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November 30th to December 6th
2018

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SPORT

Dutch success at women's golf Open

Anne Van Dam took the Open de España title ahead of local favourite Muñoz **P52**



Junta puts funds on the table to finish Costa hospital

Work on the extension to the Marbella hospital stopped eight years ago

The Junta de Andalucía has announced this week that it has found funds to complete the new section of the Costa del Sol Hospital. The half-finished building has stood neglected for eight years, while the authorities and contractors took their dispute,

sparked by a controversial car park plan, to the courts. The regional government has now released 12 million euros to terminate the initial contract and now embarks on a new plan to complete the work at an estimated cost of 40 million euros. **P2&3**

Local firm to invest 60 million euros in a new five-star golf resort in Mijas Costa

Local firm Logarma SL plans to spend 60 million euros on a new five-star tourist complex in the Enterrios area of Mijas. The Valle del Golf resort will feature a 156-room five-star hotel, one of the biggest

golf courses in Andalucía and an equestrian centre. Also included in the plans is a Mediterranean-style complex with 350 apartments, as well as woodland, gardens and new roads. **P15**

Candidates vie for votes in run-up to Andalusian election this Sunday, when no party is expected to gain an overall majority **P12**

Pink Ladies arrive on the Costa del Sol. The AECC cancer association launches a new multilingual support group **P44&45**



ALL READY TO SWITCH ON CHRISTMAS **P8**

The finishing touches are put to the lights in Malaga's Calle Larios, which go on tonight. :: SALVADOR SALAS

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TRAVEL SPECIAL

Sunshine, snow or safari - the best ideas for a winter escape

A trip to visit Father Christmas in Lapland is among the seasonal holiday suggestions **P24-30**

Sun on the slopes. :: D. ANDRE

A quarter of a century watching over the health of the Costa del Sol

The Marbella hospital, which will be 25 years old at the end of the year, has grown in terms of technology and prestige. Its physical growth however has been stunted by an unfinished extension project, at a standstill since 2010



MÓNICA PÉREZ

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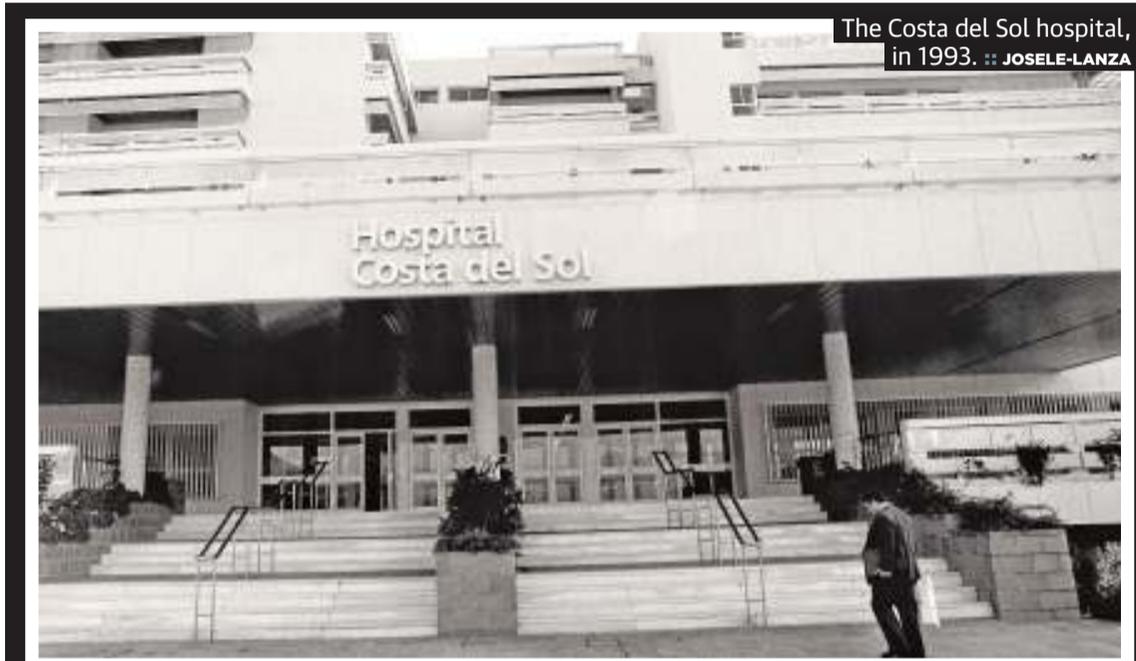
In the early hours of 29 December 1993, a baby in a hurry to be born brought forward the opening of the Costa del Sol Hospital in Marbella. The new facility was not due to receive its first patients until later that day, but when a local woman, Belén Ortiz, whose waters had broken, drove past with her husband on their way to Malaga and saw lights on, they decided to stop and see if someone there could help.

The surprised staff set to work and Nuria, the baby, "christened" the hospital which at the end of this year reaches its 25th anniversary.

Later that day, the hospital opened its doors officially, at the allotted time. There was no ribbon-cutting, just a guided tour for the media given by the then hospital director, José María Bonet, and Francisco Cano Bueso, the provincial Health delegate.

Since then the hospital has continued to evolve to adapt to the needs of the fluctuating population of the western Costa del Sol. Its unique catchment area has meant that from the offset, a large proportion of patients were foreign. Now 25 per cent of the annual patient total is of a nationality other than Spanish.

From day one a group of volunteers was there to deal with the



The Costa del Sol hospital, in 1993. :: JOSELE-LANZA



Local people went along to have a look on the first day. :: J-LANZA



Belén Ortiz, her husband, a cousin and baby Nuria, in 1993. :: J-LANZA

problems the language barrier poses for foreign patients. Coinciding with the opening of the hospital, journalist, volunteer and fundraiser Marion Winter set up a small group of volunteer interpreters.

The language barrier

"I had been working at the Universitario hospital in Malaga for five years and I approached the newly appointed director of the Costa del Sol before it was finished," said Marion whose proposal was accepted and she had her volunteers ready for the opening day.

Now, 25 years on, the group has grown and continues to help make communication between patients and hospital staff less stressful. Three years ago the interpreters set up an association, AVICS, presided over by volunteer Vicki Rhodes. Now coordinator Mónica Pons organises the shifts for 19 volunteers, who among them speak English, French, German, Dutch, Arabic, Polish, Swedish and Danish, among other languages.

Recently the hospital has also set up a video interpreting service for sign language to help communication with deaf patients.

Stunted growth

The hospital has received numerous accolades over the years, from both public and private organisations, and has grown in innovation and technology. Its aspirations to grow physically, however, were truncated almost a decade ago when work on the new extension came to a standstill.

The contractors had accepted the job in exchange for the right to run the new underground car park. In 2010 the council objected to users having to pay to park at the hospital and refused to issue a licence. The political and legal dispute was to go on for years. Meanwhile, hospital



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staff and patients have been coming and going in the shadow of the skeleton of an unfinished extension building.

A new chapter in the long saga was written just this week, however, when the Junta de Andalucía announced it will come to the rescue with public funds to finish the project.

Fluctuating numbers

Over the last 25 years patient figures have increased along with the population, while activity at the hospital has also varied with the country's economic situation. Growth slowed in the years of the financial crisis and picked up speed again in 2014 and 2015.

The average daily total of emergency cases was at 110 in 1994 and reached a maximum of 358.7 in 2007. From then it started to fall to 293 in 2012. Last year the daily average number of cases in accident and emergency was 325.

In 1994 there were 5,892 admissions. This figure hit a peak of 19,201 in 2008 and last year it was at 18,111. The average bed occupation figure was 84% in 2006. Last year this was back down to 65%, only just slightly higher than the initial figure of 64.5% in 1994.

The increase in the local population is best reflected in the outpatient figures. In 1994, a total of 23,196 visited a specialist as outpatients. Since 2014 this figure has remained steady at around 246,000.

"This hospital has continued to evolve and is in good health," said Torcuato Romero, the current director of the Costa del Sol Health Agency (which in-



25 years older - Belén Ortiz and her daughter Nuria. :: JOSELE-LANZA

cludes the Hospital Costa del Sol, the Hospital de Alta Resolución in Benalmádena, which opened in 2008, and the CARE centre in Mijas, open since 2005).

"We have adapted to society's new circumstances and problems, and we have done that with a team of dedicated professionals who feel proud of being here and taking part in a common project," said Romero.

The Costa del Sol's accolades have come on a local, national and international level. This was the first hospital in Spain to be accredited by the Joint Commission International system in 1999, and in 2017, it received the 'Best in Class' distinction as the best hospital in the country. This year the Costa del Sol was runner-up in the 'Best in Class' hospital category and was singled out as the hospital with the 'Best Service' in the Internal Medicine section.

"One of the biggest achievements of this team is that we continue to take on new challenges, always with the patient at the centre of every decision. The evolution of the hospital has shown that we are not scared of innovation," said María Luisa Hortas, now the director of the clinical laboratory, who has worked at the hospital for the last 20 years.

Francisco Gutiérrez was among the first professionals brought in to help set up the hospital. "I came in to help them set up and I stayed and now I've been here 25 years," the 54-year-old says with pride. He has fond memories of the hospital's early days. "This was something very different from what this area had before. It was much needed," he said.

Work to complete the hospital extension is expected to cost around 40 million euros

The Junta de Andalucía has announced this week that it will revoke the original works contract and finish the building with public funds

By H. BARBOTTA / M. PÉREZ

MARBELLA. Eight years after work on the Costa del Sol hospital extension came to a standstill and a long court dispute commenced, the Junta de Andalucía has announced that it will make public funds available to finish the project.

It was in 2010 when the firm with the contract to build the extension stopped work after not obtaining municipal permission to build a car park.

The contractor, a subsidiary of Seville firm Abengoa, then took the authorities to court for loss in projected profits as it was through the running of the underground parking facility that it planned to finance the

work.

The Junta in turn started legal proceedings against the builders, who meanwhile filed for bankruptcy and went into administration.

Now the regional government, at its last cabinet meeting before this Sunday's elections, has given the green light to releasing a sum of 12 million euros to terminate the original contract and compensate the construction firm. The sum, according to the Junta, corresponds to the value of the completed work, as stated in the conditions of the original contract.

Having severed all its ties with the original contractors, the Junta will then be free to put a new contract to complete the work out to tender.

The original project was due to increase the size of the hospital by 70 per cent, giving it an extra 3,100 square metres for outpatient surgeries, 1,380 square metres for inpatient wards and an extra 888 square metres for operating theatres.

Now new plans will have to be drawn up. The deputy minister for Health at the Junta, María Isabel Baena, in Marbella on Wednesday, said that the new plans, expected to cost a million euros to draw up, would take into account the existing premises and the current needs of the hospital.

"Not only are the old plans, obsolete, but medicine advances at a rate of knots and the challenges this hospital has ahead of it mean that we have to revise the extension plan so that we can take a qualitative and quantitative step forward. We are going to bring in new services," said Baena.

The deputy minister did not want to offer a start date for the work, given the administrative process ahead, however she did estimate that the project will cost the Junta de Andalucía around 40 million euros.

The entire scheme was expected to cost some 48.5 million euros, of which around half was spent.



The current state of the half-finished extension, abandoned since 2010. :: JOSELE-LANZA

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A tiny, but unwelcome visitor turns up in Marbella

Found for the first time in Spain, the South American electric ant has one of the most painful bites in the insect world

:: SUR

MADRID. The electric ant, a small insect native of South America which leaves painful, irritating bites on humans, has been sighted for the first time in Spain, more precisely in one residential area of Marbella.

According to the Ecological and Forestry Applications Research Centre (CREAF-UAB), this tiny ant, measuring just one millimetre in length, has a bite that is painful to humans and can leave an animal blind if bitten in the eye.

The researchers at CREAM explained that both domestic and wild animals, ranging from cats to baby elephants, have been blinded by the ant's poison.

As well as being known as the electric ant, the insect is also nicknamed the "little fire ant" because its bite is intense and leaves a burning sensation on the skin.



A *Wasmannia auropunctata*. :: SUR

At the moment, the ant has only been detected in Marbella, but it is likely to spread, according to experts at CREAM. The *Wasmannia auropunctata*, the scientific name for the ant, already occupies around six hectares of residential area.

The discovery of the ant was first published in the *Iberomyrmex* journal, in a scientific article, in collaboration with CREAM-UAB researcher Xavier Espadaler, who said he has informed Marbella town council, which has so far not commented on the matter.

The alarm was raised when a plague control firm received a call from someone complaining of a "small, biting ant" matching the description of the electric ant, which had come through a crack in the wall of a Marbella development.

"We thought that we would manage to eradicate them but they had already spread throughout the area and it was impossible," explained Espadaler. "They are so small they are almost undetectable, so you really have to know what you are looking for. It is quite possible that they are in other places and just have not been sighted," added the biologist.

The electric ant normally lives in warm, humid climates, like those found in Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific islands and northeast Australia. They are often found around coffee and cocoa plantations.

Marbella, together with some parts of Israel, is the most northern place this species is found.

"To wipe out the [ant] population the gardens must be treated, and irrigation should be stopped for two years," recommended Espadaler.

Direct flights from Malaga to Tel Aviv resume next spring

:: PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. Flights to Tel Aviv will resume for the high season after the success of the route which debuted this year. From March to October, two flights a week will connect the Costa del Sol with the biggest city in Israel.

The route will be operated by the Sun d'Or company which belongs

to the Elal airline.

Dolores Pérez, head of Israel's Tourist Office in Spain, explained how tourism to Israel had beaten all records last year with a record 3.6 million visitors and this year it looked to have overtaken that historic figure with over four million.

In response to this increase in demand, projects to improve the

hotels and accommodation are being developed in the country which attracts tourists heading to Jerusalem, the Dead Sea and the Negev desert.

Last year 62,400 Spanish flew to Israel, many of them taking advantage of the direct route from Andalucía.

The five-hour flight to Tel Aviv offers huge opportunities for Andalucía and not just as a 'City Break' destination. It opens a link to the centre of finance and technology in Israel and to the markets of the Middle East.



Two parakeets perched on a branch in Malaga city. :: ÑITO SALAS

The days are numbered for Malaga's parakeets

Shooting the parakeets at close range causes less stress than catching them in nets and putting them to sleep

:: IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. Malaga city hall has decided that the only way in which to eradicate the invasive parakeet population in the city is to use air rifles to shoot them.

Alberto Esteban, head of the Unidad Verde of the Environmental and Sustainability department of Zaragoza town hall, is the expert who came up with what is considered to be the most effective eradication plan in the world.

The city of Zaragoza was once also overrun with parakeets which damaged the indigenous flora and drove away native species of birds. They solved the problem by embarking on a campaign to inform citizens of the problem so that they would understand the importance of controlling the parakeet population. With the backing of 98% of the population, the cull began by shooting the adult birds in April, as they were starting to nest but be-

fore they laid eggs. It was carried out in the early hours of the morning, at close range and by just one trained marksman assisted by a helper from the Department of the Environment. In this way, and over two years, Zaragoza city hall was able to completely eradicate the parakeets.

A specialist from the city hall said that once the cull was over, "other bird species could be heard singing and people soon didn't miss the noise of the parakeets".

In Malaga city the number of parakeets is nearly double that of Zaragoza before the cull and it has been decided that marksmen from the local police force will be used to help with the campaign. At present there are around 4,500 monk parakeets in Malaga, 3,000 of them in Malaga city. In under three years this figure will have doubled if nothing is done.

Antonio Román Muñoz, Biology lecturer at the UMA explained, "I have spent my whole life studying birds, and parakeets present a serious risk to agriculture and the ecology," he considered the decision by Malaga town hall to be "a fast and selective way of eliminating the birds".



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Five thousand join march to call for an end to violence against women

The march took place on Sunday, 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

:: JUAN SOTO

MALAGA. Around 5,000 people joined the march in Malaga city centre on Sunday to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. They remembered the 44 women who have been murdered so far this year in Spain by their partners or former partners.

Starting in the Plaza de la Merced, the march made its way through Malaga, with anti-violence messages adorning banners and signs. 'Say NO to violence against women' and 'sexism kills' were two of the slogans used, with the banner at the front of the march reading 'No more. We want to live!'

Figures

After the march, SUR journalist Amanda Salazar read the manifesto and stated that since official records began in 2003, 972 women have died in Spain at the hands of



Violet was the prominent colour in Sunday's march. :: SALVADOR SALAS

their partners. Of them 27 were under the age of 18. According to the central government representative in Malaga, María Gámez, a further 3,098 women are considered to be at risk of violence.



The victim, Mario Saucó, and the alleged assailant. :: SUR

British man arrested after man dies from a punch

Police officers detained the man as he returned to Malaga seemingly to give himself up

:: JUAN CANO/ÁLVARO FRÍAS

MALAGA. A British man with an arrest warrant against him in connection with the death of a man outside a bar in Fuengirola in August, was arrested as he got off a plane at Malaga airport last Friday. The 45-

year-old Briton has been questioned about the incident which caused the death of 65-year-old Mario Saucó. Witnesses said that the British man punched Saucó to the ground, causing him to hit his head on the pavement. The assailant then apparently tried to help Saucó up before fleeing. The injured man spent ten days in a coma before he died in hospital. The suspect has been released until a further court appearance.

112 REPORTS



The stolen vehicle with the packets of drugs. :: SUR

Stolen car in accident contained hashish

MALAGA

:: SUR IN ENGLISH. National Police found more than they had bargained for when they attended an accident between a Range Rover and an articulated lorry which had broken down at the Las Pedrizas in-

tersection for Granada and Cordoba at about 10.45pm last Saturday evening. They discovered that the car had false plates and was reported stolen in Switzerland. On further investigation the car, driven by a 30 year-old French national, was found to contain 15 packages in various rucksacks. The packages contained 450 kilogrammes of hashish and 28 kilogrammes of marijuana.

Man rescued by Civil Defence dog

MARBELLA.

:: CHARO MÁRQUEZ.

An 80-year-old man was rescued on Monday by the Civil Defence dog, after getting lost in the wooded area of Las Chapas district.

The elderly man was said to have left his home in Elviria at around 2.30pm. When he had not returned by 7pm his family alerted the authorities.

He was found by the Civil Defence team and their working dog Freya, who tracked his scent 400 metres along a path through the woods. The police were then able to bring the man, who was conscious but very weak, to safety.

Police arrest members of ram-raiding gang

MALAGA.

:: ÁLVARO FRÍAS/JUAN CANO.

Police have arrested 14 people in Malaga, who are accused of belonging to a criminal organisation which was responsible for various ram-raids across the province.

This type of burglary involves driving a heavy vehicle through the windows or doors of a business in order to allow the gang access to raid it. From their first recorded offence in July, until their arrest, the gang robbed 60 shops, stealing 25,000 euros worth of material goods. The robberies took place in Cadiz, Huelva, Seville, Granada and Jaén with half a dozen being carried out in Malaga.

D.O.MAR

by Oscar Velasco

Óscar Velasco meets with the Mediterranean









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UN tourism boss speaks at forum organised by SUR

Manuel Butler said that tourism is undergoing dramatic changes and that world market forecasts continue to grow

:: PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. The head of the World Tourism Organization (WTO), run by the United Nations, was in Malaga on Tuesday to address local business leaders and politicians at a forum organised by SUR.

Manuel Butler has recently taken over at the WTO, which is based in Madrid. Prior to this, the Spaniard was head of TurEspana, the government's promotion agency for Spanish tourism.

Butler said that "tourism is undergoing cyclical changes with a long term impact that hasn't been experienced before".

He discussed some of the challenges facing the industry at the moment, including Brexit and demonstrations against tourists in the centre of some Spanish cities.

Special attention was paid to the emerging subject of "overtourism"



Manuel Butler in Malaga on Tuesday. :: SALVADOR SALAS

in historic cities and how tourism, and its challenges, was moving up the world political agenda.

The WTO chief added that figures for tourism continue to be very positive and that at no time since the

1960s has world tourism seen such a sustained period of growth. He said that in 2017 there was a 6.8% increase in tourism, twice the forecast amount, and he called for more investment in sustainability.

HISTORIC GIBRALFARO CASTLE-WALL PART COLLAPSES

The heavy rain on the Costa this autumn has taken its toll on the historic walls of the Gibralfaro, the castle on the top of the highest of the two hills in the centre of Malaga. An interior-facing section of the north wall, on the opposite side from the sea, gave way last Saturday when there were visitors inside the castle, although nobody was injured. The councillor for Culture at Malaga city hall, which runs the site, said that it would be repaired but an analysis was needed first from the regional government.



:: SUR

Malaga gets ready to switch on its lights as other Costa towns turn festive as well

The city's celebrated display goes on at 7pm today, Friday, as Fuengirola gets ahead with its own record-breaking display

:: J. SOTO / I. GELIBTER

COSTA DEL SOL. Christmas is coming and town centres are working hard to attract shoppers and sightseers. Today, Friday, 30 November, Malaga city centre switches on its eagerly awaited illuminations, with the central point as ever being Calle Larios.

Here the famous tunnel of light has been brought back again and, as well as the fixed lighting, three times a day there will be an animated light show on this main pedestrianised shopping street, at 6.30pm, 8pm and 9.30pm.

Today's switch-on is at 7pm and thousands in the city tonight to see the event will be given luminous sticks to wave along to the music with.

In addition, this year visitors will be able to walk inside the main Christmas tree display on the Plaza de la Constitución.

In all, over 2 million LED bulbs

have been used in Malaga's displays across the city. The council is spending 733,211 euros this year, some eight per cent up on last year, with the aim of encouraging shoppers into the smaller businesses.

The Malaga lights can be seen until January 6th.

Fuengirola goes first

Fuengirola was one of the first places to switch on its Christmas lights last Friday. Besides a record number of LED lights for the resort, this year a giant bauble, the only one of its type in Spain, will display Christmas messages and images in the Plaza de España, by the town hall.

There will also be an 18-metre-high tree in Plaza San Rafael, Los Boliches. Some 70 streets and a dozen parks and squares will have lights in Fuengirola.

Christmas lights are also on in Estepona already and tonight, Friday is the turn of Marbella and San Pedro to switch on their display with separate programmes of events. Vélez-Málaga and Torre del Mar lights will go on at nightfall on 4 and 5 December respectively and in Nerja in the first week of December.



The giant bauble in Fuengirola's Plaza de España. :: I.G.



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A business group hopes to reopen the Incosol building as a hotel

The luxury health resort closed down in 2013 and the new owners have contacted Marbella town hall for advice on their ideas for the building

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. The famous Incosol health resort on the east side of town, which closed five years ago when the group which owned it went into liquidation, may open again as a hotel if plans currently being considered by the council go ahead.

The Hotel Value Added Primera group, part of the Grupo Sabadell subsidiary company which bought the building in 2017, is said to have approached the town hall for advice on what would be needed to reopen Incosol as a hotel, but has not yet presented any plans. One potential prob-



Incosol opened as a health resort in 1973. :: JOSELE-LANZA

lem is that the land upon which the building stands is classified for health-related use, so this could mean that the current Urban Plan for Marbella, which dates back to 1986, would have to be modified.

Incosol was a favourite health spa

with the Marbella jet set during the 1970s and 1980s, and its visitors included famous names such as Audrey Hepburn, Elizabeth Taylor, Sean Connery, Prince Rainier of Monaco and Camilo José Cela, among many others.

Marbella's CCTV coverage is to be expanded to the Old Town and seafront

The first phase will come into operation in January, and plans are now being drawn up for the second stage

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. It has taken more than ten years to get this far, but CCTV coverage is gradually expanding in Marbella. The aim is to cover the busiest areas with cameras controlled by the Local and National Police, and the first stage of the project has included La Cañada and Elviria shopping centres, the Virgen del Carmen marina and Puerto Banús. These are all expected to be in operation in early January.

Now, after discussions with business owners in the areas,

plans for the second stage have been drawn up to cover the oldest parts of Marbella and San Pedro Alcántara.

In Marbella, there will be CCTV in the stretch of Avenida Ricardo Soriano between the Marbell Center and the old bus station, Avenida del Mar and several points along the seafront.

In San Pedro Alcántara, the cameras will cover the Plaza de la Iglesia, Avenida Marqués del Duero, the seafront and Avenida de la Libertad.

These plans have been sent to the office of the Government Representative in Malaga for definitive approval, so it is possible that the exact location of the cameras could change, depending on the response.

Council spokesman Félix Romero says the move will improve safety and benefit tourism.



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HERE AND THERE

Runners to perform Nativity on La Maroma

TORRE DEL MAR

:: J. RHODES. Two running clubs based in Torre del Mar are planning to act out the Nativity play on top of La Maroma mountain on Saturday 22 December. Members will carry their costumes, as well as typical Christmas sweets and hot chocolate, in rucksacks for the 16-kilometre hike and once at the top, will perform the

play. Organiser and president of the Running Club Playas de Torre del Mar, Rafael Sánchez, said that "everyone is welcome to take part," but given the difficulty of the climb "a certain amount of physical preparation is necessary." There will be a bus from Torre del Mar and Vélez-Málaga to Sedella, from where the hike up Malaga's highest mountain (2,065m) will start. The only cost is the three-euro insurance. For more information email: playasdetorredelmar@gmail.com



Councillors and members of the running club . :: SUR

No end to wave of attacks on refuse bins

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

:: A. P. Police in Vélez-Málaga have been unable to catch those behind the recent wave of vandalism which has seen refuse containers burned and tipped over there and in Torre del Mar. Eight more were vandalised last week and although local police said that they had spoken to some youths who were in the vicinity at the time, officers were unable to prove the youngsters were the culprits.

Town hall to pay for damage to residential building caused by further landslide in Torrox Costa

The Calaceite housing development is just 1.5 kilometres from where a giant rock fell onto the N340 coastal road last week

:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

TORROX COSTA. Residents of the Calaceite housing development in Torrox Costa were told that the building was safe to return to on Monday afternoon, a day after a landslide caused serious damage to a door, several windows, railings and a wall in one of the blocks.



Damage to a corridor caused by the landslide. :: SUR

Town Hall technicians as well as engineering company, ICS, carried out a full inspection of the building on Monday morning and deemed the area to be safe. Damage was done to a corridor. However, none of the apartments in the building were affected.

Although local police, who arrived at the scene shortly after the incident occurred, advised residents to leave, technicians said that "there was no danger to individual properties," confirmed vice-president of

the Calaceite community, Miguel Soto. "Those of us who had nowhere else to go stayed here anyway," he added.

Soto said that the town hall has promised to pay to repair the damage, which has been estimated at between 30 and 40,000 euros. "Luckily nothing serious happened and we are hoping that the town hall will keep their promise," he said.

Most of the 33 flats in the building were empty at the time as the majority of them are second homes and mainly used through the summer months. Just six are occupied all year round.

The Calaceite development is just 1.5 kilometres from the area of the N340 coastal road where a giant rock fell last week. The road is expected to be closed for at least one month.

Traditional Christmas foodie event plagued by political controversy

:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

TORROX. Torrox's annual Día de las Migas, which is held on the last Sunday before Christmas every year, has been plagued with political controversy ahead of this year's event.

The town's cleaning company has threatened to strike over salary and working hours during the weekend of 15 and 16 December, coinciding with the fiesta.

In addition to the strike, opposition councillors and some resi-

dents have demanded that the poster advertising the day be taken down as they say two of the characters featured on the image resemble the mayor of Torrox, Óscar Medina and president of Malaga's Diputación, Elias Bendodo, both of the PP political party.

The opposition argues that it has been used as a political message ahead of the regional Junta de Andalucía elections in December.



Mayor Óscar Medina, with the poster. :: E. C.

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Susana Díaz (PSOE) with prime minister Pedro Sánchez in Marbella. :: J-LANZA

Juanma Moreno (PP) in Caleta de Vélez. :: SALVADOR SALAS

On the final straight of the campaign trail

Candidates for the Andalusian parliament have one more day to convince voters before Sunday's regional election

:: RACHEL HAYNES

MALAGA. It's been smiles all round on these last few days of the campaign trail as the candidates for seats on the Andalusian parliament aim to round up last-minute support from voters. The regional election takes place on Sunday when 6,541,722 citizens of Andalucía are called to cast their vote.

After a second tense televised debate on Monday, speculation continues as to who might pact with who if no party, as predicted, gains an overall majority.

Incumbent Socialist president of the Junta de Andalucía, Susana Díaz, who was in Marbella on Tuesday with prime minister Pedro Sánchez, hopes to keep her job. Opinion polls point to her winning the most votes, as she did in 2015, but not an overall majority. Last term's pact with centrist



Teresa Rodríguez (Adelante Andalucía) in Puente Genil. :: EFE



Juan Marín (C's) in Jaén. :: EFE

Ciudadanos (C's), led by Juan Marín, who is expected to more than double his party's current nine seats, broke down earlier this year, making a repetition seem improbable.

C's are more likely to pact with conservative Partido Popular (PP), whose leader Juanma Moreno, claims to be the only candidate to bring real change to Andalucía. Polls put PP and C's on almost equal footing but without an overall majority between them.

Neither party has openly admitted that it would negotiate a pact if necessary with the far right group

ELECTIONS IN FIGURES

6.5m

citizens of Andalucía have the right to vote in Sunday's regional election.

109

is the number of seats in the Andalusian parliament.

55

is the number of seats needed for an overall majority. In 2015 the PSOE won 47 seats.

Vox, predicted to win a seat in the Andalusian parliament on Sunday for the first time.

Meanwhile the far left coalition Adelante Andalucía, which unites Podemos and Izquierda Unida, among other leftist groups, looks set to take some left-wing voters from the Socialists. The coalition and the PSOE would, according to the polls, between them reach an overall majority but their leader, Teresa Rodríguez, has said that there was no chance of her going into a government with Díaz.

No campaigning is allowed on Saturday, a day for the 'Andaluces' to reflect before voting on Sunday.

Spanish and Finnish to mark democracy and independence on 6 December

:: TONY BRYANT

MALAGA. Thursday 6 December will mark the 40th anniversary of the day Spaniards voted for democracy and ended almost 40 years of dictatorial rule. Constitution Day is a public holiday, although it is not celebrated with the same panache afforded to other Andalusian celebrations.

However, 6 December is also Finland's Day of Independence and Finns along the coast will come together in Torremolinos to celebrate the declaration of independence from Russia in 1917. A celebration will be held in the Palacio de Congresos and will start with the traditional raising of the flag. This will be followed by an evangelical-Lutheran service at midday. The main celebrations will begin at 2pm and will be attended by the consul of the Finnish Embassy in Madrid.

Appeal to find British man wanted by Warwickshire Police

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. Warwickshire Police have sent an appeal to help locate 22-year-old Luke Daniel Clarke, from Nuneaton, who was due to appear at Warwick Crown Court to be sentenced last week after pleading guilty to conspiracy to supply class B drugs. Detective Sergeant Richard Brown said: "We believe Clarke has fled to Malaga or Marbella and we are working with the Spanish authorities to try and locate him. Anyone with information should call Warwickshire Police on 0044 1926-410000 or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800555111 or www.crimestoppers-uk.org



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Torremolinos prepares to welcome the biggest urban transformation since the 1960s

The Plaza Costa del Sol and the Avenida Palma de Mallorca have been transformed into a spacious boulevard that focuses on the strong link between Torremolinos and water

BY TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. Torremolinos town hall has announced that the pedestrianisation of the town centre is nearing completion. Following almost 12 months of renovation work, the new boulevard is to be inaugurated on Wednesday 5 December.

The renovation of the Plaza Costa del Sol and Avenida de Palma Mallorca has been a main priority since they were closed to traffic in December 2015. The area, which incorporates parts of the Calle de la Cruz and Calle Hoyo, has undergone a complete facelift and has been transformed into a spacious boulevard with water features, bronze sculptures and shaded areas with seating. The work is in the final stages and labourers are working around the clock to install the final features before the opening ceremony next week.



Work on the new boulevard is now in the final stages. :: T.B

The three million euro project was overseen by architect, Salvador Moreno Peralta, and involved the transformation of more than 10,000 square metres of the town.

However, renovations to the iconic Barrabino mansion, which will become a cultural, artistic and exhibition centre, are still in pro-

gress. The palatial home will gain prominence as the central focus of the square. The grounds will eventually be opened to allow easy access to the Plaza Picasso, and Plaza de Independencia, home of the town's new gourmet market.

One of the most striking elements



The 'flowing' pergola. :: T. B.

of the project, which began in January, is a flowing concave and convex arched pergola that covers most of the Plaza Costa del Sol.

A focus on water

The project focuses on the strong link between Torremolinos and water. Several water features have been added, along with the reinstatement to its original location of the iconic old fountain. Several of the town's bronze statues have been relocated to the new boulevard. These include *Mujer Jugando con Niño* (woman playing with a child), which has been moved from Calle Barrabino to the central water feature. *Los Oficios* (the traders), a large sculpture by Elena Laverón that has been temporarily located in the grounds of the Picasso Cultural Centre, will take pride of place in the Plaza Costa del Sol.

The whole area has been paved with non-slip tiles and is designed to facilitate access to those with restricted mobility and the visually impaired.

Even though the project has adhered to its original schedule, many business owners in the square will welcome the end of the building work with open arms. Some traders feel that the work seemed never-ending, due to the different phases of infrastructural work. However, the majority of traders and the locals see the transformation as the rebirth of Torremolinos, as this has been the biggest change the town has witnessed since the 1960s.

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HERE AND THERE



Plans for the new bridge across the river Fahala. :: SUR

A long awaited bridge over the river Fahala

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE

BY FERNANDO TORRES. For more than forty years the inhabitants of Alhaurín el Grande have yearned for a bridge over the river Fahala and next April they could see their dreams come true. The town hall

and the provincial government have put the project out to tender with a budget of 777,550 euros and are expecting work to begin in one month. Completion of the 40-metre bridge will take about four months. At the moment the road from Alhaurín el Grande to Villafanco del Guadalhorce goes through a ford that, whenever it rains, becomes impassable.

La Cónsula opens with 300 reservations

MALAGA

BY SUR. The restaurant in La Cónsula catering college in Malaga reopened this week with 300 reservations on its books, around half made in the first 48 hours. The restaurant has space for 40 diners and offers varied menus with wine for 20 euros. The dishes are designed by the chefs and prepared by the students of the college.

Mijas' second section of the coastal path opens

MIJAS

BY I. GELIBTER. The new section of the Senda Litoral (coastal path) in Mijas opened between the beach bars El Capricho and El Juncal on Monday. The works, costing 900,000 euros, were paid for by the town hall. The funding for the remaining 5.3 kilometre stretch between La Cala and Fuengirola will be allocated in the budget next year.

Logarma plans to invest 60 million euros in a tourist complex in the Entrerriós area of Mijas

The resort will include one of the biggest golf courses in Andalucía, a five-star hotel, apartments and an equestrian centre

IVÁN GELIBTER

MALAGA. Since the announcement just over a year ago that the historical Hotel Byblos in Mijas was to reopen, the municipality has continued to attract large new investment projects. The latest news is that the Logarma SL company plans to spend around 60 million euros on a tourism complex near La Cala de Mijas, on a 1,078,524 square metre site in the Entrerriós area.

The complex, which will be called Valle del Golf Resort, is an ambitious initiative which includes a five-star hotel, one of the biggest golf courses in Andalucía and an equestrian centre, among other attractions.

“The most important thing for the people of Mijas in this case is that the project will generate 410 jobs and will also help to boost the local economy, not only through the money spent by all the new visitors, but also because this type of initiative contributes to attracting year-round tourism. Golf is a sport which can be played at any time of year,” says the mayor of Mijas, Juan Carlos Maldonado.

Sources at Mijas town hall say that the project was first planned some years ago but has had to be modified several times before the definitive version was agreed.

“The town planning department has been working closely with the developers to adapt the plans to



The site at Entrerriós. :: I. GELIBTER

comply with our regulations. This project is very positive for Mijas because the access from La Cala to Entrerriós is being improved, and there will be new green zones, roads and leisure facilities as well as a woodland area with more than 8,000 native trees,” says councillor Andrés Ruiz. The initiative is now waiting to be approved as being “of tourist interest” by the Junta de Andalucía.

The five-star hotel will have 156 bedrooms, a large conference room, a spa centre, training and physiotherapy facilities, a banqueting room and a restaurant specialising in regional haute cuisine.

The ‘Pueblo Adele’ complex will be Mediterranean in style and consist of 350 apartments around a large central square where concerts and other events will take place.

Mayor no longer under investigation after court doubts existence of elderly complainant

IVÁN GELIBTER

MALAGA. Legal proceedings against the mayor of Mijas, Juan Carlos Maldonado, and two councillors have been halted by a judge in Fuengirola after doubts arose over whether a person who had supposedly lodged a complaint about them actually exists.

This began in September, when an OAP wrote to the anti-corruption authorities in Malaga to report irregularities in the organisation of a trip for elderly residents. He gave his name but no identification number, and a contact address which it was later found does not exist. He also provided supposed copies of documentation of which no official record has been found.

The mayor responded with a counterclaim to the Guardia Civil, who began their own investigation. They spoke to the postman who delivers mail to the area in question, who confirmed that he had never delivered anything to the address. In fact, he said that his colleague Juan Carlos González Márquez, who is a PP councillor, had told him that if he ever saw any correspondence addressed to a certain name, he was to give it to him. He also sent several WhatsApp messages to remind him. A letter did arrive, and the postal worker photographed it and sent it to the councillor, who asked him to put it in his mailbox. When questioned, González Márquez said a man had told him he had yet to install a mailbox and was expecting a letter, so he had offered to take it in for him. The investigation continues.

Campaign to give local underprivileged children a little hope during the festive season

The Just a Little Help group is calling for donations of toiletries, unwanted presents and gift vouchers for local children's homes

TONY BRYANT

MALAGA. Two kind hearted expats have begun a campaign to help provide Christmas presents for children in danger of social exclusion in the province of Malaga. Elle Monaghan and Teresa Leaver have founded a charity group called Just a Little Help, and their aim is to help the youngsters in the care of the Mundo Infantil Association, an organisation founded in 1992 that manages centres in Malaga, Álora and Antequera. The centres care for

children between the ages of eight and eighteen and run programmes to prepare teenagers for adulthood, with an emphasis on social skills and employment.

Elle and Teresa started the charity group with a Facebook page as a central point where people could find information about how to make donations.

“We started Just a Little Help to assist Mundo Infantil, a charity children's orphanage that is extremely underfunded and relatively unknown. Basically, what we try to do is find help from local businesses. The main focus at the moment is Christmas and we aim to make sure that all the children receive something,” Elle explained to SUR in English.

Jackie's Bar in Fuengirola is one



Just a Little Help volunteers with some of the gifts. :: SUR

of the local businesses that has joined the campaign and it has so far raised more than five hundred euros to purchase winter coats for the children. As well as fundraising quiz and bingo nights, owner Jackie has also launched an innovative toiletries campaign.

“The toiletries idea came about after a group of tourists left behind unused suntan lotions, deodorants and shower gel, which I sold for a few coppers. My customers have also donated new items, so the idea has been really successful,” Jackie said.

The group is also asking for gift vouchers and any other presents to help the underprivileged children enjoy the festive season.

“We need donations to help these children. They are not toddlers or tiny babies, so are mostly overlooked or abandoned. Every child deserves a chance and these children need to know there is someone out there who cares,” Elle concluded.

Information about drop-off points can be found on Just a Little Help's Facebook page.

Brexit agreement signed, but the political wrangling continues in Spain and UK

The Spanish government claims a historic "victory" over Gibraltar, although this is refuted by the UK, Gibraltar and its own opposition parties

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. The EU Council signed the Withdrawal Agreement and approved the Political Declaration on Sunday despite earlier threats by Spanish prime minister Pedro Sánchez that he would not even attend the meeting unless his concerns about the Gibraltar aspect were resolved.

The situation was finally sorted out when the UK provided additional declarations regarding the interpretation of Article 184 in the Withdrawal Agreement. They followed these up immediately after the signing with letters from Ambassador Tim Barrow to the Secretaries General of the EU Council and Commission, stressing how these additional declarations are meant to be interpreted and reminding them that the sovereignty of Gibraltar was non-negotiable.

In the letters the ambassador referred to the double-lock commitment, which is enshrined in the Gi-



The relationship between UK and Gibraltar is closer than ever before, says Picardo. :: SUR

baltar Constitution, under which the UK government will hold no discussions or take any decisions over sovereignty without the approval of the Gibraltar government.

With regard to the territorial scope

of the Withdrawal Agreement, he stressed that: "the Government of the United Kingdom further restates that it will negotiate the future agreements implementing the Joint Political Declaration on behalf of all ter-

ritories for whose external relations the United Kingdom is responsible, including Gibraltar". He also asked that a copy of the letters be sent to the leaders of all EU27 countries.

Not unexpectedly, however, argu-

ments have been raging all week in the UK and Spain about what all this actually means.

Gibraltar's chief minister Fabian Picardo insists that it is the text of the Withdrawal Agreement, which was not changed, which is all that matters and that the additional declarations by the UK are not legally binding in any way.

In Spain, while Pedro Sánchez and foreign minister Josep Borrell claimed to have achieved a historic victory in the 300-year-old 'battle' to regain Gibraltar, opposition parties were saying the same thing as Gibraltar and the UK: Spain had gained absolutely nothing.

The potential problem, of course, lies in the fact that Spain has effectively been given the final say over any deals between the UK and the EU after Britain has left, if they affect Gibraltar. This was Clause 24 in the EU negotiating guidelines, which Sánchez was keen to have stipulated in the Withdrawal Agreement.

Picardo, however, points out that unanimous agreement will be needed anyway at that stage, so Spain always had a veto anyway, just like all other EU countries

If Brexit has to happen, Gibraltar wants the UK to back the Withdrawal Agreement for which Theresa May is now trying to drum up support, because a 'no-deal' Brexit would be "very bad" for Gibraltar. Whether that will happen, however, in the face of the fierce opposition to the deal in the UK so far, is anybody's guess at present.

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REF. J. E. R.

I am a British citizen, and have a property in Marbella, which I bought last year, in May. The purchase price was around 500,000 euros. Nevertheless, I usually live in the UK and only come here for a few weeks a year, so I am not resident in Spain and I pay all my taxes in the UK a few days ago, while I was

having a drink in a pavement café, I heard a conversation that some compatriots were having about some taxes that they had to pay related to their Spanish properties, and apparently, they were not fiscal residents in Spain either, although I am not sure as I was sitting several metres away from them. They were not talking about the IBI, which is a tax that I know and that I pay every year; they were talking about something different. This made me wonder if maybe I am not fulfilling my fiscal duties as I should. Therefore, I would like to know if, even if I am not resident, I have to pay any kind of taxes to the Inland Revenue, since I have never had any information on this matter.

Yes, if you own a property in Spain, but you are not fiscal resident, you have to pay the "Non-Resident Income Tax

Return" to the Inland Revenue annually. It is calculated based on the cadastral value of the property. Right now, and until 31st December 2018, you can settle the tax corresponding to the year 2017, although in your case, given the fact that you were not owner of the property the whole year, but bought it in May, you will only have to pay the proportional part from the date in which you became the owner up to the 31st December 2017. Likewise, if the sale price or cadastral value was higher than 700,000 euros you should also pay the Wealth tax, and the amount is fixed, no matter if you bought in December or in January. Nevertheless, according to your question it seems it is not your case, although it would be advisable to check the cadastral value of the property, just in case it was higher than the purchase price.

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IN BRIEF



A good time was had by all on Tuesday evening. :: OCEAN VILLAGE

Sparkling Christmas at Ocean Village

GIBRALTAR

Christmas started in style at Ocean Village this week, with a visit by Santa Claus on Tuesday evening accompanied by Disney Princess Cinderella, Star of PJ Masks and Catboy and his friendly elf for the cere-

mony to switch on the blue and white Christmas lights. Music from Adele look-and-sound-alike Nikki Rae and the entire Prior Park School Choir, delighted the crowds, and visits to Santa's Grotto, which is in O'Reilly's this year, raised funds for Research into Childhood Cancer. Entry to the Grotto is £5, and appointments can be booked with Santa by phoning 200 400 48.

Cannabis seized after high-speed chase

GIBRALTAR

In the early hours of Tuesday Customs officers were involved in a high-speed chase, pursuing a suspect boat, a high-powered RHIB, whose occupants began to throw packages overboard as they tried to get away. Once the RHIB had left Gibraltar waters the officers returned and recovered nine bales which contained cannabis resin.

Jazz Festival in St Michael's Cave

GIBRALTAR

Ronnie Scott will be presenting the Gibraltar Jazz Festival in St Michael's Cave on 8 December and it promises to be a glittering evening with some of the greatest talent on the UK jazz scene, and a special performance by world famous vocalist Georgina Jackson. Info and tickets from gibraltar-internationaljazzfestival.com



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AVENIDA RICARDO SORIANO 66, MARBELLA (29601), MALAGA (SPAIN)

PRESIDENT OF CHINA PAYS VISIT TO SPAIN AND TALKS TRADE

The King and Queen received the President of China and his wife with full military honours in Madrid on Wednesday. Xi Jinping was making his first trip to Spain and it was the first official visit to the country by a Chinese leader in 13 years. The visit coincides with the 45th anniversary of Spain reestablishing diplomatic ties with China. The Chinese couple had arrived the previous day and had dinner with King Felipe and Queen Letizia. On the agenda were talks on trade, in particular the Chinese president's scheme to reinforce a fast land route from China to Europe similar to the old Silk Road, plus legalising the exports of boned legs of cured Spanish ham.



IN BRIEF

University Masters case will go to trial

MADRID

:: SUR. A judge investigating alleged fraud over a Masters degree involving the former president of the Madrid region has sent the case to be tried. Earlier this year, the PP party was hit by a scandal when Cristina Cifuentes, until then seen as a political high flyer, was challenged over whether she really had taken a Masters degree as she said. The case centres on allegations that Cifuentes then asked staff at Rey Juan Carlos University to create fake proof that she had submitted her dissertation and been examined on it.

Foreign minister in hot water over shares sale

MADRID

:: SUR. The minister for Foreign Affairs, Josep Borrell, has been fined 30,000 euros for insider trading while he was a director of Abengoa, a large Spanish multinational. Prime Minister, Pedro Sánchez has this week been defending Borrell, who is under pressure to resign after the fine was announced. A stock market regulator investigation said that in 2015, Borrell, who was a director at Abengoa at the time, had sold 10,000 euros' of shares belonging to his ex-wife shortly before the company was hit by a major liquidity crisis. Borrell was the President of the European Parliament from 2004 to 2007.

Divorcees with kids to lose right to family home once they share with a new partner

The Supreme Court has ruled that the ex-wife or husband must buy out the other or sell up and move when they settle down again

:: ALFONSO TORICES

MADRID. A father or mother who has custody of children will lose the right to live in the couple's family home when they start to share with a new, stable partner. The new legal decision from the Supreme Court says that the other parent would have the right to ask a court to annul part of the divorce settlement so the house can be sold or another arrangement made once a new partner has moved in.

The ruling applies to those situations where the former couple have children and a divorce settlement that contains shared assets from the marriage. The association of family lawyers in Spain praised the



Rights change when a new partner moves in. :: SUR

decision for "putting an end to many unfair situations", although some legal experts said it could be hard to prove when a new partner was living in a property full-time.

The decision by the top court was made after an appeal of a case

Experts said it could be hard to prove when a new partner has moved in permanently

in Valladolid that was sentenced locally earlier this year. Here a man complained that he was still paying for half the mortgage of the former family home despite a new partner living there.

The court pointed out that the loss of the right can only occur when the new partnership is stable and stressed that it wasn't questioning somebody's right to carry on with their life, but rather that it shouldn't be done at the expense of somebody else. It added that the same logic was being applied as in other changes made to divorce settlements when a third party became involved.

The judgment states that there is a "real possibility to stay in the property -for the children- if the mother acquires half of it or if it is sold and another property is bought."

The ex-wife of the man who brought the original case said this week that after losing the house she would have to ask for an increase in maintenance in any case from her former husband.



Josep Borrell. :: EFE

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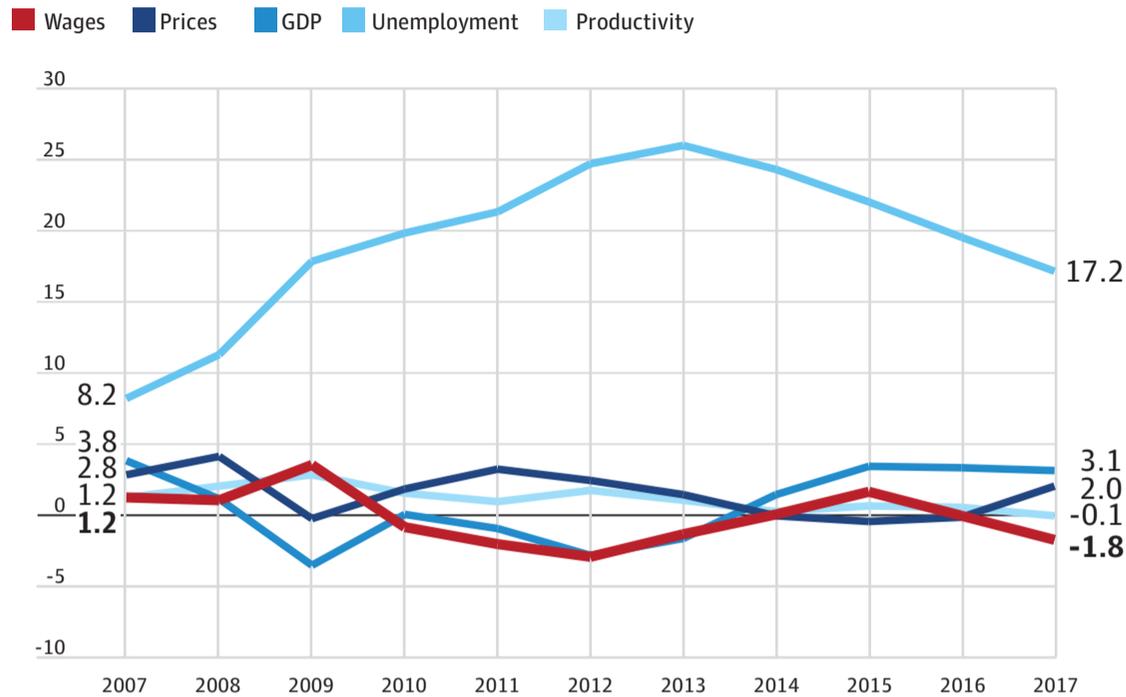
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Salaries v. overall economic performance

Earnings in Spain fell by 1.8% in 2017 despite GDP growth of 3.1%



Source: UN International Labour Organisation

R.C.

Salaries in Spain are going down despite economic growth

The survey for the International Labour Organisation found that earnings are 96% of what they were in 2008

EDURNE MARTÍNEZ

MADRID. Salary levels in Spain are frozen in time, according to a survey out this week by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), part of the United Nations.

Real earnings, adjusted for inflation, fell 1.8% in 2017, said the survey, despite the country's GDP growing 3.1%. Spain was second

from the bottom of the list of countries in the Eurozone for wage changes, just ahead of Greece,

Although other economic data for Spain from last year was good, the study concluded that wages are now only 96% of what they were in 2008.

There was more positive data for indicators such as GDP, which grew, and unemployment, which fell in the year. Spain is also one of the countries where productivity has risen most.

"Spain is in a position to increase salaries; it would be good for the economy," said Joaquín Nieto of ILO. He added that the ILO was posi-

tive about central government's recent decision to increase the minimum wage by 22% to 900 euros.

Reasons unclear

The reasons for the decrease in wages in Spain aren't identified by the ILO but many include the forced reductions in salaries during the financial crisis and lower-earning younger workers entering companies as older, more highly-paid workers retire.

The study also shows that Spanish women still tend to leave the labour market early at 30, and have difficulty finding suitable work later in life in order to return to it.

THE EURO ZONE MARK NAYLER

HELD TO ACCOUNT



First came a long period of apparent immunity from justice, but now Rodrigo Rato is being held to account. On Monday, the former Spanish economy minister and IMF boss appeared in Spain's High Court in connection with allegations of fraud, falsifying accounts and price-fixing in the run-up to Bankia's disastrous state bailout in 2012. His latest trial is expected to run for months and will make him even more of a hated figure among Spaniards than he already is: over 300,000 retail investors lost their life savings as a result of Bankia's downfall, over which the disgraced politician presided.

Rato, who was Bankia's chairman between 2010 and 2012, arrived at court from prison, where he recently started a four-and-a-half-year sentence in connection with the notorious "black credit cards" case. That scandal also concerned his time at Bankia, specifically the €100,000 he spent on limitless corporate credit cards between October 2010 and November 2011.

Although the details of the new trial are different, the charge against Rato this time is essentially the same as it was in the "tarjetas black" case: squandering taxpayers' money.

Bankia, formed in 2010 by seven regional Spanish savings banks, raised €3.1 billion in its Initial Public Offering (IPO) in July 2011. It's hard to believe, though, that the customers who bought this damaged stock were aware of what they were investing in: one thinks of Leonardo

DiCaprio's character Jordan Belfort in *The Wolf of Wall Street*, confidently selling worthless penny shares to easily-duped "investors".

Things were far from rosy at Bankia in 2011, despite what the pre-IPO balance sheets might have said. In May 2012, the bank announced a loss of €4.3 billion during the previous year, instead of the €309 million profit it had previously declared. The Spanish government rapidly intervened, saving Bankia from meltdown with a record-breaking €20 billion bailout, which in turn forced it to borrow €40 billion from the EU. Spain thus substantially increased its public debt levels, which had been relatively low before the European Debt Crisis began in 2009.

Rato faces five years in prison if found guilty of price-fixing or falsifying accounts during the near-collapse of Bankia, which crippled hundreds of thousands of Spanish households. If it's added onto the term he began last month - after offering an unconvincing apology to those who "may have felt deceived" by his actions - Rato could spend almost a decade behind bars.

The unscrupulous greed of Spain's political "elite" is embodied in the country's former economy minister, and his appearance in a second major fraud trial should serve as a warning to the other bandits of Spanish politics. It's only fair and just that this remarkably corrupt politician, once untouchable, now splits his time between a prison cell and courtroom.



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

Bicycles

Two years ago a lorry knocked a friend of mine off his bike and he suffered serious physical and cognitive injuries. Not long after, when I was on my way to see him, I also was involved in a serious accident on my bike and now, just recently, a woman has unfortunately been killed on the roads. Many newspapers have covered the fines that are going to be given cyclists that use the

pavements. I cycle regularly and want to know, where are all these crazy cyclists that are a risk to pedestrians? These stories in

the papers are just anecdotes. Just as the people that continually

complain about bicycles, they are few but very persistent. So persistent in fact that the authorities have decided to act by giving out fines. That's the easiest way for them, the difficult part is realising that the safest place for a bike is not the road but a special lane worthy of a vehicle that promotes health and limits pollution, but this has always been an unresolved issue. However the occasional use of the pavement, always respecting the pedestrian, can be safer for the cyclist. It's more a question of educating than fining, as always.

J. FERNÁNDEZ
BY EMAIL

Street vendors

Once more I write to highlight the nuisance of "lookie lookie" illegal sellers all along the promenade of Benalmádena Costa/Torremolinos, who have greatly increased in numbers this year, and continue to block at least half of the pedestrian footpath showing their goods for sale.

Not only do they cause this obstruction, they occupy all the seats along the promenade preventing anybody else from

sitting on them! Even the pedestrian area of the Benalmádena marina is now being used by these illegal sellers, and at no time during my recent visit to the resort have the local police been active in removing these people!

Please bring this complaint to the attention of your readers, who may wish to bring the matter to the notice of the relevant authorities.

MR L. THOMASON
BY EMAIL

THIS
WEEK'S
WINNING
LETTER

SUR in English

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A job lot

PETER EDGERTON
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

We're looking for a new barmaid down at The Shakespeare, an endeavour which is a lot more difficult than might first be imagined.

In the first place, we don't get many CVs handed at the bar which, I like to think, is because we're located down a bit of a side street rather than the possibility that most young people would rather contemplate shovelling tarmac onto an endless motorway for eight hours a day beneath an unforgiving Andalusian sun than have me as their boss. Although, actually, come to think of it...

Anyway, the next stage is to look through the CVs that we do manage to get our hands on. The 'out' tray fills up rather rapidly once you've jettisoned the clearly unsuitable. These include those

who offer a profile photo of a night out on the tiles in a club (no, really), hugging their pet dog (I kid you not), doing that disturbing duck lip thing or simply looking like a serial killer in a mug shot. This process then leaves you with five or six possibles, all of whom you ask to pass by for an informal chat.

One fails to turn up at all, offering no explanation. Another arrives late and dressed like they're about to clean the bathroom, while a third ambles in wearing headphones which are only reluctantly removed after we've nodded incredulously and shaken hands. Then there's the inevitable gum chewer plus the candidate whose linguistic abilities bear no relation to the extensive skills mentioned on the CV. Sometimes this can be one and the same person. Also, let's not forget those who come with their

own very strict criteria.

"I can only work afternoons from three to six and no weekends because my boyfriend doesn't like that."

"Er, we open at six and weekends are essential."

"Harrumph. Have you seen my chewing gum?"

So, by the time all of this has played out, you're left with just one possible candidate and no hair on your head. You call the person you saw yesterday who was punctual, polite, and spoke various languages. You're even prepared to overlook her humungous Sanskrit neck tattoo.

"Hi, is that Coriander? It's Peter from The Shakespeare. We'd like to offer you the bar job if you're still interested."

"That's great, thank you! Oh, did I mention that I can't work weekends? It's just that my dog Namaste doesn't like it, you see."

IDÍGORAS



However firm one's convictions, and however well trained one is to look at the world from the viewpoint of agnosticism, when a true miracle situation occurs, one still feels the urge to join a procession to give thanks to Providence.

One might be radically sceptical and look down condescendingly at those who believe in miracles, but what has happened this week in Marbella is enough to convince, for once and for all, the most incredulous.

Here's the story: ten years ago it was decided that the hospital needed to be extended because in Marbella, where as everyone knows there are only wealthy residents and tourists, people also have a habit of falling ill. As it's not the thing to do to invest public funds in a place where

everyone is rolling in it, someone at the Junta had the bright idea that the extension could be built without any public spending. All they had to do was to offer the contractor the right to manage the underground car park in exchange for the work.

A miraculous coincidence

HÉCTOR BARBOTA

For the idea to be successful they had to remove any possibility of cars parking above ground, so that the use of the underground car park would be obligatory. When the works were half finished, the plan started to fall apart. The town council didn't like the idea of hospital us-

ers being forced to pay to park their cars, and someone even went so far as to suggest that having to pay for the car park was the same as having to pay to go to hospital. The issue flared up and the work stopped. And it stayed that way for not one, not two, but eight years.

The situation, according to explanations from the regional Health Department, was infernal. There were two authorities and a private contractor involved, lawsuits going backwards and forwards in the court and the same contractor was in liquidation after going bankrupt, all resulting in total despair at a situation that could only be saved, as with all problems of this kind, by putting a sum of public funds on the table of a size that Marbella hasn't seen for a long time.

And it just so happened that suddenly, after eight years in an impasse, the money appeared and the Junta promised to spend it on finishing the work, as if Marbella were a town just like any other and not a haven for the wealthy.

And all this on the same day that regional president Susana Díaz and prime minister Pedro Sánchez were right here in the town, leading a political rally, which allowed a local socialist leader to point out five days before the elections that "when Susana comes to Marbella she comes bearing gifts".

I hope no unbeliever from the Electoral Commission thinks they can see a crude demagogic manoeuvre in this planetary alignment. It's just that coincidences do happen. And miracles, apparently, too.

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Ten of the best winter escapes

From local to long-haul, here's inspiration for a special seasonal getaway



ANDREW FORBES

Twitter: @andrewforbes

December is already knocking at the door, promising not only festive fun but also the shorter days of winter. One way to beat the winter blues is to plan a travel escape. To whet your appetite, I've pulled together ten ideas from home and away.

1. Andalucía

Many of you might think it's not worth taking a 'winter escape' when we're living in one of the best travel destinations in Europe. It's true that despite the seasonal storms and oc-

casional rain, the chances are we'll still enjoy, over the next few months, more sunshine than anywhere else on the continent.

That's reason enough to stay close to home, and Andalucía offers winter sun, winter sports and winter escapism.

I regularly head up into the Seranía de Ronda, the unspoilt countryside around this mountain town, that is a favourite for visitors and residents alike.

Clear skies, crisp mountain air, award-winning wine, and comforting local food make for a great start to a winter escape that's close to home. Christmas and New Year in the mountains is certainly a way to capture a more traditional and homespun festive vibe than the amongst the palm trees of the coast.

They say Almería is the province

where the sun goes to spend the winter. This semi-arid, eastern region, home to the continent's only desert, (as well as fantasy film sets and locations from international blockbusters) is well-known as the fruit and vegetable garden of Europe. Yet it's also becoming increasingly renowned for its cuisine. Almería city has been awarded the 'Spanish Capital of Gastronomy 2019 accolade' so now is a good time to discover the region's market-fresh food scene, showcasing organic produce grown in the province.

Almería's Cabo de Gata is the most remarkable natural park. Meander along country roads, between fishing villages, set amongst a striking coastal landscape. It's a place for agro-turismo; charming, boutique hotels and guest houses found within tiny hamlets and sleepy vil-

Beat the winter blues with a trip to warmer climes or choose a cosy retreat closer to home

lages; and all of them are close to the sparkling blue Mediterranean.

Andalucía's Sierra Nevada ski resort is continuing its transformation into a world-class winter sports destination with facilities and accommodation to match varying budgets and expectations.

2. France

Consistently amongst the most popular countries for international visitors, France is undeniably a safe choice for foodies and culture-vul-

tures. At this time of year, it's all about winter sports, and Courchevel certainly delivers with its beautiful setting, excellent facilities and abundant runs. This diverse resort can be all things to all people. From high altitude chic for the conspicuous consumers in the upscale hotels and resorts at 1850; to relaxed family fun with good-value hearty dining at Courchevel Moriond; to old school mountain charm in the lower altitude resort or Le Praz.

3. Austria

If you prefer your winter sports holiday to be a tad more elitist, then few places can match the exclusivity of Lech. It's the destination to rub shoulders with A-Listers, Royalty (and yes, wealthy showoffs too); yet it also has mountains of old-world Alpine charm

GRUPO
Reinaldo
Merry Christmas
HAPPY NEW YEAR
WISHING YOU HAPPINESS, PEACE AND PROSPERITY FOR THE
FESTIVE SEASON AND EVERY DAY OF THE NEW YEAR

and rustic authenticity. Even if you never head to the slopes, the charming town, its markets, and historic Alpine hotels will transport you to a magical winter wonderland.

4. Bermuda

Before you start to feel chilly with all this talk of mountains and snow, let me take you to warmer climes. Bermuda is an all-year-destination (although admittedly it is warmer in Summer). If you're heading to New York for Christmas shopping or New Year's celebrations, then I recommend looking-out for last minute flight deals to this historic British Overseas Territory.

Expect warming rum cocktails, exotic island vistas; and a fascinating Anglo-American interpretation of the festive season.

5. Cyprus

This Mediterranean island is successfully discarding its well-worn image as simply a package holiday destination. It combines the classic attractions of the eastern Mediterranean (a mild, dry climate with plenty of sunshine) with the potential for cultural adventure. The whole island is part of the EU so one can also easily cross the blue line and explore the occupied north and experience the Turkish influenced cuisine and culture.

6. Canary Islands

To be guaranteed warmth and sunshine at this time of year means wondering a little further afield. The Canary Islands promise an eternal spring but the reality is much more like an eternal summer. Think pool-side cocktails for the grown-ups and kids-club shenanigans for the young ones.

Yet the islands are so much more than the resorts. For example, Lanzarote is the most extraordinary island of nature with a unique artistic and cultural legacy thanks to the vision of local artist César Manrique. Whilst Tenerife has emerged as a world-class resort destination that still has fabulous hiking routes, charming old towns and a local cuisine that will surprise.

If you're willing to take an internal flight, then the smaller islands of La Gomera and El Hierro are like island botanical gardens – a must for nature lovers.

7. Cuba

The Caribbean remains the perennial choice for a winter escape; and if you fancy spicing things up a little then take advantage of the low-cost flights, from Spanish hubs like Madrid, to Cuba, the island home of salsa. Here visitors can stay with a resident in their home; or splash out on a holiday at one of the new luxury hotels that are contributing to the renaissance of Havana.

8. Morocco

This has to be one of the most exotic destinations that is tantalisingly close to us in southern Spain. New air routes from Malaga have made a long weekend in Tangiers a little easier; and if you want to enjoy a self-drive break, the fast-ferry from Tarifa makes taking your

car a feasible option too. The country's Atlantic towns are a delight to explore; and thanks to the new motorway network it's easy to reach Marrakech and the desert beyond as part of a short break.

9. South Africa

Summer is now being welcomed in the Southern Hemisphere, making South Africa's Western Cape, with its Mediterranean climate, a compelling choice. Think beautiful wine-lands, with quaint Cape Dutch architecture, exceptional food, and award-winning wines – and prices that are very reasonable. It all adds up to a winter escapade of a lifetime. It's possible to add on a safari



Winter sports in Courchevel.

:: DAVID ANDRE

too; taking the train from Cape Town up north or a flight to Nelspruit airport, well-placed for the private game lodges in and around the Krugar National Park. It'll be the rainy season that far north but the game viewing in Kruger, as well as in neighbouring Botswana, is exceptional.

10. Home Sweet Home

Chances are, many of us will not to travel over the next month or two, instead choosing to share the festive period with friends and family. Yet there are many ways to truly make the most of these days together.

Taking a food tour is an original way to get a fresh perspective of where we live. Along the coast entrepreneurial small tour firms of-

fer tasty ways to discover the history, and of course, the food of our region – from creative tapas tours; historical walking routes; to themed experiences around regional specialities like wine.

Also, if you dream of experiencing the indulgence and extravagance of an upscale hotel or resort but don't fancy the hefty check-out bill, then visit one of our local 5-star resorts for the day to feel like VIP. Book a treatment in a luxury resort spa; reserve a table in a gourmet restaurant; or enjoy a sun-downer at the bar, with a professionally prepared artisan cocktail. You'll feel special yet won't be left with a big winter holiday bill for January. For news of local cultural events, live music, arts and more, remember to check out our listings in the What To Do section.

Wishing you safe and enjoyable winter travels!

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THE INSIDER GUIDE

Winter breaks



Lech am Arlberg, Austria.

ANDREW FORBES

Whether you're looking for snowy, sunny or comfortably cosy, here are some perfect places to stay for a winter escape.

ANDALUCÍA:

El Lodge - Sierra Nevada, Granada

This time of year means the beginning of the winter sports season. Opening today for the 2018/19 season, El Lodge is the chic place to stay in the Europe's southernmost ski resort. Expect cool design, a striking après-ski sun-deck, and signature spa - and this season looks set to be a good one for snow!

ElLodge.com

Real La Joya - Agua Amarga, Almería

Almería is Andalucía's desert province with a remarkable semi-arid landscape; they say it's where the sun spends the winter in Andalucía. Almería city is Southern Spain's Gastronomic Capital for 2019, while the protected Cabo de Gata is the place for remarkable nature and a stunning coast. Here you'll find the Real La Joya, a wonderful boutique hotel open throughout the holiday festive season.

Real Agua Amarga.com

Finca La Donaira - Ronda, Malaga

For a unique rural escape, the traditional Finca La Donaira, an or-

ganic farm, hidden within hundreds of acres of Serranía de Ronda countryside, promises a chic ecotretreat experience. Expect a wellness spa with indoor pool, Russian wood sauna and treatment rooms; gourmet organic cuisine; luxurious yet understated guest rooms; and bespoke experiences embracing yoga & wellness, horse-riding, cooking workshops, and local wine tastings.

LaDonaira.com

Casa Palacio María Luisa - Jerez, Cadiz

November saw the opening of this new 5-star hotel in Jerez. A 19th-century mansion is now once again one of the best addresses to stay in this sherry town, promising smart guest rooms, and a restaurant celebrating Cadiz cuisine and Jerez wines.

CasaPalacioMariaLuisa.com

AUSTRIA:

Hotel Gasthof 'Post' - Lech am Arlberg

For an exclusive winter sports experience, Lech in Austria is the resort that never seems to go out of fashion. The Hotel Gasthof 'Post' is probably the most iconic hotel in the village, with spa, outside heated pool and a generous helping of Austrian alpine charm.

PostLech.com

BERMUDA:

Rosedon Hotel - Hamilton

Bermuda is a year-round destination with luxury hotels and family all-inclusive resorts, as well as intimate boutique properties like the historic Rosedon Hotel.

Rosedon.com

For more information, revisit our Insider Guide to Bermuda or visit GoToBermuda.com

CANARY ISLANDS:

Fantasia Bahía Príncipe - Costa San Miguel, Tenerife

This fantasy-filled family hotel has just opened this month. It has a world-class kids club with waterpark. There's a fairy-tale castle too which the young ones will love, and spectacular shows based on Tenerife's folklore and mythology. Parents can indulge in one of the six restaurants, or chill by the pool.

Bahia-Principe.com

Hard Rock Hotel - Adeje, Tenerife

Enjoy the Hard Rock signature music experience at this upscale hotel with spa. The perfect hotel for rocking and relaxing in the sun. There's a 'Children of the 80s' event held on Saturday 8 December.

HRHTenerife.com

Hotel Atlantis - Corralejo, Fuerteventura

This popular hotel offers more than all-inclusive family holidays in the sun. Foodies will love the restaurants; and to work off the calories, try scuba diving, kite surfing or a safari through the nearby sand dunes and volcanoes of the

Corralejo Nature Park.

AtlantisFuerteventuraResort.com

For more information, revisit our Insider Guide to Fuerteventura or go to HelloCanaryIslands.com

CUBA:

Gran Hotel Manzana Kempinski

What can be better than winter in the Caribbean? For an authentic travel experience, it has to be Cuba. Kempinski's new hotel captures the romance of Old Havana. Its fabulous roof terrace is not to be missed.

Kempinski.com

CYPRUS:

Elysium-Hotel.com

Cyprus is one of the warmest islands in the Mediterranean during the winter. Admittedly it might be chilly at night, and there can be rain, but off season means very good value winter escapes.

More information, revisit our Insider Guide to Cyprus or go to VisitCyprus.com

FRANCE:

Portetta, Courchevel

Skiing in the French Alps is even more appealing when you know you can come back to the comforting and hearty cuisine of chef Angela Hartnett, as Portetta's Cucina Angelina. The hotel also has one of the best après-ski sun-decks in Courchevel.

Portetta.com

More information, revisit our Insider Guide to Courchevel, or go to Courchevel.com



La Donaira, Ronda.

MOROCCO:

Riad Maya, Essaouira

The seaside town of Essaouira combines the exotic allure of Morocco with winter sunshine and sparkling light of the Atlantic coast. This discreet, stylish Riad has its own hamam.

RiadDarMaya.com

SOUTH AFRICA:

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Babylonstoren.com

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At home with Santa Claus

A visit to the city of Rovaniemi, the capital of Lapland, is the best gift this Christmas

Untouched landscapes, pure air, nature in the wild, colourful night skies and, of course, Christmas

:: PEDRO GRIFOL

ROVANIEMI. Although it always seems to be Christmas in Lapland, the most northerly region of Finland, December is the best time of year to experience the warmth - despite the below-zero temperatures! - of the festive spirit. Winter is the ideal season to visit this far-off destination and enjoy some of the activities which this time of year makes possible: you can go on a sled safari pulled by huskies, get the adrenaline going on a snowmobile, skate on a frozen lake, walk among reindeer, tone your body with a snow sauna... or gaze in rapture at the sight of the aurora borealis at night.

We are in the capital of Finnish Lapland, Rovaniemi, after arriving from Spain with a connecting flight at Helsinki. The minuscule airport welcomes its visitors with Christmas music and flying reindeer over the luggage carousel, where children of all sizes and nationalities in colourful anoraks are running around in excitement. They can't wait to meet Father Christmas in person.

Once settled in, whether travelling with children or not, the first thing to do has to be a visit to Santa, and in fact there is plenty to see in the official residence of this venerable elderly gentleman. It is exactly over the Arctic Polar Circle - called Napapiiri (nothing to do with the clothing brand Napapijri, which is not spelled quite the same and is, in any case, Italian) - that imaginary line from which at least there is at least one day a year in which the sun never sets and another which is perpetually night-time.

Santa Claus Village (santaclausvillage.info) has a reindeer farm, a gift-making workshop and the home of the elves who handle Santa's postal service. Its post office receives 15 million cards from all over the



Lapland's capital city is perfect for a family trip, with plenty to do including a visit to Santa Claus. :: PEDRO GRIFOL

world, and the Christmas cards which are sent from here (by ordinary post) bear the original Santa Claus postmark. If we decide not to send friends and families festive greetings by email for one year, so what? They will undoubtedly be delighted to receive a card instead, bearing the emblematic stamp of the home of Santa Claus.

It is interesting to note, in the words of Santa himself, that: "Although the children normally ask for toys, we are receiving more letters these days asking for peace in the world, or for wars to stop... or for their father to find a job". Times are changing, and making Santa's mission more complicated.

After this obligatory visit, the next thing to do in Rovaniemi is to head for the Arktikum (arktikum.fi), an interesting museum which explains in detail how Scan-

dinavian countries have been able to survive amid the darkness, cold and desolation of the Great North. This visit will also give us a greater understanding of the rest of our trip to Lapland. The museum has an important exhibition on the country's

Strong sensations

No Finnish house worth its salt would be without a sauna, which was traditionally used not only as a place to get clean, but to smoke meat and even give birth. Naturally, tourists are not used to that. Many hotel rooms have a private sauna, but if not, then book a session with reception in advance, because it is usual to go naked.

flora and fauna as well as displays of magnificent nature photography.

In the past, Lapland was subject to a type of gold fever, but a Nordic version. In the 1860s gold was found close to what is now the village of Saariselkä, and people from all over

Once inside, follow the instructions and repeat the hot-cold-hot formula as advised. For a truly authentic experience, following the sauna, jump into the water-filled hole which has been created in the ice outside. Words cannot describe the sensation.

If you pass that test, you can reward yourself with a drink in an ice bar and even spend the night in an ice hotel.

Scandinavia came in droves to sift the waters of the Ivalo river in the hope of becoming rich.

That was a long time ago, but the hope lives on. 'Gold diggers' still come here, the occasional gold nugget is found in the river, and although it is only worth enough to buy a beer in a village bar, it is the feeling of being on an adventure that matters.

The bar in question is in Tankavaara; it is a charming place with a log fire and the usual picturesque clientele, and still accepts gold as a form of currency. The owners are making sure that gold fever does not die out, and the bar is decorated as if it were an authentic saloon from the Far West. Photos of Wyatt Earp, the famous sheriff of Arizona, gunman Billy el Niño and Sioux chief Sitting Bull decorate the smoked wooden walls, along with tools used



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Children can meet the real Santa Claus. :: PEDRO GRIFOL



A sled ride pulled by reindeer. :: P. G.

GUIDE

How to get there

► **Flights.** Finnair (finnair.com) has regular flights from Malaga to Helsinki in Finland. Flights go via Helsinki for a connection to Rovaniemi. Return by same route in reverse. There are also flights from Malaga via Gatwick to Rovaniemi with other airlines.

Where to stay

► Santa Claus has ensured that there is plenty of accommodation in Rovaniemi and there is something to suit all tastes. The Guesthouse Borealis (guesthouse-borealis.com) is a family hotel with simple rooms; the classic Santa Claus (santaclaus.fi) has a private sauna in every room; and the Arctic Light Hotel (arcticlighthotel.fi) is considered the best hotel in Lapland: the rooms

have skylights to enjoy the aurora borealis from the bed, and the breakfasts are a world of culinary sensations.

► The Arctic TreeHouse Hotel (arctictreehousehotel.fi) is a little further away from the centre, but it is worth seeing its architectural design and its interesting menus.

► Saariselkä has the largest number of igloos with glass roofs, such as the Kakslauttanen Igloo Village.

► And in Inari, there is an emblematic hotel: The traditional Hotel Kultahovi (hotelkultahovi.fi), run by a Sami family and beside the rapids of the Jäniskosi river, which is frozen in winter.

Further info:

► www.visitfinland.com

by the goldpanners. Tankavaara looks a bit like a ghost town in a film, and its few inhabitants dress like the legendary adventurers of the American West.

This is also a good place to go out and look for the magical Northern Lights. If the night sky is starry, it's a question of luck. The 'revontulent', as the aurora borealis is known in Finnish, can be rather capricious, but normally it is just a matter of patience. When you have seen these lights, you will

The post office receives 15 million letters a year from countries all over the world

understand the mysticism and legends that surround them.

According to a Lapland legend, the colourful curtains of light are foxes that swish their tails, creat-

ing sparks in the sky, which is a much more poetical explanation than the actual physical cause. In scientific terms, the aurora borealis is caused by particles with an electrical charge which come from the sun, and they collide with others as they enter the earth's atmosphere, creating different colours of light.

The Sami people

The Samis, who were nomads in other times, have gradually

adopted sedentary customs and dedicated themselves to agriculture and livestock farming. Nowadays they even have their own parliament. However, these people are arousing interest among anthropologists because of their confusing ethnic origins, their shamanic beliefs and their language.

The villages which mark the rhythm of the Sami heartbeat are Ivalo and Inari. In Inari, the Siida (siida.fi) shouldn't be missed; it is a museum which preserves

the native Sami culture and gives a general perspective of the rich tradition of beliefs of this people.

The artisan manufacture of wooden items (drums, cups, skis, knives etc) which occupies a great deal of their time, is also part of their spirit. Lapland crafts are designed to be used. More than a job this was, and still is, a way of life. Therefore, when you see or buy a Sami item, remember that it is not just a souvenir; it is a reflection of a slower way of life.

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WHERE IN THE WORLD?



Plus-sized

:: JUAN PORTER

We've reached the time of the year where the 'C' word is heard everywhere. Christmas is not for everyone and if you're not a fan of the festive period, it is hard to avoid, even on the other side of the world.

You would think, though, that a night devoted to an oversized edible root vegetable would be devoid of Christmas spirit. But that's where you're wrong.

In the city pictured, on the night of 23 December, displays of carvings of these vegetables can be vis-

ited by the public. However, since the vegetables wilt soon after cutting, the works can only be displayed for a number of hours, which has led to very long queues for those wishing to see the works.

The event has become very popular, attracting over 100 contestants

and thousands of visitors.

This city has a long wood carving tradition and farmers began carving these vegetables into figures as a way to attract customers' attention at the Christmas market. Thus, you can inevitably expect scenes depicting various



OCTOBER'S PHOTO

stages of the nativity story.

If you know where this is, you could win a prize. Please send the name of the city where the event takes place and the name of the vegetable to which it is dedicated to english@diariosur.es. Only entries with your full name, delivery address and telephone number will be considered.

Last month's photo showed Bournemouth pier (United Kingdom), where Mary Shelley, author of Frankenstein, spent much of her life and is buried.

Congratulations to Clive Herman in Nueva Andalucía who answered correctly. Your prize will be on its way to you soon.

Send your answer to english@diariosur.es

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INVESTMENT, REFORM AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

IN THE FRAME

From Jersey to Spain, naturally

Nikki de Gruchy is hard to pin down; she recently finished a photography exhibition at the ethnographic museum in Riogordo, in the Axarquía, and from there she flew to Lanzarote to participate in the annual PhotoEspaña PhotoWalk. She took part in the Cómputa Artwalk for the first time this April and had an exhibition in the Jardines de la Concepción in Malaga this year too. When I caught up with her, via Skype, she was in the UK before coming back to Malaga for the ArteX Collective exhibition at the Las Lagunas Casa de la Cultura in Mijas, where she, along with other Spanish and foreign artists, will be showing their work from 5 December until 5 January.

Nomad

Nikki describes herself as a “nomad” and says she can’t really say where home is. She was born and brought up on a farm on Jersey, one of the Channel Islands, but moved to Australia in her early 20s. She has also worked in New Zealand, Kenya, the USA (Texas) and Spain and until 2004 she worked in corporate finance in the UK and abroad.

“I spent all my time in open-plan offices with air conditioning, moving numbers around basically,” explains Nikki. She adds that all of that was having a “terrible effect” on her health and that she came to the realisation that “there was more to life”.

Nikki explains that she started to investigate natural therapies as traditional medicine was “not helping” with the health problems she was experiencing while working in an office environment. She also started to study photography and returned to university. “A friend of mine had just gone back to university as a mature student and I thought that if she could do it then so could I.”

Nikki completed an HND (Higher National Diploma) and went on to get a BA in photography; at the same time she studied holistic therapy and began to change her life completely. Having been brought up on a farm, she started to go back, literally, to her roots, and took a keen interest in the way that not only nature can help us, in terms of natural thera-



Nikki de Gruchy. :: N. DE GRUCHY / L. SIMON

Nikki de Gruchy gave up a career in corporate finance to go back to her agricultural roots and teach people about habitat destruction through her photography

JENNIE RHODES



pies, but also what we can do to help nature.

Through her photography, interest in gardening and other projects, Nikki has managed to interlink everything that she has become passionate about since leaving the very unnatural environment of an air-conditioned office in the corporate world.

Discovering the Axarquía

Nikki first came to the Axarquía in the early 2000s with an ex-partner, with whom she bussed around the cities of Andalucía. “We are both from the country so we didn’t just want to see big cities, we wanted to see something of rural Andalucía as well,” she explains.

Speaking no Spanish at the time, they managed to find a bed and breakfast run by an English couple in Canillas de Albaída. The couple stayed there and she confesses that they “fell in love” with the area and “didn’t want to leave”. However, at the time Nikki still had her job in finance.

Not long after the first visit, Nikki bought a house in the village and it has been one of her bases ever since, although, she and her Podenco cross, Oro, travel a lot especially between the UK and the Axarquía.

“Having Oro means I do the journey by car a lot but I couldn’t leave him,” admits the animal-lover.

Being in this part of the world has allowed her to really develop the interests that she started to explore through holistic therapy and photography after quitting the day job.

She says she is also interested in agricultural tourism, which is enjoying something of a revolution here in the Axarquía at the moment, with subtropical fruit growers offering tours of their plantations. However, Nikki would undoubtedly dispute modern farming techniques which she explains are counterproductive and destroying centuries-old ecosystems.

Nikki is hoping to teach people, through her photography, as well as through tours that she has started to run from her home in Canillas de Albaída, with the help of a local environmental expert, about habitat destruction as well as showing people “nature in its

truest form”.

Her last photography exhibition, in Riogordo, showed off the Axarquía’s orchids, of which she explains there are almost 40 species. “People just assume that there aren’t that many varieties and that they only bloom at certain times of year. They were amazed when I told them I was off to photograph them at other times of the year and told me I wouldn’t find any,” she points out.

There will be another opportunity to see the orchids at the exhibition in Mijas.

“Even I have noticed a change in the biodiversity of this area and I have only been here for 18 years,” comments Nikki.

“You just have to read about the desperate water situation at the reservoir and every time I drive up through the Axarquía on my way to Canillas it seems that there is another mango or avocado plantation,” she laments.

“Even I have noticed a change in the biodiversity of this area in just 18 years”

What she is trying to do through both her photography and the agricultural tours, she explains, is “teach people to be more aware of what we are doing to the planet. It’s like a call to action.”

Nikki has had some surprising reactions to her tours so far. “I take people out for a walk in the sierra at night, when it’s really dark and a lot of people are terrified. They are scared of the wild animals or just the darkness which surrounds them,” she remarks.

Having been brought up on a farm, nature itself is not frightening to her, but what humans are doing to it is.

“We are in control of nature and that’s wrong,” she concludes.

i ArteX exhibition : Casa de la Cultura de Las Lagunas. Mijas Costa, from 5 December (opening at 8pm) until 7 January 2019.

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The painting being hung on a wall (left) and its arrival in Spain rolled up (right). :: JESÚS GONZÁLEZ

Guernica tells its story

An exhibition in the Plaza de la Marina presents a series of archives collected on the 'Guernica's' trip around the world

REGINA SOTORRÍO

Behind the powerful image of the 'Guernica' lies the story of 'one of the great nomads' of the twentieth century. This symbolic painting has travelled the world, provoking countless reactions and providing endless inspiration.

Despite its world-famous reputation, the history behind the 'Guernica' is somewhat of a mystery. The exhibition 'Picasso. The journey of the Guernica', organised by Obra Social la Caixa, the bank's social branch, and the Reina Sofía Museum, hopes to bring to light the lost archives and present the lesser-known part of this influential work.

Carlos Martín, the curator of this exhibition, explains that "While the 'Guernica' itself cannot be moved for conservation reasons", the story that the painting generates can still be told anywhere. 'Picasso. The journey of the Guernica' is an exhibition with a twist. The hall itself is on wheels and can be moved from location to location, telling the story of this famous painting. Until 8 December the hall will be in Plaza de la Marina.

Inside the exhibition visitors travel alongside the painting through the journey it took around the world. The bombing that devastated Ma-

drid is the starting point. The attack by the German Condor Legion, which was "suprisingly well documented", inspired Picasso to draw his first sketches of the 'Guernica'. Months before he had received a commission from the Government of the Republic to create a piece for the 1937 Paris Exposition. Picasso had been in a creative crisis; until the massacre.

"The painting is already there in some ways" says the curator, pointing to a screen where the sketches of the Malaga artist are displayed. Beside them, a large projection superimposes the photographs that Dora Maar, Picasso's partner at the time, had taken of his creative process.

After being the centre-piece in Paris, the 'Guernica' was returned to Picasso. Thereafter, it travelled to 40 destinations all over the world. Provoking many, varying reactions, Picasso's 'Guernica' is anything but one dimensional.

Moved for the last time in 1981 to the Re-

ina Sofía Museum in Madrid, the painting has now found its permanent home. While it may not travel the world anymore, through the inspiration it has provided throughout the years, the journey of the 'Guernica' continues.



The installation of the 'Guernica' in Paris 1955. :: MANUEL LITRÁN

© Sucesión Pablo Picasso, VEGAP, Málaga, 2018.

An old leaflet with instructions on how to interpret the Guernica mural. :: SUR



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DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

Mussaendra erythrophylla

A twining shrub native to tropical and subtropical regions of the world, Mussaendra has stunning coloured sepals

Mussaendra erythrophylla is a twining shrub and member of the coffee family (Rubiaceae) native to Tropical Africa and other temperate and subtropical regions of the world.

Common names include

Ashanti blood, red flag bush, virgin tree and tropical dogwood in English and 'flor de trapo' in Spanish. The genus name comes from the Senegalese word 'mussenda' which is a local word for several species in the genus, while the

species name erythrophylla comes from the Greek word 'erythris' meaning 'red' and 'phyllos' meaning 'leaf'.

The actual flowers are inconspicuous; very small (about 10mm across) and star-shaped, while the bigger 'petal' is actually a sepal, and is normally red, pink or white. Usually only one sepal is enlarged, however some hybrids have been developed to have up to five enlarged sepals per flower. The flowers form at the end of the branches in panicles and attract lots of bees and butterflies.

The leaves are dark green, eight to 15cm long and covered with soft hairs. Mussaendra is fast growing and in ideal situations will form a woody, twining shrub up to ten metres tall. In cultivation it is usually kept a more compact two metres.

It is not frost-hardy but can be grown in a large container to allow it to be moved under cover in the winter. Mussaendra has average water needs and must not be allowed to sit in water. It is best to allow the surface to dry out before watering to prevent waterlogging.

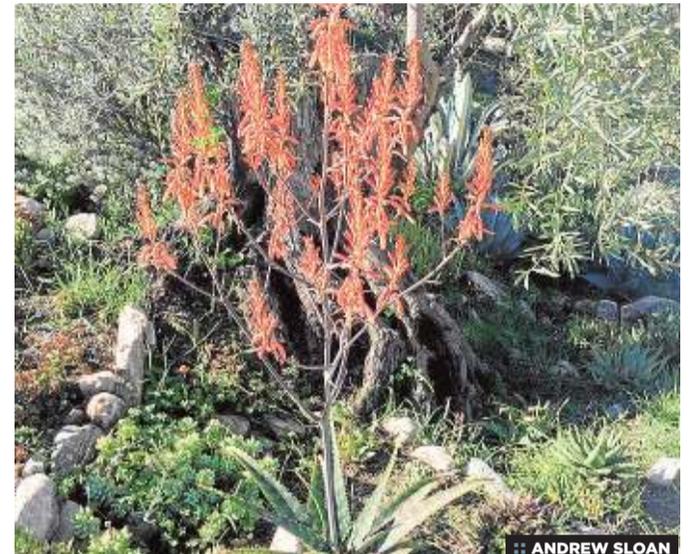
The shrub rarely produces seed and if it does they are usually not viable. Propagation is by herbaceous or semi-ripe cuttings or by layering.

Mussaendra loves full sun which helps to make the sepals brightly coloured. It also needs high humidity so will appreciate being misted regularly or, if in a container, sat on a large tray of wet pebbles.



Mussaendra erythrophylla and a pink variety (inset). :: FLICKR

READER'S PHOTO



:: ANDREW SLOAN

THE GLORY OF GARDENING

Andrew Sloan sent in this photo of Aloe dyeri, which he has grown from seed. He also included a lovely quote he found written by Alfred Austin: "The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul."

GARDENING HINTS FOR DECEMBER

Waterlogged plant pots

It's hard to believe but too much rain is not always good for the garden. If the soil is heavy, water takes a long time to drain away and plants in containers, especially those with saucers under, soon become waterlogged. Plants' roots need to be able to absorb oxygen from the soil and can't do this if the soil is saturated with water. CO2 and ethylene build up and the

leaves begin to go yellow and drop and the roots rot and decompose. Few plants will survive in those conditions. Although saucers and drip trays are vital in the summer they are best removed in the winter. To improve drainage, containers will benefit from being lifted onto 'feet' or moved under cover where they won't get a soaking in inclement weather.

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

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

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



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DEBBIE BARTLETT



WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

30 NOVEMBER 2000

Elche palm grove became a World Heritage Site

Unesco was impressed by the unique agricultural landscape and transfer from one culture to another

Many people believe only historical buildings can be classified as Unesco World Heritage Sites, but the Elche date palm grove, known as the 'Palmeral de Elche' in Spanish, proves them wrong.

This enormous plantation of date palms is the only one of its type in Europe and the largest outside Arabian countries. It was created by the Moors around a thousand years ago, using techniques used in North Africa to encourage the trees to grow in

this different environment, and the application for world heritage status was accepted in the year 2000 because the palm grove forms a unique agricultural landscape and one which has defined the identity of the town of Elche, which is in Alicante province, in Valencia.

The beautiful date palms in these orchards are planted in single or double rows, following the lines of the ancient irrigation canals - which are still operative - and this was of special interest to Unesco when considering the application. The Moors used water from the Vinalopó river to water these trees, and



The Palmeral de Elche was originally created by the Moors. :: WIKIMEDIA

the system used today is practically the same.

When announcing that the Palmeral was now a World Heritage Site, Unesco said that the transfer of landscape and agricultural practices from one culture and continent to another (Moorish North Africa to Christian Europe) had played a part in its decision.

These days there are about 97 different orchards in the Palmeral, and a total of 70,000 trees. Some of them are more than 30 metres tall and are believed to be around

300 years old.

One of the palms is particularly famous: it is known as the 'Imperial Palm' and was named after Elizabeth, or Sissi, the Empress Consort of Franz Joseph who visited the plantation in 1894. This particular tree has seven branches and is in the shape of a candelabra, and it was dedicated to her.

In the 1920s the authorities realised that the palm grove needed some sort of protection, and the first regulations of this type were introduced in the 1930s. However, it was not until 1986 that the Valencian regional government brought the current protection law into force, as a way of regulating use and safeguarding the Palmeral from any changes which

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Palmeral	Palm grove
Palmera	Palm tree
Patrimonio	Heritage
Hermoso	Beautiful
Rama	Branch
Riego	Irrigation
Dátil	Date
Paisaje	Landscape
Pasearse	To stroll
Protección	Protection
Jardinero	Gardener
Emperatriz	Empress
Plantación	Plantation
Mantenimiento	Maintenance
Medidas	Measures
Problema	Problem
Desaparecer	Disappear

could potentially affect its original layout and its maintenance.

Some years ago gardeners at the Palmeral found that, like many other palm trees in Spain, some had been affected by the 'red palm weevil', and took pest control measures to prevent the problem spreading to others. After so many years, these date palm orchards where local people love to stroll are an important part of life in Elche, and nobody would want them to disappear.

Bilingual crossword inside back page



MOVIE LISTING
 From Friday 23th
 to Thursday 29th November
 ORIGINAL VERSION SUBTITLED SPANISH

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY
 Director Bryan Singer and Dexter Fletcher
 Starring Rami Malek, Lucy Boynton, Ben Hardy
 BIOGRAPHY - 134 min.
 Language: English
 A chronicle of the years leading up to Queen's legendary appearance at the Live Aid (1985) concert.
 Friday 23: 17:45, 20:20, 22:45
 Saturday 24 and Sunday 25: 15:45, 17:45, 20:20, 22:45
 From Monday 26 to Thursday 29: 17:45, 20:10, 22:30

THE NUTCRACKER AND THE FOUR REALMS
 Director Lasse Hallström, Joe Johnston
 Starring Mackenzie Foy, Keira Knightley, Morgan Freeman
 ADVENTURES - 99 min.
 Language: English
 A young girl is transported into a magical world of gingerbread soldiers and an army of mice.
 Friday 23: 18:00
 Saturday 24: 15:45, 18:00
 Sunday 25: 11:30, 15:45, 18:00
 From Monday 26 to Thursday 29: 18:00

FANTASTIC BEASTS: THE CRIMES OF GRINDERWALD
 Director David Yates
 Starring Eddie Redmayne, Jude Law, Katherine Waterston
 FANTASY - 134 min.
 Language: French, English
 The second installment of the "Fantastic Beasts" series set in J.K. Rowling's Wizarding World featuring the adventures of magizoologist Newt Scamander.
 Friday 23: 17:50, 20:20, 22:45
 Saturday 24: 15:40, 17:50, 20:20, 22:45
 Sunday 25: 11:30, 15:40, 17:50, 20:20, 22:45
 From Monday 26 to Thursday 29: 17:40, 20:00, 22:30

A STAR IS BORN
 Director Bradley Cooper
 Starring Lady Gaga, Bradley Cooper, Sam Elliott
 DRAMA - 136 min.
 Language: English
 A musician helps a young singer find fame, even as age and alcoholism send his own career into a downward spiral.
 From Friday 23 to Thursday 29: 20:00

Having a heart in Marbella

Thousands of euros were raised for the charity Collective Calling at a live music evening

:: **ASH BOLTON**

MARBELLA. A Marbella fundraising event has raised 3,156 euros in aid of vulnerable street children and orphans in Tanzania. Over 200 people attended the “Marbella with Love” evening at KAH restaurant on Friday 16 November.

Organised by the Marbella based charity Collective Calling, the funds will help build an education centre for street children in the East African country.

Paul Carr, who started the charity with his wife Gemma three years ago, told SUR in English that the event was a “huge success.”

“We were really pleased with the turn out. There’s a lot of people who do good here so we want to use this monthly musical event to highlight the heart that Marbella has, and that it’s not just glitz and glamour,” said Paul.

Paul, 35, who is originally from Leicester in the UK, and has lived in Marbella for 14 years, explained that the charity hopes to have the



Charity founder Paul Carr with his wife Gemma. :: **A. BOLTON**

centre in Kasulu village completed by June next year, but that another 27,000 euros were still needed for its completion.

Local acts including singer Mr Maph, LaMaya on the electric violin, Dario on the Saxophone and

dancer Sophie, helped entertain the crowds while an auction and raffle also helped raise funds.

Paul added that the Spanish Registered non-governmental organisation also helps local homeless people and underprivileged children in

The funds raised by Collective Calling will help build an education centre for street children in Tanzania

and around Marbella.

He said: “We are currently serving food to around 15 people twice a week from our homeless centre in Diana Park, who are living on the streets in tents.

“We also work with around 25 children in the El Ángel neighbourhood, by providing them with packed lunches for school every week.”

Collective Caring currently has between 40-50 volunteers in Marbella, but are looking for more helpers. Paul added that they currently need help in the homeless centre, translation and to make sandwiches for the children in El Ángel.

The next fundraiser is set to be held at La Sala in Puerto Banús on Tuesday the 18th of December.

For more information on the charity visit <http://collectivecalling.org> or visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Collective-Calling

Business and culture at annual cocktail party for Norwegian law firm

:: **SUR IN ENGLISH**

MALAGA. Vogt Advokatfirma España SL (a Norwegian law firm based in Marbella since 1999) held its annual cocktail party at Los Naranjos Golf Club on 21 November.

This year the event was changed to include a mini-seminar with speakers John Brendmoe – Founder of Antima Property SL and Einar Askvig, a Norwegian lawyer and founder of the Vogt Lawfirm.

Askvig presented his book “Moving to Spain”, written by himself and edited by the law firm, which will help to raise money for Hogar betania (<https://www.hogarbetsania.es/>), a charity based in La Linea.

At the event, tenor Rodrigo Orrego, an internationally acclaimed and popular performer on the Costa del Sol, performed three well-known arias.

The law firm intends to repeat the new format which successfully combined business with culture at events planned in the future.

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Javi Oyhanarte and Pilar López form the duo Dee-Oyhanarte. :: **SUR**

Music duo to perform in Alcaidesa prior to album release

Musical duo Dee-Oyhanarte will perform a mix of covers and original songs in their upcoming concert in Alcaidesa beach

:: **GEORGIE KENNY**

MALAGA. The musical duo Dee-Oyhanarte will be performing this Sunday at the restaurant DBlanco on Alcaidesa beach, La Línea de la Concepción. Entry to the concert starting at 5.30pm is free.

The duo, consisting of Pilar López Ortega and Javi Oyhanarte, will be playing cover versions and some of their original music.

Pilar, also known as ‘Dee’, explains that she and Javi have been playing together for three years, describing the Argentinian guitarist, as a “virtuoso”.

The Algeciras-born singer has performed all her life although she has only done so professionally for a few years.

She explains that the majority of her time has been dedicated to teaching. “I am a sociologist, I have

a PhD in Social Sciences and I work at Cadiz University.” She says her real passion though lies in music.

After playing cover versions of songs for the first few years, the duo decided it was time to compose their own music.

They now have 15 original songs, with lyrics in both Spanish and English, in styles varying from tango to jazz.

Dee-Oyhanarte’s latest project has been recording a CD, which will be available to purchase, and to listen to on Spotify and YouTube, from around 20 December.

EXHIBITIONS

Yusto Giner

Marbella. From 30 November until 30 December. Galería Yusto Giner, C/Madera.

A new exhibition at the gallery by artist Eduardo Balanza entitled Remix.

MasArte exhibition

Malaga. Until 30 November. Hotel Vincci Posada del Patio.

The company MasArte is holding an exhibition of works by three artists: Regina Álvarez who is presenting Pintar Mis Viajes Trazos de Japón y Tailandia, Mariola Sanabria who is the director of the Fashion Art Academy and writer Paloma Sánchez.



Pepe España

Malaga. Until 30 January. Museum Jorge Rando.

A collective exhibition of forgotten Malaga artists starting with José Luis Jiménez España, known as Pepe España.

Socios a Cuatro Manos

Malaga. Until 6 December Centro de Arte Contemporáneo

The exhibition consists of a selection of paintings and collages by Gonzalo Torné and the late Quico Rivas.

Hernan Bas

Malaga. Until 9 December, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo, CAC.

'A Brief Intermission' is the title of the exhibition at the CAC in Malaga. It is the first time that American artist Hernan Bas has exhibited in a museum in Spain. Thirty six paintings are on display of varying formats.

Más Arte

Malaga. Until 11 January 2019.

Restaurante Castaño Oscuro, next to El Corte Inglés.

Sixteen artists with distinctive styles and using various media will be exhibiting their works entitled 'GastroArte' inside the restaurant. The exhibition has been organised by the Más Arte group.

Arte Y Superación

Torremolinos. Until 30 November. First floor of the town hall.

The association of international artists who paint using their feet or their mouths will be exhibiting 31 pieces of work created in watercolours, oils, acrylics, charcoal and mixed media.

Fermy Lozano

La Cala de Mijas. Until 17 December. Centro Cultural La Cala.

An exhibition of paintings by Fermy Lozano. Inauguration takes place this evening at 8pm.

Amor y Deseo

Vélez-Málaga. Until 8 December. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.

The exhibition consists of 51 works by Pablo Ruiz Picasso and celebrates the fifth anniversary of the centre.

CHARITY

Casino Royale Ball

Nerja. 1 December, from 7pm. Caves restaurant. 38€.

The Costa Animal Society (CAS) are holding a dinner and dance at the Nerja caves restaurant. The price includes canapes and aperitifs on arrival, choice of starter, main and dessert. Coffee and brandy, wine, beer or soft drinks. Roulette and blackjack tables, magic act by Zambini and music by the Mark T. Connor Trio. Raffle. Tickets from the caves restaurant, or book with Vera: 952529670 or call into the CAS shop in Calle Castilla Pérez.

Charity cabaret for cats

Alhaurín el Grande. 1 December, from 7pm. Venta La Recta. 10€.

The "Sound Bites" are hosting a charity cabaret evening featuring the popular Ricky Leach and Lynne Gaskell who will perform favourites from The Carpenters, Neil Diamond, and Frank Sinatra to Amy Winehouse, Whitney Houston and many other popular artists. There will be a two course meal available for 10 euros (pay on the night direct to the Venta) at 7pm. The cabaret starts at 9pm. Table reservations can be made by calling Cathy: 952 112 057. All proceeds will be donated to "Gift of Life", a cat rescue organisation based in Alhaurin el Grande. Tickets from: Martins paper shop, and Cristina's paper shop.

DEBRA race night

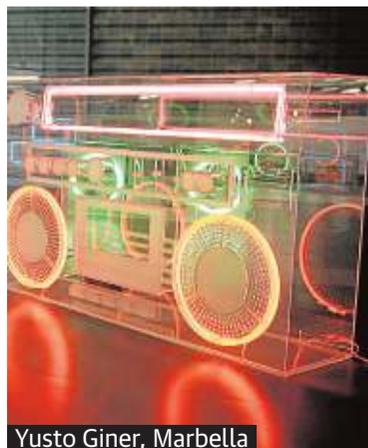
Marbella. 4 December, 7pm.

Bridges Bar, Riviera del Sol. DEBRA charity raises money for children with epidermolysis bullosa, commonly called butterfly skin. The race night is organised by the Blacktower company. Email: butterflychildren@debra.es

Prostheses for Sarah

Estepona. 5 December, 8pm.

Auditorio Felipe VI. Donation 10€. The town hall of Estepona has or-



Yusto Giner, Marbella

ganised a charity concert featuring singer and composer, José Manuel Soto. The money raised will help to buy bionic hands and feet for Sarah Almagro who lost hers when she developed sepsis.

Light A Light for Cudeca

Benalmádena. 16 December, from 6pm. Cudeca Cancer Hospice

The founder, Joan Hunt OBE will be turning on the lights at this annual event. Father Christmas will also put in an appearance and there will be face painting, Christmas cake and sweets, the Sunny View College choir and a raffle. There will also be stalls selling gifts and Christmas cards. More information at www.lightupcudeca.org

FAMA Christmas Party

Mijas Costa. 15 December, 7pm.

Tamisa Golf Hotel, Camino Viejo de Coin. 40€.



Fermy Lozano, Mijas

Welcome drink and hot mulled wine, three-course-dinner (vegetarian option), wine and beer until 11pm. Raising funds for the Foundation for Abandoned and Mistreated animals. Bookings: call 620354885 or email: patriciamary-coleman@gmail.com

Charity fun walk

Estepona. 16 December, from 10am. Los Reales. 10€.

An 8km circular walk to include Christmas trees in their natural habitat, mince pies, mulled wine and panoramic views. The funds will go to Heart animal rescue in Estepona who want to build a 1,500 metre enclosure for podencos. Email: fundandfund@outlook.com

Charity market

Benjarafe. 6 & 20 December, from 10am until 6pm. Puerto Niza Restaurant.

A market to raise money for the construction of a new classroom for the GAIA ECO-learning community of Torre del Mar. There will be a healing area, live music, workshops, baby chill-out area and activities for everyone. www.semillamontealegre.org

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MUSIC & DANCE

Bel Canto in Chiesa

Malaga. 30 November, 8.30pm. Malaga Cathedral
With Lourdes Martín (soprano), Luis Pacetti (tenor), José A. Moreno (trumpet and Antonio del Pino and Olga Laudonia (organ).

The Wall Bar

Malaga. Hotel Vincci Posada del Patio, 11pm, entry free.
1 December. Daphne and Nicky. Guitar and vocals, jazz and bossa-nova.
8 December. Delirium Blues Fusion. Lourdes del Pino and Javier Esteve. Blues fusion.



Queen of Magic, Estepona

Louie Louie Live

Estepona. Louie Louie Bar.
30 November, 11.30pm. Queen of Magic tribute to Queen.
5 December, 11pm. The UK Legends. Tributes to The Animals, Smokie, Joe Cocker, Dire Straits, Status Quo, Gary Moore, Thin Lizzy and more. 10€ in advance, 13€ on door.

Casa de la Cultura concerts

Almuñécar.
6 December, 7pm. The Lito Blues Band
15 December, 7pm. Orquesta de Cámara Mediterránea (Mediterranean Chamber Orchestra) play traditional Christmas music by Handel, Vivaldi, Corelli and Manfredini.

Harp and voice4

Nerja. 2 December, 11.30am. Parador de Nerja. 40€.
Harpevoix form an unusual formation (harp and voice) with a unique and different repertoire. They will play music by Handel, Schubert, Monteverdi, Faure and

others. Booking: 690073871 / ventana.abierta.acp@gmail.com

Recapitulación

Mijas. 30 November, 8pm. Casa Museo.
A concert by Mireille Yaïch and Javier Gómez Bello.

Opera recital

Mijas. 30 November, 8pm. Casa de la Cultura Las Lagunas.
María Carmen Pérez Blanco (pianist) and Mónica Campaña Romero (singer) will be performing various songs from classical opera.

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

Malaga. Teatro Cervantes
30 November, 8pm.
Symphony n°9 in D major by G. Mahler.

T. I. M. S 30 year anniversary concerts

Benalmádena. 30 November, 7pm. Castillo Bil Bil.
Benalmádena. 1 December, 6pm. CANCELLED.
Benalmádena. 5 December, 7.30pm. Danish church.
La Cala de Mijas. 11 December, 6pm. La Cala de Mijas town hall.
Torre del Mar. 15 December, 6pm. San Andrés de Apóstol church
www.timschoir.org.

U Circle Breakers Orchestra

Malaga. 1 December, 8pm. Museo Picasso Málaga.
Eighteen musicians make up the U Circle Breakers Orchestra and they will be performing Música Para Un Pez Descalzo conducted by Ernesto Aurignac.

Advent concert

Marbella. 1 December, 8.15pm. Ntra Sra de la Encarnación church.
The children's choir Pueri Cantores Málaga and school choirs Juan XXIII and Francisco Echamendi.



Pablo Alcázar. Malaga



Daphne&Nicky, Wall Bar.

Concierto Dúo Fajer

Estepona. 2 December, 8pm. Casa de Tejerinas, Plaza de las Flores.
Irina Yonkova (viola) and Sergio Gómez (cello) will be playing pieces by Vivaldi, Bach, Handel and Dvorak.

Municipal band

Vélez-Málaga. 4 December, 5.30pm. Plaza de las Carmelitas
The municipal band will be in concert before the official switching on of the Christmas lights (in the car park next to the San Antonio de Padua church) at 6.30pm.

Valentina Lisita

Gibraltar. 4 December, 8pm. Convent Ballroom.
Renowned internet pianist, Valentina Lisita will be in concert.

Zapata and orchestra

Malaga. 6 December, 7pm. Teatro Cervantes.
Rossini, Strauss, Verdi, Rossini, Tchaikovsky, Schumann, Brahms and Beethoven played by the Malaga Philharmonic orchestra and conducted by showman and tenor José Manuel Zapata.

El Molino De Cajiz

Cajiz. 9 December, 6.30pm.
Aurea Marston (soprano) and Cornelia Lenzin (piano) will be performing works by Fauré, Ravel and Ullmann etc. <https://elmolinodecajiz.com/>

International Christmas Concert

Mijas Pueblo. 13 December, 6pm. Mijas town hall.
The TAPAS (The Andalusia Performing Arts Society) choir will be in concert. Reservations: frd@mijas.es

Romeo and Juliet ballet

Malaga. 12 December, 8pm. Teatro

Cervantes.

The Imperial Russian Ballet will be performing Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet. Tickets from 15-45 euros: www.unientradas.es

Collegium Musicum

Fuengirola. 16 December, 7pm. Hotel IPV Palace and Spa. 10€.
Marbella. 18 December, 8.30pm. Iglesia de la Encarnación.
Choir and Orchestra Collegium Musicum Costa del Sol will be holding two special Christmas concerts. Tickets: the hotel, Nicholson's Jewellers, from members of Collegium Musicum and on sale from 6pm on the door. Call: 952 775492 / 686 277 272 or e-mail: info@colmus.org.

FLAMENCO

Flamenco Abierto

Vélez-Málaga. Peña Flamenca Niño de Vélez, C/Tejeda 10.
30 November. 10pm. Mariché Lopez (dance), Mamen Ruiz, Fabiola Santiago (vocals), Ruben Portillo (guitar).
Reservations: 651 332 750

Irene Delro

Torremolinos. 30 November, 8.30pm. Centro Cultural Pablo Ruiz Picasso. Free.
A concert of boleros performed by Irene Delro.

Flamenco in the Museum

Malaga. Museo de Arte Flamenco Peña Juan Breva, C/Ramón Franquelo. 8.30pm.
1 December. Curro Román and Luisa Chicano.
For information and bookings call 687 607 526 or email: info@flamenka.com

Casa Pestiño

Torremolinos. 6 December, 7pm. Auditorio municipal Príncipe de Asturias.
A true flamenco Christmas with the voices of Rocío "la del tito", Chio Ortigosa, Tania Contreras, Eva Soler, Miguelito Zarcillo, Silverio Soto, Carlos Bravo and the music of Patry Alarcón, Alfredo Merelo "Tito", Adolfo Gálvez "Fito" and Paco Roldán. Tickets: www.ticketea.com/entradas-concierto-casa-pestino-navidad-flamenca-2018/

LECTURES

U3A Lectures

Fuengirola. Lux Mundi reference Library, free to members, guests 5€. Email: u3afuengirola@gmail.com
Art History:
'The genius who designed the Glasgow School of Art'
5 December, 11am.
"The Trellis and the Rose": Charles Rennie Mackintosh and his wife Margaret.

Surprise Christmas package
3 December, 11am.

Debate and Discussion:
'Overseas aid, what's the point?'
5 December 1pm.
Opposing speakers welcome.

FESTIVALS

Day of the mule (and donkey)
Almayate 1 December from 9am.
Next to Lo Pepe Molina restaurant.

Mules and donkeys, many still used in the fields, will be brought to Almayate to celebrate the old tradition of their use in farming. There will be various exhibitions of the work these animals do and a competition for the best turned-out animal.



Zapata and orchestra, Malaga.

EVENTS

International Educating Day
Malaga. 30 November. Muelle Uno (Malaga port).
Workshops, theatre, museum. Activities for children such as weaving etc. www.malaga.eu.

Historical reenactment

Mijas. 1 December, from 11am. Playa del Charcón.
The Disembarkation of Torrijos will be held on the El Charcón beach (near El Faro de Calaburras). It re-enacts the events that

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Collegium Musicum, Marbella/Fuengirola

occured there on 2 December 1831 when a group of liberals under the command of General José María Torrijos y Uriarte sought to establish a regimen of freedom in Spain based on the text of the Cadiz Constitution of 1812. This year the daily life of the carabinieri stationed in the watchtower of La Cala at 12.30pm will also be recreated. The event is organised by the Asociación Histórico Cultural Torrijos 1831 and the Bodega Bandolero de La Cala.

Craft and gourmet market

La Cala de Mijas. From 1 until 16 December, 11am-8.30pm. Plaza Supersol
 The Disembarkation of Torrijos w

International Magic Festival

Gibraltar. Until 2 December. John Mackintosh Hall.
 The 2018 Gibraltar International Magic Festival will bring together award-winning illusionists from all over the world. This year there will be stage shows and workshops. Tickets from £12.50 online at www.buytickets.gi, www.Magic.gi or from the ticket office 11am - 2pm daily.

Sol Classic Car Club winter ball

Mijas. 6 December, 7.30pm. Valparaíso Restaurant. 35€ members, 45€ guests.
 The Sol CCC are celebrating their annual winter ball. A three course dinner including drinks followed by entertainment by Steve Hughes and mezzo soprano Sofia who will be singing bossa nova, jazz and ballads. A raffle will be held to raise funds for Cudeca. Bookings: jdricho47-SOL@mail.com. Full details from www.solclassicarclub.net

RAF Christmas dinner dance

Mijas. 6 December, 7pm. Hotel Tamisa Golf. 38€.

The RAF Association Costa del Sol has organised its annual Christmas dinner and dance. Dress code is smart, dinner jacket optional. Entertainment is provided by A Touch of Class and Laura Ellen. Two euros from each ticket go to help RAF veterans and their families on the Costa del Sol. Tickets: 952567412, 656698194 or rafacostadelsol.co.uk

Conservatives Abroad

Mijas. 13 December. Tamisa Golf Hotel.
 The Conservatives Abroad are holding their annual Christmas lunch. Reservations email: john.conservativesabroad@hotmail.co.uk or call Christine: 952 668 267

La Cala Lions Christmas party

La Cala de Mijas. 8 December. 7pm. Treetops restaurant, El Chaparral Golf. 45€.
 Cava and canapés on arrival, three course meal. Black tie/Lounge suit Tickets from the Lions Club shop in C/Torremolinos.

TAPAS Christmas Party

Coín. 7 December. Restaurant Las Cabaes.
 Music from TAPAS choir, dancing to DJ Big Kevin and two course Christmas supper and mince pies. Tickets 14€ members 16€ non members. Tel: 678 932 284

Masquerade Ball for Cudeca

Mijas. 21 December, 7.30pm. Restaurante Valparaíso. 30€.
 Entertainment by Simone and Mr Maph. Masks on sale or bring your own. A full menu with welcome drinks and canapes on arrival. Reservations: restaurant Valparaíso 952485996 or call Suzy: 619444184.

Excursion to Cordoba

Torre del Mar. 11-13 December. Various departure points. 169€ pp sharing dble room or 199€ single.

In the Hotel Conquistador 4* Bed and breakfast. Lux Mundi Torre del Mar. Tel:952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

CHRISTMAS FAIRS

TAPAS Christmas Fair

Coín. 1 December, from midday. El Cruce
 Stalls, gifts and more. Info: 678932284

Gaucín Christmas Fair

Gaucín. 1, 2 December 10am-5pm. Unique gifts, festive foods, bar and music. Call 677054284 for more information.

St George's Anglican Church

Malaga. 2 December, 12.30pm. Avda de Pries, 1.
 Christmas gifts, home-made jams and preserves, baked goods, second-hand books and clothes will all be for sale.

Cudeca Goldies Christmas Fair

Mijas. 2 December, from 11.30am. Hotel Tamisa Golf
 Gifts and Christmas cakes, crafts, mince pies, gifts, cards and jewellery. There will also be music and a psychic artist. Snacks available at the bar.

Lux Mundi Christmas Bazaars

Torre del Mar. 30 November, 11am. Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre,



Mr Maph and Simone, Marbella

Avda Moscatel. Free.
Fuengirola. 5 December, 10am. Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, C/Nueva. Free.
 Cakes, jewellery, books, toys, gifts etc. Wine, coffee and tapas. www.lux-mundi.org

Kempinski Christmas Market

Estepona. 1, 2 December, 4-8pm. Kempinski Hotel Bahia.
 This family market includes a full-sized Gingerbread Cottage and a chance to visit Santa. At 7pm,

Santa will switch on the Christmas lights on the tree. There will be mulled wine and stalls selling jewellery, art, clothes and gifts, as well as books, homemade jams and sweets. Award winning jamón carver Popi will be demonstrating his art. The Colegio San José de Estepona and Andaluz choirs will be performing carols.

Club Naranja Christmas Bazaar

Calahonda. 1 December from noon. Club Naranja.
 Home baked goods, Christmas decorations and gifts, clothing, home decor, jewellery, and craft stalls with great bargains. Food and drink will be available. Guest appearance of the Costa Soul Singers. Tel: 952934378

Familia ESTÁ Christmas Fair

Granada. 1 December from 11am. Órgiva Tea Garden.
 The Órgiva Tea Garden is raising funds for Familia ESTÁ during their Christmas Fair. Familia ESTÁ helps families with or without special needs. There will be stands selling a variety of local goods, live music and hot and cold food plus activities for children. The raffle prizes are donated by local shops. www.familiaesta.org/ www.orgivateagarden.com

Acompalia Christmas Bazaar

Castell de Ferro. 7 December, from 7.30pm. Sala de Exposiciones in the town hall.
 Father Christmas, tombola, cakes, crafts, bric-a-brac, mulled wine and a raffle.

O. V. FILM

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

Cine Albéniz

C/Alcazabilla 4, Malaga. Tel: 902 36 02 95 cine.org or www.cinealbeniz.com
The Children Act: 16.30, 18.20, 22.00.
The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society: 18.15

Cinesur El Ingenio

Avda. Juan Carlos 1, Vélez-Málaga. Tel. 667 77 31 87.
Widows: 18.40, 21.15.
The Grinch: 17.00, 19.00.

Cinesur Miramar

Avda. de la Encarnación, Fuengi-

rola. Tel. 952 19 86 00.
Bohemian Rhapsody: 12.00, 16.30, 19.30 (everyday); 22.30 (every day except Mon).
Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald: 18.45, 21.30, 00.15, 00.30 (every day).
Widows: 18.45, 21.45 (Tues).
The Children act: 18.00, 20.05 (every day).
The Grinch: 12.00, 16.40



The Grinch.

Cines Teatro Goya

For tickets and information call 951196665. www.cinesteatrogoya.com
Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald: 11.30 (Sun); 15.45 (Sat, Sun); 20.00 (Mon, Tues); 20.10 (Fri, Sun).
Bohemian Rhapsody: 17.30 (Mon, Tues); 18.20 (Fri, Sat, Sun); 19.30 (Tues); 21.30 (Fri, Sun-Tues); 22.00 (Sat).
The Grinch: 11.30 (Sun); 15.45 (Sat, Sun); 17.40 (Fri, Sat, Sun); 17.45 (Mon, Tues); 19.30 (Fri-Tues).
Widows: 15.45 (Sat, Sun); 17.45 (Fri-Tues); 22.15 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

Centro de Ocio Plaza Mayor, Avda. Alfonso Ponce de León. Tel: 902 902 103 or visit www.yelmocines.es
The Nutcracker and the Four Realms: 18.15 (Tues).
The Grinch: 15.00 (Sat, Sun); 19.00 (Tues).
The Possession Of Hannah Grace: 20.30 (Tues).
The Children Act: 19.35 (Tues).
Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald: 12.15 (Sat, Sun); 16.50 (Fri, Sat, Sun); 18.30 (Mon, Tues).
Bohemian Rhapsody: 17.00, (Fri, Sat, Sun); 18.40 (Mon, Tues).
Widows: 13.10 (Sat, Sun); 19.10 (Tues).
The Girl In The Spider's Web: 21.40 (Tues).



ANDREW J. LINN

AIRSHIP LUXURY



On the Costa you meet all kinds of people, and if your interest is aviation there are rich pickings. There are pilots who flew single-engine planes across America carrying US Mail, practically without instruments and certainly with nothing more than a sandwich to sustain them. When commercial carriers started transporting mail and passengers, on-board sustenance was still not a priority, although later there was a period when airlines vied with each other to provide the best meals.

So how about a sommelier on an airship? Yes, I swear they existed, and the son of one of these German wine aces lives among us. The zeppelins operated between the wars, and 'flew' across the North Atlantic carrying passengers in the greatest luxury. It was a two-day journey at low altitude, so there was no lack of oxygen to interfere with taste buds. The father appears in photographs serving wine to the dinner guests, all in evening dress. The only problem was that the airships covering the route were German-run and a Teutonic regime applied. Unable to appreciate their British and US passengers' love of gin, for example, there was never enough to last the voyage, but German beer never ran out. Nor did the principal breakfast fare of sausages,

cheese and black bread. The menus were based on those of Berlin's Ritz Carlton, and while the German passengers were contented, other nationalities were not quite so complementary, as the journals of some of the British and American aristocrats testify. But it was a delightful change from the blue riband passenger ships, and much faster. Regrettably, as any history buff knows, the era ended in 1937 when the Hindenberg exploded in a ball of fire while attempting to land in New Jersey, causing heavy casualties. Unsurprisingly there was little appetite for this form of travel subsequently.

WINE OF THE WEEK

El Chozo Tinto 2016

Pérez Pascuas is a small winery in the Pedrosa group, and is a good enough reason why it is not necessary to spend much money on drinking Ribera de Duero's younger wines. With nine months in oak, there is no mistaking the characteristics of what some consider Spain's 'second' wine region, though it is pointless to compare it with La Rioja. Widely available at around 9 euros.



SOLLO INSPIRATION

DIEGO GALLEGOS



Causa limeña de langostinos al pil pil

This is a typical dish from Peru with pre Colombian origins. It is a cold salad based on cooked potato, lime juice and yellow chili sauce with langostines 'al pil pil'.

Serves four

CAUSA LIMEÑA

INGREDIENTS

700g washed potatoes
70g Yellow chili sauce (aji)
70g lime juice

METHOD

Place the whole potatoes in a saucepan and cover with water. Bring to the boil and cook. Drain and leave to cool before removing the skins. Mash the potato to make a purée and add the lime juice, mixing well. Keep in the fridge until needed.

LANGOSTINES AL PIL PIL

INGREDIENTS

225g langostines
100g smoked paprika
20g garlic
10g fresh chili
100g red onion
10g cayenne pepper
200ml brandy
500ml extra virgin olive oil

METHOD



Remove the shells from the langostines. In a frying pan soften the peeled, sliced garlic, add the smoked paprika, fresh chili and finally the langostines. Add the brandy then when the flames have died down and place the langostines in the oil to cool (the oil will later be used to make the mayonnaise). When the langostines are cold, cut them up small and mix with the finely chopped red onion.

SMOKED PAPRIKA MAYONNAISE

INGREDIENTS

2 egg yolks
20g Dijon mustard
30ml apple vinegar
225ml extra virgin olive oil
1 teaspoon smoked paprika
salt and pepper to taste

METHOD

Place the two egg yolks in a bowl with the apple vinegar, a pinch of salt, and half the olive oil that the langostines cooled in. Using a hand held liquidiser, process the mixture slowly adding the rest of the oil in a thin stream. When it starts to thicken move the liquidiser up and down to incorporate all the ingredients evenly.

PLATING UP

On a flat plate and using a rectangular mold, fill it up to halfway with the puréed potato. Then add a layer of chopped langostines and onion mixed with the mayonnaise. Carefully remove the mold and garnish with thinly sliced avocado and a whole langostine.

Diego Gallegos is at the helm of the Michelin-starred restaurant Sollo and Arara bistro bar, both in the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Resort & Spa Reserva del Higuero, Fuengirola

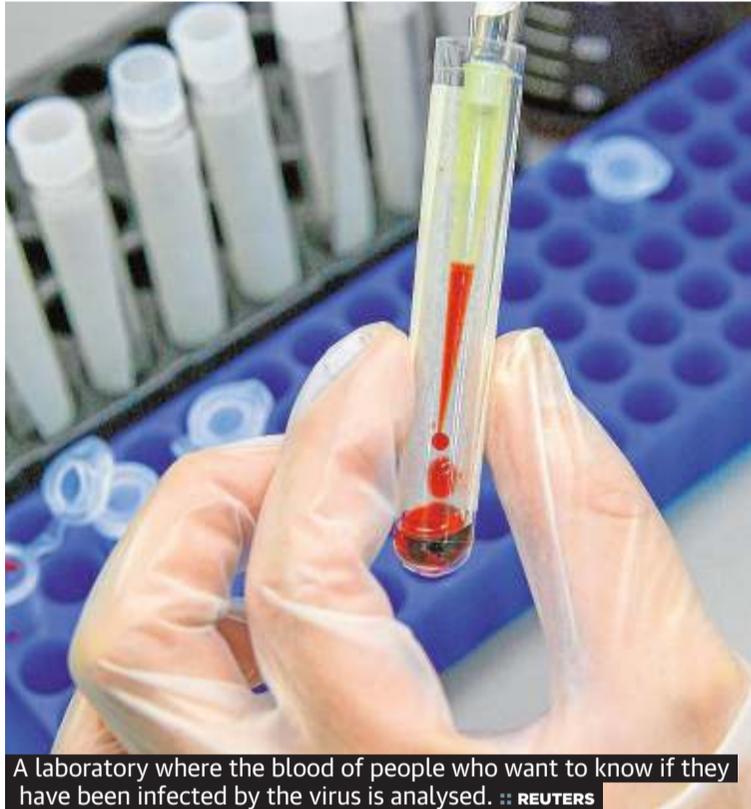
Aids: a success story for researchers

Thirty years after World Aids Day was created, scientists have managed to convert a fatal illness into a chronic condition but warn there is a long way to go

ARANTXA HERRANZ

MADRID. December 1st is World AIDS Day. Since the first cases of HIV were announced over 35 years ago, 78 million people around the world have contracted it and 35 million have died from related illnesses. However, during this time it has passed from being fatal to chronic, thanks to new innovations and medical advances which have also improved the lives and health of patients with other illnesses. The aim of the United Nations is to put an end to the Aids epidemic as a threat to public health by 2030. To do that, the number of new infections needs to be drastically reduced and the trajectory of the epidemic has to be changed.

The UN considers that putting an end to the Aids epidemic would produce advances in the whole spectrum of civil, cultural, economic, political, social, sexual and reproductive rights. Defending the rights of all people, including children, women, adolescents, men who have sex with men, drug users, male and



A laboratory where the blood of people who want to know if they have been infected by the virus is analysed. :: REUTERS

LANDMARKS

1981

The first cases of the illness appear.

1986

Scientists discover the causal agent, which is HIV. They design specific tests to find out whether people are infected and begin research on medication to treat it.

1987

The first drug. It is discovered that AZT, used against cancer, is a very effective retroviral drug.

1996

It is discovered that a combination of three retroviral drugs can control the virus. The introduction of this triple treatment, called high-efficiency retroviral, changed the course and the history of HIV.

2007

Combination of the previous treatments into one single pill, which makes it easier for the patient to take and improves their quality of life.

female sex workers and their clients, transgender people and migrants is fundamental, says the UN, in order to guarantee access to the services which save lives. In addition, investing in science, innovation and strategic information will help to achieve these ambitious objectives.

Dr Roger Paredes is the Scientific Director of the 'Lucha contra el Sida' Foundation. In his opinion, the greatest advances during these years have been in three main areas: research, treatment and prevention. In the first of these, it involved identifying and preventing the infection at the same time as providing those infected with better treatment.

"The challenge for the future will be to eliminate the infection in patients," he says. These treatments and advances have enabled the infection to be classified as chronic. "Most are combinations within one pill now, and clinical tests are being carried out with the aim of reducing treatment to once a month or even once every three months," he explains.

With regard to prevention, the advances have to do with prophylaxis. "The objective is to ensure that everybody infected is treated. As well as improving

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IN FIGURES

46

per cent of the people who were told they had this infection for the first time in Spain in 2016 were diagnosed late.

Total figures

Since the epidemic began in Spain a total of 86,663 cases of Aids have been registered. Af-

ter reaching a peak in the mid-1990s, the number of cases has declined progressively since 1996. The cases of paediatric Aids and transmission from mother to child reduced drastically from 1996 onwards and in recent years the levels have remained very low.

At the moment about ten cases are diagnosed a day. The epidemic continues to expand.

83.9

is the percentage of men diagnosed compared with women.

36

is the average age of HIV diagnosis, and it is considerably lower in men (36) than in women (39).

Profile by age

The most common age group for first diagnosis is 30 to 34. Overall, most of those newly diagnosed with the illness (33.6 per cent) are aged between 30 and 39. About 25.9 per cent (867 cases) were under the age of 30 when diagnosed. In 11.1 per cent of cases, the patients were aged between 15 and 24, and 16.4 per cent were aged 50 or over.

79.6%

is the percentage of new HIV diagnoses in 2016 (taken from the latest figures available) which were caused by sexual transmission.

Transmission between homosexual men was most common (53.1 per cent), followed by heterosexual transmission (26.5 per cent).

> their health, it would mean the virus was not transmitted," says Dr Paredes. However, the greatest challenge is still finding a cure. "Plenty of research is being done, but we need to know more about the illness, the reservoirs (places in which the virus 'hides') and stimulate the immune system so it is able to destroy the illness, as is now being done in some types of cancer," he says.

The results of the research into the fight against Aids is not limited to this illness, as it also enables advances with regard to other conditions. "We have never learned so much or advanced so far as we have with Aids. It is the infectious illness in which we have progressed most, and it is extraordinarily complex. However, there is still a long way to go," says Dr Paredes.

This expert explains that a great deal more knowledge has been gained about other illnesses, such as Hepa-

titis C. In this field, they have learned a lot more about the reservoirs. "When we know how to identify the reservoirs, see how they work and tackle them, we will be closer to a cure for the illness," he says.

Also, although cancer is a very different illness, they do share some aspects. For that reason scientists are also trying to make progress on involving patients' immune systems.

Access to drugs

The UN says that of the approximately two million people worldwide with HIV in 2014, nearly half lived in eastern and southern Africa. Around 22 million people who live with HIV do not have access to antiretroviral therapy. Among children, access is terribly low, with a coverage which ranges from 54 per cent in Latin America to 15 per cent in the Middle East and North Africa.

Roger Paredes recognises that this

is, precisely, another challenge which has to be overcome: for medication and all its benefits to be available in developing countries. "Some pharmaceutical companies have taken very important decisions. ViiV decided to make its most important drug cheap, or cheaper than the rest at least, and that has meant that patients with resistant virus (more than ten million altogether) can be given these drugs," he says.

Another major objective is for everybody who is infected to be aware that they are carriers of the virus. Although there have been advances in encouraging people to be tested, half of those who live with HIV are not aware of it, according to the UN, which stresses that late diagnosis of an HIV infection is the biggest barrier to its treatment.

In Spain, these tests are free of charge at any health centre. There are even rapid tests available from chem-

HIV tests can be carried out free of charge at any health centre and chemists sell testing kits

ists, so people can find out if they have HIV. "I would advise everybody to have a routine check, especially those who are most exposed. The best thing is not to be infected, but if you are, then the next best thing is to be treated as quickly as possible and not to transmit the illness," insists Dr Paredes.

Unlike bacterial illnesses which are attacked with antibiotics, doctors can use vaccines to try to prevent those produced by a virus. Would it be dreaming to suppose that there could be one against this illness? Roger

Paredes explains that there are two types of vaccine: those which prevent infection and those which are therapeutic. The former would be very difficult to achieve in the case of Aids, he says, "because we don't know the response which can occur when the HIV enters the body". The complexity in this case is that there are many types of HIV. "It's a bit like all the different types of flu in the world. It's hard enough for the scientific community to come up with a flu vaccine every year, and for Aids it would be an even greater challenge," he says. "It is very important that there is a vaccine of this type, but it is a huge challenge and won't happen in the near future. With regard to therapeutic vaccines, these are used as immunotherapies, "showing" the virus to infected people so that their immune system detects and destroys it. That is more feasible, and is one of the strategies being researched".

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Transmission among people who injected drugs was 3.6 per cent.

Among men, homosexual transmission was responsible for 63.3 per cent of the new HIV diagnoses and heterosexual transmission was 16 per cent.

Among women, heterosexual transmission was the most common, at 81.6 per cent of new diagnoses.

Other advances

The results of clinical research into Aids have also benefited other illnesses, including producing new treatments for Hepatitis C.

2030

The United Nations aims to put an end to the Aids epidemic as a threat to public health by the

year 2030. That is just over a decade from now.

Encouraging people to take the test

The challenge now for specialists who are fighting this illness is to persuade the population to take an HIV test, which can be carried out free of charge at any health centre, to

avoid diagnosis occurring late and therefore making the treatments and the evolution of the illness more complicated.

18%

It is calculated that this is the percentage of the population which is infected by HIV but is not aware of it.

Clinical tests next year for a new treatment

The immediate future of clinical research into Aids lies in reducing the number of tablets taken by infected patients. Next year clinical tests will also begin on a treatment via injections every two, three or six months or even once a year. It is hoped that the medication will be available by early 2021.

"Aids has generated some spectacular advances"

Santiago Moreno Head of Infectious Illnesses at the Ramón y Cajal hospital in Madrid

:: A. H.

MADRID. Santiago Moreno is the head of the infectious illnesses department at the Ramón y Cajal hospital in Madrid and one of the coordinators of the Aids research network in Spain. In his opinion, Aids research has probably resulted in one of the most spectacular advances in modern medicine, turning a fatal illness into a chronic one. However, this good news also comes with a risk, he says.

"This progress has made people think there is nothing to worry about now, because we have done everything. The reality is very different; far from being controlled, the epidemic is still expanding," he says.

This expert in epidemiology says he is afraid that society and, above all, "the institutions and people who are responsible for ending this" will relax their guard and stop making efforts. In Spain 3,500 new cases are diagnosed every year (about ten a

day) which shows, he says, that "the epidemic is out there and it is not under control". It is also calculated that around 18 per cent of patients are not aware that they are infected.

"One of the greatest innovations we need to introduce is for everybody to have an HIV test. It is a good idea because if you're negative you have nothing to worry about, and if you are positive they can give you a treatment which means it is as if your illness doesn't exist, and your life, including your sexual life, can carry on as normal," says Dr Moreno.



Dr Santiago Moreno. :: R. C.

Clinical innovations

In the clinical field, the innovations have been well catalogued: discovering the causal agent, the first retroviral medication, the introduction of a triple treatment and later just taking a single pill.

The antiretroviral treatment has reached excellent levels of effectiveness, tolerance and low toxicity. "It's not easy to improve on treatment," warns Santiago Moreno. However, instead of one tablet a day the patients will be able to have injections every two, three or six months or even once a year. Dr Moreno explains that at a scientific level there have been spectacular advances in research and immunology, but work is still needed on other aspects. Although Aids is not as feared now as it was, "people with it are still stigmatised," he says, even when they are undergoing treatment and are no longer infectious.

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Spanish cancer association goes multilingual

The AECC in Mijas has launched the Pink Ladies, a cancer support group formed by volunteers of various nationalities, speaking different languages

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

MIJAS. The Spanish cancer association AECC (Asociación Española Contra el Cáncer) has launched a new initiative to extend its services to the international community on the Costa del Sol.

On Tuesday the town hall offices in La Cala de Mijas hosted the launch of the AECC Pink Ladies, a group of volunteers of different nationalities who will help convey the work and help provided by the association to residents on the Costa del Sol who may not speak Spanish.

The Pink Ladies (and Pink Panthers - the gentlemen) speak a variety of languages and are trained to carry out the already multiple services that the AECC offers to cancer patients and their families.

The new cancer support group has been set up by the Fuengirola and Mijas branch of the AECC, whose president, Paula Casas Biedma, attended Tuesday's launch,

along with the Malaga provincial chairman of the association, Pedro González.

They were accompanied by the Mijas councillor for Foreign Residents, Roy Pérez, the head of the Foreigners Department, Anette Skou and Health councillor María Carmen González, along with their staff and the new volunteers.

Having only just got off the ground, the new group is still looking for volunteers, who speak English, Scandinavian languages, French, German, Arabic or Russian, as well as any other languages spoken by international residents on the Costa del Sol. They stress there is no requirement to speak Spanish; the group is formed by foreigners to help foreigners.

"Our volunteers carry out the type of work that they enjoy doing," said Paula Casas. "What are



Representatives of the AECC and Mijas town hall. :: SUR



Paula Casas with María Carmen González, Mijas Health councillor. :: SUR

you good at? What do you enjoy doing? Well that's the type of work you can carry out at our association," she added, stressing that the association is like "one big

family". The Pink Ladies are also looking for "testimonial volunteers", people who have been through cancer themselves. A period of training is



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- ▶ **Social attention.** Social worker.
- ▶ **Psychological therapy.** Individual and group, both for the cancer victim and for their family.
- ▶ **Physiotherapy.** Prevention and rehabilitation of Lymph oedema for women affected by breast cancer.
- ▶ **Management of orthopaedic material.** Pressure mattresses, articulated beds, wheelchairs, etc.
- ▶ **Diverse workshops for cancer patients and their family members.** Handcrafts and DIY; keep fit class; sewing class; dance; emotions workshops; healthy eating workshops; oncology makeup and skin care.
- ▶ **Smoking.** A group helps smokers overcome their addiction to

tobacco.

- ▶ **Laryngectomised unit.** Patients' group.
- ▶ **School campaigns.** Prevention for a healthy life.
- ▶ **Nutrition programme.** Help with healthy eating.
- ▶ **Accommodation.** Residential flats are available for children and adults going through treatment and their families.
- ▶ **Activities.** Gala dinner parties; gastronomic events; walks; talks and conferences; music events; charity markets; Christmas events - charity nativity scene, wrapping presents, Christmas market.
- ▶ **Helpline.** 658 946 903



JOSELE-LANZA

RUNNING TOWARDS CANCER RESEARCH

A trail of pink passed through Marbella town centre last Saturday in support of cancer research. Dozens of participants, mainly women, donned pink T-shirts for the AECC cancer association fun run. This was Marbella's seventh cancer run and the first in the town centre after several successful years in Puerto Banús.

provided to enable these survivors to offer a positive view of their experience to others who are in the initial stages of the same cancer, serving as an example, and offering and emotional support, all in the patient's own language.

Home help

The Pink Ladies are also setting up a home help group. These volunteers visit the sick person and their family in their homes and do what-

ever jobs are necessary while they are there, as well as providing company. Volunteers are also required to help transport patients to and from hospital for appointments.

Finding a job that suits a volunteer doesn't stop there. The new group is keen to accommodate people with a variety of skills who can organise charity events, help with paperwork, or work in the AECC charity shop.

One of the main reasons for set-

ting up the Pink Ladies in this area is that many foreign residents on the Costa del Sol are not familiar with the association and unaware of the help available.

The volunteers will also be involved therefore in awareness campaigns to help prevent cancer and at the same time raise funds for the association.

"There are a lot of people in need of our services, but it is essential that we have foreign volunteers.

It doesn't cost them anything, as we don't make our volunteers become members of the association," explained Paula, who has been a volunteer in the AECC for nearly 30 years.

"It breaks my heart when we are contacted by a foreigner with cancer and all they want is someone to talk to in their mother tongue and we are not able to help," added Paula. "With the Pink Ladies this will change," she said.

How to volunteer : The Spanish Association against Cancer in Fuengirola and Mijas is looking for independent people with ideas and the desire to carry out volunteer work in the Pink Ladies with the full support of the AECC. Anyone interested in becoming a Pink Lady or Pink Panther is invited to contact the AECC on 658946903.

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Cost-free benefits for body and mind

A trip to the beach can be very good for the health at this time of year too, not just in summer

:: NIEVES CASTRO

MARBELLA. At this time of year, as winter approaches, many of us forget about the beach. That's something of a paradox in a province with such a lovely climate as Malaga with its 180 kilometres of coastline, and even more so if we bear in mind the numerous benefits which a simple stroll along the sand can have for our bodies.

María José Castro, who is a specialist in Anesthesiology and Recovery at the Malaga regional hospital, says "a trip to the beach pro-

vides a great many health benefits which cost nothing, and they are easily accessible for the majority of people". These are just some of the benefits she describes:

1. Sand and sea water, a very powerful cocktail for the skin

The skin is the most extensive organ of the body and men as well as women spend time, effort and money on caring for it. On the beach we can benefit from some very basic and effective treatments

which are good for the skin, make it tauter and improve its appearance. Sand is an excellent natural exfoliant, so walking barefoot along the shore helps to keep our feet soft. As well as providing a toning massage, this stroll along the water's edge also improves certain minor and unsightly conditions, such as hard skin, and the healing effects of the sea water helps wounds on the lower limbs to recover. Because of the amount of mineral salts and trace elements it contains, the sea is a major source of benefits for the health of our bodies.

2. The sea breeze helps to control anxiety

Being on the beach makes you feel good and improves your state of mind, doesn't it? Well, that feeling of pleasure isn't coincidental. The negative ions in the sea breeze have the ability to raise levels of serotonin, a substance which has an incredible influence on the state

of mind, so being on the beach reduces stress and anxiety.

3. The sea, an ally for the cardiovascular system and muscles

It takes guts to dive into the sea in early December... and you also need to use common sense. If you want to stimulate your circulation and strengthen your muscles, go ahead and take the plunge, but only do it when there isn't much difference between the temperature of your body and that of the water, otherwise you could suffer more serious problems than just feeling cold. Don't worry about whether people will admire your style: by swimming you will stimulate your cardiovascular system. The venous return of the body is always passive and by activating your musculature to swim the muscles themselves will contract the veins, making it easier for the blood to return to the heart. Swimming is also a frictionless exercise, and

your joints will suffer less.

4. You'll breathe better

If you have a respiratory illness you will benefit from the bronchodilatory effect of the sea air, which acts like a natural spray. The bronchi open up more and this favours the gaseous exchange. The sea breeze is loaded with natural ozone and trace elements, beneficial substances which we incorporate into our bodies through breathing.

5. Help for the thyroid gland

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A couple and their baby take a stroll along the beach in winter. :: EFE



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Christmas song for butterfly children

The song was written by Rashpal Singh and produced by former member of The Glitter Band

TONY BRYANT

MARBELLA. A British expat singer is to release a charity Christmas song to raise funds for the 'butterfly children'. Composed and performed by Rashpal Singh, the song is called Sack of Dreams, a catchy festive composition produced by John Springle, former bass player of '70s pop sensation, The Glitter Band.

Rashpal, who has been active on the coast since 2002, decided to record the track after learning about Debra, the Marbella-based organisation that cares for children suffering with Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB), the genetic skin condition known as butterfly skin.

Rashpal came across the charity just a few months ago and was so disturbed by the effects of the disease; she felt the need to offer her support.

"I only found out about Debra a few months ago and I was so inspired by the work that they do, I decided to record a song to raise funds to help them continue their work. The music for the song was recorded in Wales and the vocal track was added at a studio on the Costa del Sol earlier this year," Rashpal told SUR in English.

Rashpal, who is also a published



Rashpal is already making plans to record a dual language version of the Christmas charity song. :: SUR

author, has been active with numerous musical projects on the coast, including The J Factor, a fundraising talent show that helped promote local musicians.

This is the first time she has recorded a song for charity, although

she is already making plans to continue her support of the butterfly children.

"The good thing about recording a Christmas song is that it can be re-released each year, but I have decided to sing part of it in Spanish

next year in order to reach a wider audience." the 37-year-old singer explained.

The song will be released on December 1 and will be available from iTunes, Spotify and all major on-demand music platforms.

'Rock & Law' raises over 60,000 euros for the Debra charity

SUR IN ENGLISH

MADRID. The charity concert Rock & Law was organised by several law firms across Spain whose workers put down their pens, took off their ties, changed out of their suits and picked up microphones and instruments instead.

The sale of tickets to the concert will help the charity Debra to improve the quality of life for children and adults suffering with 'butterfly skin', a rare condition which causes the skin to become very fragile. A cheque for 60,304.47 euros was presented to representatives of Debra charity



Presenting the cheque. :: SUR

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Captain Federico Ricca reacts to conceding the opening goal. :: AGENCIA LOF

LA LIGA 123

Results	Next match day
Granada - Sporting 1-2	Zaragoza - Cádiz
Gimnástico - Almería 2-2	Córdoba - Elche
Lugo - Córdoba 2-1	Reus - Mallorca
Deportivo - Osasuna 2-0	MALAGA - Granada
Cádiz - Las Palmas 4-1	Almería - Extremadura
Mallorca - Numancia 1-0	Sporting - Tenerife
Extremadura - MALAGA 1-0	R. Majadahonda - Deportivo
Oviedo - Reus 3-0	Osasuna - Lugo
Elche - Albacete 0-1	Numancia - Gimnástico
Tenerife - R. Majadahonda 2-1	Albacete - Alcorcón
Alcorcón - Zaragoza 2-0	Las Palmas - Oviedo

Table	TEAM	PT	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
★	1. Alcorcón	33	15	10	3	2	19	6
★	2. Deportivo	30	15	8	6	1	26	10
■	3. MALAGA	29	15	9	2	4	19	11
■	4. Granada	28	15	8	4	3	23	12
■	5. Albacete	27	15	7	6	2	21	12
■	6. Mallorca	24	15	6	6	3	20	14
	7. Cádiz	23	15	6	5	4	22	14
	8. Las Palmas	22	15	5	7	3	20	16
	9. Osasuna	22	15	6	4	5	18	16
	10. Oviedo	22	15	6	4	5	19	21
	11. Almería	19	15	5	4	6	17	16
	12. R. Majadahonda	19	15	6	1	8	14	20
	13. Sporting	18	15	4	6	5	15	14
	14. Numancia	17	15	4	5	6	13	18
	15. Lugo	16	15	4	4	7	13	16
	16. Tenerife	16	15	3	7	5	13	19
	17. Extremadura	15	15	4	3	8	22	25
	18. Zaragoza	15	15	3	6	6	17	20
▼	19. Elche	15	15	3	6	6	12	20
▼	20. Reus	13	15	3	4	8	10	22
▼	21. Córdoba	11	15	2	5	8	17	32
▼	22. Gimnástico	10	15	2	4	9	11	27

Well-drilled Extremadura prolong Malaga's poor run on the road

The Blue and Whites have not won away from home since beating Almeria on 3 September

DARYL FINCH

✉ dfinch@diariosur.es

Malaga's winless run away from home to six games to leave them outside the automatic promotion places.

This was despite the visitors getting off to the better start, with Javi Ontiveros causing trouble with his set-piece delivery and Renato Santos forcing a good early save from Álvaro Fernández on the volley from a tight angle.

However, in the 32nd minute, the goal which ultimately proved to be

their undoing arrived. With plenty of covering defenders, goalkeeper Munir needlessly came flying out of his area to sweep up a long pass. The Moroccan international ended up getting caught up in traffic, failing to take control of the situation and gifting Enric Gallego a free shot on goal which he hit against his own player's legs. Unfortunately for Malaga though, Kike Márquez picked up the scraps, squeezed his way through Iván, then lashed the ball past Munir who had just about scrambled back to his goal line.

This came as a blow to Malaga whose coach Juan Ramón Muñoz decided to replace Renato Santos with Hicham before half time to try to swing the game back in his side's favour.

In the end, they had to muddle

their way through to half time, avoiding further damage thanks to Munir's strong hand on Kike Márquez's whipped shot from the left wing.

A further change came from the visitors at half time with Héctor introduced up top in place of Juanpi who had little impact playing as a second striker.

The changes seemed to galvanise the visitors who could have equalised through Gustavo Blanco Leschuk's header which was pushed onto the post by the keeper. Héctor, who was following in to get the rebound, was intelligently eased out of the way by the defender who showed much superior strength.

Pau Torres came close with his header from another whipped free kick from Ontiveros who himself went straight for goal with another

1-0

EXTREMADURA-MALAGA

Extremadura: Álvaro Fernández; Álex Díez, Pardo, Iñigo López, Pomares; Valverde (Diego Capel, 74'), Olabe, Tienza, Kike Márquez (Zarfino, 66'); Enric Gallego, Chuli (Willy, 82'). Unused substitutes: Manu García, Borja Granero, Aitor, Rennella.

Malaga: Munir; Iván (Lacen, 73'), Diego González, Pau Torres, Ricca; Renato (Hicham, 40'), N'Diaye, Adrián, Ontiveros; Juanpi (Héctor, 46'), Blanco Leschuk. Unused substitutes: Kieszek, Cifu, Lombán, Dani Pacheco.

Goal: 1-0 Kike Márquez (32').

Referee: Javier Iglesias Villanueva. Yellow cards for Kike Márquez, Iñigo López, Pau Torres, Iván, N'Diaye and Diego González.

from a central area which sailed metres past the left-hand post.

The winger was at the centre of all of Malaga's good play and created what looked like a surefire equaliser for Blanco Leschuk who sent his diving header wide from just five yards out when hitting the target seemed like the much easier task.

The already makeshift Malaga

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Up next

GRANADA (H)

BY JAMES CHAPMAN

La Rosaleda will host its first big game of the season this Saturday (kick off 6pm) when Andalusian rivals Granada look to leapfrog Malaga with a win.

'Los Nazaries', named so after the the last Muslim dynasty in Spain that was ruled from Granada, started the season strong but hit a dip and haven't won in their last three games.

However, if they can become the first visiting team this year to win a league encounter at La Rosaleda, they will move up to second place, at least temporarily, in their bid to return to the top flight for the first time since their disastrous relegation at the hands of Tony Adams in 2016-17.

That relegation brought an end to their joint longest spell in the top flight - six years.

Habitually in the lower divisions, Granada's 23 seasons in the first division ranks them at 22nd in the all-time La Liga table.

side, thanks to injuries, became even more so when coach Juan Ramón Muñoz made his final change, bringing on holding midfielder Medhi Lacen for right-back Iván. This pushed left-footed centre-half Diego González to right-back and box-to-box midfielder Alfred N'Diaye into the centre of defence.

None of these changes made any difference, however, as Extremadura, in two compact banks of four, succeeded in frustrating play and winding the clock down.

"The game was open and we couldn't take a risk with Iván on a yellow card," said Muñoz following the game. "The result is not good; they dominated for a period and got the goal, then we did too but couldn't score. That was the difference."

With Deportivo and Alcorcón both winning, Malaga now sit in third place, four points off top spot.

Malaga's Copa de la Reina journey comes to a premature end

The gulf in quality to the league leaders was reduced by a spirited comeback and performance

BY MARINA RIVAS

Malaga's women's team were eliminated from the Copa de la Reina on Sunday at the last 16 stage after a 4-2 defeat at the home of current league leaders Atlético Madrid.

In their first appearance in the tournament for 20 years, Malaga gave a good show of themselves in a performance which was in complete contrast to that of the opening day of the season when the reigning champions ran out comfortable 4-0 winners.

This time, Malaga showed that their adaptation to the elite is progressing well and despite being at a completely different level to their

hosts, made life difficult with organised defensive lines closing off space.

The resistance lasted until ten minutes before half time when a quickfire double from Brazilian forward Ludmila gave Atleti a 2-0 lead.

Ludmila continued to be a thorn in Malaga's side in the second half, completing her hat-trick after ghosting into the area unnoticed, then adding her fourth thanks to a goalkeeping error from debutant Stefany.

Despite these lapses, the Malaga comeback was on. Captain Adriana reduced the deficit with a fine freekick before Armisa headed home a cross to make it 4-2 with fifteen minutes still to play.

With the margin down to just two, Atlético started to panic and decided to shut up shop to prevent Malaga putting their progression in the competition in jeopardy, as their play was threatening to do.



Ludmila scored all four of Atlético's goals. BY LALIGA

IN BRIEF

Atlético Malagueño pick up first home win of the season

MALAGA

BY E. MORALES. After 14 match days, Malaga's reserve side, Atlético Malagueño, finally had something to show for their home fans.

On Sunday they picked up their first home win of the season (a week after their first win of any kind), by beating Atlético Sanluqueño at the Malaga Football Federation.

Iván Jaime gave the hosts the lead in the 33rd minute from the penalty spot, but the joy was short-lived - Daniel del Moral equalised just before half time.



The Malagueño starting line-up. BY GERMÁN POZO

This didn't demoralise the hosts, however, and new boy Hugo bagged the winning goal in the 54th minute.

This win doesn't lift Malagueño off the foot of their Segunda B group, but the margin to safety has been reduced to ten points.

Malaga CF weigh up options for winter transfer window

MALAGA

BY ANTONIO GÓNGORA.

The winter transfer window is just around the corner and Malaga CF are beginning to weigh up their options. With the current salary cap for the club at half a million euros, Malaga have the option of recruiting one or two new players, depending on their level.

Although some current players are likely to leave the club in January, Muñoz has said they will not sign any new players unless they are considered essential.

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A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports
@robbopalmer



Mr Machín's single-minded approach

Sevilla sit at the top of the table and have won more games than any other club

It's the only time I will start a column about Spanish football with the sentence "It was a warm August night in Oldham..."

Well, that's where I first encountered Pablo Machín. Little did I realise then that this fellow could be the next Rafa Benítez, Unai Emery or dare I say Pep Guardiola?

Girona had just won promotion, I needed to familiarise myself with this virtually unknown club from Catalonia and a summer's trip to Boundary Park spoke volumes of their humble standing.

The first thing that struck me was the unfamiliar approach of playing with three lanky centre halves

and genuine wingers as wing-backs. At first glance it was all so irregular.

That was my first experience of the single-minded approach of Mister Machín. A couple of months later the rest of football took notice when the freshly promoted team beat the European Champions Real Madrid.

This is a man who does things his way. His boss was Pere Guardiola, brother of Pep, who persuaded Manchester City to lend him half a dozen players. Machín largely ignored the 'gap year' kids.

Machín's mission was completed in the summer of 2018. He'd masterminded Girona's promotion and established them in La Liga when Sevilla came calling.

The Spanish media, obsessed with Real Madrid's latest crisis and Ousmane Dembélé's behaviour at Barcelona, haven't quite clicked on yet. Machín could be the biggest

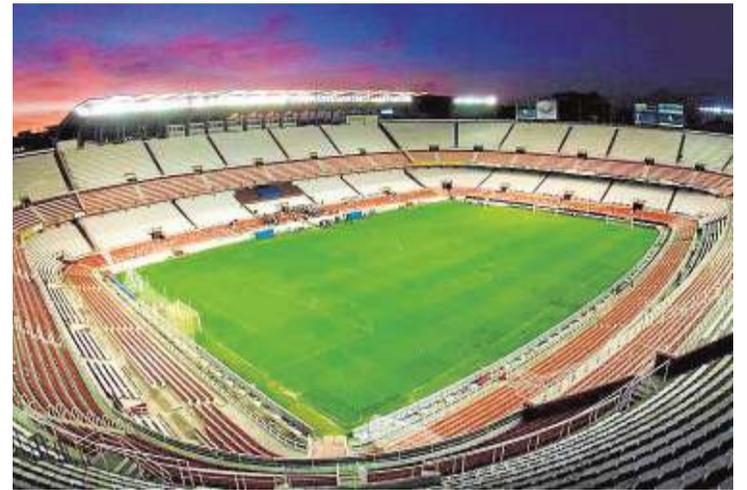
revolutionary since Pep himself.

After thirteen rounds of La Liga, Sevilla sit at the top of the table; above Barcelona and Atlético, some distance ahead of Real Madrid. They've won more games than any other club and they are there on merit.

There's no talk yet of the club adding to the solitary title of 1946 but maybe there should be?

Machín has inherited a well-balanced squad without egos and added his own little touches. They play his unique style of football in a 3-5-2 formation. The system is perfect for Jesús Navas, the city's proudest football son. Aleix Vidal is also reborn on his return to the club.

He's also brought the best out of André Silva who was a lost soul at AC Milan. The young Portuguese striker only scored two goals for the Serie A side. In Sevilla colours he's hit eight in his first twelve Liga



The Ramón Sánchez Pizjuán stadium in Seville. :: SUR

matches.

The departure of Clément Lenglet to Barcelona hasn't weakened them. Daniel Carriço, who'd made little impact since signing from Reading, has slotted into the system.

Everyone admires the two clubs from the city of Seville. Betis are barmy and Sevilla generally go on some kind of cup adventure. They haven't troubled the Spanish hierarchy though.

There's a South American feel to a night at the Estadio Ramón San-

chéz Pizjuán with the roofless stands open to the skies. There's nothing to contain the noise yet it still reverberates around the stadium. Now they have something to truly sing about.

The only manager to break the Real Madrid/Barcelona monopoly in recent years was a similarly single minded Diego Simeone. The last manager to take the title away from the two major cities was Rafa Benítez with Valencia in 2004.

Keep an eye out for Machín. He's on course to emulate Benitez.

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More away-day blues for Marbella

Linense went two goals up within the first twenty minutes and kept Marbella in check with a well-managed high line

LINENSE 3 MARBELLA 0

Julio Rodríguez

LA LÍNEA (CADIZ). Marbella are now the league's second worst team away from home, having amassed just seven points on their travels this season.

Their most recent away day, when they travelled to face Linense on Sunday, was the latest mis-

erable chapter as Paredilla's side fell to a 3-0 defeat.

The hosts raced to a two-goal lead thanks to goals from Pirulo and Gato inside the first twenty minutes and kept Marbella far from their goal as they held a high line and kept the



Peris after conceding the first goal. :: J. R.

ball in the opposing half. Marbella, limited to long-range shots, struggled to get a foothold in the game and it was eventually put out of their reach in the 63rd minute when Pirulo sealed his brace from the edge of the area.

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The Walking Football Spain players were divided into four teams for the memorial tournament. :: SUR

Walking footballers raise 400 euros for charity in honour of former teammate

Gordon Powell died during a tournament held on the Algarve last November

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. Walking Football Spain (WFS) recently organised an international tournament in memory of the late Gordon Powell, who died while watching his teammates play in a tournament on the Algarve in

November last year.

WFS were invited to return to the Algarve tournament again this year but the players felt it would be too emotional. Instead, teams of nine, representing Scotland, North of England, South of England and the Rest of the World competed for the Gordon Powell Memorial Trophy at the Santa Maria stadium, Las Chapas, Marbella.

Matches were keenly contested with rivalries and pride to the fore. In one semifinal, Scotland defeated

The Rest of the World (2-0) while in the other the South triumphed over the North (5-2) to set up a keenly-awaited final.

An eight-goal final

Unfortunately for the neutrals, the final was not as close as it was hoped. The dark blues were no match for their more experienced opponents and the South ran out winners of the inaugural competition by seven goals to one. Daryll Collins with nine goals was the tournament's top scorer.

The real winners

However the real winners on the day were The British Heart Foundation as 400 euros was raised both through players donating their five-euro pitch hire fee to the charity and through money raised from a prize raffle.

The club members are already looking forward to staging another charity match with money raised going to a local charity.



Mary Le Corney accepts the cheque from the darts league. :: TB

Benalmádena Darts League players unite to raise funds for the RBL Poppy Appeal

Players from each team in the league competed in the Syd Stock Blind Pairs Memorial Tournament

:: TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA.

The Benalmádena Darts League held a fundraising darts competition earlier this month to raise money for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. The Syd Stock Blind Pairs Memorial Tournament was held in the Beer Garden Bar

in Benalmádena and it raised 350 euros for the annual appeal.

The idea of the tournament was conceived after one of the regular players in the league died at the age of 90. Syd Stock, who died in 2014, was the oldest member of the league. Seeing as he was once a member of the armed forces and had served in WWII, his teammates decided to name the tournament in his honour and donate all proceeds to the Poppy Appeal.

"We started the tournament after Syd died. He was a lovely chap and was very well liked by all, so we decided to help the RBL by organising this event in his name. It's a good night and players from each team in the league turn up to participate," Alan Fitzgerald, organiser of the league, told SUR in English.

Further funds were raised on the night with a raffle and the sale of poppies.

"During the tournament everyone was very generous and we raised money in all sorts of ways. For example, we were selling poppies for five euros each," Alan explained.

The check was received by the chairman of the Torremolinos branch of the RBL, Mary Le Corney, on Tuesday.

"We have had a good year with the poppy appeal and we are very grateful to the darts league for their continued support," the chairman said.

MARBELLA CYCLISTS PEDAL IN THE RAIN FOR SARAH

Families and friends of Sarah, the eighteen-year-old who lost her hands and feet through sepsis, took to the wet streets of Marbella for the Día del Pedal on Sunday. The activity was organised by Marbella ByCivic and La Vereíta and sponsored by Marbella town hall to help raise money towards the purchase of bionic prostheses for Sarah.



:: SUR

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Azahara Muñoz takes second place in the Open de España



ALEJANDRO DÍAZ

adiazdp@gmail.com

Dutch player Anne Van Dam won the tournament but the Malaga golfer never gave up and fought right up to the final hole

BENAHAVÍS. This year's Andalucía Costa del Sol Open de España at La Quinta Golf will be remembered for a long time, thanks to the tremendous battle between the two star rivals: Azahara Muñoz, who was playing at home and hoped to achieve her third consecutive victory in this tournament; and Anne Van Dam, from Holland, who began with a certain advantage after having dominated the classification with moderation and without making any fuss about it.

The two women faced each other first thing in the morning, when they played the seven holes which were still pending from the Satur-



Azahara Muñoz played well but made a fatal error at the 16th hole :: JOSELE-LANZA

day. That ended by strengthening the position of Van Dam, who then returned to the course to play the definitive fourth round with a four-stroke advantage over the Malaga player. It wasn't quite an abyss, but nearly.

Despite that, Muñoz fought back strongly: two consecutive birdies with the first two strokes made it clear that Van Dam wasn't going to have it easy. As the afternoon progressed, she kept the birdie machinery in action, a strategy which enabled her to reduce the distance from the Dutch player from six strokes to two.

However, just when she thought she had successfully got over the most difficult part, an error at the 16th hole put Muñoz out of the game. Van Dam had become more hesitant by then, barely managing two birdies throughout the whole course: a conservative strategy based on pars which almost cost her the victory. But at the aforementioned hole, just three away from the end of the tournament, the Malaga player sent the ball into the trees and it was declared unplayable, meaning she had to return to the tee and start again. The consequence was a bogey against a new par by Van Dam, who then appeared to give a sigh of relief.

"I had scored four birdies and wanted to continue like that, but I

CLASSIFICATION

Spanish Open (3rd day)

Player	Strokes
1. Anne Van Dam	271 (-13)
2. Azahara Muñoz	274 (-10)
3. Catriona Matthew	278 (-6)
4. Natalia Escuriola	279 (-5)
+ Olivia Cowan	279 (-5)
6. Hannah Burke	280 (-4)
+ Luna Sobron	280 (-4)
8. Krista Bakker	281 (-3)
+ Marta Sanz	281 (-3)
10. Camille Chevalier	282 (-2)
+ Georgia Hall	282 (-2)
12. Celine Herbin	283 (-1)
+ Tonje Daffinrud	283 (-1)
14. Meghan Maclaren	284 (Par)

used the wrong club and went to the right, and you can't afford to make a mistake there.

"It's a shame, but I am proud that I fought to the end, I was aggressive and I tried to score another birdie. Sometimes you win, sometimes you don't. So all that remains is for me to congratulate Anne," said Muñoz, who hadn't conceded defeat and continued to fight the last two holes.

Van Dam didn't assume she had won until the 18th hole, when it was mathematically impossible for her to lose the tournament. That was when she finally smiled. The tension had built up to an almost unbearable level, and the young Dutch woman was aware that she had been up against the ropes until just a few minutes earlier.

Spanish success

Someone who did save her place at the last stroke at the final hole was Catriona Matthew. The veteran golfer recovered her position with a masterly putt. Had she not done so, she would have shared a place in the ranking with Spain's Natalia Escuriola. Four players from the Armada ended the day in the top ten of the last official tournament of the season on the European Circuit: in addition to Muñoz and Escuriola, Luna Sobrón and Marta Sanz took sixth and eighth place respectively.



Dutch golfer Anne Van Dam with her trophy. :: JOSELE-LANZA

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Costa Deliziosa	03/12	Marseilles	Arrecife	08.00	18.00
Costa Magica	04/12	-	-	08.00	18.00
Marella	06-07/12	Cadiz	Funchal	16.00	18.00
Mein Schiff 2	08/12	Gibraltar	Valencia	07.00	21.30
Nieuw Statendam	08/12	Cartagena	Funchal	08.00	18.00



CONSULATES

Great Britain	C/. Mauricio Moro Pareto 2- 2. Málaga	952352300	France	1, Plaza de Santa Cruz, Seville	954293200
USA	Av. Juan Gómez 8. Ed. Lucía 1-C. Fuengirola	952474891	Italy	Calle Lagasca, 98, Madrid	912106910
Belgium	Avda Ricardo Soriano 20-3C, Marbella	951516019	Austria	Alameda de Colón 26, Malaga	952600267
Denmark	Calle Córdoba 6 404, Malaga	952211797	Finland	Calle Blasco de Garay, 7, Malaga	952212435
Norway	Avda Los Boliches, 60, Edf Rosenkranz, Fuengirola	952667955	Saudi Arabia	Mauricio M. Pareto 2 bloque Sur 2º, Malaga	952310358
Canada	C/Cervantes, Edif. Horizonte, Malaga	952223346	Greece	Salitre, 16, Malaga	952311847
Germany	Mauricio Moro Pareto 2, Malaga	952363591	Iceland	Paseo Marítimo 91, 29640 Fuengirola	952661200
Sweden	Calle Córdoba 6, 5th floor, Malaga	952604383	Philippines	C/Marqués de Larios 4, 2º, Malaga	952222757
Ireland	Avda. Los Boliches, Fuengirola	952475108	Hungary	Av. de Andalucía 26 29007 Malaga	952308393

CLUBS

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Puerto de la Duquesa: 634717317 / duquesaportrbtlspainsouth@gmail.com
Mijas Costa: 615758959. **Fuengirola:** 952468106. **Costa del Sol-Torre del Mar:** 628343198 **Nerja:** 952526423. **Los Romanes:** 618293749. **Torremolinos:** 952370907 **Welfare** 951309610. **Coín:** 663157776 www.coinrbl.info **Marbella:** 952774572 www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/marbella **Alhaurín el Grande:** 952112118/637134616. **Albox:** etgoodey@yahoo .co.uk **Benajarfe:** 685413642. **Mollina:** 957535211. **Riders' branch:** 952514226 /653108415

BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

andalucia@britchamber.com 951203094

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

English-speaking groups. 600379110.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS

English meetings: www.alanonspain.org

POSITIVELY PINK ASSOCIATION

Breast cancer. www.positively-pink.com info@positively-pink.com

DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP

Fuengirola. Anne Bowles: 607879450 annediabetics@gmail.com

MY WEIGH, WEIGHT LOSS

www.facebook.com/myweighspain 952583907/ 663674804

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

Estepona: Janet 69445754/Ben 7557048 006. Bar Cristobel, Thurs 6pm.

CUDECA SUPPORT GROUPS

952 564 910 or susanhannam@cudeca.org
Estepona: ACE Club 11.30am 1st Thurs.
Nerja: Cáritas 11.30am 2nd Thurs.
Cómpeta: 11.30am 3rd Thurs Axareducación.

MABS CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Fourth Tuesday, Miraflores Club, Marbella, 11.30 a.m. 952833568/ 647054945

CANCER SUCKS SPAIN

Cancer support group. 662446388 Facebook & cancersucksspain@outlook.com

AGE CARE ASSOCIATION

Coffee mornings: from 11am-12.30 pm.
Benalmádena: Mon, Bar Pitanza;
Calahonda: Tues, Thurs, Calahonda Int. Baptist Church;
Fuengirola: Wed, Bar Salon Varietés;
Coín: Thurs, Pépe's Bar;
Los Boliches: Frid, Hogar de Jubilados. Advice: 635407255 info@agecarecosta.org

AGE CONCERN

Estepona and Manilva: Lifeline 608458555 acesteponaymanilva@ageconcernespana.org / www.acesteponaymanilva.org. **Fuengirola:** Los Bolichos, Thurs 11am-1pm. Pensionista building near station. **Mijas:** Mijas Pueblo, Thurs 11am-1pm. Oasis Bar. **La Cala,** Fri 11am-1pm Grill de La Cala. Lifeline (Mijas, Fuengirola) 652537615. **Marbella, San Pedro:** Lifeline: 689355198. 1st Thurs, 11am. Paddle Tennis Club, Nueva Alcántara. www.ageconcernmarbella.com

ANREM - RESIDENTS & FOREIGNERS

info@anrem.org 630927226 anrem.org

FOREIGN RESIDENTS' ASS. ANDALUCIA

thefraa@hotmail.com 658426227

LUX MONDI ECUMENICAL CENTRE

Torre del Mar: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org 952543334. **Fuengirola:** 952474840

ROYAL AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

Costa del Sol, www.rafcostadelsol.co.uk

CONSERVATIVES ABROAD

conservatives.costadelsol@gmail.com

INTERNAT. LABOUR GROUP

Fuengirola: Alf Brewer 952449408

ASSOC. FRANCÓFONOS

All French speakers welcome. 951087994

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Almuñécar-Torrox nerjaclub@yahoo.com www.americaninternationalclub.com

NEDERLANSE CLUB COSTA DEL SOL

Tel: 952473545. Various Costa locations

AMERICAN CLUB COSTA DEL SOL

David Kylen 653274392

ACE AMERICAN CLUB OF ESTEPONA

Calle San Roque. Tel: 952793059.

ENGLISH-SPEAKING CLUB MALAGA

English/Spanish conversation. englishspeakingclubofmalaga.blogspot.com.es

WELSH SOCIETY

Arroyo de la Miel. Debbie 626292707

THE BRITISH SOCIETY

Sandra Addison 952568291 **Benalmádena Pueblo.** britsocietyspain@hotmail.com

BRITISH ASSOCIATION MARBELLA

Meets weekly. Jan/Joan 952835947

ENGLISH PHOENIX CLUB

Torre del Mar: Gael: 951067723

INTERNAT. CLUB OF SALOBREÑA

icsalobrena@hotmail.com

ASOCIACIÓN IRLANDESA

President Finola Sloyan: 607340523

IRISH ASSOCIATION OF SPAIN

618680148. Facebook.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Arroyo. Martin 952383883/654859075

INTERNATIONAL CLUB ESTEPONA

www.siberme.com. 952802549.

OUT OF AFRICA CLUB

Trish: 952668081

U3A LEARNING FOR PLEASURE

Axarquía: www.u3aaxarquiacom
Fuengirola: www.u3afuengirolacostadelsol.com
Marbella & Inland: www.u3a.international

BRITISH SCOUTING MOVEMENT

1st Fuengirola Scout Group. Robert Troost 610755995 www.fuengirolascouts.com

THE ARTS SOCIETY

Costa del Sol: www.theartssociety-costadelsol.org/ **Nerja:** 952533373. theartssocietynerja.com
De la Frontera: San Roque Club. nadfasc-delafrontera.org **Gibraltar:** theartssociety.org/gibraltar **Benahavis:** 663459103. theartssocietybenahavis.com

MARBELLA BUSINESS NETWORK

Joe 694442331 wednesdayjoe@gmail.com

THE SENDERISTAS

Multi national walking group. www.senderistas.eu

THE FIELD CLUB

Walks. **Fuengirola.** www.thefieldclub.org

COSTA CHORDBUSTERS

Anne Bowles. 952464184

THE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC SOCIETY

www.timschoir.org. Gilly: 952573983.

COLLEGIUM MUSICUM COSTA DEL SOL

International choir/orchestra. 952775492.

CANTOLIBRE CHOIR

Amateur singers **Estepona.** 692558 041

NEW SAYDO SINGERS

Every Tuesday. Kate: 685563764 jj2devine@yahoo.co.uk

R.T.'S LINE DANCE CLUB

Calahonda / Fuengirola / Benalmádena. Bob 952931754 or 697441313.

BOOGIE SHOES LINE DANCE CLUB

Estepona, The Roadhouse Bar. Thurs 19.45

MISSISSIPPI COASTERS

Line dance. **Fuengirola.** Bob 697441313.

JIVE DANCE CLUB

jivespain.com 635717211.

MODERN JIVE

Benalmádena/Fuengirola. Howard 631813877 www.dance-jive-Spain.com

JJ'S COSTA DEL SOL DANCE CLUB

Ballroom, Sequence & Latin 627658925

FOTA, FRIENDS OF THE THEATRE

Desk open Mon/Wed/Fri 11.30am-1.15pm. Salon Varietés, **Fuengirola.** 952584268.

INTERNATIONAL THEATRE STUDIO

San Pedro district. Tel 952884034

THESPA-ENGLISH SPEAKING PLAYERS

Dinner and Drama. **Los Boliches.** 622454422. www.theatrecoadelsol.com.

NERJA HISTORY GROUP

Talks/trips. Christina Sinclair 687602057 email: nerjahistorygroup@yahoo.com

ESTEPONA FLORAL ART CLUB

esteponafloralartclub@hotmail.com www.facebook.com/esteponafloralartclub

FLOWER ARRANGING CLUB

Venta Platero (**Coín**-Cartama road)

THE ANDALUCIAN GARDEN GROUP

Alh. el Grande. 952119767/952455213

THE AXARQUÍA GARDEN CLUB

www.axarquigardenclub.blogspot.com

ANDALUCIA BIRD SOCIETY

952817843 www.andaluciabirdsociety.org

COSTA PRESS CLUB

www.costapressclub.com

COSTA WOMEN

www.costawomen.com/ 677251058

TANGENT CLUB & EX-LADIES CIRCLERS

952886772 mbl63@hotmail.co.uk

41 CLUBS & EX-ROUND TABLERS

Costa del Sol: 952818772 / 627462410 **Nerja:** 952529611 / 677090665

PATCHWORK AND QUILTING

www.quiltersdelsol.org

COSTA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

www.photoclubspain.com

ASTRONOMY COSTA DEL SOL

astronomycostadelsol.com 616679453.

NERJA CHICK-LIT BOOK CLUB

New friends, great books! 693373530

LIONS CLUBS

Malaga Ilusion: May Ramirez 616613705;
Leos: Gonzalo 627712351; **University:** Sara 626835485 **Marbella Costa del Sol:** Jacqueline Dueñas 619755031; **Marbella Francófono:** Rosalyn Bakker; 952884340; **Marbella German:** T. Heyden 667760230; **Marbella Decano:** M. Álvarez 619414119; **Mijas:** Jose Guasp Borreda 639 080 569; **La Cala:** Julie Barry 608315704; **Nerja:** Elke Lange 693706900; **Puerto Banús Cosmopolitan:** Egidia Ingels 68032009; **Rincón de la Victoria:** Doris: 952407824

TOASTMASTERS PUBLIC SPEAKING

Al-Andalus Toastmasters Club #1788: Donna 956 840 497. Rota, Cadiz. **The Achievers** Toastmasters Club #5183: Nueva Andalucía, Percy 646533112. **Gibraltar:** Luis 606460025. **Malaga:** PTA English / Spanish, Claudia 685965867.

FREEMASONS

Fuengirola: Norman Hay 674755024. **Calahonda:** Mike Williams 644133186. **Los Boliches:** Paul Clueit 667156806. **Mijas Costa:** David Mantle 952934193. **Coín:** Ian Bushnell 611020641. **Alhaurín:** Vic Dean 952450678.

LODGE EUROPEAN FRATERNITY 52

Tel:658655511 or 646436967

ROTARY CLUB

Benalmádena: 952441440 **Benahavis:** 695542881 **Estepona:** 952800999. **Fuengirola/Mijas:** 696494492. **Marbella:** 952821121 **San Pedro:** 951318381 **Marbella - Guadalmina:** 952888077, **Mijas International:** 644242365

OVER 40S SINGLES CLUB

Estepona: El Limonero Tel: 952806759

ARROYO SOCIAL & WELFARE CLUB

Arroyo de la Miel. Jean 952563580.

TORREMOLINOS & DIST. SOCIAL CLUB

Wed am. Rosaleda Bar. Mike 626880722.

ARROYO FRIENDLY CLUB

Benalmádena. 952446935.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

653771625 www.soroptimist.es

HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

Mijas: 695660450. **Malaga:** 654633430.

AMIGAS DE CASA

Vva del Trabuco. 952751424/952751304 www.trabucotimes.com/amigasdecasa.htm

CLUB CHARITY AND PLEASURE

Estepona. President Terry 952813336 clubcharityandpleasure.wordpress.com

COLMENAR DISTRICT SOCIAL CLUB

Marjorie 951163071.

TENNIS CLUB 'EL CAPITAN INT'

Torre del Mar. Patrick 675391967.

THE GOOD COMPANIONS CLUB

Los Boliches. Tel: Tony White 951661201.

CLUB DE BÉISBOL COSTA DEL SOL B.B.C.

952202940 / 952464468. **Mijas**

AIKIDO TOMIKI SHODOKAN

Different levels. Tel: 952131670, **Malaga**

TAEKWONDO CLUB

Fighting Dragons Club **Benalmádena.** Mike 618149373 www.vipfitness.tv

CALAHONDA BRIDGE CLUB

Club Naranja. 952198789 / 670593 232.

ACE BRIDGE CLUB

Fuengirola. Deanne Mutter: 747771404.

NERJA BRIDGE CLUB

Joan 952520579 or Trevor on 952524743

LOS BOLICHES BRIDGE CLUB

Dominiques. Mon & Fri. 645684756

C C MARBELLA BRIDGE

Wed, Thurs, Sat, Sun. With Bridgemate. Tel: 636 673 372 or www.mx77.com

CASTILLO BRIDGE CLUB

Tel: 655459576 www.bridgewebs.com

ST ANDREW'S BRIDGE CLUB

Los Boliches. 697769170 / 952667861.

COSTA DEL SOL CRICKET CLUB

League cricket. Previn: 606526618.

MARBELLA SURF CLUB

Avda. Independencia, 17, Tel:952778617.

INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Benalmádena Costa. 952373813.

MIJAS LAWN BOWLS CLUB

Tel: 952 466 038.

MARBELLA SINGLES SOCIAL GROUP

THE STARS

Aquarius
January 21 - February 19
You are in a highly creative and communicative phase that is due to the New Moon and long-term determination. If you cannot show confidence in a plan, who else will?

Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
A few lazy days last week could mean a spurt of activity this week. Being sharp mentally and fast physically is to your advantage.

Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Until Mercury the messenger turns direct next weekend, take care with communications. It would be all too easy to be misunderstood, especially if the other person is not truly listening

Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
There is some confusion over a decision midweek. Perhaps a short delay is better than rushing ahead? Be flexible and imaginative.

Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Although you may feel like spending more time at home this week, this does not bring practical benefits. Your head seems to be in the clouds!

Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
The latter part of the week favours negotiations, discussions and decisions. Appear at your confident best when approaching anyone in authority.

Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Two steps backwards can be four forward, however, if it recharges your battery. By midweek you need to aim for a firm plan with regards to a partner.

Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Contact with loved ones brings a warm glow. Perhaps you are making arrangements for the holiday? Are you short of cash? If so, look for novelty gifts rather than high-value items.

Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
A boost to both your confidence and your cash is likely. With oodles of charm at your disposal others are easily impressed.

Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
When you have to refuse a request, do so with grace and kindness. There could be a better time for relationships than now to be honest. Even so, be at your charming best.

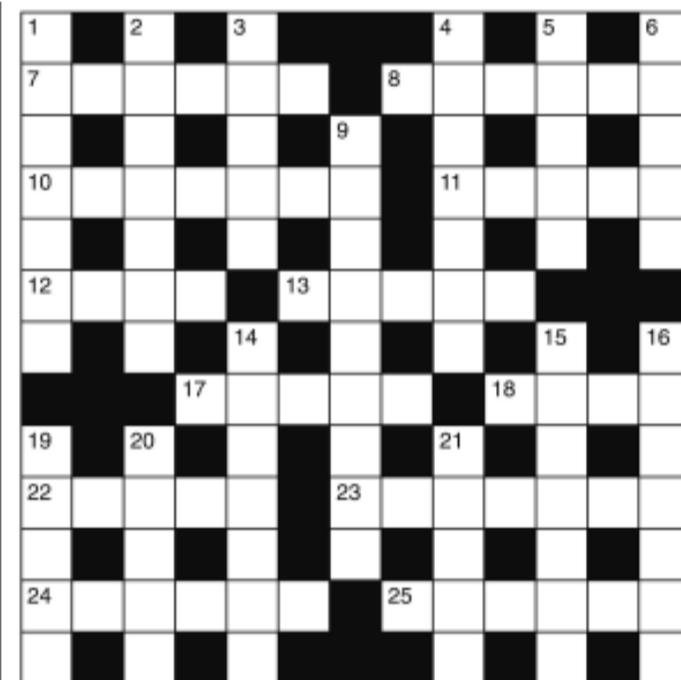
Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
This week others seem strangely drawn to you and your ideas. So if you looking for an investor or partner, now is your chance. Midweek the New Moon shines on your communications.

Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
It is worth making the effort to light-hearted at the weekend. There are some social challenges ahead that will catapult your social life into a sparkling place.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11323



Across

- 7 Athletes may take it in their stride (6)
- 8 Break a hole in a wall (6)
- 10 Set off on horseback? (7)
- 11 On reflection, it shows you where things are (5)
- 12 Peruvian old master (4)
- 13 A fishy measurement (5)
- 17 Food nearly everyone is unhappy about (5)
- 18 Look like a lord (4)
- 22 I tear about, angry (5)
- 23 Many get mad with desire (7)
- 24 The French gent may be fired (3,3)
- 25 It looks round quietly in sheer chaos (6)

Down

- 1 Make a striking contribution to the conversation? (5,2)
- 2 Beat the counter-reformation (7)
- 3 He believed in having lady friends (5)
- 4 Upset a caterer in a domestic row (7)
- 5 Prompt about going on day shift (5)
- 6 Rulers from the stars (5)
- 9 Yet it may be the product of an active imagination (4,5)
- 14 Remove and copy (4,3)
- 15 Set free and hand over (7)
- 16 Somehow grudging not being fully conscious of events (7)
- 19 Deliver produce (5)
- 20 Not a ruddy thing to eat! (5)
- 21 Bulbs of 50 amps (5)

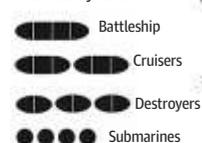
SUDOKU BY HANZO

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

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

BATTLESHIPS

Instructions Find where the fleet of ships (1 battleship, 2 cruisers, 3 destroyers, 4 submarines) are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some have been filled in to start you off.



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
A	■										2
B				■							4
C											0
D											4
E						■					1
F											1
G											2
H		■									2
I									■		1
J					■					■	3
	1	5	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	4	

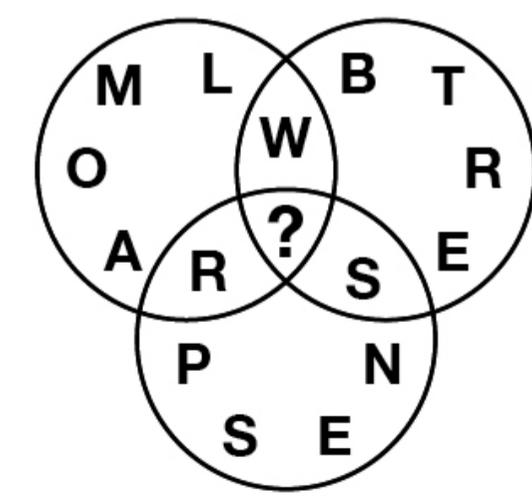
THE WORDPUZZLER

S	C	A	R	C	L	E	D	A	R
P	O	W	L	A	G	L	U	P	O
A	W	O	N	S	R	I	P	S	L
B	O	W	L	S	O	F	A	L	L
I	R	R	I	B	W	E	S	U	I
L	K	I	S	O	I	S	S	C	N
B	E	S	T	I	C	K	O	H	A
E	R	A	R	L	K	E	R	A	B
N	S	P	O	V	E	E	V	N	L
S	P	I	B	A	S	L	I	D	E

Can you identify the words that may precede 'over' by the clues listed below?

- 1. Check off
- 2. Overtake
- 3. Playground feature
- 4. Food vessel
- 5. Major structural ship part
- 6. Tumble
- 7. Painful swelling
- 8. Labourer
- 9. Labour
- 10. Drop

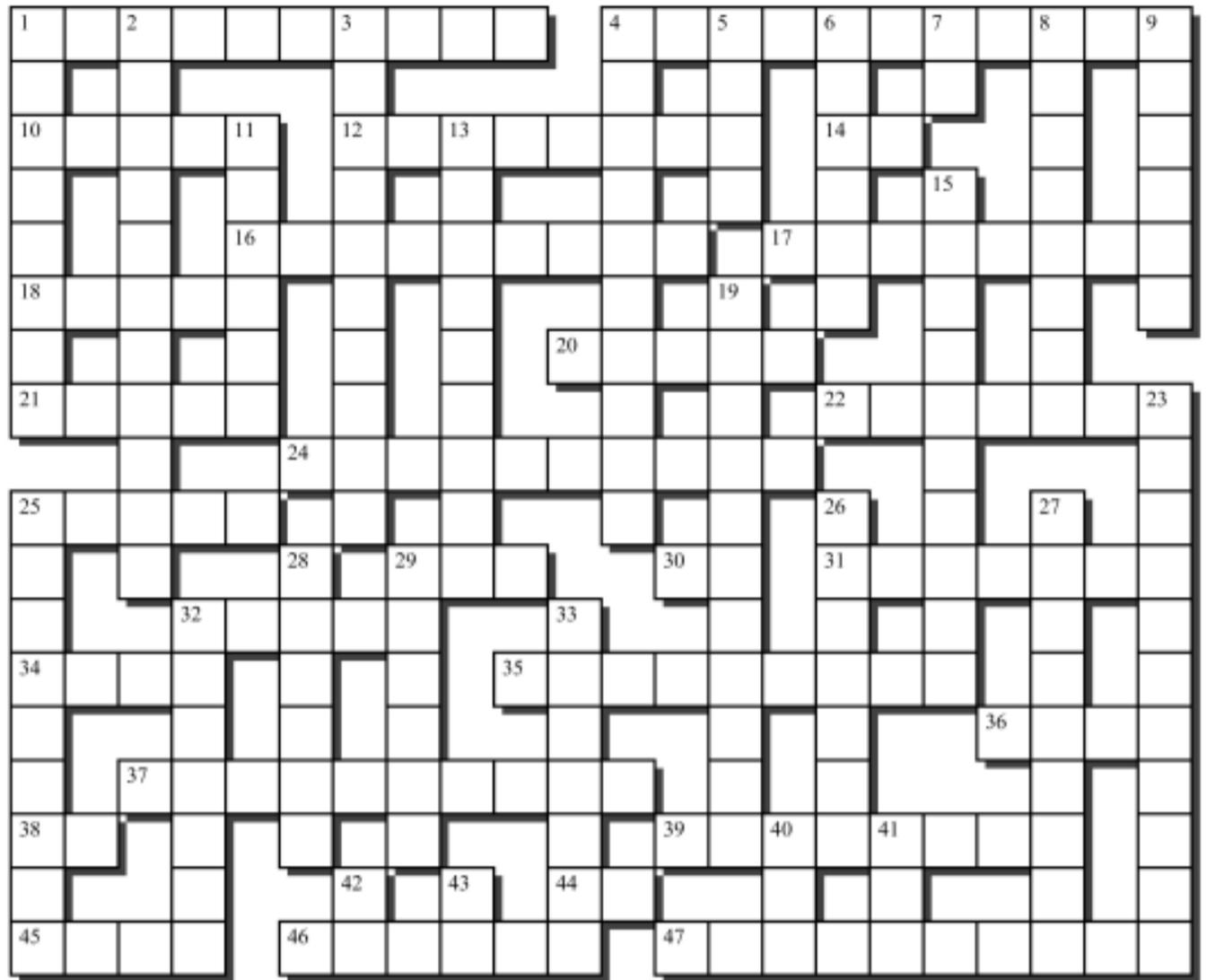
CIRCLEGRAM



Instructions
Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters in each circle can be arranged to form words, names or terms on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Across | Down |
| 1) Plantation (10) | 1) Palm grove (8) |
| 4) Owner (11) | 2) Sunsets (11) |
| 10) Key (5) | 3) Cemetery (10) |
| 12) Majesty (8) | 4) Heritage (10) |
| 14) It is (2) | 5) Wave (4) |
| 16) Opposite (9) | 6) Illegal (6) |
| 17) To go for a walk (8) | 7) You (2) |
| 18) Irrigation (5) | 8) Retreat (8) |
| 20) Tower (5) | 9) Origin (6) |
| 21) Full (f) (5) | 11) Brush (6) |
| 22) Landscape (7) | 13) Gardener (9) |
| 24) To have fun (10) | 15) Followers (10) |
| 25) Mourning (5) | 19) Prestigious (f) (11) |
| 29) They are (3) | 23) Exports (11) |
| 30) If (2) | 25) To enjoy (9) |
| 31) Beautiful (7) | 26) To scream (7) |
| 32) Father (5) | 27) I survived (9) |
| 34) Cold (f) (4) | 28) Ideal (6) |
| 35) Bricks (9) | 29) Paths (6) |
| 36) Dinner (4) | 32) Palm tree (7) |
| 37) Empress (10) | 33) Dates (7) |
| 38) You (2) | 40) River (3) |
| 39) Moroccan (8) | 41) Hey! (3) |
| 44) The (2) | 42) To the (2) |
| 45) Branch (4) | 43) To go (2) |
| 46) Flowers (6) | |
| 47) Protection (10) | |

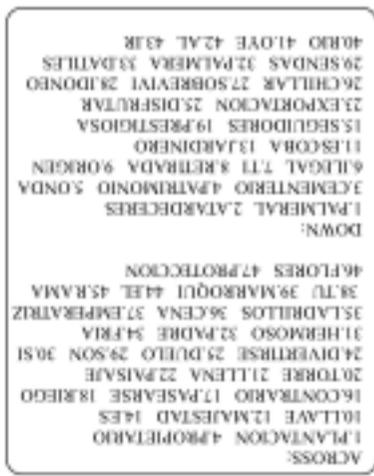


ANSWERS

Quiz answers

Of interest: The orange snow was smelly, oily to the touch, and said to contain four times the normal level of iron. It was originally thought that it was caused by industrial pollution, a rocket launch or even a nuclear accident. There have been cases of black, blue, green and red snowfall in the past.
Answer: A fur hat
Of interest: The ushanka is the typical Russian hat with ear flaps that can be tied up on top of the head or under the chin to protect the ears, jaw and lower chin from the cold.

Language Crossword



Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 7 Hurdles; 8 Recross; 10 Mounted; 11 Radar; 12 Inca; 13 Perch; 17 Salad; 18 Peer; 22 Kate; 23 Crawling; 24 Let off; 25 Sphere; Down: 1 Chime in; 2 Trounce; 3 Plato; 4 Terrace; 5 Ready; 6 Tsars; 9 Idle fancy; 14 Take off; 15 Deliver; 16 Drugged; 19 Yield; 20 Pasty; 21 Lamps.

Wordpuzler solution



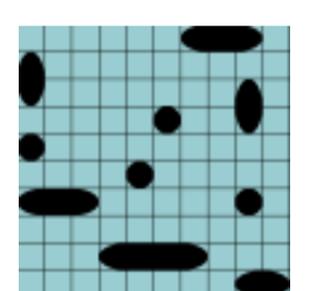
Sudoku solution



Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is E.
 Marlowe, Webster, Spenser, all early modern playwrights.

Battleships



WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN THIS?



The Rotarian monument

Last week: Torremolinos

The outsized sculpture of two women pays tribute to Picasso's work 'Dos Mujeres Corriendo Por La Playa'. It was created by by sculptor Salvador García based on Picasso's painting, and cast in bronze. It can be found on the Plaza de Lido roundabout.



THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

Lighting up the Costa del Sol

Here at SUR in English we look forward to keeping you entertained and informed about what is happening on the Costa del Sol and surrounding areas.

Whatever your favourite section is - whether news, lifestyle, health and beauty, sport, comment or the gardening or puzzles page - please write to us and let us know your views; we'd love to hear from you.

Your feedback is very important to us, so write and tell us

what you like or don't like about the paper, and what you would like to see in future editions of the newspaper.

We'd also love to hear what you think of the Christmas lights this year; a lot of towns are having 'turning on' ceremonies this week so send us some photos too.

You can contact us by email at surinenglish.su@diariosur.es, or via Twitter @SUR_English. We



also are on Facebook (@SUREnglish).



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 Contra el Cáncer

**THE AECC
 PINK LADIES CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**

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Women leave men to cope for TV show

Fifty ladies will spend a free week's holiday in a spa hotel while a TV reality show films how their partners manage at home without them

by **J. V. MUÑOZ-LACUNA**

MADRID. El Real de San Vicente, a village in the north-east of Toledo province with fewer than 1,000 inhabitants, won't have as many women residents as usual in January. The reason is that a reality TV show has decided to see how their male partners will manage at home without them.

The Big Bang Media production company announced that it was going to choose 50 local ladies to spend an all-expenses-paid week in a spa hotel, on their own. Meanwhile, their husbands and partners will have to take on the everyday tasks which the women usually do. The programme will be shown on TVE in January, and there has been a varied response to the idea.

The mayor of the village, Jorge Luis Martín, says he was very surprised. "At first we thought it was a joke, but then we realised they were serious," he explains. His wife was one of the first to sign up. In fact, when women of all ages were asked to apply, there was an immediate response.

Jorge Luis is pleased that the programme will be publicity for the vil-



El Real de San Vicente, the village which will 'lose' 50 of its women for a week. **by R. C.**

lage, which is situated in beautiful countryside in the Sierra de San Vicente mountains. In the past few decades it has suffered the effects of depopulation and the progressive ageing of the residents.

The Castilla-La Mancha Institute for Women, far from criticising this

The mayor, whose wife was one of the first to sign up, says he is delighted at the publicity for the village

The Castilla-La Mancha Institute for Women says the programme is a positive initiative

type of programme for perpetuating the stereotyped image of women as housewives, is all for it. The director, Araceli Martínez, says women carry out numerous tasks at home and looking after their families and elderly relatives with no support, but their work is not valued and its impact on the economy is ignored. She sees this reality show as a good opportunity for people to appreciate "what happens in homes when women are not there and are not carrying out these tasks which are so essential for all the family".

No idea how the hob works

Housewives are a "precarious social class because their contribution to society is not appreciated," says Araceli, for whom this programme "is like a reminder of the 1970s feminist strike in Finland, which inspired the one which took place here in Spain on 8 March".

While waiting for the programme to be filmed and then broadcast, it seems that for some of the men in El Real de San Vicente the week without their wives or partners is going to seem very long, those who have no idea how the ceramic hob works and think the vacuum cleaner is something out of science fiction. Others, though, are more confident and say they will manage, and some are even suggesting that this will be a "week of freedom", during which nobody will complain about the amount of time they spend in the bar, or sat in front of the television watching football.

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