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INTERVIEW

On the trail of Lawrence, from Arabia to Almeria

British archaeologist Neil Faulkner talks of his research prior to his lecture on the Costa del Sol next week **P28**



MÁLAGA, LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

The club's women's team are favourites for promotion to the top flight while their male counterparts prepare for a move in the opposite direction **P53-55**

Málaga CF Femenino sealed the title in Cártama on Sunday. :: NITO SALAS

Costa councils prepare mass spending spree ahead of elections next year

The government has relaxed restrictions, allowing town halls to invest in new projects if their balance sheets permit

Local councils around the province of Malaga are making plans to spend an extra 100 million euros on financially-sustainable projects. The central government has relaxed its restrictions on municipal spending to

allow councils whose accounts showed a surplus last year to fund extra improvements to roads, parks, public transport or facilities. With local elections next year, impressing voters will be a priority. **P2&3**

Big screen stars come together for the Malaga Film Festival

Guillermo del Toro and Juan Antonio Bayona picked up special prizes at this year's event which runs until Sunday **P26&27**

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FESTIVAL
DE MÁLAGA



Del Toro picked up the Málaga-SUR prize at the weekend. :: NITO SALAS

Luxury property prices in Marbella have doubled since 2011 as demand for high-end properties exceeds supply due to land shortage **P12**

Who do you live with? Figures show that 40 per cent of young people still live at home while 22 per cent of elderly people live on their own **P6**

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Town halls prepare for a spending spree with next year's local elections in mind



FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

IVÁN GELIBTER

✉ pjimenez@diariosur.es
✉ igbarbotta@gmail.com

The government has reduced restrictions so municipalities with a healthy bank balance can invest in projects which do not increase everyday expenses

MALAGA. With the next local elections just over a year away, in June 2019, we can expect to see councils embarking on numerous new projects to impress their voters, although of course the extent of these will depend on how much money is in the municipal coffers.

Some councils do, however, have an advantage: those whose finances are in a healthy enough condition are being permitted by the government to use part of their surplus from 2017 on investments which are "financially sustainable", and in many cases it means they will have tens of thousands of euros to spend.

This is a type of 'prize' which the Spanish government has been awarding since 2014 to town halls who have reduced their public deficit, but this year it goes even further by expanding the type of projects that can be carried out using these funds.

There are some conditions involved: no project must generate greater expenditure in the future or increase the council's normal run-



In the past two years Malaga city hall has spent 7.8 million euros on the purchase of 21 buses as part of its financially sustainable investment projects. :: SUR

THE CONTEXT

What are sustainable investments?

The concept of financially sustainable investments is defined in the Regulatory Law of Local Finance. It sums them up as actions which improve the well-being of citizens but do not increase the Administration's everyday spending. They can therefore include improvements to streets and facilities, but not to employing more staff. Until now, the money has been used for improvements to water supply, street lighting, green zones, public transport

and modernisation, but this year vehicles and equipment for Local Police, fire brigades and Civil Protection services are also included, as are social welfare programmes, creating and running nurseries and schools, cultural and sports facilities and the rehabilitation and improvement of council buildings.

Conditions for spending the surplus

The town halls can spend part of their resources on financially sustainable investments on

three conditions: they have a surplus and enough funds for general spending, a moderate level of public debt and they comply with the Debtors Law which obliges them to pay their suppliers in less than 30 days.

How long do they have to carry out the projects?

The councils have to have all the projects ready to put to tender before 31 December, and they must be completed before the end of 2019.

ning costs (on salaries, for example), and before rubbing their hands with glee at the amount of surplus, they must make payments on bank loans.

However, this year the government is allowing these funds to be spent in more ways. Until now the money could only be used for projects such as street lighting and drainage, green zones, public transport and minor improvements to streets and roads, but now it can also be spent on new equipment and vehicles for the Local Police, the fire brigade and Civil Protection services, social welfare programmes, the creation and running of nurseries and even the restoration and improvement of council buildings.

The local authorities also have a longer period to carry out these projects: the decree which was ap-



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Around 100 million euros are available to town halls in Malaga province for projects considered to be financially sustainable

They are allowed to improve roads and renew vehicle fleets but not take on more staff

proved by parliament on 23 March gives them until 31 December 2019. This was in response to concerns from mayors that they were losing time because of the delay in the government obtaining approval for its 2018 general budget, as the measure is included within the budgetary conditions.

Pressure from mayors

The mayors put pressure on the Ministry of Finance through FEMP, the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces. It demanded more flexibility in the use of the money, bearing in mind that due to the restrictions imposed by the government to control council spending the town halls were only using a quarter of the money they could otherwise have invested.

This type of parental control has been applied since 2012 through the Montoro Law, an abbreviated name for the Law of Budgetary Stability and Financial Sustainability, which closed the tap on spending by all administrations and obliged them to spend every euro they had saved on reducing their level of debt.

The first to do their homework properly were local councils, and in 2014 the Ministry of Finance began to reduce the pressure on them as long as they met three conditions: they had a surplus, a moderated level of public debt and they paid their suppliers in full and on time.

Those who meet these criteria are allowed to use the money which

is left over once part of the debt has been paid off, but it is one thing to have resources to spend and another altogether to have the full freedom they used to enjoy before the difficult years of economic crisis arrived. Firstly, because all the operations have to be financially sustainable, and secondly because of the spending ceiling imposed by the Finance Ministry. This is a limit on non-financial expenditure, which is calculated in accordance with the administrations' income and which since 2012 has also applied to councils to prevent them getting into more debt than they should.

With these instructions on the table, the councils are now doing their sums to decide how best to invest the money and, especially, which projects can be completed before next year's local elections.

In Malaga city the council has a surplus of 127 million euros and hopes that this year there will be even more to spend than the 37.5 million euros last year, which were used on 150 projects in the 11 districts of the city which should all be finished before the end of this year.

"We would like to have a similar sum again this year, but we need to look at the accounts carefully to see exactly how much there will be and what to spend it on. Within a month we should have definite plans drawn up," says councillor Carlos Conde.

Other municipalities have already started planning: in Marbella, for example, the council announced this week that it will be spending over 20 million euros during the rest of this year and the whole of 2019.

In Fuengirola, the situation is similar. The town hall has had a positive balance of 20 million euros for three consecutive years and it hopes to be able to spend a similar sum to last year on investment projects. Last year, it used 12 million euros from the 2016 surplus.

In Estepona, the town hall ex-

pects to have a surplus of 30 million euros, but has not yet released information about new projects. "The money will be used as laid down by the law," is all that sources there were prepared to say.

Benalmádena council has already laid down an order of priorities. The mayor, Víctor Navas, says the funds they can use (they do not yet have exact figures) will be spent on "improving basic services, such as rubbish collection and beach maintenance".

They had hoped to employ more street cleaners, Local Police officers and firefighters, but the government decree does not permit the money to be used in that way. In the meantime, the town hall is continuing to reduce its debt, which is currently 72 million euros. This is 50 million less than three years ago. It has also reduced its average payment period for suppliers to 16 days.

On the other side of the coin is Torremolinos. Far from having a surplus, the town hall there is one of the most indebted in the province, a situation which has led to a strict adjustment plan still being enforced. In recent years the council has had to focus on reducing this debt, which in 2015 was 197 million euros.

"Our situation is different, because we are showing that with the accounts properly taken care of the town hall has the ability to recover its financial muscle. Our annual surplus has to be spent on reducing the municipal debt and reducing the average payment period for suppliers," says deputy mayor Maribel Tocón.

Nor is Torremolinos alone. In Rincón de la Victoria, the council ended 2017 with a surplus of 3.5 million euros, all of which will have to be spent on reducing its debt.

Contributors to this report: Agustín Peláez, Héctor Barbotta, Charo Márquez, Eugenio Cabezas and Alberto Gómez.

Councils with no debt ask for permission to spend more

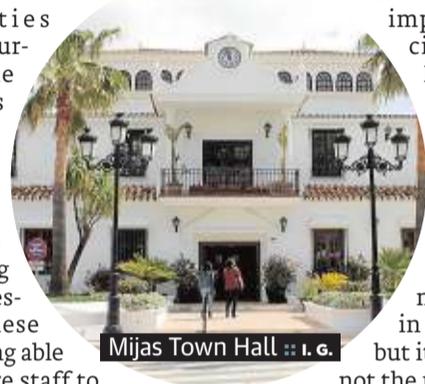
Mijas and Benahavís argue that with their healthy bank balances they should be allowed to spend in other ways, including taking on more municipal staff

by IVÁN GELIBTER

MIJAS. Although the Ministry of Finance does plan to ease restrictions further on municipalities which have a surplus, some town halls which are in this situation but also have no debt and money in the bank are asking for more concessions now. These range from being able to employ more staff to undertaking projects which would not be considered financially sustainable.

Among these councils, Benahavís is exceptional. Its financial situation is better than any other in Spain, mainly due to the amount of income it receives in terms of town planning. Sources say it has a surplus of more than 76 million euros, but it cannot invest all of it because it would exceed the spending ceiling imposed by the Ministry of Finance. This limits the expenditure of town halls which have positive bank balances to amounts which were previously calculated in accordance with their budgets. It means that Benahavís council can only spend about 1.5 million euros a year on average, even though

its surplus is very much higher. A few days ago the mayor, José Mena, confirmed that if the town hall were able to spend more money it would either contract more staff - the council employs 125 workers in all, and there is only one civil servant in the contracting department - or would carry out a major project to benefit the village, which could be an indoor swimming pool which would cost six million euros to build, and



Mijas Town Hall :: I.G.

improve the facilities of the Local Police station.

Benahavís is the municipality which has accumulated the most money in its accounts, but its situation is not the most striking

in the province. Mijas, which has nearly 90,000 inhabitants and is Malaga province's third municipality, also has no debt and has just under 70 million euros in its bank accounts. As he has explained on several occasions before, the mayor, Juan Carlos Maldonado, believes it essential that the ministry eases its restrictions, especially so more staff can be employed.

The principal problem in Mijas is that the town hall loses out on around five million euros every year due to its lack of staff, because due to the zero substitution policy it is not able to replace workers who retire or are off sick. A study by the council's Treasury department shows that about 40 extra staff are needed in order to collect more money for the public coffers.



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Brave guards foil Alhaurín de la Torre prison break in the nick of time

Window bars were sawn and sheets knotted together inside the cell in which the inmates, both 22, were caught

:: **ÁLVARO FRÍAS / JUAN CANO**

MALAGA. Just like something out of a film, guards at Malaga's main prison complex, outside Alhaurín de la Torre, managed to foil an escape plot just in time on Wednesday night.

Prison officers were shocked to walk in on two inmates who had carefully prepared a breakout, sawing through the bars to their cell and storing knotted sheets all ready to go.

According to prison trade union representatives, on Wednesday night officers became suspicious that all was not well with the two prisoners inside cell 17 and that they could be planning something unexpected. Without further investigation, the two men were moved to other cells and searched by the guards on duty.

Returning to search cell 17, guards discovered the meticulous preparations; a broken bar on the window was found and the prisoners had carefully knotted their bed sheets together, securing them onto items



Guardia Civil on duty outside the jail near Malaga (file photo). :: **SUR**

in the room.

Sources say the two inmates are both aged 22 and repeat offenders; one is a Libyan national currently in jail for causing bodily harm and the other is a Spanish national and inside for violent robbery.

The plan appears to have been to escape from the first floor cell into the interior yard below. However sources said that the wall

around the interior yard to the outside is three metres high and has barbed wire which is alarmed at the top to alert Guardia Civil, so the next stage of their plan would have been especially difficult.

Union representatives praised the guards' actions, claiming that Alhaurín de la Torre jail is very short staffed and that officers have to put up with very abusive behaviour.

112 REPORTS

Investigation ended into little Lucía's railside death

MALAGA

:: **J. CANO / Á. FRÍAS / J. SEDANO.**

Further investigation into the death of Lucía Vivar has officially been stopped after a judge said that no more admissible evidence had been found. Three-year-old Lucía was found dead on the rail line between Pizarra and Álora, in the Guadalhorce valley, on 27 July last year after disappearing while playing near family at Pizarra railway

station the previous evening. Despite a huge overnight hunt for the child, the grim discovery was made the next morning on the line some four kilometres away.

Despite an autopsy concluding that Lucía had died after being hit by an early-morning train and ruling out foul play, the dead girl's family had asked for further inquiries to be carried out, particularly into why early morning trains on the line weren't halted despite warnings that a girl was missing. They also wanted telephone records from local masts to be checked for suspicious behaviour.

Man investigated for dragging and kicking a sick dog down the street

MALAGA

:: **I. LILLO.** A 54-year-old man is under investigation in Malaga for allegedly mistreating a dog. The man was spotted dragging the German Shepherd some 400 metres along the road on a lead, kicking it as he went.

Onlookers immediately called police and the man was identified. The animal was examined by a vet and found to have a severe gastric condition, hence why it hadn't been able to raise its body off the ground for the man. Despite an emergency operation, the dog's life could not be saved.

'Cannabis club' raided in Fuengirola and 12 found inside taking drugs

FUENGIROLA

:: **SUR.** National Police have raided a shop unit in the centre of Fuengirola that was promoting itself as a private club where members could enjoy "the delights and therapeutic qualities" of products made out of cannabis, which were sold there, including hashish and marijuana. When officers arrived they found 12 people inside taking the drug. Of the 12, eight were Spanish nationals, two were German and two had no paperwork on them to check. A young Moroccan man who was behind the counter at the club was arrested.

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HERE AND THERE

Supreme Court rules in favour of 'Las Kellys'

MALAGA

■ P. M. The Andalusian Supreme Court has ruled in favour of the so-called 'Las Kellys' (a collective made up of hotel cleaning staff), obliging the hotel sector to apply the 'convenio' (collective workers' agreement) for the hotel sector to staff carrying out services in hotels. It ruled: "The tasks carried out by cleaners, waiting staff,

cooks and reception staff, regardless of the company which provides the service, should have the conditions of the current [hotel industry] 'convenio' applied." This would therefore entitle workers to basic employment rights.

According to the CC OO trade union which published the results of this Supreme Court ruling, this affects 550 workers and 44 hotels in Malaga province which have now been reported to the employment inspectorate.

Caminito puts 100,000 more tickets on sale

EL CHORRO

■ P. M. One hundred thousand new tickets for the Caminito del Rey gorgeside walkway in El Chorro went on sale on Monday for the period June-October.

According to the attraction's director, Francisco Campano: "Our forecasts are very positive. We expect to be sold out for most days during the summer but last-minute bookings can still be made."



The Caminito del Rey. :: SUR

Club Med to revamp Hotel Don Miguel

MARBELLA

■ N. C. The Hotel Don Miguel, which closed in 2004, will reopen in summer 2019 with a new name and under new management.

Club Med-Magna Marbella will be open 11 months of the year and will be an all-inclusive resort, catering for families with new installations for meeting and events. It is estimated that 300 jobs will be created, plus a further 1,000 indirectly.

New financial irregularities come to light in Parque Animal investigation

The inquiry is now looking into the financial movements of the disgraced shelter's president's children, son-in-law and assistant

■ ALBERTO GÓMEZ

MALAGA. The judge in charge of the investigation into financial wrongdoing in the case of the disgraced Parque Animal shelter in Torremolinos has confirmed that the unjustified sacrifice of thousands of animals, mainly cats and dogs, between 2008 and 2010 had financial motives.

According to the investigations, the non-profit organisation was used to pay the private costs of its president, Carmen Marín, currently in prison for animal cruelty and falsification of documents, and members of her family.

The inquiry has now moved onto Marín's two children, her son-in-law and her assistant at the shelter.

The actions of the late brother of former mayor Pedro Fernández Montes are also considered of interest.

The lawyer representing the Association for those affected by Parque Animal, José Luis Mota, had maintained at the initial trial that there were more people involved than just Marín in the scandal. Now the judge is partially accepting this accusation and Marín's assistant (Felipe Barco, also in prison for animal cruelty) will be called to de-



The case first came to light in 2010. :: SUR

clare in May, accused of money laundering, having allegedly bought a 14,000-euro car with money from the shelter in 2008.

One of Marín's daughters is also accused of money laundering after a payment of 104,384 euros was detected to refit her cosmetic clinic in Los Álamos.

Her husband, Marín's son-in-law, is also under investigation for his role in a trading company which was allegedly used as "a vehicle for the money laundering".

Marín herself could be facing further charges of fraud for ordering

the sacrifice of animals despite them "being brought to the shelter for protection" and normally charging around 60 euros each for services not carried out.

In a previous judgment, Marín had been found to use town hall subsidies to repair an elevator in a building she owns.

She also used shelter money to fund shopping sprees, rent cars, pay for gym memberships and driving lessons, as well as paying for stays in luxury hotels in Marbella, Lisbon, Marrakech, Boston and Saint Petersburg.

Platform rejects extension of the Cercanías in favour of direct line to Marbella

The group wants the train line to be a good alternative to car travel, connecting Malaga Airport and Marbella within an hour

■ FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. Barely two weeks after the mention of the train line to Marbella in the state budget, the Platform for the Coastal Train has rejected the idea of extending the Cercanías line (which currently runs between Malaga and Fuengirola) to Marbella and Estepona.

The budget, which was announced earlier this month but which still needs MPs' approval, set aside six million euros for studies into the future project.

The Platform for the Coastal Train is made up of the Malaga Confederation of Businessowners, the hotel (Aehcos) and construction (ACP) associations and various professional bodies and has the political backing of the PSOE, Ciudadanos, IU and Podemos, as well as of the PP on a provincial level. They say that extending the existing line makes little sense as it doesn't provide a competitive alternative to private car or bus travel and instead propose a direct line which connects Malaga and its airport to Marbella in around an hour.

The platform has put forward two different proposals. The first

is a 55-kilometre overground line running parallel to the toll motorway, with lines coming off to connect Marbella and San Pedro. They estimate that this would cost one billion euros to Marbella and 2.37 billion if extended to Estepona.

The second proposal runs closer to the coast and would run underneath the A-7 motorway (the old N-340) which would cost 3.85 billion (two billion just until Marbella). The pros and cons of both are currently being studied, with a decision likely to be reached by September.

The platform met on Monday in Torremolinos and spokesperson, Violeta Aragón said: "We are not going to get into technical or budgetary matters but we will demand that the train project is a competitive one in terms of the time it takes. This is a basic demand and that is why we are calling for a new and direct line."

Aragón added that given it takes 45 minutes to get from Malaga to Fuengirola on the current line, "people coming to Marbella for business will not want to [get on a train that] stop[s] every five minutes and which takes an hour and half to get from Malaga Airport".

Provincial vicepresident Margarita del Cid (PP) added: "Having a fast train at reasonable prices is a necessity for both tourism and the people's ability to get around."

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Who do we all live with?

A survey reveals that a quarter of homes in Malaga province are occupied by just one person, four out of ten 25 to 34-year-olds still live with their parents and 22% of elderly people live alone



Households by type

- Couples with children **34.7%**
- Single occupant **24.14%**
- Single parent **10.81%**
- Couples without children **20.76%**



Couples living together

- Of different sexes **98.7%**
- With children **61.49%**
- Married **83.56%**



Single parent households

- Formed by women **80.8%**
- Widows **38.15%**
- Divorced **27.4%** / Separated **6.2%**
- Married **15.5%**
- Never married **12.5%**



Living alone

- 9.46%** of the population of Malaga province lives alone

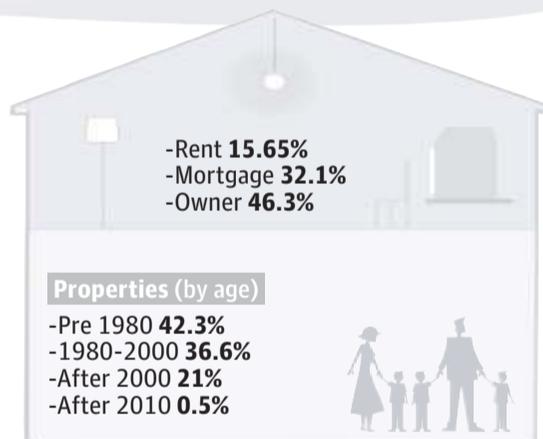


Young adults

- Living with their parents **38.2%** (of 25 to 34-year-olds)
- 11.2%** (of 35 to 44-year-olds)

Over 65s

- Living alone **22%**
- Living with a partner **57.36%**
- Living with a son or daughter **10.5%**



- Rent **15.65%**
- Mortgage **32.1%**
- Owner **46.3%**

Properties (by age)

- Pre 1980 **42.3%**
- 1980-2000 **36.6%**
- After 2000 **21%**
- After 2010 **0.5%**

Home size

- Between 46 and 75 m² **26.3%**
- Between 75 and 105 m² **43.9%**
- Between 106 and 150 m² **17.2%**

Malaga live? The survey shows that in most cases, 57 per cent to be exact, they live in couples. About 22 per cent live alone, and that percentage is double that of single-occupancy households among the general population, and below the national average for this age range (of 22.9 per cent).

In addition, this proportion has dropped in the past three years, which can be considered good news when compared with the alarming data about loneliness among elderly people in other countries and regions. The figures show that 10.5 per cent of retired people in Malaga live with one of their children and 8.2 per cent with other family members.

What is curious about these figures is that they hide major differences among sexes, because only 15 per cent of men over 65 live alone, compared with 28 per cent of women. On the other hand, 68 per cent of elderly men live with their partner, compared with 44 per cent of women. Two facts lie behind these differences: women live longer than men and, after their spouse has died, men are more likely to remarry than women.

These differences become wider with age: for example, in the 80 to 84 age range 46 per cent of women in Malaga live alone, compared with only 10 per cent of the men.

Young people

At the other end of the population pyramid, among young people, the opposite is the case: it is hard for them to leave the nest and fly alone.

The figures show that 38.2 per cent of those aged from 25 to 34 in Malaga still live in their parents' home, which is nearly one per cent more than the national average (37.3 per cent). In the 35 to 44 age range, 11.2 per cent live with their parents.

Couples

In Malaga, living as a couple is still the preferred way of life: that applies to 387,400 of the 642,000 homes in the province. Of those, 85 per cent are married. Nearly two-thirds of these couples have children. Male homosexual couples are one per cent of the total, and female couples 0.2 per cent.

Nearly 11 per cent of Malaga households are single parent families, although in the past three years the numbers have dropped. Eight out of every ten families of this type are headed by women: 38 per cent are widows and 27 per cent are divorced.

The average size of a household in the province is 2.55 members, above the national average, but the trend is the same: there are fewer nuclear families and more single people and couples without children

MALAGA. The number of households in Malaga province is increasing, but fewer people live in them. The average size of families reduces year after year, just like the rest of Spain, but Malaga is still slightly above average in terms of people who live under the same roof. The national average is 2.49 people per home, while in this province it is 2.55.

Although the most common type of household is still the nuclear family (a couple with children), single-occupier homes are increasing and now account for nearly a quarter of the total, as are couples without children, which are now about 20 per cent.

These are the initial findings from

NURIA TRIGUERO

✉ ntriguero@diariosur.es



the Continual Survey of Households, whose results for 2017 were published this week by the National Institute of Statistics (INE).

In Malaga province 1,638,000 people live in 642,100 homes, according to the survey. What are those homes like? That is the question the INE survey is intended to answer, and since 2014 it has covered the whole province.

What is immediately striking is that there are now 155,000 one-per-

son households, and they account for 24.1 per cent of the total. In 2014 there were fewer than 149,000. On the other hand the nuclear families, of which there used to be 228,000, have decreased in three years to 223,000. The ageing population and fall in birth rate are behind both these changes.

Over-65s

Speaking of the ageing population, how do the 300,000 over-65s in

Only 16 per cent of occupied homes are rented

■ N. T.

MALAGA What are Spanish homes like? The Continual Survey of Households also tries to answer that question.

The size, age, type, ownership and other factors associated with family homes are analysed in detail in the study.

It is estimated that 642,100 homes are occupied in Malaga

province, of which the great majority (78 per cent) are owned and only 16 per cent are rented (the others, about six per cent, are lived in rent-free).

However, the number of rented properties has increased slightly in recent years.

Of the homes which are owned, it is noticeable that six out of ten have no mortgage, either because

it has been paid off or because the property has been inherited or gifted.

With regard to age of properties, it can be seen that those in Malaga are quite old. In fact, 42.3 per cent of homes in the province were built before 1980; about 37 per cent were built between 1980 and 2000 and only 21 per cent have been constructed during this century.

With regard to the size, nearly 44 per cent of homes are between 75 and 105 square metres, while 26 per cent of families live in a property measuring between 46

and 75 square metres.

Only ten per cent of properties in the province are more than 150 square metres in size and about three per cent are less than 46.

The Continual Survey of Households, which began in 2013, provides annual information about the basic demographic characteristics of the population, how the households are formed and the homes they live in.

In 2017 the survey included 52,881 households, and the questions were asked in different ways: by Internet, telephone, post or a personal visit from INE staff.

With all the uncertainty over Brexit, what facts can you rely on to protect your wealth?

With Brexit on the way, these are times of significant change. It may be advisable to act now, under known rules, rather than wait and see what happens.

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Four soup kitchens suffer funding crisis

Delayed local government funding and a fall in private donations puts daily service at the Emaús centres at risk of closure

:: ALBERTO GÓMEZ

MÁLAGA. A lack of donors and delays in the arrival of public funding puts the continued work of Emaús, which feeds over 550 people at four soup kitchens across Malaga province, at risk. The non-profit organisation is often short of funds to pay for its costs, according to the group's coordinator Eva Casal.

Emaús has agreements in place with the councils of the four towns it operates in (Torremolinos, Vélez-Málaga, Estepona and Antequera), none of which have given the organisation any funds so far this year. The daily service, which is now at risk, includes hot lunches, as well as sandwiches, biscuits, fruit and other items for breakfast and dinner.

In Torremolinos, where Emaús launched its first soup kitchen to help people at risk of social exclusion in the 1990s, the local council had signed an agreement stating that it would provide the organisation with 5,400 euros each month if it agreed to cater for people over the age of 65, dependents and people who had problems with mobility. The agreement has spent a long time in the offing due to a wide variety of contractual issues.

The soup kitchen that has the most daily users is the site in Vé-



The Emaús soup kitchen in Vélez-Málaga serves food to around 200 people every day. :: SUR

lez-Málaga, which is visited by close to 200 people per day. The council made a delayed payment of 45,000 euros to the organisation in December 2017, but those funds were used to pay staff salaries. The organisation has asked for the money to be paid earlier this year, but the local council had said that this is "unlikely" as they "still haven't approved this year's budget".

The situation is brighter in Estepona where the town hall takes care of water and electricity bills, as well as providing 18,000 euros of funding per year. This is paid regularly in August (80%) and December (20%). The premises used in Este-

pona, as in Vélez-Málaga, are loaned from the town hall.

The soup kitchen facing the greatest financial difficulties is in Antequera. "It uses up resources from the other three locations in the region," explained Casal. "The council had previously told us that it would help with supplies," a promise that "has not yet been kept". The Antequera branch receives 6,000 euros annually from the local council, the lowest amount out of all four locations in Malaga province.

As well as public funding Emaús survives thanks to donors, although numbers have fallen in recent months.

"People think that the crisis is over and that we don't need as much help any more, but the reality is that we still have to provide food for hundreds of people every day," said Casal.

Anyone interested in becoming a regular donor is invited to call Emaús on 951696224. The association has also organised a series of activities to raise awareness of its work, gain extra income and attract new volunteers.

Agustín Peláez, Charo Márquez and Antonio J. Guerrero have contributed to this article.

Businesses in La Carihuela set up an association to campaign for local improvements

:: ALBERTO GÓMEZ

TORREMOLINOS. Company owners in the La Carihuela district of Torremolinos have formed a group in order to more effectively lobby the authorities for improvements. They want the beachfront to be safeguarded and are asking for more street cleaning and police on the streets during the summer months. They say that in the peak season almost one million people visit the area.

Last week some business owners met with Torremolinos mayor, José Ortiz, and councillor for Planning, Maribel Tocón. They have promised to set up a special urban development plan to present to the national government, who are responsible for overseeing any work on the shoreline. Locals want to see more breakwaters to avoid sand erosion.

The firms also want to work with the council to find a way of increasing spending on police and cleaning in summer, when the local population quadruples. Councils are subject to spending caps preventing them scaling up in peak months.

Benalmádena council calls for funds to build a new National Police station

:: ALBERTO GÓMEZ

BENALMÁDENA. The PSOE-led coalition government in Benalmádena has said that the town is suffering from a "lack of security services" because it does not have its own National Police station.

The deputy mayor and local councillor for Security, Javier Marín, criticised the national government for not including funds for a police station in Benalmádena in its general state budget in which a sum of 3.8 million euros has been designated for improving the Arroyo de la Miel junction on the A-7. He pointed out that Benalmádena currently has to share a National Police station with Torremolinos.

This is not the first time that the Socialist party has put forward the plan. The mayor, Víctor Navas, held a meeting in 2015 with the secretary of state for Security, Francisco Martínez, in which he asked him to consider the proposal. The PSOE has highlighted that the issue is worse in the summer, when the town becomes "inundated with visitors".



From card factory to tourist office

The oldest building in Arroyo de la Miel was part of a factory that made playing cards that were exported to the Americas

:: ALBERTO GÓMEZ

BENALMÁDENA. In the eighteenth century the building was part of a paper factory that produced playing cards, but it will soon be converted into a tourist information centre. Benalmádena council has announced the project in response to complaints from local residents that the building, located between Plaza de España and Avenida de Andalucía, had been abandoned. Local mayor, Víctor Navas, announced that the decision was “an attempt to restore the town’s historical heritage.”

La Tribuna is the only remaining part of a paper factory built by the Italian businessman Félix Solesio and chosen by the well-known



The building is in the centre of Arroyo de la Miel. :: SUR

Gálvez family to produce playing cards to sell in the Americas, in order to provide money to develop their home town of Macharaviaya. The factory, located in Benalmádena, was known as the Real Fábrica de Naipes de Macharaviaya.

La Tribuna has two floors and has an area of nearly sixty square metres. With an architectural style more common in the north of Spain than on the Mediterranean coast, it was restored by Benalmádena council in 2007 with a plan to turn it into a museum.

The paper from which the cards were made was sourced from Arroyo de la Miel, which was then ground in water mills and made into pulp for playing cards. The cards were then stored in a building on Calle Granada in Malaga before they were exported to the Americas.

The local councillor for Tourism, Encarnación Cortés, said that the project for converting the building into a tourist information centre was “at an advanced stage and due to be

completed very soon”.

The building, believed to be the oldest in Arroyo de la Miel, was refitted after an investment of two million euros over the course of a decade, when then mayor Enrique Bolín hoped to turn it into a museum. The project was never completed. More recently, local residents have complained about the state of the building, which has been used as a squat and vandalised in recent years.

Víctor Navas, along with the local councillor Salvador Rodríguez visited the site earlier this month. “By turning the building into a tourist information office we hope to give new life to one of the most historic buildings in our town,” explained the mayor. “Through investing in the promotion of the heritage and history of the town we hope to attract new visitors and better inform those who visit our picturesque town.”

The Gálvez brothers were influential in the growth of industry, agriculture and trade in Malaga province. They founded several playing card factories in the local area. To ensure that their venture was a success the brothers employed Félix Solesio from Genoa, which was then famous for its paper industry.

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Experts find “major flaws” in old town hall building set to be made into a gourmet market

The building in central Torremolinos has been stripped of four support pillars and there is evidence of “a risk of collapse”

:: A. GÓMEZ

TORREMOLINOS. Engineers who have been overseeing the remodelling of the old Torremolinos town hall, which will be converted into a gourmet market, have warned of the “serious risk of collapse” facing the building.

The town hall has announced it will conduct an investigation “to find out when and why four support pillars had been removed from the building” located on Plaza de la Independencia. This serious structural deficiency, highlighted by the experts, has forced an adjustment of the budget for the project, funded



The old town hall building is on Plaza de la Independencia. :: SUR

by the Diputación provincial government. The town hall will foot the bill for the missing pillars, estimated to be around 60,000 euros.

Work on the old town hall started in February. The demolition of a wall which was supposed to have hidden the support pillars

revealed that they had been “removed at some point”, according to deputy mayor Maribel Tocón.

Workers put at risk

Tocón went on to say that the state of the building “had put those working on the project and anyone in the vicinity of the building at risk” and that the investigation would look at who authorised the dangerous works so that they could be held accountable.

The provincial authority has already invested 329,000 euros in the project which is due to be complete in November this year.

A market again

The works will return the building to its original use as a market and will sell products that are part of the ‘Sabor a Málaga’ (taste of Malaga) brand.

More than 20 people will be employed in the new market.

Intu begins ground clearing work for mega shopping and leisure centre

:: A. G.

TORREMOLINOS. The company Intu Costa del Sol has started ground clearance work on the land where it will build its new shopping and leisure centre in Torremolinos.

Despite not yet receiving the green light from the Public Works ministry regarding the plans for access roads, the company has gone ahead with pruning work on the land it owns near the Palacio de los Congresos.

Some 237 trees will be destroyed because they are in bad health, while another 716 will be removed and placed in storage before forming part of the new landscape when the project is finished. A hundred of these, mostly olive trees, will be loaned to the town hall for use in Torremolinos’ public parks, according to the developer.

HERE AND THERE

First prize for Scot at Almuñécar triathlon**ALMUÑÉCAR**

:: **J. RHODES** Scottish triathlete, Christopher Roy, took first prize in Almuñécar's Pikaeras triathlon last Saturday. He completed the competition, which consisted of a 750-metre swim in the sea, 20-kilometre bike race and a five-kilometre run, in one hour and seven minutes.

Despite the clear start to the day,

the wind picked up later on, making the sea choppy and conditions for the swimmers difficult. After finishing the challenge, Roy said, "Until I got to the first buoy everything was fine, but by the second it was difficult because the waves made me lose my reference and I couldn't see anyone. I didn't realise I had come first until I got to the end."

This was the third time that Roy had competed in the triathlon. However, he was unable to take part in 2016 and 2017 after an accident.



Christopher Roy (centre of podium) with other winners. :: SUR

New showers and toilets for Vélez-Málaga beaches**TORRE DEL MAR**

:: **E. C.** Vélez-Málaga town hall has installed six new shower units, half of which are adapted for wheelchair users, along the beaches in both Torre del Mar and La Caleta. In addition to the showers, public toilets have also been installed, in response to residents' requests, at the dog beach, which is located at the western end of Torre del Mar, as well as by the children's play area.

Moclinejo town hall sets up pioneer animal protection unit

The service will be able to provide basic care and rescue in emergency situations as well as give general information and help to pet owners

:: JENNIE RHODES

MOCLINEJO. All of the political parties at Moclinejo town hall have voted in favour of creating an animal protection and rescue unit.

The unit (Unidad de Protección y Rescate Animal or UPRA in Spanish) will form part of the Moclinejo-El Valdés civil protection (Protección Civil) group, and will be the first of its kind in Spain.

Francisco Delgado Bonilla, who is responsible for Sustainability at Malaga's provincial authority, Diputación, said during a meeting on Monday morning that the unit would be supported by his department.

The UPRA will be equipped to rescue, transport, identify and offer basic care to animals in emergency situations and will be based in a property belonging to Moclinejo town hall. Protocols will be followed according to the needs of individual animals that come into



File image of dogs in a rescue centre. :: SUR

the unit's care. It will also provide information, vaccination campaigns and other help to pet owners.

The unit will work with vets, security forces, other animal protection associations and individuals and has already made contact with many of them.

For Antonio Muñoz Anaya, Mayor of Moclinejo, the creation

of the animal rescue and protection unit is "an achievement in the field of civil protection which is going to attend to the basic needs of many animals".

During 2016 and 2017 many cases of abandonment and ill treatment of animals were reported in Moclinejo, which eventually led to the idea for the unit.

Junta completes illegal dump clean-up operation**:: EUGENIO CABEZAS**

NERJA. The Junta de Andalucía finished cleaning up the Barranco del Viejo area just two kilometres from Nerja town centre and near the border with Frigiliana this week.

The site had accumulated 5,000 tonnes of rubbish over a 15-year period and was the subject of a 6,000-euro fine given to Nerja town hall by the Junta de Andalucía in 2008 for illegal dumping.

The council had been calling for the Junta to clear up the area since 2014, when SUR published a series of residents' complaints about

the illegal dump.

Mayor of Nerja, Rosa Arrabal and Environment and Foreign Residents' councillor, Jorge Bravo, visited the site on Tuesday. Bravo said that the Junta "had to be congratulated" for its work to clean up the area and asked for "public spirit" in order to keep this and other public spaces clean.

The Barranco del Viejo illegal dump is considerably smaller than another illegal dump in Nerja, the Río de la Miel site, which is currently at the centre of a case being heard in the court in Torrox.



Mayor Rosa Arrabal and councillor Jorge Bravo at the site. :: E. C.

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The price of luxury properties in Marbella has doubled since 2011

The demand for high-end properties in exclusive areas of the town is outweighing supply due to the lack of land

:: HÉCTOR BARBOTTA

MARBELLA. The property market in Marbella moves at different speeds and the fastest of all is the luxury sector. In some parts of the municipality prices are now double those of 2011, which was the worst year of the crisis, as shown by the latest report on the market from Panorama, Marbella's longest-established estate agency.

The price increase in some of the most exclusive areas reflects a lack of supply compared with the growing demand from would-be purchasers. The sale of properties costing more than four million euros doubled in 2017, when over 40 were sold.

Although in other areas of the town the prices have not yet returned to 2006 and 2007 levels, when they were at their highest, the increases are notable in the most prestigious areas, especially on the Golden Mile, south of the main road.

Another highly-coveted area is the Casablanca residential development beside the Meliá Don Pepe hotel. The lack of land has meant that many investors have purchased properties in these areas in order to demolish them and build new ones.

The Panorama report shows that the Costa del Sol, especially Marbella, is one of the locations which drives the residential property market. In fact, the National Institute of Statistics (INE) confirms that Malaga was the fourth Spanish province in terms of property sales in 2017 (30,064 compared with



The Golden Mile is one of the areas where prices have risen most. :: JOSELE-LANZA

15,917 in the Balearic Islands), behind only Madrid, Barcelona and Alicante.

Two years earlier

According to the '2018 report on the Marbella property market', the recovery of the residential market in this area began in 2012, two years earlier than the country as a whole, which is why it is now more consolidated than other regions.

At present, the new-build sector is starting to pick up again, but it is a gradual process. In 2017 the College of Architects of Malaga approved 4,895 plans for new properties, but this was only 10.88 per cent of the 45,000 which were approved ten years previously.

The segments of the market which are the strongest and most

solid at present are apartments costing between 200,000 and 1.5 million euros, and villas priced between 700,000 and 2.5 million.

Many of the properties which were built 20 or 30 years ago, or longer, in the best residential areas, are being bought either to be demolished so that new ones can be built on the site, given the lack of land in those sectors, or to be completely reformed, according to the report, which was produced by Christopher Clover, the CEO of Panorama, who has been analysing the luxury property sector on the Costa del Sol for 48 years.

Christopher also explains that the strength of the market in Marbella differs from the rest of Spain because of the extraordinary diversity of nationalities of purchas-

ers, as they are protected from possible fluctuations in the property markets of their own countries.

The Panorama report shows that the rental market in Marbella is also performing well at present. Demand for property to rent has increased, and prices are at unprecedented levels, especially for modern luxury properties which have security measures in place. According to the report, demand for rental properties in Marbella last year rose by more than 20 per cent.

Marbella also has an influence on the property market in nearby towns and villages, and the figures show that last year there was also positive movement in the market in locations which are becoming increasingly popular, such as Estepona, Benahavís and Ojén.

Starlite to start recruitment next week for 400 jobs at this summer's festival

:: H. BARBOTTA

MARBELLA. Starlite will begin its recruitment process for this year's festival next week. The interview process will take place between Tuesday 24 and Thursday 26 April, dispelling the doubts that had surrounded the festival's return after the problems encountered over opening hours and council fees last year.

Although an agreement still hasn't been officially reached and the word Marbella has been removed from the official branding, the start of the selection process should be taken as confirmation that the festival will go ahead.

In total, Starlite has to recruit 400 people for the 45 days that the festival will run, between 11 July and 25 August, including waiters, hosts, bar staff, attendants and logistics staff.

The first round of interviews begins on Tuesday 24 June at 10am in the Palacio de Congresos in Marbella. Those looking to register can do so on the website Jobandtalent.com.

Marbella council is working to finalise legislation that will regulate the use of the Nagüles quarry as an events venue which can speed up processes and allow for other events to take place there at other times of the year.

Municipal sources have said that they have begun proceedings early to avoid a situation like last year, when the use of the quarry was approved just two days before the festival's events began.

Starlite's promotion agency has so far confirmed 29 different acts, but they say that the programme has not yet been finalised.

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HERE AND THERE

Next stage for port tower planning process

MALAGA
:: I. LILLO. The long planning process towards granting permission for a 135-metre-high hotel in Malaga's port by the cruise terminal took another small step forward this week.
 The port authority resubmitted its revised planning request to the town hall after several months of changes at the town hall's request. The next stage may take a year as the council consults with members of the public and other bodies.

CAC gallery boss to be quizzed over street art

MALAGA
:: M. E. MERELO. The head of Malaga's CAC contemporary art gallery, Fernando Francés, is being formally investigated over the installation of works of street art around the city centre last spring.
 The art consists of Space Invader-style icons made of mosaic tiles by the French artist known as Invader. The artist is also under investigation, alongside Francés, for damage to historical sites.
 The eye-catching display, allegedly created in collaboration with the CAC, appeared overnight in prominent locations, including on the side of the bishops' palace.



A flamenco-style artwork. :: F.G.

Poor state of former McDonalds in Fuengirola raises concerns

The building on the edge of the port has been the subject of plans to renovate it since the food chain vacated some ten years ago

:: IVÁN GELIBTER

FUENGIROLA. Residents and business owners are pleading with the council to do something with a large abandoned restaurant unit on the seafront in the heart of Fuengirola.
 Up until ten years ago, the property was home to a local branch of McDonalds but since then has had no new tenant, meaning it has gradually fallen into a state of disrepair. Business owners say it is having a negative effect on their own premises, citing the widespread graffiti and smell of urine as passersby coming from the beach or the bars in the neighbouring port area often use it as a toilet.
 "All the local authorities, from the town hall to the Junta, have ig-



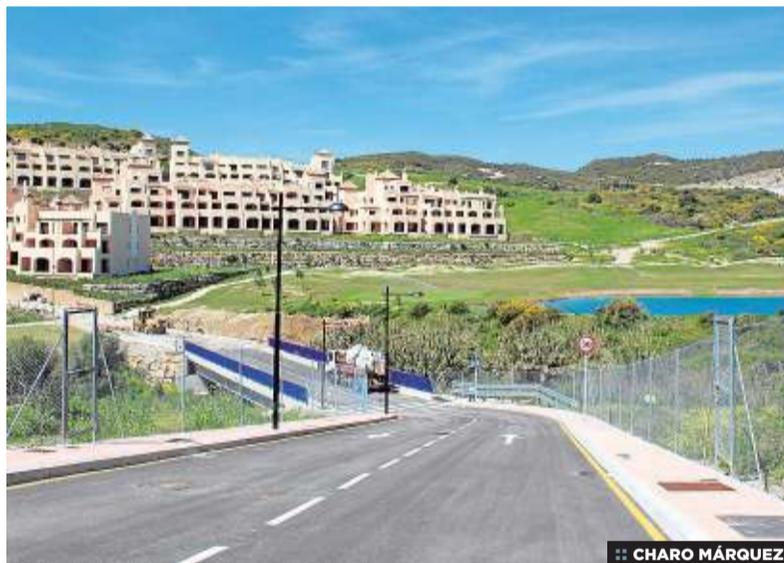
Locals complain about graffiti and smell of urine at the empty unit. :: I.G.

nored this site for years," said one local restaurant owner.
 The spokesperson for the Ciudadanos party in Fuengirola has called on the mayor, Ana Mula, to do more. Javier Toro is to ask a council meeting to vote on a proposal that the site be taken over for public use.
 Back in 2012 it seemed likely that

an environmental educational group, Aula del Mar, would use it but the scheme wasn't carried out.
 The council says it has been working on a plan for the site for a year and that it regularly cleans the surrounding area. As the building is on a beachside plot it is subject to the same extra restrictions as chiringuitos.

NEW LINK MAKES LIFE EASIER WEST OF ESTEPONA

A new road bridge over the Enmedio stream bed, west of Estepona centre, is set to make life much easier for locals. Now the Santa María and Valle Romano areas are linked at last, meaning a longer drive via the busy A-7 coastal road can be avoided. In addition the road over the bridge provides access to Estepona's new hospital, which is under construction nearby.



CHARO MÁRQUEZ

El Pimpi bodega gets ready for its next open-air charity festival on 28 April

:: JUAN SOTO

MALAGA. A well-known historic bodega in the centre of Malaga is getting ready for its next charity day. El Pimpi, near the Alcazaba, will be holding its event on Saturday, 28 April. Some twenty local music artists are giving up their time for live street entertainment as funds are raised for local charities.
 This year's day, organised by Soles de Malaga, El Pimpi's charitable foundation, will raise money for charities including Redime, AECC, Amirax, ASIMA, Ma Inmaculada, Incide, Afenes, Naim, AREA and AMUSUVIG. One further charity will be selected by popular vote.
 Last month the project was launched in the auditorium of the Diputación provincial authority. A song has also been written for the occasion with lyrics by Ricardo Marín and video by Eva Nilsen.



The launch last month. :: s.s.

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Avda. Alcalde Clemente Díaz Ruiz s/n,
Urb. Puebla Lucía, Edificio Leo, Local 1,
Fuengirola, 29640, Málaga
fuengirola@currenciesdirect.com
+34 952 906 581

Benalmádena

Avda. Antonio Machado,
Edificio Diana I Local 13,
Benalmádena Costa, 29630, Málaga
benalmadena@currenciesdirect.com
+34 952 906 581

Nerja

C/Antonio Ferrandis Charquete 1,
Local 1A,
Nerja, 29780, Málaga
nerja@currenciesdirect.com
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Coín street race raises funds for sufferers of fibromyalgia

The women's category was won by Nazha Machroun, who triumphed in the race for the seventh consecutive year

TONY BRYANT

COÍN. More than 250 runners took part in the 49th edition of the Vuelta Pedestre last week in Coín, one of the oldest street races in Andalucía. The 10 kilometre race was held to raise funds for the Coín based Aficoín, an organisation that helps sufferers of fibromyalgia.

The men's section of the race was won by Javier Díaz Carretero, who finished with a time of 00.31.52. In second place, and only six seconds behind the winner, was Mounir Elouardi, who has won the race for the past three years.

The women's category was won by Nazha Machroun, (00.39.30), who crossed the winning line first for the seventh time in a row. Janina Lima came in second place.

In a separate fun race, led by Mayor of Coín, Fernando Fernández, children, fun runners and members of Aficoín participated in a 2.7 kilometre run to raise awareness of



More than 250 people participated in the 10 kilometre race. :: SUR

fibromyalgia, a relatively unknown disease. Aficoín raises funds to improve the quality of life of people suffering with fibromyalgia, a medi-

cal condition characterised by chronic widespread pain and frequently associated with depression, and post traumatic stress disorder.



SPREADING THE WISDOM OF BUDDHA

The European Buddhist Union (EBU) met in Malaga last week for its annual international conference. Under the banner of Spread the Wisdom and the Compassion, the event was held in the stupa in Benalmádena. Organised by the EBU, The Cultural Association of Karma Kagyu and The Hispanic Association of Buddhism, it was the first time a meeting of this nature has taken place in Spain.

Marbella summit to propose more ways of helping local expat community

TONY BRYANT

MARBELLA. The United Nationalities Summit is to take place in Marbella on Tuesday 24 April.

Organised by Nicole King of Marbella Now Television, the event is aimed at ways of helping the local expat community.

This year's summit, the third of its kind, is held in collaboration with local consuls and other community members, such as school directors, representatives of charities and associations, restaurants and bar owners, and anyone in a position to offer their services to the local community.

The community platform will discuss ways of helping the over 50s in and around Marbella. Ideas include organising volunteers and identifying those in need of assistance with health care and nursing support. Another proposal is communal areas in restaurants that are reserved for people that are on their own due to bereavement and who want to meet others in similar situations.

They also have several schemes aimed at the younger generation.

"Marbella has so much to offer, but we feel that local businesses should offer an incentive to attract

youngsters. We would like cinemas, restaurants and sports facilities to create specific activities with prices that the younger generation can afford. We will also propose a scheme called Zero Hero, where young drivers receive free soft drinks in restaurants and bars," Nicole King explained.

Zero Hero is aimed at stopping youngsters drinking and driving. The designated driver scheme idea is based on the UK's successful THINK! Campaign, which rewards people who volunteer to do the driving on a night out and help family and friends get home safely.

Another item on the agenda will be ways of supporting children in local care homes and integrating them into society once they come of age.

"Our last two summits really did sum it up and we have clearly detected what is missing in our international community and what we, as a community, can do to resolve these issues that frequently only affect us, the foreigners," the presenter declared.

The summit, which will begin at 10am and continue until 2pm, will be held in the Velvet Restaurant in Marbella.

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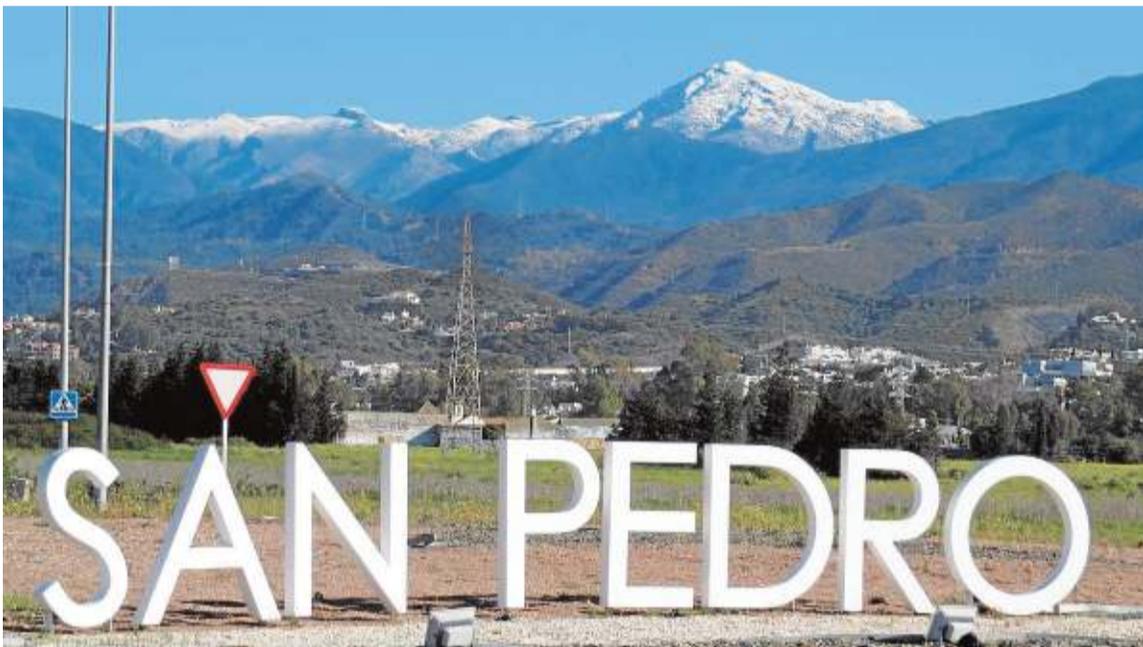
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View of the snow behind Malaga Airport on Saturday. :: NITO SALAS



The snow-capped peak of La Concha in Marbella. :: JOSELE-LANZA

Wintry scenes from the Costa del Sol at the height of spring

La Concha mountain in Marbella and peaks in the Sierra de las Nieves and in the Axarquía were covered in snow on Saturday morning

:: I. L. / E. C. / M. P.

MALAGA. It may be the middle of spring but many of the higher peaks across Malaga province were covered in snow early last Saturday morning.

On Marbella's iconic La Concha mountain, at just 1,215 metres above sea level, snow that fell on Friday evening settled, creating a stunning view for early Saturday morning

beachgoers.

Peaks above 1,500 metres in the Almirajara and Alhama mountain ranges were also covered in white while snow at La Maroma (2,068m), in the Sierra de la Tejada, could be seen from the city of Malaga. Navachica, the highest peak of the Almirajara range in Nerja, also had the unseasonal wintry covering.

Andalusian students complain of cruise holiday nightmare

More than 200 students and ten teachers from the province of Malaga say their school trip was the "worst ever"

:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

MALAGA. Although tickets for the cruise cost parents 750 euros, the trip turned out to be "a total nightmare". "We felt ripped off, this has been the worst school trip of our lives," said students from the Jorge Guillén secondary school in Torrox, one of the four schools in Malaga province that organised a trip with the Italian cruise company GNV. The holiday, on board the Rhapsody, took place between 2 and 8 April, leaving from and returning to the port of Malaga.

In fact nearly all of the 1,600 passengers were teachers and students from 43 schools in Andalucía and Castilla La Mancha who had arranged the school holiday for the week after Easter. However, the promotional material was "absolutely nothing like" the reality on board the ship.

"Filthy cabins and communal areas of the boat, terrible, monotonous food and a lack of safety." That was how Mercedes Ariza, an English teacher at the Torrox school, described the "terrible cruise" which took its passengers to Naples, Rome, Florence and Mallorca.

On the ship were 206 pupils from Malaga province, including

87 from the Victoria Kent school in Marbella, 58 from Jorge Guillén, 42 from Los Colegiales de Antequera and 19 from IES Andrés Pérez Serrano in Cortes de la Frontera.

"The boat also set off over an hour late," said Ariza, who met up with a large group of pupils and parents to write a letter of complaint to the local agency that sold them the trip.

One of the other teachers on board the ship told SUR that she lost four kilos. "We had a terrible time on board the boat, I wouldn't wish it on anybody," said the French teacher, who would prefer not to reveal her identity.

"The management of the boat got to know me quite well by the end, because I had to complain about something every day. I'm lactose intolerant, and they didn't take that into account at all," she said.

Media attention

The anger towards the organisers of the cruise has been taken to the media across all of Andalucía, with regional TV channel Canal Sur broadcasting a report with the students' experiences.

"We called it the 'horror cruise'," a spokesperson for the parents association at a school in Adra told the newspaper Ideal. "There wasn't enough food, the water came out of the taps dirty and there were thefts in the rooms."

SUR tried on repeated occasions without success to contact the cruise company for its reaction to the complaints.



The students from Torrox on the Rhapsody. :: SUR

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UK announces new curbs on bogus holiday sickness claims

Tour operators will now be able to challenge more suspected false claims in court thanks to a cap on defence costs

SUR **MADRID.** The UK government has secured a rule change that will fix the legal costs that can be claimed in package holiday sickness claims, closing a loophole which the travel industry believes has helped fuel a rising number of claims.

Up to now, the amount of legal costs that can be claimed by lawyers who are seeking compensation in British courts for clients who allegedly get ill on overseas holidays, including to Spain, have



A British tourist in Benidorm (file photo). **SUR** REUTERS

been largely uncapped. UK ministers have felt this was encouraging claims specialists to hunt out cases of food poisoning, some of which have been proven to be fraudulent in recent high-profile

court rulings.

From now on defence costs will be fixed and predictable, making it cheaper for tour operators to challenge what they feel are bogus claims.

Chaves becomes second former Junta boss before the ERE judge

SUR **SEVILLE.** The second former President of the Andalusian regional government to appear in court in a week was in the dock on Monday.

Manuel Chaves, 72, led the Junta de Andalucía from 1990 to 2006 and is one of 22 top ex-regional officials on trial for allegedly misusing millions in public funds to pay for illegitimate or inflated subsidies to struggling companies.

Last week Chaves's successor in the role, José Antonio Griñán, was also before the judge in the same trial in Seville, known as the ERE case.

In his grilling this week, Chaves denied any detailed knowledge of what money was being paid out. "There were 150 programmes in the budget and the regional cabinet



Manuel Chaves in Seville. **SUR** EFE

couldn't discuss each one," he claimed.

The prosecution is asking for ten years disqualification from office.

Source of funds for illegal Catalan referendum disputed at the top

SUR **MADRID.** The ongoing Supreme Court investigation, supported by the Guardia Civil, says that public money was used by the Catalan regional government to pay for the illegal independence referendum last year. This has been the basis for part of the legal action against ex-Catalan officials and politicians.

However, this week the national Finance minister, Cristóbal Montoro, controversially said that he saw no evidence that public funds were used, provoking calls for an urgent clarification from both sides of the separatist political crisis.

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TOURISTS IN BLOOM AS CHERRY BLOSSOM DRAWS CROWDS

As with every year, tourists have been flocking to the isolated rural landscape of the Jerte valley, in Cáceres province, Extremadura, to photograph the spectacular display of cherry blossom. One and a half million cherry trees grow in the area and 3,500 farmers form part of the local cooperative. Some 70 per cent of the fruit is exported. The UK alone imported 8.4 million euros' worth last year. But until this weekend at least it is the blossom that attracts, which this year was enhanced by late snow.

SUR ANDY SOLÉ

THE EURO ZONE
MARK NAYLER

SHOW US THE MONEY



Who exactly paid for the independence referendum held in Catalonia on October 1st last year? This was the question raised by Spain's budget minister Cristóbal Montoro in an interview with the Spanish daily El Mundo on Monday. The Popular Party politician - whose 2018 spending plan has yet to be approved - has made two puzzling and almost-contradictory claims about how last October's independence referendum in Catalonia was funded.

Montoro told El Mundo that he didn't know where the money to finance the Catalan independence referendum had come from. The Spanish government has had direct control of Catalonia since last October's divisive plebiscite - plenty of time, surely, to pour over the region's books and establish how Catalan separatists got their hands on €1.6 million. That's the amount

of public money that the Spanish courts maintain was unlawfully squandered on October 2017's independence referendum, although some sources said this week that the actual amount spent on the referendum is closer to €1.9 million.

In his apparently revelatory interview with El Mundo, Montoro went on to assert that he did know that the Catalan independence referendum was not funded with public money (thus implying that he at least has an inkling about how it was financed). This came as a surprise, not least because Catalonia's former president Carles Puigdemont and fifteen other Catalan politicians are charged with misappropriating public funds in last October's vote. The judge handling the Catalonia affair, Pablo Llarena, has instructed Montoro to provide concrete proof of his assertion that Spanish taxpayers' money was not used in the referendum.

Llarena is right to ask the budget minister to back up his claim, but the burden of proof doesn't only rest with Montoro. The Spanish Supreme Court said that his statements "contradicted evidence sources" it has collected during its investigation into last October's independence vote - sources that prove, we're to assume, that public money was used to finance the referendum. Well, what are these sources? The Catalan politicians who are currently in exile abroad or in Spanish prisons are, as yet, only charged with the misuse of public funds. They have yet to be proven guilty - although pro-independence Catalan politicians, it seems, are guilty until proven innocent.

The politically-charged nature of Spain's treatment of these activists has already reduced their chances of a fair trial. Yet as Germany's Justice Minister Katarina Barley has said, it is the responsibility of Spanish courts to prove that Puigdemont and his followers are guilty of misusing public funds, a crime that carries a prison sentence of up to eight years in Spain. Doing so, said Katarina, "won't be easy" and if they fail, Puigdemont will be a "free man in a free country" - i.e. Germany. In the meantime, it's up to Llarena and Montoro to show us the money.

Spanish group joins campaign for public vote on final Brexit deal

The PeoplesVote was launched on in London last Sunday and has the support of pro-European celebrities and politicians

by JENNIE RHODES

MALAGA. Bremain in Spain, the anti-Brexit group formed by British residents in this country, joined last weekend's launch of the PeoplesVote campaign, aimed at securing a public vote on the UK's final deal for its exit from the EU. Pro-Europe organisations were joined by actor and campaigner Patrick Stewart, comedian Andy Parsons and MPs in London for the event.

Thousands of anti-Brexit campaigners took to the streets around the UK on Saturday to raise awareness and collect signatures to take to politicians. Further events have been planned for the coming months, including a rally in Westminster on 23 June, on the second anniversary of the referendum.

European Citizen's prize

Bremain in Spain has been nominated for an award by Spanish MEP,



Wilson and Giménez. :: SUR

Teresa Giménez Barbat. The MEP announced her plan to put forward the anti-Brexit group for the European Citizen's Prize during a visit by Chair of Bremain in Spain, Sue Wilson, to the European Parliament in Brussels last week.

Each year, the European Parliament awards the prize to individuals, associations or organisations that have "displayed exceptional achievement and/or outstanding commitment in areas such as cultural cooperation contributing to the strengthening of a European spirit". Wilson said, "To say I am chuffed would be an understatement".

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Torremolinos
AYUNTAMIENTO



Many festival activities will take place in the atmospheric Casemates Square. :: SUR

Spring is in the air and Gibraltar plans to celebrate in style

Food, music, dance, art, fashion, sport, visits and fundraising events, just part of the Rock's Spring Festival in May and June

:: DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. May is just around the corner and so is Gibraltar's Spring Festival, which kicks off on May Day and continues until 23 June.

Many of the activities will be taking place in Casemates Square, including live music and dance performances, family fun days, classic and vintage car rallies, arts and crafts markets, and of course the famous 'Calentita' food and street party festival which is held to celebrate Gibraltar's multi-cultural community and will take place this year during the evening of Saturday 23 June.

The festival programme is exten-

sive and varied, with events and activities in numerous venues around the Rock.

Art lovers will undoubtedly want to make a note of an exhibition by Patricia Lombard at the Fine Arts Gallery from 7 to 23 May, the Heritage Trust annual painting competition in Irish Town on Saturday 12th, 'Turner versus Constable: The Great British Paint-Off' at the Garrison Library on Wednesday 16 May, the Spring Visual Art Exhibition at the Gustavo Bacarissas Gallery from 23 May to 2 June, 'Still Dancing Under The Shadows', a multimedia Fine Art exhibition by Ambrose Avellano at the same gallery which begins on 14 June, and exhibitions at the Mario Finlayson National Art Gallery in John Mackintosh Square and 'GEMA', the Gibraltar Exhibition for Modern Art at Montagu Bastion in Line Wall Road.

Nor will music lovers be forgotten at the Spring Festival, with a

Celebration of Opera at the Convent Ballroom on Wednesday 9 May, 'Zarzuela - Gigantes y Cabezudos' at the John Mackintosh Hall Theatre on Thursday 10 and Friday 11 May at 8pm, the International Song Festival at the Tercentenary Sports Hall on Saturday 2 June and the World Music Festival from 19 to 21 June.

For those who like something a bit different, Gibraltar International Comic Con takes place from 4 to 6 May, the Royal Naval Field Gun Display will be in John Mackintosh Square on Saturday 5 May from 10am to 3pm, the Gibraltar Museum will be holding its Open Day on Saturday 19 May and on the same day the famous Med Steps 5 Challenge will take place to raise funds for Cancer Relief.

These are just a few of the events to look forward to during the Spring Festival. The full programme can be obtained from the Gibraltar Ministry of Culture.

IN BRIEF



Rita Ora will perform at the music festival. :: SUR

More music festival artists announced

GIBRALTAR

:: D.B. Six more acts have been announced for this year's MTV Gibraltar Calling music festival, which takes place at the Victoria Stadium on Friday 21 and Saturday 22 September.

Rita Ora, Texas, Chase & Status, America, Bad Manners and Sweet will be joining Sister Sledge, Suzi Quatro, Stormzy, The Boomtown Rats, Rag 'n Bone Man and Two Door Cinema Club for the two-day festival, which is Gibraltar's biggest music event. Other artists have yet to be announced, but further information is available from www.gibraltarcalling.com

Night bus service in Upper Town

GIBRALTAR

:: D.B. A second night bus is now in operation on Friday and Saturday nights, covering the Upper Town area. The N1 service runs between Market Place and Willis Road every 40 minutes, from 9.30pm to 2am. The other night bus service, the N8, between Both Worlds, Europa Point and the South District, runs every 30 minutes from 9.20pm.

Mein Schiff 6 pays inaugural visit

GIBRALTAR

:: D.B. The German cruise ship Mein Schiff 6 paid its first visit to Gibraltar on Sunday. The ship is the newest in the Tui Cruises fleet and made its maiden voyage in June last year. It can carry approximately 2,500 passengers and 1,030 crew. The inaugural visit was marked by an informal ceremony on board, attended by Gibraltar tourist board and port authority representatives.

Conservation works by Ministry of Heritage

GIBRALTAR

:: D.B. Two of Gibraltar's most emblematic monuments, the Southport Gates and the Almond Tower, are undergoing conservation works at present, and the balustrade around the front garden of the Garrison Library is also being restored, to return the main entrance to its former grandeur.

The Southport Gates and old city walls need constant attention because of their age, as some parts were originally built during the Moorish era, and damage can be caused by invasive plants and shrubs.

The Almond Tower, whose name comes from the Spanish 'Torre Al-mendrada', is part of the castle and also dates back to mediaeval times. It is in urgent need of deep re-pointing and there are holes and cracks in the masonry.



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Real estate risks generally fall between those associated with bonds and equities. Due to bond-like rental streams and equity-like residual values, real estate investors should be expecting results somewhere between those of the bond market and stock market. Ibbotson Associates data for the past 78 years to 2014 indicates that stocks returned 10.4% annually and government bonds 5.4%. This suggests that real estate investors can expect a return around 7.9% pa (2.5% above bonds).

The strong relationship between replacement cost and market value leads to one of real estate's most attractive attributes: a high correlation with inflation. Since the labour materials used to build real estate assets rise in line with inflation, the replacement cost of real estate tracks inflation closely.

Let us remember, however, that in its purest form real estate is actually illiquid. Sensible investors recognising this will also hold a portfolio of marketable securities, providing both diversification and liquidity. Although exceptions do exist for individual investors, publicly traded real estate securities generally provide reasonably low cost exposure to high quality pools of real estate assets. Unfortunately, with few exceptions, the privately offered shares in private partnerships provide exposure to real estate at such an obscenely high cost, that they wipe out any individual investor's chance of earning fair returns.

Finally, many investors in real estate benefit from an unusual investment vehicle, the Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT). The REIT, unlike any other legal entity, does not pay income taxes as long as it distributes 90% of its taxable income and generates at least 75% of that income from rents, mortgages and sales.

With its inflation-sensitive nature, real estate provides a powerful diversification to portfolios. Sensible investors, however, pay close attention to fee arrangements and measure their options against a benchmark of passively managed, publicly traded REIT funds.

The comments and observations by the author are a reflection of his opinion and do not constitute an offer to buy and hold securities, nor does he receive any remuneration of any kind from names referred to.



Susana Díaz and Mariano Rajoy both said that this week's meeting in Madrid had been satisfactory. :: EFE

PM gives Junta president promise to unblock regional finance reform

Rajoy also said he was ready to negotiate an increase in state infrastructure investment in Andalucía, including on an improved rail line from Bobadilla to Algeciras

:: **MARÍA DOLORES TORTOSA**

SEVILLE. The national government has agreed to convene a meeting of the body tasked with negotiating the financing of the Spanish regions and will discuss with the Junta de Andalucía an improved budget for local rail projects.

These were the two main commitments that the socialist regional president of Andalucía, Susana Díaz, secured from conservative PM Mariano Rajoy in Madrid on Wednesday.

The two politicians were meeting to discuss the state budget for

2018, which is still to be approved by Madrid's Congreso. Rajoy is looking to win support from the different regions for his spending plans ahead of a difficult vote by MPs in the coming days.

The Junta president said that Andalucía was ready to attend the meeting to discuss regional finance reform "with the will to reach agreement and understanding" and to support a formula that "guarantees equal treatment [for all regions]".

Some Spanish regions are fearful that demands from Catalonia for more spending by Madrid could be agreed to at some point to soften the independence movement, and see other regions get a worse deal as a result. Andalusian politicians across all parties have signed a document claiming that the region is already missing out on four billion euros annually that it should receive.

Díaz also pressed Rajoy to in-

crease the budget for new railway infrastructure in Andalucía. She said that the 32 million euros that Madrid has put aside to improve the rail access to Algeciras port via Bobadilla, in Malaga province, was "insufficient" when it needs an estimated 300 million spending. The line is due to be integrated into a Mediterranean freight corridor.

Díaz was also looking for a commitment to finish the high-speed AVE to Granada, asking for the 140 million euros put aside for all rail projects in the region to be increased to nearer the two billion estimated to be needed to complete them all.

The Junta leader asked the national government to increase regional infrastructure spending to at least the Spanish per capita average. Madrid has said that Andalucía already receives slightly more money than its percentage share of total Spanish economic output.

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Elephant poem

What a beautiful poem about the elephant that died.

And I herewith would like to say thank you very much Paula Waterson, loved to read the poem. It's beautiful and it is saved for more times to read.

THIS WEEK'S WINNING LETTER

A. OLIJSLAGER
BY EMAIL

In defence of street sellers

I saw in last week's paper that Benalmádena's Local Police are planning to crack down on street sellers this summer.

As a local resident, I've come across many street sellers in my time and none have caused any more damage than a slight inconvenience.

To pool police resources in order to prevent people from selling goods on the street, in my opinion, is a waste of public money.

Rosa María González, president of the Benalmádena shoptraders' association says that "tourists shouldn't tolerate this image, with the seafront clogged up with sellers." Surely someone from a shoptraders association will be slightly biased against these sellers that offer

cheaper goods. I also think that many tourists are too reluctant to familiarise themselves with the local community and therefore consider being approached in the street as something hostile, when in fact it usually is not.

Obviously, as these people are often undocumented, they have trouble finding other types of jobs. Sometimes this is the only way they can make a living.

Why is it relevant to draw people's attention to the fact that they are from Senegal? What are you trying to say? I have witnessed Spanish sellers as well. It feels like this article has targeted one group in particular.

G.FORSYTH
BY POST

Solidarity with cleaning staff

I was pleased to read about 'Las Kellys', the group of hotel cleaners leading the fight against low pay and poor working conditions. I was not aware of their struggle and after reading this I have decided to make a point of being nice and appreciating their hard work.

L. FRANCCINNI
BY EMAIL

This alarming man

PETER EDGERTON
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

There are various categories which musicians fall into: the brilliant arrogant ones, the brilliant humble ones, the half-decent arrogant ones, the half-decent humble ones, the rubbish arrogant ones (usually found singing in bars unable to comprehend why they aren't megastars) and the rubbish humble ones. And then there's our old mate Morrissey in a category all of his own - the quirky delusional one.

His musical output is a parson's egg if ever there was one - good in parts and bewilderingly poor in others. Years ago, I saw him up at Fuengirola castle where I went to do some festival interviews at a time when I worked on the radio. He bowled up in a big limousine and nobody was allowed within a certain number of metres of him (I was told it was a clause written

into his contract). A couple of massive blokes were there to enforce the rule but they needn't have bothered, no-one batted an eyelid, let alone ran towards the vehicle. Poor bloke had forgotten it wasn't nineteen eighty-six. Anyway, to give him his due, he performed and sang very well, over-indulging in that whiplash microphone cable technique thing he so loves, but it was a very good show nonetheless. Plus, I got to go home happy because he sang his best song The More You Ignore Me The Closer I Get which includes the magnificent rhyming couplet 'I bear more grudges than lonely high court judges.'

Morrissey's former group, The Smiths, are a sacred cow for many; there are people who simply can't comprehend why anyone wouldn't like them. I'm not much of a fan, but

Johnny Marr's guitar jingly jangles can be exquisite sometimes, there's no denying that. None of this, however, is generally what gets people talking about Morrissey these days; it's more the utter nonsense he spouts in interviews or on social media which leaves people sporting the kind of incredulous expression normally only associated with those who've just witnessed a Spanish politician resigning after being caught banged to rights over some misdemeanour or other. Oh, sorry, bad example - that never happens, obviously.

Lately, Mozza's come out with a couple of corkers, most notably the totally baffling 'Brexit did not happen'. Once someone has become that detached from reality, it's difficult to see a way back for them, although if he caught the bus to his next gig, it might help.

IDÍGORAS



SUR English

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Editor:
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Assistant editor:
Daryl Finch

Advertising Manager:
Emma Vera
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It's fine to advise locals to put a smile on their faces for the tourists, as long as we don't go over the top and they interpret our cheerful friendliness as an indication that all we do is go out and party. It's not a cliché - there really are people out there who think that the smile on our faces means that we don't do any work.

This Easter, for example, I experienced this attitude with a group of foreign visitors I was advising about what to do during their stay in Malaga. They laughed, saying that here we like having a good fiesta more than going to work. And so, doesn't everyone? I ought to clarify that this was said by people swanning around on holiday to me, who had just left work and offered

Thick-skinned locals

ANA BARREALES

to give up vital hours of sleep to show them around.

Here, we're generally very friendly. That and thick-skinned enough not to be rude when someone makes that sort of comment.

I remember a little experiment we did at SUR some years ago to see which tourist attractions were rec-

ommended most by the locals. A journalist turned up at the railway station as if she were a newly arrived tourist and let the locals guide her. An elderly pensioner overheard her questions and offered to be her guide for the rest of the morning.

There's a little village in Cuenca, Santa Cruz de Moya, whose popu-

lation swells from 300 to 2,500 during the holidays. Recently it has spoken out on behalf of all the small Spanish towns that tourists flood to. The visitors are very welcome, but the towns call for respect for the rural environment and understanding of the difficulties in offering certain services.

In a glorious announcement, the mayor reminds visitors of the rules of coexistence adapted to the characteristics of a small village and to avoid comments such as "in Valencia this is much cheaper" or "how can they be so slow in bars or shops".

"A self-employed worker pays the same in the Diagonal of Barcelona as in the village store, and so don't underestimate how difficult it is for the bars and restaurants to keep open and imagine what would

happen if they were closed when you come back next year," reads the statement from the mayor.

And then there's the warning for visitors who see themselves as VIPs: "Avoid comments about how great it is to be without a mobile signal, because if you want to switch off you can activate flight mode anytime; there's no need to use the underdevelopment of one Spain to the delight of another."

It's a bit like saying you come, you invade our village, we do all we can to welcome you, we make allowances for the population to multiply by ten and you just annoy us with your big city comments. We might be a village but we do have feelings, just like anyone from the Big Apple, or more.

I would vote for that mayor too.



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Bringing together the big stars of the big screen

Guillermo del Toro and Juan Antonio Bayona have been the star attractions so far at the Malaga Film Festival this week

:: I. GELIBTER / F. GRIÑÁN / R. SOTORRÍO / D. FINCH

MALAGA. Red carpets, selfie sticks and major names in world cinema have all come together in Malaga this week for the annual Malaga Film Festival, a meeting point for the Spanish-language film industry on both sides of the Atlantic.

This year in its 21st edition, the festival got under way last Friday with the gala opening at the Cervantes theatre, attended by Spanish cinema's great and good who maintained their glamour despite the rain, as well as representatives from the local, regional and national government.

Between then and this Sunday, the ten-day event has hosted multiple premieres, workshops and prizegiving ceremonies across various venues in the city, including the Cervantes and Echegaray theatres and the Albéniz cinema.

All of this will draw to a close this weekend with the presentation of the prized 'biznagas' (awards inspired by the flower arrangement typical of Malaga, made from jasmine) for best picture and best direction, among others.

Giants of cinema

However, it is the honorary awards that have attracted the most attention this year, thanks to the festival's two major international guests. Spaniard Juan Antonio Bayona, director of the upcoming Jurassic World film for which promotion will begin in the coming days, claimed the Retrospective award.

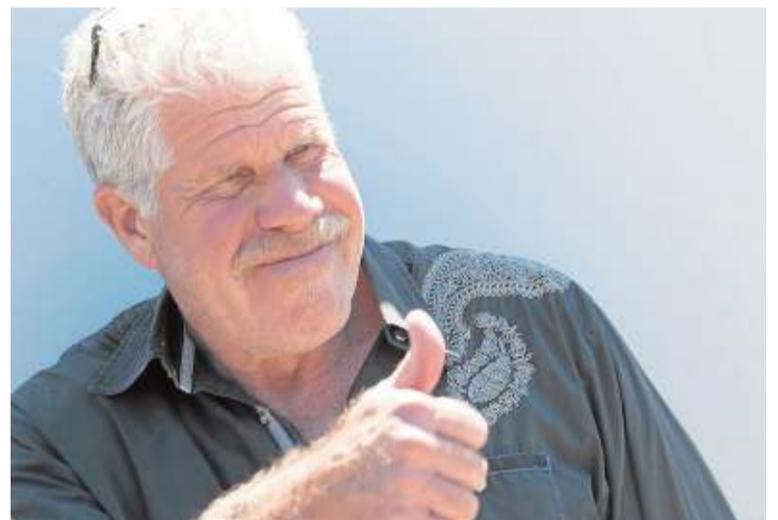
The man responsible for The Orphanage, The Impossible and A



Guillermo del Toro with SUR editor-in-chief Manuel Castillo and Malaga mayor Francisco de la Torre on Saturday afternoon. :: ÑITO SALAS



Rain couldn't dampen the opening gala. :: ÑITO SALAS



Ron Perlman promoting Sergio y Serguéi. :: FRANCIS SILVA

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Monster Calls received tributes at the Cervantes theatre on Monday, following in the footsteps of his mentor, Mexican filmmaker Guillermo del Toro (director of the Oscar-winning *The Shape of Water*) who received the Málaga-SUR Prize on Saturday.

"A critical time for humanity"

The affable Del Toro, who met with a number of fans between various commitments as he explored the city and sampled the famous 'boquerones', explained that he was taking a year out and was humbled by the SUR award. "It's always important to be grateful," he said ahead of the award ceremony on Saturday night. "We are living in a very critical time for humanity because we are more often choosing hate over empathy."

For Del Toro, his Oscar win went "against the narrative created by Trump" as his film, like many of his others, promoted "sympathy, dialogue and understanding".

Del Toro transmitted his particular vision of cinema at a workshop later the same day at the city's Palacio de Congresos. This was following the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate the occasion on the Antonio Machado seafront promenade.

At the prizegiving itself, numerous big names, including Paz Vega and Eduardo Noriega shared anecdotes about working with the "giant", as he was described by Ron Perlman.

Perlman, who played the title



Juan Antonio Bayona received a prize on Monday. :: NITO SALAS

character in Del Toro's *Hellboy*, later told SUR: "Filmmakers are generally crazy - and I mean that in a good way. There was never a normal day [working with him], nor is one ever like another. It's crazy."

The American was in Malaga to promote his latest venture *Sergio y Serguéi*, a Hispano-Cuban independent film in which he starred and was executive producer. "In Hollywood they are obsessed with genre," he said. "Independent cinema is much more interesting because you can explore more themes and have mul-

tidimensional characters."

Strong public interest

As with every year, there has been a lot of interest from the general public, with large crowds outside the major venues of fans waiting to catch a glimpse of their idols of the silver screen.

Tickets for a number of screenings and the gala events sold out quickly but a limited number is still available to the general public and can be purchased through the festival's official website (festivaldemalaga.com)

Banderas and Cruz to be reunited with Almodóvar for upcoming film

Filming for 'Dolor y Gloria' will begin in July

:: MIGUEL LORENCI

MADRID. Legendary Spanish director Pedro Almodóvar will bring together old favourites Antonio Banderas and Penélope Cruz for his latest film 'Dolor y Gloria'.

If all goes to plan, shooting for the film, which will heavily focus on its male characters, will commence in the second half of July this year.

The main roles will be played by Banderas and Asier Etxeandia, but Cruz, alongside Julieta Serrano, will play "essential secondary characters".

The film is expected to explore themes such as "the difficulty of separating creation from real life", according to the director who admits the film could also have autobiographical elements.



Banderas, Almodóvar and Cruz after winning an Oscar in 2000. :: AFP

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"Lawrence of Arabia was broken by the war"

Neil Faulkner Archaeologist



MADDY HAY

✉ english@diariosur.es

On Tuesday the Arts Society welcomes Time Team history buff and T. E. Lawrence expert Neil Faulkner to Benahavís

MALAGA. Based upon new historical evidence, the lecture on the Costa del Sol next week by Neil Faulkner (London, 1958) promises to be a fascinating uncovering of the real man behind the legend of Lawrence of Arabia.

Faulkner's interest in T. E. Lawrence was sparked during a 10-year-long archaeological project looking for evidence related to the Arab Revolt in the deserts of southern Jordan.

"Lawrence's war memoir, *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, was the most detailed record of the revolt, so our project meant that we inevitably had to have a very serious engagement with the biography, the character, the role and indeed the controversy surrounding Lawrence. I've indirectly become a sort of Lawrence specialist, as a consequence of our archaeological project," Faulkner tells SUR in English in a telephone interview prior to his trip to southern Spain.

After the First World War, Lawrence's story became something of a legend, made concrete in 1962 with the release of *Lawrence of Arabia*, David Lean's Oscar-winning historical drama. However, Lawrence's celebrity is surrounded by controversy, which according to Faulkner has existed since 1919.

"There were those who saw him

as a sort of military genius who played a major role in the outcome of First World War in the Middle East and those who think of him as a serial liar," says the archaeologist.

Based upon his findings in Jordan, Faulkner's team were able to draw a conclusion which could perhaps bring some answers to this century-old debate. He's keeping quiet for now, promising a big reveal during the upcoming lecture in Benahavís. "We certainly came to a definite view as to whether *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom* can be considered to be a reliable account," he says.

The story of T. E. Lawrence continues to be relevant to this day. Faulkner explains that Lawrence internalised the remaining Middle East conflict post-war, something from which he never properly recovered.

"Lawrence was broken by the war, primarily as a consequence of his sense that the Arabs had been betrayed by the British. The British had effectively promised the leaders of the Arab Revolt a united independent Arab state in the Middle East, if the Ottoman Empire was defeated, which obviously it was," he explains.

Faulkner continues, "However, after the war, a secret agreement between the British, the French and the Russians meant that the Middle East was actually divided between the imperial powers. Over time, as the various states of the Middle East got their independence, those artificial borders that had been created were fossilised and are largely unchanged to this day."

The archaeologist states that what the imperial powers did between 1916 and 1921 continues to impact the Middle East of today.

"The region is extremely dysfunctional in terms of where the boundaries are and what the nation state entities are. We can see what's happened in Iraq and what's happened in Syria - the whole thing sort of implodes



"Up for it" - the archaeologist at work. :: SUR

"Lawrence viewed the British Empire through rose-tinted glasses"

into sectarian warfare."

The title of David Fromkin's 1989 account captures it for Faulkner: "They imposed a 'peace to end all peace'. What was done after the war has shaped the Middle East for 100 years." This modern-day connection is what makes Lawrence such a fascinating point of study for this

archaeologist.

In some respects, Faulkner himself must identify with T. E. Lawrence. Both are scholars, academics and archaeologists whose work has brought them to the same part of the world. "He was somebody who was very 'up for it'. He took himself out to the Middle East to collect information for an undergraduate dissertation on crusader castles in 1909. He then went back there after graduating to work as an excavator. That's the kind of thing that I can identify with very strongly."

However, as an anti-imperialist, Faulkner considers Lawrence to have been too trusting. "He viewed the British Empire through rose-tinted

THE LAWRENCE LECTURE

► **Speaker:** Neil Faulkner

► **Venue:** Benahavís Town Hall

► **Date and time:** 24 April, 6.30pm

► **Fee:** 12 euros with complimentary glass of wine

glasses. I think he was extremely naïve about their potential benevolence. The British Empire wasn't some cross between the National Trust and the United Nations, it was a rapacious system of exploitation." He puts it down to Lawrence's background and the political influences that he came under. Ultimately, Faulkner believes that Lawrence was subject to ideological conditioning.

"He was never able to break away and see the underlying purpose of the British Empire or the reactionary nature of the leadership of the Arab Revolt."

Although he's a regular lecturer for the Arts Society, this upcoming trip to Spain is of particular interest to Faulkner.

"I'm going to take advantage of my time there. The lecture is on Tuesday, but I'm coming on Saturday with three mates and were going to be doing some field work in Almería."

Most know that Almería was a top Spaghetti Western filming location. Perhaps lesser known is that it was also the setting for a large portion of David Lean's *Lawrence of Arabia*.

"We are going to go to the site of the town of Aqaba, and we'll try to find where they built the railway line for the famous train ambush scene." As Faulkner puts it, what he's now interested in is the "archaeology of cinema".

Faulkner is clearly passionate; his views are both fierce and incredibly well considered. Sparks will fly this Tuesday alongside insights over fifteen years in the making.

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SOCIETY SCENE

Clubs make the most of the season

Spring arrives with a classic car run, a field hike around a natural park and a concert

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

SOL Classic Car Club April Run

Sol classic car owners recently went on a day out starting from Hotel Las Camelias in Torreguadiaro near Sotogrande. They drove up on a mountain road to Venta Puerto de Galis and enjoyed views over the Reserva Nacional de Cortes de la Frontera before returning via Gaucín. The final stop was at Venta El Mirador in Casares.

Age Concern Volunteers needed

Age Concern Fuengirola and Mijas are looking for more volunteers to spend a few hours a week helping in the shop in Los Boliches. They also need drivers (expenses paid) to take clients to hospital or doctor's appointments. Anyone that can help contact Age Concern on 686289904 or at the charity shop (10.30am - 2pm weekdays) in Calle Francisco Cano 56 in Los Boliches.

Gerald Brenan Cultural Association Language exchange

The Official Language School of Málaga and the Cultural Association Gerald Brenan organise English-Spanish exchange language sessions every Wednesday from 11am to 1pm and

Friday from 4.30 to 6.30pm. Sessions are held at the Language School in Paseo Martiricos, near the Rosaleda Football Stadium. Anyone interested contact Lola Ortega: lolaortegamunoz@hotmail.com

Collegium Musicum Spring soirée

Last Saturday, Collegium Musicum, directed by Annemarie Philipps, offered a Spring Soirée of light music in Fuengirola. The international musicians performed a wide range of music from Vivaldi to Lloyd Webber, showing their individual talents and playing in chamber groups. Their next concert is on 27 May in Guadiaro and the annual charity concert in aid of Concordia is on 29 May in Marbella. More details email: info@colmus.org

The Field Club Spring trek

Members of The Field Club, Fuengirola, enjoyed their spring holiday on top of 'La Capitania' in the Natural Park Norte de Sevilla. The club goes on long and short walks every week, and go on spring and autumn walking holidays. For more information email: thefieldclubfuengirola@hotmail.com or visit the website www.thefieldclub.es

What are you up to?

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

Email: surinenglish.su@diariosur.es



Spring soirée with Collegium Musicum :: sur.



Members of the Field Club in the Norte de Sevilla natural park :: sur.



SOL Classic Car Club on an excursion. :: sur

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Gold, Pearl and Silver celebrations for the Arts

The international Arts Society is marking fifty years in 2018, while here in Malaga province, the Costa del Sol branch is 30 and Nerja turns 25 this year



JENNIE RHODES

✉ rhodes_jennie@hotmail.com

MALAGA. This year is a special one for the Arts Society, Formerly Nadfas (National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies), both in Malaga and internationally; the latter is celebrating 50 years this year, while the Costa del Sol branch, which was the first ever in Spain, is 30 and Nerja is turning 25.

The societies are holding a series of events to celebrate their golden, pearl and silver anniversaries respectively. The Costa del Sol society, along with Benahavis, celebrated with a 'Golden Memories' event at the beginning of March for which members dressed up either as hippies or in floral dresses with hats and gloves, befitting of the image of Nadfas at the time. Current Chair of the Nerja Society Helen Sijlsing, admits that under the name, Nadfas, the society did have a rather "fuddy-duddy" image and was related to "middle-class, middle-aged women in hats and gloves".

Founder of the Costa del Sol branch, Sue Brodie; Roberta Kettel, who founded the Nerja branch; and the current Chairs, Betty Fooks in Benahavis, Yvonne Sjokvist, Costa del Sol and Helen in Nerja; all welcome the name to change to the Arts Society. "It's marvellous and all-encompassing," says Roberta, although Betty admits that she feels the society could have "made it sound more international", given the number of branches around the world.

Sue Brodie recalls starting up Nadfas in Fuengirola in 1988. "People were complaining that there was no culture and no cinema and the museums in those days were few and far



Members of the Costa del Sol and Benahavis Arts Society dress up for the Golden Memories event. :: SUR

between," she says, adding, "many people wanted something other than sports and bars."

Sue had previously been a member of Nadfas in Haslemere, Surrey, after returning from Germany where she and her husband had been living. When Sue said that she and her husband would be moving to the Costa del Sol she was asked to "look at the possibilities" of starting a society here. It took her two years to do so and she recalls that there was a lot of enthusiasm for the idea. While there were already branches of Nadfas in other European countries, Sue was the founding member of the first Spain-based society.

She recalls with humour the difficulties of getting a society started in the late 1980s, when there was no

There was no phone or internet when Sue Brodie started the Costa del Sol society

Images of winning anniversary art work will be screened at the AGM in London in May

internet and she says that they had no phone in the finca she and her husband were building at the time.

"Our nearest neighbour had a phone and would hang out red trousers whenever there was a message for us," she laughs.

There were a few incidents regarding lecturers in the early days, including Nadfas's decision to send a gentleman to give the inauguration talk on British silver. "We were told who would come to speak to us in those days and there was little consideration that we were an international group, which included my Spanish hairdresser whom I managed to persuade to come along," Sue remembers, pointing out that perhaps a talk on British silver may not have been the most interesting of subjects for the Mexicans, Germans, Dutch and Spanish among the first members. Lectures and meetings started at the Casa de la Cultura in Fuengirola, until they moved to the Salón Varietés theatre where they have been since 2002.

Five years later, Roberta Kettel who lives in Nerja, was approached by some people who had been attending the meetings in Fuengirola. The suggestion was to start a Nerja branch as regular trips to the other side of the province were not ideal.

The first lecture took place in December 1993 and unlike the British Silver theme in 1988 in Fuengirola, the talk was on Gaudí. "We had 14

members and 16 guests to the first lecture which was held in the basement of the Balcón de Europa hotel," explains Roberta. "Everything was done on slides, there was no Power Point in those days," she adds. Nadfas Costa del Sol supported the Nerja branch until it achieved 100 members in 2000 and the two societies have always shared lecturers and therefore expenses. Nowadays each lecture is sponsored by a local company.

The Benahavis branch was set up six years ago. Betty admits that by the time they started they "had the advantage of email and the internet". They now have 106 members from a range of different countries and recently as well as joining Costa del Sol for the Golden Memories event, they also ran an art exhibition in the Villa Padierna, which is where Michelle Obama stayed when she visited the area in 2010.

Nadfas was founded in 1968 in the UK by Patricia Fay, who died in 1979. In 1984 the first international society was started in Germany and four years later, Sue Brodie founded the first branch in Spain. The name was changed to the Arts Society in 2017 to incorporate all the arts and to make the society's name and objectives clearer.

Helen in Nerja is delighted that since the name change, the society "is seeing a younger influx of members" and that it is slowly shaking off the "fuddy-duddy" image of days past. The society continues to grow internationally and three more are set to open in Spain in the near future; Mallorca, Menorca and Mojácar. There is also a branch in Gibraltar.

The Costa del Sol anniversary exhibition runs until the end of April (by appointment only) at the Commercial Centre Los Olivivos, Sitio de Calahonda, Mijas Costa. Nerja's exhibition has already happened but there will be further events towards the end of the year when a bench designed by Cómpeeta-based artist and Arts Society member, Lieuwke Loth, will be inaugurated on the Balcón de Europa, to mark the Nerja society's 25th anniversary. Most branches have sent images of their winning works to the national headquarters in London and they will be shown on a screen during this May's AGM.

THE PROTAGONISTS

Sue Brodie

Founder, Costa del Sol

"People were complaining that there was no culture and no cinema in those days"



Roberta Kettel

Founder, Nerja branch

"The first lecture was held in the basement of the Balcón de Europa hotel"



Yvonne Sjokvist

Chair, Costa del Sol

"We have been meeting at the Salón Varietés theatre since 2002"



Helen Sijlsing

Chair, Nerja branch

"I think the name change is helping the image of the society"



Betty Fooks

Chair, Benahavis

"We had the advantage of email and internet when we first started six years ago"



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GARDENING

Rayless golden rod

A tough, evergreen perennial with bright sulphur yellow blooms which attract honey bees and butterflies

Bigelovia is a small genus of plants native to Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia and Florida in the US.

It is a member of the daisy family (Asteraceae) and al-

though commonly called Rayless goldenrod it is not related to the similar-looking Solidago.

This slow growing sub-shrub has fine, almost succulent leaves that form in short tufts and will

eventually form dense crowns of foliage.

The closely packed umbels of bright yellow flowers are held above the foliage on long, thin stems approximately 30cm long through the summer and into the autumn.

Bigelovia flowers in the second year and the blooms are full of nectar, attracting honey bees as well as butterflies. They make a long-lasting cut flower.

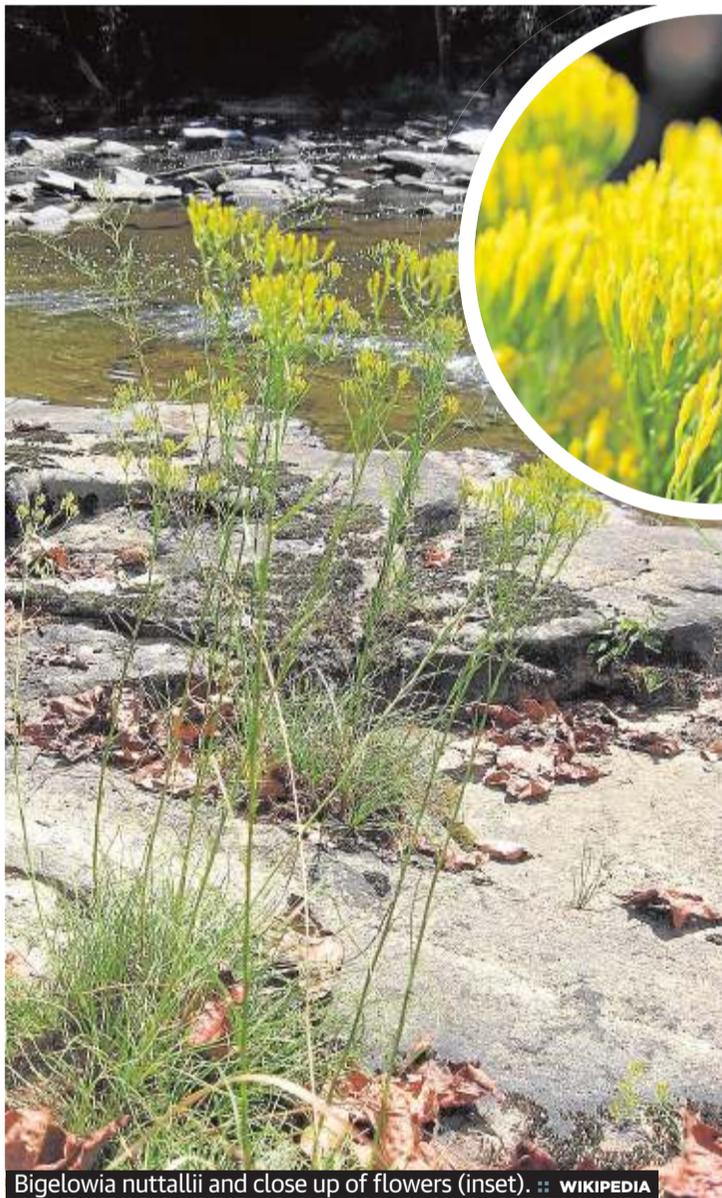
Bigelovia nuttallii is drought resistant once established and is invaluable for xeriscaping. During the winter it is evergreen and when dormant needs no watering at all.

It can be grown in the front of the border, in rock gardens and is also very popular for green roofs. Bigelovia nuttallii will grow happily in poor soils and will tolerate some shade.

Propagation is by seed and, in ideal conditions, it will seed itself around the garden.

The common name 'Rayless goldenrod' refers to the fact that the flowers have disc florets and no ray florets.

The ray florets are the long, thin marginal petals and the disc florets are the tightly packed petals that form in the centre, a common daisy is a good example. Dandelions are composed entirely of ray florets.

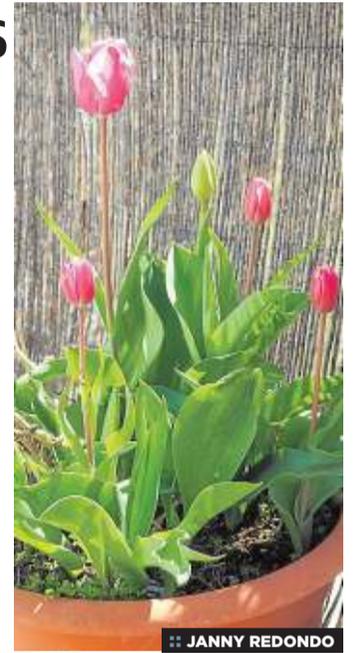


Bigelovia nuttallii and close up of flowers (inset). :: WIKIPEDIA

READER'S PHOTO

LATE BLOOMERS IN THE ALPUJARRAS

Reader Janny Redondo has sent in this photo of tulips. She says, "Here are the tulips I planted this year in Bubi6n on a terrace in the Alpujarras." Despite the delayed start to spring, most bulbs are finishing flowering now. The dead flowers should be removed (unless you're hoping to collect the seeds) and the leaves left until they are yellow as at the moment they are feeding the bulb below the soil for next year's flowers.



:: JANNY REDONDO

GARDENING HINTS

It's slug and snail season

The copious rainfall of the last few months and the arrival of the warmer, more spring-like, weather has boosted lots of tender, new plant growth and slugs and snails are seriously busy taking advantage of all that lush greenery.

Great for the snails but a tragedy if you've been watching and waiting for your hostas / lilies / carnations etc. to send up burgeoning new shoots only to find that overnight they've been ravaged by these voracious mollusks.

It's worth checking every pot on a daily basis, lifting

it up and inspecting the base to see if there is anything hiding in the drainage holes or under the pot rim. Move pots away from overhanging plants that may also be harbouring the pests; irises are the worst, they seem to be a favourite place for snails to hide. Removing the top few centimetres of soil and replacing with fresh potting compost can also help as snails and slugs lay their eggs in the top few centimetres. It will also give your potted plants a boost.

Use chemical slug pellets only as a last resort.

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 Marañ6n 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)

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SERVICE Interview with Dr Reyes, head of the medical unit at Sanysol socio-sanitary centre, which specialises in caring for the elderly

“SANYSOL’S PROJECT IS UNIQUE IN ANDALUCÍA AND THE QUALITY OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED AND FANTASTIC RESULTS HAVE HELPED CONSOLIDATE IT”

TORRE DEL MAR

Dr Elías Reyes is a specialist in internal medicine, cardiology and diabetes mellitus and is head of the medical unit at Sanysol. The socio-sanitary centre, which specialises in care for elderly people, also offers a temporary stay service for post-operative recovery and to enable specialised rehabilitation with the very best assistance and attention. **What makes Sanysol stand out compared to other centres?** Ours is an international socio-sanitary centre which is highly specialised in the recovery and rehabilitation of people who suffer different pathologies following a hospital stay. Ours is a pioneering project on the Costa del Sol that has managed to become consolidated thanks to the quality of its assistance and services and the fantastic results achieved.

What do you mean when you say it’s an international centre? That we receive patients from all over Andalucía, but also from abroad. We have a very high occupation rate, of up to 65%, of foreign residents who come mostly from Great Britain, Germany, Switzerland, Scandinavian countries, France, Belgium, Holland and Russia.

What are the centre’s goals? We mainly strive to ensure the residents feel at home and that they are well attended by a team of highly qualified and motivated staff. To achieve this, we offer very personalised care to suit their individual needs and conditions.

Who makes up the team? We have a multidisciplinary team including nurses and clinical assistants who provide bilingual attention and assistance 24 hours per day; specialists who provide physiotherapy and ergotherapy with personalised programmes drawn up to suit each individual’s needs and condition; psychological attention

and speech therapy; a social worker and a team of translators to cover English, German, French and Russian.

I’m in charge of the medical and rehabilitation sections. Other doctors specialising in dentistry, traumatology, neurology, psychiatry and geriatrics also collaborate with us.

How is Sanysol organised? Sanysol is divided into 6 major sections relating to patients’ conditions and needs, with their recovery in mind.

One unit covers post-operative recovery (orthopaedic-traumatology, general surgery, cardiac, gynaecology, neurology). Here, we help patients who have undergone surgery to regain their independence, with regards to mobility and self-care, to allow them to resume their normal lives as soon as possible. The programmes, which are always personalised, usually last between one and three months depending on the patient’s situation, motivation and the nature of their surgery.

We also have a neurological rehabilitation unit (especially for post-stroke and neurodegenerative conditions); an oncology care unit for patients who have either received or are receiving radiotherapy or chemotherapy; and a general recovery unit for people who come for a short stay for a break, rest, etc.

We also have a palliative care unit as well as a dementia unit with specific care for these conditions, both for cases for which there is no cure and for potentially curable ones.

Can dementias be cured? Between 10% and 20% of these conditions are reversible as they are due to external causes such as tumours or even depressive syndromes. We always carry out a full diagnosis and evaluation and a multidisciplinary team



Dr Reyes in his office at Sanysol.



The centre has incorporated a new ultrasound unit.

studies the patient’s case to provide the best possible treatment and this produces very positive results. Even when it isn’t possible to cure the illness, we try to slow it down and help people have the best possible quality of life.

What are the most important points to treat for patients’ recovery?

Specialised and personalised sanitary assistance is undoubtedly first on the list. Correct nutrition is also very important, with an emphasis on the Mediterranean

diet with local produce and a high Omega 3 content.

We also encourage daily physical activity and keep a careful watch over accompanying conditions and modifiable cardiovascular factors.

In collaboration with all of this we can also carry out complementary diagnostic tests such as blood and urine tests or EKGs. We have also incorporated a multidisciplinary ultrasound unit for abdominal, urological, thoracic-pleural, musculoskeletal, joint, cervical and thyroid ultrasounds, colour Doppler of the extremities, supra-aortic trunks and echocardiography.

All to ensure the patients receive the best attention and feel at home.

SANYSOL
PENSANDO EN TI

ADVERTORIAL

Volunteers needed for charity shop

The newly opened Spanish Stray Dogs charity shop in Duquesa Port needs at least six more volunteers

:: ASH BOLTON

MANILVA. A new charity shop that raises funds for stray dogs is looking for more volunteers to help extend its opening hours.

The Spanish Stray Dogs charity shop opened its doors last month in Duquesa Port and is staffed by a team of expats.

Funds raised in the shop help pay for a vet that visits some 350 dogs at the Los Barrios municipal kennel near Gibraltar.

The charity shop was opened by Sharon Peterson, who started fundraising for the organisation by hosting garden parties at her home and selling donated items.

Sharon, 68, who is originally from Yorkshire, and has lived in Spain for the past five years, said: "I was getting so many donated items that it made sense to open a charity shop.



Sharon, bottom right, and volunteers at the charity shop. :: A. B.

"Since we've opened we can't move for the amount of donations we've received - but we can't turn them away.

"We've been overwhelmed by the generosity of people, it's moved me to tears."

Sharon told SUR in English that the charity shop has to close most afternoons and on Sundays as there are not enough volunteers to keep

it open.

"We get a lot of people coming in the afternoon, but we have to close as we don't have enough volunteers. The idea is that if we open later in the afternoons, we can raise more money.

"We need another six volunteers at least. No one gets paid including myself. We are looking for people with good customer service who

can work as part of a team."

The shop, which is in Duquesa Port, sells secondhand clothes, books, furniture and general bric-a-brac.

Sharon explained that in addition to paying for a vet, the Spanish Stray Dogs charity also pays for most of the food for the dogs at the municipal pound.

She added: "A volunteer was begging for dog food outside Mercadona in Sotogrande back in December 2016, as the pound was regularly running out of dog food and was in real dire straits.

"Since then local expats have got together and have organised regular food drops for the pound."

Locals wishing to donate dog food, cleaning products or bedding can drop them at Itzabar in Sabinillas, the English Butcher in Duquesa Port, A1 Electricals in Torreguadiaro and Sotogrande International School.

i More information :
www.spanishstraydogs.org.uk or email charityshop@spanishstraydogs.org.uk

OBITUARY

LA CALA DE MIJAS
LIONS CLUB

JOY WILDBUR

A valuable member of La Cala de Mijas Lions, Joy Bridget Wildbur, sadly

passed away last week, at the age of 81. She will be sorely missed as she was a lovely lady, appreciated by everyone for her kindness and wonderful nature. During her period as Social Secretary she set up two popular annual events that remain today major fundraisers for the club. The Spring Fayre and Fashion show held in May and the Christmas Fayre in December.



Joy, who was married to John and leaves a son, Robert, joined the Lions in 2003 after moving to Spain from her home in Norfolk. She was an amazing lady with talents and ideas that were always appreciated. She worked tirelessly serving the community; even after her stroke she attended the club meetings regularly.

A former hairdresser, florist and professional painter, Joy was never one to seek praise; she quietly got on with what was needed to be done with enthusiasm and energy. She gave many paintings to the Lions raffles which raised so much for the local community.

Goodbye Joy, the world will be poorer without you but what a memory you have left behind.

Please go along to the Spring Fayre and Fashion show on Monday 14 May at the Hotel Tamisa Golf, 11.30am to 5pm, and keep her memory going.

Costa journalists discover the floral delights of Estepona

:: LIZ PARRY

ESTEPONA. The April meeting of the Costa Press Club took the form of a guided tour of Estepona led by the town's head of Tourism Strategy, Aleksandra Broch, followed by drinks and tapas at the Casa del Rey restaurant.

Members travelled from Malaga in the east to Los Barrios in the west to see for themselves the transformation brought about in the historic centre of Estepona by a beautification project which has involved adom-

ing dull walls with murals and planting as many as a million flowers. Local children have been involved planting trees and dozens of streets have been lined with colourful hanging flowerpots. The project has also seen considerable pedestrianisation in the town centre.

The tour started at the Orchidarium and ended at the restaurant where members were addressed by the mayor, José María García Urbano, before enjoying a selection of original "pinchos".



Members of the Costa Press Club in Estepona on Tuesday. :: HERTA FRITZ



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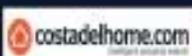


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Benefit concert in favour of orphans in Rajasthan, India

by GABRIELA BERNER

MARBELLA. More than 40 guests enjoyed a wonderful benefit concert offered by well-known singer and guitarist Alicia Fajardo at the beach restaurant Ra-Ma in Marbesa last Saturday. It was organised by Dr Jovanka Manojlovic, the head of Diksha España, and other volunteers of the Indian-based foundation with the support of always cooperative and generous restaurant owners Rafael Osorio and Maria Rueda. Diksha is a non-profit organisation based in the town of Ajmer, Rajasthan, which provides orphaned children, especially girls,

with a continuous education and a decent home. Diksha allows further education for especially talented children. The goals of the NGO are mainly financed by the proceeds of several charity events as concerts and big dinner parties around the year and the sponsoring of individual children.

After the concert, Dr Jovanka Manojlovic explained that they were always looking for volunteers to spend six months in Ajmer to help Diksha and their proteges directly. For further information please phone 650 752 691 or send an email to diksha.project@gmail.com.



Volunteers of Diksha España with singer Alicia Fajardo. :: G. B.

LEGAL ADVICE



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REF. S. A. B.

Three years ago I took court action to claim an amount of money that someone owed me, and we have only just obtained the judgment, which sentences the defendant to pay the claimed amount. However, the defendant has appealed, with the intention of delaying the payment as long as possible. I hope that the appeal is re-

jected, but I have been notified that the court will take a year and a half to make a decision. I am fed up with this situation, and want my money back. Could I ask to receive the money, even if the judgment from the appeal court has not come through yet?

In principle, you could. Some years ago the law that governed the stages of court proceedings changed, and it was allowed to ask for the provisional enforcement of the first instance judgments, irrespective of what the appeal court can decide. Nevertheless, if the court accepts the appeal, you will have to pay the money back.

REF. T. E. K.

Four months ago I took out life insurance with a reputed insurance company, designating my wife as beneficiary in the event of my demise. She has always been a housewife and does not have any income, so I

want her to be well covered if I pass away. The insurance company sent a questionnaire with many questions about my health, which I answered honestly. Unfortunately, last month I detected a lump on my neck, and after several medical tests I have been diagnosed with cancer. My concern now is that the insurance company rejects to pay my wife the amount established, alleging that as I took the policy a little while ago, I have hidden relevant information. Could they refuse to pay?

Technically they couldn't, as if you did not know that you suffered that illness, you did not hide any information. Sadly, it is quite usual for insurance companies try to avoid paying compensation using any kind of ruse or excuse, so if this is your case it will be very important that you can prove, by means of the medical reports obtained, that you only discovered about the illness after taking the policy.

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BEN CLARKE



WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

20 APRIL 1992

The opening of the 1992 Universal Exposition of Seville

In April 1992, the Universal Exposition of Seville, located on Cartuja island, across the Guadalquivir river from the city centre, was opened to the public by representatives of the Spanish royal family. King Juan Carlos was accompanied by Queen Sofía, Prince Felipe and the Infantas Elena and Cristina.

1992 was a particularly significant year for the city as it marked 500 years since the first voyage of Christopher Columbus from Seville in search of trade routes with India and China. What he found instead was the New World, today known as Latin America, much of which would remain under Spanish control for four hundred years. The Expo's motto was 'The Era of Discoveries'.

The Expo itself was an incredibly ambitious project which represented 112 countries and was

attended by nearly 42 million visitors. The Cartuja island site was chosen to represent the New World, and the site was so large and varied that visitors had to spend several days there in order to see most of the exhibitions. It was praised for its architecture, which included many impressive bridges and gates, as well as innovative and unusual methods of travel around the site, which ranged from buses and ferry boats to cable cars and monorails.

The Expo was marketed as a city of the future, designed to show the success of a new Spain that had flourished in the 17 years since the end of Franco's dictatorship. The event's director, Manuel Olivencia, prevented the United States from having the largest pavilion, stating in 1989, "We as hosts intend to have the largest."

Spain's pavilion was the most



An aerial photograph of the 1992 Seville Expo. :: SUR

popular. It was a modernist cube on the edge of the artificial Lake of Spain. It featured a gallery with works by Miró, Dalí, Caravaggio and others, as well as a cinema dome which took visitors on a virtual tour of Spain. The Japanese pavilion was also particularly impressive. It was then the world's largest wooden structure where guests could walk through multiple levels showing life-size photographs of Japanese people at work, a video

showing Japan at the time of Columbus, and several sections of a Japanese castle.

The Moroccan pavilion was one of the most beautiful of the Expo. It was built in the style of a three-storey traditional mansion, and included an impressive fountain in the centre, as well as a fresco dining and an atrium with an open roof. It is one of the few buildings that visitors can still view today.

The US pavilion took a broad

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Exposición	Exhibition
Arquitectura	Architecture
Pabellón	Pavilion
Cristóbal Colón	Christopher Columbus
Ambicioso	Ambitious
Millón	Million
Descubrimiento	Discovery
Inauguración	Opening
Explorador	Explorer
Innovar	To innovate
Lema	Motto
Isla	Island
Destino	Destination
Tecnología	Technology
Teleférico	Cable car
Puente	Bridge
Ciencia	Science
Proyecto	Project

view of travel, ranging from Columbus' discovery of the Americas to the Space Race. The organisers even built a 'Plaza de las Américas'.

After the end of the Expo, many of the structures were dismantled. The site is now divided between the Cartuja 93 science and technology park and the Isla Mágica theme park. It has become a popular destination for urban explorers.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

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From Benahavís to Le Cordon Bleu



MARINA MARTÍNEZ

✉ mmartinez@diariosur.es

Mari Ángeles García, student of the Sabor a Málaga Catering College in Benahavís, won a prize for her haute cuisine awarded by the prestigious Cordon Bleu in Madrid



García Roldán alongside the judges. :: LE CORDON BLEU



'Ballotine', the dish that won the young chef first prize

She doesn't know where her passion for cooking comes from. Maybe from her grandmother or an aunt who used to run a bar. However, Mari Ángeles García Roldán remembers that she began cooking at a young age. The 23-year-old from Cordoba used to challenge her parents to suggest three ingredients from which she would make her own dish. She became so engrossed in cooking that her parents bought her recipe books. But she felt that this wasn't enough. She wanted to do more. And so she signed up to the Burgos Campos Catering College. She began to train with Celia Jiménez, (the first Andalusian woman to win a Michelin star, as head chef of Marbella's El Lago), and soon afterwards she got another opportunity to improve her abilities, this time in Malaga. She won a place at the Sabor a Málaga Catering College in Benahavís.

"I have learnt a great deal here,

about techniques, products... and above all about passion for food, because the teachers pass it on," she said. She finished the course with a good taste in her mouth. Yesterday she was awarded a prize for Promising Young Chef by the prestigious Le Cordon Bleu in Madrid which recognises the greatest talents across all of the culinary schools in Spain. García Roldán won the sixth edition of the contest against nine other finalists following a test where contestants had to

create their own version of a common dish: salmon and prawn 'ballotine', watercress mayonnaise and vegetables in a vinaigrette.

In her case, she filled the 'ballotine' with prawns, capers, lime and chervil, adding mayonnaise and the vinaigrette with orange. Technical quality, originality, taste and presentation are the most important 'ingredients' sought by the team of judges, headed by José Carlos Fuentes, head chef of Club Allard (two Michelin stars). The highest score was awarded to García Roldán, with second place being awarded to another Andalusian, Alejandro Pérez Polo. "It's been a unique experience for me. I want to keep following my dreams as I still have a lot to learn," She left Madrid with a diploma worth 23,000 euros, the equivalent of a master's degree in haute cuisine.

ANDREW J. LINN

NATIONAL MYTHS AND LIES



Few myths persist longer than those referring to the customs of different nationalities, even more so when these reflect the eating habits of the country in question. We all know that a Texan is happiest eating a huge T-bone steak accompanied by endless Buds, or that the Norwegians eat rotten fish washed down with aquavit. So everlasting are these stereotypes that even after we have witnessed a Texan eating bellota ham and drinking fino de Jerez, or a Norwegian cooking steak Wellington and opening a bottle of Planter's Punch, nothing makes us change our impressions. Nearer home it is a given that all Spanish people live off the healthy Mediterranean diet, the French cannot survive without their frogs' legs and Bordeaux wine, or the Russians without their caviar and vodka.

Our imagination works overtime even though we know we are involved in a typecasting that is both valueless and misleading. But we manage to live with it, and even have a bit of fun at the expense of the poor victims – behind their backs of course. Rather less amusing is the discovery that someone somewhere is trying to create a false impression for whatever reason. This is exactly the case with Indian national gastronomic stereotypes, and the Indian government is behind the

proliferation of the fable. Most of us believe India to be a vegetarian country, where cows are sacred and never eaten. In fact meat-eating is far more widespread than we imagine, and the Hindu 80% of the population does not go short of chicken, goat and other types of meat. This was revealed in a recent American study of Indian eating habits, and has blown the myth of India being a mainly vegetarian country out of the water. Fake news indeed, fostered by the government on behalf of the Hindus, and although nobody gets hurt in the process it is difficult to see the point of it all. If the process of fabricating national myths becomes widespread, we may even find that the Spanish, instead of living off fruit and vegetables, olive oil, and blue fish, actually prefer roast suckling pig.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Parotet Vermell

A very highly-rated little wine from the Valencia region that has even caught the attention of US wine critics. Produced by Celler el Roure from three local grapes including Monastrell, it is noteworthy for being made in the old style using clay fermenting pots rather than wooden barrels. Around 7€.



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A simple yet exact science

The expert judges of the second Concurso Tutti Pizza de Málaga en la Mesa finals share the secrets of the internationally famous traditional Italian pizza

A good pizza is made with type 00 flour, whole tomatoes, preferably fresh and definitely not paste, mozzarella filata cheese and a balanced combination of toppings

ESPERANZA PELÁEZ

MÁLAGA. Well known and much loved, the pizza, along with pasta, is the great ambassador of Italian cuisine. But those who are happy to settle for an industrially produced, frozen version of the pizza should know that the Italians take the matter far more seriously.

SUR's supplement in Spanish, Málaga en la Mesa has just held the finals of Il Concurso Tutti Pizza, sponsored by the distributor of Italian products, La Contadina.

Bruno Procaccini, manager of La Contadina explained the reason, "We want to show the true essence of Italian cuisine, what may appear to be a simple task is carried out with a lot of care and precision. Its success lies in good quality products, from the flour to the tomatoes, cheese, cooked meats and many other ingredients."

At the final the judges, Luigi Cinquegrana, export manager for Polselli flours; Italian gastronomic journalist, Luca Stillitano and SUR's own gastronomy critic, Enrique Bellver, started judging each pizza by looking at the underneath.

"Examining the base gives you many clues. The first thing is to see if the cooking is uniform, that it is not burnt and to see if the dough has oil in its ingredients," explained Stillitano.

Napoletana or Romana?

Whether the dough has oil in it or not defines the type of pizza it is. The Associazione Verace Pizza Napoletana, the organisation that watches over the preservation of the original recipe from Naples, says in its constitution that the ingredients of Neapolitan dough are water, salt, yeast (or sourdough) and flour, left to raise for a minimum of eight hours.

For the competition the dough is left to rise for much longer but if the dough contains oil, which gives it a crisper crust, then it is a Roman style pizza.

Luigi Cinquegrana, an expert in Italian flours, explains that a good pizza needs a type 00 flour,

The dough must be proved for a minimum of eight hours to ensure a light and easily digestible crust

(the finest grade), with a balanced capacity to absorb water and an adequate percentage of protein, ideally around 11 per cent.

"In Italy, quality flours with 100 per cent natural gluten are very important, we are even recovering flours from old varieties of wheat," he adds.

Another basic aspect is the proving.

"Lengthy proving time makes the dough light and easy to digest," explains Paloma Amansa, the editor of Gastronews (<http://gastronewsonline.com>).

Cinquegrana points out that many master pizza makers (called pizzaioli) use their own sourdough (a portion of leaven dough left over from the last baking) although others prefer to use fresh.

Home cooking

And can you make a good pizza at home?

"You can, but the difficulty is in cooking it. Temperatures of 350° C and more are needed. The Neapolitan pizzas are cooked at 400°C, in just one minute. That temperature is difficult to achieve in a domestic oven," remarked Cinquegrana.

Bruno Procaccini, manager of La Contadina, who has been sourcing and importing quality Italian products for many years, comments on the importance of the ingredients: "The tomato base must be made with whole tomatoes, either fresh or tin, without any excess liquid, but never tomato purée. The amount has to be exact, not too much, and the perfect cheese is mozzarella 'filata', because it melts better and its flavour and aroma is perfect for pizza."

Mozzarella 'filata' or 'filament' is made by repeatedly stretching the curd cheese until it forms threads. This treatment makes the melted cheese very elastic.

And one last piece of advice comes from Stillitano:

"For pizzas, less is always more. It is always necessary to balance the combinations of ingredients well so that all the flavours shine through".

Pizza making is, as you can see, a simple but exact science.



Elasticity

A good pizza dough should be elastic and not rubbery, and easy to extend without shrinking.

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Masterly hands

The 'pizzailoli' stretch the dough with their hands. The flexibility and elasticity of the base makes this easier.



A delicate dough

Very fine grade flour, an adequate amount of water (60% of the flour), kneaded for around ten minutes and a long proving makes the dough soft and flexible.

:: DANIEL MALDONADO



BELLAVISTA MARE WINS BEST PIZZA

Of the eight contestants in the final of the Il Concurso Tutti Pizza organised by SUR's supplement in Spanish, Málaga En La Mesa, the Pizzorante Bellavista Mare in Malaga came out as overall winners. They won over the judges with their impeccable dough base and harmonious combination of tomato, crema tartufata (truffle cream), Fior di latte mozzarella, pancetta arrotolata, rocket and parmesan. They won 3,000 euros of publicity in Málaga En La Mesa.



To obtain the best flexibility, kneading and resting are vital.



Tomato, tomato

Except when being creative, the tomato on the base should not be too watery in order to avoid making the base soggy.



Check the base

The underneath of a well-cooked base will be toasted evenly and if it contains oil, it should be crispier in the browned areas.

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An answer for Chloe

Spanish researchers discover cause for rare sickness that affects Marbella girl and just 10 others worldwide



NIEVES CASTRO
✉ ncastro@diariosur.es

MARBELLA. The fight for Chloe's life began eight years ago. Over this time, Jorgelina Borda has visited countless hospitals, laboratories, institutions and scientific foundations in search of a diagnosis for the vicious combination of symptoms that affect her daughter, who is almost 10. The journey has been long, desperate and fruitless, until now. Researchers from the Carlos III Institutes in Madrid and German Trias and Pujol in Barcelona have identified the faulty gene that torments this Marbella child and just 10 other people across the world. Its name is VPS13D.

Scientific report in hand, Jorgelina's emotions are mixed. On one hand, she's exhilarated at having finally found some answers. On the other, she approaches this new search for treatment with trepidation and

denounces the public health system for their scarce support. This discovery has given way to a new battle, explains Jorgelina, "to find someone who wants to study this gene, or to spark interest in someone who possesses the knowledge and the facilities to do so". She continues, "unless more cases like Chloe's appear, the funds for research will be lacking." Jorgelina Borda is the founder of Bubbles and Dreams, a not-for-profit organisation that supports children suffering from rare and undiagnosed illnesses.

When the researchers initially identified the gene alteration, which affects mitochondrial function, their work solely focused upon five people. Over the past week, five more cases of the illness have been registered (two in the US, one in Holland and one in Germany).

The road to diagnosis

Chloe was born a healthy child in Marbella on 3rd August 2008. She was precocious and quickly learnt how to walk and talk (both of which she now struggles with).

The first problems began in May 2011. She started to drool more regularly and as the days went on she became difficult to understand. There commenced a string of medical appointments. The dentist attributed it to a problem with her teeth. The speech therapist suggested that her pronunciation issues were down to the fact that she grew up speaking both Spanish and English.

One month later, Chloe's left foot began to turn inwards, giving her trouble walking. Soon after, she started to experience extreme tiredness. Chloe was referred to a neurologist at the Costa del Sol hospital which resulted in her urgent admission to the Malaga children's hospital. She remained there for three weeks. "It happened very quickly. I honestly did not think that these separate symptoms were linked to the same illness," explains Jorgelina.

The doctors searched for a brain tumour. When it could not be found, they suggested physiotherapy. This was not sufficient and Chloe began to deteriorate further, collapsing when she tried to walk and choking on food.

Jorgelina and Chloe then set foot on a journey around Spain, Italy, Argentina and Israel in search of a diagnosis derived from endless tests at various medical institutions. This proved a highly traumatic experience, both personally and economically.

This surely highlights the significance of this latest discovery. Already, both of Chloe's legs have turned inwards and she has begun to exhibit some minor memory issues.

Frustration

Jorgelina is still in shock. "I've spent over seven years fighting against everyone, writing to doctors and scientists night after night, with almost no response. I cried with exhaustion and anger at every closed door." Among all this, the desperate mother found doctors Matilla and Posadas from the German Trias and Pujol and the Carlos III Institutes, who were sensitive to Chloe's cause. Jorgelina is forever grateful.

"There's nothing good in knowing that my daughter has a mitochondrial problem which will become progressively worse. However, it is amazing to know that there now exists the possibility of finding a treatment for it," Jorgelina explains. "I might spend the next 20 years looking for something that I never find, but at least now I know where I am".



Chloe, left, and sister Kaia kiss their mother :: JOSELE-LANZA

The discovery opens the door to finding a treatment for this mitochondrial illness

"I might spend the next 20 years looking for something I don't find, but at least now I know"

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Horizonte Proyecto Hombre launches new plan to combat technology addiction

Around thirty children in 2017 have been treated with a programme designed for young people with behavioural problems

NIEVES CASTRO

MARBELLA. Last February the Spanish Cabinet approved a National Addiction Strategy which includes new technologies, online games and video games as types of addiction for the first time. The first stage of this plan has been to tackle what are known as substance-less addictions, which are prevalent among Spanish teenagers.

According to figures from the government, one in ten young people between the ages of 14 and 18 in Spain admit to having gambled online and 18 per cent admit to having abused new technologies. Staff at Horizonte Proyecto Hombre Marbella have spent years trying to solve these problems. The director of the association, Jaime Álvarez, highlights that his organisation increasingly doesn't just work with drug addicts, but also provides the necessary resources for people who are hooked on other



The president and director of the association. :: JOSELE-LANZA

things to retake control of their lives.

"Addiction to technology isn't a new phenomenon. It started several years ago but it is steadily growing. We only have to look at reports from the National Plan for Drugs to realise that. At Horizonte

Proyecto Hombre we are increasingly dealing with young people with addictions to video games, mobile phones and the internet, while other people have different types of problem which often follow a more classic path," explains the association's director. "The

Marbella community needs to know that Horizonte Proyecto Hombre caters for addictions in all senses of the word and not just conventional drug addiction."

Among the range of programmes that they offer, one in particular caters for teenagers, young people between the ages of 13 and 18 years, who have fallen victim to a substance-less addiction: video games, tablets, mobile phones, social networks, online gambling or any other type of addictive behaviour. As well as offering an educational and therapeutic programme, they also offer preventative measures to those who they deem to be at risk of addiction or considering using any type of drug.

"We see children who don't accept the authority of their parents, they live without rules and they perform poorly at school. The result is that they begin to start drinking alcohol and smoking tobacco and cannabis, which tend to be the first substances to which they have easy access," explains Álvarez.

The organisation held a gala dinner on Friday 13 April at the Hotel Fuerte in Marbella to raise funds for Horizonte's programmes, which the organisation offers for free.

The Butterfly Children event continues to give wings to people with butterfly skin

SUR

MARBELLA. On 2-3 June, the prestigious Aloha Golf Club will host the sixteenth annual Butterfly Children Golf and Gala event. Every year DEBRA, the butterfly children charity, celebrates the start of the summer with an event that offers the opportunity for their social and health care team to continue growing and improving the lives of people that suffer with the very rare butterfly skin condition.

The gala takes place on the 3 June on the golf club's terrace. Anyone who wants to attend the dinner can do so at a special price of 60 euros if they make a reservation before 19 May at www.butterflychildrenball.org.

Passionate golf players also have the opportunity to play a part in this wonderful event, playing Stableford rules at the unique Aloha golf course, on 2 June. Those who want to take part in this friendly competition can do so by reserving their place at a special price of 80 euros before 19 May on www.butterflychildren-golf.org.

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"Our research opens the door to hope for a cure for Type 1 diabetes"

Javier Bermúdez Endocrinologist at the Carlos Haya hospital and research scientist



ÁNGEL ESCALERA

✉ aescalera@diariosur.es

Andalusian scientists have discovered a molecule which, it is hoped, will help to combat the illness in future years

MALAGA. Researchers at the Andalusian Centre of Molecular Biology and Regenerative Medicine have opened a door of hope for a cure for Type 1 diabetes. Javier Bermúdez, an endocrinologist at the Carlos Haya hospital in Malaga and a member of the Biometric Research Institute of Malaga (Ibima), was one of them. The study has discovered a molecule with a high therapeutic potential to combat Type 1 diabetes, a condition from which around 800,000 people in Andalucía suffer.

–What is the most outstanding aspect of this research, and what stage are you at now?

–We need to keep looking deeper into the mechanisms and, above all, study how the molecule affects the human immune system. The main part of the research has been carried out with



Javier Bermúdez is a specialist in endocrinology and is participating in the diabetes research.

animal models. We have also tested human pancreatic islets 'in vitro'. We did tests and saw that the molecule has a beneficial effect on the isolated human pancreatic islets. Next we have to look further into the relevance of the drug on the human immune system. After that will come the clinic tests.

–Will the clinical testing stage take long?

–The clinical tests have four phases.

In the best of cases, if everything goes well and it is shown that the drug is effective and safe, it will take between eight and ten years.

–From the results obtained so far, could this drug lead to a cure for Type 1 diabetes?

–In the experiments on mice, it gave the impression that the regenerative effect of the cells could potentially lead to a cure. But of course it remains to be seen if the

drug is effective in humans and passes all the safety phases of the clinical testing. Researchers always work to find a cure, but to talk of a cure at the stage at which we are at present would be risky. I wouldn't dare to claim that to anybody, because there is still a long way to go.

–Can it be said, though, that this drug opens a door to the hope of a cure for Type 1 diabetes in the

future?

–Yes. That door is opening, because the tests on mice have shown that there is a regeneration of cells. That means that cells which were dead because of the attack by the immune system reappear again. Basically, there are two types of cell, alfa and beta. It seems the alfa cells turn into betas through transdifferentiation. One of the effects of this drug is transdifferentiation, which opens the door to the beta cells destroyed by the immune system starting to appear again from the alfas. That is something that gives hope to the idea that there could eventually be a cure for Type 1 diabetes.

–And why does the immune system attack and destroy the beta cells?

–That still isn't clear. We think two factors contribute to it. One is genetic. It seems that some people are genetically predisposed, like someone who is allergic, for example. And the other factor is environmental. The environment can play a role in certain people, so it produces this anomalous response in the immune system and there is an attack on the beta cells of the pancreas.

–Over 30 scientists have taken part in this research; what has been your role?

–Two researchers from the Carlos Haya hospital have taken part, Yanina Romera and myself. Basically what we have done is analyse samples from the animals.

–Will you continue to work on the next stages?

–We will continue with the work which still has to be done on the subject of the immune system and the pancreatic islets. There are still many mechanisms to explore. I don't know about the clinical tests. They are still far off and that will have to be arranged nearer the time.



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Infant screen addiction

Children are showing similar symptoms to addicts through misuse of technology

:: DOMÈNICO CHIAPPE

MADRID. He's eleven years old, goes to a Catholic school in the centre of a large city and is the youngest child of a well-to-do middle class family. Formerly a football player, he now won't attend his extracurricular classes or go to catechism. He plays on his Playstation day and night. He didn't even leave the house during the Easter holidays. This is just one case of an addiction which is increasingly common among young children.

"When speaking about addiction among adolescents, we often refer to guidelines from the World Health Organisation, though in the case of technology the debate is more open", explains José Antonio Molina, psychologist and professor at the Complutense University of Madrid. However, it does adhere to much of the same criteria. "Technology addiction has lasting effects on different areas of an individual's life; they can lose control over their usage; other experiences start to seem insignificant or insufficient".

Young girls tend to favour social networking over video games. "This generation's use of Instagram, Whatsapp and other net-



A child plays on his laptop. :: FOTOLIA

works is highly excessive," warns Macarena López, a social worker for the Home Project Association, which works with girls who are deemed to be in vulnerable situations. "They are subjected constantly to all this information from "influencers", which is often focused on the female body. These

influencers are figureheads of beauty and popularity: to be very young, thin and bikini-clad is presented as something normal and attainable."

Bullying and blackmail

The door is also open to the risks of cyber bullying, sexting, black-

Social networks can give you a warped perception of reality in a way that books do not

mail, childhood obesity and gambling. Lots of screen-time "promotes a sedentary lifestyle which can cause obesity and, in turn, diabetes," says psychologist Jorge Barraca, professor of the Camilo José Cela University.

A pattern exists for this type of problem: worsening academic performance, isolation, poor eating habits and an insufficient amount of sleep. "The symptoms start with a lack of interest in everything outside of the screen," explains Barraca. "They will show anxiety and withdrawal symptoms if they're not connected. As with drug use, the addiction to online gambling brings with it an economic risk.

Lucía Galán Bertrand, paediatrician at the Vithas Medimar International Hospital in Alicante elaborates, "screens are highly addic-

tive. Within a few years we'll suffer the consequences." The doctor is no stranger to this issue: she has had to restrict her own son's screen time. "Children become rebellious, violent or aggressive and experience disruption to their sleeping patterns," she adds. The first stage of treatment for the abuse of digital technology is parenting. "We must make parents aware," explains José Antonio Molina. "They should limit the time their child spends with screens and establish other leisure activities."

Video games and social networks can warp your perception of reality in a way that books, for example, do not. "Applications like Facebook and Instagram are designed to be addictive, in the same way slot machines were, with bright colours, sounds and the chance to win something," suggests Barraca. Molina agrees: "There exists a sort of reward system for the use of these technologies, meaning that, when you stop using, you experience withdrawal symptoms."

Children, regardless of gender, are all vulnerable to this addictive digital content. It is especially common if the child is shy or finds it difficult to connect with people; if their adult role models spend lots of time looking at their phones, or if their parents are permissive with regards to screen time. For every eleven year old child you walk past playing 'Zelda' on a console, there is an adult who cannot lift their eyes from the screen of their mobile phone.



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DIGIT. X - RAYS | BONE DENSITY
ULTRASOUND SCAN

The Costa del Sol hospital launches a campaign to treat lazy eye in children

The hospital's regional ophthalmology unit has organised an information table for parents and teachers

by NIEVES CASTRO

MARBELLA. What is a lazy eye and what is the strategy to combat it? Questions like these were answered by staff at the ophthalmology unit of the Hospital Costa del Sol during a campaign that began last week to raise awareness for parents and teachers about the importance of early detection and treatment of this condition, which doctors refer to as amblyopia.

This campaign, centred around optical health in children, is included as part of World Health Day, which was celebrated on 7 April, with the aim of getting across a message: the later you detect an illness and, therefore, you commence treatment, the lower the chance of recovery, which

can result in reduced and poor vision in adulthood.

Doctors from several departments, along with nurses and auxiliaries from the ophthalmology department, were present at the information table in order to answer questions asked by members of the public. There they explained the characteristics of the disease, including details about the importance of an early diagnosis and how they would go about treating it. They also handed out information leaflets so that visitors could learn more about what was offered by their university.

In the Costa del Sol hospital three specialists carry out 5,000 consultations each year related to lazy eyes, with the help of other facilities such as the CARE unit in Mijas, which is also managed by the Costa del Sol health agency.

From the regional hospital the specialists explain that amblyopia is a visual deterioration which originates in the brain at a cortical level. Certain situations can lead to a prob-



Staff from the Ophthalmology Unit of the Hospital Costa del Sol last week. :: SUR

lem with communication between the cerebral cortex and the eye during the first years of life due to a problem with development, which is commonly known as a lazy eye.

Treatment

"The majority of cases of amblyopia occur because the patient has a very different degree of vision between both eyes. This is known as anisometropia and is the cause of a lazy eye, which is formally known as amblyopia anisometropica. Lazy eye is also commonly caused by short-sightedness, and sometimes occurs as a result of both situations," according to the doctors.

The most common form of lazy eye is found in only one eye, while the other eye is able to see perfectly well. That is the reason why many families think that there isn't a problem until it's detected in a medical eye examination. Specialists recommend that children should first visit an eye doctor between the ages of 4 and 5. They insist that the treatment of this disease is benefited by early diagnosis. If this is delayed, and the problem is not detected until the child is between 10 and 12 years old, their vision is likely to be worse than it would otherwise have been. In fact, it is unlikely that doctors will be able to do much for the

child after the age of 12.

Strategies to tackle amblyopia, as outlined at the information table, are varied and the condition is very treatable. Tests should be carried out as early as possible, eye conditions should be treated and if there are signs of congenital cataracts the eye should be operated on. Once this is done or at the same time, the lazy eye has to be stimulated at the same time as the sight in the other eye is reduced. How? With eye patches or drops to dilate the pupil which is struggling to function properly, techniques to try to stimulate the lazy eye, or trying to find ways to get it to work harder.

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Playa Chica. :: TURISMO ANDALUZ

The sentinel of the Strait

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JAVIER ALMELLONES

Nature and history go hand in hand in Europe's southernmost town, which for centuries has tirelessly watched over the Strait of Gibraltar.

Tarifa has been one of the most coveted sites on the planet because of its strategic value. Here the Mediterranean meets the Atlantic. The city was the entrance point for the Moorish forces in 711. The leader of that invasion, Tarik, gave his name to the town which has stood watch over the North African coast.

The name of the actual fortress

came about several centuries later, when Abderramán III ordered the construction of the tower named for Guzmán El Bueno, a Moroccan who became famous for his loyalty to Castile.

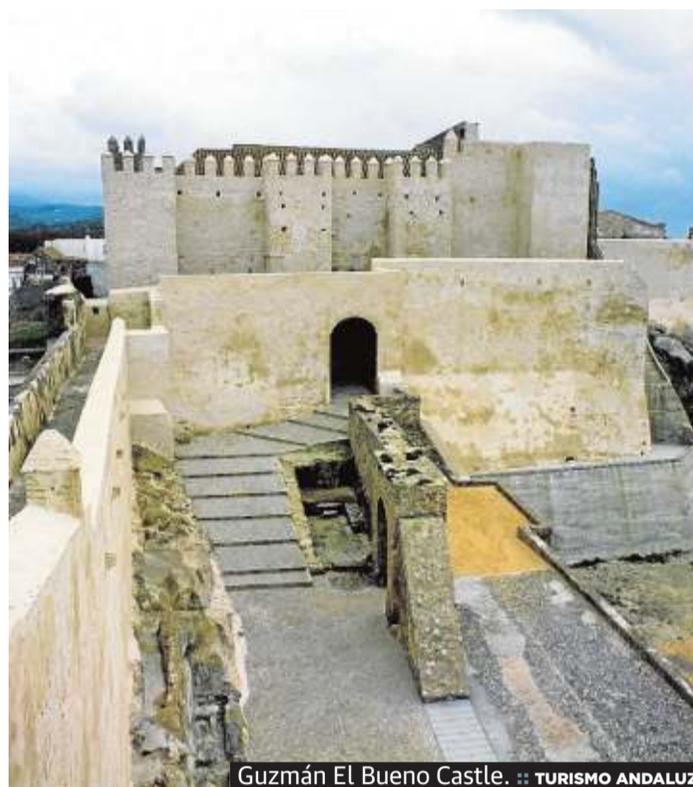
Today the fortress is the most significant historical site in the area. From there, there are two options; look out over the sea or lose yourself in the narrow streets of its historic quarter, which are designed to reduce the harshness of the wind during bouts of stormy weather.

But Tarifa is much more than a city with Andalusian roots. Its vast territory, with around 38 kilometres of beaches, is a paradise for those looking for white-sand Atlantic beaches or seeking an ideal place to go surfing.

Idyllic beaches, sand dunes, pine forests and marshland are just some of the aspects that attract thousands of visitors each year who want to break free of their daily routines in idyllic surroundings.

As well as the Estrecho and los Alcornocales natural parks, Tarifa offers other incredible sites, including the beaches of La Playa, Los Lances, Atlanterra, Valdevaqueros and Bolonia, among others. Bolonia beach is home to the ruins of the ancient Roman city of Baelo Claudia and, at the same time, also has one of the most spectacular natural landmarks in all of Andalucía, known as the Dune of Bolonia.

Those who prefer to look north also have a lot of choice. The hiking trails of the Los Alcornocales natural park are fun to explore or visitors can enjoy the calm of the village of Facinas.



Guzmán El Bueno Castle. :: TURISMO ANDALUZ



QUICK GUIDE

What to see in Tarifa

Bolonia Sand Dune.

A natural monument located on the Punta Camarinal isthmus, on the south Atlantic coast of Cadiz. *In the Estrecho natural park (Tarifa).*

Guadalmesí Tower. A watchtower built in the sixteenth century on the orders of Felipe II to defend the Trafalgar coast. *Estuary of Guadalmesí river. 11380 Tarifa.*

Estrecho natural park. A protected space in the extreme south of the province of Cadiz, with a coastline of over 60 kilometres. *Calle Coghen, 3. 11100 Algeciras y Tarifa.*

Guzmán El Bueno Castle. A fortress defended by the Spanish hero Guzmán El Bueno in 1294. *Calle Guzmán el Bueno, s/n. 11380 Tarifa.*

Ruins of Baelo Claudia: An ancient Roman city located 22 kilometres from Tarifa. *Ensenada de Bolonia, s/n, 11380 Tarifa.*



Panoramic view towards Africa over the Strait. :: TURISMO ANDALUZ



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.

Stephan Balkenhol
Malaga. *Until 22 April. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo, Calle Alemania.*
The exhibit consists of around thirty sculptures from the German artist's collection representing his most significant works in recent years. www.cacmalaga.eu



Quilting exhibition, Alhaurín.

Experimental Art
Malaga. *Until 27 April. Ateneo, C/Compañía.*
An exhibition by various artists that links the work of artist Vik Muniz with Buster Keaton.

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 Cister 1.*
Rafaela Pareja exhibits his works which reflect everyday life and nature. www.alfajar.es

Quilting exhibition
Alhaurín el Grande. *Until 2 May. Casa de la Cultura.*
The Quilters del Sol and the Finca Vida Art Group have joined together for the exhibition entitled 'The Sky's the Limit'. The exhibition includes works in charcoal, oil, water colours, chalk and

acrylic, as well as patchwork and quilting. Open 10am - 2pm and 4pm - 8pm.

Antonio Machado
Torremolinos. *Until 30 April. Centro Cultural Pablo Ruiz Picasso.*
'Laberinto de Espejos' is the title of the exhibition of photographs, texts and books written by the Andalusian poet Antonio Machado.

Pintura en Primavera
Torremolinos. *Until 27 April. The cafetería of the Centro Cultural Pablo Ruiz Picasso.*
Students from the Universidad Popular will be displaying their work.

Costa del Sol Photographic
Benalmádena. *Until 27 April. Castillo Bil-Bil*
The members of the Costa Del Sol Photographic Club are exhibiting some of their photographs.

Superpunk
Torre del Mar. *Until 29 April. Centro Cultural Ntra Sña del Carmen*
Local artist Javi Rojo will be exhibiting his art which he says is influenced by Almodovar, Hitchcock, Andy Warhol, Dalí and Greta Garbo.

Cabradeluna
Vélez-Málaga. *Until 27 April. Centro Contemporáneo 'Francisco Hernández'*
The inauguration is this evening at 7.30pm.

Alba Blanco
Vélez-Málaga. *Until 1 June. Casa fuerte Bezmiliana.*
An exhibition of photographs by Alba Blanco, photography and art teacher.



Antonio Machado, Torremolinos.

Don Dossett
La Herradura. *From 23 April Until 7 May. Centro Cultural Las Palomas.*
An exhibition of computer gener-



The Dutch community celebrates King's Day in La Carihuela. :: T. B.

The Dutch ready to party for King's Day

TONY BRYANT
TORREMOLINOS. La Carihuela in Torremolinos will be decorated in orange to celebrate Koningsdag (The Kings Day), the national holiday of the Netherlands, on Friday 27 April.

The Festival, which begins at 3pm and continues until 8pm, is organised by the cultural department of Torremolinos town hall and the Voom Voom Club in La Carihuela. Dutch residents will enjoy an all-day street party in celebration of King Willem-Alexander's birthday. Orange is traditionally worn on this day to show respect to the country's royal family, and it is custom-

ary for Dutch nationals to adorn orange wigs, wacky outfits and face paint.

The festival will include a street market offering Dutch handicraft products and the traditional gastronomy of the Netherlands, like stamppot, a hearty stew of mashed potatoes, vegetables and meat.

There will also be shows, attractions, and music supplied by live bands and Dutch DJs.

With a population of 700 Dutch residents and more than 220,000 tourists in 2017, Torremolinos maintains strong historic ties to the Dutch community. This is the third consecutive year the festival has been held in Torremolinos.

ated images of the Costa Tropical and design memorabilia from film productions including Superman, Judge Dredd, Hamlet and Santa Claus belonging to the artistic director of many cinematic and television films, Don Dossett. Money raised from the exhibition will go to a local charity.

CHARITY

Queen Machine
Fuengirola. *21 April, doors open 7pm. Sohail Castle. Tickets 18 - 25€*
The concert will begin with a performance by Paul Maxwell, also known as piano man, starting at 8pm. He will be followed by the "best group tribute to Queen in

Europe", Queen Machine at 9.30pm. The concert will raise funds for Cudeca Cancer Care Hospice. More information henrik@eventhuset.es or call: 670635786 Tickets: www.ticketea.com

Lupus and autoimmune diseases
Mijas. *21 April, 7pm. Teatro Las Lagunas. 5€ donation.*
Bailupeando combines many different forms of dance to raise funds for the Lupus and Autoimmune Association. Tickets: Asociación Lupus y Autoinmunes de Málaga Call: 952 26 65 04 or from the Academia de Baile Expresión call: 640 72 01 28

Triple A Black Pet Day

Marbella. *22 April, from midday until 5pm. Triple A, Crta de Ojén.*
Triple A have a lot of black pets looking for homes. They are often the last to be chosen, possibly because of superstition. Anyone adopting a black cat or dog on the day will get a special gift. Live entertainment etc.

Touch Of Class
Benalmádena. *25 April, 7pm. Sunset Beach Club, Moonlight Lounge.*
Touch Of Class will be performing 'Variety Espectacular' in aid of AECC, the Spanish Cancer Association. Tickets 10€ from Sunset beach.



Alba Blanco, Vélez-Málaga.

Festival Solidario
Malaga. *28 April, various districts of Malaga city.*
This is the 3rd year that El Pimpi has organised the Festival of Solidarity supporting 11 local ONGs. The Festival this year will take place in 11 districts across Malaga and through local support, hope to raise a record amount this year. Throughout the day there will live music and performances. The Star Wars Storm Troopers will be also be there. www.solesdemalaga.org

Last Chance Animal Rescue
Cartama. *6 May, from 10.30am. Avanto Restaurante.*
Last Chance Animal Rescue, based in Cartama, are holding a family fun charity walk at the Avanto Restaurant, Urb. Torrenueva-Playa, La Cala de Mijas. Starting at 10.30am the walk will be along the broadwalk to La Cala and back. Entrance for Adults and children over 13 is 10€, Children 6€ and a Family ticket is 20€. There will be a small fair with stalls available at 15€ and the Avanto restaurant are providing a lunch on the day for 22€. Call

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Darkness into Light

Estepona. 12 May, 6am. Starting from Carrefour.

The aim of Pieta House who is organising the walk is to create a world where suicide, self-harm and stigma have been replaced by hope, self-care and acceptance. Darkness into Light is vital for fundraising, for raising awareness and for bringing people together. People at over 180 venues on four continents will be gathering on 12 May to take part. Register online: <https://dil.pieta.ie/event-information/venues/register/costa-del-sol>

Israel 70th anniversary lunch

Marbella. 14 May, 1pm. The Boardwalk, Avda La Fontanilla. 35€
A three course Israeli meal (wine and coffee included) live music and



Play On, Wall Bar.

a raffle to raise money for Israeli children with cancer. By ticket only: 664469445 / 640337498

MUSIC & DANCE

The Wall Bar

Malaga. Hotel Vincci Posada del Patio, 11pm, entry free.

21 April. Play On. Alberto Soler (bass) and Lola Casemeiro (vocals) The best international ballads, jazz, pop and rock.

Joven Orquesta Mediterránea Almuñécar. 22 April, 8pm.

Auditorio Casa de la Cultura. Tchaikovsky's concerto for violin and orchestra with soloist Emilia Ferriz and Brahms Symphony n°4 conducted by Michael Thomas.

Alegro con Fuoco

Malaga. 20 April, 8.30pm. Sala María Cristina, Fundación Unicaja. 15€. Chamber pieces by Ravel, Caplet, Debussy, Delibes, Massenet and arias and instrumental pieces from the opera Carmen by Bizet and Fantasia.

Romantic music

Malaga. 20 April, 8.30pm. Sala

Unicaja María Cristina.

The trio formed by Simona Mango (soprano), Guiseppe Nora (flute), and pianist Ivans María Vidova, will be performing romantic French chamber music by Ravel, Caplet, Delibes, Massenet and Debussy as well as Bizet and Berlioz.

Victor Coyote

Mijas. 20 April, 8pm. Casa Museo. Victor Coyote introduced Punk-billy in the 80s and then switched to Latin and panamerican music. he will be in concert as part of the 'Música en el Patio' season at the Casa Museo.

Atsuko Shimado & Juan Galiardo Trío

Nerja. 20 April, 9pm. C/Pintada. The Ventana Abierta Jazz Club is hosting 'Keys Overdose' with Atsuko Shimado and Juan Galiardo Trío.

Royal British Legion concert

Nerja. 21 April, 7.30pm. Nerja caves restaurant. 5€. CANCELLED.

Evgeny Konnov

Marbella. 21 April, 8pm. Clínica Buchinger Wilhelmi 25€ Pianist Evgeny Konnov will be playing works by Beethoven, Liszt and Stravinsky. Tel: 689 000 944 www.musicaconencanto.org

Folklore music festival

Torremolinos. 22 April, from 11am. Recinto Ferial. Verdiales bands from regions of

Spain and one from Ecuador will be performing at the event which has been organised by the town hall and the Asociación Folclórica Cultural 'Juan Navarro'.

San Felipe Neri choir

Malaga. 22 April, 7.30pm. Sala Unicaja María Cristina.

This concert is dedicated to opera choirs with some solo performances. Segments of operas by composers Verdi, Donizetti, Rossini,



Evgeny Konnov, Marbella.

Leoncavallo, Gounod, Borodin, Puccini and Purcell will be performed.

Age Care Concert

Mijas. 24 April, 10.45am. International Baptist church Calahonda. An Acapella quartet called Reflections will be performing. Doors open at 10.45am for coffee/tea and homemade cakes followed by the concert.

International cultural festival

TONY BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. The 24th edition of the Feria de Los Pueblos will be held in Fuengirola from Friday 27 April until Tuesday 1 May.

This popular festival, which will take place on the feria ground, is a multicultural event promoting the gastronomy, culture and folklore of the participating countries. Among those represented are the UK, Finland, America, Cuba, India and Morocco. Six regions of Spain will also be represented and these include Andalucía and the Canary Islands.

Puerto Rico, South Africa and the Ukraine will take part for the first time this year and there will also be a new gastronomic fair called Sabores de lo Nuestro (flavors of ours). This will be located in a central marquee and will offer visitors the opportunity to sample and buy traditional products like cheeses, cured meats, spices, herbs and sauces.

One of the highlights of the festival is the colourful parade of all the countries involved, which leaves the Plaza de España at 11.30am on Saturday.

The casetas, which are open from 1pm until 4am, are brightly decorated with the country's individual colours and many of the visi-



Participants dress in traditional costumes for the festival. :: T. B.

tors dress in traditional costume.

Live music and dance performances will take place throughout the afternoon and these will include jazz, reggae, flamenco and rock. The popular David Bowie tribute band, The Spiders from Marbs, will be performing in the British caseta every day of the festival.

An official programme, which includes a map of the feria ground and the casetas, can be obtained from the town hall or from the tourist office.

INFORMATION

► **What:** International culture and gastronomic festival.

► **Where:** Feria ground, Fuengirola.

► **When:** Friday 27 April until Tuesday 1 May

► **More information:** www.fuengirola.es

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MUSIC & DANCE

Manus Noble

La Herradura. 21 April, 8.30pm. Castillo de La Herradura. 10€ Stephen Hill, guitar maker, with the support of the town hall has organised a recital by Irish guitarist Manus Noble. Reservations: 644063431

Piano concert

Vélez-Málaga. 26 April, 9pm. Teatro del Carmen. 5€. A piano recital by María Márquez Torres.



Manus Noble, La Herradura

Tamisa Night Fever

Mijas. 27 April, 7.30pm. Hotel tamisa Golf. 23€ 70s and 80s night at Tamisa golf Hotel. Booking essential call: 722 336 978 or email: solo-sol@email.com or reservas@hotteltamisagolf.com 952585988

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

Malaga. Teatro Cervantes 27, 28 April 9pm. **Passio christi.** Composer: Monseñor Marco Frisina. Tickets http://www.teatrocervantes.com

Musical trip

Marbella. 5 May, from various departure points. 60€. A trip to the Festival Internacional de Jimena de la Frontera 'Petite Messe Solenne' with Gioachino Rossini, two pianos, soloists and international choir. Tickets include travel, concert, and meal. Reservations 689000944. www.musica-conencanto.org

FLAMENCO

Flamenco in the Museum

Malaga. Museo de Arte Flamenco

Peña Juan Breva, C/Ramón Franquelo.

21 April, 8.30pm. Mariola Martín(dance) with Alejandro Estrada (vocals), José M. Millan (guitar).

26 April, 8.30pm. Jenny Gómez(dance) with Tania Ortega (vocals), Dani Heredia (guitar) For information and bookings call 687 607 526 or email info@flamenka.com

Antonio Guerra

Vélez-Málaga. 20 April, 9pm. Teatro Del Carmen. 12€ Flamenco with Chelo Soto and Delia Menbrive singing, Carlos Haro on guitar, David Galiano percussion, Nelson Doblas violin and Macarena Álvarez clapping.

LECTURES

U3A Lectures

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

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 their 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.

Magpie International Gallery

Marbella. 13 April, 7pm C/Virgen del Pilar. 200m from port. **Film and Visual Arts.** This is the fourth topic of Magpie International Art Talks' program, presented by Professor Juho Ahava, from Finland.

Lux Mundi Art Appreciation

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 email: luxmundif@gmail.com

Costa Discussion Group

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

Boliches.

Legalise assisted suicide? 20 April, 6.30-8pm. Some countries allow terminally ill people to request help to end their life, usually with the aid of a doctor. But ought a healthy person also have the legal right to choose to die aided by someone else, whether ill or not? www.facebook.com/groups/costadelsolfreethinkers/

Language School lectures

Malaga. Paseo Martiricos. A series of lectures (in English) to introduce the new language exchange meetings which will be held weekly between 10am and 12pm. Volunteers are needed. **25 April 11am - 12pm.** Jane G Harlond Arredondo will be looking at how 'being different' in some way can be advantageous in the classroom, and even lead to a writing career. A short discussion on how being a foreigner – a stranger in a strange place – can be turned to one's advantage. How a British teacher became an international author of fiction and school text books. J.G. Harlond is author of The Empress Emerald, The Chosen Man trilogy, Local Resistance, Dark Night, Black Horse and The Doomsong Sword at Penmore Press and Oxford University Press.



J Harlond, author.

Residency or not?

Nerja 25 April, 11am. Salon de actos, Nerja town hall. In collaboration with Blacktower Financial Management International an informative talk has been organised. The topics will cover those areas that the foreign residents talk and hear about a lot, but find it hard to get correct and straight forward information on. The talk will focus on all aspects of residency and non-residency. The talk will be given by Tim Govaerts, Associate Director and Richard



Fiesta del Pavo, Cañete La Real.

Mills, International Financial Adviser. Reservation: ilse.liebrechts@blacktowerfm.com or call: 952 816 443

FESTIVALS

Día de la Sopa Mondeña

Monda. 22 April, from midday. Plaza de la Constitución. Every year for the past twenty two years, Monda has held a festival to celebrate its famous dish, the Sopa Mondeña. It is made with fresh garden vegetables including asparagus, and bread. A free bowl of soup for everyone who attends.

Fiesta del Pavo

Cañete La Real. 22 April, from 11am. Plaza de la Paz. Turkey cooked every way and available to taste at this festival dedicated to the turkeys reared in various farms in the Valle del Guadalteba area.

EVENTS

Thespa

Fuengirola. 25 April, 7.30pm. Los Boliches, Masonic Hall. 16€ members, 18€ guests. Includes set meal. 'Green Forms' by Alan Bennett and 'Scent of Honeysuckle' by Jean Lennox Toddle. OGM starts at 6.45pm. Reservations tel: 622 454 422 www.theatrecostadelsol.com or email: thespabooking@gmail.com

Cabramar

Casabermeja. 22 April, 20 May, 10 June. A day for all the family with Malaga's goats. Goat's cheese tasting and a chance to buy direct from the manufacturer. Learn how the cheese is made and dress up as a shepherd and have your photo taken with a goat.

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St George's Day garden party
Cártama. 23 April, from 2pm.
Betty's Salon de Té, Cártama Estación. 5€.
Sandwiches, cake and afternoon tea in true British tradition. Entertainment by Helen Rush, award for best fancy dress and other activities.

Spring Bazaar
Torre del Mar. 4 May, 11am - 1pm.
Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre.
Small gifts, preserves, cakes and homemade food, second hand items, books, local art and crafts etc. Lux Mundi Torre del Mar. Tel: 952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

O. V. FILM

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

Cine Albéniz
C/Alcazabilla 4, Malaga. Tel: 902 36 02 95 or visit www.cinealbeniz.com or www.unientradas.es
Isle of Dogs: 16.30, 18.20, 20.10, 22.00 (Mon-Thurs)
The Nile Hilton Incident: 18.15 (Mon-Thurs)
The Party: 22.00 (Mon-Thurs)

Cinesur El Ingenio
Avda. Juan Carlos 1, Vélez-Málaga. Tel. 667 77 31 87.
Finding Your Feet: 18.00, 20.15, 22.25 (Tues)

Rampage: 16.50, 19.20 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)
A Quiet Place: 19.00, 21.45 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)

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



Sopa Mondeña, Monda.

A Quiet Place: 12.20, 16.05, 18.10, 20.25, 22.25, 00.25.
Ready Player One: 22.20.
Crooked House: 20.00, 22.15 (Tues)
Den of Thieves: 22.25 (Tues)
Finding Your Feet: 12.20, 16.05, 18.10, 20.20.
Peter Rabbit: 16.00.

Cines Teatro Goya
For tickets and information call 951196665.
www.cinesteatrogoya.com
Isle of Dogs: 11.45 (Sun); 15.45 (Sat, Sun); 17.45 (Mon); 18.00 (every day except Mon); 20.10 (every day); 22.15 (every day except Friday); 22.30 (Frid).
Ready Player One: 19.45 (Mon-Thurs); 20.10 (Fri-Sun); 22.00

(Mon); 22.15 (every day except Mon).
Den of Thieves: 17.30 (Mon); 22.15 (Fri); 22.30 (Mon-Wed); 22.40 (Sat, Sun).
Peter Rabbit: 11.45 (Sun); 15.45 (Sat, Sun).
Miss Dalí: 17.00 (Mon); 18.30 (Fri, Tues-Thurs); 19.45 (Sat, Sun).
A Quiet Place: 16.30, (Sat, Sun); 17.45 (Mon-Thurs); 18.15 (Fri, Sat, Sun); 22.30 (every day).

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor
Centro de Ocio Plaza Mayor, Avda. Alfonso Ponce de León. Tel: 902 902 103 or visit www.yelmocines.es
Every Day: 16.30 (Tue, Thurs).
Crooked House: 15.20 (Sat, Sun).
Ready Player One: 16.45 (Mon-Fri); 12.40 (Sat, Sun).
The Opera House (Documentary): 20.00 (Tues).
A Quiet Place: 12.45 (Sat, Sun); 15.45 (every day).
Avengers: Infinity War: 19.30 (Thurs).

Screenings of opera, ballet and theatre
www.yelmocines.es
Prince, 'Sign O' The Times' (concert). 21 April, 22.15 (Plaza Mayor, Rincón de la Victoria, Vialia)
The Opera House (documentary). 24 April, 20.00 (Plaza Mayor, Rincón de la Victoria, Vialia)
Hamlet (National Theatre Live). 26 April, 20.00 (Vialia)



Visitors get a tour of the Ingenio at a previous event. :: E. C.

Sweet black molasses and May crosses

JENNIE RHODES FRIGILIANA. The village of Frigiliana will be combining its fifth Día de Miel de Caña (molasses day) with the annual May Cross Day on Saturday 28 April. The event will start at 10am and finish at 3.30pm. Most activities will be centred around the village's Ingenio (molasses factory) and will include guided tours during which visitors will have the opportunity to see the old machinery and molasses-making process. There will also be tastings of the dark, sweet liquid, which is used in a variety of traditional recipes.

El Ingenio Nuestra Señora del Carmen is the only working molasses factory in Europe. However, from the 16th until the early 20th Century Malaga province was home to a number of such buildings. In the 16th Century the Frigiliana Ingenio was home to the Count and Countess of Frigiliana. On the same day, visitors will also be able to walk around the village taking in its May Crosses, each of which is decorated in typical spring flowers. There will be traditional dancing and music to accompany both events. For further information visit: www.frigiliana.es



MOVIE LISTING From Friday 20th to Thursday 26th April

ORIGINAL VERSION SUBTITLED SPANISH



ISLE OF DOGS
Director Wes Anderson
Starring Bryan Cranston: Chief (voice)
ANIMATION · 101 min.
Friday 20: 18:00, 20:10, 22:30
Saturday 21: 15:45, 18:00, 20:10, 22:15
Sunday 22: 11:45, 15:45, 18:00, 20:10, 22:15
Monday 23: 17:45, 20:10, 22:15
From Tuesday 24 to Thursday 26: 18:00, 20:10, 22:15



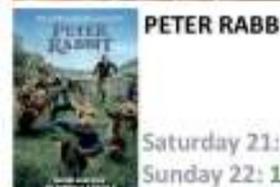
DEN OF THIEVES
Director Christian Guadagnoli
Starring Gerard Butler and Pablo Schreiber
ACTION · 140 min.
Friday 20: 22:15
Saturday 21 and Sunday 22: 22:40
Monday 23: 17:30, 22:30
Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25: 22:30



A QUIET PLACE
Director John Krasinski
Starring Emily Blunt and John Krasinski
HORROR · 90 min.
Friday 20: 18:15, 22:30
Saturday 21 and Sunday 22: 16:30, 18:15, 22:30
From Monday 23 to Thursday 26: 17:45, 22:30



MISS DALÍ
Director Ventura Pons
Starring Siân Phillips and Claire Bloom
DRAMA · 165 min.
Friday 20: 18:30
Saturday 21 and Sunday 22: 19:45
Monday 23: 17:00
From Tuesday 24 to Thursday 26: 18:30



PETER RABBIT
Saturday 21: 15:45
Sunday 22: 11:45, 15:45



READY PLAYER ONE
Friday 20: 20:10, 22:15
Saturday 21 and Sunday 22: 20:10, 22:15
Monday 23: 19:45, 22:00
From Tuesday 24 to Thursday 26: 19:45, 22:15

Open Studios event returns to Gaucín in May

▣ DEBBIE BARTLETT

MALAGA. When the month of May arrives, it is time to head to the beautiful white village of Gaucín, in the Serranía de Ronda, for the Art Gaucín Open Studios weekends which have become a well-known fixture of the art scene in Andalucía.

As usual, the event will be taking place over two weekends. This year's dates to note in the diary are Friday 25 to Sunday 27 May and Friday 1 to Sunday 3 June.

This is the perfect opportunity not only to discover the charms of the village, which is set amid stunning countryside, but to pop into each artist's own studio, see their latest creations, learn more about their techniques and watch them at work. It also gives visitors the chance to purchase unique works of art, with the added pleasure of having met the artist in person.

Art takes many forms, so the Open Studios event includes not only paintings but sculptures, ce-

ramics, photography, weaving, jewellery, textiles and lithographs.

Many of the artists' names will be instantly recognisable to art lovers in the area, as they are members of Art Gaucín and exhibit every year.

They include painters Joseba Sánchez Zabaleta, Ana Pellón, Nozomi Hatano and Paddy Robinson, photographers Chris Klees and Vivienne Whiffen, ceramic artists Juan Antonio Sangil, Rosie Venables and Anna McGrane, and sculptors Sebastian Fisher and Silvia Franco.

Two other long-established and popular local artists are Jim Rattenbury, whose paintings and sculptures are in several private collections abroad, and Michael Roschlau, former Glasgow School of Art lecturer, whose works include lithographs, paintings and intricate and very surprising clockwork wall sculptures.

This year, visitors to Art Gaucín's Open Studios will also have the chance to enjoy the work



Photographer Vivienne Whiffen will be exhibiting at the Open Studios event.

of guest artists Javier Machimbarrena, from Spain, and Gerrit Oppelland-Hampel, who is from Germany.

With its warren of quiet, pretty streets, Gaucín is a delightful place to explore on foot. It has ancient castle ruins, offers spectacular views across the coast and towards Africa, and provides plenty of places to linger over a coffee, tapas or something more substantial while enjoying those

panoramas as the village has several justifiably popular and celebrated restaurants.

With the upgrading of the road from Gaucín to the coast, access is faster and smoother now; it is just a 45-minute drive from Estepona and 40 minutes from Ronda.

The full list of artists, details of their works and the Art Gaucín Open Studios event can be found on the website www.artgaucin.com

INFORMATION

► **What:** Art Gaucín Open Studios weekends

► **When:** 27-29 May and 1-3 June.

► **Where:** Different studios in the village of Gaucín, in the Serranía de Ronda.



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Malaga CF Femenino won the league with victory in Cártama on Sunday. :: NITO SALAS

4-0

MALAGA-POZOALBENSE

Malaga: Chelsea, Shiv, Postigo, Encarni, Paula, María Ruiz, Sheila, Adriana, Raquel, Ruth, Meri. Substitutes: Alba, Noelia, Karina, Farfán, Aurora.

Pozoalbense: Portero, Bejarano, Nazaret, Troyano, Gloria, Victoria, Juani, Loba, Iglesias, Elena, Andrea. Substitutes: Clara, María Angeles, Garrido, María, Lucía.

Goals: 1-0 Meri (22'), 2-0 Adriana (54'), 3-0 María Ruiz (72'), 4-0 Adriana (90+3').

Referee: Virginia Santaella.

Venue: Ciudad Deportiva de Cártama (150 spectators).

sault on their goal continued but Malaga could only count on a single goal lead going into the break.

Complete dominance

Malaga didn't step off the gas in the second half and went for the kill. Adriana, who was at the heart of much of her side's attacking play, scored her side's second in the 54th minute with a strike the keeper could do nothing about.

The third goal was scored by María Ruiz, who pounced to score a header from a rebound.

Adriana bagged her brace in stoppage time (the captain's 42nd of the season) sealing a 4-0 win and a championship medal, to the delight of the crowd who chanted their support throughout.

Now most of the hard work is done: Malaga are champions after claiming 65 out of a possible 72 points, scoring 119 goals and conceding just six in the process. It all comes down to the playoffs for the right to compete in the top flight next season.

Each of the champions in the second tier (in which there are seven groups) progress to the playoffs to compete for two promotion places. The seven teams will compete in either a mini league of three or a play-off of four (depending on the draw) and the winners of each will earn promotion to Primera.

"It will come down to luck," said head coach Antonio Contreras who expressed his dislike for a knockout system. "The most important thing is that we continue to work hard, come what may."

Malaga crowned league champions

A 4-0 win over Pozoalbense secured the title; now the playoffs will decide their promotion fate

:: CARLOS J. MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. The Cártama municipal stadium became a party venue when the referee blew the final whistle. After an immaculate season, Málaga CF Femenino sealed the league title, with a game to spare, and confirmed their place in the playoffs for promotion to the top flight.

As with almost all of their second division games this season, Malaga were far superior to their opponents. Pozoalbense set out in Cártama with the intention of causing an upset but only came close to Chelsea's goal on a couple of occasions.

Despite this, the side managed by Antonio Contreras were not able to make their dominance pay and made fans wait for the opening goal. After numerous attempts, Meri put the hosts in front in the 21st minute, seizing on a loose ball in the Pozoalbense area. The as-



Top goalscorer Adriana, congratulated by Luisa. :: N. S.



Antonio Contreras celebrates with his team. :: N. S.



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LINE-UPS

MALAGA

1

REAL MADRID

2

Unused substitutes: Prieto (GK), En-Nesyri, Rolón, Samuel. **Unused substitutes:** Casilla (GK), Marcelo, Kroos, Llorente, Achraf.

STATISTICS

BALL POSSESSION

41% / **59%**

MALAGA / **REAL MADRID**

1	Goals	2
9	Total shots	13
4	On target	7
5	Off target	6
4	Corners	7
2	Offsides	3
12	Fouls committed	8
4	Yellow cards	0
0	Red cards	0

Goals: 0-1 Isco (29'), 0-2 Casemiro (63'); 1-2 Rolán (90+3').

Referee: Ricardo de Burgos Bengoetxea.

Venue: La Rosaleda (27,112 spectators).

TABLE & FIXTURES

MATCHDAY 32

Results

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

Fixtures

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

LEAGUE TABLE

★ Champions League ■ Europa League ▼ Relegation

TEAM	PT	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
★ 1. Barcelona	82	32	25	7	0	81	17
★ 2. At. Madrid	71	32	21	8	3	54	15
★ 3. Real Madrid	67	32	20	7	5	79	35
★ 4. Valencia	65	32	20	5	7	60	33
■ 5. Betis	52	32	16	4	12	53	53
■ 6. Villarreal	48	32	14	6	12	43	39
7. Sevilla	47	32	14	5	13	41	52
8. Girona	44	32	12	8	12	44	49
9. Celta	43	32	12	7	13	50	44
10. Getafe	42	32	11	9	12	36	30
11. Real Sociedad	40	32	11	7	14	57	52
12. Eibar	40	32	11	7	14	36	46
13. Athletic	39	32	9	12	11	35	38
14. Leganes	39	32	11	6	15	27	39
15. Alavés	38	32	12	2	18	29	45
16. Espanyol	36	32	8	12	12	26	39
17. Levante	31	32	6	13	13	28	48
▼ 18. Deportivo	26	32	6	8	18	32	65
▼ 19. Las Palmas	21	32	5	6	21	22	64
▼ 20. MALAGA	17	32	4	5	23	20	50

Isco steals the show on return home

The local boy was warmly received despite scoring and bagging an assist to inflict defeat on the bottom side

MERHAWI HESABU

MALAGA. It was always destined to be. In a Real Madrid team with some notable absentees, Isco stepped up to deliver what proved to be a match-winning performance with a goal and an assist on his return to his former club on Sunday night.

With Cristiano Ronaldo, Gareth Bale, Toni Kroos and Luka Modric all rested in the wake of their mid-week Champions League exertions, the burden of responsibility fell on the Spaniard and he duly delivered.

Isco was at the centre of everything for the away side, particularly in the first half. He created a good chance for Lucas Vázquez with a clever dinked through-ball which the winger failed to convert.

Isco then had three chances of his own in quick succession. The first was a sublime freekick which was the game's opening goal. From roughly 25-yards out Isco left Roberto with no chance and he received the warm applause of the Malaga and Madrid fans alike.

Isco receiving a standing ovation from La Rosaleda. :: NITO SALAS

The Spaniard then almost doubled his tally when he cut in from the left onto his stronger foot after a neat one-two with Marco Asensio but could only shoot wide. His third effort was another long-range effort but this time Roberto made a comfortable save from a volley from the edge of the box.

However, it was not all one-way

traffic and Malaga had a flurry of chances towards the end of the half in their pursuit of an equaliser. It started after clever interplay between the Uruguayan pair of Federico Ricca and Diego Rolán ended with a dangerous cross across the six-yard box from the full-back, cleared at the last by Sergio Ramos.

A clear chance then fell to Manuel

Relegation to Segunda almost confirmed

Defeat on Sunday erased all remaining hope of salvation for Malaga whose coach José González had hoped to mastermind an upset over the under-strength Galácticos. "We tried to freshen things up and do something new with the system [4-3-3]. Without Bale or Ronaldo, we knew they would have fewer shots so we wanted to prevent them working their way through the middle."

But despite limiting the opposition, he admitted that his own side's goalscoring problem was what cost them the game - and ultimately their La Liga status.

At the time of going to press, Malaga are taking on Levante. Defeat would mathematically confirm relegation to Segunda.

Iturra when he nipped in front of a careless Casemiro to put himself though on goal but a smart save from Keylor Navas denied him. The home side managed to keep the ball alive and Roberto Rosales' shot was deflected over for a corner. From it, Ig-

nasi Miquel had a chance of his own after getting on the end of a knock down from Ricca but failed to get his effort on target.

A change in approach

In the second half the home side continued their hunt for a goal and manager José González made an attacking substitution, replacing midfielder Mehdi Lacen with forward Alberto Bueno. Bueno was instantly involved and, just two minutes after coming on, got on the end of a freekick from Chory Castro but failed to get enough on his header to trouble Navas.

In spite of this attacking intent it didn't take long for the away side to double their lead. It was a great team goal after 63 minutes with Isco, needless to say, at the heart of it. Isco had the opportunity to grab his second goal of the game after being put through on goal by Karim Benzema but the selfless Spaniard instead decided to tee up Casemiro for a simple tap-in.

Isco then left to a standing ovation from the home crowd after being substituted after 71 minutes.

Late consolation

Malaga continued to push and grabbed the consolation goal that their spirited performance deserved with Diego Rolán converting with the last kick of the game. His persistence paid off, capitalising after Jesús Vallejo miskicked Ricca's cross from the left to smash the ball into the roof of the net.

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Shatat with Al-Thani in 2014. :: ÁLVARO CABRERA

Pressure piles on Al-Thani as date is set for BlueBay case

Former club vice president Moayad Shatat will also press charges for damage the sheikh's accusations caused to his "honour and dignity"

:: A. GÓNGORA / S. CORTÉS

MALAGA. The trial for the so-called BlueBay case will begin on 4 December this year.

The BlueBay hotel group is demanding that the conditions of a contract, which it signed with the Sheikh Al-Thani and his collaborators in 2013, be honoured. The group is claiming "co-ownership of the 97 per cent shares in the club" and "control of the club to implement a viable and sustainable project for the future".

Al-Thani, for his part, says BlueBay never complied with the conditions of the contract, rendering it invalid.

The trial was originally due to

start two years ago before Al-Thani's lawyers lodged a criminal complaint for falsehood and misappropriation against former Malaga CF directors Abdullah Ghubn and Moayad Shatat, and the head of BlueBay, Jamal Iglesias, a day prior to the preliminary hearing. This put the trial on hold but now these complaints have been officially shelved, it can resume this December.

Shatat versus the sheikh

The aforementioned Moayad Shatat, now cleared of the accusations made against him by the sheikh, is seeking to repair the damage caused to his "honour and dignity" by the "serious accusations" made against him.

"I have kept quiet out of respect for the justice system," said Shatat. "But now the time has arrived for me to defend myself."

According to the sheikh's former right-hand man, he only wants to protect his public image and any damages awarded would be given to a local charity.

IN BRIEF



Ricca, centre, following surgery. :: MALAGA CF

Federico Ricca out for the rest of the season

MALAGA

:: **SUR.** Malaga left-back Federico Ricca will not play again this season after undergoing surgery on Tuesday.

The Uruguayan has been troubled by an injury in his left shoul-

der all season and it is hoped that surgery will repair it for good.

Ricca's surgery was postponed to allow him to play against Real Madrid on Sunday in the absence of the suspended Luis Hernández.

The 23-year-old has been under the knife last summer and in October but still has problems with movement. He is expected to recover in time for preseason.

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A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER

Commentator, Sky Sports
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La Masia: The famous well is running dry

Tito Vilanova could field an all-Catalan XI in 2012; this Tuesday there wasn't a single local player in Barcelona's line-up

Think of the iconic player of your favourite club, and the chances are it will be a local lad made good who speaks about the glory years in a distinct local accent.

The Class of '92 are making a killing on the back of their togetherness at Old Trafford (are they the biggest thing to come out of Manchester since Oasis?)

Jamie Carragher and 'The Spice Boys' have been making a grand living out of their era at Liverpool. Think of Newcastle and it is Alan Shearer, at Chelsea the dominant voices were those of John Terry, Frank Lampard and Dennis Wise.

In Spain no club reflected the local area with greater pride and basked in their famous youth system more than FC Barcelona.

When you go on the Camp Nou stadium tour they boast of the famous La Masia - the academy that has produced crop after crop of first teamers for the club. Ideally, the first team is shaped by graduates who have all learned 'the Barcelona way' with a few superstars signed to plug the gaps.

At the absolute height in November 2012, Barça were able to name a team of eleven players who had all studied their football at La Masia.

Contrast that to last Tuesday when Ernesto Valverde chose to rest many of the big hitters for the Copa del Rey final and selected the fringe players. In the



Sergi Roberto is still the most recent La Masia graduate. :: EFE

past this would have allowed even more of the 'next generation' to pull on famous shirt.

The sign of the times is the fact that every single player had been transferred in, and for a club that prides itself on representing Catalonia, not one local started. The two Spanish players, Denis Suárez and Paco Alcácer, are from Galicia and Valencia, respectively.

In the good old days the changing room lingo was Catalan; it was in the contract that a player must have lessons in the language. This week even Spanish wasn't the first language!

The coach shouldered the blame for the Champions League exit, the director of football is getting criticised for the recruitment. The problem goes way back, though. Way back... (Bear in mind that players are recruited as young as seven in this modern era.)

The last time that Barça failed to select a homegrown player was 2002. The situation was rectified so that by 2012 Tito Vilanova

could select a team made up solely of players who had been mentored by the club.

Now the pendulum swings and Sergi Roberto is the most recent alumni. He came through in 2010! So it is something that has to be addressed.

Maybe the 'non-Catalan' selection was a political statement from the coach. After all, at his previous club Valverde was restricted to choosing from ONLY Basque players.

So it could be the fault of the scouting department or even the parents of the Catalan youth players. Remember when Gordon Strachan jokingly blamed genetics for Scotland's failure and suggested the country should get "big men and women together" to improve the football gene pool?

Maybe that's it? Instead of boasting about La Masia football finishing school as the tour bus passes, they could reveal that it is a breeding ground. After all it is next door to the maternity hospital...

Marbella get back to winning ways in pursuit of promotion

Goals from Ferrón and Juanfran sealed victory for Marbella in Sunday's derby against Recreativo

MARBELLA 2 RECREATIVO 0

:: JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

MARBELLA. Marbella's quest for promotion got back on track on Sunday afternoon as they put last week's loss in Écija behind them and saw off Recreativo de Huelva by two goals to nil.

Head coach Fernando Estévez made two changes, with Chus hevia replacing Sergio Narváez in attack and Lolo Pavón coming in at the back to give extra height to counter Recreativo's physical strength in attack.

The home side had the ball in the net after just two minutes when Ferrón converted from inside the six-yard box. The referee had other ideas, though, disallowing it for a foul on the keeper.

The fans were on their feet again shortly after when Chus Hevia played the ball into Añón with the backheel, only for the captain to strike the ball against the post.

In response, the away side pushed out, compressing the field of play and catching the Costa del Sol side offside with increasing frequency, limiting their creativity.

Despite this, Recre themselves only had one chance - a strike from Rafa de Vicente which Wilfred gathered on the second time of asking.

The breakthrough goal game two minutes from the break, result of strong running from Dominican full-back Carlos Julio who powered down the right before sending in the cross which was parried by Marc Martínez into the path of Ferrón, who couldn't miss.

Far from sitting on their lead, Marbella went for the jugular. Within two minutes of the restart, a good combination move between Chus, Corpas and Bernal resulted in a chance for the Seville man who hit his shot over the crossbar.

The visitors took more risks to



The players celebrate the win that keeps them top. :: J. R.

Belgian group takes control of the club

Marbella owner Alexander Grinberg has handed over control of the club to a Belgian group which has promised to invest 2.85 million euros in instalments to acquire Grinberg's majority share.

The group, headed by football agent and businessman Louis de Vries, has taken control of the club's finances, ensuring that the players get paid on time and receive their performance-related bonuses in light of Grinberg's assets being frozen following his arrest.

try and find a way back into the game but Marbella continued to control the play and sought to take advantage of the extra space, bringing on Juanfran to lead the attack with ten minutes to go.

His speed caused the Recre defence all sorts of problems and with full time approaching, he was able to strike on the counterattack, running from the half-way line before unleashing a strike on the outside of his right foot.

With four games left to go, Marbella are almost certain of being in the playoffs, but will still want to seal the title.



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Sebas Lorente plays a stroke from the 'paragolfer' which enables him to stand up and move around the course :: R. C.

"The accident didn't change me at all"

Sebas Lorente, who was left paraplegic after a car crash, believes everyone can be happy. "Walking isn't that important," he says

:: SUSANA ZAMORA

MALAGA. Three decades have passed since the dreadful accident; that night in May when, returning home after a night drinking and partying, the coffee-coloured Seat 133 crashed in Sitges. It was being driven by a friend, who was unhurt; he, on the other hand, aged just 20, was unlucky - or was he? Because despite suffering a serious spinal injury which left him paralysed, Sebastián Lorente, now 56, is not sure that his life would have been better or happier, if he had still been able to walk.

He finished his Law degree, worked as a solicitor, married, had two children and even took up golf

again, 20 years after the accident. The day he became European adapted golf champion was one of the happiest of his life.

"If I look back at things I have lost because I can't walk, the list would be long but if I look at the ones which are really important the list practically disappears. Not being able to walk isn't important," says Lorente in the book he has recently published, '8 Días levantándose de #buen humor'.

The title comes from something he once posted on Twitter, after counting the days that had passed since he was born: "19,539 days getting up in a #GoodMood. May they continue!" he said.

"That message came to mind because for the whole of my life I had been lucky enough to wake up in a good mood, all 19,539 days of it," explains Sebas, as he is known. Since then he has tweeted something similar every day: his age in days and a reflection, which are now the headings of the eight

chapters in his book. Throughout its 240 pages, he makes it clear that we can all wake up happy.

"We are all going to have problems at some time, but the solution lies within us. We only have to look back into our past and see that we have been able to recover from difficult circumstances before. You have to accept your problems, and learn to live with them. Time is our great ally, because it teaches us that we can always get over things," says Sebas, who has been touring Spain for the past five years, giving conferences on acquiring a positive attitude and "re-

"If someone let this get them down, they'd let another problem get them down too"

mind a great many people" where to find the tools they need to solve a problem.

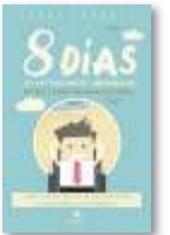
"On one occasion, a woman told me she had been taking medication for a year because of depression and that after listening to me she felt ashamed to continue doing that. She realised that she had to take action. Her thanks, and all those I have received since I began doing this, have been the greatest reward," he says.

As well as the talks, Lorente writes the blog which caused his change in lifestyle, when he stopped practising law after 13 years and decided to follow his own advice and do what he wanted to do. In the blog he encourages people, almost as a doctrine, to be happy with what they have and not wait for something to happen in order to make them happy; to support others by example, highlighting their strengths and never criticising their defects; to use as a role model people who are kind,

THE BOOK

A book to increase self-esteem

It has taken golfer Sebas Lorente a year to write '8 Días levantándose de #buen humor', a book which helps people to increase self-esteem, learn to value reality, stop complaining and put problems into proportion. He says it has been "a pleasure" to write, and especially to see the 2,500 copies which were initially printed almost flying off the shelves.



supportive, honest, generous, and have a sense of humour, are able to create a pleasant atmosphere and make life easier for others.

People liked those reflections and the readers of the blog used to interact with him, which is why he decided to share his experience and way of looking at life to try to help others.

Despite his achievements, Sebastián Lorente insists that the accident didn't change him as a person, and he hates it when people talk about his determination to overcome problems. "I'm just the same as any other person. If someone let this get them down then they would let another problem get them down too. It is all a matter of attitude," he says. The only thing he changed was his way of living (he had to move to a home with no stairs), but not his way of being, thinking or feeling. He continued being who he was; his personality didn't change at all and he didn't become bitter. Things he had been able to do when he could walk ceased to be important to him and he began to enjoy what he had at that moment, "which was a great deal because I could have died".

He continues to see life as if nothing had happened, as if there had not been any consequences to the accident. In fact, for some years he still continued to drive (he had an adapted car) after drinking: "I thought lightning couldn't strike twice," he says. But then his children were born, and the costs of the damage caused made him realise that alcohol and driving are not compatible. That is something he makes very clear these days, when he gives talks at schools.

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THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



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Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Get planning your next adventure, which involve some travel. Try somewhere new and get out of that rut!

Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Have patience with others when they seem to be dragging their heels. This is a good time for sorting finances or asking for what you want.

Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
A bright and social time when you should be full of energy and enthusiasm.

Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
A spirit of adventure leads you to make surprising and enjoyable changes. With Venus shining on you, romance and contentment are never far away.

Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Someone in authority sends an important communication. You can be open and ask for time to consider.

Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
This could be the time to get finances organised or call in any cash owed to you.

Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Good news can come from home and work with a possible promotion under discussion.

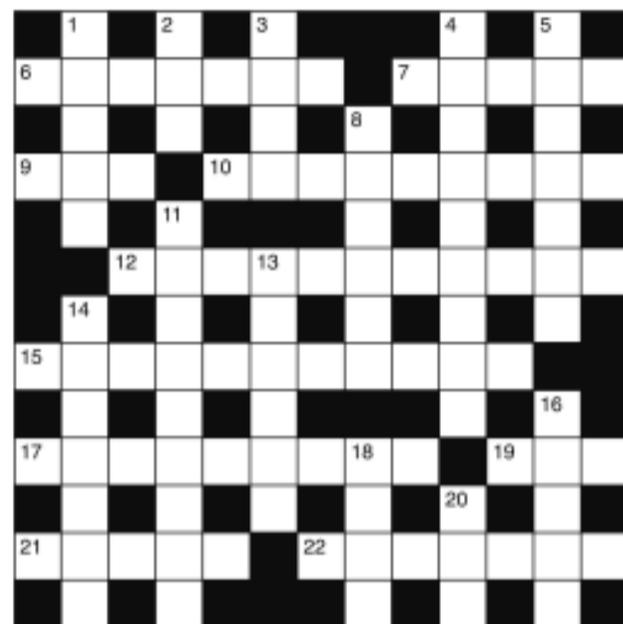
Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
In this creative week you may decide to downsize your wardrobe and get rid of clutter. Why not sell some things to bulk up the coffers?

Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Good health needs a bit of input from you. Get on top of exercise regimes and health checks.

Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Bring together all of your talents to impress this weekend. That could take some planning, so start right away.

Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Through a chance comment you are led to a new way of thinking that could be just up your street!

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11291



- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Across</p> <p>6 & 10Ac Biblical first-aid man (3,4,9)</p> <p>7 Prepared to drive beyond the south - mount needed (5)</p> <p>9 & 2Dn The running of a house makes husbands go grey! (6)</p> <p>10 See 6 Across</p> <p>12 Anodynes needed for father among assassins! (11)</p> <p>15 Supplying more men to restrain coercion (11)</p> <p>17 Counts are disturbed by a mistress (9)</p> <p>19 Estimated time of arrival put back - used the restaurant (3)</p> <p>21 Stop a hundred getting relaxation (5)</p> <p>22 Modernisation can be novel in genuine surroundings (7)</p> | <p>Down</p> <p>1 Invention that has produced many revolutions (5)</p> <p>2 See 9 Across</p> <p>3 This rounds off the composition for a cryptographer, we hear (4)</p> <p>4 Wanted: youth to skin fish (9)</p> <p>5 Strike another match (7)</p> <p>8 When the fellow gets one account he goes crazy (6)</p> <p>11 The French remove clothes and she washes them (9)</p> <p>13 They keep victims in suspense (6)</p> <p>14 Document about petty officers having been reduced in rank (7)</p> <p>16 Southern timber is welcomed by the consumer (5)</p> <p>18 Fearfully affected by seeing you and me in the advertisement (4)</p> <p>20 Fifty for example will provide support (3)</p> |
|--|--|

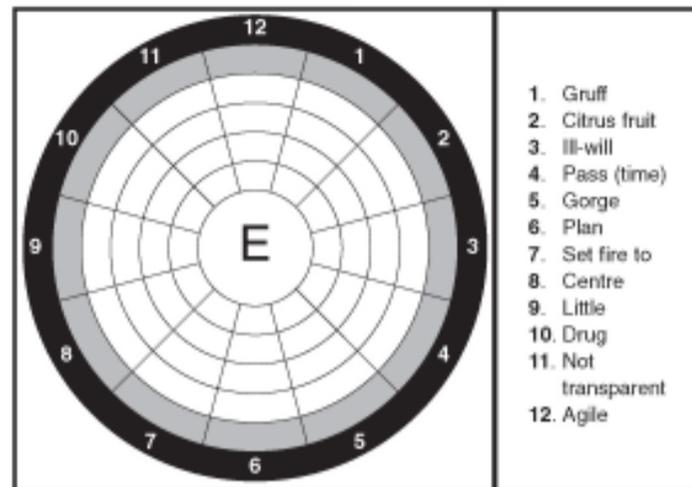
SUDOKU BY HANZO

Instructions
Complete the square making sure that every row of nine numbers includes all digits from 1 to 9, every column includes all digits from 1 to 9 and every 3 by 3 subsection includes all digits from 1 to 9

				9				
		9			1	8	5	
8	7				4		6	
6			5			7	2	
		4						
5			3		8	4		
			4					
4	8			2			1	5
	2			6				8

CLOCKWORD

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter E in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a cartoon character.



1. Gruff
2. Citrus fruit
3. Ill-will
4. Pass (time)
5. Gorge
6. Plan
7. Set fire to
8. Centre
9. Little
10. Drug
11. Not transparent
12. Agile

THE WORDPUZZLER



- CAN you identify the words that may follow free from the clues listed below?
1. Poetry
 2. Labourer
 3. Dwelling
 4. Drop
 5. Spy
 6. Determination
 7. Religious building
 8. Strike with the foot
 9. Shape
 10. Present

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QUIZ

QUESTION 1
Don Lusher and J. J. Johnson were famous players of what instrument?

1. Trumpet
2. Trombone
3. Saxophone
4. Piano

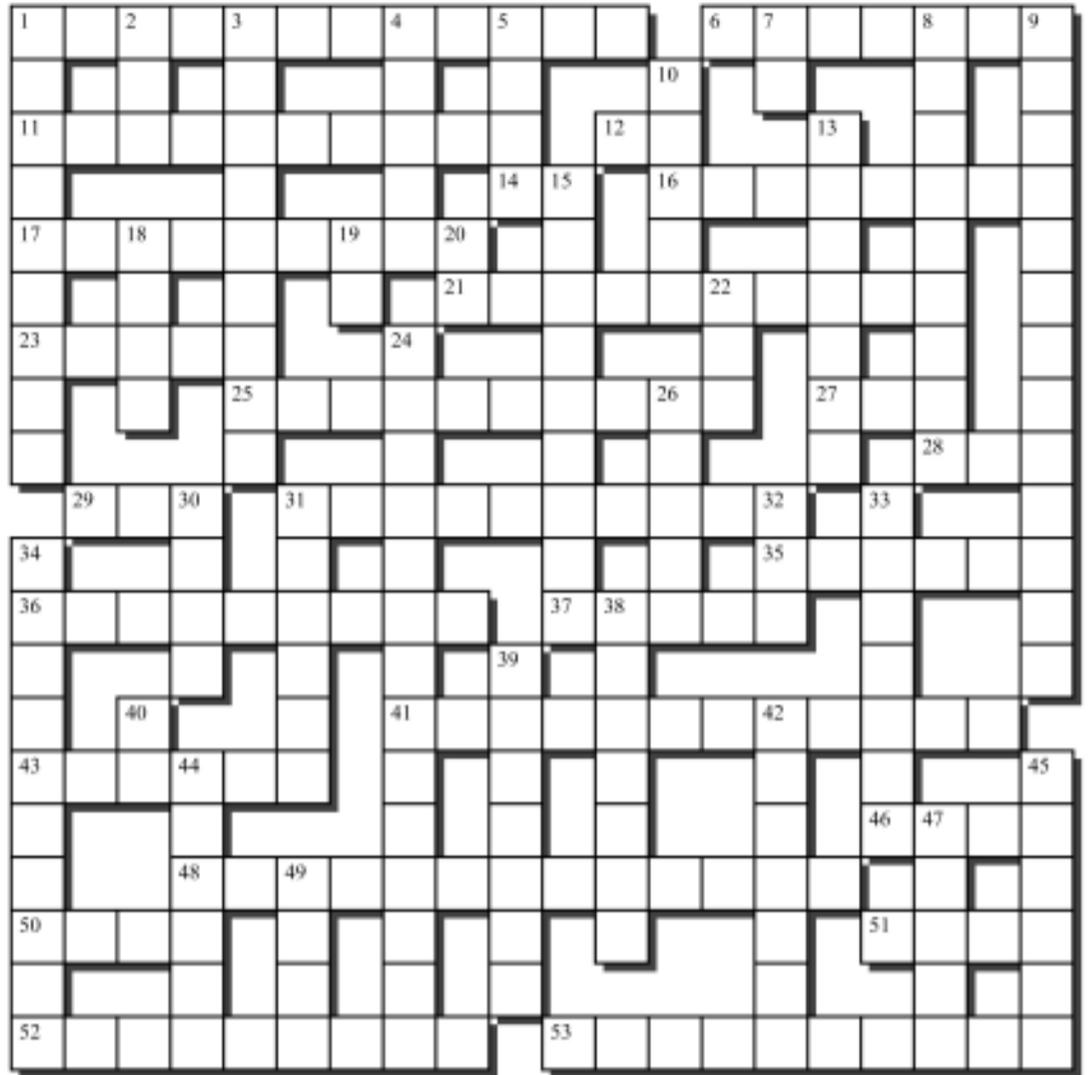
QUESTION 2
Breslau Tumbler, Ptarmigan and Saxon Monk are types of what?

1. Pheasant
2. Quail
3. Pigeon
4. Hen

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across**
- 1) Architecture (12)
 - 6) Bus (7)
 - 11) Welcome (10)
 - 12) It is (2)
 - 14) Himself (2)
 - 16) Pavilion (8)
 - 17) Christopher (9)
 - 21) Explorer (10)
 - 23) Pans (5)
 - 25) Cable car (10)
 - 27) Even (3)
 - 28) Handle (3)
 - 29) King (3)
 - 31) Unbelieving (pl) (10)
 - 35) I offended (6)
 - 36) He was examining (9)
 - 37) Senile (5)
 - 41) Opening (12)
 - 43) I used to hate (6)
 - 46) UFO (4)
 - 48) Impressive (13)
 - 50) Grey (4)
 - 51) Anal (4)
 - 52) Host (9)
 - 53) Exhibition (10)

- Down**
- 1) Ambitious (9)
 - 2) What (3)
 - 3) You invited (9)
 - 4) Climate (5)
 - 5) Uses (4)
 - 7) A (2)
 - 8) Ballet dancer (9)
 - 9) Significant (13)
 - 10) I spy (5)
 - 13) They will come (7)
 - 15) Expected (pl) (9)
 - 18) Island (4)
 - 19) Boo! (2)
 - 20) Him (2)
 - 22) Prisoner (3)
 - 24) Discovery (14)
 - 26) Columbus (5)
 - 30) Yolk (4)
 - 31) It innovates (6)
 - 32) Sun (3)
 - 33) Destination (7)
 - 34) Technology (10)
 - 38) He engages (7)
 - 39) Also (7)
 - 40) My (2)
 - 42) Roof terraces (7)
 - 44) I attended (6)
 - 45) Million (6)
 - 47) I sold (5)
 - 49) Worse (4)



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

Of interest: James Louis "J. J." Johnson was an American jazz trombonist, composer and arranger. He was one of the first trombonists to embrace bebop music. Don Lusher was an English jazz and big band trombonist best known for his association with the Ted Heath Big Band.

Answer 1: Pigeon
Of interest: Breslau Tumblers, along with other varieties of domesticated pigeons, are all descendants from the rock pigeon (Columba livia).

Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 6 The Good; 7 Steed; 9 Men; 10 Samaritan; 12 Painkillers; 15 Reinforcing; 17 Courtesan; 19 Ate; 21 Cease; 22 Renewal; Down: 1 Wheel; 2 Age; 3 Coda; 4 Stripling; 5 Hermary; 8 Marjac; 11 Laundry; 13 Nooses; 14 Deposed; 16 Steak; 18 Awed; 20 Leg.

Clockword solution

SOLUTION: 1 Hoarse, 2 Orange, 3 Malice, 4 Elopse, 5 Havine, 6 Scheme, 7 Ighte, 8 Middle, 9 Petite, 10 Sedate, 11 Cpedue, 12 Nembre, CHARACTER: Homer Simpson.

Wordpuzler solution

LAKI CKLERW
IDORHGELEI
VERSERFALL
SMPETHORSL
LURCHURCHX
UNELARMION
RAGENTIPUR
GSIAUDUCISE
OKFMFEALEA
NETIONCLSDG

1. Verse
2. Hand
3. House
4. Fall
5. Agent
6. Will
7. Church
8. Kick
9. Form
10. Gift

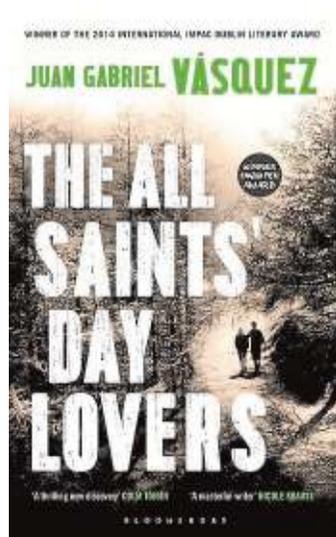
Sudoku solution

3	2	7	1	6	5	9	4	8
4	8	6	9	2	7	3	1	5
9	5	1	4	8	3	6	7	2
7	5	1	2	3	7	8	4	9
6	3	8	5	4	9	7	2	1
8	7	3	2	5	4	1	6	9
2	6	9	7	3	1	8	5	4
1	4	5	8	9	6	2	3	7

Language Crossword

ACROSS:
 1. ARQUITECTURA 6. AUTOS
 11. BARRILETO 12. ISLA 14.8
 16. BARRILETO 17. CRISTAL
 21. EXPLORADOR 23. OLLAS
 25. TELEFONO 27. AVION 28. ASA 29. REE
 31. CANGRIJOS 35. ENDE
 36. CAMARERA 37. SENIL
 38. EXAMINAR 40. ODIABA 46. OVNI
 41. INFLUENCIANTE 49. GRIS 51. ANAL
 52. ANFITRION 53. EXPOSICION
DOWN:
 1. AMBITUOSO 2. QUE INVITASTE
 4. CLIMA 5. LOS TUN BARRILETO
 9. SIGNIFICATIVO 10. ISLA 19. AVION 20. TELEFONADO 18. ISLA 19. AVION 20. TELEFONADO 24. DESCRUBRIMIENTO 26. COLON 30. AVIA 31. NOVIA 32. SOL 33. BESTIA 34. TECNOLOGIA 38. ENAVIA 39. TAMBIEN 40. MII 42. AVIOTEAS 44. ASISTI 45. MILLON 47. VENDE 49. PEOR

BOOK OF THE WEEK



The All Saint's Day Lovers
Juan Gabriel Vásquez

Achingly sad, The All Saints' Day Lovers is an intense exploration of relationships, loneliness and cruelty. A Colombian writer is witness to a murder which will mark him forever. A woman sits alone in her house, waiting for her husband to return, while he lies in another woman's bed twenty kilometres away. Through blood-soaked betrayal, a love affair, murder and long-meditated revenge, Vásquez achieves an extraordinary unity of emotion, morality and landscape with these fragmented lives.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Norwegian Epic	20/04	Gibraltar	Barcelona	08.00	18.00
Black Watch	20/04	Livorno	Southampton	08.00	18.00
Marella Celebration	22/04	Cartagena	Lisbon	06.00	22.00
Celebrity Reflection	23/04	-	-	11.30	20.00
Azamara Quest	24/04	Gibraltar	Valencia	07.30	18.00
Star Pride	24/04	-	-	08.00	19.00
Club Med 2	24/04	Cadiz	Barcelona	08.00	20.00
Sea Cloud II	24/04	Cadiz	Ibiza	08.00	18.00
Corinthian	25/04	Gibraltar	Cartagena	07.00	16.00
Mein Schiff 3	25/04	Palma	Gibraltar	08.00	23.00
Aidaprima	25/04	Cadiz	Barcelona	08.00	18.00
Mein Schiff 6	26/04	Gibraltar	Barcelona	08.00	18.00
Marella Discovery 2	26/04	Lisbon	Gibraltar	08.00	18.00
Seadream I	26/04	Marbella	Motril	08.00	18.00
Costa Favolosa	26/04	-	-	09.00	19.00
Sea Cloud	26/04-27/04	Cadiz	Motril	14.00	08.30
Mein Schiff 4	27/04	Cadiz	Barcelona	08.00	18.00
Royal Clipper	28/04	-	-	07.00	22.00



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Creating a buzz at the landfill

Malaga's waste treatment plant hosts a pioneering project to pollinate the area



ANA PÉREZ-BRYAN

Twitter: @anaperezbryan

The initiative, which includes the installation of ten hives, will also serve to measure the environmental impact of the landfill site

MALAGA. To say that bees play an essential role in the biodiversity and the balance of the natural environment is nothing new. Nor is the message from scientists that the bee population is diminishing on a global level (an estimated 37% in recent years). This is particularly worrying in countries like Spain. Here, 75% of our food is provided by fruit and vegetables, which rely on pollination in order to grow. In other words, we need bees.

The City of Malaga's Environment Department has initiated a strategy in conjunction with the

Bee Garden association to develop pollination mechanisms in order to protect and promote natural spaces. The initiative is based at Los Ruices environmental centre, the home of the city's recycling plant and landfill site. It aims to encourage pollination with the installation of ten bee hives where more than 300,000 bees will be hard at work.

Raúl Jiménez, the local councillor for the Environment, visited the Los Ruices centre last week with Eva Gómez, technical director of Aula Bee Green, who stressed how this was a "pioneering" initiative. Only a handful of similar projects are in operation in Spain, in Valencia, Galicia and Catalonia.

Urban bee-keeping doesn't just facilitate environmental improvements, explained Gómez. It also

The centre will increase the number of beehives in the long term and will cover more areas, such as La Concepción



Raúl Jiménez and Eva Gómez with one of the hives :: NITO SALAS

helps to create awareness of the importance of bees among city-dwellers.

"Bees are fundamental to our surroundings," Gómez stressed. The project also includes Ecoaula, a workshop where schoolchildren can learn about the importance of respecting their natural environment: from recycling to bees.

In terms of selecting the location of the beehives, spaces with most protection for colonies of insects were favoured. The sites are off the beaten track of staff and visitors, but still easily accessible, ensuring the best possible working conditions for bees. The aim of this project is not the collection of honey, but the pollination of the environment. "Whatever is produced will go towards sustaining the bees during the winter," said Gómez.

This drive towards pollination around Malaga is complemented in the case of Los Ruices by a parallel project to measure the impact of the waste dumped in the area.

"As waste is treated in this area, the bees will also serve as a biological thermometer to detect environmental imbalance," explained Jiménez, who added that the aim is to increase the number of hives to forty.

Furthermore, their ultimate goal is to export the initiative to more local areas, such as the La Concepción Botanical Gardens. According to the councillor, hives will be incorporated into the "green belt" of the city as part of its reforestation project.

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