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March 30th to April 5th 2018
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FOOTBALL

Isco, the hero for rampant Spain

The Benalmádena-born midfielder scored his first professional hattrick in this week's friendly match against Argentina **P60**



CLOAKED IN TRADITION

Streets are filled with the emotion and passion of Holy Week **P8&9**

Members of Malaga's Estudiantes brotherhood watch their images of Christ and Our Lady from the cathedral steps. :: NIÑO SALAS

World's biggest cruise liner makes its debut in Malaga

The Symphony of the Seas was unveiled on Tuesday to industry professionals and seen off with fireworks **P2&3**



The ship in Malaga port. :: J. D.

Portugal revisited. We take a trip across the border to see how old favourites Lisbon and the Algarve have changed in our Travel section this month **P36-41**

Judges around Europe decide on fate of wanted Catalan leaders

Carles Puigdemont has been held without bail in Germany and Euro arrest warrants have been issued for five more separatists

Spain's Catalan political crisis became the headache of judges in four other European countries this week after Madrid's Supreme Court issued Euro arrest warrants for six fugitive separatist leaders.

Germany, Scotland, Switzerland and Belgium are now deciding if

Spain's charge of rebellion is a valid reason for them to extradite.

Carles Puigdemont is in jail without bail in northern Germany while the former Catalan minister for Education appeared in court in Edinburgh and was freed while Scotland's lawyers argue the case. **P17**

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The ship's presence attracted a lot of attention around the city. :: JESÚS DOMÍNGUEZ



Fireworks as the ship left for Barcelona. :: SUR

A sea giant, unveiled in Malaga

The presentation of the *Symphony of the Seas* confirms the Costa del Sol's status as a cruise destination

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

✉ pmartinez@diariosur.es



It was Tuesday of Holy Week, and the people of Malaga walked in procession towards the Levante wharf in the port. This was not an Easter procession, however. They were all on their way to take part in a unique event which would become part of the port's history: the world presentation of the *Symphony of the Seas*, the biggest

cruise ship in the world. This giant, which can carry nearly 9,000 passengers and crew, made its first appearance in Malaga with 1,500 important guests on board: directors of the Royal Caribbean cruise line, around 350 journalists from all over the world, travel agents and tour operators.

The inauguration day began early when the ship anchored in Malaga at 6am, having travelled from the Saint Nazaire shipyards in France. There was a festive atmosphere, with live music around the swimming pools and shopping gallery. The party even extended to the Levante quayside, where

people arrived all through the day to witness this world premiere.

At 4pm two tugs formalised the baptism of the ship by directing streams of water towards it, to which the captain, Rob Hemptstead, responded by sounding the sirens. Shortly afterwards the first emergency drill took place, and a video was shown of the major technology on board the vessel, which is 362 metres long and weighs 228,000 tonnes.

Later, some of the directors who would be travelling with the ship to Barcelona, from where it will make seven-night cruises around the Mediterranean, shared their

impressions with the media.

As expected, they were keen to highlight all the aspects which make the *Symphony of the Seas* so spectacular, but they also said they were impressed by the attractions of Malaga city and the Costa del Sol. They were particularly surprised by the Easter processions and the unique ambience of Malaga at this time of year.

The focus of all attention

Malaga became the focus of attention for everybody in the cruising world when Royal Caribbean chose the port for the unveiling of the ship, which has room for 6,680

passengers.

It was a tribute from the cruise company to the port, which will receive ten visits from five of its famous ships this year. Among them will be the *Symphony of the Seas*, which will be returning in October.

Royal Caribbean's general director for the Eurozone, and associate vice-president of the company, Belén Wangüemert, said the firm is working with the Malaga authorities on new projects for the city.

"We always work with the ports and destinations to identify more opportunities. We have been do-

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The cruise ship is aimed at attracting families. :: SUR

ing that with Malaga for many years and we have a very good relationship. We are increasing the visits by our ships in line with demand. Malaga is a project which is always on the table," she said at the press conference on the 16th deck of the ship, which she attended with the mayor of the city, Francisco de la Torre, and the president of the Port Authority, Paulino Plata.

The mayor presented a plaque to thank the company for choosing Malaga for the world presentation of the Symphony of the Seas and for helping to promote the city.

"This is a unique opportunity for the directors and for journalists from all over the world to get to know Malaga better," he said. He also explained that events such as these have many positive effects. "It is an important complement to the constant promotional work carried out by the Port and the council every time there is a



Shops and other facilities for passengers to enjoy. :: SUR

On unveiling day there was live music around the ship's pools and shopping gallery

cruise tourism fair in Europe or America. This is almost equivalent to a fair of that type," he said.

Paulino Plata said that there are discussions in progress for the cruise line to use Malaga as a base port for its forthcoming projects, and said the talks are going well.

"We are working closely together because Malaga is a top-quality destination," he said.

Parks and pools

The Symphony of the Seas is arranged in seven areas, with 18 decks (there is no number 13), 2,759 cabins, 19 swimming pools, slides, a Central Park with 12,000 natural plants and a shopping and restaurant area with 26 bars and lounges, a theatre and ice rink. The ship also has its own zip wire, among other attractions.

The firework display which marked the ship's departure from Malaga delighted all those lucky enough to be on board.

"We are not ruling Malaga out as a base port for Royal Caribbean"

Belén Wangüemert Royal Caribbean's general director for the Eurozone

PIILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. Impressed by the warm welcome from Malaga at the world presentation of the Symphony of the Seas, Belén Wangüemert, Royal Caribbean's general director for the Eurozone, said that "we are not ruling out Malaga as a base port", but explained that the cruise line needs to find the right commercial opportunity in order to operate from the Costa del Sol.

"It is not that there are any problems, but we need to wait for the time this operation would make sense. The dialogue is good, the city and port are ideal, but we have to wait for the right opportunity," she explained.

Royal Caribbean currently has ten ships under construction and a destination will be needed for those in the next few years.

After pointing out that the direct economic impact of a visit by the Symphony of the Seas is

approximately 400,000 euros, she explained, "We have had many members of the media and company personnel on board for this inauguration and they have had the chance to explore the city and get to know it better. All these are steps which will, without a doubt, help to position Malaga for the future," she said.

With regard to this new giant of the seas, which is the latest addition to the Quantum class, she said that it was designed for families and entertainment. Its slide is higher than any other and the ship has a large family suite, which among other curiosities has a Lego wall and other attractions for children.

Wangüemert explained that bookings for the Symphony of the Seas are going well and that there is already a reservation for the family suite for six people at Christmas, at a cost of 58,000 dollars.

"This ship is truly spectacular," she insisted.



Wangüemert, between Plata and Malaga mayor, De la Torre. :: P. M.

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Family offers reward in new appeal for information on Scot missing since 2015

Up to £100,000 has been offered for news of what happened to Lisa Brown, the mother-of-one who disappeared in Guadiaro, Cadiz over two years ago

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. The family of Lisa Brown, a Scottish mother who disappeared in the province of Cadiz more than two years ago, launched a fresh appeal at a press conference attended by British ambassador Simon Manley last week. The appeal is supported by the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Spanish authorities and is backed up by a reward of up to £100,000 from the family, supported by UK charity Crimestoppers.

Brown was 31 when she vanished from her home in Guadiaro, near Sotogrande in Cadiz province, on 4 November 2015. The alarm was raised when she failed to pick up her eight-year-old son from school.

She had lived in Spain for 14 years and worked in Gibraltar, and was about to start a new job the day after her disappearance.

Craig Douglas, Brown's brother, said their family believes that there is a "wall of silence" among the



Lisa Brown. :: SUR

English-speaking community in southern Spain over his sister's disappearance.

"We are sure that people know what happened and ask them to think of a little boy who asks every night when his mummy is coming home," Douglas said.

Roger Critchell of Crimestoppers said: "We understand that people are not always willing to go to the police so we would urge them to contact us with 100% anonymity."

Those with information can contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 (UK), 900 555 111 in Spain or online at <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information>

112 REPORTS

Hunt for missing British man in Arroyo

BENALMÁDENA

:: SUR. A plea was launched this week by the foreign community in Arroyo de la Miel, Benalmádena, for help finding a missing British man.

Forty-eight-year-old Anthony (Tony) Oldham was last seen last Friday, 23 March, at lunchtime in the Plaza de España area.

According to friends, he was wearing blue denim cargo type jeans, blue trainers, black polo shirt, a grey hoodie and blue rain jacket. They added that he disappeared with no phone, money or ID.

Tony was reported missing to police last Sunday and friends and family are very concerned for his welfare.



Tony Oldham.



One of the weapons seized by police after the kidnap :: SUR

Man freed from kidnap ordeal in Las Lagunas

MIJAS

:: J. C. / Á. F. Police freed a young man last Saturday after he was held captive inside an apartment in the Las Lagunas area of Mijas for 15 hours. Two men, a Spanish national

and a Moroccan, were held accused of illegal detention and torture. According to investigators, the alarm was first raised when a local person reported a video on social media showing a man with head wounds being assaulted. One of the assailants in the video was identified and officers raided the man's residence in the El Juncal estate.

Two held for wounding couple in Banús theft

MARBELLA

:: SUR. Two Italian men have been held by police over the alleged mugging of an elderly couple out walking in the street in Puerto Banús, Marbella. Investigators said that the couple reported a man putting himself in their path without warning and forcing one of them to hand over a watch. The attacker then ran off to a waiting motorcycle.

Man dies after Estepona AP-7 toll road smash

ESTEPONA

:: SUR. A 36-year-old man died this week and a 32-year-old woman was injured after a car left the road and overturned on the AP-7 toll motorway in Estepona municipality. According to the emergency services, a call was received at 11pm on Monday night reporting that a vehicle had hit trees at kilometre 163 on the road. The injured woman was taken to the Costa del Sol hospital.

G2

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PURGE OF ABANDONED CARS CONTINUES IN MARBELLA

Marbella council has stepped up its efforts to remove abandoned vehicles from the town's streets. Last week some 40 cars were removed from the La Ermita industrial estate to add to the 443 cars that have been towed away in Marbella since the purge began last September. The mayor and the head of the Local Police have said a further 100 are set to be removed after Easter. The council has reminded drivers that there are fines for abandoning a vehicle on a public road and that the council will dispose of any on request for free.



JOSELE-LANZA

Council takes over control of town's biggest park

HECTOR BARBOTTA

MARBELLA. The council in Marbella took over control of the biggest park in the municipality last week and promptly ordered its closure for repairs and replanting.

El Parque de los Tres Jardines is a 90,000-square-metre space near the Ronda road alongside San Pedro and covers three themed areas of Mediterranean, Arabian and subtropical vegetation.

Opened by the Junta de Andalucía regional government in 2012, it has been at the centre of recent controversy, with the cross-party view on the local council that the

Junta was failing to care for it.

Now the council has officially taken over responsibility for maintenance and, to bring the gardens up to standard again, district mayor for San Pedro on Marbella council, Rafael Piña, said on a visit last week that they would stay closed for at least two weeks while the most urgent repairs are carried out.

He says that 400,000 euros needs to be spent on repairs and the annual running cost will reach 200,000 euros.

The adjacent dog park, however, will stay open.



Town hall gardeners start work on restoring the park. SUR

Spanish airports ordered to sell bottles of water for one euro

SUR

MADRID. Spanish airports operator Aena has agreed to install drinking water fountains and limit the price of bottled water to one euro in the airports it manages, including Malaga. The decision follows an investigation by the Spanish ombudsman (defensor del pueblo) into complaints about prices charged for bottles of water, among other basic products.

According to the commitment made by Aena, airport bars and restaurants will offer 33cl bottles for one euro, while vending machines will stock 50cl bottles for the same price.

The report also reflected complaints about the use of space in airports where passengers are forced to walk through commercial areas to reach their gates.



Locals are calling for more police. CHARO MÁRQUEZ

Manilva residents march against violence after man dies in attack outside party

27-year-old José Manuel was killed in an apparently unprovoked assault and it is the second violent death in the area recently

J. CANO / C. MÁRQUEZ

MANILVA. Manilva village centre was the scene of a demonstration last Monday evening to demand an increased police presence following the death of a 27-year-old man early on Sunday morning.

The victim, named as José Manuel V.M., who was a Spanish national and a local resident, died after being punched twice and collapsing on the ground, hitting his head, investigators said. The apparently unprovoked attack took place just after 4am in the Plaza de Martín Carpena, where hundreds of people had gathered to celebrate the Primavera (spring) festival. The incident occurred in a

poorly-lit area where groups of young people regularly gather to drink.

Witnesses said that the victim had stopped to smoke, casually watching a heated argument taking place among some women. The suspected attacker was apparently a male youth who was with the girls. He turned himself in to police in nearby Estepona later on Sunday morning.

Friends of the deceased said that he "was a good person who never got into trouble".

The mayor of Manilva, Mario Jiménez, stated that while this was an "isolated incident", there was a need for more Guardia Civil officers in the municipality. He said that the local town hall was doing all it could to make Manilva a safer place and that the Local Police force was working hard, but "more officers from the national security forces" were needed.

Last month a local farm worker was violently killed in a late-night attack supposedly linked to mistaken identity by a drug gang.

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HERE AND THERE

Churriana's market reopens after refit

MALAGA

:: **S. MOLINA.** After three years of rebuilding work, the municipal market hall in Churriana has been reopened.

The mayor of Malaga, Francisco de la Torre, attended the inauguration of the building, which has been renovated, adding new flooring as well as many other improvements.



The mayor at the opening. :: SUR

Hotel Los Álamos to be given a new lease of life

TORREMOLINOS

:: **A. GÓMEZ.** Hotel Los Álamos, by the main road into Torremolinos from Malaga, has been closed since 2014 when it went into receivership. Now the current owners, the national Social Security office, is putting the hotel and its land up for auction in April. The town hall has suggested it could be converted into an old people's home or as housing for the homeless.



Los Álamos hotel. :: SUR

Earth tremor is recorded in inland Malaga province

VILLANUEVA DEL ROSARIO

:: **SUR.** A small earth tremor measuring magnitude 3 on the Richter scale and at a depth of 61 kilometres was recorded in Villanueva del Rosario, near Archidona, just after midnight on Wednesday morning. The quake caused no damage and follows several small tremors in neighbouring Villanueva del Trabuco in February and a quake felt in Humilladero last Sunday.

Mijas ruling parties agree stability pact with single Podemos councillor

Ciudadanos and PSOE now have an absolute majority guaranteed until the next municipal election in May next year

:: **IVÁN GELIBTER**

MIJAS. The two ruling parties on Mijas council have added the all-important support of the one councillor belonging to the Podemos party to secure a pact to bring stability to the town hall until the end of the current legislature in May next year.

The socialist PSOE party and centrist Ciudadanos run the council but don't have an overall majority. Now, with the vote of the CSSP-Podemos councillor, they can get bud-



The three parties sealed the new agreement last week. :: I. G.

gets approved and other changes through a council vote with a majority. The parties recently signed a three-way deal document with 28 points.

Among the initiatives agreed to is an office to support the local LGBT community and a relaunch of the closed CIOMijas hospitality school.



The horses are suffering in the mud and wet. :: SUR

CYD Santa Maria horse sanctuary asks for help following heavy rain

The flooded ground has made caring for the horses more difficult and vet bills now exceed 3,000 euros monthly

:: **FERNANDO TORRES**

ALH. EL GRANDE. The CYD Santa Maria horse sanctuary is in difficulty. The recent rain, which has been beneficial for the countryside and agriculture of the province, has not proven as useful for this rural sanctuary in Alhaurín El Grande. The ground has become very muddy and it will take weeks to return to its previous state.

The horses, the majority of which are old or unwell, are suffering from

the damp and the lack of spaces to sleep or rest. The seriousness of the situation has caused owner Virginia Solera to ask for help and donations from the general public, however small they may be. "The animals that we treat require a large commitment due to the difficulty of transporting them, cleaning them and feeding them," she said.

The rain has been falling "with no sign of stopping" over the past few weeks. "To recover we need more time for the ground to dry out; it's an absolute mire".

The centre is unable to lay a concrete floor as they are concerned for the welfare of the horses, so instead are hoping to purchase between sixty and seventy lorries loads of gravel.

A-7 BRIDGE SHUT AT LAST OVER SAFETY FEARS

Following concerns published in SUR about the poor condition of a footbridge over the A-7 between Mijas and Fuengirola, the ministry for Development has closed the structure at last. Authorities have put up a fence and a warning sign to prevent people from crossing it, and plan to start repair work as soon as possible.



:: IVÁN GELIBTER

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What can expatriates in Spain do with their UK pension?

By John McCann, Senior Partner, Blevins Franks

These are interesting times for UK pensions, particularly in view of Brexit. With some of today's freedoms likely to change after the UK leaves the EU, there may be limited time to take advantage of current opportunities.

As pensions are often the key to long-term financial security, take care to do what is right for you and your family. Start by understanding the options for different pension types.

'Defined contribution' or 'money purchase' pensions

Here, what you are entitled to depends on how much you have paid into the scheme alongside employer contributions, tax rebates and investment growth. Examples include personal and employer pensions and Self-Invested Personal Pensions (SIPPs).

Members of defined contribution schemes can usually do the following from age 55:

- Take the whole fund as cash – 25% will be tax-free in the UK.
- Make cash withdrawals when you want – a quarter is usually free of UK tax each time.

- Take regular income through 'flexible drawdown', leaving the remainder invested.
- Take a secure, regular income for life through buying an annuity.

Expatriates also have the option to transfer UK pensions to a Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Scheme (QROPS). This can unlock more flexibility to pass pension benefits to chosen heirs, take income in Euros or Sterling, and protect funds from lifetime allowance penalties and future UK taxation.

Transfers to a QROPS based in the EU or EEA (European Economic Area) – including Gibraltar – are currently tax-free. However, a 25% UK charge has applied since March 2017 on transfers to QROPS outside the EU/EEA (unless you are resident in that jurisdiction). Some speculate that post-Brexit, once the UK government sheds its EU obligations, it may widen the scope to start taxing Britons transferring within the EU/EEA.

Consider acting now, but take personalised, professional advice to establish if transferring is suitable for you and navigate the complex options.

'Defined benefit' or 'final salary' pensions

With these 'gold-plated' pensions, your employer promises a proportion of your salary for the whole of retirement.

While you cannot usually withdraw cash, you can transfer benefits to a defined contribution scheme or a QROPS. Traditionally, this has been considered less attractive than drawing a guaranteed pension for life. However, today, some struggling providers are tempting members to cash-in with 'transfer values' of up to 40 times the annual benefits due at retirement. Such high pay-outs may not be available for long. A generous one-off sum could potentially provide a retirement income that exceeds the original annual payment, but it is crucial to fully understand the consequences before giving up the certainty of a lifetime income.

Taxation

While 25% of cash withdrawals can be taken tax-free in the UK, if you are Spanish resident they are usually fully taxable in Spain. Income from UK occupational and state pensions will be taxable only

in Spain under the terms of the Spain/UK double tax agreement. Conversely, UK government service pension income remains taxable in the UK only (although it is considered when calculating your Spanish final tax rate).

Most expatriates with Spanish residency will therefore escape UK taxes on pension income, but are subject to Spanish income tax rates. However, in certain circumstances – for example, with lifetime annuities – it may be possible to receive a large amount tax-free in Spain.

Making your money last

Having the freedom to withdraw or transfer your pension does not mean that you should; you may be better off taking no action at this time. If you choose to take much of your benefits as cash, make sure you have a reliable plan to fund your long-term financial future.

Note that pension scams have never been more widespread and sophisticated – Age UK estimates £43 million has been lost to scammers since April 2014. Generally, if an investment sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Also, beware of unregulated

companies offering pension services as they provide no recourse if things go wrong.

Make sure your adviser is regulated through the UK Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and has cross-border experience to understand the tax implications in both UK and Spain. They should take account of your needs, objectives, personal circumstances and risk appetite to find the most suitable solution for you.

While you should take the time to get it right, keep the Brexit countdown in mind. With many predicting Brexit could introduce tax penalties and limit how expatriates in the EU can access their UK pensions, now is the time to review how you can best secure a prosperous retirement in Spain.

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

Brexit and pension transfers. A window of opportunity?

Last year the UK began to impose a 25% tax on transfers to overseas pension schemes, including QROPS. This currently excludes individuals and QROPS where both are resident in a European Economic Area (including Gibraltar) country, but who knows what will happen after Brexit? If you wish to move your pension overseas, it may be better to do so now, under known rules, rather than wait and see what happens. Pension transfers can take months, so don't risk leaving it too late.

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

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HOLY WEEK IN PICTURES



Malaga. Thousands flock to watch El Cautivo, the city's much-loved Christ image. :: SALVADOR SALAS



Marbella. Santa Marta, carried by women on Tuesday. :: JOSELE-LANZA



Malaga. The image of Our Lady in the Rescate procession. :: H. CORTÉS



Child's play. A boy makes a ball from candle wax. :: MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

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Dropping in on the processions

The Paratrooper Brigade took part in Semana Santa celebrations in Malaga this Wednesday

:: **ÁNGEL ESCALERA**

MALAGA. The Spanish Paratrooper Brigade (BRIPAC) joined in with Holy Week celebrations in Malaga this week, notably putting on a display at the city's central La Caleta beach for the expectant crowds.

The brigade's general, Alfredo Pérez de Aguado, was joined by Defence minister, María Dolores de Cospedal, and Malaga mayor, Francisco de la Torre, who was in attendance to review the troops as they came in to land on the beach in front of the Miramar hotel.

The troops also participated in a parade down the city's Paseo del Parque, as well as giving a concert in Plaza de la Constitución and accompanying an Easter procession.



A paratrooper landing on La Caleta beach in Malaga. :: **JESÚS DOMÍNGUEZ**



María Dolores de Cospedal. :: **J. D.**



Carrying an image of Christ. :: **J. D.**



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High season starts early with hotels and restaurants booked up for Easter

The early arrival of Holy Week this year is good news for hotels, car rental companies and beach bars

:: **PILAR MARTÍNEZ**

MALAGA. The Costa del Sol has already woken up from its winter slumber with the early arrival of Easter this year.

The vast majority of the around 60 hotels which close their doors during the winter have reopened, with around 15 of them boasting a new look after undergoing renovation to the tune of 45 million euros.

However, the challenge of repeating the impressive figures of last year is a difficult one, with many airlines still running their reduced schedules and the competition from ski resorts which are still operative in March.

Forecasts, nonetheless, suggest that hotels will still reach an 86 per cent occupancy rate by tomorrow, Easter Saturday.

The picture is similar in holiday rental properties. The almost 15,000 in the city of Malaga will be close to fully booked, while in the province as a whole, the percentage will be close to 63 per cent.

Car rental

There is optimism too in the car rental sector which, despite an increase in the amount of companies now available to customers, (with companies from Palma de Mallorca and Alicante now setting up in the city), 80 per cent of the overall fleet has been booked up for Easter Week.

With 679,000 seats up for sale on flights in and out of Malaga from last Friday until Easter Monday, this is hardly surprising and fills Ana María García, president of the Andalusian car rental association, with optimism:

"Our numbers are similar to last year, even though Easter was in April then, so we have very high expectations for this season."

Beach bars

The influx of visitors is also good news for chiringuitos (beach bars) which are, for the most part, reopening for the first time since November.

The sector employs between 3,500 and 4,000 people, and 80 per cent of the total workforce has already been contracted because of Easter's early arrival, with another wave of employment expected in June for the summer.

With the weather especially changeable so far this year, many people keen to sample Easter on the Costa del Sol have been waiting until the last minute. With the spectre of rain looming over Good Friday, we will have to cross our fingers and wait and see if last year's figures are surpassed.



:: **NIÑO SALAS**

A TOUCH OF HOLLYWOOD

Film star Antonio Banderas brought an added touch of showbiz to Palm Sunday this week as he was accompanied by his partner Nicole Kimpel, as well as director Ken Biller and actor Alex Rich with whom Banderas worked in 'Genius: Picasso', to the procession of the Lágrimas y Favores brotherhood. Banderas takes part in Holy Week every year in his home town and this year the brotherhood paid tribute to his mother Ana, who died in November, with a black ribbon.

The unhealthy Puente Nuevo bridge in Ronda

There are water leaks, stains on the walls and stalactites and stalagmites are forming inside the Information Centre

The structure of the 230-year-old bridge is solid but it suffers from a lack of cleaning, maintenance and preservation

by VANESSA MELGAR

RONDA. The Puente Nuevo (New Bridge) in Ronda opened to traffic on 4 November 1787. It was a costly project, economically because different municipalities had to collaborate in its construction, and architecturally because an earlier bridge had collapsed after six years. As an alternative, the Felipe V Arch was built into the Moorish walls, but the carriage drivers objected to the steep slope there and it was decided to reactivate the bridge project to join the two parts of the town: La Ciudad, which is where the aristocracy lived, and the Mercadillo district which was home to middle-class residents.

Nearly 231 years later, the Puente Nuevo over the Guadalquivir river has become an emblem of Ronda and Andalucía; it is one of the most-photographed and visited monuments and local people are proud of it. However, it is badly in need of maintenance.

A report commissioned recently by Ronda council shows that the structure is solid and the bridge is not going to fall down, but there are other problems. There are leaks, the walls have black and white stains and it has no specific protection despite being in the historic area of the town, which is classified as a Site of Cultural Interest (BIC).

“Basically the problem with the bridge is the lack of maintenance in the oldest part of town and a lack of preservation and planning,” says Pilar Delgado, an architect who works for the town hall.

She says the upper part of the bridge, including the Information Centre, is in a bad state of repair. The council recently carried out works by the nearby Santo Domingo convent,



The bridge, which joined the two parts of the town, opened to traffic on 4 November 1787.

by J. D. VELASCO

the bridge and it is losing its weatherproofing,” she says. Water also accumulates on the bridge because the drains need cleaning, and that is another reason leaks occur.

Oil stains

The black stains on the walls of the bridge are probably due to oil from the vehicles which empty the drains. “It looks like tar, and it has never been cleaned off,” says Pilar. The white marks are calcium carbonate. “There is no fixed schedule for cleaning, and also we can’t clean at all when birds are nesting on the bridge,” she explains.

The council has now restricted vehicle traffic on the bridge to six and a half hours a day and it is missing out on grants, mainly from the EU, because Ronda has no special protection plan for its historic district and that is a condition of eligibility. This is also frustrating the aspirations for Ronda to be declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

The result of leaks in the interior. by SUR

where the ground had sunk after a break in a pipe and that solved the problem at that point but, according to Pilar, the water still leaks through the cobblestones elsewhere on the bridge.

“We have been producing reports on this for the past ten years. There are stalactites and stalagmites in the Information Centre, formed by the slow leaking of water with calcium carbonate. The bridge functions in the same way as a rock or cave, as a natural element, and it suffers from the same processes. The type of material which was used is dissolving,” she explains.

Another problem lies with the cobblestones which were used to replace the asphalt in 1992. “The cobblestones have separated with the weight of all the traffic that crosses

Controversy over the traffic restrictions

Many Ronda residents are up in arms about the decision to restrict traffic on the Puente Nuevo bridge to six and a half hours a day, from 10am to 1.30pm and from 5pm to 8pm. (The restriction does not apply to people who live in La Ciudad district). According to the council, 11,000 vehicles a day were using the bridge and driving through the historic part of the town, and the volume of

traffic in general in this area needs to be reduced.

Those who live in the San Francisco and La Planilla districts are especially opposed to the restriction, because they say it completely isolates the southern side of the town. They would prefer an alternative route to be built, rather than the bridge being closed to traffic, and they refuse to use the existing bypass because they consider it is not in a suitable condition.

The Puente de las Curtidurías, the oldest in the town dating back to Moorish times, is one of the

bridges which is experiencing an increase in traffic because of the restrictions and the town hall is now looking into measures to give it the protection studies show are necessary.

Restrictions on Puente Nuevo have already sparked two protests, attended by 3,000 and 6,000 people according to the organisers, and 1,500 and 3,000 according to the police. They say these new regulations are illegal. The town hall denies this. Opposition parties have announced that if they were in power, they would cancel the restriction.

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HERE AND THERE

Traffic redirected on Benagalbón roads

BENAGALBÓN
 :: E. C. Rincón de la Victoria town hall has permanently re-directed traffic on a number of roads in Benagalbón. Calle Osorio is now just one way (south to north) apart from in the section which meets Calle Levante and Calle Canalizo. In addition, wooden plant boxes have been installed on Avenida de la Candelaria. The town hall said that the total investment in the work was 11,331 euros.

Outdoor theatre project to go to tender

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA
 :: E. C. Rincón de la Victoria town hall announced earlier this week that it is finalising plans to build an outdoor theatre in the Huerta Julián park. The venue will have 500 seats and cost 350,000 euros to complete. The works contract is expected to go out to tender in the coming months. Councillor for Education and Culture, Antonio José Martín, said there is "a great cultural offer" but the town is currently having to use a school playground for performances.

Torre del Mar adds new recreation areas

TORRE DEL MAR
 :: J. R. Deputy Mayor for Torre del Mar, Jesús Pérez Atencia, said in a press release on Tuesday that the town now has the "biggest children's playground along the Malaga coastline". An existing play area on Torre del Mar beach has been amplified and has more equipment suitable for children aged between six and 12. In addition to this he revealed plans to create an area for teenagers and young people between 12 and 25, which he said will be open in time for summer.

Town hall vows to rewrite special protection plan for Maro

The Larios company, which owns much of the land around Maro, found holes in the document leading to the Junta's decision to annul it

:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

MARO. The Junta de Andalucía has annulled a special plan written up by Nerja town hall in 2013, which would have permitted projects such as reforms to a 16th century sugar cane factory.

The plan, which was developed by the then Partido Popular (PP) administration led by José Alberto Armijo, was annulled at the end of January due to an objection put forward by the Larios company, which owns much of the land around Maro and Nerja.

Larios claimed that the 2013 document did not include the correct financial or environmental impact reports.



The village of Maro is just 500 metres from the Nerja Caves. :: E. C.

The current socialist coalition at Nerja town hall has announced that it will rewrite the plan in line with the Junta de Andalucía's PGOU guidelines.

Urban development councillor, Anabel Iranzo (Izquierda Unida), told SUR on Monday that the administration's intention is to "re-draft a special plan, but this time

scrupulously complying with the requirements stated in the regulations," adding, "something that lamentably the PP did not do".

The village of Maro was declared a site of historic interest and natural beauty during the 1960s and, at 500 metres from the Nerja caves, is included in the caves' area of special interest.

HOLY WEEK DRAWINGS DONE IN 1958 REUNITED WITH OWNERS

The Nerja museum reunited six drawings done in Holy Week 1958 with their rightful owners last Friday. The men, who are all now around 65 years old, went to the museum where they were presented with their artwork, which had been signed in 1958, allowing the museum to trace them. Some of the men said they hadn't seen each other since their school days.



:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

Junta announces reservoir levels are back to 2011 levels across Malaga province

:: A. P. / I. L.

MALAGA. La Viñuela reservoir is now at 40 per cent capacity according to statistics published by the Junta de Andalucía on Tuesday. At 66 cubic hectometres the levels are back to what they were a year ago. However, they have fallen steadily since 2011, when it was 95 per cent full, following heavy rainfall in 2009, 2010 and 2011. Much of the water has come from the River Guaro which supplies the reservoir.

The positive picture is repeated across Malaga province and many reservoirs are back to their 2011 levels. Water was drained from the La Concepción reservoir in Malaga last week and other supplies cut as it was almost full.

The Guadalhorce system, which includes Guadalhorce, Conde and Guadalteba reservoirs is reported to be 63 per cent full.

Although there is some more rain forecast for the next few days, April is currently looking much drier than March. However, continued runoff from the heavy rainfall is expected to maintain water levels for the coming weeks.

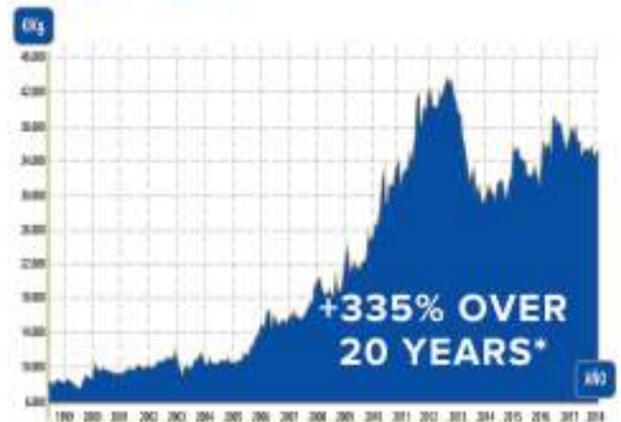


The River Guaro. :: A. P.

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High-flying Age Concern staff prepare for daring zip wire event

Participants will cross the River Guadiana on the journey from Spain to Portugal at a speed of around 80 kilometres per hour

BY TONY BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. Age Concern Fuenjirola/Mijas has announced its latest thrill-seeking fundraising event, and it is most certainly not for the faint-hearted. Following last year's daredevil skydive, which raised 2,000 euros, the charity has invited its members and supporters to ride the longest, and only cross-border, zip wire in Europe.

Participants will cross over the River Guadiana on the 720-metre journey from Spain to Portugal at a speed of around 80 kilometres per hour. Those brave enough to participate will literally fly through time, landing approximately one hour earlier than take off because of the time zone change between both countries. The charity is looking for volunteers to participate in the event, which is planned to take place in October. It also needs sponsors and



Some of the intrepid team members who will take on the zip wire. :: SUR

is appealing to local businesses and individuals to support the fundraising challenge.

"Right now we are looking for people who want to have a go. However, it is of the utmost importance to confirm that all applicants are physically able to participate," sec-

retary, Steve Marshall, told SUR in English.

Those wishing to take part in the event - whether zip wiring or helping out on the day - should contact Steve Marshall on 667 83 44 50. Information can also be obtained from the charity shop in Los Boliches.

Volunteers needed for new Marbella/San Pedro branch

BY T. BRYANT

MARBELLA. Age Concern has recently inaugurated a new service in Marbella. The latest branch of Age Concern España, which incorporates Estepona/Manilva and Fuenjirola/Mijas, will provide a range of services to help with integration into Spanish life and information, advice and support for common is-

ssues that affect the over-50s in the Marbella area. It will also work closely with the respective consuls of the countries that are represented along the coast.

Coffee mornings are held at the Padel Club in San Pedro de Alcántara on the first Thursday of each month and anyone is welcome to attend.

The charity is planning a series of fundraising events for the coming year in order to help promote and fund its services. It will also launch a recruitment programme for volunteers. The organisation is looking for people who can offer a few hours of their time to help with fundraising, home help and the numerous other services it offers.

Age Concern Marbella spokesperson, Lynda Woodin, said: "The most important thing at the moment is to attract volunteers to help us offer a sufficient service."

Those interested can call the organisation's hotline (689 35 51 98).



The first phase included the installation of infrastructure. :: T. B.

Torremolinos one step closer to new boulevard

The renovation of the Plaza Costa del Sol is due to be complete by Christmas

BY T. B.

TORREMOLINOS. The first phase of the pedestrianisation of the centre of Torremolinos reached completion last week. The remodelling project, which began in January, included the installation

of underground utilities in the Plaza Costa del Sol, Avenida de Palma Mallorca and Calle de la Cruz.

The second phase will begin in May and will include the repaving of the area, the renovation of the iconic Barrabino house and the installation of an elaborate pergola.

The work is due to be complete by Christmas and will result in the biggest transformation of Torremolinos since the 1960s.

Reforestation scheme creates new hiking trail in Benalmádena

BY T. B.

BENALMÁDENA. As part of an employment development plan initiated by the Junta de Andalucía, five apprentice workers have participated in a reforestation scheme to create a new hiking trail in Benalmádena.

The six-month scheme involved the planting more than 2,500 new trees, including wild olive, oak and several varieties of pine, as well as clearing paths and the installation of fencing and picnic zones.

The trail is in the area of Arroyo



Workers on the new path. :: SUR

Jondo, situated just past the motorway bridge between Tivoli World and Benalmádena Pueblo.

The new path is part of the town hall's drive to promote Benalmádena as a healthy environment for adventure tourism.

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Firefighters from Seville face jail in Greece for rescuing refugees

The volunteers' trial has been set for 7 May and if they are found guilty they could be given prison sentences of up to ten years

:: MARÍA DOLORES TORTOSA

SEVILLE. The image of Aylan Kurdi, the three-year-old Syrian boy who drowned off Bodrum (Turkey) with his mother and siblings when they were trying to reach Greece, marked a turning point in the refugee crisis. The picture of the little boy's body on the beach in September 2015 spread around the world and aroused a wave of compassion for the Syrian refugees.

Numerous NGOs from different countries set off to the island of Lesbos, which had become a focal point because of its proximity to the Turkish coast. Among them was a group of firefighters from Proem-Aid in Andalucía. Now, though, three of these volunteers are facing a possible ten-year jail sentence for attempted people trafficking, while they were actually saving hundreds of refugees in the crisis which collapsed Greece in 2015 and 2016. The trial has been set for 7 May, and they are hoping the Andalusian and Spanish authorities will stand up for them.

One of the team, José Enrique Rodríguez, says that after arriving in Lesbos in the first week in January, "we were in our wetsuits and in the sea within ten minutes". There was no time to lose because thousands of people were in the water off the Turkish coast. "It really came as a shock to us," he says.

A week later he and two colleagues from Seville, Julio de la Torre and Manuel Blanco, were arrested by a Greek surveillance patrol. "You go there to help, you spend your holiday rescuing people and this



The president of Proem-Aid (left) with the three firefighters accused of people trafficking. :: MARÍA AGUILAR

"You go there to help, you spend your holiday rescuing people and this happens," they said

happens," they said after landing in Seville days after being released from custody on bail of 15,000 euros.

Collaboration

None of their colleagues at Proem-Aid had any difficulty before or after that night of 14 January when they were detained.

"There were never any problems. We gave the authorities our documentation, explained that we are emergency professionals and we were there to help them. Even the

coastguards themselves had called on us for help," says José Antonio Onio Reina, president of Proem-Aid.

The firefighters prefer not to say much before their trial, but the facts are known. One night they were called by a Danish NGO (Team Humanity) to help with a rescue at sea. As their own boat had broken down, they went with the Danes. It was the first time they had used a launch that was not theirs. The distress call turned out to be a false alarm and when they returned to port they were intercepted by Greek coastguards, detained and accused of illegal people trafficking. Two Danish volunteers were also arrested.

At first they were convinced it was a mistake and they would soon be released. "Two days before, the Greek authorities had asked us to

help them after a boat sank," says Manuel. However, it was no mistake. They were even accused of carrying a weapon, because they had utility knives with them, but that charge was later withdrawn.

Support from institutions

The firefighters have taken their case to the European Parliament and the Immigration Commission and hope that the EU will take action on their behalf and ensure that people carrying out humanitarian work are not treated as criminals. They have already received unanimous support from the Andalusian Parliament and the Ombudsman, Jesús Maeztu, and the president of the regional government, Susana Díaz, has promised to mediate with the Spanish foreign office to gain support for their defence.

Over 200 people prevent the arrest of a suspected drug trafficker in La Línea

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

CADIZ. More than 200 angry people stopped police officers arresting an alleged drug trafficker in La Línea de la Concepción on Sunday night. The incident occurred about 10.30pm, when the police noticed that the rear of a car travelling down Calle Canarias, in the San Bernardo district, appeared to be very low, as if it were carrying something very heavy. As the vehicle was one which is known to be used by drug traffickers on occasions, the officers ordered the driver to stop. He immediately sped up and a chase ensued, during which several parked cars were damaged.

The suspect abandoned the vehicle in Calle Ubrique and fled on foot; the three police officers gave chase, but when the man entered a property the officers were faced by a crowd of over 200 people who gathered at the scene to stop the arrest. The police had to fire shots into the air to ensure their safety as they withdrew.

The car was later found to contain 510 kilos of hashish and the search for the driver continues.

More police promised

La Línea is gaining a reputation as a 'lawless town' because of the amount of drug trafficking from Morocco and the impunity with which those involved operate.

Following a recent meeting between the president of the Junta de Andalucía, Susana Díaz, and the minister of the Interior, Juan Ignacio Zoido, it has now been agreed that more police will be assigned to the town and more money will be allocated for training local people to enhance their chances of finding work and making a living without depending on drug trafficking.

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Ex-Catalan president held in Germany on European arrest warrant

Regional MPs debate a symbolic investiture of Puigdemont, as Spanish detention orders take effect on other self-exiled separatist politicians

:: SUR

BARCELONA. The former president of Catalonia was detained by police in Germany last weekend. Carles Puigdemont had just crossed the border from Denmark in a car with four others while he was returning from a visit to Finland.

German police were responding to a European arrest warrant issued last week by the Spanish Supreme Court after Puigdemont was formally charged with rebellion and embezzlement over the outlawed

declaration of Catalan independence last autumn. He was travelling back to Belgium from Helsinki by car in order to avoid detection in airports.

Secret service pursuit

Observers expressed surprise that police hadn't picked up Puigdemont earlier on the journey, commenting on speculation that secret service agents from Spain had been plotting his progress back across northern Europe in a bugged car heading to his temporary Brussels home.

The detention of Puigdemont in Germany, where judges must now decide whether to extradite him to Spain, is widely seen as more favourable than if he had been held in other countries, including Belgium. The Spanish charge of rebellion is unusual but Germany has a comparable offence of high treason which



A prison van in Germany believed to be holding Puigdemont. :: REUTERS

could be grounds for extradition. German judges may take up to 60 days or longer to decide.

In response to the detention, the separatist-controlled Catalan parliament called a debate over Puigdemont's "right to lead" the regional government, amid rising political tension. An election will need to be held in less than two months

if no president is sworn in.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court in Madrid has identified 25 people who allegedly committed independence offences. Of these, the court now wants to hold 13 without bail for rebellion. Seven are already in jail in Spain but another six, including Puigdemont, are elsewhere in Europe in self-imposed exile.

OUT OF THE COUNTRY

SCOTLAND: Carla Ponsati
Ex-Catalan minister of Education



All eyes in the Catalan independence movement were on Scotland on Wednesday. Carla Ponsati, pictured outside a police station in Edinburgh, fled Spain last autumn. After a spell in Belgium with Puigdemont, she gave up her MP's seat and returned to a teaching post she had held at St Andrew's University prior to being the Catalan regional education minister. Wanted in Spain for rebellion, she handed herself in on Wednesday only to be freed later by a judge while the extradition is considered.

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Where are they all? The self-exiled separatist politicians around Europe

:: SUR

MADRID. The decision last week by the Supreme Court to formally charge several Catalan separatist politicians over their part in the process leading to the illegal declaration of independence last autumn, has led to new European arrest warrants being issued on charges including rebellion and embezzlement.

Up to now the court was only in-

vestigating alleged crimes, but the decision to charge means it feels more comfortable issuing arrest warrants outside Spain as the evidence available for foreign police is better prepared.

Seven of the 13 accused of the most-serious offence of rebellion are already in jail and denied bail. These include former speaker of the regional parliament, Carme Foracell,

leader of the republican ERC party, Oriol Junqueras, former regional ministers and leaders of secessionist campaign groups. Some have been held since last year and others attended court last week when charges were brought.

Several separatist politicians had decided to flee abroad during the investigations, including Puigdemont himself and former ministers who

went to Belgium. One, Marta Rovira of ERC, was added to the list last weekend when she left Barcelona for Switzerland.

Now the European detention orders have been issued, the rules and approach of the courts to extradition requests in each of the different countries where separatist politicians are staying are under scrutiny, as well as their relationship with Spain. In most places the equivalent offence of rebellion doesn't exist.

On Wednesday, former regional education minister, Carla Ponsati, who was back at a previous teaching job in Scotland, handed herself in to police in Edinburgh and now awaits the Scottish extradition decision.

GERMANY: Carles Puigdemont
Former president of Catalonia



Puigdemont, who was travelling back overland from Finland to his rented home in the Brussels suburb of Waterloo before he was detained in northern Germany, is wanted for rebellion in Spain. He fled with some of his ex-regional ministers in October last year, saying he was "raising international awareness" of the Catalan independence movement. He also recently visited Switzerland.

SWITZERLAND: Marta Rovira
General secretary, ERC party



Number two of the republican ERC party, Rovira fled to Switzerland last week when the Supreme Court asked her to attend court. Wanted for rebellion.

BELGIUM: Toni Comín
Ex-Catalan minister for Health



One of the original ex-ministers to travel to Belgium last autumn with Carles Puigdemont, Comín is still an ERC regional MP. Wanted for rebellion.

BELGIUM: Meritxell Serret
Ex-Catalan minister for Agriculture



Serret, of the Junts per Catalunya separatist political group (JxC), like Comín left Spain last autumn and has given up her MP seat. Wanted for rebellion.

BELGIUM: Lluís Puig
Ex-Catalan minister for Culture



Puig of JxC has also given up as an MP. Belgian prosecutors have not held the three in Belgium saying there is "no risk they will escape". Wanted for rebellion.

SWITZERLAND: Anna Gabriel
Ex-regional MP for radical CUP



Moved to Switzerland last month where she recently met with Carles Puigdemont. She is currently only accused of "disobedience" and not subject to arrest.

Saudia Airlines to link Malaga with Riyadh and Jeddah from June this year

:: PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. Saudi Arabia's national airline, Saudia Airlines, is due to launch new connections between Malaga and the Saudi capital, Riyadh, and with the tourist city of Jeddah.

The routes will start operating on 9 and 11 June respectively. The president of the Association of Andalusian Travel Agencies, Sergio García, confirmed the new connections, which will further strengthen local ties with the Gulf.

There is also a service beginning from 4 June which will link Malaga to Doha directly, with four flights per week.

García has confirmed that there will be two flights a week to both Riyadh and Jeddah. Both will also include an hour layover in Casablanca, Morocco.

The flight to Jeddah will operate on Mondays and Thursdays until 10 September, while Riyadh will also see two weekly flights on Wednesdays and Saturdays, until 8 September.

These new routes will be navigated by the most modern of aircraft, the Boeing 787-900 Dreamliner, which has the capacity for almost 300 passengers.

Saudia Airlines already offers flights to over 80 destinations worldwide.

Founded in 1945, the company now has 143 aircraft, many of which include the most advanced technology.

Brits abroad still "not reassured" as Brexit countdown begins

A recent survey revealed that UK nationals living in the EU27 are not confident that the deal on citizens' rights will be honoured

:: JENNIE RHODES

MALAGA. The UK has started its one-year countdown to Brexit Day, 29 March 2019. However, with just 12 months to go, British citizens living in other EU countries are still "not reassured" by the announcement made on 8 December 2017 by the UK government and European Union negotiators that they had reached an agreement on citizens' rights after Brexit, according to report published by the Brexit Brits Abroad research team.

Following the announcement the team asked Brits living abroad whether they felt reassured by the agreements made. "We asked those participating in our research to register their thoughts on this progress, asking them to rate the extent to which they felt that this agreement left them reassured," explained Professor Karen O'Reilly, project leader responsible for carrying out research in Spain.

Those responding to the survey predominantly said that they did not feel reassured by the current agreement on citizens' rights and that they felt a general lack of confidence that the UK would act in the interests of its overseas citizens and that the agreement would not be honoured.

The research was picked up by the



An anti-Brexit demonstrator in London on Wednesday. :: AFP

Daily Telegraph, which published an article on the findings, with the headline, "Cheddar cheese will have more rights than us."

Leave campaign controversy

As the clock starts ticking, the UK government is dealing with revelations that during the referendum campaign, money was channelled from the official leave campaign, Vote Leave, via BeLeave, another pro-Brexit campaign, to the Cambridge Analytica company, which is at the centre of the Facebook data

harvesting scandal. Whistleblower, Christopher Wylie, a former Cambridge Analytica employee, told a House of Commons emergency debate on Tuesday, "I think it is completely reasonable to say there could have been a different outcome of the referendum had there not been, in my view, cheating."

Furthermore, Best for Britain, an anti-Brexit campaign backed by former UK Prime Minister, Tony Blair, launched a media campaign this week calling for a new vote on Brexit.

UK looks at Malaga to Madrid high speed rail service as inspiration for HS2

:: I. LILLO / EFE

MALAGA. British inspectors who are working on plans for the new High Speed 2 rail service have been in Spain to view the high speed AVE route that connects Madrid to Malaga, as well as discuss joint business ventures with industry leaders.

At the end of February, the Spanish minister for Public Works, Íñigo de la Serna, visited London in order to discuss these joint projects, and possible Spanish involvement in the HS2 project, which currently has a budget of £55.7 bn and aims to link London, Birmingham, the East Midlands, Leeds and Manchester by 2032.

The CEO of HS2, Mark Thurston, returned the visit last week to view the AVE infrastructure first hand, sources told the agency Efe.

In Malaga Thurston visited the Maria Zambrano AVE station and the train maintenance depot at Los Prados. He then experienced the AVE service as a passenger, taking a train to Madrid with representatives of Renfe, the Spanish rail operator.

Once in the capital, Thurston visited the Puerta de Atocha station, the tunnel that has been designed to connect Atocha and Chamartín stations in Madrid and Cedex, which carries out research on planned public works.

While in Madrid the HS2 chief met with De la Serna, and other department representatives.

Spain has the most extensive high speed rail network in Europe, one of the best in the world, and is keen to export its technology. The high speed train to Mecca in Saudi Arabia is the Spanish industry's main project overseas. The first stage of HS2 will connect London and Birmingham, and will then branch out as part of the "Northern Powerhouse" programme.



Mark Thurston. :: SUR

HOMES

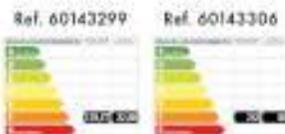
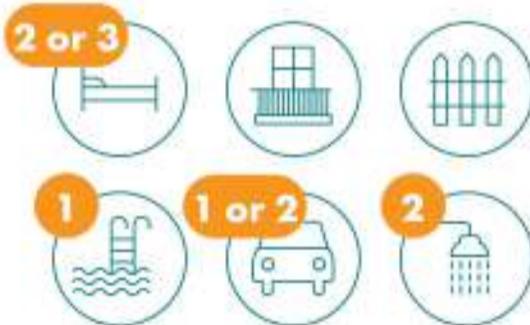
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NORTHERN IRELAND TECH FIRM KEEPS UP COSTA GROWTH

The Northern Ireland-based software company, Neueda, now has 15 employees in its new Malaga office and hopes to double that number in the next nine months. It opened its Costa base last October in premises on the Parque Tecnológico de Andalucía (PTA) business park. The President of the PTA, on a visit to Neueda this week, said that over 60 foreign companies now operate at the PTA park.



Failed construction group Vera gets ready to have assets sold

■ NURIA TRIGUERO

MALAGA. The Vera construction group, which fell victim to the property crisis after over 70 years of trading, will soon see its assets put up for sale in order to pay off its creditors.

In total, liquidators have added up the total value of assets of the Malaga-based company as 314 million euros, against debts of 227 million. However the asset value is only

an estimate.

Subsidiary Draba SL, that covers non-construction activity is the first to have its assets liquidated, with important investments such as the Baviera Golf development and public parking in Vélez-Málaga and an office building in Malaga coming on the market. The construction arm will also be liquidated, including joint investments and land awaiting development.

Unicaja to pay out record 34.6m-euro dividend in May

■ NURIA TRIGUERO

MALAGA. Unicaja Banco has announced a record annual dividend payout. The Malaga-based banking group says it plans to give out 2.149 euro cents to shareholders for every share in the company held, a 17% increase on last year. The money will be paid on 10 May. The total dividend to be shared is 34.6 million euros and represents a quarter of the 2017 net profit.

Announcing its results on Tuesday, the company said that its 138.4-million-euro profit in 2017 was the result of "strengthening liquidity levels and the quality of capital".

This figure was up 2.5% on 2016 and the company hopes to give back to shareholders as much as 40% of annual profit by 2020.

Unicaja Banco launched on the stock market last year and its shares rose 1.52% on the day after the profit announcement.



One of the prize assets - Baviera Golf, in Vélez-Málaga. ■ SUR

THE EURO ZONE
MARK NAYLER

ON ONE CONDITION



Let's start with the good news, or what appears to be good news. This week saw Mariano Rajoy's conservative government finally unroll some legislation, in yet another attempt to get the delayed 2017 budget passed before the summer. A draft of the document has already been approved in cabinet and includes an increase of around 2% to minimum state pensions - quite a hike, when you consider that the Popular Party (PP) was initially only suggesting the standard annual raise of 0.25%. The proposed 2018 budget, which has already secured the backing of Ciudadanos, also raises the income tax threshold from €12,000 to €14,000 and lowers tax for those earning less than €18,000.

You might be wondering where the extra money is coming from. After all, Rajoy's case against substantial pension hikes - to which he was apparently committed just a couple of weeks ago - was that the Spanish workforce was not paying enough money into the social security system to pay for them; not even enough, he claimed, to fund increases that were at least pegged to inflation.

Well, no matter, because the Spanish government has simply increased its 2018 growth prediction for the country's economy! As if to assure everyone that there would be extra cash coming in, Rajoy announced on Tuesday - the day after details of the draft budget emerged - that Spain's GDP will expand by 2.7% this year, rather than the previously-

forecast 2.3%. This upwards revision seemed to confirm the positivity shown last week by ratings agency Standard and Poor's, which has raised Spain's status from BBB+ to A-.

Now for the bad news. At present, Rajoy only commands a minority government in congress. In order to pass his proposed 2018 spending plan, therefore, he depends on the support of other parties. Securing the backing of centre-right Ciudadanos was relatively straightforward, but for the budget to go through, Rajoy needs the votes of the Basque Nationalist Party (PNV), which so far has withheld its support.

Rajoy's pension increases and tax cuts are a last-ditch effort to secure the PNV's votes (you won't think me unduly cynical, I hope, in saying that they weren't a response to nationwide protests against low pensions a few weeks ago). But the PNV has already set its sole condition for approving the 2018 budget: namely, that Rajoy relinquish direct control of Catalonia, which he imposed at the height of the independence crisis last October, and hand it back to the Catalans.

Not going to happen: former Catalan president Carles Puigdemont sits in a German prison cell, awaiting extradition to Spain on a charge of rebellion, and Catalonia has no regional government with which it could replace Madrid's imposed rule. Unless the PNV dilute their position, Rajoy's 2018 budget will never see the light of day.



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Gibraltar publishes new Heritage and Antiquities Bill

The new bill includes underwater sites for the first time, protects buildings and restricts the removal of antiquities and use of equipment

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. The Gibraltar government has recently published a new Heritage and Antiquities Bill, which primarily aims to protect the Rock's land and marine heritage. It covers a total of 235 sites, which is approximately 80 more than the existing Act, and for the first time ever 12 underwater sites are included. The new Bill will be read in Parliament after the statutory six-week period.

One of the major steps proposed in the bill is the creation of the Heritage and Antiquities Advisory Council, which will advise the minister on all such matters. The council will be required to produce an annual report, which will be laid before Parliament.

Under the section regarding protection of monuments and buildings, the bill stipulates that a list should be drawn up of all those which will benefit from protection against damage or modification through works. Any sort of damage, ranging from demolition to depositing rubbish, will be treated as an offence, although authorised works will be permitted.

The bill provides for certain areas to be listed as scheduled historical conservation areas, although none have been included for the time being.



John Cortes (left) and Clive Finlayson of the Gibraltar Museum. **SUR**

ing. This will be one of the first aspects for the new Heritage and Antiquities Council to consider.

Under the bill, the Gibraltar Museum will be renamed the Gibraltar National Museum and a curator will be appointed. The bill also establishes the Gibraltar National Archives, provides for the appointment of an archivist and makes it a duty of every public officer or employee who holds public records to select records for preservation and their eventual transfer to the archive.

This new bill replaces the Gibraltar Heritage Trust Act of 1989, but the

existing Gibraltar Heritage Trust will continue unchanged.

Other provisions restrict the removal of antiquities or objects of interest from Gibraltar and also restrict the use of equipment.

The Minister for Heritage, John Cortes, says the Bill "sets out a new and better way of dealing with heritage, and reflects Gibraltar's interest in the subject, and its sense of responsibility. It sets out a robust framework for consultation and further progress in protection of our heritage assets on land and under the sea."

IN BRIEF



Alejandro Navarro led the rally. **ROSIE THORN PHOTOGRAPHY**

Over £2,000 raised by charity bike rally

GIBRALTAR

D. B. More than 70 people took part in a fundraising bike rally in Main Street last Saturday. The rally was led by Spain's current hand bike champion, Alejandro Navarro, a former policeman and lover of extreme sports who was left wheelchair-bound and tetra-

plegic after an accident in 2015, when he was just 36 years old. Alejandro recently received a special award from Estepona council for all his hard work and dedication to the community.

The 1.5-km rally, in which several Gibraltar police officers took part, was in aid of Cancer Relief Gibraltar and Asociación Alejandro Navarro, and it raised over £2,000. The money will be split between the two associations.

University grant funds local archaeologist

GIBRALTAR

D. B. The University of Gibraltar is hosting a 120,000-euro research grant from the Gerda Henkel Foundation, which will support the research of Dr Kevin Lane, a Gibraltarian archaeologist and academic who is currently undertaking field research in Argentina and Peru. The funds will be used for his new project, 'An Archaeology of Mobility', which aims to track human and animal mobility in the Andes.

GSLA swimming pool to open seven days a week

GIBRALTAR

D. B. The Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority swimming pool complex will open every day of the week from Tuesday 3 April. The facility is now also an Accredited Training Centre (ATC) as approved by the Royal Life-Saving Society (RLSS). Further information about the complex and its opening hours can be obtained from the website www.gsla.gi or from the GSLA on Twitter or Facebook.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Why can't we board in Malaga?

Help please. Firstly I congratulate those responsible for the excellent article on Page 14, SUR in English March 23rd to 29th, and many others recently relating to the visit of the new Royal Caribbean cruise liner Symphony of the Seas. My wife and I will certainly take a trip to the port to see this magnificent vessel.

We have a query which perhaps Pilar Martínez may be able to help us understand.

My wife and I take many cruises each year. We live in Malaga. We are elderly, but once on board have no problems.

However, to be able to embark and disembark on the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line and Norwegian Cruise Line ships we are forced to fly to Barcelona. Apart from the flight costs, often with an overnight stay in a Barcelona hotel, to ensure getting to the ship on time for departure, we find it frustrating when we read on one of the back pages of SUR in English that the ship we wish to board is in Malaga port, 30 minutes from home, but we are unable to embark/disembark.

Apparently the ships just call in to Malaga to allow passengers already on board to visit for the day.

Anything which may help us

understand the position would be interesting.

COLIN SHEPPARD
MALAGA

Mobile phones (cloaking devices)

Drivers may have noticed that pedestrians leap out in front of you, whilst using their trusty mobiles as some sort of defence and not having even seen your car coming, are not alarmed when we have to make an emergency stop in order to avoid hitting them. The worst offenders are in the town, since there are plenty of zebra crossings for them to practise their art and anywhere near the crossing will do!

Hybrid cars are great for drivers, but I reckon that in electric (silent) mode these will be a real hazard to the 'mobiles' who may only rely on their hearing to identify a road user.

We no longer have to remember anything anymore because with our trusty Smartphone, just click on google and voila, there it is! Ah, we knew that was what we had forgotten.

Now where on earth did I put my mobile phone? I know I will ring my mobile from my fibre optic land line and hope I did not leave it in silent mode. Telefónica is useful after all eh!

BRIAN JOHNSTON
BENALMÁDENA

THIS WEEK'S WINNING LETTER

SUR English

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The illogical song

PETER EDGERTON
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

In nineteen ninety-two or three, in a small room in an anonymous house on the outskirts of Liverpool, I began writing a song. At the time, I'd been listening to a lot of Buddy Holly and had been struck by how direct his material was. Very short and very direct. There were no pretentious, meandering introductions - these bad boys got straight to the point both lyrically and musically within seconds and then finished two and a half minutes later, leaving the listener feeling a lot better than he had only a short while previously.

There I was then, stabbing away at the guitar in a vaguely Hollyesque fashion, bluffing a few chords and warbling away incoherently. Lo and behold, in a relatively short time, a half decent tune and lyric descended from the ether which, after a bit

of tweaking, morphed into a catchy little refrain I was more than pleased with. Despite being delighted with the song I knew it definitely needed a second part - it was far too repetitive as it was. Not to worry, I thought, I'll finish it off tomorrow and then almost certainly popped to the pub to celebrate prematurely.

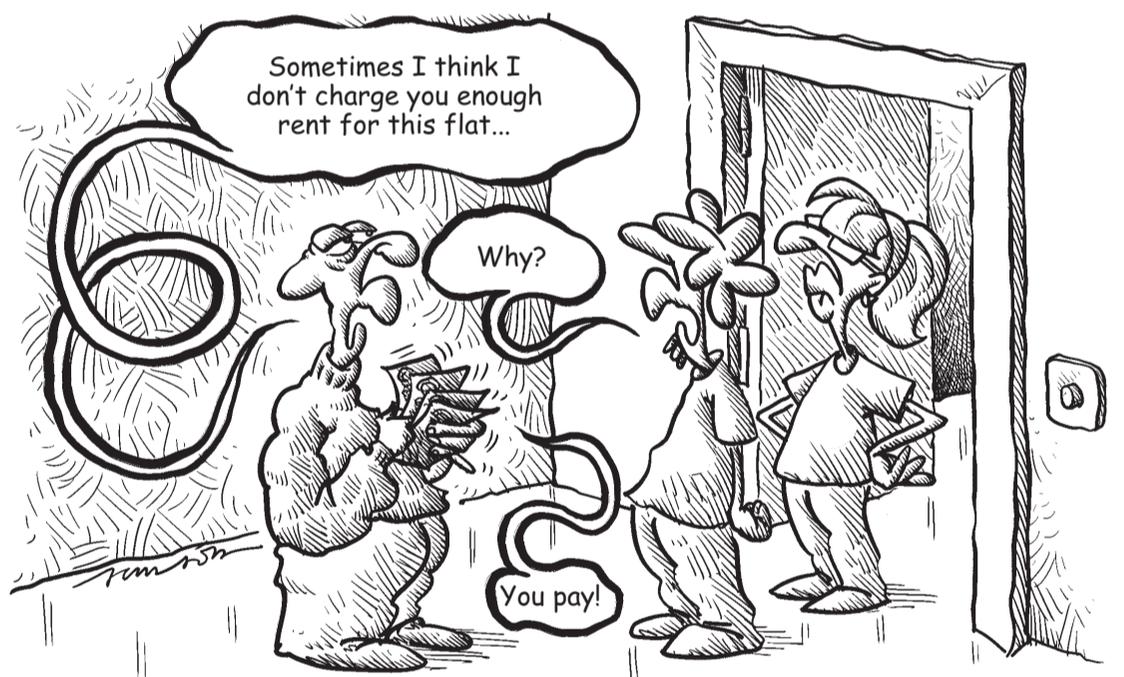
Twenty-two years later, in a small room on the outskirts of Malaga, I finally polished that song off. Twenty-two years! I'd tried everything but couldn't get the second part right. It was either too simple or too complicated or, more often than not, simply too rubbish. It became a sort of ritual of suffering I'd adhere to most days of my adult life. Whatever else I was working on, I'd always find time to return to that cursed tune and astonish myself with my sheer incompetence.

When I did finally nail it, I felt a strange mixture relief, disbelief and elation. Twenty-two years! A man could have done something genuinely useful like having a child grow up and graduate from university in that time.

Anyway, a few weeks ago, the Spanish singer Javier Ojeda called me to ask if he could record a cover version of the song which he's now finished; it'll be released as a single in April or May. With any luck you might hear it on the radio - it's called En La Soledad (the original title is The Lonely Side and can be streamed for free on t'net).

If you do hear it and you don't like it, have a heart and please don't let me know. Even better, just lie and say you love it. That way I might feel a little bit better about the twenty-two year thing.

SANSÓN



This week the largest cruise ship in the world was unveiled in Malaga. It can hold more than 6,300 people and that night it set sail for Barcelona, where these days it's best to arrive by sea. They've been blocking some roads into the city in protest at the arrest of Puigdemont at a German service station. Perhaps Malaga's Semana Santa would gain ultimate recognition if the El Rico brotherhood chose the former Catalan president as its prisoner to free in Holy Week. They couldn't do that though as it would spark a serious diplomatic incident, and El Rico had announced it would release a drug dealer. You don't mess with drug dealing, and we might soon have to stop making up stories about Pablo Escobar and use his surname for

The Passion and two worlds

PABLO ARANDA

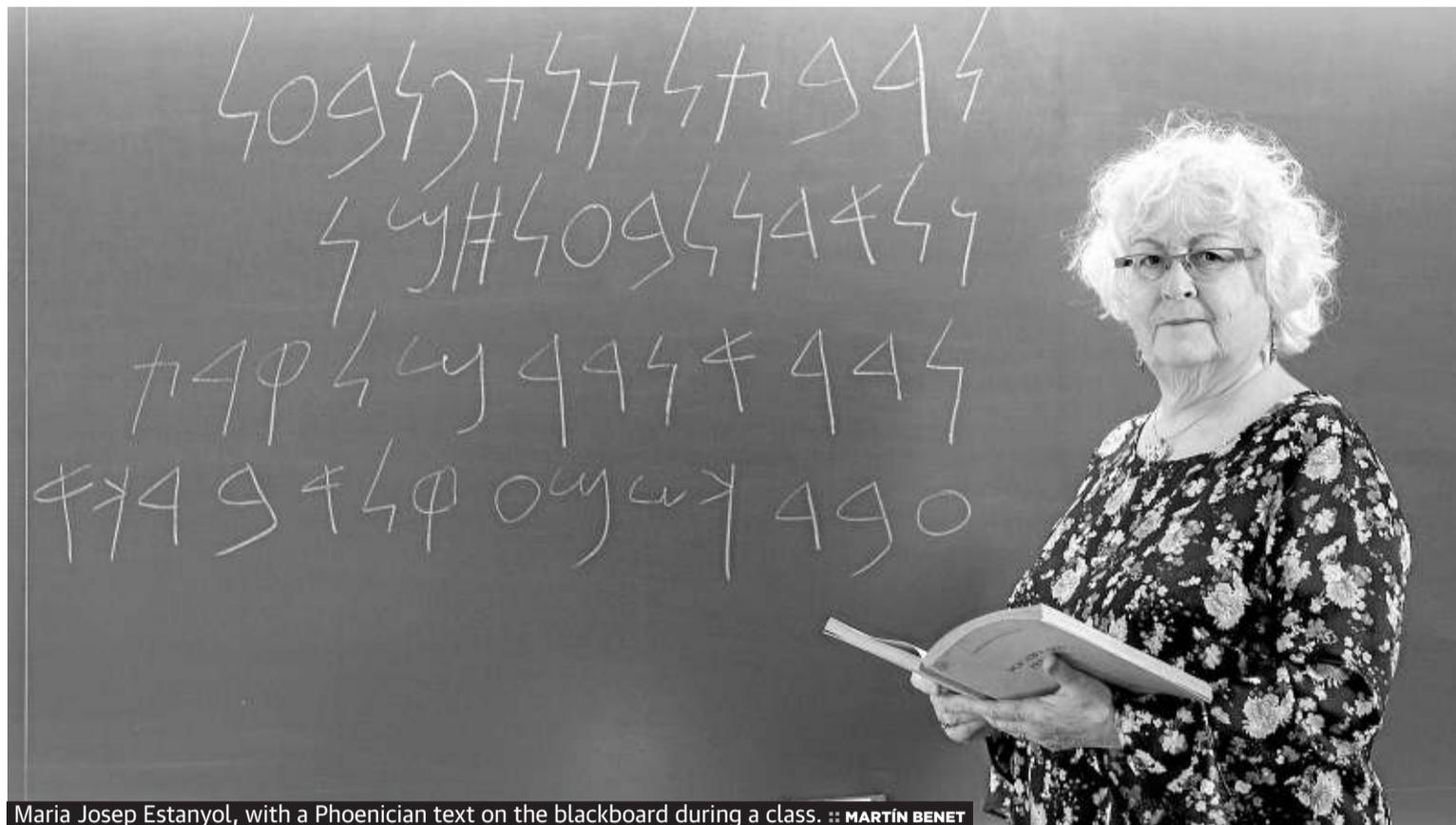
ourselves. Many drug dealers can free themselves, especially in La Línea, where there are a lot of lines. On Palm Sunday the police thought they had taken in a dealer but two hundred people prevented his arrest in the streets of La Línea. The mayor of Estepona blames drug trafficking in the Gibraltar area for the

increase in crime in and around his municipality. Drug dealing could be behind the kidnapping of a goatherd who was beaten to death. However the young man who died last weekend after being punched, and all those fights filmed on video in recent months, are a warning of the violent behaviour of many

young people. On Saturday night José Manuel was at a party and went outside to smoke and saw some girls fighting. A friend of theirs asked him what he was looking at and thumped him twice. End of story and the start of a passion for the worst moment, the end. Idiots with infinite power. The ability to throw a punch ready to be exercised after three drinks and two lines. We are at the mercy of small low-lives and others who are somewhat less small.

The Passion is not always final and sometimes ends well. It's understandable that the secessionists suffer with the arrest of Puigdemont at a petrol station with a duck on the roof. And to add insult to injury Francesc Peralta, a Barça fan who had been in a coma for seventeen days, woke up when he heard

the anthem... of Sevilla! Francesc's father's name is Sisco, which rhymes with Isco, who is from Malaga and plays for Madrid, although it looks like he supports Barça. His dog is called Messi and when the pet dies, in many years' time we hope, I imagine that he'll give the next one a quite different name, a less compromising name. This week we learned of another man who was resuscitated before his time, the Marquis of Salamanca, from Malaga. He stood up at his own wake. What we don't know is whether the shock gave any of the mourners a heart attack. We all deserve a second chance and after death we ought to be able to choose to return to life on earth. Then have a couple of Easter cakes and decide on one of the two worlds.



María Josep Estanyol, with a Phoenician text on the blackboard during a class. :: MARTÍN BENET

THE OLD LANGUAGE

The first alphabet. The earliest remains of Phoenician writing, found in the Sinai Peninsula, date back to the 10th century BC. This was the first alphabet that was copied by the Greeks.

20

consonants made up the Phoenician alphabet. The vowels were pronounced but not written. The inscriptions on stones were written with no spaces between words or punctuation.

by just three students. It is an optional subject and only lasts for three months. "It is not enough to become expert," she admits. It has gradually disappeared from study programmes. There are departments of Semitic Literature in Salamanca, Madrid, Granada and Barcelona, but classes are taught only in the latter, and by María Josep Estanyol. There were better times in the past, when it was included in Archaeology programmes and was a complete course.

She has taught no more than 20 students in the past ten years, but the worst part is that there has been no response to requests for one of them to take over from her.

The situation is not much better elsewhere in Europe. The only other schools teaching this culture are in France and Italy and even there the numbers have gradually reduced. Now there are only about seven specialists, in addition to María Josep, the 'last Mohican' of Canaanite in Spain.

María Josep's classes are 'sui generis'. The work is like solving hieroglyphics, writing with no spaces between words. "It's the closest thing to a riddle with symbols," she says. "And when my students unravel it, they get excited." In many cases, a funerary text would include threats and curses against anybody who profaned the burial.

These classes are held at night, and taught by the greatest expert in Europe, aspects that ought to add a little more mystery and interest to the subject. Keeping their language in the educational "market" is one last challenge for the Phoenicians, known for their clever trading.

The last Carthaginian

María Josep Estanyol teaches the last Phoenician classes in Spain. "We would all be speaking it today if they had won the Punic wars," she says

:: ANTONIO CORBILLÓN

When María Josep Estanyol retires, there will be nobody to replace her. Now aged 67 she is past the official retirement age, but continues to teach the only master classes in Phoenician which exist in Spain (in the Semitic Philology department of Barcelona university). She does so out of a pure passion for this language, which even she admits is "useless and doesn't interest anybody because it has been dead for years".

Dead, really? We call cities Cadiz, Cartagena, Malaga or Ibiza, for example, because it was the Phoenicians who founded them and gave them their names: Gadir, Quiriathadash, Malaka and Ebushim, respectively. This lecturer, who is also an expert in Hebrew and Aramaic, says we speak Modern Latin because "the

Romans won the Punic wars" in the 3rd and 2nd centuries BC. If the Carthaginians had won those successive battles for commercial control of the 'mare nostrum', we would all be speaking their language today.

The language, which its inventors called Canaanite, was entirely consonantal. It consisted of 22 consonants (the vowels were pronounced but not written), and "was later copied by the Greeks".

María Josep Estanyol has also produced the only known Phoenician dictionary in the world, although she has received little recognition for it. She began while she was studying at university but it ended up becoming her thesis and was published in 1980. She remembers that with a mixture of affection and horror. She toured Phoenician sites (especially the archives in Rome and Paris) to see all the spellings that were known.

"We didn't have the Internet then," she says. "I went there with my typewriter and my files. The CSIC (Senior Board of Scientific Research) published it for me. Nobody has done anything else like it, and I can't say I'm surprised."

María Josep doesn't know how many words her dictionary contains, but says it is very thick. It is now sold by Amazon as a rare book, and she believes it costs over 300 euros. Half-jokingly, she says it is a shame that only a couple of copies are left, but her work was so complete that not only has a new edition never been needed, but even today only "about 20 new words" would need to be added to bring it up to date.

Few examples left

Her decision was ambitious in the extreme, because there was hardly any trace left of literature. "Anything

there may have been was probably destroyed in the fire in the library at Alexandria," says María Josep. So apart from the references in Greek and classical literature, her research had to be based on stelae (inscribed stones) and funerary inscriptions. They dated back at least 1,000 years before Christianity and were in the so-called Proto-Sinaitic script, which was probably used in the mining settlements of Sinai.

The Iberian peninsula played an outstanding, although somewhat "illiterate" role in the Phoenicians' expansion, because here they left fewer written traces than in Carthage, Sardinia or Sicily. Despite this, "one of the most recent discoveries was made by a student of mine in Ibiza, which made me very happy", she says.

The language classes which María Josep teaches these days are attended



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Brit wit

Cartoonist Andrew Birch celebrates 25 years in Spain

Andrew Birch. :: SUR

GEORGINA OLIVER

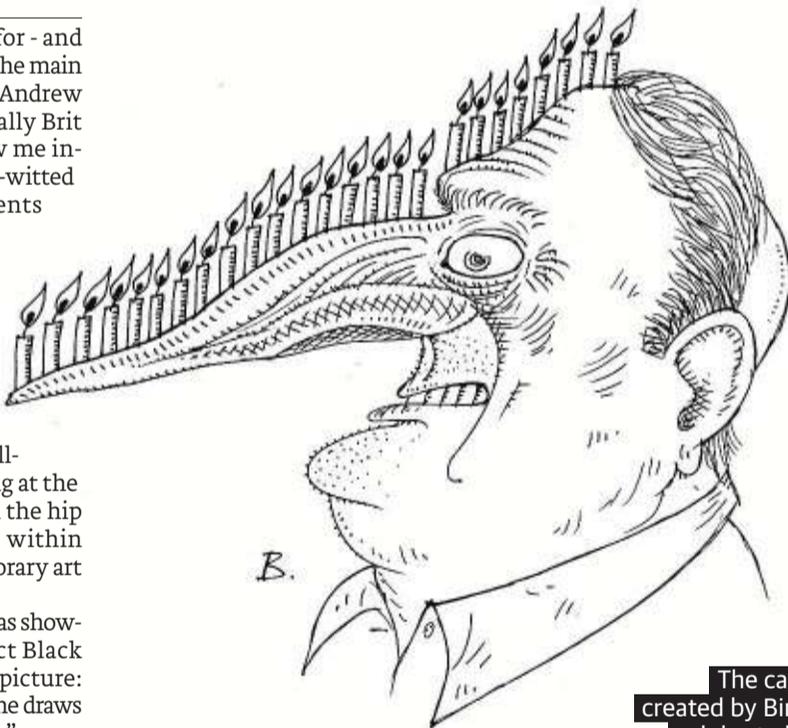
MALAGA. "I've worked for - and been sacked from - most of the main British newspapers," jokes Andrew Birch, indulging in a typically Brit self-putdown, which drew me instantly to this dapper sharp-witted cartoonist, who frequents Malaga's arty-party circuit.

An art aficionado, with an eye for contemporary painting, Birch also has a finger on the pulse of conceptual events.

"Who's that guy?" I wondered, observing the to and fro of attendees strolling in and out of an opening at the Ignacio del Río art space in the hip and happening Soho area, within steps of the CAC (contemporary art centre).

Artist Ernst Kraft, who was showing powerful semi-abstract Black Landscapes, put me in the picture: "He's a compatriot of yours; he draws and writes... muy simpático."

I did not meet the popular Britisher, whose sartorial flair - mixing a



The cartoon created by Birch to celebrate his 25 years in Spain.

moss green country gent's jacket with a loud shirt - had piqued my curiosity, until a couple of weeks later at the show's closing party. Why? Because by the time another Del Río artist - Charo Carrera - had finished capturing the happy-go-lucky atmosphere of the evening on camera, the mystery culture-vulture had vanished into thin air.

Ignacio del Río's previews invariably spill out onto the street and into the bar next door, Las Niñas del Soho, so it was amid the hubble-bubble characteristic of crowded artistic gatherings that I discovered that "Mr X" was a cartoonist, with an intriguing career path.

A graduate of London University, he studied Microbiology, which must have come in handy for his first steady job: keeping an eye on the news for Nature, the scientific journal.

In one of his cult Private Eye strips, Andrew Birch put the eccentric ways of the YBAs (Young British Artists), who rocked the art world during the Cool Britannia era, under the microscope. Hence, perhaps, his lack of surprise, when I suggest an analogy between cartoon characters and amoeba... "Maybe, mine are all germs," he quips back.

The din covers our voices. Exchanging witticisms is more trouble than it's worth. However a thought bubble above my head would say something along the lines of "Agh, more like newts and adders, à la Macbeth...!". Ominous visions of monstrous figures simmering in a cauldron of ideas spring to mind: Does he see everybody he sets eyes on as a living, breathing cartoon character?

"Virtual, virtual, toil and travel" was the gist of our barely audible barstool conversation, during which this affable expat explained that he would not be celebrating his 25th spring on Spanish soil, without "the computer revolution".

Before moving to Malaga two decades ago, Birch - the quintessential "Englishman in Andalucía" - and his partner - an Argentinian poet and painter he met in London "in the middle of the Falklands War" - lived in Barcelona's gothic quarter for several years.

"At first, it was theoretically possible to send cartoons by email, but it was incredibly complicated. One editor refused to accept faxes. I had to post my weekly comic strip by 'snail mail' and once it didn't arrive on time, so - as I hadn't provided an emergency

BIRCH IN SIX DECADES

► **Early 50s.** Andrew Birch is born in Burton-on-Trent.

► **Late 60s.** Studies Microbiology in Swinging London.

► **Early 70s.** The London University grad's "D. H. Lawrence period". Birch experiments with writing in the depths of Derbyshire.

► **Mid 80s.** Returns to London, where he breaks into cartooning.

► **Early 90s, 'noughties' and beyond.** Heads where the sun keeps shining. Moves to Barcelona, before opting for Malaga. Andrew and his partner acquire an old town house in the historic centre, "where we still live twenty years later". An art aficionado, Andrew Birch is a popular figure in his city of adoption. On the jury of a cartoon competition for young comic artists on several occasions, he also ran a cartoon workshop hosted by the CAC contemporary art centre. Brighton is his present port of call when in the UK.

► **Best known for...** The Rebel, a sitcom he wrote, based on his cult eponymous strip featured in The Oldie as well as in the magazine's yearly calendar.

replacement - I got sacked, by fax."

"At one point, I thought I'd end up drawing caricatures of passers-by on the Ramblas. Then technology developed rapidly... I got my first computer - an alien's head iMac - and started to email my work. Now, that's what everyone does. You can send stuff from all over the globe. But it felt like a miracle."

Malaga was "scruffy and down at heel" when that creative pair decided to relocate to the Costa del Sol. A far cry from the trendy museumgoer's paradise it has become, "It was just the airport you flew into, before going to Granada or Marbella. Yet it was so friendly! We rented an amazing top floor ático with panoramic views for the same price as a poky run-of-the-mill flat in Barcelona, and after a year or so - seeing the great number of old town houses going cheap, in the historic centre - we bought one of our own, and that's where we still live, twenty years later."

Braving the decibels, I pop a few questions. The name "Wintour" crops



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up. First, the father, Charles: the legendary Evening Standard editor – “rather intimidating, a bit frosty, like his name...” - gave young Andrew his big break. “I showed him my drawings. He said: ‘Send me something... If it’s any good, I’ll pay you £50. If it isn’t, I’ll pay you nothing.’ I sent him a cartoon and it appeared.” Next, the daughter: Vogue’s iconic maker or breaker, famous for her “Anna Wintour bob” and goggle-like sunglasses.

I emit the theory that “to become famous, you have to be recognisable, like a caricature”, to which Birch answers: “Fashion is interesting...”, which I take to mean: “I feel a cartoon coming on...”

This is when the possibility of “doing a profile” starts to ferment. “Could be fun; let’s email...”

To wit, we agree to e-ping-pong and fill in any gaps via Facebook Messenger.

Like everyone else now, I Google my future interviewee, and - LOL and behold...! - Andrew has a user-friendly website: Birch Cartoons.

His virtual portfolio is as moreish as chips. Dipping into one cartoon after another is a hair-raising visual thrill that reminds me of flicking through my brother’s issues of The Beano, when he wasn’t looking.

A rebel with a pen and pencil since boyhood, Andrew Birch was “born and bred in the small town of Bur-

ton in Staffordshire”, where he was “only allowed to read Eagle”, but read The Beano anyway. Today, he continues to zigzag back and forth from cartooning to writing, and from Malaga to Brighton, his present port of call when in the UK: “My parents moved there, when I was in my early twenties, and I immediately fell in love with the place.”

After “reading Microbiology”, Birch experimented with words, sharing a gamekeeper’s cottage with friends “in the Derbyshire countryside - my D. H. Lawrence period”. He worked in pubs, hotels and restaurants. “The writing was going nowhere, but I’d always loved cartoons, and was good at drawing, so turned my hand to that.”

A seasoned freelancer, Birch hit the big time in the ‘noughties’, with a strip he submitted to The Oldie magazine on spec. A self-styled “leftie”, he was “only” fifty-something, when he identified a specimen, loosely inspired by his father’s daily rants against the nanny state: the unruly old fogey, with a rebellious streak.

“Press cartooning is in a bad state, now. Cartoonists are being shed right, left and centre. I’ve returned to writing... sitcoms. My first, based on my The Oldie strip - The Rebel, starring Simon Callow - was broadcast in 2016, the second series last year. So you’re never too old to branch out!” exclaims the spruce sexagenarian.

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REF. P. M. O.

My car broke down, and when going to the repair shop to ask for an estimate, I have been told that in case that I eventually decided to not repair the car, I would have to pay for the estimate. Is it legal that they can charge if they have not carried out any works?

According to the law, it would indeed be legal that they charge for the estimate. You have to take into account that the repair shop does indeed carry out a work, even if it is not a repair, as in most cases the mechanic has to invest time to dismantle the car in order to find out the cause of the breakdown. This amount will not be charged if you finally decide to let them do the repair.

REF. T. C. A.

When I had my first child, I decided to breastfeed him, and once lactation was over, my breasts had lost their shape. I did not like how I looked, and as I’m still young, I decided to undergo breast augmentation surgery. However, the result of the surgery was not as I expected, and now one of my breasts has “dimples”. In the clinic they told me that they

can repeat the surgery within a few months to try to improve it, but I do not trust this doctor any more. Could I ask for compensation instead of more surgery? That way, I could go to a different clinic that would offer me a guarantee at least. Is that possible?

In order to answer your question, it is necessary to know if the cause for those “dimples” has been due to a malpractice or not, in order to report the issue to the criminal courts if that is the case. Likewise, and even if the surgery had been done correctly, it would be advisable to know if you were conveniently informed about the risks you took when undergoing that surgery. If you were not informed that the result of the surgery may not be as expected, this argument could be used in a possible negotiation with the clinic, or if you have to go to court.

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"My father considered himself an old-fashioned socialist"

Richard Blair George Orwell's adopted son



JENNIE RHODES
✉ rhodes_jennie@hotmail.com

Orwell's son Richard has managed to keep his connection with the famous writer "invisible" due to his pen name

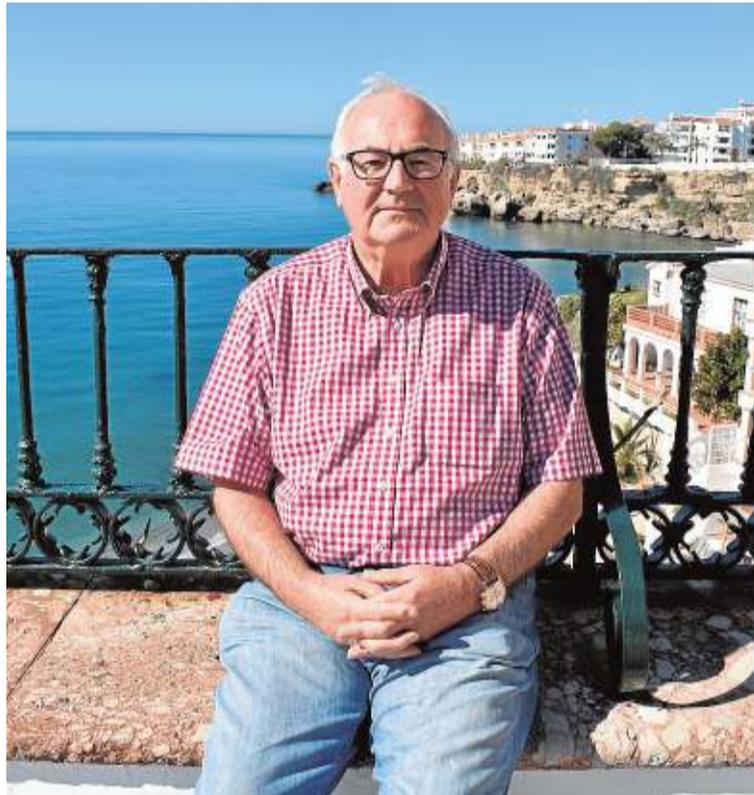
NERJA. Richard Blair is the only child and adopted son of Eric Arthur Blair, better known as George Orwell; one of the UK's most celebrated and quoted authors and most famous for the novels Nineteen Eighty-Four and Animal Farm. Richard set up the Orwell Society in 2011 along with other members of the family and friends and has regularly travelled to Spain to trace Orwell's footsteps since then. He was on the Costa del Sol this week to talk to the Arts Societies about his father's life and works.

classes because he'd been to Eton, so he wanted to see life from the other perspective and what it was like for people in a time when society had a very rigid structure. He had this desire to rough it I suppose. It was undoubtedly his time in Burma, when he was among the ruling classes as a policeman and he saw how they treated the local people there which sparked the interest. He considered himself as an old-fashioned socialist and of course in Nineteen Eighty-Four he says that if there is any hope for the world it's with the Proles.

-I believe your father decided to take on a pen name as he wanted to protect his family.

-Yes, his parents didn't approve of his political views so he did it to protect them. He took on George Orwell simply because George was a common name in those days and also the name of the King. He got Orwell from the river [Orwell's parents were living in the town of Southwold in Suffolk around that time], although it was never adopted officially and the family always referred to him as Eric.

-Many people may be surprised to



Richard Blair in Nerja on Wednesday. :: JENNIE RHODES

hear you talk affectionately about your father if the image they have of him comes from reading Animal Farm and Nineteen Eighty-Four.

-Oh yes, he was a doting father and I think he would have been as I grew up. [Orwell died of complications related to tuberculosis on 21 January 1950, when Richard was nearly six; his mother, Eileen, had died in 1945 about a year after the adoption.] I don't have a favourite memory as such but almost drowning on a boat trip off Jura stands out!

-Has your life been completely dominated by who your father was?

-In letters my father wrote to friends and family he said that he thought I should do something mechanical. [Richard was brought up on the island of Jura in the Inner Hebrides where he lived with his father until he became ill, and Orwell's sister, Avril, and her husband.] I went to agricultural college and worked in farming. Having a different name has allowed me to be totally invisible, but if asked the question I am happy to give the answer. The fame has also been a gradual process as his books became better known after his death, as have terms like Orwellian and Big Brother. In fact the usual question is are you any relation to Tony Blair? I am not.

-What do you think your father would say about the world if he were still alive today?

-The short answer is, I have absolutely no idea. Logically speaking, it would be 'I told you so' or 'Hasn't changed much, has it?'

-You have mentioned that you come to Spain quite regularly. Is that because of your father's connections with the country?

-We first came to Spain in 1975, to Marbella and we had also visited Nerja previously. But we come every two years to visit Barcelona, Huesca and Alcubierre, which is where my father was stationed during the Civil War.

-Your father came from a very middle class family but wanted to experience what it was like to be poor and has become an icon of the socialist struggle.

-He was brought up in a middle class family, had experienced the upper

Richard Blair talks to the Costa del Sol and Nerja Arts Societies

:: J. RHODES

NERJA Members of the Arts Society in Nerja and Fuengirola as well as visitors, packed venues in the two towns to listen to a talk by Richard Blair. Orwell's son spoke warmly and lightheartedly about life with his father, giving a very different perspective on the man who is internationally famous for

the dystopian novel nineteen eighty-four and Animal Farm. Mr Blair gave a chronological account of Orwell's life and peppered the lecture with little-known poems also written by his father. Members had the opportunity to speak to him and his wife, Eleanor, in person during a post-talk dinner in Nerja.



Richard Blair talking in Nerja. :: J. RHODES

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JENNIE RHODES

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

30 MARCH 1135

Birth of Maimonides, Jewish philosopher and physician

On 30 March 1135, Moses Maimonides, a Jewish philosopher, physician and scholar, was born in Córdoba. He also went by the names, Moshe ben Maimon or Abu 'Imran Musa ben Maimun ibn 'Abd Allah.

In 1148, the Almohads, a Berber Muslim dynasty from North Africa, conquered Córdoba, and threatened the Jewish community with the choice of conversion to Islam, death or exile. Maimonides' family, like the majority of Jews living in the city at the time, chose exile and the family spent the ensuing years moving around southern Spain in hiding.

They eventually settled in Fez, Morocco in 1160 and Maimonides studied at the University of Al Karouine.

After a few months the family moved again to Fostat, near Cairo,

where Jews were free to practise their faith openly. However, converting back to Judaism from Islam was prohibited and anyone who had done so, or was suspected of doing so, faced execution.

Having studied Judaism, Islam and physics at university and acquired knowledge from his own esteemed father, Maimon (Maimonides means 'son of Maimon') and other masters, Maimonides' reputation was growing and the Islamic authorities started to become suspicious of his religious beliefs. Maimonides narrowly avoided execution when Islamic leaders thought he had reconverted to Judaism from Islam, thanks to a Muslim friend.

He obtained a position as physician to the Grand Vizier Alfidhil shortly after the death of his father and went on to become physician to Sultan Saladin of Egypt. He is



The statue of Maimonides in Cordoba, where he was born. :: SUR

even said to have treated Richard the Lionheart during the Crusades. His fame spread and he was considered one of the greatest physicians of his time.

He also took on a leading part in the administration of the affairs of the Jewish community of Fostat and Cairo and in 1177 was recognised as leader of the community.

At around the same time Maimonides composed his most famous works, including the acclaimed commentary on the 'Mishnah', an imprint study of Rabbinic Judaism which would take

him 10 years to complete; the 'Mishneh Torah', a code of Jewish religious law; and the 'Guide for the Perplexed', a philosophical work which looks at Aristotle's philosophy and Jewish theology which took him 15 years to finish.

Maimonides also wrote a number of influential medical texts, some of which are still in existence, on areas such as poisons and their antidotes, hemorrhoids, cohabitation, the human temperaments and asthma.

Maimonides died on 13 December 1204 in Fostat. Both Jews and

Muslims observed public mourning for three days in the town and his body was taken to Tiberias, Israel, where his tomb became a place of pilgrimage.

His son, Abraham, succeeded him as head of the Egyptian Jewish community and as court physician.

A statue of Maimonides can be found in Córdoba and both a primary and secondary school in the city have been named after him.

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Edad media	Middle Ages
Filósofo	Philosopher
Rabino	Rabbi
Judío	Jew
Pensamiento	Thought
Estudioso	Scholar
Hebreo	Hebrew
Medicina	Medicine
Exiliarse	To go into exile
Perplejo	Perplexed
Código	Code
Ética	Ethics
Conocimientos	Knowledge
Sinagoga	Synagogue
Hereje	Heretic
Aparentar	To feign
Convencer	To convince
Teólogo	Theologist
Influencia	Influence

Bilingual crossword inside back page

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The ancient tradition of giving eggs at Easter

The first chocolate eggs were made in Europe in the mid-19th century

BY TONY BRYANT

MALAGA. Most of us take for granted the association of eggs with Easter, particularly when that association involves elegantly wrapped chocolate eggs filled with Smarties or sugared almonds.

The tradition of painting hard-boiled eggs in spring pre-dates Christianity and in many cultures around the world, the egg is a symbol of new life, fertility and rebirth.

Along with the egg, came the Easter bunny, a folkloric figure and symbol of Easter that originated among German Lutherans. The Easter bunny was depicted as the judge that evaluated whether children were good or disobedient at the start of the season of Eastertide. The custom was first mentioned in 1682, referring to a German tradition of an Easter hare bringing Easter eggs for the children.

The Christian custom of Easter eggs started among the early Christians of Mesopotamia. The Christian church officially adopted the custom as a symbol of the resurrection of Christ in 1610. The Easter egg symbolises the empty tomb of Christ and one ancient tradition was to stain the Easter eggs red, supposedly in memory of the blood Jesus shed during the crucifixion.

Blood red eggs

While the origin of Easter eggs can be explained in symbolic terms, several legends exist concerning the colouring of eggs. Followers of Eastern Christianity claim that the eggs Mary Magdalene had taken to share with the women who had gathered at the tomb of Jesus miraculously turned



J. S. Fry & Sons was the first to produce the hollow Easter egg. :: SUR

bright red when she realised that Christ had risen.

A different legend concerns Mary Magdalene's efforts to spread the Gospel. According to this tradition, after the Ascension of Jesus, Mary went to the Emperor of Rome to tell him that Christ has risen, whereupon he pointed to an egg on his table and stated, "Christ has no more risen than that egg is red." It is said the egg immediately turned blood red.

Whatever we believe, the time-honoured Easter egg has become the symbol of the season. The modern chocolate egg owes its progression to the two greatest developments in the history of chocolate - the Dutch invention of a press for separating cocoa butter from the cocoa bean in 1828, and the introduction of a pure cocoa in 1866.

The first chocolate Easter eggs were made in Europe in the mid-19th century. France and Germany were pioneers in this new artistic confectionery. Originally the eggs were solid,

as the technique for mass-producing moulded chocolate had not been devised. Progress in the chocolate Easter egg market was slow until the method was found for making the chocolate flow into the moulds.

Hollow eggs

The British company, J. S. Fry & Sons was the first manufacturer to produce the solid chocolate bar and they introduced the first hollow chocolate Easter egg in Britain in 1873. They were soon followed by Cadbury in 1875 - the biggest producers of Easter eggs throughout much of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The earliest chocolate eggs were made of dark chocolate with a plain smooth surface. Their designs were based on French and German eggs adapted to suit Victorian tastes. Germany came up with what became known as the crocodile finish; the forerunner to the many distinctive finishes available today.

REVIEW

WHAT A FABULOUS WEEKEND

JUNE RENDLE

When envious visitors ask, "What do you miss most in the UK?" I

probe my mind to remember and generally stutter "Well, I suppose it's the London theatre I miss most - the opportunity to see interesting plays and great musicals."

What am I complaining about? On Saturday evening I saw *Habeas Corpus* performed by the International Theatre Studio of Marbella, and it was most enjoyable. Well directed by Peter Brooks, it was performed by a large cast, all of whom were excellent. This early play written by Alan Bennett could have failed miserably if it had not been performed by such a well-directed talented cast, slick and fast, who never descended into caricature, but kept up a pace which had the audience on their feet, clapping for more.

On Sunday I saw *Spamalot* at the Salon Varietés, and it was marvellous. It is almost beyond

belief that an amateur company can present a musical with a cast of dozens who all sing and dance so professionally. Peter Mitchell as director must receive the most acclaim for the performances he achieved from the cast, plus his huge team of backstage helpers, with wonderful costumes, lights, music, sets - the list is endless - all under his control, were amazing.

There was not a weak link anywhere, the cast were all superb, but a special mention must go to Francis Butler who, as King Arthur, held the whole show together brilliantly. Fibi McGregor has the voice of an angel and the acting talents of an actress four times her age. I feel sure before long she will become an international star we will be proud to claim having seen in Spain at the beginning of her career.

Monty Python would have been proud to see the audience laughing and clapping and waving, hollering for MORE!

A fabulous weekend indeed.



A scene from the ITS performance of *Habeas Corpus*. :: ALAN JONES

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DENISE BUSH



READER'S PHOTO

PARTRIDGE-BREASTED ALOE

Andrew Sloan sent in this photo and says: "I bought this three years ago from a local nursery in a much smaller size. Commonly known as partridge-breasted aloe. South Africa origin." Aloe variegata is also sometimes called the Tiger aloe and is a dwarf aloe usually only reaching 30cm in height. The flowers vary in colour and can be orange with green edges, pink or rarely yellow.



:: ANDREW SLOAN

GARDENING HINTS

Fascinating facts about plant names, part 2

Most plants have at least one common name, such as the baboon flower in this week's article, but these names cannot be relied upon for identification. A good example of this is *Gaultheria procumbens* which has thirty-two (at least) common names. Binominal descriptions are unique and are recognised worldwide. Most of them are based on Latin or Greek and describe a characteristic of the plant; eg. *Erectus* - upright, *pendulus* - hanging, *floribunda* - abundance of flowers. Others help with origin; eg. *sinensis* - from the Latin meaning Chinese, *syriacus* - found in Syria. Plants with woody stems often have a species name ar-

boreus, or something very similar which means 'treelike'. Shrubs usually have 'fruti-' at the start of the species name which means 'shrubby' or 'shrub-like' and vines and climbing plants may have a species name that starts 'viti-'. 'Scandens' and 'volubile' also refer to climbing and twining attributes. A good pointer to plants that won't need staking is the species names 'strictus' and 'rigidus' and for long, straight shoots 'virgatus' is a giveaway. Sprawling ground cover plants are often given species names similar to 'diffusus', 'humilis', 'procumbens' and 'prostratus'. Even lower growing the species name 'acaulis' means 'no stem'.

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

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

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

GARDENING

The baboon flower

Scented freesia-like flowers in shades of pink and blue and ribbed leaves characterise this member of the iris family

The baboon flower or *Babiana stricta*, was introduced into Europe in 1757. Its common name comes from the Dutch 'baviaan' meaning 'baboon', as baboons were often observed digging up the corms and eating them. It is native to the Cape Province of South Africa and is a member of

the Iridaceae (iris) family.

The ribbed leaves, sometimes slightly hairy, are around 12 cm long and form in upright fans. The tubular flowers are about 5cm across in shades of pink and blue, some with a darker 'eye'. Up to ten blooms can form

on each flower stem and they are often lightly scented. A variety called *B. stricta* var. *sulphurea* has bright yellow blooms and there are also some white flowered varieties.

Babiana stricta thrives in full sun or light shade; it is not drought resistant and needs regular watering during the growing season. However the soil must be free-draining as water logging will rot the corms. It is a fast grower and will, over a couple of years, form a large clump.

The flowering period is from spring through to mid-summer when it will start to die back and become dormant. The leaves should be left on the plant until completely brown as they will be continuing to provide nutrients to the corm for next year's flowers. To ensure plenty of flowers, *Babiana* will benefit from liquid fertiliser feeds once every ten days or so from as soon as the leaves have appeared in the spring until the flowers go over in the summer. Once the plant is dormant it is best to discontinue watering and, in areas where winters are particularly cold, to lift the corms and store in a dry, frost-free place. In milder areas a thick layer of organic mulch over the top of the soil will suffice.

Babiana can be propagated by dividing the clump when dormant or by collecting the hard black seeds when the pods are dry and sowing them straight away.



Babiana stricta and a white form (inset). :: PINTEREST

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The impressive unspoilt beach at Quinta do Lago. :: SUR

Algarve calling

Go west this spring and rediscover an old favourite

Who could have thought back in the dark days of the recent financial crisis that Portugal would emerge with such vibrancy and become one of the hottest destinations in Europe?

Portugal's renaissance appears to be touching all corners of the country. The last time I wrote about this Atlantic nation in these travel pages was back in 2015, at the beginning of the new wave of interest in the country. Now, a few years later even the somewhat melancholy streets of Coimbra and Porto have an optimism and energy not seen in years. Curious millennials, culture buffs and foodies have helped put these northern cities well and truly on the tour-

ANDREW FORBES

✉ Twitter: @andrewforbes



ist trail, driving new hotel, restaurant and bar openings.

Meanwhile Lisbon has also been capturing the hearts of a new generation of visitor. Now it's a case of 'move over Barcelona'. Portugal's first city is now also the capital of cool – it has the dynamic food scene, the cool waterside café culture, and of course loads of history – yet, at least for now, it doesn't quite have the overwhelming crowds of the Catalan capital.

Adventurous Algarve

Portugal's revival of fortunes has reached the Algarve too. The south-facing Atlantic coast offers a warm Mediterranean climate and way-of-life – and now a stylish vacation infrastructure that's getting hard to beat.

A few years ago, if one mentioned the Algarve thoughts probably turned to golf and beaches. Yet there's considerably more to engage the visitor. Admittedly southern Portugal remains one of the finest golf destinations in Europe; and the beaches are spectacular. Yet the region is diversifying into adventure activities, elite sport coaching, as well as providing experiences highlighting its gastronomic and cultural heritage.

Portugal's renewed self-confidence and pride in its culture now makes a visit significantly more rewarding. Sun and beach is of course the draw, yet once here it's likely that one experiences a great deal more – from rural spa and wellness retreats; 4x4 'safaris' or hot-air ballooning exploring the countryside of orange groves and cork forests; to catamaran boat tours, snorkelling trips; and foodie visits to bustling local markets.

Algarve accommodation

International groups are investing in Portugal like never before. Anantara, the elite hotel group from Asia, has chosen the Algarve for its first and only luxury resort in

Europe. Found surrounded by golf courses, the Anantara Vilamoura Algarve Resort reflects the new style of hotel property that celebrates its location. From the local cheese, honey and delicacies served at breakfast, to the personalised 'Spice Spoons' cooking classes, where guests learn traditional Algarve recipes like a 'Cataplana Algarvia' fish and seafood stew, guests can indulge in local gastronomy.

The Quinta do Lago residential and leisure estate just west of Faro has developed far beyond being a community of luxury holiday homes with championship golf course views. The estate, right on the edge of the remarkable and beautiful Ria Formosa protected lagoon area, is now emerg-



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ing as one of Europe's elite sports coaching destinations. With the opening of The Campus, a sophisticated sports complex, international teams have access to all-year, world-class training facilities. For holidaymakers that also means access to quality bike hire, well-maintained tennis facilities, and of course a top-notch golf academy.

Introducing the Algarve to a younger, more budget-conscious, yet no less demanding visitor, The Magnolia Hotel offers on-trend accommodation for the Instagram generation. Rooms and services are simple yet delivered with style and flair. The less-is-more focus means high-quality facilities, and a youthful, well-trained and friendly team offering accommodation and dining at surprisingly accessible prices. What's more there's a free shuttle to the sporting venues, dining and night-life of Quinto do Lago; and the Ria Formosa natural park is right there to explore.

Authentic Algarve

Faro, much like Malaga on the Costa del Sol, was once regarded by many visitors as little more than an airport gateway to the golf resorts and hotels that spread out along the



Faro is being rediscovered for its historic castles, convents and churches. :: SUR



A typical cataplana lunch. :: SUR



The Algarve boasts some of Europe's finest beaches. :: SUR

coast. Now this regional capital is being rediscovered and enjoyed for its historic castles, convents and churches as well as its local eateries and relaxed café culture. Without doubt the town also offers the most authentic dose of Portuguese daily life compared to the more contemporary resorts and gentrified towns further west. It's also a town where you can eat very well on a budget. Expect traditional seafood stews served in cataplana copper pots, as well as plenty of cheap eats like the 'Menu do Dia' fixed menus on offer in small cafes and bars.

The coast around Faro is among the most unspoiled of the Algarve. I particularly like the lagoons and coves between Faro and the delightful town of Tavira close to the border with Spain. This still somehow feels like the hidden Algarve and for that is has a charm and tranquillity that's not usually associated with this part of Portugal.

For a stylish long weekend, the Algarve is an ideal destination. Within four and half hours from Malaga, one can be sipping a 'vinho da casa' or a refreshing white port with tonic, and tucking into a rich, flaky 'pastel de nata' on a sun-dappled terrace yet feel worlds away.

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THE INSIDER GUIDE

Faro, Algarve



Faro Pousada Palácio de Estoi.

ANDREW FORBES

The Algarve's capital, with its old town and port, not only offers visitors an authentic flavour of southern Portugal but also stunning beaches, a unique natural park, and plenty of choice for hotels and restaurants.

STAY:

The Magnolia Hotel

Creative and colourful hotel where hip 1950s motel Americana meets contemporary Mediterranean chic. This stylish enclave for millennials and the young at heart has been completely remodelled and is now part of the neighbouring Quinta do Lago estate. The bright rooms are simple yet focus on quality, like 5-star standard beds, linens and huge plush towels.

There's a heated all-season swimming pool with cocktail bar where you can chill to the tunes of the resident DJ; get active thanks to the tennis court, free bicycles for exploring the area and well-equipped gym; or alternatively, relax in one of the holistic treatment rooms with a spa therapy.

The Magnolia Hotel is in an excellent location to enjoy all the leisure, dining and elite sports facilities of the Algarve's Quinta do Lago, as well as the charm of Faro.

TheMagnoliaHotelqdl.com

Faro Pousada Palácio de Estoi

The Faro Pousada, found 10 kilometres from the city in the village of Estoi, is an easy transfer from the international airport, and only a few minutes' drive off the motorway from Spain.

This Baroque 18th-century palace, modelled on Portuguese royal residences, was once an extravagant aristocratic home, and is now a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World. It's a splendid blend of contemporary guest rooms and suites with beautiful neo-rococo public spaces within the restored palace. There's a large outdoor infinity pool, an indoor heated pool, spa and gym.

The Palace is worthy of a visit, if only to explore its classical gardens with fountains, a romantic grotto and spectacular 'azulejos' tile work.

Pousadas.pt

Anantara Vilamoura Algarve Resort

Spectacular gastronomic, wellness and golf resort, just half an hour from Faro. It's the only Anantara hotel in Europe. Anantara's unique approach to hospitality offers guests an immersive experience of Algarve culture, food and design. Everywhere are creative and stylish reminders of the Algarve, from art, handicrafts and cuisine. In addition to upscale rooms and suites, there is a destination spa, gourmet dining, both family and adults-only

swimming pools and superb sporting facilities. The adjacent Victoria Championship Golf Course, designed by Arnold Palmer, hosts the Portugal Masters each year, and is among some 30 courses in the area. There is a free Tuk-Tuk shuttle to the restaurants and nightlife of Vilamoura's marina.

Vilamoura.Anantara.com

EAT:

Pastelaria Coelho

Anyone who has a sweet tooth will delight in the cakes and treats of the Algarve. This Faro eatery however is more than just a cake shop; it has a dining area popular with locals, with a menu of traditional dishes and seasonal produce like fresh fish with boiled potatoes. Sounds simple but tastes oh so good.

[Facebook.com/pastelariacoelho](https://www.facebook.com/pastelariacoelho)

EMO Restaurant

This fine-dining destination restaurant within the Anantara Vilamoura Resort pairs a gourmet tasting menu with Portuguese wines – and a stunning view across the Victoria golf course.

Vilamoura.Anantara.com

Estaminé

Eat in glorious isolation at this striking, contemporary fish and seafood restaurant on the Ilha Deserta island, in the heart of the Ria Formosa Natural Park. Panoramic windows offer views out across the unique, protected landscape.

Ilha-Deserta.com

Gigi's Beach Bar

Cool yet understated beach bar se-

cluded within the sand dunes of the Quinta do Lago beach. Popular place for a seafood lunch of catch of the day with hot piri-piri sauce.

QuintaDoLago.com

Bovino

One of the dozen restaurants at Quinta do Lago, Bovino is probably the finest steakhouse in the Faro area. As well as the excellent choice of cuts, there is fish and seafood from the grill too, and a smart cocktail bar.

QuintaDoLago.com

DO:

Bike tour

The Ria Formosa natural park and surrounding trails are ideal for exploring by bike. Visitors can rent from the Bike Shed at The Campus, Quinta del Lago, and head out to discover rare wildlife and striking



The Magnolia Hotel.



Bovino restaurant.



Loulé farmer's market.

landscapes.

QuintaDoLago.com/en/The-Campus/

Discover a Secret Beach

The idyllic island of Ilha da Barreta or 'Ilha Deserta', within Faro's acclaimed natural park has one of the area's best beaches. Take the shuttle boat or small ferry from Faro and spend the day chilling in the sun, eating great seafood and maybe even enjoying an eco-tour of this tiny island.

Ilha-Deserta.com

Spice Spoons

This Epicurean experience takes cooking classes to the next level. Spend the morning with one of Anantara's expert chefs visiting the lively farmer's market at Loulé, purchasing fresh produce, then returning to the resort's show kitchen – using a traditional cataplana, the Algarve hammered copper cooking pot that dates to Moorish times.

Vilamoura.Anantara.com

Old Town Faro

It's rewarding to explore Faro. Within its medieval fortified walls, the 'Cidade Velha' old town, with a rich architectural heritage, together with the revitalised port offer interesting historical sights and authentic local places to eat.

For something unique, and slightly macabre, visit the Chapel of Bones, 'Capela dos Ossos', built from thousands of monk's skulls and bones from the neighbouring cemetery.

www.visitalgarve.pt

BUY:

Ceramics, cork and basketware

The Algarve has a diverse heritage in traditional handicrafts which remains vibrant today. Ceramics are of course the notable product to buy. A visit to Porches, west of Faro offers the chance to be immersed in the pottery culture of the area. Alternatively visit the local markets, such as Loulé for high quality basketware, as well as leather and cork products.

PorchesPottery.com



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SERVICE Interview with Manuel Matencio, Regional Manager for Andalusia with Novasol holiday rentals company

“OUR MAIN FORM OF PUBLICITY IS OUR CLIENTS’ EXPERIENCE, BOTH THE TOURISTS AND THE OWNERS”

MÁLAGA-COSTA DEL SOL

This year, Novasol is celebrating its 50th anniversary in the holiday rentals market. The company, which was born “in a basement in Copenhagen”, has branched out all over Europe and is now in the process of expanding to incorporate new locations outside the old continent.

With presence in 29 countries, Novasol arrived in Spain in 2010 and currently has more than 3,000 properties in its catalogue. This leading company’s commitment to our province became apparent in 2016 when it opened an office in the provincial capital city in addition to those it already had in Murcia and Barcelona. Since then it has seen its range of properties, consisting of almost 500 in this province alone, grow each month thanks to the faith both owners and tourists place in the

company. Above all, they value the company’s professionalism and the agents’ friendly, approachable manner.

The company had a very modest beginning and is now present in the main European capital cities. What is the key to its growth?

The tourism sector is one of the main drivers of industry in any country, and people increasingly want to visit new places. That’s where our work comes into play, offering a broad range of possibilities and guarantees to our clients. That has allowed us to register solid growth and establish a solid client base because, unlike other companies and websites, we always send our agents to personally visit and check all the properties we include in our catalogue. That’s why in the end our clients continue to trust us and we can move forward with a quality business model.

What does this mean for the client?

Since rental portals have sprung up on the internet many people have found themselves at a property that didn’t match what was advertised, with many problems ranging from lack of cleanliness or faulty equipment to fraud involving non-existent properties. With us, as we are a serious agency that has been running for a long time, the client can be sure that they are renting exactly what they have chosen. No surprises and full guarantees. **How does your business model differ from those of the portals you refer to?**

At Novasol we work very differently, although we often collaborate with portals to obtain more visibility. These companies have a website where they advertise the houses, with a bookings calendar that is sometimes even directly managed by the owners, so their role is really

that of an intermediary who tries to have little influence. We, on the other hand, work with properties under an exclusivity model, which makes our clients feel very secure. We don’t sign up all the properties we are offered either, only those that pass the quality standards following the checks I spoke of before, and they are later rated with stars. We don’t place our company’s reputation or our clients’ welfare at risk by taking on a property in bad condition, and that is a guarantee.

Individualisation is one of the characteristics of the company. What does that imply?

To that respect it is important to stress that, although we have a very large catalogue of properties, our main goal is to help our clients have memorable holidays. A quality experience as opposed to mass tourism. We therefore specialise in villas with

swimming pools. This makes guests feel at home, as well as providing comfort and peace. Also, our customer profile consists mainly of families who seek private, secure surroundings. And we find them the property that best suits their requirements. **That means more security for the owners too, doesn’t it?**

Of course. At Novasol we have a catalogue, a website, we advertise via sales channels... but our main form of publicity is our clients’ experience, both the tourists and the owners. The latter are in fact very calm and confident, both about the sort of guests that visit their properties and about the service we provide them with. This means they recommend us to their friends and relatives and a network is formed that is very beneficial to everyone.

ADVERTORIAL



A tram climbs one of the many steep hills which define the city of Lisbon. :: DARYL FINCH

City tripping and toe dipping

Lisbon has become the perfect destination for culture vultures and beach lovers alike



DARYL FINCH

✉ dfinch@diariosur.es

The city has undergone a massive transformation in recent years, with the revival of entire districts and the creation of new public spaces

There are very few cities in the world as recognisable from the air. Flying into Lisbon's Humberto Delgado Airport, if you're lucky enough to do so during the day, you can already get a glimpse of the city's defining monuments: the 25 de Abril bridge, Christ the King looking out across from the southern side of the Tagus, the São Jorge castle, but also the seven hills on which the city was built... and which will also take their toll on your knees and ankles over the course of



The pristine white sand at Carcavelos. :: D. FINCH

your stay.

Lisbon wasn't built for the unfit, though with the influx of tourists have come numerous adaptations to make the city more accessible, with a thoroughly reliable tram and metro network, as well as a number of purpose-built elevators to cut out some of the rather more perilous staircases and climbs through narrow alleys.

Alternative Lisbon

Those who have visited the city be-

fore will undoubtedly have fallen in love with the charming narrow streets of Moorish Alfama or the cosmopolitan hustle and bustle of Bairro Alto, but with such widespread regeneration in the city, there are whole new areas you may never have considered visiting before.

One such area is Intendente, which until very recently was almost completely dilapidated and known mostly for its problem with drug addicts and prostitutes. However, when city

mayor António Costa, who is now prime minister, took the bold move to relocate his office and his staff to the main square, things started to look up.

Now this area, dotted with art nouveau and art deco buildings, is considered one of the most desirable and authentic locations not only for locals to buy, but also for visitors to stay. What's more, it's home to some of the most highly-acclaimed restaurants, including Ramiro, as well as a vast array of foreign tastes - especially in so-called 'Bangladesh town'.

This is a story repeating in a number of neighbourhoods. The Cais do Sodré district at the base of the iconic Chiado neighbourhood has always been the best spot for a night out (rivalled only by Bairro Alto), but its reputation preceded it and visitors would always steer clear. Close to the docks, this was an area where delinquency was rife. However, it has now been transformed into a trendy night spot, filled with hipster bars and restaurants.

The epicentre of this overhaul is the old Mercado da Ribeira, now sponsored by Time Out, which brings together the great and the good of Por-

tuguese cuisine under one roof. While undoubtedly a tourist trap, this is the ideal starting point for any 'foodie'. With almost all of the city's major restaurants present under one roof, you can sample as many types of food as you can imagine, before shortlisting your favourites to visit later in your trip.

Sun and sand

With the hills and cobbles the city's defining features, it's easy to forget that Lisbon is at the mouth of one of the continent's major rivers as it spills into the Atlantic. However, the city's recent urban development seeks to create an all-new relationship with the water, bringing it quite literally onto the doorstep.

The new city sea promenade has opened up a space that had been completely untapped until very recently. Previously land occupied by governmental buildings and shipping companies, now, from the centrepiece Praça do Comércio, the bustling city ambience can come right out to the waterfront. Food trucks, green spaces and even spots for dipping your toes bring an all-new cosmopolitan vibe that extends through the aforementioned Cais do Sodré, but also along the seafront to the 25 de Abril bridge (which many say resembles the Golden Gate bridge but was in fact built by the company which constructed the nearby San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge), an area that has been converted into a hub for the ever-growing community of 'digital nomads' in the city.

It doesn't stop there, with fantastic train and tram links Lisbon can also offer the beach holiday you have been craving. In little over half an hour, you can trade the busy city streets for total relaxation in a number of beach towns along the coast. The historic fishing village of Cascais is the standout destination, and Belém (known for the famous 'pastéis de Belém' custard tarts and some of Lisbon's most famous monuments, including the Jerónimos monastery and Belém tower) is on the same route, but if you want to get off the tourist trail, get off the train in the small town of Carcavelos.

Here, city life is just a distant memory when you're sipping refreshing caipirinha and enjoying a massage on the vast white sands, or equally take advantage of the perfect conditions to catch the waves.

This ability to combine city break and beach holiday really does make Lisbon the all-round destination.



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WHERE IN THE WORLD?



Plenty in Common

.. XIQINHOSILVA / FLICKR

Sportsmen and women from around the world are gearing up for one of the year's major sporting events which takes place in the city pictured next month.

Seventy nations are due to compete in the games which are held every four years and get under way on 4 April.

Much like the Olympic Games, this event combines the usual

athletic disciplines, plus lawn bowls, netball and rugby sevens.

This will be the fifth time that this country has hosted the event and follows in the footsteps of Glasgow, which hosted the 2014

edition.

The city is only the sixth-largest city in the country and is known for its excellent conditions for surfing and other watersports.



FEBRUARY'S PHOTO

If you know where this is, you could win a prize.

Please send the name of the city and the major sporting event to be held there next month to english@diariosur.es. Only entries with your full name, delivery address and telephone number will be considered.

Last month's photo showed the West Park in the city of Munich where the Starkbierfest (festival of strong dark beer) took place from 2 to 25 March. It is of course the younger brother of Oktoberfest.

Congratulations to Jürgen Strobel in Torremolinos who answered correctly. Your prize will be on its way to you soon.

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SOCIETY SCENE

Getting together and out and about

Shutterbugs take snaps of Coín while friends of Lux Mundi learn how olive oil is produced in the Sierra Nevada

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre Olive oil factory visit

Thirty-three members of Lux Mundi Torre del Mar, accompanied by the excursion organiser Carolyn Bowen, visited the Quaryat Dillar olive oil factory on the edge of the Sierra Nevada. The group learned about the different varieties of olives and about growing and care of olive trees. They were then taken to see all the machinery involved in the making of ol-

ive oil, learning about all the various stages of production and storage. There was then a tasting session with several varieties of olive oil and bread. After the tour, the group travelled to Lanjarón, where there was time to have lunch, to view the ruins of the castle and to see the many water fountains that are situated throughout the town.

Shutterbugs Walk around Coín

A guide took the Shutterbugs to four sites of interest in Coín recently so they could take photographs. The first was the Convento de Santa María de la Encarnación, which today is used for exhibitions. The next was the Iglesia San Juan Bautista where the group were able to take photographs inside the church. The priest had a



A Shutterbug captures the convent on camera in Coín. :: SUR



The English-speaking Lions Club meeting in Marbella. :: SUR

collection of birds of prey and arranged for two of them to be made available for photographs. The third destination was the Molino de Harina of Bartolomé Méndez, an organic stone mill which the Méndez family have been operating for four generations. Finally, the last visit was to the Panadería La Curruca, the bakery and shop operated by Miguel Curruca and his wife.

Benavista Bowls Club Annual meeting

Benavista Bowls Club Annual General Meeting was held recently during which the annual award for the 'Most Improved Player' was presented to Richard Fox.

Lions Club Marbella English-speaking meeting

English-speaking Lions in Marbella held their first informal meeting on the 22 March. About 20 members attended the event.

The Lions in Marbella are organ-



Lux Mundi sampled the olive oil at the Quaryat Dillar olive mill :: SUR

ising the next meeting for Tuesday 10 April at 6.30 pm in the Hotel San Cristóbal, Avenida Ramón y Cajal.

If you would like to attend the next meeting call 667 760 230 to register.

What are you up to?

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

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PSYCHOLOGY

Can shopping make you feel happy?

Women generally seem to gain more happiness than men while shopping, especially if it's for fashion items

BY JUAN SOTO

MÁLAGA. A study carried out in shopping centres across Spain by consultants Cushman & Wakefield concluded that 71.5 per cent of Spanish shoppers felt happy when making purchases. It seems this feeling of wellbeing was experienced more by females than males, with eight out of every ten women saying shopping made them happy compared to 56.5 per cent of men.

Over a quarter of those who took part in the study said they felt happier when they had been to a shopping centre. This was most felt by the 18 to 25 age group where the figure rose to 81.7 per cent. Those who felt least happy were the 35 to 45 age group, with only 73.9 per cent.

Two people in every ten admitted to not feeling any happier after visiting a shopping centre.

But why? According to the psychologist Roberto de Porras de Abreu,



The study analyses shoppers' habits. BY SUR

making purchases provokes a feeling of satisfaction in consumers for the mere fact of being able to buy something new, or sometimes something forbidden. However, the man-

ager of Psicólogos Málaga PsicoAbreu clarifies that many buyers confuse elation with happiness, since the feeling that occurs at the moment of purchase soon passes.

"It's also something cultural, since you have to work all week in order to be able to buy things," he adds.

Following the study, purchasing fashion is what makes buyers happiest (36.5 per cent), followed by leisure goods and food (28.2 per cent). It is in this aspect that there are more differences between men and women: while women opt for fashion, men go for leisure and food. Other concepts covered by the study are events and experiences (which pleases 25.2 per cent of those surveyed) and free services (which make 10.1 per cent of visitors happier).

For De Porras, the feeling of joy that visitors gain in shopping centres is one of the main objectives of those responsible for the venues. "Shopping centres are very well designed; the managers even have teams formed by psychologists who determine the ideal temperature, distribution, lighting and colours used," he said.

According to the psychologist, this feeling of happiness, per se, is not harmful, although there are different symptoms that should trigger alarm bells. On the one hand, the clearest downside is the economic one.

"If you've spent all your money

by the fifth of the month, it's a clear alarm signal."

Then there are people with a lot of money, who buy what they want but then don't experience any feeling at all. "There are people who fill their shopping trolley and then abandoned it because they feel uncomfortable," he says.

And that is why he encourages people to use common sense. Shopping, even if it is every week, does not become pathological if it does not affect people's daily lives, neither socially nor economically. Another issue is shopping to fill a vacuum.

"There are people who try to fill a gap with purchases; and that's why it's fundamental to ask yourself: why do I need to buy this?" he says.

Online shopping

The report, in which nearly 5,000 people participated in 13 Spanish shopping centres, also assesses the incidence of online purchases compared to traditional ones. It concluded that 88 per cent of customers in shopping centres claim to be happier if they buy in a physical store. In this aspect women also come out top, since nine out of ten prefer to see, touch and try items before buying.

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“We are now seeing an epidemic of lung cancer in women”

Santiago Ponce Lung cancer specialist

The head of the Lung Cancer unit at a hospital in Madrid says women who smoke are more likely than men to develop the illness

:: NIEVES CASTRO

MARBELLA. Tobacco is the principal risk factor for lung cancer, says Santiago Ponce, the head of the Lung Cancer Unit at the 12 de Octubre hospital in Madrid, who visited Malaga province recently to speak about advances in treatment for this illness at a scientific meeting organised by HC Marbella. He says anti-smoking laws have done nothing to reduce the incidence of lung cancer and warns that more women and younger people are now suffering from the disease.

-How many people get lung cancer these days?

- Every year there are between 22,000 and 24,000 new cases in Spain, and that is a really big problem for the health authorities. By gender, more women suffer from breast cancer and more men suffer from colon cancer, but in general lung cancer is one of the most common. What is unusual about it is that we do not have strategies for early detection, as we do for example with breast cancer and, in some



Santiago Ponce on a recent visit to Marbella. :: JOSELE-LANZA

“The anti-smoking laws have had no effect; the incidence of lung cancer is rising”

“I believe in individual freedom but I think people should be properly informed about the risks of smoking”

regions, colon cancer. Unfortunately, that means that these 20,000 new patients a year are often diagnosed at an advanced stage, when the cancer has already spread outside the lungs and become metastatic, and we can't give it a curative focus as we may be able to do with breast cancer.

-In recent years, how has it evolved by gender and age?

-We have always thought that lung cancer was an illness of elderly male smokers, but the type of patient we are seeing is changing. We are seeing more younger patients than we used to, and the average age of lung cancer sufferers is dropping. It is not uncommon to see patients in their forties or fifties. Above all, though, we are realising that it is no longer an illness which mainly affects men.

Right now there is a real epidemic of lung cancer in women, for various reasons. The first is because of a mistake that women made, when they emulated men and started smoking. They possibly started smoking after men for social reasons and now we are seeing the peak of women who have been smoking for years. Also, for some reason to do with the way they metabolise the toxins in tobacco, it is clear that women are more susceptible to developing lung cancer than men even if they smoke the same amount. It is estimated that the risk could be double. In other words, women who smoke are much more exposed to getting lung cancer than men who smoke.

-This means that the patterns of incidence are changing, then?

-It is a change which in my opinion is not getting enough attention by the health profession or the administration. I would like to see a new anti-smoking campaign especially focusing on young women.

-Have the anti-smoking laws had a positive effect on the figures?

-No. The incidence of lung cancer has risen. Maybe it is too soon to see an impact, but in any cases in Spain we have created a trap: if you walk through any town you will see that we are creating bars outside on the pavements and that means that someone who doesn't want to smoke is exposed to tobacco smoke anyway. I believe in individual freedom, but I think people should be properly informed about the risk of cancer but also cardiovascular illnesses and many others which are caused by tobacco. It is the first cause



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of reduced life expectancy in the western world.

-Are you in favour of banning smoking in cars if children are travelling in them?

-A ban like that would be fantastic, but it would be difficult to apply. I believe more in education and people being more responsible. If parents really knew the damage they are doing to their children and they were informed about the health problems their child could suffer in the future and that they are more likely to become smokers themselves, I don't think the ban would be necessary.

-What role does passive smoking play in the deaths of children?

-It hasn't been measured. We don't know its effect on children or adults. Measuring the side effects of tobacco is very difficult because nobody remembers how long they have been exposed to someone else's tobacco smoke. I had a patient with lung cancer, a heavy smoker, who I was treating for a while and unfortunately he died. Two months later his wife, who had been married to him for 50 years, became my patient. She had developed exactly the same lung cancer as her husband even though she had never had a cigarette. Someone who is a passive smoker



Women smokers are more susceptible to developing lung cancer than men. :: REUTERS

would need to be exposed for longer than a smoker because they don't inhale the tobacco directly; the risk is lower, but it exists.

-In addition to smoking, what other risk factors are there for lung cancer?

-Exposure to radon [a radioactive noble gas] is a very clear risk factor. It also produces lung cancers which are different to those caused by tobacco. It is difficult to measure because nobody has anything to meas-

ure radon at home and when properties are sold in Spain the owners don't have to provide a report about the exposure in that area. And the other risk factor, which is also really difficult to measure but undoubtedly has an important impact on lung cancer rates, is environmental pollution through exposure to nitrogen and carbon dioxides.

-If people smoke the same number of cigarettes, what would make some of them more likely to get

lung cancer than others?

-The only factor that is clearly differentiated is that women, smoking the same number of cigarettes, are more at risk of lung cancer than men. We know that patients who smoke and have drunk a lot of alcohol in their lives are also more at risk of cancer. Apart from that there is no clear information about how other factors, such as diet or a sedentary lifestyle, are impacting on the development of lung cancer.

-What symptoms could indicate a tumour of this type?

-The symptoms are very vague and general. Tiredness or persistent cough, for example. Smokers normally tend to have a chronic cough, and unless something about the cough changes they are unlikely to pay much attention to it. Obviously, there can be expectoration with blood, but not often, or pain elsewhere in the body because it has already metastasised, but these symptoms occur later. If someone has a persistent cough or tiredness, and it is affecting their life, they should see their GP so the appropriate tests can be carried out.

-Is lung cancer always fatal?

-No. Lung cancer is not always a fatal illness. Nowadays we have patients with advanced localised lung cancer, in other words cancers in the lung which are inoperable due to their wide extension within the thorax, and we can treat those with radiotherapy and chemotherapy. And we know that if we treat them for a year afterwards with immunotherapy, these patients are living longer than those who aren't given that. It is still early to say whether or not we are curing more patients with this strategy, but it is a new alternative therapy.

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Some studies show that vitamin D from the sun can help increase libido. :: SUR

Spring and sexual desire

Five reasons why the season can influence our love life

Longer days, more exposure to sunshine and a change of habits can help improve sexual relations at this time of year

1. R. ALCOLEA

Spring has arrived, and brought with it a desire for new habits, new activities and plans for the longer, warmer days. People in general seem more cheerful once the winter is over; we are happier and feel more like making plans. Interestingly, however, spring doesn't only bring about a change in our habits in general: it can also affect our sex lives.

According to experts at Procare Health, some of the changes which occur at this time of year and directly affect the libido are as follows:

1. Secretion of vitamin D

This vitamin is essential for the correct absorption of calcium and pro-

tection of the bones. A lack of vitamin D can lead to conditions such as osteoporosis, and the sun is one of the best ways to obtain it. Some studies have shown that this vitamin also helps to generate more testosterone, which increases libido and sexual desire.

2. Secretion of endorphins

With this exposure to the sun, there is also a greater secretion of endorphins, hormones which help to reduce stress, lift the spirits and therefore encourage sexual activity.

3. Aromatherapy

In warm weather aromas are enhanced, especially the strongest scents, and this also has an effect on the pheromones which affect interpersonal relationships. This combination means that in spring we are more receptive to interacting and therefore to having intimate relations.

4. Spring asthenia

Not every influence at this time of

year is positive, because there is also evidence to show that in spring some women suffer from irritability, tiredness, drowsiness and headaches, among other symptoms. This is known as spring asthenia. Those who suffer from it tend to have lower libido, and for that reason there are now products such as Libicare, a food supplement and the only one made with natural compounds, to increase desire and sexual arousal.

5. Allergies

Spring is also characterised by allergies, and these can also result in lower libido because of the discomfort of itchy eyes, sneezing and lack of interest in general. In this case, it is best to wait until the symptoms improve, in order to fully enjoy sexual relations.

By paying attention to these points, and bearing in mind that sexual dysfunctions can be controlled and resolved, spring offers three months in which to enjoy the lovely weather and better sex.

A green tea compound may improve cognitive development in children with Down's syndrome

1. J. L. A.

MADRID. Researchers from the Neuroscience Programme of the Hospital del Mar Institute of Medical Research (IMIM) are carrying out clinical trials on a dietary preparation which contains epigallocatechin gallate, a natural compound of green tea, to see if it improves cognitive development in children aged between six and 12 who have Down's syndrome or Fragile-X syndrome. The tests will take place over ten months on 70 chil-

dren at different hospitals.

"We have included children with Down's and Fragile-X syndromes because, although the genetic origin of these syndromes is different, the mechanism through which the epigallocatechin gallate provides therapeutic effects will be the same and we think patients with Fragile-X can also benefit," says the director of the research programme, Rafael de la Torre.

Two years ago, a clinical trial of the

same compound on young adults aged 16 to 34 with Down's syndrome showed that in those who had taken the preparation there was an improvement in visual recognition memory, attention, self-control and adaptive or autonomous behaviour in everyday activities, and that these changes could be correlated with biological changes in their cerebral connectivity.

"It was the first time a treatment has been effective in improving some cognitive functions in people with Down's syndrome, even though in adults the brain is fully developed," says De la Torre.

Down's Syndrome affects approximately one in every 1,000 people around the world and it is the most common cause of genetic intellectual disability.

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White prawns from Huelva, a popular speciality at Punta Umbría's seafood fair. :: SUR



A historical reenactment in Santa Fe. :: SUR

Andalucía prepares for a month of festivals in April

JAVIER ALMELLONES

Once Easter is over the fairs and festivals begin in earnest in Andalucía, with numerous foodie, religious and historical events taking place all over the region as the spring weather arrives

Punta Umbría

Celebrating seafood

For nearly 25 years the town of Punta Umbría in Huelva province has celebrated its independence as a municipality with a Prawn, Clam and Anchovy Fair. This year it will take between midday on Friday 20 April and the evening of Sunday 22.

Thousands of people gather in the Plaza 26 de Abril square to sample and buy these and other seafood products, and there will also be live music.

This 24th edition is dedicated to the 75th anniversary of William Martin, the man who never existed. The body of a man whose uniform identified him as Captain William Martin (he was in fact a homeless man who was already dead) washed up in Punta Umbría in 1943. On his person, a fictitious plan to invade Greece and Sardinia to deliberately misinform the Germans was planted.

Intelligence shows that the ruse worked

and this action was decisive in changing the course of the Second World War as it allowed the Allies to successfully invade Sicily without opposition.

Santa Fe

Historical reenactments

April this year marks 526 years since the signing of the 'Capitulaciones' in Santa Fe (Granada), which is believed to be the first document in the history of America.

It was on 17 April 1492 that Christopher Columbus and the Catholic Monarchs signed the contract which led to the discovery of the new continent a few months later. Thanks to this and other major events such as the signing of the contract under which the Moors relinquished Granada to the Christians, the small town of Santa Fe played a very important role in Spanish history during the 15th and 16th centuries.

Nowadays local people celebrate these events during the second half of April, with numerous cultural activities based on that period, including conferences, a medieval market, children's activities and historical reenactments which take place over sev-

eral days until 22 April.

Andújar

The oldest romería

One of the most important festivals in Andalucía takes place in the village of Andújar, in Jaén province, every April: the Romería de la Virgen de la Cabeza. This is believed to be the oldest pilgrimage in Spain, with origins dating back to the 13th century.

Local legend says that in August 1227 the Virgen appeared to Juan Alonso de Rivas, a shepherd from Colomera, and miraculously cured his withered arm. She then asked him to build a chapel in her honour. That is said to be the one known today as the Cerro del Cabezo, about 30 kilometres outside Andújar.

At the end of April thousands of devotees make a pilgrimage there; this year it will take place on Saturday 28 and Sunday 29.

Seville

The great spring fair

Once Easter is over, it is time for Seville's April Fair, one of the biggest and most famous in Andalucía, which takes place this year between Sunday 15th and Saturday 22nd.

During this week-long party, which takes place day and night, you can enjoy music and dancing, gastronomy and equestrian events, fairground attractions and a truly traditional Andalusian ambience in this beautiful city.



The 'romería' pilgrimage in Andújar. :: SUR



Seville's April Fair is a week-long party. :: SUR

EXHIBITIONS

Magpie International Gallery Marbella. *Until 23 April. C/Virgen del Pilar. 200m from port.* The exhibition by Pedro Molina is entitled *Aguadas de Primavera*. www.magpie.international.

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.

Pasión por la Ilusión Malaga. *Until 31 March. Larios shopping centre.* An exhibition of photographs of Semana Santa by photographer Lorenzo Carnero. Carnero is the director of the Punto Press news agency and has spent over twenty years recording the cultural and social life of Malaga.



Secundino Hernández, CAC.

Photographs of Malaga Malaga. *Until 1 April. La Térmica, Avda de Los Guindos.* The 'Photoespacio' in the Térmica is hosting an exhibition of 46 panoramic views of the city taken between 1854 and 1925.

Blackness Malaga. *Until 16 April. Café de Estraperlo, Plaza Poeta Alfonso Canales.* The artists Siobhan Riordan (UK) and Daysury Valencia (Sweden) are two black artists living in Malaga. www.facebook.com/Café-de-Estraperlo

Stephan Balkenhol Malaga. *Until 22 April. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo, Calle Alemania.* The exhibit consists of around thirty sculptures from the German



Stalls in the Plaza del España for Residents' Day. :: SUR

Nerja prepares for 19th Residents' Day

:: JENNIE RHODES

NERJA. Nerja's annual Residents' Day will take place on Sunday 8th April from 12pm until 5pm on Plaza de España, behind the Town Hall.

Residents' Day has been held in recognition of the town's foreign residents, locals and tourists for 19 years.

This year 37 associations and clubs based in the town will be participating and each one will have an information stall on Plaza de España, where members will be happy to explain the activities of their particular group.

In addition to the stalls there will be seven bars, each serving refreshments and typical food from the different countries represented in Nerja and there will be live music and dance performances throughout the afternoon on the stage.

In case of rain or strong wind, Residents' Day will be postponed until the following Sunday, 15 April.

For further information, contact Jacky Gómez at Nerja Town Hall Foreigners' Department by email: extranjeros@nerja.es (preferable) or phone 952 54 8401.

artist's collection representing his most significant works in recent years. www.cacmalaga.eu

Great Masters recreated Malaga. *Until 15 April. Casa Sostoa, C/Héroe Sostoa.* The ten paintings in the exhibition were created by Julio Anaya Cabanding and Rafael Jiménez and are recognisable as skillful copies of great master's works, albeit with the artist's own twist.

Church treasures Malaga. *Until 28 April. ArsMálaga, Palacio Episcopal. Free entry.* The old Capuchin monastery, now the Divina Pastora y Santa Teresa de Jesús church, is being renovated and the works of art have been moved temporarily to the ArsMálaga gallery. Sculptures and paintings from the Baroque period

are on display. www.arsmalaga.es

Sinfonía Celular Malaga. *Until 30 April. Alfajar Sala. Calle Císter 1.* Rafaela Pareja exhibits his works which reflect everyday life and nature. www.alfajar.es

Secundino Hernández Malaga. *Until 6 May. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.* The Madrid artist is exhibiting 38 canvases representing his work over the last five years.

And Fellini Dreamed of Picasso Malaga. *Until 13 May. Picasso Museum* Federico Fellini once lived in the house in Rome that Picasso had lived in half a century earlier. He never met Picasso but said he dreamed of him and it was those

dreams that inspired his latest exhibition in the Picasso Museum.

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

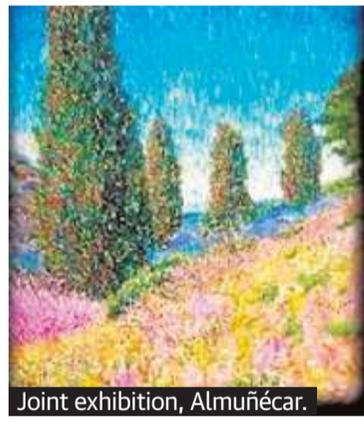
Artistas Independientes Álora. *Until 2 April. Bar Adeli Blanco, C/Santa Ana.* A collective exhibition. Closed Tuesdays.

Homes Real Estate and Art Fuengirola. *Until 6 April. Avda Los Boliches, 86.*

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

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.

Artistas Eclécticos Mijas Pueblo. *Until 30 March. Primavera.* In the tourist office. An exhibition of art by Elaine Carlton, Margit Björklund, Richard Wood and Sinikka Ahokas-Gröhn. **Stories in Colour.** Clínica veterinaria, Av México 21. Exhibition by Margit Björklund and Sinikka Ahokas-Gröhn.



Joint exhibition, Almuñécar.

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



Fellini, Malaga.

952933870 or email: Teresa@atlantinspmr.com More information <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.

Women and Weird Things Nerja. *Until 30 March. Sala Municipal de Exposiciones, C/Cristo 14.* Dutch artist Coby Bloemsma is exhibiting a collection of her paintings and sculpture.

Art Walk Cómpeta. *31 March, 1, 3, 4 April. Art studios and galleries in the village.* Thirty-five international artists will be displaying their work over the four days. There will be workshops for adults and children and a chance to see the artists at work. www.artcompeta.com or Facebook: [artcompeta](https://www.facebook.com/artcompeta).

Vientos del Sur Almuñécar. *Until 4 April. Casa de la Cultura.* A joint exhibition by Manu J. Pacheco and Simone.

CHARITY

Fashion Show for Cudeca Estepona. *8 April, 2pm. The American Club.* Clothes for men, women and children at good prices. Anne: 952 113 318

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 or starbambies5@gmail.com

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CHARITY

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Calahonda. 31 March, 7.30pm. Millenium Bar, C/José Orbaneja
A special night for Mods and Rockers with Rob Sas, Susan Mohr, Reality and "One Wish" Steve. Limited tickets are available from Millenium bar. Call Carlos 663083249 Funds raised for Cudeca.

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 with the Ginger Pig hoedown, an evening of country and western music at the Ginger Pig Country pub in Coín. It starts at 7.30pm. Tickets 20 euros available from the pub or call 628867980 Facebook: ARCH



Barber shop, Benalmádena

Queen Machine

Fuengirola. 21 April, doors open 7pm. Sohail Castle. The concert will begin with a performance by Paul Maxwell, also known as piano man. He will be followed by the "best group tribute to Queen in Europe", Queen Machine, in aid of Cudeca Cancer Care Hospice. More information henrik@eventhusest.es or call: 670635786 Tickets: www.tickettea.com

MUSIC & DANCE

The Wall Bar

Malaga. Hotel Vincci Posada del Patio, 11pm, entry free. 6 April. Trinita with Dana Andrews, Gianni Piras and Jesús Aranda. A fusion of jazz and blues, Spanish and English.

Heavy metal hits Malaga

:: TONY BRYANT

MALAGA. Blaze Bayley, the former lead singer of British heavy metal legends, Iron Maiden, will stop off for one show on the Costa del Sol during his current world-tour. Bayley is playing several dates in Spain to promote his latest album, Infinite Entanglement, which was released earlier this month. The tour has already passed through the UK, Belgium, France and Germany, and Bayley will perform in Barcelona, Valencia, Zaragoza and Madrid, before his gig in Malaga on Saturday 14 April.

Bayley started his musical career as the lead vocalist of Wolfesbane, an English heavy rock band who received considerable success with their 1989 debut album, Live Fast, Die Fast. Wolfesbane were the supporting act on Iron Maiden's UK leg of their No Prayers on the Road tour in 1990. Bayley's career elevated to global heights when he joined the band, with whom he toured extensively between 1994 and 1999.

The show, organised by BigM Promotions, will be held in the



Blaze Bayley (centre) with the legendary Iron Maiden. :: SUR

Sala Paris 15 in Malaga. Bayley will be supported by renowned rock guitarist, Luke Appleton. Appleton is also guitarist with UK metal band, Resolva, who have toured the world with legendary rock bands like Saxon and Iced Earth.

Tickets for the concert, which begins at 10pm, cost 17 euros. For more information: www.costadeldisco.com

INFORMATION

► **What:** Heavy metal concert► **Where:** Sala Paris 15, Calle La Orotava, 27, Malaga.► **When:** Saturday 14 April. 10pm.**Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra****Malaga. Auditorio del Museo Picasso**

17 April 8pm. Cuarteto con Fuoco. Beethoven's Quartet n°7 in F major, Op50 n°1 and Dvorak's Quarteto N°14 in A flat major Op 105, B193. www.orquestafilarmonicademalaga.com

Malaga. Auditorio Edgar Neville

13 April, 8pm. The orchestra will be playing pieces by Schumann (concerto in A minor Op129) with cello soloist Dragos Balan and Schubert (Symphony n°9 in C major 'La Grande').

Malaga. Teatro Cervantes

5, 6 April 8pm. Conducted by Pablo González, the orchestra will play Wagner's Flying Dutchman WWV.63 (overture). The oboe concerto in D major Op 144 by Richard Strauss with oboeist Ramón Ortega Quero followed in the second half by Nielson's symphony n°5 Op 50.



Keith James, Cómpea

<http://www.teatrocervantes.com>**Spiders of Marbs**

Benalmádena Costa. 30 March, 10pm. Bonanza bar. The popular David Bowie tribute band Spiders from Marbs will be in concert.

Keith James in concert

Cómpea. 1 April, 9pm. Galería luz de la Vida, C/Laberinto. Keith James is one of the most ac-

tive 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: artcomperta@gmail.com

A Cappella Magic

Benalmádena. 5 April, 8pm. Sala Fortuna, Hotel Torrequebrada. The tenth edition of the Spanish Association of Barbershop Singers (SABS) annual convention will include Crossroads, an American a cappella men's quartet and Sound House, a British ladies quartet.

Ricky Lavazza

Benalmádena. 14 April, 8pm. The Moonlight Lounge, Sunset Beach Hotel. 15€. The best of the West End and Broadway with Ricky Lavazza, Gemma Lloyd, Juliet Williams and Fibi McGregor. Tickets www.lavaproductions.rocks or from the hotel or call: 695887366

Romantic music

Cajiz. 19 April, 8pm. El Molino de Cajiz. Mezzosoprano Simona Mango, flautist Guiseppe Nova and pianist Ivana Marija Nidovic will be playing pieces by Ravel, Bizet, Fauré, Chaminade, Borne, Caplet and Sarasate. www.elmolinodecajiz.com

FLAMENCO

Flamenco abierto

Vélez-Málaga. Peña Flamenca Niño de Vélez, C/Tejeda 10. 29, 30, 31 March, 8pm. Samaruco Flamenco.



Ricky Lavazza, Benalmádena.

Flamenco in the Museum

Malaga. Museo de Arte Flamenco Peña Juan Breva, C/Ramón Franquelo. 31 March, 1pm. Ana Almagro (dance) with Miguel Astorga (vocals), José M. Millán 'Manú' (guitar). For information and bookings call 687 607 526 or email info@flamenka.com

Ana Pastrana

Nerja. 7 April, 9pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. 10€. Ana Pastrana will be dancing at this flamenco performance in Nerja.

LECTURES

U3A Lectures

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

Science and technology: 'Free will' 11 April, 11am-12.30pm.

Can we reconcile our intuitive feelings of 'free will' with the scientific notion of causality. And what are the implications for moral responsibility?

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Ana Pastrana, Nerja.

Science and Crime – ‘Beyond DNA’
 25 April, 11am-12.30pm.

What have been the developments in the scientific detection of crime since DNA Fingerprinting in 1985? How close are we now to getting a complete picture of a culprit from a sample of his DNA?

‘The science of stress’
 9 May, 11am-12.30pm.

A video of a Royal Institution talk where three professors look at different aspects of stress from psychology to physiology including psychosocial factors.

Torrox. Restaurante Parquesol, El Morche, 11am. Free. www.u3aaxarquia.com

Brexit and how it will affect you here in Spain - the story so far
 13 April, 11am

Myra Cecilia Azzopardi from the Citizen’s Advice Bureau Spain has examined the UK/EU agreement in

Emotional and physical health fair and workshops

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. From 6 to 8 April the Palacio de Ferias y Congresos (Fycma) will be hosting the tenth edition of the Natura Málaga, Feria de Vida Saludable y Sostenible, a fair to promote healthy and sustainable lifestyles.

Around twenty workshops and activities have been arranged for the public to take part in, all aimed at improving physical and emotional wellbeing. Among them will be opportunities to try out various types of yoga, pilates, kinesiology and quiromassage. There is also a workshop on the growth and nutrition of children.

The yoga sessions will be organised by the Instituto de Estudios del Yoga and will cover various areas such as yoga dance, mindfulness, miofascial, Kundalini yoga, Yin yoga and pure Indian hatha Yoga. There will also be classes for mantras and meditation with Tibetan bowl music. A series of workshops will explain how yoga can help physical and emotional conditions such as back care and introspection and self knowledge.

The physical activities, with the



Natura Malaga last year. :: SUR.

backing of the Organización Naturópática ‘VIX Natura Regeneratrix’ Fenaco, are aimed at all age groups, including quiromassage for children. Aspects that link nutrition and children’s growth, such as advice on how to help a baby relax when suffering from colic and vegetarian diets for kids, will also be discussed.

The full programme can be found at: <http://naturamalaga.malaga.eu/>

INFORMATION

► **Where.** Palacio de Ferias y Congresos, Malaga.

► **What.** Workshops and activities to promote physical and emotional health and wellbeing.

► **When.** 6-8 April

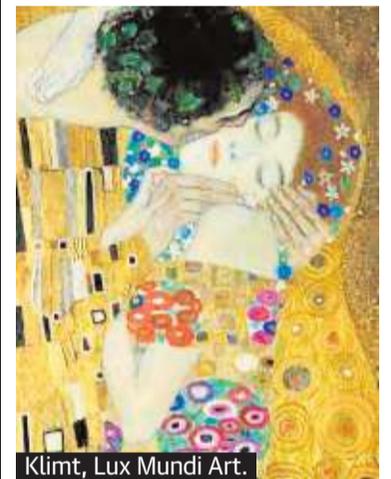
detail and is well qualified to provide reliable, independent advice on your acquired rights, freedoms and resident status as a European citizen.

Lux Mundi talk

Fuengirola. 24 April, midday. Fundación Lux Mundi, C/Nueva. 15€. A talk about the country, customs and people of Colombia, finishing off with a lunch of typical Colombian food. Reservations: www.luxmundi.org or call 952474 840 or e-mail: luxmundif@gmail.com

Lux Mundi Art Appreciation

Torre del Mar. 16 April, 10.30am. Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, Avda Moscatel. 2€. “The Private Life of Masterpieces” The Kiss by Klimt. After watching the BBC arts documentary there will be a discussion.



Klimt, Lux Mundi Art.



MOVIE LISTING
 From Friday 29th March to
 Thursday 5th April

ORIGINAL VERSION SUBTITLED SPANISH

PETER RABBIT
 Director Will Gluck
 Voices James Corden and Fayssal Bazzi
 ANIMATION - 95 min.

From Thursday 29 to Saturday 31: 15:40, 18:20
 Sunday 1: 11:45, 15:40, 18:20
 From Monday 2 to Thursday 5: 17:15

ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD

From Thursday 29 to Sunday 1: 15:40
 From Monday 2 to Thursday 5: 17:00

TOMB RAIDER

From Thursday 29 to Sunday 1: 15:40

READY PLAYER ONE
 Director Steven Spielberg
 Starring Tye Sheridan and Olivia Cooke
 SCI-FI - 139 min.

From Thursday 29 to Sunday 1: 15:40, 17:30
 From Monday 2 to Thursday 5: 17:00, 21:45

LOVING PABLO
 Director Fernando León de Aranoa
 Starring Penélope Cruz and Javier Bardem
 DRAMA - 127 min.

From Thursday 29 to Sunday 1: 19:45
 From Monday 2 to Thursday 5: 17:00

RED SPARROW

From Thursday 29 to Sunday 1: 15:40, 22:15
 From Monday 2 to Thursday 5: 19:30

EARLY MAN

Sunday 1: 11:45

EVENTS

Horticultural Fair**Benalmádena.** Until 1 April, La Paloma Park

The 12th edition of the Feria de Plantas de Colección is being held in Paloma Park from today Friday until Sunday 1 April. It will house collections of unusual and rare plants as well as spring bedding etc. www.benalmadena.es

Artesan market**Torremolinos.** Until 31 March, La**Carihuela, Plaza Chiriva.**

The association Asociación Atenea de Artesanos y Artesanas Torremolinos will be holding a craft market over Easter.

Lord of the Flies**Fuengirola.** 6-10 April 7.30pm, 7pm on Sunday. Salon Varietés.

A terrifying and haunting story of schoolboys and savagery. adapted for stage by Nigel Williams.

Trip to Priego de Córdoba**Fuengirola.** 18 April departing 8.25am from bullring and 8.20am**Feria ground.** 25€

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

Excursion to Puente Genil**Torre del Mar.** 12 April. Various departure points. 25€

Guided visit of the town, the quince factory, museums and original electricity works. Lux Mundi Torre del Mar. Tel:952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@luxmundi.org

Trip to Gibraltar**Torre del Mar.** 19 April, 17 May, 21 June. Various departure points. 12€.

Passport required. Lux Mundi Torre del Mar. Tel:952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@luxmundi.org

Royal British Legion Cruise**Mollina.** 15 November.

The cruise around the central Mediterranean area will commence on 15 November and will be for seven nights, eight days. Prices range from 850 -955 € depending on choice of cabin. Organised in conjunction with Halcón viajes and Pullmantur. More details from: jfloresmollina@halcon-viajes.es or call Dave Punshon 689455704 or email: punshon.dave@gmail.com

O. V. FILM

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



Plant Fair, Benalmádena.

Cine Albéniz

C/Alcazabilla 4, Málaga. Tel: 902 36 02 95 or visit www.cinealbeniz.com or www.unientradas.es

The Party: 19.30.**The Shape of Water:** 20.00.**Cinesur El Ingenio**

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

Peter Rabbit: 12.00, 16.50 (every day).**Ready Player One:** 12.15 (every day); 17.00, 19.45, 22.30 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).**Loving Pablo:** 19.30, 22.0 (Tues).**The Equalizer:** 18.05, 20.15 (Tues).**Cinesur Miramar**

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

Peter Rabbit: 12.10, 16.00, 18.00.**Ready Player One:** 12.00, 16.20, 19.00, 21.40, 00.20.**The Shape of Water:** 21.50 (Tues).**Red Sparrow:** 20.00 (Tues).**The Equalizer:** 18.05, 20.10 (Tues).**Cines Teatro Goya**

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

Tomb Raider: 15.40 (Fri-Sun).**All The Money In The World:** 15.40 (Fri-Sun); 17.00 (Mon-Thurs).**Ready Player One:** 15.40, 17.30 (Fri-Sun); 17.00, 21.45 (Mon-Thurs).**Loving Pablo:** 19.45 (Fri-Sun); 17.00 (Mon-Thurs).**Peter Rabbit:** 11.45 (Sun); 15.40, 18.20 (Fri-Sun); 17.15 (Mon-Thurs).**Early Man:** 11.45 (Sun).**Red Sparrow:** 15.40, 22.15 (Fri-Sun); 19.30 (Mon-Thurs).**Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor**

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

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

Ready Player One: 14.00 (Fri, Sat, Sun), 17.00 (every day).**The Equalizer:** 12.50 (Fri, Sat, Sun); 15.45 (Tues, Wed).**Peter Rabbit:** 15.30 (Fri, Sat, Sun).**Pacific Ring Insurrection:** 15.30 (Fri, Sat, Sun).**Live screenings of opera and ballet and theatre**www.yelmocines.es**Così Fan Tutte, Met opera.** 31 March, 18.55 (Plaza Mayor, Rincón de la Victoria, Vía)lía)**Giselle, Bolshoi Ballet.** 10 April, 20.15 (Plaza Mayor, Rincón de la Victoria, Vía)lía).

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The South Spain Boat Show opens in Benalmádena

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

BENALMÁDENA. The first edition of the South Spain Boat Show opened this week, offering sailing lovers a new showcase where they can see new and second hand boats.

Rodman, Sessa Marine, Starfisher, Monterrey, Pronautica, Dipol Glass, Suzuki, Volvo and the new Sessa Key Largo 27 in-board. Pronautica presents three of its models, the 660, the new 25 foot and the sea all-terrain 880 Hard Top; as well as the Rodman 1040, several models of Monterrey, Dipol Glass and second hand boats.

Recognised Malaga companies in the sector are participating in the event, which seeks to revitalise the market and tourism in the province.

The exhibition covers 2,500 square metres and will be located in the boatyard at the port in Benalmádena. There is also a marquee set up on the esplanade for visitors.

The show is not just a commercial space for lovers of these types



Luxury boats moored at Benalmádena. :: SUR.

INFORMATION

► **Where.** Port of Benalmádena.

► **What.** A range of boats from various well known companies.

► **When.** Until 31 March. 10am-7pm

► **Visitor registration.** www.vaderobenalmadena.com or call: 9525647 00

of boats: "We also want to encourage activities related to navigation at sea and give basic information on boat handling," said the organisers.

Over thirty new and second hand boats are at the show offering "a great opportunity to experience the passion for the sea and to buy boats at a good price", said José Manuel Antón, representative of Yachting Spain, one of the exhibitors participating at the boat show.



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Finca La Torre wins a national Best Extra Virgin Olive Oil award for the fifth time in six years

The olive mill in Bobadilla was presented with the prize for the best olive oil in the Frutado Verde Amargo category

AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

ANTEQUERA. The organic extra virgin olive oil that is produced by Finca La Torre in Bobadilla, near Antequera, continues to win awards in national and international competitions. After recently winning the Best Extra Virgin Olive Oil in the Province of Malaga in the Frutado Verde Intenso category, the Antequera olive mill has achieved the

impossible: its distinction for the fifth time in six years with the Food Award of Spain as Best Extra Virgin Olive Oil of 2017-2018, granted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Environment.

This small business produces between 80,000 and 100,000 litres of olive oil a year. Since 2012, Finca la Torre has achieved the highest distinction as Best Extra Virgin Olive Oil, in five editions of the Food Awards of Spain, this time winning in the Frutado Verde Amargo category. In 2016 the company only made it as far as the finals. Quite an achievement, considering that in Spain, as the world's largest olive producer, there are many companies that pro-

duce an EVOO of excellent quality.

The government grants these awards to help promote the highest quality Spanish virgin olive oils and encourage producers to make and market them. They also aim to improve the image and position of the olive oil market and encourage consumers to appreciate some of the sensory characteristics of olive oil.

Finca la Torre sells its EVOO in 25 countries, including the United States, Mexico, Germany, the United Kingdom, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Italy, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, Sweden and Denmark, as well as in the Middle East.

Thanks to its numerous awards,

the Bobadilla oil mill has managed to triple its turnover over the past three years. By 2018, the company is looking to increase sales to 1.2 million euros, which shows how its commitment to excellent qual-

ity is leading it to live a constant evolution.

Finca la Torre is owned by the company Agricultura Holding AG of Switzerland and is headed by agronomist Víctor Pérez.



Victor Pérez, director of Finca la Torre, alongside some of the oil processing equipment. :: A. P.



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World class Malaga tripe

The restaurant Casa Carlos at La Malagueta has been preparing 'callos' since 1936 and took part in the world tripe competition

:: JOSÉ MANUEL ALDAY

MÁLAGA. The second annual Nagnar world tripe championship was held in Oviedo last month and competitors included chefs from Michelin starred restaurants around the world.

The competition was for the best cooked tripe dish and the Casa Carlos bar at La Malagueta in Malaga city was selected to take part.

Dolores Verdugo Macho has been making 'callos' at the bar since she was 25 years old and she is still cooking them now she is 81. She keeps the recipe that has made her dish so famous a closely guarded secret.

"We can give you the recipe, but you would have to take my mother too, she gives a special touch to the dish adding a few spices here and there," joke her two daughters, Carmen and Dolores Mejías



Dolores Verdugo Macho preparing tripe. :: SUR



The coveted half cow, half pig trophy. :: SUR

Verdugo, who have been running the bar.

The difference in the 'callos' from Malaga to those from other places are the chickpeas, explain the women.

"The 'callos malagueña' that we prepare contains veal stomach, pig's feet and ears, chickpeas, chorizo, blood sausage and spices."

Fridays are 'callos' days and plenty of customers come in to buy them to eat at home.

"We have been serving home-

cooked food for many years. Things were difficult after the nearby courts closed but business is slowly taking off again little by little and we are aware that tourists like our dishes too," they point out.

Although the bar didn't win the competition this year (the prized golden statue which represents half a pig and half cow was won by El Mesón de Gonzalo, in Salamanca), "we are very proud to have represented the traditional cuisine of Malaga, with ingredients and products from Malaga," say the sisters.

The bar was one of the first to join the Sabor a Málaga group, a promotional brand that aims to give the food of the province a global identity.

ANDREW J. LINN

AN APP TO END WASTAGE



Everyone knows that 70% of new commercial ventures don't make it through their first year, and in the case of technology start-ups the figure is even higher. We also know that in the USA there is nothing shameful about failures featuring in a CV, and indeed they are almost obligatory.

With hindsight is it easy to see why some companies failed, and we have to wonder how they ever got financed in the first place. Would we have been enthusiastic about an idea born in Finland, where Tuure Parkkinen was concerned about the amount of restaurant and takeaway meals that were finishing up in the rubbish bin – apparently 85 million kilos annually of the food prepared for customers, or 20% of the total?

ResQ is an app that connects restaurants with surplus food to people in their areas who will buy it at a discount, sometimes as high as 70%. In just two years there are 70,000 registered users, and the formula is available in 15 Finnish cities and towns, and 22 in Sweden. It has also spread to Germany, Estonia, Holland and even Malaysia. A total of 300 restaurants participate. Clearly the secret of its success is simplicity. Once the user has selected the meal and paid online, it is only

necessary to collect the food. If they are fortunate it is often possible to find a kind-hearted chef at the end of his shift prepared to cook a meal in the restaurant for the lucky subscriber. Not just restaurants but fast food places, bakeries and the like are listed. All the provider has to do is publish a picture of the food available and the price, and the rest is technologically achieved.

Would such a scheme work here with tapa bars, takeaways and regular restaurants? We shall soon find out as ResQ has its sights set on Spain to open in the short term.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Marqués de Vizhoya

There are many wines that for geographical reasons fall outside one of the officially recognised regions, meaning they cannot use the title of the area on their labels and therefore prices are lower.

This wine is one of them, and comes from the white Rías Baixas zone, previously Albariño (which is the grape variety). Marvellous value at 5.50 euros



my home SUR

Kitchen page 55
Removals page 56
Real estate page 56

Furniture page 56
Glass curtains page 57

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Glass curtains

All out for an immediate La Liga return

Planning is already well under way for the Blue and Whites' inevitable relegation to Segunda

The club will claim all of its parachute payments in the first year in a bid to regain top-flight status at the first time of asking

SPORTS DEPARTAMENTO

MALAGA. Relegation to Segunda is a formality. Though not mathematically confirmed, Malaga are already looking towards life outside the top flight but have their sights firmly set on an immediate return.

The club has already expressed to La Liga its wish to claim its relegation 'parachute payment' in full in the first season after relegation (it is normally done in two), in order to compensate for the loss of television revenue and invest in a squad capable of launching a promotion push.

According to calculations made by the club, the figure they will receive, across four payments between September and December, is in the region of 21 million euros. This is more than double the figure received by Sporting Gijón when they were relegated last year, owing to the fact that Malaga have been in the top flight for the past ten years and their television receipts have consistently been in the top ten in the division, including this year if projections are to be believed.

A squad losing value

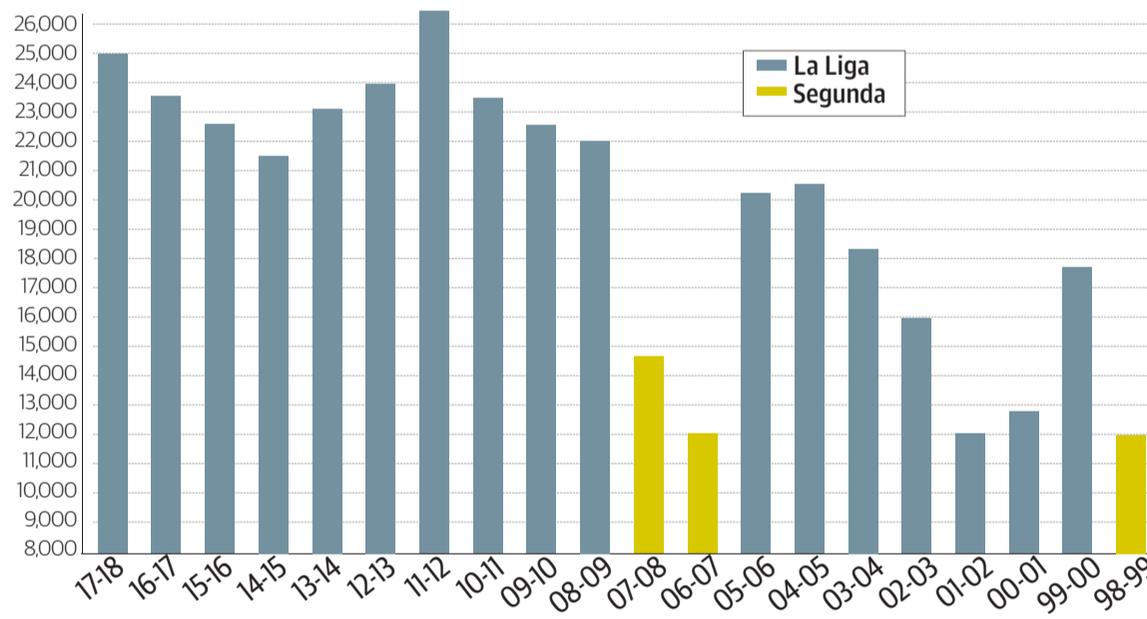
This amount will cover some of the expected 80 per cent reduction in TV money, with some left over to spare to invest in a playing squad which has also lost significant value in recent years.

Malaga was the only La Liga team during this international break not to lose a single player for international duty. Just a year ago, the club had seven players who were regulars with their national teams (Roberto Rosales, Mikel Villanueva, Adalberto Peñaranda and Juanpi with Venezuela; Bakary Koné with Burkina Faso; Denys Boyko with Ukraine; and Federico Ricca with Uruguay) while Youssef



La Rosaleda was full for the visit of Barcelona earlier this month. **FRITO SALAS**

SEASON TICKET HOLDER NUMBERS AT LA ROSALEDA



En-Nesyri received occasional call-ups by Morocco.

The result, according to Transfermarkt.es, is a fall in value in the playing staff to 53.9 million euros, down from 80.6 at the end of last season.

Adjusted to the level

However, Malaga have the unusual advantage of having several players on their roster already adjusted to the required level next year.

Youngsters Javi Ontiveros and Álex Mula have enjoyed regular football on loan spells at Valladolid and Tenerife, respectively, this campaign and could go straight into the first team next year.

Likewise, Michael Santos and Jony, two players out of their depth in La Liga, are enjoying a new lease of life on loan at Sporting Gijón and could be earning a second chance at La Rosaleda, depending of course on who will be sitting in the dugout next year.

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IN FIGURES

21 million

This is the amount the club stands to receive next season as so-called parachute payments from La Liga following their relegation.

14,254

The number of season ticket holders for the last campaign Malaga competed in Segunda, 2007-2008. The club ended the sales campaign well into the season, which saw fans sign up after watching their team win the first seven games in a row.

Filling La Rosaleda

While television money makes up a sizeable proportion of the club's takings, ensuring that fans keep coming to watch their team in Segunda is a cause of great concern for directors at the club.

With more than 25,000 people currently season ticket holders, the second highest level in history (the highest was 26,500 when the team was in the Champions League), the club is aware that many of these are unlikely to want to renew, given the way in which the sporting project has taken a steep nosedive.

It is estimated that season tickets have generated five million euros of revenue this year, in addition to a considerable sum (as yet unconfirmed) for tickets for one-off games. The significant drop in standard in visiting teams (namely the 'big boys') will see these sales hit most.

Though there are examples of teams gaining a greater following after relegation (due to a number of factors including a drop in prices, more favourable scheduling and a greater choice of seat), the last time Malaga were relegated, in 2006, sales dropped to just above 12,000, then fell again to 11,000 after a disastrous first year back in Segunda.

Shirt sponsorship deal to expire in June

The contract with Malaga's main shirt sponsors, betting company Marathonbet, expires in June and is yet another issue that the club needs to resolve going forward.

Though the company had an option to extend its existing deal for a third year, it is understood that terms will have to be renegotiated should a new deal be signed because of the club's impending relegation.

The current deal is worth 1.5 million euros a year and was a major landmark for the club after going several years without any main sponsor. However, this figure will drop despite Marathonbet's willingness to advertise in Segunda.

Malaga's other sponsorship deals are not likely to be in jeopardy. Shirt manufacturers Nike will continue to make the side's kits but have never provided the club with any income, apart from the profits raised from sales of merchandising across the club's outlets.

However, with the renewal campaign running well into the new season, the figure rose to 14,254 after seven wins from the first seven games.

This time, with the club aspiring to return to La Liga at the first time of asking, it is hoped that fans will be excited by the overhaul of the squad - an operation which could have disastrous consequences if done badly (as was the case last summer).

Now, more so than ever, the summer is of major importance for the future of Malaga CF. Planning has already begun and the club needs to get it right.

Contributors to this article: Antonio Góngora, Sergio Cortés, Pedro Luis Alonso, Daryl Finch.



A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports
@robopalmer



A dilemma like no other

Julen Lopetegui has an almost impossible task in deciding who to leave at home for the World Cup

The Spain national team manager is trying hard to disguise his delight but deep down he has to be the most satisfied of all those preparing for this summer's World Cup Finals.

While most of his counterparts are trying to fill a plane with players worthy enough to perform at the ultimate tournament, Julen Lopetegui's only dilemma is who to leave at home.

Their performance against Argentina (match report on page 60), who had been fourth-ranked by FIFA until last Tuesday, was so outstanding that the supporters were screaming '¡olé!' after every pass after only twenty eight minutes.

It's true that the South Americans didn't have the best player in the world at their disposal. Lionel Messi was barely able to watch from the stands. Kun Agüero and Angel Di María were missing too.

Spain countered this by scoring six goals without the talents of their most outstanding individual David Silva and the influence of Sergi Busquets. Argentina missed individuals, Spain have a squad so strong they don't rely on any single player.

The well of talent is so deep, Lopetegui will be calling Álvaro Morata to tell him to make holiday plans for the summer. He's not alone. If Cesc Fàbregas, An-



The Spain coach (centre) has a tough choice to make. :: EFE

der Herrera and Juan Mata qualified for say England, they'd be almost certain starters. None of the three will be considered.

Spain have cover in every position. David De Gea keeps goal but Kepa Arrizabalaga is an able deputy.

The back four is world class. The odd couple Gerard Piqué and Sergio Ramos, flanked by Dani Carvajal and Jordi Alba.

Andrés Iniesta leads the midfield, backed up by Busquets and Koke.

David Silva is one of the outstanding individuals but Marco Asensio and Isco could emerge from the World Cup as true legends.

I've named eleven already without the consideration of a centre forward. Spain have played without one previously and can do it again, however Lopetegui's style has been to play with at least one central striker.

Diego Costa was the chosen one in the qualifiers but lost his

place with his early sabbatical. He bounced back with a brave goal against Argentina.

His replacement Rodrigo slipped into the system with goals against Albania and Germany.

You can't rule out Iago Aspas who looked to be third choice and unlikely until he came on to score one and set up two at the Metropolitan on Tuesday. He is the top-scoring Spaniard in La Liga and deserves to be a back-up.

There's not enough space to mention all of the back-ups in the party but there's an international-class replacement in every area, with maybe the exception of centre half, where there's only Nacho.

Just imagine if Lionel Messi had pledged his allegiance to Spain as a teenager instead of the country he left behind as a kid? There would only have been one team in it this summer.

The bookies make Spain fourth favourites to win the World Cup. Grab the odds while you can.

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Isco bags first hat-trick in historic rout of Argentina

The Real Madrid midfielder is a key man in Lopetegui's set-up and is certain to star at the upcoming World Cup

SPAIN 6 ARGENTINA 1

BY DARYL FINCH

Julen Lopetegui may not have learned much from his side's routine 6-1 friendly win against Argentina on Tuesday night, but the one thing he will now be certain of is that Isco has to be a key part of his side for the World Cup.

Zinedine Zidane might not feel the same way when picking his Real Madrid side, but for Spain, everything ticks with the Benalmádena man in the team.

He was majestic at the Wanda Metropolitano, seamlessly linking defence and attack and bagging three impressive goals of his own before receiving a standing ovation.

Argentina, without their talisman Lionel Messi, were made to look distinctly average by the hosts who took an early lead in the 12th minute courtesy of the brute force of Diego Costa. The Atlético forward, making his first start for the national team after a nine-month hiatus, bundled the ball through keeper Sergio Romero who had to be withdrawn because of injury.

Isco doubled the lead just 15 minutes later as he swept home a flowing attacking move past former Malaga keeper Willy Caballero.

The visitors were handed a lifeline going into half time when Nicolás Otamendi's header was misjudged by David de Gea and halved the deficit.

However, La Roja blew their opponents away in a second half during which Jorge Sampaoli's side didn't stand a chance. Isco and Thiago scored two in quick succession in the 52nd and 55th minute, respectively, before a sublime bit of skill from Gerard Piqué in front of his own goal earned him an uncharacteristically warm reception as he was given a rest.

Another quickfire double from substitute Iago Aspas, who beat Caballero to a long ball, and Isco again finished off the tie for good with 20 minutes still remaining.

This meant there was enough time for both Marcos Alonso and Dani Parejo to get their first full caps and for the fans to enjoy an exhibition in football.

Following the match, Isco expressed his delight at getting his first professional hat-trick and admitted that he relishes playing for his country because he has "the confidence of the coach".

"Perhaps at Real Madrid the problem is that I haven't quite earned it yet," he admitted.



Sergio Ramos kisses the boot of the hat-trick hero. BY JUAN MEDINA / REUTERS

World champions hold dominant Spain to a draw in Düsseldorf

BY RODRIGO ERRASTI

The meeting of the last two world champions produced an entertaining draw in Düsseldorf on Friday night.

Spain took an early lead when Rodrigo smashed home from Andrés Iniesta's pass in the sixth minute, but the reigning champions equal-

ised through Thomas Muller's 25-yard curling effort half an hour later.

Though the visitors dominated the ball and produced some outstanding passages of play, Germany were more efficient in possession and carved out good chances for Mats Hummels and Toni Kroos in the second half.

Landmark win for Gibraltar as they beat Latvia in first game on the Rock in two years

GIBRALTAR 1 LATVIA 0

BY SUR

GIBRALTAR. A young Gibraltar side did their country proud as they secured only their second ever win a UEFA-affiliated nation in a friendly match on home soil on Sunday.

The side saw off Latvia by a goal to nil in their first game on the Rock for two years, having played their home World Cup qualifiers in nearby Faro.

The Victoria Stadium was full for the side's homecoming and the team did not disappoint.

Despite a number of players, including Mikey Yome and John Paul Duarte, withdrawing from the squad through injury, added to a last-minute knock to Joseph Chipolina, the youngsters called up from the under-21 side in their place stepped up to the plate.

The home side, backed by their passionate fans, restricted Latvia and held them until the 88th minute when Liam Walker's freekick deflected off the wall to wrongfoot the goalkeeper and give his side a historic victory and their first goal on home soil in four years.

Marbella underwhelming in goalless draw in Lorca

The Costa side remain top despite Cartagena's victory over Jumilla

BY OPTA

LORCA (MURCIA). It may have ended scoreless, but Saturday's clash between Lorca Deportiva and Marbella was nonetheless a game of two halves. In the first, the hosts seemed the better side, but Marbella really came into their own in the second. Neither team, however, were able to take their chances in the windy conditions.

Lorca's stunning start surprised Marbella. In the first ten minutes the home side had two excellent goalscoring opportunities. Chirri was a real menace on the right wing, acting as provider-in-chief for Saura and Rodríguez.

In the fifth minute, Chirri himself saw his low shot pushed away by Wilfred at full stretch. Three minutes later, Chirri cut through the Marbella defence into a dangerous possession and tried to cross it in to Javi Suara, but Wilfred anticipated this and plucked the ball from the air.

Later in the half, Marbella won more possession but looked as if they had little idea of how best to utilise it. Lorca played aggressively and shut



Juanfran controls the ball in the Lorca box. BY OPTA

down the passing lanes. Añón took a long shot around the 30-minute mark, but it was guided over the crossbar by a diving Simón.

Marbella keeper Wilfred saved his team twice in the 31st and 32nd minute, respectively. The first was a close-range shot from Juan Arcas and the second an effort from distance from Chirri.

The second half was very different from the first. Marbella controlled possession and the rhythm of the match, but were unable to find a way

past Simón.

Their best attempts came from a long-range Añón effort, a precise curled shot from Juanfran inside the box, and a powerful attempt from Alex Bernal.

Overall, Lorca won the tactical battle against an underwhelming Marbella side seemingly intent on maintaining a so-called "English average" (winning at home and drawing away).

Their next match is against Linense on Saturday.

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Malaga to host BMX World Tour final this September

The event returns to the Costa once again after last year's huge success, but this time the city will stage the coveted final

:: JUAN CALDERÓN

MALAGA. The world's top BMX experts will arrive in Malaga at the end of September to compete for the title of world champion. American company Vans confirmed the Rubén Alcántara skatepark as the venue for the event during its presentation of the 2018 programme.

In 2017 it came as a surprise when the city was chosen as one of the locations for a world tour qualifier. Bikers from all over the globe came to the park, which has quickly become regarded as one of the best in the world.

The quality of the bowl designed by Rubén Alcántara was the principal factor behind the decision made by Vans, but also the hugely positive experience of last year, with great interest shown by the general public and both local and international press.

Malaga will not only host the final of the European Tour, which will be held on 21 September, but also will host the World Tour finals on 22 and 23 of the same month.

The latter competition got under



Rubén Alcántara skatepark is a world-class venue. :: NIÑO SALAS

way at the end of last week in Santiago (Chile) and will visit Sydney (Australia) on 27 April; Woodward, Pennsylvania in June; Huntington Beach, California in the United States and Guadalajara, Mexico. The finals will then take place in Malaga, the only European destination.

The sporting director of Vans BMX Pro Cup, Jerry Badders, confirmed that Malaga will host the finals, stating: "Rubén Alcántara park is made for BMX. Last year, the at-

mosphere and the professionalism was incredible in Malaga and we're sure it will be the same this time around."

The 2017 edition was won by the American Chase Hawk, joined on the podium by the Canadian Corey Walsh and Spaniard Sergio Layos.

Last year's qualifier in Malaga started strangely after the city's mayor, Francisco de la Torre, suffered a fall after trying to copy the moves of the bikers inside the bowl.



Alejandro Davidovich in action on Tuesday. :: SUR

Casino Admiral Trophy reaches its climax

:: SUR

MARBELLA. The Casino Admiral Trophy in Marbella draws to a close this weekend, but there won't be a Spanish winner in its inaugural year.

The ATP Challenger, which got under way at the Puente Romano tennis club on Saturday, had by Wednesday lost all of its Spanish participants.

The first round was disastrous for the local players with Adrián Menéndez, Tommy Robredo and Marcel Granollers all crashing out, leaving only youngster Alejandro Davidovich, Enrique López and Roberto Caballés in the round of 16.

The former, Wimbledon junior

champion, then lost out to Argentinian Marco Trungelliti 6-3 6-3 on Wednesday in the early game on centre court before Belgian Kimmer Coppejans eliminated Caballés 2-6 6-3 6-1 and Italian Stefano Travaglia ended López's tournament, 6-7 6-2 7-5.

Tickets are still available for the semifinals and final which will take place today, Friday, and tomorrow, Saturday, respectively.

Today's games on centre court will take place at 11am and 3pm with tickets, which can be purchased from www.marbellachallenger.com, costing 10 euros.

Saturday's final will be played at 5pm and tickets cost 15 euros.



Lupi Rinero attempts a conversion. :: J. RODRÍGUEZ

Trocadero Marbella finish the season with a prestigious victory

:: JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

MARBELLA. Trocadero Marbella Rugby Club brought the curtain down on their season with a convincing victory over CD Arquitectura on Saturday in front of 400 fans at Bahía's Park who made the effort to see their team play despite the weather.

After 22 intense matchdays, the team end the season in seventh position in group C of the División de

Honor B. In their second season in the silver category, the team have improved on their performance compared to the previous year, and have set the objective of promotion to the upper echelons of Spanish rugby within the next three years.

A good end to the season

Santi Pando was the top scorer with three tries to his name, all three of

which were converted by Lupi Rinero. In the first half the local side were dominant, maintaining possession, posing an attacking threat and winning the first half by a convincing 17-0. However, rugby is full of surprises and the Madrid side came out with renewed vigour, scoring 24 points in a whitewash. Trocadero Marbella were missing two players during this period, with a temporary exclusion for Stefano Tucconi and a red card for Jorge Rodríguez.

However, the local side managed to score two more converted tries in the closing stages, once they had stemmed the tide.

Over the season, Marbella have had eleven victories and eleven defeats, a respectable tally for a side still adjusting to the second division.

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▲ **Basketball.** Following a disappointing showing in the Euroleague against Brose Baskets on Friday (93-88), which confirmed their elimination from the tournament, Unicaja were hoping to react in the Andalusian derby away at Betis on Sunday in the league (pictured). However, despite pushing their rivals to the final whistle, the Malaga side lost 89-88. :: AGENCIA LOF



▲ **Inline hockey.** The region's young inline hockey players faced off in Fuengirola on Saturday in the latest round of Liga Andaluza fixtures. The Fuengirola Lions teams picked up four wins from five across the benjamin, alevin and infantil categories. :: JIRKKA JURVANEN



▲ **Formula 1.** McLaren driver Fernando Alonso placed fifth in the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne, the first race of the season. This impressive showing will go some way to silencing some of his critics for the time being at least. Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel came in first ahead of Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton. :: EFE



► **Lawn bowls.** The Champion of Champions competition was held recently at Santa Maria Bowls Club to find Malaga province's Lady and Gents Champions. Nine men and seven ladies battled against each other trying to reach 21 shots first. Overall winners were Val Thornton and Garry Aldridge. :: SUR



▲ **Polo.** Cria PX-La Isla came out on top in the opening tournament of the season at Santa María Polo Club in Sotogrande on Sunday. The team made up by Xeres González, Rosendo Torreguitar, Pelayo Berazadi and Pedro Beca beat Sapphire-Bayswater 8-5 in the final. :: SUR

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Rhapsody	01/04	Napoli	-	10.00	11.00
Norwegian Spirit	02/04	Funchal	Alicante	07.00	17.00
Seven Seas Explorer	02/04	Funchal	Alicante	08.00	17.00
Corinthian	03/04	Gibraltar	Cartagena	07.00	16.00
Celestial Olympia	03/04	Ajaccio	-	14.00	15.00
MSC Orchestra	05/04	Funchal	Civitavecchia	08.00	14.00
Seven Seas Mariner	06/04	-	-	08.00	20.00
Aidablu	06/04	Cadiz	Valencia	09.00	19.00
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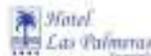
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Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
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Aries
March 21st - April 20th
When getting closer to the lives of others we can realise just how good our own lives are.

Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
A surge of energy midweek sees a return to thoughts of someone who you have not seen for some time.

Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Maybe your relationship just needs a change of scenery? Make a point of getting out regularly and doing something new together.

Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Getting to grips with a long-term plan is hard. Maybe your enthusiasm is waning?

Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Be kind to yourself and cut back on the stress. Easy to say, I know, but 'chilling out' regularly does help.

Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Being good at trusting your instincts comes from listening carefully. Keep your sails full of fun and enjoy the ride.

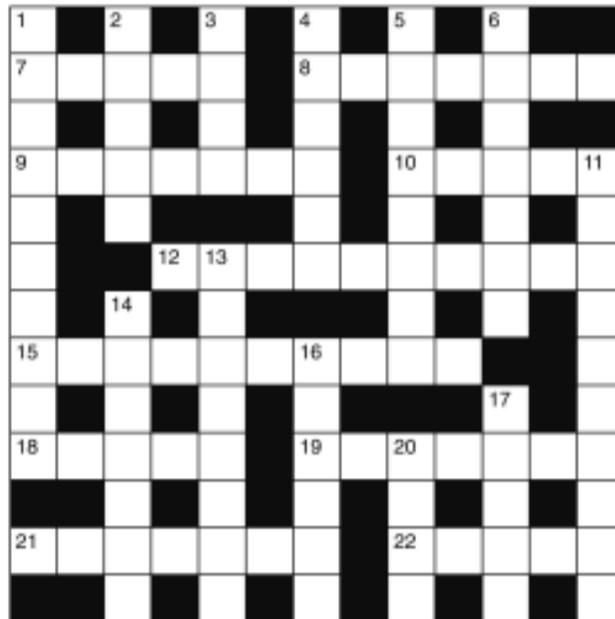
Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Being a caring person, it is natural to you to worry for and about others. Someone is looking at you through loving, rose-tinted glasses.

Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Little ripples of contentment bring a special kind of harmony to the week ahead.

Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Thinking time and making that essential list are more important right now than direct action.

Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
When something has to be done you are not the sort of person to hang around muttering.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11288



Across

- 7 Worthy of respect, though not entirely legal (5)
- 8 Clearly she's reached some stage in her career (7)
- 9 The first mate takes the others for a tough climb (7)
- 10 Audibly allowed (5)
- 12 It may be a tiny girl's reason for not singing (10)
- 15 Toast? Well, we enjoy it! (4,6)
- 18 In panic he hides in a corner (5)
- 19 Asian country incorporating an American state (7)
- 21 Not altogether unfair (7)
- 22 Shut tight (5)

Down

- 1 One keeps dry on it (5,5)
- 2 Tender proposal? (5)
- 3 Be a shade over-extravagant? (4)
- 4 Unrefined and hearty perhaps (6)
- 5 Honest view about retrograde art (8)
- 6 Answers which may be dispensed with (7)
- 11 Specified an intention on the wrong date (10)
- 13 Fit as a lithe cat could be (8)
- 14 Business anxiety (7)
- 16 A number lead lazily and greedily (6)
- 17 Bird in top gear, apparently! (5)
- 20 Set of cards on board (4)

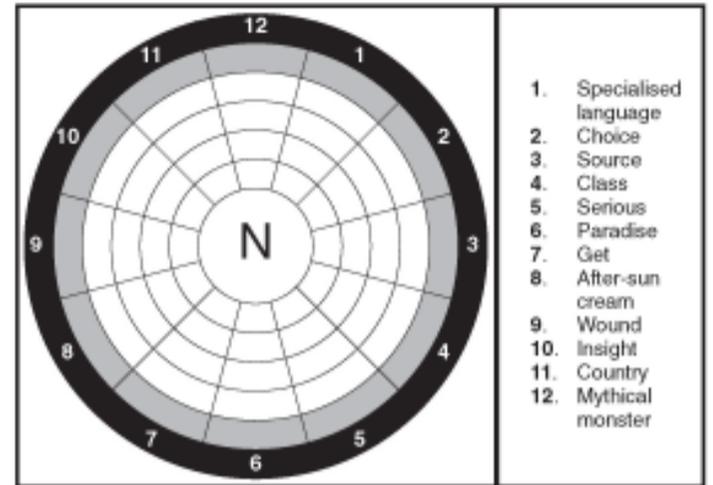
SUDOKU BY HANZO

Instructions
Complete the square making sure that every row of nine numbers includes all digits from 1 to 9, every column includes all digits from 1 to 9 and every 3 by 3 subsection includes all digits from 1 to 9

			2	6	1			
		8			7	4		
	9	4	3			7	6	
			5			8		7
	8	2	7	9				
	1			6			2	3
4		5		2	9		8	6
2	3				8			1

CLOCKWORD

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter N in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a pianist and TV presenter.



- 1. Specialised language
- 2. Choice
- 3. Source
- 4. Class
- 5. Serious
- 6. Paradise
- 7. Get
- 8. After-sun cream
- 9. Wound
- 10. Insight
- 11. Country
- 12. Mythical monster

THE WORDPUZZLER



CAN you identify the first names of the architects listed below?

- 1. Casson
- 2. Adam
- 3. Nash
- 4. Lutyens
- 5. Rogers
- 6. Jones
- 7. Foster
- 8. Gropius
- 9. Stirling
- 10. Paxton

INTERNATIONAL RADIO

Talk Radio Europe
105.5 Axarquía
91.5 Costa del Sol East
91.9 Costa del Sol West
98.7 Gibraltar/Sotogrande
News, interviews, lifestyle, sport and BBC World Service.

Global (93.6 and 96.4FM)
All week round the clock music and entertainment

Radio Radio Network (96 and 98.3 FM). Music 24 hours.

Central FM (98.6 FM, 103.8)
All week, classic tracks and today's music broadcast to the Costa del Sol

ACE FM (106.8 FM)
Inland radio, news and music
The Beat fm (106 FM)
24 hours, music and entertainment

Spectrum (105.5 FM, Costa Almeria/Mojácar 92.6 FM)
24 hour music and entertainment

Radio Mijas (107.7 FM)
3 p.m. News, views and music

Radio Sol Almirajara (99.1 FM)
Nerja radio in English and German and night time World Radio Network

HeartfmSpain (88.5 FM Costa, 96.1 FM inland) Music, entertainment, news

Lick FM (103.6 FM Marbella)
Urban music broadcast between Gibraltar and Calahonda

Rtv Puebla (107.7 FM)
Monday evenings, Rock music memories. 7 - 9pm. email: radiopuebla.musicmemories@yahoo.com
Fb: Radiotelevision Peubla de Cazalla

QUIZ

QUESTION 1

How many lines are there in a sonnet?

- 1. Eight
- 2. Ten
- 3. Twelve
- 4. Fourteen

QUESTION 2

Who wrote the seventeenth century epic poem 'Paradise Lost'?

- 1. John Milton
- 2. Edgar Allan Poe
- 3. William wordsworth
- 4. William Shakespeare

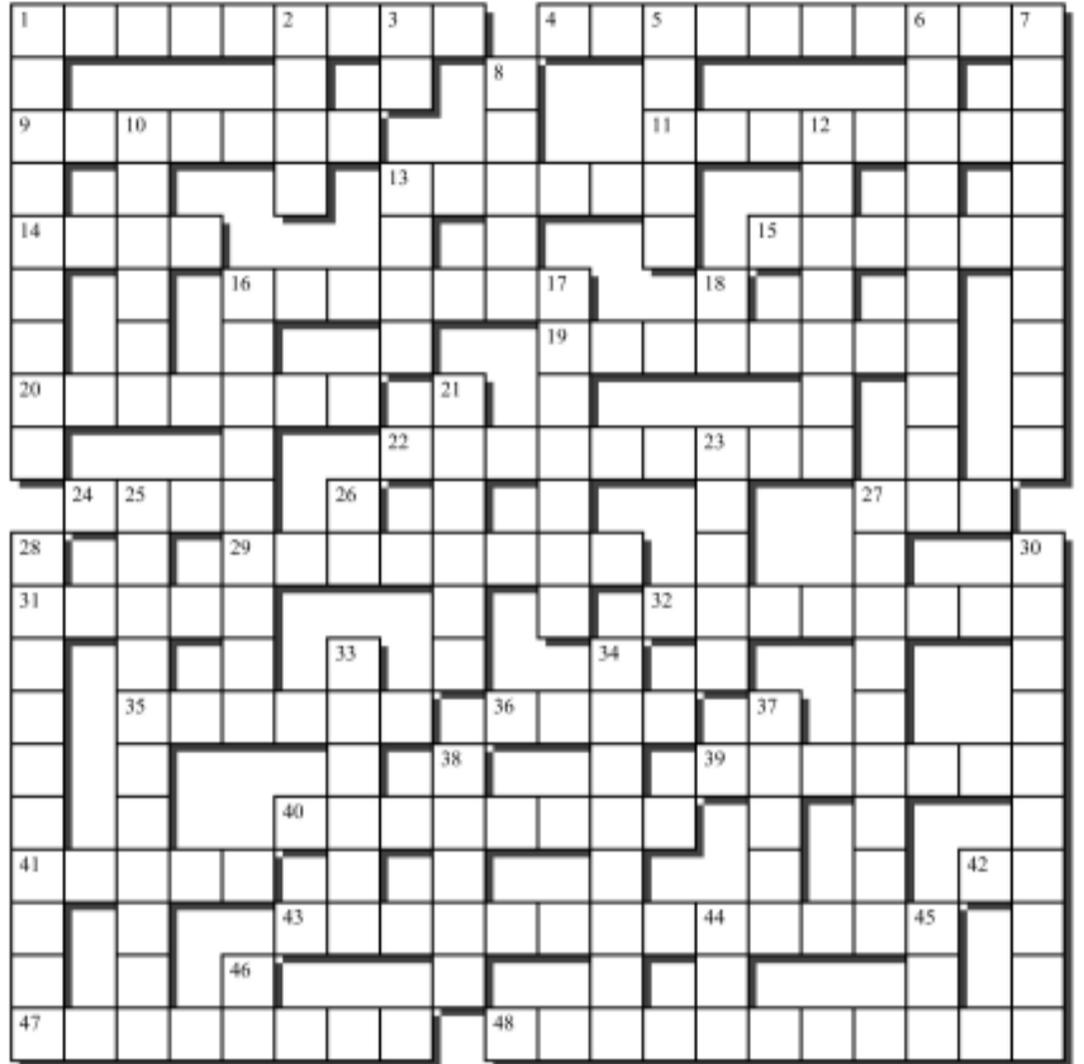
LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

Across

- 1) To go into exile (9)
- 4) Influence (10)
- 9) Theologist (7)
- 11) Synagogue (8)
- 13) Vulture (6)
- 14) Ten (4)
- 15) Heretic (6)
- 16) Office (7)
- 19) Medicine (8)
- 20) To sound out (7)
- 22) Perplexed (pl) (9)
- 24) I hated (4)
- 27) Of the (3)
- 29) He controls (8)
- 31) West (5)
- 32) Philosopher (8)
- 35) Unhurt (pl) (6)
- 36) Water (4)
- 39) They buy (7)
- 40) Bilingual (8)
- 41) I cross (5)
- 42) The (f) (2)
- 43) Knowledge (13)
- 47) To oppose (8)
- 48) Thought (11)

Down

- 1) Scholar (9)
- 2) Something (4)
- 3) Her (2)
- 5) Stages (5)
- 6) Volunteer (10)
- 7) To feign (9)
- 8) Script (5)
- 10) They heard (6)
- 12) Faults (7)
- 13) Mouth (4)
- 16) I will obey (9)
- 17) Poppy (7)
- 18) My (2)
- 21) Hebrew (6)
- 23) Jew (5)
- 25) Distinguished (11)
- 26) In (2)
- 27) Disciple (9)
- 28) Convinced (10)
- 30) Commentary (10)
- 33) Code (6)
- 34) Muslim (8)
- 37) Cushion (5)
- 38) Lemon (5)
- 44) That one (f) (3)
- 45) They are (3)
- 46) He sees (2)



ANSWERS

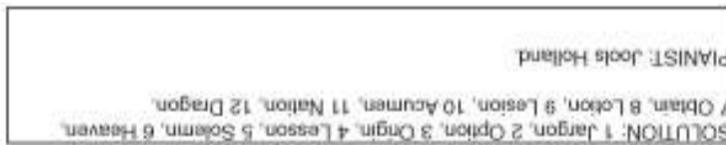
Quiz answers

later and not published until after the Restoration in 1660.
Samson Agonistes in the 1640s, but they were completed and revised much later.
Of interest: Milton started writing Paradise Lost, Paradise Regained, and Italian, Spenserian and Shakespearean.
Answer 1: John Milton
different types of sonnet with different rhyming schemes, these include sections, normally an octave (or octet) followed by a sestet. There are
Of interest: A sonnet traditionally has fourteen lines divided into two
Answer 1: Fourteen

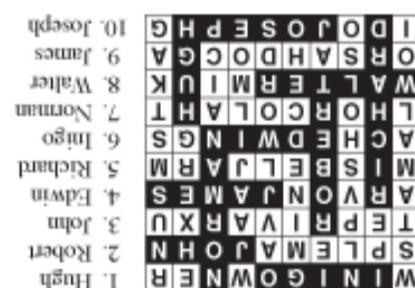
Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 7 Awful; 8 Actress; 9 Everest; 10 Aloud; 12 Designated; 13 Athletic; 14 Concern; 15 Awdly; 17 Capon; 20 Deck.
Down: 1 Water wagon; 2 Offer; 3 Blue; 4 Early; 5 Straight; 6 Fetters; 7 Laryngitis; 8 Good health; 9 Niche; 10 Indiana; 11 Partial; 12 Close.

Clockword solution



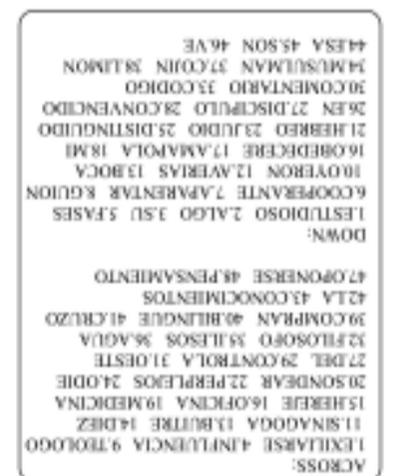
Wordpuzzler solution



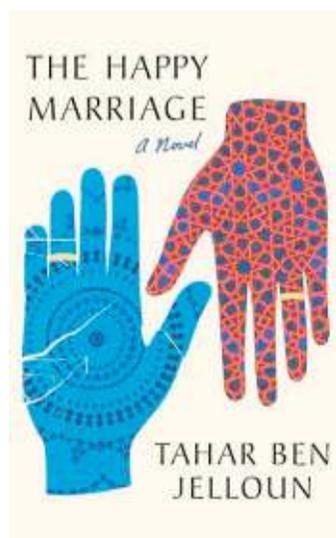
Sudoku solution

2	3	9	6	7	8	5	4	1
8	6	1	4	5	3	2	7	9
4	7	5	1	2	9	3	8	6
5	1	7	8	6	4	9	2	3
3	8	2	7	9	1	6	5	4
9	4	6	5	3	2	8	1	7
1	9	4	3	8	5	7	6	2
6	2	8	9	1	7	4	3	5
7	5	3	2	4	6	1	9	8

Language Crossword



BOOK OF THE WEEK



The Happy Marriage
Tahar Ben Jelloun

Internationally acclaimed Moroccan author Tahar Ben Jelloun tells the story of one couple—first from the husband’s point of view, then from the wife’s. The husband, a painter in Casablanca, has been paralysed by a stroke and becomes convinced that his marriage is the sole reason for his decline. Walled up within his illness, he finds escape in writing a secret book about his hellish marriage. When his wife finds it, she responds point by point with her own version of the facts, offering her own striking and incisive reinterpretation of their story.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

I hold it that a little rebellion, now and then, is a good thing

THOMAS JEFFERSON

THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

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Estepona's old town hall site finally pinpointed thanks to mural discovery

A plaque and a patio with arches have been found during works to restore a building in the Plaza de Las Flores in Estepona

by **CHARO MÁRQUEZ**

ESTEPONA. It has always been known Estepona town hall was in the Plaza de Las Flores, in the town centre, in the 19th century. But nobody knew exactly which building it was. Now, however, the discovery of a painting on the front of one of the buildings means that its exact location has finally come to light.

The councillor for Heritage, José María Guerrero, says documents in the municipal archive refer to a property with a large balcony, but that also applies to many other houses in the square. The mural which has just been found shows scrolls and ornamental features around a marble plaque saying 'Plaza de la Constitución' (in honour of the Constitution of Cadiz of 1812). This information appears in some of the minutes of council meetings in the past, and it confirms that this building, which now has two bar-restaurants on the ground floor and



The mural on the front of a house in the Plaza de Las Flores is now being restored. :: C. MÁRQUEZ

apartments above, was the town hall during the liberal triennium (1820-1823). José María Guerrero says that when King Fernando VII returned to power he ordered the plaque to be covered up, and that is what has made it so difficult to identify the location of the town hall building.

The mural is now being restored by the council's heritage conservation department and it is similar to other late Baroque paintings in Malaga city. There are some good examples in Plaza Manuel Alcántara and Calle Mondéjar.

The restoration works have not only led to this mural being discovered, but also another interesting finding in the interior: a courtyard with arches. "During the works to change the layout of the rooms inside the building, a patio with arches and columns was discovered," says Guerrero. The patio will be preserved but not restored, because the plans for the building have already been finalised.

This is the first time Estepona council has taken action of this type to recover a mural on a historic buildings, and it says it is prepared to collaborate with owners of other old houses if murals are found on their properties.

The works to remodel the historic town centre, and the restoration of buildings by private owners, have provided some interesting information about Estepona's past. The most outstanding find so far was a medieval tannery, the best-preserved on the Iberian peninsula, in the same square.



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