

## Genius: Picasso to premiere in Malaga

National Geographic has chosen the Cervantes theatre for next week's launch of the series starring Antonio Banderas **P32**



## Marbella's old corruption boss is released from jail to help charity

Juan Antonio Roca, now monitored by electronic tag, has served 12 years of a 20-year sentence **P5**



Roca, this week. :: SALVADOR SALAS



The parents of Gabriel Cruz (right), at the funeral on Tuesday. :: C. BARBAS / EFE

# Prison for self-confessed killer of missing boy in Almeria

The body of eight-year-old Gabriel Cruz was found in the boot of his father's girlfriend's car on Sunday

A judge has ordered Ana Julia Quezada to be sent to prison without bail after a week of tragic developments in the case of a missing boy, Gabriel Cruz, in the province of Almeria. The boy's father's girlfriend was caught on Sunday moving his body from a well where it was hidden at a rural prop-

erty in the boot of her car. She has since confessed to killing the child, although the inquiry continues to establish whether it was premeditated murder. Meanwhile, parents of other murdered children lost their campaign to maintain Spain's controversial "revisable life" sentence. **P2-3**

**A tennis town.** The Casino Admiral Trophy, an ATP Challenger, is the latest in a growing list of tournaments hosted in Marbella **P59**

**Andalucía, Costa del Golf.** The monthly paper that focuses on the sport that brings tourists to the region all year round **INSIDE**

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# Father's girlfriend admits to killing missing boy in murder case that has gripped Spain

Eight-year-old Gabriel Cruz disappeared on 27 February in Níjar (Almería). The Guardia Civil had been watching the suspect for several days before her arrest

## ■ SUR

**ALMERIA.** The 13-day search for missing eight-year-old Gabriel Cruz came to a tragic end in Almería on Sunday when his body was found wrapped in a blanket in the boot of a car driven by the boy's father's girlfriend.

The Guardia Civil had suspected 43-year-old Ana Julia Quezada, who is originally from the Dominican Republic, for several days, and officers had been following her movements closely.

Since the boy's disappearance - while he was walking the no more than 100 metres between the houses of his grandparents and his cousins in Las Hortichuelas, Níjar - Ana Julia had been seen alongside his father, Ángel Cruz, during searches and public appearances.

It was Ana Julia who found a child's white vest on 3 March, which later tested positive for Gabriel's DNA, near the sewage treatment plant northeast of Las Hortichuelas in the heart of Almería's rugged Cabo de Gata natural park. This was in the opposite direction from where she apparently killed the boy and hid his body, a rural property in Rodalquilar owned by the Cruz family.

Far from sending detectives on a false trail the vest led officers to focus their investigation on Ana Julia. The garment had not been included on the initial list of clothes worn by the boy when he disappeared and showed no signs of having been exposed to the wind and rain for so



Guardia Civil at the family finca reconstructing events with the accused (wearing red). ■ EUROPA PRESS

many days.

It was Gabriel's grandmother, whose house he had left shortly before he disappeared, who provided a key piece of evidence against Ana Julia. She remembered that her son's girlfriend had left the house just moments after Gabriel.

When Ana Julia was interviewed by police last week, they dropped a hint to encourage her to break her cover, and her movements had been followed closely by officers to be able to confirm their suspicions.

Both the boy's parents had been aware that she was formally under suspicion for a few days but had been told to behave normally around her until evidence had been found.

On Sunday officers watched as



Ana Julia, days before arrest. ■ EFE

Ana Julia apparently removed a body from a well on the Rodalquilar property. Her vehicle was intercepted by officers outside her home in La Puebla de Vúcar, some 70 kilometres away, and the body found in the boot.

The autopsy confirmed on Monday that Gabriel had died of asphyxia after receiving a blow to the head the same day as he disappeared, 27 February. Marks on his neck had initially pointed to strangulation but the examination confirmed what Ana Julia had confessed. She killed him by covering his nose and mouth with her hands after hitting him with the blunt side of an axe.

The suspect's confession came on Tuesday, although her version is considered unlikely by detectives.

Investigators probe death of Ana Julia's daughter in 1996 and other parts of her past

The past life of Ana Julia Quezada, who came to Spain in 1992, has been a source of much speculation since she was found with Gabriel's body in the boot of her car. Investigators had already been informed by locals in Burgos, northern Spain, that Ana Julia's two-year-old daughter had died falling from a window of a block of flats in 1996. The judge at the time ruled misadventure however the files are being re-examined in an attempt to understand her motives for Gabriel's killing. Police have suggested it was jealousy of her boyfriend's child. The daughter of a previous partner of Ana Julia's has also come forward to claim she conned the family out of money.

She told officers that the death was accidental and not premeditated, that they had had an argument and the boy had attacked her with an axe, behaviour that by no means coincides with the character of Gabriel, said police. After accompanying detectives during their search of the scene in Rodalquilar earlier this week, Ana Julia appeared before a judge on Thursday and was sent to jail without bail.

At a press conference on Thursday the head of the Guardia Civil's OCU unit, brought in for cases of serious crime, said that they believed that by leaving the vest where she did, Ana Julia was trying to incriminate a former boyfriend who lives just 300 metres away.

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## Tributes to Gabriel mix with praise for his family's bravery and role of emergency teams

■ SUR

**ALMERIA.** Thousands of people attended the funeral service held for Gabriel in Almeria cathedral on Tuesday. Among them was the Interior minister, Juan Ignacio Zoido, and deputy prime minister Soraya Sáenz de Santamaría. Zoido was unable to hold back his tears when Gabriel's mother, Patricia Ramírez, handed him her son's blue scarf as a thank you for the universally praised work of the police and emergency services.

Other authorities, including the president of the Junta de Andalucía, Susana Díaz, had visited the family on Monday at the funeral chapel.

The boy's parents have also been praised for their dignity and restraint after the horrific events unfolded. Ramírez spoke on radio and outside the cathedral, urging people to keep a positive sentiment alive and not to dwell on "the wicked witch", referring to Ana Julia.



Gabriel's parents thanked police for their efforts. ■ EUROPA PRESS

## MPs vote to end option for courts to award full life sentences

Amid an emotional week, politicians debated a planned motion over the controversial penalty, as relatives of murdered children urged them to think again

■ SUR

**MADRID.** Against a background of public shock and mourning over the murder of Gabriel Cruz, MPs in Madrid have gone ahead with a previously planned vote on a controversial sentencing option for judges in extreme murder cases.

Politicians were called upon on Thursday to decide on whether parliament would start the legal process to take the full life sentence option off the country's statute books.

Full, revisable life prison (Prisión Permanente Revisable) was voted into law in 2015 when the conservative PP party held a majority. It was to be used in cases where a victim had had a particularly extreme death, such as child killings or cold-blooded assassinations. So far it has been applied only a handful of times.

With the PP losing its majority since the new law came in, Basque



Juan Carlos Quer (c) and Juan José Cortés in parliament. ■ EFE

nationalist party PNV had asked for the sentence option to be removed.

Supporters of the move say that there is no evidence that the sentence reduces crime in a country with generally very low levels, while those in favour of the sentence point out that every country in Europe apart from Portugal and Croatia has

a similar penalty.

Parents of murdered children, including the fathers of Diana Quer and Mari Luz Cortés, were in the chamber and had urged MPs to keep the sentence, but in the end the votes of the PP and centrist Ciudadanos were not enough to stop the start of the process to end the law.

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# 'Avoidable' fire in Fuengirola block of flats injures at least 14 people

The blaze in the Las Palmeras complex originated in the utility meter room, over which safety issues had previously been raised

IVÁN GELIBTER

**FUENGIROLA.** At least fourteen people were injured after a fire broke out early on Monday morning in one of the buildings in the Las Palmeras complex in Fuengirola.

One woman, who found herself trapped on the first floor, decided to jump from her balcony and injured herself in the fall; a further 13 were treated for smoke inhalation.

Calle Jacinto Benavente, where the building is located, was closed and around 50 people were evacuated from the building in total.

Three firefighting teams were dispatched from the local station and neighbouring Mijas, as well as Local and National Police officers and paramedics.

According to sources close to the investigation, the fire brigade received a call at 7.10am to report that there were flames coming from 'torre 2'. The same sources report that the fire started in the utility meter room



Police and firemen responded quickly to the scene. :: I. GELIBTER

and produced a lot of smoke.

## "Safety standards not met"

Monday's fire came as little surprise to many residents and owners of flats in 'torre 2' with the issue of safety raised on multiple occasions over the last few years.

Residents of the building have said that the fire could have been avoided. In June 2016, an independent report commissioned by residents recognised that the utility meter room

"did not meet the necessary safety requirements" and warned that it should not be used "until the existing issues are resolved".

Prior to this, the Junta de Andalucía was informed of the situation via a letter signed by residents. The Junta, in turn, told supplier Endesa that they were responsible for relocating the meters.

Many homes in the building went without electricity for a number of days.

## IN BRIEF

### Policeman stops man trying to throw himself off building

#### FUENGIROLA

Á. F. / J. C. Police had to intervene to stop a Senegalese man from throwing himself off the top of a building in Fuengirola on Tuesday.

Police were in pursuit of the man, who had allegedly breached the terms of a restraining order, and traced him to the roof of a building on Calle Camino de la Canter.

The man threatened to jump if the police did not back away, saying he wanted to die. After a stand-off of around 20 minutes, the man then sat on the raised border around the edge of the roof, started sway-



The whole incident was captured on video. :: SUR

ing and, apparently, praying in his native language.

He then jumped but a policeman was able to grab him while suspended in mid-air. He was then taken to a medical centre before being arrested.

### Three children eat hash hidden in Kinder egg

#### CADIZ

EFE. National Police are investigating how three schoolchildren, aged between six and seven, could have consumed hashish hidden inside Kinder eggs.

The children consumed the substance at their school, assuming it was a sweet, and needed medical attention due to nausea and vomiting. Tests proved they were under the influence of hashish.

Police are looking into how the drugs entered the school grounds.

### Three-year-old dies after choking on sausage

#### TORROX

E. CABEZAS. A three-year-old boy died in the Malaga children's hospital on Tuesday after choking on a sausage during dinner, according to health sources and Torrox town hall.

He was taken to hospital the previous Thursday but doctors couldn't do anything to save his life.

The death shook the town of Torrox, where the family originated, despite moving to Malaga many years ago.



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# Juan Antonio Roca, mastermind of Malaya and other fraud cases, is freed

SALVADOR SALAS

HÉCTOR BARBOTTA

The ringleader of past municipal corruption in Marbella is to work with prisoners on reintegration programmes and will not have to sleep in prison

**MARBELLA.** Juan Antonio Roca has been released from prison just short of 12 years after he was put behind bars. The man who was behind the corrupt network that siphoned off millions of euros from Marbella town hall coffers over a number of years has been granted the category of a "third grade" prisoner and can leave jail to go to work.

The judge took into account the number of years he has already served as well as good behaviour when making the decision that saw a smiling Roca outside the prison service's resettlement centre in Malaga on Tuesday.

Roca has chalked up prison sentences in numerous corruption-related cases which far exceed 30 years. The biggest sentence was handed down in the Malaya case, whose tribunal agreed in May 2016 to merge some sentences, fixing the maximum period behind bars at 20 years, the legal maximum.

This merging (turning the sentences into one before calculating the proportion of the sentence served) allowed Roca to start to enjoy benefits that otherwise he wouldn't have been entitled to. Since then his privileges have included being allowed to leave prison unsupervised to attend court.

Juan Antonio Roca has exchanged his prison cell for an electronic tag so that his location can be monitored at all times thanks to satellite surveillance. His freedom has been granted after his commitment to working in a social reintegration centre for released prisoners managed by Catholic charity Cáritas in Malaga.

The former head of town planning at Marbella town hall has also been offered paid employment, which he will carry out at the same time as his charity work.

The corruption cases in which Roca had been given prison sentences include 'Saqueo I', 'Saqueo II', 'Minutas', 'Belmonsa', 'Urquía' and 'Malaya', among others. He still has around a hundred cases going through the courts, the majority related to planning crimes which the public prosecutor has refused to include in a global agreement.

On agreeing to 'third grade'



Roca, on Tuesday, on leaving the prisoner resettlement centre in Malaga. :: SALVADOR SALAS

## MAIN SENTENCES

► **Caso Malaya.** 17 years in prison, plus a fine of 233,428,674 euros (to benefit the state, not Marbella).

► **Caso Saqueo I.** 6 years and 10 months in prison, plus a fine of 24,387,073 euros with other convicts.

► **Caso Saqueo II.** 6 years in prison, plus a fine 37,763,212 euros with other convicts.

► **Caso Minutas.** 3 years in prison and 80,165 euros.

► **Caso Desaladora.** 18 months in prison and 64,356 euros

status which allows Roca to work outside prison, the judge argued that the proportion of the sentence served, his positive progress, his acknowledgement of the crimes committed through the payment of a civil responsibility bond and his public remorse all worked in his favour. His conduct in prison has also been described as excellent as has his willingness to collaborate with projects.

His commitment to working with Cáritas, said the judge, will "put his knowledge to the service of less fortunate people".

## Assets seized from Roca are not enough to cover his debt with Marbella

:: **H. BARBOTTA**

**MARBELLA.** Despite the considerable assets of Juan Antonio Roca that were seized as part of his convictions in order to pay back money defrauded from Marbella town hall, sources say that these will not be enough to clear the debt.

Roca was ordered to pay a total of 62.7 million euros to Marbella from the judgments in four cases. So far five payments have been made totalling just over 9 million euros. This means that there is still over 50 million euros in debt outstanding with the council.

As part of the judicial decision to release Roca, officials had estimated that the value of the embargoed assets still to be sold and disposed off, including an eye-watering array of luxury properties and goods accumulated by the disgraced planning official during

years of fraud, was as high as 75 million euros, more than enough to cover the debt. However sources say that the list prices of the assets coming up for auction is far higher than the real prices being achieved at sale.

Juan Antonio Roca also owes over 233 million euros to the Spanish tax authorities for fines for money laundering crimes linked to operation Malaya. However the government is not first in line to receive any money. In a deal reached in 2012 with Marbella's mayor, Ángeles Muñoz, Madrid agreed to waive payments in order to write down the council's debt.

A website has been set up to list the assets still to sell. [www.venta-de-bienes-malaya-roca.com](http://www.venta-de-bienes-malaya-roca.com)

## HERE AND THERE

### Benalmádena man stabbed in own garage

**BENALMÁDEN A**

:: **SUR.** A foreign resident of Benalmádena, aged 37, remains in hospital after being stabbed and hit several times, leading to serious injuries. The attack took place on Wednesday evening at around 11pm in a garage owned by the victim, who appears to have been taken by surprise by one or several assailants. National Police in Torremolinos are investigating the incident.

### Two members of pro-cannabis club arrested

**MARBELLA**

:: **SUR.** Officers from the National Police have arrested two members of a club that supports the legalisation of cannabis in Marbella for their suspected involvement in drug trafficking and illegal association. The suspects, a Dutch woman and a Swiss man, were operating out of a building that was disguised as a leisure facility in order to promote and distribute cannabis and its derivatives.

### 21 arrested for selling false documents

**MALAGA**

:: **SUR.** 21 people have been arrested by the National Police in Malaga in a crackdown on Social Security fraud. The group were selling fake documents and had already defrauded the government out of 76,000 euros. The investigation, which is ongoing, is looking into four companies which were not involved in any actual business activity. The beneficiaries were being paid for unemployment and retirement, and broke immigration laws.

### Two men arrested for abusing woman

**MALAGA**

:: **J. C. / A. F.** The National Police have arrested an Indian man who has been accused of raping a woman who he had drugged. He will be kept in prison without bail, awaiting trial. Police have also detained another Indian man and are investigating if he was involved in the events, as it is suspected that he was in the room at the time. Police are hopeful they will discover the truth through forensics and laboratory testing.

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# The receding coastline means urgent measures are needed to protect the dunes

MÓNICA  
PÉREZ

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Nearly three metres of dunes and two metres of beach were swallowed by the sea in the latest storms at Las Chapas. The waves reached nearby houses and walls

**MARBELLA.** "They are starting to see the wolf's ears, but nobody does anything about it." On the beach at El Alicate, in Las Chapas, which is one of those that suffered the most damage in recent storms, Susanne Stamm and Fernando Piquer, secretary and president of the Produnas Association of Marbella, look sadly at the wreckage. They show us the dossier of photographs which they have sent to the local, central and regional authorities to demonstrate how the sea is advancing in this area.

"The beautiful La Víbora dune is disappearing in large chunks and now, after the latest bad weather, another three metres of dune mass and two metres of beach have been lost," says Susanne.

This year's storm, together with the one in December 2016, will be remembered as one of the worst to have hit the Marbella coast in decades because of the gravity of its effects. The high waves, gale force winds and heavy rain caused serious damage and, once again, the east side of Marbella has come off worst, to such an

extent that the Dune Reserve of Marbella, the biggest in the province, is being washed away by the sea.

"The problem is that the area had still not regenerated after the storm in 2016 and this one was even worse," says Produnas. This non-profit-making organisation has been working tirelessly for 30 years to protect the dunes, and its nearly 200 members (of 12 different nationalities) deserve most of the credit for ensuring that the area managed to survive the hardest years of construction and corruption in the municipality.

Now they are once again issuing an SOS with a clear message: "Disaster has no political colour. This is not the time to look for someone to blame, it is time to act," they say.

In recent days other groups have joined the call for definitive measures to be put into effect to stabilise the coast in this year. For years there have been discussions and debates and several announcements have been made regarding projects to stabilise the beaches at Marbella and San Pedro, but none have materialised. Most of the action which has been carried out has been on beaches in the centre of Marbella, but what about the eastern side? The whole coastline may be losing sand and the sea is advancing everywhere, but more at Las Chapas than anywhere else and this also threatens the environment in the area.

"Climate change is becoming more evident," says ecologist Javier de Luis, who lives in Marbella. There is, he says, no need for major alarm bells to start ringing yet. A good part of the dunes which are swallowed by the sea are mobile (those closest to the shore) - in other words this loss of sand is "a natural movement, it is the natural dynamic," he says. However,



## 1990

During this decade the council governed by the Grupo Independiente Liberal (GIL) asphalted a track in Calle Poseidón, between Calle Nereidas and Tritón (Rancho Hotel urbanisation).

Road surfaced for vehicles



## 2010

That road no longer exists. The tarmac was removed by the Coastal Authority because the road invaded land zoned for public use by the beach.

The road can no longer be seen.



## 2018

The pedestrian walkway which remained in the area has just been destroyed by the storms. Part of it ended up in the sea. So did the street lamps.

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## THE ENGLISH CEMETERY

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Las Adelfas dune, in a photo taken in February.



Las Adelfas dune, after last week's bad weather

## 2018

La Adelfa dune looked very different at the beginning of this week after the bad weather, but this is only one of

the areas which suffered serious damage. Others include El Arenal, Real de Zaragoza, Alicata and, for the first time ever, Artola-Cabopino. Every time there is a storm, the Marbella Dune Reserve suffers more

from the effects of the waves. It loses not only sand, but also dune vegetation. There is little point in installing a line of stakes as a form of protection, because they are washed away by the sea.

### The Coastal Authority and Marbella council will now carry out a detailed study

### The dunes had not fully regenerated after previous damage from the storms of 2016

the damage is starting to occur further into the beaches now.

Produnas is well aware of this natural movement of mobile dunes, but stresses that “more sand is lost every time, and the waves are coming further and further in”. Susanne Stamm points out that this latest storm has caused damage in a place where the waves have never reached before: Artola.

Over ten years ago the Andalusian Environmental Centre carried out studies into the vulnerability of coastal areas as a result of the rise in sea levels, and the effects of this on the coastline of the Costa del Sol during the present century.

In 2016, the Ministry of the Environment approved its ‘Strategy of Adaptation to Climate Change on the Spanish Coast’ to mitigate the effects of global warming in public areas. However, the studies which were carried out for this plan didn’t include the Costa del Sol, something which has been criticised by the IU political party, which is demanding that Marbella council produces plans for preventive action on the Malaga coast.

In addition to this there is the unrestrained and, in many cases, uncontrolled construction which took place on the Costa del Sol for years. Some of those buildings now end up with water below their balconies every time there is a storm. People in Costabella are especially affected, as the force of the waves has knocked down walls.

### A warning in the Urban Plan

The Urban Plan (PGOU) of 2010 warned of erosive processes on some of Marbella’s beaches and proposed certain interventions which, says Javier de Luis, “were ignored.”

The Plan, which was annulled in 2015, referred to an interesting study carried out between 2006 and 2007 about how the coastline had varied from 1956 to 2003. The report showed that the beaches on the east side of

Marbella, between Los Monteros and Las Cañas, saw a distinct enlargement of their coastline between 1956 and 1998. After that, this increase of between 11 and 36 metres began to reverse. El Alicata and Real de Zaragoza are the most affected by the advance of the sea, losing 34.4 and 32.5 metres respectively.

The overall effect of movements in the past decade (compared with the data in the Urban Plan) is not known. There is no information about it, but a look at old photos shows how much the coast has changed. Councillor Miguel Díaz points out that, looking at three photos (two of them taken from the air), it is easy to see how the sea has advanced between the 1990s, 2010 and March 2018.

“The road which GIL asphalted in the 1990s, between Calle Nereidas and Calle Tritón, in the Rancho Hotel urbanisation, was removed by the Coastal Authority in the early 2000s, because it invaded public land beside the beach. The asphalt was removed but a pedestrian path was left, and that was destroyed in this year’s bad weather. And the sea has not finished recovering what it thinks is its territory yet,” he says.

### Diagnosis and dredging

Urgent action and definitive measures are needed in this area. The first step will be to examine the situation closely, something which the Coastal Authority and Marbella council have now promised to do. The Councillor for Beaches, Manuel Cardena, says: “What we are going to try to do is, as well as carry out this detailed study into the state of the beaches at Las Chapas, which will help us to decide what measures to take, dredge Cabopino port of the sand at the harbour mouth because it is stopping boats from entering. That sand can be used for regenerating the beaches,” he explains.

Dredging this marina, something which has been pending for years because of a change of concession for the port, would alleviate some of the effects of the storm in the short term. Politicians and ecologists have asked Granada university to draw up a project which will determine whether or not artificial reefs should be placed in the area.

The report, costing 55,000 euros, will then be sent to the Ministry of the Environment and the Junta de Andalucía, who will decide whether this is the best solution. With the situation at present, an extremely detailed diagnosis of the real dangers to this part of the coast is the most urgent and necessary measure.



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# Torremolinos approves conversion of rubbish tip into suburban park

The town hall and regional government have complied with a ruling from Luxembourg

:: ALBERTO GÓMEZ

**TORREMOLINOS.** Torremolinos will close down its illegal rubbish tip and convert it into a suburban park in a project that will take two years to complete and will cost eight million euros.

The council approved the plan, which already had the green light from the Andalusian government, on Friday last week. The move complies with the recommendations of the Court of Justice of the European Union, which criticised Spain for not adopting the necessary measures for managing the waste in 61 of its dumping sites.

These sites are spread around the country, but the tip in Torremolinos is the only one in Andalucía, according to the report.

Although it has not been used for years, the site has not been sealed off or regenerated, posing "an environmental hazard".

The site was supposed to be closed in 2010, following a ruling by a Malaga administrative court. The deputy mayor of Torremolinos, Maribel Tocón (PSOE), assured voters that the closure "will put an end to one of the darkest chapters in the environmental history of Torremolinos".

The Andalusian government sent the town hall its project for the site in February and the council's ap-



Underground there is around a million tonnes of waste. :: SUR

proval means the tender process can get under way. The town hall expects work to begin this year.

The project will start with a phase to stabilise the ground, after which there will be a period where the waterproofing will be reinforced. Once a former rubbish tip has been sealed in this way, the site must be monitored over the course of 30 years.

The site contains one million tonnes of waste, of which 650,000 cubic metres will be moved to a new location, although it hasn't yet been made clear where.

The works will then focus on cre-

ating a drainage network, installing vents to allow gases to escape, and finally allowing for the natural regeneration of this mountainous area through the introduction of new plant species.

In its statement, Luxembourg highlighted that the requirement for the Andalusian government to close the site were underlined by "an administrative and judicial necessity", in reference to the appeals lodged by the previous PP administration. In 2006, the Andalusian government took action against Torremolinos council when it was discovered that it was not legal.

## Direct flights between Malaga and Doha to start running in June

:: PILAR MARTÍNEZ

**BERLIN.** The Qatar Airways flight that will unite Malaga with the capital of Qatar, Doha, will begin to operate from 4 June of this year. It will run four times per week, on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, according to travel agencies who have already processed bookings. At the ITB travel fair last week

in Berlin, the Qatari airline announced its plans to include the expansion of its services to 16 new destinations during the 2018-2019 holiday season.

The President of the Association of Andalusian Travel Agencies (Aedav), Sergio García, confirmed that the first flight was almost fully booked, including its most exclu-

sive class.

"Friends of mine who live in Qatar have told me that this new connection is very much welcomed there and that this summer the Costa is set to have a huge tourism boost thanks to visiting Arabs. These types of connections are always good news," García said.

The seven-hour flight will leave Malaga at 9.15am and will arrive at Doha at 5.15pm local time. The return flight will leave the Qatari capital at 1.20am and arrive back at 8.05am. Initially it will operate until 30 September.

### HERE AND THERE



The fighter jets lined up at the Malaga Air Base. :: S. SALAS

## Twelve F-18 fighter jets fly over Malaga in an air force exercise

MALAGA

:: I. LILLO. The pilots of the twelve F-18 fighters that took off from Malaga Air Base on Wednesday took on the role of "potential enemies" in the Dapex 18 exercise which took place in the Gulf of Cádiz. The purpose was to test the defensive capabilities of the Spanish air force in

case of an attack. The pilots simulated attacking aircraft entering Spanish air space or approaching a Spanish military vessel without identifying themselves, and Eurofighter aircraft from bases in Morón, Albacete, Huelva, Rota and the ship itself had to scramble to intercept them, before they could engage in an attack. The defending forces consisted of 12 Eurofighter jets, a C-295 transport aircraft, a Super Puma helicopter, a F-104 frigate 'Méndez Nuñez' and three anti-aircraft units.

## Smile Foundation to change name to CLC

MIJAS

:: SUR. The Smile Foundation is due to change its name to Fundación CLC World in order to reflect its new corporate image and highlight its social commitment. The organisation, the social branch of the Costa del Sol-based tourist resort operator, was founded in 1999 and works with several companies in order to raise funds. Charities helped include Cudeca, Malaga Night Angels, the Adimi Mijas charity for the disabled, the Spanish Commission for assisting refugees and the Red Cross, among others.



The jellyfish. :: SUR

## Portuguese Man o' War reaches the Costa

MALAGA

:: SUR. The organisation Aula del Mar has warned that the Portuguese Man o' War, a rare jellyfish species whose sting is "very painful", has reached the Costa del Sol. Examples have been spotted off La Malagueta beach and along the coast of Marbella, as well as in Cadiz and Huelva. "Members of the public are advised not to touch them even if they seem dead; they are very poisonous and give very severe stings," said the organisation.

This isn't the first time that this species of jellyfish has been sighted off the Costa del Sol. When they do arrive, it is normally around this time of year.

## Council gets to root of pavement tree problem

TORREMOLINOS

:: A. GÓMEZ. Torremolinos council has asked consultants to draw up a study of the town's roadside trees to reduce the problem of roots growing into piping and cabling and forcing up pavement surfaces. The work will involve an analysis of the current species of trees planted and their growth rates, and make recommendations to reduce the long-term cost of damage to streets.

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# UK inheritance tax to be simplified?

By Chris McCann, Partner, Blevins Franks

If you struggle to navigate the UK's Inheritance Tax (IHT) regime you are not alone. Whether you are setting up your estate planning or sorting out the estate of a departed family member, the system can be hard to follow. Getting your planning wrong may mean your family are faced with unexpected high inheritance tax bills.

Now Chancellor Philip Hammond has acknowledged that the rules are "particularly complex" and asked for a review. While this will not necessarily mean lower tax bills, hopefully the system will be simplified.

UK IHT follows expatriates around the world, since it is based on domicile rather than residence. While long-term expatriates can adopt a 'domicile of choice' outside the UK, this takes time and is a complex area, so specialist advice and careful planning are essential. Assets situated in the UK are always liable to IHT.

Expatriates should continue to follow changes to the UK IHT rules, and understand how it interacts with Spanish succession tax. Cross-

border estate planning can be challenging, particularly if you have assets in different countries or complex family situations.

IHT is charged at 40% on your total worldwide estate in excess of the current threshold of £325,000 (potentially £650,000 for a couple). This nil-rate band has not increased since 2009.

A new Residential Nil Rate Band (RNRB) came into effect in April 2017: estates above the basic IHT threshold may be entitled to an 'additional threshold' before any IHT becomes due. Starting at £100,000 for the 2017/18 tax year, it will increase by £25,000 each year until reaching £175,000 in 2020/21 (and then rise with inflation). It only applies to qualifying residential property which is left to direct descendants. Estates worth over £2 million receive a smaller allowance or nothing at all, depending on the value.

While a higher threshold is of course welcome, this new 'family home allowance' has added extra complication. It has also been criticised for discriminating against

those who do not have children or property.

Many people like to give away gifts during their lifetime, when, for example, their children need it most. The rules for lifetime gifts can be even more complex, with the annual exemption frozen at £3,000 since 1981. If it had increased with inflation, it would be close to £10,000.

In January Chancellor Philip Hammond wrote to the Treasury's Office of Tax Simplification (OTS) asking them to investigate options for the reform of IHT:

"Inheritance tax, and the system within which it operates, is particularly complex and I would like to request that the OTS carry out a review. I would be most interested to hear any proposals you may have for simplification, to ensure that the system is fit for purpose and makes the experience of those who interact with it as smooth as possible."

The OTS has since confirmed it will carry out a review of a range of aspects of IHT and how it functions

today. The overall aim is to identify opportunities and develop recommendations for simplifying IHT, from both a tax technical and administrative standpoint. It will publish a report in the autumn of 2018.

For many tax practitioners and wealth management advisers, this review is long overdue. Besides the taxation of gifts and the new RNRB, the IHT regime for trusts can be a minefield.

It is still early days, so we now have to wait and see if and how the system will be improved. However, we need to be realistic and not expect this review to result in much lower IHT bills.

IHT is a good earner for the government. Receipts for the 2016/17 tax year hit a record high of £4.84 billion – more than double 2009/10. HM Treasury expects to raise £5.3 billion in 2017/18 and £6.5 billion by 2022/23 – despite reducing tax on family homes.

All this illustrates how important it is to take professional advice for your estate planning – to make sure

you are up to date on the rules, are navigating them correctly, and shielding your family from paying any more tax than necessary. Too many families pay IHT or Spanish succession tax that could have been mitigated with specialist knowledge and careful planning. Don't let this happen to your family. Blevins Franks specialise in cross-border wealth management and can help you establish effective estate planning to protect your family. [www.blevinsfranks.com](http://www.blevinsfranks.com)

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

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

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

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

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# SOHA reaches 10th birthday but there is still a lot to do

Phil Smalley and Mario Blancke have campaigned tirelessly to raise awareness and get laws changed for the owners of 'illegal houses'

by JENNIE RHODES

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** This year Save Our Homes in Axarquía (SOHA) is marking a decade since it was set up by a group of Spanish and foreign residents in the area who had learned that their houses were, to all intents and purposes, illegal in the eyes of the Junta de Andalucía. "Celebrating is not exactly the word," Phil Smalley, one of the founder members and current president, comments ironically.

Phil, 71, and his partner Sandra, moved to Spain in 2006 and bought land in order to build a house near La Viñuela village. "I was looking forward to a peaceful retirement," he says. However, as the builders were working on the couple's home, they learned that the licence issued by the town hall contravened the newly introduced planning laws and that the land they had bought did not fall into the 'urbanisable' category of their local authority's PGOU (general urban plan).

Around the same time, a case in Almería was attracting the attention of both Spanish and international press. Helen and Len Prior had seen their house demolished in Almería as, like in Phil and Sandra's case, their house had been built on land not earmarked for development. The couple continued to live in the garage they had built, as this was not deemed to be illegal and added a caravan to their 'home' for extra space. The Priors went on to fight for compensation and

while one court ruled in their favour, another agreed with the town hall which had appealed the compensation claim. They eventually got 270,000 euros, but Phil points out that this was nowhere near the original value of the property, not to mention the money they had lost in legal expenses. Phil explains that the Prior's case was "the catalyst" for SOHA. More and more similar stories were coming to light, not just in Andalucía but across Spain and SOHA has worked closely over the last decade with similar groups.

In Andalucía alone there are more than 300,000 houses that are considered to be illegal. However, Phil and Mario Blancke, Mayor of Alcaucín since 2015 and also a SOHA campaigner avoid using the term, choosing instead the word 'irregular'.

Both Phil and Mario decided that the only way to get their message across was to go into local politics and in 2011 Phil was elected as a councillor in La Viñuela, where he lives, and Mario was elected in Alcaucín. In the 2015 local elections Mario became mayor of the town. "I stood for election because of SOHA. You need to be in politics to get things changed and there are so many people that are affected by this situation," he explains.

## Achievements

Phil and Mario explain that they have changed the attitudes of a number of organisations and authorities. They highlight the Junta de Andalucía, who they recognise have become much more supportive of SOHA's cause under current president, Susana Díaz. "We have gone from being described as 'urban delinquents' in the early days to getting support from the Junta," explains Mario. The pair's hard work has also changed the attitude



Mario Blancke and Phil Smalley last Friday. by J. RHODES

of both the British consulate in Málaga and the Spanish ambassador. "At the beginning they sent us a list of lawyers and that was it," says Phil about the Consulate. However, they have seen a real sea change since Charmaine Arbouin and Simon Manley were appointed to their respective posts. They add that mayors in the Axarquía, and in particular, José Juan Jiménez López at La Viñuela have been very supportive too.

SOHA has influenced urban planning laws both in Andalucía and nationally and these achievements include changes in civil and criminal court rulings at a national level regarding illegal houses.

Modifications to the LOUA in Andalucía include getting houses recognised as 'semi legal' AFO – meaning that they will not be demolished and can be connected to mains electric-

ity and water.

Houses over six years old cannot be demolished thanks to a 2015 decree. However, Phil adds that until 2020 there is still the possibility that some houses could be knocked down. Although he points out that because town halls are liable for compensation which must be paid before a house is demolished, it is unlikely that any property will be subject to this measure. Also where the licence to build had been annulled with no instruction to demolish, there was still a 15-year period in which demolition could be ordered. In October 2015 the legal civil code for Spain was amended to reduce that period to five years, which means that those properties with licences annulled before October 2016 can accede to AFO from October 2020.

Individual houses that are built on

non-urbanisable land which has been divided up (parcelations) will not be pulled down and can also accede to AFO status.

One of Phil's biggest regrets is that despite there being 1,000 houses just in the Alcaucín area affected by the situation, there are only 200 members of SOHA. "A lot of people are just burying their heads in the sand," he laments. "They think they have their licences and that this won't affect them. SOHA has been acting on their behalf and without doing anything they have been reaping the benefits," he explains.

The association's president also points out that SOHA was initially formed to help owners whose properties had been granted 'legal' licences by town halls, but were still at risk of being demolished and in this sense he says "10 years on and nothing has been solved." However, Mario points out that it is important to "look forward and not backwards" and reflect on what they have achieved in a decade.

## More to do

"There has been a huge psychological and financial impact on so many people and several of our original members have sadly passed away without seeing justice done," says Phil. "We have saved a lot of houses that would probably otherwise have been pulled down by now, but there is still a lot to do," he adds. "The ultimate goal is that all the houses are made fully legal."

Phil already spoke Spanish before he came to Spain, having worked in Venezuela for three years as operations manager for the international cash & carry company, MAKRO, while Mario says that he has learned Spanish since moved to Spain, aged 31, in 1990 and is a nurse by profession. Both men admit that Spanish urban planning law was not exactly something they had ever thought much about before SOHA was born. "We know more about it than a lot of lawyers now" laughs Phil. They vow to "keep fighting for justice" and conclude that "it's a battle between the Junta de Andalucía and the local town halls, but the real victims are the house owners who bought their land or properties in good faith."

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# Junta says there won't be a drought order until autumn at least

Reservoir levels across Andalucía have risen sufficiently thanks to the recent rainfall although La Viñuela and Almería's El Levante remain low

✪ M. D. TORTOSA / A. PELÁEZ

**MÁLAGA.** The Junta de Andalucía has announced that it was suspending any declaration of drought across Andalucía following this month's continuing substantial rainfall.

Speaking after a meeting which took place on Tuesday morning, regional Environment minister, José Fiscal, confirmed that there had been a "notable improvement" in three of the region's reservoirs and that there would be no restrictions to usage for either domestic or agricultural pur-

poses at least until autumn. Some 584 cubic hectometres of water have been recorded among the three reservoirs since the rain began.

Fiscal pointed out that two exceptions were La Viñuela in the Axarquía and El Levante in Almería province, both of which are still suffering from a "serious shortage" despite the weather. Almería in particular has not received as much rain as other parts of Andalucía.

## Ongoing restrictions

In the Axarquía, the restrictions placed on the agriculture industry, including subtropical fruit growers last December, remain in place for the rest of this hydraulic year. However Fiscal gave assurances that there would be enough water for two years of domestic use as long as the situation "does not get worse".



La Viñuela reservoir in the Axarquía last week. ✪ AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

La Concepción reservoir in Sierra de las Nieves near Marbella stands at 89 per cent full, while the Limonero reservoir north of Málaga city is at 50.29 per cent capacity and with enough water for two years.

The Campo de Gibraltar reservoir currently has 41.6 cubic hectometres with enough water to supply the area for two years, while La Viñuela has risen from 35.5 to 54.7 cubic he-

cometres.

Meanwhile major infrastructural works to guarantee the area's long term water supply remain on hold. These include a new channel to take water from the Iznájar reservoir to the north of Málaga province and plans to triple the size of La Concepción and build infrastructure to carry water from this area to Málaga and the Axarquía when needed

## Unopened public swimming pool hits further setback adding to decade of problems

✪ EUGENIO CABEZAS

### RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.

Rincón de la Victoria's public indoor swimming pool has been hit with another setback following a decade of problems which have prevented it from opening. The Junta de Andalucía has withdrawn its decision to award a specialist company the management of the pool after the Asociación de Empresas del Deporte de Andalucía (AEDA) filed an appeal against the administrative process that was approved by the Rincón de la Victoria council in December 2017 and appeared in the Official State Bulletin (BOE) in January. The town hall must now write a new document and start the management selection process again before the facility, which has seen an investment of 3.8 million euros, can open.

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## Organisers confirm the line up for the fifth Weekend Beach music festival

✪ J. RHODES

**TORRE DEL MAR.** Organisers confirmed the final line up for this year's Weekend Beach festival last Thursday, which will take place in Torre del Mar over the first weekend in July. The event is celebrating its fifth anniversary this year with 95 artists on the bill including DJ David Guetta and The Offspring.



Festival organisers. ✪ SUR



Pupils at the Sierra de Yeguas secondary school. ✪ IES SIERRA DE YEGUAS

## Pupils on course to reach €12,000 target for India school

✪ FERNANDO TORRES

**SIERRA DE LAS YEGUAS.** Pupils at the Sierra de Yeguas secondary school in the north of Málaga province have raised almost half of their 12,000 euro target to help build a school in India. The idea started during an Ethics class and since November 2017 the whole school has got involved in the project. They have

organised sponsored races, plays and have been selling products such as badges and bags. "People react really well because they see that although we are young we want to help," pupil Fátima Mármol told SUR earlier this week. The school is working with the Vicente Ferrer foundation as Ethics teacher, María José G. No-tario, has links with it.

## HERE AND THERE

### Guardia Civil arrest suspect in sexual assault incident

NERJA

✪ E. CABEZAS. Guardia Civil officers arrested a man on suspicion of sexual assault in Nerja last Friday. The 40-year-old suspect is accused of sexually assaulting a female shop assistant in an in-

cident which allegedly took place in a clothes shop in the town centre in February. The man, who has the initials, J.C.C.C., was arrested by officers when they found him in his vehicle near the Playazo beach last week. He has been given a 300-metre restraining order and has been released on bail awaiting trial. The man has a criminal record, but not for offences of a sexual nature.

### Parents continue to report flea bite cases

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

✪ E. C. Parents of children at the Reñidero primary school in Vélez-Málaga are continuing to report cases of flea bites among pupils, despite efforts by the town hall to rid the centre of the problem last year. "There have been cases every week since January and parents are tired of complaining," said parent association president, Irene Peña, after three more cases were reported at the start of this week.

### Easter week cleaning operation in place

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

✪ A. P. Vélez-Málaga town hall has launched a special plan to clean the town's streets ahead of, during and after Easter Week. Not only does the plan include preparing the town centre before the week-long celebrations, but it will also put into use machines tested last year that are designed to remove wax from the streets. This has always been a hazard for pedestrians and traffic long after the end of the festival.



# Calls for Fish Alley to be given official recognition on Fuengirola town maps

The first Italian restaurant in Andalucía opened in the popular narrow streets back in 1972 but the busy area can't be found on any local signs

IVÁN GELIBTER

**FUENGIROLA.** To local people it's often called Calle del Hambre (hunger street) but to many tourists and foreign residents alike who are in search of a restaurant in Fuengirola, the area is more frequently known as Fish Alley.

The name refers to the concentration of restaurants in the narrow streets parallel to the seafront in the old town that has been offering up a wide variety of food for over 45 years. Now there are calls for it to have a sign put up and feature on town maps.



Javier Toro meets with local business owners on Fish Alley. :: I. G.

Spokesperson for the local Ciudadanos party, Javier Toro, met with restaurant owners last week to launch his campaign to gain more official recognition for the area. He

says that many people have heard of it but have no way of finding it easily.

A quick look at the internet appears to prove the point, with many

entries on websites like TripAdvisor asking for more information on where Fish Alley is and what is to be found there.

Among those joining Toro for the launch was Sergio Bracci, one of the founders of O Mamma Mia, the first Italian restaurant in Andalucía when it opened there in 1972. He explained, "In the end I decided to set up in Fuengirola because you could see that it was a village that was starting to grow; there was too much going on by then in Torremolinos and the prices were dearer." His was also the first restaurant on the street and was followed a week later by The Beefeater, both of which are still open today. Before the name Fish Alley took off, local people were already calling it Calle del Hambre. Locals and Javier Toro are asking the council for official recognition for all the restaurant owners' years of commitment to Fish Alley.

## HERE AND THERE

### New W hotel still on course for 2021

MARBELLA

**H. BARBOTA.** A 240-room hotel complex in the Real de Zaragoza coastal area, east of Marbella centre, is on course to be finished by 2021. The mayor of Marbella was in Hong Kong this week for the unveiling of plans for the luxury W Hotel being developed by Platinum Estates.

### Hamlet called after Franco may be renamed

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE

**F. TORRES.** Left-wing activists are calling for the name of Villafraque del Guadalhorce, a hamlet in Alhaurín el Grande, to be changed. They say it breaks laws that ban symbols of General Franco's dictatorship. It is the last placename in Andalucía to have a reference to the old ruler and they have started a campaign to explain the illegality to locals.



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## Council told to pay out 30k for abuses and harassment suffered by former top official

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

**TORREMOLINOS.** The town hall in Torremolinos has been told by a top court that it has to pay out almost 30,000 euros to a former official for psychological abuse during disagreements with the ex-mayor and his councillors.

The judge said that María Auxiliadora Gómez was "humiliated" by the previous PP party administration at the town hall. Gómez was municipal secretary, and as such oversaw the legality of the council's actions. The complaint against the council said that in 2009 she had criticised then mayor, Pedro Fernández Monte, over awards of beach lifeguard contracts and the sale of 95 per cent of the shares in the town's public water company. The council is now PSOE party controlled but still has to pay the amount.

## Urgent repairs as parents report a sewage pipe burst by San Pedro school

Ten metres of piping was replaced last weekend by Marbella drains operator, Hidralia, after faeces and wet wipes were spotted in the street along with a nauseating smell

NIEVES CASTRO

**MARBELLA.** The company responsible for maintaining the sewerage systems and drains in Marbella has carried out urgent repairs to piping in San Pedro following a burst that saw effluent being pumped out near a school.

Last weekend Hidralia, the company that has the licence from Marbella council to maintain sewerage services, dug up and urgently replaced 10 metres of piping near the María Teresa León school, on the edge of San Pedro towards the road to Ronda.

The burst was first reported to local councillors by parents at the



Work last weekend on the way into San Pedro. :: SUR

school who had complained of a nauseating smell and faeces and wet wipes in the street.

A spokesperson for Hidralia, Carlos Corral, told SUR that that re-

placement piping was put in place last Sunday, 11 March, and that the company had been working on resurfacing the road and cleaning up over the past few days.

## More CCTV cameras planned in Marbella

MARBELLA

**M. PÉREZ.** Police chiefs in Marbella have said that a plan will be drawn up shortly for cameras to cover more of the resort. They say that central Marbella and San Pedro need more video monitoring. These areas will form part of a second phase of installing CCTV. Currently plans for La Cañada, Puerto Banús, Elviria and the central marina are being finalised.

## Nobu set to open its new Marbella hotel

MARBELLA

**H. B.** High-end restaurant group Nobu opens its new hotel in part of Marbella's Puente Romano complex next week. The 49-bed-room hotel complements the existing Nobu restaurant in the same part of the Puente Romano and is targeted at couples and people travelling without children who want to enjoy nightlife and a lively holiday.



# Medusa's got her head back

Restoration to the priceless mosaic which was vandalised in 2016 is now complete

**CHARO MÁRQUEZ**

✉ diariosturestepona@gmail.com

Visitors to the Río Verde Roman Villa complex are told which parts are restored to avoid the creation of a false history

**MARBELLA.** Perseus may have carried her head around half of the mythical world, but those responsible for the Río Verde Roman Villa weren't quite sure where it was destined next after it was vandalised in January 2016.

However, thanks to the painstaking work over several months by experts from the Taller Menia Restauración y Patrimonio, the mosaic has been restored and Medusa can show off her new head, just like the original.

The director of the restoration project, Cristina Morena, said last Friday that the end result was "satisfactory because the mosaic is faithful to the original, respects international restoration criteria and is done in a way where you can distinguish the new and old parts so as not to create a false history".

Visitors can easily see which parts are restored and which are original because they appear to be in different shades. What's more, an infor-



The restoration team explained the work process last week. :: **CHARO MÁRQUEZ**

mative panel has been installed to explain the details of the restoration.

Following the slapdash act of vandalism that affected not just Medusa's face, but also one of the ducks in the scene and the corner of the mosaic, 2,119 tiles were recovered, many of which were badly deteriorated, and a further 1,400 have been reproduced.

The duck was easy to recreate given that there are three others in the scene to use as reference (despite them all being different).

It was a different story for Medusa's head, however, and photos taken by Daniel Moreno, who works with the municipal Culture De-

partment, were key. "We owe our lives to these photos," said the head of the restoration project. "They allowed us to look in great detail at the original tiles and made our work much easier."

Throughout the work, the materials were kept as close as possible to those that would have been used by the original artists in the second century.

It's worth pointing out, however, that not only bad has come out of

the act of vandalism. For example, since 2016 the general public has rediscovered part of local heritage that had at times gone forgotten. Visitor numbers to the Roman villa have increased since the story made the headlines. Perhaps even more people came to see the gaping hole than the original Medusa. Between January and February this year, the villa has welcomed more than a thousand visitors.

The municipal head of Historical Heritage, Juan Carlos García, said on Friday that the vandalism "has ensured that the need to protect [Marbella's] heritage has been brought to the foreground"

and would act as an impetus to step up security across other sites of value.

What's more, the restoration of the mosaic shone further light on its surprising and most impressive aspects. For example, some of the tiles on Medusa's head were made of glass or precious stones, while all parts of the work follow a mathematical logic in terms of the distribution and number of pieces, meaning every part has its opposite "as if it were reflected in a mirror", said Cristina Morena.



The current state of Medusa after restoration. :: **C. M.**

## HERE AND THERE

### New Estepona car park for one euro per day

#### ESTEPONA

:: **C. MÁRQUEZ.** Estepona council have announced that the new underground car park in Plaza Antonio Guerrero, in the town's historic centre, has been completed, albeit behind schedule. Visitors will be able to access it for just one euro per day. The car park spans a total of 3,405 square metres spread across three levels and has a capacity of 100 vehicles. It also has spaces designed for electric vehicles with charging points. Users can park between 9.00 and 21.00 for one euro, or pay two euros to stay overnight.



The church tower. :: **CH. M.**

### Restoration work for Casares church

#### CASARES

:: **C. MÁRQUEZ.** The local diocese has announced plans to restore the bell tower and facade of the Nuestra Señora de la Encarnación church in collaboration with the local council. The diocese still needs the authorisation of the regional government to carry out the works, as the building is a 16th protected structure. The church's priest, José Antonio Melgar, has explained that the works will be undertaken this spring, after an agreement has been made, and should be finished before the saint's day celebrations in September.

### Ojén residents to design village flag

#### OJÉN

:: **M. PÉREZ.** Members of residents' associations in the village of Ojén have been offered the chance to design a new flag for the village. The entries will be displayed to the public and the winner of the competition will receive 500 euros. Mayor José Antonio Gómez said: "We have been aware for quite some time that Ojén is one of the few villages in the province not to have its own flag." The competition opened on the 5 March and the process will continue over the course of the next two months.



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## NEWS IN PICTURES

MALAGA RETIREES  
PROTEST PENSION  
INCREASE

The employment minister's announcement that Spanish state pensions would be increased by 0.25% in 2018 will be met with a weekly protest in Malaga on Mondays. Rajoy conceded a possible 1.6% increase on Wednesday but only for 2018. More information in The Euro Zone, page 21.

LA CALA DE MIJAS  
TOURISM OFFICE  
NEARLY READY

The construction of the new tourism office in the centre of La Cala is nearing its final stage following an investment of 121,000 euros.

16TH-CENTURY  
WALL MOVED  
FOR METRO

Part of the wall of the 16th-century San Lorenzo fort has been moved in order to make way for the new metro tunnel on Malaga's Alameda.

BREWERY VISIT  
PART OF GENIO  
AWARDS

A visit to the new Victoria brewery in Malaga, nominated for the industrial building of the year, was part of the 11th edition of the Vo-cento Genio awards which toured various institutions across the city this week.



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The Junta president, Susana Díaz, with editors and directors of media companies in the region on Wednesday. :: EFE

## Andalusian media outlets bring an end to adult classified ads

More than 20 companies, including SUR, signed an agreement on good advertising practices with the regional president

**:: MARÍA DOLORES TORTOSA**  
**SEVILLE.** More than 20 editors and directors of media outlets based

in Andalucía, including SUR's Manuel Castillo, signed a good practice agreement with regional president Susana Díaz in Seville on Wednesday.

The pioneering agreement, which puts an end to adult classified advertisements, also calls for this practice to be extended across all of Spain.

The Junta and the media outlets have agreed to "make Andalucía a

space free of sex advertisements, commonly known as 'adult relaxation ads', conscious of the fact that these are just the tip of the iceberg in situations that threaten the dignity and the fundamental rights of those, especially of women and young girls, involved in prostitution or sexual slavery".

Díaz expressed her "thanks and pride" to the media chiefs for this

"major step forward" which she described as "an example of commitment and social responsibility in the defence of good practices and codes of conduct" which would help to create "a better world".

The Andalusian president expressed her concern that Spain had become one of the largest consumers of prostitution in the Europe, especially when "the vast majority of people involved are there against their will".

Susana Díaz also said that this agreement was the precursor to a law that she is "convinced" the regional government will soon approve against mistreatment and sexual exploitation.

## Díaz to meet with Interior minister to discuss issue of drug trafficking in the Campo de Gibraltar

**:: SUR**

**SEVILLE.** President of the Junta de Andalucía, Susana Díaz, intends to meet with Interior minister, Juan Ignacio Zoido, in the coming days to thrash out measures to crack down on drug trafficking in the Campo de Gibraltar, according to sources in the Andalusian government.

The date for the meeting has not yet been set, but in it Díaz hopes to put politics aside and present a united front in the fight against traffickers, in much the same way as the recent storm damage to the Huelva coast was tackled across party lines.

The Andalusian president considers that it is necessary to face up to the "growing problem" with determination, but that this is only possible through cooperation.

Following the case of a gang attacking a hospital in La Línea de la Concepción in February to free a suspected trafficker from National Police custody, Susana Díaz demanded that the central government make "an even greater effort" in order to fight the "escalation of criminal activity".

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## Businesses gear up for Easter with a 12% increase in temporary staff

A record number of workers will be contracted this year to meet the expected demand, according to recruitment specialist Randstad

■ NURIA TRIGUERO

**MÁLAGA.** A recruitment company is estimating that some 8,000 extra people will be needed to work in Costa businesses over the busy Easter period, some 12 per cent more than for the same holiday period last year.

Human resources specialist Randstad says reinforcements will be needed in the transport and logistics, hotels and catering, and entertainment sectors.

The record numbers of extra staff to be taken on compares even more favourably to five years ago. Since 2013 there has been a 60 per cent



Local restaurants are expecting people to spend more. ■ F. SILVA

increase in demand for temporary staff, the company says.

Across the whole of Andalucía, the company is predicting a total of 40,480 extra temporary posts in the coming weeks, almost 14 per cent more than last year.

Luis Callejón, president of the Costa del Sol hoteliers association says that hotel occupancy is expected to be slightly down this year as Easter falls mostly in March not April. Restaurant owners are predicting an increase in business.

## RSV, 'the Polish Zara', to open its first store on the Costa

■ JUAN SOTO

**MÁLAGA.** Polish retail giant, RSV Clothes, is to open a store on the Costa del Sol in May, its first in Andalucía.

RSV, which specialises in the sale of low-cost fashion, is known as 'the Polish Zara' because of the huge scale of its operation. In Poland it has some 4,000 stores. The new Spanish shop will be in the Málaga

Nostrum outlet shopping centre, near the airport in Málaga city, and will cover 680 square metres.

Currently RSV only operates in the Valencia area but bosses have confirmed that the new Málaga store is part of an ambitious expansion plan for Spain.

Málaga Nostrum has also announced that Italian chain Pull Love will open shortly.

## Call for flat-rate 50-euro social security rate for new self-employed

■ JUAN SOTO

**MÁLAGA.** The national association of self-employed workers (autónomos) has called on the Junta de Andalucía regional government

to catch up with other regions of Spain and introduce the flat-rate 50-euro social security rate for people registering as self-employed for the first time.

The special rate, much lower than the normal amount, is designed to encourage unemployed people to set up in business on their own and has been applied for the first 24 months in some areas. The regional parliament is still debating the new rule, which is also aimed at reducing the black-market economy.

THE EURO ZONE  
MARK NAYLER

## AN UNCONVINCING PROPOSAL



**T**he precarious status of Mariano Rajoy's minority government was highlighted once again this week. In yet another attempt to pass the 2018 budget, the Spanish prime minister promised his opponents in congress that this year's spending plan could include tax breaks for widows as well as an increase in the minimum state pension. Displaying his peerless flair for elliptical soundbites, Rajoy announced on Wednesday that the changes are "within the framework" of this year's budget, although "we can't spend more than we earn".

This enigmatic statement contains the essence of the conservative Popular Party's (PP) policy on Spanish pensions - namely, that the best way to increase them is by bolstering the country's workforce. In Spain, pensions are part of the social security system, so Rajoy's case is that continually upping pension rates is not possible if there is not enough money coming in at the other end of the system - i.e. from contributions to social security on behalf of the employed population.

And here lies a stumbling block. Although unemployment in Spain is much reduced from a critical high of 26% in 2013, it is still 17%, second only to Greece within the EU. The jobless rate amongst under-25s is even more of a problem and stands at 38%.

Further compounding the im-

balance that exists between the extremities of the Spanish social security-pensions system is that Spain's elderly population is rapidly increasing: the World Bank predicts that by 2050, half of the country's population will be over 55 years of age. In other words, an insufficiently powerful workforce is being put under strain by an increasingly elderly population. That's why Rajoy says he's severely restrained when it comes to increasing pensions.

As complicated as the issue is, the Spanish PM's opponents say that he should be doing more. This year, for the fifth year in a row, pensions increased by 0.25%, not even matching an inflation rate that was at 1.1% last month. Indeed, Spanish pensioners, a cohort on whom the PP is heavily reliant for votes, are rapidly swelling the ranks of its detractors.

Rajoy's critics also point to his country's alleged economic recovery. Spain has enjoyed four straight years of GDP expansion - a steady growth that has withstood the election disaster of 2015-2016 and the ongoing Catalonia saga. So why is none of Spain's prosperity reflected in an improved pensions system?

Rajoy has only made these latest proposals because he needs support from other parties to pass the 2018 budget. Like an apology that's asked for and not volunteered, it's a policy change that feels singularly unconvincing.

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# Stalemate in Catalonia still as vote on new president is suspended

A judge said that Jordi Sánchez couldn't leave jail for the debate, forcing secessionist politicians to discuss what to do next to avoid a fresh election

■ SUR

**BARCELONA.** Plans to appoint a new president of the Catalan government have taken a step backwards in the last week after the speaker of the regional parliament suspended the expected debate and vote last Monday on the candidacy of Jordi Sánchez. Last Friday, 9 March, a Supreme Court judge ruled that Sánchez would not be allowed to leave jail to attend the debate. He is being held during investigations into last October's illegal declaration of independence for fear of repeating his alleged offences of sedition and rebellion.

Sánchez's lawyers said immediately after the judge's decision that he would appeal the decision to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, citing a precedent of when a man in jail over ETA terrorist offences was permitted to leave to attend a Basque parliamentary session. The judge, however, said



Carles Puigdemont (c) and JxCat leaders in Brussels this week. ■ EFE

that the two cases weren't comparable. For the moment Sánchez, of the Junts per Catalunya (JxCat) political group, has decided to appeal the Supreme Court decision in Spain first before referring it to Strasbourg.

The speaker of the Catalan parliament, Roger Torrent, now faces the dilemma of whether to wait for the legal appeal process before convening MPs or find another secessionist candidate. Separatist MPs hold a majority in the chamber.

Leaders of JxCat were in Brussels

this week to meet with Carles Puigdemont, ex-president who recently stepped aside as candidate in favour of his number two, Jordi Sánchez. The JxCat members urged the other Catalan separatist parties, ERC and CUP, to be patient with the candidacy of Sánchez, with the increasing possibility that Catalans will be called to vote again in new regional elections if no president is appointed by MPs. The suggested new candidacy of Jordi Turull, who is neither in jail nor in exile, was rejected by JxCat.



Archive photo of a protester burning an image of the monarch. ■ SUR

## Top European court rules that Spain overreacted to burning of King's photo

■ SUR

**MADRID.** The European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg has said that the burning of images of the Spanish Royal Family by republican or regional separatist protesters is part of their freedom of speech. In a sentence revealed this week, the top court said that Spain was wrong to have fined two protesters for burning a large upturned photograph of King Juan Carlos in 2007, as part of Catalan pro-independence demonstrations.

Enric Stern and Jaume Roura, from the Catalan province of Girona, were ordered to pay a fine of 2,700 euros each by Spanish courts

to avoid going to prison for harming the Crown, and told they faced 15 months in jail if they didn't pay.

The case was taken up by judges in Strasbourg who have now ruled against Spain. According to the ruling, the original sentence was "a restriction on freedom of expression that wasn't in proportion to the aim of the act". In the judges' opinion, the burning of photos in public in an over-the-top way was only meant "to raise awareness" and that there was no intention to incite hatred. Spain has been told to return the money to the men as well as pay 9,000 euros in compensation and costs.

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## Mercadona announces profit fall in 2017 due to investment in new-look shop format

■ LUCÍA PALACIOS

**VALENCIA.** Spain's biggest supermarket group, Mercadona, announced its annual results for 2017 on Tuesday and said that it had seen its profits half.

The Valencia-based giant said that its profits last year were 322 million euros. However this was still good news for the president and founder, Juan Roig, who had expected only 200 million euros in profit. Sales in the period increased by six per cent to almost 23 billion euros.

Mercadona is still privately-owned and he had told analysts last year that it would be diverting much of its sales to start an ambitious investment programme worth just over one billion euros in 2017. Most of this money, 667 million, was spent on starting to refit the company's shops with a newer and more efficient look, as well as opening new stores.

Roig said that "Mercadona is doing well and will do much better", adding that his company hopes to invest 8.5 billion over the next six years. The chain now has 1,627 supermarkets and employs 84,000 people.



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# Threat level to Gibraltar remains 'substantial' after recent review

An attack remains a strong possibility, but the Contingency Council says there is no intelligence to suggest an increase in the threat to Gibraltar

DEBBIE BARTLETT

**GIBRALTAR.** The governor of Gibraltar, Lt Gen Edward Davis, and deputy chief minister Dr Joseph Garcia met with the Gibraltar Contingency Council on Tuesday to review security and civil contingency measures on the Rock.

A statement issued after the meeting by the Governor's office said it had been decided to maintain the threat level at 'substantial', which means that an attack remains a strong possibility, but stressed that there is no specific intelligence suggest an increase in the threat to Gibraltar or to any forthcoming high profile events.

The GCC also considered the latest developments in the UK, following the attempted murder of Sergei and Yulia Skripal in Salisbury a few days ago; this involved the first use of a nerve agent in Europe since 1945 and has resulted in a chilling of relations between the



There is no intelligence to suggest an increased threat. :: D. B.

UK and Russia, who the British government blames for the attack.

The GCC also expressed its admiration for the brave and selfless work of first responders who are often called upon to attend such distressing, difficult and dangerous crime scenes. It will continue to monitor developments in the UK

closely, but stresses that there is no reason for members of the public to be alarmed in relation to the events in Salisbury.

As ever, people in Gibraltar are asked to remain vigilant and to report any concerns they may have about security and law enforcement to the Royal Gibraltar Police.

## IN BRIEF



The two teams competed in La Línea. :: SUR

## Gold and silver for rhythmic gymnasts

GIBRALTAR

:: D. B. The Gibraltar Rhythmic Gymnasts did the Rock proud when two groups opened the competition season in La Línea on Sunday 4 March and won two medals,

a gold for the Benjamin B Group and silver for the Pre-Benjamin C Group.

The Espoir Ball Group were meant to be competing in the UK at the same time but the event was postponed due to bad weather. However, they took the opportunity to also perform a magnificent display in La Línea.

## Lords Select Committee members visit Gibraltar

GIBRALTAR

:: D. B. Three members of the House of Lords EU Select Committee are currently on a fact-finding visit to Gibraltar. Lord Boswell, Baroness Neville-Rolfe and Lord Woolmer are having several meetings with politicians and local groups and will also be given a guided tour of local tourist attractions.

## Free evening lecture at the university

GIBRALTAR

:: D. B. Dr John Cortes, Beacon Professor at Gibraltar university, will be giving a lecture on 'Fragments of Paradise: Nature and Man in far-flung islands' on 10 April. Attendance is free and open to the public, and those interested should register online in advance at [www.unigib.edu.gi](http://www.unigib.edu.gi)

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We accept letters by email (surinenglish.su@diariosur.es), post or fax, but they must include identification and a telephone number, and be exclusive to SUR in English. We do not publish anonymous letters. Opinions expressed by contributors to this and other pages of SUR in English do not necessarily reflect those of the publishers. No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission from the publishers.



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

## Obsolescence

‘Programmed obsolescence’ is a concept that tells us our household appliances, however new they may appear, will stop working when we least expect it. We tend to attribute this to the evil companies that make them, which give them a limited life expectancy so that we keep having to replace them, especially given constant technological advances.

In truth, it would be fine to go through life with the same light bulbs or the same printer, but this flies in the face of progress, which demands martyrs,

whether it’s the blender, the heater or the vacuum cleaner. They live their lives knowing that soon there will be a more sophisticated printer than them, a vacuum with greater suction power or a more efficient heater than was thought possible when they were purchased.

What we’re doing though by investing in new consumer goods is contributing towards a bright future, when we might make toast with lasers.

PHILLIP KING  
BY EMAIL

## Torremolinos

We have just returned from another lovely holiday in dear Torremolinos.

However I would like to mention a few observations:

It is a pity that there is work going on on the famous steps; I do hope it is finished by Easter. What is the impact on traders?

We do like the lovely building that has been beautifully restored on the sea front, built in 1926, truly stunning.

Also, regarding the building at the top of the steps behind Hotel Meliá: is it being used as a squat? The rubbish tipped over the rear wall is unsightly.

However, this will not stop us returning and I hope you find the comments constructive.

Also an ‘A1’ rail service, congratulations to Renfe.

MARK ROWE  
UK

## Metal detectors

The wealth of archaeological heritage this country has and its necessary protection should form part of the school curriculum in compulsory education. One of the greatest threats to archaeological sites are thieves, looters and treasure hunters who try to obtain objects and coins with the help of metal detectors that in some regions are banned. However for years these individuals have been going where they pleased due to the

negligent management of those responsible for conserving our heritage and who haven’t fought enough against this type of criminal practice.

It would be good if any citizen who sees someone with a metal detector, who isn’t an archaeologist with permission to search, could report the illegal activity to the Guardia Civil.

If we read the law to the letter, even those who go along the beaches looking for things others have left behind are illegal. The problem isn’t that there’s a legal loophole; the problem is that there is an alarming lack of awareness that needs addressing.

VENANCIO FERNÁNDEZ  
BY EMAIL

## Creative brilliance

I was thrilled to read the Schools Supplement last week. I look forward to it being published every year because it’s so uplifting to see how talented the youth of today are. It’s also nice to know what the schools are doing both to enhance children’s learning and to improve the local community. Children can receive such an in-depth education these days, learning about everything under the sun. If my daughter ever does move out to the Costa with her family my grandchildren will be spoilt for choice with brilliant schools!

LUCY KNOWLES  
BY EMAIL

# Choosing’s my religion

PETER EDGERTON  
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

It’s exhausting. All that choice that’s on offer for everything we ever do. Even the simplest of pleasures is converted into a labyrinth of decision-making by the sheer volume and variety of everything around us.

If you want to spend the evening watching a film with a bottle of wine and a pizza, what should be a pretty mindless exercise becomes a decision-making marathon if you let it. The pizza menu reads like War And Peace (and that’s before you even reach the ‘extra toppings’ prologue) while there are more varieties of wine available at your local supermarket than there are stars in the universe. None of this actually matters, of course, because by the time you’ve decided what film you want to watch, the pizza’s gone cold and the wine’s turned to vinegar.

Someone asked for Cola Cola Zero Zero in the pub the other day. At first

I thought that they had some kind of speech impediment but, no, apparently this nonsense actually does exist. It’s got zero sugar in it and zero something else that I can’t remember. Taste, probably. You might as well ask for a bottle of water as something as joyless as Coca Cola Zero Zero Zero Zero or whatever it’s called.

Ah, yes, water. Even the most basic of our requirements doesn’t escape from the infinite choice model. Water from the Sierra Nevada mountains, water from the Pyrenees, water from the eternal life-giving springs of the Nepalese hinterland, water from some bloke’s duck pond in Rotherham. There’s no end to it. It really is only water and there’s plenty of it in the tap. You know when society has reached a saturation point of riches when families begin to squabble about which brand of water to buy (they

do, I’ve witnessed it on more than one occasion).

What can we do about this state of affairs, then? Well, I propose a ‘first come, first served’ month long period during which time everyone simply chooses the first thing they see in every case. Netflix recommends a film about teenagers in a haunted house? That’ll do. Pizza with unidentifiable bits of who knows what on it? Don’t mind if I do (everybody knows it’s only the Italian version of cheese on toast anyway). A lovely carton of Don Simón wine? Mmm, yes please. We might even try water from the tap and bottles of Coca Cola that actually have some ingredients in them.

Nothing much will actually happen, except that we won’t find ourselves quite so tired out by all that superfluous decision-making.

It’s not called being ‘spoilt for choice’ for nothing.

PACHI



# 12 years

HÉCTOR BARBOTTA

Events in recent years have given us reason to agree with those who say that very few politicians are ever put behind bars. Twelve years ago however, when Juan Antonio Roca and a large number of Marbella councillors were sent to prison, the scene was practically unheard-of. One question will always remain: would the ice block of impunity for offences committed within institutions have broken in such a way if those who looted Marbella town hall for 15 years had been under the protective umbrella of one of the big national parties?

The reality is that these thieves belonged to the GIL party, and with the death of their leader who rubbed

shoulders with judges and ministers in the stands of the Vicente Calderón football ground, they were the weakest link in the chain of institutional corruption. The years of immunity, judicial apathy and political collusion were gone and the heirs of Jesús Gil couldn’t see it.

We’ll never know if ‘Operación Malaya’ really took those big fish by surprise, although they would certainly have been surprised by the size and significance of the operation. Not in their worst nightmares could they have imagined the years in court and certainly not the time behind bars.

‘Operación Malaya’ happened 12 years ago and since then we have seen politicians of all colours and

even members of the royal family in court. You only have to recall the shockwaves caused by that operation and compare them with what came later to appreciate that that was the event that started a new era in Spanish political culture.

Juan Antonio Roca has just got his freedom back. There will be some, perhaps quite rightly, who consider that this isn’t long considering the damage caused. But if we take into account that in all this time we have seen changes in government, the end of the two-party system with the appearance of two new groups, the arrival of a black man at the White House and an Argentinian Pope at the Vatican, the worst refugee crisis since the Second World War, the biggest and longest financial depression on record, the appearance of smartphones and the invasion of social media in our everyday lives, and that all this time Roca has been in prison, perhaps we could conclude that in Marbella there has been no impunity. We ought to be pleased about that.





# A story of migration

Justin Smith and Sonia Janin RosaCristina collaborative art research

**A video will be shown at the UK's Liquidscapes international conference in June**

**J**ustin Smith, 48, originally from Pembrokeshire in Wales, and Sonia Janin, 40, from Lyon, France are a husband and wife team of artists who have chosen the town of Casares in Malaga to make their art.

They first met 15 years ago in London, where Sonia had moved from France five years previously and Justin was also living. In London they both had their own, separate art studios, but since they came to Spain 18 months ago their work has also merged.

Justin and Sonia have been using the theme of migration and the Malaga coastline for their project, Littoral, which combines Justin's video work, Sonia's photography and their shared interest in site-specific installations. "We have a shared history of migration related to Spain," explains Sonia, whose grandmother, Rosa, now 101, is originally from Las Palmas. As a young girl Sonia explains that her family emigrated to Morocco and later, during the 1930s, Rosa went to live in France. "That is how my family ended up being French," Sonia says that she has "always been attracted to Spain" for that reason.

## Andalusian connections

Justin also has a long history with Spain, as his parents, who have now both passed away, lived here for 30 years. "They were really integrated into Spanish life and spoke the language," he says. The couple's research project goes by the name RosaCristina, after



"It's hard to get real information"

## :: JENNIE RHODES

**MALAGA** The Missing Migrants project tracks incidents involving migrants, including refugees and asylum seekers who have died or gone missing in the process of migration.

According to the website (missingmigrants.iom.int), 81 people have died trying to cross the Mediterranean from north Africa to Andalucía in 2018 and

462 deaths have been recorded in the Mediterranean region.

The Missing Migrants Project is a joint initiative of the International Organisation for Migration's (IOM) Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) and Media and Communications Division (MCD) and receives funding from the UK government through UK Aid.

Sonia's grandmother and Justin's mother respectively.

The couple say that their own family connections with this part of Spain, as well as the stories that appear on the news about African migrants here, and Andalucía's long history of migration, going back as far as the Phoenicians, Romans and Moors, have been a huge influence on their work.

"It's important that people don't just see the Costa del Sol as a holiday zone, but as somewhere that has always been affected by migration," they explain.

Although the initial idea for Littoral was not political, Justin says that a lot of the art they have produced as part of the project has "become a political message".

They believe that one of the

**"It was a dark moment which really made us think about what this coastline witnesses"**

items they found among the "flotsam and jetsam" washed up during the 2017 storms was part of a boat which could have been used to carry migrants from Africa. "It seemed sturdy and too big to be a child's toy. It was a dark moment which really made us think about what this coastline witnesses,"

they explain.

In fact a video produced by Justin following the 2017 storms, titled Wave has been selected to appear at the Liquidscapes international conference at Dartington Hall in Devon in June this year. The short film combines scenes of the Mediterranean Sea during last year's storms with startling statistics on migrants trying to reach Spain from Africa. Justin obtained the data from the Missing Migrants project.

## Migrant crisis

"It's hard to get real information on the migrant crisis," says Sonia and Justin confesses that he was "shocked by the amount of people who try to come across".

Liquidscapes is a UK art exhibition and conference which explores how artists use water in their work and Justin and Sonia have been invited to speak about their work as part of the event.

They couple say they feel they are integrating well into their new home and have made both "Spanish and expat friends". Many of their neighbours are Spanish and they are having Spanish lessons. Having finished what they wanted to achieve with the Littoral project, they now want to try to get galleries in the province to exhibit their work and make more contacts with artists and art spaces in Andalucía.

"We see ourselves here for the foreseeable future," they admit. "We love it here and find it very inspiring."

They say that their work has changed considerably since they moved to Malaga and have a long list of projects they want to work on in the near future. "Something around Brexit is a possibility next," Sonia reveals.

**For further information on Justin and Sonia's work:**  
[www.rosacristina.eu](http://www.rosacristina.eu)

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# Rhinestone Cowboy returns to the Costa

TONY  
BRYANT

✉ tonysureng@gmail.com

**Johnny Westwood has appeared in a Madonna video, had acting roles alongside Penelope Cruz and Ray Winstone, and was a friend of Sir Christopher Lee**

**MALAGA.** One of the Costa del Sol's most popular performers, Johnny Westwood, has returned to live and work on the coast after a two-year absence. Johnny is an accomplished stage, television and film actor, and a renowned country and western singer.

Declared 'Best Solo Country Artist' by the UK's leading magazine, Cross Country, the 50-year-old entertainer, who is probably more remembered on the coast for his Camp Cowboy act, has a new tribute show, Legends of Country.

Johnny worked all over Spain with his risqué musical act, but he has now toned down his show, concentrating on a more traditional country and western set.

The new show pays tribute to some of the greatest country and western singers, including Jim Reeves, Glen Campbell, Willie Nelson, Kris Kristofferson and Garth Brookes.

Johnny grew up listening to country music on his grandparent's old record player and by the age of ten knew nearly all the words to the most popular country hits. However, at this time, he had no idea the influence this music would have on him later in life.

"I feel very privileged to be able to make a living singing music that I love. I began singing country music more than 15 years ago and I never realised in the beginning how popular this music is," Johnny explains to SUR in English.

He had previously lived in Fuen-girola for twelve years, until 2016,



Johnny Westwood brings his new country and western show to the Costa del Sol this month. :: SUR

when he returned to the UK to concentrate on a script for a sit-com that was originally intended to star John Inman and Norman Wisdom.

"Unfortunately, following the death of both actors and also my agent, the script was put on the back burner, but we are still waiting for someone to have a bite at the cherry," the singer says enthusiastically.

## Musical theatre and television

He first ventured into musical theatre and pantomime, working with household names like Syd Little, Darren Day and Jean Ferguson. He also appeared in Sunset Boulevard at the Centre Stage Theatre in Covent Garden, singing Seize the Day alongside Petula Clarke – "the nicest person [he] ever met".

Along with this, Johnny enjoyed a productive television career, appearing with Martin Shaw in The Chief, and in Without Motive, with

EastEnders hard man, Ross Kemp.

## Meeting Christopher Lee

Sir Christopher Lee, one of Johnny's heroes, was to make a big impact on his acting career and Johnny declares that meeting him was an important stage in his life.

"Meeting Christopher Lee was like a dream come true, because it was he who influenced me to become an actor. It turned out that we had a mutual friend who owned a book shop in Covent Garden. I first met him at a book signing and the rest is history. We met each other many times after that. He was very funny - nothing like his characters," Johnny says.

"However, he did not suffer fools and demonstrated this one day when I couldn't remember the name of a writer whose play I was appearing in. He was an incredible man and a great influence to me,"

he adds, remembering his friend with fondness.

When last in Spain, Johnny appeared in several films, two of which premiered at the Marbella and Hollywood film festivals. These include The Sea Change with Ray Winstone, and the comedy drama, Twice Upon a Yesterday with Penelope Cruz.

## Dinner with Madonna

He also appeared in the video for Madonna's 1998 hit, A Substitute for Love. Johnny was persuaded to take part in the video, although he did not know it was Madonna until he turned up on set. Although he was paid just 50 pounds for two days' shooting, he claims that it was worth doing for the experience and his résumé.

"I had dinner with Madonna; she was lovely. She's not a bitch like everyone makes out; she was really sweet. I didn't get much of a fee, but

**The country and western singer has a new act on his return to the Costa - Legends of Country**

**"I started singing country 15 years ago and I never realised how popular it was"**

everybody wants to include a Madonna video on their CV," the charismatic entertainer points out.

Johnny admits he has never been one to turn down work, although he sometimes has to falsify his ability to secure a part, even if he knows he stands little chance of succeeding.

"If someone asked me if I can ski I would say yes. I once told a producer that I could speak German, even though I could not. Thank God I didn't get to the auditions, that would have been embarrassing," he explains, bursting into laughter.

## Back on the Costa

At the moment, he is preparing for the first of his gigs on the coast, which will include the Almadina Restaurant in Alhaurín el Grande on Friday 23 March. The show begins at 9pm.

Johnny can also be seen performing his Ladies and Gentleman of Country show with PJ Angell at the Ginger Pig Bar in Coin on Saturday 31 March. He will be announcing several more dates on the Costa del Sol and has already been booked to appear at the Salon Varietes Theatre later in the season.

The new show is said to be the best of its kind and it is sure to appeal to the lovers of country and western music.

"I love all types of country music and this reflects very clearly in my shows. You will always get great country classics from Willie Nelson to Glen Campbell and Kris Kristofferson, but also some of the more up-to-date-stuff like Garth Brookes," the singer concludes.



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DEBBIE BARTLETT

## WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

16 MARCH 2003

# The Azores summit sets the stage for the War on Iraq

**O**n 16 March 2003, US president George W Bush, UK prime minister Tony Blair and Spanish prime minister José María Aznar sat down together for emergency talks at what became known as the 'Azores summit'.

The meeting took place on the island of Terceira. Officially, the aim was to discuss the prospects of a UN resolution on Iraq, but it was here that the three leaders took the decision which resulted in the War on Iraq beginning four days later.

At a press conference immediately after the meeting, President Bush said they were working toward the great cause of peace and security in this world. "We concluded that tomorrow is a moment of truth for the world," he announced.

"Many nations have voiced a commitment to peace and security.

And now they must demonstrate that commitment to peace and security in the only effective way, by supporting the immediate and unconditional disarmament of Saddam Hussein. The dictator of Iraq and his weapons of mass destruction are a threat to the security of free nations. He is a danger to his neighbours. He's a sponsor of terrorism. He's an obstacle to progress in the Middle East.... Saddam Hussein has proven he is capable of any crime. We must not permit his crimes to reach across the world," said Bush.

In his address, José María Aznar said the three leaders had not come to the Azores in order to make a declaration of war, but that international law has to be respected and so do UN resolutions. "We are well aware of the international world public opinion, of its concern. And we are also very well aware of our



Blair, Bush and Aznar made the decision to invade Iraq in 2003. :: SUR

responsibilities and obligations. If Saddam Hussein wants to disarm and avoid the serious consequences that he has been warned about by the United Nations, he can do so. And nothing in our document, nor in our statement, can prevent him from doing so, if he wants to. So his is the sole responsibility," he said.

Tony Blair said Saddam Hussein had been playing games with the international community for 12 years and would continue to do so, and that it was very important for

the international community to give him a strong and unified message. "We will do all we can in the short time that remains to make a final round of contacts, to see whether there is a way through this impasse. But we are in the final stages, because, after 12 years of failing to disarm him, now is the time when we have to decide," he said.

The war on Iraq, which the US dubbed Operation Iraqi Freedom, lasted from 20 March to 1 May 2003 and succeeded in ridding the world

of Saddam Hussein. However conflict continued for much of the next decade. No weapons of mass destruction were ever found in Iraq.

In Spain there had been strong public feeling against Aznar's decision to declare war on Hussein, and in 2004 one of the first things new prime minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero did was to fulfil his manifesto commitment to withdraw Spanish troops from Iraq.

**Bilingual crossword inside back page**

## LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| Cumbre      | Summit      |
| Armas       | Weapons     |
| Destrucción | Destruction |
| Masiva      | Mass        |
| Presidente  | President   |
| Reunión     | Meeting     |
| Declaración | Declaration |
| Guerra      | War         |
| Error       | Mistake     |
| Críticas    | Criticism   |
| Invadir     | To invade   |
| Seguridad   | Security    |
| Anfitrión   | Host        |
| Amenaza     | Threat      |
| Naciones    | Nations     |
| Unidas      | United      |
| Ocupación   | Occupation  |
| Coalición   | Coalition   |
| Régimen     | Regime      |

## LEGAL ADVICE



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#### REF. E. N. I.

I work in a restaurant as a waiter, and some time ago, when we were serving diners, I ran into the kitchen and slipped when I stepped into a puddle, as the kitchen helper was scrubbing the floor. As a consequence, I broke my arm, and right now I am on sick leave. The point is that my work contract expires within a

few days, and I would like to know if I will continue receiving the allowance that I am receiving now or if the payments will stop when the contract expires.

In this sense, law establishes that when an employee is on sick leave and during that time the contract expires, he will continue receiving the allowance until the leave concludes.

#### REF. D. R. A.

Last week I went out with some friends to dinner and celebrate my birthday. After some drinks we decided to go to the casino to play poker, but when we got there, a member of the staff asked for ID, and told me that I could not go in. I did not understand what he meant, and maybe due to the drinks that I had had, I asked him quite rudely the reason why I could not come in. The staff member moved me away from my friends and whis-

pered that I could not go in because my name appeared on a list of gambling addicts. After that, one of the security guards invited me to leave the casino. What does that mean? This was the first time that I went to the casino, and I am certainly not a gambler at all. I am not interested in going to the casino, but I do not like that my name appears on a list of gambling addicts, when I am not. How can I rectify this?

Casinos and other gaming establishments such as bingo halls, video arcades and gaming rooms, are the ones that make these lists, and anyone, usually gamblers, can register on them voluntarily, in order to be banned from entering, thus avoiding the temptation. No one can register someone on those lists without their consent, so you should speak with the manager of the casino to remove your name from the list.

## Oscar winner Guillermo del Toro to receive Malaga festival prize

The director whose film picked up four Oscars this year will be given the Malaga-SUR distinction at the film festival in April

#### :: FRANCISCO GRIÑAN

**MALAGA.** This year's Oscar success for Guillermo del Toro came after previous years of disappointment. One of his most famous films, Pan's Labyrinth, set in Spain during the Civil War, had received nominations for Best Original Screenplay and Best Foreign Language Film, but hadn't won either category. Eleven years later, Del Toro has finally found success with the The

Shape of Water, which won Best Picture this year, as well as allowing him to achieve Best Director for his role in the masterpiece.

Now the Mexican-born director can look forward to another award, having been named as the recipient of the Malaga-SUR prize at the Malaga Spanish Film Festival next month. The ceremony will take place on 14 April at the Teatro Cervantes.

The director of Hellboy and Pan's Labyrinth will become the first Oscar-winner to also receive the highest award at the Malaga festival (named for its partnership with SUR) for his professional career.

He will also be the first director to win the award, which is normally given to actors.



Del Toro on the set of The Shape of Water. :: FOX SEARCHLIGHT

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## WILDLIFE

PETER  
HARRISON

## Our waste, their pain

Animal lover or not, everyone who saw it on television must have been moved by the sight of a seal that had come close to death by starvation due to getting a rubber ring around its neck. Someone had carelessly been playing with it on a beach when it went into the water and was not recovered.

Carried miles by the tides it was discovered by a curious seal which, on investigating the strange object, managed to get it around its neck and there it stayed firmly. The result was that the seal could see and catch fish but could not swallow it. It made me think of cormorants who are fitted with rings on the neck by fishermen so the birds could catch the fish and bring them back to the fishermen who could benefit from the catch.

The birds were lucky as they could at least have a few fish at the end of the day when the rings were removed. The snag is that cormorants can only dive for short periods as their feathers are not waterproof so they need to

stay on a rock to dry out. A big effort for very small return.

The rescuer of the seal commented that the animal was now fit to return to its natural habitat. He stated that he had saved many similar cases but the majority of his patients were animals that had swallowed fish hooks. What a dreadful, painful experience for an animal as a result of human carelessness.

Thanks to considerable publicity we are all made aware of the pollution of our seas due to plastic. It takes many years to break down but in the meanwhile is swallowed by fish which, in turn, are consumed by humans in the food chain. This is causing people to wake up to the danger. They are eating plastic!

Yet the usage of plastic continues and we even send it to countries like China for disposal. The smart Chinese have woken up to this and have started to refuse it.

It is amazing how people ask for plastic bags as a matter of routine, even to carry goods from the supermarket which are al-

ready wrapped in plastic - not just an outer coating but plastic within a plastic cover. Those tablets for the washing machine are all in a plastic bag and each tablet is individually wrapped. Millions of them must be used daily and glittering in the sea look like tasty morsels for a hungry fish.

We all do careless acts which cause suffering. Those tins of food for human or pet consumption are thrown into the garbage and eventually land up on the rubbish tip and are bulldozed into a heap. Wild animals or pets which have strayed and gone feral are hungry and seeking food. Those cans with a smattering of food are an answer to their plight. The result is the infliction of the severe cut to the nose which will fester. No vet is available.

Do make sure such cans are crushed flat. Think twice, then again, before you dispose of garbage and never throw broken glass away with food. Think what may well happen when a hungry animal spots such a potential meal.



The charity concert in memory of Roy Alan. :: SUR

## Local charities benefit from tribute gala for popular expat

:: TONY BRYANT

**BENALMÁDENA.** More than 1,200 euros was raised at a tribute gala held in honour of Roy Alan, a popular expat who recently died of cancer. The event was held in Club Náutico in Benalmádena last Friday and included performances by the Costa Soul Sing-

ers and A Touch of Class.

Roy, who was a supporter of Lux Mundi and an active member of A Touch of Class, spent the last week of his life in the Cudeca Hospice.

All proceeds from the show will be divided equally between the Cudeca Hospice and Lux Mundi.

## Jamiroquai the latest addition to star-studded Starlite line-up

:: DARYL FINCH


**MÁLAGA.** Jamiroquai, the global electronic funk sensation, are among the latest batch of artists confirmed

to be performing at the Starlite summer music festival in Marbella.

The British band, fronted by singer-songwriter Jay Kay, will perform on the Nagüeles quarry stage on 22 July.

Also announced this week are Luis Miguel (11 July), Maná (25 July) and Melendi (25 August).

British artists James Blunt and Sting are among the other stand-out names currently confirmed.



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## Malaga to host international premiere of Genius: Picasso

National Geographic had confirmed that the screening will take place in Spain. Banderas convinced them to choose Malaga

### ■ PEDRO LUIS GÓMEZ

**MALAGA.** The international premiere for the second season of the critically acclaimed National Geographic series *Genius* is to take place in Malaga's Cervantes theatre on 22 March. This new instalment is dedicated to Picasso (the subject of the first was Einstein) and stars Malaga-born actor Antonio Banderas.

National Geographic (NG) planned to host the international premiere in Spain, as was announced when the project was unveiled, but it did not initially reveal where or when it would take place. SUR

learned that the organisation was initially going to choose Madrid, but Antonio Banderas appears to have changed their minds.

"Seeing as they filmed many scenes for the series in Malaga, Picasso's birthplace, it seemed natural that the premiere should be as close to his home as possible, in the Teatro Cervantes, in an act heavy with symbolism," said the actor.

The premiere will be an important endorsement of Malaga and its culture as Fox and National Geographic will invite journalists from all over the world. The actors, direc-

tors, series producers and top executives at NG and Fox are also expected to attend.

The filming of the ten-chapter series is almost complete, and its television premiere in the United States is set to be 24 April, which could be mirrored in Spain.

The new series, created by Fox 21 Television Studios, has been supported by Brian Gazer and Ron Howard from Imagine Entertainment, as well as Madison Wells Media's OddLot Entertainment and EUE/Sokolow.

"The life of Pablo Picasso has fascinated me throughout my life and I have an enormous respect for the man I share a hometown with," Banderas said. "I'm thrilled to have worked with National Geographic, Brian, Ron, Ken and the rest of the team behind *Genius* to tell the true story of one of the world's most innovative painters."

**Antonio Banderas: "It's natural that the premiere should as close to [Picasso's] home as possible"**



Antonio Banderas as Picasso in one of the episodes. ■ NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

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## DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA



Some of the most unusual Easter traditions are to be found in towns in Andalucía. :: T. ANDALUZ

## A week of Easter Passion

A WEEK FOLLOWING THE  
PATHWAYS OF PASSION

Car + walking

**Journey time:** It is a two-hour drive to the heart of Andalucía. Processions: 3 days. Monuments: 2 days

JAVIER ALMELLONES

One of the most remarkable times of the year is now approaching in Andalucía: Semana Santa, or Holy Week. Every city, town and village celebrates Easter in its own way, according to its local customs and traditions, but in some places it is a truly fascinating experience.

In fact, ten of towns in three different provinces are on a specially-designed tourist route called 'Camino de Pasión', or 'Pathways of Passion'.

Between the Friday of So-

rows and Resurrection Sunday, these historic towns in the heart of Andalucía become fully immersed in the religious traditions of Holy Week.

The itinerary takes you to Alcalá la Real, in Jaén; Baena, Cabra, Lucena, Priego de Córdoba and Puente Genil, in Córdoba; and Carmona, Osuna, Écija and Utrera, in Seville.

One of the most unusual experiences along this 'Camino de Pasión' route is to be found in Alcalá la Real, with its combination of religious processions and mystery plays.

In Puente Genil, Holy Week is so different that it is known as 'La Mananta' instead of 'Semana Santa'. The processions represent scenes from the bible and many of the characters wear masks.

Also in Córdoba province, you can see the so-called 'santería' in Lucena, an unusual way of carrying the floats to the rhythm of drums and the sound of the Torralbo, announcing the arrival of the processions.

Meanwhile, Holy Week in Priego de Córdoba is a time of contrasts. Many of the processions are greeted in silence, but the crowds always burst into cheers when they see the figure of the Nazarene on Good Friday.

Anyone who visits the town of Carmona, in Seville province, at this time of year will be able to see the figure of the Señor de la Amargura, which is believed to be one of the oldest images still to be carried in procession during Holy Week in Andalucía.



Holy Week in Alcalá la Real. :: TURISMO ANDALUZ



La Mananta, in Puente Genil. :: TURISMO ANDALUZ

## QUICK GUIDE

What to see on the Pathways  
of Passion route

## Collegiate church of Osuna.

Renaissance building with an important collection of Baroque art. Plaza de la Encarnación, 41640 Osuna (Seville)

## Holy Week Museum.

A collection relating to Easter. Calle Mesones 37, 14850 Baena (Córdoba)

## Abbey church.

Built within La Mota castle for the Abbey of Royal Patronage. Castilla de la Mota. 23680 Alcalá la Real (Jaén).

## Sacred Art Museum

Valuable collection inside the church of Santa Cruz. Plaza Santa Nuestra del Valle, 41400 Écija (Seville).

## Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción

Gothic-Mudejar building dating back to 1525. Calle Santa Ana, 14800 Priego de Córdoba.







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## SOCIETY SCENE

# Entertainment and help for local causes

Many associations and clubs are also looking for 'new blood' as they make exciting plans for the future

## :: SUR IN ENGLISH

### El Paraiso Golf Fundraiser for Pieta House

A charity dinner in aid of Pieta House was held in the El Paraiso Golf club recently. It was organised by David and Barbara James and chef Paul and consisted of a seven-course meal with wine tasting sponsored by Richard Bell Young of Vinopolis wines Puerto Banús.

The event was to raise funds for the suicide and self harm prevention charity and to launch the Pieta House annual walk which takes place in Estepona on 12 May, 5.30am. Register at [www.darkness-intolight.ie](http://www.darkness-intolight.ie)

### U3A Looking for leaders

The U3A group are looking for people interested in running a course or managing a group. They will be given some basic guidance and the courses or activities can run between October and late May.

Volunteers will need to have a few hours a week free, fortnightly or monthly, depending on the course or activity. Occasionally group leaders need to take a short break for personal reasons and a backup leader is needed.

The courses and activities are very varied and suggestions are welcomed

for additional courses or activities.

Planning for courses starting in October 2018 is already under way but more group leaders are needed.

The full prospectus is available online (<http://u3afuengirolacostadelosol.com>). They are also on Facebook, U3AFuengirolaCostaDelSol. Anyone interested should email [jeangrange61@gmail.com](mailto:jeangrange61@gmail.com) for more details.

### Club Charity and Pleasure CAP singers entertain

Club Charity and Pleasure (CAP) last week marked its 25th birthday with cake and wine for members. CAP Singers, under the direction of Yvonne Harrison, entertained with a selection from their new repertoire.

CAP is a social organisation which meets at 10.30am each Wednesday morning at Restaurante Chilli, Benamara. Some weeks they have a speaker. They also arrange events and excursions including regular trips to Gibraltar, the theatre, exhibitions, lunches and dinners at different venues along the Coast. They also raise money for local charities, mainly those supporting Alzheimer's sufferers, Adana, Aprona, Aspandem and Cudeca.

New members are welcome – annual membership is €15. For more information contact President Mary Erlich on 952 896820 or visit [www.clubcharityandpleasure.wordpress.com](http://www.clubcharityandpleasure.wordpress.com).

### La Cala de Mijas Lions Club Show bar Legends evening

The President of the Lions, Julie Barry, thanked Andrea and Paul of



The Santa María Bowls Club :: GARRY ALDRIDGE

the show bar Legends for their support at a recent fundraising evening from which the money raised will go to local causes.

There was a raffle and Echoes of the 60s provided the entertainment. Last year the club donated almost 60,000 euros locally, the majority of which was raised in their shop in Calle Torremolinos in La Cala.

This year the club celebrates 20 years of service to the local community. New members are always welcome; just call in to the charity shop. The shop (677 059 061) is open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 2pm. Donations of clothes and bric-a-brac etc are always appreciated.

### Santa María Bowls The captain's team wins

Santa Maria Bowls club held their Annual Captain vs President Competition last month.

The finish went down to the last bowl on the last end and the Captain's team came out the winners by three shots. The afternoon was completed with a meal and a talent night.

Anyone wishing to come to the club should contact Susan Walker on 664068020.

### 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)



Lion's Club members and supporters. :: SUR



Pieta House receiving the cheque from El Paraiso golf. :: SUR

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DENISE BUSH



## READER'S PHOTO

PERUVIAN  
BEAUTY

SUR reader Jennifer Giles sent in this photo of a beautiful *Scilla peruviana*. Scillas are native to the Mediterranean and although not frost hardy, can withstand some cold. They multiply easily and soon form a large clump. They prefer a rich soil with plenty of organic material and good drainage is essential.



J. GILES

## GARDENING HINTS

Fascinating facts about  
atomic gardening

After WWII, there was an initiative to develop alternative uses for fission energy. It was called Atoms for Peace and part of it included atomic gardening. Gamma gardens, as they are known, were created in the US, India, Japan, Europe and Russia to study the effects of radiation on plant life. The gardens were built in the shape of a cartwheel and covered about five acres. They were surrounded by an eight metre high dyke to prevent the radiation spreading outside the garden. At the hub of the wheel was the radioactive material, either Cobalt -60 or Caesium-137. The wheel was planted with different plants which were left exposed to the radiation for seven to eight months. The plants closest to the radioactive source usually

died, the ones a bit further out developed tumours and were misshapen but the plants furthest away mutated and produced new usable plants. The Rio Star grapefruit and a strain of peppermint resistant to verticillium wilt was developed in this way. Many of the mutations developed went into commercial production (Rio Star grapefruit account for 75% of Texas' grapefruit crop) and are still grown today.

The Atomic Gardening Society was started in 1959 by Briton Muriel Howorth, an atomic activist. The society distributed irradiated seeds to keen gardeners who were supposed to report back on the results. Interest faded in the 60s as gardeners' feedback was sporadic and enthusiasm waned.

## 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))

## GARDENING

## The Apple of Sodom

An attractive flowering bush or small tree, *Calotropis* has strange apple-like fruits that are hollow

DENISE BUSH

Although the common name is Apple of Sodom, *Calotropis* is a poisonous plant. Other common names include Rubber bush and King's crown, and sometimes it is known by the synonym *Asclepias procera*.

The genus *Calotropis* is part of the Apocynaceae family and it is native to North Africa, Tropical

Africa, Asia and Indochina. *Calotropis* forms a spreading shrub or medium tree 2.5 to six metres high. It has a tap root that can go down four metres and a fibrous root system. Its ability to find water deep in the soil helps it to live during periods of drought and its ability to send up suckers

from its fibrous mat of roots makes it a useful plant to prevent soil erosion. However its strong survival instincts have made it unwelcome in some temperate countries where it can grow unchecked and soon swamp other plant species.

The fruits are apple-like, green and about 10cm in diameter.

When crushed or hit they make an audible popping sound as they are filled mainly with air. In the centre is a small seed pod filled with fine silk. This silk was once collected to fill pillows or strands of it were twisted together to make wicks for lamps.

The white milky latex that exudes from the cut stems of *Calotropis* is poisonous and was once used as a poison for arrowheads. The mature stems are covered with a thick cork-like bark and the grey-green leaves are 15-30cm long and waxy. Fibres from the stems were used to make rope, nets and paper. The flowers are quite unusual, they are small white or greenish white at the base and purplish at the pointed tips. In the centre of each flower is a raised 'crown'. The plant is a food source for the Monarch caterpillar and attracts lots of pollinating insects.

*Calotropis* was first described by a Roman Jewish historian called Josephus who found it growing near Sodom. It is mentioned in both the Mishnah and the Talmud (its fibres cannot be used as wicks during the Sabbath).



The Apple of Sodom and close up of flower (inset). :: WIKIMEDIA

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# The passion of Holy Week in Andalucía

Our look at the annual celebrations covers four more of the region's eight provinces

**MALAGA.** Nowhere lives Semana Santa, the week leading up to Easter, with as much energy as Andalucía, and visitors can observe the rituals in every corner of the region

## Huelva

In Huelva the Holy Week processions begin on Palm Sunday. It is a very interesting city to visit at this time of year, and nobody should miss the chance to try some of the traditional Easter cakes, as well as enjoying the religious aspects of the occasion. One of the most special processions takes place in the early hours of Good Friday, when the religious brotherhoods of El Perdón, Misericordia and El Nazareno carry their images through the streets. The latter is one of the oldest in the city, dating back to the 16th century.

Also well worth seeing are the joyful 'La Borriquita' on Palm Sunday, the solemn 'Santo Entierro' on Good Friday and the processions of the Virgins of La Victoria and La Esperanza on Wednesday.

Elsewhere in the province of Huelva, Ayamonte is also a good place to visit at Easter, as its processions have been classified as an event of special interest to tourists in Andalucía.



The popular La Macarena procession in Seville during Holy Week. :: EFE

## Jaén

Holy Week in Jaén is particularly atmospheric, a mixture of history, tradition, art and religious devotion. It combines the sobriety of Castilla and the splendour of Andalucía. Crowds of people line the streets to watch the magnificent processions, and one of the most popular takes place in the early hours of Good Friday, when

the image of Nuestro Padre Jesús Nazareno, affectionately known as 'El Abuelo' (the grandfather), is brought out from the cathedral. It is accompanied by over 7,000 penitents and one highlight is when Nuestro Padre Jesús meets the Virgen de los Dolores in Calle Amargura. This is one of the most moving moments in the processions, which have taken

place in this city for 400 years.

The Easter processions are also well worth watching in towns such as Alcalá la Real, Baeza, Linares, Martos and Úbeda, all of which are classified as being of special interest.

## Malaga

It has to be said that Holy Week in Malaga is very special and every one of the processions is a delight to experience. Most of the religious brotherhoods also have their own 'Casa Hermandad', museums containing the beautiful floats, the cloaks worn by the Virgins, and other religious and ceremonial items.

Early in the morning of Holy Monday, thousands of people gather outside San Pablo church to see the images of Jesús Cautivo and María Santísima de la Trinidad brought from their chapel. That evening, processions of Jesús de la Columna, María Santísima de la O and 'Los Gitanos', the joyful gypsy procession which begins at Calle Frailes, take place.

Another important moment in Malaga is on Wednesday, when a prisoner is released by Nuestro Padre Jesús El Rico each year. This privilege was granted by Carlos III when there was an epidemic of cholera in Malaga

and people were not able to go out. Some prisoners managed to escape from the local jail, carried the image of Christ through the streets, and then returned voluntarily to prison.

Thursday morning is also popular in Malaga, when people go to the port to watch the Legion disembark from their ship.

In Malaga province, Holy Week is classified as being especially interesting for tourists in Alhaurín de la Torre, Antequera, Archidona, Arriate, Campillos, Riogordo, Ronda and Vélez-Málaga.

## Seville

Easter in Seville is unique in beauty and essence. Nearly 60 processions take place during the week, and this is not only a 400-year-old Catholic festival but also the synthesis of a whole culture centred on the essence of the human being.

The best way to see the processions is to look for some of the side streets which are off the official route but which they all have to pass through en route to the cathedral.

Good Friday and Holy Saturday are possibly the best days to enjoy Easter in Seville, but La Macarena and La Esperanza of Triana are also remarkably beautiful. Children also love La Borriquita on Palm Sunday.

Elsewhere in the province, Alcalá de Guadaira, Alcalá del Río, Carmona, Morón de la Frontera, Coria del Río, Utrera, Écija, Marchena, Estepa, Osuna, Guadalcanal and Las Cabezas de San Juan are also especially interesting at Easter.

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## Fundraisers plan flying visit to conquer La Concha

A group of hikers will travel from Scotland, climb Marbella's iconic peak and fly home on the same day for a cancer charity

###    SUR IN ENGLISH

**MALAGA.** A group of ten adventurers from Scotland are training for an intense 17-hour trip on Saturday 31 March. In order to raise funds for the Beatson Cancer Charity in Glasgow, the group will climb the La Concha mountain in Mar-

bella, whose peak stands at 1,200 metres above sea level.

The view from the top will be their only chance to do any sight-seeing however, as the climbers plan to fly in from Scotland and fly home again all on the same day.

They set themselves the goal of raising  10,000 and earlier this week they announced that half of the sum had already been donated.

One of the climbers is Stephanie Hutton, 33, whose mother Claire has been undergoing chemotherapy at the Beatson Cancer Centre. She stressed the important work carried out there and how they want to raise as much money as possible for the centre.

"They perform amazing, life-saving work every day and provide incredible support to families. Throughout everything in the last 18 months the Beatson has been there every step of the way and I would urge anyone who has been touched by cancer in any way to donate to this fantastic cause," said Stephanie.

**   How to donate :** Visit [justgiving.com/fundraising/teammorphfit](http://justgiving.com/fundraising/teammorphfit)



Two team members, Stephanie and Colin Hutton.    SUR

## Beatles-themed cruise to set sail from Barcelona in October

The MS Sovereign will host a week of shows from tribute acts celebrating iconic musicians

###    SUR IN ENGLISH

**BARCELONA.** Beatle-mania is due to go to sea on 22 October when a themed cruise sets sail from Barcelona. Passengers will enjoy seven nights of live music provided by artists paying tribute to The Beatles and the solo careers of Paul McCartney, John Lennon and George Harrison, as well as other iconic stars in pop and rock music, including Buddy Holly, Cilla Black and Elvis Presley, among others.

The host for each night will be the Costa del Sol's own Mel Williams, who in 1963 was on the bill for three

weeks as the support act for The Beatles in Paris. Also featured is Peter Donegan, son of the legendary Lonnie Donegan, whose skiffle music inspired The Beatles in a huge way.

The Beatles theme continues off stage with a series of onboard debates, talks and exhibitions. Guests will include Tony Bramwell and Leslie Cavendish, who will speak about their times and experiences with the band.

The ship, the MS Sovereign, with a capacity for 2,852 passengers and 803 crew members, will visit S te, Villefranche, Livorno, Civitavecchia and Naples, before returning to Barcelona.

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The MS Sovereign, "Paul McCartney" and "John Lennon".    SUR

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## DANI GARCÍA PRESENTS 'A 4 MANOS'

The fifth edition of the 'A 4 Manos' gastronomy days will be a tribute to the pioneer of Basque nouvelle cuisine, Juan Mari Arzak, announced Dani García at the presentation of the event last week. Some of the greatest chefs in Spain will each prepare a dish to demonstrate the flavour and technique of Basque cookery. The event, at Marbella's Puente Romano, runs from Saturday to Tuesday.

## ADVERTORIAL Amáre Marbella Beach Hotel

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### MARBELLA

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Amáre's goal is to stimulate all the senses. And they do this by paying great attention to small details: from the fragrance to the views and the music, the gastronomy, etc.



Il Divo tribute. :: SUR

### AMÁRE EVENTS

With regard to events, Amáre offers dinner and a live music show six days a week. Guests can sample the Mediterranean menu with Asian touches, prepared and served by a great team, with an incomparable atmosphere, full of good vibes.

The talented artists and their music make every night a unique one. Besides thematic parties such as pool parties, San Juan celebrations and the Feria in April, Amáre holds many other events. On Fridays in low and medium season, Amáre Lounge welcomes the impressive voices of the three tenors Il Divo tribute and the burlesque show Room 169, which demonstrates the different ways of loving in a relationship projected through music.

In the high season at Amáre Beach, the flamenco night brings passion and drama to the seashore, and the Cuban night pulsates to the sound of the Caribbean.

During the afternoons, guests at Amáre Beach are entertained by DJs, saxophones and electric guitars and in the Belvue, live music is scheduled every



San Juan at Amáre Beach. :: SUR

Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening.

### ART AND FASHION

This year Amáre also has three different art exhibitions. The first one is by local photographer Jesús Chacón, and there will be two more throughout

the season.

And for fashion lovers, there are two fashion shows during summer.

**Amáre Beach Hotel:** Avenida Severo Ochoa 8, Marbella. [www.amarehotels.com](http://www.amarehotels.com). Advanced booking: 951560714

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ANDREW J. LINN

## DISCRIMINATION A LA CARTE



In her book, *Fight Back and Win*, US lawyer Gloria Allred recounts the details of her fight against restaurants that customarily gave a menu without prices to the lady.

Already an established women's rights attorney, it was an opportunity to make her point when some clients asked her to sue a restaurant for violating California's Civil Rights legislation. The restaurant in question was well-known and of a high standard, but when a lady invited her male business partner to lunch the maître d' handed her a menu without prices and to the man one with prices, a common feature at the time of high-end restaurants throughout Europe and, in some cases, the United States. The couple walked out.

Allred recalls asking restaurant owner Virginie Ferry why such a policy was in place. She replied, "Because a woman is a woman is a woman." My response was, "What does that mean, what does that mean, what does that mean?" It was, apparently, "the French way". As Allred went on record as saying later, "Since when did a restaurant decide who pays the bill?"

When initially faced with a lawsuit, the restaurant refused to change its policy. That was until the campaign went national and it finally buckled under the pressure. There are still restaurants that have 'ladies' menus', and there are also restaurants exclusively for

women. Until the 1800s it was not considered appropriate for a woman to eat on her own, even when they would travel independently and go shopping without a male companion.

The first ladies-only restaurant opened in New York in 1833, and in 1839 the legendary Lhardy in Madrid followed the trend. Still a Madrid landmark and allegedly maker of the best 'cocido' in Spain, it was, according to third generation manager Javier Pagola, also the first to allow women to eat on their own.

A women-only restaurant opened in the Emirates a couple of weeks ago. Known as Burger Trip, the cooks are all men, and of course they are never allowed to set foot outside the kitchen area, while the waitresses are, naturally, women.

### WINE OF THE WEEK

#### Los Aguilares Pinot Noir

It is only in the last couple of decades that wine has once again been made in the Ronda area after the industry was wiped out by an epidemic. Los Aguilares Pinot Noir, made by Bibi Garcia, beat 2,000 other wines to first place in international competitions two years running. This vino tinto is the bodega's 'wine of the year' at 11 euros.



## The magic of smoke

**Smoking is an ancient method of cooking which offers thousands of possibilities in modern-day gastronomy**

✪ ESPERANZA PELÁEZ

**MÁLAGA.** Bittor Arginzoniz, a chef at the Asador Etxebarri, in Axpe-Atxondo (1,300 inhabitants) has taken his restaurant to sixth position in the list of the World's 50 Best Restaurants and received the National Gastronomy Award in 2016 as the Best Head Chef thanks to his understanding of the magic of fire.

Author Michael Pollan, who visited him for his book *Cooking, a Natural History of Transformation*, said: "Bittor had learned to use smoke as a sixth taste", to which Bittor replied: "No, not smoke."

There are two basic techniques for smoking; with the first, smoking 'hot', the food is smoked while cooking at low temperature, between 55° and 80°. The process eliminates bacteria which is why the technique has traditionally been used for conserving foods, in combination with drying and salting. In cold smoking, combustion takes place outside the chamber where the food is placed, which is maintained at temperatures between 15° and 25°. In this technique, the impregnation of smoke is faster. The famous glass bell connected to a smoke pipe that the Roca brothers popularised in 2005 allows to smoke and aromatise any food instantaneously. Sawdust from different woods, spices and aromatic herbs are placed in the pipe and the aromas of their



Smoke is the 'sixth flavour' according to Michael Pollan. ✪ D. MALDONADO

combustion flavour the food.

And that's how Bittor Arginzoniz's statement is explained, it's not the smoke but the wood, that counts.

Amador Fernández, chef and owner of the Amador restaurant in Malaga, is in love with the possibilities that smoke offers. Together with his companion, Canadian Candace Garland, he took a road trip from Canada through the USA to study the technique of smoked meats. There the barbecue is a religion that goes far beyond a bag of charcoal. "To begin with, the quality of beef is different. There the cattle feed on grass, and that gives a fatty infiltration that favours the absorption of smoke aromas," explained the cook who uses smoked meat of different types on his menu and has four smoking ovens.

"For each meat a different wood and is used," he explains. He marinates and smokes pork ribs using walnut splinters; cherry sawdust for turkey and chicken, and holm oak for Egyptian koftas. "These processes are very slow, and we complement them with long vacuum cooking and of course, the marinades," he added.

For the German Michael Lienhoop, chef and owner of Ku'Damm (Fuen-girola), smoking is something he has been familiar with since childhood, and in the oven at his restaurant he smokes salmon and trout, and wild eels brought from home, with beech shavings. He even smokes his own bacon. Cold and hot "The secret is quality products, wood and time," he says. Used properly, smoke does not mask, but makes it shine. It's magic.



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Rescued dogs at Triple A. :: SUR

# Triple A Dog Walk

**MARBELLA.** The annual Triple A Dog Walk takes place this Sunday, 18 March. It will start at the Manuka restaurant on the Paseo Marítimo in Marbella.

Registration is at 10.30am and costs 10€; this includes coffee, tea or juice and a selection of cakes, a goody bag with T-shirt, dog-scarf and both people and doggy treats.

Participants can walk their own dog or reserve and walk a dog from Triple A. Every year the event is great fun for every-

## INFORMATION

► **When:** 18 March 10.30am

► **Where:** Manuka restaurant, Paseo Marítimo, Marbella.

► **Donation.** 10€ includes breakfast, T-shirt etc.

► **Contact.** 622910214 / events@tripleamarbella.org / www.tripleamarbella.org

one, and even people without a dog can come and join in.

## 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.

### 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 exhibited regularly in the US and Norway.

### Blackness

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

The artists Siobhan Riordan (UK) and Daysury Valencia (Sweden) are two black artists living in Malaga. In this exhibition, the artists celebrate black cultural heritage to project a positive image of black people throughout history, and at the

same time underline that the cultural contribution of black residents in Malaga enriches society. [www.facebook.com/Café-de-Estraperlo](http://www.facebook.com/Café-de-Estraperlo)

### Manuel Estrada

**Malaga.** Until 18 May. Salas de La Coracha, Alameda Principal, 23. An exhibition entitled 'Pensar, dibujar, diseñar' by Manuel Estrada.



Manuel Estrada, Malaga.

### Artistas Independientes

**Álora.** From 16 March until 2 April. Bar Adeli Blanco, C/Santa Ana.

A collective exhibition. Closed Tuesdays.

### Pinceladas de Sorolla

**Torremolinos.** Until 23 March. The cafeteria of the Centro Cultural Pablo Ruiz Picasso.

Students from the Universidad Popular will be displaying their work.

### Pintura en Primavera

**Torremolinos.** From 12 until 27 April. The cafeteria of the Centro Cultural Pablo Ruiz Picasso. Students from the Universidad Popular will be displaying their work.

### Homes Real Estate and Art

**Fuengirola.** Until 6 April. Avda Los Boliches, 86.

Tatjana Popovic Mímica is a Serbian/ Chilean artist living in Mexico. She will be holding an exhibition of her works entitled 'Iconos Bizantinos'.

### Tropical Vibes

**Mijas.** Until 19 March. Casa Museo.

An exhibition by Mijas artist, Cristina Alarcón.

### Artistas Ecléticos

**Mijas Pueblo.** Until 30 March.

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

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

### Arne Haugen Sørensen

**Frigiliana.** Until 9 September. Galería Krabbe, C/Rosario.

A individual exhibition. Canvas and paper.

### ArtFest

**Calahonda.** Until 30 March. Atlantis PMR, CC Los Olivos.



## MOVIE LISTING From Friday 16th to Thursday 22th March

ORIGINAL VERSION SUBTITLED SPANISH



### LA TRIBU

Director Fernando Colomo  
Starring Carmen Machi and Paco León  
COMEDY - 90 min.

Original Spanish version subtitled in English

Viernes 16: 18:30  
Sábado 17 y domingo 18: 15:50  
Lunes 19, miércoles 21 y jueves 22: 17:45



### THE SHAPE OF WATER

From Friday 16 to Sunday 18: 20:15  
From Monday 19 to Thursday 22: 20:00



### BLACK PANTHER

From Friday 16 to Sunday 18: 22:30  
Monday 19, Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22: 22:15  
Tuesday 20: 22:00



### TOMB RAIDER

Director Roar Uthaug  
Starring Alicia Vikander and Dominic West  
ACTION - 120 min.

Friday 16: 17:45, 22:30  
Saturday 17 and Sunday 18: 15:45, 17:45, 22:30  
Monday 19, Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22: 17:40, 22:15  
Tuesday 20: 17:30, 22:15



### A WRINKLE IN TIME

Friday 16: 18:15  
Saturday 17: 16:15, 20:30  
Sunday 18: 11:45, 16:15, 20:30  
From Monday 19 to Thursday 22: 17:45



### RED SPARROW

Friday 16: 17:30  
Saturday 17 and Sunday 18: 15:45, 17:30  
Monday 19, Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22: 17:45  
Tuesday 20: 17:40



### EARLY MAN

Saturday 17: 15:45  
Sunday 18: 11:45, 15:45



### FERDINAND

Sunday 18: 11:45







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The ArtFest is an art competition initiated by The Arts Society for all affiliated societies worldwide. Ten of the Costa del Sol branch members are participating. This exhibition is by appointment only. Call 952933870 or email [Teresa@atlantinspmr.com](mailto:Teresa@atlantinspmr.com). More information at [www.theartsociety-costadelsol.org](http://www.theartsociety-costadelsol.org)

#### Lol Malone

**Mijas.** Until 9 April. Centro Cultural La Cala.

'Musas Hoy' is the name of this exhibition by Lol Malone.



Galeria Krabbe, Frigiliana.

#### CHARITY

##### Spring dinner and dance

**Mijas.** 23 March, 7.30pm. Hotel Tamisa Golf. 23€

Dinner and dance with wine and entertainment to raise funds for PAWS adoptions. Reservations: call 722336978 or email [solosol@email.com](mailto:solosol@email.com)

##### FAMA and 4 PAWS

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

#### Easter charity dinner

**Benalmádena.** 31 March, 8pm. Restaurante Club Náutico. 37€ In aid of Lobo Park and El Refugio del Burrito. Glass of cava followed by buffet with drink included. Raffle and entertainment by Dave Lee 'Dean Martin'. Reservations: call 633332114 / 654513380 or email [reservas@clubnautico.es](mailto:reservas@clubnautico.es) or [starbabies5@gmail.com](mailto:starbabies5@gmail.com)

#### ARCH

**Alhaurín el Grande.** 30, 31 March. A special fundraising event for Easter starts on Good Friday when the horse rescue centre will open its doors to the public from 11am - 4pm. There will be a dog show, a market and an Easter Egg hunt for children. This is followed on Saturday by the Ginger Pig hoedown, an evening of country and western music at the Ginger Pig Country pub in Coin. It starts at 7.30pm. Tickets 20 euros available from the pub or call 628867980. Facebook: ARCH

#### MUSIC & DANCE

##### The Wall Bar

**Malaga.** Hotel Vincci Posada del Patio, 11pm, entry free. **16 March.** Delirium Blues Fusion. Lourdes del Pino and Javier Esteve, vocals and guitar.

##### Duo KaM Musik

**Torremolinos.** 16 March, 8.30pm. Casa de la Cultura. Free. The flute and guitar duo KaM Musik will be playing a varied repertoire of contemporary and classical music.

##### 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.

#### Spring Concerts

**Nerja.** 20 March 7pm. 21 March 7 and 8pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. 1€. The Municipal School of Music and Dance present their traditional spring concerts. On 20 March the performance is dedicated to music with a selection of students from the different disciplines that teach movement, piano, guitar, percussion and wind and the concert on the 21st will be dedicated to dance.

#### Stars of the West End

**Benalmádena.** 16 March, 9pm. Moonlight Lounge, Sunset Beach Club Hotel. **Mijas.** 18 March, 9pm. Avanto restaurant, La Cala. **Puerto Banús.** 19 March, 9pm. La Sala Banús, Calle Juan Belmonte, s/n. Featuring principal performers from London's West End. Tickets: [www.costadeldisco.com](http://www.costadeldisco.com)

#### Rock 'n' Roll Revival Show

**Nerja.** 22 March, from 7.30pm. Hotel Villa Flamenca. 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



Bake-off categories include celebration cakes and biscuits. :: SUR

## TAPAS treasure hunt and Easter bake-off

#### TONY BRYANT

**COÍN.** The Andalusian Performing Arts Society (TAPAS) is holding two fun family events this month.

The first is the popular Car Treasure Hunt, which takes place on Sunday 18 March. The two-hour event will begin at the El Cruce Restaurant in Coín at 10.30am and continue through the stunning countryside that surrounds the town.

Each team will consist of no more than four people per car, including the driver. Clues will be given in both Spanish and English at the start of the hunt, which costs three euros for TAPAS member, or four euros for non-members.

Spaces are limited so pre-reg-

istering is advised ([info@tapas-society.com](mailto:info@tapas-society.com)).

The second event is the TAPAS Easter Fayre and bake-off, which will be held on Saturday 31 March. The bake-off categories include celebration cakes, cup cakes, tarts, biscuits and quiche.

The event will be held at the El Cruce Restaurant and will include live music, a craft market, tombola, raffle and children's entertainment.

Those wishing to enter the bake-off - which costs three euros - must register by emailing [cas2olivia@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cas2olivia@yahoo.co.uk)

TAPAS is an established performing arts society which has built a reputation for successfully promoting the arts along the Costa del Sol.

# F O R U M

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Hair Studio, Ruskin's Restaurant, Nerja Property Services, OLAS, Fitzgerald's Bar, Potter's Bar and The International Club Nerja.

#### For A While

**Nerja.** 24 March, 9pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. 5€. Nerja duo, Natalia on piano and Anabel vocals, will be performing some well known melodies accompanied by cello, violin and guitar.

#### Sir Roger Manwood Orchestra

**Malaga.** 25 March, 1pm. St George's Church. Free. Sir Roger Manwood's School Orchestra will be performing at the church as part of their 2018 tour of Spain. The repertoire includes arrangements of Holst's Jupiter, Ferdinand Herold, The Clog Dance, as well as music from films such as Forrest Gump.



Keith James, Cómpeeta

#### Keith James in concert

**Cómpeeta.** 1 April, 9pm. Galería luz de la Vida, C/Laberinto. Keith James is one of the most active and artistic concert performers in the UK. He has performed over 2,000 concerts in the UK and across Europe and has released 14 CD Albums. Reservations: artcompeta@gmail.com

#### LECTURES

##### U3A Lectures

**Fuengirola.** Lux Mundi reference Library, free to members, guests 5€. Email: u3afuengirola@gmail.com  
**Hands that rocked a cradle:**  
*'Catherine de Medici part two'*

20 March, 11am

**'Sarah Churchill, Maria Theresa of Austria and Ada Lovelace'**  
23 March, 11am.

**Debate and Discussion 'Will Britain be better or worse off after Brexit?'**

21 March, 1pm.

Geoff Cooke gives reasons why he believes we will be better off making our own decisions on laws and economics to suit British culture. Opposing speakers welcome.

#### 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 lie down, or genetic manipulation. But are there also health issues concerning the meat, eggs and milk produced by factory farming?  
www.facebook.com/groups/costadelsolfreethinkers/

#### ITS Spring production

**Estepona.** 23-25 March, 8pm Friday, Saturday. 7pm Sunday. El Paraiso Golf Club. The International Theatre studio are presenting 'Habias Corpus' by Alan Bennett. Tickets: www.internationaltheatrestudio.org

#### The Arts Society lectures

**The Ole Optica I Lecture. George Orwell, Life With My Father.** Nerja. 27 March, 6pm. Cultural Centre, Calle Granada. Members 8€, guests 10€. www.theartsocietynerja.com  
Speaker Richard Blair.

**Benahavis.** 20 March, 6.30pm. Be-

nahavis town hall. Visitors 12€.

**A rebel on the run: Caravaggio's final years.**

Caravaggio was the bad boy of art history – ambitious yet volatile. In 1606 his life changed forever when he killed a man in a bloody brawl. Sian Walters will explore the remarkable stylistic transformations that took place during the last four years of the artist's life – a time of restless yet extraordinary creativity.  
www.benahavisdfas.com/events

**San Roque.** 21 March, 11am. San Roque Golf Club. Visitors 12€.

**Hidden canvases: Street Art & The City.**

An illustrated talk by Doug Gillen sponsored by the Sovereign Group. www.facebook.com/theartssocietydelafrontera

#### FESTIVALS

##### Virgen de los Dolores

**Iznate.** 23 March

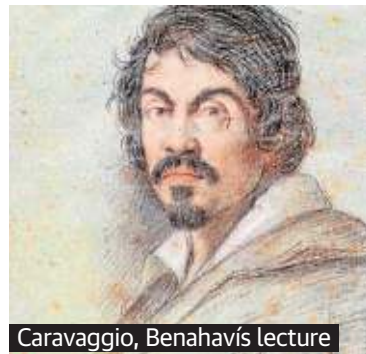
The Friday before Easter week the village of Iznate holds a procession through the streets of the Virgen de los Dolores.

##### Día de la tagarnina

**Villanueva del Rosario.** 17 March  
Tastings of this unusual vegetable in the thistle family. Music, stands selling local products etc.

##### San José

**La Herradura.** 16-19 March.



Caravaggio, Benahavis lecture

La Herradura celebrates San José with a programme of activities for daytime as well as night. The programme can be found on www.almunecar.info

#### FLAMENCO

##### Flamenco abierto

**Vélez-Málaga.** Peña Flamenca Niño de Vélez, C/Tejeda 10. 16 March, 10pm.

Rocio Cabrera (dance) with Antonio Luque 'Carito' (vocals) and Rubén Portillo (guitar).

23 March, 10pm.

Sara Carnero (dance) with José Manuel Fernández (vocals) and Rubén Portillo (guitar).

##### Flamenco in the Museum

**Malaga.** Museo de Arte Flamenco Peña Juan Breva, C/Ramón Francisco. 17 March, 8.30pm.

Manuel Roldán (dance) with Miguel Infante (vo-

cals), José M. Millán 'Manú' (guitar) and Isaac García (clapping). For information and bookings call 687 607 526 or email info@flamenka.com

#### EVENTS

##### Classics On The Road

**Malaga.** 16 March. Malaga Automobile Museum. The Morgan Sports Car Club Spain will be visiting the car museum from 11am today, Friday.

##### 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.

##### Floral Art Club

**Estepona.** Agro Jardín, Cancelada. 20 March 3pm. "Seasons Delights" with NAFAS Demonstrator Anne Stoddart is on 20 March. Anne is a retired florist and qualified Adult Education Tutor, she will lead one of the club's 'Look and Learn' or 'Hands-on' sessions on Thursday 22 March at 11am at Agrojardin. Places

# The horticulturalist fair

BY TONY BRYANT

**BENALMÁDENA.** Benalmádena is gearing up for the 12th edition of the Feria de Plantas de Colección (rare plant fair) which will be held in La Paloma Park during Easter Week.

The show focuses on the promotion of little-known plants.

The event attracts serious collectors and also keen amateur horticulturalists looking for ways of making their gardens more attractive.

More than 40 local and national horticultural specialists will participate in the fair, which will include tropical and subtropical plants, cacti and succulents of varying shapes and sizes, striking orchid displays and rare bonsai trees.

In addition, there will be stands offering aromatic medicinal herbs, bulbs, seeds and fertilisers, as well as information, advice and tips concerning the cultivation and care of exotic plants.

The fair, which is organised by the parks and gardens department of Benalmádena town hall, was created for amateur and professional gardeners to meet in a friendly and relaxed environment. Given the success of last year's edition, hundreds of visitors are expected to attend the event this year.



The fair will focus on rare succulents, orchids and bonsai. :: SUR

The main objective of the fair is to encourage visiting tourists and locals to enjoy the park and its many facilities. La Paloma Park currently houses a permanent collection of over 90 species of palm trees and one of the best collections of bamboo and succulents in Europe.

The 100,000-square-metre park is also home to dozens of species of wildlife, including peacocks, ducks, swans, ostriches, turtles, rabbits and mountain goats.

Entry to the rare plant show,

which begins at 5pm on Good Friday and continues until Sunday 1 April, is free.

For more information, see www.benalmadena.es

#### INFORMATION

► **What.** Rare plant fair.

► **Where.** La Paloma Park.

► **When.** Friday 30 March until Sunday 1 April.

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are limited so book early. For more information and photographs see the club's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/esteponafloralartclub](http://www.facebook.com/esteponafloralartclub). Call Janet on 694425219 or email [esteponafloralartclub@hotmail.com](mailto:esteponafloralartclub@hotmail.com). Visitors 10€. Annual membership 50€



South Spain Boat Show

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

### Thespa

**Fuengirola.** 28 March, 7.30pm. *Los Boliches, Masonic Hall.* 16€ members, 18€ guests. Includes set meal.

'ffie's *Burning* by Valerie Windsor and *A Cut in Rates* by Alan Ayck-bourne. Reservations: 622 454 422 / [www.theatrecostadelosol.com](http://www.theatrecostadelosol.com) / [thespabooking@gmail.com](mailto:thespabooking@gmail.com)

### Bollywood Dance Classes

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

Indian dance classes. Sign up in the office of the Palacio San Miguel Sports Centre. [www.torremolinos.es](http://www.torremolinos.es)

### South Spain Boat Show

**Benalmádena.** 28-31 March, 10am-7pm. *Benalmádena marina.*

The First Edition of the South Spain Boat Show will offer sailing lovers a new showcase where they can see new and second-hand boats. Visitors must register first at

# Classical music concerts

## TONY BRYANT

**MALAGA.** Lovers of classical music will be in for a treat when the Atis String Quartet visits the Costa del Sol this month.

Founded in 2017 by students of the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz, Cologne - Europe's largest academy of music - the quartet consists of promising young musicians from different renowned orchestras and ensembles.

The show, which will present students from Taiwan, France, Germany and Spain, will demonstrate the universality of music and the fact that the standard of excellence in classical music knows no boundaries.

The quartet, who will perform a collection of chamber music, including works by Haydn, Schubert and Shostakovich, can be seen at Vic and Jon's Gastro Bar in Marbella on Monday 19 March. Tickets for the show, which begins at 7.30pm, cost 30 euros.

The show will also be presented at the Avanto Restaurant in La Cala de Mijas on Thursday 22 March at 8.30pm. This event will also include the launch of a new book, *Mastering your Emotions*



The Atis String Quartet will perform in Marbella and Mijas. :: SUR

by Masha Malka. Masha Malka is a successful entrepreneur, best-selling author and international speaker. She has delivered workshops, seminars and provided personal training and coaching in the field of success and the skill of learning since 1998. Tickets cost 38 euros.

Organised by Project Music Management, both events include drinks and canapés.

Tickets: [pmmtickets@mail.com](mailto:pmmtickets@mail.com)

## INFORMATION

► **What.** Classical music concerts.

► **Where.** Vic and Jon's Gastro Bar, Marbella. Avanto Restaurant, La Cala de Mijas.

► **When.** 19, 22 March.

[www.varaderoenalmadena.com](http://www.varaderoenalmadena.com) or call 9525647 00.

### Daniel Collado Magician

**Nerja.** 23 March, 7.30pm. *Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja.* 8€. Daniel Collado will be performing a range of astounding magic.

### Lions Club Marbella

**Marbella.** 22 March, 6.30pm. *Hotel San Cristobal, Av Ramón y Cajal 3.*

The regional head of the Lions Clubs Marbella, Tobias Heyden, is holding a Lions information evening with wine and tapas. Call 667760230 to reserve a place.

## O. V. FILM

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

### Cine Albéniz

C/Alcazabilla 4, Malaga. Tel: 902 36 02 95 or visit [www.cinealbeniz.com](http://www.cinealbeniz.com) or [www.unientradas.es](http://www.unientradas.es)  
**Three Billboards Outside Ebbing:** 22.30 (every day).

**The Shape of Water:** 16.00, 18.10, 20.20 (every day).

**The Death of Stalin:** 20.15 (every day).

**The Party:** 17.35, 18.55 (every day).

### Cinesur El Ingenio

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

**The Shape of Water:** 17.00 (Tues)

**Loving Pablo:** 16.30 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)

**Red Sparrow:** 16.00 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)

**Tomb Raider:** 16.15 (every day); 12.25 (Sat, Sun); 19.40, 22.10 (Mon, Tues)

### Cinesur Miramar



Miguel Infante, Flamenco

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:** 22.00, 00.30.

**Tomb Raider:** 12.00, 17.00, 19.30.

**The Shape of Water:** 19.40, 22.05

(Tues).

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**Early Man:** 11.45 (Sun); 15.45 (Sat, Sun).

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# Secundino Hernández breaks barriers

The artist from Madrid has returned to Spain and is exhibiting his work at the CAC in Malaga

The display of works from the past five years is marked by a diversity of colours, sizes and interpretations: "I'm not afraid to evolve," he says

by ALBERTO GÓMEZ

**MÁLAGA.** He recognises that it is "a bit soon" to hold a retrospective, but Secundino Hernández is showing his particular universe, filled with geometric figures, splashes of colour, lines and erased spaces in 'Todo es mucho', the exhibition which opened this week at the Contemporary Art Centre (CAC) in Malaga.

This artist from Madrid, who is praised by critics and the public alike, is exhibiting his works from the past five years: there are 38 of them, many in large format. The display demonstrates the freedom with which Hernández conceives his work. "I have explored various possibilities. I'm not afraid to keep evolving," he says.

This may not be a retrospective, but it resembles one. "Exhibiting

## SECUNDINO HERNÁNDEZ

► **Venue.** CAC Málaga, C/ Alemania, Malaga.

► **Dates.** Until 6 May.

► **Open.** Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 8pm.

here, in Malaga, where Picasso was born, is especially exciting for me," he says.

Although he became internationally better-known in 2013, when he exhibited at Arco and attracted the attention of Don and Mera Rubell, Hernández explains that before that, he already had support from important galleries and collectors. Now, coinciding with his return to Spain after living in Berlin, he is presenting his most recent paintings, all carried out between 2013 and 2018 with the exception of one from 2004 which serves as a departure point. His pictures are filled like an artist's palette or practically empty, with canvases which are almost white and accumulations which follow the style of Spanish masters such as El Greco, Goya or Velázquez, but also the most avant-garde.

Hernández, who was born in 1975, makes it clear that he will continue to oscillate between a diversity of sizes, colours and techniques. "Large format is more performative, it



Hernández poses in front of one of the paintings he created exclusively for this exhibition. by FRANCIS SILVA

makes other demands on you. I'm interested in the play between the line and the flat, but I don't just want to make pictures, I want to experiment and evolve through my painting," he says.

The exhibition, which is curated by the director of the CAC, Fernando Francés, shows Hernández's disposition to leave loose ends: "I don't like to interpret my works, I prefer to leave it in the air. Nor do I try to reach anybody, that would seem too pretentious". His objective, he explains, "is more intimate, I want people to understand what I do."

Three of the works were painted exclusively for this exhibition and the artist worked upon them si-

multaneously: they are paintings washed with floating elements, palettes and drawings on paper and ink.

To produce his works, he creates his own tools, which he has invented with the help of his father: sharp metal points to adjust the tubes of paint, pegs to use for unpainted areas, and even a hydrocleaner. He also makes his own frames. Some canvases are abstract and others



There are 38 works on display. by F. S.

enclose dense and superimposed images through which figures can be seen. This exhibition is a whole world to be discovered.

## "My work is fed by everyday things, not just the grand masters of art"

by A. GÓMEZ

**MÁLAGA.** Secundino Hernández's exhibition 'Todo es mucho', opened this week at the CAC Málaga. Considered one of the best current abstract painters, he had to wait several years for his work to be recognised in this country.

–**This exhibition isn't a retrospective, but it is close to one. What does the title signify?**

–In moderation, like when a waiter tell you "that's going to be a lot". The same thing happens here: we haven't

shown everything, but nor have we done too little.

–**Why did you return to Spain after living in Germany for ten years?**

–The cycle ended. I did a decade and I think my work is well represented on an international level. Now you can work anywhere because the logistics have changed, but for me it was important to be in the centre of Europe and in contact with other contexts and artists.

–**You used to be more valued abroad than in your own country.**

–That's something you can't control. I have had the support of many collectors in the past, even before the Rubells. It's good that my work is moving. Things are easier now because the visibility is global, which it wasn't some time ago.

–**What influences your work?**

–My greatest influences are not only the grand masters, trends and schools. My work is fed by everyday things, like a painted wall in the street or a popular song, a comic or the form a line takes.

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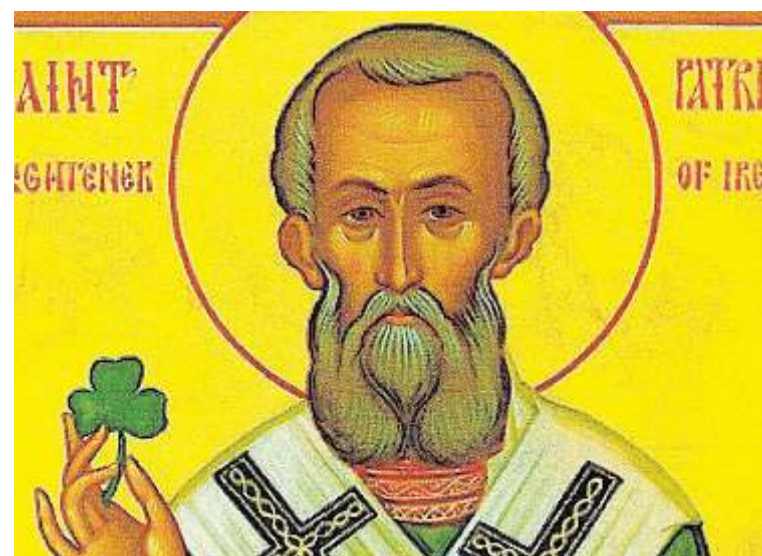
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Saint Patrick's feast day is celebrated around the globe. :: SUR

## The Costa celebrates St Patrick's Day

**Many towns and villages along the coast will be celebrating this Saturday with parties, fancy dress, Celtic dancing and Guinness**

### :: SUR IN ENGLISH

**MALAGA.** St Patrick's Day on 17 March is always a big celebration on the Costa del Sol, and this year is no different with many towns holding special parties to mark the day.

#### Torremolinos

Torremolinos is celebrating with a big party in the Plaza de la Nogalera, organised by the Irish Association of Spain following the mass in Arroyo de la Miel (see below).

In charge of the proceedings will be Tony Bell, chairman of the association, and this year the Shevlin Twins, holders of four world titles for Celtic dancing, will be returning. Other dancers, singers and musicians will be entertaining the crowds throughout the day.

Ireland's famous brew, Guinness, will be available and a variety of drinks and snacks will be served.

Every year the best fancy dress is given a prize. Information can be found on the town hall website ([www.torremolinos.es](http://www.torremolinos.es)) or on the Irish Association Spain's Facebook page.

#### Benalmádena

The events in Torremolinos will be preceded by a special mass in the Inmaculada Concepción church, next to the train station in Arroyo de la Miel at noon. This was due to be fol-

lowed by a procession to the fair-ground at La Paloma park but the weather forecast means these plans have been cancelled and attendees are encouraged to head to Torremolinos instead.

#### Marbella

Marbella's celebrations will extend across the weekend with a series of activities planned on Saturday and Sunday in Constitution Park from 12 to 11.30pm.

Entertainment will be provided by The Stolen Gnomes, Bua, Stereo 80, Whiskey in the Car, Thrifty Malone's, Ciaran Farrell, Colm Fitzpatrick and Sean Murray. There will also be traditional Celtic dancing.

What's more, the Marbella arch will be lit up in green.

#### Malaga

Every year a mass in Spanish and English is held at 11am on 17 March at the San Patricio church in the Huelin district of the city. The choir Schola Gregoriana Malacitana will be performing St Patrick's hymn among other pieces.

#### Fuengirola

For the younger ones who wish to get involved, Mira-

mar shopping centre is hosting a series of St Patrick's Day celebrations. The centre will be illuminated in green today, Friday, and on Saturday will host facepainting, fancy dress competitions and a parade for children (the latter at 6.30pm) and Irish beer tasting for the adults.

Fuengirola has two Irish pubs, Pogs and O'Reilly's, which will also join in the festivities.



Irish dancing. :: SUR

**i Is Guinness actually good for you? See page 54.**



# Learning to live with pain

Every year over 11,000 people with chronic pain attend the specialist units at Malaga's hospitals to try to relieve their suffering

M. ÁNGELES GONZÁLEZ

✉ maguisado@diariosur.es



**MALAGA.** It is the most common reason for people to consult their doctors and one of the main causes of absenteeism from work. Pain is increasing among the population, and it is sometimes described as "the silent epidemic".

Increased life expectancy, certain habits in today's society - such as bad posture at the computer or a sedentary lifestyle - and the desire to reach old age in as good a physical condition as possible means that nowadays an increasing number of people are asking for specialist attention because of a condition which is affecting their everyday lives.

When pain goes on for between three and six months it is considered chronic. About 20 per cent of the population in Spain aged between 18 and 29 are affected by

this, and more than 40 per cent of over-65s, according to the Spanish Pain Society (SED).

Under the Andalusian Plan of Attention for People in Pain, when it is intensive and GPs are unable to treat it the patient is referred to a Pain Unit, where professionals try to improve their quality of life through medication and different techniques.

More than 11,000 people with chronic pain attend the specialist units at the Civil and Clínico hospitals in Malaga every year, where teams of anaesthetists and nurses, with the collaboration of colleagues in other departments, try to alleviate their suffering.

The heads of these departments, which are part of the anaesthesiology sections of the hospitals, know that it is very difficult to eliminate pain completely; it is something that can only be achieved on certain occasions. This comes as a severe blow for patients when they ask their doctor "Will this pain go away one day?"

"I always tell them I want to improve their quality of life, not make

the pain go away. I can eliminate it with drugs but that would make them continually sleepy and that is no life. It's like a balance: you have to weigh up the benefits of the analgesics against their side effects and look for a mid-point where the medication works and the side effects are tolerable," said Mariano Fernández, coordinator of the Pain Unit at the Civil Hospital, which was set up in the 1980s.

Nearly all the patients who go to the unit are suffering from depression and/or anxiety because for years they have been putting up with a pain that affects all areas of their lives, personally and at work; and it doesn't only affect them, but their families as well.

"They feel desperate when they come here; they are suffering, tired of the system, depressed and their family lives have deteriorated," said Dr Fernández.

He says that on average when a patient comes to his unit he or she has already spent two years seeing GPs and specialists.



José Manuel González Mesa, coordinator of the Pain Unit at the Clínico Hospital. ■ FRANCIS SILVA

"Many people are already at the end of their tether, and when someone is in continual severe pain they can develop a complex syndrome of chronic pain with anxiety and depression which is very difficult to treat," said José Manuel González Mesa, coordinator of the Clínico Hospital's pain unit, who

says state of mind is important in cases such as these.

"I would say it is like a type of switch which affects the intensity of the pain," he said. These patients often feel very alone and they isolate themselves, which makes the pain even worse.

## Lumbago

Most of the patients they see (90 per cent) are not cancer patients and the most prevalent condition is lumbago, which affects 70 per cent of them, followed by neuralgias, neuropathies and pain in the joints and skeletal muscles, explained Dr Fernández. Some people, about one per cent of the total, are suffering from post-operative pain. As the number of people undergoing surgery is constantly increasing, more are affected.

Dr Fernández said some pains are caused by bad habits. "Sitting in the wrong position at the computer can cause neck pain or lumbago which becomes chronic over time," he explained.

With regard to age, it varies widely from children to the elderly, although the biggest group is the over-60s. There are also more women than men, which Dr Fernández said is due to the greater prevalence of degenerative illnesses in females.

As well as medication, the doctors often use interventionist techniques such as infiltrations or devices to relieve the pain. "We do everything from simple





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➤ things like infiltrating a knee or shoulder to very complex techniques like putting an electrode in place to treat the pain in a hand or foot," he explains. Intrathecal morphine pumps and radiofrequency are also used.

"We are improving a great deal in this aspect, although we still have a long way to go," said Dr Fernández. He believes the pain unit needs to be enlarged in order to be able to attend to everyone who needs it.

"There is a waiting list because we have so many patients; every day we have more referrals because people are asking to come," he said. He also believes that all medical students should be given specific training about pain as part of their degree courses.

**The baby boom**

His counterpart at the Clínico hospital, José Manuel González Mesa, agrees. He says anyone who is studying Medicine needs to know a lot more about pain. He would also like more space in his unit, where an average of 30 patients a day are seen and 12 techniques are carried out.

"When a specialist refers a patient to us they normally have to wait between 15 days and six months for an appointment, depending on their problem," said this anesthesiologist, who also warns that the 'baby boomers' are getting older now and this is reflected in the number of people asking doctors and specialists for pain relief.

**Pilar Téllez**  
28. She has muscular atrophy

"I could lie down and complain, but I prefer to live"

■ M. A. GONZÁLEZ

**MALAGA.** Pilar Téllez suffers from Charcot-Marie-Tooth, a congenital condition which means that her muscles are progressively atrophying and she is in constant pain. It started when she was six; she couldn't stand up for long, and her parents took her to the doctor. The symptoms were so clear that there was no hesitation in diagnosing her. Years later she discovered that she had inherited the illness from her mother, although she had never been affected by it. Her younger sister is also a carrier.

With rehabilitation therapy and effort, this 28-year-old from Malaga overcame the first crisis and recovered, but the illness became more aggressive when she was 18 and all her muscles contracted, "from the hips to the toes". Due to the terrible pain she had to go to the hospital Emergency Department every day for over two weeks, and she was then admitted as a patient. It took over a year for her to recover her mobility, although nowadays she rarely gets out of her wheelchair because she can't stand up for more than a few minutes. She has continual pains, and more of her body is becoming



Pilar inherited the illness from her mother. ■ SUR

**"If pain is going to be with you all your life, it's better to have it as a friend, not an enemy"**

affected because the illness is spreading fast, but she rarely complains because "it wouldn't do any good".

"If pain is going to be with you all your life, it is better to have it as a friend, not an enemy," said this mother of a three-year-old girl who doesn't want to miss a moment of her childhood. "I get her up, I dress her, I go to the park with her, to the swimming pool, I travel... although it is really, really hard," she said.

Every four months Pilar goes to the pain unit at the Costa del Sol hospital in Marbella for an infiltration of botulinum toxin (botox) to relax her muscles and relieve the pain, and she also takes an antiepileptic drug to prevent cramps. She is also prescribed strong analgesics, but tries not to take them. "They make me feel drugged," she said. "I've got used to the pain, it is part of me. I know I'm going to have it all my life because the doctors have been very clear with me. I have two options: I either take the medication and stay in bed or I try to live. I prefer the second option," said the lawyer. She only sleeps a few hours a night "when I'm really exhausted" but still manages to find the strength to study for exams in the hope of gaining promotion.

**Antonio Mora**  
53. He has lumbago

"I have so much medication I could open a pharmacy"

■ M. A. GONZÁLEZ

**MALAGA.** "It's like a day when the sun isn't too hot and there is a slight breeze; everything seems beautiful," said Antonio Mora about the times when he is not in pain. That is something he experienced for the first time two years ago, after 11 years of suffering, when doctors implanted an intrathecal infusion pump which administers morphine and a local anaesthetic all day in a controlled manner.

Antonio, who is 53 and lives in San Pedro Alcántara, in Marbella, says he has lumbago "because I have worked like a donkey since I was nine, when my father took me out of school to unload fruit lorries". His last job before retirement, as a driver, ended up destroying his back.

He has had several operations and says that living with pain for more than a decade has affected him psychologically. "I've cried a lot and tried to commit suicide twice, because that was no life," said this father of two teenagers, with tears in his eyes. He has been receiving treatment at the Pain Unit at the Civil hospital for



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Antonio's morphine pump is refilled every couple of months. :: F. SILVA

## He has an implanted device which releases morphine in a controlled manner

six years. Every 72 days he returns for the morphine pump to be refilled, and says it has reduced his pain by 90 per cent. "I'm fantastic, now I can say I have a life, not like before," he said, even though it is still rare for him not to be in pain. It appears as soon as he starts to walk, or has to stand up for a

time. It only goes away when he is lying down, "but that's no life," he said.

The device, which was implanted beneath the skin of his abdomen two years ago, doesn't bother him. "It just gets in the way when I pull my trousers up," he joked. "I'm limited because I can't lift anything or kneel and I can only walk a little, but I couldn't walk at all before," he said.

Now he only takes one tablet in the morning, but says that at home he has so much medication, ointments, patches and injections "that I could open a pharmacy".

**Miguel Álvarez**  
38. He has trigeminal neuralgia

"Even the air that touches my face hurts; it's an infernal pain"

:: M. A. GONZÁLEZ

**MALAGA.** He suffers from atypical trigeminal neuralgia, which is also known as the "suicide illness" because the pain can be so terrible that many patients end their lives. Miguel Álvarez says he has tried to do so four times since he began to suffer severe pain on the left side of his face and head eight years ago, after undergoing an endodontic procedure.

"I'm like this because the dentist went too far with the drill," said this 38-year-old from Malaga, whose trigeminal, a cranial nerve, was damaged during the procedure. It has left him with episodes of intense pain over half his head and his eyes, ears, lips, nose, mouth... "They are like electric shocks; the pain is infernal, even the air which touches my face hurts," he explained.

Five years ago, after several op-



Miguel was diagnosed five years ago. :: SUR

## He was forced to retire because of permanent disability at the age of just 33

erations and numerous tests, he was diagnosed with the neuralgia which means he will suffer pain for the rest of his life. At present there is no cure, only medication and therapies to try

to relieve the symptoms, for which he goes regularly to the pain unit at the Civil Hospital. He has also tried acupuncture, at his own expense, therapy with magnets and, in desperation, cannabis.

Miguel was a bricklayer but had to retire because of permanent disability at the age of 33. He takes morphine every day and other medications to try to relieve the symptoms as much as possible, although they make him very sleepy. "I'm like a zombie all day long, trying to stay awake and have some sort of a life," he said. The neuralgia has ruined his life, he said. "I'm 38, I get a pension of 600 euros a month and that's my life. The future looks very black," added Miguel, whose illness has also affected his family.

Despite all the medication he is taking, the pain never goes - "although I have got used to living with it" - and any movement such as laughing or picking up something heavy can cause a crisis because it puts pressure on the nerve. He suffers episodes like this every day, especially at night, and sometimes has to go to the hospital emergency department to relieve the pain.

"You end up taking two packs of pills because you can't stand it any more," he said. He is seeing a psychologist in the hope of learning to deal with the problem, but says his greatest incentive is his three-month-old daughter. "I have to live, because of her," he said.

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# Is Guinness good for your health?

An early advertising campaign claimed the popular Irish stout was 'good for you'



Beneficial for the heart or a clever advertising campaign? :: SUR

■ TONY BRYANT

**MÁLAGA.** Guinness, Ireland's national tipple, enjoys a seasonal popularity every St Patrick's Day, when it is estimated that around 13 million pints of it are consumed worldwide.

For most of the twentieth century, St Patrick's Day was considered a strictly religious holiday in Ireland and the nation's pubs remained closed until the 1970s. Today, surveys declare that the consumption of Guinness more than doubles on 17 March.

While it is common knowledge that drinking alcohol excessively is not good for our health, some claim that a pint of Guinness might be better for us than we thought.

Studies claim that Guinness is beneficial for the heart because it contains antioxidants that slow down the deposit of harmful cholesterol on the artery walls. It does contain fewer calories than the average lager and is said to have impressive nutritional benefits.

Guinness is often thought of as a heavy beer because of its dark colour, but it is not carbonated like regular lager, meaning, according to the Medical Daily, it is less filling.

A study in 2009 suggested that drinking Guinness - which contains calcium - in moderation can help improve bone mineral density. Another article published by the Institute of Brewing claimed that a pint of stout is full of nutri-

ents such as all of the B vitamins, with the exception of B12. A pint of stout also contains 0.3 milligrams of iron - roughly three per cent of an adult's recommended daily dose.

Vitamins play a vital role in helping our bodies convert food into fuel, while iron helps to boost energy levels.

Another study claimed that the flavonoids in Guinness (antioxidants found in certain fruits and vegetables) can reduce the risk of heart attack caused by blood clots. The research was carried out on dogs with clogged arteries by comparing the effects of lager and Guinness: only dogs that drank Guinness benefitted from reduced clotting.

Guinness is also high in barley and

## STATISTICS

**13 million**

pints of Guinness are consumed worldwide on St Patrick's Day.

**1929**

was the first year the brand ran the advertising campaign, 'Guinness is Good for You'.

barley is high in ferulic acid, which is said to boost the immune system.

But can this world-renowned beer - first produced by Arthur Guinness in Dublin in 1759 - really be considered a healthy beverage, or is its reputation the result of a clever advertising campaign?

Publicity that implies alcoholic drinks can improve physical performance or enhance personal qualities is now prohibited in Ireland, but in 1929, the company ran an advertising campaign that claimed that the consumption of Guinness could be beneficial. Based on market research data of people who claimed they felt better after consuming a pint, the slogan 'Guinness is Good for You' was born.

The campaign suggested that the stout gave people "strength" and "energy", claiming "nothing takes its place." They even went as far as suggesting that a second pint might be even more beneficial, with a clever play on the word toucan, the brand's mascot.

It would appear that the famous Irish stout might well have health benefits if consumed with caution, but Guinness is still alcohol, and consuming too much can lead to numerous health problems.

While moderate consumption of alcohol may have heart benefits for some, alcohol can also increase a woman's risk of breast cancer.

It was once not uncommon for a doctor to advise pregnant women to drink Guinness for its health benefits, but today, experts caution of the dangers associated with consuming any alcohol while pregnant.

Diageo, the company now responsible for manufacturing Guinness, is keen to point out that it never makes any medical claims about its drinks.



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A specialist examines a patient at the Costa del Sol hospital. :: SUR

## International Glaucoma Day at the Costa del Sol hospital

■ SUR

**MÁRBELLA.** The ophthalmology department at the Costa del Sol Hospital and, more specifically, its glaucoma unit, marked International Glaucoma Day on Monday. This disease is the second most common cause of blindness in developed countries.

From its unit, the hospital offers the most up-to-date information with the aim of highlighting the importance of early testing for the disease. This makes it possible to slow the progression of glaucoma and to stall any damage, which, once it occurs, is irreversible, according to a report from the health centre.

The prevention of glaucoma is led, therefore, by these campaigns for detection, sharing information and raising awareness among the general population, which have taken place annually at the hospital for the last four years.

Glaucoma is a chronic, progressive condition that affects the optic nerve, producing changes to the sufferer's field of vision.

Although there is no curative treatment, it can be managed. If it is left untreated, it can over time severely worsen vision and even cause blindness.



# my home SUR

**Kitchen** page 55  
**Removals** page 56

**Furniture** page 57  
**Glass curtains** page 58



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# "I'm in a good place and my game is more consistent now"

## Adrián Menéndez Tennis player

An ambassador for the Casino Admiral Trophy, an ATP Challenger in Marbella, at the age of 32 he is hoping to achieve his best ranking so far

:: PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

**MÁLAGA.** Marbella could be described as the town of tennis. In recent years it has hosted a tournament on the WTA women's tour, two knock-out rounds for the Davis Cup and has become the home for an annual veterans tournament. Now it is the turn of the Casino Admiral Trophy, an ATP Challenger Tour tournament expected to include the largest number of players from Málaga province in many years. Adrián Menéndez (115th in the ATP ranking last week), the best-known local player, is its ambassador and one of the organisers. He will also be competing, at one of the best times of his professional career.

**–Whose idea was it to organise a Challenger in Marbella?**

–The idea came from Ronnie Leitgeb, who used to be the coach and manager of former world number one Thomas Muster. He has also coached Jürgen Melzer. He brought many players to Marbella to train, fell in love with the town and moved here. It is his second home now. That's why he decided to start a tournament here.

**–What does your role as ambassador involve?**

–In general I work closely with the tournament director and am getting very involved with everything. This is a very attractive project for Marbella and for tennis in Andalucía in general. We have signed with the ATP for three years, and it will always be at Easter, no matter when that is. It means that some years it will be in March, and others in April. It also coincides with the clay court tournaments in Europe and is good preparation for Roland Garros, so we have a very interesting list of players lined up.



Adrián Menéndez with a poster for the tournament, from 24 to 31 March at the Puente Romano. :: SUR

**–I understand that the final round will be made up of 32 players?**

–Yes, just like in any other Challenger. The final phase will start on Monday of Holy Week and the final will take place on Easter Saturday at 5pm. It will be played on three courts at Puente Romano, including centre court. The players will have access to other clubs to train.

**–Will this be the first time you have competed at home?**

–No, I was at the Challenger in 2012, but it was organised by a foreign promoter then. Now we have an Austrian director who lives on the Costa del Sol and the whole organisational team is local. That's very important if it is to last and become a permanent tournament. That's why the one in 2012 wasn't held again.

**–You are now number 115, close to your best-ever ranking of 111 in the summer of 2015. Do you think you will move up again?**

–Yes. Maybe even this week. You have to wait (the calculation is complicated) but I believe so. I'm in a good place at present, playing well. My game has matured a great deal and is

### CASINO ADMIRAL TROPHY

► **What.** A tournament on the ATP Challenger Tour. Players who succeed on the ATP Challenger Tour can earn sufficient ranking points to qualify for the top-tier ATP World Tour tournaments.

► **When.** 24 to 31 March 2018.

► **Where.** Club de Tennis Puente Romano, Marbella.

► **Ticket.** Monday to Wednesday, free entry; Thursday and Friday, 10 euros; Saturday finals, 15 euros. [www.marbellachallenger.com](http://www.marbellachallenger.com)

more consistent now. I believe I have demonstrated that this year, playing against people in the top 50, and even beating [Adrian] Mannarino, who was 25th. I hope everything will continue to be as good as this.

**–What is the key to the change? Is it mental, or purely technique?**

–The ATP professional tour is very

long, with numerous tournaments. Some players find it hard to maintain continuity. A few years ago I started to have some good moments in the season, but not in consecutive months. Now I'm more able and that is reflected in the ranking. That is the result of many things, mental and physical. At this level small details can make a difference.

**–You don't spend many weeks of the year in Marbella...**

–No. We travel a great deal and sometimes you have to decide if it's worth coming back. Now, after Indian Wells, I've decided to stay in Miami for a week to avoid more jet lag. In Marbella I always train on clay at the Puente Romano, and for speed I alternate between that, El Mirador and Tennis Brothers, which are close to home. A lot of Russian players come to train in Marbella so I play against them.

**–It's strange that all this is happening when you're 32. Last year when you won your first match in a Grand Slam, the US Open, you were 31. You must admit that your career is rather unusual....**

### QUOTES

The Casino Admiral Trophy  
**"It is a very attractive project for Marbella and Andalucía; the list of players is very interesting"**

His best tennis, aged 32  
**"I started competing later than normal, so it's logical that my physical and mental aptitude developed afterwards"**

Not very well-known  
**"Spain has great potential but they make it difficult for players like me, we don't receive enough help"**

The current season  
**"I have tried hard for major tournaments and I've been to the classification stages of ATP tournaments"**

–I'd say it is going to be more normal from now on, and that has been demonstrated by players like [Roger] Federer. He is physically at his best now. And Rafa Nadal is only a year younger than me. The physical preparation and care of the players has improved. We are going to see some very good young players, like the future Next Gen. I started competing later than normal on the professional circuit, when I was 19, after finishing my studies. It was very late and it is normal that my physical and mental aptitude came later.

**–Do you regret any errors you have made in your career?**

–No. Simply that I grew up in a town where competition tennis didn't exist, only recreational tennis. It was a miracle. I didn't have trainers or experts around me when I was young. The Next Gen players have the best coaches, physical trainers, psychologists... it was difficult not having access to all those advantages.

**–What do you think of the changes in the Davis Cup?**

–I'm possibly not the best person to ask because I have never played in it. Other players say it makes the season very long and tiring, with a lot of travel. From outside, the new format under which it is concentrated in one week seems quite a good idea and more like other sports, but of course you can lose the attraction of playing eliminatory rounds at home.

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MALAGA

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BARCELONA

2

4-4-2

4-3-3

Unused substitutes: Prieto (GK), Kuzmanovic, Bueno, Miguel Torres.

Unused substitutes: Cillessen (GK), Alcácer, Yerry Mina, Vermaelen.

STATISTICS

BALL POSSESSION

24% 76%

MALAGA BARCELONA

|    |                 |    |
|----|-----------------|----|
| 0  | Goals           | 2  |
| 6  | Total shots     | 20 |
| 2  | On target       | 9  |
| 4  | Off target      | 7  |
| 2  | Corners         | 5  |
| 1  | Offsides        | 4  |
| 15 | Fouls committed | 9  |
| 1  | Yellow cards    | 1  |
| 1  | Red cards       | 0  |

Goals: 0-1 Suárez (15'), 0-2 Coutinho (28').

Referee: Martínez Munuera. Red card for Samuel García (30').

Venue: La Rosaleda (26,677 spectators).

TABLE & FIXTURES

MATCHDAY 28

Results

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

Fixtures

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

LEAGUE TABLE

★ Champions League ■ Europa League ▼ Relegation

| TEAM              | PT. | P  | W  | D  | L  | GF | GA |
|-------------------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| ★ 1. Barcelona    | 72  | 28 | 22 | 6  | 0  | 72 | 13 |
| ★ 2. At. Madrid   | 64  | 28 | 19 | 7  | 2  | 48 | 12 |
| ★ 3. Real Madrid  | 57  | 28 | 17 | 6  | 5  | 67 | 30 |
| ★ 4. Valencia     | 56  | 28 | 17 | 5  | 6  | 54 | 30 |
| ■ 5. Sevilla      | 45  | 28 | 14 | 3  | 11 | 36 | 42 |
| ■ 6. Villarreal   | 44  | 28 | 13 | 5  | 10 | 38 | 32 |
| 7. Girona         | 43  | 28 | 12 | 7  | 9  | 40 | 36 |
| 8. Betis          | 40  | 28 | 12 | 4  | 12 | 46 | 53 |
| 9. Eibar          | 39  | 28 | 11 | 6  | 11 | 35 | 41 |
| 10. Celta         | 38  | 28 | 11 | 5  | 12 | 45 | 42 |
| 11. Getafe        | 36  | 28 | 9  | 9  | 10 | 33 | 26 |
| 12. Athletic      | 35  | 28 | 8  | 11 | 9  | 29 | 31 |
| 13. Espanyol      | 35  | 28 | 8  | 11 | 9  | 26 | 34 |
| 14. Real Sociedad | 33  | 28 | 9  | 6  | 13 | 50 | 50 |
| 15. Leganés       | 33  | 28 | 9  | 6  | 13 | 23 | 34 |
| 16. Alavés        | 31  | 28 | 10 | 1  | 17 | 25 | 42 |
| 17. Levante       | 24  | 28 | 4  | 12 | 12 | 23 | 42 |
| ▼ 18. Las Palmas  | 20  | 28 | 5  | 5  | 18 | 20 | 57 |
| ▼ 19. Deportivo   | 19  | 28 | 4  | 7  | 17 | 25 | 59 |
| ▼ 20. MALAGA      | 13  | 28 | 3  | 4  | 21 | 16 | 45 |

# Top versus bottom: a huge gulf in class

BEN CLARKE

english@diariosur.es

Malaga had no answer to Barcelona's masterclass in football, losing their seventh consecutive match in La Liga

**MALAGA.** When the runaway leaders take on the side marooned at the bottom of the table, there's usually only one outcome. Despite showing occasional attacking potential, Malaga mostly sat back and let Barcelona walk all over them when the two teams faced up at La Rosaleda on Saturday evening. Frankly, the Blue and Whites were lucky to lose by only two goals after playing two-thirds of the match with ten men.

Barcelona, without star man Lionel Messi who was attending the birth of his third child, still exuded confidence from the off, and had plenty in reserve with Philippe Coutinho, Luis Suárez and Ousmane Dembélé all starting. Malaga, by



En-Nesyri cut a frustrated figure on a night when he became increasingly isolated up top. :: NITO SALAS

contrast, had a shaky start, often succumbing to pressure from the La Liga leaders.

The difference in approaches was clear, with Barcelona pushing the majority of their team upfield, while Malaga kept on the defensive and looked for opportunities to counter.

This didn't stop them conceding a number of chances; the first was from Suárez whose trickery and persistence freed him of pressure before the Uruguayan's toe poke was saved low by Roberto's outstretched hand.

The breakthrough came as early as the 15th minute when Jordi Alba broke down the left wing and precisely crossed the ball to Suárez, who headed it neatly into the side

netting, virtually unmarked.

After the goal, Youssef En-Nesyri caused some problems for the Barcelona defence with his pace, but the visitors still dominated possession and looked as if they could score every time they drove forward.

On the 28-minute mark, their lead was doubled; Ousmane

Dembélé broke down the right wing and fired in a precise cross to find Coutinho, who neatly backheeled the ball past Roberto.

Just two minutes later, things went from bad to worse for Malaga when they went down to ten men as Samuel García caught the standing leg of Alba with a reckless challenge and was sent off. Despite this, the hosts created two half chances before the break, spurned by En-Nesyri and Mehdi Lacen.

The start of the second half was much like the first in that Malaga struggled to contain Barcelona's offensive onslaught, sitting back and hoping not to concede further. Ernesto Valverde's team opted to play possession football, ensuring that the outclassed home side hardly got a touch. The visitors forced two fouls on the edge of the box, which gave them good opportunity to score from set pieces, which they failed to capitalise on.

José González brought on Maxime Lestienne, Brown Ideye and Isaac Success in an attempt to invigorate the Malaga attack. However, they made little impact given their lack of match practice and the game soon came to the conclusion that had been in little doubt since the first half.

Malaga's next match is against tenth-placed Celta Vigo on Sunday.

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SUR mueve

## Toxic atmosphere takes hold at La Rosaleda as club reaches crisis point

Fans ironically applauded periods of possession and called for owner Sheikh Al-Thani to leave "now more than ever"

■ PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

**MALAGA.** "Now more than ever: Al-Thani, go now!" These were the chants circulating La Rosaleda during last Saturday night's game when Malaga fell to a seventh consecutive defeat and disappointed fans with a distinct lack of rhythm, intensity in the press and a lack of individual responsibility on the pitch.

Despite still mathematically possible with 30 points still to play for, supporters are resigned to the fact that their beloved team will drop into Segunda, reflected in the response from the terraces. "A shot at goal, we just want a shot at goal!"



The Al-Thanis were again absent from the directors' box. ■ NITO SALAS

and "Rolán for the national team!", as well as ironic "olés" during brief periods of possession, were just some of the sarcastic chants heard on the day. Others were much more clear-cut: "We are Malaga", "Malaga belongs in Primera", "Players: mercenaries" and "You don't deserve to wear the shirt".

However, there was still no sign of owner Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani

who has been in Qatar for almost a year, while the family's only representative, his son Nayef, was in a private box, behind glass, for his own safety.

Head coach José González for his part defended his players in his post-match press conference. He said: "We are where we are because of a collective lack of ability, not because of a lack of desire or hard work."



The Asturian managed Malaga in 2006-08 and 2009-10. ■ EFE

## Muñiz tops shortlist for new head coach

■ SERGIO CORTÉS

**MALAGA.** Two-time Malaga head coach Juan Ramón Muñoz is believed to be the stand-out candidate for the Malaga hot seat next season.

The 49-year-old was recently fired by Levante who employed him on the recommendation of current Malaga sporting director Mario Hulsillo who is still a big fan of the way

he organises teams, but especially his knowledge of the second tier.

However, with current coach José González contracted for another year should he keep the side up, Muñoz would not be drawn on the speculation: "It would be disrespectful for me to talk about the situation while there are games still to be played and a manager is in place."



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## A LOOK AT LA LIGA

**ROB PALMER**

 Commentator, Sky Sports  
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# A pointless debate

**Cristiano continues to remind us of his talents, but how does he rank among the likes of Pelé, Best and Maradona?**

Some say Pelé was the greatest footballer of all time, some say Diego Maradona...

others claim it was George Best and we have to respect the word of the elders who saw these amazing talents with their own eyes.

The modern fans are split between Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.

It's not a debate that I can enter, or want to enter, as social me-

dia can get quite toxic with the beholders who see only beauty in their particular favourite.

I would say just enjoy the time we are living in and the privilege of being able to turn on the television every week and see two talents from another sphere every week in full HD. That's not a plug to tune into Sky Sports every week, but of course you are welcome to join us - it's the wonder of the age we live in.



Ronaldo has scored in every CL game. :: EFE

Pelé apparently scored over a thousand goals but how many are recorded for posterity? We have to rely on grainy images, which don't do his genius justice. If he was in his prime these days

we'd be able to see every angle on our mobile phones, from multi-

ple angles, an instant after he'd scored.

These days he'd probably be wearing the colours of Manchester City or PSG instead of the black and white stripes of Santos.

It's similar with George Best. I was honoured to conduct the interviews with him for his life-story film at his home in Northern Ireland. Although we discovered previously unseen footage of George going footloose and fancy free on a Spanish holiday, we couldn't locate any football action that hadn't been circulated millions of times already.

Maradona is more recent of course, and at least the majority of his memorable moments are in technicolour. Sadly too few of them were recorded and his career was self-curtailed.

I honestly thought we may be running out of magical moments from Cristiano Ronaldo now that he's turned 33 years of age. Before January he scored only four goals



Rob Palmer (r) with George Best (l) and Gordon Banks (c). :: SUR

for preservation in the La Liga library but now he's donating again with an additional 14 goals in 10 Liga games this year. He's also scored in every Champions League game to add to the phenomenon.

Lionel Messi is a few European goals and three years of age behind Ronaldo and his powers show no sign of waning. I've written here before how I spent one match as a spectator just watching his move-

ment. He's like a bluebottle, he rests, you try to swat him, then his speed and unpredictability of flight just makes him impossible to catch.

So put those arguments aside; just live for the moment. We all have access to witness two of the greatest talents, if not the greatest ever, in the same short space of time.

Lecture over.

# Marbella stay top despite surrendering the lead late on

The Costa side dropped two points after conceding from the spot in the closing stages

**BADAJEZ 1 MARBELLA 1**

:: OPTA SPORT

**BADAJEZ.** A dramatic clash between Badajoz and Marbella on Sunday ended in a point apiece after the hosts fought to grab a late equali-

ser, despite bossing the play for large periods of the game.

Badajoz played with their characteristic high-pressure style from the outset, but the visitors coped with this well and didn't let it intimidate them, demonstrating in the Nuevo Vivero why they are leaders of Group IV of Segunda B.

There wasn't an attempt on goal until 33 minutes into the match. The home side's Álex Rubio broke down the right wing and found Ruano, who had cut in from the left,



Alonso executes a headed clearance. :: CASIMIRO MORENO

with a precise cross, but the striker could only hit the post. On the 43-minute mark, a centre from Ruano found Juanma, but he was surprised by Wilfred, who rushed out to shut

down the attack.

In the second half, the match became even more exciting. In the 53rd minute, Juanma passed to Álex Rubio, whose powerful shot was

saved by the outstretched hand of Wilfred. Soon after, Badajoz had another excellent chance as they outnumbered Marbella three to two on the attack, but the cross was cleared by Alonso.

Marbella's goal came in the 72nd minute, when a pass from Fernando split the home side's defence, allowing Corpas to slot the ball neatly past Fernando.

Two minutes later, Indiano conceded a penalty after fouling Álex Rubio. Juanma's shot had the beating of Wilfred, but also of the post. However, with stoppage time approaching, the hosts would get a second chance from the spot after Carlos Julio brought down Juanma. This time Álex Rubio curled the ball neatly past Wilfred to level the game.

Despite robbing them of the win, Marbella remain six points above third-placed Extremadura, and nine points above the sixth-placed team in the table, Melilla.

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▲ **Charity fun run.** Despite the threat of rain, there was a strong turnout for the Holiday World coastal fun run on Sunday. David Moreno, from the Alpine Sporting Club of Jarapalos won the men's race, and the women's was won by Paloma Ramos. There was an excellent atmosphere from the outset as runners arrived to raise money and awareness for the Horizonte Proyecto Hombre Málaga association. :: JULIO RODRÍGUEZ



▲ **Rugby.** The Spanish rugby team moved one step closer to qualification for the 2019 World Cup in Japan after defeating Germany 84-10 on Sunday. It was their penultimate match of the season and was attended by King Felipe VI. After the overwhelming victory, 'Los Leones' will have to win against Belgium on Saturday to ensure participation in the tournament, twenty years after their first and only World Cup (in Wales in 1999). :: JUANJO MARTÍN



▲ **Night running.** The bravest in the province made the most of the break in the rain to take part in the fifth edition of the MLK Tahermo, the night trail race from the top of the Gibralfaro to the La Coracha neighbourhood in Malaga, which has become one of the most popular events for seasoned runners on the Costa. :: ÁLVARO CABRERA

► **Journalism.** The former Sports editor at SUR, Manuel Castillo, was awarded the Malaga Association of Sports Journalists' top honour at an event celebrated at El Pimpi on Tuesday. He is pictured between his son, current SUR editor-in-chief Manuel, and his grandson Emilio, also a journalist. :: S. SALAS



▲ **Inline hockey.** Fuengirola Lions beat Troyanos de Villarrobledo 19-2 at the weekend to win the Liga Sur outright. This came a week after their Liga Andaluza triumph. The playoffs will be played in Cartagena on 28 and 29 April. :: MANUEL HERGUETA

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**GROUP RECRUITMENT MANAGERS.** Ambientjobs.com and Andaluclatechnologyrecruitment.com the recruitment market leaders and part of the Human Capital Recruitment Group of companies, are expanding again, and after 13 years of solid growth, now require two experienced and proven recruitment professionals for their market leading brands, one a Generalist and the other a Technology recruiter. You will be sales driven, strongly entrepreneurial, and want to run your own business, understand your market and 360 degree recruiting. Partnership opportunities are available for the correct individual. In the first instance contact Derek Langley on 0034616427174 or derek@ambientjobs.com The Human Capital Recruitment Group

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**SUR**  
in English

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**REAL ESTATE** Agency located in Mijas Costa and operative on the entire Coast is looking for experienced sales agents and telemarketers. The candidates must speak English fluently and preferably one of the following languages: French, German, Nordic. Great conditions and high commission scheme for the right candidates. Please send CV info@buenavistahomes.eu and/or call 951484500

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**LOOKING** for experienced telemarketers must be native English speaking for part time PM hours. We are an established company based in Fuengirola, full training is given along with Nomina and excellent commission. For more information please call us on 952586140 after 1.00pm.

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We are expanding and need more CS staff in our FUENGIROLA office.

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SAN PEDRO DE ALCANTARA: Traducciones San Pedro 952 789 204 / 654 613 094  
FUENGIROLA: Diana 952 580 142 / 635 716 285  
BENALMADENA: Publi Ocio del Sur 670 886 299, Graham 605 022 121  
MIJAS: Carrefour Mijas 952 580 726 / 670 643 488  
MIJAS COSTA: Sonja Bryce 626 539 298  
ESTEPONA: Carmen 609 569 878  
SOTOGRADE/GIBRALTAR 683 298 097  
COIN: Rocio 951 315 113 / 600 513 343  
NERJA: Debbie 952 649 674  
RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA: Virginia 952 403 611

**SUR**  
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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](mailto: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 multitask. 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](mailto:accounts@signaturecapital.co.uk)

**VERY** experienced chef looking to franchise or work kitchen or bar from Elviria to Benalmadena. Tel John 00447796383381

**REAL ESTATE  
 SALES AGENT**  
 Experience on Costa del Sol  
 multi language skills  
 required.  
 Commission with basic  
**HANSA REALTY**  
 Marbella - Calahonda  
 Please send CV to:  
[marbella@hansa-realty.com](mailto:marbella@hansa-realty.com)

**LANGUAGE** school is looking for teachers of different languages. Applicants please send CV to: [info@guadalminaidiomas.net](mailto:info@guadalminaidiomas.net)

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**!!!TELEMARKETER** wanted!! Great Marbella based Real Estate office, seeks suitably experienced Telemarketers, English Essential and other languages an advantage to support a busy sales team. You will be qualifying a regular supply of hot incoming leads. Previous experience in similar role is essential, together with good knowledge of the coast and property market. You will need a professional and confident telephone manner, solid IT skills and a desire to achieve and exceed targets. Permanent contract, excellent basic, commission and incentives. Please send CV to [info@stellaeak-lund.com](mailto:info@stellaeak-lund.com) !!! Good Basic Salary and High Commissions, guaranteed!!!

**SOFTWARE** Sales Consultant. Are you a great sales person who is comfortable selling software systems to national associations and government councils through online meetings around the world? Excellent product, good basic + sales commission. Office close to Puerto Banus. Send CV to [jobs@wcea.education](mailto:jobs@wcea.education)

**EXPERIENCED telesales Coin. Only proven sales and money hungry closing agents need apply. Immediate start, role selling advertising. Excellent earning potential paid monthly. Telephone: 610542883**

**FREELANCE** guide for tourdemalaga.com an experience guide required for start up tour company, self motivated, flexible and outgoing. Must speak fluent English and Spanish./ German, French, Dutch a benefit. Send you CV and covering letter to: [guideswanted@gmail.com](mailto:guideswanted@gmail.com)

**MARBELLAAPARTMENT.COM** Due to our ongoing expansion, we are looking for sales personal serving our Scandinavian clients. We need Danish, Swedish or Norwegian speaking sales personal. Need as being fluently speaking and writing in English, as our it is office language. Experience within the real estate business and a good knowledge of the Costa del Sol is a must. Our sales staff is fully supported by our telemarketers making appointments for you. Very high commission. Please send application and CV to: [ez.mv@marbellavillas.com](mailto:ez.mv@marbellavillas.com) marked with ¿Scandinavian¿

**GOLF** Experience, based in Estepona is a long established Golf Tour Operator attracting golfers from all over the world to Spain. Due to continued expansion we currently have vacancies for reservations specialists on both full & part-time basis. If you are an English speaker (Spanish a plus), familiar with the golf / tourism industry on the Costa del Sol and have excellent administrative skills we would like to hear from you. Please email your C V to [info@golfexperience.net](mailto:info@golfexperience.net)

**MECHANIC** wanted for busy classic car restoration company in Estepona. Must have experience and mechanical knowledge of classic British cars. We specialise in Mini, Moke, Jaguar, MG, Triumph, Bentley etc. Please send C. V. to [chay@themini-world.com](mailto:chay@themini-world.com)

**BLUE** square Real Estate is currently searching for Sales Executives to work in and around the Marbella area. A full training package is provided and excellent incentives. Multilingual candidates are sought after. Please email [hr@blue-square.com](mailto:hr@blue-square.com) with your CV

**FEMALE** models wanted, bikini and/or topless models, good rates of pay, must be over 18 and ages 18-25. Well paid, enquiries at 691964881 or [designer\\_sauce18@outlook.com](mailto:designer_sauce18@outlook.com)

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**FRENCH & Scandinavian** speaking Telemarketers & Sales Consultants urgently required Costa del Sol. Your Dream Home is one of the coasts leading Real Estate companies, due to the number of enquiries we are receiving we need additional staff for our office in Fuengirola. If you want to join our successful team with excellent commissions and incentives and have experience in the Real Estate market please contact us via email [mark@yourdream-home.es](mailto:mark@yourdream-home.es)

**IMMEDIATE** start: Malaga Airport admin/ driving position, English speaking other languages not necessary. Please email CV to: [airport-malagaparking2018@gmail.com](mailto:airport-malagaparking2018@gmail.com)

**APPRENTICE** to learn electrical/ electronics, technician required. Send CV [info@amcprojects.com](mailto:info@amcprojects.com)

**ETSIMME Suomen. Espanjan ja Englanti hallitsevan reipaan henkilön lentokenttä toimistollemme asiakaspalveluun. Marko@auto-katti.com 952475179**

**VACANCIES** for Junior/Apprentice on contract and part-time stylist, for busy hair salon between San Pedro and Estepona. [michelle@numberoneforhair.com](mailto:michelle@numberoneforhair.com). 952886953

**dpi Real Estate** with offices in La Cala and Estepona are looking for experienced sales professionals and telemarketers to join its existing successful team. One of our sales specialists earned over 20,000 Euros in February, are you getting paid what your worth? Do you want high quality leads and bookings? If you like being busy and have what it takes, call us now or send your CV to find out why we are selling so many properties. Call 952806609 or CV to [info@directpropertyinvestments.com](mailto:info@directpropertyinvestments.com)

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**DELIVERY/** man sales rep with fluent English Important company specialized in British food distribution for restaurants, needs a sales delivery person. Must be fluent in English (if possible native). This requirement is essential must deal daily with owners of British restaurants in the Costa del Sol area. Our company provides vehicle, fuel and also company phone. Please send CV to: [florida@kitchenfoods.es](mailto:florida@kitchenfoods.es)

**SAN PEDRO** Tele-sales person required for international Wine Export company, knowledge of wine and viniculture an advantage, must speak English and another language. Sent CV at [info@hisprovino.com](mailto:info@hisprovino.com)

**COOK/** check required to help run a busy casual dining restaurant between Estepona and San Pedro. Good Knowledge of English cuisine essential. Start date March. Adria 686491634 or send CV [wseamons@hotmail.com](mailto:wseamons@hotmail.com)

**MARBELLA** Experienced grill Chef and kitchen porter. Required for Irish Sports Bar in Marbella Center, fluent English Essential. Call. 602534895

**MALAGA Biludlejningsfirma søger dansk-talende medarbejder. Kræver kørekort og spansk/engelsk. Kim@costabiler.dk - 952475179**

**REAL** Estate since 25 years in the area of Marbella is looking for sales consultant. English/French/Spanish speaking essential, driving license and own car. Send cv [puerto-banus@reluz.com](mailto:puerto-banus@reluz.com)

## Situations Wanted

**CARER** experienced UK looking for clients needing companionship, disability and/ or elderly support. Can live in. Fluent Spanish. Contact Jo 658633026

**ENGLISH** attractive, elegant lady available to accompany businessmen/ golfers for lunch/ dinner or special occasion. Please contact 699859054

**ENGLISH** speaking. Cleaner looking for work between San Pedro and Estepona. 616262640

**LOOKING** for long term nanny position Costa del Sol in Fuengirola Benamadena etc . [mandasaws@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mandasaws@yahoo.co.uk)

**EXPERIENCED** Carer available Marbella - Estepona. Irish lady available to care for you in your home - day and overnight. Shopping, food preparation, Dr's visits. References available. 677785041

**Check-in Scan**  
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 Experienced telemarketers required to promote our new mobile app. You must be fluent in English/Spanish, own a smartphone and have some basic computer skills. Full training given.  
 Full 40h contract, SS and 10-6 hours at our office in Las Lagunas, Mijas  
**Please send your CV to: [cv@checkinscan.com](mailto:cv@checkinscan.com)**

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 EQUALITY AND WELFARE - Andalusien  
 MIJAS TOWN HALL  
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 ANANDALUSIAN GOVERNMENT  
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 Monday to Friday: 9.00 - 15.00 h.  




December 22nd - January 20th  
An unexpected encounter with an old flame sets your mind buzzing. Is it worth going over old ground?

[illegible]

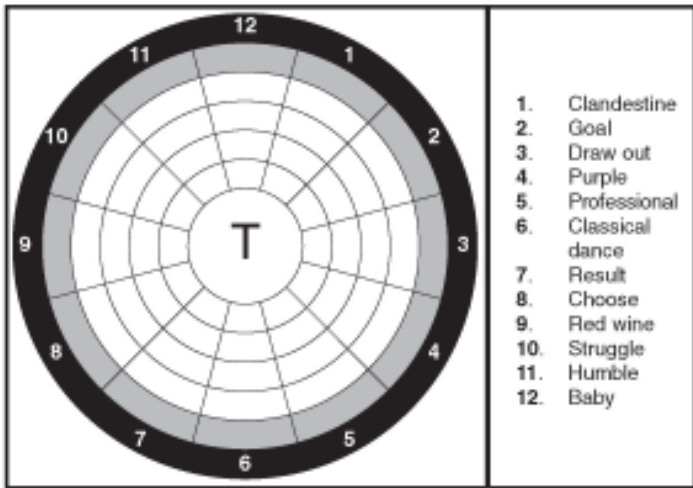
- 1 Alec shot it, perhaps, not  
a friendly deed! (7,3)
- 7 A summer snake (5)
- 8 With foreign money  
about it turns wild with  
excitement (7)
- 10 Success in ten seconds  
flat (5,3)
- 11 Long period return to a  
district (4)
- 13 Sailor given a mission  
and not here (6)
- 15 A practical lesson to  
be drawn, but not  
concerned with ethics (6)
- 17 Split the rent (4)
- 18 Shut up (8)
- 21 A crafty contest (7)
- 22 Strange glee I come  
across in Belgium (5)
- 23 A man who gambles on  
an equal share for his  
wife (6,4)

- 1 If you have a complaint you may resort to this (5)
- 2 Unproductive but impressive (8)
- 3 Pouring in, in a state of change (6)
- 4 Dash of French? (4)
- 5 He may bring food from the terrace (7)
- 6 Teacher after a job as a slave-driver (10)
- 9 A daring aspirant to sporting fame (10)
- 12 It's always used up when needed (8)
- 14 It helps an artiste to perform brilliantly (7)
- 16 Harm with fairy music (6)
- 19 It's bound to be a bit of a shock (5)
- 20 Cancel the deletion in the first etching (4)

**Instructions**  
Complete the square making sure that every row of nine numbers includes all digits from 1 to 9, every column includes all digits from 1 to 9 and every 3 by 3 subsection includes all digits from 1 to 9

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | 9 |   | 6 |   | 4 | 1 | 5 |   |
|   | 3 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | 8 | 7 |   |   |   |   | 2 |
|   |   | 1 |   | 3 |   |   | 7 | 4 |
| 2 |   |   | 9 |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | 7 | 5 |   |   | 8 |   |   |
|   | 7 |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |
| 1 |   |   |   | 5 | 7 | 9 |   |   |
| 8 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter T in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a Hollywood actor.



|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | E | M | A | R | S | T | R | O | I |
| R | V | E | N | T | I | G | E | R | M |
| A | I | F | G | E | S | T | H | G | P |
| W | E | D | E | A | T | H | E | I | R |
| I | X | E | R | R | E | O | L | N | O |
| V | E | W | A | C | R | I | M | E | S |
| E | M | O | S | O | S | R | O | M | E |
| S | P | M | I | S | A | K | N | A | L |
| T | H | A | L | L | D | I | E | L | V |
| S | I | N | R | O | D | A | Y | S | O |

CAN you identify the words missing from the titles of the Woody Allen films listed below?

1. Annie ---
2. Love and ---
3. Take the --- and  
Run
4. Husbands and ---
5. What's Up, --- Lily?
6. Broadway Danny  
-----
7. Radio ---
8. Hannah and her ---
9. Another ---
10. --- and Misde-  
meanors

105.5 Axarquía  
91.5 Costa del Sol East  
91.9 Costa del Sol West  
98.7 Gibraltar/Sotogrande  
News, interviews, lifestyle, sport and  
BBC World Service.

**Global** (93.6 and 96.4FM)  
All week round the clock music and entertainment

**Radio Radio Network** (96 and 98.3 FM). Music 24 hours.

**Central FM (98.6 FM, 103.8)**  
All week, classic tracks and today's music  
broadcast to the Costa del Sol

**ACE FM (106.8 FM)**  
Inland radio, news and music

**The Beat fm (106 FM)**  
24 hours, music and entertainment

**Spectrum** (105.5 FM, Costa Almeria/Mojácar 92.6 FM)  
24 hour music and entertainment

**Radio Mijas (107.7 FM)**  
3 p.m. News, views and music

**Radio Sol 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

## QUESTION 1

## Which religion teaches the Four Noble Truths?

1. Buddhism
2. Taoism
3. Islam
4. Judaism

## QUESTION 2

### Chondogyo is a religion originating in which country?

1. Korea
2. China
3. Thailand
4. Japan



LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across
- Down
- 1) Declaration (11)

5) Freedom (8)

10) Memory (7)

11) Volleyball (8)

12) There (4)

13) Letter (5)

15) Destruction (11)

16) If (2)

17) To the (2)

18) Meeting (7)

19) Church (7)

22) Go! (pl) (2)

23) Naive (f) (5)

25) Mistake (5)

26) You will obtain (9)

31) Weapons (5)

32) Eleven (4)

35) To hear (3)

36) Coalition (9)

38) Thrones (6)

42) It imitates (5)

43) We promise (10)

48) To cause (9)

49) Criticism (8)

50) They start (7)

51) Ounces (5)

52) Need (9)

53) President (10)
- 1) Democracy (10)

2) Summit (6)

3) Root (4)

4) Invasion (8)

6) Idiot (7)

7) Troll (4)

8) Decision (8)

9) Security (9)

12) Host (9)

14) Threat (7)

15) Money (6)

20) Umpteenth (7)

21) War (6)

24) Faith (2)

27) Trunk (6)

28) North (5)

29) Challenge (4)

30) You supported (11)

33) Occupation (9)

34) Air (4)

37) I will restrict (8)

39) Nations (8)

40) Being (6)

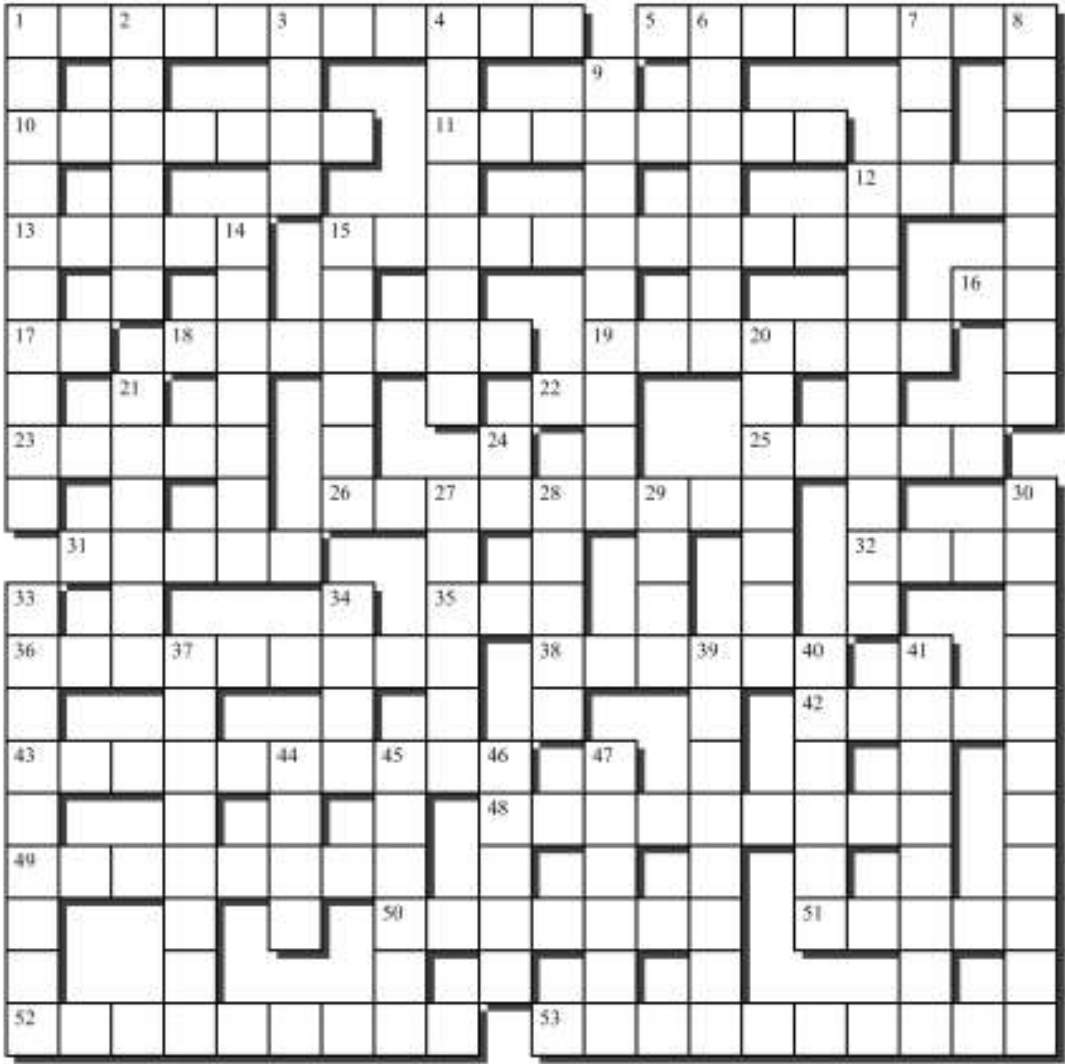
41) Injustice (8)

44) I touch (4)

45) Mass (6)

46) Partner (5)

47) To empty (6)



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

source of his dignity while spiritual training makes him one with the divine.

has “Hanunim,” the God of Chondogyo, in their mind and this serves as the encroachment in the 1860s. The principle of Chondogyo is that every man, Of interest: Chondogyo was initiated as a social movement against foreign

attained nirvana”.

are “the truths or realities which are understood by the worthy ones who have

Of interest: The four truths are dukkha, samudaya, nirodha and marga. They

Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 1 Hostile act; 7 Adder; 8 Frantic; 10 Knock out; 11 Area; 13 Absent; 15 Amoral; 17 Tear; 18 Impison; 21 Regatta; 22 Liege; 23 Better half; Down: 1 Hydro; 2 Striking; 3 Influx; 4 Elan; 5 Caterer; 6 Taskmaster; 9 Challenger; 12 Umbrella; 14 Spangle; 16 Impair; 19 Sheaf; 20 Stet.

Clockword solution

SOLUTION: 1 Secret, 2 Target, 3 Elicit, 4 Violent, 5 Expert, 6 Ballet, 7 Uplshot, 8 Select, 9 Claret, 10 Elicit, 11 Modest, 12 Infant.

ACTOR: Steve Buscemi.

Wordpuzzler solution

1. Hall  
2. Death  
3. Money  
4. Wives  
5. Tiger  
6. Rose  
7. Days  
8. Sisters  
9. Woman  
10. Chimes

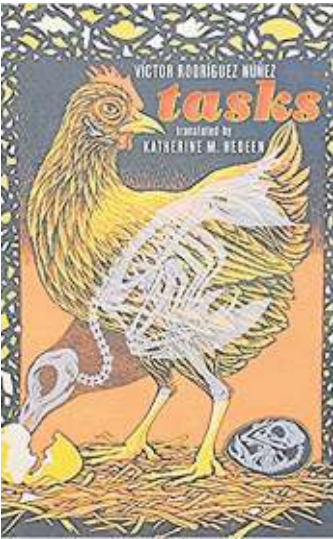
Sudoku solution

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 7 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 6 |
| 6 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 9 |
| 2 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| 9 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 4 |
| 5 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 2 |
| 4 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 8 |
| 7 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 3 |

Language Crossword

ACROSS:  
1. DEBACACION 5. LIBERTAD  
12. CARRERA 15. DESTRUCCION 16.81 17. ALI  
18. BURTON 19. GIGUELA 22.10 23. LUISA  
24. BORON 26.00THINDEAS 31. ARMAS  
32. DANCE 35.00R 36.00ALCON  
38.00NOS 42.00TH 43.00MONTINOS  
48.00NOS 49.00TH 50.00THINOS  
51.00NOS 52.00THINOS  
DOWN:  
1. DEMOCRACIA 2. CUMBRE 3. RAIZ  
4. DEBACACION 5. LIBERTAD  
6. DEBACACION 7. CUMBRE  
8. DEBACACION 9. CUMBRE 10. CUMBRE  
11. CUMBRE 12. CUMBRE 13. CUMBRE  
14. CUMBRE 15. CUMBRE 16. CUMBRE  
17. CUMBRE 18. CUMBRE 19. CUMBRE  
20. CUMBRE 21. CUMBRE 22. CUMBRE  
23. CUMBRE 24. CUMBRE 25. CUMBRE  
26. CUMBRE 27. CUMBRE 28. CUMBRE  
29. CUMBRE 30. CUMBRE 31. CUMBRE  
32. CUMBRE 33. CUMBRE 34. CUMBRE  
35. CUMBRE 36. CUMBRE 37. CUMBRE  
38. CUMBRE 39. CUMBRE 40. CUMBRE  
41. CUMBRE 42. CUMBRE 43. CUMBRE  
44. CUMBRE 45. CUMBRE 46. CUMBRE  
47. CUMBRE 48. CUMBRE 49. CUMBRE  
50. CUMBRE 51. CUMBRE 52. CUMBRE

BOOK OF THE WEEK



Tasks  
Victor Rodríguez Núñez

Víctor Rodríguez Núñez’s TASKS is an award-winning poetry collection. It received Spain’s Rincón de la Victoria Prize in 2010. With striking images and memorable verses, TASKS tells of an immigrant who returns to his native country, the poem really asks how to return if you’ve never actually left. This innovative long poem has at its core a rethinking of the experience of otherness, in which identification prevails over any kind of differentiation. This leads not only to a profound questioning of nationalism but also of cultural identity.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

A smart man only believes half of what he hears, a wise man knows which half

JEFF COOPER

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

| CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY) |       |             |           |       |       |
|---|-------|-------------|-----------|-------|-------|
| Ship  | Date  | From        | Next port | Docks | Sails |
| 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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# The universe loses its great mind

## Visionary physicist Stephen Hawking died on Wednesday, aged 76

The world's most famous scientist visited Spain a number of times, most notably to receive a Príncipe de Asturias award in 1989

■ SUR

**MALAGA.** Stephen Hawking was only 21 when, in 1963, he was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and told by doctors that he had two years left to live at most. "My expectations were reduced to zero when I was 21," he famously said. "Everything since then has been a bonus."

The man who is perhaps Hawking's closest friend in Spain's scientific community was Rafael Rebolo, director of the Astrophysics Institute of the Canaries (IAC). He learned of Hawking's death, at the age of 76, in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

He met with him twice, most recently in 2016 when he named Hawking an honorary professor, and was moved to write a letter of condolence to Trinity College,



The scientist during a visit to Tenerife. ■ AFP

Cambridge. Rebolo had a great deal of respect for the late scientist: "He taught me how to live in spite of difficulty. He had an immense curiosity, he always wanted to know more and better understand the secrets of the universe. I think that's what kept him alive for so long. It's a lesson for us all."

He added: "It's unlikely that we'll

fully understand how important Hawking's legacy was in our lifetimes. Many of his theories are yet to be proven; all we can say about them is that they are groundbreaking. It took over a century for example for Einstein's theory about gravitational waves to be verified. That's why Stephen never won the

Nobel Prize during his lifetime."

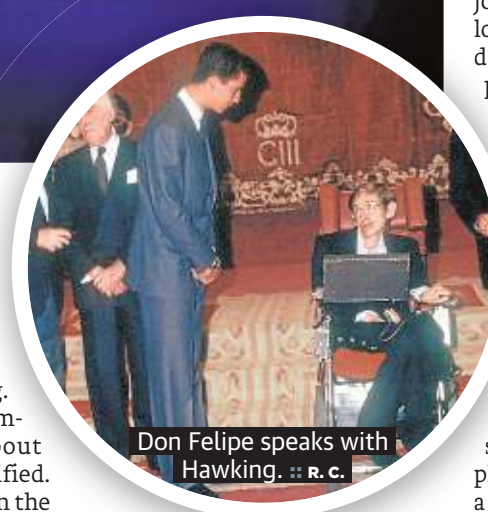
### A collection of awards

Stephen Hawking was however awarded the Príncipe de Asturias Award for Concord in 1989, by a young Felipe de Borbón, now King Felipe VI, "for his important investigative work about the fundamentals of time and space".

He was a member of the world's most eminent scientific communities, a honorary doctor at many of the world's most prestigious universities and he received some of the highest awards, including an Order of the British Empire medal (OBE). He also became one of the best-known scientists in the world, appearing in film, TV series and sitcoms.

### Tributes

High-profile Spanish figures have joined the world in mourning the loss of one of its greatest minds. Pedro Sánchez, leader of the PSOE party, said: "Funding science is the best tribute to his legacy." Roberto Emparan, a Spanish quantitative physicist also praised his legacy, saying: "He has taught us that the future isn't written and it can be changed." Teresa Sanjurjo of the Princess of Asturias Foundation said that "He was a wise man and an example of the strength of the human spirit." The Partido Popular (PP) also released a statement: "He revolutionised physics and he explained it to us in a more understandable way."



Don Felipe speaks with Hawking. ■ R.C.

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