormant throughout summer, flowering in early spring.

GARDENING HINTS

Fascinating facts about Spiraea and Salix

Plant derivatives have been used for medicinal purposes for centuries but few have been proven to be as useful or important as aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid). Aspirin is prepared with salicylic acid which occurs naturally in small amounts in many plants, especially in the genus Spiraea and Salix (willow). Plants use the hormone salicylic acid to defend themselves against pathogens. Extracts of the willow have been used for thousands of years by

the Assyrians, Egyptians, Babylonians, Greeks and Chinese as an anti-inflammatory, anti-rheumatic, antiseptic and analgesic drug. In 1971, Sir John Vane, a British pharmacologist, demonstrated the anticoagulation properties of aspirin and suggested it may reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease, going on to win the Nobel prize for his work. The word aspirin is derived from the combination of 'acetyl' and the German word for Spiraea, Spirsäure.

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

We know that many of our readers have lovely gardens, or enjoy growing plants on their terraces or balconies, so why not share them with others?

Email your photos to english@diariosur.es or send them to SUR in English, Avda Dr Marañón 48, 29009 Malaga, with a caption and a few words of explanation. Alternatively, you can send them to us via Facebook (surenglish) or Twitter (@SUR_English)



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Andalucía's most expensive catches

Malaga has always been closely linked to the fishing industry due to its proximity to the sea and the abundant and diverse seafood available

:: AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

MÁLAGA. Many tourists when they think of Malaga, think of the beach, the sand, the sun, beach bars, espetos (sardines on skewers) and fried fish. And partly they are right. Malaga has 161 kilometres of coastline with enviable beaches. It is also a city that has always been associated with fish. In

few provinces you can enjoy such a wide variety of fresh fish. The Malaga fishing fleet is made up of about 250 boats that net about 150 different species.

Malaga province has fishing ports in Estepona, Marbella, Fuen-girola, Malaga and Caleta de Vélez. Last year closed with 7,023,946 kilos of fish caught, worth around 22,334,570 euros at market. The most fished species is the sardine (2,984,862 kilos in 2017), followed by the anchovy (769,898), horse mackerel (629,898), octopus (563,653) and red mullet (106,454).

However, these are not the most expensive; Malaga's dearest catches



Fish market in Malaga. :: SALVADOR SALAS

include lobster, squid, langoustines, crawfish, grouper, grenadier and monkfish.

Crayfish (langostinos) are the most expensive; the average price for a kilo in 2017 was 47.07 euros and only 89 kilos were caught in total. They are fished all year round although they are most abundant April to June and November to January.

European spiny lobsters (langosta) are the second most expensive at an average price of 38.69 euros per kilo. Last year 419 kilos were caught off the coast of Andalucía.

Langoustines or scampi (cigala) are another highly priced shellfish averaging 28.15 euros a kilo in 2017. Around 24,870 kilos were fished here last year although around 200 tonnes are caught in the Mediterranean annually.

Lobsters (bogavante) are a different species to the European spiny lobster and a different colour, usually a blue-black (the European spiny lobster is an orange-beige) that turns red when cooked. They averaged 25.37 euros per kilo last year although only 399 kilos were caught. The peak

lobster fishing time is between October and January and also in April.

White prawns (gamba blanca) are the most common prawn fished off the Malaga coastline although numbers have dropped over the last fifteen years. Around 85,685 kilos were caught last year and they averaged 16.79 euros a kilo at market.

White prawns are fished all year round although they are most abundant between November and December, in April, July and August.

Baby squid (puntillas) are a delicacy and the most expensive of the molluscs at an average price of 16.85 euros a kilo. Prices go through the roof when they are tiny and between 6-8cm. The bigger ones measure up to 15cm.

In fourth place, after sardines, anchovies and horse mackerel, is the common or rock octopus (pulpo de roca), with 563,436 kilos caught last year. Average price at market last year was 7.65 euros a kilo.

The unusual red scorpion fish (cabracho) is caught off the Malaga coast throughout the year. Around 1,371 kilos were sold at market last year at an average price of 10.75 euros per kilo.

Grouper (mero) is a very coveted fish. Last year just 398 kilos were caught off Malaga and around 65 tonnes along the whole of the Andalusian coast. The average price was 22.04 euros per kilo last year with the majority of the catch coming from the ports of Algeciras and Conil de la Frontera.



Just 398 kilos of grouper was caught off Malaga last year. :: SUR

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A market for artisan cheeses and wine from the Axarquía

The seventh 'Mercado de Queso Artesano de la Cabra Malagueña y Vino de la Axarquía' is being held on 11 March in Torre del Mar

■ SUR

TORRE DEL MAR. Stalls will be selling handmade cheeses, made from Malaga goat's milk, and products from across the province at a special market in the Paseo Larios in Torre del Mar on 11 March for the 'Mercado de Queso Artesano de la Cabra Malagueña y Vino de la Axarquía'.

This year the event will be even bigger than in previous years with around forty exhibitors at the market. The huge gastronomic event attracts tourists and visitors from all over Spain.

The market will open at 10.30am and at 11am there will be live music provided by the town band and again at midday with a verdiales band. It will finish at about 6.30pm.

All the products on sale will come from the Axarquía, Malaga and from other parts of Andalucía, such as Cadiz and Granada. There will also be the opportunity for tastings.

Local honey, raisins, cooked and cured meats, wines and of course cheese will be the main offerings at the event. There will also be workshops, including one for chil-



A selection of artisan cheeses made from goat's milk. ■ SUR

dren on how to make cheese at 11.30am and 1.30pm. Other children's activities are also planned.

Chef Roberto Soler, from the Escuela de Cocina Sabores, will be running the competition for desserts made from Malaga goat's cheese which this year will be open to all types of dessert and not just cakes. Prizes for the best will be presented at around 2pm.

To complement the market, Be-

najarafe, Almayate and Torre del Mar will be holding the 'Ruta Gastronómica del Chivo y el Queso de Cabra Malagueña' from 8 until 11 March.

The initiative will see Restaurante el Rinconcillo, Lo Pepe Molina, Asador del Yate, El Convento, Restaurante Zen, the Mississippi and Taberna Restaurante Padre Pío offering tapas and a drink for 2.50 euros.

ANDREW J. LINN

MICHELINS ARE DIFFERENT



To many travellers the gastronomic experiences that form part of any journey are the stars in the firmament, and it is easy to believe that standards are universal for the various restaurant guides that abound. Take the overrated Michelin Guide for a start. The Japanese version has almost nothing in common with any European equivalent. Against the 70 Michelin-starred establishments in Paris and the 20 in Madrid, Tokyo has 234. Does this signify there are more good chefs in Tokyo than in Paris? Hardly. Or is it that the inspectors have different agendas?

And what part do prices pay? Or the time it takes to achieve a Michelin star? Last week we learnt that Frantzén, the first Stockholm eatery to ever achieve three stars, took only six months to earn them, although an investment of seven and a half million euros may have helped to impress the little red guide's anonymous inspectors. The set menu costs 460 euros with wine included (390 if you choose fruit juices) and the star dessert is a Rubik cube consisting of 27 petit fours. The Michelin people have gone public with their denial of the common belief that the more stars a place has the more it costs to eat there, but however much they protest, certainly in Europe such restaurants are not only expensive, but in

many cases over the top.

The Far East is of course different. In Singapore the street food stall of Chef Chan Hong Meng was awarded a star in 2016, mainly thanks to its legendary chicken with rice and soya sauce at 2.20 euros, or with spare ribs at three euros. Customers have to queue, often for hours, and the chairs are uncomfortable. Chan could not grow his business for years in the absence of a financial partner, but when he got the star, offers rained in. He now has three more restaurants in Singapore and one each in Taiwan, the Philippines and Thailand. Average spend per customer is around five euros, a very far cry from even the cheapest Michelin-starred European restaurant.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Mas d'en Gil Coma Alta 2014

The red wines of Priorato have long been a favourite with those who love heavy wines with high alcohol. Because the Pyrenean vineyards are on precipitous hillsides and production is small, prices are among Spain's highest. But don't ignore the whites. This vintage white is really very special, and so it should be at 24 euros.





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The return of Hors Pistes to the Pompidou

The Malaga branch has just inaugurated the latest of the annual exhibitions it co-produces with the Paris museum

The social, political and aesthetic relationships between art and sport are the focus of the audiovisual works in this year's display

:: ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

MALAGA. On 27 September 2009 the Girondins de Bordeaux and Stade Rennes football teams faced each other and the most radical fans of the former (the Ultramines) displayed placards, stickers and scarves bearing messages such as 'Do not let yourselves be comforted', 'Truth is always revolutionary', 'Idols don't exist' and 'They command because we obey'. These thoughts of Bertold Brecht, Antonio Gramsci and other intellectuals were on show in the stadium as part of an artistic action which was organised by the Democracy collective; the aim was to use them to reflect upon 'football as a new religion' with the stands in the stadium as a metaphor for society.

The video called 'Ne vous laissez pas consoler' (Do not let yourselves be comforted) attracts the gaze like a beacon as you tour the third edition of Hors Pistes, the multidisciplinary event which is hosted every year by the Centre Pompidou in Malaga and is, for the moment, the only one to be co-produced by the Paris museum and this, its only subsidiary outside France.

Curated by the director of the municipal agency which manages the Pompidou, José María Luna, and by Geraldine Gómez, this year's Hors Pistes treads new ground with

an exhibition which tackles the social, political and aesthetic relationships between art and sport.

Under the title 'El estadio del arte' (the stadium of art), this fascinating exhibition includes an attractive montage, with benches facing the video screens and white lines on the ground simulating the perimeter of a sports field. It brings together a combination of very different formal and aesthetic works, with sport as a common denominator.

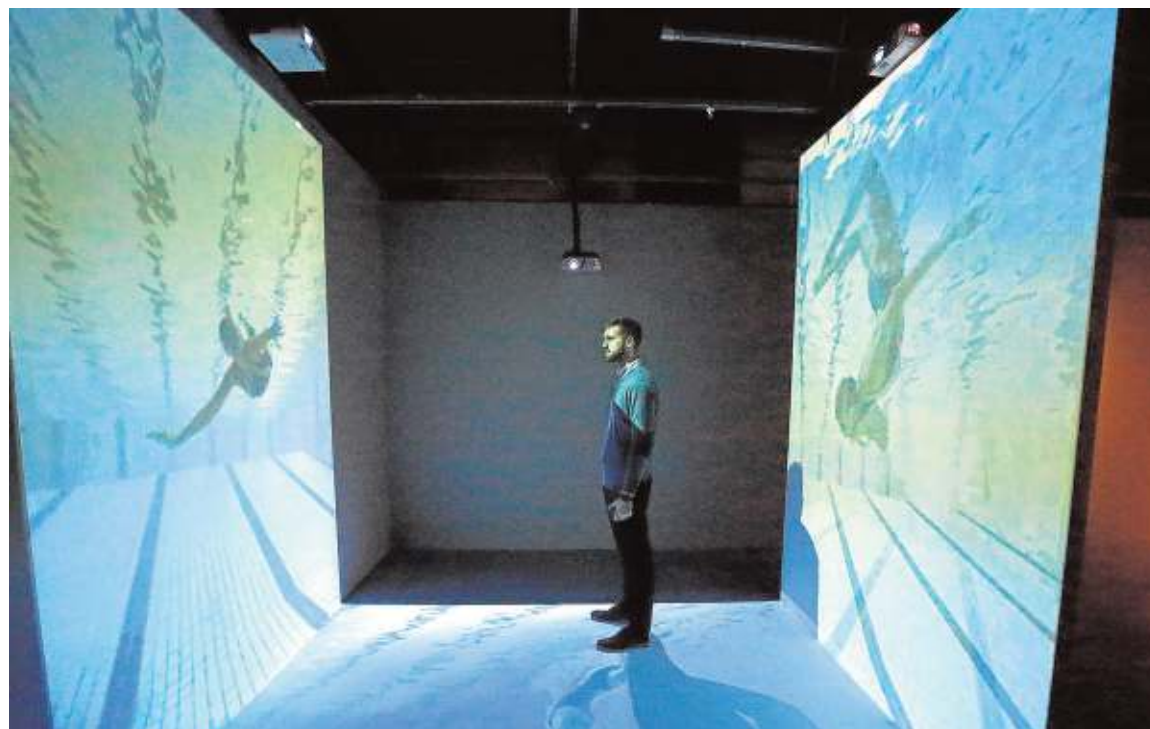
"These are stories which are very relevant today," said José María Luna, who also highlighted the "transversal and multidisciplinary approach" of Hors Pistes. For the general director of the Centre Pompidou, Julie Narbey, this event "is a way of involving the local artistic scene and linking the teams" of Malaga and Paris.

This third edition of Hors Pistes also differs from the previous ones because Spanish artists have a greater presence, from the two pieces by the Democracia group which focus on football to 'The swimmer' (2006) by Maite Cajaravilla, the artist from Seville, which consists of three screens in a U-shape where an athlete immerses himself in an infinite journey below the water of a swimming pool.

Metaphors for competition

Another of the most notable works in the montage is 'Rendition' (2006) by Eugenio Ampudia. It shows sequences of a pole jump, but where the athletes need to clear a reproduction of the painting 'The rendition of Breda', by Velázquez, instead of the bar.

"Athletes try to jump over an obstacle, which in this case is the picture, out of their comfort zone



'The swimmer' (2006) by Maite Cajaravilla in the latest Hors Pistes exhibition. :: FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ



'Crap days' by Kenneth Doren. :: F. GONZÁLEZ



Photo by Javier Hirschfeld. :: F. GONZÁLEZ

and shown in another context," said Ampudia at the opening of the exhibition, describing a piece which approaches matters such as the difficulties of the creative process and the weight of tradition on the task of contemporary creators.

One of the few concessions to photography in this exhibition is the project 'Once ideal Senegal' (2014) by Javier Hirschfeld from Malaga. The series portrays a group

of young Africans wearing football shirts. The photos have been taken face-on and from behind. The badge is on the front and the name and number of the idol on the back. The images were taken in Dakar and Gorée over a two-month period, with no preparation or manipulation. Youths dressed like sporting celebrities. Images which act as an own goal on the conscience.

HORS PISTES

► **Title.** 'The stadium of art'.

► **Venue.** Centre Pompidou Málaga.

► **Dates.** Until 4 March.

► **Times.** Every day except Tuesday, 9.30am to 8pm.



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Top acts confirmed for Castle Park Music 2018

BY TONY BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. Fuengirola is gearing up for the twenty-third edition of the Festival Ciudad de Fuengirola, which incorporates Marenostrom Music Castle Park, a calendar of live music events that will continue throughout the year.

The concerts will be held in Sohail Castle and will include Spanish, South American and British acts. Last year's festival presented celebrated musicians like Sting, Simply Red and Revolver, and this year's line-up is shaping up to be even better.

During last week's press conference, mayor of Fuengirola, Ana Mula, revealed that the acts confirmed to participate this year include El Barrio, James Rhodes, José Mercé, Bad Bunny and Carlos Santana. She also reported that many more artists would be confirmed in the next few weeks, promising that this year's event would be more varied than the previous.

"Last year surpassed all previous editions and around 30,000 people enjoyed the festival. Without a doubt, we are going to enjoy this year more, because we are presenting a



Guitar legend Carlos Santana will bring his rhythmical Latin-rock to the Sohail Castle on 9 August. :: SUR

wider variety of music that will appeal to everyone," the mayor said.

The festival kicks off on Saturday 12 May when top DJ, Solomun, will present his funky house music remixes of classic soul, funk and hip-hop. Born in Bosnia and growing up in Germany on the Hamburg club scene, Solomun is a three-time DJ Awards winner for Best Producer and Best Deep House DJ. Currently in the middle of a

world tour, this will be his only gig in Andalucía.

The music in the castle continues with the South Moon Festival - an event for electronic music purists - on Saturday 2 June, and the Music Box Festival - a night of rock music - on Saturday 23rd.

British concert pianist, James Rhodes will take to the stage in the castle on Friday 29 June. The 40-year-old pianist, who is currently on his Fire on all

Sides tour, is considered one of today's main protagonists of classical music.

Fans of reggaeton will enjoy the concert by Bad Bunny on Sunday 15 July, while the Rotom Sun Splash Festival - an event considered one of the largest reggae gatherings in Europe - takes place on Friday 20 July.

Flamenco aficionados can choose between celebrated artists like José Mercé, who will

perform with a symphonic orchestra on Monday 11 June, and El Barrio, who brings his rock-influenced flamenco to the auditorium on Saturday 4 August.

Other events include La Noche Rosa, with Javier Ojeda of 80s pop sensation, Danza Invisible; and Love the 90s, when the castle will be transformed into a huge nightclub offering the best dance music of the 90s.

However, the biggest attraction will surely be the performance of one of the most famous musicians in the world. Carlos Santana will bring his fusion of rhythmical rock and Latin jazz to Fuengirola on Thursday 9 August.

Famed for classic anthems like Samba Pa Ti, Evil Ways and Black Magic Woman, the guitar legend was a pioneer of the blues-based guitar set against Latin and African rhythms and featuring percussion instruments not generally heard in rock music.

Other acts confirmed this week are rumba and fandango singer, Paco Candela, and Mexican crooner, Alejandro Fernández.

marenostromcastlepark.com



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Tuesday 6: 19:45
Thursday 8: 19:45



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From Friday 2 to Sunday 4: 22:45



RED SPARROW

Director Francis Lawrence
Starring Jennifer Lawrence and Joel Edgerton
MYSTERY - 140 min.

Friday 2 and Saturday 3: 15:40, 17:25, 20:05, 22:15
Sunday 4: 15:40, 17:25, 20:05, 22:00
Monday 5: 17:45, 21:00
Tuesday 6: 22:15
Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8: 17:45, 22:15



HANTOM THREAD

Friday 2 and Saturday 3: 15:45, 17:50
Sunday 4: 15:45, 19:30
Monday 5: 17:30, 22:15
Tuesday 6: 19:30
Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8: 17:45



THE SHAPE OF WATER

From Friday 2 to Sunday 4: 16:00, 18:15, 22:45
Monday 5: 17:30
Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8: 22:15



EARLY MAN

Friday 2 and Saturday 3: 18:15
Sunday 4: 11:45, 18:15
Wednesday 7: 17:45



FERDINAND

Sunday 4: 11:45

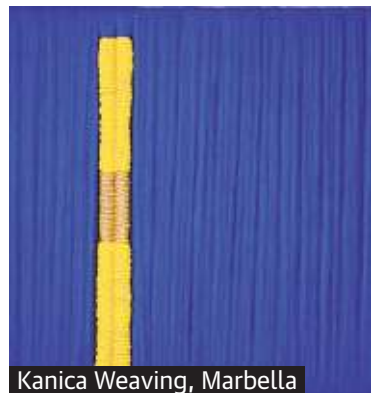


EXHIBITIONS

Kanika Weaving

Marbella. Until the end of May. Clínica Buchinger Wilhelmi, Av. Buchinger.

An exhibition of textiles and woven fabrics created by Laura Var-gas Llanas.



Kanika Weaving, Marbella

Classic Marvel Comics

Estepona. Until 31 March.

Auditorio Felipe VI.

This exhibition will focus on the most popular characters from Marvel comics in the 1960s to 1980s, including Spiderman, X Men, The Fantastic Four, Thor and Iron Man.

Roberto Matta

Marbella. Until 26 May 2018.

Museo Ralli, Urb Coral beach.

Temporary exhibition of the Chilean artist Roberto Matta of surrealist abstract art. His works represent his own vision of the world and art through the invisible, the psyche, the cosmos, without losing reference to his origins or nature. 952 85 79 23 / marbella@rallimuseums.org

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.

Museum Jorge Rando

Malaga. Until 16 March. Cruz del Molinillo, 12

A temporary exhibition entitled 'Nacerán Nuevas Auroras' (The Birth of Colour) is currently on display. The museum also holds poetry and musical events. kontakt@museojorgerando.org.

Axel Miret 'Paso'

'La Niña' reaches fifty

BY TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. An exhibition that charts the career of Malaga-born sculptor, Jaime Pimentel, is currently on show at the Centro de Exposiciones in Benalmádena Costa. The exhibition, which is free, features a collection of 20 of the sculptor's most celebrated works.

The exhibition was organised by Benalmádena town hall to celebrate the 50th anniversary of one of the artist's most emblematic sculptures, La Niña de Benalmádena. The bronze statue of a small girl holding a large sea shell has become the symbol of the town.

The artist's extensive works are in thematic groups: sport, the Apocalypse and the Mediterranean. His urban sculptures can be found in New Orleans, Oslo, Zurich, Brussels, Madrid and Malaga, while several of his works are on show in museums around Europe.

Pimentel studied engineering and music, although drawing and sculpture became his true voca-



The exhibition includes 20 of the local artist's works. BY T. BRYANT

tion. In his youth he trained in Norway, Finland and Sweden, before completing his studies in the USA. He has received numerous awards throughout his career and is considered one of the most productive artists of his time.

The exhibition is open from Tuesday to Saturday, from 10am and 1.30pm, and from 5pm until 7.30pm. On Sundays and public holidays, the centre opens 11am to 1.30pm.

INFORMATION

► **What.** An exhibition of sculptures by Jaime Pimentel.

► **Where.** Centro de Exposiciones, Av. Antonio Machado, Benalmádena Costa.

► **When.** Until June 10.



Fellini, Malaga

Malaga. Until 2 March. El Retorno de Lilith, C/Cobertizo del Conde 6, behind Picasso's birthplace in Plaza de la Merced.

Belgian artist Axel Miret will be exhibiting a selection of his works.

Juan Antonio Ramírez

Malaga. Until 17 March. Sala de Exposiciones, El Rectorado, Malaga University. Free.

'El Bricoleur y la Ciudad. Juan Antonio Ramírez y el Ecosistema del Arte en Málaga 1980-2000' is the title of the new exhibition at the

Rectorado in Malaga University. The works consist of vibrant paintings, sculptures and pieces of office furniture turned into art by Ramírez who was a designer and architect.

Nature and Perception

Malaga. Until 23 March. Ateneo de Malaga, C/Compañía

Luis Bujalance started his career in the 1990s and has shown regularly in US and Norway.

Photographs of Malaga

Malaga. Until 1 April. La Térmica, Avda de Los Guindos.

The 'Photoespacio' in the Térmica is housing an exhibition of 46 panoramic views of the city taken between 1854 and 1925.

Blackness

Malaga. Until 16 April. Café de Estraperlo, Plaza Poeta Alfonso Canales.

The artists Siobhan Riordan (UK) and Daysury Valencia (Sweden) are two black artists living in Malaga.



Artistas Eclécticos, Mijas

In this exhibition, the artists celebrate black cultural heritage to project a positive image of black people throughout history, and at the same time underline that the cultural contribution of black residents in Malaga enriches society. www.facebook.com/Café-de-Estraperlo

And Fellini Dreamed of Picasso

Malaga. Until 13 May. Picasso Museum

Federico Fellini once lived in the house in Rome that Picasso had

lived in half a century earlier. He never met Picasso but said he dreamed of him and it was those dreams that inspired his latest exhibition in the Picasso Museum.

Pinceladas de Sorolla

Torremolinos. From 8 until 23 March. The cafeteria of the Centro Cultural Pablo Ruiz Picasso. Students from the Universidad Popular will be displaying their work.

Asociación Artística Argot

Mijas. Until 5 March, Casa de la Cultura, Las Lagunas.

A group of artists from France, Iceland, Sweden, US and Spain will be exhibiting their work.

Women and Weird Things

Nerja. From 15 until 30 March. Sala Municipal de Exposiciones, C/Cristo 14.

Dutch artist Coby Bloemsma is exhibiting a collection of her paintings and sculpture.

Artistas Eclécticos

Mijas Pueblo. Until 30 March.

Primavera. In the tourist office. An exhibition of art by Elaine Carlton, Margit Björklund, Richard Wood and Sinikka Ahokas-Gröhn.

Stories in Colour. Clínica veterinaria, Avenida México, 21. Exhibition by Margit Björklund and Sinikka Ahokas-Gröhn.

Robert Hardy

Mijas. Until 6 March. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.

'Robert in Sepia' is an exhibition of works by Robert Hardy.

Juan Cortés

La Cala de Mijas. Until 13 March. Centro Cultural La Cala.

An exhibition of photos taken by Juan Cortés.

D-Espacio

Nerja. Until 4 March. Museo de Nerja.

Paco Martín Cobos will be exhibiting a selection of his photographs.

CHARITY**Alice in Wonderland**

Torremolinos. 3 March, midday, Centro Cultural Pablo Ruiz Picasso. 8€.

A theatrical reproduction of Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland by the Crea+Teatro company will raise funds for Síndrome IDIC 15 (Isodicentric chromosome 15 syn-

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drome). www.torremolinos.es

Age Concern Concert

Estepona. 6 March, 7.30pm. *Huber Plataforma del Arte, C/San Antonio.* 10€.

Clarice Williams and her choir The Good Vibrations Singing Sessions will be performing. For reservations call Tony: 654179279 or 951318234

MUSIC & DANCE

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

Malaga. Teatro Cervantes

2 March 9pm, 4 March, 7pm.

Così fan tutte. The operatic production will include Berta Perles as Fiordiligi, Carol García as Dorabella, Beatriz Díaz as Despina, Damián del Castillo as



Women and Weird Things, Nerja.

Guglielmo, Pablo García as Ferrando and Enric Martínez Castignani as Don Alfonso. The Malaga Opera Choir will also be performing. Tickets: www.teatrocervantes.com

Concert

Estepona. 3 March, 8pm. *Plataforma Arte Huber, C/San Antonio.* Jazz, swing, Bossa nova and flamenco.

Academia Orquestral de Málaga

Malaga. 2 March, 8pm. *Auditorio Edgar Neville.*

The orchestra will be playing Spanish Capriccio by Rimsky Korsakov and Pictures at an Exhibition by Modést Mussorgsky.

Ancient and sacral music

Frigiliana. *Casa de Apéro.* 10 March, 8pm. Cuarteto con Fuoco.

FLAMENCO

The Art of Flamenco

Ubrique. Every Friday, 10.30pm. *Peña Flamenca de Ubrique.* Starting this Friday, the XXX Concurso Nacional de Arte Flamenco Ciudad de Ubrique takes place. www.pflamencaubrique.es

Flamenco show

Mijas. Every Wednesday; 12pm; *Plaza Virgen de la Peña.*

Mijas. Every Saturday; 12pm; *Plaza de la Constitución.*

LECTURES

U3A Lectures

Fuengirola. *Lux Mundi reference Library, free to members, guests 5€.* u3afuengirola@gmail.com

Hands that rocked a cradle: 'Catherine d'Medici part one.' 6 March, 11am.

Treasures of the World, Turkey to Germany.

9 March, 11am.

Including the Hagia Sofia, the Moscow Metro and the VW Beetle.

A Mixed Bag: 'A Historical Record of the Measurement of Time'.

13 March 11am.

Geoff Cooke talks about his attempts to equal the accuracy of the master clockmakers.

Science and technology 'Is Society Ready for Driverless Cars?'

14 March, 11am-12.30pm.

This is a video lecture by Prof Martyn Thomas CBE and addresses issues as varied as hacking by terrorist groups and who is responsible in the event of an accident.

Lux Mundi Art Appreciation

Torre del Mar. 19 March, 10.30am.

Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, Avda Moscatel. 2€.

"The Private Life of Masterpieces," Primavera by Botticelli. After watching the BBC arts documentary there will be a discussion.



Catherine d'Medici, U3A.

Costa Discussion Group

Fuengirola. *Café Manila, Paseo Marítimo Rey de España, 77, Los Boliches.*

Factory Farming - Immoral and unsafe? 16 March, 6.30-8pm.

You may have no qualms about cramming animals into filthy sheds and cages without room to turn round or lie down, or genetically manipulating them so that some chickens grow so big that their legs can't support their bodies. But are there are also health issues concerning the meat, eggs and milk produced by factory farming?

www.facebook.com/groups/costadelsolfreethinkers/

Language School lectures

Malaga. *Paseo Martiricos.*

A series of lectures (in English) to introduce the new language exchange meetings which will be

held weekly between 10am and 12pm. Volunteers are needed. **7 March 10.30 - 11.30am.** Tony Bryant presents his latest book Andalusia: Between Dream and Reality and talks about the world of flamenco, his speciality.

13 March 10.30 - 11.30am. Joan Fallon presents her latest book: The Shining City and other books she has written based in Spain. www.joanfallon.co.uk

EVENTS

Rastro Cultural

Malaga. 9 March, 7pm until midnight. *La Térmica, Avenida de los Guindos.*

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

Women's World Day of Prayer

Fuengirola. 2 March, 4.30pm. *St Andrew Church, Av Nuestro Padre Jesús Cautivo.*

St Andrew's Chaplaincy is holding a Women's World Day of Prayer Service. This interdenominational movement of the Women's World Day of Prayer service is entitled 'All God's Creation is Very Good!' An estimated three million people around the world will be taking part in the service which has been written this year by the women of Suriname in South America.

Memorial night concert

TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. Cudeca is to host a musical memorial evening to celebrate the life of Roy Alan, a popular local expat who recently lost his battle with cancer.

The event will include a performance by the Costa Soul Singers, who will entertain with renditions of classic pop songs, one in particular, which was a favourite of Roy's. There will also be a new show by amateur theatrical group, A Touch of Class.

The show, which begins at 8pm, will be held in the Club Náutico in Benalmádena on Friday 9 March and tickets cost 10 euros. All proceeds from the night will be shared equally between Lux Mundi and the Cudeca Hospice.

Roy, who was a supporter of Lux Mundi, spent the last week of his life being cared for in the Cudeca Hospice. He was also an active member of A Touch of Class, participating in productions and writing music for the shows.

The group will be performing a brand new programme of comedy, music and dance and they will attempt for the first time their own version of the Michael Flatley's River Dance. The group has been busy practising for the past few



A Touch of Class will perform at the memorial concert. :: SUR

months, although Pauline Holme, choreographer and director, claims that Roy's tremendous talents are greatly missed among the cast.

"We will always miss him. We are all hoping for a huge turnout at the concert to raise funds for two associations that were close to Roy's heart," Pauline told SUR in English.

For more information and tickets, contact Debbie (637 98 65 16 or debbiegeater@gmail.com).

INFORMATION

► **What.** Memorial musical show for Roy Alan with singing and dancing.

► **Where.** Club Náutico, Benalmádena Costa

► **When.** Saturday 9 March. Show begins at 8pm.



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EVENTS

David Searl book signing
Bookworld, Puerto Banús.

8 March, 5-8pm.

Author David Searl will sign copies of the new 2018 Edition of his book *You and the Law in Spain*. Visitors will receive a glass of wine and a tapa.

Trip to Murcia**Fuengirola.** 13, 14, 15, 16 March.

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

Craft market**Torremolinos.** Fridays and Saturdays, Plaza Unión Europea.

Around 20 stalls will be selling a variety of handmade goods.

FESTIVALS

Fiesta de Partir La Vieja**Arriate** 11 March.

Celebrated in the village since at least 1700, this fiesta divides ('partir') Lent (Vieja Cuaresma) in two with a family picnic in the countryside of Parchite.

La Hinojá de Algatocín**Algatocín.** 3, 4 March.

The village of Algatocín celebrates winter with a festival dedicated to fennel with tasty stews and omelettes made with the vegetable.

O. V. FILM

SUR in English advises calling cinemas to check for any last minute time changes. Lunchtime and late night screenings weekends only.

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C/Alcazabilla 4, Malaga. Tel: 902

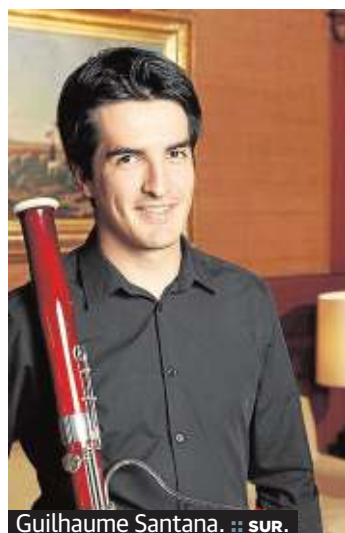
Bassoon and piano recital at the Convent Ballroom

GIBRALTAR. The Gibraltar Philharmonic Society is holding a recital with bassoonist Guillaume Santana and pianist Pauline Berdat on Wednesday 7 March at 8pm in the Convent Ballroom. The concert is sponsored by Parasol Foundation.

Santana, a French-Chilean musician, studied at the Music University in Hannover, Germany, and was a member of the Berlin Karajan Academy. He also joined the prestigious Lucerne Festival Orchestra and the Orchestra Mozart in Italy. In 2007 he was appointed principal bassoonist by the Deutsche Radio Philharmonie, and has played with many major orchestras.

Pianist Pauline Berdat studied at the Conservatory of Music in Strasbourg, France. She worked with Swedish pianist Inger Södergren and continued her studies at Hochschule für Musik in Freiburg, Germany.

She has been involved in many



Guillaume Santana. :: SUR.

chamber music projects and regularly plays for the Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra.

The programme will feature pieces for bassoon and piano by composers W. Hurlstone, E. Elgar, J. Waterson, M. Ravel, G. Pierné, N. Rota and A. Piazzola.



Pianist Pauline Berdat.

Tickets for £20 are available from Sacarello's coffee shop and The Silver Shop or from www.buytickets.gi

A limited number at £10 are available to senior citizens and students from the John Mackintosh Hall. www.philharmonic.gi

Red Sparrow: 12.00, 16.10, 18.50, 21.30, 00.15 (every day).

Cines Teatro Goya

For tickets and information call 951196665.

www.cinesteatrogoya.com

Red Sparrow: 15.40, 17.25, 20.05 (Fri - Sun); 17.45 (Mon, Wed); 17.45 (Fri, Mon, Thurs, Sun); 21.00 (Mon); 22.00 (Sun); 22.15 (Fri, Sat, Tue - Thurs).

TheVoid: 15.45 (Fri, Sat).

Phantom Thread: 15.45 (Fri - Sun); 17.30 (Mon); 17.45 (Wed - Thurs); 17.50 (Fri-Sat); 19.30 (Sun, Tues); 22.15 (Mon).

The Shape Of Water: 16.00, 18.15, 22.45 (Fri-Sun); 17.30 (Mon); 22.15 (Wed - Thurs).

Black Panther: 15.45 (Fri - Sun), 17.45 (Mon); 19.45 (Tues, Thurs).

Early Man: 18.15 (Fri - Sun); 11.45 (Sun); 17.45 (Wed).

Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri: 22.45 (Fri - Sun).

Ferdinand: 11.45 (Sun).

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Black Panther: 16.45 (every day); 13.30 (Sat, Sun).

Early Man: 15.15 (Sat, Sun).

Red Sparrow: 16.30 (every day); 13.45 (Sat, Sun).

All The Money In The World: 21.30 (Tues).

I, Tonya: 21.30 (Tues).

Marbella 'The Other Side of the Camera'

Instituto Río Verde Calle Notario Luis Oliver 20.00, 22.15 and Centro Municipal de Música, Plaza de la Libertad, San Pedro, 21.00.

Hitchcock / Truffaut: Marbella 12 March, San Pedro 13 March.

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DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA



A view of the town of Montilla, in Cordoba province. :: SUR



Vines at the Robles winery. :: SUR

A town with tradition

TWO DAYS IN MONTILLA

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Journey time: An hour and a half from Malaga. Visits to bodegas: five hours. Cultural visits: four and a half hours.



JAVIER ALMELLONES

Nestling amid the Cordoba countryside, the town of Montilla has been linked with wine for centuries and it is still possible to pay a visit to the Alvear winery, which is believed to be the oldest in Andalucía.

This town, which is also where Gran Capitán cheese is produced, is today the alma mater of the Montilla-Moriles Designation of Origin, which protects the wines of this region.

These wines, which are made with a combination of tradition

and modernity, win international awards every year.

Although the best-known is from the 'bodega' which is still run by the Alvear family, other wineries can also boast great prestige within and outside Andalucía. Among them is another family business, Los Robles, which in recent years has been producing some innovative ecological wines while never losing sight of tradition.

In addition to these two family-run wineries there are others which can be visited such as Pérez Barquero, Cabrillana, Cruz Conde, Anora and Navarro, to name just a few.

The 'oloroso' wines, Pedro Ximénez and 'fino' dry sherries are some of the specialties of all these bodegas, and they are perfectly paired with the local gastronomy. For example, the wines of Montilla go very well with dishes such as sirloin with oloroso sherry, hake in Pedro Ximénez sauce with raisins, artichokes 'a la montillana' and kidneys 'Al Montilla', among others, which can be enjoyed at many of the town's restaurants.

As well as its wines, however, the town of Montilla has other attractions for visitors. Anyone who has strolled through the streets before will have seen that there are many interesting buildings, such as the main church, which is the Basilica of San Juan de Ávila.

The town's history can also be seen from the museum dedicated to Inca Garcilaso de la Vega. It is situated in the building which was once the home of this local character who led an exciting life and lived in Montilla in the 16th century.

QUICK GUIDE

What to see in Montilla

◀ **Casa Museo del Inca Garcilaso de la Vega.** Museum in a 16th-century building which was once the home of a local author. Calle Capitán Alonso de Vargas 3, 14550 Montilla

Basilica of San Juan de Ávila.

Church built in the 18th century. Calle Corredera 23, 14550 Montilla

◀ **Bodega Alvear.** Founded in 1729, this family-run winery is believed to be the oldest in Andalucía.

Avenida de María Auxiliadora, 1, 14550 Montilla.

Museo Gamelo. Art gallery in the Casa de las Aguas, with 180 works by José Gameo y Alda. Plaza Ángel Sisternes s/n, 14550 Montilla

▶ **Palace of the Dukes of Medinaceli.** Now privately-owned, it dates back to the 16th century. Plaza del Llano del Palacio, 14550 Montilla



The local gastronomy is another attraction. :: SUR



Many of the wineries are open to visitors. :: SUR



Thousands of people have registered as donors thanks to Pablo's efforts to raise awareness of his illness

MALAGA. The heart of Pablo Ráez and his everlasting slogan 'always strong' has not stopped beating for a single second. Even though his body left this world almost exactly a year ago, his spirit, his story and above all his message, continue to have an effect on the consciences of people in Malaga just as he did with his first message, which appeared on Instagram back in September 2015. "Today I have been told I have leukemia. All I will say is that I am not going to lose hope, strength or my smile," he posted.

His campaign to encourage people to become bone marrow donors, with a much more altruistic objective than obtaining a cure for himself, resulted in the donor banks expanding by 1,300 per cent in Malaga province and many people like Nereida, Patricia, Miguel, Miriam, Pablo, Lidia, Sonia, Lorena and Mariem (who feature in this article) registered as donors and decided to continue Pablo's legacy.

"As Pablo can't do it himself now, we decided to carry on with his work," explains Lidia Aguilar, one of the people who decided to become a donor after learning about the case of this young man from Marbella. Now aged 30, she says she was inspired by the strength and charisma shown by Pablo in every one of his videos. It was the push she needed to listen to her conscience and add her name to the register of volunteers created by the Josep Carreras International Foundation, with which the Regional Blood Transfusion Centre of Malaga (CRTS) collabo-



The legacy of Pablo Ráez

Young volunteers explain how their lives have changed since they became bone marrow donors thanks to the campaign led by the young man who died almost exactly a year ago

Lidia Aguilar Aged 30 "As Pablo can't do it himself any more, it's up to us to continue the work which he began"	Miguel González Aged 36 "You don't think donation has anything to do with you until you realise that someone you know needs it"	Miriam Enríquez Aged 32 "Pablo gave me the push I needed to become a donor with his messages full of strength and love"	Pablo Jiménez Aged 20 "I believe something has changed in society thanks to his efforts; Pablo is a real example for others to follow"	Sonia Ordóñez Aged 31 "I'm an oncology nurse and donation is the only effective treatment for many illnesses"	Lorena Pérez Aged 23 "It is important to have awareness campaigns because otherwise people forget about things very quickly"	Mariem Zarrabi Aged 20 "I have always been interested in helping and I think becoming a donor is the very least one can do for society"
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rates. "Many people are aware of the importance now, but may be scared to register because they are afraid of the unknown," she says. Someone else who signed up immediately was Miguel González, one of Pablo's teachers at the Medac school in the Carretera de Cadiz district. "These are things that seem very distant and don't really affect you until you realise that they could happen to you too," he says. In his case, from the moment

he took this step he has thought about it every day. "At first I saw it as an act of generosity. I thought I was being brave. Now, though, I have realised that doing this is an obligation," he says. When Pablo Ráez's case became known in the province and then around the world through barely a handful of posts on Twitter, only 200 people a month were registering as donors. That figure rose to 2,000 and in 2016 the province reg-

istered a record 11,201 new bone marrow donors, which was an increase of 1,300 per cent. At present there are an estimated 215,000 volunteers registered in Spain and one third of them are from Andalucía. Sergio Fernández, a doctor at the Regional Blood Transfusion Centre, says Pablo's campaign has also increased interest in donating blood in Malaga province, because it is important to remember that people

who need bone marrow also need a great deal of blood during the treatment. Miriam Enríquez also became a donor after Pablo went public about his fight against leukemia. "People in my family have also had cancer, but it was Pablo's strength which made me take the decision; the way in which he let people know what was happening to him," she explains. Although so far she has not received the call

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QUOTES FROM PABLO RÁEZ

The young man from Marbella showed his zest for life on social media

"Always strong!"

"Don't let a bad day stop you"

"Life is fantastic!"

"If you don't smile, you lose"

"Never give yourself the luxury of giving up"



"You can never give up; always fight"

Since Pablo became ill, the number of donors in Malaga has increased by around 1,300 per cent

The case of this young man from Marbella has also increased blood reserves in the province

asking her to give part of her life to another person, she believes that it would be "the most generous thing anyone can do, to give a sick person another chance". Until this happens (or not, because

only one in every 30,000 people end up donating their bone marrow) she considers it essential to continue carrying out awareness campaigns.

One of the most recent people

to register is Mariem Zarrabi, a 20-year-old from Morocco who says she is still affected now by Pablo's story. She was able to have a chat with him at the hospital one day and will never forget the way he

was always smiling. "He was someone who always transmitted hope and he was able to reach many people who would otherwise have been too afraid to become donors," she says.

KEY POINTS

► **Who can donate bone marrow?** People aged between 18 and 40 (until last year it was up to 55), in good health, weighing at least 50 kilos, who would be suitable as a blood donor.

► **How can I become a donor?** The only initial requirement is to fill in a form and have a small blood test to determine your parameters of compatibility.

► **Where can I register?** At the Regional Blood Transfusion Centre in Malaga (in the Hospital Civil complex) or any programme organised for this purpose.

► **What happens if there is a compatible patient?** You will be called for a new blood test to confirm your compatibility. The bone marrow can be removed in two ways: by extracting peripheral stem cells, which can be done as an outpatient, or through surgery which will entail a stay in hospital.

Fear of the unknown

Dr Fernández, of the CRTS, says it is normal for people to feel afraid of the unknown when they are facing the donor process for the first time. He offers reassurance about two of the main concerns: the majority of bone marrow extractions are carried out without the donor needing to stay in hospital or undergo surgery, and the donor does



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➤ not end up lacking bone marrow because it regenerates automatically in less than a month.

He says the donation process is very simple and basically consists of three steps. The first is for people who are interested in becoming donors to be registered and have a blood test to determine their parameters of compatibility. Then, and only if their bone marrow is considered compatible with that of someone who is ill, they are asked to go for a more complete test to determine whether they are the ideal person. Finally, if it is decided that the donor has maximum compatibility with the patient, the bone marrow is extracted.

In the majority of cases this is done as an outpatient and no anaesthetic is needed. Only in a few specific cases is a small operation required and the donor needs to be hospitalised. The donor never has to go to the recipient's town or city. Only the bone marrow is taken to the patient.

Lorena Pérez, a 23-year-old student who registered as a donor a year ago, says it is a shame that so many people are unaware of the matter and she believes the awareness campaigns are essential because many people are prepared to give blood but don't think about donating bone marrow.

"Pablo's awareness campaign was much more effective than any that a hospital could do," she says. That is why she decided to add her name to the register of the 'Always Strong!' donors.

Pablo Ráez's legacy will live on in a documentary which will be released this year

NIEVES CASTRO

✉ ncastro@diariosur.es

The Quinta Planta production company is making the film with financing from RTVE

MARBELLA. "Two and a half years ago, when Pablo was in hospital and, obviously, we never thought he was going to die, he and I planned to make a documentary about how leukemia is cured. Then, as we all know, the circumstances changed and we are here to announce that we are going to make a documentary about his life, his work, his love for and solidarity with other people and how

we, his family, have received love from all over Spain and the whole world."

With these words Vladimir Ráez, Pablo's uncle, explained the story behind the documentary which Malaga production company Quinta Planta is planning with financing from RTVE about the young man from Marbella whose campaign to raise awareness of the importance of bone marrow donation went viral.

The documentary, which is backed by the Gen-

eral Transplant Department, will be called 'Siempre fuerte' (Always strong) and is due to be released later this year.

It will include testimony from Pablo and will feature key moments in his life, his family, lifelong friends, medical staff, scientists and famous people who made contact with very special young man.

"This is not going to be a sad film. It is a tribute to Pablo's life and his fight for life," explained Eladio Jareño, the director of the TV

channel, who came to Marbella for the official presentation of the project.

"Pablo was a boy from Marbella, and from Malaga, who has affected people's lives and this documentary tries to perpetuate his legacy, which I believe is to help and inspire other young people," said his father Francisco, in a short speech in which he also expressed his gratitude for the project.

Lighting the way

The presentation of the documentary coincided with the first anniversary of the death of Pablo Ráez, whose attitude gave visibility to leukemia and increased the number of blood and bone marrow donors.

"Our aim is for the example which Pablo gave us to last for ever via this documentary," said his uncle about the film, which will last between 70 and 90 minutes.

Vladimir, who is the artistic director, explained that those behind the project hope to keep raising awareness, so that people who see the documentary will also do something to help others because, "that is the greatest wealth that we can find in life."

The mayor of Marbella, Ángeles Muñoz, who was also present at the presentation, said it was an excellent way of ensuring that Pablo's "fight" could continue and would "light the way" for leukemia patients and those who are diagnosed with the illness in the future.



Pablo Ráez outside the Carlos Haya hospital in Malaga. :: SUR

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An eye examination being carried out in the clinic. :: SUR

A sight for sore eyes

Optometrist Jane Machin talks to SUR in English about her recent trip to Sierra Leone to help improve the eye sight of locals

:: ASH BOLTON

ESTEPOÑA. It was only a week-long trip for Jane Machin — but that was enough time to help screen 741 people in desperate need of eye care in some of the poorest parts of Sierra Leone.

The Estepona-based eye specialist was one of a team of five British op-

tometrists who flew out to the country to help diagnose sight-related problems and provide training for local technicians and students.

Organised by the UK charity Vision Aid Overseas, the charitable trip saw Jane and her team visit several communities in the West African country, where locals don't have ac-

cess to eye care.

Jane, 60, who works at Optica Machin in Estepona and has lived in Spain since 1987, said: "The trip went very well. I could only stay for a week due to work commitments, but it was enough for me to show the group how to set up the clinics and the routines we follow in running them.

"We screened 741 people, both adults and children. Of those nearly 400 were examined more thoroughly and over 200 pairs of spectacles were dispensed. We referred 87 people to the hospital for treatment by the ophthalmologist."

For Jane, this is her fourth trip with Vision Aid Overseas, having visited Uganda in 2012, Ethiopia in 2013 and Sierra Leone in 2016.

"The most common visual problem was older people needing glasses for close work," said Jane, who was born in Essex.

"We found that often the teachers couldn't see to read and this made it difficult for them to teach. Medical workers such as nurses also had problems with near vision and this could be a problem in gauging dosages for medication."

The trip itself was very tiring for the team who, after loading their car, would usually travel for about two hours on rough roads through the jungle to clinics.

"The longest trip was four hours each way, although my team did that in the second week so I missed that one," explained Jane.

"As we had to be back to the hotel before dark, it is quite stressful trying to make sure that we see everyone who needs to be seen. Also the language can be challenging in the tribal areas as we occasionally needed two translators, one from English to Creole and then from Creole into the tribal language.

"But the locals were very pleased to see us. They made us welcome and we were invited to eat with them af-

ter the clinic, usually a big plate of spicy fish and rice shared with all the workers."

The highlight of the trip for Jane was seeing the progress that had been made since her last trip to the country in 2016.

She explained: "There are now three ophthalmologists in Sierra Leone for seven million people. Last year there was just one. This year there are two optometrists with two more in training and there are now 12 optical technicians, with one still in training, and four vision centres in the eastern and northern provinces.

"There is still a long way to go but you can see a time when we will become redundant and the vision care programme will become self sustaining. That is very satisfactory!"

As for whether Jane plans to do any more trips overseas, she added: "I would love to do another trip but I might have to wait until next year. I would go where they need me. At the moment Vision Aid is working in Zambia, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Ghana and Burkina Faso."

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

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

i www.visionaidoverseas.org



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New radiology equipment for San Pedro health centre

The machine was first used on Thursday following an investment of 70,000 euros and alteration works

by **HÉCTOR BARBOTA**

MARBELLA. The Andalusian Health Service has invested 70,000 euros in the acquisition and launch of a new radiology machine in the San Pedro Alcántara health centre. The Andalusian government's delegate in Malaga, José Luis Ruiz Espejo, visited the centre this week along with the Malaga delegate for Equality, Health and Social Politics, Ana Isabel González, and the director of the Costa del Sol health district, María Dolores Llamas.

Ruiz Espejo said that in the last month the refurbishment of the room had been completed, along with the works on the control room and relevant training for medical professionals. The new equipment is digital and replaces older machinery that in the last few months has suffered various faults. The new system will include some of the most up-to-date advances in technology and includes tools for the optimisation of images and the elimination of noise.

Improvements

"This new equipment is the latest step in the plan to improve the centre and its facilities, which has in the last year seen several refurbishment projects, such as the introduction of desks to facilitate communication between administrative staff and the general public," Ruiz Espejo said.



A health worker explains how the new equipment works. by **J-LANZA**

In the coming weeks, the emergency department is set to have a new queue-management system which will allow for greater accessibility and security for patients. Anyone who enters the emergency department will give their details at the admissions desk and will then be given a number, so that they can wait their turn. This will simplify matters as no one will need to know personal details of those in the waiting room, like their name and surname, but staff will be able to confirm their identity through the computer system to prevent mistakes

further down the line.

The number will be displayed on a screen in the waiting room to help people who have problems with hearing. This new system will also alert patients of where they need to go and the room's location.

Refurbishment work

The Andalusian Health Service has carried out works to improve the accessibility of 16 health centres in the province. In the Costa del Sol health district 105,000 euros are being spent on ten health centres.

Ana Isabel González said, "The work that we are carrying out has come following the feedback not only of health professionals in the province, but also at the request of local residents and patients."



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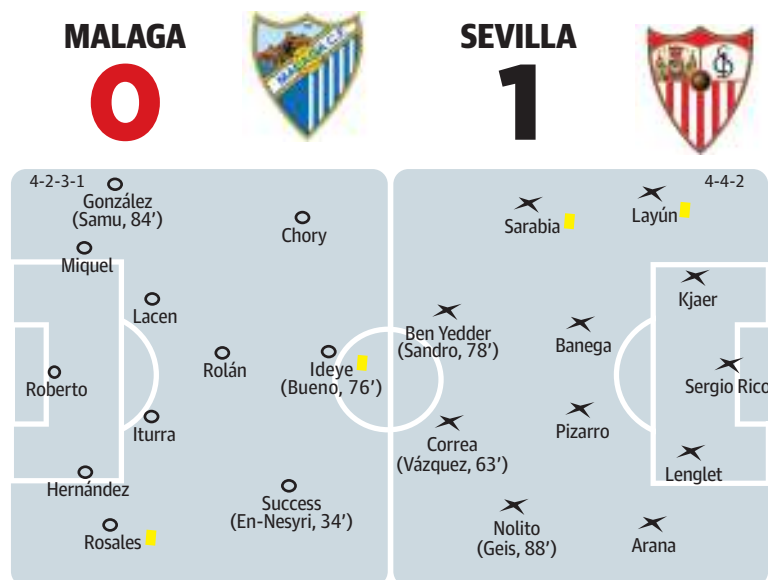
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Unused substitutes: Prieto (GK), Rolón, Lestienne, Miguel Torres.

Unused substitutes: David Soria (GK), Roque Mesa, N'Zonzi, Muriel.

STATISTICS

BALL POSSESSION



0	Goals	1
6	Total shots	5
1	On target	4
5	Off target	1
9	Corners	4
2	Offsides	2
18	Fouls committed	14
2	Yellow cards	2
0	Red cards	0

Goals: 0-1 Correa (15').

Referee: Carlos del Cerro.

Venue: La Rosaleda (15,516 spectators).

TABLE & FIXTURES

MATCHDAY
26

LEAGUE TABLE

★ Champions League ■ Europa League ▼ Relegation

TEAM	PT	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
★ 1. Barcelona	65	25	20	5	0	68	12
★ 2. At. Madrid	61	26	18	7	1	45	11
★ 3. Real Madrid	51	26	15	6	5	62	28
★ 4. Valencia	50	26	15	5	6	50	30
■ 5. Sevilla	42	26	13	3	10	34	40
■ 6. Villarreal	41	26	12	5	9	36	30
7. Eibar	38	26	10	5	10	33	38
8. Girona	37	26	10	7	9	36	36
9. Getafe	36	25	9	9	8	32	22
10. Betis	36	25	11	3	11	43	50
11. Celta	35	26	10	5	11	43	38
12. Athletic	32	26	7	11	8	27	29
13. Espanyol	31	26	7	10	9	23	32
14. Leganés	30	26	8	6	12	21	32
15. Real Sociedad	29	25	8	5	12	47	47
16. Alavés	28	25	9	1	15	22	37
17. Levante	20	25	3	11	11	21	40
▼ 18. Las Palmas	19	25	5	4	16	18	52
▼ 19. Deportivo	18	26	4	6	16	24	56
▼ 20. Málaga	13	26	3	4	19	16	41

Results

Athletic - Valencia	1-1
Málaga - Sevilla	0-1
At. Madrid - Leganés	4-0
Las Palmas - Barcelona	(Thu)
Girona - Celta	1-0
Eibar - Villarreal	1-0
Getafe - Deportivo	3-0
Espanyol - Real Madrid	1-0
Alavés - Levante	(Thu)
Betis - Real Sociedad	(Thu)

Fixtures

Villarreal - Girona
Sevilla - Athletic
Deportivo - Eibar
Leganés - Málaga
Real Madrid - Getafe
Levante - Espanyol
Barcelona - At. Madrid
Real Sociedad - Alavés
Valencia - Betis
Celta - Las Palmas

Another loss - but not for want of trying

BEN
CLARKE

✉ english@diariosur.es

Malaga looked assured in the Andalucía Day derby but couldn't match the quality of Sevilla in the final third

MÁLAGA. Another case of déjà vu for Malaga. The team showed moments of fluid play, but were chasing Sevilla for the majority of the match after the visitors took an early lead in the Andalusian derby at La Rosaleda on Wednesday night.

On paper, the fixture seemed like a mismatch, pitting sixth-placed Sevilla, who are still in the Champions League, against bottom side Malaga but there was a sense of excitement in the air for this special Andalucía Day derby and the Malaga fans did not hesitate in making their voices heard.

The first half saw perhaps a few more errors than usual due to the slip-



Brown Ideye looks on as Sevilla celebrate their goal. :: SALVADOR SALAS

pery conditions produced by a day of unremitting rain.

Sevilla, however, gathered themselves best and after 13 minutes, a clever pass from Ben Yedder found Miguel Layún on the edge of the box whose well-hit right-footed shot forced a relatively comfortable save

from Roberto.

Malaga's defence came undone just a minute later though when a chipped pass from Nolito found Joaquín Correa, who then tucked the ball neatly into the bottom right corner on the stretch.

The hosts looked to fight back im-

mediately and the fans were on their feet when a penalty plea was ignored by the referee who didn't see a foul as Isaac Success was bundled down in the box.

Success, making his first start for Malaga, was surprisingly withdrawn towards the end of the first half, replaced by Youssef En-Nesyri who had his red card against Athletic Bilbao rescinded. It is unclear whether the Nigerian was hooked due to an injury but it is fair to say he struggled to make an impression.

In contrast, En-Nesyri's presence was immediately felt, providing an attacking menace primarily down the left. However, Sevilla maintained the upper hand and after a shot from Nolito was perilously deflected over his own bar by Ignasi Miquel, Ben Yedder had the ball in the net from the resulting corner, only for it to be ruled offside.

In the second half, both teams found a renewed vigour. A cross from Mehdi Lacen met the head of En-Nesyri, but his attempt went high and wide.

Sevilla then came very close to scoring when a right-footed shot from Nolito was saved by Roberto.

On the 57-minute mark, Diego Rolán's near-post shot was tipped over the bar for a corner by Sergio Rico.

Roberto Rosales then crossed to Luis Hernández from the resulting set piece, but his shot from the centre of the box was blocked. Rosales fired the ball back in again to find the head of Ideye, who headed it high and wide.

With half an hour to go, Sevilla brought on Franco Vázquez to replace Joaquín Correa. He brought some much-needed energy to the side and came close when his shot rippled the side netting after collecting the ball on the right from a corner.

A foul on the edge of the Sevilla box gave Chory Castro an excellent opportunity to score from a free kick, but his shot hit the jumping wall and Diego González hit the rebound wide.

Malaga looked much the better side in the closing stages, forcing Sevilla to concede several corners and free kicks. After Sevilla brought on former Malaga man Sandro Ramírez (to a hostile reception), Malaga head coach José González responded with his final throw of the dice, bringing on forward Samu for left-back González.

There was drama till the last as a shot from Vázquez in stoppage time was saved by Roberto's foot; the keeper then had to scramble back towards his own goal line to prevent an unfortunate Miquel own goal.

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The young Moroccan after his penalty miss. :: SUR

En-Nesyri: A goal, a missed penalty and a red card

ATHLETIC2 MALAGA 1

:: ANTONIO GÓNGORA

BILBAO. Defeat to Sevilla was Malaga's second in the space of a week after an unsuccessful trip to the Basque Country when they took on Athletic Bilbao on Sunday.

Despite taking an early lead, it took just four minutes for the Blue and Whites to throw it away and, from there on in, they looked as though they lacked the conviction to win it back. They were once again unable to capitalise on their opportunities, lacked purpose and seemed very vulnerable when defending.

Young Moroccan forward Youssef En-Nesyri showcased the worst and the best of Malaga's performance: in the 13th minute he capitalised on an excellent cross from Maxime Lestienne, slotting the ball past a stunned Kepa to buoy the spirits. However, later in the match, he failed to score a penalty and was sent off in the closing stages for a reckless challenge on the opposition goalkeeper.

Athletic's equaliser saw the Malaga defence cut in two. Óscar de Marcos cut inside from the right wing and

his low cross found Markel Susaeta, who beat Miguel Torres to ball and slid his shot beyond Roberto.

When Mehdi Lacen came on after just 36 minutes for the injured Adrián, the hosts sought to capitalise. After putting a lot of pressure on the Malaga defence, they won a corner on the left. Beñat's delivery found the unopposed foot of Mikel San José, who looped the ball past the keeper with the help of a nick off En-Nesyri just before half time.

The second half offered chances for both En-Nesyri and Chory Castro to level the score but the clearest came after 60 minutes when Iñigo Lekue brought down Roberto Rosales on the edge of the box and the penalty was given.

Malaga deliberated over who would take it, but the young Moroccan forward stepped up, exuding confidence. His shot was saved by the outstretched glove of Kepa, and the rebound cleared. That was the last opportunity that Malaga had before En-Nesyri's dismissal.

Malaga remain in last place, with 13 points from 26 games played - seven points from safety.

Relegation, with financial consequences for the area too

After ten years in the top flight, relegation could produce direct and indirect losses of around 200 million euros

:: ANTONIO GÓNGORA

MALAGA. It's difficult to put an exact figure on how much Malaga and its province are set to lose if, or rather when, the club loses its top-flight status. There are many studies from a few years ago which demonstrate the economic value of having a La Liga team, even more so a team competing in continental competitions, in a city. Therefore a relegation for the Blue and Whites would also be a relegation for Malaga as a whole, and not just its team and its fans.

The most pertinent study with a direct reference to the club was presented a few years ago and featured contributions from former Malaga marketing director, and cur-

rent country manager for La Liga in India, Antonio Cachaza. Since then, however, the figures will have increased significantly given the most recent expansion of La Liga into international markets through new television rights deals which are set to increase further, even up to 40 per cent in some cases, in the coming years.

The direct losses are already known, or at least can be calculated. If Malaga go down, despite the financial assistance provided for newly-relegated sides in the first year, money from television rights will total little over ten million euros. Last campaign, the club earned 56 million euros - a figure which would be maintained if they stayed in the division.

Relegation would also affect season-ticket sales, advertising revenue and marketing with these departments all likely to suffer. In total, income would drop by around 50 million euros.

This lack of revenue will not only

be felt by the club, but also by the city and province. One way is that Hacienda will receive much less given that half of players' earnings are taxed.

Indirect losses

However, the largest quantity will be lost indirectly. Having a top-flight team has great value in the media and for the image of a town or city. However, relegation could diminish this image in the medium and long term and this would have a major impact on a location as important for tourism as the Costa del Sol.

A study from more than four years ago estimated that Malaga CF has an indirect impact on the economy of 130 million euros, 95 of which from Spain and 25 from elsewhere. La Liga, for its part, currently estimates that this figure is more likely to be 150 million euros, albeit without specifying any team, only saying a "mid-sized club in a major area".



The starting eleven which lost to Valencia at home (1-2). :: N. SALAS

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A LOOK AT LA LIGA

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One step too VAR

Technology to help get the big decisions right may be coming in across Europe but we're still some way from seeing a 'video ref' in Spain

Where back in the Premier League they are wrestling with exactly how they will make VAR work, here in Spain we are waiting for some kind of indication as to when we may see it for the first time.

There is the bizarre 360 degree technology that spins into Spanish television coverage randomly, reaching a conclusion by purportedly giving you the view of the goalscorer through some virtual-reality-like view.

I'm still not sure what this brings to the coverage of a game and the Spanish match directors seem to throw it in haphazardly for no apparent editorial reason. Some TV executive has made an executive decision and by Jove we are going to get it thrown in, usually when we least expect it.



VAR technology is already in place around the globe. :: AFP

Sadly the executives who run the game can't agree. The Spanish Football Association president Juan Luis Larrea did say his intention was to have the system up and running for the first game of the 2018/19 season. There was talk of it being trialled in the Copa del Rey but we've exhausted all options apart from the final, so that looks like loose talk.

Meanwhile the president of La Liga Javier Tebas warns that it is too expensive and he can't see it happening. Gimmicky "through the eyes of the striker" technology is fine, something that may bring more accurate decisions will have to wait until mañana!

Once upon a time I was dead against technology playing any part in affecting decisions in football. My reasoning was that it created a gulf between the amateur and professional games. That argument has long passed as everything in professional football has advanced.

Now I'm swayed in a completely different direction: bring in VAR and all of the extras that come with it. At the moment the

paying fans inside the stadium are the last to discover what's going on. I remember when I was lucky to get a ticket for the 2006 World Cup Final. Most of those at the stadium were phoning a friend immediately after Zinedine Zidane was dismissed. Nobody inside the Olympiastadion had a clue what was going on. Urban myth suggests that even the referee needed a TV replay to ascertain that the France legend had answered a slur with a head-butt.

So let's go the whole hog, let's pin a microphone to the referee, assistants and the man (or woman) with the replays. Let's use some of the TV money to erect giant screens inside the stadium so the fans have a clue what's going on. These days most people go to music concerts and spend most of the night watching the screens rather than the distant dots of the stage.

One day this will be the reality. Until then we are left with the virtual reality that gives us the view through the eyes of Cristiano Ronaldo but would only be engaging if it told us what was actually going through his head.

Marbella take giant stride to promotion as they move top

The Costa side are now leaders for the first time since November 2016 after beating Cartagena to move above them

:: OPTA

CARTAGENA (MURCIA). Marbella's pursuit of promotion received a major boost on Sunday as they secured a win against league leaders Cartagena to leapfrog them into top spot. This was only the se-

0-1

CARTAGENA-MARBELLA

Cartagena: Marcos, Óscar Ramírez, Jesús Álvaro, Moisés, Michel Zabaco, Sergio Jiménez (Aketxe, 64'), Hugo Rodríguez, Chavero, Rubén Cruz, Cristo (Diego Benito, 64'), Owusu (Dani Abalo, 73').

Marbella: Wilfred, Carlos Julio, Peris, Lolo Pavón, Alonso, Javi Moreno, Corpas, Indiano (Catena, 88'), Juanfran (Francis Ferrón, 78'), Otín (Álex Bernal, 75'), Añón.

Goal: 0-1 Indiano (31').

Referee: Varón Aceitón (Balears). Yellow cards for Moisés, Aketxe, Rubén Cruz, Javi Moreno and Wilfred. Cartagena coach Alberto Monteagudo sent to the stands (85').

Ground: Cartagonova (6,000 spectators).

cond time Marbella had won on this ground in their history. A single goal from Indiano was enough to help them climb to the top of Group IV of Segunda B, replacing their rival who had been there for the last fifteen match days.

Cartagena started the match the dominant side but hard work from Fernando Estévez's men and the goal in the 31st minute soon turned the match in Marbella's favour, and allowed them to play some excel-



Lolo Pavón attempts an acrobatic clearance. :: OPTA

lent football.

The Cartagena defence held a high line to mostly good effect, but the visitors did find some success. In the 19th minute, a searching cross from Indiano found Corpas, whose shot was saved by Marcos at full stretch.

Marbella were secure in possession and seemed determined to put it to good use. Añón, an inspiring figure up front, took advantage of a mistake made by the Cartagena defence to find Indiano, who scored a sensational goal. The visitors were inspired by this effort and domi-

nated the rest of the first half.

In the second half, Cartagena again came out with a dynamism to their play but failed to create many opportunities. Marbella continued to dominate the match, with Indiano coming close to doubling his tally in the 79th minute.

Marbella have not been top of the division for fifteen months (since 20 November 2016, the thirteenth match day of the season) but this result leaves them in a good stead, with a ten-point cushion on UCAM Murcia who currently sit just outside the playoff spots in fifth.

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Malaga, a benchmark for triathletes

The sport has become increasingly popular in the province and is continuing to grow

MARINA RIVAS

Twitter: @MarinaRivasG

MALAGA. To talk about Malaga is to talk about sport, and not only football or basketball either. It is several decades since triathlon made an appearance on the Costa del Sol, but it has now reached unprecedented levels, with record numbers of federated triathletes. They swim, cycle and run for hours on end and over hundreds of kilometres.

This sport entails sacrifice but last year 1,175 people in the province held triathlon licences: 894 men and 249 women. This is the highest figure in Andalucía, and 28 per cent of the total. The region of Andalucía is second in Spain, only behind that of Madrid and very close to Valencia, according to the latest figures (for 2016).

Many people don't understand the attraction of this sport in Malaga, but ever since the beginning, the province has been known for its talent. Three years ago Rubén Bravo became part of the technical team of the Real Club Mediterráneo, the second club in the province in terms of licences (120) and the highest number of federated female athletes in its ranks (33).

Bravo is one of the great triathletes on the Costa del Sol and one of the few to have made their place among the international elite. For ten years he was part of the Spanish team, lived at the High Performance Centre in Madrid, coincided with athletes such as Javier Gómez Noya in world championships and events and can boast of having been European champion.

"When I began in 1992, I was one of the few who went abroad to compete. There were only about 100 of us in a triathlon and nowadays, if you don't reserve your place two months beforehand you can't compete," says Bravo, whose sister María has a similar record as an international medalist and elite triathlete.

He still competes, but on a different level. His priorities have changed. "I never thought of becoming



A group of triathletes from the Mediterráneo club training on the road. :: SUR



The Bahía de Malaga club has the most triathletes. :: SUR

a coach, but now by transferring my experience as a professional to amateur competitions, I feel I'm giving value to other aspects of the sport," he explains. "We have always been a benchmark in Andalucía and Spain, and now it seems that triathlon in Malaga is more popular than ever before."

However, these days there is little assistance available for this sport, which means that some promising triathletes from Malaga are obliged

to join clubs elsewhere. "Some, like the González brothers, compete with a Galician club. It's a shame that, with the excellent athletes we have here, the help which used to exist is no longer available," says Rubén.

The Club Mediterráneo tops the list in terms of women with licences, but it is the Bahía de Malaga which has the highest number of triathletes in the provincial classification, with 145 (113 men and 32 women). For several years this meant it was

number one in Andalucía, but in 2017 it was overtaken by ADS of Seville, with 159. Bahía was another great forerunner in this sport, alongside Mediterráneo, followed by Triatlón Marbella Bike and the TriTrain4you of Malaga city, both with 87 licences.

Fewer women

Not all the figures are this positive. The participation of women in triathlon could still be better, at least in terms of competing, as Lorena Co-

THE FIGURES

44

is the number of triathlon clubs in the province. It is the second highest after Seville, with 51, although in that case there is lower participation.

1,175

is the number of triathlon licences held in Malaga. It is a record so far and the highest in the region of Andalucía.

145

licences are held by members of the Bahía de Malaga club today. It is the biggest club on the Costa del Sol and second in Andalucía in terms of triathletes.

bos of the Bahía de Malaga club explains: "A lot of girls have registered, but they don't compete. For example, in the 'cross' modality I am the only one who does. I think the cycling is one of the main impediments. Not many girls opt for that and I would like that to change. I always have to train with men, at the moment," she says.

This perspective does not mean, however, that the female standard is inferior to that of the men. Lorena is a fine example of that. In less than a year she has gone from being an amateur athlete to winning the women's title on the provincial circuit.

"It's true that at this club we don't all compete to become great athletes but if you train seriously you can achieve whatever you want," she insists.

There are different profiles of triathletes, from people who have become part of the international elite to others who do it for entertainment or to keep fit. Everybody has their own reason for practising this sport which, undoubtedly, will continue to grow.



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A tribute to Regino Hernández

Dozens of people attended a reception for the snowboarder at Mijas town hall

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At the event the mayor, Juan Carlos Maldonado, told Hernández in person that is to be named an Adoptive Son of Mijas

MIJAS. Since snowboarder Regino Hernández became Spain's first medal winner in 26 years at the Winter Olympics two weeks ago, he has received one recognition after another. Earlier this week it was the turn of his neighbours and friends in Mijas to pay tribute to his achievement, at an event organised at the town hall.

Hernández was welcomed by the mayor, Juan Carlos Maldonado, and the rest of the council in an emotional gathering during which video images were shown of the race in which he won the medal and also included statements from his family.

The room was packed with well-wishers, including pupils from the San Sebastián school in Mijas Pueblo, as the mayor announced to great applause that Regino Hernández was to receive the title of Adoptive Son of Mijas and also that the Ciudad Deportiva sports centre in Las



Mayor of Mijas Juan Carlos Maldonado with Regino Hernández. :: NITO SALAS

Lagunas - the biggest and most important in the municipality - is to be named after him.

Recognition

"We want to thank you for putting the name of Mijas at the peak of international sport," said the mayor. Visibly moved, the snowboarder said how delighted he was to receive this recognition. "I would not have been able to achieve this if it had not been for the support I have received over the years, especially from the town

of Mijas," he said.

He also addressed the young people in the room, advising them to work hard at doing what they loved. "I was born in Ceuta and live in Mijas, and even so I have been able to dedicate myself to a snow sport and have won an Olympic medal," he pointed out.

A few minutes earlier, the medallist had made an appearance on the town hall balcony which, as the mayor explained, had not been officially opened since Queen Sofía visited Mijas.

"This shows how important this is for us. Mijas has made history, and it is thanks to a young man from Las Lagunas who, when he was little, was put on a snowboard and now, some years later, has revolutionised Mijas, putting the name of our town at the very top of Spanish sport," he

said. "After the gold won by Francisco Fernández Ochoa at Sapporo 1972, and the bronze won by his sister Blanca 20 years later in Albertville, Spain has not achieved anything like this and now this Mijas athlete has made us famous in international sport at the Winter Olympics 2018 in Pyeongchang."

The councillor for Sports, Nuria Rodríguez, said that Regino "is an example of values and a straightforward and humble athlete, despite having risen so high. I am very impressed by the message he gave to the children who were waiting at the door of the town hall to greet him. He told them that 'impossible' is nothing more than an opinion."

At the end of the reception, Regino Hernández answered questions from the press and gave them more details about the race which ended

Hoping for two medals at the Games in 2022

This achievement has not marked the end of Regino Hernández's career, by any means; in fact he is aspiring to go even further. He told the press that he intends to try for another medal at the Winter Olympics in Beijing in 2022. "It is more than likely that there will be an Olympic trial for teams, so that would give me the chance of winning two medals," he explained. The snowboarder, sure of himself and still with the urge and hunger to win even though he has already made a place in the history of this country, ended with a very clear statement: "This is only the beginning."

with him winning the medal.

"At the moment when my competitors suffered that fall, I knew that nobody could stop me winning a medal. I gave it everything I had to try to get a silver or gold, but I couldn't be happier with this success," he explained.

Hernández also admitted that the first thought that went through his head when he finished the race was how proud his family were going to be, and when he saw his father "he gave me such a big hug he almost broke me in two," he said.

Regino Hernández, alongside the other six Winter Olympians including fellow medallist and friend Javier Fernández, was also greeted by prime minister Mariano Rajoy at a reception at Moncloa on Wednesday. Hernández presented the PM with a signed helmet.

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SPANISH FOOTBALL LEGEND QUINI DIES, AGED 68

Former Sporting Gijón, Barcelona and Spain striker, Enrique Castro, better known as Quini, died at the age of 68 on Tuesday after suffering a heart attack on a street close to his home. His death sparked an outpouring of emotion across the country, but especially in his native Gijón where it was announced the following day that Sporting's ground would be renamed the Estadio El Molinón-Enrique Castro "Quini" in his memory. During his time at Barcelona, Quini was kidnapped by ETA in March 1981. He was widely regarded as one of the country's best strikers, winning a total of seven Pichichis.



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Call. 952 77 60 40

SUR **SUR** in English **SUR** deutsche **SUR** Pyccckom **SUR.es** **Golf**

LOOKING for a new start for the New Year? Would you like to earn more money in a proper job with a contract and nomina? We are looking for you, we need native English speaking telemarketers to work part time in Fuengirola, the hours are 4-8.30pm Monday to Thursday and 4-7.00pm on a Friday.

EXPERIENCED SHUTTERING CARPENTERS REQUIRED

We urgently require experienced shuttering carpenters for a new large villa construction, in Nueva Andalucia, Marbella. Must be experienced in shuttering concrete. Must speak English Long term contracts offered.

Please call: **687 969 462**

COOK/ chef required to help run a busy casual dining restaurant between Estepona and San Pedro. Good Knowledge of English cuisine essential. Start date March. Adria 686491634 or send CV wseamons@hotmail.com

MANAGEMENT accountant Due to expansion we are seeking to recruit an experienced Management Accountant to join our established Finance team in Marbella The Management Accountant profile will be: ACCA / CIMA qualified (or equivalent) Able to work under own initiative. Intellectual with a strong commercial acumen. Must be deadline oriented & self-motivated. Excellent written and spoken English. Advanced Excel. Sage experience would be beneficial Send CV to : accounts@signaturecapital.co.uk

ASSISTANT accountant Due to expansion we are seeking to recruit an experienced Assistant Accountant to join our established Finance team in Marbella The Assistant Accountant profile will be: Experience of working in a similar role. Team player with a positive can do attitude. Attention to detail and ability to multi-task. Excellent written and spoken English. Proficient in MS Office. Ability to meet deadlines and prioritise. Sage experience would be beneficial Send CV to : accounts@signaturecapital.co.uk

PART time staff required for small but busy English Cafe in Mijas Pueblo. Day time hours only. Must Speak English. Tel 671271970 Email lemontreemijas@hotmail.com

PROMOTION und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit für Hilfsorganisationen. Wir suchen Mitarbeiter/ innen (auch für Studenten). Aufenthalt in Deutschland 3 Monate! Mindestlohn plus Erfolgsprämien. Flug wird übernommen. Kontakt: bewerbung@promotion-welt.de www.promotionwelt.de

!!!TELEMARKETER wanted!!! Great Marbella based Real Estate office, seeks suitably experienced Telemarketers, English Essential and other languages an advantage to support a busy sales team. You will be qualifying a regular supply of hot incoming leads. Previous experience in similar role is essential, together with good knowledge of the coast and property market. You will need a professional and confident telephone manner, solid IT skills and a desire to achieve and exceed targets. Permanent contract, excellent basic, commission and incentives. Please send CV to info@stellaeklund.com !!! Good Basic Salary and High Commissions, guaranteed!!!!

TELESALES - OTE 60k

Trainees and/or dynamic sales professionals required to work within fast-paced environment. Successful candidate must be target driven. Experience is not essential as full training provided. If you are 18+, confident and looking to start a career in sales

Email your CV to: **info@sw-mktg.com**

INTERIOR Architect/ Designer: Marbella Design Academy is looking for a highly motivated and talented Interior Architect/ Architect to join our team. Requirements: Degree in Architecture, Interior Architecture or Interior Design. Strong design skills and design process. Proven management skills, experience directing small student groups and delivering quality design. Sound knowledge of Auto-cad, 3D Max and Adobe. Fluent written and spoken English. Teaching qualifications is an advantage. CV and covering letter to be sent to coursedirector@marbella-designacademy.com

FUENGIROLA

TELEMARKETING OPPORTUNITY

We are looking for people to join our well established telesales team.

- Full training & support provided, no experience necessary.
- Spanish contract from day 1, basic salary with bonuses and incentives
- No evenings or weekends
- HOT LEADS
- Excellent level of written & spoken English

Send CV to : **hr@anstiss.com**
call Sarah on (+34) **951 247 222**
or whatsapp **635 742 768**

DPI REAL Estate is looking for sales professionals to join its existing successful team. One of our sales specialists earned over 20,000 Euros in February, are you getting paid what your worth? Do you want high quality leads and bookings? Do you want to earn the best commissions on the coast? We have vacancies in our office in La Cala and if you like being busy and have what it takes call us now or send your CV to find out why we are selling so many properties. Call Estepona 952806609 or CV to info@directpropertyinvestments.com

SOFTWARE Sales Consultant. Are you a great sales person who is comfortable selling software systems to national associations and government councils through online meetings around the world? Excellent product, good basic + sales commission. Office close to Puerto Banus. Send CV to jobs@wcea.education

SERIOUS, hardworking person for Waiter and P.R. for busy restaurant in Puerto Marina Benalmadena. 634588830

WE ARE looking for Trainee Property Experts & Property Listers. A great opportunity to work in a professional company with a proven track record. Selling property and developing on the Costa del Sol since 1988, we are looking for staff who can help us move forward for the next 30 years. To fulfil this role you will be self-motivated, professional and outgoing with a passion for property and a real people person. Languages a distinct advantage Full and ongoing training is provided right from the start. You will be based from our offices in Marbella and Nueva Andalucia. If you are willing to learn and work hard you can determine your own rewards, we truly are different, so come and find out why; Email a covering letter along with your CV to work@spacemarbella.com

CARER/ Housekeeper required. Marbella area. 618737320

PART time/ full time administration assistant for a leading events company. English native tongue and fluent Spanish required. Excellent communication and writing skills and a good working knowledge of Excel essential. Please send CV to susie@sunshineweddings.com

CASANIS Grupo is looking for a chef, cooking seconds and cooks, with experience, residents in Marbella or surroundings, up to 40 years. Full-time, salary to be arranged and job stability are offered. Contact: 646620904 Send CV casaniscas-anis@gmail.com

EXPERIENCED hair stylist required for well established Hair Salon in Fuengirola. Call 609357030 or email petropeluqueros@hotmail.com

Situations Wanted

LADY seeks domestic job, licence driving, responsible with references. 622708978

CARER experienced UK looking for clients needing companionship, disability and/or elderly support. Can live in. Fluent Spanish. Contact Jo 658633026

ATTRACTIVE, elegant English lady available to accompany, lunch, dinner or special events. 699859054

DUTCH professional lady is looking for an office job. Years of experience as an Office Manager, P. A. with administration, PR and marketing skills. Fluent Spanish and English. Reliable and hard working. References available. Tel. 678027140

WOMAN in San Pedro area seeks part-time, mornings, reception/hospitality coordinator/ assistant position. English mother-tongue, advanced Spanish, fluent French, working knowledge of German. NO sales, telesales and commercial work. Well-traveled, people-skills. Louisasuter66@gmail.com

PERSONAL

Meeting Point

AN ASSOCIATION of physically impaired persons in the area of Benalmadena is required. We need to create it in order to exchange and learn both from one another as well as from third parties. Do you want to be part of this? In which case contact richardgnott@hotmail.com or call 699300539

ATTRACTIVE elderly male WLTm a tactile shapely ladyfriend 50+ who maybe has a penchant to be the regular and exclusive dish on his menu. cunnilingus4u@yahoo.co.uk

Clairvoyants

AFRICAN Spiritualist. Love issues? Separation? Destroy Black magic? etc... lbra 600290072

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chiropodistcostadelsol.com Paul & Elaine Curtis-Turner. Tel. 619547636

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FULLY authorised and qualified unisex masseuse. Call for appointments: 622231133

FULL body traditional Japanese massage therapy. Stress. Reflexology. Fuengirola. 600231544

PROFESSIONAL Therapeutic Massage. Relieve pain, stress, lomi lomi etc. Hygienic and classy. Call for appointments Eva (640752702) San Pedro, near Banús.

PROFESSIONAL Aromatherapy massage for Ladies & Gents. 658336295 Benalmadena Costa

THE BEST Sports massage therapy, 60E/90min. Free home visit. 622297221

ASIAN lady qualified masseuse, expert Oriental, traditional, professional massage. Relieve, pain, stress. Private Marbella. Maria 662178545

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MARBELLA Counselling and Psychosexual therapy. COSRT and BACP accredited. Individuals and couples. www.sextherapymarbella.es Richard 608 594 608

ITEC Diploma courses in massage, reflexology and others. weekly, intensive or online. 951311216. www.naturaclass.net

www.mypsychohistoron-skype.com for anxiety, worry, depression and stress. British Qualified Psychologist/ CBT Therapist

Nutrition

VEGAN cook for private household. Perfect nutrition plus holistic treatments. Marbella and surrounding. 603135167

Mobility

PREMIER Mobility Spain. Hire and sales of mobility scooters/ wheelchairs/ walking aids. Stair lift fitting and repairs, batteries too!! Telephone 603263157/ 951502184

Others

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DAYTONA Computer: Computers, mobile phones and accessories in your language. Sales and repairs. Agents Masmovil & TIEKOM. Established 1999. Los Boliches. info@daytona.es or call 952667395

Repairs

COMPUTER problems solved! Error messages fixed, viruses removed. Hardware/software upgrades available. Kindle, iPad & Android help. Laptops in English. Also one-to-one training. Experienced, reliable service, no callout charge. Paul, 630652338/952493859

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HOLA! Speak Spanish from first lesson. Experienced qualified native teacher. One-to-one, groups. Fuengirola. 661159330 teacher.cristina@outlook.com

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DRIVER licence in English with discounts. Also with AUTOMATIC car! Fuengirola/ Mijas. 657325808

SPANISH lessons at your home. Qualified Spanish female teacher with many years of experience. Own method: simple and effective. Ideal for beginners. Also tutoring for students. 617879834

MATHS and Science tuition. Experienced British teacher. All levels to GCSE. 642598778

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PUPPIES German Shepherds, Kennel Coroninas, excellent pedigrees, vaccinated, microchip, info 619464515 or 609535857, www.coroninas.com

CHIHUAHUA pedigree puppies with passport. All year available. 951312860/ 654285667

BULL terrier miniature Puppies for sale 3 males 1 female. Excellent pedigree. PLL free. Home reared and socialized. Born 2 Jan. Telephone or WhatsApp 609357030 for more information and photos

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CAT & DOG World Kennels and Cattery. 952112978/ 630197435. www.catanddogworld.com

PETCARE Pet Hotel: Alhaurin El Grande. Holiday accommodation for dogs & cats. Individually heated/aircon kennels. 952112284/ 685400216 www.petcarespain.com Follow us on Facebook at Petcare Spain

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PET-COURIERS com. If you love your pet try us first. We are the best. Door to door services throughout Europe. Specialised vehicles - bespoken service. Full legal service, including documentation if required. For further information call or email us. Tel. or WhatsApp (0034) 651033670 Email: info@pet-couriers.com

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CLOSER TO YOU

We have an agent in your area

MALAGA HEAD OFFICE, Emma 952 649 669

MARBELLA, Leandro 952 776 040, Jules Franken 629 589 964

SAN PEDRO DE ALCANTARA, Traducciones San Pedro 952 789 204 / 654 613 094

FUENGIROLA, Diana 952 580 142 / 635 716 285

BENALMADENA, Publi Ocio del Sur 670 886 299, Graham 605 022 121

MUJAS, Carrefour Mijas 952 580 726 / 670 643 488

MUJAS COSTA, Sorja Bryce 626 539 298

ESTEPONA, Carmen 609 569 878

SOTOGRADE/GIBRALTAR 683 298 897

COIN, Rocío 951 315 113 / 600 513 343

NERJA, Debbie 952 649 674


RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA, Virginia 952 403 611




THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES




THE STARS




Aquarius
January 21 - February 19
Someone may seem to take you for granted but it is probably just bad communication. Have patience.




Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Some things just won't make any sense this week. Time will make matters clearer, so don't fret.




Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Lovers are easily impressed by your confident exterior and charm, while this same aura gives any financial deals that feeling of trust.




Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
With emotions brought out into the open you could be planning a sensational weekend away.




Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Check out anything you are told to do with your finances. Are you covered twice on an insurance deal?




Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Sometimes the simplest solution is the best. Find something or someone that you can believe in and find out more.




Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Passions are aroused both at work and home. Your heart is seeking an adventurous encounter, whatever your head is saying




Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Impatience will dog you through the week ahead. This is not surprising given your need to get moving.




Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
With finances on the agenda, this could be the time to get things in order for the longer term.



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Being in the middle of things suits you. It is here and now that a new adventure could begin.

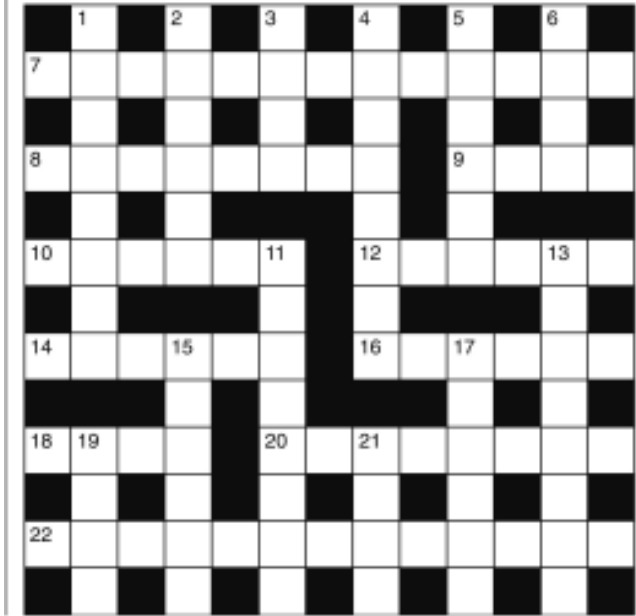


Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Learning something new takes you out of your rut. The chance to meet others (who you may or may not like) confirms your beliefs.



Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Delaying showing a passion could be seen as disinterest, and you don't want that, do you?

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11284



- Across
- Down
- 7

Royal confectioner in a red suit (5,2,6)
- 8

Speedy removal from jet 1 once destroyed (8)
- 9

Do office work for fifty pence piece! (4)
- 10

One heavenly sign will carry some weight (6)
- 12

Join up broken tinsel (6)
- 14

Like foreign money, this provides somebody with a rise (6)
- 16

Determined lad initiates attack! (4,2)
- 18

Having the skill, we hear, to reveal a murder victim (4)
- 20

The most paid for a spinning toy (3,5)
- 22

Opposed to the movement of hands in time (13)
- 1

Topics for loyal citizens (8)
- 2

Essential equipment for the drawing room? (6)
- 3

Travel over endless bit of desert (4)
- 4

Melodic pipes for choristers (8)
- 5

Palest variety of crayon (6)
- 6

Don't continue work at the bottom of the street (4)
- 11

Refrain from becoming disturbed when taking the chair! (3,5)
- 13

Ready money affected by the Shops Act (4,4)
- 15

Piece of confectionery - the French put in rice mixture (6)
- 17

Unseated from a majestic perch, we hear (6)
- 19

The north encircled by evil gang (4)
- 21

Four suits to put in the trunk (4)

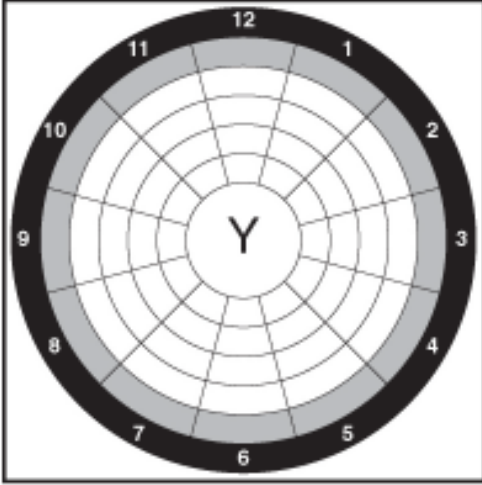
SUDOKU BY HANZO

Instructions
Complete the square making sure that every row of nine numbers includes all digits from 1 to 9, every column includes all digits from 1 to 9 and every 3 by 3 subsection includes all digits from 1 to 9

	5	3	2	7				
2						5		
			9			1	3	
7		6			9	2	5	
			3			6		
	1		4					
				2	4	1		7
6	3				8			
		4						

CLOCKWORD

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter Y in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a comedian and TV presenter.



1. Universe

2. Cure

3. Inertness

4. Starving

5. Main vein

6. Illness

7. Inform

8. Fill

9. Gypsy

10. Hypothesis

11. Initial cost

12. Scandinavian country

THE WORDPUZZLER

T	E	R	S	P	I	H	G	L	N
U	F	Y	G	R	E	A	L	S	A
R	R	O	B	I	N	R	O	G	M
F	O	U	N	D	E	L	O	V	E
I	N	S	U	E	X	E	R	V	A
R	S	T	E	N	S	M	D	E	N
E	P	O	W	T	K	O	I	S	T
N	O	D	A	Y	E	L	M	I	G
T	N	A	Y	M	I	O	P	L	O
Y	G	N	S	O	R	N	L	Y	R

CAN you identify the words missing from the U2 song titles listed below?

1. I Still Haven't ---
What I'm Looking For

2. Even Better Than the --- Thing

3. Mysterious ---

4. --- (In the Name of Love)

5. When --- Comes to Town

6. The Unforgettable ---

7. New Year's ---

8. Angel of ---

9. With or Without ---

10. Where the Streets Have No ---

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 Almjara (99.1 FM)
Nerja radio in English and German and night time World Radio Network

Heartfmspain (88.5 FM Costa, 96.1 FM inland) Music, entertainment, news

Lick FM (103.6 FM Marbella)
Urban music broadcast between Gibraltar and Calahonda

Rtv Puebla (107.7 FM)
Monday evenings, Rock music memories.
7 - 9pm. email: radiopuebla.musicmemories@yahoo.com
Fb: Radiotelevision Peubla de Cazalla

QUIZ

QUESTION 1

Which US president was nicknamed 'Dutch'?

1. Thomas Jefferson

2. Jimmy Carter

3. George W. Bush

4. Ronald Reagan

QUESTION 2

When did Vietnam proclaim independence from France?

1. 1940

2. 1945

3. 1952

4. 1854

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across
- Down
- 1) Identity (9)

4) Documents (10)

11) Papers (7)

12) Role (3)

13) Ace (2)

14) Gold (3)

16) To renew (7)

19) To go (2)

20) Wine cellars (7)

21) To issue (7)

22) Crane (4)

24) Number (6)

26) Fingerprint (6,8) (14)

29) Premiere (7)

30) Rivers (4)

31) You (pl) (2)

33) To process (8)

35) Wings (4)

37) I (2)

39) Like this (3)

40) To refund (10)

42) Open (7)

44) Family (7)

45) Treasurers (9)

48) Roller (4)

50) Box (7)

52) Electronic (11)

53) Expired (8)
- 1) Important (10)

2) New (5)

3) Disarmament (7)

5) I heard (2)

6) Spread (6)

7) Valid (2,5) (7)

8) Tourist (7)

9) To apply for (9)

10) Love (4)

15) Compulsory (11)

17) Regulation (9)

18) Stained glass window (8)

19) Form (7)

23) I joined (3)

25) Pigeons (7)

26) Dreadful (9)

27) We torture (10)

28) To cry (6)

32) Passport (9)

34) Citizen (9)

36) Lo _____. I'm sorry (6)

38) Refuge (6)

41) The (f) (2)

43) East (4)

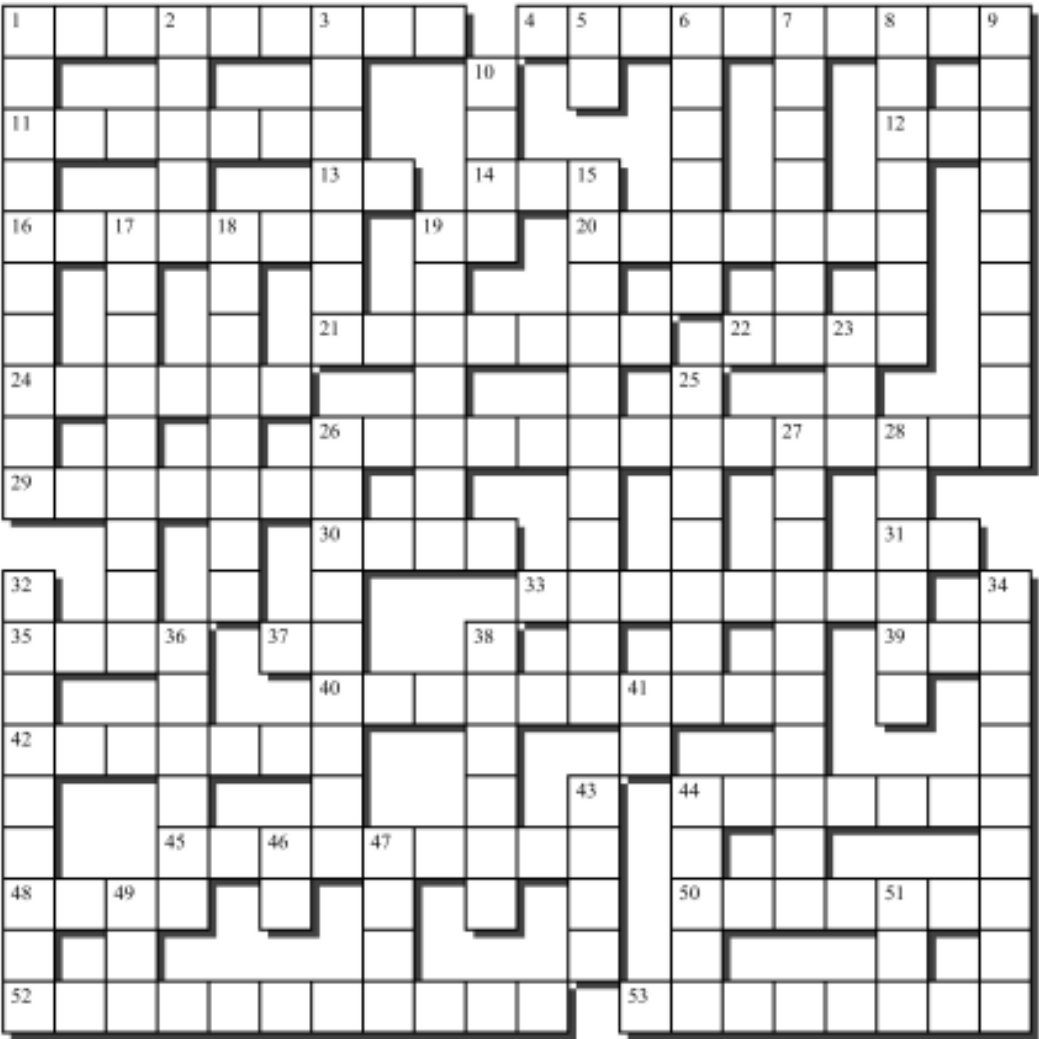
44) Date (5)

46) Yes (2)

47) Nasty (4)

49) He reads (3)

51) He ties up (3)



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

Of interest: Hours after Japan's surrender in World War II, Vietnamese communist Ho Chi Minh declared the independence of Vietnam from France. It is commemorated by a National holiday on September 2.

Answer 1: 1945

Of interest: Reagan's father nicknamed his son "Dutch", due to his "fat little Dutchman"-like appearance and "Dutchboy" haircut; the nickname stuck with him throughout his youth

Answer 1: Ronald Reagan

Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 7 Queen of Hearts; 8 Ejection; 9 Type; 10 Scales; 12 Enlist; 14 Ascent; 16 Sets on; 18 Abet; 20 Top price; 22 Anticlockwise. Down: 1 Subjects; 2 Pencil; 4 Chanters; 5 Pastel; 6 Stop; 11 Sit still; 13 Spot cash; 15 Eclair; 17 Thrown; 19 Band; 21 Pack.

Clockword solution

SOLUTION: 1 Galaxy; 2 Famed; 3 Apathy; 4 Hungry; 5 Artery; 6 Malady; 7 Noisy; 8 Occupy; 9 Romya; 10 Theory; 11 Outlay; 12 Norway; 13 Celebrity; Graham Norton.

Wordpuzzler solution

1. Found
2. Real
3. Ways
4. Pride
5. Love
6. Fire
7. Day
8. Harlem
9. You
10. Name

Sudoku solution

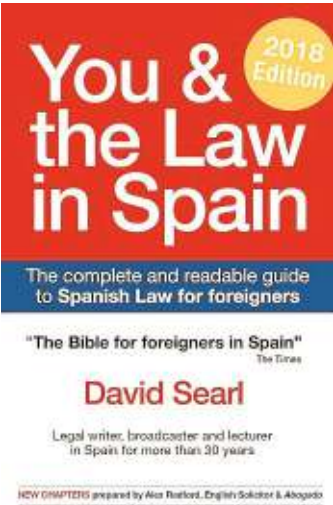
1	7	4	5	9	3	8	6	2
6	3	2	7	1	8	4	5	9
5	8	9	6	2	4	1	3	7
3	1	5	4	6	2	7	9	8
9	2	8	3	5	7	6	4	1
7	4	6	1	8	9	3	2	5
8	6	7	9	4	5	2	1	3
2	9	1	8	3	6	5	7	4
4	5	3	2	7	1	9	8	6

Language Crossword

ACROSS:
1. IDENTIDAD 4. DOCUMENTOS
11. Papeles 12. Rol 13. AS
16. RENOVAR 19. ROL 20. BODEGAS
21. EXPEDIR 22. GURU 24. NÚMERO
26. HELLADACTILAR 29. ESTRENO
30. ROS 31. OS 33. TRAMITAR 35. ALAS
37. VO 39. ASI 40. REEMBOLSA
42. ABURTO 44. FAMILIA 45. TISOREROS
48. RUO 50. CASILLA 52. ELECTRONICO
53. CADUCADO

DOWN:
1. IMPORTANTE 2. NUEVO 3. DESARME
5. OI 6. LUNTADO 7. ENVIADOR 8. TURISTA
9. SOLICITAR 10. AMOR 15. OBLIGATORIO
17. NORMATIVA 18. VIDRIERA
19. IMPRESO 21. UNI 23. PALOMAS
26. HORROROSO 27. TORTURAS
28. LLORAR 32. PASAPORTE
34. CIUDADANO 36. SIENTO 38. AMBARO
41. TA 43. ESTE 44. FICHA 46. SI 47. UN
48. LEE 51. TA

BOOK OF THE WEEK



You and the Law in Spain
David Searl

Author David Searl will sign copies of the new 2018 Edition of his book You and the Law in Spain on Thursday, 8 March from 5pm to 8pm at Bookworld Puerto Banús. The new edition is the first update of the book since 2015. Searl will be accompanied by lawyer Alex Radford, who is the new publisher of the book and author of several new chapters as well. They will both be available to answer questions. Visitors will be offered a glass of wine and a tapa.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Chains of habit are too light to be felt until they are too heavy to be broken

WARREN BUFFET

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)					
Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Norwegian Spirit	03/03	Funchal	Alicante	07.00	17.00
MSC Orchestra	03/03	Funchal	Civitavecchia	08.00	14.00
Aidaperla	05/03	-	-	08.00	18.00
Boudicca	08/03	-	Cadiz	07.00	17.00





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Cat colonies curbed by local volunteers

Carers of stray cats in Malaga province have joined forces and will be given cards to show they are authorised to feed the animals

by **IGNACIO LILLO**

MALAGA. Colonies of stray cats create an issue of coexistence in some neighbourhoods. Some well-meaning local people feed the cats scraps from their homes, while other residents complain of hygiene problems and dirt. Until recently, the only solution to the stray cat problem in the city was to round them up and euthanise them, but studies and experience have demonstrated that this only makes the situation worse. The best solution is to sterilise the cats in the colony, all of them if possible, and then maintain the limited number of animals with suitable cat food and veterinary supervision.

To this end Malaga city council's environment agency reached an agreement with the association Aman (Amigo Animal) at the end of last year. This has given the group the responsibility for training and supervising people who regularly



Marcos Canzian, president of the Aman organisation, with a stray cat from one of the city's colonies. **sur**

feed stray cats and capture them to be sterilised. The association also advises the municipal animal health centre and encourages the adoption of abandoned animals, all this with a budget of around 30,000 euros. According to the council, this is the largest sum that a town council has spent on the control, sterilisation

and release of stray cats.

Aman has spent the last seven years working all over Malaga province with its own funds. During this period, over 2,500 cats, both males and females, have been neutered. Until now, the funds for the operations have come from members of the organisation, and with the help of the

German company KHS. In Malaga, according to the city records, there are 120 colonies with over 2,000 cats, although the president of the organisation, Marcos Canzian, thinks that there are actually far more.

Of these, 65 colonies are formally managed by volunteers and local residents. "These people are dedi-

cated; they put money forward and care for the cats as if they were their own," Canzian explained. The carers are given a course to teach them how to cage the cats in order to sterilise them at one of the three available clinics, and how to fill in the necessary forms.

Courses

Volunteers are also informed about nutrition. People used to feed strays leftovers, but the organisation doesn't allow this because it can be bad for their health. Canzian recommends feeding strays small quantities of dry cat food and water. This should be put in hidden places, he explains, and refilled daily. Ill cats are caught and taken to the vet if possible.

Aman's first courses for volunteer "cat-carers" will take place in Malaga this month and more than 60 people have already signed up. "People want to avoid getting fined, which can happen if it is thought that feeding the cats is creating a health hazard or a disturbance for local residents," said Canzian. The cards given by the city hall to the authorised cat-feeders after the courses are designed to ensure that the colonies will be controlled from now on.

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