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2018

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SPECIAL

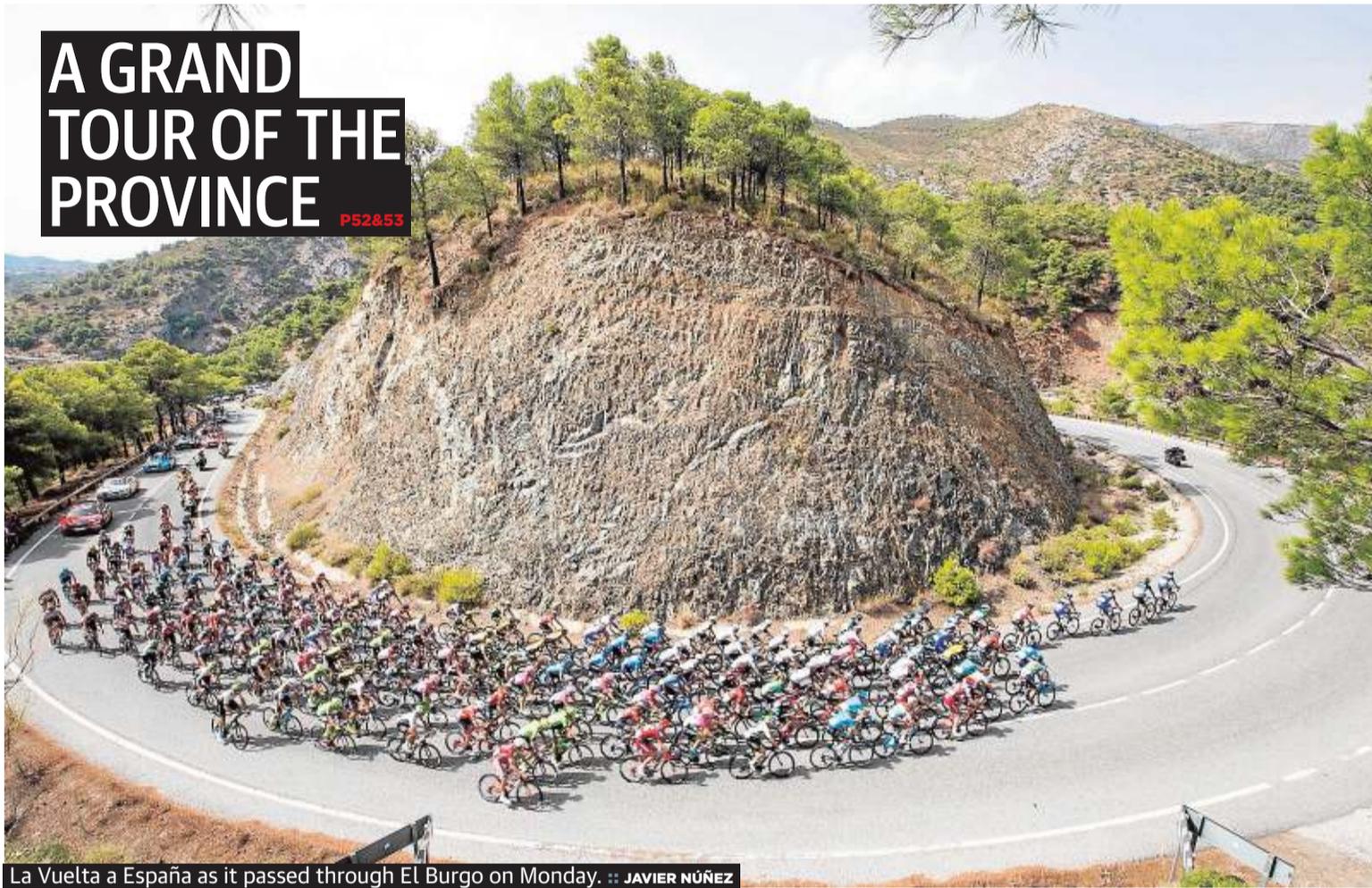
Raring to go? It's time to go back to school

Prepare yourself and your children for the first day back with this special SUR in English supplement **INSIDE**



A GRAND TOUR OF THE PROVINCE

P52&53



La Vuelta a España as it passed through El Burgo on Monday. :: JAVIER NÚÑEZ

Ryanair reported to the government over new hand luggage changes

Consumer groups say charging for cabin baggage contravenes Spanish legislation

Facua, along with other watchdogs in Spain, said that the airline's plans to charge eight to ten euros goes against aviation law that obliges airlines to take hand luggage in the cabin except where weight or size restrictions do not permit. **P3**

Malaga CF make it two wins from two after another last-gasp victory

After seeing off Alcorcón, there is still plenty of excitement to come on a busy deadline day **P50&51**



Spain's dream is ended by Japan again as the women's under-20 side come unstuck in the World Cup final **P49**

Banks want to keep customers out of branches, says watchdog

A users' association has warned that people who don't use the internet are being penalised with extra commission

Customers who prefer to do their banking over the counter report a growing sensation that they are unwelcome in their local branches. This is all part of a strategy to save costs,

say consumer groups. Fees are now attached to previously cost-free transactions if they are done in the branch rather than online, and times of day when utility bills can be paid in per-

son are being reduced. This is penalising customers who do not use the internet, says the bank users' association Adicae, and they tend to belong to the one of the most vulner-

able sectors of society, the elderly. In the last ten years the number of bank branches in the province of Malaga has been reduced by half to 787. The Spanish government is now planning to adapt legislation to the EU directive that limits account maintenance fees charged by banks to 36 euros a year. **P18**

A mystery solved. Malaga historian Isidoro Otero has discovered that Sir James Douglas' remains were buried near Teba **P14&15**

Marbella marina comes back to life. Business is booming at the Puerto Deportivo following a recent facelift **P2&3**

Navigating Moroccan souks and Canadian bears are the challenges that await in this month's Travel special **P24-30**

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Marbella marina comes back to life

The port has been given a facelift and waits for a new project that will connect it to the promenade

MÓNICA PÉREZ

✉ mperezg@diariosur.es

The berths in the Puerto Deportivo are now fully occupied and the turnover of the leisure activity firms has increased by up to 30 per cent

MARBELLA. Marbella's central marina is embarking on a period of much-needed change. The contract for the works to extend the quay to allow cruise ship shuttle boats and vessels of more than 30 metres in length to dock in the port has gone out to tender. And more improvements are to come with the project for the new "boulevard" link between the marina and the seafront promenade.

While these new projects are still taking shape though, the recent remodelling work carried out over the last 18 months is already paying off. The port area has had more than just a facelift. The nautical and commercial activity has recovered, turning the Puerto Deportivo Virgen del Carmen, to give its full name, into a must-see attraction for tourists.

"This isn't Puerto Banús, and it doesn't want to be. Marbella's marina has a different feel, it has its own ambience and an excellent location, which sets it aside from the rest," explains the manager of one of the nautical attractions based in the marina as he helps a group of tourists climb onto his fast boat.

It's a hot August afternoon but the scorching sun has not put off a group of friends from Madrid from seeking an "adventure" on the star attraction



The number of businesses running boat trips and water activities has increased. :: JOSELE-LANZA

of the summer: the Fly Boat.

While the business owners working in the marina agree that the summer season "has been slow to arrive this year", the numbers show that the Puerto Deportivo is doing well. The water activities' turnover this year is up 30 per cent, according to figures offered by the port's director, Javier Mejías, who puts another relevant number on the table: the occupation of the berths.

"Not only are we a hundred per cent full, but there is also a reservation list. This year there has also been a noticeable increase in boats changing hands," he explains.

The users of the Puerto Deportivo have traditionally been Spanish, although now owners of other nationalities who are already familiar with the area are starting to moor their boats there, according to Mejías, who speaks highly of the work carried out by the local council, through the municipal ports company, to "breathe life back into the area".

The list of the improvements carried out over the last few months is long. While none of the projects have been major, they have all helped boost the marina "which was primitive" as Pilar Rosas, spokesperson for the Association of Port Business Owners, points out.

"This isn't Puerto Banús and it doesn't want to be; the port has its own ambience that sets it apart from the rest"

ness Owners, points out.

"We need significant remodeling work and for the planned improvements to be carried out as soon as possible. The port can't go on with its back to the sea."

The opening up of the marina to the town will come with the construction of the new boulevard linking with the Paseo Marítimo promenade.

This is expected to cost around 600,000 euros, the plans have already been drawn up and the administrative process to obtain the relevant permits from the APPA (the Andalusian Public Ports Agency), which is part of the regional authority, has been initiated.

It was at the end of last year, though, that the first major project aimed at joining the marina with the town centre took place. The crea-

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tion of a large, pedestrianised square to improve movement between port and town. Some 144,000 euros were spent on this project which gave the area north-east of the port, opposite the lighthouse, a complete face-lift. Now the bars and terraces that populate the square are an attraction for tourists.

The pedestrianisation of the area included laying new paving slabs, adding urban furniture and lighting and renewing water and sewage pipes, among other work.

"This has seen the rebirth of the port. Where before only two business premises were occupied, now they are all full. Business owners have seen that the area has a future and have invested," adds Rosas, who called for a fast solution to the location of the car parks as well as the connection with the town.

"There are a lot of tourists who don't know that there's a port here. They look over from the Paseo Marítimo and all they see is a car park," she says.

In January the improvements were centred around the conservation and maintenance of the



One of the most popular attractions. :: J-LANZA



Tourists stroll inside the Puerto Deportivo. :: J-L.

pilings and beams that support the Levante quay. The work cost 50,000 euros and was the first phase of a project that continued with numerous embellishment tasks such as repairs to roads, planters and bollards as well as painting and maintenance, all of which has changed the port's image.

Within the next few months work will start on expanding the "waiting" quay with a platform with two eight-metre-long lay-by berths. A new footpath will lead as

far as the terraces. This extension will allow boats of more than 30 metres in length to moor there, as well as the shuttle boats from cruise ships.

"The objective set by the mayor is to turn the town's marina around so that it becomes a meeting point for locals and visitors, encouraging nautical attractions and activities in the bar area," said the councillor responsible for beaches and the port, Manuel Cardeña, adding that the aim was to make the marina a lively place during the day and at night.

Ryanair reported to the government by consumer group over hand-luggage plans

:: SUR

MALAGA. Consumers' group Facua has made an official complaint to the ministries for Infrastructure and Health over Ryanair's plans to change its hand baggage policy from 1 November.

Facua, along with other watchdogs, says that the move by the budget airline contravenes Spanish legislation.

Ryanair has said it will stop automatically storing hand luggage free of charge in the hold for non-priority customers. Instead passengers will pay around eight to ten euros to store a normal-sized piece of hand luggage in the hold or upgrade as priority passengers to take hand luggage in the cabin. A smaller, under-seat bag can still be taken on free of charge by everyone.

Groups in Spain say the policy goes against aviation law that obliges airlines to take people's hand luggage on board in cabins except where weight or plane-size restrictions do not allow it.

Ryanair has hit back saying that, "no airline allows passengers to carry all their suitcases into the aeroplane cabin".

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HERE AND THERE

'Las Kellys' mark their first annual Day as they continue to fight for improved conditions

MALAGA
:: V. BUSTAMANTE. Hotel room cleaning staff in Spain have a nickname for themselves, 'Las Kellys', which comes from a contraction of the phrase, "las que limpian" (those who clean). Last Saturday, 25 August,

was the first national Kellys Day, which was marked by demonstrations in cities including Malaga. A year ago the Kellys started their campaign for better conditions. The central complaint was that many had been transferred to outsourced companies by employers and so lost the rights of hotel staff. A local labour agreement solved this problem in Malaga this summer but they still want the rights enshrined in law. They also want a reduced workload and changed sickness rights.



Hotel bedroom cleaning staff protest in Malaga. **:: FÉLIX PALACIOS**

Big fines alert for unruly passengers on flights

MALAGA
:: P. MARTÍNEZ. Airport security officials at Aesa are trying to counter a rise in disruptive air passengers in Spain with a YouTube video in English and Spanish. Last year, incidents grew by 22% and authorities want to remind flyers that they can be fined up to 5,000 euros. Of the 326 people fined in 2017, 60 per cent were British, with the next position occupied by Spanish on just 16 per cent.

Cercanías lines see biggest growth in Spain despite missing Marbella link

The well-used service saw 11.45m passenger trips in the year to May, an increase of 4.5 per cent

IGNACIO LILLO
MALAGA. The two Cercanías lines for local trains, on the Costa del Sol and in the Guadalhorce valley, are continuing to attract record passenger numbers.

The well-used trains are the Cercanías services that have seen most growth in Spain, and now rank fourth among the networks of local rail lines around Spain's largest cities.

Between May 2017 and May 2018, 11.45 million trips were made on the two lines that join Malaga city centre with Fuengirola, via Malaga Airport, and with Alora. This was an increase of 4.5 per cent on the same period twelve months before.

The good results should be seen in the context of the limited coverage of the local network. Currently there are no firm plans to extend the line from Fuengirola into Mijas Costa and Marbella, as local authorities and business people have been calling for for many years.

Besides the problem of finding



Passengers waiting at a Malaga Cercanías station. **:: NIÑO SALAS**

funding, successive governments in Madrid have been unable to decide on the best way to extend the line. The previous conservative PP government was working on ideas for an extension of the existing Fuengirola line, while the incoming PSOE party, that also controls

the Junta de Andalucía regional government, has been more in favour of an entirely new, faster line from Malaga to Marbella.

With 455,000 more passengers in the year to May, Malaga province's Cercanías lines are, among the 14 big metropolitan areas, now

Cercanías on the Costa has even passenger demand each day of the week due to tourists

only behind those of Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia.

Madrid's are by far the most used, with 247.5 million journeys in the period, followed by 113.8 million in Barcelona. Valencia is in third place on 15.1 million, much closer to Malaga in numbers. The figures refer to state-rail-operator Renfe's local services and exclude city metros or Catalan regional-run lines.

Rail bosses have highlighted the even bigger demand each day of the week on the Costa del Sol line due to the influence of tourists. In contrast, other cities' lines see a big fall in passenger numbers at weekends and holidays. Moreover, Malaga's lines have a high percentage of foreign users for the same reason.

The peak period on Malaga's two Cercanías lines, C-1 and C-2, is Holy Week leading up to Easter.

Torremolinos July tourism figures put town ahead of other Costa resorts

TONY BRYANT
TORREMOLINOS. Figures released by the National Statistics Institute (INE) have revealed that Torremolinos receives more summer visitors than any other resort on the Costa del Sol. Figures for July show that the town saw an increase of 2.67 per cent compared with last year's figures. Between January and July of this year, Torremolinos was the chosen holiday destination for almost 600,000 visitors, making it the town's best tourism year since 2009.

Overnight hotel stays were also up by 0.96 per cent compared with July last year, and the average stay was 5.25 days, slightly higher than the 5.15 days recorded in the period from January to June.

With 118,823 visitors and 623,538 overnight stays in July, Torremolinos maintains its leadership as the preferred tourist destination on the Costa del Sol, beating Marbella, which received 96,119 visitors and 365,983 overnight stays, and Benalmádena, (68,465 visitors and 387,521 overnight stays). The majority of were Spanish (47,185) followed by British (21,728) and French (8,713).



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Reviewing your pension options in the face of Brexit

John McCann, Senior Partner, Blevins Franks

It makes sense for British expatriates to adapt their financial planning for their life abroad. By taking advantage of opportunities available for Spanish residents, you can potentially reduce taxation and gain more flexibility than UK-based alternatives.

Does the same apply to pensions: if you are permanently living in Spain, should you bring your UK pensions with you?

There is no right answer, as everyone will have their own set of requirements, plans and goals for their retirement.

However, it is likely that pension opportunities for expatriates in the EU will change once the UK leaves the bloc, so now is the time to review your options.

Leaving your pension in the UK

One option is to do nothing and access your UK pension from Spain.

If you have a defined contribution ('money purchase') pension, you can access your funds in various ways. You could, for example, take cash in one lump sum or several withdrawals, receive a regular

income until it runs out (drawdown) or purchase a lifetime income (annuity).

Defined benefit ('final salary') pensions, are company pensions that provide a regular income for the whole of retirement. While you cannot usually access benefits as cash, you can never run out of funds. On death, reduced lifetime payments are usually redirected to your spouse, if applicable.

If you have not started taking your defined benefit pension, you have the option to transfer benefits to a defined contribution scheme for more flexible access. Take care, however, as transferring could be less advantageous than receiving a guaranteed income for life.

Brexit implications

There is concern that some UK pension payments will stop next March in the event of a 'no-deal' Brexit. Under current rules, many UK financial providers may lose the right to operate within the EU, potentially making it illegal to pay benefits to Britons living in Spain.

However, this outcome can be avoided if new cross-border

arrangements are established in time. Many British retirees in non-EU countries like Australia and Canada are able to legally receive their UK pension today without any problems.

In any case, funds transferred to a QROPS will not be affected.

Also since UK pension payments are usually paid in Sterling, if you are living in Spain and spending mostly in Euros, you could find that conversion fees and the variable exchange rate reduces your pension income. As we have seen, the value of the British pound is vulnerable during these times of Brexit uncertainty.

Transferring your pension abroad

Residents in Spain can move UK pensions to a Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Scheme (QROPS) tax-free.

Doing this can provide flexibility to take your pension in the currency you need and freedom to pass on benefits to heirs other than your spouse. Funds would also be protected from future changes to UK pension rules that may adversely affect you.

Beware, however, that the UK imposes tax penalties of 25% if you transfer to a QROPS outside the EU/European Economic Area (EEA). With no approved QROPS in Spain, you would need to select an eligible scheme in an EEA country like Malta or Gibraltar to avoid losing a quarter of transferred funds to UK taxation. There are expectations that the UK could widen this taxation net to include EU-based QROPS post-Brexit.

Note also that the benefits of a QROPS vary greatly between providers and jurisdictions, so take specialist advice to determine the most suitable solution for you.

The tax implications

UK pensions (excluding UK government service pensions) are generally only taxable in Spain if you are Spanish resident. When taking UK lump sums, cash and income, the general income tax rates apply of up to 48% in Andalucía. The same tax treatment applies to QROPS withdrawals.

Depending on your situation, it may be more beneficial to reinvest your UK pension funds into an alternative tax-efficient structure that

is compliant in Spain.

Your pension is likely to be central to your long-term financial security, so it is crucial to take care and only use regulated providers. An adviser with cross-border expertise is best placed to help you establish the best approach for your circumstances and goals.

While there is no one-size-fits all answer for what to do with your pension, everyone can benefit from reviewing their arrangements now, before Brexit reshapes the landscape. With our pension experts, international tax advisers and investment team, Blevins Franks provide integrated advice on all your pensions options so you can make an informed decision for you and your family. www.blevinsfranks.com

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

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Junta to inspect Guaro care home after woman is killed by fellow resident

An 89-year-old woman died after being thrown to the ground and beaten by a man who has dementia and is prone to violent episodes

:: J. CANO / F. TORRES

MALAGA. The Junta de Andalucía is to conduct an inspection of the Residencia DomusVi Sierra de las Nieves care home in Guaro, it has been announced, following the death of an 89-year-old woman after she was thrown to the ground and beaten by a fellow resident.

The episode, which took place in the early hours of Sunday morning, was captured by CCTV which showed the victim wandering the

corridors, possibly disorientated, before attempting to enter the room of her alleged attacker.

The man, 84, who sleeps with restraints, had already freed himself and, upon discovering the woman, threw her to the ground before beating her. His roommate was also injured, albeit not seriously, in the incident.

The emergency services could do nothing to save the life of the woman who was pronounced dead at the scene.

The alleged aggressor was then taken to the Hospital Clínico in Malaga where he was stabilised ahead of a psychiatric evaluation. After being given the all-clear, he was taken into custody by the Guardia Civil and following a more exhaustive evaluation, carried out by the Malaga Institute of Legal Medicine (IML), he was sent to prison in Alhaurín de la Torre provisionally, according to the Andalusian high court, "in the absence of an appropriate psychiatric facility in the area".

ity in the area".

The Guardia Civil have taken control of the investigations and have interviewed staff as well as seizing the CCTV footage for further inspection. They will now try to determine how the man freed himself from the ties and was able to leave his room.

Staff at the residence, which houses 114 people, refused to comment on the situation out of "respect for the families and the investigation".



The entrance to the residence in La Loma, Guaro. :: FRANCIS SILVA

New complaint filed about Benalmádena care home

The family of an 88-year-old woman who died on 30 June after falling down the stairs at the Seniors de Benalmádena home (which experienced a scabies outbreak last month) have filed a complaint to the regional health authorities.

They claim that she was left unaccompanied in her wheelchair at the top of a flight of stairs with the safety barriers open.

112 REPORTS

Woman arrested over forced marriage

ESTEPONA

:: **EFE.** A 31 year-old Moroccan woman has been arrested in Estepona for forcing her 16-year-old daughter to marry a man 12 years her senior.

The young girl went to the police and told them that her parents had reached a financial agreement with the man and had also bribed an official to carry out the marriage ceremony in Morocco.

When she refused to travel to Morocco, her parents threatened to send her back and leave her there without documentation to return to Spain.

82-year-old man dies at Fuengirola beach

FUENGIROLA

:: **I. GELIBTER.** An 82-year-old man of Basque origin was pronounced dead at a beach in Fuengirola on Tuesday afternoon after lifeguards unsuccessfully attempted to resuscitate him.

The man was seen floating face down on the water by bathers at around 2pm close to the T-shaped breakwater next to the town's marina. They alerted lifeguards but nothing could be done to save his life. An autopsy will determine the cause of death.

Arrest made over rape of minor at Malaga fair

MALAGA

:: **J. CANO / Á. FRÍAS.** A 32-year-old man has been arrested in connection with the rape of a 16-year-old girl during the recent Malaga fair.

The girl, who reported the crime to the police, claims to have been drugged while at the fairground, before being taken to the man's house where she woke up in a haze the next day, with no memory of the events.

The man was tracked down a week later by the description of his tattoos, distinctive scar and the street where the girl found herself.

Investigation opened into car park shoot-out

MARBELLA

:: **J. C. / Á. F.** An investigation has been launched into a shoot-out which took place in the car park of the Olivia Valère night club in Marbella on 5 August.

Two men, one Belgian, the other Dutch, suffered injuries in an attack believed to be related to the settling of scores. The objective of the attack, it appears, was to give them more than a fright as the bullets struck the upper body.

Both men were taken to hospital but neither required surgery.



End to traffic jam chaos on Coín road in Las Lagunas moves another step closer

The final link of a ring road around the west of this busy Mijas Costa district should help keep some local traffic off the A-7 once it is built

IVÁN GELIBTER

MIJAS. The volume of traffic moving along the Coín road, in Las Lagunas, Mijas, should be reduced in the near future. The town's mayor, Juan Carlos Maldonado, announced on Tuesday that the contract has been put out to tender for a short link road to connect the Coín road in Las Lagunas with Avenida AMPA Las Caracolas just a few hundred metres to the north over fields.

The new route is the last link in a form of western ring road behind Las Lagunas which will allow drivers to travel from by the supermarket on the Fuengirola-Mijas Pueblo road to the Coín road, at the other end of Las Lagunas, without having to go via the A-7 motorway. It will be an additional access route to the densest parts of Las Lagunas and allow traffic to avoid a slow drive along the Camino de Coín.

Compulsory land purchases

Maldonado announced alongside councillor for Infrastructure, José Carlos Martín, and Planning councillor, Andrés Ruiz, that the 1.5-million-euro road was being put out to tender. The mayor said, "With this investment we'll be improving road safety for the municipality and we'll help put an end to traffic jams that build up at certain times of day."

Some land will have to be compulsorily purchased. Planning chief, councillor Ruiz added, "We are ready



Ruiz, Maldonado and Martín presented the final plan on Tuesday. :: I.G.

to sit down with owners and reach agreement on paying for the land we need to develop the road."

The short stretch is part of a 12-million-euro plan to upgrade the existing roads that make up this local ring road around Avenida María Zambrano towards Avenida de Mijas. This includes improving public utility cabling and drains, reducing the risk of flooding at the same time.

Work is also projected to make part of the Coín road, that runs from the A-7 waterpark exit towards Coín via the side of Mijas Golf, into a dual carriageway, to further speed up traffic. This follows the Junta de Andalucía regional government recently handing over control of that stretch of road to the council.

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Dog owners in Calahonda protest about "neglect" of their local dog park

They say that the council caused damage when it removed vegetation in May which left the area with no shade

I. GELIBTER

MIJAS. Around twenty users of the dog park in Calahonda, Mijas, gathered on Sunday afternoon to protest against what they believe to be a lack of response from Mijas council to complaints about repair work.

According to the protesters, on 17 May, heavy machinery, hired by the council with the idea of clearing and superficially cleaning the enclosure, "destroyed" much of the

park's vegetation including the trees that offered shade.

They believe this situation is, apart from being "incomprehensible", causing inconvenience and injury to dogs and their owners. "You can still see some splinters left over from the damage these works caused," said protesters.

They explained that several users of the dog park initially contacted different officials at the town hall. "In all cases, they committed to carrying out, as soon as possible, cleaning and repair work. However, three months later, everything is still the same and they don't take the calls from those who visit this dog park daily," they said.

The park's users "deeply" regret



Local residents staged their protest on Sunday. :: I.GELIBTER

the situation, as this is the same team at the helm of the council that they worked with to complete the park's infrastructure in the first place.

"For this reason," they added, "we can't understand how this destruction has taken place, as well as the subsequent disregard from the mayor and his team." They have called for the mayor, Juan Carlos

Maldonado and his team to honour their commitments, "and get to work" to repair the damage caused.

The local PSOE representatives (the coalition party that controls the Parks and Gardens Department) failed to comment on the issue, although at the last council meeting they announced that they would soon begin repairs.

HERE AND THERE

Mayor Ana Mula reports receiving death threats on social media

FUENGIROLA

I. GELIBTER. A Facebook video posted last week by a Fuengirola resident, showing how two Local Police officers fined a flower seller for violating bylaws, has attracted thousands of comments, among them death threats aimed at the mayor Ana Mula and racist remarks. With over two million views, the video criticises the officers for fining the man and not the "negritos" on the promenade, even calling for a "far right" group to "clean up" the situation. Mula has reported the threats to the National Police and Fuengirola council has reported the insults and criticism aimed at the police officers.

Torreblanca's second phase soon to have remodelled roads

FUENGIROLA

I. GELIBTER. Fuengirola council is to remodel the second phase of the Torreblanca residential area after work on the first section concluded in May. The contract to draw up the plans for the work, affecting the area known as PMI-1, has now been awarded and work is expected to begin by the end of this year. The project will include the laying of drains and sewage pipes and other utilities, where needed, as well as creating pavements and improving infrastructure, among other work. The remodelling of the third phase of Torreblanca will follow.



Torreblanca. :: I. G.

Mijas approves free access to all municipal sport activities

MIJAS

I. GELIBTER. With an annual cost of almost one million euros, Mijas council approved on Wednesday free access to all municipal sport activities as of January 2019. With the aim of promoting sports as a "driving force to social integration", this agreement will pay back the money which the council has effectively managed in order to have no debt, lower taxes while "generating a surplus" too. The aim is to keep the same number of places and activities which currently exists and which provide a service to more than 6,000 users.

IN BRIEF

San Roque romería delayed after accident

TORROX

✪ **E. CABEZAS.** Torrox town hall, in collaboration with local 'peña caballista', agreed to postpone the 'romería' procession in honour of the town's patron saint, San Roque, due to take place the following day, after a local horse rider suffered serious injuries falling from a fig tree.

Mayor Óscar Medina said that they were looking into holding the event this Sunday, 2 September, instead.

Nerja puts two river bridges out to tender

NERJA

✪ **E. C.** Nerja town hall has put works for the construction of bridges over the Seco and Chíl-lar rivers out to tender after receiving the necessary funds from the Diputación provincial authority.

These crossings have been called for by residents and tourists alike for many years as when there is heavy rainfall, the mouths of these rivers cannot be crossed and large diversions must be made instead.

Natural park to be rid of machines after 18 years

NERJA

✪ **E. C.** Los Colmenarejos quarry, located in the Sierras Tejeda, Almijara y Alhama natural park, will be cleaned up after Nerja town hall and the concession holder reached an agreement for the removal of machinery which was abandoned there 18 years ago.

It will be removed in October following years of legal disputes between businessman Orlando Rodríguez and the previous PP council over possible mining in the area.

'Noisy' and 'dangerous' dog kennels opens up municipal border dispute

The Refugio de Leo, which houses 19 dogs, opened a year ago on the border between Vélez-Málaga and Arenas

✪ **EUGENIO CABEZAS**

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. A border dispute between Vélez-Málaga and Arenas has been opened up as a result of complaints from residents in the Cerro Beas area about the Refugio de Leo dog kennels which opened up next to their homes a year ago.

Complaints have been filed to both town halls against this allegedly illegal shelter, but owner Lourdes Peláez claims that the land is in Arenas territory, even though Vélez town hall has issued her with a fine of 21,000 euros for not having the appropriate licences.

A number of residents in the area



Founder of Refugio de Leo, Lourdes Peláez. ✪ **E. C.**

appeared on regional TV channel Canal Sur's Andalucía Directo programme to describe the "fear" they have that the dogs could escape and attack them and the barking which "lasts several hours and stops [them] from sleeping or having any rest".

"Sometimes these animals are left for days at a time and not given

anything to eat," they said.

As a result, Arenas town hall has said it will set up a special commission to determine under whose jurisdiction the kennels fall.

For her part, Peláez said she is in a "legal limbo" and hopes that this "can be resolved satisfactorily in the next few months".

CHILCHES AND BENAJARAFE DEMAND COASTAL PATHWAY AGAIN

For the second time in two months, residents of coastal towns Chilches and Benajárafé came together to demand that the four-party town council speed up the process of bringing the Gran Senda coastal pathway to the area. The around 50 protesters demanded that the town hall do all in its power to pressure the Junta regional and Diputación provincial authorities to sign off on the three stretches currently awaiting approval.



✪ **E. CABEZAS**

Dolphins surprise bathers during a busy summer day on the beach in Torre del Mar✪ **E. CABEZAS**

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. The beach at Torre del Mar welcomed some unexpected visitors on Saturday when a pod of dolphins was spotted just a hundred metres from the shore.

Around a dozen of these aquatic mammals took bathers by surprise, with many capturing photos and videos which were shared widely on social media.

However, this type of scene is "nothing extraordinary", according to marine biologist Juan Jesús Martín. He explained that this variety of dolphin, the common bottlenose (the most common in the Mediterranean), often comes close to the shore when hunting schools of fish in packs. "We have even seen them inside Malaga port," he said.

Among the comments on the videos, bathers also described similar scenes at other points on the Malaga coastline.

Wi-Fi

Bathers in Torrox learned this week that free Wi-Fi would be available for beach users. Networks will be installed at the Laguna chiringuitos on Ferrara, Cacula and El Morche beaches, each with a radius of 200 metres.



A dolphin just a hundred metres from the shore. ✪ **J. A. M.**



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Leonardo, an unexpected feathered friend

A vulture spent four days on the roof of a Nerja man's block of flats, where he fed it and took care of it until it was taken away by experts

NERJA

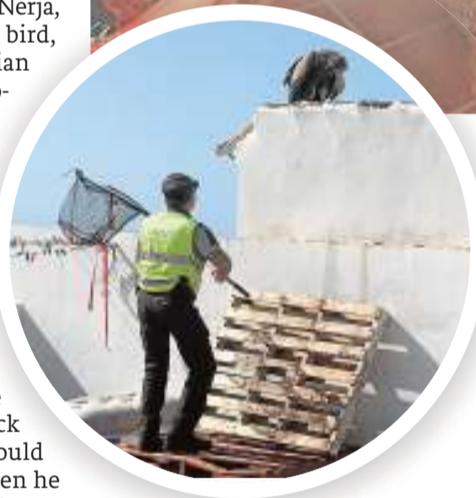
:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

Luis Triviño was astonished last Saturday when a vulture decided to land on the roof terrace of his block of flats in the centre of Nerja, near Plaza de la Ermita. The bird, identified as a young Eurasian griffon vulture, which is a protected species in Spain, was spotted by Triviño's partner, Censi Martín, who noticed that several people on the street had stopped to take pictures.

The 33-year-old tattoo artist, who is originally from Peñarroya, in Cordoba province, went to the terrace to see the bird and take some pictures then went back to work, believing that it would take off soon. However, when he came back a few hours later he realised that his winged guest was



Luis Triviño and his friend Ángel while taking a selfie with the animal that stayed with them for almost four days. :: SUR



José del Arco at work. :: E.C.

feeding the bird for the next three days.

The same day that the bird had perched on top of the roof, neighbours had contacted the nearby Guardia Civil. Officers were sent that same Saturday, reassuring the man that the bird would leave soon. But they also said that they were going to contact the endangered species specialists at the regional government's CREAS centre near Malaga, as well as the Guardia Civil's own environmental protection team, Seprona.

After several attempts over the next couple of days to try and capture the bird, it was finally caught by José del Arco of CREAS on Tuesday.

Leonardo, as the bird was called by Triviño, was taken to the CREAS centre in the Montes de Málaga natural park, where it will be kept before being introduced back into the wild at El Chorro gorge, near the Caminito del Rey. Here there is a significant colony of vultures.

Triviño, who took the time to take a selfie with the animal and a friend, admitted that feeding the bird for four days was an absolutely unique experience, even if he had to spend his own money.

CREAS rescues 900 protected birds a year in Malaga province, according to Del Arco.

still there.

That was when Triviño, who confessed to always having had a passion for birds of prey and reptiles, decided to try and feed it.

"I went to Mercadona, which is just on the other side of the street, and I bought some rabbit meat and chicken liver," he said. He kept

Horses on Malaga's tourist carriages finally get some shade while they wait

:: IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. After a long fight led by animal rights campaigners, the horses pulling the carriages on scenic rides around the centre of Malaga can finally rest under newly-installed parasols.

For years Malaga city council has been receiving complaints from activists, tourists and the carriage drivers themselves about the lack of shade at the Plaza de la Marina waiting area.

The new parasols will be put up daily from 11am to 7pm, when they are taken down again to prevent damage or theft.



The new shades. :: MORENO



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RONDA OPENS DAYTIME PART OF ITS GOYAESQUE FERIA FESTIVITIES

With brightly-decorated streets, Ronda kicked off the daytime part of its annual fair in the town centre on Wednesday. The town's feria is named in honour of Pedro Romero, a legendary local bullfighter from 200 years ago, and is known for period costumes in a style once painted by Francisco Goya. Wednesday's event was in more typical flamenco dress but people return to costume on Saturday at the famous goyaesque bullfight.



:: M. GARCÍA

Go-ahead for study to restore tower that gave name to a resort

The first phase of this key part of the council's plan to conserve local heritage will look at the present state of the famous Torre de los Molinos

:: **IVÁN GELIBTER**

TORREMOLINOS. The town hall in Torremolinos has said that it has started the much-anticipated archaeological and structural study of a historic tower that gave its name to the resort.

Councillors want to fully conserve the structure of Torre Pimentel and tidy up the surrounding area as the centrepiece of their wider plan to restore heritage sites across the municipality.

Following permission from the regional Environment ministry, the council is now carrying out a



The conservation plan for the Torre Pimentel has various phases. :: I.G.

226,000-euro study of the actual state of the site, supported by a 70 per cent grant from the national ministry for Infrastructure.

The 12-metre-high tower, at the coastal end of iconic Calle San Miguel and overlooking the sea, is also known as Torre de los Molinos (Tower of the Mills) and gave its name to the resort.

Latest scientific techniques

The study to be carried out as the preliminary phase of the project has been labelled 'preventative archaeology' and will use modern techniques to analyse how it is built, the state of the foundations and how it has changed over the years, as well as look for any structural weaknesses.

Samples will also be taken of the mortar and the site cleared of debris and rubbish.

Once this part of the study is complete, an argument can be put forward for money to conserve and restore it, according to the go-ahead report from the regional government's environmental department.

The landmark tower is believed to have been first built in the pre-Christian Nazari era, around 1300.

HERE AND THERE

Owners told to clear land due to fire risk

MARBELLA

:: **D. DOLS.** In a bid to avoid a forest fire in the last weeks of summer, Marbella council has told the owners of 62 local plots of land to clear them of scrub and vegetation. As well as monitoring compliance, the town hall has also called for local residents to be extra vigilant. Official data shows that Malaga province has had relatively few fire outbreaks so far this year; there were 45 incidents up to last Sunday, nine per cent of the Andalusian total.

Left-wing councillors expelled by own party

MARBELLA

:: **I.G.** The left-wing Costa del Sol Sí Se Puede (CSSP) party has expelled all eight of its councillors on Marbella, Estepona, Torremolinos and Benalmádena councils. They have been accused of pacting with rival parties ahead of next May's municipal elections. CSSP is the party used locally by Podemos, one of the parties supposedly talked to directly by those expelled. They will continue as independents.

Ray of hope for clam-toxin-ban fishing boats

MALAGA

:: **A. GÓMEZ.** The ban on catching some clams and murex shells off the Costa was partially lifted this week. Officials said it was safe in two of the area's nine catching zones, but only for some of the banned species. The approved area covers Manilva to San Pedro.

There has been a ban on certain types of clams and murex shells for six weeks because of naturally-produced toxins inside them, affecting the livelihoods of over 400 in the local fishing industry.



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Sir Douglas never left Teba

The knight's gravestone has been on display since 2007, but nobody knew what it was



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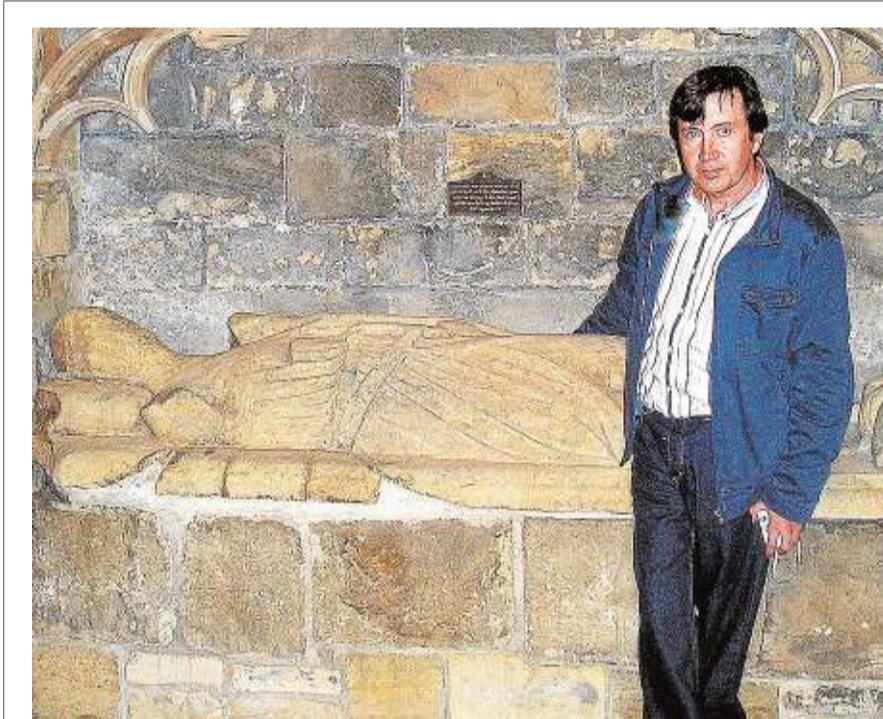
Malaga historian Isidoro Otero says the retinue carved a stone to pay tribute to the heroism of Sir James during the 'Braveheart' campaign

TEBA. History has a strange sense of humour. Since 2007 the Archaeological Museum in Álora has contained one of the most important pieces from the medieval period in Malaga, although nobody knows exactly what it was or who it related to. At first sight, it was easy to see that it was a type of funeral stone in Celtic style, known as a stele, and similar to those that guarded the burial places of knights in Scotland in medieval times.

It was found during the works for the high-speed AVE railway line somewhere between Teba and Álora, but there are no more details about the area in which it appeared. More than ten years after being dug up, its origins have now been revealed and the story has taken an unexpected turn.

To understand the origin of the stone, we have to turn to Archidona. From there, and in a manner completely unassociated with this discovery, Isidoro Otero, a historian, academic and member of the Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences in Antequera, set off on a journey to the past with which he managed to document that the legend of Braveheart - referring to King Robert I of Scotland, otherwise known as Robert the Bruce - began in the province of Malaga, specifically in Teba.

The retinue charged with carrying the deceased monarch's heart to the Holy Land had arrived in Seville, where King Alfonso XI of Castile asked them to support him



▲ Journey into the past.

Otero has travelled all over Scotland to document this story.

:: I. O.



► Celtic stele. A Greek cross with a circle, various 'triskels' and two engravings.

:: I. O.

in conquering Teba from the Nasrids. There, at the foot of La Estrella castle, beside the Guadalteba river, the leader of the expedition and bearer of the valuable cargo, Sir James Douglas - a war hero and one of Robert the Bruce's most loyal men - died in battle in 1330.

Finding himself surrounded, he took the casket holding the heart from around his neck and hurled it into the path of the enemies, shouting the following: "Go, brave heart, in front as you desired, and Douglas will follow you or die."

In 2015, Otero featured this unexpected story in his book 'James Douglas, la cruzada de Braveheart' (James Douglas, Braveheart's crusade). Meanwhile, the Celtic stone continued to wait in the museum, being studied by those responsible for preserving local heritage

and the mayor of Álora, José Sánchez, who were looking for answers but had been unable to find a clear explanation.

"At the beginning of the year I rang Isidoro Otero because we began to suspect that it could have been associated with that episode of history," says the mayor, who had already talked to some other experts beforehand. "Nobody could give us any clues," he says.

Douglas connection

That was the start of an investigation from which the historian from Archidona was able to ascertain something that seemed quite obvious but nobody had been able to see: the funeral stone was made by the soldiers who accompanied Douglas, in honour of his bravery on the battlefield.

The presence of any other knights of Celtic origin at that time has never been documented

The soldiers separated the flesh from the bones and the heart, which were taken to Scotland

"We knew that when the knight died, they separated his flesh from his bones; his heart was taken to the Scottish abbey of Melrose, where it rests, but we didn't know where they had buried his other remains," he explains.

After analysis, Otero concluded that the piece in the museum is the stone which guarded the burial place of the knight's organic remains. "They customarily used to leave the part that decomposes on the battlefield when they moved on, to avoid illnesses during the journey home," he explains.

Otero explained his theory last week in Teba itself, giving a talk attended by experts from all over the province and elsewhere in Spain. It took place just before the Douglas Days festival, during which local people also celebrate

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The engravings refer to the handing over of Robert the Bruce's heart, and St Bride

Historian Isidoro Otero believes the piece is "unique and of great historic value"

the twinning of Teba with the Scottish town of Douglas in 2006.

Ornamentation

There were several reasons that made Otero conclude that this Celtic stele belonged to the Scottish hero. The first, possibly the most simple but at the same time the most important, is that no other documented episode exists about Scottish knights or those from other such places in southern Spain - the Ockham's razor theory also applies in history: the most simple explanation is generally the most probable.

"There are no other references to foreign lords on Spanish battlefields in medieval chronology; no more indications of this type of knight," says Otero. Nor are there steles of this type anywhere else on the peninsula. "What we have in our hands is something absolutely unique," he says.

The rest of the argument is based on the symbology that adorns the stone. The representations are roughly executed, in contrast with the finesse with which the rest of the symbolic ornamentation is drawn, such as the 'triskels', spirals which represent eternal life.

On the lower part of the stone a scene is engraved which has been important in linking the stone with Sir James Douglas. "We can see a man on his knees or prostrate, receiving a type of reliquary from the hand of a lord above him; my interpretation is that it is Lord Moray delivering the heart of King Robert to Sir Douglas before he set off," says Otero.

At this point, several factors come into play. Part of the bibliography which talks of the journey of Robert the Bruce's heart describes the organ being encased in silver, and hanging on the knight's chest. Later findings - the heart was found during excavations in Scotland at the end of the last century - left the debate open about whether it was kept in a conical container to make it easier to transport. In the illustration you can see that what the prostrate man is being given a torque, "which could be the link of the support".

The rough way in which the stone is sculpted also indicates that it was the men on the expedition who made it: they were familiar with the basic shapes but not very agile when it came to creating the



▲ **Douglas Days.** The town of Teba was transported back to the days of Sir James Douglas last weekend as locals and visitors enjoyed a medieval market, live music and historical reenactments to celebrate the area's Scottish links. The annual event coincides with the anniversary of the death of Douglas in Teba on 25 August 1330. :: SUR

motifs most associated with the deceased.

On the left side of the stele you can see "a zoomorphic figure", which is difficult to distinguish. However, after the analysis, it was decided that it is most probably a cow, and that is a key factor. The patron saint of the house of Douglas is St Bride; St Bride is a Christian interpretation of the Celtic goddess Brigid - a tripersonal deity of fire. According to mythology, Brigid was fed by a cow, and the form of representing this is, in many cases, through a bovine figure feeding her calves.

Another reason for this historian's

certainty about the origin of the stele lies in the name of a district on the outskirts of Álora: Santa Brígida.

"According to documentation, the church of Santa Brígida existed before the definitive conquest, so that fits in with the date of Douglas' death. It could have been given that name because that's where his remains lie," he explains.

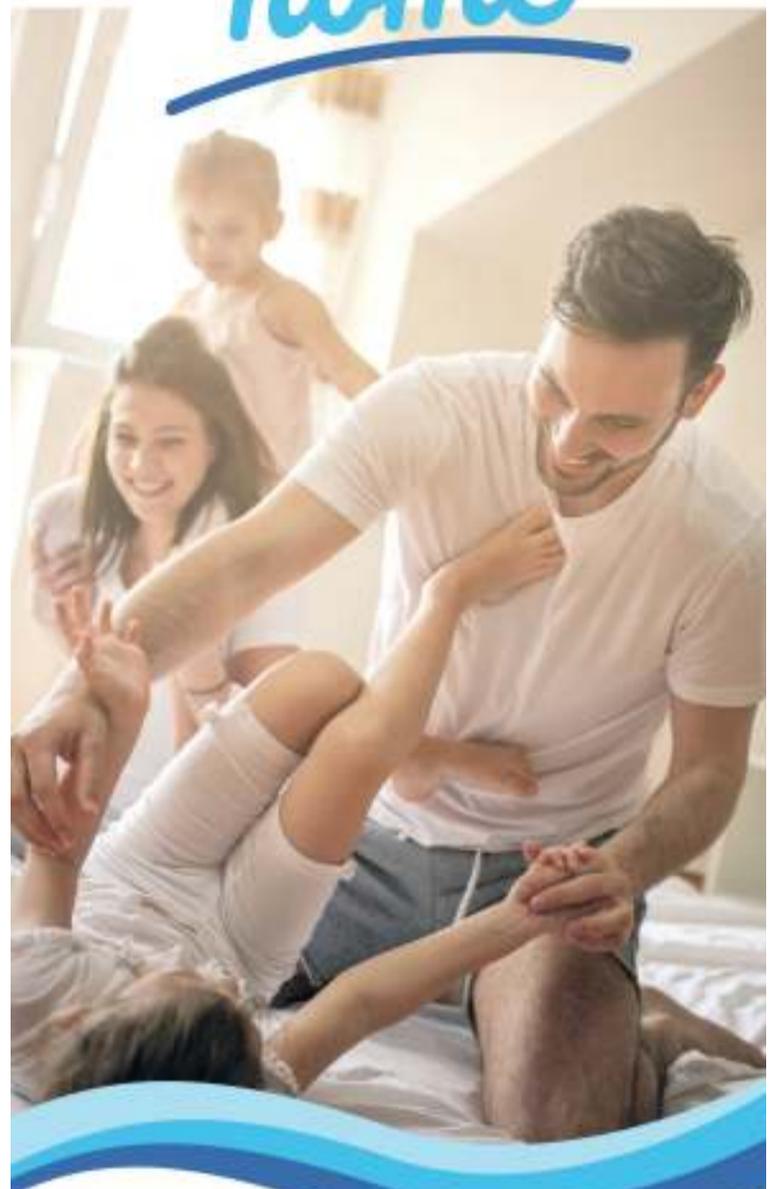
This is the first in-depth analysis to have been carried out on the stele, but one thing is clear: the figure of Sir James Douglas has never abandoned Teba. Nor has his spirit, rooted in the legend of 'Braveheart', or his body (part of it, at least).

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Bordering on Brexit symposium to be held in late September

The conference will look at the practical challenges of Brexit for Gibraltar and will also analyse the analogies with Britain's imperial past

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. The Garrison Library will be hosting an important symposium from 20 to 22 September, on the subject of *Bordering on Brexit: global Britain and the embers of Empire*. It has been organised by Dr Jennifer Ballantine-Perea in conjunction with the University of Copenhagen and the Office of the Deputy Chief Minister, Dr Joseph Garcia, who holds the Brexit portfolio in Gibraltar.

The symposium will analyse different aspects of Brexit in detail, including the immediate practical challenges for Gibraltar, which voted overwhelmingly for Britain to remain in the European Union.

However, it will also look at Britain's imperial past and the way imperial analogies have been used in association with Brexit since the referendum over two years ago.

The Conservative government's vision of 'Global Britain' is one of several instances where Britain's impe-



The conference will be held at the Garrison Library. :: SUR

rial past has been invoked to inspire confidence in a post-Brexit future, beckoning a divided nation back into the world. However in recent years any number of contemporary ills have been attributed variously to the shadow of the British empire, including the recent Windrush immigration furore, disputes over UK military deployments abroad and the recurring ructions over the Falkland Is-

lands. In education, the arts, museums, economic performance, immigration policy and many other areas, Britain's perceived failure to divest itself of worldly expectations is also frequently cited.

The conference, which will take a more critical look at the persistence of these imperial analogies, will be opened by Dr Joseph Garcia on Thursday 20 September.

IN BRIEF



Lewis Pugh after completing his feat. :: LEWIS PUGH ON TWITTER

Ocean campaigner swims English Channel

GIBRALTAR

One of the campaigners who contributed to the decision to stop balloon releases in Gibraltar has just completed the first-ever swim of the whole length of the English

Channel to raise awareness of the need to improve ocean protection, particularly in British waters.

Lewis Pugh, a UN Oceans Advocate, will be back in Gibraltar in July to swim during the Natwest International Island Games, which will be linked to an international island environmental initiative for the first time.

'Our Gibraltar' photo exhibition

GIBRALTAR

The entries for the 'Our Gibraltar' photographic competition can now be seen at the John Mackintosh Hall until Friday 7 September, on weekdays from 9.30am to 9.30pm. First prize in the competition was won by Eddie Linares, with his photo called 'Our Heritage - Prince Albert's Front'.

National Day celebrations on 10th

GIBRALTAR

Monday 10 September is National Day in Gibraltar, with the celebrations kicking off at 9.30am in Casemates Square with live music and dance performances. Everybody dresses in the national colours of red and white, and this day-long party is one of the most popular events on the calendar.



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Consumers associations warn that vulnerable clients such as the elderly are suffering discrimination for not using the internet

by **NURIA TRIGUERO**

MALAGA. Online banking, which means customers can check their balance or send a transfer at any time of day or night, no matter where they are, is becoming more and more common, and banks have embraced the changes with enthusiasm. But there is another side to the story. These new facilities have led the banks to reduce staffing levels and close branches, and clients who prefer to do their banking in person are beginning to feel unwelcome, unless they are there to contract a new service.

With the number of bank branches reduced by almost half in 2008 there were 1,407 in Malaga province and now there are only 787 - the system is trying to channel as much business as it can through digital methods and reduce the number of clients who visit the bank to carry out transactions. This is done in two ways: encouraging and facilitating the use of online banking, and penalising those who turn up at their local branch. Consumers associations are warning that the banks are doing this in two ways: by charging commission for transactions which used to be free, and restricting the hours during which certain transactions, such as paying bills, are permitted.

Alejandro García, of consumer federation Facua's legal department in Andalucía, says the closure of branches and restrictions are "worrying" especially in rural villages where there are now no banks or a branch that only opens



Clients waiting for attention in a bank branch. :: SUR ARCHIVE

FIGURES

19 billion€

is the income earned in commission by members of the Spanish Banking Association in 2017, 7.2% more than in 2016.

400

euros is what the average consumer in Spain pays in commission a year according to a study by banking watchdog Adicae.

787

bank branches are open in the province of Malaga, practically half of the number in 2008.

36

euros a year is the maximum that banks can charge for maintenance of a basic bank account, according to a regulation being prepared by the government.

for a few hours a week. "It is unfortunate for people who don't have internet and need personal attention," he says. He insists that the authorities should take action to prevent this "financial exclusion" of vulnerable people, such as the elderly.

Banks are also charging more commission than ever before: there are now 36 different types, according to the Bank of Spain, including account maintenance, overdraft, debit and credit cards, transfers, use of ATMs, paying money into someone else's account and in some cases even for printing out a statement.

Banks say these can be avoided by, for example, having your salary paid into your account, spending a certain amount on your card in a year, contracting insurance or a savings product, or keeping a minimum balance in the account. However, consumer associations warn that these should be analysed carefully because in the end they could end up costing even more than the commission. Be sure to read the small print, compare such offers with other banks, and only contract what you really need, they advise.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

by **JEREMY BLATCH**

✉ jb@ehh.gi

HEADS YOU WIN, TAILS I LOSE



When investors buy bonds, they sit across the table from a sophisticated adversary. The fixed income market does not attract the most gifted analysts, as the money is in the equity market. This is ironic, because the job is more complex. Corporate bond investors need to understand all the issues affecting equity valuation, for this is what is underpinning a company's solvency. Businesses do not fail for lack of contracts, clients or inventory, but for lack of cash flow.

Many investors hold bonds in their portfolio for safety. This may be misplaced. US Treasury bonds trade in the deepest, most liquid market in the world, meaning that you can easily buy and sell at realistic prices. Default-free, non-callable, full-faith and credit obligations of US sovereign debt play a valuable role in protecting a portfolio in times of financial crisis. A study of market history shows us that the same is true of the less liquid gilts (the UK equivalent of the US Treasury). However, looking for safety in Europe is more difficult, as it has a central bank but not a treasury, and does not issue collective debt.

Unlike US Treasuries, corporations often issue debt with a 'call' option, giving the issuer the option to redeem or call the bonds after a certain date at a fixed price. If interest rates decline, companies exercise the option, call in the existing bonds (now paying a higher rate of interest than the market) and re-issue debt at a lower rate of interest. If interest rates rise, bond prices fall and the bond holder

now holds a lower interest yield bond which shows a capital loss. High yield bonds present investors with the same callable disadvantages as investment grade bonds, with an increased risk of default. High yield bonds below investment grade are called 'junk' bonds for a reason. Caveat emptor.

It is a mystery why corporate bonds do not contain a 'put' option for the bond holder (an option which would allow the bond holder to enjoy the right to sell - put - the bond back to the issuer at a fixed price during a specified time).

During the past 30 years it has been easy to make money in bonds, as interest rates have declined to historic lows. This is no longer the case. Furthermore, investment grade corporate bonds, high yield bonds, foreign bonds and asset-backed bonds have characteristics which make them vulnerable in times of crisis, which argues against including them in a portfolio for investment protection.

Liquidity provides little value to the long-term investor, however corporate bond issues are much less liquid than government treasuries. Investors should examine whether they are adequately compensated over treasuries for the credit, liquidity and call risk they are taking, and not harbour false expectations that they will provide a safe haven in times of a crisis. They won't.

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

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Albert Rivera, leader of Ciudadanos, removes the plastic ties in Alella, Catalonia, on Wednesday. :: EFE

Tensions over removal of Catalan separatists' yellow ribbon symbol

There has been political support for a woman injured in Barcelona last weekend as organised groups work under cover of darkness

:: CRISTIAN REINO

BARCELONA. They are calling it the "War of the Yellow Ribbons", the increasingly high-profile attempts to remove the yellow ties that have been placed in an impromptu fashion in public places in Catalonia by those in favour of independence or against the imprisonment of pro-separatist leaders.

On Wednesday, prominent politician, Albert Rivera, national leader of centrist Ciudadanos, and his re-

gional Catalan leader, Inés Arrimadas, were in the town of Alella, in Barcelona province, untying yellow plastic ties from street railings.

Pro-Spanish politicians have been calling for local people in Catalonia to take down the "divisive" symbols of separatism as the region prepares for its traditional annual festival later this month and the anniversary of the outlawed declaration of independence last October.

There are more signs tension is escalating. There were scuffles at a demonstration held in Barcelona on Wednesday in favour of a woman who was assaulted while trying to take down some ribbons last weekend. And some 80 people took to Catalan streets in the early hours of Tuesday with their faces covered to remove some of the symbols.

Translation "error" sees Puigdemont's lawsuit lose credibility

Ex-Catalan leader, Carles Puigdemont, has seen his attempt to sue a Supreme Court judge lose credibility. The self-exiled separatist, who is wanted in Spain, presented a compensation claim to Belgian courts. It said the Spanish judge had publicly said he was guilty, which affected his right to a fair trial. The French translation of the original said, "Yes, it was what happened" rather than "If that is what happened". Whether it was a translation error or a deliberate change, nobody is saying.

PM talks business and human rights on tour of Latin America

:: SUR

MADRID. The prime minister, Pedro Sánchez, began a five-day visit to Latin America on Monday. In the tour he has been meeting with the leaders of Chile, Bolivia, Colombia and Costa Rica. Spain is a key investor in Latin America and the visit is also designed to improve ties with the new Socialist government.

However, with the region's reputation for past human rights abuse and dictatorship, the PM's plans to

remove the body of Spain's own late dictator, Francisco Franco, to a less ostentatious grave was not far from people's minds. In Chile on Monday he praised that country's efforts to come to terms with the dictatorship of Augustus Pinochet and a national museum on the subject.

In Bolivia, leader Evo Morales promised that, despite controversial past nationalisation policies, Spanish investment was safe in his country at a meeting in Santa Cruz.



Sánchez with Bolivian leader. :: EFE

THE EURO ZONE
MARK NAYLER

DIGGING DEEP



Last Friday, the Socialist government of Pedro Sánchez approved a decree to exhume the remains of Francisco Franco from the controversial mausoleum near Madrid where he is buried. Franco - fascist ruler of Spain from the end of the Civil War in 1939 until his death in 1975 - is currently interred in the Valley of the Fallen, underneath a granite crucifix 150 metres high.

According to the new mandate, the former dictator's remains will be removed from this site and given to his family to bury elsewhere. It's a move imbued with great symbolism for many Spaniards, but what will it actually achieve?

The objections to Franco's colossal resting place are understandable. Franco ordered and oversaw construction of the Valley of the Fallen, using political prisoners as labourers, between 1940 and 1959. It is the burial site of around 33,000 victims of the conflict - from both Republican and Nationalist sides - of the "generalissimo" himself and of José Antonio Primo de Rivera, who founded the fascist Spanish Falange in 1933 (his father Miguel Primo de Rivera, Spain's military dictator between 1923 and 1930, is remembered by a grand statue in the centre of Jerez de la Frontera).

Francisco's and Rivera's graves are the only ones visible in the Valley of the Fallen; the rest are packed away in unnamed, decaying tombs. Every November, on the closest Saturday to the 20th (the date of Franco's death in 1975), groups of "nostálgicos" -

admirers of Franco - congregate to pay tribute to the military leader, who sparked off a conflict in which an estimated half a million Spaniards lost their lives. The widely-felt hatred of this site was summed up by Spain's deputy prime minister Carmen Calvo last week, when she said that a monument glorifying Franco is "totally unacceptable for a democracy like ours".

Yet it is precisely the nature of Spain's democracy that makes her government's decision controversial. It's a democracy that was founded on an agreement made between supporters and enemies of Franco after his death - the so-called "Pact of Forgetting". This attempted to erase from collective memory crimes committed during the Civil War and ensuing dictatorship.

For this reason, Sánchez's opponents accuse him of divisively raking up the past; indeed, Popular Party (PP) leader Pablo Casado says that exhuming Franco will do nothing except "re-open old wounds" (unsurprising, given that the PP was founded in 1989 by a former member of Franco's regime).

Digging up Franco is the necessary first stage of a much more challenging task - namely, deciding what to do with the Valley of the Fallen once the dictator's remains are gone. The best suggestion, made by Spain's last Socialist government, was to turn it into a museum and education centre focused on the Civil War. Only if Sánchez can achieve something like that will Franco's exhumation prove worthwhile.



:: EFE

PAINTING THE TOWN TOMATO RED

The Valencian town of Buñol kept its annual date with tonnes of tomatoes on Wednesday morning in one of Spain's most striking festivals. In all 130 tonnes were distributed from six lorries during the mammoth food fight that lasted an hour. This year, for the first time, the crowds were limited to 20,000 and tickets sold in an attempt to return the party to a safer, more spontaneous atmosphere.

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DECREE OF HOUSING FOR TOURISTIC PURPOSES OF ANDALUSIA

PÉREZ DE VARGAS Y ASOCIADOS.

The Junta de Andalucía regulated the temporary assignment of use of housing for touristic purposes, by the means of the approval of Decree 28/2016 of February 2, published in the Official Bulletin of the Junta de Andalucía (BOJA) that entered into force on May, the 11 th.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

The Law 4/2013, of June 4th, on measures of flexibility and promotion of the housing for rental purposes modified the Law 29/1994, of November, the 24th, on Urban Leases, in which short-term rental agreements were excluded from their scope of application and were placed in a legal limbo, taking into account that by that time their sectoral regulations had not been approved yet.

Subsequently, the Junta de Andalucía regulated the temporary assignment of use of furnished and equipped properties that meet the conditions to be used immediately, marketed or promoted in channels of touristic purposes and for profit activities (housing for touristic purposes), through the approval of Decree 28/2016 of February 2 nd. The abovementioned Decree was published on the 11 th of February in 2016 in the Official Bulletin of the Junta de Andalucía (BOJA), entered into force on May, the 11 th.

AREAS OF APPLICATION

The Decree is applied to all types of dwellings (apartments, single-units, penthouses, etc.) that meet the following requirements: the leasing of the property must be for lucrative purposes, the leased property to the same person must be for less than two-month period, in case of the leasing period is higher, the property will not be regulated by the Decree for Touristic purposes, but will be applied by another type of leasing. The dwelling must have the residential use, being, thus, excluded the properties located on the rural areas, regulated by a sector-specific regulation (art. 48, Law 13/2011, 23 rd December, and Decree 20/2002, 29 th January, Tourism in Rural Environment and Active Tourism). The leased property must not be part of a group consisting of three or more dwellings, located in the same or adjacent building, belonging to the same owner who exploits them for the same purpose. Otherwise, in this case, these will be consid-

ered as touristic apartments, instead of housings for touristic purposes, having those own regulations, similar to the hotel (Decree 194/2010 of April 20).

Therefore, we can define housings for touristic purposes as those that form part of the buildings located in soil for residential use, offered for a price on a regular basis for touristic purposes operated within the Autonomous Community of Andalucía.

It will be presumed that there is usual and touristic purpose when the property is commercialized or offered in touristic channels. The concept of touristic offer channel includes any webpage that allows booking of the property and, therefore, includes the commercialization of housings through the real estate agencies that allow executing the reservation 'on-line'.

REGISTRATION OF THE PROPERTY IN THE REGISTRAR OF TOURISM OF ANDALUCÍA

The registration of the corresponding property in the Registrar of Tourism of Andalucía became a compulsory requirement from the 11 th of May, 2016. The registration must be done through the application form called «declaration of responsables», which can be downloaded from the website of the Junta de Andalucía.

The property can only be commercialized and offered in the touristic channels once it has been registered in the referred Registrar. Any alteration or modification of the registered information must be communicated to the competent Tourism Counseling. The exploitation of the property will be considered clandestine without prior registration in the Registrar of Tourism; which, in fact, will constitute a serious or very serious infringement with a penalties of up to 150.000 , both against the owner and against the intermediary. According to data provided by the Ministry of Tourism updated on May 11th, 2018, there are nearly 20.000 properties registered for touristic purposes in the province of Málaga that supposes an offer of 103.500 places of accommodation.

REQUIREMENTS AND SERVICES

The properties for touristic purposes must fulfill, by Law, the following requirements: First Occupancy License, direct ventilation to the exterior and system of darkening of the windows (blinds or curtains), have furniture for im-



mediate use, heating and Air conditioning installation, First Aid boxes, touristic information, provided in physical or electronic support, complaint and claim form, as well as the sign announcing its existence in the property, cleaning service provided at the customer's check in or check out, bed linen or house items, emergency contact number for the customer, information regarding the use of the electronic devices, Information of the Community of Owners' regulation. The aforementioned requirements are imposed since the 11 th of May 2017.

CONTRACT REGIME

Prior to the delivery of the property, the contract must be signed and delivered to the lessee, containing the following elements: identification of the person or entity operating the property; the registration code in the Registrar of Tourism of Andalucía, the persons who will occupy the property, the price of the lease, the date of entry and exit, and also a contact number for the lessee.

The parties are free to negotiate the aspects such as leasing price, reservations, deposits, etc. Furthermore, the operating entity must provide to the lessee the proof of payment. In case of nothing have been agreed in the contract, the check in time will be at 4pm and 12am for the check out.

INSPECTION AND SANCTINING

According to the Decree, the inspection services of the Regional

Ministry responsible for tourism will exercise the functions of verification and control of compliance with the provisions of this regulation (in accordance with Law 13/2011, of December 23 rd and with Decree 144/2003, of June 3 rd , of the Tourism Inspection). The sanctioning regime for the infraction of the aforementioned Decree of housings for touristic purposes is included in Title VIII of Law 13/2011, of December 23rd, in which the sanctions are classified as small, serious and very serious. According to the Decree of housing for touristic purposes, the owner of the property is the operator of the same and, hence, the responsible one for compliance with the Decree, unless its exploitation or use, as a property for touristic purposes, has been transferred to another person or entity, in which case the real estate agency operating the leasing will be the responsible for compliance with the Decree.

TAX LIABILITY

Leasing of the property without business resources or services of the hotel industry: Natural Person's Income Tax (IRPF): real estate capital yield; VAT: tax free. Lease of the property with workers and local without providing hotel industry services: IRPF: economic activities performance; VAT: exempt, except in the case of sub-rentals. Leasing or assignment of the properties that provide hotel services: IRPF: economic ac-

tivities performance; VAT: 10%.

Finally, it is important to point out the new control mechanism of the Tax Agency regarding the declaration of the incomes obtained from this type of leases, in particular, the model 179 «Quarterly informative declaration of the property leasing for touristic purposes» that enters into force on July 1st, 2018 (Royal Decree 1070/2017, of December 29 th). The intermediaries are the subjects obliged to submit quarterly the information model. Especially, the persons or entities constituted as collaborative platforms that mediate in the assignment of use are considered as service providers of the information society, such as Airbnb, HomeAway, Wimdu, Niumba, etc.

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LETTERS TO
THE EDITOR

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THERE IS A PRIZE FOR THE BEST
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Unhappy with tree felling

I am writing to inform the citizens of Benalmádena of the cutting down of 30 trees alongside the stream called Arroyo del Lagar as it passes through the urbanisation of Casablanca. The neighbours there were fed up with not having sea views so they decided to take things into their own hands.

Last year they illegally cut half a dozen trees on the riverbank and got into trouble with the Medio Ambiente department in the council.

This year they have managed (goodness knows how) to get permission from the 'Confederación de Aguas' who are meant to protect the river banks!

The roots of these trees hold the earth together on the riverbank so cutting these trees will in the long term cause soil

erosion, and in the case of a flash flood, as older people in the village remember, the water would cause even bigger mud slides than if the vegetation were holding it together.

The owls that nest in those trees will be forced to leave along with other animals, like martens and genets which use the protected area to come down after dark to hunt rodents. Gone the predators, we will be overrun by rats.

Please do not let greedy home owners who want to improve the value of their houses by giving them sea views ruin a small but richly inhabited area which acts like a haven and resting place for all sorts of wildlife, including birds migrating.

JENI MITCHELL
BENALMÁDENA

Plastic ideas

I was just reading your article on plastic bottles (Do it for the Money, if not for the Planet, Comment, August 24th).

A while back I sent a letter to the Medio Ambiente department of Mijas council. I suggested that Mijas could be a pioneer in Spain by introducing a system to buy used plastic containers and cans, by weight, for small sums of money. Of course there has been no reply.

In Denmark (and other Scandinavian countries I'm sure, but due to my roots, I only know of Denmark), the kids collect drink cans from the parks and gardens and hand them in to the shops in return for money. The same happens with plastic drink bottles. When you buy a drink there is a small refundable charge on each that you get back when you return the empty one.

Something has to be done and unfortunately people are often driven by money, so if there is something in it for them, they'll "collect and deliver", exactly as you said in your article.

SONJA BRYCE
MIJAS

I've been scammed

I would like to warn people about a scam I was taken in by today. It works like this. You are walking along minding your own business when a clipboard is thrust under your nose. You look and see it is a petition of some kind, look at the smiling girl urging you to sign it, and read that it is for a "national international centre for the deaf and dumb".

You query this and then get slightly embarrassed that the girl can't answer, but she points to show you it's in both Spanish and English, and you think there's no harm in signing anyway.

Then she points to the 'donations' column where other signees have apparently all written "10 euros" but you offer her two.

She shakes her head and jabs at the paper again, you shake your head and say "dos" and then she speaks. "No, TEN, minimum," she says, and you realise you've been had. Ask for your two euros back but she just scowls and goes off to find her next victim.

MEGAN JONES
BY EMAIL

Confidence tricks

PETER EDGERTON
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Many moons ago, when I first started to perform original songs in folk and acoustic music clubs in the North West of England, the deal was that you went along to play a tune or two at these fine places in order to get some stage experience and to develop your craft. Eventually, after a few months, and if you'd improved sufficiently, you might even be lucky enough to be asked back to do a paid gig - this, there can be no doubt, was the holy grail for all beginners.

The people who attended these clubs - musicians and general public alike - were generally very supportive but could also be fairly brutal, especially if newcomers were seen to be showing any signs of over-confidence.

I remember one particular evening in a club on the outskirts of

Liverpool when I got up to play a song after having triumphed there the previous week when the crowd had been very generous with both their applause and their words of appreciation. This time, although the reaction was rather more subdued, I was still hopeful of getting the nod for a paid gig shortly and waited expectantly in the bar sipping on a pint, anticipating more than just a few compliments.

After a while, a wizened old chap approached me, stroking his unkempt beard and sporting a largely toothless grin.

"Some beautiful notes in that song you just sang, son." His scouse accent was as thick as the cigarette smoke that engulfed us.

"Oh, that's very kind. Thank you v..."

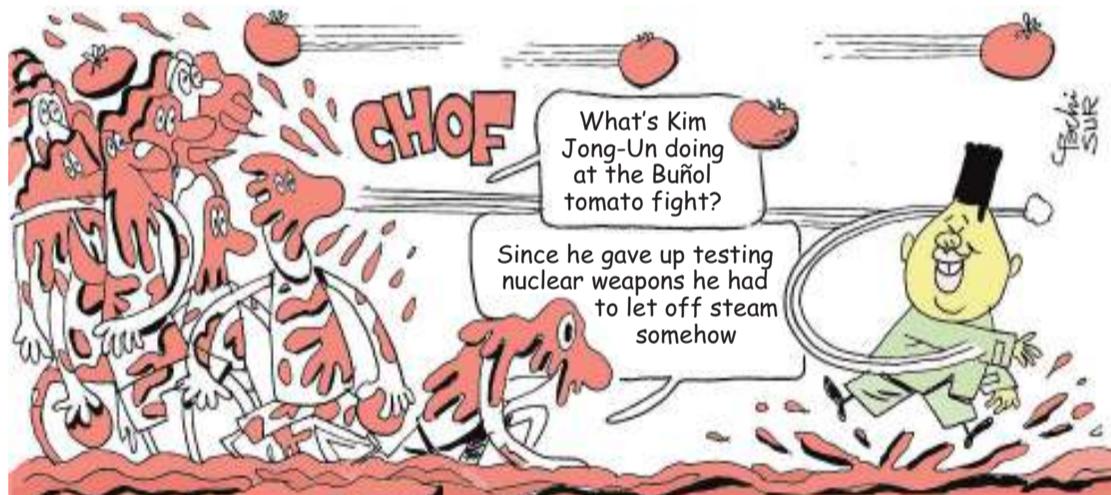
"They were all sung in completely the wrong order, but they were beautiful notes all the same."

The three or four people within ear shot guffawed heartily at my expense and, to be honest, I had to laugh too - it was the perfectly weighted put-down. The thought of anyone getting ideas above their station in these parts was complete anathema. I soon came to realise the importance of lessons like these for young performers and, these days, at our open mic nights at The Shakespeare I try to introduce a bit of the same whenever appropriate.

I think it's paying off - many of the musicians don't seem to be taking themselves quite as seriously as they did.

It might even be time to offer some of them a paid gig - the holy grail.

PACHI



Colours

RACHEL HAYNES

The last week of August is always an odd one - there's never a great deal going on as the newsmakers squeeze the last drop out of their summer holidays before they go back to the office.

This week, however, has been a colourful if not eventful one. The Vuelta a España, often compared to a multi-coloured snake, wound its way through the province of Malaga, before shooting off to brighten up the rest of the country.

Towards the end of their three-week ordeal the cyclists will hit Catalonia, where the colour yellow has become predominant. Pro-separatists have been placing their yellow ribbons in all sorts of pub-

lic places in recent weeks and months, from beaches to roundabouts, to draw attention to the plight of the former leaders they refer to as political prisoners and to their cause for independence.

If they had been put there for any other reason than a political one - a charitable cause, perhaps - those yellow ribbons could be considered a bright and cheerful addition to the urban landscape. But no, they are just a reminder of the tension of a divided community. One side puts a ribbon on the fence; the other takes it away. At least it provides a visual image for a political squabble when normally all we have are words to digest.

One place the Vuelta's snake

won't be winding through, however, is the town of Buñol near Valencia. They've had plenty of colour there this week though with the annual Tomatina tomato fight. Perhaps the politicians in Catalonia should drop their yellow ribbons now and throw red tomatoes at each other instead. Both colours form part of the Spanish and the Catalan flags so everyone can reach their own conclusions while watching the entertainment.

Meanwhile to find blue this week we can go back to the 14th century to when Sir James Douglas was fighting on the battlefield near Teba, presumably showing his blue and white three-starred coat of arms. Last weekend the blue and white Saltire decorated the town, which was at the centre of one of many bloody battles in medieval Spain.

At least we can be thankful that in the 21st century politicians fight over territory by waving yellow ribbons in each other's faces rather than drawing swords - for the time being.



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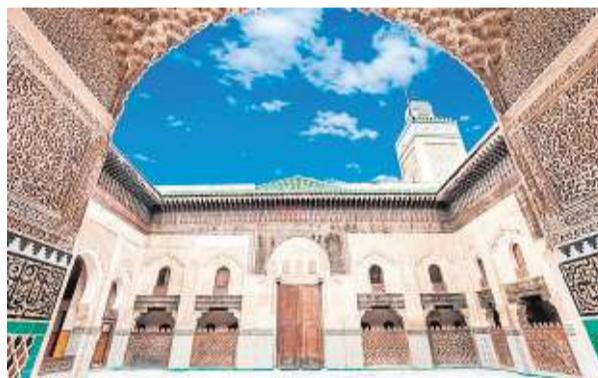
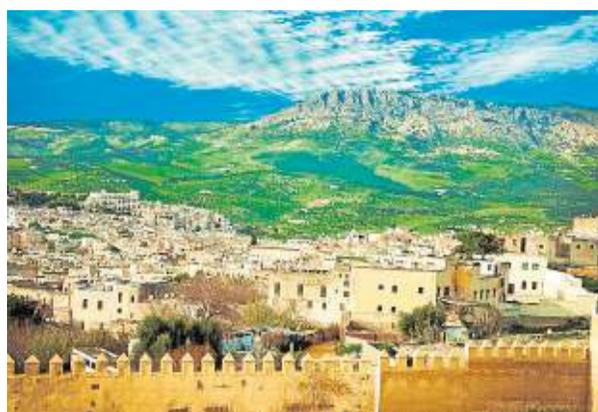
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For many, the magic of Fez is found in the intoxicating and chaotic daily life of the medina. :: SUR

Fez, authentically Moroccan

This ancient, imperial city has one of the Arab world's most remarkable medieval medinas

Driving down into the valley I was confronted by the rich texture of the city spreading out before me. Surrounded by fields, and framed by the Middle Atlas mountains beyond, the urban cityscape was a mass of clustered buildings of warm sandstone, with bursts of saffron yellow, punctuated by splashes of green from roof tiles and date palms that towered over secret walled gardens. I'll never forget the first time I visited Fez. I'd taken the fast ferry over from Tarifa, muddled my way through the border shenanigans at Tangier, then drove down from the foothills of the Riff mountains, past



ANDREW FORBES

✉ Twitter: @andrewforbes

cedar forests and through terracotta-coloured Berber hamlets until reaching the city of Fez.

The few hundred kilometres had been a memorable journey of negotiating unmarked roads and hair-pin bends; avoiding donkeys and residents that would stray into the road without warning; and paying cash fines to elegantly-dressed traffic police who occasionally emerged from

seemingly nowhere to tell me I'd been speeding (on a road with no speed signs!).

Yet the real adventure began when I entered the medina. Striking archways through the city walls led into a tightly-packed community of hundreds of thousands of residents living among workshops, bakeries, markets and mosques.

Time travel

That first visit was back in 2006. Returning to Fez more than a decade later (there's now a direct flight from Seville) I was pleased to see that the city had retained its unique atmosphere - and yet it also felt so very different. I hope Fez doesn't become the next Marrakech, a city that now

when I visit feels at times more like a European capital than an exotic north African metropolis.

So, head to Fez now, as times are changing fast. The new airport terminal brings many more Europeans seeking a city break with a compelling flavour of authentic Morocco, yet they arrive with an insatiable appetite for chic hotels and stylish restaurants.

Founded back in the eighth century by the Idrisid dynasty, the first royal family to rule over all of Morocco, Fez became the capital of Morocco and evolved into a commercial and cultural hub.

Fez is now a tale of three cities. First there is 'Fès el-Bali' (old Fez), the UNESCO World Heritage med-

ina that thankfully remains a thriving community for thousands. Then there is 'Fès el-Jdid' (New Fez) founded in the 13th century by the Marinids dynasty. Finally, the newest part of Fez, is the 'Ville Nouvelle', the contemporary commercial district, with its wide palm-lined avenues, built at the beginning of the 20th century by the French during the era of the French and Spanish protectorates.

Magical medina

For many, though, the magic is found in the intoxicating and chaotic daily life of the medina. Recent years have seen significant investment in the restoration of this remarkable place, said to be the largest car-free urban area in the world. During my first visit one would see dereliction and dilapidation everywhere. From the rooftop of the hotel I would look down and see neighbouring riads falling apart; their central patios filled with debris. Not so much now.

Following the growth of Marrakech, local and national government have worked to restore Fez. This is a huge task, as throughout Old and New Fez one is confronted by remarkable architecture - the city's legacy from when it was the epicentre for religion, science, the arts and commerce in Morocco. These buildings are a lasting testament to when each imperial dynasty tried to outdo the last with highly-decorated mosques and religious colleges.

Fez was a city that grew over the centuries through immigration, including Jews and Muslims from Tunisia and the east, and refugees from Andalucía, each bringing their cultural and commercial influences.

However, the ongoing restoration work in Fez is not just for commercial gain. Al-Qarawiyyin, said to be the world's longest-running university, has undergone a renewal, and its priceless manuscripts from

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medieval scholars are being preserved. The city also hosts international cultural events, such as the annual Festival of Sacred Music (in June).

Residents and foreigners have also invested in Fez to recreate the beauty of this ancient city. Traditional riad houses have been carefully renovated; once again used as family homes, or reimagined as guesthouses, boutique hotels, or elegant restaurants.

Fast food

Yet some things can't change. Getting around on foot is the only way in the old quarters, but it obliges you to really experience Fez. You must have your wits about you as residents haven't time to accommodate disorientated tourists. Commercial traffic of laden donkeys, barrows, carts and noisy diesel pickups is a constant element of street life.

So too, is food. While discovering the streets and souks, your senses will be bombarded with sights and smells that will whet your appetite; from the aroma of freshly-baked bread and the spicy smoke from brochette meat skewers cooking over charcoal, to the colours and textures of juicy dates piled high, or sweet pastries made with honey tempt-



While discovering the souks, your senses will be bombarded with sights and smells. :: SUR

ingly displayed on streetside stalls. For tasty fast food on the go, try a sandwich made from khobz, the ubiquitous flat, crusty bread. Spilt open and filled with barbequed meat, olives, herbs and a little harissa red pepper sauce, they make a quick, cheap and mouth-watering lunch.

Artisans and ateliers

Lost within the warren of alleyways, it doesn't take long before you find craftspeople working in their

cramped studio workshops that open onto the street. Various parts of the medina are dedicated to different trades and guilds including henna and cosmetics, weavers, metal-workers, shoe-makers and leather-workers. The creativity is inspiring.

What's different now, as I return to the city, is that chic galleries and art studios are emerging in Fez, showcasing the world-class quality of the artistic products here. Fez is renowned for its pottery too, but

you must head just outside the centre to the potteries on the edge of town, where their wood-burning kilns are allowed. I bought intricately-patterned dishes which I use at home almost every day, reminding me of when the salesman stood on a pile of them to show me just how strong they were!

Riad refuge

With the ongoing refurbishment of the medina has come a renewed re-

spect for the city's few green spaces. The ninth-century Muslim immigrants from Andalucía brought a unique style, aesthetic and interpretation of the Arab art of combining gardens, water and architecture, inspiring designs throughout the city.

Jardin Jnan Sbil, a beautiful city green space, once known as Bou Jeloud Gardens, is found between Old and New Fez, close to the mellah Jewish quarter, and the Blue Gate. The park is a refreshing place to take a break.

That said, the most valuable calm and tranquillity will be within your riad hotel. These traditional palatial homes feel sealed-off from the real world. They have high walls, with few, if any, windows onto the outside street. Instead rooms face inwards, overlooking the central Andalusian-style patio, where a trickling fountain encourages a meditative peace that is the perfect antidote to the pandemonium outside.

Fez is changing fast and who knows what it will be like in another ten years? But one thing seems consistent, and that's the enthralling, captivating ancient medina. This medieval town has retained its soul; it may have been touched by the 21st century but it remains truly connected to its illustrious past.

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THE INSIDER GUIDE

Fez



Café Clock.

■ ANDREW FORBES

The former capital of the Kingdom of Morocco, and one of the oldest Muslim imperial cities in the world, Fès (as it is known in French) makes for a compelling destination. Its old town, the UNESCO World Heritage medieval medina, is spellbinding.

STAY:

Riad Tizwa

If you are looking a friendly and relaxed stay within an historic medina house, then consider Riad Tizwa, where the team offers a welcoming and affordable guest experience. This is a thoughtfully-restored, authentic riad, with lots of Fassi and Moroccan style.

RiadTizwa.com

Riad Idrissy

For a bohemian experience, try this 400-year-old mansion with a half dozen guest rooms. The riad, with its eclectic design, is best known for The Ruined Garden courtyard restaurant.

RiadIdrissy.com

Hotel Sahrai

With cocktails and sunset views over the Fez medina, this chic, upscale 50-room hotel located on a small hill outside of old town is architect-designed and built in classic Moroccan style with exquisite interiors by Parisian designer Christophe Pillet. The hotel has a Givenchy Spa and sophisticated urban rooftop bar.

HotelSahrai.com

Riad Fès

If you are celebrating a special occasion, then stay at the spectacular and seductive Riad Fès. This upscale, Relais & Châteaux hotel & spa has outstanding rooms, enchanting patio courtyards, a tranquil garden, pool and rooftop terrace.

RiadFes.com

EAT:

Yalla, Yalla

For an insider's perspective of Fez,

ask your hosts for recommendations. Richard and Daniel of Riad Tizwa for example, recommend Yalla, Yalla, a characterful street café close to the medina's famous Blue Gate 'Bab Boujloud', as it "offers good people watching and the food is surprisingly good and excellent value".

The Ruined Garden

A unique setting for lunch or dinner, The Ruined Garden has breathed new life into the site of a dilapidated merchant's house. Tables are set among potted plants, in this creative, overgrown, but romantic setting.

RuinedGarden.com

Dar Roumana

This beautifully-restored Fassi riad guesthouse has an elegant Franco-Moroccan fusion restaurant, with a menu that promises to go "beyond tagine and couscous".

DarRoumana.com

Nur Restaurant

Chef Najat Kaanache, born in San Sebastián to Moroccan parents, is the culinary mastermind behind Nur, one of the finest restaurants in the country, where contemporary style and flair showcase Moroccan cuisine. The building (formerly Restaurant Numéro 7) is a masterpiece in monochrome aesthetic by restaurant owner and designer Stephen di Renza.

Nur.ma

Fez Café Restaurant

Le Jardin des Biehn, a former summer palace with an Andalusian garden, has been given new life by the French Biehn family. Its Fez Café Restaurant is where Chef Hicham Moufid promises an exotic meal evocative of 1001 Nights.

JardinDesBiehn.com

Café Clock Fez

Visitors to Marrakech will already be familiar with the style of this culture café. The Fez outpost is a tourist hotspot that endeavours to serve some local culture with its international menu, through storytelling workshops, a cooking school and live music. (Opening in Chefchaouen soon.)

Fez.CafeClock.com

DO:

Walking tour

The city has endeavoured to make it easier to navigate Old Fez with colour-coded signposted itineraries that take you to monuments, palaces, gardens, artisan workshops and the city walls. Getting lost is part of the adventure, but if you're looking for a guide, Plan It Morocco is consistently well-reviewed.

Plan-It-Morocco.com

Madrasas and merdesas

Although mosques are only open

to Muslims, some of the city's historic Islamic colleges are open to visitors and each are a showcase of fine imperial architecture and Moroccan craftsmanship, with exceptionally ornate tiles, ancient carved cedar wood ceilings, and intricate stonework.

Al-Attarine Madrasa is considered one of the most beautiful buildings built during the Marinid dynasty; **Sahrij Medersa**, also from the 14th century, is a tranquil place in the Andalusian quarter; while **Bou Inania** is probably the most remarkable, and extravagant of them all.

VisiteFes.com/en/

Barter and bargain

Shopping in the souks can be a little tiring with the assertive shopkeepers, but the Coin Berbère boutique (in the Haddadine district) is well known for selling artisan rugs and antique pottery, decorated in blue and white, for which Fez is renowned. If you shop alone, prices will be better (as no commission is paid to guides).

Chauwara Tanneries

One of the iconic sights of Fez, the Chauwara / Chouara tannery, the largest of the city's three tanneries, is a piece of living history that dates to the 11th century. The stench of the open pits can be a little strong at times, as cow urine and pigeon excrement is used to tan the leather.

The dying process is striking to witness, as workers stand almost waist deep in vibrant vats filled with solutions coloured by organic plant dyes and pigments.



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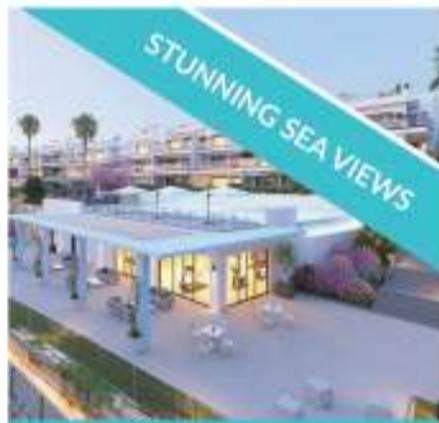
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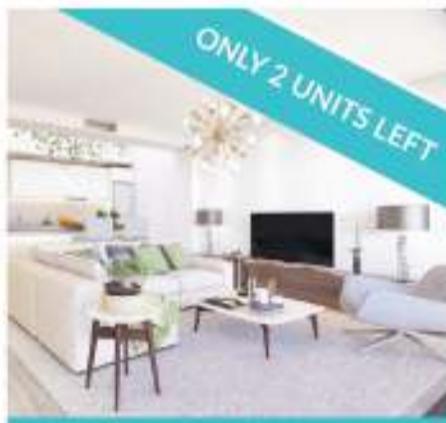


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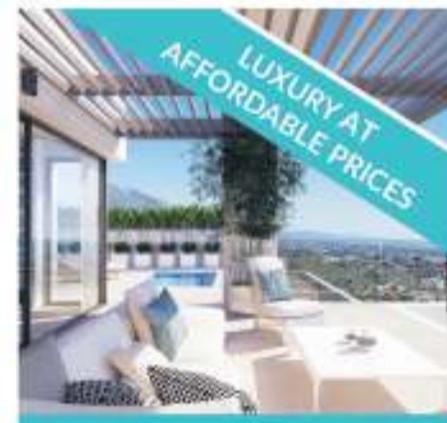
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Oh, Canada!

The view from the top of Lone Cone trail on Mearns Island. :: A. BOLTON

It was the chance to visit an old college friend that gave me an excuse to explore this eye-wateringly beautiful part of the world. A first-time visitor to Canada, I wanted to get the most out of the holiday - and what better way to do that than a road trip.

But before we hit the road, I spent a couple of days in Vancouver wandering around the city on foot and on bicycle. Vancouver struck me as a clean, modern and bustling city with an abundance of skyscrapers for a city that size - all set against a snow-capped mountain range.

But despite its grandiose appearance, the downtown area is relatively small and can easily be crossed on foot in less than an hour. I recommend a trip to the top of the Vancouver Lookout Tower (only 12 bucks) where you are treated to unrivalled views of the skyline and, if money permits, there's a rather expensive restaurant on the top floor too.

Other highlights included a stroll around China Town and Gastown, the latter being the oldest part of the city, out of which Vancouver grew in the 1870s. Here you will find the in-



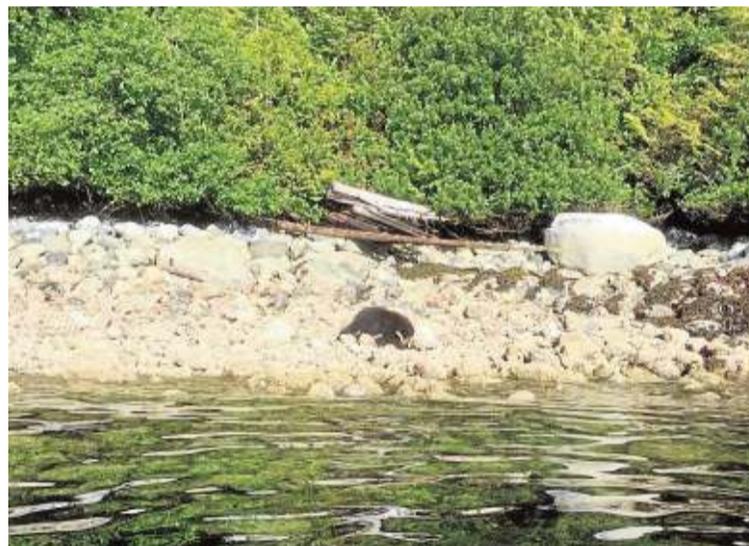
ASH BOLTON

✉ ashbolton@hotmail.com

Bear watching, kayaking and goats on a roof – those were just some of the highlights of a 10-day road trip through British Columbia

famous steam clock, which as the name suggests, is a clock that runs on steam and subsequently draws a big crowd on the street.

Those who like to bury their noses in a book should visit Macleod's Books, an old-world second-hand book store where they are piled almost to the ceiling in a chaotic, but



Seeing a bear up close. :: A. B.

charming manner.

However, the highlight was hiring a bicycle and cycling around the old sea wall, which at 28 kilometres in length, claims to be the world's longest uninterrupted waterfront path (it certainly felt like it).

Along the path there were totem poles, cannons, lighthouses and more

photo opportunities than you can shake a selfie stick at.

Back in Blighty

Day three saw us catch a two-hour ferry from Tsawwassen to Vancouver Island, where we then headed to the capital of British Columbia, Victoria. This charming and magnificent

seaside town has a very British feel to it. This could be due to the architecture, including the hugely impressive British Columbia Parliament Building or the Fairmont Express Hotel and its traditional afternoon tea, or perhaps something to do with the boat-lined Inner Harbour where scores of people queue up for fresh fish and chips. That and there are quite a few Union Jacks flying around.

For the princely sum of 40 bucks, Ocean Island Inn Backpackers Suites in Victoria provided one of the best-value hostel experiences I've ever had. We stayed in a double room, with breakfast and dinner included, and a free welcoming cocktail - all in a very central location.

From this night I made two important observations about locals: Canadians can't understand the word "water" when pronounced in a British accent; and it is compulsory for all Canadian males under the age of 40 to wear a baseball cap.

Something else I noticed, not just in Victoria, but all along the road trip, is the sheer volume of independent breweries everywhere. The local beer was very popular among the locals in each place we stopped, and something I was quite happy to experience too.

Goats on a roof

Day four, which had an ominous start thanks to a parking ticket and a dent in the hire car, saw us drive to the aptly titled Goats on a Roof market. Why is it called that? Because there are goats eating grass on the roof of the market, of course.

It's worth a stop for that novelty alone, although truth be told we did buy some delicious cheese and pepperoni sticks there.

We then passed Cathedral Grove, which is an endangered remnant of an ancient Douglas fir forest. The biggest trees here are about 800 years old and measure 75m (250ft) in height and 9m (29ft) in circumference. According to history experts, and Google, these trees are the survivors of a forest fire that ravaged the area about 350 years ago - and are well worth a visit for a lovely walk and some memorable photos.

The seaside town of Tofino boasts an abundance of breathtaking moun-



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tain vistas, forests as far as the eye can see and plenty of hiking and water-based activities - all set against the backdrop of a lively town with a hippy vibe. Here we spent four nights camping in Green Point Camp Ground on Long Beach, which was about 20 kilometres from Tofino.

The fearsome threesome

For those of us who camp in Spain, let me tell you that it is quite a shock to hear that the campsite is roamed at night by none other than the fearsome threesome: bears, wolves and cougars. So yes, any food that you cook is not to be left in your tent and instead locked in bear-proof cages dotted around the campsite. And woe betide anyone who accidentally drops food on the floor outside their tent.

One of the park rangers cheerfully recalled how a family had awoken at 3am one morning to find a wolf in the outer section of their tent. They were of course hysterical. Let's just say when you made it to the sanctuary of the toilet block (with animal proof doors) in the middle of the night to do your business, you felt relieved that you hadn't been mauled along the way. However, if you follow the simple rules the chances of meeting one of these ferocious beasts is actually quite remote.

Dodging these beasts aside, however, the town had a variety of activities on offer. One to be recommended is climbing the Lone Cone trail on Meares Island (40 bucks). At a height of 730 metres, this is easily the most difficult, but most rewarding hike I've ever had the displeasure of completing. After reluctantly signing a waiver that it would be my fault if I was mauled by a bear while attempting this feat, we set off up the trail, a near vertical slog.

Armed with a hangover, unsuitable clothing and an inadequate supply of water, it probably wasn't the smartest choice of activity that mom-

ing. But three hours later and we were at the top drinking a shot of celebratory whisky and soaking up some stunning views.

The way down had an exciting twist. Being on constant high bear alert, a lone hiker decided to creep up behind us and announce his arrival with a loud crash, causing us to shriek in a manner I'm sure he felt was quite amusing.

In search of bears

Another day saw us hire kayaks (www.blackbearkayak.com) and in a group of six we duly paddled out to a number of remote islands in search of bears. Having never seen a real-life bear, I'm chuffed to say we saw a grand total of three that afternoon, and managed to get as close as 10 metres to the bears while quietly bobbing up and down from the safety of our kayak.

This was the undoubted highlight of the trip for me, and we had a fantastic and knowledgeable guide called "Hunter" (yes, that's his real name).

It was only on the boat trip back to the main land with the kayaks that we were then shown a photo of one of the guides being followed by an orca in the same stretch of water, where we had just spent two-and-a-half hours floating.

As for Tofino, anybody who has been to Tarifa in Spain would recognise a similar laid-back vibe in the town. Peppered with a number of eateries and bars, it also boasted a Canadian Royal Legion Club that was packed to the rafters most nights with live music.

Those who like to do trail walks are also spoilt for choice, as there were a number of coastal and beach routes, where virgin forest met virgin beaches and a rugged, unspoilt coastline.

So, impressions of this beautiful part of British Columbia? Absolutely stunning and well worth a longer visit.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?



Until the cows come home

BERND THALLER / FLICKR

The charm of this valley is found in the sensation it creates of being left behind by the passing of time. Its relaxed pace of life, paired with the extraordinary scenery, has made it a popular tourist destination in recent years, especially during September when its most famous festival takes place.

To this day, the herdsmen of the area still go to the high mountain pastures every May to take care of the cattle and produce milk and cheese - just as they have done for centuries.

On 16 September, the homecoming of the cattle is celebrated. Cows are decorated with colourful wreaths and shown off in a parade accompanied by herdsmen, milkmaids and joyful mu-

sic. The festival is an opportunity to try folk dancing or shop for local specialities and cheeses.

The best-looking cow will be rewarded with a bouquet and accompanied by a presentation of local dances, food and drinks.

If you think you know where this is, you could win a prize. Please send an email to english@diariosur.es if you know the name of the valley and the name of the festival which takes place every year. Only entries with your full name, delivery address and telephone number will be considered.

Last month's photo showed the 'bobby' statue in Oulu, Finland. During August the Air Guitar World Championships took place, aiming to promote world peace.

Congratulations to Karsten Bech-Andersen in Estepona who answered correctly. Your prize will be on its way to you soon.

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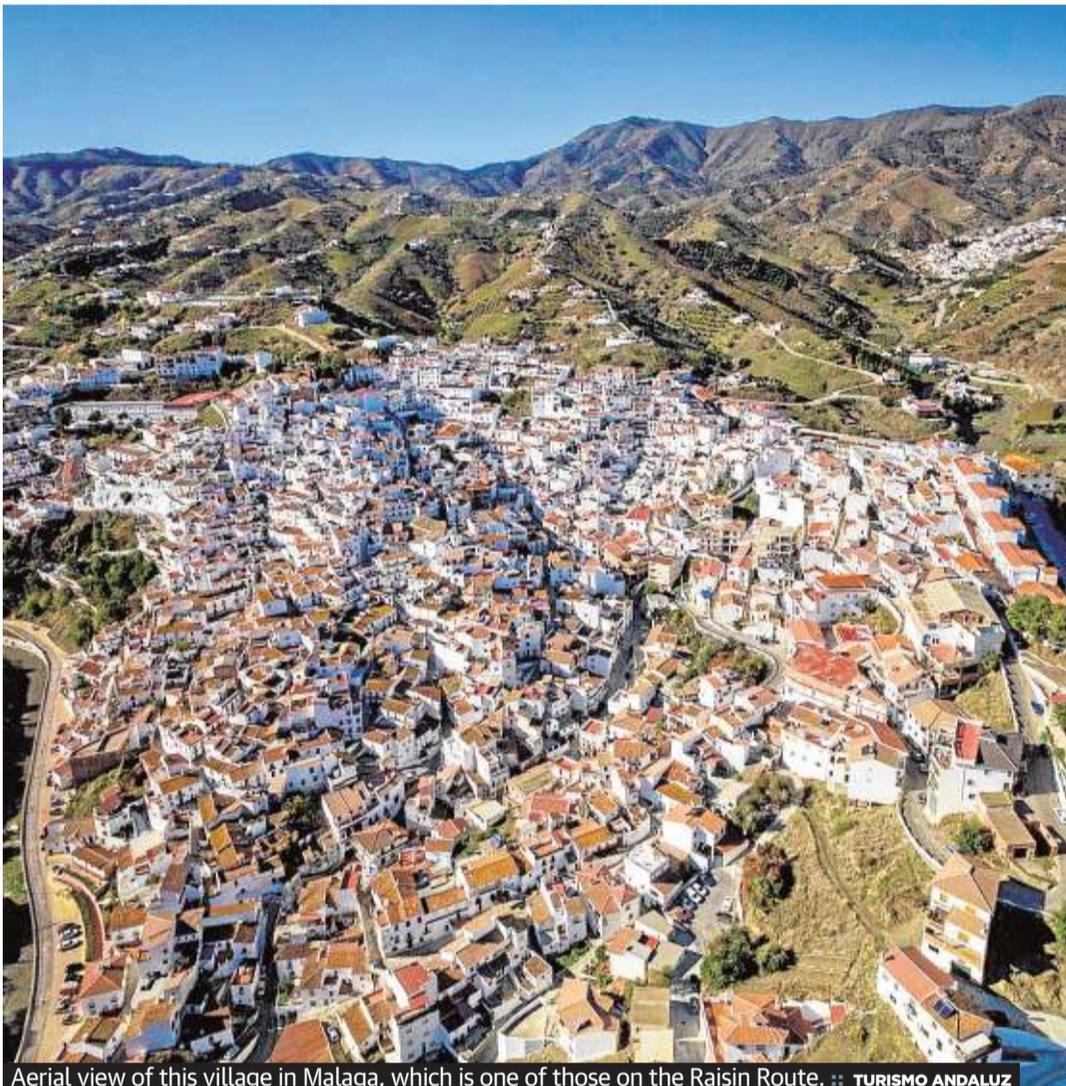
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DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA

The home of ajoblanco

JAVIER ALMELLONES



Aerial view of this village in Malaga, which is one of those on the Raisin Route. :: TURISMO ANDALUZ

On 1 September Almáchar is celebrating the 50th anniversary of one of the oldest gastronomic festivals in Andalucía



How to get there Almáchar.

To reach the village, the best option is to take the Autovía del Mediterráneo, and then the exit at Rincón de la Victoria which is signposted 'Ruta de la Pasa'.

What started in 1968 as a form of protest is considered nowadays to be one of the oldest gastronomic events in Andalucía. In the village of Almáchar, in the Axarquía, everything is now ready for the 50th edition of the Ajoblanco Festival, which this year is expected to be bigger and better than ever before.

When it began, the main objective was to call attention to the need to build a road to improve communications between the coast and inland villages on the so-called Raisin Route, which include Almáchar, Moclín and El Borge. However, over time this gastronomic event began to highlight this village's links with 'ajoblanco', a cold soup made with almonds, garlic, extra virgin olive oil, bread, salt and vinegar.

Unsurprisingly, the people of Almáchar insist that their village can be considered one of the first places to become known for this type of gazpacho, because it is believed that the ajoblanco of Almáchar was made famous at the end of the 19th century by an engineer who was checking land for the cadastre one day in the summer. Because of the heat, he asked a local woman for a glass of water, but instead she offered him a cup of ajoblanco. He liked it so much that he asked for the recipe and then registered it later with the Mercantile Circle of Malaga.

Those who visit Almáchar tomorrow (Saturday 1 September) will be able to try it with some moscatel grapes at midday and again from 6pm. Samples will be given out free of charge in different places in the village, together with other local specialities such as sweet wine and moscatel raisins. In addition there will be 'porra blanca', or ajoblanco paté, served with bread.

During the afternoon and evening, the Ajoblanco Festival will have live folk music, flamenco performances and orchestral groups. There will also be the traditional awards ceremony for outstanding individuals and institutions during the past year.

This edition will not only be a celebration of 50 years of the festival, but will also mark the fact that the local raisins have now been classified as of World Agricultural Heritage by the FAO. At this time of year the grape harvest takes place in Almáchar and other villages in the area, and the grapes are dried to make the traditional raisins.



Alanís celebrates its Medieval Days

Until Sunday, the Sierra Morena in Seville takes a trip back in time with the 'Jornadas Medievales' in the village of Alanís. This small place in Andalucía, which can boast an important heritage of the period, is unbeatable when it comes to recreating the splendour of ancient Al-Andalus. Among the attractions will be an artisan market with craftsmen and women from all over the country. The fun begins this evening, Friday 31 August, after the inauguration which will take place in the Plaza del Ayuntamiento.

The Medieval Days in Alanís are designed for everybody to enjoy, but especially children who will have a great time with activities such as the medieval street parade, audio-visual shows and storytelling related to the period.

During the three days this event takes place, jesters, troubadours, knights, stilt-walkers, acrobats and even wizards can be seen wandering through the streets below the castle, so this small village in the Sierra Norte of Seville will have a very special atmosphere and can easily compete with other medieval events which are organised elsewhere in Spain.

This entertaining festival is also the perfect excuse to get to know more about the important history of Alanís, and to explore its places of interest such as the aforementioned castle, which dates back to the 14th century.



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REF. E. N. O.

I have decided to buy a property in Spain, and after visiting several houses with an estate agent, I have found one that I like; it is in a good location and the price is good. The estate agent asked the seller to send documents about the house, and we have discovered from the nota simple that the prop-

erty has a mortgage that has not been paid in full yet. However, the reservation contract establishes that the property is sold free of liens and encumbrances. The estate agent has told me that there is no problem, that the sellers will cancel the mortgage the same day of the sale, but I find this a bit strange. Is this normal?

Yes, there is no problem in buying a property with a mortgage. What is usually done is that part of the money to buy the property (or everything, depending on the outstanding amount) is paid directly to the bank. The sellers will contact the bank, for them to go to the notary the same day of the sale. First, they will sign the deed of the cancellation of the mortgage, and after that, you will sign the title deed. This way, the property is sold free of liens and encumbrances, and when the deeds are sent to the

Land Registry, they first register the cancellation of the mortgage, so when the sale is registered the property will no longer have the mortgage.

REF. T. S. R.

We live in a three-storey building and with few neighbours. The current president of the community does not want to continue, and no one among the rest of the owners wants to be president. The statutes do not establish anything in this sense. What should we do? Who will have to be the next president?

The Horizontal Property Act establishes that if none of the owners wants to be president voluntarily, one of them will be chosen by drawing lots, and he will be obliged to be the president during one year. From then on, the rest of the owners will have to be president on a rota basis.

First Assessment Consultation FREE of Charge



Padre Arnáiz has thousands of devotees. :: SUR

Crowds set to flock to beatification

More than 8,000 people have already registered to attend the ceremony to beatify Padre Arnáiz on 20 October

:: E. REQUENA / J. HINOJOSA

MALAGA. Every year thousands of people go to the tomb of Padre Arnáiz in the Sagrado Corazón church in Malaga to ask for a favour or give thanks for one received, especially on the 18th day of every month and always on 18 July, the anniversary of his death. For this reason the committee which is organising his beatification is not surprised that nearly two months before the ceremony more than 8,000 people had already registered their attendance at the events which will take place on 20 October in Malaga cathedral.

"We were expecting around 6,000 people, from surveys we had done before, but now we have told the Church authorities that Padre Arnáiz had a huge number of followers and many more could come than we expected. Right now we think there could be about 10,000," said Sister Leticia, the director of the Missionaries of the Rural Doctrines.

Registration, which is available free of charge on the website about the saint (www.padrearnaiz.es) until 20 September, gives people the right to have a seat at the ceremony. Only 2,000 will be able to go into the cathedral, but seats will be set up outside so others can watch the ceremony on giant screens and will also be able to take Communion.

From all over Spain

Most of the participants registered so far are from Malaga and Cadiz provinces, although some will be coming from elsewhere in Andalucía, Tenerife, Valencia, Alicante... "At the moment we're expecting more than 60 coaches and about 600 private cars," said Sister Leticia. More than 120 volunteers have been working with the organisers since May.

The beatification ceremony, the granting of pre-sainthood status, will be on led by the Prefect for the Congregation for the Cause of the Saints, Monseñor Angelo Becciu.

It was 28 years ago that the diocesan authorities started on the path to the beatification of Jesuit priest Tiburcio Arnáiz Muñoz, who died in Malaga in 1926 and whose reputation for extreme holiness remains with him today.

Pope Francis first talked of the heroic virtues of Padre Arnáiz, and then the doctors' committee for the Congregation for the Cause of the Vatican Saints could find no scientific explanation whatsoever for a miracle which has played a key role in the Holy Father agreeing that he should begin the process towards becoming a saint. Finally, in December the Vatican announced that Pope Francis had approved the process to ratify the miracle and that his beatification could take place.

More than 60 coaches will bring people to Malaga for the ceremony which can be followed on screens outside the cathedral

This miracle occurred in June 1994 when a 41-year-old from Malaga, Manuel Antonio Lucena García, had a heart attack which deprived him of oxygen for ten minutes. X-rays revealed major brain damage which should have resulted in physical and psychological consequences. Through the mediation of his brother, the whole family asked Padre Arnáiz to help him recover.

"To the utter amazement of the cardiology team at the Carlos Haya hospital in Malaga, Manuel Antonio Lucena left the Intensive Care Unit without a single consequence to his health from the heart attack," said the Padre Arnáiz organisation at the time.

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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

31 AUGUST 1240

Death of the patron saint of childbirth and midwives



17th century depiction of the canonisation of Ramón Nonato. :: sur

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Santo	Saint
Embarazada	Pregnant
Matrona	Midwife
Parto	Birth/Labour
Santuario	Shrine
Parroquia	Parish church
Cesárea	Caesarean section
Nacido	Born
Cautivo	Captive
Musulmán	Muslim
Ordenar	To ordain
Rescate	Ransom
Dinero	Money
Bendición	Blessing
Venerar	To worship
Festividad	Feast day
Milagro	Miracle

TONY BRYANT



tonysureng@gmail.com

Saint Ramón Nonato, a Spanish priest who was canonised in 1657, died on route to Rome on 31 August 1240, after being appointed Cardinal Deacon of Sant'Eustachio by Pope Gregory IX. He is the patron saint of childbirth, midwives, pregnant women and priests defending the confidentiality of confession.

According to the tradition of the Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mercy, Ramón Nonato was born in the village of Portell

in Catalonia in 1204. His early life is somewhat confusing and there are many differing versions, but the most accepted is that he was the son of a local aristocrat.

His name - Nonnatus in Latin - means 'not born' and refers to the nature of his own birth. Born by caesarean section, which resulted in the death of his mother, his father planned his son a career at the royal court of the Kingdom of Aragon. However, Ramón was drawn to religion, which angered his father, who sent him to work on one of the family's farms. Ramón spent his childhood tending sheep, although he would often pray at a nearby country chapel. His father eventually abandoned hopes for his son's social advancement.

He later gave permission for Ramón to take the habit with the

Order of Mercedarian monks in Barcelona, an order founded to ransom Christian captives from the Moors. The youngster was trained by Pedro Nolasco, the founder of the order, and was ordained in 1222. Ramón made such progress that he was soon considered worthy to succeed his master in the office of ransomer.

His first assignment was to secure the release of 140 Christians from slavery in Valencia, after which, he went to North Africa, where he was able to ransom another 250 captives in Algiers. However, while in Tunis his money ran out and - in keeping with the fourth vow taken by members of the Order - he was forced to surrender him-

self to ensure the release of 28 Christian hostages.

He was tortured and sentenced to be impaled when the governor learned that he had converted several Mohammedans, but he escaped the death sentence because of the ransom he would fetch. Legend states that his captors bore a hole through his lips with a hot iron and padlocked his mouth to prevent him from preaching.

He was ransomed eight months later by Pedro Nolasco and on his return to Barcelona in 1239, he was appointed cardinal by the Pope, but died at Cardona the following year while on the way to Rome. According to legend, his father, the local friars and the townsfolk all claimed

his body. To resolve the dispute, the priest's body was tied to a blind mule, which was then let loose. The mule is said to have taken the body to the small chapel where Ramón had prayed as a youngster and it was here that he was laid to rest.

Many miracles were attributed to Ramón Nonato before and after his death and he was canonised by Pope Alexandra VII in 1657. His feast day is celebrated on August 31.

i Bilingual crossword inside back page



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DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

Ruscus hypoglossum

This unusual evergreen shrub has flattened stems instead of leaves, tiny flowers and bright red berries

Native to Central and South Eastern Europe, *Ruscus hypoglossum* or Spineless Butcher's Broom, is a drought and shade tolerant shrub that is found growing in the under-story of forests in the wild.

Other common names include Mouse Thorn and Horse Tongue

lily and it is a member of the large asparagaceae family (114 genera and over 2,900 known species).

Ruscus hypoglossum has long arching stems and is not fussy about soil type as

long as it is free draining. It will reach approximately one metre tall and eventually form a large clump. It will tolerate some sun although it will be happier in dappled shade, is drought resistant and can survive short periods of frost.

The specific epithet (*hypoglossum*) comes from the Greek 'hypo' and 'glossus' meaning 'under' and 'tongue'. This probably refers to the appearance of a single flower, followed by a single, crimson berry, on the surface of the 'leaf'. The 'leaves' are actually flattened stems or phylloclades; the true leaves form like tiny scales around the equally tiny, yellow or white flowers.

The most striking aspect of this plant is the bright red berries that give it a festive look. It is a popular plant for flower arranging and is also grown for ground cover in shady, dry areas such as under trees and other plants.

The smaller 'leafed' *Ruscus aculeatus*, or 'Butcher's Broom', has prickly phylloclades and apparently was once used to clean butcher's chopping blocks. Extracts of this species have been shown to have an anti-inflammatory effect and cause contraction of the blood vessels. However all parts of the plant (and all species of *Ruscus*) are toxic and will cause severe stomach cramps if ingested.

The species *R. colchicus* is unusual as it bears the flowers and berries on the underside of the phylloclades.

Propagation can be carried out by seed or by division.



Ruscus hypoglossum and the red berries (Inset). :: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

READERS' PHOTOS



:: ESTEPONA TOURIST OFFICE

ESTEPONA IN BLOOM

Staff at the Estepona Tourist Office are proud of the town's beautiful gardens and have sent in this photo saying, "We would like to share with other readers of SUR in English this photo of *Chorisia Speciosa* which is growing in Plaza Pozo Prados. These trees are in full bloom at the end of the summer and in early autumn."



:: ROBERT JONES

AN URBAN OASIS

Pamela Ann Alba sent in this photo and wrote, "My son Robert created this garden (with community permission), from a disused overgrown plot in our urbanisation."

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 ([surenenglish](https://www.facebook.com/surenenglish)) or Twitter ([@SUR_English](https://twitter.com/SUR_English))



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ANDREW J. LINN

ANISAKIS



The phone rang in the middle of the night. “John, do you know what time it is?” “Sorry but I feel terrible and wanted to know if you’re okay.” When we arrived at Urgencias the duty doctor knew exactly what to do when he learnt we had eaten ceviche earlier. After a period of observation he extracted the anisakis parasites from John’s stomach by endoscope. We were having coffee a few hours later, he none the worse for the experience and lucky to have found a doctor who was on the ball.

There are two main dangers that can make the ingesting of this fish parasite dangerous: if the person is allergic or if the doctor does not act quickly. The anisakis worm lives in fish, so a human host is a cul-de-sac and it dies as it tries to penetrate the stomach wall. Immediate extraction, before it passes into the intestine, is the best solution. So, while John was lucky with his prompt examination, many people are not, and can spend months undergoing medical treatment as a result of infection. There are no reported deaths.

Probably the unhappiest aspect is that people affected, even briefly, swear off fish for life. This is like giving up driving because you have an accident. The chances of history repeating itself are exactly the same as if you had never experienced it. Anyone may be affected the next time they eat fish,

regardless.

Official guidelines recommend (and compel in the case of restaurants) the fish to be deep frozen for five days, although cooking at very high temperatures allegedly has the same effect. It is unlikely a restaurant will serve sushi, sashimi, ceviche, anchovies in vinegar, salmon roe, smoked fish, etc, that were not frozen adequately beforehand. But look at the numbers. In Spain there are no more than 150 reported cases annually, compared with Japan’s 1,000. Other Mediterranean countries have almost zero cases, and most of Spain’s occur on the Atlantic coasts, leading to the conclusion that for the average Costa resident or visitor, the chances of becoming a victim are remote. A week later John and I were eating lubina a la sal in the same restaurant.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Malaga Virgen

The classic sweet dessert wine of Malaga has changed little in two centuries. ‘Málaga Virgen’ is the name of the bodega. Made from the autochthonous grapes of the province, it is aged for two years in oak barrels, and is almost obligatory as an accompaniment for desserts and sweet things. About six euros.



Iberian pork in high demand

There are more pig farms and many more pigs than there were just a few years ago in order to meet the increased interest from abroad

∴ SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. According to a recent report released by the Department of the Environment, since 2013 the pig population in Spain has increased by nine million and is now around 50 million. The main reason for this is the expansion in pig farming to meet the growing demand from consumers in pork-eating countries such as China, Japan and Southeast Asia.

The famous Iberian pork and jamón serrano is so popular in those countries that Spain now has the largest pig population in Europe and is said to have more pigs than people. Prices have also gone up reflecting the increased interest in the international markets for Iberian pork.

Spain is the second biggest pork exporter in Europe (after Germany) and is fourth in the world after China, the US and Germany.

The Spanish government estimates that 21.2 kilos of pork are consumed per person per year, a figure which adds up to not even half of Spain’s current production.

According to the report, the growing porcine population is having a detrimental effect on the environment, being the fourth largest source of greenhouse gas emissions after transport, generation of electricity and industry.



Spanish hams curing for export. ∴ FOTOLIA



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José María Gallardo del Rey to open Gibraltar Philharmonic Society's twentieth season

GIBRALTAR. Internationally-acclaimed guitarist José María Gallardo Del Rey and conductor Juan Cantarell, together with the European Symphony Orchestra, will open the Philharmonic Society's 20th Anniversary season on 6 September.

The National Celebrations Classical concert will take place at St Michael's Cave.

José María Gallardo del Rey made his debut in Seville at the age of nine and his training as a classical guitarist has been enriched by his intense relationship with the world of flamenco.

He has worked on projects like 'Pasión Española' with Plácido Domingo and 'Habana Gipsy', and with Elina Garança, 'Caprichos Líricos'. He has also worked alongside Teresa Berganza and as director and artistic advisor for Paco de Lucía in his debut with the Concierto de Aranjuez.

Juan Cantarell from Barcelona studied conducting at the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Vienna and made his debut at the Musikverein of Vienna directing the Pro-Arte Orchester Wien.

The evening's programme includes the Overture to Eg-



José María Gallardo del Rey. :: SUR.

DETAILS

► **What.** Classical music concert.

► **When.** 6 September, 8pm.

► **Where.** St Michael's Cave, Gibraltar.

► **Tickets.** Sacarello's coffee shop, The Silver Shop and www.buytickets.gi

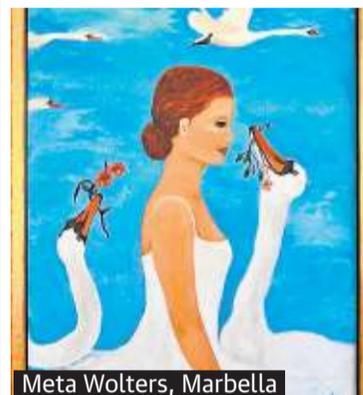
mont and Symphony n°7 by Beethoven and Concierto de Aranjuez by J. Rodrigo.

Tickets are £20 and a limited number of tickets at £10 are available to senior citizens via the John Mackintosh Hall at 308 Main Street.

Those aged 18 years and under can attend all Gibraltar Philharmonic concerts for free, with tickets from the Gibraltar Philharmonic Society Office, tgpsociety@gmail.com or +350 20072134.

Prices include a bus shuttle service. www.philharmonic.gi

EXHIBITIONS



Meta Wolters, Marbella

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

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

Presence and Absence Marbella. From 29 September until 28 November. Salon Enseñada, Hotel Fuerte. An exhibition of works by Enar Cruz and Antonia López Luque.

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'.

The Russian museum Malaga. Edificio Tabacalera, Avda Sor Teresa Prat. Tues-Sun 9.30am - 10pm. The seasonal exhibition 'La Mirada Viajera. Artistas Rusos Alrededor del Mundo' consists of 105 pieces including works by Krachkovsky, Clement Redko, Konstantín Makovsky and Alexandr Deineka among others. Also included in the seasonal exhibit which is open until September are works by Mikhail Schwartzman.



Presence and Absence, Marbella

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Encuentro, Tolox

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.

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.

'Deja que la vida fluya'

Malaga. Until 18 September. Alfa-jar, C/Cister.

An exhibition by Mercedes Lirola.

Guitar legacy

Malaga. Museo Interactivo de Música Málaga (MIMMA).

The museum is exhibiting instruments, documents and tools belonging to the Domínguez family. The workshop of Domínguez Valderrama and then his son José Domínguez García, was the last of the Malaga school of guitar makers. They carried on the legendary Casa Lorca tradition making guitars, lutes and bandurrias (a type of lute).

Ocho

Malaga. Until 6 September. Centro Cultural María Victoria Atencia, 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

The 'weirdest dude on the planet' returns to the Costa

TONY BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. Three of the UK's top stand-up comedians are heading to the Costa del Sol this September. The trio will perform a series of shows on the coast, including a performance at The Boma in Alhaurín El Grande on 14 September, and shows at The Salon Variétés Theatre in Fuengirola on 15 and 16 September.

Following the success of the previous years' shows, the outrageous Dave Thompson, former Tinky Winky in the Tellytubbies children's series and cult hero on the university circuit in Britain, will return to entertain with his absurd style of stand-up comedy. Known for his quick-fire sense of humour, Dave, who was described by Timeout as 'the weirdest dude on the planet', will perform alongside Alan Francis and Kevin McCarthy.

Scottish comedian Alan Francis first came to the notice of comedy audiences when he won Channel 4's So You Think You're Funny Award in 1991. Since then his reputation has grown as a



Dave Thompson at last year's show in Fuengirola. :: T. BRYANT

writer, stand-up comedian and actor and he has worked on television with celebrated comedian Steve Coogan. He also co-starred on The Alan Davies Show on Radio 4, which was nominated for the Best Radio Show at the 1998 British Comedy Awards.

Former HGV lorry driver Kevin McCarthy made his debut at Malcolm Hardee's notorious Tunnel Palladium Club in London. Kevin was an instant hit with the crowd, who christened him The Man with a Beard, a

stage name he used for many years. Kevin has worked as a warm-up act for the Jools Holland Show and is the only comedian to perform at the annual Hells Angels Rumble in the UK, so he has cut his teeth with some of the most difficult audiences on the circuit.

Tickets for the Salon Variétés shows, which will begin at 7.30pm on Saturday and at 7pm on Sunday are available from the theatre's ticket office and website.



MOVIE LISTING

From Friday 31th August to Thursday 6th September

ORIGINAL VERSION SUBTITLED SPANISH



THE FIRST PURGE

Director Gerard McMurray
 Starring Ylan Noel and Lex Scott Davis
 ACTION - 97 min.



From Friday 31 to Sunday 2: 16:15, 20:30
 Monday 3 and Tuesday 4: 18:30, 20:30
 Wednesday 5: 16:15, 20:30
 Thursday 6: 18:30, 20:30



THE EQUALIZER 2

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



From Friday 31 to Sunday 2: 22:45
 Monday 3 and Tuesday 4: 22:30
 Wednesday 5: 22:45
 Thursday 6: 22:30



THE HAPPYTIME MURDERS

Director Brian Hanson
 Starring Melissa McCarthy and Elizabeth Banks
 ACTION - 81 min.



From Friday 31 to Sunday 2: 16:00, 18:30, 22:45
 Monday 3 and Tuesday 4: 16:45, 20:45, 22:30
 Wednesday 5: 16:00, 18:30, 22:45
 Thursday 6: 16:45, 20:45, 22:30



INCREDIBLES 2

Director Brad Bird
 ANIMATION - 125 min.



From Friday 31 to Sunday 2: 15:45, 18:05
 Monday 3 and Tuesday 4: 16:30
 Wednesday 5: 15:45, 18:05
 Thursday 6: 16:30



MAMMA MIA! HERE WE GO AGAIN

From Friday 31 to Sunday 2: 15:50, 22:45
 Monday 3 and Tuesday 4: 18:15, 22:30
 Wednesday 5: 15:50, 22:45
 Thursday 6: 18:15, 22:30



MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - FALLOUT

From Friday 31 to Sunday 2: 22:30
 Monday 3 and Tuesday 4: 22:00
 Wednesday 5: 22:45
 Thursday 6: 22:00



EXHIBITIONS

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.

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/Rosarico. A new exhibition at the Krabbe gallery in Frigiliana.

Martín Corradini



Emmy Hanna, La Cala

Fuengirola. *Until 14 September.* Homes, Real Estate & Art. Avda Los Boliches 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 Campanario, 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 Libelula, C/Periana. Artist Astrid Frida Zehetner has an exhibition of her acrylic paintings.

Torremolinos Chic

Torremolinos. *Permanent exhibition,* Casa de los Navajas. A permanent exhibition of photographs taken in the 60s and 70s entitled Torremolinos Chic. It features around twenty photographs including one of the legendary Bridget Bardot posing on Carihuela beach in a Cordobés hat.

Emmy Hanna

Mijas. *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



Joven Orquesta Mediterráneo, Almuñécar.

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. reservas@hoteltamisagolf.com / 952 585 988

MUSIC & DANCE

Ocean Bar

Malaga. *Hotel Vincci Posada del Patio, 11pm, entry free.*
4 September. Susan Valery and Adrian Lombardi.
8 September. Dana and Gianni. International songs, jazz fusion and blues. www.tallerblues.es

Chamber music

Estepona *2 September, 8pm.* Plaza del Reloj. The Trío de Cuerda Fajer with Desislava Karamfilova (violin), Irina Yonkova (viola) and Stamen Nikolov (cello) will be playing pieces by Hadyn, Schubert and Vanhal.

Louie Louie

Estepona. *Louie Louie Bar.*
31 August, midnight. Okatudisco, karaoke. Free.
1 September, midnight. Spotilive Band.
12 September, 10.30pm. Joe King Carrasco and Border Soul. 10€.

Joven Orquesta Mediterránea

Almuñécar. *3 September, 10pm.* Acueducto Romano de la Carrera. The Bolero by Ravel, Morceau de Concert by Saint Saënz and L'Arlesienne by Georges Bizet. Conducted by Michael Thomas. www.bravoentradas.com

Robin George

Periana. *24 September, 10pm.* El Cañuelo Bar. The Love Power Band will be in concert.

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.

Chanquete World Music

Nerja. *15 September.* Acts signed up this year's festival include Kase.O, Juanito Makandé, El Canijo de Jerez and Tabletom among others. 29€ for entry, 80€ for camping pack. www.chanqueteworldmusic.com

Billymonkeys

Almuñécar. *14 September, 9pm*

Plaza de la Constitución. Free. Rock band Billymonkeys in concert.

FLAMENCO

Flamenco in the Museum

Malaga. *Museo de Arte Flamenco Peña Juan Breva, C/Ramón Franquelo.*
1 September, 8.30pm. Dani Heredia and flamenco group For information and bookings call 687 607 526 or email info@flamenka.com

Enrique Heredia and company

Mijas. *31 August, 9pm.* Casa Museo Mijas Pueblo. Pure flamenco passion with Enrique Heredia with bulerías, tango, rumbas and sevillanas.

Flamenco Festival

Mijas. *1 September, 9.30pm.* Plaza Virgen de la Peña. The VII Flamenco Feria de Mijas will include performances by Isabel Guerrero, Amparo La Repompilla and Niño de Chaparro singing, Chaparro de Málaga and Rubén Lara on guitar, Tomás Castro on violin, Blankito clapping and the Moisés Navarrodance group.

Flamenco nights

Puerto Banús. *Fridays, from 8.30pm throughout August.* Moma Food&People. The terrace of the Moma restaurant on Friday evenings will be the venue for flamenco performances throughout August. www.momamarbella.com



Enrique Heredia, Mijas Pueblo.

Louie, Louie Bar

Estepona. *Every Thursday.* 9.30pm. 12€ The show Estepona Flamenco El Patio will take place every Thursday. Reservations: 609543950 / 632736774 esteponaflamenco@gmail.com

FESTIVALS

Feria y Fiestas de Pedro Romero

Ronda. *Until 2 September.* The fair is dedicated to the Ronda bullfighter Pedro Romero and the traditional Corrida Goyesca (bullfight in traditional dress) are split over three days. The feria is famous for its Damas Goyescas dressed in traditional Ronda dress and there are processions, live music, casetas and dancing.

Día del Ajoblanco

Almáchar. *1 September.* The festival of the traditional 'Ajoblanco' started in 1968 and has become an outstanding gastronomic

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Damas Goyescas, Ronda.

festival. This year it will be celebrating half a century and sharing out 3,000 litres of the famous chilled almond and garlic soup to visitors.

Fiesta del Vendimia

Manilva. From 31 August until 3 September.

The town of Manilva celebrates the grape harvest with a festival which starts with a flamenco festival today. Mass at the Santa Ana church at 7pm on Saturday is followed by a procession through the streets. Sunday there is a parade of horses and at 7pm the traditional treading of the grapes in the Plaza del Vendimia with tastings of the first pressings afterwards.

EVENTS

Classical Greek Theatre

Almuñécar. From 4 until 8 September, 10pm. *Acueducto Romano de la Carrera.*

Tenth Grecolatin Theatre Festival 'Sexi Firmun Iulim'.

4 September, Medea by Euripides.

Parados Theatre company.

5 September, Mostellaria by Pluto.

Parados Theatre company.

Magical 3D experience

Puerto Banús. Until 15 September, next to Teatro Goya.

Magical 3D Experience is a walk-through display, packed with optical illusion images, allowing families and friends to photograph themselves in a range of fun scenarios.

www.magical3dexperience.com

Lions Club President's Dinner

Mijas. 15 September, 7pm *Treetops, 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. Entertainment from Randy Corwood Soul and Motown. Tickets from La Cala de Mijas Lions shop or call 677659061.

Expo-Tuning

Malaga. 1, 2 September, from 4.30-11.30pm Saturday and from 10am-6pm Sunday. *Museo Automovilístico de Málaga*

The gardens of the Malaga Car Museum is the venue for an exhibition of tuned cars which will be judged in several categories including Best Import, Most elegant, Best Classic etc.

Sunset Ball

Mijas. 13 September, 7pm. *Tamisa Golf Hotel.* 35€.

Conservatives Abroad are holding an end of season ball beside the pool at Tamisa Golf Hotel with dancing on the terrace. This is a non-political event and an opportunity to make new friends. Tickets include canapés and drinks on arrival, three-course dinner with wine, soft drinks and water. Call Christine: 952 668 267.

'Luz de Luna'

Antequera. Until 16 September.

Throughout the summer, there will be organised visits to the monuments and museums of Antequera in the evenings.

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, suitable for all ages. By previous appointment only. Tel: 656960478 or <http://ecoreservaojen.com/>

Age Concern 4th Birthday

Mijas. 23 September, from 2.30pm. *Tamisa Golf Hotel.* 15€

A welcome drink on arrival, show and cold finger buffet. Tickets from the Age Concern shop or Tamisa Golf or call: 686289904

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: 952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@luxmundi.org



Expo Tuning, Malaga.

Huelva, Doñana and Faro

Torre del Mar / Fuengirola. 1-5 October. *Various departure points.*

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Trip to El Chorro and the

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Fuengirola. 19 September *departing from various points.* 33€

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Singer Alba Molina will perform at the festival in Coín. :: SUR

Coín gears up for 12-hour music festival

:: TONY BRYANT

COÍN. The third edition of the Festival Concierto, a twelve-hour, open-air, live music festival that will be staged at various locations around the town will start on Saturday 8 September.

Organised by the town hall, the event is designed to promote the culture of Coín and will include street markets offering typical products and handicrafts of the area. There will also be various educational workshops and stalls offering the traditional cuisine of the area, which is largely based on locally-grown produce.

The festival, which attracted more than 5,000 people last year, is free and will include concerts by more than twelve bands that will perform a mixture of flamenco, rock, pop, hip hop, reggae and jazz.

The line-up includes well-known musicians such as Toreros Muertos, O'Funk'illo, Gordo Master and Alba Molina.

Fronted by singer Pablo Carbonell, Toreros Muertos were part of La Movida Madrileña

movement of the 80s and they have emerged as one of the most popular pop bands in Latin America.

Andalusian funk masters, O'Funk'illo, who debuted on the Spanish music scene almost 20 years ago, will be performing songs from their new album while Malaga rapper, Gordo Master will present his innovative style of hip hop.

One of the highlights of the festival will be the concert by Alba Molina, daughter of celebrated 70s flamenco duo, Lole y Manuel. Alba made her debut album with her father - the flamenco poet - and with pop heart throb, Alejandro Sanz, and has since become one of the pioneers of flamenco fusion, experimenting with avant-garde jazz and the authentic gypsy styles performed by her parents.

Several local bands will also participate at the event, which starts at 2pm, including Mitad Doble, Little Pepe, Viva Reina and Flamencoín.

For more information, see www.coin.es

EVENTS

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. www.tip.santamariapoloclub.com.



Polo, Sotogrande

O. V. FILM

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

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www.unientradas.es
Mary Shelley: 16.30, 20.20.
The Seagull: 16.30, 18.05, 20.30.
Mary Shelley: 16.30, 20.20.

Cinesur El Ingenio

Avda. Juan Carlos 1, Vélez-Málaga. Tel. 667 77 31 87.

Alpha: 12.10 (Sat, Sun); 15.50 (every day).

The Habit of Beauty: 12.00 (Sat, Sun); 16.00 (every day).

Incredibles 2: 16.00, 18.30 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).

Cinesur Miramar

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

Incredibles 2: 12.00, 17.00.

Alpha: 22.20 (Tues).

Mamma Mia: here We go Again: 22.00 (Tues).

The Darkest Minds: 19.05, 21.15 (Tues).

2001 Space Odyssey: 21.00 (Thu).

The Habit of Beauty: 12.15, 16.30

Madame Butterfly, opera from Sydney Harbour: 21.00 (4 September)

Cines Teatro Goya

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

The Happytime Murders 16.00, 18.30, 22.45 (Fri-Sun, Wed); 16.45, 20.45, 22.30 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).

The First Purge: 16.15 (Fri-Sun, Wed); 18.30 (every day except Wed); 20.30 (every day).

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Alpha: 13.00 (Sun); 16.20 (Fri, Sat, Sun).

The Incredibles 2: 13.30 (Sat, Sun); 19.10, 21.40 (every day).

Mamma Mia: Here We go Again: 16.45 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).



Hollywood classics in big screen format.

The Golden Age of Hollywood revived in Malaga this month

MALAGA. The film festival, the Golden Age of Hollywood and of Malaga up to the 70s, will provoke a week of nostalgic feelings for the old classics when scenes were shot on a reel of 35mm film and special effects were few and far between.

From 6 to 13 September, the Albéniz cinema in Malaga (both inside the theatre and outside in the open air) will be showing films in their original ver-

sions, in big screen format. The films will pay tribute to Alfred Hitchcock, Joseph L. Mankiewicz, Jean-Luc Godard and Stanley Donen as well as renowned Malaga resident and film maker, Miguel Alcobendas.

Tickets are 5 euros; 20 euros if you buy tickets for five films. Entry to Sunset Boulevard is free.

Email: cinealbeniz@cinealbeniz.com or call the ticket office (4 - 10pm): 951 571 115

FILMS IN ENGLISH

► William Holden.

Sunset Boulevard. 6 September, 10pm. Calle Alcazabilla.

The Wild Bunch. 8 September, 9.45pm. Albéniz S2.

The Horse Soldiers. 11 September, 6pm. Albéniz S2.

Born Yesterday. 13 September, 6pm. Albéniz S2.

Stalag 17. 12 September, 8pm. Albéniz S2

► Alfred Hitchcock.

Notorious. 9 September, 8pm. Albéniz S2.

Secret Agent. 8 September, 8pm. Albéniz S2.

The Paradine Case. 12 September, 10.15pm. Albéniz S2.

Lifeboat. 11 September, 8.15pm. Albéniz S2.

Spellbound. 13 September, 8pm. Albéniz S2.

► J. L. Mankiewicz.

All About Eve. 13 September, 10pm. Albéniz S2.

A Letter To Three Wives. 10 September, 10pm. Albéniz S2.

Dragonwyck. 7 September, 6pm. Albéniz S2.

Somewhere In The Night. 9 September, 10pm. Albéniz S2.

► Stanley Donen.

Staircase. 10 September, 6pm. Albéniz S2.

Indiscreet. 7 September, 10.15pm. Albéniz S2.

Seven Brides for Seven Brothers. 9 September, 6pm. Albéniz S2.

Funny Face. 13 September, 8pm. Albéniz S2.

A Touch Of Class to perform at Royal Air Force memorial dinner

:: TONY BRYANT

MIJAS. The Royal Air Forces Association of the Costa del Sol (RAFA) is to host a special dinner-dance to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the RAF, with a Battle of Britain-themed event held in the Tamisa Golf Hotel in Mijas on Thursday 6 September at 7.30pm.

The celebrations will include a performance of one of the coast's favourite amateur theatrical groups, A Touch of Class, who will entertain guests with their frightfully British production, 'Remember the Days'.

The cast will perform songs from the 1940s, while recreating the dance hall atmosphere of the war years with costumes and uniforms typical of the period. Guests will be invited to join in with the singing of songs like The White Cliffs of Dover, Wish me Luck (As You Wave Me Goodbye) and Don't Sit Under



A Touch of Class performing its Remember the Years show. :: SUR

the Apple Tree. They will also perform several amusing sketches with wartime themes. This promises to be a night of nostalgia for anyone who remembers the years of the 'People's War'.

Tickets for the event, which includes arrival drinks and a three-course dinner, cost 35

euros and can be purchased on 952567412. Dress code is smart, although dinner jackets are optional.

All funds raised at the event will be donated to the RAFA welfare group, a service that supports all serving and ex-serving personnel and their dependants.

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Health from person to person

“With an urgent appeal we attract new donors and hope they’ll give blood regularly”

Sergio Fernández Doctor at the Regional Transfusion Centre



An urgent appeal for blood donors was sent out earlier this week by the Malaga Transfusion Centre due to the decline in supply in August

MALAGA. Blood supplies at the Regional Blood Transfusion Centre (CRTS) were below minimum levels earlier this week which caused health professionals to send out an urgent appeal for donors to come forward. As usual the appeal touched the solidarity of the gen-

eral public and queues formed at the centre on Tuesday. Sergio Fernández, a CRTS doctor and coordinator of the bone marrow donation programme, explains how the situation had become critical. Every day, approximately 250 bags of blood are needed in Malaga hospitals. Fernández spoke to SUR on Monday when the appeal was made, as supplies dropped to 400 units, enough for two or three days at the most. The appeal will be considered urgent until the bank goes up to 1,000 units which allows the service some breathing space.

-What happened in order to have to make such an urgent appeal to people to give blood?

- Every year at around this time there is a decrease in the number of donations. This year Malaga fair [a busy time for A&E departments] has taken place earlier in August. Plus, our regular donors are away on holiday, there is a massive in-

flux of tourists, many operating theatres [which often close in August] have stayed open, and units such as Oncology and Intensive Care still require blood. All these factors have led to the sums not adding up.

-The appeal has gone out to donors from all type of blood groups.

-Whenever we make an appeal, we make sure that blood donors come from all different types of groups, especially from groups O and A, which are both very common in our area.

-In other words, O negative blood (“universal”) and O positive are both in demand?

-Yes. O negative is compatible with all blood types and O positive is very common in the Mediterranean area.

- Apart from all the frequent donors, I assume that in these cases it is necessary to try to attract new people to give blood.

-Of course. In fact, we benefit from these urgent appeals in that we at-



Sergio Fernández. :: FRANCIS SILVA

tract new donors and make them more aware of the campaign so that later we can encourage them to become frequent donors.

-How many blood units are necessary every day in Malaga in order to guarantee the supply?

-We need around 250 bags of blood

every day. This is the amount needed to face the daily demand.

-So the problem is that the demand for blood remains the same in August, but donations decrease and this upsets the balance.

-Yes, exactly. Donations always decrease in August. In the summer many of our donors go on holiday. We notice the decrease.

-In order to combat the anticipated decrease you launch a special campaign just before the summer in order to be on the safe side. Did the one this year work out well?

-Yes. The response is always exceptional. We notice that soon after we make the appeal, people don't take long to donate. Campaigns usually work really well, since we get exceptional responses from local people. This summer's campaign worked very well. The problem is that that campaign was some time ago and as the donations haven't picked up in the last couple of weeks, we had to make this urgent appeal.

-What plan to you have for September?

-In September we will reopen the unusual blood donor spots in inland areas of the province. In October, we will start the donations campaign at Malaga University.

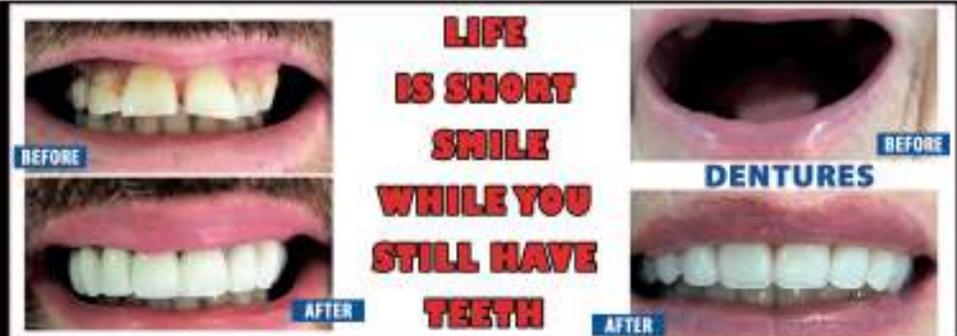
-What are the essential requirements to become a blood donor?

-You have to be in between 18 and 65 years old, to be in good physical conditions and be willing to give blood, which is the most important thing of all.

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The Blood Transfusion Centre was busy on Tuesday following Monday's appeal. :: FRANCIS SILVA

-Where can people give blood?
 -In Malaga city the Regional Blood Transfusion Centre centre building is located in the grounds of the Hospital Civil and open from Monday to Saturday, 9am to 2pm. The mobile blood donation bus parks in the Avenida de Andalucía [opposite El Corte Inglés] from Monday to Friday, 9am to 2pm. We also travel with the mobile unit to towns on both sides of the Costa del Sol.

Residents in UK between 1980 and 1996 excluded

The questionnaire that has to be answered before giving blood reveals a number of factors which exclude certain members of the

public. As well as listing illnesses that are incompatible with giving blood, the requirements also state that anyone who lived in the UK for more than a year between 1980 and 1996 cannot donate. This regulation, common in many countries, is due to the risk of Creutzfeld-Jacob, better known as mad cow disease.

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We speak:

“My ego is well under control”



Dr Julio Acero. :: VIRGINA CARRASCO

Julio Acero has gone further in maxillofacial surgery than any other Spanish doctor. He has changed the lives of thousands of patients

:: JOSÉ ANTONIO GUERRERO

MADRID. Julio Acero, at 60 years of age, is renowned worldwide for his maxillofacial surgery. He is the only Spanish doctor to have been president of the World Society of this speciality and is president elect of the European one. Married with two children and one grandchild (and another on the way), he runs the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department at the Ramón y Cajal and Puerta de Hierro hospitals in Madrid, which are benchmarks in the public health service.

– Doctor Acero (Dr Steel in English); it sounds like the name of a superhero....

– Yes, it sounds strong, doesn't it? Well, I don't lack energy. The other day after a 12-hour operation everyone was exhausted and I said, "What's the matter with you? I'm carrying on." The doctors asked me

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PERSONAL INFO

Brilliant surgeon. He is a member of the most prestigious colleges of surgeons in the world and has led teaching programmes on every continent. His commitment has taken him ten times to different African countries to train doctors.

Leisure. To relax, he likes opera, walking and reading, especially historical novels. Maybe that comes from having read Don Quijote in its entirety when he was just seven years old!

if I had taken a magic potion or something!

– **You are a maxillofacial surgeon. We're not talking about small cosmetic improvements, it's something much more than that, isn't it?**

– It includes everything. We reconstruct everything that affects the facial area and those around it, such as the neck. It can range from a dental implant to a face transplant and in between you have serious facial traumas, for example from a fire-arm, birth malformations or facial reconstructions because of a tumour.

– **Which of your 'miracles' are you most proud of?**

– Every time you operate on a patient and you see that you have removed the maxillary or the jaw and it doesn't show, you feel proud. And with tumour surgery, when you operate on a young woman with facial cancer and she has just become a mother, and she says "Doctor, I'm going to die and won't see my child grow up," and 20 years later that woman has not only seen her child grow up but that child has never seen his mother deformed because we have reconstructed her face.... well, then you feel very proud.

– **I expect you have seen a lot of people cry?**

– Yes, patients and their families. I remember the case of the parents of a 13-month-old girl with an aggressive malignant tumor near the base of the cranium. She had had an initial operation at another hospital and the possibility of a cure was 0.05 per cent, to give some sort of a figure. They had given her chemotherapy but the tumour had resisted, and the only possibility was an extremely complicated operation. We had to take out the jaw, the maxillary and her eye, to try to save her... anyway, we did that, it was a few years ago and the girl is still alive. That is very satisfying. Some patients don't make it, and then we cry. We're not robots.

– **Many patients who are cured think of doctors as gods. Who is the god of surgeons who carry out these 'miracles'?**

– Well, you know, I do have religious faith. Yes, many patients do say that you are like a god to them because you have changed their life, but no. We are human beings who do the very best we can and we have the obligation to use the abilities that we have been given, together with the technical resources. But we don't work miracles.

– **So your ego is under control...**

– Very controlled. My ego, in the sense of being proud of what I do, helps me to continue fighting.

– **Do you work for love or money?**

– I don't work for the glory of it because we are all paid, but patient satisfaction is a large part of why I do this. Money has never been the most important thing. I have done very well professionally, but I dedicate a great many hours of my life to it and spend part of my holidays teaching and giving conferences. The reward

"No, we are not gods; we are human beings who do the very best we can"

"Every time you carry out major surgery and it doesn't show, you feel proud"

isn't financial, it is moral and scientific.

– **Is the face the mirror of the soul?**

– Not 100 per cent. There are patients with a malformation at birth and they are stigmatised. They may be intelligent and highly qualified people, but they won't be given jobs. More than the face, I would say the facial expression may be the mirror of the soul.

– **What is the most difficult part of maxillofacial surgery?**

– The area around the eye. When you tell people you have to remove their jaw, maxillary, empty their neck or open their skull, they're OK with that. But when you have to remove an eye because of cancer, they take it very badly. I can understand that. If you remove it, they lose it.

– **If Trump came into your consulting room now and asked you to mend his face, where would you start?**

– Let's just say that mending Trump would be difficult!

– **And Spain, can it be mended?.**

– Yes, without a doubt. We have good people in all fields. We need to calm down a bit.

– **For a doctor, is death a failure?**

– No, for a doctor untimely death is a failure. The other day we operated on a nine-year-old child with a cancer. If the cancer returns and he dies, that would seem like a failure.

– **What about cosmetic surgery?**

– If a patient has an ugly nose and wants a nicer one I don't see any problem, but I don't think it's right when patients go over the top in terms of surgery, or want fillers.

– **Twelve-hour operations, a university professor, private consultations, travelling.... how do you do all that?**

– With great enthusiasm, but I sleep very little.

A healthier lifestyle would save Spain 16.4 billion euros

EFEE

MADRID. If Spain's citizens lived a healthier lifestyle - for example, by stopping smoking and eating more healthily - the country could save 16.4 billion euros of its social spending on treating three diseases that have the biggest impact on the health of the population. Ischemic heart disease, type 2 diabetes and

osteoporosis are three problems that could be prevented through lifestyle changes. The total social cost attributable to all three together is 26.5 billion euros.

These are some of the conclusions of research carried out at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria with the support of Fundación Mapfre. The study takes into

account the number of years we lose due to these diseases as well as the healthcare and non-healthcare costs, directly or indirectly, which include, for example, the lost of productivity in the workplace or family care.

"Diet is the killer and the culprit that reduces quality of life," said Beatriz González, the director of the research. Among women, inadequate nutrition is responsible for 60% of the "disease burden", a concept that combines the number of years lost through dying ahead of time and the years lived with poor quality of life due to illness.

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A simple eye test could detect early signs of Alzheimer's before any symptoms appear

Researchers at an American university have discovered a new means of early diagnosis using technology which is more commonly found in ophthalmology clinics

:: EUROPA PRESS

Researchers at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Washington in St Louis (USA) have used technology similar to that in many ophthalmological consulting rooms to detect early evidence of Alzheimer's in elderly patients who show no symptoms of the condition.

In the study, which involved 30 patients and is published this week in the Medical Association Ophthalmology Journal, the scientists say that in future it will be possible to detect Alzheimer's through a simple eye test.

"This technique could help to decide who should undergo other more

costly and invasive tests for Alzheimer's before any clinical symptoms occur. We hope it can be used to understand who is accumulating abnormal proteins in the brain which could lead them to develop the disease," explained the principal author of the study, Bliss E. O'Bryhim, a doctor in the faculty's department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences.

The brain damage caused by Alzheimer's can occur years before symptoms such as memory loss and cognitive deterioration occur. Scientists estimate that the proteins associated with Alzheimer's can accumulate in the brain two decades before any symptoms show. At present, doctors use PET scans and lumbar punctures to help diagnose this illness, "but they are expensive and invasive".

Retina and optic nerve

In previous studies, researchers who examined the eyes of people who had died from Alzheimer's said they



Research has just been carried out on volunteers in the United States. :: SUR

showed signs of thinning in the centre of the retina and degradation of the optic nerve. In this new study, a non-invasive technique has been used called retinal angiography and optical coherence tomography, to examine the retinas of the people (with an average age of 70) who showed no clinical symptoms of Alzheimer's.

Around half had high levels of the Alzheimer's proteins, amyloid and tau, or brain fluid, which suggests that although they are showing no symptoms, they probably

would develop the condition. In the other subjects studied, the results were normal.

"In patients with high levels of amyloid or tau, we detected a significant thinning in the centre of the retina. We all have a small area with no blood vessels in the centre of our retinas, which gives us more precise vision. We discovered that this area was significantly wider in people with preclinical Alzheimer's," said chief researcher Rajendra S. Apte.

In an eye test, opticians illumi-

nate the eye with light to measure the thickness of the retina and the fibres in the optic nerve. The researchers added a new component: the angiography, which enables doctors to distinguish the red cells from other tissues in the retina.

They admit that more patients need to be studied to confirm the results, but say that if the changes noted can be used as markers for the risk of Alzheimer's, "one day we might be able to detect it in people as young as 40 or 50".



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A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER

Commentator, Sky Sports
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Pep talk

The current Manchester City boss believes that England should adopt a similar approach to Spain when it comes to reserve teams

The English football system is largely failing the young players and they need to take a leaf out of the Spanish coaching books. Who told me this? None other than the guru Pep Guardiola!

One of the perks of the job is that I get the undivided attention of some of the greatest minds in football, and I get to ask them pretty much anything within reason.

Prior to sitting down with Guardiola I was told that his eyes glaze over and the voice becomes monotone if you ask him the usual 'on script' questions. I noticed that he'd touched on the subject of the poor state of the English football academies when the written press were hunting for quotes about his teenager Phil Foden. Nobody enquired further so I thought I'd try to explore the subject.

Pep famously built his all-conquering Barcelona team on the spine of players who had studied their game at the club's La Masia college of football.

At Bayern Munich there was a strong German influence, yet at Manchester City the English players are in the minority and those who make the first team like Raheem Sterling and John Stones have been bought in.

Teenager Foden is the exception at Manchester City who have spent millions on recruiting the finest young talent from all corners of the world, many heading over from Pep's native Spain like Malaga teenagers José and Iker Pozo.

Despite the finest coaching and facilities, the path rarely leads to the first team and Guardiola is concerned that the English sys-



Guardiola's great Barça side was built around a local core. :: REUTERS

tem of playing academy football against players of a similar age is the reason.

He told me: "First of all before you play for the first team you have to play in a real tough competition. You can loan them to the Championship or the Premier League but when they play in the second team they don't compete against strong teams really, and that is the problem."

"The Spanish system is differ-

ent. B teams play in the second and third tiers against competitive clubs in real leagues against tackles and elbows of players whose careers depend on the outcome of matches.

"It's like playing in the Championship," he says. "The second teams from City, United, and Arsenal can play in these leagues [the lower English divisions]."

"For the young players in the Championship every game is a real test and that is the best way to im-

prove and go forward."

Last season Pep Guardiola agreed to loan players to one of Manchester City's business partners, Girona FC, who had just been promoted to the Spanish top flight with the help of his brother's influence. Pere Guardiola is heavily involved at the ambitious Catalan club.

The likes of Douglas Luiz, Aleix García, Marlos Moreno, Olarenwaju Kayode and Pablo Maffeo all experienced various amounts of playing time and this season Patrick Roberts has headed over for a gap year.

This all happened as part of Pep's master plan. "For some of them it was an alternative. Playing in an important league, like La Liga. They play in nice stadiums like Camp Nou, Bernabéu, Bilbao, Atlético Madrid... so that is the best way.

"When you get young players who can play regularly every week on these stages, that is the best way to improve," he said.

I'm not sure how many of the big decision makers took the hint from Guardiola but I suppose the plus side is that if they don't change the academy system, there will be plenty more stars of the future flooding to Spain.

Spain's dream ended by Japan once again

The women's under-20 side were second best all over the field in Friday's World Cup final in Vannes

SPAIN 1 JAPAN 3

:: AMADOR GÓMEZ

MADRID. It was Japan who broke Spanish hearts four years ago, when they ran out 2-0 winners in the under-17 World Cup final in Costa Rica. And history repeated itself on Friday when Spain's under-20 side

crumbled at the final hurdle in Vannes (France) as Japan cruised to their first triumph at this level.

Pedro López's side were looking to build on successes in the European Championships at under-17 and under-19 level with victory on a global stage but failed to get a foothold in the game, with the absence of Aitana Bonmatí, sent off in the semi-final, acutely felt.

Despite controlling possession in the first half, Spain were unable to make their dominance pay and it was Japan that opened the scoring in the 38th minute through Miyazawa.

Japan extended their lead with



The players distraught at the final whistle last Friday. :: EFE

two goals in the space of eight minutes at the start of the first half through Takarada and Nagano to leave their opponents struggling to stem the flow.

Candela Andújar's goal in the 71st

minute proved to be just a consolation as La Roja changed shape but were unable to threaten Hannah Stambaugh's goal, except for Claudia Pina's strike which rattled the crossbar.

IN BRIEF

Errors cost Marbella on return to league action

ALMERIA

:: **J. RODRÍGUEZ.** Marbella were a bit rusty as they returned to league action following the summer break as they threw away a 1-0 lead to lose against Almería B.

Juanma gave the Costa side the lead in the 65th minute after pressing high, but just two minutes later, Dario Gutí picked the pocket of Lolo Pavón before scoring with the outside of his foot.

With just four minutes left on the clock, Lin, the smallest on the pitch, headed home the winner having been left completely unmarked from the cross.

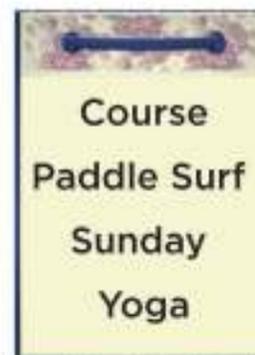


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Calendar



Art Painting. August





Gustavo Blanco scored the winner with ten minutes to go. :: SALVADOR SALAS

LALIGA 123

Results	Match day 3
Extremadura - Deportivo 0-1	Alcorcón-Mallorca
Malaga - Alcorcón 1-0	Lugo-Numancia
Numancia - Cadiz 1-1	Zaragoza-L. Palmas
Reus - Zaragoza 0-0	Elche-Reus
Las Palmas - Albacete 1-1	Cadiz-Oviedo
Cordoba - Oviedo 2-4	Tenerife-Deportivo
Sporting - Gimnásic 2-0	Nástic-Majadahonda
Osasuna - Elche 1-1	S. Gijón-Extremadura
Granada - Lugo 1-1	Granada-Osasuna
Almeria - Tenerife 1-1	Albacete-Cordoba
Majadahonda - Mallorca 0-1	Almeria-Malaga

Table	TEAMS	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
1. Malaga	2	2	0	0	3	1	6	
2. Mallorca	2	2	0	0	2	0	6	
3. Oviedo	2	1	1	0	5	3	4	
4. Las Palmas	2	1	1	0	3	1	4	
5. Sporting Gijón	2	1	1	0	3	1	4	
6. Cádiz	2	1	1	0	2	1	4	
7. Deportivo	2	1	1	0	2	1	4	
8. Zaragoza	2	1	1	0	2	1	4	
9. Numancia	2	0	2	0	4	4	2	
10. Albacete	2	0	2	0	2	2	2	
11. Tenerife	2	0	2	0	2	2	2	
12. Elche	2	0	2	0	1	1	2	
13. Granada	2	0	2	0	1	1	2	
14. Lugo	2	0	1	1	2	3	1	
15. Alcorcón	2	0	1	1	1	2	1	
16. Almeria	2	0	1	1	1	2	1	
17. Extremadura	2	0	1	1	1	2	1	
18. Osasuna	2	0	1	1	1	2	1	
19. Cordoba	2	0	1	1	5	7	1	
20. Gimnásic	2	0	1	1	1	3	1	
21. Reus	2	0	1	1	0	2	1	
22. Majadahonda	2	0	0	2	1	3	0	

Substitutes combine to make it two wins from two for Malaga



DARYL FINCH

✉ dfinch@diariosur.es

Gustavo Blanco Leschuk scored with ten minutes to go, shortly before a nervous closing period when the hosts went down to ten men

MALAGA. Malaga maintained their hundred per cent record for the campaign by seeing off Alcorcón in an incident-packed encounter at La Rosaleda on Friday

1-0 MALAGA-ALCORCÓN

Malaga: Munir; Cifu, Luis Hernández, Pau Torres, Federico Ricca; Alfred N'Diaye, Recio; Renato Santos (Hicham, 60'), Adrián González (Gustavo Blanco, 60'), Juankar (Ontiveros, 76'); Harper. Unused substitutes: Andrés Prieto, Diego González, Iturra, Héctor.

Alcorcón: Dani Jiménez; Laure, Burgos, Fernández, Bellvís; Sangalli, Toribio, Dorca, Nono (Borja Galán, 60'); Alvaro Peña, Jonathan Pereira (Juan Muñoz, 67'). Unused substitutes: Raúl Lizoain, Parra, Aty Abeid, Elgezabal, Eddy Silvestre.

Goal: 1-0 Gustavo Blanco (82').

Referee: Pulido Santana. Straight red for Ontiveros (90+2'). Yellow cards for Hicham, Dorca and Bellvís, the latter receiving a second in the 92nd minute.

night. Substitutes Javi Ontiveros and Gustavo Blanco combined to bag the winner with ten minutes to go, before both sides lost men to red cards.

Fresh off what was also a late win, 2-1 in Lugo last weekend, Juan Ramón Muñiz made just one change to his starting line-up, bringing in goalscorer Juankar on the left in place of Ontiveros who was hooked at half time in Galicia.

There was no place for new signings Dani Pacheco and Mamadou Koné in the squad as the club must first ship out players so that they can complete their registration and comply with salary cap regulations.

A first-division crowd

Backed by a healthy crowd of almost 20,000, the hosts got off to

the stronger start on their home league debut, maintaining possession and pressing from the front.

The main protagonist in this was young Scotsman Jack Harper, starting up front for the second consecutive game. It was his tenacity which set up the first chance of the half when he fought to win back possession near the corner flag before laying off the ball to deposed captain José Recio whose side-footed effort flew into row Z.

Harper again was involved in the 15th minute as he robbed the defender of the ball before opening up on his favoured left foot. His shot, however, was deflected into the air and headed clear.

However, the Blue and Whites failed to maintain their control on the game and Alcorcón started to

feel their way in with a few sighters – albeit nothing to trouble Moroccan keeper Munir.

The turning point

Early in the second half, Muñiz made changes in attack and crowded Alcorcón's half with the introductions of Hicham and Gustavo Blanco Leschuk, in place of the ineffectual Renato Santos and Adrián. The focus on width disappeared and the hosts took a much more direct approach as the Madrid side held a deep line.

Blanco's first chance came to him within minutes when Hicham's cutback spun up and leant itself to an acrobatic volley. His effort, however, was well held by Dani Jiménez who hardly put a glove wrong all game.

But when the game's decisive moment came, he was helpless. Substitute Javi Ontiveros did well to resist the temptation to shoot when faced with three defenders and instead took the ball to the by-line before chipping it to the near post for Blanco who steered his header into the top right-hand corner with just ten minutes to go.

Hicham also came close, whis-

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Juegos Mediterráneos stadium. :: SUR

Up next

THE FIRST ANDALUSIAN DERBY OF THE YEAR

:: JAMES CHAPMAN

Malaga's next test will see them take on Andalusian neighbours Almeria on Monday night (kick-off 9pm).

Fans face a visit to the Juegos Mediterráneos stadium, opened

in July 2004 for the 2005 Mediterranean games, holding 15,000 spectators. It was expanded to 22,000 after the team were promoted to La Liga in 2007 under the guidance of current Arsenal manager Unai Emery, but returned back to 15,000 when they were relegated in 2015. Since then the team have struggled badly in Segunda finishing 15th and 18th twice.

Following last week's 1-1 draw against Tenerife, their only point so far, Almeria sit in 16th place.

ting an effort from fully 25 yards inches past the left-hand post.

Late drama

With the seconds counting down, nerves started to set in and when a counter-attack for Alcorcón was on, Ontiveros chased down his man before wrecklessly sliding in and earning himself a red card in stoppage time. Carlos Bellvís also picked up a second yellow for his reaction in the aftermath.

Despite this drama, there was little time left for anything else. "At the end of the day, a win's a win, no matter how it comes," said a satisfied Juan Ramón Muñiz following the game.

Having claimed six out of a possible six points, Muñiz praised his players' attitude: "The team has always accepted responsibility [since I've been here] and we are reaping the rewards of all the hard work put in during the week."

Competition for places

Even without new signings Dani Pacheco and Mamadou Koné in the

equation, competition within the squad is certainly high. When asked about the impact of his substitutes, Muñiz highlighted the overall quality of the squad: "I really like this team. When the game is over, they've got nothing left to give and whenever there are changes, the level either stays the same or goes up.

"Individuals can surprise you, but the most important thing is the team and every week we have to give everything on the pitch."

Jack Harper, who will be looking to keep his place in the side for Monday's trip to Almeria, echoed the sentiments of his coach. The Scotland under-19 international told SUR in English: "We've got a team that knows how to suffer and we know that the goal will come. We saw that last week from losing 1-0 and turning the game around. I think there's going to be good things coming this year."

Harper, raised on the Costa del Sol, said of his home debut: "To play in front of all the people, all the 'malagueños', was an honour."

Club optimistic of securing departures on busy deadline day

Sporting director Caminero has until midnight tonight (Friday) to complete Malaga's new-look squad

:: ANTONIO GÓNGORA

MALAGA. The countdown has started to midnight tonight (Friday) as clubs in Spain frantically rush to complete their transfer dealings before the window slams shut.

For Malaga, perhaps more than most clubs, they have more pressing concerns with five players (Mehdi Lacen, Badr Boulahroud, Sead Haksabanović, Dani Pacheco and Mamadou Koné) still not registered due to a surplus of players in the squad and the wage cap surpassed. Before any of these can pull on the blue and white shirt this season, the club needs to sell.

Sporting director José Luis Caminero has been working all summer to try and shift the dead-

wood from the squad but has faced several obstacles with the club standing firm by its belief that it will not give players away for nothing.

Roberto Rosales is the highest-profile player on the exit ramp and is close to completing a transfer to Catalan side Espanyol. The Venezuelan, one of the club's longest-serving players, was initially part of coach Juan Ramón Muñiz's plans but expressed his desire to leave late in the summer.

Cenk Gönen's return to Turkey looks all-but sealed, but finding a destination for out-of-favour winger Adnane Tighadouini will prove more of a challenge as Malaga seek to recoup at least some of the money they spent on him.

A buyer also needs to be found for Juanpi who, despite being one of the highest earners in the squad, is not wanted by Muñiz.

One player who may also leave is last season's captain José Recio. The midfielder has started both

games so far this new season but has attracted the interest of La Liga side Deportivo Alavés.

While Caminero is loath to losing a key man, the way in which deadline day progresses may force his hand.

It is not only outwards that movement could occur. Veteran Polish goalkeeper Pawel Kieszek is close to joining the Costa del Sol club after agreeing to have his contract with Cordoba terminated. The Andalusian club, however, would retain the option to resign him at the end of the season as part of the deal.

Whether the 34-year-old joins as a third or second choice depends on other transfers and whether current second choice Andrés Prieto, who is at present expected to line-up against Almeria on Monday in the absence of Munir who has been called up by Morocco for international duty, remains at the club or seals the move away that he has been craving.



:: SALVADOR SALAS

MALAGA AND TESESA JOIN FORCES FOR TWO YEARS

Malaga CF and Malaga-based interiors company, Tesesa announced on Wednesday that their partnership, which sees the company's name appear on the club's shirts, will last two years. Tesesa's name joins that of BeSoccer on all strips, including that of the women's side, whose players' names can now be purchased on the back from all official outlets.

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The riders get encouragement as they pass through El Chorro. :: FERNANDO TORRES

Malaga helps get La Vuelta off the line

The Costa del Sol and inland areas witnessed a lot of action this week, hosting the first four stages

Marbella rider Luis Ángel Maté took advantage of familiar surroundings to claim the King of the Mountains jersey

:: DARYL FINCH / MARINA RIVAS / FERNANDO TORRES

MALAGA. Thousands of visitors and cycling enthusiasts descended on Malaga province this week as it played host to the opening four

stages of the annual Vuelta a España grand tour, expected to be one of the most fiercely-contested in history, in the absence of Chris Froome and with a number of the favourites competing off the back of the Giro d'Italia.

The most 'malagueño' Vuelta so far got off to a start from Malaga's Centre Pompidou on Saturday evening with riders greeted by vast crowds throughout the city for the opening eight-kilometre first stage.

This individual time trial was sur-

prisingly won by Rohan Dennis (BMC), who completed the route in nine minutes and 39 seconds. Riders passed Muelle Uno, the lighthouse and cruise terminal within the port area, before following the coast eastwards ahead of a turn back into the city centre. As the peloton came down the Paseo del Parque, it was greeted by thousands of people, many of whom were visitors to the city, before turning down the emblematic Calle Larios ahead of the finishing line at Plaza de la Constitución.

The day was sombre for a number of riders following the death of fellow cyclist Javier Ochoa. A Tour de France stage winner in 2000, Ochoa went on to become a paralympic gold medallist in 2004, but died on Friday, aged 43, following a long illness.

Marbella rider Luis Ángel Maté, who was a close friend, competed in the opening stage hours after Ochoa's funeral. "It's a dream for any sportsman to be able to ride at 'home' and today I did that," he said.

"But it will always be bittersweet given his death.

"I was lucky enough to get to know him after his accident; he is an example for everyone to follow."

The King of the Mountains

The second stage proved to be a good one for Maté who, competing on home soil, picked up the King of the Mountains jersey following the 163.5-kilometre stage from Marbella to the Caminito del Rey in which Spaniard Alejandro Valverde (Movis-



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Maté, with the King of the Mountain jersey. :: AFP



Passing through the Marbella arch. :: JOSELE-LANZA



Riders in La Cala de Mijas. :: SUR



The first stage finishing line in Malaga. :: MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

tar) came out on top. The Cofidis rider picked up 11 points, to claim the jersey heading into the third stage. "This was always the objective," he said. "As soon as I knew the Vuelta would be coming here, to the roads I train on every day, I knew it would be an opportunity to claim the jersey." This stage, which left from the Golden Mile in Marbella, snaked up through Coin, Alozaina, Zalea, Pizarra, Alora and El Chorro, before a finish at the impressive Caminito del Rey, which provided a breathtaking backdrop not only for the rid-

ers and the international press, but also fans following in person and around the world on TV. **The cycling comes to the Costa** Monday's third stage, which departed from La Cala de Mijas, was

the longest to take place in the province and took in the majority of the Costa del Sol's major towns. Having left La Cala, it passed through Marbella once more, before going inland through Ronda and Yunquera before returning to the

coast, via Mijas once more. Crowds in Benalmádena and Torremolinos witnessed the action before the stage finished in Alhaurín el Grande (the first time it has hosted the finishing line in the Vuelta) with a victory for Elia Viviani (Quick-Step Floors). On the day, Maté made the most of his familiar surroundings to extend his King of the Mountains advantage, moving to 24 points, 12 clear of his nearest rival. With another mountainous stage on Tuesday, Maté delivered again, amassing a further ten points, as the Vuelta made its final stop in Malaga province and its first stage start in Vélez-Málaga. Setting off from Avenida de las Naciones, riders passed through Torrox, El Morche and Nerja, in the opposite direction to last year, before reaching Granada via Almuñécar.

At the finishing line in Alfacár in the Sierra de Alfaguara, there was yet another stage winner - this time Dimension Data's Benjamin King. The grand tour finished its stay in Andalucía on Wednesday with a medium mountain phase from Granada to Roquetas de Mar before heading into neighbouring Murcia on Thursday. Going into today's (Friday) flat stage between Puerto-Lumbreras and Pozo Alcón, the overall leader is Rudy Molard (Groupama-FDJ), while Maté remains in the spotted jersey with a 22-point lead. The Vuelta will continue until 16 September with a 100.9-kilometre stage from Alcorcón to Madrid. Between now and then, riders will only have two rest days, on 3 September in Salamanca and on 10 September in Santander.

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SPORT IN PICTURES

► **Basketball.**

The Malaga-based Unicaja basketball team presented its new look kit on Tuesday at the Aduana building in the city. The new design, which has been described as "more daring" will be worn by the players when the new season gets under way at the end of September. The team's first friendly takes place on Sunday against Movistar Estudiantes. :: S. SALAS



▲ **Tennis.** Andy Murray (right) is out of the US Open after being beaten in controversial circumstances by Spain's Fernando Verdasco in the second round (7-5, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4). Murray accused Verdasco of receiving illicit coaching during a heat break. :: REUTERS



◀ **Polo.** The 47th International Polo Tournament at Santa María Polo Club in Sotogrande reaches its climax today, Friday, with the final of the high goal Gold Cup. The tournament, however, draws to a close on Saturday with the final of the low- and medium-handicap finals, the latter being contested by MB Polo (pictured) and Ayala Polo Team. At the time of going to print, the remaining finalists are yet to be decided. :: SANTA MARÍA POLO CLUB



▲ **Formula One.** Fernando Alonso was able to walk away from the scene unhurt after a spectacular accident which saw Alonso's McLaren land on top of Leclerc's Sauber after being launched into the air by Renault's Nico Hulkenberg during the Belgian GP on Sunday. :: AFP

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THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



THE STARS

Aquarius
January 21 - February 19
An attempt at taking charge in a certain situation may not go according to plan. Confidence reigns and you will ask for what you want in no uncertain terms.

Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Deal with any small matters or niggling health concerns. Allow time to clear your mind and relax.

Aries
March 21st - April 20th
It is a great time for dealing with improvements to the home and setting up plans for the future. Be bold!

Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Midweek influence from Saturn could mean negotiations hitting a hard place. Be sharp on finances.

Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
What someone close wants now, you could be wanting in a few months time! Keep an open heart and mind.

Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Finances need your close attention right through the week to avoid annoying problems later on. It really is just a matter of being more organised.

Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Well, your love life brings amazing news. Maybe you decide to take a romance a step further.

Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
High energy means a big push forward with your decisions. Do give yourself time to think, however, as enthusiasm could override practicality..

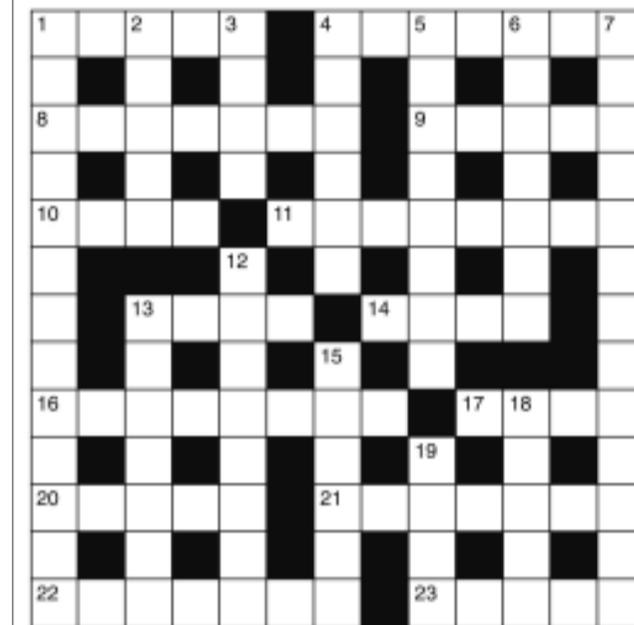
Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
A great time for communicating your ideas and feelings. Be set to impress those you come into contact with.

Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
You know that life is not always perfect but it is in your power to make others feel better about themselves..

Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
You feel the need to let off steam. Letting others know exactly how you feel is a great tension-reliever.

Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
A hiccup at the beginning of the week should not put you off making a new start, perhaps on an old idea.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11310



- Across**
- 1 Was not sitting, but was a candidate (5)
 - 4 The escapades of abrasive people? (7)
 - 8 Not diplomatic - military then? (7)
 - 9 These are not genuine fleas (5)
 - 10 Venture into sordid areas (4)
 - 11 Besides, there is a bigger surplus (8)
 - 13 Recent, but not on the dot (4)
 - 14 Deserters return to top the bill (4)
 - 16 Enormous caper on horse-drawn vehicle (8)
 - 17 Current wild animal returned (4)
 - 20 Addition of complex trade figures (5)
 - 21 The crowd grow old, as he is held to ransom (7)
 - 22 Strings of invective about sea dirt (7)
 - 23 Live like a dunderhead - successfully (5)
- Down**
- 1 Sensible decision-making based on noise estimation? (5,8)
 - 2 Happen to be dog led by officer commanding (5)
 - 3 Take the plunge in a drinking-den (4)
 - 4 Rarely models (5)
 - 5 Thinks mirrored thoughts? (8)
 - 6 Friend may assert it's a long conference (7)
 - 7 Turner on the road (8,5)
 - 12 Not an out-of-the-way flag (8)
 - 13 Boat the smoker might miss? (7)
 - 15 Sees spectacles (6)
 - 18 Foliage cut short - don't touch it (5)
 - 19 Dues are not new (4)

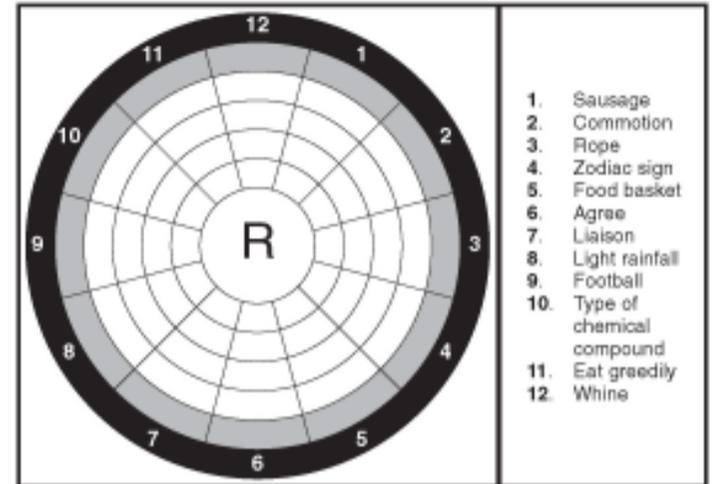
SUDOKU BY HANZO

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

			3					
2	9			8				
	6		5			4	3	1
9					7			
	4	2		6				9
				4		5	8	
5		7		2				3
8		6	4	3			5	
						1		

CLOCKWORD

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter R in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a famous outlaw.



- 1. Sausage
- 2. Commotion
- 3. Rope
- 4. Zodiac sign
- 5. Food basket
- 6. Agree
- 7. Liaison
- 8. Light rainfall
- 9. Football
- 10. Type of chemical compound
- 11. Eat greedily
- 12. Whine

THE WORDPUZZLER



Can you identify the first names of the jockeys listed below?

- 1. Swinburn
- 2. Cauthen
- 3. Piggott
- 4. Munro
- 5. Carson
- 6. Hawke
- 7. Cochrane
- 8. Eddery
- 9. Llewellyn
- 10. Reid

INTERNATIONAL RADIO

- Talk Radio Europe**
105.5 Axarquía
91.5 Costa del Sol East
91.9 Costa del Sol West
98.7 Gibraltar/Sotogrande
News, interviews, lifestyle, sport and BBC World Service.
- Global** (93.6 and 96.4FM)
All week round the clock music and entertainment
- Radio Radio Network** (96 and 98.3 FM). Music 24 hours.
- Central FM** (98.6 FM, 103.8)
All week, classic tracks and today's music broadcast to the Costa del Sol
- ACE FM** (106.8 FM)
Inland radio, news and music
The Beat fm (106 FM)
24 hours, music and entertainment

Spectrum (105.5 FM, Costa Almeria/Mojácar 92.6 FM)
24 hour music and entertainment

Radio Mijas (107.7 FM)
3 p.m. News, views and music

Radio Sol Almirajara (99.1 FM)
Nerja radio in English and German and night time World Radio Network

HeartfmSpain (88.5 FM Costa, 96.1 FM inland) Music, entertainment, news

Lick FM (103.6 FM Marbella)
Urban music broadcast between Gibraltar and Calahonda

Rtv Puebla (107.7 FM)
Monday evenings, Rock music memories. 7 - 9pm. email: radiopuebla.musicmemories@yahoo.com
Fb: Radiotelevision Peubla de Cazalla

QUIZ

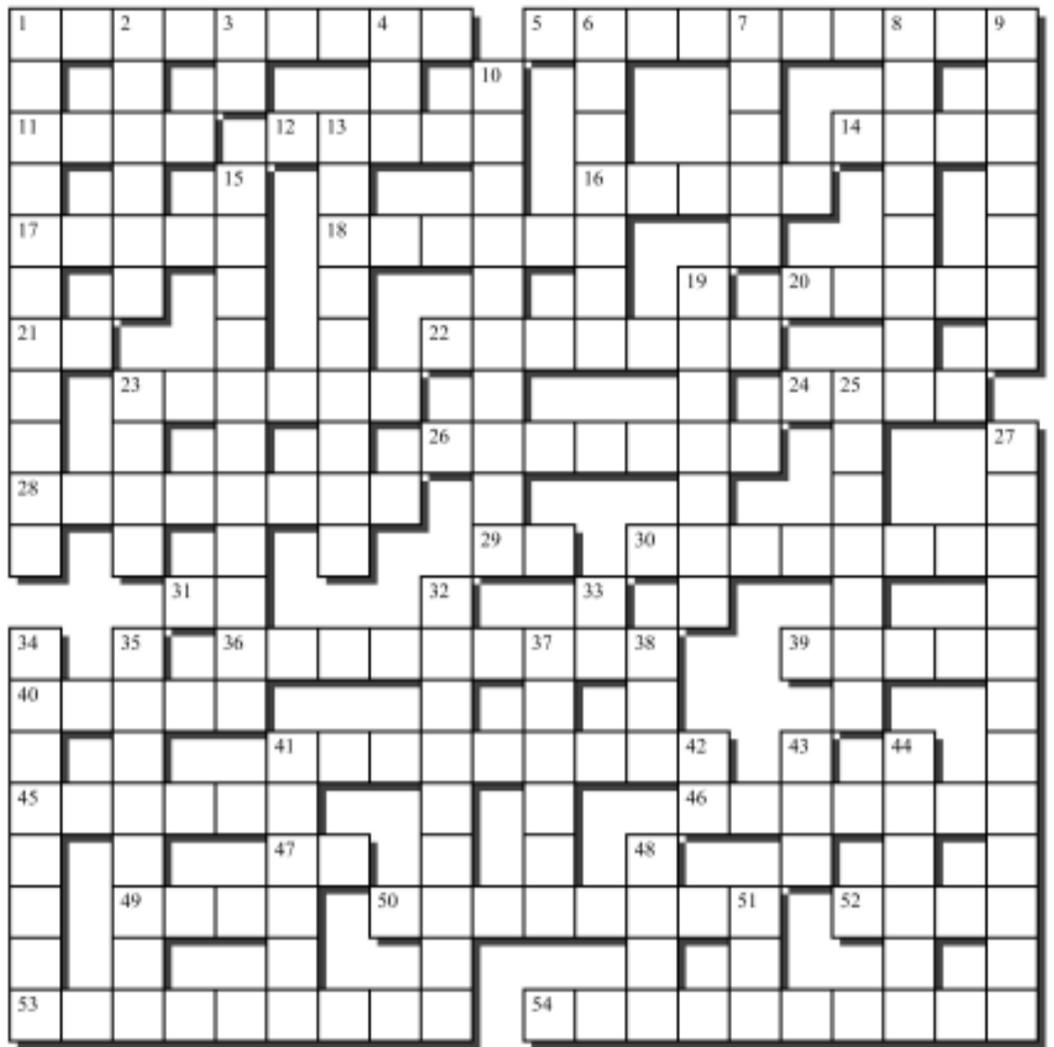
QUESTION 1
Of which African country is Khartoum the capital?
1. Angola
2. Lesotho
3. Ghana
4. Sudan

QUESTION 2
In which US state is the McCarran International airport?
1. California
2. Michigan
3. Nevada
4. Vermont

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across**
- 1) Parish church (9)
 - 5) Pregnant (10)
 - 11) Branch (4)
 - 12) Bee (5)
 - 14) Taboo (4)
 - 16) Hostage (5)
 - 17) Uterus (5)
 - 18) Born (6)
 - 20) Half (5)
 - 21) To go (2)
 - 22) Caesarean (7)
 - 23) Marble (6)
 - 24) Grave /Ditch (4)
 - 26) To look after (7)
 - 28) Drills (8)
 - 29) D (musical note) (2)
 - 30) To pass away (8)
 - 31) Go! (pl) (2)
 - 36) Employees (9)
 - 39) Birth/Labour (5)
 - 40) Waters (5)
 - 41) Foundations (9)
 - 45) Thunder (6)
 - 46) Idiot (7)
 - 47) My (2)
 - 49) Miaow (4)
 - 50) Namesake (8)
 - 52) Abbot (4)
 - 53) Shrine (9)
 - 54) Feast day (10)

- Down**
- 1) In labour (11)
 - 2) To break (6)
 - 3) I heard (2)
 - 4) I will go (3)
 - 6) Midwife (7)
 - 7) King and Queen (5)
 - 8) Appliances (8)
 - 9) Accused (7)
 - 10) To pave (10)
 - 13) Blessing (9)
 - 15) Communities (11)
 - 19) To worship (7)
 - 23) Bay (4)
 - 25) To ordain (7)
 - 27) Personality (12)
 - 32) Religious (9)
 - 33) I (2)
 - 34) Captives (8)
 - 35) Muslim (8)
 - 37) Money (6)
 - 38) Cathedral (3)
 - 41) Commune (6)
 - 42) If (2)
 - 43) It was going (3)
 - 44) Finish! (pl) (6)
 - 48) God (4)
 - 51) I smelled (3)



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

Answer 1: Sudan
Of interest: The establishment of Khartoum as the capital dates back to the first decades of the 19th century during the period of Egyptian conquest of Sudan (1820-1824). It is the sixth most populous city in Africa.
Answer 2: Nevada
Of interest: McCarran International Airport is the primary commercial airport serving the Las Vegas Valley, a major metropolitan area in the U.S. state of Nevada. It is in Paradise, about 5 miles (8.0 km) south of Downtown Las Vegas.

Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 1 Stood; 4 Scrapes; 8 Uncivil; 9 False; 10 Dares; 11 Moreover; 13 Late; 14 Star; 16 Gigantic; 17 Flow; 20 Extra; 21 Hostage; 22 Trades; 23 Dwell; Down: 1 Sound judgment; 2 Occur; 3 Dive; 4 Seldom; 5 Reflects; 6 Palaver; 7 Steering wheel; 12 Standard; 13 Lighter; 15 Sights; 18 Leave; 19 Used.

Clockword solution

SOLUTION: 1 Banger, 2 Upran, 3 Jether, 4 Cancer, 5 Hamper, 6 Concur, 7 Athir, 8 Shower, 9 Soccer, 10 Isomer, 11 Devour, 12 Yammer, FAMOUS OUTLAW: Butch Cassidy.

Wordpuzzler solution

1. Water
2. Steve
3. Lester
4. Alan
5. Willie
6. Nigel
7. Ray
8. Pat
9. Carl
10. John

Sudoku solution

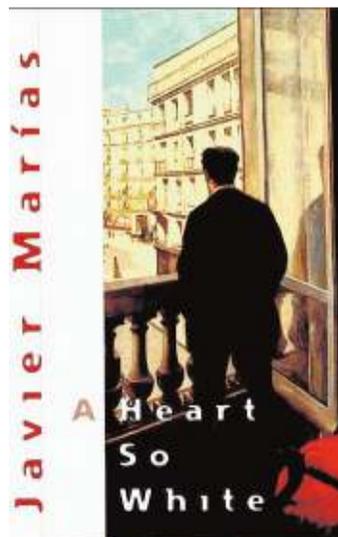
4	3	9	7	5	8	1	2	6
8	2	6	4	3	1	9	5	7
5	1	7	6	2	9	8	4	3
6	7	1	9	4	3	5	8	2
3	4	2	8	6	5	7	1	9
9	8	5	2	1	7	3	6	4
7	6	8	5	9	2	4	3	1
2	9	3	1	8	4	6	7	5
1	5	4	3	7	6	2	9	8

Language Crossword

ACROSS:
 1. PARROQUÍA SEMBARAZADA
 11. RANA (LAREJA) (TABU) (AREHEN
 17. UTERO (NACIDO) (MUTAD) (LIR
 22. CARRERA (CANCHA) (AROSA)
 26. ATENDER (SERVADROS) (ORRE)
 30. ALTICER (LID) (SERVIDADOS)
 39. PARTO (AGUAS) (LICMIENTOS)
 43. TRUENO (GEMEBEL) (7.98) (9.20.10)
 50. HONORARIO (2.8.10) (5.5.20.10.10.10)
 54. FESTIVIDAD

DOWN:
 1. PARTURIENTA (2.8.10) (3.01) (4.10)
 6. MATRONA (7.8.10) (8.10.10.10)
 9. ACUADO (10.10.10.10.10)
 13. BENDICION (15.10.10.10.10)
 19. VENERAR (23.10.10) (25.10.10.10)
 27. PERSONALIDAD (22.10.10.10.10)
 34. CULTIIVOS (35.10.10.10.10)
 37. DIBUJO (38.10.10) (42.10)
 43. BIA (44.10.10) (48.10.10)

BOOK OF THE WEEK



A Heart So White
Javier Marías

Juan is a newlywed translator who shuttles between New York and the Hague for six to eight weeks at a time, while his young bride Luisa remains behind in Madrid to establish their home together. In Juan's absence she develops a close relationship with her enigmatic father-in-law, a charismatic art dealer named Ranz who, though in his seventies, has not lost the charm that enabled him to marry three times despite the fact that his first wife died mysteriously and the second committed suicide upon returning from their honeymoon.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one

MALCOLM FORBES

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Marella Spirit	02/09	Ceuta	Lisbon	06.00	21.00
Aegean Odyssey	03/09	Cadiz	Valencia	07.00	23.59
Seven Seas Navigator	04/09	Cartagena	Portimao	08.00	18.00
Sirena	04/09	Cartagena	Funchal	08.00	18.00
Wind Surf	05/09	Almeria	Gibraltar	09.00	23.59
Braemar	06/09	Almeria	Sevilla	08.00	20.30
Harmony G	07/09	Marbella	Marbella	00.00	05.00
Seabourn Encore	07/09	Tangier	Cartagena	07.00	17.00
Balmoral	08/09	-	-	07.30	17.00







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The cave with plenty more to give

Scientists hope to carry out further investigations on the Cueva de la Victoria in Rincón

by **FERNANDO TORRES**

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA. Just a few months ago, a study about prehistoric Malaga threw up some surprising results. The Paleolithic 'malagueño' lived on a predominantly seafood diet consisting of clams and even whale meat, explained the report put together by scientists from the University of Salamanca, carried out on finds taken from the Cueva de la Victoria in the 1970s. However, this could be just the tip of the iceberg.

A team of investigators formed by Esteban Álvarez-Fernández (University of Salamanca), Jesús Jorá (UNED), Emili Aura (University of Valencia) and Pedro Cantalejo (Cueva de Ardales) have put together a scheme with the aim of "recovering, through new technology, the scientific importance which this prehistoric find has on a European level", according to Cantalejo.



Scientists observe the Cueva de la Victoria in Rincón, famous for its cave paintings. **by FERNANDO TORRES**

As well as the lithic and bone remains at the centre of this study, this Asset of Cultural Interest (BIC) composed of two interconnecting chambers (the first known as the Sala de Conchas because of the number of seafood shells found

here) is also unique because of its cave paintings which show hunting scenes and other customs of the time.

Access is difficult and only possible through two metres-deep wells and any exploration needs

significant funding, which has not been forthcoming from the Junta regional government.

So that the project doesn't fall by the wayside, the investigators have appealed to Rincón de la Victoria council for both financial and

logistical assistance. Their plea was delivered a little over a week ago and is yet to receive a reply.

The objective of the project, to which SUR has had access, is to update the data and material that is currently available to the University of Salamanca through three activities.

The first is to carry out a topographical survey on the Sala de las Conchas, renewing the profiles first taken in 1972. After that, the surface of the cave will undergo graphic documentation before various samples (sediment, pollen, radiocarbon etc.) are taken for laboratory analysis.

Following the processing of the information, all materials will be given to the Museum of Malaga.

Damage to the cave

After vandals damaged cave paintings more than a year ago, the need to preserve this vital part of the region's history was pushed to the foreground.

This episode made the conservation of the Cueva de la Victoria a political issue, one that Rincón's councillor for Culture, Antonio José Martín, agrees needs to be addressed. "We will take everything that this study aims to achieve into account," he said, explaining that it was now the time to "study" the proposal which fits with the objectives of the council: "We are working towards all of the caves in Rincón de la Victoria being open for the public to visit."

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