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News	2	Health & Beauty	50
Comment	24	Sport	56
Lifestyle	26	My Home	61
What To Do	43	Classified	63
Food & Drink	48	Pastimes	70

CYCLING

La Vuelta gets going on the Costa

Look out for the peloton as it winds its way around the province of Malaga over the next few days **P60**



RAIL COLLISION LEAVES FOUR INJURED

A train on the Seville-Malaga line hit a truck on a level crossing on Tuesday in Fuente de Piedra **P2**



The state of the truck after the accident that occurred on Tuesday afternoon. :: SALVADOR SALAS

Briton wanted after man dies following punch in Fuengirola

The assailant of a 65-year-old Argentinian man has been identified as a visitor who returned to the UK

Police have issued a warrant for the arrest of a 45-year-old British man in connection with the incident earlier in August in which the victim was punched. He fell and hit his head and spent several days in a coma. **P3**

Tourism chief in Marbella.

The Secretary-General of the UNWTO talks about the industry during a private visit to the Costa **P6**



Zurab Pololikashvili. :: J-L

Bremain in Spain

chairman Sue Wilson leads legal challenge against Theresa May over Brexit **P22**

The Crown comes to film in Torremolinos.

The hit series will turn the local conference centre into a 1960s airport **P28**

Killings show up surge in drug-gang rivalry on the Costa

Two violent deaths took place within 48 hours in Mijas and Estepona

Two quiet residential districts of Mijas and Estepona woke up to find they were at the centre of violent killings in the last week. Police suspect that they are linked to score-setting among drug gangs, forced to fight for territory and supplies as landing drugs on the coast from Af-

rica gets tougher due to police action.

In the first attack near Mijas Pueblo, two men of Swedish nationality were caught later trying to travel to Morocco after holding two men and killing one. In the attack in El Campanario, one man was shot in cold blood on his doorstep. **P4**

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A train from Seville to Malaga hits a lorry on an uncontrolled level crossing near Antequera

IGNACIO LILLO

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One of the occupants of the lorry was seriously injured but is out of danger, and his passenger and two women who were on the train were also hurt

MALAGA. Residents of Fuente de Piedra are calling for uncontrolled level crossings to be eradicated after a train travelling between Seville and Malaga hit a lorry on a crossing of that type between the town and Bobadilla on Tuesday, and injured four people. The train pushed the lorry for about 75 metres before being able to stop.

The company which owns the lorry is based in Fuente de Piedra, and one of the occupants of the vehicle, who was seriously injured and was taken by emergency helicopter to the Clínico hospital in Malaga, lives there. His condition is still serious but he is said to be out of danger.

The other occupant of the lorry and two passengers on the train, one of them a pregnant woman, were also injured and needed medical attention at the scene.

The train is the medium-distance type which runs on the old track between Seville and Malaga, covering the journey in two and a half hours, not the AVE high speed service. It was carrying 90 passengers at the time of the accident.

The lorry was on the crossing, which has no barriers (contrary to a statement by Adif at the time) and was returning from collecting bales



The train just after the accident, with the remains of the lorry still crushed into the front. :: SALVADOR SALAS



The cab of the lorry after the crash. :: SALVADOR SALAS

of straw from an agricultural area of olive groves and fields. There are no houses in that area, but the road is quite busy because people work on farms and fields there, explained the mayor of Fuente de Piedra, Francisco Hidalgo, who went to the scene of the accident. For reasons which are now being investigated, the train hit the cab of the lorry, which was completely destroyed.

"There was a big crash, a lot of noise and then the drivers came running out," said one passenger who had been in the front carriage of the train. "The lorry was completely split in two."

The passengers had to remain on board the train until 6pm, waiting for a bus to take them to their destination because the track ahead was completely blocked by the remains of the vehicle and is in an area difficult to reach by road. "The Renfe staff behaved very correctly, they came to see how we were," said the passenger.

The Renfe railway company says the train left Seville for Malaga at 1.04pm. Other services were not affected as alternative tracks are available in the area.

The emergency services were quickly on the scene, including the Guardia Civil, Local Police, ambulances and the fire brigade from Antequera. Several specialists from the Adif and Renfe railway companies were also there.

After inspecting the damaged train, experts said it must have been travelling at about 100 kilometres per hour and started to sound its horn and brake at least one kilometre before hitting the lorry. Adif has started an investigation and will provide the Guardia Civil and judicial authorities with its conclusions.

The mayor of Fuente de Piedra and several local residents who had gone to the scene complained

The mayor of Fuente de Piedra and people who have to use this route want better safety measures

The train apparently started to brake and sound its horn for at least one kilometre before hitting the lorry



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LONDON OFFICE

Hunt on for British man who allegedly fatally punched a man in Fuengirola then returned to UK

about the lack of visibility for drivers of lorries and tractors at that point, and called on Adif to remove all the level crossings in the municipality or, at least, fit them with barriers. "They have to create alternative ways for traffic so they don't have to use level crossings. They should be eliminated completely," insisted Francisco Hidalgo.

With regard to the occupants of the lorry, the most seriously hurt was a 44-year-old man who was rushed to hospital in Malaga with a complicated injury to his right arm and a craneo-facial wound which will need reconstruction surgery, according to the 112 emergency service.

The other three people who were injured were taken to Antequera hospital. One was the other occupant of the lorry, a 21-year-old man who suffered several injuries but remained conscious.

The other two were on the train: a 35-year-old woman who is seven months pregnant, who was suffering from pains in the stomach and was examined to make sure the baby was unhurt, and a 21-year-old woman who suffered a cervical sprain and bruising.

Mario Sauco died after ten days in a coma and his family are seeking answers as to what happened before the attack in Los Boliches

by JUAN CANO / ÁLVARO FRÍAS

MALAGA. Police in Fuengirola have called for help from their UK counterparts in the hunt for a 45-year-old British national who is wanted in connection with the death of a local resident.

Mario Sauco, 65, was fatally injured on Saturday, 4 August, after being punched in the head by a surprise attacker while on a pedestrian crossing on Calle Víctor de la Serna in Los Boliches. He was just 100 metres from arriving home. The victim was originally from Argentina but had lived for almost 20 years in Spain.

According to witnesses and family members, the man who hit Mario at close to midnight had been following him. Once punched he fell to the floor and the assailant tried to get him up again. But it wasn't possible. He died in hospital on 13 August after ten days in a coma.

The attacker fled the scene and police had only the description of



Image of the supposed attacker at the scene. by SUR

eyewitnesses and a photo from one of their mobile phones to continue their investigations.

After visits to local shops, bars and restaurants, they succeeded in finding out the name of the alleged attacker and learned that he was a Briton who had by then returned to his home country. Investigators also asked a judge to issue an interna-

tional warrant for the man's arrest.

The family of Mario Sauco continue looking for explanations as to the shock attack. One witness said that the alleged attacker stayed at the scene for several minutes in shock at what he had done. "He was crying and didn't stop regretting it, saying 'I think I've killed a man.'"

According to the witness, the re-

portedly British man explained that Mario had "touched" a 16-year-old girl - who the witness took to mean the assailant's daughter - in a bar, and that he had followed him to punch him.

On hearing this explanation, one bystander supposedly said "run!, run!" ahead of the imminent arrival of the police.

Incident in a bar with a girl

Investigators found the bar and have questioned those who were there. One further version of events is that Mario, who allegedly had been drinking that night, had moved his hand over the shoulder of the teenager niece of the bar's owner, who then asked him to leave. Reports say that the British man wanted by police is a friend of the bar owner's brother and took it upon himself to follow Mario.

Mario's family only found out the next morning that he was in a coma in hospital in Malaga. "My father was a kind man, with a good heart, that gave us life and loved his four grandchildren. We only want this individual to stand up for what he has done and not be a coward who fled," explained Mario's daughter at the time of his death.

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Britons arrested with 7 tonnes of hashish as smuggling ring is busted

Among items seized were a firearm, nine vehicles, packing machines and over 220,000 euros cash

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MALAGA. Several British nationals are among those who were held recently in Marbella and Estepona over alleged involvement in large-scale drug trafficking. Police have been giving more details this week of the group who are accused of bringing hashish into Spain from North Africa via boat for onward distribution across Europe through a carefully planned network.

In total eleven people were arrested as part of the operation, including British, Moroccan and Spanish nationals. As part of the detentions, investigators seized seven tonnes of hashish, 5.4 grammes of ecstasy, 220,720 euros in cash, a firearm, nine vehicles, 25 mobile phones, a GPS tracker, a frequency inhibitor, a note-counting machine, three precision scales and two vacuum packing machines, among other items.

According to National Police, the investigation started in March this



Photo of the seized hashish. **SUR**

year and at the end of May one of the suspects was identified inside a vehicle in Estepona. Believing that he may have been carrying drugs, he was followed before spotting the police surveillance. During his attempts to get away several police vehicles were damaged and he was detained. Bales of hashish were found in the car. Further suspects

were located in San Pedro in a van carrying 35 bales of hashish.

As the investigation deepened, the police identified the nucleus of the gang, five British and Irish citizens including the head of the group. On arrest, the gang leader was found to have 150 bales of hashish in his house and a pistol hidden in a double-bottomed wardrobe, said police.

Drug-loaded car crashes in San Pedro after chase from Algeciras

M. PÉREZ / C. MÁRQUEZ
MARBELLA. Police arrested a 21-year-old French national in a school playground in San Pedro on Monday after an operation to stop a car that had fled along the A-7 motorway from Algeciras, some 65 kilometres away.

The high-end Audi Q7, driven by the arrested man who was the only occupant, had collided moments earlier with a lamppost on the Las Petunias roundabout at the junction with the Ronda road while trying to avoid a police road-block set up to stop it. An unspecified number of bales of drugs were found inside.

The incident began when the car escaped police near Algeciras and was later spotted driving through Estepona towards San Pedro. Officers were called out to intercept the vehicle at possible exit points from the A-7 coastal motorway.

On seeing the police in San Pedro, the car collided with other vehicles before finally hitting the lamppost and the driver fled towards the nearby school, eyewitnesses said.



The Audi Q7 after hitting the lamppost and pavement. **SUR**

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Two horror 'revenge' killings in 48 hours shock Costa as police probe growing drug-gang rivalry

Swedish suspects have been held over the Mijas attack while the man who shot and killed an El Campanario resident on his doorstep is still at large

■ SUR

MALAGA. The Costa del Sol has been hit in the past week with the latest wave of murder and violent crime that many are linking to score-settling between increasingly self-confident rival drug gangs. In just 48 hours, two people were killed and one seriously injured in two separate incidents. So far three people are under arrest.

The first incident was an attack and killing in a residential area of Mijas municipality last Friday night and the second, a cold-blooded murder on the El Campanario luxury estate near Estepona on Monday.

Mijas attack and death

In Mijas, several residents in the Puebla Tranquila area, between Mijas Pueblo and Fuengirola, reported an apparent fight in a property at about 7pm on Monday evening.

On arrival, police found a scene of forced detention. Two victims had been bound, gagged and tortured, and had shotgun and stab wounds. One man died at the scene while the other was taken to hospital with wounds before being detained. Police believe that the attackers had left them both for dead.



▲ **Estepona.** A man was shot at his El Campanario home. ■ C. M.

Nine hours later the two alleged assailants, who hold Swedish nationality like the victims, were arrested while trying to board a ferry to Morocco. Reports said they had fled Mijas in a Porsche, which was then abandoned, before taking a taxi towards the port in Algeciras.

Shock on luxury estate

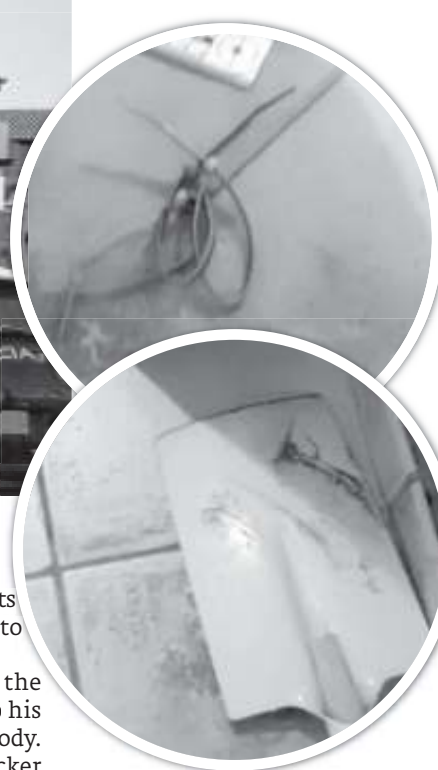
The second killing to strike on the Costa came early on Monday morning when a man was gunned down on the doorstep of his luxury villa on the El Campanario estate in Estepona, close to the border with Marbella district. Police received calls

at 3.40am reporting several shots in the Camino de Cortes next to the golf course.

A man's body was found at the scene with three gunshots to his head and several more on his body. Investigators believe the attacker had been waiting for the victim to return home. The killer was wearing a balaclava and left on a bicycle towards the A-7, where a getaway vehicle was believed to be waiting. Sources suggested the victim, a Spanish national of North African origin, had links to the drugs trade there.

Local resident in El Campanario, Tanya Money said: "I was worried

▼ **Mijas.** A spade and bindings believed to have been used in the Puebla Tranquila attack and murder were found. ■ SUR



as my oldest son was out [when the shooting happened], although we thought it was partying youngsters making a noise." It wasn't until later that morning that she found out what had happened. She added that luxury cars with number plates in Arabic were frequently seen arriving at the dead man's house.

Gang who posed as police to steal from traffickers show bold tactics

■ SUR

MALAGA. Police are blaming the surge in violent drug crime on the Costa del Sol so far this year on increased rivalry between gangs and theft between them. Besides news of two shock murders in the last week, which police suspect were linked to organised drug smuggling, National Police have broken up a group that were posing as Guardia Civil officers in the Campo de Gibraltar area in order to enter homes and warehouses of the drug barons themselves and make off with drugs stashed there. The men, all of Spanish nationality, were found with a range of Guardia Civil uniforms and accessories to carry out their daring scams.

In the first half of May this year alone there were three violent deaths, two shootings and two kidnappings on the Costa that are still under investigation. All have been linked to drugs.

Gangs are allegedly fighting between themselves more as it is harder to land drugs now from Africa due to police activity.

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"The holiday rental sector is a business model which can't be stopped"

Zurab Pololikashvili Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organisation

HÉCTOR BARBOTA

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The UNWTO chief believes there should be clear rules governing rentals to enable all tourism products to coexist and be well-managed

MARBELLA. In the past, he has been Georgia's ambassador to Spain and three other countries, but since January this year Zurab Pololikashvili has been the head of the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). Now aged 41, his CV is impressive and he speaks seven languages, as we found out when we spoke to him during a private visit he made to the Villa Padierna hotel.

–In recent years tourism has been under threat from terrorism and many destinations have been hit by attacks. The threat appears to have reduced now. The last attack was in Barcelona, a year ago.

–In some countries the number of visitors dropped by about 40 or 50 per cent after the terrorist attacks, and they were countries for whom tourism is the most important part of their economy. It is a good thing for the whole world that there have been none since Barcelona; there were some terrible attacks over several years. Our strategy is to take advantage of tourism to promote peace and improve the relationships between countries. Last year the number of tourists all over the world went up by more than one billion. There was growth of at least three per cent in every region. The world economy is growing, and that gives us hope that tourism is going to grow as well. When there is growth in the economy, it directly affects our sector.

–During those years some southern Mediterranean countries were affected by terrorism and that had a positive repercussion for Spanish destinations. Now it looks as if that tourism was only 'loaned' to us and it is leaving.

–I didn't want to mention any specific country, but now you have said that I will give you an example. Last



Pololikashvili, during his recent visit to the Villa Padierna hotel. :: JOSELE-LANZA

"Training and professionalism is very important and we are investing in that"

"It worries us when a region doesn't want to receive more visitors"

year tourism in Turkey, Egypt and Tunisia grew and returned to the 2010 figures, but Spain also received a record 32 million tourists. There was a period during which countries like Egypt and Turkey, which had developed their beach tourism, suffered problems and their tourists came to Spain instead, but the return of tourists to those countries hasn't affected Spain. This year the figures are very positive in those countries and we are very pleased, because it is good for their economies and also for peace.

–Low-cost airlines have been a significant factor in the rise in tourism because they have enabled more people to travel. Now we see that these companies are having difficulties. Are we looking at a gi-

ant with feet of clay?

–I believe the low-cost situation is a question of management. In the past there have been strikes in companies which aren't low-cost, as well. There can be strikes anywhere, not just airlines. What is good is that connectivity has increased a great deal, in fact it has nearly doubled within the continents. There is still plenty of space for development, for the number of flights and tourists to increase. There are three factors to tourism: connectivity, infrastructures and service. Education and professionalism among staff is very important. That's where we want to grow and are investing. We are creating academic centres in every region because we want this to be a competitive sector. In one or two years we will have centres which will help other regions to develop.

–Does the UNWTO use its own funds for these centres?

–Yes. In some cases we have partners, such as business schools, who want to do it with us, or universities.

–Does that only apply to emerging destinations?

–No, we have done it in Portugal, for example. There is also demand in Switzerland, and other regions like Africa, Latin America and China. We want to set up a model, develop it and then copy it with a programme and platforms. Some regions live from tourism and need qualification.

Competition

–As well as the low-cost airlines, there is another factor which has appeared recently: holiday rental properties. They are creating coexistence problems and are also competition for hotels.

–Yes, there have been some quite strong protests in many places, because of the effect on the domestic population, the culture, the buildings. It needs to be well-managed. I believe Airbnb is holding talks with the authorities in different countries and cities to try to reach agreements and draw up rules of business. Holiday rentals have grown a great deal. This is a product and a business model which cannot be stopped. Our aim is to regulate, to achieve coexistence. Many countries have managed to do this and I

hope that very soon Airbnb will have its own place in the sector.

–In Spain this hasn't happened yet and one of the controversies here is who should do it, the government, the regional authorities or local councils.

–I believe the State and the town halls can come to an agreement over numbers, taxes and regulations.

–Has any country found a formula yet?

–We are working with them, to assist and see how the holiday rental sector can be managed. There is a high demand.

–But has any country achieved it? –Yes, yes. It has been regulated in some countries.

–Can you give me an example?

–I don't want to single out any particular country, but in Portugal, for example, it has been regulated very clearly.

–In some Spanish destinations, this type of invasive tourism has created a type of phobia about tourism. Does that worry the UNWTO?

–Yes, it worries us when a region doesn't want to receive any more tourists. You always have to find a point of balance and agreement. We have several of those cases, especially in cruise destinations, or places like Venice, but with good management there is a way out of that situation. Some cities have always wanted tourists, invested in promotion and infrastructure and now need to find a balance. There are ways of doing it. Smart cities and destinations, with the new technology we offer, can manage tourist traffic in towns and cities. We always recommend that new destinations invest in promotion, in the image of their brand. The idea is that tourism should grow in every season of the year. Our role is to note the good examples and make recommendations to the other destinations.

"You have to invent something new to attract tourists all year-round"

:: H. B.

MARBELLA.

–For years the Costa del Sol has been trying without success to attract year-round tourism. How can it do that?

–I believe there are many opportunities here. Marbella and the Costa del Sol have fantastic infrastructure. It needs to grow with new tourism products, maybe festivals or sales periods in the shops. You have to invent something to attract tourists at other times of year. There are very

good connections with European countries, with direct flights. Marbella and the Costa del Sol have luxury tourism. The weather is fantastic and I'm sure tourists would come at all times of year.

–What help can the UNWTO give in this case?

–If the government is interested and asks us, we will collaborate. This present visit of mine is private, but at the FITUR tourism fair we can talk about ways in which we could help.

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Torremolinos town hall responds to high demand for public parking

A new public car park that will be built in the Los Palacios district of Torremolinos will have room for 1,500 vehicles

:: TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. Torremolinos town hall has announced plans to build a new 15,000-square-metre public car park in the centre of the town. The open-air facility, which will offer free parking to 1,500 vehicles, will be built on a plot of wasteland in the Los Palacios district of the town.

The plot, which is a five-minute walk from the town centre, is currently being cleared to enable municipal workers to resurface the area.

Torremolinos already has several free parking areas and the new one is scheduled to be open in time for the inauguration of the town's



The mayor (right) inspects new parking area in Los Palacios. :: SUR

new central square and boulevard in December.

On visiting the site this week, José Ortiz, Mayor of Torremolinos, said, "This action is necessary to respond to the high demand for

parking in the town centre. It is close to the new pedestrianised boulevard, which will have infrastructure and attractions, and this needs to be supported with sufficient parking areas."

Benalmádena taxi ranks fitted with weather canopies

Work to cover the marina rank has been delayed due to structural problems

:: TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. Benalmádena town hall has installed weather canopies on its taxi ranks in Avenida Juan Luis Peralta, Avenida de la Estación and Benal Beach Club to protect both drivers and

passengers from the summer sun.

The design of the new canopies is consistent with the aesthetics of the town and will be funded by commercial advertising space.

The taxi rank in the Puerto Marina, one of the most used during the summer months, was also due to have a canopy installed, but structural problems have delayed the installation until after the summer season.



Bernardo Jiménez at one of the taxi ranks in Benalmádena. :: SUR



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Tragic news for family of missing Torremolinos man as body is found in hills in nearby Alhaurín

The clothes match those Antonio Ortega was wearing in January when he set out for a walk with his dog, Smuki, and did not return, sparking massive local searches

:: JUAN CANO / ÁLVARO FRÍAS

MÁLAGA. A body believed to be that of a man who went missing in Torremolinos in January has been found in the mountains behind Alhaurín de la Torre.

The news that Antonio Ortega Urbano, 32, is dead came as a devastating blow to friends and family who had been leading continuous searches for him in Torremolinos and the surrounding area since he went out to walk the family dog without his keys or identification seven months ago.

Back in February, there was



Antonio Ortega Urbano. :: SUR

some hope when the distressed dog was found wandering near the A-7 motorway tunnel in Churriana, leading the searchers to focus on the hills towards Alhaurín de la Torre, an area Antonio knew and loved.

Up to then the search had been focussed on a broader area covering Torremolinos, Churriana and Benalmádena.

In the end, the worst fears were confirmed. The body was spotted last Saturday morning down a 200-metre deep gully by a Romanian volunteer who had been helping with the searches from the start.

Difficult terrain

Due to the terrain in the place where the remains were found, it was impossible for the police to reach the body and it had to be recovered from the ravine by a group of experts from the Guardia Civil's mountain rescue team, with the help of a helicopter sent from Granada.

Although the body was in a poor state, it was possible for family to identify the clothing he was wearing when he went missing. "It has his trainers, his shirt...with 99.9%

certainty, it's him," said the victim's brother, Cristóbal.

"Because of where the body was found, we believe that he fell and rolled down 200 metres until he reached the stream. It is what makes most sense...he also had friends in Alhaurín de la Torre. Maybe he thought of going to Al-

In March, there was some hope when his distressed dog was found wandering by the Churriana A-7 motorway tunnel

haurín with his dog to visit them".

Antonio, who suffered from mental illness, had left his house on 22 January to go for a walk with his dog Smuki when they both disappeared. The dog was found a few weeks later, alone and showing signs of malnutrition, by the tunnel in Churriana. Meanwhile, the man was never located despite the refocus of the search for him afterwards.

Antonio's family, friends and other volunteers had been looking for him tirelessly up until this past weekend, working with the emergency services. At the beginning, more than 65 people joined the search for the man and leaflets with his photo were distributed widely in the area.

Pleas over social media

In addition, his mother had posted a video on social media asking the public for help in locating her son who needed daily medication for his mental illness.

Over the months, the frequency of the searches and the number of people involved in it had fallen. But the family, who live near Avenida del Lido in Torremolinos, had never lost hope.

German man rescued from a Mijas cave after being trapped for almost two days

The 23-year-old was on holiday and his roommate raised the alarm when he went missing in the Rancho de la Paz area

:: SUR

MALAGA. Guardia Civil officers rescued a 23-year-old man of German nationality on Tuesday, almost two days after he disappeared in Mijas while on holiday. The officers found him in a cave which was difficult to get out of and where he had been trapped without food or drink.

On Monday afternoon, 20 August, a woman reported that her roommate had been missing since Sunday morning.

A police missing persons operation was begun, with the search focused on the Rancho de la Paz

area, on the hillside between Mijas Pueblo and Fuengirola, and where the missing person was last seen.

According to the Guardia Civil, officers helped by volunteers carried out various checks of lanes and stream beds during the day and stopping the search at nightfall.

The next day the exploration was centred on a ravine near to the farm where the search started and where there are many caves. Some are hard to access, and the German man had told friends that he wanted to visit and photograph them.

In one of those caves the officers heard the groans of a person three metres down on the next level. The man had apparently fallen there through a small opening in the ground.

The tourist had been over 36 hours in the hole. Disoriented and weak with hunger, police said he had only minor injuries.



The hole which the holidaymaker fell into in the cave. :: GUARDIA CIVIL

Marbella puts finishing touches to plan for tender to restore town's bullring

:: NIEVES CASTRO

MARBELLA. The bullring in central Marbella, (one of the two disused ones in the resort, the other being in Nueva Andalucía), looks set to get a new lease of life with a one-million-euro restoration and rebuilding project. However it remains to be seen if bullfights will return or if it will just be used for shows.

The council is finishing plans to put out to tender the work to bring the 9,000-capacity venue up to date. It has serious deficiencies in crowd safety, fire prevention and mobility access.

The previous PSOE mayor withdrew the operating licence from the company organising bullfights there and announced it was banning fights from Marbella.



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Lifeguards save bathers who ignored red flag on Mijas beach

A man and a woman had to be rescued after going into the sea despite a red flag warning

:: IVÁN GELIBTER

MIJAS. Ricardo Borrego and Álvaro Morales, both lifeguards on beaches in Mijas, are only 23 years old. However, they can now say with legitimate pride that they have saved the lives of two people.

The sea was rough and there was a strong marine current. However, Álvaro and Ricardo did not hesitate in diving into the water at El Ejido beach, on the border with Fuengirola, on Monday, to save the lives of two bathers who had got into difficulties.

Both lifeguards were standing on the shore when they saw a woman with problems reaching the

shore. "Although she was in the Fuengirola zone, we immediately radioed that we would intervene," said Ricardo.

They also asked for the rescue jet ski to come. At the same time, they noticed a group of surfers trying to attract their attention. "Thanks to them we spotted another man with clear signs of exhaustion who could not get himself out of the water."

The man had dived into the sea to help the woman, who was a relation. "The problem is that most of the time people don't know that when there is marine current, it is better not to swim against it, but to do it laterally to then reach the shore," they said.

The lifeguards' quick work helped the woman to breathe normally again after she had swallowed water. The man was treated for a panic attack.



Álvaro and Ricardo point to where the incident happened. :: I.GELIBTER

Man found dead on beach in Benalmádena

The death of a man aged 50 at the Fuente de la Salud beach in Benalmádena has been con-

firmed. The ambulance service received a call at 3.15pm on Tuesday by someone who reported that they had lost sight of a swimmer. The emergency services arrived at the scene and the man was located but nothing could be done to save his life.

HERE AND THERE

Rubbish dispute no nearer to a settlement

:: FUENGIROLA

SUR. Fuengirola's refuse strike ended last Sunday as planned without any sign of the ongoing dispute being settled. Workers of operators Urbaser are asking for better conditions and pay, saying the company has gone back on its word. Up to 65 per cent service levels were maintained during the action.

Repairs start to ruins of Roman baths

:: FUENGIROLA

I. G. Work has started to restore the wall on Roman ruins in the Torreblanca area of Fuengirola. The ruins of the bathhouse, known as the Termas de Torreblanca, were at the centre of controversy earlier this year when it was discovered that the roots from a bougainvillea had caused a wall to fall down.

Marbella gets tougher on electric scooter rentals to tourists amid safety fears

One company of the 12 inspected has been closed down for operating without a licence on the seafront in Puerto Banús

by NIEVES CASTRO

MARBELLA. Police in Marbella have sealed off the office of a local company that rented out two-wheeled personal-mobility devices to tourists. The move comes against a background of a surge in usage of the devices, such as electric scooters and skateboards, in tourist sites along the coast by both visitors and locals, as well as increasing complaints about obstruction on pavements or dangerous driving.

This transport sector suffers from a legal vacuum. Users and operators have been complaining for some time that current Spanish law is not clear if they should be in cycle lanes, on the pavement or on the road, where other users frequently criticise them for causing a supposed nuisance.



A growing craze for electric scooting- tourists on Marbella's paseo marítimo last week. by JOSLE-LANZA

Seafront focus

In the absence of clear national or regional rules, at the start of the summer Marbella council decided to define the areas these type of two-wheeled electric vehicles

could travel through. At the same time it conducted a review of the operating licences of the firms running rentals and tours using them.

Twelve companies, all located on or near the seafront in central

Marbella and Puerto Banús, were inspected. Two failed the inspection of operating licences and one of these, in Puerto Banús, did not take steps to solve the problem, say officials. As a result, it has been

shut down.

The town hall said that these types of business, even when they operate from hotels, which is the case of the firm affected, need a licence if they rent to the general public and not just hotel guests.

Public alarm

Councillor José Eduardo Díaz said that general action was being taken by the town hall against the companies "due to public alarm over the abusive or inappropriate use of this type of vehicles", although recent inspections were specifically about checking the operating licence he stressed.

Referring to the closed Banús firm, he added: "We don't like doing it, but seeing that the type of apparatus rented out put traffic in the area at risk as well as some under-age users of the vehicles, we have decided to act. What's more, there have been many complaints from local residents and businesses."

Marbella's new general bylaws against anti-social behaviour, which will finally be approved in the next full council session, also have a section on these so-called powered transporters.

But council sources have suggested that they may seek to extend the controls even further if the problem does not decrease or if more national or regional legislation isn't forthcoming.

Councillors have illegal street vendors in their sights

by CRISTINA MORILLA

MARBELLA. The council in Marbella is about to clamp down further on illegal street vendors in busy tourist areas of the resort.

A plan is due to be voted on in September's full council meeting to try to put a stop to the influx of people selling fake branded goods and accessories on sheets spread out on pavements to attract passersby.

The move comes after council

workers last week disposed of 6,000 items seized in recent police checks. Local shop owners complain that the competition is unfair and threatens their own livelihoods.

The new initiative will have three parts; a public awareness campaign explaining that street selling is illegal; increased checks and warnings in the areas with the highest concentration of sellers; and stronger penalties for those caught.

José Eduardo Díaz, councillor responsible for public highways in Marbella explained: "We will be appealing for the public's help in not buying these products, which destroy many jobs when they are sold."

Last week Díaz joined the head of the town hall's Local Police to supervise the removal of recently seized items.

Head of the Local Police, Javier Martín, explained that in the last few months around 100 people have been stopped or arrested while illegally selling on the street. So far this year 10,000 items have been seized.



Council workers loading the lorry with the seized goods. by J-LANZA

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Toxins halt catches of some clam types and shellfish industry stands to lose 1m

The crisis in the shellfish industry could see 400 fishermen mobilise in protest at what they claim is the inconclusive response from the Junta de Andalucía

by A. PELÁEZ / A. GÓMEZ

MÁLAGA. More than a million euros worth of profits have already slipped through the nets of desperate shellfish fishermen in the coastal communities of Málaga, Huelva and Cadiz, because of high levels of toxins found in certain type of clams and murex shells.

These toxins, which are produced naturally by the mollusks, mean the affected species cannot be caught since they could be harmful to health. In the past, this has never stopped fishermen from finding other parts of the coast where catching them is safe.

However, the current abundance of harmful toxins in these types of mollusks has resulted in a halt to catches in all areas. In some areas, the ban has already lasted for more than a month, causing a big



The ban on catching some types of clams has left 400 local fishermen without a source of income. :: A.P.

loss of earnings. In Málaga province it is estimated that 400 people are affected in the fishing industry at this peak time of year.

Despite the Junta de Andalucía regional government's local representatives saying that the EU

had been asked to help with subsidies for those affected, the fishermen argue that nobody from the regional fishing directorate has met with them in more than a month.

"The situation is much worse

than it was three weeks ago. We are waiting for them to get in touch with us, because the toxins have totally ruined our summer," explained the president of the local fishing community on the Costa del Sol, Miguel Ángel Carmona.

The situation still shows no sign of improving and the most recent tests by the Junta de Andalucía show that toxins have increased in some areas.

The affected workers have said that they do not want their issue to become a legal battle, however, since the Junta hasn't come up with a financial plan to compensate them, many are considering organising protests on the beaches and in front of regional government offices and the regional parliament in Seville.

The shellfish industry has seen a rapid rise in importance in recent years due to the high demand for local produce in today's market, which brings a substantial revenue to coastal Andalucía.

Other types are safe to eat

Only certain types of clams and murex shells have been affected and these have already been banned and haven't been on sale in local fish markets for several weeks.

DSP and PSP are two types of toxins generated by the algae that affected shellfish consume to survive. The toxins are not dangerous for the clams but they can cause severe illness in humans that includes diarrhea, nausea and, in more severe cases, paralysis. Experts say the toxin production is not connected to pollution by humans of the water.

Toxin's levels are constantly monitored to protect public health.



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STRONG TURNOUT FOR SAN PEDRO'S ANNUAL SWIMMING RACE

Some 150 swimmers headed into the sea to take part in San Pedro Alcántara's annual open water swimming race last Sunday morning. There were two races held at the event, one covering a 400-metre course and one a 2,000-metre course. The races were organised by San Pedro's swimming club and were open to everyone. The contest was held on the town's main La Salida beach with the support of San Pedro's district town hall.

JOSELE-LANZA



The current health centre. J-L

San Pedro's doctors surgery gets ready to move to temporary site during works

MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. The doctors surgeries at San Pedro health centre will shortly be moving to a temporary site where they will stay for around two years.

The site is about 100 metres from the existing building, which is due to be rebuilt as part of a 4.6-million-euro investment by the regional health service.

To allow the building work to start, Marbella council has ceded land nearby for portacabins and a concrete base will be laid first before the move.

For the moment the emergency services at the health centre will stay operational at the existing site, but they too will move to the temporary location once the building work at the new centre is more advanced.

The new centre, once completed on the existing building's site, will cover 3,441 square metres and house orthodontistry, mental health and physiotherapy services for the first time.

Bomb squad called in after Civil War shell is found on Marbella building site

After the workers who found the old missile called the police, experts were brought in from Malaga to carry out a controlled explosion

HÉCTOR BARBOTTA

MARBELLA. Bomb disposal experts carried out a controlled explosion on San Pedro fairground last Friday after a missile from the Spanish Civil War was found on a construction site in Guadalmina, west of Marbella.

The alarm was raised at around 10.30am and the National Police called in the TEDAX bomb squad unit from Malaga to dispose of the howitzer shell, which is thought to have been there since the area was shelled by warships during the conflict.



The shell (right) was disposed of on San Pedro fairground. JORGE REY / SALVADOR RODRÍGUEZ



The police activated the emergency protocol which meant that the fire brigade and ambulance services were brought in as a pre-

caution. Roads in the immediate area were closed to traffic.

The artefact was moved to the fairground in San Pedro Alcántara,

where specialists carried out a controlled explosion at around 2.30pm after the area had been cordoned off for safety.

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Cardboard boat race raises more money for charity than ever before

This fun event, which is now in its tenth year, raised over seven thousand pounds which will be donated to two worthy causes

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. This year's cardboard boat race, which took place as usual in Ocean Village, has broken all records in terms of takings with a massive £7,757.74 which will be donated equally to the Gibraltar Cardiac Association and the GBC Open Day Appeal.

The event, which is great fun for those taking part and spectators alike, is organised every year by the RAOB and is one of the most popular in the summer. David Gibbins, the event organiser, was quite overwhelmed by this year's success.

"We would sincerely like to thank the team at Ocean Village for their hard work on this, the 10th anniversary of the race being held here, also our fabulous sponsors, the spectacular 501st Legion, all of the local businesses who donated so generously to the raffle and race prizes, every single team who entered their wonderful boats and last



Some very impressive entries for the Cardboard Boat Race. :: RAOB

but by no means least, the thousands who turned out on the day to watch the days fun," she said in a statement issued this week.

"With 28 boats in total on the day, this was by far the biggest boat race ever and we anticipate it will only get bigger year-on-year, so we encourage all those thinking of participating next year to start preparing early - preparation is the key to success! I would like to thank the

small crew of volunteers from the William Tilley Lodge, friends and family plus some of the local Air Cadets who helped out on the day and made it such an efficiently and safely organised event."

In partnership with Ocean Village Marina, the cardboard boat race is sponsored by U-Mee & Kindred group, along with Gedime Motors, Ibex Insurance, SCSi and Saccone & Speed.

IN BRIEF



Gibraltar complies with international obligations. :: SUR

European Commission supports Gibraltar on tax transparency

GIBRALTAR

DB. In answer to a question raised by ALDE member Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz about Gibraltar taxation, the European Commission

has stressed that Gibraltar's financial services are not in any way "harmful" to the tax authorities of other member states. The Gibraltar government responded with a statement saying it is "delighted" with the clear agreement that "we comply with our international obligations" and "meet highest international standards".

HM Customs join Spain in anti-drug operation

GIBRALTAR

DB. Gibraltar Customs officers have assisted an international anti-drug trafficking operation which has resulted in over 300 kilos of cocaine being seized from a Gibraltar-registered yacht this week. Five people have been arrested; none of them are Gibraltarian. The investigation continues.

Gibraltar Fair takes place this week

GIBRALTAR

DB. The fair runs from Friday 24 August to Saturday 1 September and during that time Queensway will be closed to traffic between Reclamation Road and Regal House from 6.30pm to 2am.

The night bus service in Gibraltar will run from 9pm to 2am every night during the fair.

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Torre del Mar councillors consider new site for theatre

The cultural centre has been in the pipeline for some years and promised by different political parties but has never got off the ground

:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

TORRE DEL MAR. Torre del Mar's long-awaited theatre has hit another setback after plans were unveiled last month to build 2,800 homes on land previously earmarked for the cultural centre.

Plans for homes

Speaking to SUR earlier this week, councillor for Torre del Mar, Jesús Pérez Atencia, (GIPMTM) said that his office would "wait until the end of this year" to see how plans for the homes on the land to the west of the town, on both sides of the Río Vélez, otherwise known as SUPT-T-12,



Image of planned theatre by town hall architect, Rubén Heredia. :: SUR

would develop, before deciding whether to go ahead with a new location for the theatre, which he said

has been "promised to residents by different political parties for many years."

Atencia explained that although a theatre has been a priority for different political parties for a number of years, the construction has never got off the ground.

The alternative site currently being studied is next to Torre del Mar's indoor swimming pool, near the Tomillar neighbourhood and the Axarquía hospital.

A computer-generated image of the centre shows plans for a 4,450-square-metre building, complete with an auditorium with 527 seats, exhibition space, four floors and room for a car park. Atencia told SUR that his party has already set aside 3.3 million euros for the project, which would need a budget of 9.5 million euros in total.

Scandalous waste of money

Vélez-Málaga town hall opposition spokesperson, Francisco Delgado (PP), hit back at Atencia's plans saying that his party was "very critical" of a "scandalous waste of money and harebrained idea". He claimed that his PP party had suggested building an auditorium next to the old Azucarera (sugar cane factory) to the east of the town, but that the "GIPMTM doesn't think that is enough and they prefer to spend 9.5 million euros" on a completely new building.

HERE AND THERE

Tests on waste water station to start in 2019

NERJA

:: E. C. During a visit to Nerja to see the progress of work to the town's waste water station Málaga's PSOE MP Miguel Ángel Heredia said that the plant should be ready to go into test phase during the first quarter of 2019. After the project was reinitiated in February this year, work has focused on the main pumping station at Burriana beach. Work is currently standing at 77 per cent complete.

Smoke-free zones on Torrox beaches

TORROX COSTA

:: E. C. As of Tuesday, three sections of beaches in Torrox Costa are smoke-free zones. The town hall has implemented the idea on three 100-metre sections on Ferrara, El Morche and El Peñoncillo beaches. While mayor of Torrox, Óscar Medina, said that the idea was to "promote healthy habits" and "show a commitment to the fight against tobacco", he confirmed that no one will be fined for smoking in those areas.

Rincón to ask Junta for 438,000 euros for pedestrianisation project

:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA. Rincón de la Victoria councillors agreed during a plenary session last Monday that they would ask the regional government, the Junta de Andalucía, for 438,000 euros towards pedestrianising three roads in the town centre.

Frigiliana, Ronda and Carril de Domínguez streets make up a major part of the shopping area of Rincón de la Victoria and the aim of

this project is to encourage "traditional commerce" in the town.

According to town hall sources, the money from the Junta de Andalucía would top up European Union Regional Development funding (ERDF) already received by Rincón de la Victoria last year.

President of the town's trade and commerce association (ACERV), José Antonio Villodres, said that the town had been waiting for "many years" for this kind of initiative.



Rincón de la Victoria town centre. :: SUR

368 applications for three new police posts

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA

:: E. C. Rincón de la Victoria Local Police force has received 368 applications from prospective candidates hoping to be offered one of three posts currently being advertised. The next phase of the selection process, which includes a theory test, will take place on 3 September. Hopefuls will also face a panel of existing officers made up of members of the Rincón de la Victoria, Vélez-Málaga and Málaga Local Police forces.



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The court was put up alongside La Cala de Mijas village centre by the market ground. :: NITO SALAS

La Cala businesses see sales 'soar by 20%' during World Padel Tour

More than 15,000 people attended the Cervezas Victoria Mijas Open in this popular racquet sport and firms hired extra staff to cope

:: IVÁN GELIBTER

MIJAS. Owners of shops, bars and restaurants in La Cala de Mijas are calling for the World Padel Tour to be staged in their village again next year. The most important world tournament series in this locally very popular racquet sport held one of its stages in La Cala earlier this month, providing an unexpected boost to the local economy, even in the normally high-turnover month of August.

Mijas's mayor, Juan Carlos Maldonado, and local councillor for Sport, Nuria Rodríguez, were in La Cala last Friday to assess the impact with local firms.

More than 15,000 people attended the Cervezas-Victoria-sponsored

event, held from 6-12 August, of which almost 60 per cent were from outside the area, they said. Compared to the last time the event was held in the municipality, last year in Mijas Pueblo, visitor numbers were up 67 per cent.

The La Cala event had been advertised as part of a coordinated campaign with bars and restaurant using videos of their staff promoting

their venues. Firms said they added 20 per cent to their normal sales because of the event.

Local business owner, Isabel Ruiz, said that the location of the court and parking layout had helped generate more traffic to the nearby restaurants. Director of the Gran Hotel Costa del Sol, Francisco Diaz, added that he had had to take on extra staff to cope with the demand.

This week's Vuelta cycling tour is expected to boost local economy

The Vuelta a España cycling tour which begins in Malaga on Saturday and covers much of the province in its first stages, promises to be another moneymaker for the area. The head of the provincial authority, Elías Bendodo,

said at the launch of the competition earlier this year that he was confident that the financial impact this year would be more than the 1.5 million euros the event's visit moved in the area in 2015. Then too, early stages of the race crossed the province. "The [real] impact is incalculable," said Bendodo in May. "How much is a minute of global television exposure worth? Then add to that spending in restaurants and hotels."

THE EURO ZONE
MARK NAYLER

LET'S TALK



Judging by the reception he received on a visit to Barcelona last Friday, the Spanish king is now the most reviled public figure amongst Catalan separatists - a position previously occupied by Mariano Rajoy. Felipe VI was in the Catalan capital to attend a memorial service for the 16 people killed in a terrorist attack on Las Ramblas last August; he paid his respects under a huge banner reading (in English), "The Spanish king is not welcome in the Catalan countries." Another banner read: "Free political prisoners. Without them this ceremony is a scam."

Felipe VI's presence at the memorial service was bound to outrage secessionists. At the height of Catalan chaos last October - when the region's former president, Carles Puigdemont, held an independence referendum deemed illegal by Spain's highest court - the king gave a speech in which he pledged to preserve the unity of Spain. He thus aligned himself with Rajoy's "zero tolerance" policy towards the secessionists. In doing so, Felipe VI became even more hated than he already was amongst pro-independence, anti-monarchy Catalans. No wonder, then, that some of this cohort thought it a joke in extremely bad taste that the king showed up in Barcelona last week.

But what of Spain's new Socialist prime minister Pedro Sánchez, who stood next to the king during the memorial service? His presence in Barcelona was quietly tolerated, but the PSOE leader's stance on Catalan inde-

pendence is, essentially, the same as his predecessor's and Felipe's. He is committed to the unity of Spain and (therefore) opposed to the secessionist project.

Sánchez is such a smooth operator that this fact is not yet widely known. One of his first acts as prime minister was to arrange a meeting with Catalan president Quim Torra; after said get-together, both men enthused that they had shared their respective "visions of Catalonia" with each other. Since then, Sánchez's favourite word when talking about the Catalan problem has been "dialogue". "We will always offer dialogue", the PSOE leader said earlier this month, "but with the constitution in hand".

A killer caveat, that. Because as far as Sánchez is concerned, the dialogue can only go so far, and the end-point comes long before the prospect of Catalan independence is reached. All he's done so far is hint at the possibility of handing Catalonia even more independence from central government than it already has - a move that would justifiably infuriate most Spaniards.

More tellingly, Sánchez has refused to release the Catalan separatists who are still in custody for their role in engineering last October's referendum; indeed, he won't even call them "political prisoners". As he recently reminded everybody, he'll always have the constitution "in hand" when dealing with Catalonia - presumably so he can hit Torra over the head with it if their dialogue reaches an impasse.

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Bremain in Spain Chair is lead claimant in a legal challenge against Theresa May over Brexit



Pro-remain groups want the courts to decide that the Leave campaign illegally overspent during the referendum and Article 50 should be void

MALAGA. Sue Wilson, Chair of Bremain in Spain, is lead claimant of a group of British citizens living in EU countries which has issued a court challenge against UK Prime Minister Theresa May over Brexit.

The claim argues that the illegal conduct of Leave organisations during the 2016 referendum campaign, which is currently the subject of a police investigation for exceeding legal spending limits according to the UK Electoral Commission, should nullify the prime minister's decision to notify the EU of the UK's intention to withdraw from the bloc under Article 50.

"The premise for the legal chal-



Bremain in Spain Chair, Sue Wilson, outside the Supreme Court. :: SUR

lenge is that the triggering of Article 50 was not in line with 'constitutional requirements'. Had it been a binding referendum, the result would be declared null and void. It cannot be right that a non-binding referendum on which politicians

nevertheless decided to act is not subject to the same scrutiny," Wilson explained to SUR in English on Tuesday.

Other claimants are Elinore Grayson from France, Carole-Anne Richards from Italy and John Shaw, also

from France, who represents Fair Deal Forum and intervened successfully in the earlier Gina Miller case.

The government has been given until 31 August to respond to the claim, after which the case will be heard in court. The claimants expect that the case will be appealed by whichever side the initial hearing rules against and go directly to the Supreme Court, which is what happened when anti-Brexit activist, Gina Miller, took the government to court last year over the referendum in a high-profile case.

While Wilson explained to SUR in English that the police investigation is completely separate from this challenge, she said that if the investigation concludes that there was illegal activity on the part of the Leave campaign it will "help" their case "enormously".

The Bremain in Spain Chair admits that "time is of the essence" given that the current date for the UK to leave the EU is 29 March 2019. However, she says she remains hopeful that given the divisions between the Conservative and Labour parties and the lack of a deal after more than two years of negotiations, as well as this challenge and the police investigation, that Brexit "may not happen" as expected at the moment.

Superdry co-founder donates £1m to People's Vote campaign

:: J. RHODES

MALAGA Cofounder of international clothing brand, Superdry, and multimillionaire, Julian Dunkerton, announced last week that he would donate one million pounds to the People's Vote campaign.

Dunkerton, 53, said that if Brexit had happened 20 years ago, "Superdry would never have had the success that it has had". He added that he was making the donation because he saw a "genuine chance to turn Brexit around".

The donation will be used to fund a survey of people's attitudes towards having a final say on the Brexit deal ahead of the planned 29 March 2019 leave date.

The People's Vote campaign seeks to ensure that the government's Brexit deal is put before the country in a public vote so that they have the final say on the UK's relationship with the EU. Organisations such as Bremain in Spain form part of The People's Vote and Sue Wilson, Chair of Bremain in Spain, is on the steering committee.






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"It was a real storm of excrement, blood, quicklime and acid"

Seven police were injured in a violent coordinated assault on Spain's border fence in Ceuta, north Africa, that saw 116 illegal immigrants enter

■ MELCHOR SAÍZ-PARDO

MADRID. Spain's land border with Morocco, around the city of Ceuta on the North African coast, saw one of the biggest recent illegal entries by migrants by land on Wednesday.

Some 300 mostly sub-Saharan Africans tried to cross into the territory during a coordinated attack on border guards, with 116 succeeding.

According to eyewitnesses and border security forces, shortly after Moroccan guards relaxed their patrols for prayers on what was a Muslim festival day in both Morocco and Ceuta itself, the organised action began. Wirecutters were used to open holes in the triple fence and officers on the Spanish side were subjected to bombardments of stones, bags of quicklime, bags of car battery acid, balls of human faeces and jars of hu-



Immigrants celebrate entering Spain on Wednesday via the land frontier around Ceuta. ■ EFE

man blood. Guards on the Moroccan side were also injured.

The 116 who crossed into Spain were taken to the city's immigrant reception centre, but were deported on Thursday. The centre is still struggling to cope with the biggest illegal entry so far this year, on 26 July, when 602 immigrants crossed.

Guardia Civil officers have asked to be given shields and to be allowed to use riot equipment

The union for the Guardia Civil, responsible for patrolling the border, have called for police to get more resources, including shields, and to be allowed to use riot equipment. The government commended the guards' action on Wednesday and said it was working to solve the problem with African countries.

KING ATTENDS TERROR ATTACK ANNIVERSARY EVENT

King Felipe and Queen Letizia were in Barcelona last Friday morning for the short memorial event for the victims of the terrorist attacks in Catalonia in August 2017. After the ceremony, in the central Plaza de Catalunya, they were joined by national and regional leaders, including the Prime Minister, in greeting victims' families and others affected. There was no significant disruption from Catalan separatists as had been feared. In Cambrils, a seaside resort, and Barcelona's La Rambla 16 people died last year.



Government edges closer to removing General Franco's remains from tomb

■ SUR

MADRID. The Spanish cabinet is due to approve today (24 August) an express change in the law to smooth the way for the remains of General Franco to be exhumed from his ceremonial tomb in the mountains above Madrid.

The new PSOE government has controversially promised to re-bury the dictator and turn the Valley of the Fallen monumental complex into an interpretation centre for the Civil War. The law change will simplify the country's historical memory legislation to make it easier to carry out.

However the opposition PP and centrist Ciudadanos have criticised the move, saying express law changes aren't meant for this type of initiative and they may not support an eventual parliamentary vote on the subject.

Woman held for killing fourth husband in car park amid suspected disability fraud

■ SUR

ALICANTE. A supposedly disabled and recently married murder suspect is being nicknamed 'The Black Widow' by Spanish media after being caught allegedly carrying out the macabre, yet bizarre murder of her new, fourth husband in an Alicante beachside car park this week.

An off-duty police officer spotted two people wearing gloves stabbing a man with a screwdriver. By the time she reached the scene to stop the attack it was too late to save the 69-year-old man.

The supposed assailants are the dead man's wheelchair-bound wife (45) and her male "carer" (58). Investigators are perplexed as to motive and why the woman was able to stand away from the wheelchair to carry out the attack.

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

Inconsistent music rules

We have enjoyed living in Spain for 15 years, but still find some aspects of life here confusing. I would be grateful if someone could explain the rules governing music from bars, chiringuitos and restaurants.

We live near the Puerto de Duquesa, a marina with many bars and restaurants as you would expect. A few weeks ago the bars were told all music had to stop by 10pm, then a few days later no music at all then another week passes and music is allowed again.

Who makes these arbitrary decisions?

Compare this to our situation; we live in a quiet urbanisation by the beach, next to the Aparthotel Don Juan, but still a residential area, not a tourist hot-spot.

About three years after we bought our house a chiringuito started to 'spring up' on the beach outside our fence. After protests it was moved along a bit between us and the hotel.

It has become a problem in the last couple of years, every Friday night from May to October there is 'music' which gets louder and louder after 11 pm. The local police told me two weeks ago that music is supposed to stop at 11pm. Last Friday it didn't stop until 1.30am and last night Saturday, the police informed me that the chiringuito owner had permission from the Ayuntamiento for music until 2 am.

OK let him have music for a special function but are there any rules governing the decibels? People could hear it over the other side of the A7 and a mile up the hill. We have families on the urbanisation who deliberately, like us, did not buy or rent near bars etc to avoid the noise nuisance.

Why is there, as in so many things in Spain, one rule for one and different rules for others?

S. DEFRIES
MANILVA

Marbella lighthouse

I was a trifle surprised and slightly peeved after reading the sentence in a recent article about Marbella lighthouse: "Originally built in 1864 but subject to improvements ever since, El Faro is run remotely".

Maybe this photograph (supplied) serves to prove that said improvements resulted in the demolishing of the old lighthouse and the construction of a new one in 1975.

BERRY J. PRINSEN
BY EMAIL

SUR English

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Passion play

PETER EDGERTON
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You can feel the joy as soon as you step through the door. It shines brightly from the shelves amid the organised chaos that is the workshop of my good friend Enrique, luthier extraordinaire.

We've known each other for more than twenty years, Enrique and I, and when I was playing three or four concerts a week, I'd take my battered old guitar in for a regular service every ten or twelve months or so. Last week, I finally got round to knocking on Enrique's door after a three year hiatus, standing there like an embarrassed teenager who hasn't been to the dentist in far too long.

"Hi, Enrique - I've, er, brought my guitar."

He smiles and rubs his chin. "Hmmm - come in then, let's take a look."

He lays the instrument out on his worktop and begins his exami-

nation. The unnerving silence is punctuated only by the odd sigh until, after what seems like about six weeks, Enrique exhales at length and looks me directly in the eye.

"You might want to take a seat."

No, only joking, what he actually says is that everything's in reasonable nick considering I haven't paid him a visit since 1872.

When I collect the guitar a week later, he's worked wonders - it looks, plays and sounds extraordinary.

Normally, I really don't like talking about guitars - largely because I'm not really that interested in them. With Enrique it's different; he's so passionate about the subject that you can't help but be swept along on his wild tide of enthusiasm.

"See that fret? I had to bevel it with this." He plucks a beautiful file from a drawer and caresses it lovingly. Then he gazes wistfully

into the middle distance and launches into a short speech which includes so many technical terms that I might as well be listening to a Vietnamese fly fishing enthusiast. It doesn't matter - just the look on his face is enough to lift the most faltering of spirits.

We play a few Paul Simon songs together and I ask him for the bill. "Nada."

"No - that's the work of a craftsman, Enrique. It's worth a lot of money."

"Nada."

Eventually I leave a paltry 50 euro note on his worktop as a gesture, turn to pick up my belongings and bid him farewell. I can't wait to get home to play the guitar.

Back in my living room, I open the case and I'm immediately struck by two things: the renewed beauty of the instrument laid out before me - and the 50-euro note that's sitting on top of it.

SANSÓN



Plastic has become the dirty word of 2018 as it seems that the message that the planet is suffering thanks to the use of the stuff is making its way into the mass social conscience. Of course everyone has known for years that the miracle material of the 20th century is now strangling marine life in the oceans, due to its inconvenient reluctance to decompose. For years we've been seeing the documentaries and the incredible photos taken underwater and from the air; we've tutted and agreed that something has to be done, and then nipped down to the supermarket for a plastic bag full of plastic packages, vowing to use the yellow bin later. Now though it seems that the general public is starting to act in more ways than simple following recycling guidelines.

Do it for the money,
if not for the planet

RACHEL HAYNES

In the last few months we've had news about beach clean-ups, plastic-free alternatives to everything from toothbrushes to drinking straws and campaigns for suppliers to stop wrapping up products unnecessarily in plastic.

And, of course, plastic bags are no longer free. Laws obliging stores to charge for bags are helping but not

quickly enough. A visit to the local supermarket shows that, however much we mean well, picking up a reusable bag before we leave home is a good intention, but still not an automatic one, and we end up paying for yet another of those horrible plastic things. It will take at least until 2021 for Spain to ban them completely.

A recent visit to the UK proved that things there are moving in the right direction; I found more people have the habit of not leaving home without a "just-in-case" shopping bag. Here in Spain, fortunately, using a shopping trolley - the ultimate back and effort saver - has never gone out of practice, but more public awareness campaigns wouldn't go amiss. Only the other day I witnessed a woman get angry about having to pay for a plastic bag in a pharmacy; she walked out in a huff saying she would never be going there again.

A recent visit to Germany, meanwhile, showed that some countries are way ahead. There were no plastic bags in the supermarkets; you take your own, buy a reusable bag or use brown paper ones, which, I was assured, are stronger than you would think.

Of course the financial incentive is in the end the most effective one; Germany, and I suspect other northern European countries that I have not had the pleasure to visit this summer, is already dealing with that one.

You get more than a sense of self-satisfaction there when to take your plastic bottles and drinks cans to the recycling bins in Lidl, Aldi or the likes - you get 25 cents off your shopping for each one! It's just like with the cream soda and dandelion and burdock bottles we used to take back to the Co-op when we were kids! Everything comes round again - especially when it involves common sense.

Now we just need the woman in the pharmacy - along with a few of the world's most powerful governments - to get the message.

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A fond farewell to legendary Costa del Sol entertainer, Mel Williams

Mel began his musical career at the age of 14, when he formed a skiffle group with his brother. During the 1960s, he began performing with countless named artists, including Bill Haley, Little Richard, Gene Vincent and The Rolling Stones.

TONY BRYANT

MALAGA. The Costa del Sol has become home for countless British entertainers over the years and many have used their skills to raise funds for local charity organisations, and none as much as Mel Williams, the 75-year-old musician who died last week.

When it came to rock and roll there were not many acts that could compete with the veteran rocker, a born entertainer who loved nothing more than performing on stage in front of his adoring fans.

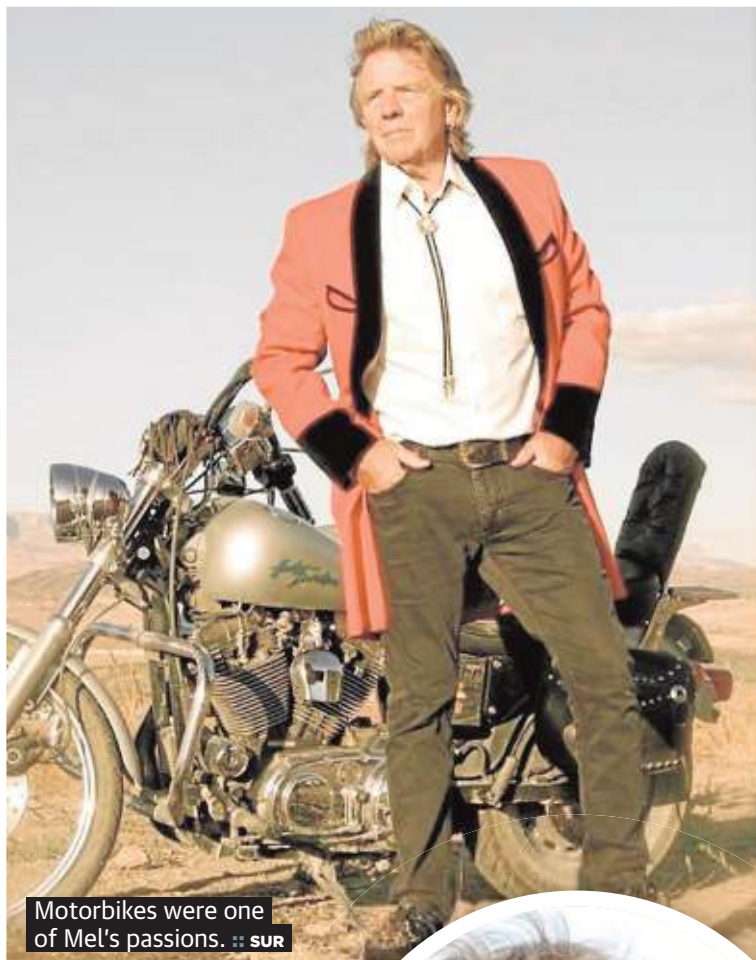
Mel Williams was most certainly an icon on the coast, where he had lived and performed for more than 40 years, and he became one of the most respected and admired entertainers on the circuit.

An avid supporter of several local charities, Mel was revered for his drive and ambition, because he was always willing to offer his services when needed.

Born in England in 1943, he began his musical career at the age of 14, when he formed a skiffle group with his brother. During the 1960s, they took rock and roll to the Middle East, but Mel returned to Europe two years later and began performing with countless named artists, including Bill Haley, Little Richard, Gene Vincent and The Rolling Stones. By 1965, Mel was working at top cabaret clubs all over Europe and even secured a number one hit (Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head) in Argentina.

Life on the Costa del Sol

In 1974, Mel moved to Spain with his wife, Sally, and he soon began entertaining on the Costa del Sol,



Motorbikes were one of Mel's passions. :: SUR

quickly establishing himself as an entertainer who could be relied on to perform for the worthiest causes. He was an avid supporter of Cudeca and as well as performing at countless events to raise funds for the organisation, he also undertook the singing of You'll Never Walk Alone at the start of Cudeca's annual Walkathon.

Cudeca founder, Joan Hunt, spoke fondly of her association with the singer, telling SUR in English: "Cudeca will always be proud of its warm friendship with Mel Williams and his wife Sally, which we shared for almost 20 years. At the annual Walkathon, Mel set the walkers off with his rendering of 'walk on', then remaining for the day to entertain participants, patients and families, and to encourage donations to the hospice. With-

out Mel, our annual Walkathon will not be the same, but his great spirit, natural talent and warm personality will always walk on with us."

For a time, Mel, who had four children, six grandchildren and one great-grandson, owned Mel's Beach Club and Mel's Club Banús,

Mel was also an author and composer and wrote a musical that enjoyed a sellout run at the Salon Varietes

and he soon began to make a name as one of the most energetic and charismatic entertainers on the Marbella scene. He appeared regularly with fellow musicians, Leslie Harrison and David Mairs, on Maurice Boland's television programme and he knew many of the celebrities who Maurice invited to the show.

One in particular was Lonnie Donegan, with whom Mel would form a close, personal and professional friendship. In 2004, Mel performed at the Lonnie Donegan memorial concert at the Royal Albert Hall alongside Lonnie's sons, Anthony and Peter, and a star-studded lineup that included Roger Daltrey, Van Morrison and Joe Cocker.

Radio and television presenter, Maurice Boland, who said the "news of Mel's death came as an utter shock", first met the singer at a charity concert in aid of Kids for Kids, an organisation set up by Mel and Sally. "One of the things I found was that Mel always inspired me. I always tried to aspire to his level and I looked to him for inspiration: he was the headmaster, the king of rock and roll; I was just a pretender," he said.

Maurice, who referred to his long-time friends as being like the "John and Yoko" of the coast, added, "He was always willing to help out and I don't think I ever organised a charity event without Mel being there to participate."

Multifaceted artist

However Mel was more than a musician and entertainer; he was also an author, composer, and he wrote a musical called Professor Fossil's Last Expedition, which enjoyed a sellout run at the Salon Varietes theatre in Fuengirola. One of the

songs from the show, Peace to the World, was used by UNICEF as its song of the year.

Songwriting brought Mel many celebrity partnerships, one of which was Samantha Fox, with whom he collaborated on the song Señorita. The former glamour model gifted Mel a leather jacket, which he confessed to "never have been able to fill out quite the same as her".

In 2001, Mel wrote his memoirs, Nearly Famous, a look at his colourful life within the crazy world of rock and roll.

Close friend and associate, Martyn Wood said, "His book, Nearly Famous, tells lots of wonderful stories, but there are many who would like to change the title. Mel was famous to thousands of people who he entertained during his long career, and he helped so many more through his fundraising; in fact, I'm pretty sure there is a benefit concert being organised for someone up there right now, and what a band he has to work with."

These words were reiterated by fellow Costa entertainer, One Wish Steve, who said, "I was inspired by his energy and enthusiasm, a great professional and jovial gentleman who was warm and funny. The coast has lost a true rock star; he will leave a massive void here on the Costa del Sol and around the world. Almost Famous - never. He was more famous than we will ever know."

Mel's funeral was held in the municipal cemetery in Álora, the town he had called home for many years. A convoy of motorcycles, (another passion of Mel's) lined the path as his coffin was carried into the chapel, which was packed with dozens of family, friends and admirers, all of whom had come to say their last farewell to the coast's most celebrated entertainer.

In a statement published on Facebook shortly after the funeral, Mel's son, Jason, said:

"My incredible stepmom Sally has asked me to send her sincere gratitude and thanks to all of you who have sent such beautiful and heartfelt messages to her and all of our family over the last week. Sally is exhausted, but you have truly kept her going and indeed all of us with such an outpouring of love for Dad/Mel. It has kept her going beyond anything you can imagine. I thank you with everything I am from Dad/Mel as I know he will be looking down with such gratitude to you all for your support, strength and kindness you have shown now and for the time you have known him."



The singer, during one of his performances. :: SUR

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The Crown to turn Torremolinos congress centre into an airport

The building will be taken back to the sixties for the third Netflix series on the British royals, which will also be shot in the provinces of Seville and Cadiz

FRANCISCO
GRINÁN

Twitter: @pacogrinan

The cast of this popular series based on the British royals has been changed to reflect the fact that the characters are older; and Olivia Colman will now play the Queen

MÁLAGA. Five decades after its inauguration it has a bit of a kitsch and old-fashioned look about it, and during that time it has hosted numerous events, ranging from tourism to trade fairs, political conferences and even screenings during the Independent Film Week in Benalmádena. The Torremolinos congress centre has, however, never been an airport, among other reasons because the architects, Rafael de la Hoz and Gerardo Olivares, designed it at the peak of the boom on the Costa del Sol to house visitors rather than passengers.

However, there are no limits to fiction on television and so the iconic Palacio de Congresos y Exposiciones is being turned into an airport in the 1960s for the third season of *The Crown*, one of the most popular series on Netflix.

The filming of this production about the reign of Queen Elizabeth II was confirmed this week after a casting session in San Juan de Az-



The Netflix production will turn the Palacio de Congresos in Torremolinos into a 1960s airport. :: SUR

nalfarache (Seville), where much of the filming will take place.

Scenes will also be shot in Málaga and Cadiz provinces, and members of the public were also invited to audition as extras last Monday at the Florida Theatre in Algeciras and two days later in the Palacio de la Paz in Fuengirola. Filming of *The Crown* is due to begin in October.

For the scenes in Málaga, the producers wanted an airport with a 1960s appearance, but none matched the description. The Palacio de Congresos in Torremolinos, however, is ideal. Retro panels showing flight times and advertising for the airlines will turn this iconic space into an airport for the third season, which is being produced by Palma Pictures in collabora-

tion with the Málaga company A Film Location, run by Tate Aráez, which is finding the locations for some of the scenes in the series.

According to Netflix, the action in the third series takes place between 1964 - where the last series ends - and the 1970s, so the cast is being changed because the characters will be older.

The actress who played Queen Elizabeth as a young woman, Claire Foy, has been replaced by Olivia Colman (*Murder on the Orient Express*). It proved rather more difficult to substitute Matt Smith, who played Prince Philip. Hugh Laurie (*Dr House*) and Paul Bettany (*The Avengers*) were considered, but finally the role was given to Tobias Menzies (*Outlander*).

Also joining the cast are Helena Bonham Carter, who will play Princess Margaret; Jason Watkins (*The man who killed Don Quijote*) is to be prime minister Harold Wilson; and Josh O'Connor (*Cinderella*) will be the heir to the throne, Prince Charles.

It is hoped that this season the character of Camilla Shand will be introduced into the series; she was Prince Charles' girlfriend when he was a young man, and he remained in love with her during his marriage to Princess Diana. Now, of course, she is his wife, the Duchess of Cornwall.



JOSELE-LANZA

TRIPLE A EVENT IN MARBELLA HELPS STRAY ANIMALS

Marbella Leisure Port was the setting for an all-day event organised by Triple A association for abandoned animals this week, to coincide with the International Day of Homeless Animals. The local council collaborated with the initiative, which aimed to raise awareness of the importance of neutering stray dogs and cats.

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DAVIDE MONTAGNER



WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

24 AUGUST 2003

Fernando Alonso is youngest driver ever to win a Grand Prix

Today, 24 August, is the fifteenth anniversary of the extraordinary victory of Spanish racing driver Fernando Alonso at the Hungary Grand Prix, becoming the youngest person in the history of the sport to win a race in the Formula One World Championship.

Grand Prix fans will remember that 24 August 2003, when the 22-year-old Alonso completed the 70-lap race, starting from pole position, comfortably ahead of the rest, marking a milestone in the history of this sport.

Earlier that year Alonso had already become the youngest driver to start in pole position, when he was still only 21. Now he had beaten the Grand Prix winner youth record, previously set by Bruce McLaren. For sev-

eral years, he held on to the record, until it was taken by German driver, Sebastian Vettel, in 2008.

Alonso was born in 1981 in Oviedo, Asturias. His first experience with a racing car came when he was only three and his father José Luis Alonso, who was a mechanic and a go-kart enthusiast, gave him the kart that he had originally built for his older sister, Lorena.

Fernando's father commented that at first, seeing his five-year-old son racing with his go-kart was just like watching any boy playing games and that only later he realised that the child had something that the other kids his age didn't have - a natural talent for the sport.

When he was a teenager, Alonso completed five Spanish



Alonso with former Renault manager, Flavio Briatore, in 2003. :: SUR

karting championships in first place, proving he had bright future ahead. He went on to work with Formula Nissan and then Formula 1.

However, the real turn in his career came in 2002 when he was hired as a test driver for Renault. Alonso showed his skill and impressed the firm which decided to let him race the following year.

Fernando's hard work and dedication to his passion paid off.

In 2005, he won his first Formula One Driver's Championship title and was the recipient of the Prince of Asturias Award for Sports. He won the title again in 2006, making him the youngest Formula 1 double champion.

Alonso moved to McLaren in 2007 and then back to Renault in 2008. In 2010 he moved to Ferrari where he stayed until 2016, when he decided to go back to McLaren.

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Gran Premio	Grand Prix
Piloto	Racing driver
Coche	Car
Automovilismo	Motor racing
Circuito	Circuit
Velocidad	Speed
Curva	Bend
Vuelta	Lap
Conducir	To drive
Bandera a cuadros	Chequered flag
Meta	Finish line
Reto	Challenge
Podio	Podium
Patrocinador	Sponsor
Adelantar	To overtake
Monoplaza	Single-seater
Fabricante	Manufacturer
Hungría	Hungary

Finally this year, with a heart-warming letter, the award-winning racing driver has confirmed his departure from the Formula One competition to face, as he wrote "bigger challenges than the one you [Formula 1] can offer me".

It is expected that this man who made motor racing history 15 years ago will soon reveal what his new challenges are.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

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REF. N. I. A.

After refuelling my car in a petrol station, I forgot to remove the hose, and when I moved off I pulled it out and caused damage to the pump. In that moment I did not really know what to do, the staff even called the police, but as I do not speak Spanish, I do not know what happened, but I gave my personal

details to the staff of the station. Now, I have received a letter where they demand me to pay, threatening me to take legal action if I do not pay. Do I really have to pay those damages?

There are precedents that establish that you don't, as although you made a mistake when moving off with the hose connected to the tank, the truth is that it is the petrol station the one that has to face those expenses, because they did not have staff to assist the clients. Case-law establishes that users are not responsible when they cause damage in good faith or have to take over tasks that they are not obliged to have knowledge of.

REF. T. R. U.

I divorced my wife more than ten years ago, and at the time the court established that my ex-wife and my children had

the right to live in our family home. However, my children are already adults and no one lives there, as my ex-wife has a new partner and they live together in a different place. I do not want that property, but I do not know if my ex-wife could be interested in selling as well. Could she refuse to sell even if the property has been unoccupied for four years?

She cannot refuse to sell if you want to solve the situation. It would be advisable to contact her in order to know if she wants to sell, and in that case, reach an agreement as regards to the price and sell it. If this option is not possible, you can start proceedings to ask the court to sell it in public auction after assessing the property. Nevertheless, the first option is always better, as the price obtained in an auction is usually lower than if it is sold privately.

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IN BRIEF

Age Concern sends out fresh appeal for second-hand clothes

FUENGIROLA

The Fuengirola and Mijas branch of Age Concern is appealing for donations of good quality second-hand clothing to boost stocks in

its charity shop in Los Boliches.

There are also opportunities for new volunteers who can spare a few hours a week to help the organisation continue its work with the older members of the community.

More information is available from the shop in C/ Francisco Cano, Los Boliches or by calling 686289904 any weekday from 10am to 5pm.

OBITUARY

DANNY MALAGA 1969-2018

Nerja lost one of its most colourful characters on 9 August when Danny Malaga, assistant manager at the town centre sports bar El Bosque died suddenly in hospital, aged 49. Danny (real name Gary Lancaster) had been serving drinks to countless locals and holidaymakers for many years. His funeral was one of the biggest seen among the expat community for some time, with hundreds gathering at the new Tanatorio Esperanza in Nerja to hear Brian Wise, manager of El Bosque, and Danny's friends from childhood Chris and Nigel Matthews, paying tribute to his life. Be-

hind the sometimes gruff exterior beat a heart of gold, as anyone who knew Danny quickly found out. He was an avid Aston Villa fan -

many of the youngsters at his funeral wore Villa shirts in his honour - with a tribute paid to him in the programme and on the big screen at the match between Villa and Sheffield United on 1 September. Danny also loved his music, darts and his annual trips to Blackpool. He will be sadly missed. **DAN SHERRY**



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Promoting different cultures and a haircut for charity

SOCIETY SCENE

Organisations on the Costa del Sol make the most of the summer with fresh ideas for events alongside the old favourites

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

Sayalonga community Culture festival

Earlier this month the community of Sayalonga celebrated the diversity of nationalities living in the town. Each country got together to man a stand laden with their countries special dishes. There were British mince pies, German currywurst, Dutch cheese, Swiss cakes, and Spanish gazpacho.



Sayalonga celebrated its different cultures. :: VON-RETH

Royal British Legion Coin Charity haircut

Poppy season is approaching and members of the Coin branch of the Royal British Legion are always looking for new opportunities to raise money.

At the monthly branch meeting on the 4 July, Poppy Appeal offi-

cer George Chaney was delighted to hear that Susan Skinner had persuaded her husband Stanley Skinner to have his hair cut to raise money for the 2018 appeal.

Stan's previous haircut was in the last century so this was a major event. On the big day Stan lost half a metre of hair, was described

as looking ten years younger and raised 200 euros for the appeal.

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



Stan before and after the haircut for charity. :: RBL COIN

PET CARE

PETER HARRISON



Dogs learn by repetition

Dogs will get used to a new name if it is short and used over and over

When you obtain a new dog you can be faced with the fact that his or her name you find disagreeable, even distasteful. How will the dog react to a change of name?

The answer to the first question is that the dog will quickly adjust to the new name providing you use it time and time again when you call him.

Working with Americans for most of my life I was always surprised that they always call someone by their name when addressing them. Then one day when travelling by air a passenger came and sat by me shortly before take off and he seemed vaguely familiar. He immediately called me by name and started chatting. As the conversation continued I was reminded of the time we met some four years before. It was the first and only time and we discussed the music for a film and certain union complications. The discussion had lasted for ten minutes at most. Yet he remembered my name. I was surprised and said so, asking him how he did it. He was an American and told me he met a large number of people in his

working life and had learned the trick from his father.

"You will not have remembered it but when we met the first time and I found your name I kept on calling you by it before each statement,

like I do with music, I hear a note or phrase and commit it to its written form and to my memory and it sticks. I cannot explain it further. I associate it with a face. Repetition is the answer."

I believe this is so with dogs. Repeat the name with every call. Digger came to us four years ago when he was three and was called Milo by the previous owner who had died. On arrival, he immediately jumped into the pool just as a dog we had twenty years ago did called Digger. So the name given on the spot was Digger and it stayed. It took only three weeks before he answered to it.

What about the name itself? The best name is one of only one or two syllables like Zac or Jake or Blazer. A short crisp name. We once had a dog who came to us called Valentino. We renamed him Jake and he took to it within a fortnight.



Dog names should be just one or two syllables. :: SUR

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IN THE FRAME

"I'm still rocking at 73"

It was in 1978 that local restaurant owner Paul Hickling decided to move to Marbella. Growing up in Bishop's Stortford, the Englishman had enjoyed a career in the gun trade and had also taken the helm of his father's clothing business in his twenties.

But at the age of 32 he decided to uproot from the UK and after buying a yacht - sailed from Lymington to Marbella with his wife, two children and their parrot.

"I was bored with my life in general, and particularly of being in the rag trade shop which my father had founded," said the 73-year-old.

"My wife was being stressful, and I yearned for space and a place in the sun, which up to then I had only enjoyed through movies, books and annual holidays.

"The plan was to enjoy life, doing the things I had never had time to do, spending time with the family."

As Paul put it, he arrived in Spain when the Costa del Sol was awash with celebrities in the sangria-fuelled good old days of the peseta.

However, around three years after moving to Marbella, Paul's marriage to his first wife broke up and he found himself living the single life in the glitzy marina of Puerto Banus.

Paul told SUR in English: "Suddenly I was single with a yacht in the port and my best mate and I were out every night partying.

"I said to him this is crazy, we should get a place where people come to us and pay, rather than us paying all the money to go out every night."

Together with his pal Colin, the pair took over the running of a sophisticated piano bar in Puerto Banus called The Crescendo, which they ran from 1981 to 1983.

Paul, a father of three, explained: "We used to reckon that at 3am if you shut the doors and put everyone's money together, you could buy a small country. In those days it was full of industrialists, Arabs with all their body guards and gangsters. They were very interesting times.

"It was lots of fun, but it was all night long and I didn't come here to work all night long."

Then one day Paul was visited by his best friend Alan from England and they took a trip out to see the Roman Baths in Sabinillas.

"So I took a trip with him and found where the baths were, and of course, there was nothing there," said Paul.

"It was a dirt track. Alan's a bit

of an entrepreneur and he started saying, 'can you imagine doing barbecues here with a Roman theme and bussing people in from places like Torremolinos?' And I thought

that sounds like fun! I think about it in the cold light of day now and I think I must have been mad."

And so from scratch on an arid piece of land the duo set about

building a restaurant called the Roman Oasis, which opened in 1983.

It was a "complete disaster" at first according to Alan and was losing money for the first few years. However, 35 years later the restaurant has become an unbridled success.

In fact it's furnished Alan with so many amusing anecdotes that three years ago that he wrote a book about the whole experience.

One such humorous account involved the legendary English chef Keith Floyd, who became a good friend of Paul's after he bought a house in Manila.

Paul said: "Keith was a friend of mine for 10 years, and in fact, he actually spent the last six weeks of his life here in my house, and then he went back to England and a month later he died.

He finished his last book in my courtyard here. He was a great character, an incredible chef, but an absolute nightmare sometimes."

Paul recounted how one night as the Roman Oasis was closing for the end of the season, he decided to hold Christmas Day on September the 30th in his restaurant.

He explained: "So to get all the turkey and Christmas puddings was difficult anyway in Spain. We had a snow machine and everything. But the big problem was we didn't have anywhere to heat the Christmas pudding. So I was sitting down with Keith wondering how to heat them, and after a few Johnny Walkers and a few fags, Keith asked if I had a commercial dishwasher, which I did. He said, 'well run them through that a few times, that will do it!' So that's what we did and it worked out all right!"

When he's not busy running the Roman Oasis for the two months a year that it's open (July and August), Paul plays golf, rides his motorcycles and travels - mostly with his wife Kaat Buelens, who also runs a restaurant in Sabinillas called Miel.

As for the future, he added: "I am still rocking at 73.

"When I die they are going to have me stuffed and sat here in the restaurant. This is my drug, I live for it. I put so much sweat and blood and tears into this place turning an absolute disaster into a reasonable success, that when I sit here I just adore it."



Paul Hickling and Keith Floyd. :: SUR

From gun trader to flamboyant restaurant owner, Paul Hickling talks to SUR in English about a life less ordinary

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THE WEEK IN CONCERTS



JOSELE-LANZA

UB40 CELEBRATE FOUR DECADES OF REGGAE

The English band from Birmingham, UB40, performed at the bullring in Estepona in front of a crowd of 3,000 fans to mark the 40th anniversary of its founding and announce the release of a new album.



JORGE REY

THE GANG IS BACK!

Legendary band Kool & the Gang brought their unique sound to the stage of Puente Romano tennis club in Marbella. The band from the US brought its soul, funk, jazz and disco vibe to the 3,000 fans that came to the venue to be transported back to the 70s and 80s by the African American group that has sold more than 80 million records worldwide, inspiring a generation.



NITO SALAS

RICKY KNOWS HOW TO KEEP IT REAL

Ricky Martin, 46, was welcomed last week by a crowd of more than 8,000 people who came to see the singer from Puerto Rico in Fuengirola for the first stop of his European Tour. His concert was at the Castillo Sohail venue, the last day of the Marenostrum Music Castle Park festival. The singer started with the song Maria and included in his performance hits like Livin' La Vida Loca and La Mordidita.



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International Art Textile Festival to raise funds for cancer patients

The festival will include designs by artists from Russia, France, Poland, Spain and the UK

TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. A former Ukrainian ballet dancer is about to host her second textile festival on the Costa del Sol. Oksana Mader, who came to live in Benalmádena Costa in 2000, took up the art of patchworking after winning first prize in the World Quilting Festival in the NEC in Birmingham in 2016. Overjoyed with the event in Birmingham, she decided to organise her own festival in Benalmádena the following year. Such was the success of the event that she has now organised the second edition of the International Art Textile Festival, which will be held in Benalmádena next month.

The inauguration of the festival will be held in Castillo Bil Bil at 7pm on Friday 7 September, followed by an exhibition of amateur quilting and patchworking in the Parque La Paloma between 6pm and 9pm on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 September.

The main exhibition will continue in the Bil Bil castle until Sunday 16 September and will include work exhibited by artists from Spain, Russia, Poland, France and the UK. These will include Ann Hill, the vice-president of the Scottish Quilters Association; Amparo Ruiz, delegate



Oksana Mader with her husband during last year's textile festival in Benalmádena Costa. :: SUR

of the Spanish Association of Patchwork; and Anna Slawinska, owner of the first School of Patchwork in Poland.

All of the participating artists will be on hand to talk about their work and to offer advice on the secret of their techniques.

Charity prize raffle

This colourful festival will be used to promote the art of patchworking while raising money for cancer sufferers. A fundraising raffle will include prizes of a silk quilt made by Lyubov Lezhanina, an artist from the Russian School of Master Patch

Workers, plus an embroidered patchwork quilt made by the Lucky Quilters Association, a group formed by Oksana. There will also be a 1,000-euro-voucher donated by the Benalmádena-based Vithas Xanit Hospital. All proceeds from the raffle will be donated to the Cudeca

INFORMATION

► **Inauguration.** The inauguration of the festival will be held in Castillo Bil Bil at 7pm on Friday 7 September.

► **Amateur exhibition.** An amateur quilting exhibition will be held in the Parque La Paloma on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 September.

► **Cushions for cancer.** An exhibition of heart-shaped cushions for women who have undergone breast cancer surgery will be on display in Bil Bil Castle.

Hospice. Winners of the raffle will be announced on Friday 14 September in the Castillo Bil-Bil and will be published on the official website of the Cudeca Foundation.

There will also be an exhibition of colourful heart-shaped cushions that help in the rehabilitation of women who have undergone surgery to remove breast cancer. The cushions, which were made by a group of women of 20 nationalities, will be donated to the Kölner Herzkissen e.V. Association in Köln, Germany.

"The festival is designed to create a mutual understanding of both amateur and professional quilters. People can admire their colourful creations while raising money for, and awareness of, those who suffer with cancer," organiser, Oksana Mader, explained to SUR in English.

The festival, which is free, can be visited Monday to Friday between the hours of 10am until 1pm and from 5pm until 9pm.

Informationx: www.luckyquilters.com/festival

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ESTEPONA

In recent years, electricity bills have been increasing constantly, a situation that directly affects families' finances and isn't likely to improve. There are, however, sustainable alternatives such as energy self-consumption, a custom solution to halt this tendency and help improve the planet.

Under this system, users generate their own energy and can optimise their electrical consumption, bearing in mind that they will stop consuming energy from the grid during daylight hours, even if it's cloudy as that doesn't affect the functioning of the panels.

Based on the Costa del Sol, Inove Ecoenergía has been installing, maintaining and selling renewable energy systems and equipment for more than 13 years.

Specialising in sustainable systems, the company places all its experience at the disposal of its clients to meet the energy challenges they face, always seeking the most suitable solution for each individual need.

"We deal with all the technical matters that arise both on construction sites and in private homes: electricity, plumbing, air conditioning, ventilation, etc. We always try to find the most energy efficient renewable energy solution," explains David Calvente, director of the company.

Not in vain, Inove Ecoenergía has just completed an innovative self-consumption project employing renewable energies in a home in Estepona.

The installation includes hot water production through solar equipment with a 200 litre container and a 2.5m² solar panel. The home also produces electricity through photovoltaic panels as a self-consumption solution. This means that the home uses its own solar-produced electricity rather than energy from

the electrical company's grid.

It's worth noting that the system does not empty any excess energy into the electrical grid as it adjusts solar production to match the maximum consumption or halts it when there is not consumption, thus avoiding any interference with the electrical grid.

"It consists of eight 325 Wp panels that produce 2.6 kw of solar electricity, with a 3000 W maximum power inverter," Calvente explains.

The system also has a Wi-Fi connection which means it can be monitored online to check how much energy is being produced at any given time. This allows users to see how much energy the house is producing and how much is being used.

The home also has an additional thermal solar panel system connected to a panel exchanger to increase the water temperature in the pool.

All these systems enable the home's energy consumption to be reduced to zero during almost all of the day, limiting consumption to night time or when there is no sunlight.

The installation pays for itself quickly as battery accumulators, which are the parts that make systems expensive and have a limited lifespan, are not necessary.

"People often check the price of a piece of equipment but not its energy efficiency, which directly influences its total lifetime consumption. We advise our clients and try to take care of all the details to increase their energy saving and of course save more money," the director stresses.

It is also worth noting that the photovoltaic panel producers' guarantee extends to more than 20 years of production.

All this means it's not surprising that the company has very loyal and satisfied customers. As Calvente explains: "the



Finished solar panels. © INOVE ECOENERGÍA



Above these lines, structure of the solar panels. On the left, consumption monitoring.

© INOVE ECOENERGÍA

clients come looking to save on their electricity bill or get rid of their traditional gas or electricity hot water production systems. By incorporating a renewable system of this type, this cost is removed and they are very satisfied with the result."



CONTACT

Inove Ecoenergía
C/ Pilar Bardem, 10, 29680
Estepona (Málaga).
Telephone: 951216732.
www.inove-ecoenergia.com

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GARDENING

Armeria juniperifolia

Drought hardy Spanish thrift forms a rounded cushion of foliage studded with clusters of pink or white flowers

Spanish thrift (binominal name *Armeria juniperifolia* or previously *A. caespitosa*), is a hardy little plant found growing in mountainous regions of central Spain.

Armeria is a genus with approximately 35 species distributed across Europe, Asia and America. It is a

member of the Plumbaginaceae or leadwort family. The genus grows in varied habitats, from coastal dunes to mountainous regions.

Spanish thrift forms a rounded cushion of dark-

green needle-like leaves between five and ten centimetres high by about fifteen centimetres wide.

The flowers, which can appear all year round in temperate regions, start off as bright red buds nestled in the foliage and open into masses of tiny pink flowers on short stems.

As the plant is so low growing it can easily get swamped by others around it so is best planted as an edging, in a rockery, on walls or in containers.

Once established, Spanish thrift is drought resistant although occasional watering will keep it healthier and flowering for longer. It is also resistant to sea breezes, direct sun and frost. It is not fussy about soil and will adapt to even poor soils as long as it has good drainage.

There are many cultivars of *Armeria juniperifolia* including white forms such as *A. juniperifolia* 'Alba'.

The genus name comes from the old French 'armerie' later 'armoire' which was the name for the cluster-headed dianthus. The specific epithet 'juniperifolia', is because the leaves are similar to juniper and the synonym for this plant 'caespitosa' comes from the Latin meaning 'covered with vegetation' (the Spanish word 'cesped' meaning 'lawn' is also derived from this word).

Propagation is best carried out by taking cuttings or dividing the plant in spring. Spanish thrift can also be grown from seed but may take months to germinate and is notoriously slow growing.



Armeria juniperifolia and the white 'Alba' (Inset). :: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

READERS' PHOTOS

CLIMATE CHANGE?

SUR in English reader Maria Hillen sent in this photo of a towering sunflower and says, "My sunflowers are getting so big. I don't know why this year but they are doing so well, could it be climate change maybe?" Have any other readers noticed their plants are growing better or bigger this year?



:: MARIA HILLEN



:: IAN KIRK

A HERBACEOUS PARADISE

This photo of a veritable Eden was sent in by Ian Kirk in Arroyo de la Miel. He says, "This month provides a wide range of attractive plants on my roof terrace. Among others are rose, zinnia, cycad (sago) palm, dahlias, Dama de Noche, basil, calendula, banana plant and ornamental grasses."

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

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

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



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DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA

Al-Andalus in all its glory

JAVIER ALMELLONES



Frigiliana's Festival of the Three Cultures is taking place until Sunday. :: SUR

Music and gastronomy both feature in the colourful Festival de las Tres Culturas in Frigiliana this weekend

**How to get there Frigiliana.**

From Malaga, take the Autovía del Mediterráneo motorway and turn off at the exit signposted Nerja and Frigiliana. From there it is only four kilometres to the village.

It started yesterday and will continue until Sunday: during these few days this lovely village in La Axarquía, which is about to be officially classified as a tourist resort, is converted into a type of mediaeval market, a 'zoco' filled with colour, music, food and a fantastic atmosphere which everyone will enjoy.

Among the attractions, this 13th edition of the festival has a themed market between the Plaza de las Tres Culturas and the Parque de Andalucía, with about 100 stalls selling artisan crafts and products.

The nearby streets have also been turned into impromptu stages for theatre shows, live music, belly dancing demonstrations, parades and, new this year, a dragon to impress local residents and visitors, young and old.

Circus characters, jugglers, a historical re-enactment of the Moorish rebellion which took place in Frigiliana and firework displays also add to the wonderful atmosphere over the weekend.

Music is one of the most important parts of this themed festival and this year for the first time the church of San Antonio de Padua will be used as a venue for some of the concerts, such as the ones taking place this evening (the Burruezo trio and Mediavalia Camerata) and tomorrow (Astarté).

In the Plaza de las Tres Culturas, there will also be performances by well-known Spanish and international artists such as Carlos Jean, DJ Beatriz and Mali Oumou Sangaré, among other names from the contemporary music scene.

Gastronomy will also have its place in this festive weekend. In fact, for many people the tapas routes at the Festival de las Tres Culturas are good enough reason on their own to visit Frigiliana. Nearly 20 bars and restaurants are taking part, and there are two different routes: one is Mudéjar and the other is Moorish. For just two euros you can enjoy, with your drink, tapas such as chicken in Arabian sauce, cod fritters, chicken 'aguanoso' with couscous cooked in Frigiliana wine, spicy fried breadcrumbs, tabbouleh, meatballs, chicken in almond sauce and kid confit,

WHAT TO SEE

The oldest church. :: T.A.

Barribarto. Also known as the Barrio Alto, this is the main attraction of this village of Andalusian origin, thanks to its colourful pots of flowers, doors and windows, and the whitewashed houses.

Church of San Antonio de Padua. The main church of the village, in the very centre. The building was constructed in 1676 and restored a century later.

Archaeological Museum. Inside the Casa del Apero, it contains interesting items found from the Neolithic period to the Moorish rebellions in the 16th century.

El Ingenio. Situated at the entrance to Barribarto, this old mansion house today houses the only molasses factory in Europe.

among many others.

From 6pm until midnight, visitors have the opportunity to sample traditional dishes, many of them handed down from the time of Al-Ándalus. And of course, there will be activities especially designed for children, such as traditional games, art workshops with chalks, a puppet show and magic displays.

In addition to all these leisure activities the Festival de las Tres Culturas has an interesting educational programme, with conferences and the screening of festivals and documentaries on the theme of the Three Cultures.



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EXHIBITIONS

Pierre Louis Geldenhuys

Marbella. *Until 30 August, Kempinski Hotel Bahía.* Fashion designer Pierre Louis Geldenhuys, who has developed the ground breaking technique of tessellation. "Tessellation is one step further from origami towards geometry and engineering" explains the artist, and uses the power of light and origami with fabric to create stunning original works.



Marlou Smits, Marbella

Meta Wolters and Marlou Smits

Marbella. *From 14 until 23 September. La Cascada Restaurante, Urb Montua.* A joint exhibition by Meta Wolters and Marlou Smits.

Benezra Gallery

Marbella. *Until 28 August. Avda Tomás Pascual, Urb La Quinta Golf.* The gallery has a new collection of art and sculptures by artists Aderita Silva, Raborama, Luis Agullo and Rogerio Timoteo among others.

Entre Tierra y Mar

Marbella. *Until 7 September. Salón Enseñada Hotel El Fuerte, C/El Fuerte.* An exhibition of watercolours by Adrián Marmolejo.

Magpie International Gallery

Marbella. *Until 29 August. C/Virgen del Pilar. 200m from port.* The exhibition, Home Planning, consist of collages made with old blue prints, illustrations and drawings with architecture and design as the primary theme created by Anula Mixtura.

Encuentro

Tolox. *21-22 September. Town centre streets.* Artists will be working 'in-situ' in the open air adding to the wealth of sculptures, murals and other pieces of art situated around the town. There will also be live jazz, flamenco and rock music. Free.

Movimiento Espartaco

Marbella. *Until 18 April 2020. Museo Ralli Marbella.* For the first time in Spain, an exhibition of works by the Argentinian collective of the 60s who expressed the political and social problems of the country through their art.

Pedro Reyes

Malaga. *Until 2 September. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.*

'Prana' is a short video created by Mexican artist Pedro Reyes. It shows a black ball and a white ball which mold themselves into different shapes and forms. They grow, shrink, twist and writhe. 'Prana' is Sanskrit for 'vital energy'.

Ocho

Malaga. *Until 6 September. Centro Cultural María Victoria Aten-cia, C/Ollerías 34.* The Malaga Provincial Government is displaying eight, large format works from its Colección de Arte Contemporáneo. The works are by: Manuel León, Javier Garcerá, Miguel Gómez Losada, Javier Calleja, Laura Brinkmann, José María Córdoba, Manuel Bautista and José Manuel Velasco. Entry is free.

Naturaleza

Malaga. *Until 30 September. Museum Jorge Rando.* The latest exhibition by Malaga artist Jorge Rando is entitled 'naturaleza'.

El Bestiario de Picasso

Malaga. *Until 7 October. Fundación Picasso, Casa Natal.* Picasso depicted animals using various techniques between 1905 and 1968 and this exhibition uses illustrations, books, ceramics, original drawings and photographs to demonstrate Picasso's thoughts and creativity.

Jean Dubuffet

Malaga. *Until 14 October. Centro Pompidou.* The new temporary exhibition 'Traveller Without a Compass' focuses on the founder of the Art Brut movement, Jean Dubuffet.

José Luis Puche

Malaga. *Until 26 August. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.*

Malaga artist José Luis Puche has an exhibition at the CAC until August. His works vary from just a few centimetres to very large formats and include various themes but have one constant, they are all created in charcoal with touches of colour from pastels or crayons.

Mediterráneo. Arcadia Reinventada

Malaga. *Until 9 September. Museo Thyssen.* The exhibition consists of works by 60 artists, both French and Spanish, from the middle of the twentieth century.

Monet / Boudin

Malaga. *Until 30 September. Museo Thyssen.* The exhibition Monet/Boudin offers visitors the opportunity to discover the relation between the great Impressionist painter Claude Monet and his master Eugène Boudin. The exhibition consists of 100 works by the two artists.

Hullo, Hullo

Malaga. *Until 9 September. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo* Rose Wylie, an 84 year old British artist discovered the world of art just ten years ago and is exhibiting in Spain for the first time.



Encuentro, Tolox



The festival will present Indian music and temple dances. :: TB

Hindu folklore and gastronomy festival

TONY BRYANT

CHURRIANA. Hindu communities in the province of Malaga will come together to enjoy the Festival de la India, which will be held in Churriana on Saturday, 1 September.

This vibrant and colourful festival offers an afternoon of oriental culture, complete with Bollywood music and folk dancing. Visitors will enjoy demonstrations of the classical Bharatanatyam dance performed by dancers dressed in traditional costume and accompanied by spiritual music. This classical temple dance is an art that consecrates the body of the dancer, who dissolves her identity in the rhythm of the music.

The festival will offer yoga, meditation and henna workshops, and there will also be an Indian street market selling saris, sherwani coats, bangles, beads, cashmere scarves, books, aromatic teas, spices and herbs.

Lovers of Indian food will be spoilt for choice, because they will have the opportunity to sample some of the country's most traditional gastronomy, which will include spicy curries, different varieties of chapati and an array of vegetarian dishes.

The festival, which is free, will be held in the Hare Krishna Cultural Centre in Churriana and will start at 6pm and continue until midnight.

For more information, see www.harekrishna.es



EXHIBITIONS

'Deja que la vida fluya'

Malaga. Until 18 September. *Alfajar, C/Císter.*
An exhibition by Mercedes Lirola.

Dolls House exhibition

Benalmádena. Until 14 December. *Centro de Exposiciones de Benalmádena.*
Not just dolls houses but dolls and miniatures too in this exhibition by collector Voria Harras.

Galería Krabbe

Frigiliana. Until 9 September. *C/Rosario.*
A new exhibition at the Krabbe gallery in Frigiliana.

Martín Corradini

Fuengirola. Until 14 September. *Homes, Real Estate & Art. Avda Los Boliches*
This exhibition consists of black and white photographs taken by Martín Corradini while he was on a trip to Gambia with the NGO Nakupenda Sana.

Happy Artists

Mijas Costa. Until 4 September. *Norwegian Church, El Campañario, Calahonda.*
Artists from the Happy Artists group are exhibiting a collection of paintings in diverse styles by Wendy Lucas, Josephine Quintero, Jane Gomis, Astrid Frida Zehetner and Gunnvor Sorhus.
Fuengirola. Until 31 August. *La Li-*



Happy Artists, Mijas Costa

belula, C/Periana.
Artist Astrid Frida Zehetner has an exhibition of her acrylic paintings.

Emmy Hanna

Mijas. From 24 August until 17 September. *Centro Cultural de La Cala.*
Emmy Hanna is a German artist living in Mijas. She writes and illustrates children's books.

CHARITY

Spirits Jazz Band

Marbella. 1 September, 8.45pm. *Clínica Buchinger Wilhelmi.* 20€. Charity concert in aid of Pozos Sin Fronteras. Bookings: 639462247 (10am to 2pm.) or email: info@pozossinfronteras.org

Fashion Show for Cudeca

Mijas. 12 September, from 1pm. *Tamisa Golf Hotel.* 25€. Fashion show by Mapuchi Moda

with stalls selling complimentary fashion and beauty products. There will also be a talk by Stuart Ashing hypnotherapist and director of Lux Therapy Clinic Marbella. Ticket price includes welcome drink and buffet lunch of which 8€ goes to Cudeca Cancer Hospice. reservations@hoteltamisagolf.com or call: 952 585 988

MUSIC & DANCE

The Wall Bar

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

25 August. Susan Valery and Adrian Lombardi.

Ocean Bar

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

25 August. Rosa Ruiz & Foky.

28 August. Daphne and Nicky. www.tallerblues.es

Festival Sierra Nevada Por Todo Lo Alto

Granada. 24, 25 August.

In the morning there are workshops on playing the drums, guitar, piano etc while from 9.30pm there will be concerts by Arizona Baby, Los Tiki Phantoms, Cala Vi-

ento and The Fixed on the 24th. The following day the festival continues with performances by Josele Santiago, Biznaga, Unsuspected and students of Gabba Hey. Tickets from: agencia@sier-ranevadacub.es or call: 902708090

Louie Louie

Estepona. Louie Louie Bar.

24 August, midnight. La Tarambana. 7€.

25 August, 0.30pm. Deltó. 7 or 10€.

31 August, midnight. Okatudisco, karaoke. Free.

1 September, midnight. Spotilive Band.

San Roque dresses in white for a night of music and culture

ASH BOLTON

SAN ROQUE. Thousands of people are expected to descend on the old quarter of San Roque for the town's annual Noche Blanca tonight (Friday 24th August).

The free event is now in its fourth year and features concerts, shows, open museums and guided tours around the historic centre between 7.30pm and 2am.

Organised by the town council, it is designed to showcase the history and heritage of San Roque. Visitors are encouraged to dress in white clothing for the event that will also see the town decorated with candles and art.

Carlos Jordan, 45, head of the town's Foreign Resident and Tourism Department, told SUR in English: "It's been great success since we started this annual event four years ago. This year there is a lot more going on and even a few surprises that are not on the schedule."

Held at multiple locations, more than 20 activities are planned for the evening.

The event starts at Alameda Alfonso XI, at 7.30pm with a children's story teller, before moving on to a treasure hunt at 8pm for children aged 9-14.

From 8.30pm in the Alameda,



Noche Blanca last year. :: A. BOLTON

a number of bands will perform, then at 9pm in the Plaza de Armas a photoshoot, monologue and solo guitarist will perform.

At 10.15pm a number of animated films will be screened at the museum, followed by an adult story teller at the library at 11pm.

Fans of Silvio Rodríguez will also enjoy a tribute to the singer at Plaza Espartero at 10.15pm. Meanwhile, a guided tour of the streets of San Roque starts at the bull ring at 9pm and is in English and Spanish.

For more information visit www.sanroque.es

DETAILS

► **What.** Concerts, shows, open museums and guided tours.

► **When.** 24 August from 7.30pm.

► **Where.** The old quarter of San Roque.

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12 September, 22.30pm. Joe King Carrasco and Border Soul. 10€.



El Cirguero

Mijas. 24 August, 9pm. Casa Museo, Mijas Pueblo.

José Miguel Guzmán Guerrero 'El Cirguero' will be in concert presenting his new recording 'AlmaZen'.

Melendi

Marbella. 25 August, 10.30pm. Starlite Music Festival.

Tickets 902750787 or email: tickets@starlitemarbella.com

Jitterbug Jazz

Malaga. 29 August, 8.30pm. English Cemetery, Avda de Pries. 10€. The Jitterbug Jazz Group will be performing in the grounds of the English cemetery. Bar.

Música en Otros Espacios

Nerja. 24 August, 10pm. Hostal

Almuñécar says adiós to August with blues, funk and jazz

JENNIE RHODES

ALMUÑÉCAR / LA HERRADURA. The towns of Almuñécar and neighbouring La Herradura will be ending August on a varied musical note with the fifth Blues Festival taking place this weekend at La Herradura Castle while El Majuelo park in Almuñécar will be resonating to the sounds of funk, soul and jazz.

Tonight, the Bello Band, American Blues singer-songwriter Ike Cosse and his Short Fuse Blues Band will be performing at La Herradura castle from 8pm, while on Saturday it will play host to the Vargas Blues Band, described as the "King of Latin Blues" as well as Pedro Andrea, Madrid-born guitarist and Blues singer whose re-



Javier Vargas of the Vargas Blues Band in Madrid this year :: SUR

petoir includes hits made famous by B.B. King, Steve Ray Vaughan and Ella Fitzgerald. Saturday's concerts will start at 10pm.

In Almuñécar, El Majuelo park will host the Funky Soul Fest on

Tuesday 28, starting at 10pm and on Friday 31 August there will be jazz fusion from Granada-based Yin Yazz from 10pm.

For tickets and further information visit: www.almunecar.info

Mena.

Flamenco dancer Águeda Saavedra. Tickets email: ventana.abierta.acp@gmail.com or on website: www.ventana-abierta.es

Día de la Música

Benamocarra. 8 September, from midday. Municipal sports complex. Not just live music but other activities such as gastronomy, exhibitions and competitions. The concerts will be a tribute to Spanish

composer Eduardo Ocón Rivas.

Robin George

Periana. 24 September, 10pm. El Cañuelo Bar.

The Love Power Band will be in concert.

FLAMENCO

Flamenco Festival

Torremolinos. 24 August, from 10pm. Auditorio Príncipe de Asturias. 10€.

The thirtieth flamenco festival will include great artistes such as Jesús Méndez, Luis 'El Zambo', Samuel Serrano and Vanessa Fernández. www.unien-tradas.es

Flamenco in the Museum

Malaga. Museo de Arte Flamenco Peña Juan Breva, C/Ramón Francisco. 10€.

25 August, 9.30pm. María 'La Manzanilla' and flamenco group.

30 August, 9.30pm. Sandra Cisneros and flamenco group.

For information and bookings call 687 607 526 or email: info@flamenka.com



Arizona Baby, Sierra Nevada.



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FESTIVALS

Feria
Antequera. *Until 26 August.*
Concerts, competitions, wine tast-
ing and dance performances. Bull
fights. Fireworks at midnight on
last night. [http://www.elsoldean-
tequera.com](http://www.elsoldean-
tequera.com)

Feria de San Luis de Sabinillas
Sabinillas. *24-26 August, day and
night.*
Live music and dancing, king and
queen of the fair, procession and
lots of activities over the two days.

Douglas Days
Teba. *24-26 August.*
A tribute to the Scottish knight, Sir
James Douglas, who died helping
to repel the Moorish forces from
Teba. There will be a Medieval
market, exhibitions, concerts,
guided visits etc.

Las Tres Culturas
Frigiliana. *24-26 August, day and
night.*
The festival of the three cultures
will be celebrating 13 years this
year with concerts, theatre, films,
workshops, activities and a fire-
work display. [www.festivalfrigili-
ana3culturas.com](http://www.festivalfrigili-
ana3culturas.com)

EVENTS

Magical 3D experience
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ber, next to Teatro Goya.*

Bowie and Prince's greatest hits at tribute concert

TONY BRYANT
BENALMÁDENA. A special
double tribute concert featuring
the music of two of the most in-
fluential pop musicians of the
1980s will be held in the munic-
ipal auditorium in Benalmádena
Costa on Saturday 1 September at
9.30pm.
The concert will feature the
greatest hits of legendary star
man, David Bowie, and pop's
flamboyant virtuoso, Prince.
The Marbella-based Spiders
from Marbs, a band consisting
of several members of popular
Costa punk band The Rein-
fected, will perform some of
David Bowie's most celebrated
hits and will include songs from
the different stages of Bowie's
career, from the androgynous
alien, Ziggy Stardust, to Aladdin
Sane and The Thin White Duke.
Purple Reign is a seven piece



The Spiders from Marbs will perform a tribute to Bowie. :: SUR

band fronted by Tomas Henry, a
musician that has been per-
forming a Prince tribute act for
more than 15 years.
Born in the UK, this multi-
talented musician possesses an
uncanny likeness to Prince,
complete with his mannerisms,
musicality and extravagant
dance routines. The show,
which has already been per-
formed in the UK and Germany,
will feature hits from Prince's
most popular era and will in-
clude Purple Rain, Sign of the
Times and Diamonds and Pearls.
Tickets 16 euros are available
from outlets or from the ticket
office on the night of the con-
cert. www.costadeldisco.com

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narios. [www.magical3dexper-
ience.com](http://www.magical3dexper-
ience.com)

Maga Luxury
Malaga. *Until 30 August, Museo
Automovilistico Y de la Moda*
The new temporary exhibition in
the Malaga car museum is dedi-
cated to luxury designer brands.

Age Concern 4th Birthday
Mijas. *23 September, from
2.30pm. Tamisa Golf Hotel. 15€*
A show and cold finger buffet.
Tickets from the Age Concern shop
or Tamisa Golf or call: 686289904

Lions Club President's Dinner
Mijas. *15 September, 7pm Tree-
tops, El Chaparral Golf. 40€.*
La Cala de Mijas will be celebrating
their 20th anniversary President's
Dinner at Treetops restaurant.
Cava and canapes on arrival, three-
course meal with wine. Entertain-
ment from Randy Corwood Soul
and Motown. Tickets from La Cala
de Mijas Lions shop or call
677659061.



Douglas Days, Teba. :: SUR

Gran Fiesta de Agua y Espuma
Nerja. *27 August, from 6pm. From
Calle Chile.*
The great water and foam party is
free and open to everyone prepared
to get wet. The even closes with a
water balloon battle and a foam
party.

RAF 100 years dinner dance
Mijas. *6 September, 7.30pm. Hotel
Tamisa Golf. 35€.*
2018 is the 100th Anniversary of
the formation of the RAF and the



MOVIE LISTING

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ORIGINAL VERSION SUBTITLED SPANISH



THE FIRST PURGE

Director Gerard McMurray
Starring Y'lan Noel and Lex Scott Davis
ACTION - 97 min.


From Friday 24 to Thursday 30: 20:15



THE EQUALIZER 2

Director Antoine Fuqua
Starring Denzel Washington and Pedro Pascal
ACTION - 121 min.


From Friday 24 to Thursday 30: 20:30



THE HAPPYTIME MURDERS

Director Brian Henson
Starring Melissa McCarthy and Elizabeth Banks
ACTION - 91 min.


From Friday 24 to Thursday 30: 16:00, 18:30, 22:45



INCREDIBLES 2


Director Brad Bird
ANIMATION - 125 min.

From Friday 24 to Thursday 30: 15:50



MAMMA MIA! HERE WE GO AGAIN

From Friday 24 to Thursday 30: 15:50



MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - FALLOUT

From Friday 24 to Thursday 30: 15:45

RAF Association Costa del Sol Branch are combining the celebration of this historic event with their Annual Battle of Britain Dinner Dance. The evening will commence with arrival drinks and aperitifs, followed by a three course dinner with wine and coffee. There will be entertainment throughout the evening. The event is not exclusively for RAF Association members. Tickets: 952567412, 656698194 or from Tamisa Golf Hotel. www.rafacostadelisol.co.uk

Coach excursion to Gibraltar Torre del Mar. 20 September, 18 October, 15 November. Various departure points. 12€ Transport, travel insurance included. Passport necessary. Lux Mundi Torre del Mar. Tel:952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@luxmundi.org

Enjoy nature
Ojén. Daily 7.30 - 9.30pm. La Eco Reserva, Crta A-7103, km2. Every evening during the summer the nature reserve is offering a walk (not difficult) and a ride in a 4x4 to see the wild deer, goats and other animals. Suitable for all ages. By previous appointment only. Tel: 656960478 or <http://ecoreservaojen.com/>

Trip to Ubrique and Grazalema Torre del Mar. 27 September. Various departure points. 28€ Visit Ubrique in Cadiz, the leather museum etc then Grazalema for lunch and a visit to the textile mill.

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

Horse racing on the beach Sanlúcar de Barrameda. Until 24 August from around 6.30pm. The annual horse racing along the beach starts as the tide goes out and the sun starts get lower in the sky. The race has been in existence for 173 years and every year gets bigger and better with activities for children and stands on the beach. www.carrerassanlucar.es



Racing, Sanlúcar de Barrameda.

'Luz de Luna' Antequera. Until 16 September. Throughout the summer, there will organised visits to the monuments and museums of Antequera in the evenings. Visitors will be able to visit the observatory and take a walk through the countryside in the moonlight.

Huelva, Doñana and Faro Torre del Mar / Fuengirola. 1-5 October. Various departure points. 375€ pp. sharing dble room.

Visit Huelva, the Doñana National Park and Faro in Portugal. Price includes, coach, insurance, hotel (bed and breakfast), entrance to Doñana. Tel:952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@luxmundi.org

Trip to El Chorro and the Caminito del Rey Fuengirola. 19 September departing from various points. 33€ Full details contact Fundación Lux Mundi Fuengirola, C/Nueva 3. Tel: 952474840

Phoenix Club trips Cuenca, Logroño, Ávila. 17-21 October. Various pick ups. 350€ pp sharing. Includes coach fare, B&B accommodation, guides in Cuenca and Salamanca and the drivers gratuity. Email: phoenixsocialclub@yahoo.co.uk or go to www.phoenixsocialclub.co.uk

Polo and concerts Sotogrande. Until 1 September, from 5.30pm. Santa María Polo Club. Free admission for the majority of the evenings for the public to browse the boutiques, have a meal and listen to live concerts from funk, soul, jazz and Cuban to 80s tribute groups and a DJ.

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, Málaga. Tel: 902 36 02 95 or visit www.cinealbeniz.com or www.unientradas.es
Mary Shelley: 18.30
The Music of Silence: 16.30, 20.35, 22.35.

Cinesur El Ingenio
Avda. Juan Carlos I, Vélez-Málaga. Tel. 667 77 31 87.
Alpha: 12.10, 17.50 (every day).
Incredibles 2: 18.30 (except Mon, Tues, Thurs).

Cinesur Miramar
Avda. de la Encarnación, Fuengirola. Tel. 952 19 86 00.
Incredibles 2: 12.00, 16.30.
Alpha: 12.00, 16.45 (every day); 21.05, 23.15 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).
Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again: 22.00, 00.20 (Tues).
The Darkest Minds: 18.05, 20.10, 22.20 (Tues).
The Equalizer 2: 18.40, 21.20, 00.00 (Tues).
Madame Butterfly, opera from Sydney Harbour: 21.00 (4 September)

Cines Teatro Goya
For tickets and information call 951196665. www.cinesteatrogoya.com
Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again: 15.50 (every day).
Mission Impossible: Fallout: 15.45 (every day).
The Equalizer 2: 20.30 (every day).
The Happytime Murders 16.00, , 18.30, 22.45 (every day).
Incredibles 2: 15.50 (every day).



Caminito del Rey, Lux Mundi

The First Purge: 20.15 (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
The Happytime Murders: 12.45 (Sat, Sun); 16.40 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).
Alpha: 13.00 (Sun); 16.00 (Fri, Sat, Sun).
The Equalizer: 12.10 (Sun); 16.50 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).
Mission Impossible: Fallout: 12.40 (Sat, Sun).
The Spy Who Dumped Me: 12.00 (Sat, Sun).
The Incredibles 2: 13.45 (Sat, Sun); 16.30, 19.00, 21.30 (every day).
Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again: 14.20 (Sat, Sun); 22.15 (Sun, Mon, Tues, Thurs).

Cine de Verano
La Playamar beach between the Copacabana and Los Bandoleros beach bars. English subtitles.
Ballerina: 21.30 (28 Aug).



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Flowers make a beautiful ingredient

Rediscovered as a decorative element, flowers have a long history of use in the kitchen

Colourful and aromatic petals and flowers have been used for thousands of years in the preparation of dishes and not just as a garnish

ESPERANZA PELÁEZ

MÁLAGA. Using flowers to garnish plates of food is becoming more and more popular, so much so that it has initiated a surge in companies specialised in cultivating them, and not only for catering.

Nowadays you can find containers of mixed petals for sale in markets, greengrocers and supermarkets; perfect for adding a touch of colour (but also for stimulating a resigned sigh from the diner as he

moves it to the side of his plate.)

But in terms of food, there is little new under the sun, and the consumption of flowers is certainly not. As Harold McGee points out in *The Kitchen and Food*, "the most important edible flowers in the West are not colourful and don't even look like flowers". Cauliflower, broccoli, artichokes and capers are all immature flowers, and figs are inflorescences. And let's not forget that the stamens of the saffron crocus (*Crocus sativus*), one of the most expensive cooking ingredients and whose use has been documented since Ancient Egyptians used it 2,300 years ago.

Flowers are the reproductive organs of a plant and use colour and aromas which are usually concentrated on the petals (not in the case of saffron) and in the form of vola-



A selection of edible flowers sold to add colour and aroma to dishes. :: SUR





Edible flowers have many uses in cuisine. :: SUR



tile substances and oils, to attract pollinating insects and birds.

If the West has been developing the practical use of flowers and petals in food preparation, oriental cultures (from China and India to the Middle East) and the ancient Aztec culture of Mexico, preferred aspects such as aroma and symbolism. As the Mexican historian María de Jesús Ordóñez points out in her work 'Las flores comestibles', "the flower was the sign of nobility and worth". The Aztecs cultivated them in specialised gardens, and in Mexico today, dozens of flowers continue to be used in the preparation of various dishes, including tortilla fillings and all kinds of stews.

In the Middle East, aromatic flowers such as roses, jasmine and orange blossom were used to make scented water and various sweets. The Arabs extended its use to the Mediterranean and, combined with cane sugar, also introduced by them, produced the first frozen sorbets in places like Sicily and also crystallised flowers

and petals such as violets.

Flavoured waters are still widely used today in Arabic and Moroccan cuisine, and orange blossom water is not only used for green tea or desserts, but also in the dough for the traditional roscones de Reyes made at Christmas.

It is not just haute cuisine that uses flowers nowadays. They are also used in ecological cooking. There is an interesting article on the web page www.ecocosas.com, with a list of edible species, uses and effects and some common sense precautions.

Among the main ones are never use flowers marketed for ornamental use and to consult a specialist when in doubt. The boom in the use of flowers for food has led researchers at the University of Granada recently to remind people that some species are included in Regulation 258/97 of the European Parliament on New Food because they are not of traditional use in European territory. Therefore, unless a botanical expert, it is advisable to always use flowers grown for

food and sold with their corresponding health registry label, a precaution that must be extended even to the purchase of aromatic plants and flowers for the kitchen. If people go to a garden centre to purchase plants for decorating food they must make sure that plants sold are safe to eat.

Flowers are fragile and their aromas, as well as their colours and textures, will be spoiled if they undergo long cooking, heat or intense cold. Remember to wash them and always use them fresh. Using the flower of an aromatic species, such as thyme, rosemary or lavender and humble garlic will, in addition to adding a touch of colour to the dishes, add a milder version of the flavour. And it is fundamental to check the notes of aroma and flavour that each flower adds before putting them on the plate. In an edition of MasterChef, decorating a dessert with a garlic flower cost the contestant dearly. Beyond a mere ornament, flowers should be treated as another ingredient in the kitchen.

ANDREW J. LINN

SOCIAL DRINKING TO LIVE LONGER



Although they may provide brief flashes of hope, the frequent news items about how wine is really good for us and can cure everything from obesity to cancer, not to mention high blood pressure, cholesterol and memory, sometimes stretch the limits of our credibility. If you believe this stuff, there is nothing that alcohol cannot remedy. There are doubtless many elements in wine that, independently, may be beneficial, but if they have to be taken accompanied by alcohol, perhaps it is not such a good idea. Alcohol in any form is not favourable to the human body, although most of us are prepared to run the gauntlet in order to enjoy our favourite tippie.

But, and here is the really good news, the act of drinking is beneficial for us. Not alcohol as such, but the side effects of drinking it. Professor Robin Dunbar, of Oxford University, has recently demonstrated that humans have always drunk alcohol as a way of widening relationships. Indeed, a review of grain production from earliest times has shown that the prerequisite was to produce alcohol, not flour to make bread.

The theory is so simple and logical that it is hard to fault. People relax as they drink, and the resulting endorphins lead to a sense of wellbeing that reduces tension. Recent studies demonstrate that the most important element for a

long life is a wide circle of friends, more important than our diet, or an exercise routine, etc. When we visit a bar or café regularly we put down roots in the local community, leading to satisfying relationships. In almost any context, having a drink with friends is a profound act, giving rise to sharing thoughts with others we may not otherwise express.

The Holt-Lunstad study followed 148 heart disease victims from their illness to their death. The longest survivors were those with the widest circle of relationships; these amount to frequent releases of endorphins, which guarantee good health and lessening of stress. Since the birth of mankind, alcohol, while not being the best thing for our bodies, has always been best for our mental health and wellbeing.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Martínez La Cuesta

One of Rioja's oldest bodega, founded in 1895 by the family of the same name, Felix ML went on to found the region's first regulating board. This very reliable red wine, aged in oak for 18 months, is listed as out of stock by some online suppliers, but on the Costa del Sol it is easy to find in many stores. Around 8 euros.





Enjoy the best fish and seafood while looking out to sea







▲ **POVERTY.** Most of the Spanish population at the time had numerous needs and lived in overcrowded housing in unhygienic conditions; this favoured the spread of the virus, which proved fatal. :: **SUR**



▲ **Hospital Civil.** In 1918 Malaga's main hospital was run by Dr Alfonso Hurtado Janer, and it found it hard to cope with the avalanche of patients suffering from 'Spanish flu' in the summer and autumn that year. :: **UMA**



◀ **Study.** Malaga professor Silvia García Barrios has studied the history of the Civil Hospital and Dr Gálvez Ginachero in depth. :: **SUR**

The 'flu' virus that killed 1,500 people in Malaga a century ago

The illness known as 'Spanish flu' took the lives of 50 million people all over the world; in the summer of 1918 it hit Malaga especially hard

PEDRO LUIS GÓMEZ

✉ plgomez@diariosur.es



MALAGA. What began in June and July as an unusual flu epidemic (for that time) had, by early August, become a major health problem which put the whole population of Malaga on alert. The illness called 'Spanish flu', which arrived in Malaga in the summer

of 1918, a century ago now, began at the end of the spring and lasted until the autumn. Between April and August 1918 and October 1918 and April the following year, the devastating epidemic took the lives of over 200,000 people in Spain and millions of others all over the

world.

In Malaga, the figures in studies differ because detailed records were not kept at the time. It is said that there were 1,500 deaths but in reality there could be many more. At least ten times that number caught Spanish flu in this provin-

ce, but the lack of reliable statistics makes it difficult to give an exact figure.

In the first period of the epidemic the health authorities reacted quite quickly, but in the second one, which started in the autumn of 1918 and lasted until the spring, the consequences were much more relevant and devastating, possibly because once the first epidemic was over, those in charge hadn't expected the Spanish flu to return.



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▲ **Book.** The late Jesús Castellanos co-authored the study 'Illness and social crisis; the flu in Malaga (1918)'. :: SUR



An excellent piece of research on 'Illness and social crisis; the flu in Malaga (1918)' which was published by Malaga university in 1985, explains in detail what that pandemic in the province actually signified. It is the work of Juan L. Carrillo, Jesús Castellanos and María Dolores Ramos.

The illness known as Spanish flu (1918-19) was the worst pandemic in memory, and was even more virulent than the Black Death of 1349. The flu, which seems to have started in Kansas (USA), spread rapidly around the world and resulted in at least 50 million deaths. It arrived in Spain in the spring of 1918, left behind a long list of fatalities (between 150,000 and 300,000, according to researchers) and affected eight million other people.

The epidemic began in Malaga in the first week of June. A second one began in October and lasted until the spring of 1919. The first one was the most serious, and affected 3,000 people.

The illness became known as Spanish flu not because it started in this country, but because Spain published more information about it in the press than any other. As Spain was a neutral country in the First World War, the news about

the epidemic was not censored. The nations involved in the war censored their press in order not to discourage their people any further, after so many lives had been lost during the fighting. The continual movement of troops from one place to another also favoured the transmission of the flu virus.

Where did it originate, exactly? Kansas, Peking? Nobody really knows, but if anything is certain about one of the most deadly pandemics in history, and despite the name it was given, 'Spanish flu' did not start in Spain.

The name "was due to rumours that the flu was caused by German agents who introduced pathogenic bacillus in Spanish tinned foods. This ignorance and the lack of real information during the fighting reinforced the fear," according to the French newspaper 'Libération' at the time. It did Spain no favours, especially as the country suffered the after-effects of the pandemic for a number of years.

In Malaga, the virus especially affected the poor people and most disadvantaged. Bad nutrition and lack of hygiene resulted in the infection causing more havoc. Most of the sick were treated at the Civil Hospital. The doctors there did their best to contain the contagion

In late July and August 2018 there were numerous cases in Malaga city and province

The poverty and overcrowded living conditions caused the virus to spread

but couldn't stop the epidemic taking the life of about 1,500 people in Malaga.

The authorities reacted late to the second epidemic. It was only when the number of people infected rose sharply that they set a budget for dealing with the flu, printed a leaflet with information about how to prevent contagion, created a police force specifically for health matters and set up a register of those affected.

The Great War was not the direct cause of the 'Spanish flu', but it did have a lot to do with it starting and spreading, because the proximity between barracks, "the promiscuity of the soldiers and the massive movements of troops and civilians due to the conflict could have increased it," according to the aforementioned French newspaper 'Libération'.

On the same lines, some researchers link the profile of the vic-

tims with the incidence of the Spanish flu virus among soldiers fighting on the front, because they believe that their immune systems were weakened by the stress of combat, inadequate nutrition and lack of hygiene, which increased the probability of contracting the lethal virus.

As is always the case, some people benefited from the poverty and misery of Spanish flu, and in this case many, especially in the USA, who had brought the new life assurance policies suddenly found themselves among the wealthy.

The companies paid out around 100 million dollars - the equivalent of 20 billion in today's money - in compensation after the pandemic. One significant case is "the death from flu of a German immigrant in the USA", as described in the book. His widow and son received a sum of money which they invested in property, and today his grandson is said to be worth billions of dollars. That grandson is also one of the most powerful people on Earth: his name is Donald Trump.

A twist of fate back in the early 20th century contributed in its own way to the fact that now, in 2018, he has one of the most dazzling fortunes on the pla-



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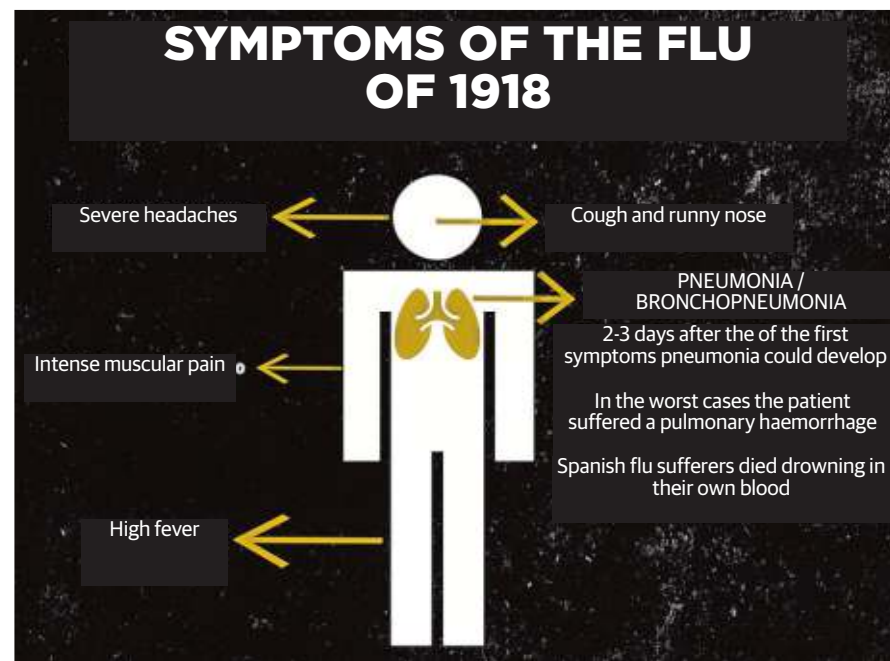
net and enormous political power as well.

Professor Silvia García Barrios, who has studied the history of the Civil Hospital and that of Dr José Gálvez Ginachero, says that in the early 20th century there were hardly any hospitals in Malaga city or province. In the years between 1900 and 1915 the precarious sanitary infrastructure was the main cause of the high mortality rate, which was greater than the national average.

A very scarce water supply, deficient drainage, narrow streets, the lack of trees, overcrowded population, rubbish accumulating in the streets and economic crises meant that begging and destitution increased.

As a result, there were repeated epidemics, illnesses such as smallpox, typhus, malaria, Malta fever, tuberculosis, flu and infectious illnesses in general. The continual movement of people from the countryside to the city aggravated the existing major housing problem, and the flu pandemic of 1918 and 1919 caused more than 1,500 deaths in Malaga.

To alleviate this difficult situation, Malaga had some important hospitals which still exist today, such as that of Santo Tomás, in the



city centre, which was founded in 1507 and rebuilt between 1888 and 1891. It is now a protected building and due to be restored.

Others have disappeared now, such as the Hospital Real de San Lázaro, founded in 1492 to attend to people suffering from leprosy, which was demolished in the early 20th century and of which only the chapel remains; the Convalescents' Hospital, which was privately owned, in the square of the same name, founded in 1571 and demolished in 1848; and the Hospital de Santa Ana, in the Plaza de la Merced, founded in 1502 and de-

molished in 1913.

Hospitals

One of the oldest charitable institutions of the city, which still remains today, was known first of all as the Hospital Real de la Caridad; it was created by the Catholic Monarchs in 1487. It later became the Provincial Hospital of San Juan de Dios, and nowadays we know it as the Civil Hospital.

It was the most important in Malaga

in the 19th century, and was the answer to the deficiencies at the old hospital of San Juan de Dios, in the city centre. It was run by the provincial government, and supported by members of the Malaga middle-class, including the Larios, Loring and Heredia families. At the time it received great praise, for example in an article published by La Tribuna in December 1918 which said: "The Provincial Hospital of Malaga can be said to be, without deviating from the truth in any way whatsoever, the best hospital in Spain after that of Bilbao".

Part of Donald Trump's fortune today, is a direct result of the Spanish flu of 1918

Today's Hospital Civil in Malaga used to be recognised as the second best hospital in Spain

Also very important for the city was the Noble Hospital, founded by the Noble family in 1870. At first it was run by a Board of Ladies, and it assisted people living in the area and sailors of all nationalities. This is where those injured in the incidents in Melilla (1893), those repatriated from Cuba and the Philippines (1898) and the victims of the shipwrecked frigate Gneisenau (1900) were treated.

At the time, these two were the only hospitals in the Malaga region and they played a vital role during the time of the epidemics.

Dr Gálvez Ginachero was a key figure in organising the fight against the Spanish flu epidemic in Malaga, together with a group of other local doctors. It should be remembered, however, that in 1918 José Gálvez Ginachero was not yet the director of the hospital; he was not appointed to that post until 1923.

The director of the Civil Hospital during the time of the Spanish flu was Alfonso Hurtado Janer, who had to deal with the epidemic a year after being appointed. Fernando Ruiz de la Herranz took over from him, but resigned after two weeks and it was then, in February 1923, that Gálvez Ginachero became the director.

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Indian experience for Lions diabetic support group

The group, which offers help and advice to English-speaking diabetics, raised 300 euros at the summer event

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

MIJAS. Members of the La Cala Lions Club's Diabetic Support Group enjoyed a relaxing but "hot" day at the Sai Indian restaurant recently. The Indian lunch was followed by a travel-themed quiz compiled by Graham and Dot, while the Indian atmosphere was enhanced by sitar music and dressing up in turbans. The raffle organised by Julie raised 300 euros.

The Diabetic Support Group's next meeting is on 31 August at Hogar, Calle Blanca Paloma 1, Fuengirola at 10.30am for 11am. Non-diabetics are also welcome to join the informative sessions, which focus on issues affecting sufferers of diabetes and their friends and families. The group also organises glucose-level screenings and invites experts to talk and offer advice. Contact 607879450 for more information.



Members of the support group get into the Indian spirit. :: SUR

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Good advice given on the beach

Protección Civil recommends ways for sunbathers to prevent heatstroke

✿ CRISTINA MORILLA

MARBELLA. "It normally starts with a headache and in some cases there may be difficulty in breathing, but if the person is rehydrated at that moment they will recover straight away. It can be a good idea, depending on whether or not they are diabetic, for them to have a sugary drink," says Jesús Eguía, a coordinator with the Protección Civil organisation, about the first signs of heatstroke.

Someone suffering from this problem may also experience vomiting or faint. "What you have to do is ensure that people don't get so dehydrated that they end up in hospital," he says.

The Protección Civil service has issued a series of recommendations about how to prevent heatstroke, especially on the beach.

"The aim is to prevent it happening. Some people feel as if they're going to faint after being in the sun for a long time. They feel fine while they are sitting or lying down, but then when they get up, after five hours in the sun, they feel very dizzy," says Eguía.

This campaign, or as he calls it "a combination of activities", is the result of a warning issued on 10 July all over Spain when the temperature reached 37°C. Jesús Eguía says that whenever this type of warning is issued, the organisation starts working on a series of measures and actions to combat the problem, which in this case was the extreme heat.

The campaign, which is mainly aimed at elderly people and children, because they are the ones who normally have more problems about keeping hydrated, is being carried out by 80 Protección Civil members who are qualified in first aid.

Although the recommendations



A lifeguard gives the information leaflets to two women. ✿ JOSELE-LANZA

are partly aimed at elderly people, Jesús Eguía admits that the campaign does not include the possibility of visiting them at home and informing them of the measures. "That isn't down to the Protección Civil. The Social Services or other departments are responsible for that," he says, "but normally it is families who should ensure that their elderly relatives are coping alright with the heat".

Leaflets

The lifeguards approach people on the beaches and offer advice such as drinking water every half an hour or applying sun protection cream regularly. Jesús Eguía says the sunbathers are normally receptive to the advice.

"They usually say they already know, but doing it is another matter and although people may be aware it is important to remind

them, especially if they are elderly or children. Prevention is the most important thing, because when the problem occurs it is more difficult to resolve it," he explains.

The advice is not only given in person, but via leaflets which the lifeguards give out to people on the beach. The leaflets also contain other useful information, such as what to do if stung by a jellyfish.

HOW TO PREVENT HEATSTROKE

► **Drink water.** It is essential to be well hydrated and drink water even if you don't feel thirsty.

► **Wear a hat.** It is important to protect the head, which is one of the most delicate areas.

► **Alcohol.** Alcohol consumption increases the risk of heatstroke because of its vasodilatory effect.

► **Comfortable clothing.** It is advisable to wear cool, comfortable clothing on very hot days.

► **High risk times.** It's best not to go outside when the sun is at its strongest, between noon and 4pm.

► **Shade.** On days when the heat is intense, stay in cool and shady places.

► **Symptoms.** If any symptom occurs, tell one of the lifeguards. Heatstroke can be serious and in some cases needs to be treated in hospital.

Between 20 June and 31 July they dealt with 26 cases of dizziness or faints due to heatstroke, and two people had to be admitted to hospital. They were all elderly, according to information from the Protección Civil.

The organisation works in coordination with others and is in permanent contract with the 061 emergency department and with hospitals.

"We try to keep in touch constantly in case we have a problem and need to bring someone for treatment. However, in most cases if the person sits down for a while and is rehydrated they can go home once they feel better. Also, for something like heatstroke, many people are very reluctant to be taken to hospital," says Eguía.



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DIGIT. X - RAYS | BONE DENSITY
ULTRASOUND SCAN

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The patient who weighed 300 kilos has lost 100 and can now have his operation

The gastric surgery for his obesity is scheduled to be carried out on 14 September at the Clínico Universitario hospital in Malaga

MALAGA. When Juan José went into the Clínico Universitario hospital on 19 March, he weighed about 300 kilos; now, five months later, he weighs 198. He has become much thinner thanks to the food they give him at the hospital, where he was admitted to improve his health and prepare him for the bariatric surgery, or obesity operation, which he was to undergo but for which he needed to lose weight first. He now has a date for the surgery: 14 September.

Juan José, who is still at the hospital, says he most values being able to walk again. "I feel very well. I am more mobile now. I have lost about 100 kilos in five months," he says. "When I arrived at the hospital I couldn't even turn over in bed. They had to lift me with a hoist. Now I can get up on my own and I walk around the ward every day. I also do exercises in the physiotherapy gym here."

This 52-year-old has been prescri-



Juan José, at the Clínico hospital. :: NITO SALAS

bed special food by the hospital's nutrition experts, so he can lose the weight he needs before having the operation. The three cartons contain a compound with everything the human body needs, and it has very few calories. He also has two sachets of vitamins three times a day and two pieces of fruit daily. That makes him feel full, and sometimes he even finds it hard to eat it all. "My stomach has shrunk," he says. He is allowed to drink as much water as he likes.

Strict diet

As well as the strict diet, Juan José does exercises to become more agile and strengthen his muscles. Apart from the physio, he has to walk a certain number of paces every day, lift weights and do sit-ups to get his lungs and heart into shape before the operation.

"They are going to give me a gastric band, which is a rubber band that presses my stomach from the outside," he says. Sources at the hospital say that once he had been identified as morbidly obese, it was decided to offer him the type of bariatric surgery which most suits his needs.

Juan José has nothing but praise for the way he is being treated at the hospital. "I can only say thank

you to them, because they are fantastic to me. They are excellent professionals," he says. "I've changed an enormous amount in the past five months. When I arrived, every time I needed to go to a different part of the hospital there had to be several people to help me because I couldn't do it on my own. Now, though, I can walk and move about by myself. That is real progress".

When asked if he will remain at the Clínico until the operation, he says the doctors have suggested that he goes home because it would avoid the risk of picking up a nosocomial infection (the type that occurs in hospitals). "I'll do whatever my doctors think is best for me," he says.

His time in the hospital, where he had to be taken by eight firemen because he couldn't move, has improved his situation. His morbid obesity had kept him a prisoner at home. Juan José had lost his job in Alicante in the economic crisis and a day after he went back to his parents' home in Malaga, his father died. In addition to this blow, he suffered from depression which worsened when he stopped taking his medication.

"I felt so depressed. I spent a year in bed. I would get up sometimes to look after my mother; I would eat whatever I liked. When my mother died it got even worse and I just kept getting fatter," he says.

Now, though, things are very different. Juan José is much happier and can hardly wait for the operation which is going to change his life even more.

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N'Diaye gets past Campillo and scores Malaga's second and winning goal in minute 89 of the match in Lugo. :: LOF

SECOND DIVISION

Results		Next match	
Cádiz - Almería	1-0	Extremadura- Deportivo	
Albacete - Deportivo	1-1	Málaga - Alcorcón	
Elche - Granada	0-0	Numancia - Cádiz	
Lugo - Málaga	1-2	Reus - Zaragoza	
Alcorcón - Sporting	1-1	Las Palmas - Albacete	
Córdoba - Numancia	3-3	Córdoba - Oviedo	
Oviedo - Extremadura	1-1	Sporting - Gimnástico	
Mallorca - Osasuna	1-0	Osasuna - Elche	
Zaragoza - Majadahonda	2-1	Granada - Lugo	
Las Palmas - Reus	2-0	Almería - Tenerife	
Gimnástico - Tenerife	1-1	Majadahonda - Mallorca	

League table									
TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GC	PT		
1. Las Palmas	1	1	0	0	2	0	3		
2. Málaga	1	1	0	0	2	1	3		
3. Zaragoza	1	1	0	0	2	1	3		
4. Cádiz	1	1	0	0	1	0	3		
5. Mallorca	1	1	0	0	1	0	3		
6. Córdoba	1	0	1	0	3	3	1		
7. Numancia	1	0	1	0	3	3	1		
8. Albacete	1	0	1	0	1	1	1		
9. Alcorcón	1	0	1	0	1	1	1		
10. Deportivo	1	0	1	0	1	1	1		
11. Extremadura	1	0	1	0	1	1	1		
12. Gimnástico	1	0	1	0	1	1	1		
13. Oviedo	1	0	1	0	1	1	1		
14. Sporting	1	0	1	0	1	1	1		
15. Tenerife	1	0	1	0	1	1	1		
16. Elche	1	0	1	0	0	0	1		
17. Granada	1	0	1	0	0	0	1		
18. Lugo	1	0	0	1	1	2	0		
19. R. Majadahonda	1	0	0	1	1	2	0		
20. Almería	1	0	0	1	0	1	0		
21. Osasuna	1	0	0	1	0	1	0		
22. Reus	1	0	0	1	0	2	0		

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Welcome last-minute points

Two goals at the end of the second half gave Malaga an unforeseen victory in their first game of the season in Lugo

1-2

LUGO-MALAGA

Lugo: Juan Carlos; Serge Leuko, Bernardo, José Carlos, Kravets; Iriome, Seoane, Carlos Pita (Sergio Gil, min.87), Juan Muñoz (Campillo, min.58); Cristian Herrera y Jona (Aburjania, min.67).

Malaga: Munir; Cifu, Luis Hernández, Pau Torres, Federico Rica; Alfred N'Diaye, Recio; Harper, Adrián González (Gustavo Blanco, min.60), Ontiveros (Juankar, min.46); y Renato Santos (Hicham, min.71).

Goals: 1-0, min.6: Cristian Herrera. 1-1, min.86: Juankar. 1-2, min.89: N'Diaye.

Árbitro: Areces Franco. Yellow cards to Lugo's Pita (min.41),Lugo; and Malaga's N'Diaye (min.68).

SUR

LUGO. Malaga CF left the football field with an unexpected victory in their first game of the season as new members of Segunda against Lugo.

It seemed at first that Cristian Herrera's goal early in the first half would lead to an easy win for Lugo playing at home in the Anxo Carro stadium.

It was in the last five of the game, however that Malaga managed to turn the scoreboard round in their favour, when goals came from Juankar and N'Diaye.

While Malaga's play was not brilliant they stuck to their guns and earned their three points with ambition and humility.

The win, putting them second

on the league table, will add to the enthusiasm of the thousands of fans heading to the Rosaleda stadium in Malaga for the Blue and Whites' first home game of the season, this evening (Friday 24th) at 10pm.

Speaking to the press on Thursday, head coach Muñoz warned that the side must not underestimate their rivals, the Madrid side, Alcorcón: "Alcorcón is a team with experience. They know the division. Their ideas are very clear. They are a dangerous rival."

He went on to say that to beat them Malaga needed to equal their rivals in their positive attitude and be patient. "The first game gave us a clear idea of what this category is going to be like, but this is just one game won with no more than a one-goal difference," he said.

With regard to his own feelings about his return to the Malaga ground, he said, "I don't feel like a new boy at La Rosaleda. I'll feel like any other supporter, pushing them towards their objectives."

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Dani Pacheco, whose name is already on the local football ground, displays his skills in front of youngsters in Pizarra. :: SALVADOR SALAS

Dani Pacheco, an idol comes home

Pizarra turned out in force for the original unveiling of Malaga's local signing

:: PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

MALAGA. Crowds of football fans and wellwishers packed into the Plaza del Ayuntamiento in the Guadalhorce town of Pizarra on Tuesday to welcome home a local hero. Dani Pacheco, 27, has signed a three-year contract with Malaga CF and, instead of an official unveiling in the city, he opted to dress for the first time in his new blue and white strip in front of his family, friends and fellow 'Pizarreños'.

Local youngsters lined up to watch the player as he emerged from the town hall after the official unveiling event, juggling a ball with

his feet and showing his delight at his new post close to home.

Earlier, in the council chamber, surrounded by reporters, photographers, relatives, the local mayor Felix Lozano and town councillors, the attacking midfielder expressed his satisfaction and gratitude.

"I couldn't be happier. Since I left [Pacheco went from the Barcelona youth academy to Liverpool, Norwich, Rayo Vallecano, Huesca, Alcorcón, Betis, Alavés and Getafe] this is the first real chance I've had to come home and it wasn't easy. It went on for days. I'm grateful to the club for its efforts. Caminero [the sports di-



Dani with his grandmother. :: S. S.

rector] knows there were many calls and conversations. I wanted to be here and the club wanted me to be here," said the player.

Wearing the number 22 on his back, Pacheco is seen as something of a good omen, after four teams he has played for were promoted to top divisions while he was in their ranks: Betis, Getafe and Alavés in Spain and Norwich City in the UK.

"I'm sure [getting promoted] with Malaga would be even more special," he said on Tuesday, before signing autographs and taking photographs with the fans who braved the heat to welcome him home.



Koné, on Wednesday. :: S. S.

New signing Koné says he's "here to stay" and wants to see Malaga promoted

:: CARLOS CONTRERAS

MALAGA. The 26-year-old striker Mamadou Koné was unveiled as Malaga's new number 24 at La Rosaleda stadium on Wednesday. The Ivory Coast player has come on loan with an option to buy from first division Leganés, as part of the transfer deal for En-Nesyri.

He said he already felt at home at his new club. "I've come to stay for many years and I'd love to play with Malaga in the first division," said the footballer.

Nither Koné nor Pacheco have been officially registered as players yet, however, due to the salary cap regulations which mean that some of the other players with contracts who the club is trying to sell must go first. It seemed unlikely on Thursday that the situation would be resolved in time for the newcomers to play against Alcorcón at La Rosaleda.

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Ten of the 11 team members (Natalia, who is Mexican, had not yet arrived because of visa problems) with Miriam, Celia, Marta, Patricia, Armisa and Stefany (in the back row); Mayara, Leticia, Dominika and Minori (in front). :: PHOTOS: NITO SALAS

Goals for the new season

The Malaga women are optimistic and ambitious about their season in the country's first division

:: PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

MALAGA. As Malaga's women's football team completed their third training session of the pre-season earlier this month, the club organised a media day. This provided an ideal opportunity to find out how the team are feeling and what their expectations are for the forthcoming season, which starts on 9 September at home against Atlético de Madrid.

They almost all thought the same, confirming that a great team has been put together and they are only thinking about keeping up in the Iberdrola League in future seasons. We asked eight of the players, including some who live locally, stars of the last season and some of the most notable new signings, the same three questions.

THE QUESTIONS

1 What does Malaga aspire to this season, having just returned to Spain's elite?

2 What do you think about the new members of the team?

3 Have any of your fellow players struck you as being particularly impressive in these first training sessions?

Chelsea

1. With regard to returning to the first division the first thing we have to think about is keeping up at the top. I believe we have the team and technical side to enable us to be among the first eight. Working every day, I think we can achieve a good result and put the team where it deserves to be.

2. Obviously there is more competition now. We have to work much harder, knowing that the 11 new girls are from the highest category and are very experienced. That's a good thing for us. Now we have to learn to work as a team with them.

3. Maybe Miriam, she is a player with incredible quality, experience and professionalism, although we are all going in the same direction.

Patricia

1. This is a team which works very professionally. It's true that we only went up recently, but I believe that we are going to gain respect in the League thanks to our coach and the work we are doing.

2. There is a good combination of youth and experience and we all want the same thing. I see a very competitive team, with two or three players per position, so it's



Minori

going to be difficult but very good.

3. I don't know them all very well, but I am impressed by the youngest members in the team, who are really keen. That's very important, they transmit their enthusiasm to the rest of us.

Encarni

1. The work is going very well. There is competition but it is healthy, not an unpleasant rivalry. I think we are going to do well this season. None of the matches is going to be easy and we'll have to see how they go one by one, but apart from fighting to stay in the division we are going to fight for an objective.

2. This group is just as competitive as last year's. We have to work together, like a family.



Patricia and Dominika

3. Dominika, who we call 'Domi', because of her physical potential, and Miriam, because of her calmness and her experience, which helps the rest of the team a great deal.

Adriana

1. Anyone who says we'll have to fight to stay up doesn't know this team. We will battle for this with teeth and nails and go as high as we possibly can.

2. Obviously, many of the girls already have experience in Primera, which is where everyone wants to be. It's what Antonio [Contreras, the coach] wanted, to introduce more competition, and I think they have achieved that well. In the end competition is good for the players, we need to

win our place. Nobody can rely on getting one.

3. I have known some of the players from other teams, but what impresses me most is the intensity. Antonio Contreras' teams are known for that.

Pamela

1. Obviously, one of our principal objectives is permanence. It will be a difficult championship, especially because of the rhythm, but if we keep up the intensity we show in the training sessions, maybe we can aspire to go very high.

2. There is more experience now. The new players have come from Primera. There is healthy competition, and that strengthens the team. It's all going to go well, because now we have more young players and fewer veterans, apart from Adriana and one or two others.

3. All the players have very good qualities. It would be difficult to single one out, because they all have a really good attitude.

Miriam

1. Seeing how things are right now I don't think we are 'fighting' to stay up, although it's true that the Primera is more competitive and harder every year. We have a very good team and with the work we are doing I think we could surprise a few people.

2. I think there is a very good mixture of youth and experience. There is enthusiasm, a willingness to work and to learn, and that's important. It generates competition, so the better players are always under pressure and the others are always trying their best.

3. I had already come across Dominika, so I knew how good she is, so the one who has surprised me most is Armisa, who has a spectacular potential and is going to contribute a great deal to the team.

Postigo

1. We're not just going to fight to stay where we are. This is a competitive team. A lot of the new players have experience in the elite and our batteries are charged and ready to go.

2. There are some players with maturity, others are very strong and powerful and in the short time since we started training the enthusiasm is obvious. I hope we can make a lot of people happy.

3. They are all great players but Miriam, with her experience and tranquility, gives us a lot of security. She will contribute a great deal, but then so will we all.

Ruth

1. The main objective is permanence, but we are a demanding team and any challenges that come our way are welcome.

2. Some of those who have come are very experienced and that makes us more competitive and stronger. We are all going to benefit from this.



A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports
@robbopalmer



Crazy decisions in Spanish football

So often I get asked about the difference between La Liga and the English Premier League.

The answer is always the same "Spain may have the most iconic players on the planet but England has the most organised and best marketed league in the world."

The Spanish football decision-makers have surpassed themselves this summer with a series of very odd decisions, and that's putting it mildly!

The players are rebelling and the clubs mystified by the decision to take a regular season game to the United States. Exactly what game or when is vague. The clubs are complaining and the players threatening to strike.

I mentioned in these pages how I was tempted to take in a pre-season game in Miami this summer until I realised that the cheapest ticket was \$78. When we headed to Washington DC there was even a van driving around the capital advertising the Real Madrid game with Juventus on a billboard. I suggest there may be more trouble ahead.

This is just the latest bizarre decision. There were headlines about Real Madrid's lowest attendance in ten seasons on the opening weekend. Some put it down to Ronaldo's sale, others put it down to the midnight finish. The reasoning for the 22.15 kick off at the Bernabeu and

La Liga players are rebelling against the bizarre deal to play one regular game this season in the United States



Representatives of the Spanish footballers' union (AFE) held a meeting on Wednesday at which they expressed their indignation at the decision to play a league match in the States. :: EFE

the Nou Camp was the summer heat. It didn't prevent other games starting at an earlier time.

It is true that the loss of Ronaldo is a blow for La Liga. His best days as a footballer may be just behind him but he is still box office. For the first time in many years there is an imbalance in Galácticos. For the best part of a decade

we've enjoyed Ronaldo v Messi, before that Ronaldinho v Beckham, Figo v Zidane and before that the original Ronaldo v Raúl. If they are keen to take the Spanish game to the USA they need a Hollywood star and that is CR7.

When America tried to sell basketball to the Europeans they sent over the Harlem Globetrotters.

Meadowlark Lemon and co filled the stadia with their personality. La Liga needs such characters and I'm not convinced Gareth Bale sells those seats at a starting price of \$78.

It's not the only decision to take the game away from the Spanish mainland. The Spanish Super Cup was exported to Morocco after weeks of negotiation. There was

mass confusion, Sevilla issued an official complaint, Barcelona manager Ernesto Valverde was perplexed by the status of the game and how many of his 'non EU' players he could select.

Remember when the trophy was presented to Barcelona last season? The week before there had been a ten-minute turn around at Manchester City from the end of the game to allow the podium to be erected and ribbon tied to the Premier League trophy. At the Camp Nou a DJ played his decks in a blacked-out stadium for an eternity while they organised the Spanish equivalent.

I don't want to get involved in the politics of how the game is now viewed by fans in the UK and Ireland. After twenty-three seasons of games being broadcast on satellite television a new deal was cut last summer. The fact is though that enthusiasts can no longer see matches on a TV screen and must squint to see it on the screen of a phone or laptop as coverage is now only available on the internet.

So as I always say, we can argue about which league is best but there's no argument about which one markets the products globally and which one keeps scoring own goals with some whacky decisions that appear to take the product away from the fan base.

POLO HEATS UP IN SOTOGRANDE

This year's International Polo Tournament, the 47th, is reaching its climax at the Santa María Polo Club in Sotogrande. There has been action on the field every day this week, with more to come for the rest of this month. The Gold Cup finals take place next weekend, on Friday 31 August and Saturday 1 September. On Wednesday, La Indi-

ana, a team captained by Michael Bickford, beat rivals Dubai Polo Team in a tense match (pictured right) which finished 12-11. The victory wins them a place in the high handicap Maserati Gold Cup semi-final which will be played on Tuesday. In the middle handicap competition on Wednesday Golden Goose beat Royal Salute.



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Top cyclists kick off their tour of Spain in Malaga province

The peloton of the Vuelta a España will wind its way across 280 kilometres taking in the Costa del Sol and inland areas during the first four stages of the tour

■ MARINA RIVAS

MALAGA. The 'Vuelta' never forgets Malaga. In fact, this is the 30th time that the famous international cycle race will pass through the province, after that first time in a difficult year (1936), which was only the second time it took place. This year three of the stages will be held in Malaga and the fourth will start in the province and head to Granada. These are three days which should definitely not be missed by lovers of this sport who want to see their idols close up, even if it is only for a few fleeting seconds.

Stage 1 (Saturday):

Malaga-Malaga (8 kilometres)

Only eight kilometres in length, but this first stage of the Vuelta a España through the city of Malaga will be pure tension. The race starts near the Pompidou Centre, on the Paseo Antonio Machado, and finishes in the Plaza de la Constitución.

This will be an individual trial (ITT), simply to designate the first leader of the race. The departure is scheduled for 5.26pm and the first cyclists are expected to cross the finishing line just ten minutes later, around 5.35pm.

Their city route will take them along the Paseo de la Farola, Paseo de Levante, then La Farola again, the Ciudad de Melilla promenade, Pablo Ruiz Picasso, Calle Rafael Pérez Estrada, Paseo Salvador Rueda, Calle Ferrándiz, Victoria, Plaza de Jesús El Rico, the Tres Gracias foun-

tain in the Paseo del Parque and finally the city's Calle Larios to end at the Plaza de la Constitución.

Stage 2 (Sunday):

Marbella-Caminito del Rey (163.5 kilometres.)

There are three high points in this stage, the Puerto de Ojén (km. 7.5), the Alto de Guadalhorce (km. 91.1 and again at km 163.1) and the Alto de Ardales (km. 136.3).

This is the first full day of the Vuelta, and the first uphill section of the race.

Leaving from Marbella's Bulevar Príncipe Alfonso de Hohenlohe at 1.25pm, the cyclists will pass through Coín, Alozaina, Zalea, Pizarra, Álora, El Chorro and the Guadalhorce dam to reach the Alto de Ardales, before returning via Bermejo and El Chorro to finish at the Caminito del Rey.

The first racers are expected to arrive around 5.28pm at the Caminito del Rey visitors' centre. This is the second time this beauty spot in the heart of the countryside has been a finishing point for the Vuelta; the last time was in 2015.

Stage 3 (Monday):

Mijas-Alhaurín de la Torre (178.2 kms.)

The longest stage through Malaga province will begin at 12.50pm in Calle La Noria, in Mijas.

It is nearly 180 kilometres in length and will pass through Mijas, Marbella (and San Pedro



The peloton of the Vuelta passing the Caminito del Rey in 2015. ■ NITO SALAS

Alcántara), Ronda, El Burgo, Yunquera, Alozaina, Coín, Mijas again, Benalmádena, Torremolinos and then finish in Alhaurín de la Torre. This is the first time Alhaurín has been the finishing point for the Vuelta, and the winner of this third stage is expected to arrive around 5.26pm.

This stage crosses two mountain passes, the Puerto de Madroño at km. 45.6 and the Puerto del Viñento, at km 85.

This route is classified as medium mountain, and it will provide the cyclists with one of the few occasions this year when they are able to battle it out in a sprint to the finish at the end of the day.

Stage 4 (Tuesday):

Vélez-Málaga-Alfácar (161.4 kms.)

Cycling fans in Vélez-Málaga will also be able to enjoy their moment of glory, thanks to the fact that a stage of the Vuelta will be beginning there for the first time.

This will also be the last day the

Malaga province is ready for the event

This year's Vuelta a España was launched in front of the world's sporting media in the Roman theatre, in the shadow of Malaga's Alcazaba castle, on Thursday evening. Beneath sparkling Costa del Sol sunshine, the excitement around the next few days of cycling spectacle around Malaga province was palatable. The presentation of teams gave the public

the first chance to get used to who will be competing. However earlier in the day a more technical gathering of the teams took place at the provincial authority's Térmica cultural complex. Pundits said that this year's La Vuelta, as it is now more formally called, is the most open Grand Tour in years. With defending champion Chris Froome and Tour de France winner Geraint Thomas both missing, commentators were looking forward to discovering fresh cycling talent.

cyclists are in Malaga province.

They are due to set off from Avenida de las Naciones at 1pm, but the finishing line is in Granada province. After passing through Torrox and El Morche, in the opposite direction to last year, Nerja will be the final town in Malaga province which the multicoloured

snake of the peloton will pass through before reaching Granada via Almuñécar.

After more than 160 kilometres, the cyclists' finishing point will be in a place which is completely new to them: Alfácar, in the Sierra de Alfaguara.

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Fourth Tuesday, Miraflores Club, Marbella, 11.30 a.m. 952833568/ 647054945
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Cancer support group. 662446388 Facebook & cancersucksspain@outlook.com
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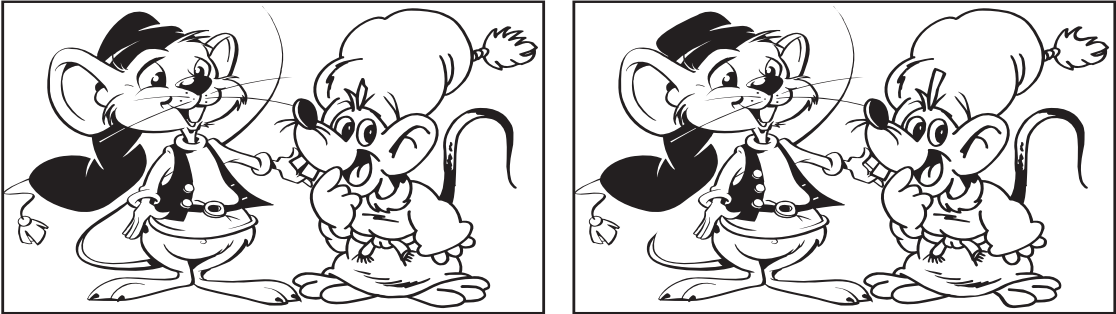
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THE STARS

- 

Aquarius
January 21 - February 19
Your finances need careful attention. These could be tied up with an unsettled time at home.
- 

Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Be a bit gutsier when it comes to taking charge, especially of your finances. A sloppy attitude could lose you a lot.
- 

Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Seeing that the only solution is to compromise can be annoying. Even so, a flexible solution is better than a broken one.
- 

Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Help from above comes in a tricky week full of compromises. Listen to advice and then make your own decisions.

- 

Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
A loved one demands more attention than usual and you wonder why. Could they have a worry of their own?
- 

Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
In a week of chatter and sorting out differences, hope rises. Relationships come and go but one seems to be particularly strong.
- 

Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
People always enjoy your company but this weekend you feel that being alone is of more value.
- 

Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
A bit of loving pressure at the weekend could see you making a long-term decision.
- 

Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
When it comes to work determine to be flexible and accept disruptions with grace.

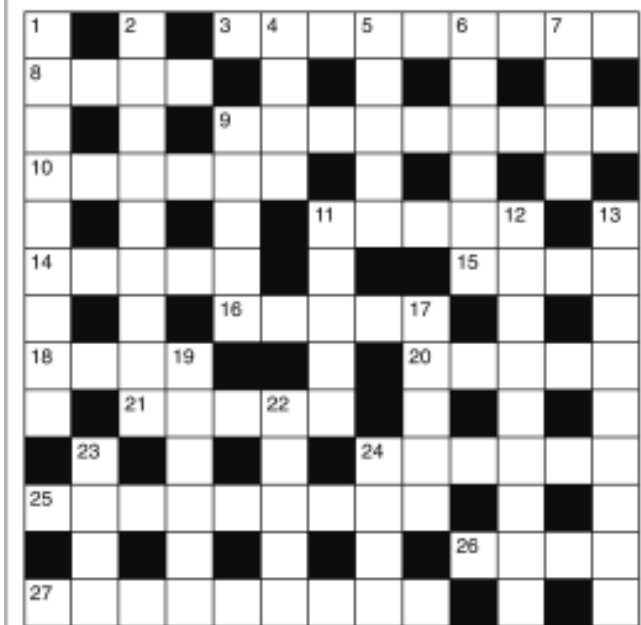
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Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Someone who has been annoying over a period of time really makes you lose your patience.
- 

Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
It is a time for making agreements and some tricky negotiations. Keep the mantra in your mind that 'I can do it!'
- 

Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
You have something that someone else wants. The question is, can you gain anything to balance that out? Take your time.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11309



- Across**

3 He's a fool to obstruct the chief (9)

8 & 9 Ac Enough space to inspire? (4,2,7)

9 See 8 Across

10 Country garden near the south-west (6)

11 Five housed in a dreadful hole - a slum (5)

14 & 17 Dn Insurance needed for the Liberal Democrats? (5,5)

15 Pay attention to a short message (4)

16 Musically overpitched (5)

18 Cotton wool taken from a hospital in town (4)

20 See 26 Across

21 The age of deliberate destruction is trodden underfoot (5)

24 More than one federal member makes an announcement (6)

25 Not entirely how one shows preference (9)

26 & 20 Ac Spy at large! (4,5)

27 Fellow reacts strangely to Yorkshire town (9)
- Down**

1 & 2 Dn Entertainers indulging in irritable exchanges? (5-4,9)

2 See 1 Down

4 & 11 Dn Their loan will be revised by Richard (4-5)

5 Load the vehicle and get under way (5)

6 A harbour round the East is an idyllic place (6)

7 It's a distressing feeling being kept in by teachers (4)

9 Is inclined to terminate in back street (5)

11 See 4 Down

12 Adores a politician - that produces a romance (4,5)

13 He samples what goes to pot (9)

17 See 14 Across

19 One needs discretion in charge of certain play (6)

22 Friends after ring - containing these? (5)

23 A bit of painted adornment round the wall (4)

24 Could it be the sole source of gin? (4)

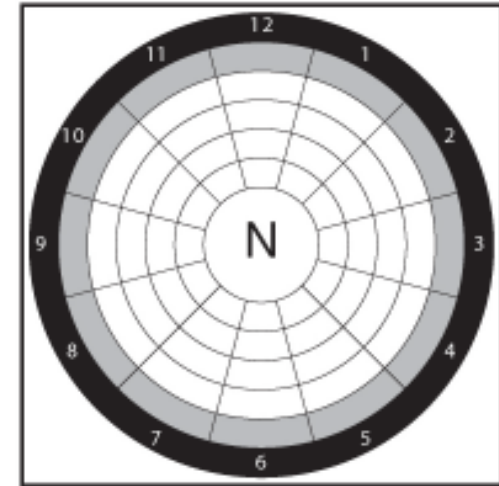
SUDOKU BY HANZO

Instructions
Complete the square making sure that every row of nine numbers includes all digits from 1 to 9, every column includes all digits from 1 to 9 and every 3 by 3 subsection includes all digits from 1 to 9

1							3	
		9		1			4	2
5	2			6	4			7
				2	8			
	9	2			3	8	7	5
	5			7			1	
	1				6	9	8	
	3		7					
8	4			3			5	

CLOCKWORD

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter N in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a famous missionary.



- Young girl
- U.S. state
- Scottish kilt material
- Occur
- Order
- Dried grape
- Man's head-dress
- Flag
- Keep
- Football team
- Planet
- Deed

THE WORDPUZZLER

A	G	L	A	B	F	E	R	O	K
D	A	M	G	I	O	R	B	W	U
E	P	I	R	A	X	U	L	H	G
A	R	B	E	V	E	L	I	A	N
D	A	N	E	A	S	C	O	L	D
O	J	A	N	E	T	H	I	E	R
R	U	M	E	C	H	U	R	S	I
E	N	I	L	E	A	M	P	O	N
V	E	R	L	I	M	A	T	C	H
L	T	G	O	Y	P	N	I	K	T

Can you identify the words missing from the Bette Davis film titles listed below?

- The Corn Is ---
- The --- of August
- What Ever Happened to Baby ---
- Of --- Bondage
- All About ---
- Three on a ---
- Death on the ---
- The Little ---
- Ringer
- Bride

INTERNATIONAL RADIO

- Talk Radio Europe**
105.5 Axarquía
91.5 Costa del Sol East
91.9 Costa del Sol West
98.7 Gibraltar/Sotogrande
News, interviews, lifestyle, sport and BBC World Service.
- Spectrum** (105.5 FM, Costa Almeria/Mojácar 92.6 FM)
24 hour music and entertainment
- Radio Mijas** (107.7 FM)
3 p.m. News, views and music
- Radio Sol Almjara** (99.1 FM)
Nerja radio in English and German and night time World Radio Network
- Heartfmspain** (88.5 FM Costa, 96.1 FM inland) Music, entertainment, news
- Lick FM** (103.6 FM Marbella)
Urban music broadcast between Gibraltar and Calahonda
- Rtv Puebla** (107.7 FM)
Monday evenings, Rock music memories. 7 - 9pm. email: radiopuebla.musicmemories@yahoo.com
Fb: Radiotelevision Peubla de Cazalla
- Global** (93.6 and 96.4FM)
All week round the clock music and entertainment
- Radio Radio Network** (96 and 98.3 FM). Music 24 hours.
- Central FM** (98.6 FM, 103.8)
All week, classic tracks and today's music broadcast to the Costa del Sol
- ACE FM** (106.8 FM)
Inland radio, news and music
The Beat fm (106 FM)
24 hours, music and entertainment

QUIZ

QUESTION 1

Which nationality was the polar explorer Roald Amundsen?

- Danish
- Swedish
- Noregian
- American

QUESTION 2

Which year marked the end of British rule on the Indian subcontinent?

- 1946
- 1947
- 1938
- 1939

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across
- Down
- 1) To drive (8)

4) Skills (11)

12) Salt (3)

13) Sponsor (12)

16) To massacre (8)

17) Three (4)

19) Racing driver (6)

21) Car (5)

22) Manufacturer (10)

24) Ugly (f) (3)

26) Laps (7)

28) Frame (5)

29) Embers (5)

31) To record (6)

34) Bend (5)

36) Anchor (5)

37) Pomegranate (7)

39) To grate (6)

41) Grand Prix (4,6) (10)

44) Podium (5)

45) He imitates (5)

46) Tuna (4)

47) Deaf (f) (5)

48) Opportunity (11)

49) Effort (8)
- 1) Competition (11)

2) Behind (6)

3) The letter C (2)

5) Motor racing (13)

6) Flame (5)

7) I gave (2)

8) To diversify (12)

9) Safety (9)

10) Shortcut (5)

11) If (2)

14) Glass/drink (4)

15) Chequered flag (7,1,7) (15)

16) Finish line (4)

18) To dig out (7)

20) To call (6)

23) Nor (2)

25) To level (7)

27) Hungary (7)

30) Championship (10)

32) To overtake (9)

33) Speed (9)

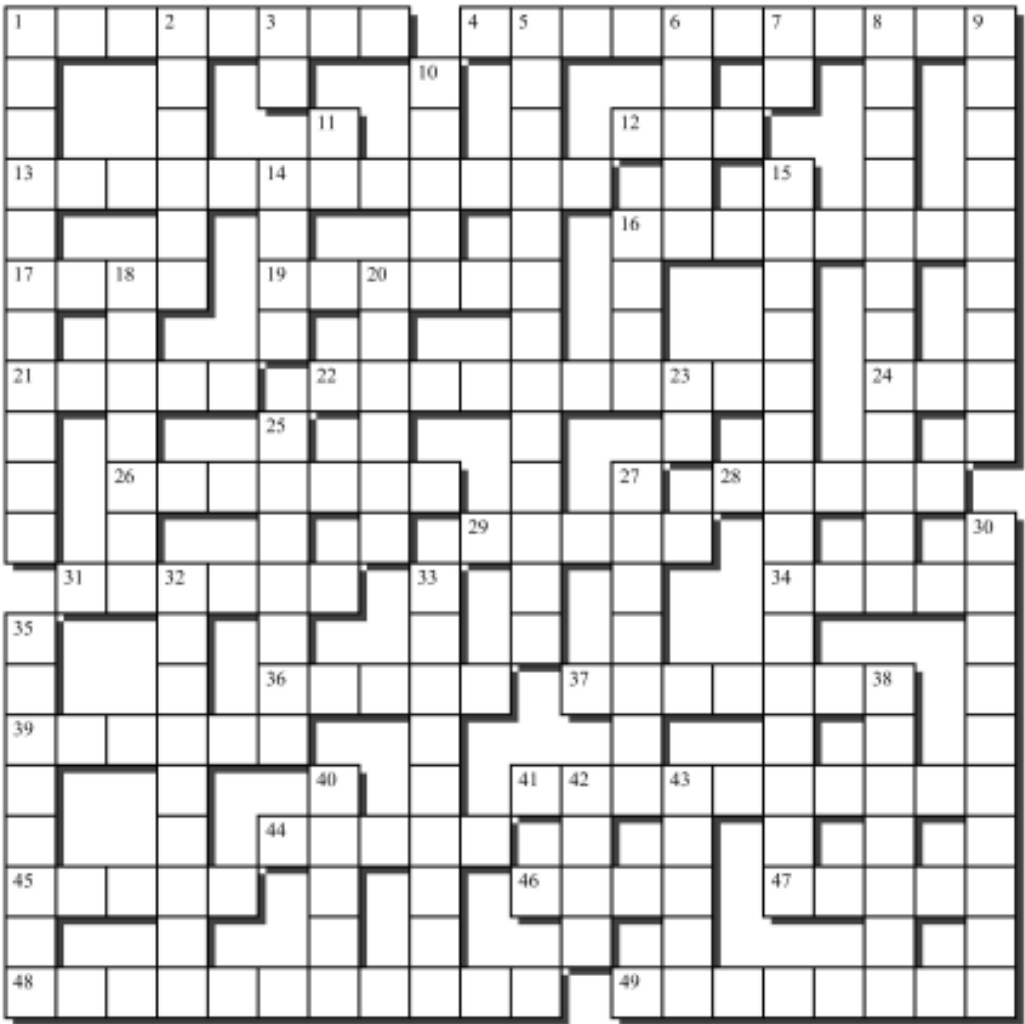
35) Circuit (8)

38) To admire (7)

40) Young (5)

42) Challenge (4)

43) Kids (5)



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

Answer 1: Norwegian
Of interest: Roald Amundsen (1872 - 1928) was an explorer of the North and South Poles. He led the first expedition to reach the South Pole and was the first person to visit both the North and South Pole.
Answer 2: 1947
Of interest: The period of British rule on the Indian subcontinent ran from 1858 to 1947 when the British provinces of India were partitioned into two sovereign dominion states: the Dominion of India and the Dominion of Pakistan.

Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 3 Blockhead; 8 Room; 9 To breathe; 10 Sweden; 11 Hovel; 14 Third; 15 Note; 16 Sharp; 18 Lint; 20 Agent; 21 Sabot; 24 States; 25 Partially; 26 Free; 27 Doncaster; Down: 1 Cross-talk; 2 Comedians; 4 Lion; 5 Cargo; 6 Heaven; 7 Ache; 9 Tends; 11 Heart; 12 Love story; 13 Teataster; 17 Party; 19 Tactic; 22 Opals; 23 Dado; 24

Clockword solution

SOLUTION: 1 Maiden, 2 Oregon, 3 Tarten, 4 Happen, 5 Enjoin, 6 Raisin, 7 Turban, 8 Ensign, 9 Helain, 10 Eleven, 11 Salum, 12 Action, FAMOUS MISSIONARY: Mother Teresa.

Wordpuzzler solution

1. Green
2. Whales
3. Jane
4. Human
5. Eve
6. Match
7. Nile
8. Foxes
9. Dead
10. June
L T G O Y P N K I
V E R L I M A T C H
E N I L E A M P O N
R U M E C H U R S I
O J A N E T H I E R
D A N E A S C O L D
A R B E V E L I A N
E P I R A X U L H G
D A M G I O R B W U
A G L A B F E R O K

Sudoku solution

8	4	6	9	3	2	7	5	1
9	3	5	7	8	1	4	2	6
2	1	7	4	5	6	9	8	3
3	5	8	6	7	9	2	1	4
6	9	2	1	4	3	8	7	5
4	7	1	5	2	8	3	6	9
5	2	3	8	6	4	1	9	7
7	8	9	3	1	5	6	4	2
1	6	4	2	9	7	5	3	8

Language Crossword

ACROSS:
1. CONDUCTOR 4. HABILIDADES 12. SAL
13. PATROCINADOR 16. MASACRAR
17. TRES 19. PUEBLO 21. COCHE
22. FABRICANTE 24. FIEBA 26. VUELTAS
28. MAJICO 29. ASQUA 31. GRABAR
34. CURVA 36. ANCLA 37. GRABAR
39. RALLAR 41. GRANDEMO 44. PODIO
45. MITA 46. ATUN 47. SORDA
48. OPORTUNIDAD 49. ESFUERZO
DOWN:
1. COMPETICION 2. DETRAS 3. E
5. AUTOMOVILISMO 6. LAMA 7. B
8. DIVERSIFICAR 9. SEGURIDAD
10. ALIO 11. SE 14. COPA
15. BANDERA 16. ACUADROS 18. MITA
19. EXCAVAR 20. LAMAR 23. NI
25. ALTANAR 27. HONGRIA
30. CAMPEONATO 32. ADIVINAR
33. VELOCIDAD 35. CUCHITO
38. ADMIRAR 40. JOVEN 42. RETO
43. NUNES

BOOK OF THE WEEK



The Right Intention
Andrés Barba

The Right Intention is a collection of stories by Spanish author, Andrés Barba. Nothing is simple for the men and women in his stories. As they go about their lives, they are each tested by a single, destructive obsession. A runner puts his marriage at risk while training for a marathon; a teenager can no longer stand the sight of meat following her parents' divorce; a man suddenly fixates on the age difference between him and his younger male lover. Andrés Barba is one of Spain's most lauded contemporary writers.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Dwell on the beauty of life. Watch the stars, and see yourself running with them

MARCUS AURELIUS

THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

We want to hear from you

How often does the news make you react in one way or another? How often do you make a comment to whoever happens to be in the same room? And what is the most common reaction? That something is silly, ridiculous, typical, boring or annoying? Or you might read something and think: that's nice, that's clever, that's interesting, that's a good idea or that's great news...

Whatever your thoughts, they are probably worth sharing with the rest of our readers.

We know that nowadays there's an

emoji for all of those aforementioned reactions and we can indicate how we feel without having to type a single word.

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**SAN PEDRO DE ALCANTARA
MARBELLA**

Poligono Industrial San Pedro. C/ Letonia, 8. San Pedro de Alcantara, Marbella, Malaga

Soaring through the sky - in a car

A Marbella car showroom is selling a vehicle which can fly at up to 180 km/h

ADRIAN MEDINA

MARBELLA. Marbella is a town in which many high end vehicles can be seen on display in showrooms, including some very exclusive models of which no more than a few hundred are produced in the world. Now, however, it is really excelling itself with its latest offer, a vehicle which travels on land and also in the air: the PAL-V Liberty Pioneer. This is the first flying car with a commercial licence in the world.

In recent years several companies have flirted with the idea of producing a hybrid vehicle capable of travelling on roads and in the air, but PAL-V is the first in the world to have achieved it. The car has a very aerodynamic design, similar to the cabin of a helicopter. At the back, on the roof and tucked away, are the propellers, which take between five and ten minutes to deploy completely. The company has a video on its YouTube channel which shows the entire process.

At present the PAL-V Liberty can be purchased from the Super Garage dealer in Puerto Banús. "They chose us because we have the most



The PAL-V Liberty Pioneer on display in the Marbella showroom. **SUR**

exclusive cars," says Malú Beltrán, one of the directors. These include the Ferrari LaFerrari and the Bugatti Veyron, which are worth between

one million and three million euros. Any company would need a wealthy clientele in order to interest them in a model such as the PAL-V.

Its price, however, is not as exorbitant as one might think. The model which was on display at Super Garage earlier this month, the

PAL-V Liberty Pioneer, costs about half a million euros. The company also has a more basic model for 300,000 euros.

During the two days it was on display in Marbella, several people expressed an interest in this flying car, including an Arab client who seems prepared to pay the half a million euros for one of these Pioneer vehicles.

Only 90 models of this version are being made, and they will be available next year.

Pilot's licence

However, having five or six zeros at the end of your bank balance is not enough to buy a PAL-V; you also need a pilot's licence. In other words, the purchaser will have to sit a theory exam, fly a certain number of practice hours and prove their knowledge of navigation, aircraft instruments and aerodynamics. Although the PAL-V has a steering wheel for use when driving on roads, when the time comes to take to the air the dashboard is a collage of buttons and measuring systems.

Both the Pioneer and the Sport model - the most economic version - have room for two occupants and three engines: one which is 100cv for the road, and two of 200cv for flying. The maximum speed is 100 km/h on land, with an autonomy of 3,500 kilometres, and 180 km/h in the air for 500 kms. With regard to height, it can fly at up to 3,500 metres, just like a real helicopter.

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