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**SPECIAL**

### Venturing into the future

See what local schools and colleges are up to in the 2018 Education and Learning supplement

**INSIDE**



The International Women's Day rally in Malaga city centre on Thursday morning . :: FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ

# Thousands take to the streets to call for equality on Women's Day

Unions say that five million women joined the strike in Spain on Thursday

Massive demonstrations were held across the country on Thursday to mark International Women's Day when, for the first time ever, unions called for women workers to strike for two hours. A rally

held in Malaga in the morning attracted thousands more than expected while the main protest march was still making its way through the streets at the time of going to press. Figures showing that inequality is still present in the workplace, as well as recent cases of violence and sexual abuse, have caused thousands of women to express their frustration. **P2-5**

## Irishman accused in Mijas shooting case could face rare life sentence

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# How to break the glass ceiling

ANA  
PÉREZ-BRYAN



Twitter: @anaperezbryan

The tribute which took place at UNED (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia), exactly ten years ago, would not have been exceptional if it had not been for the identity of those involved: it was in recognition of the work of the ten female chancellors who had held the top academic post in Spanish universities.

“And we were all there, all ten of us. All alive,” says one of those pioneers, Adelaida de la Calle, former chancellor of Malaga university, who recalls the event as if it were yesterday. She makes the point that they were all alive to show how little progress towards equality there had been in the past, and how it is only recently that women have reached the top in their professional careers. It is, however, still unusual.

This is what experts call the ‘glass ceiling’, although De la Calle refers to it as the ‘concrete ceiling’: the series of invisible barriers which women come up against as they advance towards positions of greater responsibility. It is something which was especially highlighted this week, as Thursday 8 March was International Women’s Day.

To analyse the situation, one has to visualise the distribution of labour rewards and responsibilities among men and women in the form of a pyramid. For years, women have been in the majority at the base and in the middle of the pyramid. However, more women now go to university, more are professionally qualified and more gain good jobs through sheer merit - to mention just a few examples, as shown by the graphic which accompanies this report - so how is it possible that they have still not managed to break the ‘glass ceiling’ and reach the top of the pyramid? Why are so many women still lower down?

Adelaida de la Calle, who was chancellor of the UMA for 12 years (and for several of them the only female

**There are more women at the base and in the middle of the pyramid and few reach the top. In Malaga only 23 per cent of women in the private sector hold management posts and there are also inequalities in the public sector**



in the post in the whole of Spain), is now the president of the Technical Corporation of Andalucía. For her, the answer is simple. “We are still living in a sexist society and the extra responsibility which falls on women means they have still not been able to change the trend,” says.

### “They don’t think about us”

Her belief is widely shared by other women who, like her, have reached the top of their careers without having to break through glass (or concrete) because in their case it didn’t exist. A couple of weeks ago the president of the Spanish parliament, Ana Pastor, only the second woman in two centuries to hold the post, said the same: “the scarce presence of women in management posts or positions of responsibility is because they don’t think about us occupying those

posts. That’s why so few of us do,” she said.

Statistics confirm this core part of the debate about equality: the latest figures published in the Gender Gap report by the World Economic Forum (WEF), a study which measures the speed at which countries advance in this aspect, not only show that Spain has not progressed, but that it has regressed: on a global level, Spain has dropped from 25th to 29th place compared with the previous year’s report (2015) which analysed 144 countries, and in the section which specifically looks at women in leadership posts, Spain is 64th out of 144. In other words, in this country the presence of women in upper management has reduced by about 14 per cent.

This setback in reaching parity and closing the gender gap means that

another 47 years would be needed for equality to become a reality. The trends are national and international, but of course they can be extrapolated to the local situation: in Malaga, a report by the Association of Female Professionals and Entrepreneurs (Amupema) expects the presence of women in upper management to drop to about 23 per cent.

At this point in the debate, and with a view to the near future, it is worth looking further at the ‘glass ceiling’ and the social realities which favour this phenomenon. “Sometimes we put the glass ceiling in place ourselves without realising it, because there is a real inequality of roles. We always take on more responsibilities,” says judge Lourdes García Ortiz, who broke that ceiling just over a year ago when she became the first woman to preside over the Provin-

cial Court.

In the Spanish judicial system, more women than men now pass the demanding selections tests and work in courts in Malaga city and elsewhere in the province. There are currently 113 women and 91 men holding these posts. This also applies to the other two parts of the legal administration system: in Malaga there are more female prosecutors (52, and 35 men) and more lawyers in the justice administration sector (LA): 101 women and 48 men.

Lourdes García Ortiz says that 90 per cent of the authorisations granted to staff at the Courts of Justice for family care are for women, and that when it comes to being given a post with responsibility “we are more afraid of taking that step because we have so many other things to deal with”.

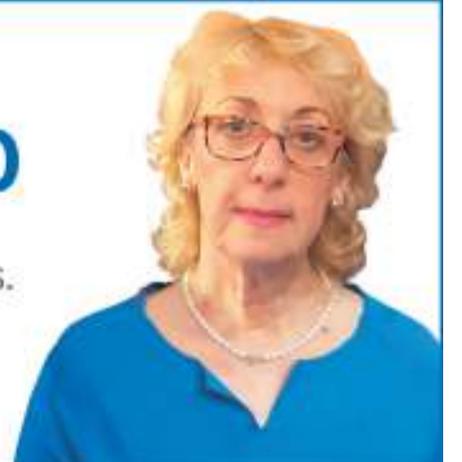


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That applied to her, as well: with more than 30 years' career behind her, two daughters who had grown up seeing how their mother would work at home "every single weekend" and a profound knowledge of the Provincial Court, she decided to take the step forward when she considered that she had enough personal and professional "maturity" to face this new responsibility.

Her argument about the need for "maturity" and a stable home life in order to climb the professional ladder is shared by businesswoman Paz Hurtado, the CEO of Hutesa Agroalimentaria who for years, on her own merits, has been at the top of a pyramid which even today few women can reach.

She recognises that in her case the glass ceiling did not exist, but says other social circumstances weigh on women and they have to decide whether to dedicate themselves to their work or their family. "Executives have to be available at all times, work 12 or 14 hours a day, attend numerous meetings, go on business trips... in that situation one of the couple has to give something up and it is usually the woman. Many of us don't want to give up our family life; and nor should we have to," says Hurtado, who associates this barrier to careers more with the "family structure" and lack of "emotional training" for women to delegate the care of their children rather than to a glass ceiling imposed from outside. "Nevertheless, I have never felt a lack of respect from a man or anybody else in my career," she says. However, she is aware that there is still "a reluctance among men to give women a management post," especially if she finds it demanding to reconcile family and professional life. "That is often the case, these days," she admits.

**Public and private**

Women's experiences differ according to several variables: firstly, the reality of the 'pyramid' is less acute in the public sector, where people



**Adelaida de la Calle**  
Former chancellor of the UMA

**"We are still living in a sexist society and the extra responsibility usually falls on women"**



**Lourdes García Ortiz**  
President of the Provincial Court

**"Sometimes we put the glass ceiling there ourselves unwittingly, because of unequal roles"**



**Paz Hurtado**  
Businesswoman. CEO of Hutesa

**"Businessmen are still reluctant to appoint a woman to a management position"**



**Concha Soler**  
Surgeon

**"I was quite often ignored; in clinical sessions they would listen to a male colleague rather than me"**



**Ana Pérez**  
Aeronautics engineer

**"One client asked if he had to talk to me, because he would prefer to speak to an engineer"**



**Natalia Sánchez**  
General Secretary of the CEM

**"This is a social problem; women should be seen differently, not relegated to the caring roles"**

take exams in order to progress, than in the private sector where the real possibilities of promotion depend on the direct decision of those in charge of the company, who may well pay more attention to the personal circumstances of a woman who aspires to a higher position than to her merits and suitability.

In the private sector only 23 per cent of women hold management posts, and in Malaga province there are almost twice as many self-emplo-

yed men (70,077) than women (39,290). In the public sector, however, in general women are in the majority. Even so, at Malaga university the proportion of women on the upper steps of the ladder is much lower: there may be more female students (18,742) than males (16,314), but this doesn't apply to the teaching staff: the UMA has 240 male professors and 54 females, 456 male heads of department compared with 298 women, and 12 male and four fe-

male deans.

With regard to the public administrations, in the Junta de Andalucía and the Malaga provincial government there are more female civil servants than males: in Malaga province a total of 7,039 people work for the regional government (2,397 men and 4,642 women) and 1,277 for the Diputación (490 men and 787 women). Further up the pyramid, though, the figures tend to be more similar. For example, nine women

and five men work as personal assistants to MPs in the regional parliament, and 19 men and 16 women are heads of department at the provincial government.

At the Andalusian Health Service the gap is also quite acute: of the 15,844 health workers in Malaga province, there are almost twice as many (10,969) women than men (4,874), but only 20 of the 53 management posts are held by women.

Dr Concha Soler, was the first general surgeon in Malaga. She started work at the Civil Hospital in 1977 and in 2009 she became coordinator of the Breast Unit at the Clínico Universitario hospital, a post she held until she retired early last year. For more than 30 years she was on call every six nights, and she worked until 12 days before giving birth. "It was very hard, and I was quite often ignored," she says. "In clinical sessions they would listen to male colleagues more than me." She says it is very difficult for women in her job to reconcile work and family life. "Excellent child care is essential," she says.

Ana Pérez is an aeronautics engineer. When she studied at university in Madrid, there were only four girls out of the 50 students and now, with 15 years' experience behind her, she is still considered unusual. She works as an Airport Planning Expert at Aertec Solutions, and says there are few female engineers among the 500 employees. As a result she is constantly having to prove to clients that is as qualified as her male counterparts. "Once, a client asked me if had to keep talking to me, because he would rather speak to an engineer instead," she said.

Education is one of the most powerful tools to close these gaps and break glass ceilings. "This is a social problem," says Natalia Sánchez of the Business Confederation of Malaga (CEM). "Women should be seen differently and not relegated to the caring roles, otherwise we will be talking about glass ceilings forever and nothing will change."

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# Thousands support Women's Day strike and demonstrations

Thousands gathered in town and city centres on Thursday as women around Spain were called to support a strike to call for equality

**SUR**

**MALAGA.** Yesterday, 8 March, International Women's Day, saw some of the biggest demonstrations and rallies in recent years in Spain. Women all over the country had been called to join a "feminist" strike, with the main unions supporting a two-hour stoppage and others calling a 24-hour strike.

According to trade unions, more than five million workers went on strike across the country calling for equality, without which, as many banners read in demonstrations throughout the day, "there can be no freedom".

"The strike is a turning point in the feminist campaign for equality," said the secretary general of the UGT union, Pepe Álvarez, at the demonstration on Thursday morning in Madrid's Cibeles square. His counterpart

in the country's other main union CCOO, Unai Sordo, described the day as "historic" as this was an "unprecedented strike".

In the province of Malaga the strike was noted most among public sector workers, especially in education and healthcare.

There was little activity, save protest rallies, on the university campus, while stoppages were held on the PTA (technology park) and the Palacio de Justicia (court building).

Similar protests took place on the steps of hospitals and domestic workers were encouraged to hang aprons on their balconies for two hours as a sign that they had stopped working.

Meanwhile demonstrators gathered in the centres of cities and towns around the country. The rally organised in Malaga's Plaza de la Constitución on Thursday morning attracted thousands more than expected.

The spectator stand being set up for the Holy Week processions, which fills most of the central square, was the scene of an incident when a group of women climbed onto the steps. There were tense moments when they were removed from the stands by Local Police of-



The demonstration in the Plaza de los Naranjos in Marbella on Thursday morning. :: JOSELE-LANZA

ficers for safety reasons.

Slogans chanted included: "resistance," "sexism is also terrorism," or "fighting is the only way," as more and more women joined the march.

Some city buses were forced to turn around after demonstrators sat in the road near the Marqués de Larios monument.

This was only a prelude, however, to the main protest march which started in the city centre on Thursday evening.

## Otherwise "invisible" domestic workers were encouraged to hang aprons on balconies for two hours

Similar rallies took place in towns around the province. In Coín 300 people gathered in the Plaza de la Alameda where a manifesto was read in favour of equality.

In Torremolinos female municipal workers gathered outside the town hall while a similar stoppage took place outside the Casa de la Cultura in Arroyo de la Miel.

In Marbella, a crowd of around 400 people gathered in the Plaza de los Naranjos in a festive atmosphere. The mayor Ángeles Muñoz said she had cleared her agenda for two hours "out of respect" for the women who wanted to draw attention to their fight for equality.

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Protesters in Malaga city centre. :: FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ



Workers outside the town hall in Rincón de la Victoria. :: E. CABEZAS



A manifesto was read to a gathering in Coín. :: FERNANDO TORRES

## Gibraltar's first female Acting Chief Minister takes the helm

The Rock also paid tribute to its all-girl team for reaching the CyberCenturion finals

:: DEBBIE BARTLETT

**GIBRALTAR** There was a definite feminine focus in Gibraltar to mark International Women's Day, especially as a woman was appointed Acting Chief Minister for the first time while chief minister Fabian Picardo and deputy chief minister Dr Joseph Garcia were in London for Brexit talks.

Fittingly, Samantha Sacramento, who is the only female government minister in Gibraltar, is the minister of Equality.

Announcing that she would be at the helm while he and Dr Garcia were away, Mr Picardo tweeted "Today, Gibraltar has a woman chief minister acting in my absence. Soon, I hope we will have a woman chief minister full stop."

In a statement issued for International Women's Day, Ms Sacra-



Samantha Sacramento. :: SUR

mento said "we must consider the challenges that still lie ahead for women and how we can each contribute to a more inclusive and gender equal society."

Yesterday morning the Gibraltar Women's Association held an event

in the city centre in conjunction with the Gibraltar Samaritans, and the Tower of Homage was lit up at night with the 'Girls in Tech' logo to mark Gibraltar's all-girl team's success in reaching the finals of the CyberCenturion competition.



### PRESIDENT CALLS FOR "REAL" EQUALITY

The president of the Junta de Andalucía, Susana Díaz, showed her support for the demonstrations in favour of equality in Seville on Thursday. "At last people are becoming aware that today everything is starting to change," she said. Díaz, accompanied by her women ministers, added: "There's no stopping now, thousands of men and women are going out onto the streets to say that equality has to be real."

### New equality law to introduce fines for discrimination

:: M. DOLORES TORTOSA

**SEVILLE.** Ministers at the Junta de Andalucía have approved a modification of the regional law to promote sexual equality to include fines for employers who discriminate against women. The change, said María José Sánchez, regional minister for Equality and Social Policy, gave the authority "greater powers to act against discrimination, both in terms of penalties, as well as active policies".

The modification envisages fines of 60,000 euros for advertising campaigns that use women's bodies for unrelated products, and 120,000 euros for sexist language.

As well as being fined, employers found to be discriminating against female employees could also risk losing government subsidies.

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The state of La Concepción reservoir, near Marbella, at over 70 per cent of its capacity this week. :: J.-LANZA

## Rain increases reservoir levels and removes threat of drought restriction on the Costa for now

The head of the western Costa del Sol water company has warned against being complacent as the La Concepción capacity is still too small

### :: SUR

**MALAGA.** Heavy rain over the past week and a half may not have been welcomed by holidaymakers, but has certainly gone some way to allaying fears of a possible drought this summer.

Since 28 February levels have risen by over 60 cubic hectometres in the province's reservoirs, following last weekend's string of amber and yellow weather warnings followed by more intermittent rain over the last few days.

The downpours provided a welcome relief to the area's farmers as well as authorities fearing that drought restrictions would need to be brought in over the summer after the province's reservoirs started to approach critical levels. However, experts have now said that the water that has been added

in the last two weeks is the equivalent of a year's worth for the city Malaga, or six months for the whole Costa del Sol area.

As a result, new drought restrictions, which were set to be put in place in April, will not go ahead after the week's rain reversed some of the effects of the previous five years, in which rainfall has been below the long-term average. The current restrictions placed on farmers will also be reconsidered.

### Healthier reservoir levels

Over the last week the reservoirs

have filled to over 250 cubic hectometres. As often happens in periods of sustained rain, it was the mountains of Ronda on the border between Malaga and Cadiz provinces that saw the heaviest rainfall. At Pujerra in the Genal valley, 251 millimetres of rain fell over last weekend.

### Serious incidents

The harsh weather conditions led to several incidents in Malaga province, especially in the Axarquía and the western Costa del Sol. In Estepona, a couple and their baby had to be rescued after they became trapped in their vehicle at a flooded crossing. Meanwhile Jorge de Amuedo had a particularly close shave after he and his car became trapped in the raging waters of the normally empty Rio Seco. Fortunately, he was aided by his neighbours, who rescued him using ropes. His Mercedes GLK was not so lucky.

### Western Costa update

One of the main beneficiaries of the rain has been La Concepción reservoir, a relatively small reservoir behind Marbella that serves the municipalities of the western Costa del Sol from Torremolinos to Manilva.

Local public water provider, Acosol, has said it is pleased that the reservoir is now back up to over 70 per cent of its capacity, however the company's head has been explaining this week that it cannot be complacent.

Manuel Cardeña recalled that the capacity of La Concepción is quite small and, once it gets full, it is forced to let water run off into the sea, even if there is a shortage in other Costa areas. He said that Acosol still has a deal in place with the Campo de Gibraltar water company to bring in extra water to the western Costa where needed and may look at a similar deal with Malaga city.

Commenting on the lack of connectivity between the province's reservoirs, he said that "logically it has to be possible to pump water from where there is a surplus to where there is a deficit". He also explained that the desalination plant in Marbella, that also supports the local water supply, will be updated from next autumn to reduce costs.

Weather forecasters are expecting the wet weather to recede somewhat in the coming days, with more sunny days, although the outlook is still a bit unsettled.

## Minister urges media restraint to avoid harming search for missing Almería boy

### :: SUR

**ALMERÍA.** The national government's Interior minister, Juan Ignacio Zoido, has pleaded with the media to exercise restraint in its reporting of the ongoing search for missing eight-year-old Gabriel Cruz in Almería.

Gabriel went missing on the 100-metre walk from his grandmother's house to play with his cousins last week in a hamlet in the Cabo de Gata national park in Níjar district. A massive search has been under way since then.

Early in the investigation a local man, who had a restraining order on him to stop him approaching the boy's mother, was arrested for manipulating his electronic tag the day the boy went missing and was sent to prison. Investigators and the boy's parents themselves have stressed that the detained man has given a sound alibi and is not involved in the disappearance, however at time of press, the media were reporting that a farm belonging to a family member of that man was being searched.

Hopes are resting on a white vest with Gabriel's DNA on, found at a water treatment works a few kilometres away by the boy's father and his current partner. The boy's mother has said it has given her hope he is still alive.



Missing Gabriel Cruz. :: SUR

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# Rare life sentence asked for in Irish fatal shooting case in Mijas

The controversial sentence has only been sought by prosecutors in a few previous cases and is the stiffest available penalty under Spanish law

**BY JUAN CANO / ÁLVARO FRÍAS**

**MALAGA.** Public prosecutors in the forthcoming trial of a man accused of a horrific fatal shooting on Mijas Costa allegedly linked to drugs are calling for a judge to hand out the harshest sentence available under Spanish law because of the severity of the crime.

The prosecution will ask for a revisable permanent life sentence, a relatively new sentence which means the accused, if found guilty in the jury trial in Malaga, will be jailed until death. A judge will only be able to carry out restricted periodic reviews. This is the first time in Malaga province that the sentence, which was only brought into law in March 2015, has been called for.

The case in question refers to the death from point-blank gunshot wounds of Irish national Gary Hutch on Mijas Costa in September 2015.

Hutch was attacked and chased by an armed man through the Ángel de



Gary Hutch's body is removed in September 2015. **BY SUR**

Miraflores development on Mijas Costa before the assailant caught and killed him, escaping in a waiting BMW X-3. Up to fifteen shots were fired. The stolen car was later found and the attacker had tried to burn it.

Police intelligence led to the arrest of another Irish national resident on the Costa del Sol, identified as James Q. Investigators say that the shooting was down to rivalry between criminal gangs linked to drugs and operating internationally that has led to several other deaths.

Prosecutors say that James Q was working for one of the gangs and had

a luxury lifestyle in Spain that was not in keeping with his declared earnings.

The permanent life sentence is meant to be used in especially horrific crimes, for example child murder or organised crime assassinations. Opposition MPs are currently calling for it to be revoked and so far it has only been asked for some four times in Spain, for example against a man that killed his daughters with a chainsaw, a Brazilian man who killed his relatives and a man who brutally raped and killed a woman in a Seville park.

## IN BRIEF

### Italian man arrested for attempting to sell rented houses

**MALAGA**

**BY Á. F. / J. C.** A 40-year-old Italian man has been arrested for trying to sell two houses, neither of which he owned. The suspect was a tenant in one of the properties and had stolen the keys to the second home, as well as putting both properties up for sale without the owner's consent. The police began their investigation at a property agency in Torremolinos, who had agreed to pay the man 12,000 euros as a deposit. They quickly tracked the suspect down and charged him with fraud, falsifying documents and robbery.

### Woman accused of pension fraud

**MALAGA**

**BY J. C. / Á. F.** A woman who shared a bank account with her mother and father has been accused of collecting 130,000 euros of her father's pension, despite the fact that he died 23 years ago. Her mother has also been dead for several years. The Malaga prosecutors' office has stated that she could face six years in prison on a fraud charge and will have to return all of the money. The woman is currently only able to pay back around 30,000 euros, so will likely have a substantial debt when she is released from prison.

### "NASA is watching"

**MALAGA**

**BY Á. FRIAS / J. CANO** A man in a disturbed state of mind voluntarily handed in his firearms to the Local Police in Malaga on Monday. He intended to use his arsenal to defend himself from threats, including from NASA, who he was sure "had been watching him".

The alarm was raised at 10pm and a call alerted the Local Police to a man acting aggressively in a residence in the city's Plaza

Miraflores. The caller had heard the man saying "I'm going to kill all of them," from inside.

The Local Police responded to the situation in force and also called in the support of a specialist firearms team. They were able to contact the 35-year-old man in the building, who came outside and told police that NASA were watching him and had hacked his computer. He also said that he was constantly watched via a lamppost. The police concluded that he was suffering from a mental illness and arranged for medical attention.

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# Mijas has finished audits of local estates so they can be adopted

The mayor wants some 200 independent 'urbanizaciones' to receive council services but some will not get them initially as the original planned infrastructure isn't finished

:: **IVÁN GELIBTER**

**MIJAS.** The complex plan to incorporate some 200 independent housing estates and residential complexes into the street services provided by Mijas council reaches one of its critical points this month. According to sources, Mijas town hall has finished the audit of each 'urbanización' that will be used to evaluate the state of each one before assuming the supply of services such as road maintenance and street cleaning. Using council rather than private services normally reduces costs for residents.

The council has said that they will only be able to adopt those that are in "a perfect condition", where the estates are actually finished or in a good state. Some estates, especially the older ones, can't be taken on immediately either because the road infrastructure was never originally finished properly or the paperwork is not complete. The recent audit



Riviera del Sol is one of the areas on Mijas Costa that will benefit. :: I.G.

will allow the council to calculate how much it will cost to run each estate and how much it will cost to put right the problematic ones.

Some estates that aren't fit to be adopted yet have the option to claim from the original developer's funds, but where those rights have expired, the residents can pay for the work themselves, start legal action against the developer or give in the right for the council to take over services.

The adoption of the 'urbanizaciones' is the star policy of mayor José Carlos Maldonado and, because of the cost, it needs to be spread out over several years.

While the audit has been going on, the council has moved ahead with the asphaltting of some of the roads on the estates to be taken over, some of which haven't been touched for thirty years. The council was able to secure legal guarantees over what it was doing ahead of the incorporation and many residential areas have been contacting it asking for the work to be carried out.

## HERE AND THERE

### Ambassador to talk Brexit on Mijas Costa

**MIJAS**

:: **SUR.** The UK's ambassador to Spain, Simon Manley will be on the Costa del Sol on 22 March to meet with local British residents and talk about the current status of the Brexit negotiations. The event is being organised by the Brexpaters in Spain group and will be held at the Avanto Restaurant near La Cala de Mijas. As well as news from the ambassador there will be experts on hand to talk about issues such as residency, healthcare, pensions, and inheritance. To book a place email [info@brexpaters.es](mailto:info@brexpaters.es)



The unfinished property. :: A.G.

### Scrapped museum building still empty

**TORREMOLINOS**

:: **ALBERTO GÓMEZ.** In the Plaza Picasso, one of the most central squares in Torremolinos, the building that was going to be home to the municipal museum remains closed with an uncertain future. The property covers 4,000 square metres and has already had six million euros of public money invested in it. The project was championed by the PP politician Pedro Fernández Montes, but a change in the local party in power and a lack of arts funding have stopped the development of the museum. The new PSOE government have been unable to find a buyer.

### Holiday World organise third race for Proyecto Hombre

**BENALMÁDENA**

:: **A. GÓMEZ.** The hotel complex Holiday World, in Benalmádena, has organised its third edition of its race to raise funds for Proyecto Hombre, a charity that helps alcoholics and addicts. The 'elephant roundabout', at the entrance to the resort, will be the start and finish for two separate circular routes of 5 and 10 kilometres respectively. The race is normally run by individual runners or families. The most famous participant is Iván Tejero, who in 2016 was an Ironman finalist in Hawaii.

## Marbella council updates forest fire emergency plan ahead of dry summer months

:: **NIEVES CASTRO**

**MARBELLA.** The town hall in Marbella is in the process of reviewing its protection plan against forest-fire emergencies.

The present plan was approved by the council in 2005 and adapted to take into account new regional forest and natural fire disaster legislation, known as Plan Infoca, that came into affect in 2010. Marbella adopted its plan to the new Junta rules in 2013 and now the four year statutory period for its revision has expired.

Due to the urgency, the Environmental department of the council has put the updating out to tender at a cost of 2,662 euros. The review will look at the current equipment available, access routes, emergency protocols, vehicles and lists of people available to act in an emergency, from firefighters to groups like the Red Cross.

Since the plan was last updated, there have been no major natural fires within the municipal boundary, although other nearby districts have suffered significant incidents.

The town hall has reemphasised its commitment to fire prevention, reminding local residents of their responsibilities as well.

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:: **CHARO MÁRQUEZ**

## MORE COLOURFUL FLOWER POTS FOR ESTEPONA

There isn't an official ranking, nor a competition, but if there were a prize for the Spanish place with the greatest number of decorative plant pots in its streets, Estepona would win that accolade. The local council has decided to introduce 6,000 new plant pots this summer, increasing the town's total to 20,000.

# New start for Marbella's leading print museum after uncertainty

A temporary exhibition of Evaristo Guerra kicks off the 2018 programme but there is still no news on the planned extension

## ■ SUR

**MARBELLA.** Marbella's leading contemporary sketch and print museum launched its new programme of activities and exhibitions for 2018 last week following three years of turmoil.

The Museum del Grabado, in the Old Town, has some 4,000 works in its collection and is cared for by a public-private foundation that includes Marbella council. It is considered the best of its type in Spain and celebrated 25 years last year. The new programme kicks off with a temporary exhibition of work by Axarquía artist Evaristo Guerra until 5 May.

The museum's catalogue of art is almost matched in length by its recent catalogue of misfortune. An embargo on its bank accounts was recently lifted over a 100,000-euro debt that had prevented the foundation from running properly. Ironically the money was owed to Marbella town hall, one of its main sup-

porters, after the council was forced to urgently pay to shore up a run-down historic building next to the current museum site.

That building had been earmarked for the expansion of the museum and one million euros of central government funding was made available in 2015 to finance the work needed at the museum.

However the council at the time failed to advance the project, criticising the Junta regional government for delaying a decision on what pre-restoration archaeological studies were needed on the site.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018

► **Permanent collection.** Impressive lithographs, prints and sketches in a historic hospital. Calle Hospital Bazán, Marbella. Open: 9am to 8pm, Tuesdays to Saturdays

► **Temporary exhibitions.** Five for 2018, starting with Evaristo Guerra and finishing with Art in the Moment: The Spanish transition.

► **Events.** A monthly free music concert, workshops for children and the launch of annual awards.

As a result, the rights to funding from Madrid controversially expired and increasingly heated political arguments increased over why the work hadn't been started, at the same time as the council changed hands from the PP party to a PSOE-led coalition.

## Galleries closed for a time

In the meantime, the museum had closed in July 2015 in preparation for the extension works, although when they failed to start it reopened almost a year later in June 2016. By late 2016, the new problem of the debt and the frozen accounts brought more uncertainty.

The council and the managing foundation have now reached an agreement whereby the rundown building, now in a more dilapidated state, was given to the council to add to its historic buildings collection in return for cancelling the debt. The plan is still for the museum to occupy it once it is restored, however, Marbella council, now controlled by the PP party again, has said in reply to PSOE criticism, that it won't ask for central government funding until it knows for sure from the Junta when work on the site can start.

The museum, under director,



Evaristo Guerra photographed in the Museo del Grabado. ■ J-LANZA

Germán Borrachero, who returns to the helm after leaving 18 months ago, has launched its new artistic programme with the Evaristo Guerra exhibition, that includes 90 pieces from a 40-year career. There will be four more tem-

porary exhibitions during 2018. The annual national prize exhibition for sketches and prints organised by the museum will also be relaunched later this year, after being cancelled in 2017. There will also be concerts and workshops.

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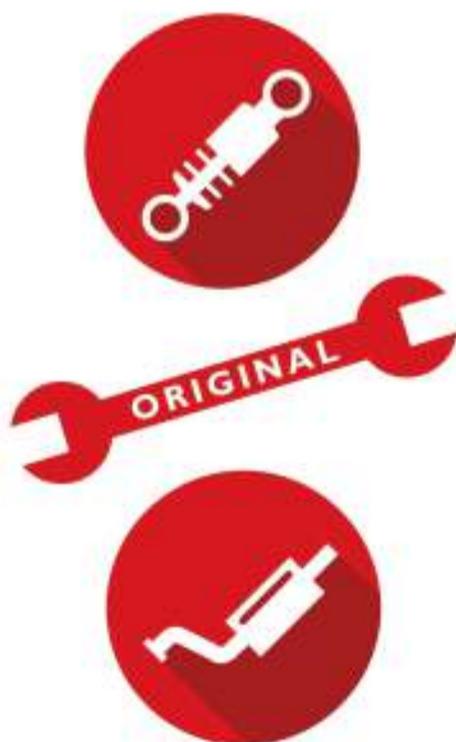
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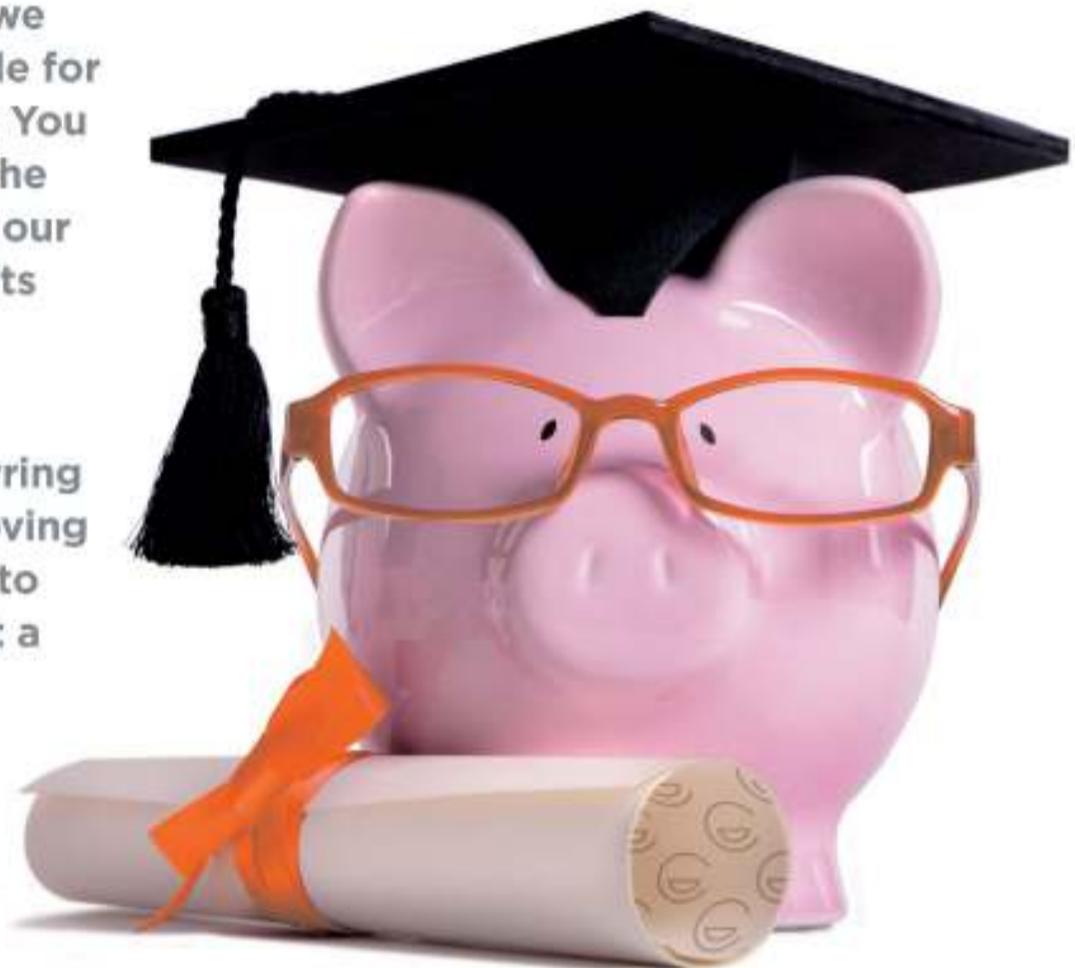




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# British Consul presents support website to Axarquía volunteers

The online portal provides practical advice and links for residents over 50 who need information for themselves or want to help family or friends

:: JENNIE RHODES

**TORRE DEL MAR.** Around 30 people, including volunteers and representatives from charities and the Axarquía hospital, attended a presentation given by British Consul in Malaga, Charmaine Arbouin and Neil Hesketh, from Support in Spain, at the Axarquía hospital in Torre del Mar on Wednesday.

The focus of the presentation, which was given in Spanish, was to inform organisations supporting British residents in the area about a new website launched by the Consulate and the University of Birmingham.

Support in Spain ([www.supportinspain.info](http://www.supportinspain.info)) is aimed at people over 50 who may need advice following a sudden change in personal circumstances, or on where to get in-



British Consul, Charmaine Arbouin, speaking at the event . :: J. RHODES

formation and help with caring for family members or friends with disabilities. It includes links to organisations working in the Axarquía, as well as elsewhere on the Costa del Sol, and is in English and Spanish.

Neil Hesketh from Support in Spain gave a virtual tour of the website and representatives from Lux Mundi Torre del Mar, Red Cross Ax-

arquía and Granada-based palliative care charity, Acompalia, gave feedback on the importance of such a tool.

One of the main themes was the difficulties faced by foreign people who do not speak Spanish but depend on public health and social services as they get older, as well as understanding the differences between organisations back home and in Spain.

## Car driven by ex-councillor hits new deputy police commissioner

:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

**NERJA.** Nerja's deputy police commissioner, Andrés P. C., 28, was hit by a car being driven by a former Nerja councillor in the town on Tuesday.

The ex-politician, Expedito Cabra, 77, said that he had become "distracted" as his car approached a roundabout on the Avenida Pescia near Burriana beach at around 1pm.

The police commissioner was carrying out a routine traffic con-

trol with other colleagues at the time of the incident and, according to sources, saw what was happening and acted to prevent another officer from being hit by the car, but ended up being knocked over himself.

The car went into the vehicle in front, which in turn pushed the deputy commissioner over.

The officer was admitted to the Axarquía hospital in Torre del Mar where his condition was initially

said to be "serious" but that he was "stable". Doctors later said that they were awaiting the results of tests, although they confirmed that at that stage his injuries were not being considered as "critical".

Cabra, who was a councillor from 1979 to 1999, did not require medical attention, despite his son, also called Expedito Cabra, telling SUR that his father had "suffered a dizzy spell" which led to him being "distracted" and causing the crash.

The incident is said to have caused "commotion" in Nerja, where the 28-year-old deputy commissioner has only been in the position for just six months.

### HERE AND THERE



Sedella's new flag. :: SUR

## Residents vote for town flag in referendum

SEDELLA

:: A. P. Residents of Sedella have voted for a new flag for their town in a referendum. 62 per cent of Sedella's 625 residents who are aged over 16 took part in the vote. They were given the choice of four de-

signs and the most popular was a red, white and green diagonal striped flag with the village's logo in the middle. The red represents the history of the village and incorporates one of the colours of the Spanish flag, while the white signifies the typical white Andalusian village and the green stands for peace, Sedella's patron saint and the Tejeda, Almirara and Alhama mountain range.

## Choir looking for singers for April concert

LA VIÑUELA

:: J. R. Coral Coraxalia are looking for members to sing in a Royal British Legion concert at the Nerja Caves restaurant on 21 April. Under the leadership of Eusebio Pita, the choir will be rehearsing on Thursdays from 5.30 to 8pm in the Casa Cultura on the A7205 road in Viñuela village. For more information call 689 111 352 or 669 682 139.

## Union condemns unstaffed ambulances

TORRE DEL MAR

:: A. P. A union which represents public sector workers has condemned the Axarquía hospital in Torre del Mar for allowing ambulances to attend emergency call outs without properly trained medical staff. CSIF spoke out about the problem on Monday saying that at certain times of day there weren't enough staff to cover all calls.

## Malaga goats exported to Russia for cheese

MALAGA

:: A. P. Russian company, Innovation and Technology in Livestock, has announced that it is exporting live goats to Russia to develop the goat's cheese market there. While Russia prohibited imports of European Union food products three years ago, the ruling does not apply

to live animals. The company has said that it has already taken five Murciano-Granadino goats to Russia and 140 more are currently on their way. They added that they plan to export between 2,000 and 3,000 more by the end of this year, including the Malaga goat, also known as Cabrama. As well as live goat imports, the company is also planning to take semen from goats in Andalucía with a view to artificially producing the animals in Russia.

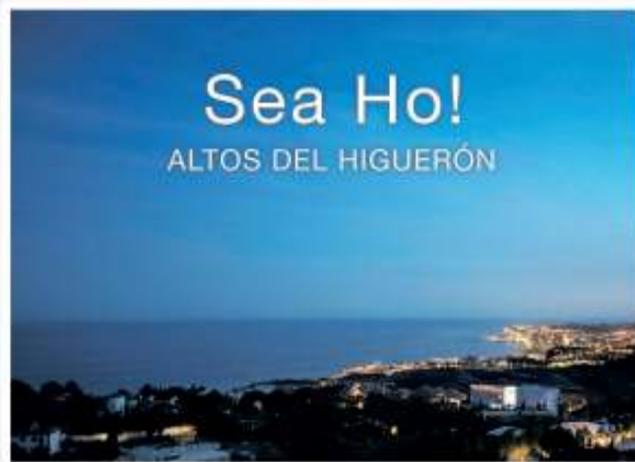


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# Freakcon exceeds expectations

The event, celebrated over the weekend, was hugely popular, attracting more than 20,000 visitors

by JON SEDANO

**MALAGA.** It's a sure sign that an event is going to be a success if your 17-year-old neighbour leaves their house on Saturday morning dressed as a Ghostbuster, with their dad carrying a proton pack. They don't celebrate Carnival, nor any costume-based festival, but young people are hugely excited by Freakcon, the International Malaga Convention of Comic, TV Series and Videogames, which proved hugely successful, with over 20,000 visitors over last weekend. The attendance exceeded the expectations of the organisers, who had expected around 18,000.

Cities like Madrid and Barcelona have had festivals like this for years, and have established themselves as 'freaky' capitals. It's encouraging that Malaga is embracing the trend. 'Freaky' is used with the best meaning of the word, the way that the fans of the popular sub-culture, who filled the Palacio de Ferias and Congresos of the city, would use it.

However, the event cannot compare with the two festivals already mentioned, the International Comic Fair of Barcelona, which will host its 36th edition this year, and Heroes Comic Con Madrid, which is supported by several large businesses. It would be unfair to make comparisons between the events, because Freakcon would lose, but what is incredibly impressive is the event's intentions and the path that it has taken. It looks set to have an excellent future, given that it is on

## Freakcon has a bright future alongside other national conventions

a well-established path to becoming an essential event on the comic lover's calendar.

The actor Spencer Wilding, who was the man underneath the Darth Vader mask in 'Rogue One: A Star Wars Story', was met by hundreds of fans from the 501st Legion and HoloRed Estelar fan groups, who



Kristian Nairn.  
by F. GONZÁLEZ

were dressed as characters from the franchise. Kristian Nairn, the Northern Irish actor who played Hodor in Game of Thrones, was met with rapturous applause when he came out on stage, and he later showcased his other talent by performing an upbeat DJ set.



Two local members of the 501st Legion. by JON SEDANO

## "In my role as Darth Vader I felt as if the Dark Side of the Force had possessed me"

by JON SEDANO

**MALAGA.** Spencer Wilding has appeared in some form in many of the most popular films and TV series today, including 'Star Wars', 'Guardians of the Galaxy', 'Harry Potter', 'Game of Thrones' and 'Doctor Who', amongst others. The multi-faceted Welsh actor, who stands at over two metres tall, has

specialised in giving life to film's strangest characters, with his most recent role being Darth Vader on the big screen.

"I never went to theatre school, I learnt to act from life experience. I started to box and kick box, winning big titles, and thanks to that I made the leap to cinema."

- How did it feel playing one of

the most charismatic villains in cinema history?

- When I stepped out onto the film set, I felt the Dark Side of the Force take control of me. Although my role in the film was small, I realised that I was Darth Vader, not Spencer Wilding playing the Lord. The character chooses you, not the other way round.

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# Malaga to welcome new 'world's largest cruise ship' on March 27

Royal Caribbean has chosen the city's port to unveil the Symphony of the Seas to the international market ahead of maiden voyage

**:: SUR**

**MÁLAGA.** Malaga will host the worldwide presentation of the new cruise ship, Symphony of the Seas, the latest launched by Royal Caribbean. It is the world's largest and the company is due to officially unveil the ship to international travel agents and partners in the port of Malaga on 27 March, where it arrives from the shipyard in France on its way to start its maiden voyage four days later. It is due to be in the port from 6am to 10pm.

The ship, due to sail from Barcelona afterwards over seven nights on its maiden trip, promises to be even more impressive than the other giant ships owned by Royal Caribbean. The vessel will have innovative leisure facilities, such as the highest slide on a ship, at ten stories high, a surfing simulator, a zipwire, an escape room and a Bionic Bar, staffed by robotic bartenders. There



Artist's impression of the spectacular ship by night. **:: ROYAL CARIBBEAN**

will also be a duplex family suite with its own cinema room and a Lego wall from floor to ceiling.

With the arrival of Symphony of the Seas from the shipyard STX France, Malaga will become the only city in the world that has welcomed all four of the Oasis class mega ships owned by Royal Caribbean.

The vessel is five times the size of the Titanic by volume, at 362 metres long, and has a weight of 227,000 tons. It has the capacity to accommodate 6,780 passengers and 2,175 crew members across its 16

decks. The presentation in Malaga will be attended by, among others, Paulino Plata Cánovas, president of the Malaga port authority; Francisco de la Torre Prados, mayor of Malaga; Elías Bendodo, president of the Diputación provincial authority and Belén Wangüemert, head of Royal Caribbean in Europe.

The company, that also owns the world's second largest boat, Harmony of the Seas, said that they intend to create "a new level of holiday adventure" and offer "the best escape for families of all types".

# Aena will invest 6.2 million euros to renovate Malaga Airport's older Terminal 2

The national airport operator has awarded the contract to Comsa and work will be carried out over twenty months

**:: PILAR MARTÍNEZ**

**MÁLAGA.** Aena, the national airport operator, will shortly start investing 6.2 million euros in renovating Terminal 2 of Malaga Airport. The terminal is the older building, where Ryanair and Easyjet check-in desks are located.

The contract have been awarded to contractors Comsa, who have explained that the works are designed to modernise the Pablo Ruiz Picasso Terminal and update the decoration to match the newer Terminal 3 (T3) next door.

The renovation works will consist of putting in new flooring similar to that of T3, as well as repainting the walls and the roof of the entire building. The older basement baggage reclaim area is also set to be revamped and the support pillars will be refaced with a metallic finish, similar to those in the corresponding area of T3, with the aim of giving the entire

airport a uniform appearance. "The idea is to update the aesthetics of T2, which was first opened in 1991, to that of T3, which was finished in March 2010," Comas said.

Aena have said that the renovation will be in several stages and "will follow a strict time frame, so that it has as little impact on the airport's operations as possible". "We want to improve the experience for passengers, airlines and businesses in the long run, after all."

**Increase in passengers**

In the last two years, the number of passengers using the airport annually has grown by over 4.2 million, almost a third, to a total of 18.6 million. The current infrastructure is reportedly capable of receiving 27 million passengers annually, so there is a drive for further expansion to the airport in the longer term, as it is feared that the local economy could suffer if the airport does not keep pace with increasing numbers of tourists.

Aena has commissioned a report on such an expansion, estimating that 273 million euros will be required over the next few years.



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# Andalusian tourism industry woos new customers at ITB show

The major event in Berlin is providing an opportunity to build loyalty in the Germany market against stronger competition from the eastern Mediterranean

**PILAR MARTÍNEZ**

**BERLIN.** The ITB travel fair started in Berlin on Wednesday and runs until this Sunday, 11 March. The exhibition is one of the biggest in the world for the travel trade and each year provides an opportunity to focus on the German visitor market to Andalucía, including Malaga and the Costa del Sol. Tourists from Germany are the second biggest visitor group to southern Spain after the British.

Predictions from delegates representing local destinations on the first two days of the fair were of a rise in the number of German visitors for this coming season. Those attending were urging caution however, now that rival destinations to Spain, including Turkey, Greece and Egypt, are enjoying a recovery in demand after a recent slump driven

by economic uncertainty and potential unrest from terrorism. These eastern Mediterranean competitors have traditionally attracted a lot of Germans.

Head of the Andalusian regional government's tourism promotion arm, Susana Ibáñez, said that Andalucía hoped to gain 7.4 per cent more German visitors in 2018. Speaking from Andalucía's large stand in the exhibition hall, she said that the region "had an extraordinary positioning in Germany and a mix of products and segments that perfectly meet the very demanding requirements". She explained that German customers "are increasingly looking for more experiences that let them immerse themselves in the culture of a destination", adding that it was important to recognise the work being done locally to diversify the tourism offer away from the main focus on sun and sand.

Representing Tourism Costa del Sol, Malaga province's tourist board, Elías Bendodo said that he was aiming to build more loyalty from the German clients who are looking for quality above price, saying that there will be increased investment in at-



The ITB show is attracting many travel industry buyers who have packed the Andalucía stand. :: S. SALAS

## German customers are increasingly looking for experiences to immerse themselves in the culture

tending trade fairs and online advertising this year.

Other resorts were wooing the customers in Berlin, including Torremolinos whose mayor emphasised the efforts being made to attract a new generation of visitors.



A special SUR edition in German was distributed in Berlin. :: S. SALAS



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# "We'd like to start a new English-speaking Lions' Club to bring expat communities closer"



**BEN CLARKE**

✉ english@diariosur.es

Tobias Heyden, Lions International Regional President for Marbella, is hoping to start an English-speaking club as well in the town

**MARBELLA.** Lions International is the largest service club organisation in the world. Founded 101 years ago, it operates in 200 countries worldwide, boasting 46,000 clubs with 1.4 million members. It was founded by entrepreneurs as an organisation to improve the lives of those in their local communities, as well as people around the world. The clubs promote a wide range of activities, including golf tournaments and cultural events and operate second hand shops in order to raise money for charitable organisations.

In the Costa del Sol, these have included raising money for Ciudad de los Niños, anti-AIDS and environmental charities and food banks. The organisation has also directly helped several local schools and the Red Cross. Funds from the international organisation are generally focused on alleviating suffering in developing countries. The Lions Club annual golf tournament raised \$100,000 in 2015, enough for 100,000 measles vaccinations around the world. This year it will be held on 31 March in Mijas. There is also a focus on relief work after natural disasters such as earthquakes and tornados in Latin America.



Tobias Heyden, Regional President for Marbella. :: B. CLARKE

**"It's very sociable; you can make new friends and meet people who speak your language"**

Tobias Heyden is Lions International Regional President for Marbella, and has been working with the organisation since 2010. "One of my friends had recently joined a local club, and I thought it sounded like a great idea, so I decided to apply to join. I had a background check

**"Everyone has their own personal interests that they can promote at the meetings"**

to make sure that I was serious about it and everything I was doing was above board. I was working in finance at the time, but I wanted to give something back," he said. Tobias highly recommends becoming a member: "Everyone has their own personal interests that they can pro-

## MARBELLA ENGLISH-SPEAKING LIONS' CLUB INFORMATION EVENING

► **Time and place** Hotel San Cristobal, Avda. Ramón y Cajal 3, Marbella. 22 March, 6.30pm.

► **Content.** The evening is designed to give more information about the new Lions Club in Marbella for potential members. Free wine and tapas will be provided.

► **Please call:** +34 667 760 230 to register your interest or to ask for more information.

mote at the meetings. It's an excellent thing for retired people to get into; it's a good way to invest their time. You can make new friends and business contacts, as well as meeting people who speak your language. It's also very sociable, with many activities which are all for a good cause."

Members also don't have to make a huge time commitment. "In the clubs everyone is a volunteer. I'm President of the Treasury in the German-speaking club, given my financial background. We have meetings twice a month to discuss new initiatives to raise money, and we sometimes go on excursions together. Members tend to devote between 1 to 2 hours a week, but those on the Executive Committee have to contribute substantially more time. However, I manage to fit being the Treasurer around my full-time job."

The aim of Lions International is uniting people. "We're hoping to establish an English-speaking Lions' Club in Marbella because we want to include people from as many expat communities as possible. We're all about bringing people together."

## La Cala de Mijas Lions are Costa's English pioneers

### :: BEN CLARKE

**MIJAS.** Lions International has operated in the US for over a century, but only came to Spain after the fall of the Franco dictatorship in 1976. In Italy there are around 40,000 members, but by comparison Spain has only 2,000. However, the group has a strong presence on the Costa del Sol, with four organisations in Marbella that speak French, Spanish, German and Hebrew, and an English-speaking club established in Mijas.

### Mijas La Cala

The La Cala de Mijas Lions Club was founded 19 years ago in that part of Mijas Costa. It is currently the only English-speaking Lions' Club on the Costa del Sol. Throughout that time, it has been raising funds to help local charities and organisations to provide a better life for the people of La Cala. The organisation is particularly focused on local youth projects, having raised funds for the purchase of much needed books, computers, air-conditioning, and sporting equipment in schools around the Costa.

The organisation has also invested in the La Cala Fencing Club and have paid for children to attend the local football club if their parents cannot afford the fees. Recently a local pensioner, Ana Blanco, was given a new mobility scooter by the club after her old scooter broke down.

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## IN BRIEF

**New blood gas machine for St Bernard's hospital****GIBRALTAR**

:: **D. BARTLETT** The A&E department of St Bernard's hospital now has a state-of-the-art blood gas machine, which will enable medical and nursing staff to rapidly analyse a patient's condition, provide treatment sooner and improve turnaround times in the department. The machine, which is the size of a

desktop photocopier, can test a sample of blood from an artery within minutes. It measures the levels of certain gases and compounds in the patient's bloodstream and provides instant results.

The Minister for Health, Neil Costa, visited the facility this week to learn more about the equipment, and said he was extremely pleased at this follow-up to the recent upgrade of front-line medical facilities at the Accident and Emergency Department.



Neil Costa, Minister for Health (right). :: SUR

**Devil's Tower Road still closed after rock fall****GIBRALTAR**

:: **D.B.** Devil's Tower Road is still closed after last week's rock fall, but the damaged area is now being inspected by specialist geo technical engineers and it is hoped that the road will be open again by early next week.

Meanwhile, a fence has been constructed along the front of the site to prevent any further rock falls.

# "Delight" at the result of Brexit talks in London

The result of the negotiations is very important as 92 per cent of Gibraltar's economic activity is with the UK

**:: DEBBIE BARTLETT**

**GIBRALTAR.** The Gibraltar government has expressed its "delight" at the result of Brexit meetings between chief minister Fabian Picardo and deputy chief minister Dr Joseph Garcia in London this week. The agreements have been the result of intense discussions since the EU referendum in June 2016.

The British government has guaranteed that financial services and online gaming firms in Gibraltar will have continued market access into the UK after Brexit. This will reassure the business community on the Rock and will help to encourage growth in both sectors.

Although the UK has guaranteed this access until 2020, it has committed to work closely with the Gibraltar government to design a replacement framework beyond that date.



Satisfied smiles after discussions over nearly two years. :: SUR

On on-line gaming, the UK has provided an assurance that gambling operators based in Gibraltar will continue to access the UK market after Brexit in the same way they do now

- and the UK and Gibraltar are working towards agreement of an MOU which will enable closer working and collaboration between gambling regulators in both places.

The UK has also provided an assurance that after Brexit, British citizens resident in Gibraltar will continue to be eligible for higher education Home fee status at English institutions (both during the implementation period and afterwards) subject to there being a reciprocal arrangement for English students studying at Higher Education institutions in Gibraltar.

On Health, the United Kingdom has agreed to maintain the current reciprocal arrangement between the UK and Gibraltar. This means that Gibraltar can continue to refer an unlimited number of patients to the UK for free elective treatment.

The agreements this week also covered transport, the environment and fishing. The government statement said that: "Gibraltar and the UK have also agreed to recognise the importance of enhancing our liaison on all of the environmental and fisheries implications of EU exit that are relevant to Gibraltar, whether by sharing information as openly as we can, by providing specialist expertise across a range of policy areas to support Gibraltar with its own preparations, or by considering with Gibraltar where its interests might be promoted in future through regional or international agreements."

Finally, on transport, the UK has expressed its commitment to work closely with Gibraltar towards arrangements that support Gibraltar's prosperity after Brexit.

## Improvement works are progressing at Lower St Michael's

**:: D. BARTLETT**

**GIBRALTAR.** The first phase of a project to revamp the emblematic Lower St Michael's Cave has now been completed. The works involved a major clean-up, removal of the old electrical cabling and conduit system and the installation of new LED lighting along the main entrance and throughout the cave.

An office with storage facilities for equipment has also been provided to assist guides when conducting tours.

The forthcoming phases will include information panels at the entrance of the Cave to provide details about the history of Lower St Michael's, rock formations and general information. There will also be improved access to the pathway leading up to the entrance of the Cave as well as a new staircase inside the cave at the start of tour.

Lower St Michael's cave is not open to the public and can only be visited by pre-booking a tour with a qualified guide. Tours normally last around 3 hours.



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More worrying is that many forget that becoming tax resident in Spain does not alter the fact that they will retain UK domicile, at least for several years, and that UK inheritance tax (IHT) could have a significant impact on the wealth they are hoping to pass to their heirs. As well as this, Common Reporting Standards means that it is no longer possible to hold financial assets without these being disclosed to the tax authorities where



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# Taylor Wimpey and La Cala Golf announce a new development

The Grandview urbanisation will be the second part of a project involving an investment of 125 million euros over a ten year period

**IVÁN GELIBTER**

**MALAGA.** The joint venture between British constructor Taylor Wimpey and the La Cala Resort group is proving an enormous success, according to representatives of the two firms.

They say properties are selling well, and they have now just announced that a new development is to be built. Called Grandview, it will consist of 40 apartments and 20 luxury two and three bedroomed penthouses with solariums on the front line of golf, and will be completely integrated into

the surroundings.

This latest project is part of a schedule announced some months ago by Taylor Wimpey España, who said that it planned to invest over 125 million euros on new residential developments over the next ten years, at least.

Sales and Marketing director Marc Pritchard says the whole area around La Cala de Mijas and Estepona is proving very attractive to purchasers, especially those from abroad, and points out that property prices on the Costa del Sol are expected to increase.

The Grandview development will be completely private and enclosed, with communal gardens and swimming pools. The first phase of the project is expected to be completed by November 2019.

A few months ago, Taylor Wimpey y La Cala Resort presented the second and third phases of the Horizon Golf project in La Cala de Mijas, as the first part of a macroproject involving 125 million euros of investment. Those properties have cost the two companies around 11 million euros, and the first homes are expected to be completed in the forthcoming weeks.

**Grandview will consist of 40 frontline golf apartments and 20 luxury penthouses**

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## Big rise last year in new Euro patent applications from Spanish companies

There was an increase of 7.6% in 2017 in requests to register ideas and inventions but the country is still a long way behind Euro leaders, Switzerland, France and Germany

:: SUR

**MADRID.** Spain continues its march towards becoming a more innovative country. In 2017 the number of new patent registration applications from Spain to the European Patent Office (EPO) grew by 7.6%, some way above the European average of 2.6%. Spain was one of the fastest growing countries looking to safeguard its fresh ideas and inventions, exceeded only by Austria and Denmark in rate of growth. The total 1,676 applications is a Spanish record, according to a report in newspaper ABC.

The largest number of applications from Spain came from the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (43), the Tecnalia Research & Innovation Foundation (27), Esteve Laboratories (26), Uni-



Scientific patent applications were among the top categories. :: EFE

versidad Autónoma de Barcelona (26), Telefónica (26) and Repsol (24).

Overall, the EPO received 166,000 applications from around the world in 2017, some 3.9% more on 2016, with a 16.6% increase from China.

### Catalonia led the way

The category with the highest number of Spanish requests was in organic fine chemistry, with a 51.6% increase, followed by electronic machinery, equipment, energy (up 76.6%) and pharmaceutical prod-

ucts. By Spanish region, Catalonia led the rankings with 37.6% of the total, followed by Madrid (19.3%) and the Basque Country (12.6%).

"In terms of patents, 2017 has been a positive year for Europe," said EPO president Benoît Battistelli. "European companies made more requests to register patents than ever before."

Spain is still a long way behind the top three European countries, Switzerland, France and Germany, in number of applications.

## Malaga-based Mayoral seeks to increase exports of its children's clothing

:: SUR

**MALAGA.** Mayoral, the Malaga-based retailer of children's clothing which is a common sight on high streets in Spain, grew its total sales by 4.2% in 2017, reaching 350 million euros. The company forecasts a further rise to 365 million euros this year.

In data released in the company's annual report, the family-owned firm said it now has 1,250 employees and that it is looking

to increase its international growth.

Currently Mayoral operates a network of sales agents and subsidiary companies in 100 countries. In 2017, the company increased the number of subsidiary companies it owns to 17 by opening operations in Britain, Peru and Bulgaria. It also has an online presence in 14 countries including in Britain and Ireland.

"The forecasts for 2018 are a con-

tinued good rate of growth and consolidation of the previous year's sales," announced the company.

Mayoral also has a network of 210 shops, a mixture of self-owned and franchised, of which 160 are in Spain and 50 in other countries. "There is a constant growth rate and we are opening between 10 and 15 new shops a year," said the company report.

In parallel to the increase in sales, the company is currently building new premises on the site of the old Intelhorce factory on the outskirts of Malaga with 155,000 square metres, double what it currently has nearby.

THE EURO ZONE  
MARK NAYLER

## CHANGING PLACES



**W**hilst Spain's outgoing economy minister is moving from the Spanish government to a top EU institution, his replacement is making the reverse journey. Mariano Rajoy announced this week that Romano Escolano, currently vice president of the European Investment Bank (EIB), will take over from Luis de Guindos, who is soon to become vice president of the European Central Bank. The destinations of these two trajectories couldn't be more different: one is a cushy office job in Frankfurt, far removed from the political front lines; and the other involves managing one of the most challenging portfolios in European politics.

On paper, at least, Escolano possesses the relevant experience. From 2000 to 2004 he was the chief economic advisor to then conservative prime minister Jose Maria Aznar, after which he moved to the private sector to become head of institutional relations at BBVA, a position he held until 2011. He was then head of the Spanish Official Credit Institute from 2012 to 2014, when he left to take up the vice presidency of the EIB. On June 1st, he will officially take up the role as Spanish economy minister, a job in which he will be presented with some daunting tasks.

One issue that is worth his attention is pay inequality in Spain. According to a recent study by the Foundation for Applied Economic Studies (FEDEA), women's hourly earnings are

12.7% less than those of men who perform similar tasks in similar workplaces. Although the FEDEA data does not show that women doing exactly the same jobs as men are being paid less (which is illegal under Spanish law), it does reveal that the lower hourly wage holds across variables such as age, education, length of working day and whether the contract is permanent or temporary.

Rajoy's government doesn't seem to consider this gender gap of great importance, although it has made noises about carrying out pay audits within the private sector, something to which the Spanish business community is unsurprisingly opposed. Perhaps this is an area in which Escolano could be more proactive than his predecessor.

Alarming as the gender pay gap in Spain may seem, you sense that other matters will take priority with the incoming economy minister. One of his priorities will be Spain's problematic unemployment rate of 17% and how to reduce it; another will be trying to shrink the country's budget deficit; and last but certainly not least, it will be Escolano's task to ensure amicable economic relations between Spain and the UK during and after the latter's withdrawal from the EU.

And that's not all. The Zaragoza-born economist will take up a position in a minority government for which the passing of legislation is proving unprecedently difficult. No wonder De Guindos can't wait to get on the plane to Frankfurt.

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# Catalan MPs to meet to vote on new regional president

Following Carles Puigdemont's decision to step aside, the Catalan parliament will convene on Monday to debate Jordi Sánchez's candidacy

NEIL HESKETH

**BARCELONA.** The Catalan parliament will meet on Monday, 12 March, to formally debate for the first time since last December's elections who should be the next president of the regional government.

Last Thursday, 1 March, the ousted ex-president, Carles Puigdemont, announced that he was stepping aside to try to unlock the political deadlock. Puigdemont, although leader of Junts per Catalunya, the largest group of separatist regional MPs, is in self-imposed exile in Belgium and faces arrest if he returns to Spain for his part in the alleged rebellion linked to last October's declaration of Catalan independence.

In one of his now familiar video messages, he said that he was step-

ping aside in favour of Jordi Sánchez as candidate to be Catalan president.

Sánchez, (see panel), was number two for Junts per Catalunya on the electoral list in the December election, and therefore the natural choice as alternative to be president. However Sánchez is currently held in jail outside Madrid as part of the same ongoing rebellion and sedition investigation. While Puigdemont went to Belgium, Sánchez was one of the leaders of the Catalan nationalist movement that stayed in Spain and was arrested for fear that he might continue to offend.

### Top courts rule on legality

Technically Sánchez is in a better position to be candidate for the regional presidency than Puigdemont, as he is still in Spain and, as he is only in jail as a preventative measure and hasn't been tried, is still entitled to be a Catalan MP. On Tuesday, Sánchez asked to be released to attend the debate and vote next Monday, saying his continued detention was affecting his human rights and interfering with the running of the

Catalan government, which still has some of its autonomous powers suspended by Madrid. The Constitutional Court quickly said no to the request and the Supreme Court is due to give its separate decision on the request on Monday, the same day that Sánchez is due in Barcelona.

Radical separatist party, CUP, has said it won't support a Sánchez candidacy as he has recently promised a judge to work for independence within the law. Its votes are needed for the investiture, and on Thursday the other separatist parties presented a radical plan for government to CUP in an effort to get it to change its mind ahead of Monday.

## Who is Jordi Sánchez?

The candidate to be new president of Catalonia hasn't been seen since last October when he was refused bail as part of the inquiry into the illegal declaration of independence. Sánchez, 53, took over as leader of the Assemblée Nacional Catalana (ANC), a civic movement working for Catalan independence, in 2015. As such, he was a key voice urging regional MPs to declare independence last year. Investigators say that Sánchez, as well as Jordi Cuixart of the Òmnium Cultural group, were behind violent protests in Barcelona to disrupt police searches of offices in September. Sánchez no longer leads ANC but recently stood as a regional MP, despite being in jail. The



Jordi Sánchez last October. :: AFP

wearing of a yellow ribbon in support of the two Jordis and other detainees has even caused controversy in Britain, where Manchester City manager, Pep Guardiola, has been criticised by the FA for displaying the symbol.

## Satirical idea gains force to create a breakaway area of Catalonia loyal to Spain

Tabarnia would centre on Barcelona and Tarragona and be a separate region of the country, say supporters who marched 'to claim their rights'

NEIL HESKETH

**BARCELONA.** With noisy headlines about separatist politicians it's easy to forget that most Catalans voted for non-separatist parties in last December's regional elections. This is especially true of the areas of Barcelona and Tarragona prov-

inces nearest the coast, where pro-independence supporters are in a minority.

This area corresponds roughly to the proposed new region of Tabarnia, a breakaway area from Catalonia where people remain loyal to Spain. The area has its own flag and identity and is increasingly vocal about the rights of its inhabitants.

However Tabarnia is a satirical fantasy started last year by creatives and intellectuals to ironise over the rival, but very real, movement in Catalonia that supports independence from Spain. What started as a joke spread rapidly over social media, showing signs of turning into a real



Pro-Tabarnia marchers. :: REUTERS

movement. Last Sunday, 4 March some 15,000 people marched in Barcelona in favour of the new pro-Spanish Tabarnia and as a dig in the ribs of secessionists. "We are two million" they claimed, a tongue-in-cheek reference to a common separatist cry. Tabarnia's honorary president didn't attend - sending a video message "from exile" instead.



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LETTERS TO  
THE EDITOR

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## Theatre in cinemas

When we first came here in the early 1980s we all used to go to the hanger-like building behind the Port, twice weekly, to see a film in English. There was no publicity about it at all, and until the film started we had no idea what it was to be! One evening I was sitting with my friend Sean Connery and his wife Micheline, and you can imagine how we laughed when it was revealed to be a Bond film!

I read with interest Graham Cherry's letter this week about National Theatre at the Vialia cinema.

I know the Cines Teatro Goya in Puerto Banús is doing a great job presenting ballet and opera occasionally, would it be possible to persuade them to include the wonderful theatre productions of plays to which cinema goers in the UK have access?

Goya is a lovely cinema, and does very well with advertising the films on display, and I agree with Graham Cherry that there is a huge audience here for West End theatre.

**JUNE RENDLE**  
MARBELLA

## Football tickets

As a casual visitor to La Rosaleda to watch Malaga CF for a number of years I am annoyed at the current ticket prices to attend.

Assuming I bought the same seat behind the goal for the last four home matches I would have had to pay €15 v Getafe, 25€ v Villarreal, €40 v Atleti, and for last week v Seville €40 (only 15,000 at the match). The prices for the upcoming Barça and Real Madrid games start at €100 each.

I am certain the higher priced games prevent Malaga supporters attending. I know it is possible to buy cheaper tickets by becoming a member or to buy a season ticket but that is not always the best option for people like me.

I want to visit to support Malaga whoever they are playing but it seems I have been priced out of seeing the better teams play at La Rosaleda.

**ALLAN PENN**  
BENALMÁDENA

## Paloma park disturbance

La Paloma park, in Benalmádena Costa, is a great asset for all the residents, hotels and businesses around it. But a problem has arisen during the last few years: the population of hens and cockerels has grown tremendously, pushing the animals to look for new territories out of the park

and colonising our facades, our windows and our gardens. The filth is not the worst problem, the main issue starts at 2am, when the cockerels turn into some kind of poultry Pavarotti, performing their avian operas out loud until well started midday. This makes it impossible to enjoy a good night in bed if you are not a fowl communication scholar.

This is why we were happy to read in SUR in English February 9th to 15th the article about the town hall investing 150,000 euros to make some improvements in La Paloma park, including the creation of a specially-adapted area to keep these birds inside.

We hope this project finally takes place, leading to the end of the disturbance and the beginning of many good nights' sleep.

**JOSÉ ALONSO**  
BENALMÁDENA

## Cervantes' tongue

I'm pleased SUR in English published a piece on the Cervantes Institute last week. For too long the British have shied away from learning new languages, and it was nice to see that Spanish was placed as the most important one to learn in today's world. It would certainly make a huge difference to tourists visiting Spain and Latin America.

**JANE PHILLIPS**  
BY EMAIL

## A bloody good idea

**PETER EDGERTON**  
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

**A** cup of tea and a biscuit. That's what you used to get in the UK when you gave blood, if my memory serves. In Spain it was a vaguely orangey flavoured drink but, alas, no custard cream nor ginger nut. It always seemed a bit churlish to ask for the complaints book whenever I went, so I'd take my grave biscuity disappointment on the chin and toddle off into the afternoon heat, nearly an armful of blood lighter.

That was all a good many years ago, I'm ashamed to say, when I used to give blood frequently. Whenever I saw one of those big old buses parked up somewhere, I'd pop in, leave behind some of my very common blood type and pop out again. Easy. But then it all went wrong. The mad cow disease thing happened and I was completely stonewalled one day by one

of those doctors who delights in talking down his nose at you. He was trying to impress the nurse, I think, not noticing the expression of mild disgust she was sporting.

"Hi, I've come to give some blood."

"Where are you from?"

"That's very social of you, my man. Liverpool, England. What about your good self?"

"England? No you certainly can't give blood, too many mad cows bouncing around." He sniggered and looked to the nurse for admiring glances. She stared at her shoes.

"I haven't been back there for seven years."

"How do I know that? It's not going to happen. Your country's overrun with bovine lunatics."

"That's very rude. I'd thank you not you talk of our politicians in that manner, however right you may be."

So I left, somewhat bemused. The nurse offered a knowing look as I departed which said something like "The man's a total fool." I nodded back and stepped out into the afternoon sunshine, just as full of blood as when I had arrived, though its pressure may have doubled by this point, I fear.

Then, I just sort of got out of the habit. Every time I saw a blood bus, I'd picture Dr Pompostwittington and his tassled shoes and walk right on by. This was wrong of me. One bumptious idiot doesn't an entire health service make.

All of this came to mind recently because there was a shortage of blood in the banks in Malaga province. It's about time I got back into the old routine. Cows have long since recovered their sanity, and, you never know, there might even be a jammy dodger on offer these days.

IDÍGORAS



## Equality and sharing

**RACHEL HAYNES**

**Y**esterday's strike for International Women's Day was more symbolic than anything else. It's impossible to really prove to what extent the world would stop turning if all women downed tools. Yesterday women in Spain did make their presence felt, rather than their absence, joining forces in streets and squares to draw attention to the inequality that still exists even in developed countries in Europe such as this one, where women have been demanding equality for decades.

First we wanted the right to be individuals and not belong to a father or husband, then the right to

vote in an election, and to stand for election. We achieved all this, not without a fight. Access to the labour market was also obtained, but this is where we are still fighting.

For years a male-dominated society has managed to keep hold of management positions, convincing women that even though they could share the workplace, their husbands, fathers and sons would not be accepting their share of housework or childcare in return.

Instead society introduced the idea of women "juggling" a working life and home responsibilities, and well-meaning firms and authorities are still helping women com-

bine both jobs; that way men can avoid doing their share.

Yesterday the world didn't stop turning in Spain. Many women did stop working either for a full day or a couple of hours, but how many simply rescheduled important meetings or decisions, rather than inconveniencing their colleagues or clients? How many got jobs out of the way on Wednesday or saved them till today so they could join the strike? Not everyone could take advantage of strength in numbers as in the case of public sector workers.

Then there are the invisible ones, those who really keep society going, and who unfortunately are a majority of women. Carers who, professional or not, earning or not, legally employed or not, could not leave an elderly person or child unattended for a day. And if they did not exist, that would really put a strain on society: social services would have to be redesigned.

Meanwhile, the women staff at SUR chose to give readers the best coverage of International Women's Day rather than walking out of the office. Awareness, after all, is key.

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ALBERTO GÓMEZ

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**T**he legacy of Isabel Oyarzábal Smith still vibrates beneath the earth, decades after being buried by the dictatorship and sexism. This combative and multifaceted woman from Malaga who faced up to Miguel Primo de Rivera to demand universal suffrage lives on in the feminist demands which she and other women began over a century ago.

Oyarzábal was born into a middle-class family in 1878, the daughter of a Scottish mother and a father who was originally from the Basque Country. Even as a child, she found the restrictions of the time, including being laced into tight corsets, insupportable. As she put it in her memoirs: "My mother used to think that there would be time to rein me in when I was grown up. The other girls were proud of their tiny wasp-waists and used to tell me I would always be remembered as the girl with no waist. At first their comments about my physical appearance made me uncomfortable, but afterwards I became indifferent to them".

For decades she questioned the dominant social order, and successfully opened up new areas of equality and freedom. She was Spain's first female ambassador, a post she took up in Sweden and Finland between 1937 and 1939, and was also the first work inspector, after passing an examination, in 1933. However, more than 70 years passed before her autobiography, 'Hambre de libertad. Memorias de una embajadora republicana' was published by Almed in Spain in 2011.

She had published the book, which was written in English, in the USA in 1940, under the title 'I must have liberty'. She was 62 years old then, in exile because of Francoism, and

# Isabel Oyarzábal, a silenced pioneer

The legacy of this Malaga writer, considered one of the first feminists in Spain, was buried by sexism and the dictatorship



she would never return to her own country.

Oyarzábal, who was born in Calle Peligro, close to the Alameda in Malaga city, is considered one of the founders of modern feminism. The education she received at home is fundamental in understanding her activism, which was based on solid social commitment: "My mother was an orphan and was accustomed to doing what she liked. That must have been an added attraction for my father, who was perhaps tired of the submissive behaviour of young Spanish women of his class. When relatives and friends argued with him because he would let my mother go out without being accompanied by family or servants, like other ladies in Malaga did, or for allowing her to dance and even smoke, which broke all the rules regarding proper behaviour for women, he would invariably just shrug and say "What does it matter, if she's happy?"

Oyarzábal's fluency in English, which was very unusual in Spain, enabled her to work as a correspondent for newspapers such as The Standard and Daily Herald, and also opened doors for her with organisations like the International Work Organisation, where she presented progressive proposals to improve women's working conditions. She also went as a delegate of the National Association of Spanish Women to the Congress of the Alliance for Universal Suffrage in Geneva and was vice-president of the Lyceum Club with Victoria Kent, who was also Spanish.

She did a tour of conferences in over 40 towns in the USA and Canada to gain support for the Republic, and denounced the lack of solidarity in the international community against the advance of fascism in Europe. In New York, in an unprecedented speech by a Spanish woman, she talked to more than 25,000 people in Madison Square Garden.

The feminist path chosen by Oyarzábal clashed with the laws of the time. Her husband, Ceferino Palencia, with whom she had two children,

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was called before the judge on several occasions to give his consent to his wife's travels, and to allow her to manage the rights to her books as, by law, he was the administrator of her finances. This was nothing new. Isabel had already suffered sexist behaviour as a teenager. "One of my father's friends told him my legs were a temptation and I should keep them covered up. It made me wish I didn't have legs. When my father decided to present me in society he said I had to wear a long dress. The day I put my hair up for the first time, I felt as if my head was full of pins," she said.

She related some of those experiences in her newspaper columns, after setting up La Dama magazine and writing a women's section in El Sol under the pseudonym Beatriz Galindo. She also wrote for Blanco y Negro, El Heraldo, Nuevo Mundo and La Esfera, among other publications.

Despite her professional career and personal achievements, in general she is still not well known, especially in comparison with many of her contemporaries who were not as known abroad and did not achieve as much as she did. Writer Aurora Luque, who was responsible for recovering Oyarzábal's legacy when she was the director of the Generación del 27 centre, where a room is named after the feminist, says this is because she was a woman: "There is resistance, especially at the higher levels, to any intellectual works by women. They are very reluctant to recognise the value of women, it doesn't fit into their scheme," she explains.

Luque praises "the testimonial value" of Oyarzábal's work, saying she had the ability to weave "a relaxed chronicle of the boring and conventional provincial life at the beginning of the last century".

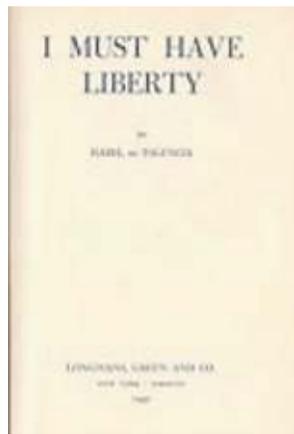
Oyarzábal's autobiography was translated by Enrique Girón and Andrés Arenas, who describe her as "a pioneer, a fabulous woman with an exceptional intellect". Arenas says she originally wanted to be an actress, but then realised that her true vocation lay elsewhere. Decades of political and social writing and activism lay ahead of her alongside the Republic, socialism and feminist values.

The translators of 'Hambre de libertad' discovered her work by accident, during an exhibition over 20 years ago. "We started to find out more about her and we were very surprised that 'I have must liberty' had not only never been translated into Spanish but had never been published here," says Arenas. In the autobiography, she talks about her life from her childhood years and her time at La Asunción school to her exile in Mexico.

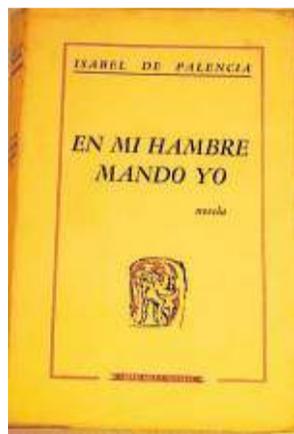
Oyarzábal died a year before Franco. She had not returned to Spain, but her family still recalls the impact of her presence before she went.

"My mother was one of the first women in Malaga to use a bicycle, and Isabel had given it to her," says her great-nephew Pepe Oyarzábal, about the close relationship between the author of 'En mi hambre mando yo', a novel she published at the end of the 1950s, and his mother. "They

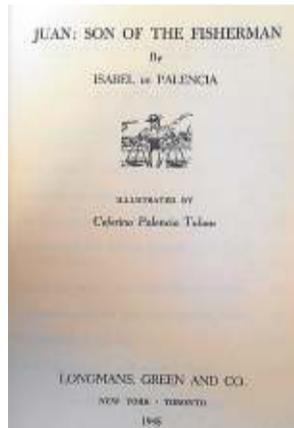
**WORKS BY ISABEL OYARZÁBAL**



In 1940 she published her autobiography, 'I must have liberty'.



In the 1950s, in exile, she published the novel 'En mi hambre mando yo'.



She had to use her husband's surname when she published this book



Isabel (second on the right), with other women of her family.

loved each other very much, even though ideologically they were very different. My mother used to say that my great-aunt Ela, as we called her, had served tea to Manuel Azaña and that is how she came to occupy an important place in Spanish politics. She used to organise meetings and sometimes she'd take my mother, who was only a girl then, to give her a hand," he says.

This year the National Drama Centre premiered 'Beatriz Galindo en Estocolmo', by Blanca Baltés, which features Oyarzábal as the first Spanish female diplomat and one of the precursors of Las Sinsombrero, women of the 27 who were also muted. Her legacy, indeed, still shakes the world out of forgetfulness and inequality.

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## IN THE FRAME

JENNIE RHODES  
✉ rhodes\_jennie@hotmail.com

# Two artistic havens in Granada province

## Roberta Gordon-Smith Artist

### A holiday paid for with the profits from a book led to buying a finca and opening an art gallery

I was first introduced to Roberta Gordon-Smith at the Acompalia Artística exhibition at the Azucarera in Motril last December. After seeing one of the pieces she was exhibiting, a sofa with a life-size painting of a nude woman sprawled out on it, I knew I wanted to meet the artist behind this wonderfully risqué, yet beautifully tasteful, work. I wasn't disappointed.

The creator of the painted sofa (the sofa she found in an old barn in England) has had an illustrious career, starting at the prestigious Chelsea School of Art and going on to start her business, Artyfacts, in 1981 on the King's Road - associated with London's art scene from the 1960s and the likes of Mary Quant and Vivienne Westwood. Roberta herself has decorated the homes of some of Britain's biggest stars, including Boy George, Dire Straits' Mark Knopfler, Dave Stewart and Alexi Sayle as well as American soul singer, P P Arnold, (the latter two now being neighbours). She has used the trompe l'oeil (trick of the eye in French) technique for many of her clients' homes. Gordon-Smith has published two books about the technique, which together have sold over half a million copies internationally. "The books were a huge success in France," the artist recognises. She and her work have also appeared regularly in magazines such as Hello and UK newspapers and she has designed plots at the Chelsea Flower Show.

With the profits from the book sales, Roberta came to Spain on



Above, El Casino. Right, Roberta Gordon-Smith.

### "Art for sale here needs to be more accessible"

✪ J. RHODES

**SALOBREÑA.** The next exhibition at El Casino will open on 31 March and will feature a number of artists. There will be workshops and activities on each Saturday throughout April, for which booking is essential.

Roberta explains that the type of art and artists her exhibitions are attracting, "is a reflection of what is happening with art here". She adds, "More and more art-

ists are being attracted to the area and the quality and type of art being created is witnessing something of a revolution. The problem is that it means the work being sold isn't accessible to many people." Roberta also believes that there needs to be a limit of say 600 euros for art here "as there isn't the money here like there is in other parts of Europe".

holiday in 1998. "I went to Spain and came back with a house," she exclaims! "I thought it was just like Scotland or the Yorkshire Dales, but more savage and with sun," she laughs, comparing the Granada landscape with the places of her origins; she is half Scottish, half Yorkshire, but was born in Derby.

Roberta moved to Spain perma-

nently in 2002 and since then has built a mini-empire. She was approached by an elderly Spanish lady from the village she'd bought the house in, to purchase a finca at the bottom of a valley overlooking the nearby Beznar reservoir. "It was love at first sight," admits Roberta.

The finca has since become La Conca - not only home to the art-



Photographs: TheresaOdettesiedner TOSPHOT all rights reserved.

duce. The project includes running art, cooking and agriculture courses at the finca and bringing back some of the traditional methods of working the land that have been lost over time.

The house is also a tribute to her own trompe l'oeil work, with items of furniture that she brought with her from England and the living room ceiling painted as a blue sky with fluffy white clouds.

Roberta and Georgina bought the gallery, El Casino in Salobreña, 12 years ago and have spent the ensuing years restoring it "funds permitting," says Roberta. It's been open for three years and is a treasure trove of a gallery-cum-living space in Salobreña. Roberta's theory that art is much better "set in a living environment" rather than as individual pieces in a gallery. El Casino is quirky, inviting and homely with treasures for sale in every nook and cranny. Sculpture, paintings and jewellery sit among pieces of antique furniture that Roberta has picked up - either to sell on as it is or upcycle, selected items of clothes, a giant teddy made by Roberta and Georgina and of course, THAT sofa.

Roberta also organises and gets involved in charity events and a percentage of the profits from sales at the gallery go to three different charities; Acompalia, local children in need and Valle Verde dog sanctuary. She has an international team of friends and other artists who work with her at La Conca and El Casino.

El Casino is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 11am until 7pm and exhibitions change. The gallery can be opened for groups by appointment and even has living space for artists looking for space for a residency.

**Information :** [www.laconca-artsclub.com](http://www.laconca-artsclub.com), Facebook: La Conca El Casino Arts Gallery Salobreña

ist but also a private club where members meet regularly for jam sessions and other events.

Roberta and her daughter Georgina have plans to develop La Conca into an 'AgrEcoArt' project, combining the traditional agricultural practices and indigenous plants of the area, such as olives, figs and citrus fruits and their art, with an end to everything they do being sustainable. The plans include using recycled materials and zero-kilometre, or homegrown pro-



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Sanysol is a pioneering post hospital-stay centre, which accommodates patients undergoing recovery and rehabilitation processes before they return to their homes.

“Many guests come after operations or injuries for us to take care of them while they are recovering. We have a professional medical team for this which provides them with the very best care 24 hours a day in Spanish, English, German and French as many of our guests come

from abroad,” Gálvez explains.

The centre has different areas and patients are distributed depending on their complaints or pathologies and the treatment they require. The most common recovery treatments are postoperative (trauma, orthopaedic, digestive, thoracic or heart surgery, etc.); neurological, particularly for those who have suffered an ictus, and care for patients who have undergone or are undergoing oncological treatment.

Sanysol also offers long-term stays for people who have decided to live at the centre, however due to its popularity and the quality of life it offers, there is currently a waiting list for this type of services. Therefore, the centre is planning to extend its facilities in the near future.

The centre offers a wide range of services to its guests, whether they are recovering, staying tem-

porarily or long term. These services include relaxation therapies, psychological attention, occupational therapy, leisure activities, gymnasium, beauty salon, chapel and of course constant personalised medical attention and nursing assistance. All angled to suit each individual’s needs and with a personal, caring attitude.

Similarly, in keeping with the high quality standards maintained throughout, the centre provides a touch of distinction with its cuisine, which is a fusion of the traditional with touches of innovation. All personalised to suit the guests under the supervision of the medical team.

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Sanysol’s facilities spread over an area of 6,000 m<sup>2</sup>. The smart building is fitted with the latest

in energy saving technology: solar panel-powered hot water systems, LED lighting, centralised access controls and centrally controlled electricity supply to the rooms, underfloor heating using hot water, central climate control system with Inverter technology.

The centre also has a real time location system employing active RFID (radio frequency identification) technology, which is of vital importance for the dementia unit in particular, and a remote active RFID warning system built into the VOIP (voice on IP) telephone equipment. “We have included all these new technologies to improve patient care and wellbeing as much as possible,” Gálvez notes.

The Sanysol team consists of more than 50 professionals including specialist doctors, physiotherapists, nurses, nurs-

ing assistants, psychologists, social workers, occupational therapists, entertainers, etc. A multidisciplinary team that works to provide guests with the very best care and attention.

“We have focused on three very important points for our work: Quality, Professionalism and Transparency. This is Sanysol’s pledge to its guests and their families,” the director of the centre explains.

More information:

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## REF. S. R. E.

Some years ago I took out home insurance. At the time, I had an alarm installed at home, and informed the insurance company about this fact. However, I later decided to cancel the alarm service and unfortunately we have now been robbed, the thieves took an important amount of jewels and some cash. However, the insur-

ance company has now refused to pay compensation because we told them that we had an alarm system and it was not true, so we had breached the contract. What can we do?

In principle, the reasons given by the insurance company to refuse to pay compensation are not correct. You have not breached the contract, as when you took the policy you indeed had an alarm system, and circumstances changed later. Obviously, the fact of having an alarm or not is important, since the premium for the insurance would be lower. In any case, the company should not refuse to pay but should instead apply the "equity rule", that is, the compensation must be reduced (but not refused) proportionally to the difference between the amount that should have been paid without the alarm, and the amount that has indeed been paid. If the insurance company does not apply this rule voluntarily, you will have no other op-

tion than going to court.

## REF. T. L. O.

Last week my wife was taking a walk with our daughter, and a youth snatched my wife's handbag, which contained a mobile phone and some cash. We will probably not be able to recover these items but could we claim the amount of the stolen items from our home insurance?

It all depends on the conditions of your home insurance. They usually cover robberies outside the home suffered by the insured or relatives living with them, as long as they are robberies, since thefts are not normally covered. In any case, it will be necessary to check the particular conditions in order to know if robberies are included, as well as the maximum amount of compensation, since not all the companies cover the same events or pay the same compensation.

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## PET CARE

PETER HARRISON



## Irrational spring behaviour

## At this time of year extra care needs to be taken around animals

March has arrived and we find there is a lot of truth in the saying "as mad as a March hare", although why that particular animal has been chosen for an example is debatable. Indeed all animals seem to be rather crazy. Probably due to the feeling of spring in the air. Birds have laid eggs or are about to do so. Animals are on the prowl in search of a mate or are carrying their young. As we drive around the countryside of this beautiful land we have made our home we must all be on the lookout for sudden irrational behaviour by animals, both domestic and wild.

It is a distressing experience to knock down an animal or bird and find it lying in the road. It has happened to me on a few occasions and every time I feel upset and guilty. Sometimes a rapid journey to a vet is required but sometimes it is too late and then you need to put the poor creature to sleep, however distressing it may be; never leave it to suffer and die slowly.

If you go to a vet there will be a bill to pay although most vets will take into account the fact you have acted in kindness.

You need to pay. That is the price of being compassionate. Would you want to be otherwise?

Many people who have horses want to take to the roads to enjoy the fine days and horses are skittish in the spring, so drive past them carefully, giving a wide berth and never hoot which will startle the animal.

If you find an injured animal or bird and seek to save it by giving it warmth or water which often helps, do try to avoid direct contact with your hands; your scent may well result in the mother rejecting it when they are reunited.

Walking over a moor with a friend, we came across two lambs which had been injured. How it happened we did not know. We had no gloves but shed items of clothing to wrap them in. A farm was nearby so we took them there and they were joined by the mother who welcomed them. This probably would not have been the case had we handled them. It was worth getting cold to achieve the result.

Yes, it is a time for irrational behaviour by animals and we need to exercise great care.

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## SHARING A PASSION FOR ANDALUCÍA

Writer, journalist and SUR in English reporter Tony Bryant was in Malaga on Wednesday to give a talk on his books on flamenco and Andalusian legends at the Official Language School (EOI). Organised by the Gerald Brenan Cultural Association, the talk was part of a series of events and language exchange sessions held at the school. The writer, who was introduced by the association's president Lola Ortega, spoke of his research into flamenco and how it changed his life as well as his new book, Andalusia, Between Dream and Reality. The next talk will be given by Jane G. Harlond Arredondo, author at Penmore Press and Oxford University Press, at the end of April.



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**SOCIETY SCENE**

# Dining, singing and dancing to help local charities

Cudeca has been the focus of fundraisers recently with hairdressers and a Chinese restaurant helping the cancer charity

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

**International Club Estepona  
A busy month of activities**

February was the month for the mayhem of carnival and ICE joined in by wearing the brightest beachwear and garlands and celebrating with a Caribbean carnival supper. The meal was followed by Latin dancing to the Cuban sounds of Teo and his partner. Apart from other regular activities, the association ended the month with a trip to Malaga to visit the Victoria Brewery and do some shopping and sight-seeing. They'll be celebrating St. Patrick's Day as usual and have the latest ICE Players' production with buffet supper to come. For Easter, a guided tour of San Roque to see the preparations is planned and then in April, it's the Golf Spring Cup and a five-day trip to Madrid on the AVE. For more information on what the ICE club go to: [www.siberme.com](http://www.siberme.com) or email: [clubsiberme@hotmail.com](mailto:clubsiberme@hotmail.com). They meet at Bahía Dorada, Estepona on Thursday mornings and welcome visitors.

**TOPS  
Ho-down raises money**

The TOPS country and western evening in Alhaurín el Grande was a great success. The venue was packed and the audience (having been reminded of the house rules of "no spittin' and no rowdy behaviour") joined in with the spirit of the show,

dancing, clapping, and singing along with the chorus lines. The "Boston Belles" raunchy saloon-girl dance routine was well choreographed and the singers pulled out all the stops, not only with their singing but with their costumes too. The programme was packed with popular songs from John Denver, Kenny Rogers, Willie Nelson, Charlie Rich, Dolly Parton, Nancy Sinatra, Shania Twain, The Bellamy Brothers, The Eagles, and many others. The proceeds will be donated to the two local charities which TOPS have chosen to support this year.

**Cudeca Cancer Hospice  
Chinese lunch for charity**

A charity lunch organised by Sofia Wu and Linda Donaghy was held at the Hong Kong Restaurant - Jardín Botánico in Mijas Costa to help Cudeca Cancer Care Hospice raising a total of €1,200 on the night. Guests were entertained by John Sharples (one half of Dragtastic) who donated his time for free. Many local businesses donated money and prizes for the raffle. Special thanks were given to Sofia Wu and Linda Donaghy for organising the event.

**Age Concern  
Fundraising concert**

The Good Vibrations Singing Sessions performed a concert this week in aid of Age Concern, Estepona and Manilva at the Huber Plataforma de Arte in Calle San Antonio, Estepona.

The choir, under the direction of Clarice Williams, is newly formed and this was their first public appearance, impressing audience with the standard they had reached in a short space of time.

The association has sent out



TOPS country and western evening raised money for local charities. :: SUR

thanks to Gabriella for the use of the venue. The choir is a mixed ability, multi-cultural, multi-genre singing group, which meets in Estepona. The emphasis is on learning to sing in a variety of styles and harmonies in a fun environment, expressing oneself through song and connecting to a lyric. The programme included something for everyone: songs from the shows, and top hits were two of the styles on offer and the concert ended with an ABBA singalong.

Age Concern, Estepona and Manilva, has also sent its gratitude to the choir for the support shown. More elderly people are requesting advice and help than ever and the money raised through ticket sales and the raffle will go to support the volunteers working in the field.

Anyone interested in joining Clarice's choir should go to Find Your Voice Vocal Studio on Facebook.

The Age Concern shop in Calle Zaragoza, Estepona, is open Monday to Friday from 10am to 1.30pm plus the first Saturday in the month. Contact 951318234 regarding the collection of donations for the shop.

**What are you up to?**

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

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



The Good Vibrations Singing Sessions for Age Concern. :: SUR



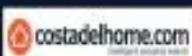
ICE enjoy their Caribbean night with traditional food. :: SUR.



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# Holy Week around the region

## A look at the annual celebrations in four of Andalucía's eight provinces

**MALAGA.** Holy Week, or Semana Santa, is the week before Easter in the Christian calendar, and is celebrated in a wide variety of ways across Spain. It is particularly popular in Andalucía, where it is observed in different ways across the region.

### Almeria

During Holy Week in Almeria thousands of people take part in or watch the processions which the religious brotherhoods hold around the city, and many of those who carry the floats or walk behind them are dressed in Nazarene costume. The processions in Almeria resemble those of the Levante area rather than the rest of Andalucía, because they are not as old. In this area the first Christian manifestations didn't begin until the 16th century.

Some of the highlights of the week are the Gatherings of the Brotherhoods and Resurrection Sunday. Music also plays an important role, especially the Gregorian chants on Good Friday.

The oldest religious brotherhood in Almeria is La Soledad, which was founded in the 16th century and holds its procession on Good Friday. Some of the brotherhoods were not created until the 20th century, such as La



A gypsy throws rose petals at Cristo de los Gitanos in Granada. :: sur

Macarena, which goes out in procession on Holy Monday.

Thursday is an especially popular day, because three of the processions meet in the Plaza Emilio Pérez, and the Cristo de la Escucha procession begins at the cathedral in the early hours of the morning.

Elsewhere in the province, the processions are recommended in the towns of Cuevas de Almanzora and Huercal-Overa.

### Cadiz

In Cadiz, Holy Week is a major festival and the city dresses up for the occasion. Its numerous processions pass through the Plaza de Candelaria, Calle Montañés, Plaza del Palillero, Calle Novena, Calle Ancha and Calle Compañía.

The processions include moments of silent prayer, 'saetas' sung from balconies, the sound of chains on ankles and the drums, trumpets and

cornets marking the pace for those carrying the heavy floats.

Some of these processions are extremely historic, such as La Veracruz, which began in 1566 and takes place on Holy Monday. La Palma, on the same day, is one of the most popular: it starts in La Viña district. Nobody should miss the procession of El Nazareno on Thursday and El Cristo de la Buena Muerte on Friday, which takes place almost completely in the dark.

Elsewhere in Cadiz province the Easter processions are especially recommended in Alcalá del Valle, Arcos de la Frontera, Jerez de la Frontera, San Fernando, Sanlúcar de Barrameda, San Roque and Setenil de las Bodegas.

### Cordoba

The Easter processions in Cordoba are particularly atmospheric, and the air is fragrant with candle wax, incense and orange blossom. The first is on Palm Sunday, when El Rescatado begins in the Plaza Cristo de la Concordia.

Every procession through Cordoba's ancient streets is spectacular, but those of Las Ánimas and Las Angustias (one of the oldest brotherhoods) are especially recom-

mended. The procession of Las Angustias starts and ends in Capitulares, and passes through the San Agustín district.

Other recommended places to experience Holy Week in Cordoba province are Aguilar de la Frontera, Bujalance, Cabra, Castro del Río, Hinojosa del Duque, Lucena, Montoro, Moriles, Pozoblanco, Priego de Córdoba and Puente Genil.

### Granada

All the Holy Week processions in Granada are beautiful, but perhaps the most unusual and moving takes place on Wednesday, when the images of El Cristo del Consuelo and María Santísima del Sacromonte are taken out in procession, and the predominant colours are purple, red and gold.

Another is the Cristo de los Gitanos, on the Sacromonte hill, where huge bonfires are lit among the gypsy houses. Thursday night is also magical in the Albaycín district where the images of its three Virgins are carried in procession: La Concha, La Estrella and La Aurora. The procession of Cristo del Silencio which takes place in almost total silence, also sends shivers down the spine.

At nightfall on Good Friday another unusual event takes place at the Convento de los Jerónimos: 'Las Chías' were officials of the Inquisition and they appear dressed in costume to lead the procession of the oldest brotherhood, La Soledad de San Jerónimo.

Elsewhere in the province, the Holy Week processions are also very special in Almuñécar and Loja.

Carmona, Sevilla.

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# Arts go back to the 60s

**The Costa del Sol and Benahavis Arts Societies held a joint event to celebrate the organisation's 50th anniversary**

**|| JENNIE RHODES**

**BENAHAVIS.** The Arts Societies Costa del Sol and Benahavis shared a joint celebration of the society's 50th Anniversary in the ballroom of the Gran Hotel Benahavis last Thursday afternoon.

Around 100 members took part in the event which was given the name Golden Memories and a number of people dressed up in 1960s attire. "Many members dressed in the style of the sixties, either as the elegant ladies who founded Nafas or as hippies from the counter culture," explained Jane Norrie from the Costa del Sol society.

Part of the programme reflected on the beginnings of the Costa del Sol Society, the first local branch of what was then Nafas (the UK's National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies), which was established in Spain in 1988. The event went on to show how the society and indeed life in Spain has changed since then and also since the 1960s, when the first Nafas society was founded in the Chilterns, England, by Patricia Fay in 1968.

Fifty years on and the society has 385 branches and 90,000 members worldwide, Norrie explained. Of the 15 societies in Europe, seven are in Spain. The first was started in Fuen-



Arts Society members dressed up as 1960s 'elegant ladies'. || SUR

girola 30 years ago by Sue Brodie and the newest was established in Javea, Alicante, two years ago. To take it forward into the next fifty years and make its purpose clearer, Nafas adopted a new name, The Arts Society, and logo, in 2017.

Branches along the Costa del Sol will be celebrating in different ways throughout the year and each will

contribute selected artwork to an international exhibition being held in London later this year to mark the occasion.

The Nerja branch has recently selected a piece, in the form of a bench designed by Cómputa-based Dutch artist and owner of Galería Luz de la Vida, Lieuwke Loth, which will be sent to the London exhibition.



Al Gore during a visit to Malaga in 2006. || FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ

## Marbella to host Andalusian premiere of Al Gore's latest film on climate change

**|| NIEVES CASTRO**

**MARBELLA.** Marbella is to host the Andalusian premiere of the latest film on climate change by the former US vice-president, Al Gore. An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power is the sequel to the 2006 film An Inconvenient Truth, a film designed to warn people around the

world of the devastating effects of climate change, which won Al Gore the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. The film will be preceded by a 30-minute presentation on the potential effects of climate change on the Costa del Sol, and the film will be the original English version subtitled in Spanish.

### SCREENING

► **Date and time.** Tuesday 20 March at 6.30pm.

► **Place.** Cines Teatro Goya. Av. de Julio Iglesias, s/n, Puerto Banús. Marbella.

► **Tickets.** Admission is free by invitation only. These can be obtained from El Corte Inglés, The American College in Spain and the 'Invitaciones' section of <https://www.marbellaclimate-change.com/>



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## WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

9 MARCH 1888

# Birth of one of Spain's most celebrated vaudeville performers

BY TONY BRYANT

**B**orn in Tarazona in Aragón on 9 March 1888, Raquel Meller was a celebrated vaudeville performer who appeared in several films and toured extensively throughout Europe and America.

Christened Francisca (Paca) Marqués López, the popular actress, singer and dancer descended from one of the oldest families in Aragón. At the age of four, her family moved to Barcelona, but her father, a blacksmith, died a few years later and the youngster was placed under the care of an aunt who was an abbess in the convent in Figueras.

Paca's aunt intended the youngster to live the life of a nun, but she rebelled against her aunt and ran away, supposedly helped over the wall of the convent by a sympathetic gardener. She returned

to Barcelona and worked as a seamstress in a dressmaker's shop. She was a keen singer by the age of 13 and her voice attracted crowds of people while she sang as she worked. One in particular was Marta Oliver, a celebrated singer who nurtured the talents of the young hopeful.

She made her debut in Valencia in 1908 under the pseudonym of La Bella Raquel and later changed her name to Raquel Meller.

She married a Guatemalan journalist in 1917 and the couple adopted a child seeing as Meller was unable bear children. She also made her debut in Paris that year, before embarking on a tour of Argentina, Uruguay and Chile.

Her first film appearance came in 1919, and she went on to appear in several successful silent films and quickly became popular throughout the Western world.



Raquel Meller descended from one of Aragón's oldest families. :: SUR

Known for wearing numerous gold bracelets on her right arm - supposedly one for each significant stage of her career - Meller's most profitable movies were *Violettes Imperiales* (1923) and *Carmen* (1926). She became a favourite with the media, but was said to have been difficult to work with and that she often threw tantrums during filming.

She was twice booked to perform in the US, but cancelled both times, so when she finally arrived in 1926, she was forced to assure

her appearances with a bond of 100,000 dollars. It was during this tour that Meller attracted the attention of Charles Chaplin, who tried unsuccessfully to get Meller to co-star with him. He did, however, incorporate the melody of one of her most popular songs, *La Violeta*, as the theme tune to his 1931 movie, *City Lights*.

Meller faded from public view during the late 1930s, although she hit the headlines several years later after Spanish sena-

tor, Emilio Junoy, accused her of betraying Mata Hari to the French police in an apparent fit of jealousy. The rumour claimed that the Dutch dancer, accused of spying for Germany during World War I, was executed as a direct result of information passed by Meller, but the actress always denied the rumour.

Following a heart attack, Meller died on 26 July 1962.

## LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

<b>Película</b>	Film
<b>Cantante</b>	Singer
<b>Actriz</b>	Actress
<b>Bailarina</b>	Dancer
<b>Herrero</b>	Blacksmith
<b>Abadesa</b>	Abbess
<b>Rebelarse</b>	To rebel
<b>Fugarse</b>	To run away
<b>Jardinero</b>	Gardener
<b>Traicionar</b>	To betray
<b>Costurera</b>	Seamstress
<b>Bautizado</b>	Christened
<b>Monja</b>	Nun
<b>Pulsera</b>	Bracelet
<b>Seudónimo</b>	Pseudonym
<b>Voz</b>	Voice
<b>Celos</b>	Jealousy
<b>Espía</b>	Spy

**Bilingual crossword inside back page**



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DENISE BUSH

# GARDENING

## Sweet Parma violets

**Violets have been cultivated since before Christ and the Parma violet was once a popular cut flower**

**DEISE BUSH**

The genus *viola* has around 600 species which includes dog violets (commonly called Johnny Jump-Ups because they self-seed and spread everywhere), wild pansies and sweet violets. Some of them are perennial, others annuals. Pansies are a cross between wild violets (*viola lutea*) and *Viola tricolor*.

The origins of the violet are not known although it is thought they may have come from North Africa. Of all the violets, the Parma violet is probably the least well known although it was a different story a hundred years ago. Bunches of Parma violets were sold on street corners and flower shops across

Europe. This was mainly because of their perfume; the chemicals released temporarily disable the sense of smell. Carried as a nosegay in a time when streets were often open sewers, or sat at the theatre with many other people who rarely bathed, the advantages of this flower becomes quite obvious.

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Toulouse was the main supplier of Parma violets in Europe. After WW1, the flower fell out of favour. Many of the old species of Parma violet are believed to now be extinct, although it is hoped that one day some may be rediscovered growing in gardens in France.

A family in Valencia has been growing Parma violets for over fifty years and although Parma violets are not drought resistant, they are easy to grow and will flower twice a year, in spring and again in autumn. They need partial shade or just morning sun, and will form a large clump. Unlike the wild violet, they are not invasive and spread by runners rather than by the seed.

Parma violets are usually double flowered and the blooms are held 12-15cm above the heart-shaped foliage. Species of Parma violets are available from some online specialist nurseries. Old varieties to look out for include Duchesse de Parme, Marie Louise, Gloire de Verdun, Parme de Toulouse and D'Udine. *Viola Comte de Brazza* was the only white Parma violet in existence in 2000, hopefully more heritage species have been discovered since.

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V. Parme de Toulouse and Comte de Brazza (inset). :: PINTEREST

**READER'S PHOTO**

**AN UNUSUAL BLOOMING**

Keith Meads sent in this photo and says, "After about two months of a growth of a central stem of one metre in height, this *Kalanchoe Tetraphylla* (Paddle Plant) has finally bloomed. The plant is about two years old and has been on my terrace in Tolox throughout. It has now been in bloom for two weeks and once that is finished, the plant will probably die off."



:: KEITH MEADS

**GARDENING HINTS**

**Fascinating facts about 'crocking' plant pots**

Hands up anyone who puts stones, gravel or 'corks' (pieces of terracotta pot or broken crockery) in the bottom of their pots before filling them with compost. I imagine that will be most gardeners because as everybody knows, putting corks in the bottom helps drainage. Well, that actually isn't true and was disproved nearly one hundred years ago. Plants cannot survive in saturated soil, their roots need air and eventually will drown if the soil remains waterlogged. Stones or corks can actually prevent water from draining out through the holes at the bottom of the pot

as water molecules are subject to forces of cohesion and adhesion. This basically means they like to stick together or stick to other things causing the capillary action that pulls the water up into small spaces. The corks form a layer called an aquitard, a layer impenetrable to water, and the soil above would become saturated before the water was forced to drain through the bottom layer. So what is the answer? Use paper towels, coffee filters or even newspapers to line the base and then stand the pot on 'feet' so water can drain freely away through the holes in the bottom.

**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](mailto: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](https://www.facebook.com/surenglish)) or Twitter ([@SUR\\_English](https://twitter.com/SUR_English))

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## BRIT BACK

# Home to stay

## Expensive drinks and bad coffee but the UK has its advantages

**W**hen my husband and I announced that we were leaving Spain to return to the UK a couple of years ago, everyone asked the same thing. Why? And, wailed our British friends in particular, after living happily in the peaceful sunny hills of the Axarquía, how will you cope with the weather, with the traffic, the cost of living, the crumbling NHS?

Well we have coped, as people do. Some things are a shock. Predictably the traffic is dreadful and the parking situation worse. There is a long tailback driving into our small market town every morning and its centre is often gridlocked. Though supermarkets are slightly cheaper here, drinking in a bar is prohibitive in comparison to Spain. The husband is still reeling from buying me one medium-sized glass of wine which cost £8.90. ("Enjoy it," he said. "It's

your first and last.") We both still long for the local bar culture we left behind where even the most modest of places in the scruffiest of towns offers all things to all men - not just cold beer but also decent coffee, cheap, tasty sandwiches and proper hot meals. And although the NHS staggers manfully on, GP surgeries exist in virtual reality - getting an appointment with our family doctor is as rare as finding hens' teeth.

Other differences are a welcome improvement. There are minimal queues in most places (a lot of tutting goes on if there is any waiting at all) and signing onto the electoral roll took a few minutes via the internet. The post is delivered to the door every morning - a far cry from our 'buzón', which was situated at a bus stop on a blind corner with a pack of feral dogs in situ - and though January goes on forever, the weather generally isn't that bad, or so we think. I love the

greenness of trees, leaves and lawns and the countryside and coast of East Anglia are as beautiful as those of Andalucía. One of the more weird and wonderful changes I have really embraced is the way stuff is disposed of here. When we lived in Riogordo the village dump was closed because the fetid mounds of rotting junk were polluting the water source.

In Britain every town has a municipal tip and ours is run by a small band of cheerful workers who run about showing people where to put various items of rubbish. There are skips for every kind of unwanted thing - old washing machines and fridges in one corner, bikes set against the fence to be sent to underprivileged children, electrical goods set aside for charities, paperbacks in a book bank, wood, plastic and cardboard all in separate containers... It's like a giant filing cabinet and I make endless excuses to visit it.

And so 'aquí estamos', as our neighbours used to say to each other in the bank queue (see above), or waiting for a bus. It's a favourite Spanish expression of mine, implying as it does a steady resoluteness to shrug and accept whatever life throws at you. Here - for now - we are.

POLLY  
RODGER BROWN



# Welsh Society raises 2,000 euros at St David's Day event

Despite heavy rain, the fundraising event attracted a steady flow of customers who enjoyed live music throughout the day

BY TONY BRYANT

**BENALMÁDENA.** The Welsh Society raised more than 2,000 euros for the Ty Olwen Hospice in Swansea during their St David's Day celebrations last week. The event was held at CJs Karaoke Bar in

Benalmádena and, despite the heavy rain, the local Welsh community came together to enjoy a day of live entertainment and an auction. More than 20 artistes performed at the event, including The Banana Studios, The Costa Soul Singers and Take That Tony.

The auction items included a signed Swansea FC shirt and rugby boots signed by the Welsh International, James Hook.

"We would like to thank all the people who came along and made the day the success it was," secretary, Debbie Benham said.



Customers at CJs helped raise money for cancer hospice. BY SUR

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# Fake news that's easy to swallow



ILLUSTRATIONS:  
G. DE LAS HERAS

**False news and claims about health are spreading like wildfire on social media. Some professionals are now attempting to stop this, but they know it will be a difficult task.**

**JAVIER GUILLENEA**

If we believed every headline we read, we would think that in future there will be no such thing as baldness and the whole of humanity will be shaking their curls in the wind, the profits of shampoo companies will go through the roof and hairdressers will all be driving Maseratis.

“McDonald’s chips may be a solution for baldness,” announced the newspapers and one could imagine millions of people, wearing caps to protect their naked heads from the cold, queuing at fast food restaurants to ask for whatever they fancy but “with a triple portion of chips but don’t drain the oil off, please, because I like it”.

It seems that dimethylpolysiloxane, a chemical substance used by McDonald’s to improve the properties of the oil when they fry their potatoes, could have amazing effects not only in preventing hair loss but also in regenerating it.

This ‘news’ originated after an experiment was carried out by a group of Japanese scientists, who developed ‘in vitro’ hair follicles. These hairs, placed in dimethylpolysiloxane chips, were successfully implanted in mice. This opened a new path towards the improvement of medical hair regeneration techniques, but someone reflected on this and came to the

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erroneous conclusion that eating McDonald's chips is the ideal way to have a healthy head of hair.

What had been the result of a piece of scientific research suddenly became a hair-producing miracle in the headlines, but it was just one of many pieces of fake news about health which circulate and multiply on the Internet. These are sometimes inoffensive claims but they can also be dangerous, such as when TV presenter Mareló Montero announced that "aroma of lemon can prevent cancer" or when Javier Cárdenas linked vaccines with autism.

Faced with the "inaction of institutions", health professionals have begun to set up websites on the Internet to try to stop the spread of fake news of this type. The latest attempt is a platform called Saludsinbulos.com which began, as its coordinator Carlos Mateos explains, with the difficult mission of "detecting and correcting false information which circulates on social media and instant messaging apps".

It is not an easy task. It is difficult to fight an enemy "which multiplies so quickly" and when in the vast majority of cases nobody knows where it starts.

"A lot of fake news starts because of economic interests, as a way of sending commercial 'spam' or to discredit a competitor," says Carlos. One such case is that of hair transplant companies who spread the rumour that some treatments for hair loss can cause cancer. Tho-

## IN DETAIL

### Easy prey

The areas most susceptible to false news are oncology, nutrition, pediatry and cosmetic dermatology. So are vaccines, which generate some of the most erroneous claims.

**Carlos Mateos**  
**SaludSinBulos**

**"A lot of fake news is spread by people who want to discredit a competitor"**

**Marian García**  
**Boticaria García**

**"We don't trust doctors, but we'll eat anything we're told to on WhatsApp"**

# 60%

of people who use the Internet, many of them with higher education, look for health information, but that is the focus of one in every three fake claims which circulate online.

se responsible can also be people who want to raise their public profile, conspiranoids linked to pseudoscience, famous people wanting to make the headlines or interneters who simply want to see how far their lie will travel. There are many of them, and they are everywhere.

The SaludSinBulos platform is an altruistic project by a network of health professionals, representatives of patient associations and journalists who specialise in health matters. They help to eradicate the fake news on the Internet and contribute to the spread of quality health information.

One of these collaborators is Marian García, doctor in Pharmacy, nutritionist and author of the Boticaria García blog, in which numerous fake claims about health have already been proven wrong.

"When we go to the doctor or chemist we don't trust them and we ask them a thousand questions, but we are prepared to eat anything that someone has recommended on WhatsApp," she says. "We believe anything that appears on the

### How to recognise them

The fake news items have no publication date and are redacted as vaguely as possible. They are anonymous, do not quote reliable sources and are not signed, to avoid possible legal repercussions. They normally ask you to send the news on to warn other

people, avoid bad luck, prevent death, or for other reasons. The hidden interest behind this request is to collect IP addresses, create data bases, carry out later spam campaigns or spread false information.

Internet, which is why it is important for health professionals to go onto social media to show fake claims for what they are."

### Miracle water

In Silicon Valley in the USA, it has become fashionable to drink water which has been collected directly from springs and then bottled and distributed without being treated or filtered. It costs more than mineral water. People there say that this untreated water, as well as providing energy and calm, avoids the supposed negative effects of chlorine and fluoride. The reality is that this water can be contaminated by bacteria, viruses and parasites. The treatments carried out to make bottled water suitable for consumption prevent illnesses such as diarrhea, cholera, dysentery, yellow fever and poliomyelitis, as is well known in countries where tap water doesn't exist.

### Fatal anti-flu drugs

One warning which has been circulating on the social networks for

over a decade is that some anti-flu medications cause brain hemorrhages because they contain phenylpropranolamine. One thing which is correct about this claim, which originated from an information note from the Ministry of Health in Brazil, is that in the year 2000 several medications which contained high doses of phenylpropranolamine were taken off the market because of a small risk that they might cause cerebral haemorrhages in young women. At that time in Spain only two anti-flu products existed. The authorisation for one of them to be sold was withdrawn in 2010 at the request of the laboratory itself. The one which remains contains very low doses of the stigmatised substance.

### G&T for allergies

"Gin and tonic, the new remedy for allergies," announced some of the media in 2017. According to this information, which excited millions of people with allergies as well as the owners of cocktail bars, a group of researchers at the University of Wisconsin- 

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➤ sin had reached the conclusion that drinks such as gin and vodka could relieve allergy symptoms because of their low histamine content.

Marian García explains that this claim originated from an article which said that asthma or allergy symptoms can become worse if the sufferer drinks wine or beer, which contain histamine. The text added that spirits such as gin and vodka contain less histamine so they affect people with allergies less. There is a world of difference between that and saying that gin and tonic is good for the health.

**A very intimate yoghurt**

In February the singer Chenoa revealed on a TV programme that applying natural yoghurt in the vagina is a good way of reactivating vaginal flora “when your defences are low”. This claim, half natural remedy and half fake news, makes a certain amount of sense because yoghurts are high in probiotics, in other words bacteria which are beneficial for health, but it has not been scientifically demonstrated that they are able to treat or prevent vaginosis bacteriana.

**The feared machupo**

One of the warnings which has spread on Whatsapp is that paracetamol contains the machupo virus, which transmits hemorrhagic fever. The message, which has spread to numerous countries, says that the virus, “one of the most dangerous in the world,” appears camouflaged in paracetamol p-500. Pharmacists and even the police have strongly denied this rumour. Machupo cannot survive in dry environments such as a paracetamol tablet.

**DOCTORS ON THE INTERNET**

Keeping patients properly informed

Being in pain and searching on the Internet to find the cause is one thing. The problem arises when the patient comes across one of the innumerable pages of alternative medicine which exist online. To avoid risks, initiatives have been set up such as portal.hospitalclinic.org, in collaboration with the BBVA foundation, so that users can obtain information from 200 qualified doctors and nurses. The website, which was officially presented recently, aims to empower patients so they are able to participate actively in the process and control of their illness.

**Clarification from a hospital**

The news is still spreading on social media that the prestigious John Hopkins hospital in the USA has admitted that the use of chemotherapy is a mistake. In a message to the public the hospital is supposed to have said that therapies such as surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy have no effect on cancer, and recommended a number of dietary strategies. The hospital was obliged to deny this in a statement in which it said that these therapies do work. “The proof is the millions of cancer survivors in the USA who are alive thanks to them.” Despite this, the claim is still circulating.

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# “Cosmetic medicine is like a pat on the back which makes people feel better”

**Juan Antonio López L. Pitalúa**  
Member of the Spanish Society of Cosmetic Medicine (SEME)



ÁNGEL ESCALERA

✉ aescalera@diariosur.es

Nearly 2,000 experts in this branch of medicine recently attended a congress which was held in Malaga for the fifth consecutive year

**MALAGA.** Cosmetic medicine cannot perform miracles, but it is a type of pat on the back which helps people feel better and more able to face up to life, says Juan Antonio López L. Pitalúa, of the Spanish Society of Cosmetic Medicine (SEME). He is also on the organising committee of the 33rd national conference on this

type of medicine, which took place in Malaga last week for the fifth consecutive year. Nearly 2,000 experts attended the event.

–What is the cosmetic medicine situation in Spain like at present?

–It is very well placed because of its perspectives and its seriousness. It is also developing along different paths, including regenerative medicine and oncoesthetics for patients who have had cancer. We also collaborate with gynaecologists, because many cosmetic techniques are used in gynaecology to improve the functionality of female genitals.

–Is the demand for cosmetic treatments increasing?

–Yes. On one hand more people are being treated, and on the other we are now treating older people.

–Which treatments are most commonly used?

–In the case of women, the most common treatment is for wrinkles, especially using hyaluronic acid and



Dr López L. Pitalúa.

botulinum toxin (Botox). Many also ask for therapies to treat skin pigments and marks. Men turn to botox and hyaluronic acid to stop their faces looking worn.

–Is it still the case that more women than men have cosmetic treatments to improve their appearance?

–The percentage of treatments is greater in women, but the number of men who want cosmetic medical treatments is also increasing.

–Ageing is a part of life, but do you think society will ever accept that it is something natural?

–We all have to bear the passage of time, but sometimes it is hard for people to accept it. Cosmetic medicine helps them to handle the changes more easily. You also have to remember that people in their 50s today are the same as those in their 40s used to be, because expectations and quality of life are greater and better. That means that our physical deterioration occurs later in life. Cosmetic medicine contributes to that in a positive way.

–What qualifications does a cosmetic doctor need?

–You need to be qualified in medicine and surgery, have done a Masters at university and, after that, be accredited by a College of Doctors. You then need experience and good professional skills. Cosmetic medicine is still not properly recognised as a speciality as such.

–Why is Malaga a leader in cosmetic medicine?

–Fundamentally because highly renowned, international cosmetic doctors work in Malaga province. That

## KEY POINTS

### Treatments

“Many women want their wrinkles removed and men want to make their faces look less worn”

### Information

“You have to explain to patients what can and can't be done so they don't feel dissatisfied with the results”

attracts patients from all over Spain and abroad, who are searching for top quality treatment.

–Some people think cosmetic doctors can perform miracles. They're mistaken, of course, but does that belief mean they are dissatisfied when they see the results?

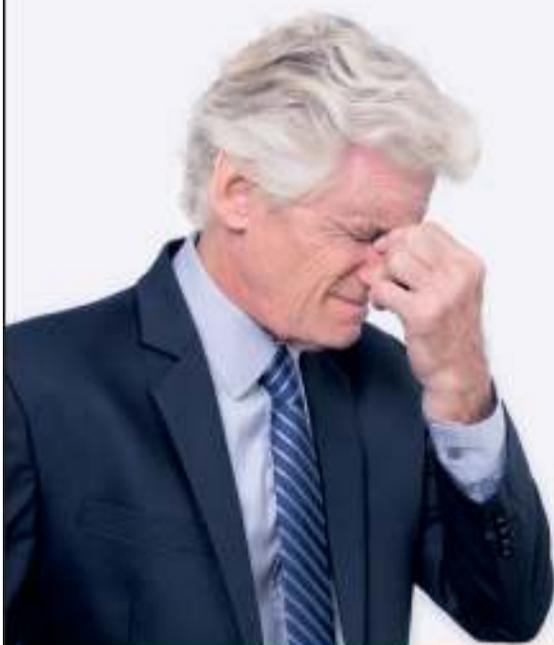
–In order to avoid dissatisfaction, you have to be very careful about advertising cosmetic medicine. It is very important to explain everything properly to the patient on their first visit, to find out what their expectations are and let them know whether or not you can achieve what they want, including cosmetic surgery.

–Does cosmetic medicine make people happy?

–I define cosmetic medicine as a type of pat on the back which helps us to feel better and more able to face up to life but, unfortunately or maybe fortunately, it isn't going to change our lives. Anyone who thinks it will do that is mistaken.

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## Malaga hospitals in urgent need of donors from all blood groups

:: ÁNGEL ESCALERA

**MALAGA.** The Regional Blood Transfusion Centre is calling for people from all blood groups to donate after reserves of blood fell below their minimum levels. They are particularly interested in do-

nors from the O+ and O- blood types. Isidro Prat, director of the Transfusion Centre, has said that local residents have already responded "in a magnificent way." On Tuesday 437 people donated blood and on Wednesday 258 people donated. Isidro is hoping that donations will average around 400 per day in order to increase the reserves. Currently, hospitals in the Malaga area make 250 blood transfusions per day on their patients. Each donor gives enough blood for 3 people to use, providing red blood cells, platelets and plasma.

# Walks that make a stand against cancer

Doctors have long emphasised the benefits of modern exercise for cancer sufferers

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ

**MARBELLA.** "The initiative has become a sort of group therapy in which patients and their family members have been able to share happy, meaningful experiences. What's more, it's proven to be so beneficial that it has become a regular, planned activity, with several groups undertaking regular planned walks." This quote comes from Tamara Rivera, nursing auxiliary on the oncology ward of the Hospital Costa del Sol and promoter of an initiative that aims to make sure that cancer patients are taking regular exercise. With the direct support of the Spanish Association against Cancer (AECC), the professional started the campaign 'Ponte en marcha' which organises weekly walks based on the premise that moderate exercise is very beneficial for cancer patients, before, during and after treatment.

The idea came from patients who wanted to reduce the side effects of cancer treatment

The idea came about from patients who wanted to find a way to reduce the side effects of cancer treatments such as chemotherapy or radiotherapy. Based on this request, Tamara Rivera, volunteer at the AECC and sport lover, asked oncologists about the relationship between medical cancer treatments and moderate physical exercise. The doctors replied that it "reduces the risk of cancer and the likelihood that it will reproduce; reduces the symptoms of the side effects during treatment; increases mobility and general balance, as well as sleep quality, and reduces anxiety, depression, stress and fatigue levels. All of these findings are the result of several scientific studies."

Antonio Rueda, the director of the hospital's oncology depart-

ment, added that "this type of exercise helps to prevent the most common tumours that we encounter on the word, those of the colon and the breasts". He also said that the benefits during treatment from an increased muscle mass from walking include "a better reaction to treatment, so that doctors can prescribe the appropriate dosage, which leads to better cure and survival rates". After treatment it can also prevent reappearances, especially in certain types of cancer, such as breast cancer, explained the oncologist.

**Successful participation**

Two walks have taken place so far along the promenade in Fuengirola. The first had 22 participants, including patients, their family members and friends. In total, the walks cover three kilometres and take 50 minutes. "The participants have had the opportunity to enjoy walking outside in the fresh air, and to share that experience with those that are closest to them," explained Tamara Rivera, who started the initiative.

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Participants of one of the walks. :: JOSELE-LANZA

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Lourdes Luque, Alicia Campos, Reyna Traverso, Meme Rodríguez, Puri Morillo and Charo Carmona. :: SALVADOR SALAS

# Women grab the pan by the handle

They are making names for themselves in the restaurant business, a traditionally masculine sector

Many have suffered from discrimination and sexist behaviour but have persevered and say things are gradually getting better

## :: MARINA MARTÍNEZ

**MÁLAGA.** She still remembers those days when she looked after her baby and cooked at the same time as if it were yesterday. Francisca Luque was only 15 when she got married and since then she has worked alongside her husband, Abilio Arteaga. Together, they opened Casa Abilio in Álora, which they have just handed down to their children.

"It's very hard work. It can be up

to 20 hours at a time, there are no holidays, and then there is work to do at home because we don't stop when we leave the restaurant," she says. Now, looking back, she realises the sacrifices they made, but they are proud of their legacy. Their son Abilio learned the trade almost as soon as he was born.

The kitchen was like his first school, as it was for other chefs whose names may be more familiar, such as Joan Roca, Dani García and David Muñoz. Many of them discovered cookery thanks to their mothers, who traditionally toiled over a hot stove and from whom they learned the skills that have made them famous.

But what about the women? There must be hundreds of successful female chefs but their names don't

spring to mind because few women are well-known in the field of gastronomy. They are in the minority at conferences and competitions, in photo sessions, on the stage, at the peak of haute cuisine...

According to the Michelin Guide, only ten per cent of stars have been awarded to restaurants where women do the cooking. The percentage rises to 30 per cent in the Bib Gourmand category (restaurants with the best price-quality ratio recommended by the guide), but that is still a minority.

## Association

It was for this reason that Guadalupe Montejo decided to grab the frying pan by the handle and set up 'Amuco', the association of fe-

male chefs in Andalucía. She wanted to give visibility to women in this sector. She now does this not only via the association, but also through the international organisation 'Eurotoques'.

"There are a lot of women in this sector, but if they don't give us the opportunity we will still be stuck in the background," warns Guadalupe, who believes men have too much ego and women lack security.

Reyna Traverso (of the Niña Bonita restaurant) agrees: "We have to show ourselves more. Those who have persevered and become known have given everything of themselves." In and out of the home, in fact.

"I know a lot of women who have decided not to have children so they could progress in their profession,"

says Guadalupe, who began the uphill struggle when she was dismissed by a company, Paradores Nacionales, when she was pregnant. She took them to court. They appealed but eventually the Supreme Court upheld the sentence in her favour and the company had to give her the job back. Nowadays she works in the Gibralfaro Parador, but she still believes that in general there is a lack of equality. That, however, can depend on the company. Puri Vallejo, sous chef at Esca Catering, says that in terms of working hours, she cannot complain and recognises that the business has smoothed the way for her at work and at home.

For Lourdes Muñoz, it all comes down to education. She now runs the Events section of the

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**>** Dani García group, but has also worked front of house. She honed her skills in the Basque Country with Martín Berasategui and with Dani García at Tragabuches. “I was pregnant when Calima opened,” she says, but she was able to combine work and motherhood by taking her baby to work with her. So did her husband, who is in the same profession.

### Change

Things have begun to change. So much so, that in 2017 women occupied 52 per cent of jobs in the food and drink sector, according to the National Union of Statistics (INE), and 53.5 per cent in bars and restaurants, other than in administration or breakfast service, where many are employed.

Women nowadays are not only gaining ground in this field, but are climbing the ladder. For example, Meme Rodríguez (executive chef at the Hotel Benabola), Cristina Socorro, maître d’ of the Hotel Molina Lario (the first woman to hold the post), Abril Chamorro (head chef at Dani García Restaurante), María Aguilar (maître d’ of El Lago) and Eleni Manousou (executive chef at Nobu Marbella, the first one in the group).

Those are just some examples, because the list could be endless. It wasn’t easy to arrange to bring them together for this article to mark International Women’s Day, but it wasn’t difficult to find them, nor did it take much effort: the names quickly came to mind. Of course, this is 2018. A few years ago it would have been a different story.

“Are you here to learn how to cook for your husband?” is just one of the questions Yolanda Hernández has been asked. She says doors have been closed to her because she was a woman. “I have been training students for 16 years and things nowadays are nothing like they were when



Irene Garrido, Puri Vallejo, María Schaller, M. Isabel Montilla, Cristina Socorro, Lupe Montejo. :: S. SALAS

I started. Sometimes there was only one girl,” says Yolanda, who is the head of cookery at the Sabor a Málaga catering college in Benahavís. Even her own family tried to discourage her. Why? “They thought it would be too hard for a female; they see us as more fragile than men,” she says.

“If you want something you have to fight for it, have confidence in yourself and not take any obstacle personally,” says Cristina Socorro, and she

knows what she is talking about. She has spent more than half her life in this business, and admits that it was hard at the start. She has become used to being in a minority. She now leads an equal team. People have sometimes assumed that a woman can’t be the boss, but it didn’t put her off. “You have to believe in yourself, and that’s all there is to it,” she says.

Guadalupe Montejo’s feelings are very clear. “It’s a matter of attitude.

You mustn’t be afraid. You have to take action, not just get used to something. It’s not a case of showing that you are strong, it is a matter of showing your worth, that you have skills, you are professional, independently of whether you are male or female.” Has she had to face sexist comments and discrimination? “Yes, but you learn from everything, and you realise that these things make you stronger,” she says.

Cristina Cánovas agrees. She now runs the kitchen at Palodú, together with Diego Aguilar, but her career path hasn’t been easy either and, despite her youth, she has faced difficult situations. “At one point I didn’t even want to go to work,” she says, recalling her time at a hotel, when she was the only woman on the team and was made to wash the dishes. Little by little, though, things began to improve and her time at restaurants such as Tickets opened her eyes to a new reality.

“Now we are starting to gain ground and make a name for ourselves,” says Merche Caballero, the professional and personal partner of Michelin-starred Benito Gómez (Bardal). She runs Tragatá, their other business. When she started she was surrounded by men, but now women are in the majority in the kitchen and the restaurant.

Many of her female colleagues feel the same. Lourdes Luque, whose partner José Carlos García is another Michelin-starred chef, says she gets on well with the other women front of house, but she doesn’t think there should be any distinction: “I appreciate people’s experience and professionalism, not whether they are male or female,” she says.

“It’s not a question of sex, but of personality,” says Belén Ramírez, who runs the Refectorium del Campanario with her sister, Curry. Belén, who feels privileged to be the daughter of José Ramírez (winner of the Andalusian Academy of Gastronomy prize 2018), has known the world of restaurants since childhood. “At Refectorium there always used to be more men on the staff, but now we’re about half and half,” says Curry, sounding satisfied at what they have achieved.

“There is still a lot to do to achieve total equality,” warns Cati Schiff, whose surname is also very well-known in Malaga gastronomy. She



inherited her vocation from her father Paul - the first chef in Andalucía to be awarded a Michelin star - and she spent the years when Marbella was blossoming in terms of gastronomy with La Hacienda restaurant. She has travelled, training in France, Belgium and Barcelona, has grown professionally among men and has no doubts about herself: "Attitude is fundamental. I have never thought I wasn't as good as they were", she says.

Lourdes Muñoz says women have no need to think that. Her long professional experience has led her to conclude that nothing comes down to gender, nor should parity be forced. In her opinion, it is more a question of attitude and aptitude.

"I don't care whether, at a meeting of ten people, five of us are women. I believe things should be more natural and depend on worth, not on gender," she says, stressing that in the Dani García group she is not the only woman to hold a responsible position; the team includes press officer Raquel Macías, head chef Abril Chamorro and Rais Estévez, head pastry chef at DG Restaurante. "I have always been treated equally, and they respect me as the boss," she says, with a smile. Like Rais Estévez, she knows that "if your work is good, it shouldn't make any difference whether you are a man or a woman", although, despite her youth, she has noticed some changes. When she was studying, girls were in the minority.

What happened, then? How did this change come about? "You have to show that you are strong and productive, and that in itself is hard, stressful work which requires many hours," says Eleni Manousou. Through pure consistency and passion, this young Greek cook has become the first executive chef at the Nobu group. Now, working at Nobu Marbella, she is optimistic: "For many



Rais Estévez, Lourdes Muñoz, Abril Chamorro, Marta Galdeano, Cati Schiff, Pia Ninci, Raquel García, Cristina Cánovas. :: S. SALAS

years, this has been a man's world but now it is becoming a woman's world as well. We are starting to see the equality and respect we deserve," she says.

In fact in many cases nowadays women are in the majority. A visit to Palodú, Arte de Cozina or Messina, for example, is evidence of that. Due to certain circumstances, Charo Carmona surrounded herself with women when she set up her restaurant in Antequera. Today, with a Sol award in the Repsol Guide, she has the same philosophy: "They work very well and I like being with them, so why should I change that?" she says.

Pía Ninci feels the same. Front of house at the Michelin-starred Messina restaurant, all the staff are women. "I like the fact that we are known for that," says this vivacious Argentin-

**Yolanda Hernández**  
Sabor a Málaga, Benahavís

**"My family thought it would be too hard for a female; they see us as more fragile than men"**

ian. Rather than a marketing strategy, she believes in a personal touch. However, some people are still surprised to find all-women teams. They ask about the chef, and are taken aback when a woman comes out to greet them.

Vanessa Benisty, who is the niece of the late Albert Benisty, a legendary name in the gastronomy of Malaga, says society needs to become "mentally in favour of equality". Al-

**Irene Garrido**  
Head chef, KGB

**"We ought to feel proud that the great chefs talk about learning everything from their mothers and their grandmothers"**

though it is hard to believe, many women in this sector still experience sexist behaviour occasionally.

"They have made me feel that, professionally, I am worth less than a man," says Meme Rodríguez who, like Reyna Traverso and Puri Vallejo, still comes across situations in which she is treated differently.

Then there is the comment overheard by Marta Galdeano at a wine tasting: "Do women understand wine

nowadays, then?" When it is pointed out that this woman is a sommelier and runs La Solana restaurant with the same passion as she did her career as a mountain engineer, their eyes glazed over and their ears went deaf again.

Cristina Domínguez (Caléndula) has lost count of the times she has been referred to as "the girl", and Puri Morillo (Pastelería Daza), will never forget being ordered to make cold desserts and salads because that used to be a woman's role. Nor was that the only time she has been treated as inferior. "We are no different to men. There is no reason to distinguish between chefs and cooks, or treat us like Barbie dolls, as they do in the Pastry Queen trophy," says this runner-up in the competition to find the Best Artisan Pastry Chef in Spain.

"Society doesn't exactly help us to progress," says Puri Vallejo.

"Yes, there are barriers, but the same as there are in any other profession," says Mayte Carreño. Few people can talk about women and gastronomy as she can. She is from Malaga, is the commercial director of the Michelin Guide and knows what it is like to work shoulder to shoulder with men. For her, it has never been a handicap, nor for María Schaller (Aire): "I have always been valued as a professional, not as a woman," she says.

"It is no longer a man's world. That's in the past. It's often us women who put walls up. These days, if someone wants to do something, they do it," says Charo Carmona.

Irene Garrido, head chef at KGB, agrees and says she has always been supported by male colleagues. "We ought to feel proud that the great chefs talk about learning everything from their mothers and their grandmothers," she says. They have always been there, are still there today and will always be there in future.



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ANDREW J. LINN

**DOES WOOD MATTER?**



**H**ow much does wood influence the maturing process of wine? The generally accepted view is that it gives a better taste, permits the slow oxidation and assists malolactic fermentation that produces a smoother finish. French oak is the most expensive, and best for more delicate grape varieties such as Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. American oak costs less, so the prudent winemaker usually elects a mixture of both. A good barrel, the optimum use of which is four years (but is usually extended to double that time) comes from an 80-year old tree from which only two barrels can be made, and needs between one and two years to be made ready to receive wine. Although it depends on production levels in any particular bodega, the average added cost of a good oak barrel is round 2.5 euros per bottle.

There are less expensive alternatives, mainly the use of oak chips introduced into stainless steel tanks in which the wine is maturing. Another method is placing oak planks inside old barrels to 'revitalise' them, but the use of oak sawdust is banned in most countries. These methods were developed in 'new world' winemaking countries such as Australia, South Africa, Chile, Argentina and the USA, to name a few. In Europe an irrational war against what is often considered to be unethical

methods has been waged for years. Traditional winemakers would like all producers to be compelled to use oak barrels, but where is the sense in this if we are talking about economically priced 'barrel-aged' reds or 'barrel-fermented chardonnays'? I am unaware of any blind tasting that has identified the difference between oak barrel-aged reds and the same wine aged using oak chips. In fact there is a strong argument for the latter, as the maturing process can be fine-tuned by using more or less added oak, whereas once the young wine is put into an oak barrel, all that can be done is hope for a successful outcome. Anyway, as long as the wine tastes okay and suits our pocket, are we really worried how the oaky flavour is induced?

**Hacienda Uvanis**

**WINE OF THE WEEK**

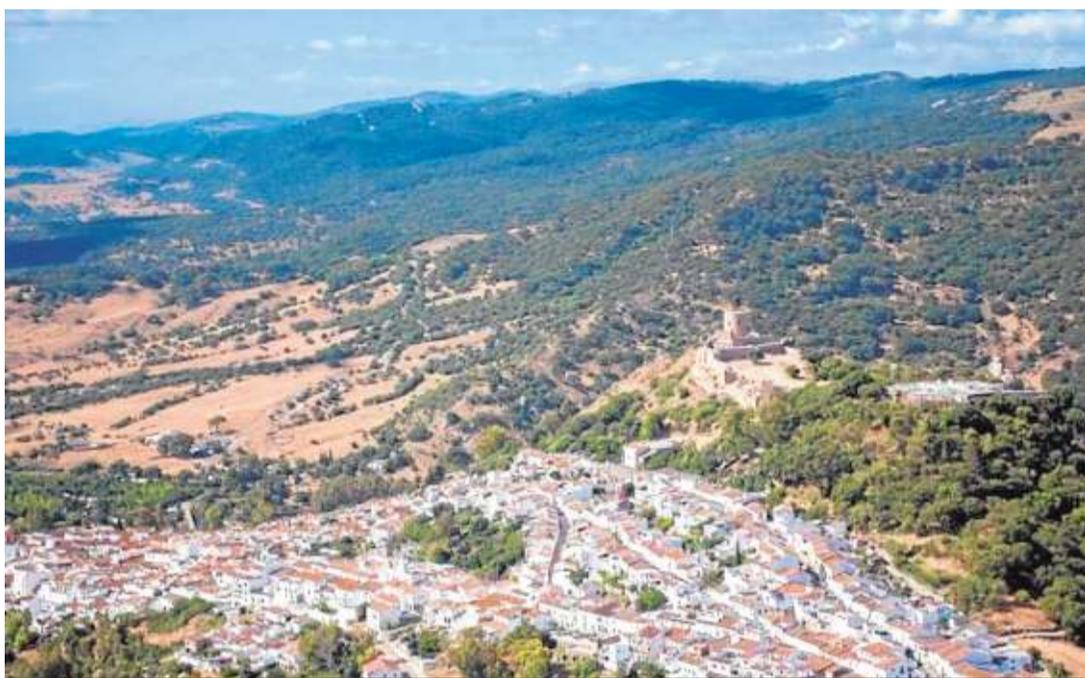
Lidl supermarkets have an interesting wine selection often focussed on lesser well-known regions at excellent prices. This Garnacha 2016 red from Navarra is very good value for money, and although there is no wood taste anywhere, it is quite amazing value at around €1.65.



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## DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA



Jimena de la Frontera lies between Los Alcornocales and the Campo de Gibraltar. :: TURISMO ANDALUZ



The Guadiaro river. :: TURISMO ANDALUZ

# South of Los Alcornocales

### TWO DAYS IN JIMENA

Car + walking

**Journey time:** 1 hour and 40 minutes from Malaga. Exploring the village and walking: six and a half hours



**JAVIER ALMELLONES**

In the north of the Campo de Gibraltar and south of Los Alcornocales natural park, Jimena de la Frontera is a historic village which serves as a meeting point between two of the most remarkable areas of Cadiz province. Jimena, which played an important role during the frontier battles between Al-Ándalus and Castilla (hence its name 'de la Frontera'), contains within its territory part of one of the biggest 'green lungs' of the Iberian peninsula and one of the most important strategic areas of Europe.

With these attributes it is therefore not surprising that Jimena de la Frontera was settled by different civilisations, dating back to prehistoric times. The cave paintings of Laja Alta show that there was a human presence here in the Bronze Age. Some even think Jimena could once have been the Roman town of Oba. What is most evident here, though, is its Andalusian legacy, which can be seen as you walk through its pretty streets.

Local people proudly look after every corner of the steep and narrow streets in this village, which is one of the 'pueblos blancos' of Cadiz. Its places of interest include the castle, which witnessed numerous battles during the decline of the Nasrid kingdom. Nowadays this walled precinct on the San Cristóbal hill still retains many of its original structures, including the keep, which is unusual as it is round, and the entrance gateway.

From the castle there is a lovely view over this charming village and its church towers, including the bell tower in the main square which was once part of the church of Santa María La Coronada, which no longer exists. One church which has been especially well restored is that of La Reina de los Ángeles, in the station area a couple of kilometres away.

In addition to history, Jimena offers wonderful contact with nature. The Guadiaro and Hozgarganta rivers are popular for swimming in the summer months and there are plenty of other opportunities for walking and active tourism in the area.



The countryside is excellent for walking. :: T. A.



### QUICK GUIDE

#### What to see in Jimena Reina de los Ángeles church.

Probably built in the late 15th century by Franciscan monks. Calle Convento, 9, 11339 Los Ángeles, Jimena de la Frontera

#### Bell tower in the main square.

Once part of the Santa María la Coronada church. Plaza de la Constitución, 11330 Jimena de la Frontera.

#### Jimena castle.

Believed to date back to Roman times. An important bastion in Moorish times. Calle Misericordia, 11330 Jimena de la Frontera

#### La Victoria church.

Possibly 16th century. Plaza Llano de la Victoria, 11330 Jimena de la Frontera

#### Water channels:

Used by the Royal Artillery Factory of Carlos III. Hozgarganta river, 11330 Jimena de la Frontera



# The Casa de las Tejerinas is now a MAD

The mansion, which was once used as a hospital, has been converted into an art museum



The exhibition at the MAD contains large-scale and smaller works of art. ::CH.M.

A work by Concha Galea. :: CH.M.

The new museum has a permanent display of works owned by the provincial government and is also used as a venue for cultural events

## CHARO MÁRQUEZ

**ESTEPONA.** It is an 18th century mansion and it stands on a corner in the Plaza de Las Flores, in the town centre. It is known as the Casa de Las Tejerinas because it was once owned by sisters Carmen and Francisca Tejerina. In the 20th century it was visited by several important figures in literature, such as Gonzalo Torrente Ballester, who described the building and

the life of the sisters who owned it in his 'Cuadernos de La Romana'.

Francisca donated the building to the Charity Hospital, but it was abandoned during the 1960s. The local authority later took it over and used it for different purposes; first of all it became a professional training centre, with classrooms and offices, and then it was a library and cultural building and also housed the local radio and TV stations. José María Guerrero, the councillor for Heritage, says the works carried out to accommodate these facilities resulted in the building "losing its essence; it looked more like an office building than a historic monument".

The present council restored the building in 2011 and for five years it housed the art collection of co-

median Ángel Garó, which included drawings by Lorca, Alberti and Walt Disney and imagery created by different artists.

The Casa de las Tejerinas has now become an art museum known as MAD (Museo de Arte de la Diputación) and is the second in Malaga province to display works owned by the provincial government (the first is in Antequera). Works have been carried out to make it accessible to people with reduced mobility; in fact, the most expensive part of the project was the installation of a lift in one of the patios, giving access to the exhibition rooms on the upper floor.

Among the building's most interesting features are the colonnaded central patio, the impressive main entrance with a balcony above, and

the arcaded tower on the top level.

José María Guerrero says the MAD is a major step forward for Estepona in terms of culture as well as providing a connection with the Diputación's art collection. There will be a permanent display (renewed every two years) and as the exhibition only contains paintings, there is plenty of space for book presentations, talks, theatre performances and conferences.

"If a museum only has one collection, it ends up being a storeroom for art and people will visit it once or maybe two times, but they won't come back again," says the councillor, who explains that the aim of the MAD is to have a "powerful" permanent exhibition plus temporary displays and cultural events.

At the moment, visitors can see works produced during the last 18 years by a group of artists, many of them from Andalucía, such as Dadi Dreucol, Enrique Brinkmann, Chema Lumbreras and José Carlos Casado (Malaga); Santiago Idáñez (Jaén), Chema Cobo (Tarifa), and Miki Leal (Seville). Other artists include Judas Arrieta, (Guipúzcoa) and Andrés Bufo (Aragón).

Altogether the MAD contains 49 works of art out of the more than 2,500 which the provincial government has collected over the years through donations or acquisitions.

The Casa de las Tejerinas may have changed its appearance over time, depending on the use to which it has been put, but its soul and spirit have always remained the same.

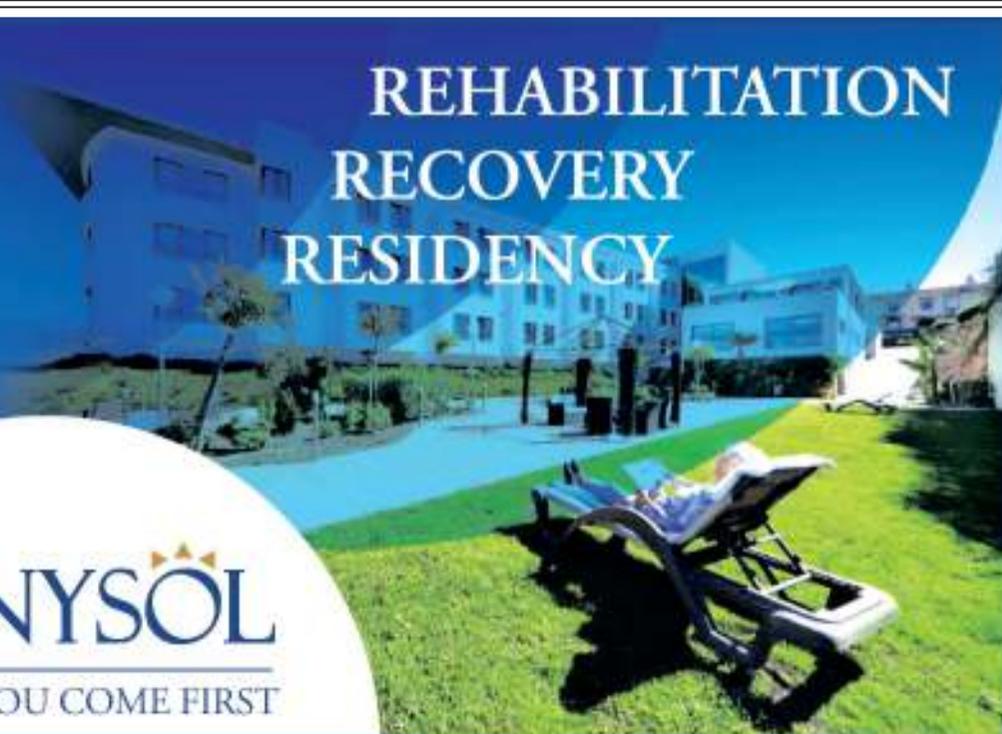
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## EXHIBITIONS

### 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-1980s, including Spiderman, X Men, The Fantastic Four, Thor and Iron Man.

### The "Indaliano" Movement

**Antequera.** Until 16 March. Centro Unicaja de Cultura.

Works by several influential artists from this mid-twentieth century movement, including José Gómez Abad, Antonio López Díaz, Miguel Cantón Checa and Jesús 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.



Sinfonía Celular, Malaga.

### 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.

### Nature and Perception

**Malaga.** Until 23 March. Ateneo de Malaga, C/Compañía Luis Bujalance started his career in the 90s and has shown regularly in US and Norway.

### Blackness

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

# Habeas Corpus: The ITS spring production

## ∴ RACHEL ARMSTRONG

**ESTEPONA.** The International Theatre Studio Marbella is preparing for its annual Spring production later this month at El Paraiso Golf Club, Estepona. It will be a new setting for the local amateur dramatics group as its usual venue, Atalaya Hotel, is currently undergoing refurbishment. Their interpretation of Habeas Corpus, a farcical comedy by Alan Bennett, will take place across three nights from 23rd to 25th March with an 8pm start Friday and Saturday and 7pm on the Sunday.

The play revolves around The Wicksteeds, a family which rates sex and the satisfaction of the body as primary importance in day-to-day life. It takes the audience on a journey through a maze of mistaken identities and sexual encounters; as Wicksteed says, "He whose lust lasts longest".

Directed by Peter Brooks, a long-standing member of ITS, the production includes one of the largest casts the group have performed with to date.



The ITS in a previous production. ∴ R. ARMSTRONG.

## INFORMATION

► **Where.** El Paraiso Golf Club, Estpona.

► **What.** A production of a comedy by Alan Bennett.

► **When.** 23 - 25 March, 8pm Fri and Sat, 7pm Sunday.

ITS performs three productions each year and hosts some sort of play reading every month, with all ages and abilities welcome. Anyone interested in getting involved is invited to get in touch @internationaltheatrestudio.org.

Tickets for Habeas Corpus are available online at [www.internationaltheatrestudio.org](http://www.internationaltheatrestudio.org). 13€ (or 10€ for ITS members).

Siobhan Riordan (UK) and Daysury Valencia (Sweden) are two black artists living in Malaga. [www.facebook.com/Café-de-Estraperlo](http://www.facebook.com/Café-de-Estraperlo)

### Sinfonía Celular

**Malaga.** Until 30 April. Alfajar Sala. Calle Císter 1. Rafaela Pareja exhibits his works which reflect everyday life and nature. [www.alfajar.es](http://www.alfajar.es)

### Church treasures

**Malaga.** Until 28 April. ArsMálaga, Palacio Episcopal. Free entry. The old Capuchin monastery, now the Divina Pastora y Santa Teresa de Jesús church, is being renovated and the works of art have been moved temporarily to the ArsMálaga gallery. Sculptures and paintings from the Baroque period are on display. [www.arsmalaga.es](http://www.arsmalaga.es)

### Pinceladas de Sorolla

**Torremolinos.** Until 23 March. The cafeteria of the Centro Cul-

tural Pablo Ruiz Picasso. Students from the Universidad Popular will be displaying their work.

### Tropical Vibes

**Mijas.** Until 19 March. Casa Museo. An exhibition by Mijas artist, Cristina Alarcón.

### Juan Cortés

**La Cala de Mijas.** Until 13 March. Centro Cultural La Cala. An exhibition of photos taken by Juan Cortés.

## CHARITY

### A tribute to Roy

**Benalmádena.** 9 March, 8pm. The auditorium, Club Náutico. 10€. A special musical evening to celebrate the life of Roy Alan with A Touch of Class and Costa Soul Singers. Proceeds from the night

will be shared between Lux Mundi and Cudeca Hospice. For tickets, call or email Debbie Geater: 637 986 516 / [debbiegeater@gmail.com](mailto:debbiegeater@gmail.com)

### Tenor with Love

**Fuengirola.** 13 March, 3pm and 7pm. Hotel Las Palmeras. 20€. World class Finnish tenor Jyrki Anttila and pianist Maija Anttila will be performing at these concerts to raise money for the



Church treasures, ArsMálaga.

Club de Leones  
Torremolinos/Suomi

### FAMA and 4 PAWS

**Fuengirola.** 24 March, from 3pm. Bar 69 Paseo Marítimo. Kids activities, music, yoga, flea market and more. Call: 694432289

## MUSIC & DANCE

### The Lito Blues Band

**Nerja.** 9 March, 9pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. 12€. The Lito Blues Band revisit themes from artists as diverse as B.B.King, Etta James, Robert Johnson, Jimmy Hendrix, Eric Clapton, Scott Henderson, Robert Ford and Jeff Beck.

### Toy Musical, The Story

**Estepona.** 11 March, midday. Auditorio Felipe VI. 12€. A musical presented by the Barabu-Extresound Producciones company.

### Broadway

**Estepona.** 11 March, 8pm. Auditorio Felipe VI. 21€. Singing, dancing, acrobats, LED screen etc. Presented by the Barabu-Extresound Producciones company.

### Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

**Malaga. Teatro Cervantes.** 9 March, 8pm. A concert with Juan Crisóstomo Subiela (clarinet) and Antonio Lozano (bassoon). Tickets <http://www.teatro-cervantes.com>  
**15, 16 March, 8pm.** Jean Sibelius concerto for violin and orchestra in D minor Op 47 and Brahms Symphony n°1 in C minor Op 68. Tickets <http://www.teatro-cervantes.com>

### Joven Orquesta Baroca

**Malaga.** 11 March 6pm. Teatro Cervantes. The St Matthew Passion BWV 244 by Bach. Tickets <http://www.teatro-cervantes.com>

### Piano duet

**Malaga.** 13 March 8pm. Auditorio Museo Picasso. Christina and Michelle Naughton. Tickets <http://www.teatro-cervantes.com>

### Saeteando lo Clásico

**Marbella.** 15 March, 8.30pm. Nuestra Señora de la Encarnación church.

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# Stars of the West End

BY TONY BRYANT

**MALAGA.** Lovers of West End and Broadway musicals are in for a special treat this month when the popular 'Stars of the West End' show returns to the coast for a five-date tour.

The tour has been organised by BigM Promotions, who, following the success of last year's sell-out shows, decided to bring the musical extravaganza back to the coast for the second consecutive year.

The performance will feature many of the most popular songs from best loved musicals, like *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables*, *Oliver*, *Chicago*, *Mary Poppins* and *The Sound of Music*.

The show will present three principal performers from the West End, each of whom will perform hits from the productions they have appeared in, as well as songs from other celebrated stage shows.

Mike Sterling, who has appeared in more than 1,000 performances of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom of the Opera*, will be joined by Kate Galston (*Chicago* and *Mamma Mia*) and Lucy Van Gasse (*Wicked* and *The Sound of Music*).

The tour will kick off at the Felipe VI Auditorium in Estepona on Wednesday 15 March. The following night the show can be seen in the Salón del Mar in Torre de Mar and on Friday, at the Moon-



West end stars will visit the Costa del Sol this month. :: SUR

light Lounge in Benalmádena. The Avanto Restaurant in La Cala de Mijas will host the show on Sunday 18 and the final performance will take place in La Sala Banús on Monday 19 March.

Tickets for the shows, which begin at 9pm, cost between 21 and 30 euros, with the exception of La Sala in Puerto Banús, where tickets cost 55 euros and includes a three-course dinner. For more information and tickets, see [www.costadeldisco.com](http://www.costadeldisco.com)

## DETAILS

► **What:** Music of the most popular West End shows

► **Where:** Various locations along the coast.

► **When:** Wednesday 15 until Monday 19 March. Show starts 9pm.

The Asociación de Amigos del Órgano del sol mayor are organising a classical concert.

## MUSIC & DANCE

### Ancient and sacral music

**Frigiliana.** *Casa de Apero.* 17 March, 8pm. Coro Joven Cármina Nova. Reservations call 690073871. [www.ventanaabierta.es](http://www.ventanaabierta.es)

### Concerts in La Ermita

**Nerja.** 17 March, 8pm. *La Ermita.* Free. Tsukiko Amakawa (pianist) from Japan and David Palomas Gómez (trombonist), will be in concert.

### Rock 'n' Roll Revival Show

**Nerja.** 22 March, from 7.30pm. *Hotel Villa Flamenka.* 15€. Johnny 'G' together with his backing singers and dancers presents a fast moving show highlighting the music of the great pioneers of Rock and Roll, including Buddy Holly, The Everly Brothers, Neil Sedaka, Cliff Richard, Bill Haley, Roy Orbison, Bobby Vee and Elvis. Tickets: Hotel Villa Flamenca, Monroe's Hair Studio, Ruskin's Restaurant, Nerja Property Services, OLAS, Fitzgerald's Bar, Potter's Bar and The International Club Nerja.

### Quebranto

**Nerja.** 16 March, 9pm. *Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja.* 15€. 'Quebranto' traces a path along the different rhythms of flamenco.

## LECTURES

### U3A Lectures

**Fuengirola.** *Lux Mundi reference Library, free to members, guests 5€.* Email: [u3afuengirola@gmail.com](mailto:u3afuengirola@gmail.com)

**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.

### 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 there there are also health issues concerning the meat, eggs and milk produced by factory farming? [www.facebook.com/groups/costa-delsolfreethinkers/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/costa-delsolfreethinkers/)

### The Arts Society lectures

**The Blevins Franks Lecture Pop Art on Both Sides of the Atlantic**

Pop art arose simultaneously in the UK and the USA. While British Pop art was heavily influenced by the consumer boom and the film and music of the USA, it had its own identity, which was often ironic and self-reflecting. American Pop art had the superstars including Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein. This lecture will explain the differences between British and American Pop art and why some British artists, after trying it, distanced themselves from it. Speaker Ray Warburton.

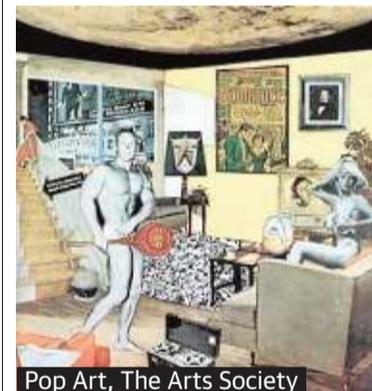
**Nerja.** 13 March, 6pm. *Cultural Centre, Calle Granada.* Members 8€, guests 10€. [www.theartsocietytynerja.com](http://www.theartsocietytynerja.com)

**Fuengirola.** 12 March, 4.30pm. *Salon Varietés.* Members 8€, guests 10€. [www.theartsociety-costadelsol.org](http://www.theartsociety-costadelsol.org)

**The Ole Optical Lecture. George Orwell, Life With My Father.**

**Fuengirola.** 27 March, 4.30pm. *Salon Varietés.* Members 8€, guests 10€. [www.theartsociety-costadelsol.org](http://www.theartsociety-costadelsol.org)

**Nerja.** 27 March, 6pm. *Cultural Centre, Calle Granada.* Members



Pop Art, The Arts Society

8€, guests 10€. [www.theartsocietytynerja.com](http://www.theartsocietytynerja.com) Speaker Richard Blair.

### 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. **13 March 10.30 - 11.30am.** Joan Fallon presents her latest book: *The Shining City* and other books she has written based in Spain. She will repeat the lecture on 10 April at 5pm. <http://www.joanfallon.co.uk/>

## 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 coun-

# Irish get ready to party

BY TONY BRYANT

**MALAGA.** Irish communities along the Costa del Sol, as in the rest of the world, are gearing up for the biggest party of the year. St Patrick's Day celebrations will be taking place all along the Costa del Sol next weekend and hundreds of gallons of Guinness will be consumed by Irish nationals (plus those who assume the identity for the day) clad in coloured wigs and floppy hats.

Malaga will light up the San Patricio Church with green lights again this year as part of the global event in which dozens of monuments and emblematic sights are illuminated to commemorate the patron of Ireland.

The Irish Association of Spain has organised two events again this year.

Benalmádena's popular celebration will begin at midday on Saturday 17, with mass in the Parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción in Arroyo de la Miel. This is followed by a procession from the church to the huge party that is held in La Paloma Park. The events start at 1pm and continue until 6pm, when many of the revellers head to the thriving



St Patrick's Day will be celebrated along the coast . :: T. BRYANT

party atmosphere of Montemar, where most bars present a day of traditional Irish music and fun.

Following the success of last year's party in Torremolinos, the Irish Association will also present another celebration in the Plaza La Nogalera in Torremolinos. The event will begin at midday will present live music, line dancing and children's activities. Marbella's celebrations will

take place on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 March, with Celtic music and traditional Irish dancing in the Constitution Park in Avenida Arias Maldonado. The party begins at 1pm and continues until 7 pm both days.

Fuengirola enjoys an afternoon of Irish culture and music in the Miramar Park while many of the Irish pubs in the town will present live music and typical Irish cuisine throughout the day.

tryside 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.

**EVENTS**

**Craft market**

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

Around 20 stalls will be selling a variety of handmade goods including wrought iron work etc.

**Speaking of Dreams**

**Mijas Costa. 16 March, 8pm.**

Avanto Restaurant, C/Rota. 35€ Speaking of Dreams is an interactive evening where psychoanalyst Michael Murphy and presenter Ciana Campbell examine dreams. The event is based around Michael Murphy's Book of Dreams, and audience members are invited to comment on the dreams discussed and to contribute dreams for analysis, if they so wish. The evening also features performances of poetry.

**TOPS posh frocks event**

**Alhaurín el Grande. 23, 24 March.**

Carolina Restaurant. 17€. An evening of entertainment consisting of two plays and a three course dinner. TOPS will be performing 'Say Something Happened' by Alan Bennett before din-

ner and 'Don't Blame It On The Boots' by N K Warburton, after. Tickets: Martin's and Cristina's Bookshops in Alhaurín el Grande.



Cast of TOPS, Alhaurín

**Rastro Cultural**

**Malaga. 9 March, 7pm until midnight.**

La Térmica, Av los Guindos. Stands selling all collectables as well as home decor, vintage clothing etc. Live music, a fashion show, skating rink and more.

**Trip to Murcia**

**Fuengirola. 13, 14, 15, 16 March departing 6.55am from bullring and 7am Feria ground.**

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

**Book Launch**

**Marbella. 15 March, 6.30 - 8.30pm. Benezra Gallery. Av Tomás Pascual.**

Masha Malka is launching her latest book 'The One Minute Coach

to Mastering Your Emotions'. A step-by-step guide to feeling good on a regular basis. Email info@art-investments.com to confirm attendance.

**Bollywood Dance Classes**

**Torremolinos. 10 March, 24 March, 6pm. Caseta Fitness.**

Indian dance classes. Sign up in the office of the Palacio San Miguel Sports Centre. www.torremolinos.es

**Daniel Collado Magician**

**Nerja. 23 March, 7.30pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. 8€.**

Daniel Collado will be performing a range of astounding magic.

**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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**Last Flag Flying: 16.00 (daily).**

**The Death of Stalin: 16.05, 18.00, 22.00 (daily).**

**Foxtrot: 16.00 (every day).**

**Call Me By Your Name: 18.00 (daily).**

**The Party: 20.15 (daily).**

**Young Karl Marx: 21.35 (daily).**

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Friday 9: **20:15**  
Saturday 10 and Sunday 11: **15:45**  
From Monday 12 to Thursday 15: **19:50**

**HANTOM THREAD**

Saturday 10 and Sunday 11: **17:40**  
From Monday 12 to Thursday 15: **17:30**

**BLACK PANTHER**

Friday 9: **20:15**  
Saturday 10 and Sunday 11: **20:15, 22:30**  
From Monday 12 to Wednesday 14: **17:30**

**A WRINKLE IN TIME**  
Director Ava DuVernay  
Starring Storm Reid and Reese Witherspoon  
FANTASY - 109 min.

Friday 9: **18:10, 22:45**  
Saturday 10 and Sunday 11: **15:50, 18:10, 22:45**  
From Monday 12 to Thursday 15: **17:45, 22:30**

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

Friday 9: **17:50**  
Saturday 10 and Sunday 11: **15:45, 17:50**  
From Monday 12 to Thursday 15: **17:45**

**EARLY MAN**

Friday 9: **18:15**  
Saturday 10: **16:00**  
Sunday 11: **11:45, 16:00**

**FERDINAND**

Sunday 11: **11:45**

**O. V. FILM**

**Cinesur El Ingenio**

Avda. Juan Carlos 1, Vélez-Málaga. Tel. 667 77 31 87. **The Shape of Water:** 17.00 (Mon, Tues, Thurs). **Red Sparrow:** 16.00 (Mon, Tues, Thurs). **A Wrinkle in Time:** 12.20, 17.00, 19.15, 21.30 (Mon, Tues).

**Cinesur Miramar**

Avda. de la Encarnación, Fuengirola. Tel. 952 19 86 00. **Black Panther:** 20.45, 23.30

(every day); 19.45, 22.30 (Mon, Thurs). **Red Sparrow:** 19.30, 22.20. **A Wrinkle in Time:** 12.25, 16.15, 18.30. **The Shape of Water:** 19.40, 22.05 (Tues). **Documentary: Cezanne:** 16.00 (Mon, 12 March). **Opera: The Queen of Spades:** 20.00 (Thurs, 15 March).

**Cines Teatro Goya**

For tickets and information call 951196665. www.cinesteatrogoya.com **Phantom Thread:** 17.30 (Mon-Thurs); 17.40 (Sat, Sun). **The Shape of Water:** 18.00 (Sat, Sun);

19.50 (Mon-Thurs); 20.15 (Fri). **A Wrinkle in Time:** 15.50 (Sat, Sun); 17.45 (Mon-Thurs); 18.10, 22.45 (Fri, Sat, Sun); 22.30 (Mon-Thurs). **Black Panther:** 17.30 (Mon-Wed); 20.15 (Fri-Sun); 22.30 (Sun). **Ferdinand:** 11.45 (Sun). **Early Man:** 11.45 (Sun); 16.00 (Sat, Sun); 18.15 (Fri). **Red Sparrow:** 15.45, 17.50 (Sat, Sun), 17.50 (Fri-Sun).

**Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor**

Centro de Ocio Plaza Mayor, Avda. Alfonso Ponce de León. Tel: 902 902 103 or visit

www.yelmocines.es **Winchester:** 14.05 (Sat, Sun), 22.35 (Tues). **Loving Pablo:** 13.30 (Sat, Sun), 19.15 (Tues). **Phantom Thread:** 19.15 (Tues). **Red Sparrow:** 13.45 (Sat, Sun), 22.15 (Tues). **The Shape of Water:** 15.00 (Sat), 17.30 (Tues). **Black Panther:** 16.10 (Tues).

**Yelmo Cines, Vialia Plaza Mayor, Rincón de la Victoria**

**Loving Pablo:** 12.50 (Sat, Sun); 16.25, 21.40 (Tues). **A Wrinkle in Time:** 22.30 (Tues). **Red Sparrow:** 21.15 (Tues). **Winchester:**

16.20 (Tues).

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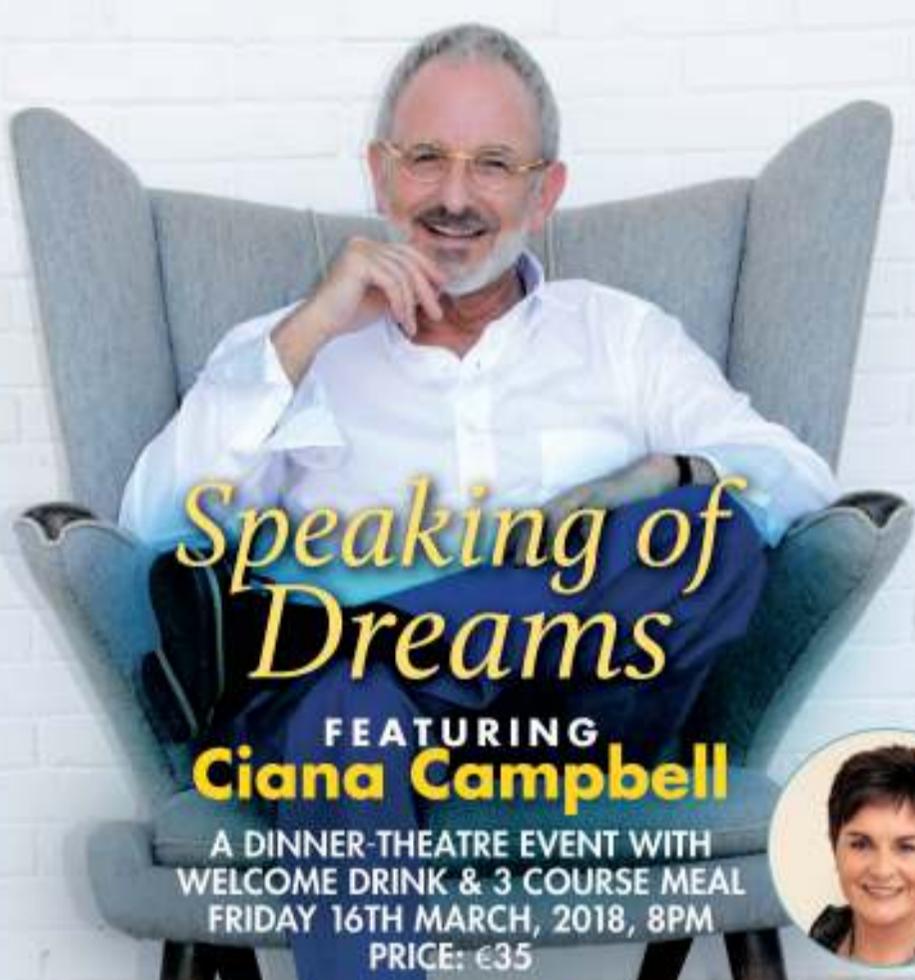
www.yelmocines.es **Semiramide, Met opera.** 10 March, 18.55

**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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Speaking of Dreams is an interactive evening where psychoanalyst Michael Murphy and presenter Ciana Campbell examine our dreams. The event is based around Michael Murphy's *Book of Dreams*, and audience members are invited to comment on the dreams discussed and to contribute dreams for analysis, if they so wish. The evening also features performances of poetry.



Raising funds for abandoned and ill-treated horses. :: SUR

## ARCH rescue centre fundraising events

**TONY BRYANT**

**ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE.**

ARCH (Andalusian Rescue Centre for Horses) is hosting a weekend of events to raise funds for the up-keep of their centre in Alhaurín El Grande. The fundraising begins on Good Friday, when the equestrian centre, which provides shelter and rehabilitation for abandoned and ill-treated horses and donkeys, will open its doors to the public. The event, which will be held between 11am and 4pm, will give visitors the opportunity to meet the rescued horses and experience the tireless work the charity undertakes. The open day will include a fun dog show that will be judged by two local veterinary surgeons.

There will also be a charity market, music, BBQ and an Easter egg hunt for the children.

On Saturday 31 March, the centre will host the 'Ginger Pig Hoedown' an afternoon of country and western music.

The event will be held in the Ginger Pig Country Pub in Coin and will begin at 7.30 pm. Tickets cost 20 euros and will include live music and a roast chicken and BBQ spare ribs supper. DJ Dave will keep the music going with some of the best country and western hits between acts. A proportion of the funds raised will be donated to ARCH.

Tickets are available from the bar, or by phoning Janet on 628 867 980. For more information, see the Facebook page for ARCH.




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### LINE-UPS

**LEGANÉS**

**2**

**MALAGA**

**0**

4-3-3

**Unused substitutes:** Champagne (GK), Raúl García, Brasanac, Naranjo.

4-4-1-1

**Unused substitutes:** Prieto (GK), Samuel, Borja Bastón, Miguel Torres.

### STATISTICS

**BALL POSSESSION**

59%
41%

LEGANÉS	MALAGA	
2	Goals	0
10	Total shots	4
5	On target	1
5	Off target	3
6	Corners	1
4	Offsides	0
9	Fouls committed	12
1	Yellow cards	1
0	Red cards	0

**Goals:** 1-0 Eraso (55'), 2-0 Amrabat (62').

**Referee:** Ignacio Iglesias. Sent off Leganés head coach Asier Garitano.

**Venue:** Butarque (6,937 spectators).

### TABLE & FIXTURES

**MATCHDAY 27**

**Results**

- Sevilla - Athletic 2-0
- Leganés - **MALAGA** 2-0
- Barcelona - At. Madrid 1-0
- Villarreal - Girona 0-2
- Deportivo - Eibar 1-1
- Real Madrid - Getafe 3-1
- Levante - Espanyol 1-1
- Real Sociedad - Alavés 2-1
- Valencia - Betis 2-0
- Celta - Las Palmas 2-1

**Fixtures**

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

**LEAGUE TABLE**

TEAM	PTS	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
★ 1. Barcelona	69	27	21	6	0	70	13
★ 2. At. Madrid	61	27	18	7	2	45	12
★ 3. Real Madrid	57	27	17	6	4	66	28
★ 4. Valencia	53	27	16	5	6	52	30
■ 5. Sevilla	45	27	14	3	10	36	40
■ 6. Villarreal	41	27	12	5	10	36	32
7. Girona	40	27	11	7	9	38	36
8. Eibar	39	27	11	6	10	34	39
9. Celta	38	27	11	5	11	45	39
10. Betis	37	27	11	4	12	43	52
11. Getafe	36	27	9	9	9	33	25
12. Real Sociedad	33	27	9	6	12	49	48
13. Leganés	33	27	9	6	12	23	32
14. Athletic	32	27	7	11	9	27	31
15. Alavés	31	27	10	1	16	24	39
16. Espanyol	29	27	6	11	10	23	34
17. Levante	21	27	3	12	12	22	42
▼ 18. Las Palmas	20	27	5	5	17	20	54
▼ 19. Deportivo	19	27	4	7	16	25	57
▼ 20. <b>MALAGA</b>	13	27	3	4	20	16	43

# Errors all over the field cost Malaga again



A clear offside went against José González's side who slumped to their sixth consecutive defeat

**LEGANÉS (MADRID).** Mistakes on the field and off it cost Malaga yet another three points on Saturday night as they fell to their sixth consecutive defeat as they took on Leganés in the outskirts of Madrid.

Malaga head coach José González opted for a distinct change in style as he gave Alberto Bueno his first start on his return to Butarque. Brown Ideye was sacrificed as Malaga went in search of a more passing approach given how little success the direct route had yielded in previous games.

Only a win would do, so the visitors could ill afford to sit back and soak up pressure, but an early chance from Nabil El Zhar saw their characteristic cautiousness return.

Despite creating two half chances of their own through Diego Rolán,



Diego Rolán came the closest to scoring for Malaga. :: AGENCIA LOF

you could have forgiven the fans inside the part-covered ground on a miserable rainy day if they had demanded their entry fee back at half time.

However, the game opened up in the second half, mostly due to the visitors' lack of legs in midfield. With Mehdi Lacen, Chory Castro and Manuel Iturra all pushing 34 years of age, and the latter two playing three games in the past week, Leganés

started to take control of the game. Within ten minutes of the restart, the hosts had the lead as Javier Eraso headed home Diego Rico's cross from the left. Replays showed, however, that Rico had strayed offside in the build-up.

This saw Malaga revert to type as Ideye replaced Bueno, but the Nigerian was on the field barely two minutes before former Malaga winger

Nordin Amrabat doubled Leganés' lead with a powerful low strike from the edge of the area.

The reaction from González on the bench was much too late. With the tide already turned, Zdravko Kuzmanovic and Juanpi entered the fray in place of Iturra and Chory but it was too little, too late.

Neither had the desired impact – or any at all for that matter given their

"I'm not going to resign but I couldn't complain if I was sacked"

Malaga head coach José González was very pessimistic in his post-match press conference, saying that he would have to have "a serious word" with his players following a performance he described as "the worst of my eight games in charge".

González took the blame for the poor conditioning of his players, especially in the second half, but couldn't excuse the lack of quality on the field: "In the first 20 minutes we didn't create a single positive move."

When asked if he would resign, the coach responded: "If you knew me at all, you'd know I couldn't stand aside with this record against my name. I'm not going to resign but I couldn't blame them if they sacked me."

lack of match practice- and the game petered out to a disappointing, and entirely predictable, conclusion.

Up next for Malaga is the daunting task of a visit from league leaders Barcelona to La Rosaleda on Saturday night.

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# José González remains as head coach... for now

Malaga are only looking for a new head coach in the summer, having seemingly accepted relegation

## ANTONIO GÓNGORA

**MALAGA.** Defeat in Leganés made it six on the bounce for Malaga who, miraculously only find themselves eight points adrift of safety with eleven games left to play. But with eleven games and 33 points still to play for, should Malaga stick with current head coach José González, or twist?

The most obvious option seems to be replacing the manager, who has only picked up two points from the eight matches he has overseen. However, the club doesn't have anyone else lined up to replace him at present, partly due to the fact that none of the defeats have been by a resounding margin but also because none of Malaga's direct rivals have gained ground either.

With such a large number of players still adapting to life at a new club, the signs shown generally under the new man's reign have been mostly positive, except Saturday's horror show against Leganés.

However, this doesn't mean that the club aren't planning for an increasingly inevitable relegation. Sporting director Mario Husillos and his team are searching hard for new recruits both on the field and in the dug-out. While González's contract would see him stay on as coach if he keeps them up, he is almost certain to be moved on in the event of relegation.

The club would be hoping to make an immediate return to La Liga so are shortlisting candidates who know Segunda well and what is required to escape at the first



José González during Saturday's game in Leganés. :: AGENCIA LOF

time of asking.

## An inflated wage bill

Whether Malaga stay up or go down, Husillos will still need to trim the fat on a large squad which contains a number of players already deemed surplus to requirements.

Even though the majority of the squad will see their wages halved upon relegation (Michael Santos, Juanpi and Federico Ricca are the exceptions), Malaga will still have 24 players on professional contracts, plus three first-team players on youth contracts (Youssef En-Nesyri, Luis Muñoz and Álex Mula) - an unsustainable amount for a Segunda side. Among these are players such as Cifu, Bakary Koné, Emanuel Cecchini and Ad-

nane Tighadouini who were all loaned out this year, plus goalkeeper Cenk Gönen who was removed from the squad but remains under contract. The club wants to move them all on and will have to before it can even start to address the serious imbalances in a squad lacking in options in both attack and defence (assuming none of the current loan players make their moves permanent).

In any case, the offices at La Rosaleda are a busy place with lots of planning for next campaign, whether in Primera or Segunda. However, while relegation wasn't even being contemplated just a few weeks ago, Plan B is now being given much more serious thought.



Añón searches for a pass alongside a Murcia player. :: J. RODRÍGUEZ

## Marbella stay top despite draw

Corpas put the hosts ahead but Chrisantus' equaliser just before half time earned a point for Murcia

## MARBELLA 1 MURCIA 1

## JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

**MALAGA.** Marbella's promotion campaign remains on track despite being held to a draw at home by fourth-placed Murcia on Sunday afternoon.

Corpas scored a quality goal for the home side after 22 minutes, but the lead was snuffed out in the last play of the first half when Chrisantus head home the equaliser.

Marbella had been planning on playing the same starting eleven for the third week in a row, but Lolo Pavón fractured his right hand in training and was replaced by Catena, who played alongside Alonso in central defence. The pitch was in good condition despite the week's rain.

The home side's goal in the 22nd minute was well-worked; a perfect

pass from Añón found Corpas, who sold a dummy to the defender and slotted the ball past a stunned Biel Ribas.

This came somewhat against the run of play as Murcia, especially through the mobility of Juanma and Pedro down the left wing, kept the hosts on the back foot.

Wilfred was continually tested, but for the most part performed very well. He could do little to stop Chrisantus from scoring, as a searching pass beat the Marbella defence, and although he saved the initial shot, the rebound fell straight back to the Murcia midfielder whose header into the ground bounced up and looped into the net.

The visitors edged the first half, but the second was much more tightly contested with chances at a premium. The best opportunity fell the way of Marbella's Catena whose header was clawed out of the top right corner by the reflexes of Biel Ribas.

Despite the draw, the Costa team have now topped the table for two consecutive weeks having gone ten match days without defeat with six wins and four draws.

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## A LOOK AT LA LIGA

**ROB PALMER**  
Commentator, Sky Sports  
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You won't walk into his club and see his anecdotes projected onto the walls of the museum.

In fact I'd struggle to find any famous quotes at all attributed to Zinedne Zidane, he famously lets his actions do the taking.

His modest personality is the opposite of the modern giants who manage Europe's major clubs.

That's made him a target for the fickle brigade as Real Madrid have underachieved in La Liga this season.

We can't deny he must take some responsibility for the lack of spark in the domestic competitions and that's why he was under scrutiny as they fell into the shadow cast by Barcelona.

After a period of self assessment, and more importantly an assessment of the talented footballers available to him, he's back to his best.

When Zidane took over at the Bernabéu he made his mark by selecting on form and usefulness rather than shirt-selling ability and popularity.

This resulted in eight Majors, I mean major Majors. Spanish

League winners on his first full season, back to back Champions League titles, World Club Champions.

Yet those with short memories started to doubt his ability and put it down to merely the riches at his disposal.

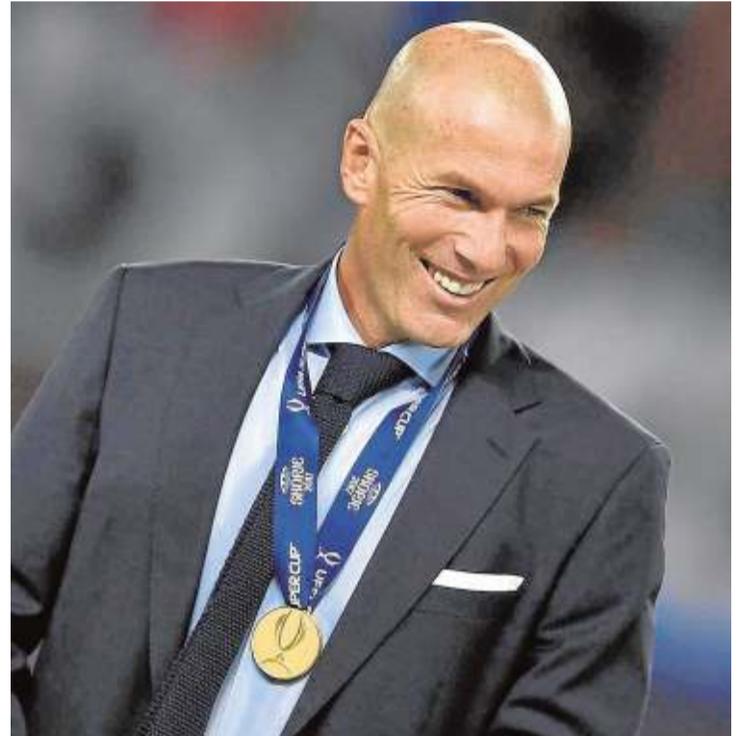
So it was written that if he lost to Paris Saint Germain he'd be looking for a new pastime as he left through the revolving manager's door in Madrid.

Paris have arguably similar riches and talent pool so this was a level, highly expensive playing field.

Zidane was bold. He chose to leave 'Galactico' Gareth Bale out of the starting line ups and introduced fringe players Lucas Vazquez and Marco Asensio in the first leg. It worked wonders. He started them both in the second leg and won the tactical battle with his opposite number Unai Emery.



A young Zidane. :: SUR



Zidane after winning the European Super Cup. :: AFP

Now the snap reaction is to label him a tactical genius rather than managerial mannequin.

The man who was derided in January could be crowned the greatest of all time if he master-

minds the club's 13th elite European trophy, his third in a row.

In fact, his stock is so high with the British Press, he's been suggested as the manager of Arsenal by several papers!

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## Spanish referees and assistants to begin VAR training

by JAVIER VARELA

**MADRID.** The arrival of VAR (video assistant referee) in Spanish football is closer than ever. The Spanish Football Federation and La Liga have taken the first step by gaining the approval of the International Football Association Board to implement the technology in the Primera División from the start of next season.

From last week, referees and assistants in the first division have begun a phase of 'off-line' techni-

cal training, that includes instruction on how to use VAR, practice in simulators and video training. Both organisations have named the team who will be behind implementing the new technology, which includes former international referee Carlos Velasco Carballo as director of the project; Sergio Sánchez Castañer as head of technology and television and Carlos Clos Gómez as refereeing instructor.

It has been agreed that the Spanish VOR (video operation room)

will be located in the Ciudad del Fútbol de Las Rozas in Madrid. The provider of the technology will be Mediapro, which has extensive experience in the development of VAR for international competitions. La Liga will supply the funds for the implementation and development of the technology.

VAR is currently still in an experimental stage in several competitions around the world, including FIFA tournaments, and will be used in the World Cup in Russia next summer. It allows a referee to communicate with a video assistant, who can clarify the outcome of four situations: shots on goal, penalty decisions, red cards and confusion surrounding a player's identity. However, the final decision is always down to the referee on the pitch. The President of La Liga, Javier Tebas, has expressed his hope that VAR "will help to make the outcomes of matches more fair".

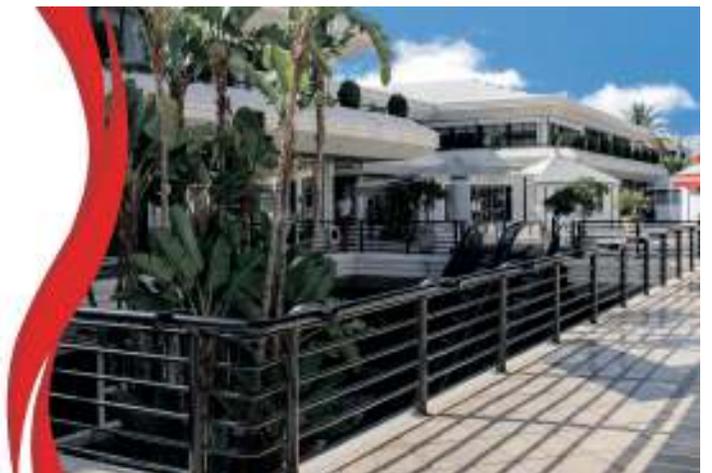
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# From Marbella's youth academy to the top of world rugby

**HÉCTOR BARBOTTA**

Twitter: @barbotta

Joshua Peters grew up in Benalmádena but represented England at youth level; on Saturday he made his full debut in the red of Spain

**MARBELLA.** He was born in England and he has all of the characteristics of a burly English rugby player. His accent, however, betrays the fact that he is a 'Malagueño' from Benalmádena. When Joshua Peters stepped onto the field to make his international debut on Saturday, he did so in the colours of Spain as they took on Georgia in a European Rugby Championship match. This was the end result of a decision on which there is no going back: Peters has committed himself to Spain.

This is in spite of the fact that he previously wore the white of England. In fact, during his youth career he wore both the red of Spain and the white of England, earning a podium finish with both at the under-18 European Championships. He came third with Spain in the B tournament in 2012 when he was just 17, then won the A tournament with England the following year.

Now, at the age of 22, he has opted to stick with red and will pursue the dream of playing in the World Cup in Japan next year for which Spain have qualification virtually tied up.

Joshua Peters is the archetypal product of this multicultural melting point we call the Costa del Sol. When he was just two years old, his family moved to Benalmádena where he grew up and attended a public school. He wasn't even ten when he started to play for Mar-



Joshua Peters, playing at youth level for Marbella Rugby Club. :: SUR



The player, in the colours of Spain. :: FEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE RUGBY

## PROFILE

► **Name:** Joshua Peters.

► **Born:** 10 December 1995 (age 22), Sidcup (United Kingdom). Moved to Benalmádena at the age of two.

► **Club:** Northampton Saints.

► **International rugby:** Made his full debut as a starter in Spain's 23-10 defeat to Georgia on Saturday.

bella Rugby Club. At the beginning he didn't stand out.

"In each category we put kids together in two-year groups and in the first of each, Joshua struggled," says Pablo Munilla, Peters' coach in his early years at the Costa del Sol club. This was also the case in his first year in 'infantiles' when Marbella Rugby Club won the title at the Spanish Championships and Peters didn't make the starting lineup.

## Development

However, since then his physical growth has coincided with his progression as a player which not only turned him into the standout player in the team, but saw him selected to represent Andalucía.

Peters formed part of the class of 1995, the most successful generation of players produced by the club. They won Andalusian and national championships and produced a long line of players - Pablo Mieji-molle, George Stokes, Dani Sthor, Juan Boccardo, Facundo Munilla - who led Spain to bronze at the under-18 European Championships B in 2014.

It was at these tournaments that England started to take an interest in him. This was when he was signed up for the Saints Junior Academy after signing a professional contract and formed part of the England under-18 side which were European champions in 2015.

After completing his development at the academy, he moved onto the Northampton Saints, a team in the English Premiership which loaned him last year to Coventry RFC.

At more than two metres tall and weighing in at 108 kilos, he was at 22 years of age an up-and-coming talent on the English rugby scene. On Saturday, however, he became a part of Spanish rugby's present.



:: FRANCIS SILVA

## RUGBY IN MEMORY OF MANUEL BECERRA

Some of Spain's rugby veterans came together on Saturday for the sixth consecutive year for the Manuel Becerra Memorial Trophy, in honour of the SUR journalist who died of a heart attack, aged 44, in 2011. The tournament was staged in La Cala del Moral, on the newly-built ground named after Becerra, for the first time and saw veterans of Rugby Málaga, El Salvador de Valladolid, Jaén and Costa Barbarians face off. Rugby Málaga ran out winners and were presented with the trophy.

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# Spain claim two medals in World Indoor Championships

Óscar Husillos could have won the third with a record time in the 400 metres but was disqualified for lane infringement

By D. MEABE

**BIRMINGHAM.** This year's World Indoor Championships were bittersweet for Spain who claimed two medals, but could have come away with one more (and a European record to boot) had Óscar Husillos not been disqualified for lane infringement in the 400 metres final in Birmingham on Saturday.

The athlete from Palencia, alongside Dominican Luguelín Santos, was disqualified for stepping out of his lane after recording a time of 44.92, which would have been a competition as well as European record time. Husillos only found out about the decision later when talking to the press. As a result, first place went to the Czech Pavel Maskal, with a time of 45.47, second to American Michael Cherry (45.84) and third to Deon Lendore (46.37) from Trinidad and Tobago.

If it weren't for the decision, Husillos would have broken the long-standing record of German Thomas Schoenlebe (45.05), which dated back to 5 February 1988.

## Two undisputable successes

Before the controversy hit, Saúl Ordóñez produced the biggest shock of the day. The 800-metre specialist from El Bierzo (León) came in third behind favourite Adam Kszczot (gold) and American Drew Windle who was briefly disqualified but then reinstated after an appeal.

A few hours before that, Ana Peleteiro from Galicia also got bronze in the triple jump with a lifetime best jump of 14.40 metres.

The gold went to Venezuelan and strong favourite, Yulimar Rojas (14.63), also coached by Iván Pedroso, while silver went to Jamaican Kimberley Williams (14.48).

Peleteiro earned a place on the podium on her third attempt, beating her previous record by 17 centimetres.



Óscar Husillos. The 400-metre specialist was stripped of gold. :: EFE

## BRONZE IN THE 800M



Saúl Ordóñez. The León athlete finished third, behind Windle (silver) and Kszczot (gold). :: REUTERS

## TRIPLE JUMP BRONZE



Ana Peleteiro. The Galician finished third after a lifetime-best 14.40 metres. :: AFP



## LIONS ROAR TO ANDALUSIAN TITLE

The Fuengirola Lions inline hockey team clinched the Liga Andaluza title at the weekend after seeing off sister team Barona 7-2 in the decisive clash on Sunday as part of the final round of fixtures which took place in Los Boliches.

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**BENALMADENA** Costa: 658336295. A full body massage Ladies & Gents

**ASIAN** lady qualified masseuse, expert Oriental, traditional, professional massage. Relieve, pain, stress. Private Marbella. Maria 662178545

**PROFESSIONAL** Massage on table. Therapeutic, sport, anti-stress. Estepona. 653411649

**PROFESSIONAL** English masseuses offer Swedish massage. Near Golden Mile (Marbella). Call for further details 684152826

**THAI** massages, ayurveda, stress, tired feet/ legs, muscle spasm. 634181891

**PROFESSIONAL** masseuse. Therapeutic, stress & sport massages. 695802388 Riviera (Calahonda)

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**www.mypsychologiston-skype.com** for anxiety, worry, depression and stress. British Qualified Psychologist/ CBT Therapist

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**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

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**CARER/** Housekeeper required. Marbella area. 618737320

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**EXPERIENCED** Sales persons required for Furniture Store in Marbella. Must speak English plus Spanish. Full time, good conditions and contract to right person. Send CV plus recent photo to: costa-furniture@hotmail.co.uk

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**SENIOR** Client Services Manager wanted for leading North American property developer. Working from our European Office in Marbella you will manage existing international clients and investors. We are looking for a native English speaker with strong oral and written skills. High level of written and spoken German an advantage. You must have previous client services experience and be self-motivated and reliable. Generous basic salary + commissions offered. Please send C V and cover letter to [ot@tfdc.com](mailto:ot@tfdc.com)

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**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

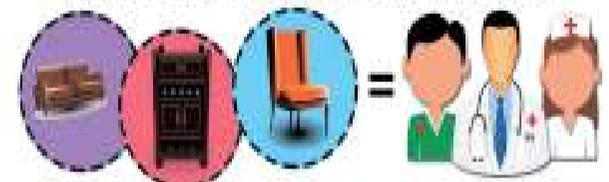
**WOMAN** in San Pedro area seeks part-time, mornings, reception/hospitality coordinator/ assistant position. English mother-tongue, advanced Spanish, fluent French, working knowledge of German. NO sales, telesales and commercial work. Well-traveled, people-skills. [louisasuter66@gmail.com](mailto:louisasuter66@gmail.com)

**ENGLISH** speaking. Cleaner looking for work between San Pedro and Estepona. 616262640

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Taxi Service	952802900
Tourist Office	952800913
Town Hall	952801100
Foreign Residents Dept.	952809031

**FUENGIROLA**

Bus Station	952475066
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Taxi Service	952471000
Tourist Office	952467625
Town Hall	952589300
Foreign Residents Dept.	952589440

**MALAGA**

Bus Station	952350061
Railway Station	902240202
Taxi Service	952345693
Tourist Office	951926020

**MARBELLA**

Bus Station	955038665
Taxi Service	952774488
Tourist Office	952768760
Town Hall	952761100
Foreign Residents Dept.	952768760

**MIJAS**

Town Hall	952485900
Town Hall Las Lagunas	952473125
Taxi	952478288
Tourism Office	952589034
Foreign Resident Dept.	952589010

**NERJA**

Bus Station	902422242
Taxi Service	952520537
Tourist Information	952521531

Town Hall	952548400
Foreign Resident Dept.	952548401

**TORREMOLINOS**

Bus Station	902143144
Taxi Service	952380600
Tourist Office	952371909
Town Hall	952379400
Foreign Residents Dept.	952374231

**BENALMÁDENA**

Bus Station	902450550
Taxi Service	952441545
Tourist Office	952442494
Town Hall	952374231
Foreign Residents Dept.	952442494

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Taxi	952540016
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Tourist Office	952541104

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Taxi	(00350) 20070027

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**CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)**

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Oceana	17/03	Cartagena	Gibraltar	08.00	22.00
MSC Musica	18/03	Funchal	Palma	08.00	17.00
Costa Deliziosa	20/03	-	-	07.00	14.00
Norwegian Spirit	23/03	Funchal	Alicante	07.00	17.00
Braemar	23/03	-	-	08.00	23.00
Marella Celebration	25/03	Gibraltar	Lisbon	06.00	22.00
MSC Divina	25/03	Lisbon	Valencia	07.00	14.00
Costa Fascinosa	26/03	-	-	14.00	20.00
Symphony of Seas	27/03	St. Nazaire	Barcelona	06.00	22.00



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<b>Belgium</b>	Avda Ricardo Soriano 20-3C, Marbella	951516019	<b>Austria</b>	Alameda de Colón 26, Malaga	952600267
<b>Denmark</b>	Calle Córdoba 6 404, Malaga	952211797	<b>Finland</b>	Calle Blasco de Garay, 7, Malaga	952212435
<b>Norway</b>	Avda Los Boliches, 60, Edf Rosenkranz, Fuengirola	952667955	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	Mauricio M. Pareto 2 bloque Sur 2º, Malaga	952310358
<b>Canada</b>	C/Cervantes, Edif. Horizonte, Malaga	952223346	<b>Greece</b>	Salitre, 16, Malaga	952311847
<b>Germany</b>	Mauricio Moro Pareto 2, Malaga	952363591	<b>Iceland</b>	Paseo Marítimo 91, 29640 Fuengirola	952661200
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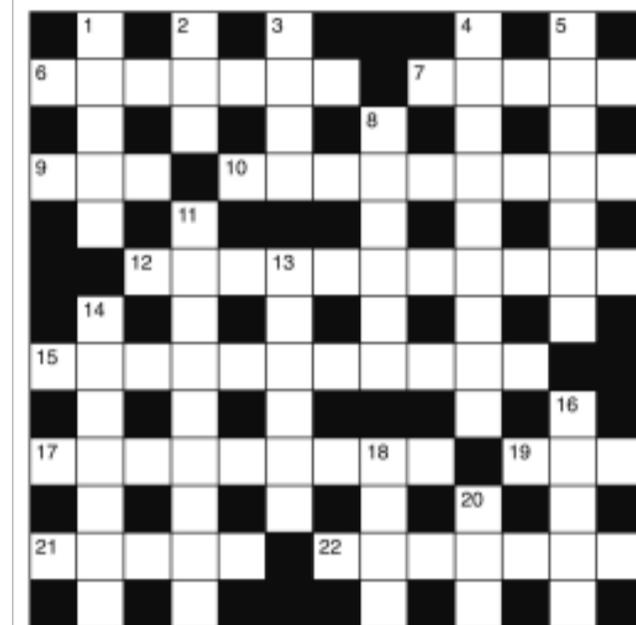
THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



THE STARS

- 
**Aquarius**  
 January 21 - February 19  
 This week brings some long overdue fun. If others want to wallow in the past, let them.
- 
**Pisces**  
 February 20th - March 20th  
 Why not get on with that project or hobby that you have wanted to do before? Alongside that, treat yourself to something sensual.
- 
**Aries**  
 March 21st - April 20th  
 The chances of travel hiccups next weekend mean that you should definitely have Plan B ready.
- 
**Taurus**  
 April 21st - May 21st  
 Discussions over money could get quite fraught midweek. Sort these out if you don't want to cloud the weekend.
- 
**Gemini**  
 May 22nd - June 21st  
 Forget about being 'right' and decide what is really important to you. Looking for perfection can often lead to disappointment, so why do it?
- 
**Cancer**  
 June 22nd - July 23rd  
 There are better things to do with your time than having any petty squabbles. Agree?
- 
**Leo**  
 July 24th - August 23rd  
 Have you been in this situation before? Taking a new approach seems the best plan.
- 
**Virgo**  
 August 24th - September 23rd  
 Put a bit more concentration into your endeavours this week and see some real progress.
- 
**Libra**  
 September 24th - October 23rd  
 Sometimes just stepping away from a situation for a few days can make matters clearer. Don't believe everything that others tell you.
- 
**Scorpio**  
 October 24th - November 22nd  
 A sideways step emotionally could save a lot of hassle. No, you are not expected to make an instant decision!
- 
**Sagittarius**  
 November 23rd - December 21st  
 Someone who made a promise some time ago is set to deliver. Be sure to show your pleasure at the move!
- 
**Capricorn**  
 December 22nd - January 20th  
 A change of appearance gives a real lift to your spirits. It shows you what a difference a small thing can make.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11285



- Across**
- 6 Perpetrator of a dark deed (7)
  - 7 Exhausted and out of pocket (5)
  - 9 Twelve inches behind (3)
  - 10 There's no profit in it (4,5)
  - 12 At which to obtain something that might mean a good deal to someone (7,4)
  - 15 A novel that shouldn't corrupt thought there's not a word of truth in it! (4,7)
  - 17 Give away lines? (4,5)
  - 19 Note it well (3)
  - 21 Don't worry, it's right to break an axle! (5)
  - 22 It can be arranged for ministers (7)
- Down**
- 1 A well-oiled lock? (5)
  - 2 Form of food produced in layers (3)
  - 3 A light ring (4)
  - 4 He may get a poor press, aptly enough (9)
  - 5 Joint that gets dusted? (7)
  - 8 Severe constriction at the centre (6)
  - 11 Ideal material for a plinth? (4,5)
  - 13 Was it this hen that laid golden eggs? (6)
  - 14 28lb for 25 cents (7)
  - 16 Wrinkles for a bad scholar? (5)
  - 18 Don't go to give support (4)
  - 20 It may be well-held (3)

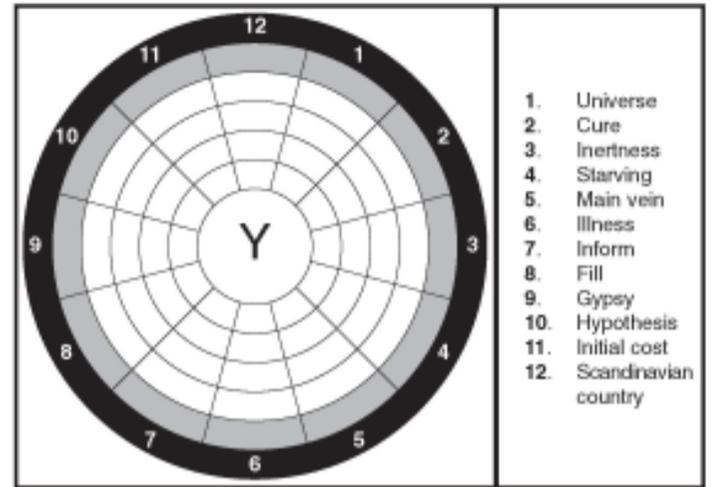
SUDOKU BY HANZO

**Instructions**  
 Complete the square making sure that every row of nine numbers includes all digits from 1 to 9, every column includes all digits from 1 to 9 and every 3 by 3 subsection includes all digits from 1 to 9

			4					
	7	3			6	9		
			4		5	2		6
2	9				7	5		8
	5		9	4				2
	8	1	5		3			
5				9		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



- CAN you identify the words that may precede paper from the clues listed below?
- 1. Element, symbol C
  - 2. Sepia
  - 3. Organised sound
  - 4. Lime or emerald
  - 5. Vote
  - 6. Grain
  - 7. Pancake
  - 8. Group of birds
  - 9. Chart
  - 10. Insect

INTERNATIONAL RADIO

- Talk Radio Europe**  
 105.5 Axarquía  
 91.5 Costa del Sol East  
 91.9 Costa del Sol West  
 98.7 Gibraltar/Sotogrande  
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- Global** (93.6 and 96.4FM)  
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- 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 Almirajara** (99.1 FM)  
 Nerja radio in English and German and night time World Radio Network
- Heartfmspain** (88.5 FM Costa, 96.1 FM inland) Music, entertainment, news
- Lick FM** (103.6 FM Marbella)  
 Urban music broadcast between Gibraltar and Calahonda
- Rtv Puebla** (107.7 FM)  
 Monday evenings, Rock music memories. 7 - 9pm. email: radiopuebla.musicmemories@yahoo.com  
 Fb: Radiotelevision Puebla de Cazalla

QUIZ

- QUESTION 1**
- In which century did Arthur Guinness begin brewing ale?
- 1. 16th
  - 2. 17th
  - 3. 18th
  - 4. 19th
- QUESTION 2**
- Asahi is a brewery in which country?
- 1. Japan
  - 2. China
  - 3. New Zealand
  - 4. Australia

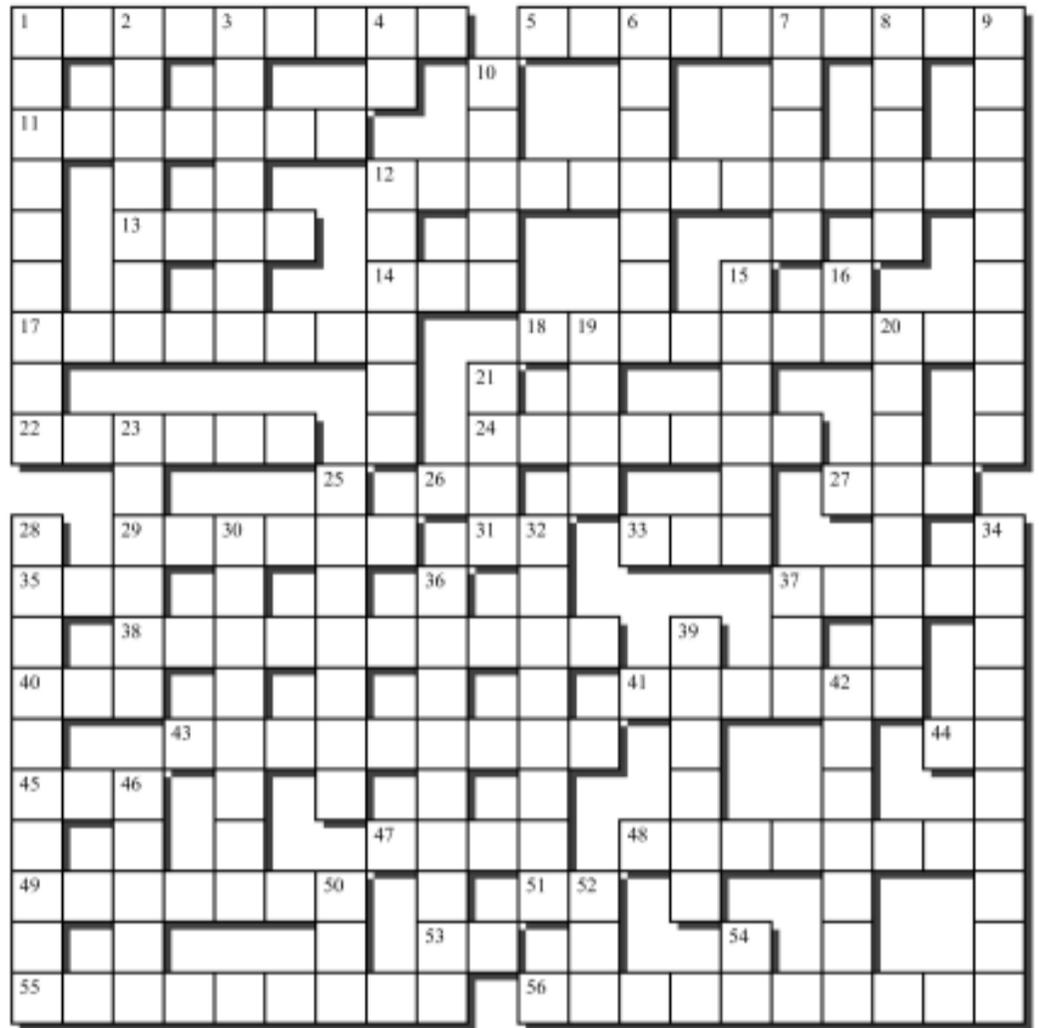
LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

Across

- 1) Dancer (9)
- 5) To incorporate (10)
- 11) Located (7)
- 12) Supposedly (13)
- 13) Honey (4)
- 14) Estuary (3)
- 17) Insulation (8)
- 18) To betray (10)
- 22) Offer (6)
- 24) Blacksmith (7)
- 26) He gives (2)
- 27) Law (3)
- 29) You cover (pl) (6)
- 31) The (f) (2)
- 33) Voice (3)
- 35) That (f) (3)
- 37) Era (5)
- 38) To falsify (10)
- 40) Day (3)
- 41) Fan (6)
- 43) Films (9)
- 44) My (2)
- 45) Us (3)
- 47) Hand (4)
- 48) Singer (8)
- 49) Shellfish (7)
- 51) No (2)
- 53) It is (2)
- 55) Senators (9)
- 56) Seamstresses (10)

Down

- 1) Christened (9)
- 2) Languages (7)
- 3) Abbess (7)
- 4) Nor (2)
- 6) Censorship (7)
- 7) Feather (5)
- 8) Queen (5)
- 9) To rebel (9)
- 10) Spy (5)
- 12) Mermaid (6)
- 15) Actress (6)
- 16) I (2)
- 19) Strange (4)
- 20) Novel (8)
- 21) Shawl (4)
- 23) Fraud (6)
- 25) Difficult (7)
- 28) Pseudonyms (10)
- 30) Bracelets (8)
- 32) They put out (8)
- 34) Gardeners (10)
- 36) Headlines (9)
- 37) That (3)
- 39) Nuns (6)
- 42) To run away (7)
- 46) They will be (5)
- 50) To hear (3)
- 52) Eye (3)
- 54) Your (2)



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

**Of interest:** Asahi was founded in Osaka in 1889 as the Osaka Beer Company. During the First World War German prisoners worked in the brewery. In 2016, the company bought a number of breweries in Europe.

**Answer 1:** Japan

Dublin. Guinness's signature is still copied on every label of bottled Guinness. he took a 9,000-year lease on the 4-acre brewery at St. James's Gate in bequeathed him £100. Guinness opened a brewery at Leixlip in 1755. In 1759

**Of interest:** At 27, in 1752, Guinness's godfather, the Archbishop of Cashel,

**Answer 1:** 18th

Cryptic Crossword

**Solutions:** Across: 6 Burglar; 7 Spent; 9 Art; 10 Cost price; 12 Bargain sale; 15 Pure fiction; 17 Free verse; 19 Fit; 21 Relax; 22 Cabinet. Down: 1 Quiff; 2 Egg; 3 Halo; 4 Oppressor; 5 Knuckle; 8 Strict; 11 Base metal; 13 Guinea; 14 Quarter; 16 Lines; 18 Stay; 20 Oil.

Clockword solution

**SOLUTION:** 1 Galaxy, 2 Remedy, 3 Apathy, 4 Hungry, 5 Artery, 6 Malady, 7 Noisy, 8 Occupy, 9 Romany, 10 Theory, 11 Outlay, 12 Norway, CELEBRITY; Graham Norton.

Wordpuzzler solution

MELINGRAPH  
1. Carbon  
2. Brown  
3. Music  
4. Green  
5. Ballet  
6. Rice  
7. Crepe  
8. Flock  
9. Graph  
10. Fly

Sudoku solution

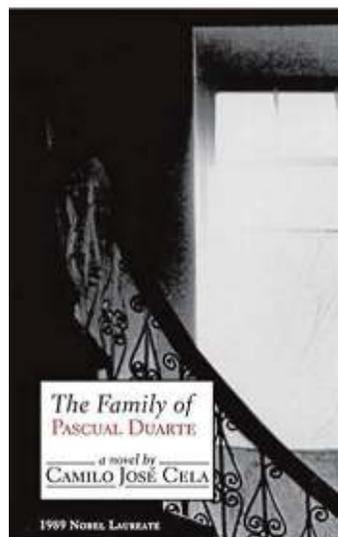
7	3	9	2	8	4	1	6	5
5	6	2	7	9	1	4	8	3
4	8	1	5	6	3	7	9	2
3	5	7	9	4	8	6	2	1
1	4	8	6	5	2	3	7	9
2	9	6	3	1	7	5	4	8
9	1	4	8	7	5	2	3	6
8	7	3	1	2	6	9	5	4
6	2	5	4	3	9	8	1	7

Language Crossword

**ACROSS:**  
1. BARBARINA SINCONFORAR  
11. MUEL 14. BA 17. AISLANTE  
18. TRACIONAR 22. OFERTA 24. HERIBRO  
26. DA 27. LE 28. AVIAS 31. A 32. VOZ  
35. SA 37. BOCA 38. FALSIAR  
40. IA 41. FOFORO 43. PELICULAS 44. M  
45. NOS 47. MAND 48. CANVANTE  
49. ARISSCO 51. ND 53. S  
55. SENADORES 56. COSTURERAS

**DOWN:**  
1. BAUTIZADO 2. IDOMAS 3. ABARDESA  
4. NI CENSURA 7. PLUMA 8. RENA  
9. REBELARSE 10. SEMA 12. SIENA  
15. ACHIZ 16. VO 19. ARO  
20. NOVODOSO 21. CHAL 23. ESTIVA  
25. BICEL 28. SELECCIONES  
30. FURBAS 32. AVAGARON  
34. RIBEROS 42. FUGARSE 46. SERAN  
50. BOE 52. O 54. TU

BOOK OF THE WEEK



**The Family of Pascual Duarte**  
Camilo José Cela

Cela won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1989 and this book is 'probably the mostly widely read novel in Spanish after Don Quijote' according to the New York Times. The story is about Pascual Duarte, a Spanish peasant born into a brutal world of poverty, hatred, and depravity—as told from his prison cell, where he awaits execution for the murders he's committed throughout his lifetime. His only desire is to understand how fate's blows led him down his bloody path.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

You only live once but if you do it right once is enough

ANON

THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

We want to hear from you

At SUR in English we are proud of our reputation for publishing a wide variety of Spanish news of interest to our readers, and as part of the SUR media group we have access to all the best and most reliable sources. Another part of our remit is to publish all the local news concerning the English-speaking community in Andalucía, and for that, we have several sources including our team of roving reporters and you, the reader.

We often get calls asking the question "Can you mention this in SUR in English?"

The "this" can be anything from an art exhibition to an event in aid of charity, a change in church service times, the establishment of a pressure group, a wedding or a dolphin washed up on the shores of the Mediterranean. The answer to all of these is "yes". If it is of interest to our readers we can mention it, and if it is a big story we can send one of our team of journalists to write about it. Email us at [surinenglish.su@diariosur.es](mailto:surinenglish.su@diariosur.es) or tweet @SUR\_english or contact us on Facebook @surenglish





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# What happened to the eggs at El Chorro?

Foreign scientists plundered most of the nests in the area in the late 19th and early 20th centuries

by FERNANDO TORRES

**MÁLAGA.** The area around El Chorro has always had an exceptional environmental importance, as those who have lived near its gorges and mountains and others who have studied its flora and fauna can confirm, and its bird life is especially interesting.

Nowadays different institutions take action to preserve and protect this diversity, but that has not always been the case. For example lammergeiers (bearded vultures) and other species were especially coveted by naturalists from abroad, especially the British, who considered plundering their nests to be the only means of conservation. Today there are no lammergeiers to be seen around the Caminito del Rey, but what happened to their eggs at El Chorro?

To understand what happened, we need to look back at the 19th century, a time when numerous British people, such as soldier William Willoughby Cole Verner, decided to study the natural environments in different countries. Verner, in particular, spent a great deal of his life in southern Spain, collating information for his nu-



A view of the stunning El Chorro gorge and visitors on the Caminito del Rey walkway. :: SUR

merous works, which included 'My life among wild birds in Spain' (1905).

This passionate conservationist took many British people and those of other nationalities to plunder live birds and eggs, and in many

cases they were assisted by local experts. It has not been proven that this continual activity during decades was the cause of the disappearance of several species at El Chorro, but it is highly probable that they were linked.

Saturnino Moreno, who has recently retired as the head of the Malaga regional government's environmental programmes, says lammergeier eggs are on display in at least 13 museums around the world. One of them, taken from

the Desfiladero de los Gaitanes gorge (below the Caminito del Rey) is at the Alexandre Köening museum in Germany. There is another example from El Chorro in the same museum, which was collected in January 1889.

### Maintaining diversity

Visitors to the National Museum in London will find another lammergeier egg, which was picked up in the Sierra de Cornicabra, behind the Mesas de Villaverde at El Chorro.

Moreno points out that local people used to help the experts who wanted to reach the nests, which was surprising considering that the explorers believed the only way of conserving the species was to remove them from the area, because they didn't think the locals were capable of looking after them.

This paradox is the reason that lammergeiers no longer fly over the Desfiladero de los Gaitanes gorge (the last reference to one was in 1921, by the Duke of Medinaceli, a keen hunter, in his memoirs). It is likely that this solitary bird will never return to what used to be its home.

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