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February 15th to 21st 2019
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GOLF

Spanish golf in improving health

Player numbers on the up as the Costa prepares for high season in this month's Costa del Golf

INSIDE



MAKING WAVES ON THE COSTA

Torremolinos unveils its new pedestrianised town centre **P20&21**



The mayor of Torremolinos, José Ortiz, with councillors on Thursday in the town's new Plaza Costa del Sol. :: MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

Landowner in Julen case formally under investigation

The judge has called the man who drilled the 100-metre borehole in Totalán as a witness

The probe into the death of two-year-old Julen, who suffered a fatal fall down a borehole on 13 January, entered a new phase this week as the owner of the land in Totalán was declared under formal investigation. The man who drilled the hole, Julen's parents and the hikers at the scene will be called in as witnesses. **P3**

New regional government appointments force reshuffles in local authorities which now have vacancies to fill **P2**

Mummified British pensioner found hidden in spare room of home she shared with her daughter - a year after her death **P10**

Urgent Alcazaba and Gibralfaro works could take months as Malaga city hall draws up plans which will need Junta approval **P6**

Spring general election on the way as 2019 budget vote is lost

Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez is expected to announce the forthcoming date for the national poll today, Friday

Spain was confronted with the prospect of an early general election this week after the government failed to win approval from MPs for its delayed 2019 budget on Wednesday.

Defeat for Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez had looked increasingly

likely as relations with Catalan separatist MPs, whose support was need in the vote, soured in recent days.

Poll trackers show the ruling PSOE is the most popular party but there is a majority of support for parties on the right. **P23**

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New faces at the Junta de Andalucía force reshuffles at local authorities

The mayor of Coín, the head of Planning in Marbella and the director of Malaga's CAC gallery are among appointments by the recently elected regional government

:: ANTONIO M. ROMERO

MALAGA. Nearly a month after the PP's Juanma Moreno was sworn in as the new president of the Junta de Andalucía, his coalition government has now completed its recruitment process and the apparatus is ready to start moving.

The Partido Popular and their partners Ciudadanos (Cs) who, with the support of far-right group Vox, managed to oust the Socialist PSOE from the Junta after nearly four decades, distributed the regional ministries among eleven new ministers at the end of January. Since then they have been recruiting their provincial delegates as well as other officials whose posts rotate with the government, among them director generals of the authority's numerous departments.

The new ministers have plucked their recruits from inside and outside politics, causing a domino effect in some local authorities and institutions who now have to fill their vacancies.

Mayor's farewell

The town of Coín, for example, has lost its mayor, after Fernando Fernández (PP) was named this week as the new delegate of the regional ministry of Agriculture, Livestock farming, Fisheries and Sustainable Development for the province of Malaga.

At an urgent meeting in the town hall on Wednesday, Fernández, who had already ruled out standing for election again in May, officially gave



Fernando Fernández (c) on his last day as mayor of Coín. :: SUR



Fernando Francés. :: F. SILVA



José María Morente. :: J-L



Nuria Rodríguez. :: SUR



Mercedes García Paine. :: SUR

up his post. He will be replaced by Francisco Santos until the elections.

"Being mayor of Coín is the best thing to have happened to me in my political career," said Fernández.

Malaga city hall has lost two councillors: Carmen Casero (PP) is the new delegate in Malaga for Public Works, Culture and Historical Heritage; and Raúl Jiménez will run the Farming and Fisheries Management Agency.

Mijas council has also found itself with a gap to fill after Nuria Rodríguez, until now a Ciudadanos councillor, has been named the new provincial delegate for Tourism, Justice and Local Administration.

The cultural scene in Malaga has also seen an upheaval as Fernando Francés, until now the director of

the Contemporary Art Centre (CAC), leaves to become the new secretary general for Cultural Innovation and Museums.

Art and politics

His departure comes at a complicated moment as the contract for the management of the art centre is up for renewal later this year. Francés' firm, Gestión Cultural y Comunicación, is one of several organisations whose bids are currently being examined by experts at the city hall.

His place at the helm of Gestión Cultural will be taken by Helena Juncosa, who has worked alongside Francés at the CAC since it opened in 2003. Francés said on Wednesday that he had previously been critical of the Junta's management of culture and museums and this was his chance to improve things.

Marbella planning

In Marbella the town has lost an important player in its ongoing process to "normalise" its town planning situation after the years of chaos and corruption when the town hall was in the hands of the GIL group. José María Morente, until now the council's director of Town Planning, goes on to do the same job for the Planning Department at the Junta. Brought in after the PP won back control in Marbella in 2017, the architect has overseen the approval of the modified version of the 1986 town masterplan as well as its adaptation to Andalusian law and the drawing up of the conditions for the contract for the new PGOU.

The Malaga delegation of the regional ministry for Education, Sport and Social Policy is now in the hands of social activist Mercedes García Paine, founder of the association Nena Paine, which works with young people at risk of social or academic exclusion.

Recruits have their work cut out, taking over a long list of unfinished projects

:: A. M. ROMERO

MALAGA. The army of recruits summoned by the new regional government to control its departments and delegations has its work cut out.

Weighing over the Junta's head are the promises the PP made before the regional election (271 in the case of the province of Malaga) as well as its previous criticism of the progress and direction of projects already started by the PSOE government.

In the city of Malaga these include the completion of the metro lines. Juanma Moreno has already announced the scrapping of the controversial existing plans to run an overground service as far as the Hospital Civil to instead concentrate on extending the line to the PTA (technology park).

Building a new hospital and an auditorium, and a solution for the Guadalmedina river are also on the regional "to do" list for the city.

On the western Costa del Sol, the Junta's homework includes the extension and improvement of the Bajadilla port in Marbella, Fuengirola port and Puerto Marina in Benalmádena; new law courts for Torremolinos and Marbella; the extension of the Costa del Sol hospital; and the regularisation of rural properties in Mijas, among other projects.

Road improvements in the Seranía de Ronda, Antequera's dry dock project, the opening of operating theatres and wards in the Guadalhorce hospital and a pipeline to connect the Concepción reservoir in Marbella with La Viñuela in the Axarquía, are just a few more of the tasks already on the desks waiting for the new regional government officials.

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Landowner to be questioned on suspicion of negligent manslaughter in Julen investigation

The judge in charge of the case of the toddler who died in Totalán has called the man who drilled the hole to be questioned as a witness

:: ÁLVARO FRÍAS / JUAN CANO / FERNANDO TORRES

MALAGA. The investigation into the death of two-year-old Julen, who fell down a borehole in Totalán on 13 January, has reached a new phase this week. The judge in charge of the probe, after stating that she considered there to be evidence of manslaughter because of negligence, has announced a round of questioning.

The owner of the land where the toddler fell, David Serrano, has been called in for questioning as a suspect in the case, as requested by the public prosecution.

The magistrate explained that she has based her decision on the fact that it was the owner of the land who ordered the hole to be drilled and on the report by the Guardia Civil's nature protection service, Seprona, which concludes that safety measures adopted were "nonexistent".



David Serrano, the owner of the land, at a press conference last week. :: SALVADOR SALAS

The judge has called several more people in for questioning, but in their case as witnesses. They include the man who drilled the borehole, the boy's parents, the wife of the landowner and the three hikers who answered the boy's relatives cries for help, as well as several Guardia Civil officers.

At a press conference last week,

Serrano's lawyer, Antonio Flores Vila of Lawbird Legal Services, said that any responsibility for the death of the boy should be borne by the drilling company.

In reaction to the judge's decision this week, Flores said that he found it "outrageous that the person who had created the danger [the man who drilled the hole] has been called in [only] as a witness".

Julen's fall of more than 70 metres down the narrow borehole in Totalán, a municipality east of Malaga city, prompted a rescue operation that made the headlines around the world.

His body was recovered after a search of nearly two weeks in which engineers and rescuers worked round the clock to tunnel through to the bottom of the hole.

Junta reports increase in applications to legalise wells after Julen tragedy

:: JESÚS HINOJOSA

MALAGA. The Junta's Environment Department offices in Malaga have reported dozens of landowners applying to legalise wells and boreholes or requesting information about how to fill in and seal holes that are no longer in use.

The increase comes as a result of the recent Totalán case in which the toddler Julen died when he fell into a borehole.

The Junta's acting Environment delegate in the province of Malaga, Adolfo Moreno, said: "There has been a notable increase; people are showing a clear interest in legalising this type of borehole [carried out without permission] since the regrettable case in Totalán."

The central government called for all the relevant authorities (regional, municipal and Guardia Civil) to coordinate and step up inspections, investigations and penalisation in cases of illegal drilling. The regional authority has encouraged the public to report cases of illegal drilling they come across, due to the difficulty in detecting all holes through inspections.

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Custody timeline



29 March 2006
Arrested and sent to prison
'Operación Malaya' begins early in the morning. Roca is detained and, after being questioned by a judge, is remanded in custody.

6 October 2006
Transferred to Granada
The instructing judge orders his transfer to Albolote prison, in Granada.

14 April 2008
Eight days of freedom
He is released on bail of one million euros after spending two years in preventive custody for the 'Malaya case'.

21 May 2008
The Court revokes his release
The High Court overturns the decision by the 'Malaya case' judge to release him.

23 January 2009
Sentenced for the 'Saqueo case'
The High Court sentences him to six years and ten months in jail, and to pay back 23 million euros for the 'Saqueo I case'.



27 September 2010
The 'Malaya case' goes to trial
The 'Malaya case' hearing begins in the court complex in Malaga.



23 April 2008
Back to jail
Roca says he will apply to be readmitted to his job at the town hall. Marbella council responds by requesting that he is remanded in custody for the 'Saqueo case'. The court orders him to be returned to prison.



24 March 2010
Jailed due to the 'Saqueo I' sentence
The provisional prison term for the 'Malaya case' comes to an end, but he has to stay in jail to serve the sentence for the 'Saqueo I' case.

18 April 2013
The 'Saqueo II' hearing begins
The High Court starts the trial for the 'Saqueo II case'. Roca is transferred to the Soto del Real prison in Madrid.

Citizen Roca

The man said to be the ringleader of the Malaya corruption case has been granted conditional release 13 years after his arrest

Juan Antonio Roca is now a free man. The 'strong man' at Marbella town hall during the worst years of the ransacking of the municipal coffers is enjoying the conditional freedom which was granted to him by the High Court on 16 January, but which only became public

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7 April 2014

Transferred again
Roca is transferred from the prison in Alhaurín de la Torre to Sevilla 2.

29 July 2015

The Supreme Court increases the 'Malaya' sentence
The Supreme Court increases the 'Malaya' sentence to 17 years, considering that it also involved tax offences.



27 January 2018

Third-grade
Roca is granted third grade imprisonment. He leaves prison and works for Cáritas as part of the prisoner reintegration programme.



Juan Antonio Roca, on one of his temporary leaves from prison.

:: NITO SALAS

knowledge this week.

Behind him lie 13 years of privation of freedom: during the past year he has only had the restriction of having to wear an electronic ankle bracelet, but that was preceded by 12 years in jail, and for the first ten he was never granted temporary leave. Legal sources we consulted say that never before has a person found guilty of financial crimes been held permanently in jail for such a long period.

Roca received jail sentences for different cases including 'Malaya' (17 years), 'Saqueo I' (6 years and 10 months), 'Saqueo II' (three years) and 'Minutas' (three years), and although there are still dozens of other cases pending, he will not have to go back to prison. In May 2016 the provincial court in Malaga, the court which judged the 'Malaya' case, agreed to aggregate all the cases and allow the sentences to run concurrently, applying a maximum period of 20 years.

When considering whether to grant his conditional release, the High Court decided that Roca should serve three-quarters of his longest sentence, which was 17

years for the 'Malaya' case, in which he was found to be principally responsible for the corruption at Marbella Town Hall. That meant he would be eligible for conditional parole after serving 12 years, nine months and eight days in jail.

When considering the application, the court took into account circumstances such as Roca's good conduct in prison and the favourable likelihood of social reintegration, but it also imposed certain conditions. For example, he must reside in his normal home and is not permitted to abandon or temporarily absent himself from it without judicial authorisation, be-

For eight years and six months, the former head of Town Planning was only allowed to leave prison to attend court hearings

cause other cases against him are still pending.

He must also be supervised by a relative of his choice, and will continue to be monitored by the

prison services. He must also continue to make the compensation and civil responsibility payments as ordered by the courts for the cases in which he has been sentenced.

Now that he has been granted conditional freedom, Juan Antonio Roca is starting the final phase of his sentences, which were calculated from the moment when he was arrested on the morning of 29 March 2006.

That was not the first time the former head of town planning at Marbella town hall had been to prison. In April 2002 he and six other people including the mayor at the time, Jesús Gil, were remanded in custody as part of an investigation by the High Court into what became known as the 'Saqueo case'.

On that occasion Roca was sent to Soto del Real prison in Madrid, and kept there from 17 to 23 April, the first few days incommunicado. He was released after paying a financial guarantee of 450,000 euros.

After being arrested the second time, in 2006, the man considered the ringleader of the corruption at Marbella council was sent to the prison at Alhaurín de la Torre.

The early days were especially hard. On 6 April, barely a week af-

Not enough money to pay Marbella council

:: H. B.

MARBELLA. The assets seized from Juan Antonio Roca during 'Operation Malaya' were not enough to cover the payments the courts ordered him to make to Marbella town hall. Compensation for the two 'Saqueo' cases alone was set at 62 million euros plus interest, payable by those found guilty.

During his years in jail, Roca made five payments totalling nine million euros, and last June the council received a cheque for 12 million from the head of the provincial court, from the sale of assets in the 'Malaya' case.

Recently the court ordered that three buildings valued at 7.2 million euros were to be ceded to the council, and it hopes to receive others, as well as funds from the sale of other assets.

ter he was imprisoned, his father died in Cartagena (Murcia). Roca refused to attend his funeral because he didn't accept the conditions imposed by the judge for him to do so. He would have had to have been handcuffed and guarded by the police, and he rejected that. A similar situation arose five months later, when his mother died on 25 September.

Roca was transferred to Albolote prison in Granada in October 2006, and on 14 April 2008, after being in custody for two years, he was released after paying a guarantee of one million euros, 400,000 of which were contributed by his 19-year-old son. However, he only enjoyed eight days of freedom. Marbella council, to whom he had applied for his old job back, asked for him to be remanded in custody for the 'Saqueo case' and the request was granted by the High Court.

On 23 April 2008 Roca was once again sent to jail, and this time he would not leave it again for eight years and six months, until he was granted his first three-day leave.

During those years he spent time in the prisons in Alhaurín de la Torre (Malaga), Albolote (Granada), Soto del Real (Madrid) and Sevilla 2.

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Owners of iconic La Equitativa building change course and opt for hotel conversion

:: J. HINOJOSA / P. MARTÍNEZ
MALAGA. The owners of the emblematic La Equitativa tower at the end of Calle Larios in Malaga have withdrawn their request to create luxury apartments and instead will create a 70-room four-star hotel.

Ingomar, a company part of the Píscis group, will convert the tower into a hotel, albeit with one fewer stars than the separate five-star hotel which will occupy the base of the same building.



La Equitativa. **:: F. SILVA**

Malaga metro's Hospital Civil link scrapped in favour of new line to the PTA

:: IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. Elías Bendodo, the new Junta de Andalucía regional government spokesman, has confirmed that the planned Malaga metro link to the Hospital Civil has been scrapped in favour of a new link to the Parque Tecnológico.

Bendodo, after meeting with the city's mayor, Francisco de la Torre, and regional president, Juanma Moreno, last week said that the new administration at the Junta would open talks over altering the existing plans with the concession holders, as well as the European Investment Bank which is financing the project and would have to approve any changes.

The spokesman said that the Junta was working towards a solution that solves "the real needs of the city" and accepted that the change in direction would result in consequences of a financial nature, believed to be in excess of 11 million euros a year.

Urgent Alcazaba and Gibralfaro repair works could take months

Malaga city hall is putting together an action plan which must go through several bureaucratic processes before it can go out to tender

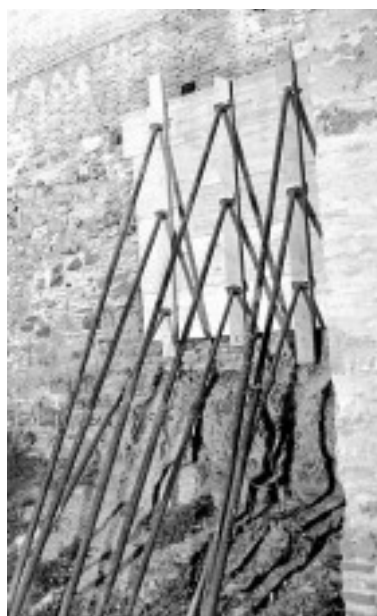
:: ANA PÉREZ-BRYAN

MALAGA. The preservation of Malaga's emblematic Alcazaba and Gibralfaro fortification is a growing concern after the collapse of a wall on the south side of the former last week followed a similar incident on the northern wall of the castle in November.

While both incidents were quickly patched up, full repairs and work to ensure there is no further damage is still several months from starting due to the complex bureaucratic processes involved in the alteration of protected buildings.

"It will probably be this year, but I can't give a date," said Francisco Pomares, councillor at Malaga city hall, whose department, he says, is already drawing up an action plan in collaboration with architect Luis Felipe González-Cebrián.

Pomares hasn't ruled out, how-



Last week's partial collapse of a wall on the Alcazaba (left) and the damage suffered to the Gibralfaro in November (right). **:: SUR**



ever, bringing in external experts to advise on this "very delicate and complex" operation.

Once this initial plan is ready, as both buildings have been given protected BIC (asset of cultural interest) status, it must then be submitted for review to the ministry of

Culture at the Junta de Andalucía regional government. Once approved, it must then be put out to tender.

Until that point, however, temporary repairs are the only solution that the city hall is permitted to undertake.

Banderas' theatre project to be even bigger than first planned

:: FRANCISCO GRIÑÁN

MALAGA. The most recent changes to the Teatro de Soho Caixabank project, promoted by actor Antonio Banderas, will see an even bigger performing arts venue than the one originally planned.

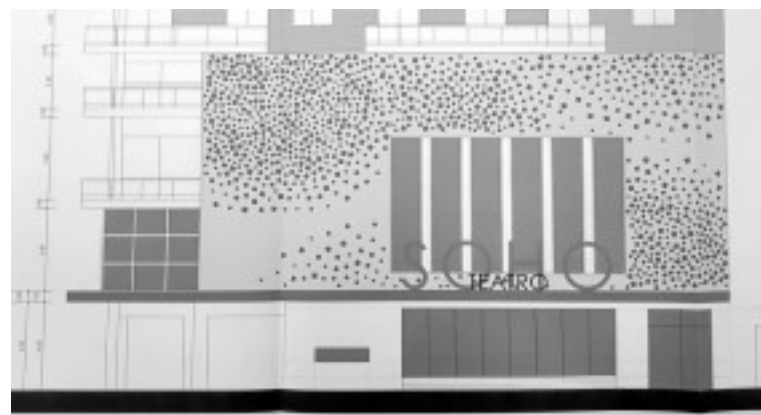
As revealed by SUR on Tuesday, revised plans submitted to the plan-

ning authorities on 1 February will see the second floor of the old Teatro Alameda in Malaga, which was an additional room for small screenings added relatively recently, incorporated into the new venue.

This will mean that there is space for 896 seats, restoring the main auditorium to its original height.

Other changes include the annexing of adjoining spaces, one which will be used as a tailor's for the productions, and another for bar and restaurant. Their façades will create the impression that they are part of the main theatre.

Despite these changes, the finishing date remains 15 July.



A computer projection of the theatre's new façade. **:: GUILLÉN ARQUITECTOS**

Extras wanted for new Netflix series Warrior Nun

Producers for the latest Netflix series *Warrior Nun*, due to be filmed in March in locations in Malaga, Antequera and Marbella, are looking for extras.

The profile wanted is very broad, with anyone aged 16 to 90 invited to attend auditions at Polo Digital in Malaga (Avenida Sor Teresa Prat, 16) this Sunday from 9am to 6pm. There is, however, a need for individual roles to be filled. These are waiters, bouncers, martial arts experts, people who do crossfit, DJs and people of African or Gypsy origin.

Those interested have to have Spanish ID and Social Security numbers.

HERE & THERE

Campillos and Teba added to high flood risk list by the Junta

MALAGA

:: J. HINOJOSA. The towns of Campillos and Teba, devastated by flooding in October last year, have been added to the Junta de Andalucía regional government's revised flood risk map.

This map first came into force three years ago and caused panic among town halls and investors as the planning panorama changed significantly and meant that zones at risk of flooding were subjected to new regulations.

However, in the case of these two towns, where a fireman died and dozens of families were left homeless, this means that they will become priorities for new infrastructure and flood prevention spending and new builds must have flood defences in place.

Alhaurín prison the first to allow conference calls with lawyers

ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE

:: F. TORRES. An agreement signed between the Malaga Bar Association and Alhaurín de la Torre prison will see the latter become the first in Spain to allow inmates to communicate with their counsel via conference call.

The trial will see computers in the prison set up specifically for this function and will only apply for communications with lawyers who are registered in Malaga.

"This arrangement will make the work of lawyers a lot easier," said sources inside the prison's management who insist that "within a short time" they will know if it is working well.

If successful, this new system will be rolled out nationwide.

First phase of the Philippe Starck olive mill project opens

RONDA

:: V. MELGAR. The promoters of the olive mill conceived by French designer Philippe Starck, LA Organic, have already opened the doors to the complex dedicated to the olive oil industry located two kilometres from Ronda on the road to Malaga.

Visitors are able to explore the first phase of the project which offers an 'olive oil route', of around a kilometre, which crosses much of the 25-hectare plot of land. Across the route are six sculptures designed by Starck. It concludes with an olive oil tasting.

The visit, which costs 20 euros (10 euros for residents of Ronda), lasts around 50 minutes.

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Spain's no-deal Brexit plans safeguard rights of UK expatriates

By John McCann, Senior Partner, Blevins Franks

While there is still much uncertainty as the Brexit clock runs down, Spain has taken care to reassure British expatriates that they can stay and access benefits like healthcare, whatever happens with Brexit.

In January, the Spanish government outlined its no-deal contingency plans in a new Brexit section of its website. This also summarises the issues UK and Spanish nationals and businesses will face after the UK leaves the EU, including residency, healthcare, voting rights, education, travel and financial services.

We explore what this means for expatriates in Spain in terms of residency rights, access to healthcare and voting rights.

Residency rights

One of the key messages for UK nationals living in Spain is to formalise residency status as soon as possible by acquiring a registration certificate from the Spanish authorities.

If there is a Brexit deal, anyone with legal settled status before 30 March will be eligible to remain in Spain and continue accessing existing benefits. After this date and up to

the end of the transition period (30 December 2020), you would need to apply for a 'Foreigner Identity Card' (TIE) to benefit from the citizens' rights agreement.

If there is no deal, the Spanish government has pledged to "provide a solution that in any event guarantees the legal security of British citizens and the members of their families resident in Spain before the exit date".

While it has yet to clarify what this means, it has indicated that:

- You would still need to apply for legal residency to be able to remain, but would have to meet the conditions applicable for third-country nationals rather than EU citizens.
- Periods of residency in Spain before the Brexit cut-off date would count towards acquiring permanent residence (available after five years).
- Existing residency documents would remain valid until they are converted to the relevant new format for non-EU nationals.

Crucially, the government emphasised that, so long as they register with the authorities, "all

British residents in Spain will be considered legal residents in Spain" even without a Brexit deal.

Access to healthcare

The UK government has stated that the EU 'S1 form', which provides free healthcare benefits to Britons at UK State Pension age, would only remain valid up to 29 March if there was no withdrawal agreement in place. "After this date, the certificate may not be valid, depending on decisions by member states." It recommends that expatriates obtain private healthcare insurance to ensure uninterrupted cover.

Spain has offered reassurance by confirming its intention to continue healthcare provision for UK nationals settled in the country before Brexit. "Contingency measures are planned to guarantee healthcare provision for British citizens in Spain starting on the date of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union if there is no agreement."

However, this guarantee depends on the UK government reciprocating for Spanish nationals in the UK. With an estimated 70,000 British

pensioners living in Spain – each costing an average of €3,500 in S1 healthcare costs compared to around €5,000 in the UK – it makes financial sense for the UK to do so. Both the UK and Spanish governments have expressed confidence that a bilateral agreement will be secured in time.

Voting rights

One thing Spain and UK have formally agreed is reciprocal voting rights, representing the first bilateral treaty since Brexit negotiations began. Signed on 21 January, the agreement allows Britons to vote and stand in local elections in Spain and also take part in European Parliament elections, whatever happens with Brexit.

Anyone registered to vote for the upcoming local elections in Spain in May will be able to vote. After this, UK nationals will need to be resident in Spain for three years to acquire voting rights. However, this does not apply for "British citizens who obtained their nationality in connection with Gibraltar".

Next steps

Other than the arrangements for

voting rights, none of Spain's no-deal safeguards are automatic; they would still need to be passed into law by the Spanish government. Some of their guarantees rely on the UK government reciprocating for Spanish nationals in the UK.

With the Brexit due date just weeks away, it is sensible to take personalised advice as soon as possible to establish what steps, if any, you still need to take to formalise your residency and secure your future in Spain. A financial adviser with cross-border expertise can review your tax and estate planning, pensions, savings and investments to make sure they are set up in the best way for your life in Spain, before and after Brexit.

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HERE AND THERE

Land for new fire station set aside in Las Lagunas

MIJAS

II. GELIBTER. After years of complaints, Mijas town hall on Monday announced a 7,000-square-metre plot of land in Las Lagunas, next to the Instituto La Vega secondary school, was to be set aside for the town's new fire station.

The new station will be located next to an old people's home which

is already at the tender stage.

Mayor Juan Carlos Maldonado said that the new site would see a "significant rise in quality" in the service provided by the fire department and would allow the force to acquire more fire engines such as the recently-purchased crane truck which cannot fit in the current fire station.

The current 1,000-square-metre hub had been described as "obsolete" and "insufficient" for the force's needs.



Maldonado (2r) with members of the Mijas fire department. II. G.

200 new homes on the Costa this year

MIJAS

II. G. The Spanish branch of British developers Taylor Wimpey have announced that over the course of this year it will build 167 new homes across eight projects on the Costa del Sol and in Sotogrande.

The largest of these will be in La Cala de Mijas at Horizon Golf where, 55 terraced houses and 60 apartments will be completed. Fifteen nationalities are among the buyers.

Woodland behind La Cala to become new hub for nature tourism in Mijas

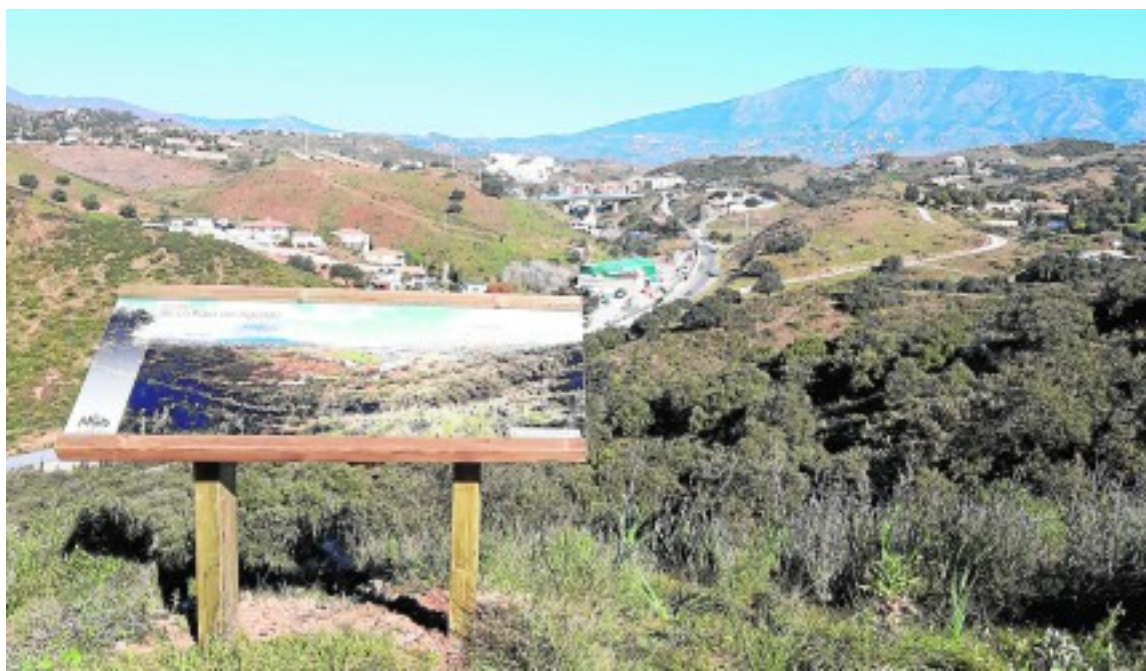
New informative boards, benches, picnic tables and signs have been installed to make the area more visitor friendly

II. IVÁN GELIBTER

MIJAS. In a bid to promote year-round tourism, Mijas town hall is increasing its focus on other sectors to reduce the burden on sun and sand tourism. One such way has been to make the Alcornocal de la Roza del Aguado cork oak forest on the edge of La Cala de Mijas more visitor friendly.

Since the weekend, informative boards about the indigenous flora and fauna have been installed, as well as signs to indicate walking routes across the 16-hectare woodland. What's more, picnic tables and benches have been placed along the routes to make visits more comfortable for those of all ages.

"Bringing an end to seasonality is one of our major priorities," said mayor, Juan Carlos Maldonado. "Nature tourism is a great way to do that, bearing in mind the wonderful land-



One of the new informative signs for hikers at the Roza del Aguado cork oak forest. II. GELIBTER

scapes that we have so close to us."

The mayor went on to explain that Roza del Aguado was in a perfect location for those who want a breath of fresh air as it was "in the heart of La Cala" and "just a

few hundred metres away from the beach and the coastal path".

Councillor for Operative Services and the Environment, José Carlos Martín, said that the area would be great "not only for tour-

ists but also locals" and added that it was the council's intention to ask the Junta de Andalucía regional government to have district ('periurbano') park status which means special protection entitlements.

More than 200 jobs on offer at first CLC World careers fair in Mijas on 15 March

II. SUR

MIJAS. CLC World Resorts & Hotels, in collaboration with the Diputación provincial government, will on Friday 15 March hold its inaugural Hospitality and Tourism Careers Fair at Costa La Club World in Mijas.

More than 200 positions will be available, ranging from customer-facing departments such as resort management and customer services, to behind-the-scenes positions in IT and finance.

The fair, which will run from 10am to 2pm, will give those looking for new opportunities the chance to learn more about the roles on offer and to submit their CVs.

CLC World Resorts & Hotels has more than 800 employees working throughout the year from its Mijas base with numbers swelling to 1,000 in the high season. Juan Miguel Marcos, Human Resources Director, said that the majority of these new posts were "permanent".

For more information on the fair or to submit your CV, email: careers@clcworld.com



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The building was made mainly of wood and straw. :: JOSELE-LANZA

Flames engulf Global Gift founder's beach bar on El Cable

The bar, which belongs to actress María Bravo, employed 60 people and was due to reopen for Easter week

:: HÉCTOR BARBOTTA

MARBELLA. A fire which broke out on El Cable beach in Marbella on Monday has resulted in the complete destruction of the Playa Padre 'chiringuito' beach bar belonging to

actress and co-founder of the Global Gift Foundation María Bravo.

The fire, which broke out at around 7pm, was finally brought under control at around 10pm by firefighters who could do little to save the structure, made principally from wood and straw.

SUR can confirm that despite flames reaching several metres into the air and large plumes of black smoke, no one suffered any injuries as a result.

Playa Padre, which was opened

in the summer of 2017 by American actress Eva Longoria, had, despite its proximity to the town centre, become a major attraction in the town for A-list events.

The bar normally opened from Easter week through to October and employed 60 people.

An investigation into the cause of the blaze is under way with police not ruling out any possibility. Early indications seem to point to arson after multiple sources were found.

Mummified body of British pensioner found in Istán home a year after she died

It is thought that the woman's daughter and granddaughter continued living in the house with the body hidden under a mattress in a spare room

:: J. CANO / Á. FRÍAS

ISTÁN. Guardia Civil officers have found the body of a British woman, who apparently died nearly a year ago, hidden in the home of her daughter and granddaughter in Istán.

The body, reduced to a mummified skeleton, was found late last Friday night after the dead woman's former son-in-law learned of the situation and encouraged his teenage daughter to go to the police.

The adolescent and her mother had apparently been living in the house with the body which was found hidden under a plastic mattress and some cardboard in a spare room. Sources told SUR that officers found the house in a dirty and untidy condition, especially the room where the body was found.

The body was fully clothed and surrounded by used air fresheners.

The woman was born in 1946 in the UK and has been named in the British press as 71-year-old Valerie Butroid.

Her body showed no initial signs of violence however a post mortem examination was due to be carried out to establish the cause and date of death.

Her daughter allegedly told officers that she had died the day after British Mother's Day, which fell last year on 11 March.

Neighbours said that last summer there had been complaints about the smell coming from the house, although they had put it down to the family's pets. When a neighbour asked the woman's daughter about her mother, she had apparently told her that she had died.

An investigation is now open. One line of inquiry is that the woman kept her mother's body in her house for financial reasons - either to keep drawing her pension or because she couldn't pay for the funeral - although other possibilities have not been ruled out.

112 REPORTS

Suitcase filled with bones found in Fuengirola lockup

FUENGIROLA

:: J. C. / Á. F. An investigation is under way after a suitcase filled with bones was discovered in a Fuengirola lockup last Saturday.

The bones, individually wrapped in newspaper, are believed to have belonged to more than one human, sources close to the investigation told SUR.

The suitcase was discovered by an old couple who had just

bought the lockup and were cleaning it out so that they could repaint it. They called the police once they discovered, some time later, what was inside.

The principal hypothesis at this time, given the way the bones were presented, is that the suitcase belonged to a medical student who had previously rented the lockup and had forgotten to remove them.

The suitcase has been handed over to the forensics team at the Instituto de Medicina Legal (IML) to confirm that they are human and determine their age and possible origin.

Man jailed for trying to strangle ex-partner with a bed sheet

MALAGA

:: SUR. A 44-year-old Spanish man has been jailed for allegedly trying to strangle his former partner to whom he paid a surprise visit, alongside her son, in her home in Malaga on 29 January.

The man, who has no previous record of gender violence, allegedly wrapped a bed sheet around her neck until she was unconscious while her son did nothing to intervene - for which he was also arrested.

The man and her son is then understood to also have stolen 1,000 euros in cash, credit cards and mobile phones before leaving the property.

Gold watch stolen in Santander 18 years ago turns up in Antequera

ANTEQUERA

:: A. J. GUERRERO. National Police on 1 February recovered, as a result of an inspection of a gold shop in Antequera, a gold women's watch which was among several items stolen from a home in Santander 18 years ago, in 2000.




A man and a woman, aged 27 and 28, respectively, both Spanish, have been arrested as a result for allegedly handling stolen goods.




As a result of their inspection, police had found that the watch, which was sold on 23 January, was among a list of items that had been reported stolen.

D.O.MAR

by Oscar Velasco


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Footprint found among tracks in Catalan Bay dune could be that of a young Neanderthal

Historians are very excited at the discovery of animal footprints including leopard and straight-tusked elephant, and especially the human print which could date back 29,000 years

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. Scientists from the Gibraltar National Museum have been involved in important research which has now been published in the prestigious scientific journal *Quaternary Science Reviews*, after footprints dating back tens of thousands of years were found in the Catalan Bay sand dune.

The sand sheets are a relic of the last glaciation, when the sea level was up to 120 metres lower than at present. The sand is constantly moving and a few years ago scientists spotted what looked like footprints of vertebrates.

Subsequent research revealed that these corresponded to species which are known to have inhabited Gibraltar. The trails identified correspond to red deer, ibex, aurochs, leopard and straight-tusked elephant, but there



The dune is above Catalan Bay in Gibraltar. :: VISIT GIBRALTAR

is also a footprint of a young human.

The scientists have been able to ascertain that he or she was between 106 and 126 centimetres tall, and possibly Neanderthal: that would date the footprint to around 29,000 years ago and coincide with data from the Gorham's Cave complex in Gibraltar, which was classified as a World Heritage Site in 2016.

If the footprint is confirmed as Neanderthal the discovery would be even more exciting. Only one other place in the world, the Vartop Cave in Romania, has footprints attributed to Neanderthals.

In 2016, the Gibraltar National Museum also became the home of 'Nana' and 'Flint', lifelike models of a mother and child which are actually foren-



Nana and Flint. :: GIBRALTAR MUSEUM

sic reproductions of the Gibraltar 1 and 2 Neanderthals.

For heritage minister Dr John Cortes, this is an incredible insight into Gibraltar's wildlife in history. "It helps us understand the importance of looking after our heritage. I congratulate the research team on uncovering this fascinating, hidden evidence of our Rock's past," he said.

IN BRIEF

Lloyds Bank plans to relocate to Jersey

GIBRALTAR

:: **D.B.** Lloyds Banking Group is reported to be closing its Gibraltar branch, which is at Royal Ocean Plaza, and relocating its business to Jersey. The news will not come as a great surprise on the Rock as the bank ceased to provide new investment services last year and said it was reviewing its Gibraltar operation. However, the decision, following those of Barclays and Jyske Bank recently, is a blow to clients and to the bank's approximately 20 employees.

Students to visit London, not Brussels

GIBRALTAR

:: **D. B.** Students from Bayside and Westside comprehensive schools will not be making the traditional visit to the EU institutions in Brussels this year, but will be going to UK and Commonwealth institutions in London instead. Deputy chief minister Dr Joseph Garcia said this week that it would make sense to "wait for the dust to settle" against the background of Brexit, but this year's upper forms should have similar opportunities to their predecessors and London is a logical alternative.

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Soft Brexit, hard Brexit or no deal. What does Brexit mean?

In general, a hard, soft or no deal Brexit refers to the closeness of the UK's relationship with the EU following withdrawal from the **Single Market**. People, goods, services and capital can currently move freely across borders, but the UK is also within the **Customs Union**, which means that goods made in the EU can move freely without tariffs and checks. And every EU country applies the same tariffs on imported goods and services from outside the EU.

Soft Brexit

People who voted to remain in the EU are hoping for a soft Brexit. In this scenario, the UK **could stay** in the Single Market or the Customs Union, or both. This would ensure a continuing close relationship with the EU in return for some EU payments to be made, some EU rules to be followed and continuing the free movement of people.

Hard Brexit

In the case of a hard Brexit, the UK may have to **give up access** to the Single Market and the Customs Union. EU payments would probably end as would free movement of people, meaning that UK citizens would lose their automatic right to live and work in any European country. The UK would be free to make its own rules and regulations, and negotiate their own trade deals with countries around the world. Trade between the UK and the EU would continue but with more restrictions and new rules on how it would work.

No deal

If a new set of rules and regulations for a hard Brexit cannot be agreed, then the UK could leave the EU with a no deal. In this scenario, the UK may have to defer to the World Trade Organisation rules on international trade when doing business with EU countries. UK exports would be **subject to taxes and customs checks**. The legal status of UK expats in Europe and EU expats in the UK would be uncertain. Would people require visas? Would the price of food imports rise? Would business be thrown into chaos?

Did you know?

Whatever the final scenario, the UK is scheduled to leave the EU on March 29th 2019. Given that negotiations have started, we understand that it is of vital importance for expatriates to stay informed about the outcomes and how it affects them. If you are an existing customer and have Legal Assistance included in your policy, you can consult our legal experts on 902 400 613. Customers who do not have Legal Assistance included in their policy may do so by calling our hotline today on 902 325 325.

We hope the information provided in this article is of interest. If you would like to contact Linea Directa please call **902 123 268**
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Call for residents to be on look-out for thieves taking drain covers and grids

Each one taken away costs Costa towns up to 300 euros to replace, and in Torremolinos alone 200 have gone missing recently

IVÁN GELIBTER

COSTA DEL SOL. It used to be copper cabling that was stolen from local streets, but now daring thieves have turned their attention to taking manhole covers, drain covers and grids in a bid to get extra cash.

Town halls on the western Costa, including Mijas, Fuengirola, Benalmádena and Torremolinos, have found hundreds of these metal covers have been forcibly removed recently and members of the public are being asked to keep an eye out for the culprits.

While the thieves can sell for little more than an estimated one euro for every four kilos to unscrupulous scrap metal dealers, replacing each one is costing 200 to 300 euros, by the time the labour cost is taken into account and due to the fact that town halls are now buying more expensive theft-proof versions of them.

Although several councils are reporting incidents, Torremolinos has been particularly badly affected. Two hundred of the protective covers on the resort's water and sewage system have disappeared recently.

The council-owned water company says that total costs have reached 80,000 euros, adding that, "this money could be used for public services, cultural events or sport".

Council officials say that usually the thieves choose quiet areas



Hundreds of manhole covers are disappearing. :: I.G.

and seem to wrench the grids and covers off by tying them to a car and pulling away at speed. Recently though, say reports, the thefts have been more daring in busier areas.

"It's dangerous for pedestrians but also for cars, motorbikes and bicycles," said officials in Torremolinos.

There's a similar story in neighbouring Benalmádena where Local Police have been put on alert and two weeks ago the local water company had to spend 3,000 euros on replacements.

Local people on the western Costa who spot anybody removing a drain cover or grid, or acting suspiciously, are being urged to call police on 112 and if possible note down the registration number of any vehicle involved.

Benalmádena mayor to formally pledge support for British expats after Brexit

I. GELIBTER

BENALMÁDEN. The mayor of Benalmádena, Victor Navas, has said that he will put a motion before the next council meeting that, if successful, will pledge the town hall's support for the British community in the resort after Brexit.

Britons are the biggest group of foreign residents and at a recent meeting with expats and the British Ambassador in the municipality, the mayor committed to maintain the same services as now to British residents and also echoed the ambassador's call for them to register on the municipal 'padrón' census to access a full range of support.

Now the mayor will go one step further and ask councillors to approve a motion formalising the town hall support, although elements are largely symbolic. The draft of the motion says support for Britons from Benalmádena will continue, "in the same way it has done since the referendum, even if the process ends with [the UK's exit] from the European Union." The motion also urges other public administrations to do the same, as well as calling for the UK and Spanish governments to guarantee British citizens rights as soon as possible.

As well as being on the town-hall padrón, residents from Britain have been urged by UK and Spanish governments to make sure they have the small green card, processed by National Police stations, that shows they are legally resident, in order to be best placed to maintain their rights after Brexit once a deal is finished.



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Facelift costing 4.5 million euros to go ahead in neglected area of Torremolinos

The town hall announces plans to improve La Cañada de los Cardos on the outskirts of the resort

TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. Torremolinos town hall held a meeting with more than 50 residents of the La Cañada de los Cardos district of the town last week to announce its plans to improve the neighbourhood after years of apparent neglect. Councillor for Town Planning, Maribel Tocón, presented the residents with a proposal to refurbish the area, which is lacking adequate lighting and has damaged roads and pavements. The work will include the installation of new street lighting, repaved walkways,



Residents listen to Tocón. :: SUR

a pedestrian crossing and the removal of unsightly signs and items in public areas.

The proposal also includes plans to install a one-way traffic system

and initiatives to improve parking facilities.

Residents of the area, who have campaigned for more than ten years to have the district revamped, had accused the town hall of overlooking their plight. The project, which is estimated to cost 4.5 million euros, was discussed during a prior meeting between the town's mayor, José Ortiz, and the local residents association last December.

Maribel Tocón said, "Today we fulfil our commitment to the residents of La Cañada de los Cardos to move forward with the project to improve their neighbourhood. These residents have waited for so many years simply because their neighbourhood has been ignored."

The work is expected to start in April.



COÍN POLICE STATION REOPENS

The Local Police headquarters in Coín reopened last week after undergoing a comprehensive refurbishment. The renovation of the 25-year-old building cost around 150,000 euros and included the installation of a hi-tech video surveillance system. Mayor Fernando Fernández said that the station will "have an impact and improve working conditions for police officers".

'La danza' by Vicente de Espona is now dancing in San Pedro

The sculpture, which was recovered from a municipal storeroom, has been restored and installed on the boulevard

The council decided to place the piece on the viewing point as a tribute to the artist, who lived in San Pedro, and mark the centenary of his birth

:: NIEVES CASTRO

MARBELLA. On the eastern side of the viewing point on the boulevard at San Pedro Alcántara, a man and woman sculpted from burnished metal dance in the wind; the piece was made years ago by artist Vicente de Espona (1918-1995), who moved to San Pedro in 1971 and lived and worked there until he died. The council decided to install 'La danza' (the dance) as a tribute to this artist and to mark the centenary of his birth.

The inauguration took place on Saturday and was attended by Vicente de Espona's widow, Ana María Muñoz, who is now responsible for his artistic legacy. During the ceremony, deputy mayor Rafael Piña made two important announcements: 'Síntesis', which currently stands on a roundabout on the bypass, is to be moved to the roundabout in the boulevard park, and the balcony which is known locally as the 'Mirador del Palmeral' will now be named after Vicente de Espona.

After thanking the San Pedro authorities for this tribute to her late husband, Ana María Muñoz explained that the sculpture 'La danza' had been recovered by the council's Culture department from municipal storage together with two other pieces, to be restored and put on display later. "They had been badly looked after, either deliberately or through ignorance about how to treat them," she said, "but now the important thing is that they are being restored and we



The unveiling of 'La danza' on the boulevard viewing point. :: J.-LANZA

have 'La danza' here today."

She also read a message from Francisco Moyano of the Banús Foundation, a personal friend of Vicente de Espona who has studied his works and written a book about him. "Vicente, I'm sure you would say we should be doing something else instead of concerning ourselves with your work, but as spectators we have to be aware that not taking advan-

tage of a legacy such as this would be an unforgivable waste in a town which considers itself cultured," he said.

Plans for a museum dedicated to the artist's works in premises shared with the future Tourist Office have had to be put on hold due to town planning problems, but Rafael Piña says the council intends to find an alternative location in the future.

HERE AND THERE



The recently opened office in central Puerto Banús. :: SUR

National Police move tourist protection office from Marbella Old Town to Puerto Banús

MARBELLA

:: **SUR.** National Police have moved a specialist tourist protection team from Marbella's Orange Square, in

the Old Town, to new premises in Puerto Banús. Officers from the SATE service will now serve the public from an office on the main Antonio Banderas square, near to El Corte Inglés. SATE is available for people on holiday and helps smooth paperwork and the reporting of crime, with staff trained in different languages. It is open six days a week.

Plan to be drawn up to restore resort's beaches

MARBELLA

:: **M. PÉREZ.** Almost 10 years after officials and politicians started thinking about a plan to stop the sand being eroded from Marbella's beaches, the central government's coastal authority has announced it will put out to tender the work to prepare a definitive list of proposals to overcome the problem. It will focus on the area between La Venus and El Ancón beaches in the town centre.

Rebuilding starts at Estepona beach bars

ESTEPONA

ing new parking spaces and landscaped gardens. Traffic calming measures are also going on in Cancelada. The town hall is also building a sports area in Nueva Atalaya. The projects are part of the council's strategy to reuse plots of land to encourage a more active lifestyle in the open air.

Council adds more car parks and leisure space

ESTEPONA

ing new parking spaces and landscaped gardens. Traffic calming measures are also going on in Cancelada. The town hall is also building a sports area in Nueva Atalaya. The projects are part of the council's strategy to reuse plots of land to encourage a more active lifestyle in the open air.

The council is also working on plans to improve the look of the A-7 corridor, including better lighting and the planting of trees and shrubs.

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HERE AND THERE

At least 100,000 euros of damage in El Trapiche**TORRE DEL MAR**

:: J. RHODES. Vélez-Málaga town hall has released a provisional estimate of a minimum of 100,000 euros worth of damage caused to properties and cars in El Trapiche when a mains water pipe burst last week. This was the figure given by Vélez-Málaga mayor, Antonio Moreno Ferrer, while visiting El Trapiche on Mon-

day with Patricia Navarro from regional government, the Junta de Andalucía. Residents have said that repair work needs to be carried out to ensure that there is “no repeat” of the incident, which they say was not dealt with well by the authorities when it first happened. El Trapiche resident, Carmen Rodríguez, told SUR that the worst affected street is “lower than the main road,” meaning that water collects there whenever it rains heavily and action needs to be taken to allow water to drain properly.



Damage in El Trapiche. :: E. C.

Bob Marley's band to play at Weekend Beach**TORRE DEL MAR**

:: J. R. The Original Wailers, led by Al Anderson, the band that accompanied Bob Marley and produced the album, Legend, as well as songs including No Woman, No Cry, are set to perform at this year's Weekend Beach festival, according to organisers. The announcement is the first big international signing for the festival, which is in its sixth year and due to take place in Torre del Mar from 3 to 6 July.

Marinas de Nerja hotel under new management**NERJA**

:: P. M. Catalan hotel chain, Ona, has taken over the management of the four-star Marinas de Nerja hotel and has announced it is to get a “restyling” to fit in with the chain's look. Nacho Barrau, director of expansion at Ona, said on Monday that the reforms are expected to be complete by November and that the hotel will be considered one of the company's “most emblematic” establishments.

Home owners still without legal electricity supply after 12 years

The Arco Iris building in Puente Don Manuel is one of the developments which is caught up in the Caso Arcos illegal building licences scandal

:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

ALCAUCÍN. Owners of homes in the Arco Iris development in Puente Don Manuel, part of Alcaucín municipality in the Axarquía, continue to protest over 12 years of unreliable and temporary electricity supply to their properties.

The building has been without a legal electricity supply since it was completed in 2006 and electricity company, Endesa, say they are unable to obtain a licence to finish the work. Owners have fallen foul of the Caso Arcos building permit scandal, in which former Alcaucín mayor, José Manuel Martín Alba, was found guilty of issuing illegal licences, leading to many homes being built on land not designated for housing.

“We are desperate, in complete legal limbo,” explained Isodoro Urrestarazu, president of the community. “We live in fear that if something happens, insurance companies won't



Residents have been protesting since before 2014. :: SUR

cover any damage caused because we only have a provisional connection,” he told SUR last week.

Residents have been staging regular protests, especially since 2014 when Endesa cut off the supply. It was reinstalled two years later but only as a provisional measure. “They could cut it off again at any time,” said Urrestarazu, adding that he be-

lieves Alcaucín mayor, Mario Blancke, “has totally ignored” the residents.

Blancke said that he “laments the situation”, but that the Arco Iris building is “not the only one in Alcaucín to be affected by the Arcos scandal”, and that he hopes to “seek a modification” to be able to “legalise the situation”, but the approval of the PGOU town plan “is going very slowly”.



The Dolmen is 200 metres from where Julen was found. :: E. C.

Totalán Dolmen project on hold until Julen case heard

Work on the 6,000-year-old burial site was due to start after the Christmas holidays

:: E. CABEZAS

TOTALÁN. Mayor of Totalán, Miguel Ángel Escaño, has said that the council is hoping to get the go ahead for a project to revitalise the Cerro de la Corona Dolmen; a 6,000-year-old megalithic burial site, just 200 metres from where two-year-old Julen fell into a borehole last

month. Work was due to start after Christmas to make the site accessible to visitors. The dolmen, which was excavated for the first time in the 1990s, was undamaged by the work undertaken by rescuers to reach Julen. However, Escaño told SUR that he believes the project will have to wait until the legal proceedings related to the case have finished. Human remains, believed to belong to children and a woman were found at the Dolmen in the 1990s and are being kept at the University of Malaga.

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Finnish community opens business centre to strengthen links with Spain

The SmartWorkPlaza and Coworking Centre in Fuengirola acts as a bridge between foreign companies and the Costa

IVÁN GELIBTER

MALAGA. The official opening of SmartWorkPlaza and Coworking Centre took place last Friday in Fuengirola. The centre is not only designed to provide space for networking and to show off different local projects, but also to act as a meeting place and exhibition area for international companies, especially from Finland.

A Finnish team is behind the project, drawing on the expertise of the many Finns that live on the Costa del Sol. The centre's opening was attended by; the mayor of Fuengirola, Ana Mula; the Finnish ambassador, Tiina Jortikka-Laitinen, and the European Commission vice-president Jyrki Katainen. There were also many Finnish and Spanish business people attending.

According to its creators, the SmartWorkPlaza is a business centre with a focus on real-time networking and creating direct links between companies in Spain and Finland.

SmartWorkPlaza also has showrooms; spaces dedicated to presenting and developing projects. They will also be used for events, talks and seminars, all given in English, with translators for other languages,



The mayor of Fuengirola opens the centre. :: SURS

such as Spanish and Finnish. Companies will also be encouraged to use the centre as a springboard to setting up in southern Spain.

There is also a plan to organise training workshops focused on business and wellness at work and to advise companies on tax, commercial, accounting and labour issues.

With such a strong Scandinavian

community living and working on the Costa del Sol, organisers hope that SmartWorkPlaza will also strengthen their link to the area.

The team

The team that will run the centre have a lot of combined business experience. Pauli Manso has worked in Spain for more than 20 years, in different sectors, in both Spanish and Finnish companies.

Outi Hannuksela is responsible for training and education. She is an entrepreneur that uses her knowledge of Spain and Finland in her work. Lastly, Jarno Paananen, an entrepreneur and innovator specialised in sales, and worked in Finland before establishing himself in Spain.

There is a plan to organise training workshops focused on business and wellness

years. However the sentence, which went against the company, is in contrast to another recent ruling which found in favour of Glovo, saying that the delivery person was self-employed.

If the deliverers are self-employed, or 'autónomos', they are responsible for paying their social security contributions and taxes, saving the company money compared to if they were contracted employees.

The latest case arose when a cyclist stopped work with other deliverers in a dispute and was sacked by Glovo without compensation.

BA and Iberia owner, IAG decides plan to be Spanish

MADRID

:: **J.A. BRAVO.** IAG, which owns British Airways, Iberia, Aer Lingus and Vueling, has said it will limit the percentage of its shares held by owners outside the EU to 47.5%. The move is aimed at convincing Brussels that Spanish-registered IAG is an EU airline and so can keep flying between airports in the EU. No shareholders will be forced to sell but the airline is banking on its many British shareholders not being classed as non-EU under negotiated Brexit conditions.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

JEREMY BLATCH

jb@ehh.gi

STOCKS FOR THE LONG RUN



Many would-be investors fear the stock market. Equally, many do not adhere to the fundamental principle of identifying capital for savings and capital for investment. The irrational emotions of fear and euphoria are very real when applied to the stock market. The stock market drops far more quickly than it rises. The stock market in its most fundamental form consists of three asset classes: stocks, bonds and cash. A common or preferred stock is essentially a participation in a business. Unlike a bond or cash, a business can grow and can transfer a return on capital via a rise in the share price to the investor through growth of earnings, payment of a dividend and an estimation at what a dollar or euro worth of earnings today will be worth at a time in the future. The first two are easily and readily quantifiable. The third, the price earnings ratio, is at best an estimate and at worst a speculative guess.

Investors in stocks must have a long-time preference. Our emphasis should be the growth of purchasing power of our investments, after being adjusted for inflation. Professor Jeremy Siegel in his classic study shows that the compound annual real return on common stocks (equities) is approximately 6.6% pa after inflation since 1994. Professor Arnott's 200-year study in 2003 showed that from an average historical return of 7.9%, annual annualised return dividends accounted for 5%, inflation accounted for 1.4%, real dividend growth accounted for 0.8% and rising valuations accounted for 0.6%.

The stability and consistency of returns of common stocks in the US market (where most data is available) is note-

worthy. 6.7% pa from 1802 through 1870, 6.6% from 1871 to 1925 and 6.4% per year through 1926 to 2012. Even during the time when the US faced the most inflation for 200 years, the average return on stocks was 6.4% pa.

The increase in value of stocks has remained extraordinarily stable as US and European societies evolved from an agricultural through an industrial economy to the post-industrial technology and service-based economy we have today. However over the short term stocks are volatile. From 1982 through 1999 during the greatest bull market in US history, stocks produced an amazing after inflation return of 13.36% pa - double the historic average. During the 12 years from the bull market peak of 2000, returns on stocks fell to 0.3% pa.

Regression to the mean (prices returning to historic averages) is a market truth and almost eternal. Investors are advantaged by holding stocks over the long term. Owning a participation in publicly traded businesses is a marriage not a dating experience and to echo Warren Buffet "should be held forever". Or in other words staying the course and "keeping your head when all those around you are losing theirs". This will not happen unless investors value what they hold and have separated their savings from investments.

The author is a member of Society of Trustees and Estate Practitioners.

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

IN BRIEF

Food delivery cyclist wins case against Glovo

MADRID

:: **E. MARTÍNEZ.** For the first time a court in Madrid has recognised that a food delivery cyclist is not self-employed, as had been claimed, and instead did enough work for an employer to count as having a fixed contractual relationship.

The delivery cyclist worked for Glovo, a Spanish version of the food delivery networks that have sprung up using smartphone apps in recent

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Torremolinos unveils a revolutionary new image

by MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

The new-look Plaza Costa del Sol focuses on the strong links Torremolinos has with water. One of the most striking elements is the unique pergola that creates a soft wave effect over the square

TONY BRYANT

The inauguration of the recently pedestrianised centre of Torremolinos took place on Thursday (yesterday). The new-look central plaza and boulevard was officially opened by José Ortiz, Mayor of Torremolinos, and Salvador Moreno Peralta, the distinguished architect responsible for the ambitious project.

The rejuvenation of the centre of the town has been the mayor's main priority since he took office in May 2015. The area, which incorporates the Plaza Costa del Sol, Avenida Palma de Mallorca and parts of 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, colourful flower beds and shaded areas with seating.

The mayor highlighted the great transformation experienced by the town over the last three years when he said, "In these three years we have ensured that the revolution continues in Torremolinos. It is a transition to a modern town that people will believe in again. Never has so much been so quickly achieved in Torremolinos with so few resources."

One of the most striking elements of the project, which began in January 2018, is the unique pergola that creates a soft wave effect over most of the Plaza Costa del Sol. The project focuses on the strong link between Torremolinos and water: two ornate water features have been installed in the Plaza Costa del Sol, along with the reinstallation to its original location of the old fountain.

The three-million-euro project was overseen by Peralta and in-

involved the transformation of more than 10,000 square meters of the town, creating a Mediterranean pavement café society scene and an urban space for cultural activities, which, according to the mayor, will become "a space of coexistence". 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.

INAUGURATION CEREMONY

The inauguration of the new-look Plaza Costa del Sol, which the mayor described as "the backbone of the town", began with a presentation brunch held in the Matahambre restaurant. This was followed by the official opening, which included the sealing of a time capsule. The capsule contains testimonies of local residents, photographs from different eras of the town, current newspapers and various documents relaying the history of Torremolinos. A small plaque reveals that it is to be opened in January 2020.

Hundreds of residents and visitors turned out to witness this historic moment, which the mayor described as "an encounter with modernity".

This was followed by the unveiling of several bronze sculptures by Malaga-based artist Elena Laverón. These include The Traders, located in front of the iconic Barrabino mansion; and the Birth of Eve, which sits at the end of the

JOSÉ ORTIZ: MAYOR

"Our commitment was to create a centre that would be the heart of our town"

"In three years we have ensured that the revolution continues in Torremolinos"

"How could a town like Torremolinos forget its heritage and neglect its history?"

Plaza Costa del Sol.

"Our commitment was to create a new centre that would be the heart of our town and that would pump life into the rest of the municipality. We celebrate this milestone, not only by opening one of the most extensive pedestrian areas in the province, but by opening a new chapter for Torremolinos. It is the cornerstone of the comprehensive regeneration of our town centre and we will continue to extend and transform the streets and squares," Ortiz explained.

Seeing as the official opening

coincided with Saint Valentine's Day, a 'kissing arch' was installed in the Avenida Palma de Mallorca. Couples were invited to have their photograph taken kissing under the arch: the photos are to be entered in an online competition with a prize of a candlelit dinner for two in one of the town's eateries

PRESERVING A HERITAGE

The renovations have not been limited to the Plaza Costa del Sol. The well-trodden steps that lead from Calle San Miguel to Bajondillo beach have been reformed and laid with ornate mosaic-style tiles, while plans to renovate the town's symbolic watchtower have recently been approved.

The Pimentel tower was part of a Moorish defensive system and is one of only five towers - out of the 21 that remain in the province of Malaga - that dates back to the Middle Ages.

The mayor claimed that he was bewildered by the fact that the town's monuments had been neglected in the past.

"How could a town like Torremolinos forget its heritage, neglect its history and condemn to abandonment monuments that gave the town its name," he said.

Extensive work has also taken place in Avenida Carlota Alessandri, where parking facilities have been improved in a bid to regenerate business in the area.

There are also plans to install a lift to connect this area with the



Parque Batería, one of the town's most beautiful public parks.

However, as the mayor pointed out, the transformation of the centre is not complete, as there is "still very much work to do". This includes the renovation of the Barabino mansion, which will become a cultural, artistic and exhibition centre. The grand palatial home is currently undergoing a complete renovation and the work is expected to continue for another two years. The house will gain prominence as the central focus of the square and the grounds are to be opened to allow easy access to the Plaza Picasso, and Plaza de Independencia, home of the town's new gourmet market. The market, which is due to open in the summer, will promote the Sabor a Málaga brand and will offer fresh fruit, vegetables, meat and specialist products from the Malaga province.

"Our intention is to create a new centre of gastronomy and culture. It will be an original market aimed at those looking for local cuisine and products typical of the province of Malaga," the mayor explained.

Another installation that will help secure Torremolinos as a first-choice destination is the Intu leisure and commercial centre, which will be located next to the Palacio

de Congresos. With its lake and array of leisure attractions, including outdoor ski slope, theme park and aquarium, Intu Costa del Sol is set to become the biggest commercial and leisure complex on the Mediterranean coast.

IMPROVING AN AILING IMAGE

This is the biggest transformation Torremolinos has seen since the 1960s and it is part of an overall project to improve the town's previous ailing image.

Frank Sinatra, Bridget Bardot, Orson Wells and a host of their contemporaries enjoyed the fashionable scene that existed in Torremolinos during the 1960s. The town enjoyed continued success as a leading resort during the 70s and 80s, but over the last 20 years, it began to lose its former appeal. The bars and entertainment venues closed down one by one, due to a disastrous decline in visiting tourists; the high street shops and fast food outlets began to disappear, and the main boulevard took on the appearance of a derelict shantytown.

Torremolinos was a pioneer in the tourism industry of the Costa

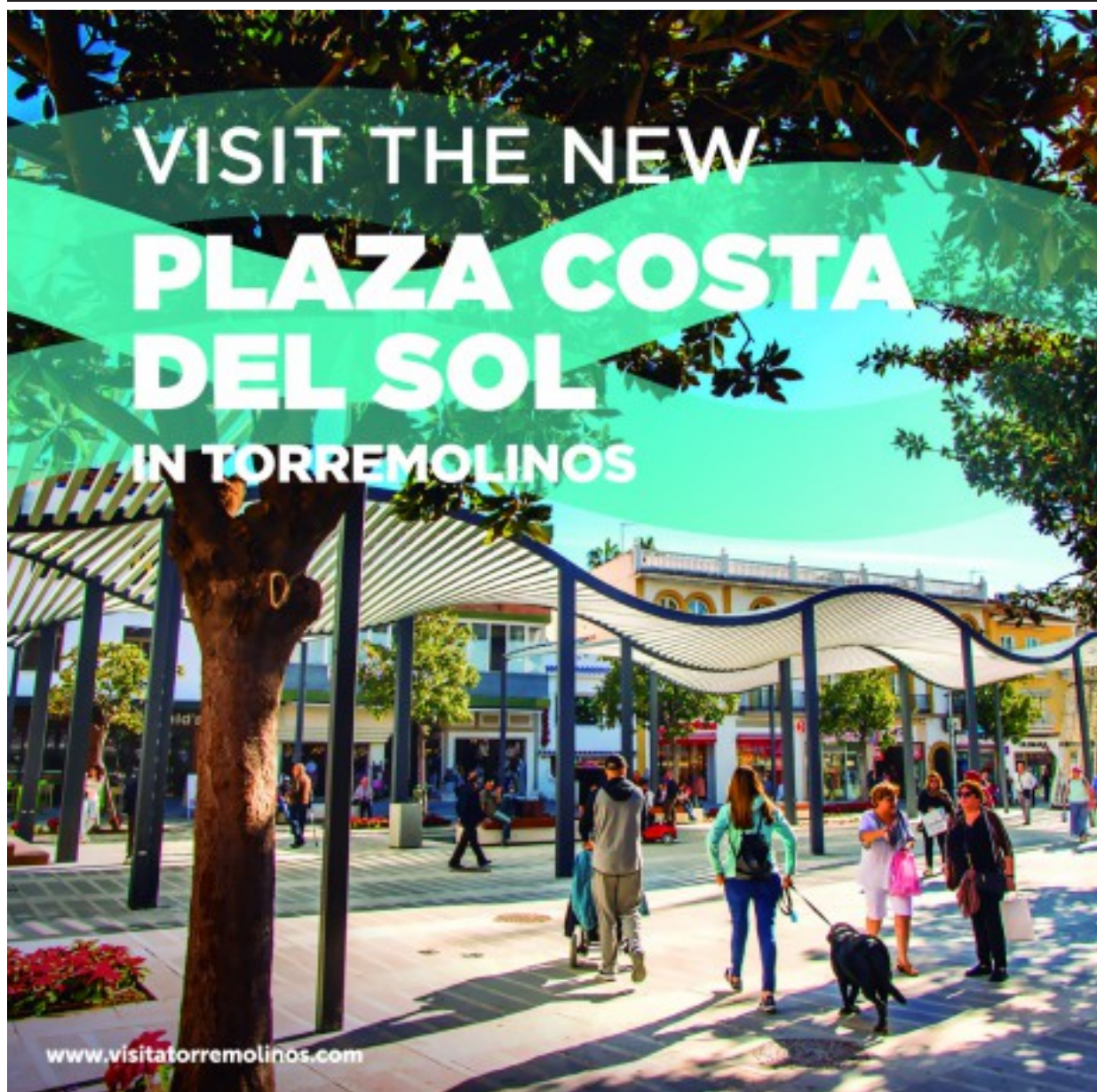
del Sol and the mayor is hoping his town's new image will make it the most contemporary desti-



Artist Elena Laverón helps bury the time capsule. :: SUR
The mayor, José Ortiz, and architect Salvador Moreno Peralta. :: SUR

nation in Andalucía.

Torremolinos ended 2018 with more than five million overnight stays, its best figures for a decade. The town also achieved the first blue flag and the Q of quality for its beaches, all of which the mayor claimed was down to the "hard work of his council".



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Torremolinos
AYUNTAMIENTO

High-profile trial starts of former Catalan leaders who were held after failed independence bid

Defence lawyers are centring their case on an abuse of human rights, while prosecutors want to "uphold the constitution"

■ SUR

MADRID. Television sets across Spain were this week tuned to live coverage of the first days of a historic trial that is set to cast its shadow over the country's political life for several months.

In the dock at the national Supreme Court in Madrid are the 12 former senior Catalan politicians and civic leaders who are accused of various charges ranging from rebellion, citing rebellion and corruption in the Catalan regional government's failed plan to unilaterally declare independence in September and October 2017.

The plan, or 'procés' as it is known, was halted when an illegal independence referendum was disrupted and the national government imposed direct rule under the Spanish constitution. The majority of the 12 have been in jail since then awaiting trial.

As seventeen months ago, there



The twelve accused sit in the dock ahead of the opening session on Tuesday. ■ EFE

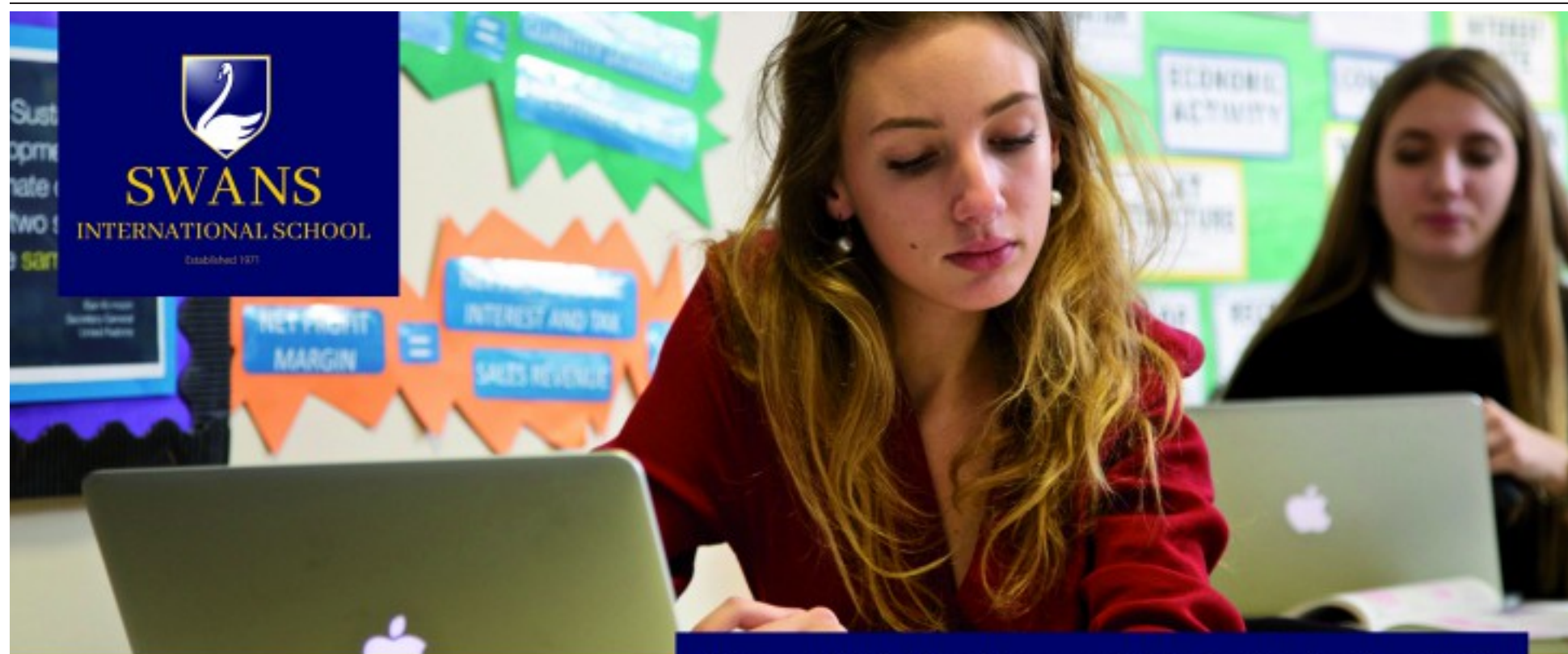
was widespread international media interest in the Catalan independence issue this week. In the public area to watch proceedings at the opening on Tuesday was current regional president and pro-separatist Quim Torra.

Torra called for the trial to be halted and for Catalonia to have its right of self-determination recognised. Divisions on policy within the multiparty Catalan independence movement showed up in some strained body language between some in the court.

Human rights defence

The defence case of the 12's lawyers, as revealed in the court on Tuesday, will focus on an abuse of human rights and the alleged political motives of the Spanish government. The accused are hoping the case will be eventually heard by the European Court of Human Rights.

There was no shortage of opinion from outside the courtroom. Former Catalan leader, Carles Puigdemont, who led the "procés" and is in self-imposed exile in Brussels, commented, "For us, putting out ballot boxes isn't rebellion, neither is it considered to be the Spanish legal system."



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In addition to the government charge, far-right Vox is also making a private prosecution

In contrast, respected veteran former prime minister, Felipe González, supporting the trial, said, “The democratic rules of play must be respected, even if you want to change them.”

On Wednesday, the prosecution laid out the basis of its case, saying that the trial was aimed at supporting “the constitutional order” and denying that they were being accused just for their political ideas. In addition to the government, far-right party Vox is present at the trial in a private prosecution, permitted under Spanish law.

Key players questioned

With Puigdemont out of the country, the questioning of his former number two in Catalonia and leader of the republican ERC party, Oriol Junqueras, was eagerly awaited on Thursday.

In comments in court he said, “We’ve never backed behaviour that isn’t peaceful and civilised,” adding, “No public money was used in the referendum.”

Junqueras was followed by the former regional Interior minister, Joaquim Forn, who was responsible for the regional police that had been criticised. “I ordered the Mossos [the regional police] to comply with all the court orders,” said Forn on Thursday, denying use for political ends.

The historic trial will continue to run throughout a likely general election this spring, influencing voting decisions in Catalonia and across Spain.

CROWDS AT “UNIFIED SPAIN” RALLY UNNERVE SÁNCHEZ

Called for by right-of-centre opposition parties, there was disagreement over how many took part in last Sunday’s rally and turnout was probably not as large as expected. But the impact of the gathering in Madrid to defend “the unity of Spain”, amid fears of concessions to separatists in Catalonia, succeeded in toughening the government’s rhetoric on the region, said commentators. This then helped push separatist parties away from their crucial support for the national budgets of Pedro Sánchez.



Budget defeat at hands of Catalan nationalists signals spring general election

The PM, Pedro Sánchez, is expected to announce a date for the dissolution of the Congreso today (Friday), with 28th April seen as the most likely date for a national vote

:: SUR

MADRID. Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez failed to get enough votes in the Congreso in support of Spain’s delayed 2019 budget yesterday and the country went immediately onto general election standby.

The PM needed the votes of Catalan separatist MPs in the national chamber to get the plan approved. Despite last-minute pleas from Basque nationalists and the more left-wing parties, the Catalans failed to give their support after months



The PM on Wednesday. :: EP

of negotiations. The move means that Sánchez is expected to announce the date of a general election this morning (Friday).

While various dates were being

suggested on Thursday, the most likely was Sunday 28 April. This had the advantage of fitting with the legal timetable for calling elections while avoiding Easter. Also it steers clear of European, municipal and some regional elections on 26 May. While a few called for a super-Sunday vote in May, Sánchez was believed to feel it is in the interests of his Socialist PSOE party to keep the general election separate.

Opinion poll trackers show that Sánchez’s party is still the most popular, but with the political landscape very fragmented. The support of the centre-right and right-of-centre parties (Ciudadanos, Partido Popular and newcomers Vox) appeared to be above 50 per cent in the event of any coalition negotiations.

How well the controversial far-right party Vox may do was set to

be one of the main factors in a lead-up to the likely election.

Fate sealed when PM said ‘no’

Last weekend, Pedro Sánchez had formally broken off behind-the-scenes negotiations with the Catalan separatist parties to ease the political crisis there, saying he would never agree to their demand for self-determination.

It came after news emerged that the government had agreed to use a form of intermediary in any future cross-party talks, provoking a strong backlash from some of his own senior party members after the apparent concession to the independence movement.

Sánchez became PM only eight months ago after a successful no-confidence motion, with the help of the nationalists, against the Partido Popular’s Mariano Rajoy.

After the failure of Pedro Sánchez’s proposed 2019 budget this week, Spain is heading for an early general election. It will be the third such vote in five years, a period that has been marked by political uncertainty and the increasingly toxic issue of Catalonia. But despite its necessity - Sánchez’s government’s minority status in congress has become untenable - this election is another reminder of how the Catalan independence movement is impacting negatively on the rest of Spain.

Sánchez’s draft spending plan was expensive and would have depended on raised income and corporation taxes, but it contained some progressive ideas. Flagship proposals included a 22% hike in the country’s minimum wage and

THE EURO ZONE
MARK NAYLER

NOBODY WINS



an ambitious reform plan called the “Agenda for Change”. This comprised a raft of policies designed to increase the Spanish economy’s productivity and reduce unemployment and public debt. More controversially, the PSOE leader’s blueprint budget also increased the amount of public funds destined for Catalonia throughout this year.

Although that costly olive branch was offered to the north-easterly region, Catalan pro-independence parties still voted against the 2019 budget. They thus deprived the country of a spending plan that made a real attempt to improve the lot of the average Spanish household - something that could not be said of economic policy under former Conservative

prime minister Mariano Rajoy. Catalan secessionists’ refusal to back the budget hasn’t done them any favours, either: they remain as far as ever from realising their dream of a Catalan Republic.

By contrast, Sánchez comes out of all this fairly well. He tried to steer a path between the two extremes of the Catalonia debate - Spanish nationalists (as represented by the Popular Party, Vox and Ciudadanos) on the one hand, and the Catalan pro-independence movement itself on the other. Facing criticism from both sides, he at least attempted to start a dialogue between Barcelona and Madrid, albeit always with “the Constitution in hand”, as he said last summer. Sánchez went as far as he possibly could in offering compromise to the secessionists - which was way

too far for many in his own party as well as for the Spanish right. But because he stopped short of offering Catalonia independence, or at least a legal referendum on self-determination, his efforts have come to nothing.

An early election, if held this spring, would come at a difficult time for Spain’s embattled prime minister. Although Sánchez’s Socialists are still riding high in opinion polls, their recent loss of Andalucía (a region they have controlled for decades) revealed a groundswell of support for the Spanish right - a surge that’s largely fuelled by opposition to Catalan separatists. The latter group also stand to lose out if right wing parties take power after an early election, but it would be a loss entirely of their own making.

LETTERS TO
THE EDITOR

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THERE IS A PRIZE FOR THE BEST
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Open letter to the ambassador

I attended the IV Manilva Brexit Seminar [last week] at which the ambassador for Spain, Simon Manley, gave a speech. Below is an open letter to Mr Manley that contains my statement and the request I made during the Q&As:

Dear Ambassador Manley,

Yesterday, your speech was full of platitudes aimed at easing the concerns of expats living on the coast, however, it left many of us underwhelmed. Frankly, you were unable to make any firm commitments and I'm afraid that "hope" doesn't cut it for those of us suffering the anxiety caused by a referendum that was flawed in structure and that has turned millions of lives upside down and left our businesses with uncertainty. British citizens living in Gibraltar, Spain, UK and Europe were thrown under the big red bus with the lie pasted on the side. While you may assert that the UK government is working hard to protect our rights, the overwhelming feeling we have is that the government doesn't care about us, but rather about holding the warring factions of its own party together. As I stated in thanking the local mayors for attending, they seemed more concerned about our plight than the Tory government.

How can we have faith in a government that doesn't know whether to put on its red, white or blue underpants on in the morning and can't agree on a united Brexit policy?

One panellist, the representative of My Lawyer in Spain, stated that he didn't believe in a second referendum as it would be undemocratic. I beg to differ. As I said to you, the demographic since the referendum was held has changed significantly. Fortunately 1,350 Leave voters per day are doing their bit to help "Make Britain Great Again" by literally shuffling off the mortal coil, and many young voters who have every right to voice an opinion are now of voting age. Given that change, as well as the trillions flooding out of the City and the companies announcing relocation and/or job losses, I would suggest therefore, that it would be undemocratic to not ask "The People" to ratify the way forward.

Expats that had been living outside the UK for more than 15 years were denied a vote, despite being potentially the most affected by the referendum decision. Many expats have been placed into hardship by the drop in sterling as a result of the vote

and their healthcare has been placed in jeopardy. I'm certain that you will agree that it was an injustice that law-abiding British citizens like my then 86-year-old parents who contributed to the UK social security system for 40 years were denied a vote that would so negatively affect their lives. In my father's case, as an expat, he doesn't know whether in the future he will have much needed healthcare in Spain or even in the UK in the future, or whether as a Windrush immigrant he would even be allowed to re-enter the UK! He has therefore become one of Theresa May's "citizens of nowhere".

You also stated that the UK government representatives were working closely with their Spanish counterparts to ensure fluidity at the Gibraltar frontier and that Spain would be unlikely to hinder the flow of Spanish workers across it. However, as somebody who has been in and out of Gibraltar for over 30 years, I know that successive Spanish governments' agendas have concentrated on regaining sovereignty. If in the past they have ignored the needs of those workers in favour of their sovereignty agenda, they will continue to do so. While the current Spanish government may be more sympathetic to the issues, we have no guarantees that a future one will have the same attitude, especially given the rise of the right-wing Vox party in Andalucia. Additionally, few Gibraltarians doubt that the UK government will sell Gibraltar out in order to avoid a veto by Spain on a future trade deal.

Given that the possibility of a People's Vote still exists, and that nothing you said indicated that we would be better off with Theresa May's deal or a no-deal scenario than the current status quo we enjoy as EU citizens, and that as you stated a vote is scheduled in Parliament on March 22nd on whether to give expats who have been living outside the UK for more than 15 years a vote in future referendums, I would request you take back a message to the government you represent that not only should we be given that right, but that it would be undemocratic not to hold a People's Vote as we were ignored the first time around. I hope you do so, given the support demonstrated by those in attendance to my comments and the palpable anger in the room.

RAYMON MOONILALL
GIBRALTAR

Oscar winner

PETER EDGERTON
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

It's such a rare pleasure to deal with professionals in any capacity. Unfortunately, of the scores of working people we've come across over the last three and a half years while running the pub, I'd say that only about ten per cent have managed a top quality job. We're talking about many different nationalities here, so it's a widespread problem. Sadly, it seems that most people are working in a field they're not very good at or not very interested in, or both.

What a joy, then, to meet Óscar the 'malagueño' electrician today. He arrived bright and punctual carrying a box of tools the size of Brazil, homed in on the three niggling problems we've been having, found the most effective solution for each one, charged a very reasonable amount and left with a cheery wave, presumably on his way to spread a

little more professional sunshine around town.

What a difference compared to the two previous visits we'd been paid - one by a chap who brought no tools at all, asked if he could borrow a screwdriver (no, really) and then scarpered muttering something about being poorly parked but, actually I suspect, not knowing how to fix the problem. The other bloke arrived late, gave an exorbitant quote and pinged off sharpish presumably with the sound of my chin hitting the floor still ringing in his ears.

In almost every field I can think of from banks to mobile phone companies, from tradesmen to salespeople, the general level of incompetence is quite astonishing. I bet if I logged the time I'd wasted over a year rectifying what were all perfectly avoidable mistakes it would come to hundreds of hours. That's hun-

dreds of hours that could have been dedicated to something far more productive, like downing a few pints, for example.

The reasons for this sorry state of affairs will almost certainly be varied and complex but careers advisors in schools might want to take a long hard look at themselves. Mine suggested I become an accountant because I was half decent at mental arithmetic. That's like recommending someone become a chef because they can open a tin of oxtail soup. Ironically, I got the distinct impression that that particular careers officer had chosen the wrong career.

Not everyone is fortunate enough to find job satisfaction, of course, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't try. It's good for the economy and spreads not a little sunshine into the bargain - just ask Óscar.

SANSÓN



The world looks on

RACHEL HAYNES

Living in Spain, however integrated we might be, if we come from another country we'll always be outsiders on the inside. That, however, gives us the advantage of looking at current affairs from both vantage points: we know what our friends, neighbours and the media here are thinking and saying, but we can also see how people around the world, and their respective media, are perceiving events.

In recent years Spain has been

scrutinised from abroad quite frequently, from government turmoil to rescue operations, and this week, the ongoing Catalan independence issue has been thrown back into the international arena. The trial of 12 pro-independence leaders jailed after the 2017 referendum that was deemed illegal by the Spanish government, began on Tuesday amid great media expectation.

During the upheavals of autumn 2017 the pro-independence faction showed greater agility in handling

social media and broadcasting their claims of Spanish repression and violation of human rights to the outside world.

Meanwhile the strong feelings of the people of Spain and Catalonia, from across the political spectrum, who want to keep their country united are in danger of being associated with the far-right. In fact the strong, no-nonsense attitude towards Catalonia is among the reasons for the far-right party's recent growth in popularity.

Some of the former political leaders in court this week are answering charges of "rebellion". That alone conjures up images from history books and adds to international interest. Let's hope, whatever the verdict, that the Spanish judicial system comes out of this having earned the respect of the international community.

SUR in English

Published by: PRENSA MALAGUEÑA S. A.
Director General: JOSÉ LUIS ROMERO

Editor in Chief:
MANUEL CASTILLO
Publications Director:

Pedro Luis Gómez
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A charitable outdoor project in the mountains

Dave Axon raises money for a local animal organisation through tours of his garden

JENNIE RHODES

✉ rhodes.jennie@hotmail.com

COMARES. There is no end to the list of creative fundraising initiatives that people come up with to help their favourite charities and Dave Axon's mountain-top sculpture garden in El Romo, north of Comares in the Axarquía, is no exception.

Dave, 69, who is originally from Staffordshire, started his garden around six years ago and then came up with the idea of people visiting it, with a view to inviting visitors to make a donation for the local Axarquía Animal Rescue organisation, which rehomes dogs and cats.

"Last year alone we raised 1,000 euros," he announced, admitting that when the organisation told him how much he'd handed over he was "amazed".

Dave has worked hard to reform an arid, rocky 2,000-square-metre plot of land, set steep on the side of a mountain overlooking Comares,



Dave Axon releasing his Chicken Run zip wire. :: JENNIE RHODES

into an unusual and fun sculpture garden, complete with a giant steel giraffe called Nora, a zip-wire for chickens (not real ones), aptly named Chicken Run and one of the latest developments is Gnomenge; made from wooden railway sleep-

ers and, as the name suggests, resembles England's Stonehenge. However, instead of druids occupying the Neolithic structure twice a year for the summer and winter solstices, Dave's pint-sized occupants are more of a permanent feature.

Dave has the help of British gardeners John and Lynsey, who live nearby. "They are a godsend, particularly with the heavier work. I call them Ground-Force," he said and adds that the garden is a "work in progress".

Visits to the garden are by appointment only and from autumn through until the end of spring. "It's too hot to come up here in summer. It can get up to 50 degrees centigrade in the sun," Dave said.

The keen gardener provides tapas and drinks on the terrace as well as a name-the-statue competition (the Orna-Mental Statue Competition) for those who want to use their brains as they complete the tour.

As well as the garden, Dave also raises money to donate to the AAR through plant sales at Comares's weekly Sunday market, including some of his bonsais, which feature in the garden too.

"I have worked with Axarquía Animal Rescue for years and started off by doing their website," Dave explained. He hoped to bring his own dog with him to Spain, but sadly DK died before the move. "I support AAR in memory of DK, who was a rescue. I can't explain what an amazing dog he was. It would be difficult for me to have another dog now, so that is why I decided to support AAR instead," Dave concluded.

i For further information or to visit Los Perros garden:
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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

15 FEBRUARY 2003

The day that Spain said 'no' to war on Iraq

Throughout the country, and indeed the rest of the world, millions of people marched in protest against the invasion and war on Iraq led by the United States of America

Sixteen years ago it is estimated that around 10 million people took to the streets, all over the world, to protest against the Iraqi war. It was the largest anti-war protest and remains to be the biggest one-day global demonstration the world has ever seen. While figures are not exact, it is estimated that 700 cities worldwide hosted demonstrations against Bush's invasion of Iraq. Some of the biggest protests took place in Europe. In Rome it is estimated that 2.5 million people were involved, with London reaching 1.5 million. In Madrid also around 1.5 million were seen taking to the streets with banners that read 'Not in our name' and 'No blood for oil', in the biggest mass demonstration Spain had seen since the death of Franco. More locally, in Malaga, around 50,000 people (according

to SUR, although other sources quote 150,000) marched through the city protesting against the impending conflict. Throughout 2002, anti-war protests around the world were gathering momentum. The USA, Britain and Spain were all pushing for a second resolution from the United Nations Security Council. This, if approved, would have legitimised the invasion of Iraq. On 5 February 2003, Colin Powell, then the US secretary of state, made his notorious speech outlining the evidence that the then Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein, had weapons of mass destruction. Powell's evidence would later turn out to be entirely false. This speech sparked outrage among anti-war protesters, leading to the world demonstration of 15 February. At the time of the protest citi-



The protest that took place in Malaga on 15 February 2003. :: SUR

zens were of the opinion that a demonstration of this size could stop the invasion of Iraq. Years on, it became obvious that this would have been highly unlikely, but the

impact the protests had cannot be underestimated. Being the largest anti-war protest ever recorded, the 2003 demonstrations showed the overwhelm-

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Protesta	Protest
Millones	Millions
Guerra	War
Invasión	Invasion
Pancarta	Banner
Armas	Weapons
Discurso	Speech
Pruebas	Evidence
Impacto	Impact
Fuerza	Strength
Solidaridad	Solidarity
Manifestación	Demonstration
Generación	Generation
Paz	Peace
Petróleo	Oil
Sangre	Blood
Mayor	Largest
Furia	Outrage

ing sense of unity throughout the world. Despite the fact that George Bush barely addressed them, the protests showed a huge amount of strength. Some journalists at the time even described them as "defining a generation". Perhaps the most significant quote came from Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu, who spoke at the New York protest, addressing Bush personally. "Listen to the voice of the people saying, 'Give peace a chance'."

Bilingual crossword inside back page

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Getting the most out of youth

Youngsters on the Costa del Sol learn values and skills with the Fuengirola Scouts

by RACHEL HAYNES

MALAGA. Have you seen them? They've been spotted in the streets of Fuengirola, Benalmádena or Malaga, on mountain paths in Mijas, the Sierra de las Nieves or Granada, at the checkouts at Iceland, or cook-

ing burgers on the beach near the So-hail castle. They move around in groups and they can be heard speaking English or a mixture of English and Spanish. Their ages range from six to at least 18 but they all have two things in common: a smile on their

faces and a red and yellow scarf around their necks. Who are they? The 1st Fuengirola Scout group.

You'll usually find them on Thursday and Friday evenings at St Anthony's College, Mijas, their regular meeting place since the end of 2017,

after moving from the Ark in Las Rampas, Fuengirola.

It was there at the end of last month that youngsters from all four sections and their parents got together for a review of their activities of 2018. Hikes, camps, expeditions, fundraisers... there was a long list of activities; but you only have to look at the sleeves of the youngsters to see that these special events are only a small part of a Scout's regular adventures.

Badges, carefully sewn in place illustrate their achievements, which yes, do include the classics such as lighting fires and tying knots, but

also endless weekly activities which, as one of the Scout Association's taglines says, provide "skills for life", from sports and photography to crafts and cooking.

In fact it would be hard to find a more complete after-school activity... and Scouts comes with a set of values and a sense of belonging to one large family.

This particular Costa del Sol family is held together by a team of dedicated leaders who, as they all had a chance to stress in front of parents at the meeting, devote much of their time every week to the youngsters, planning the weekly meetings, not to mention organising weekend camps, hikes and trips.

The end result makes all their hard work worthwhile, they say, in the hope that their enthusiasm is contagious: the group currently has room for new leaders and helpers.

The 1st Fuengirola Scout group was formed 22 years ago and offers the British Scout Association programme to boys and girls of all ages, from Beavers (six to eight year olds), Cubs (eight to ten and a half), Scouts (ten and a half to 14) and Explorers (14 to 18). The group, which also shares activities from time to time with the Spanish Scouts in Malaga, currently has six members in the Beavers section and 28 Cubs, who meet on Thursday evenings. The 16 Scouts and six Explorers, get together on Fridays, as well as numerous weekends throughout the year.

Watching over them all is Group Scout Leader Robert Troost who ran through some of the highlights of the last year, including the annual fundraising bag-packing session at Iceland and the chance to host a Scout on an exchange visit from Italy.

So next time you spot those red and yellow scarves around town, give them a wave - they're bound to be doing something fun.

Venturing out as part of a worldwide network

The 1st Fuengirola Scout group follows the UK Scout Association programme as part of the British Scouting Overseas (BSO) area. This includes groups in 25 countries around the world, divided into four districts. The Costa del Sol Scouts belong to the France and Iberia District along with groups from Paris, Toulouse, Madrid, Alicante and Tenerife. As BSO members, the Fuengirola Scouts have had the chance to join up with young people from around the world to form a contingent at major international jamborees such as Poacher and Chamboree in the UK. This year youngsters from Fuengirola will be travelling to an international camp near Amsterdam while other BSO members head further afield to the World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia, USA.

More information : Contact Robert Troost on 610755995 or email robert.troost@britishscoutingoverseas.org.uk



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Discovering nature on a recent camp. :: SUR

PET CARE

PETER
HARRISON



Accidents and animals

What a relief it was to read some good news. Grim news seems to predominate from any source. SUR in English reported recently: "Road deaths on the Costa are the lowest since records began." Stiffer penalties, better awareness and improved technology are credited. Whatever the reason, it happened so let us keep it that way. It depends on us, the motorists.

Leaving the house on the El Chorro to Abdalajis road I spotted within a minute a sad scene. A young black and white cat lay dead on the roadside, obviously the result of a passing vehicle. It started me wondering how many accidents involve animals and the Ministry of the Interior had the answer even if the figures are from 2011.

Figures cover wild boar, deer, horses and dogs. The presence of animals on the road caused 1,700 accidents, causing 650 human casualties, 10 people killed and 84 seriously injured.

The figures for Andalucía alone are worthy of close scrutiny: 903 dogs, 101 horses, 100 wild boar.

As motorists we cannot control wild animals wandering on the road but we can control our speed and awareness when driving through the countryside. Wild animals are easily startled and their

instinct is to run, not always away from the noise.

Horses should only be ridden on the road by very experienced riders. Motorists should give the horse plenty of clearance and keep speed down. It is important to wear a hard hat. A friend of mine had a daughter who was a competent rider but used to sometimes remove her helmet. On one occasion she was hatless and crossed a secondary road when a lorry backfired. The horse reared. Angela fell on the hard surface, fractured her skull and died, aged 13, days later.

Dogs should never be allowed on a road without a responsible adult owner and it is an extremely important to have your garden or yard securely fenced. If you have a gate make sure it has a self closing device.

It requires ALL of us to play a part in keeping road deaths down permanently. When I was nineteen a dog ran from a ditch into my father's car which I was driving and was killed instantly. It had a huge impact on me. I can even remember the date: 25 April. I hope it does not happen to you. Bear in mind that if your dog causes injury to property, including vehicle, or persons, you are legally responsible.

LEGAL ADVICE



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REF. O. Y. A.

Last week I left my car parked on the street. When I got back, someone had forced the lock, and stolen all the coins, and a charger for my mobile phone. But even worse, they also took the vehicle's papers. I filed a complaint (denuncia) at the police station, and asked how I could resolve the issue of the car's documentation, but the

police could not tell me how I could fix this. If I am stopped while driving the car, is the denuncia enough to prove that my papers have been stolen?

In principle, it is a good idea to take the denuncia everywhere in the car with you, but it is not the definitive solution to the problem. A duplicate of the traffic permit must be requested from the Traffic Department by filling in an application form. As for the technical inspection card (ITV), a duplicate can also be requested. Depending on the age of the car, it can be ordered directly at the ITV station, or if it is already a certain age, a report will have to be requested from the Ministry of Industry and then taken to the ITV station to request the duplicate. This will definitively solve the problem.

REF. L. E. P.

I intend to separate from my husband, with whom I have two children, as a result of

the psychological abuse to which I have been subjected for years. I had a good job, which I left when I got married and had my first child. Since then, I have devoted myself exclusively to my family. My husband has threatened not to give me any kind of payment if I decide to leave him. Could I get any help if I finally decide to separate?

Apart from the various benefits that you may receive if you can prove that you are a victim of abuse, you can apply for the two payments provided for in the legislation: the compensatory payment, which is an amount to which you are entitled as a result of the decrease of purchasing power; and the alimony, which is the amount that your husband should pay in order to contribute to the children's nutritional and educational expenses.

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GARDENING

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Michelia is a member of the Magnoliaceae family which includes subtropical bushes and small trees. It is one of the oldest plant families on the planet and has been around for about 95 million years.

There over 40 species of Michelia; the majority are found in Pakistan, China, India, Malaysia and the

Philippines. M. champaca is one of the more popular species and is commonly called champaka, yellow champaka, golden champak and fragrant champaka. It is highly revered by Buddhists and Hindus and used extensively during religious ceremonies and

the Tibetans believe that the next Buddha will find enlightenment while resting under the canopy of a champaka tree.

The leaves of the champaka tree are similar to those of a mango, and the star-shaped, scented flowers appear in spring. The blooms can be creamy white or, more commonly, a golden yellow. After flowering it will form small fruits. Although Michelia can be grown from seed it will take several years to flower. After a particularly prolific flowering period Michelia may not bloom again for several years. Feeding it during the spring will help it to build energy to bloom again year after year.

Michelia is also grown commercially for its timber which is used for cabinet making. The perfumed blooms are used for making perfumes and are an ingredient in the famous Joy perfume, one of the most expensive scents in the world. An extract from the bark is used medicinally to make a tonic and the essential oil from the flowers is used to treat coughs and respiratory disorders, gout and rheumatism.

Michelia champaka is not frost hardy and will need protection in cold winters. It can be successfully grown in a large pot which can then be moved undercover or to a sheltered position during winter. It also needs plenty of light but not direct sunlight which may scorch the leaves and blooms. A situation which receives dappled shade on summer afternoons is ideal.

Like all members of the Magnoliaceae family, Michelia prefers an acid, well drained soil. It will need regular watering until it is fully established and then occasional watering.



A white M. champaka and the more usual yellow form (inset). :: WICKIM

READER'S PHOTO



:: DENISE MCDUGALL

A BOX FULL OF SUNSHINE

It's easy to believe spring is already here with sights like this one, a window box teeming with dwarf narcissi. The photo was sent in by reader Denise McDougall who says it's a 'box of sunshine' that brightens her day.

GARDENING IN FEBRUARY

Do your bit, plant a tree

Trees are the longest living species of plant on the planet and are vital for our wellbeing. Not only do they give us oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide, they also provide a habitat and food for many creatures, trap dirt and pollutants in the air, give shade, cool the air as they lose moisture, reduce wind damage, reduce noise, prevent flooding, prevent soil erosion, provide timber and medicines... The list goes on and on. There are more trees now than there were three decades ago due to the enthusiasm to go 'green' but humans continue to deforest and burn huge tracts of land.

Incidentally, while olive trees on their own are very good for the environment, the huge plantations are not. The continuous tilling of the soil around the trees contributes to soil erosion and the one million hectares of olive plantation in Andalucía is said to lose an estimated 80 million tonnes of soil a year.

What's more, rain erodes the loose soil and washes off fertilisers and pesticides which can contaminate water aquifers. So do your bit for the environment and plant a broad-leaf tree (conifers don't have quite so many benefits); this is the best time of year to do it.

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 Málaga, 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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Companies and associations help to give a 'special kind of caring'

Cudeca has received cheques from Helle Hollis, Buenavista Bridge Club and the Police Woman's Association

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. The Cudeca Cancer Hospice in Arroyo de la Miel relies on fundraising and charitable donations in order to continue offering professional medical care to patients suffering from cancer and other advanced incurable illnesses.

The Helle Hollis car rental company make an annual donation to the charity and, on 5 February, the company's Marketing Manager, Christine Fleischer, presented a cheque for 800 euros to Ángel Krebbers of Cudeca.

Other donations came in from the Buenavista Bridge Club, who presented a cheque for 900 euros, and the CAP Singers, represented by Yvonne and Douglas Nicholson, who raised 1,800 euros for the hospice.

The Policewomen's Association, Mupolia, was among the first to make a donation this year, presenting a cheque for 230 euros to Cudeca in January.



Ángel Krebbers receives the cheque from Helle Hollis. :: SUR



CAP singers with Susan Hannam, vice-president of Cudeca. :: SUR



Joan Hunt cuts her birthday cake with Marisa Martín. :: SUR

Cudeca founder Joan Hunt celebrates her 90th birthday

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

BENALMÁDENA. Cudeca Hospice played host to an important event last month when founder and honorary president Joan Hunt celebrated her 90th birthday.

The party was attended by Cudeca staff, volunteers and close friends, who performed a surprise dance routine for the founder.

Joan lost her husband Fred to cancer when she was 65 and she decided then that although she

could not speak the language, knew few people in Malaga and had no resources, that she would start a project to provide a hospice to give palliative care to cancer sufferers and support to their families.

Twenty-five years on and she has achieved her goal, picking up numerous awards along the way including an OBE. The Cudeca centre now helps over 1,500 people a year through the final stage of their lives.

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Members of CLC World and the Mijas Caravan Por La Paz project. :: SUR

CLC World helps local aid association

A collection of food will be distributed among the Saharan people in refugee camps and towns

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

MIJAS. Employees of CLC World Resorts & Hotels have collected 300 kilogrammes of food for the Asociación Mijena de Amistad's project Caravana Por La Paz. The food, which includes rice, sugar and oil, will be distributed to associations which give

aid to the Saharan people of whom around 180,000 live in refugee camps. They also give food to the nomad tribes and people who live in towns.

Classic cars

The CLC World Safari Restaurant in Mijas was the venue for the monthly Classic Car Club of Andalucía lunch on 9 February.

More than 30 cars participated including Jaguar F-Types, a Corvette C4, MGB Roadster and Chevrolet Camaro Coupe.

La Cala Mijas Lions help school to purchase laptops for the Erasmus Space Project

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

MIJAS. The La Cala Mijas Lions Club president, Maggie Bobowicz, presented a cheque for 3,040 euros to the director of the I.E.S La Cala de Mijas School recently. The director, Sergio Sánchez Cebrián, plans to use the money to purchase 10 laptops for the students. The school has over 400 students and the laptops are essential in the Erasmus Space Project they were fortunate to be selected for.



The cheque presentation. :: SUR

"The risk of a heart attack increases in the weeks after suffering from flu"

Raúl Ortiz de Lejarazu Director of the National Influenza Centre



ÁNGEL ESCALERA
✉ ascalera@diariosur.es

This expert in microbiology and immunology was in Malaga recently for a conference called 'Science and Health'

MALAGA. Is flu a serious illness? The doctor best equipped to answer that question is Raúl Ortiz de Lejarazu, the director of the National Influenza Centre, who was in Malaga last week to speak about the illness at an event organised by Fundación Unicaja and SUR. Ortiz de Lejarazu is the head of Microbiology and Immunology at the Clínico Hospital in Valladolid.

-Is flu as serious as some people say, or not really?
-Flu is a great unknown in terms of people's knowledge. That is as cer-

tain as the fact that every year many people die from flu, and many of them shouldn't have.

-Can you say how many deaths from flu there are in Spain each year, approximately?
-The figure depends greatly on the severity of the epidemics. There can be more than 300 deaths confirmed as being caused by flu every year. Those deaths include people of all ages. There are people over 65, over 75, but also younger people and even children.

-Would vaccination have been the most effective way to prevent those deaths?
-Of course. Vaccination is the most effective tool we have to prevent the most serious aspect of flu. The vaccine is not made just to protect from the illness; it helps to avoid hospitalisation, so people don't end up in the Intensive Care Unit and, in the worst cases, dead. Some people die without being admitted to hospital, because sometimes flu is not always identified as such because the symptoms are not always the same.

-In percentage terms, how effective is the flu vaccine?



Dr Ortiz de Lejarazu. :: SUR

-Very few vaccines are 100 per cent effective. A reasonable level for flu is about 50 to 60 per cent. There have been years when it was less effective. What I want people to understand is that there are a great

many cases of flu every year and thanks to vaccination we prevent the number being even higher.

-If someone does get flu, is it less serious if they have been vaccinated?
-Generally, yes. What the vaccine does is protect against serious flu.

-What about the after-effects of flu?
-People don't think about the after-effects but we know, for example, that the risk of a myocardial infarction, or heart attack, increases in the weeks after suffering from flu. Also, there are elderly people who are independent and healthy, but after a bout of flu and a stay in hospital, when they go home they are no longer as independent and able as they were before.

-Why is there an increased risk of a heart attack after having flu?
-That isn't very clear. It is probable that the storm of proinflammatory cytokines (proteins) which occurs in flu sets off immunopathological mechanisms which end up causing stenosis (narrowing) in the small arteries due to physiopathological factors which are difficult to explain in a newspaper. There has been some

tremendously important research published in scientific magazines which demonstrate this. Not just with flu, either, but also with other respiratory viruses.

-So I feel I have to ask you again: is flu that serious an illness?
-Well, I don't want to explain that now, because I'd prefer it to be a surprise at the conference. There is an answer, but I'm not going to give it to you because otherwise it would reveal what I'm going to say during my talk.

-People always talk about those in risk groups, but does flu affect everybody in the same way?
-Flu doesn't distinguish between people. If it has to be defined in some way, I would say that flu is an illness which tends to make children and young people ill and has very much more serious consequences in older people and those with chronic illnesses. Let's say that children and young adults become ill but fewer die, while elderly people and those of any age with a chronic condition, the obese and pregnant women, tend to be more at risk of a serious flu.

-Is it the same to suffer from 'A' type flu as 'B' virus flu?
-They are both as serious as each other. When type A appeared in 2009 it was called that to alarm the population as little as possible. I think they should have called it swine flu. Of all the patients a GP sees throughout his career, 75 per cent will have type A flu and 25 per cent type B. From a clinical point of view, neither is more serious than the other.



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Complications after cancer left Luis Landa "deaf and lame" but didn't stop him becoming a drummer

INÉS GALLASTEGUI

My name is Luis Landa and I'm a percussionist. As well as that, I'm also lame and deaf." That's how this musician from Granada introduces himself in the video to launch his project 'Querer Es Poder' (meaning 'where there's a will, there's a way'), whose logo is an upraised fist holding some drumsticks.

Luis knows what he is talking about: when he was 13 he was diagnosed with a cancerous tumour in his left leg and, although they managed to remove it, he caught a persistent infection in hospital which made his life impossible for four years.

"By the tenth operation I wanted them to cut my leg off, but the doctor told me I was crazy. I had to wait for the 15th. The amputation was a liberation," says Luis, who lost 75 per cent of his hearing in both ears through side effects of all the medication.

The young boy said goodbye to handball, his passion, and learned everything he could about the drums, the toms and the cymbals. Luis loves an instrument he can barely hear, and



Luis has played rock, jazz, covers, Cuban music, funk and big bands, and also accompanied choirs and worked with autistic children.

INÉS G.

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he has to use a home-made prosthesis in order to reach the hi-hat pedal. That's why he wants to tell the whole world what he has learned: that the whole world has barriers, and to fulfil your dreams, you only have to overcome them.

"Life has given me a second chance and for me, making the most of the gift of life is doing what makes me happy," explains this dedicated musician, who now gives motivational talks in schools, socio-cultural centres, associations and companies. He talks about his life between anecdotes and jokes - "the last thing I want to do is depress anybody" - and ends by playing jazz with his colleagues, percussionist and composer Carlos Cortés and guitarist and bass player Pablo Guzmán.

This Andalusian with a Basque surname - his grandfather fled from San Sebastián during the Civil War and ended up in Granada - was born 36 years ago into a "beautiful" family who have always supported him. The discomfort he experienced in one leg during a handball match turned out to be an osteosarcoma, a bone cancer, and he was admitted to the Virgen del Rocío hospital in Seville where a doctor, sitting at the end of his bed, told him: "You're going to have to be strong."

Neither the doctor nor the patient imagined how strong. He lost 30 kilos during the chemotherapy and in the operation to remove the tumour. Later the head of the tibia had to be transplanted and a prosthesis inserted during a nine-hour operation. He then suffered an infection caused by anaerobic germs which settled between the bone and the metal, and it was so resistant to antibiotics that it could only be overcome - after 14 previous operations - by amputating the leg above the knee.

During the long months in hospital, and despite all he had been through, that cheerful boy passed the time telling jokes to the nurses, listening to CDs and playing the guitar. "Music therapy works," he insists. A volunteer used to go to the hospital to play music with him. In the end, all the volunteers would end up in his room and there was a party atmosphere. "They were fantastic afternoons," he recalls now.

When he was 15 he studied elementary guitar at the music conservatory, but when he formed a group with some friends, he realised that he had fallen in love with drums. One of his first teachers was Erik Jiménez of Los Planetas, and afterwards he learned from the best drummers at seminars all over Spain. He now gives classes in music and percussion in Malaga, hopes to complete his jazz training at the senior conservatory and plays at festivals all over Europe with his group, Potato Head Jazz Band.

"For me, disability means something like racism, where you lack the ability to understand people with a different culture and skin colour," he says. "Having only one leg or less hearing doesn't mean you are incapable of anything; you just need to find a different way of doing what you want to do."

"A shark ate my leg"

Luis has lived that way for half of his life. His first orthopaedic leg, after 30 concerts, caused an "enormous" wound to the stump. After trying different things and working with "orthopaedists, instrument manufacturers and blacksmiths", he made one from an old crutch which enables him to reach the pedal. The same with his hearing. "I have learned to listen with my eyes and my touch, but I still find myself in difficult situations and I am continuing to learn so I can improve," he says.

In 2010, in the town of Maracena in Granada province, he organised the 'Por La Patilla' festival to raise funds to buy a 'superleg'. Social Security would only pay up to 6,000 euros, and the leg cost 40,000. "Happiness is contagious. Musicians with whom he had collaborated came, as well as many others. It's impossible not to be his friend," says critic Juan Jesús García, who praises his musical talent. "Jazz

"I tell people a shark ate my leg, or I lost it in the Iraq war, climbing Everest or through a parasite in Africa!"



Luis as a teenager, in hospital. :: R. C.

drumming requires a higher standard than rock".

Sometimes Luis uses a prosthesis or crutches, at other times nothing, moving agilely down the street or on stage with just one leg. He doesn't mind people staring, but if anyone asks what happened to him he lets his imagination run riot: "I say a shark ate it when I was surfing in Hawaii, or I lost it in the Iraq war, climbing Everest, or through a parasite in Africa. I've just thought of a new one: in a shoot-out with the Chinese mafia!" he says.

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Local association joins campaign to promote suicide awareness

Afesol Salud Mental, based on the Costa del Sol, has joined forces with Darkness into Light

■ SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. Representatives on the Costa del Sol of Darkness into Light, the global campaign to promote awareness of suicide and self harm prevention, have announced a charity partnership with a local mental health association.

Afesol Salud Mental is a Costa organisation that looks after all as-

pects of mental health, providing support to relatives, aiding social integration and raising awareness, among other work.

Darkness into Light campaigner Michael O'Halloran explained, "Afesol has committed to promoting awareness of suicide and self harm prevention among the local population and set aside some of the money we donate to them to provide therapy for people in distress from suicidal ideation or self harming."

Their long-term goal, he said, would be to provide walk-in centres for those people in distress to be led

by Afesol.

Darkness into Light raises funds and campaigns mainly through an annual charity walk that started 11 years ago in Dublin, Ireland, in aid of Pieta House, a suicide and self-harm prevention non-profit organisation.

May 11th will see the group's fourth annual walk on the Costa del Sol: a five-kilometre route at dawn along the seafront in Estepona.

📍 To register for the walk:
Visit Darknessintolight.ie



Campaigners from the Costa Blanca and the Costa del Sol with Afesol representatives. ■ SUR

Around 25 per cent of children diagnosed with autism don't have it

"A diagnosis should be a compass that guides, never a label that judges and limits," warns clinical psychologist Susana Ortigosa

■ ÁNGEL ESCALERA

MALAGA. Ten years ago, the incidence of autism was one case for every 1,000 births, and now it is one for every 67. However, the cases of severe autism have not increased - so what has been happening?

The response from experts, based on facts, is that nowadays there is over-diagnosis, especially of the autistic spectrum.

Their conclusion is that one in every four children diagnosed (25%) don't really have this disorder, explained Susana Ortigosa, clinical psychologist in the mental health unit at the Clínico hospital, where a forum was organised recently to discuss autism.

In her address, Susana said that "a diagnosis should be a compass that guides and never a label that judges and limits".

She explained that patients are coming to consultations after having already been diagnosed as being autistic, "a diagnosis which doesn't take into account the child's history, links and the characteristics of the times we live in, forgetting that a child is a subject under construction with

a history and an open future".

About 140 professionals from Andalucía, working in the fields of health, social services and education, took part in the conference. It was organised by the clinical management unit of the mental health department at the hospital, which is run by Javier Romero.

Susana Ortigosa said that children with difficulties with language and problems relating to other children are being classified as having an autistic spectrum disorder which they don't actually have.


These children, with suitable help, overcome this isolation and become "normalised".

Electronics and language

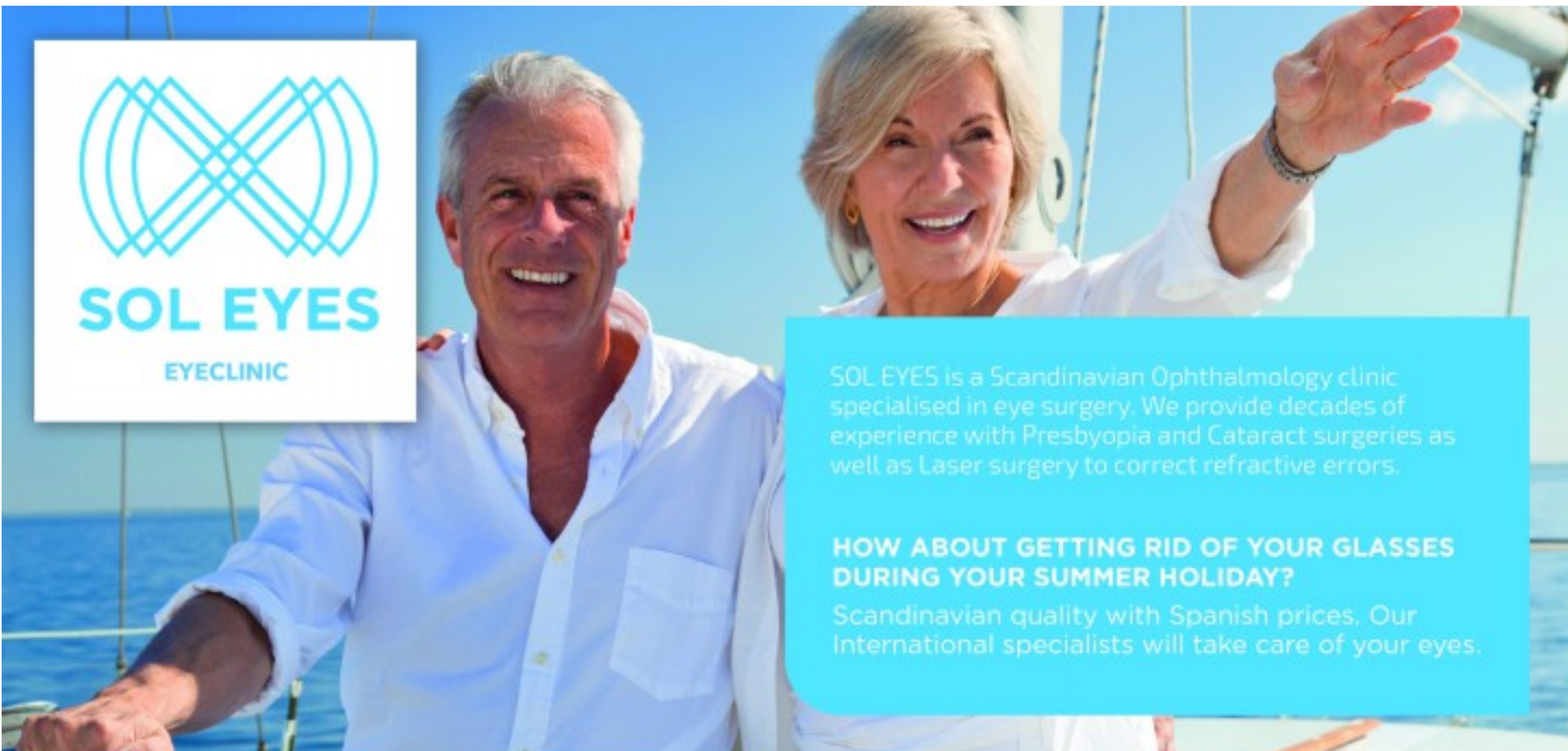
"The autistic spectrum is increasingly encompassing more things, and that facilitates an erroneous diagnosis," she explained. She also said that children spend a great deal of time playing with electronic devices, something which makes it more difficult for them to learn language correctly and that holds them back.

She stressed that once a child is classified as autistic, even though he or she isn't, it is very difficult for that label to be removed.

Another speaker at the forum was Beatriz Janin, clinical psychologist and a lecturer at different universities and institutions in Argentina and Spain.



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Gib mental health support group gets largest single donation ever

Local entrepreneur Jimmy Attias has presented Clubhouse Gibraltar with £30,000 towards move to new premises

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. Gibraltar's mental health support charity, Clubhouse Gibraltar, has an extra boost to funding for its move to new premises later this year thanks to a donation from local entrepreneur Jimmy Attias. The cheque for £30,000 is the largest single donation by a private individual or entity the organisation has ever received.

Clubhouse Gibraltar CEO Emily Adamberry Olivero said: "We are thrilled to have been chosen by Mr Attias to benefit from his commitment and generosity to support people who are affected by mental



Attias with Clubhouse Gibraltar representatives. :: SUR

health problems. His donation will go a long way towards providing the type of environment that can help

individuals recover from severe mental illness and lead personally satisfying lives."

Specialists offer free hearing clinic next week

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. Specialists will be joining forces over the coming days for the first Costa del Sol Hearing Week, an invitation for those with hearing difficulties to discuss their concerns and seek advice.

In what is hoped to become an annual campaign, the Hearing Week will take place at the Elviria Medical Centre in Marbella between 18 and 22 February. The event is the brainchild of two long-standing Costa professionals: Alfonso Sánchez of Sontec Hearing; and Dr Manolo Galache, GP and owner of the Elviria Medical Centre.

While Sontec has several of its own centres along the coast, Sánchez is "upping sticks" for one whole week for the mobile hearing clinic at the Elviria centre. There, experts will be offering a full hearing consultation free of charge.

Dr Galache, hosting the clinic, will also provide support for any medical questions that arise as a result of the hearing consultation.

The clinic is aimed at people aware that they could have a hearing problem but have not yet sought advice and information.

"So often we understand that the acceptance of hearing loss can be difficult for any individual," said Sánchez, adding that the point when this becomes a problem and people seek professional help and advice can vary. "Please don't continue to suffer in silence!" he said.

The Elviria Medical Centre can be found in the Elviria Business Centre on Avenida de Las Cumbres, Marbella.

Appointments for the hearing clinic can be made by calling 952850552 or by sending a private message via the Elviria Medical Centre Facebook page.



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DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA



Gastroandalucía takes place in Vera from 22 to 24 February. :: SUR

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Gastroandalucía: 6 hours.

Visits to monuments and museums: 5 hours and 30 minutes.



Food tastings, cookery demonstrations and folklore will be just some of the ingredients of Gastroandalucía, an event which is taking place for the third consecutive year in the town of Vera, in Almería province, from 22 to 24 February.

This year, however, this town on the Mediterranean is joining forces with Almería city, which has been awarded the title of Spanish Capital of Gastronomy 2019, for the organisation of the event, which

promises to be bigger and even better than before.

Gastroandalucía is becoming extremely popular and it is an excellent way for visitors to discover for themselves the rich culinary heritage of the coastal area of Almería province, known as the 'Levante'.

An extensive programme of events is being drawn up for Gastroandalucía this year. As well as the chance to sample popular dishes and different products from the region, there will be what are known in Spanish as

'showcooking', when well-known chefs from different parts of Andalucía give live cookery demonstrations using the wonderful seafood, meats and vegetables for which the region is famous.

Most of the Gastroandalucía events will be taking place at El Palmeral fairground, where food producers and restaurants from Vera and elsewhere on the eastern coast will also have stands.

In addition, for the second year running, there will be the 'Ciudad de Vera' series of conferences in the days before the event, with a focus on bringing gastronomy closer to all social sectors. Representatives of some of the town's most prestigious restaurants will be among those taking part.

In addition to all this, of course, there is the folklore, an aspect which has been an essential part of Gastroandalucía since it began. Throughout the event the fairground will also be the setting for performances of folk music and dance by local groups.

Vera is one of the towns in eastern Andalucía with the greatest gastronomic legacy. Here, visitors will find dishes and products with a long history behind them. Look out for 'gurulllos' - a type of traditional pasta - with rabbit, 'guiso de pelotas', which is a meatball stew, 'olla de trigo', 'tortas de avío' and the 'Padres Mínimos tarta borracha', among others.

Vera is also famous for the quality of its restaurants, and is the perfect place to try some of the famous tapas of Almería province at any time of year.

The town also has some very interesting monuments and buildings, so it is lovely to stroll through its streets and soak up the Mediterranean atmosphere, or take a walk in the nearby countryside.



Plaza Mayor in Vera. :: SUR



QUICK GUIDE

What to see in Vera

Espíritu Santo viewing point and chapel. This was once the old town of Bayra, and there is an information centre on the site.

Paraje del Espíritu Santo, s/n - access from the N-340, opposite the Blas Infante sports centre. 04620 Vera.

Church of Nuestra Señora de la Encarnación.

The main church, which at one time was also used as a fortress.

Plaza Mayor, s/n. 04620 Vera.

Convento de Nuestra Señora de la Victoria.

This 17th-century building is also known as the convent of Los Padres Mínimos or San Francisco de Paula.

Calle Juan Anglada, s/n. 04620 Vera.

La Glorieta.

A recreation area beside the San Ramón chapel.

Calle San Ramón, s/n. 04620 Vera.

Town hall. Considered the most important civil building in Vera.

Plaza Mayor, s/n. 04620 Vera.



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EXHIBITIONS**Azahares**

Estepona. Until 2 March. *Casa de las Tejerinas, Plaza las Flores.*
An exhibition of contemporary art work.

Olga Picasso

Malaga. From 26 February until 2 June. *Museo Picasso Malaga.*
Olga Khokhlova was Picasso's first wife. This exhibition is based on their relationship and how it and the time of political and social change affected his art.

Antoine Dureau

Malaga. Until 18 February, *Anti-Noo Fine Art, Callejones del Perchel 2.*
French artist Antoine Dureau is holding his first exhibition *Alien* which consists of a series of collages.

Alessandro Lando

Malaga. Until 25 February. *Sala Manuel Barbadillo.*
The exhibition consists of works by hyper-realism artist Alessandro Lando. It is entitled 'Nature, Morte y Un Gato' (Nature, death and a cat)

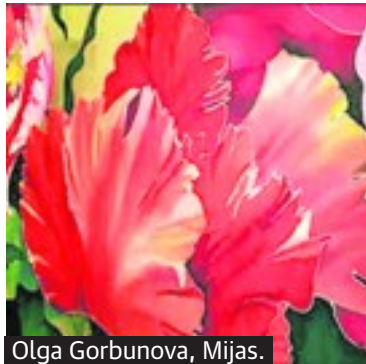
Malaga Cathedral

Malaga. Until 28 February, 10am - 6pm.
'Unfinished Symphony' is the title of the exhibition at Malaga Cathedral. It demonstrates the development process of the cathedral which has been in construction

through several periods of history from the Renaissance, from 1527 to 1588; and the Baroque, from 1721 until 1782. This architectural treasure is yet to be completed.

José Villanueva

Malaga. Until 12 March. *Alfajar gallery, C/Cister.*
An exhibition entitled 'Obra en papel / Paperworks' by José Villanueva.



Olga Gorbunova, Mijas.

A trip to New Guinea

Malaga. Until 2 March. *The Rectorada of the Universidad de Málaga.*
Artist Ángela Calero is exhibiting a collection of souvenirs, photos and works he amassed during his 15 years in Papua New Guinea. The majority of souvenirs are pieces of jewellery.

La Furia del Color

Malaga. Until 3 March. *Carmen Thyssen Museum.*
The museum is exhibiting a selec-

tion of works by Francisco Iturrino commissioned by Lourdes Moreno.

José María Báez

Malaga. Until 10 March. *Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.*
Around 150 works by artist José María Báez (Jerez de la Frontera, Cádiz, 1949), are on display.

Juan Leiva

Mijas. Until 18 February. *Casa Museo de Mijas*
An exhibition of macrame and leatherwork by Juan Leiva.
www.cueroymacrame.com

Olga Gorbunova

Mijas. Until 14 March. *Centro Cultural La Cala de Mijas.*
'Entre Pétalos de Seda' is the title of this colourful exhibition of art by Russian artist Olga Gorbunova.

Juan Antonio Pérez

Mijas. Until 25 February. *Casa de la Cultura. Las Lagunas.*
An exhibition of works by Juan Antonio Pérez entitled *Re_Plegado*.

Mariemma Yagüe

Torremolinos. Until 17 February. *Casa de los Navajas.*
The exhibitio 'Our Voice', reflects the discrimination against women in workplace and in wider society. The artist will be displaying twelve, colourful acrylics depicting the plight of women in Africa, Latin America and India.

Photo exhibition

Torremolinos. Until 27 February.

Centro Cultural Pablo Ruiz Picasso.

The exhibition 'Vecinos de Torremolinos' is a collection of photographs owned by José Díaz Jiménez. The photos depict the historical development of the town and its citizens.

Erotic Art

Almuñécar. Until 16 February. *Rowland Fade exhibition room, Casa de la Cultura.*
Paintings, sculpture and poetry created by members of the Arte Sur artists' network and invited artists will be on display. Information on Arte Sur's Facebook page: *Arte-Sur Almuñécar*.

Easterly Winds

Cadiz. Until 15 February. *Palacio de la Diputación Provincial de Cadiz.*
Gibraltar are taking part in a cultural exchange programme with Cadiz and are holding an exhibition by Gibraltar artists. Cadiz will in turn be exhibiting works in the Gustavo Bacarissas Gallery in Gibraltar in March.

CHARITY**Networking event**

Sabinillas. 20 February, 6.30 - 8.30pm. *Martínez-Echevarría Abogados offices.* 5€.
Shaw Marketing Services, Martínez-Echevarría Abogados and Manilva Town Hall are inviting local businesses to a professional networking event. This bilingual



Daniel Cano, Malaga

event is open to all companies and freelancers on the Costa del Sol. The money raised from this event will go to the local Asociación para Altas Capacidades Intelectuales Los Castillejos. Register at manilva@shawmarketingservices.com

Age Concern Estepona and Manilva

Estepona. 22 February, 7.30pm. *Centro Cultural Padre Manuel.* 10€
A concert, 'Classical Fantasia', is being given by the '3 Divas', namely Marika Rauscher, soprano; Sonia Garcia Quintero, soprano and Clarice Williams, mezzo soprano. The pianist Vera Sonia, is a professor in piano at the University of Jaen. The CantoLibre choir will also be performing. Tickets available from the Age Concern shop in C/ Zaragoza, Estepona or call Tony: 608458555. Facebook: Age Concern Estepona and Manilva

Golf for Cudeca

Marbella. 15 February, 9.30am. *Marbella Golf and Country Club.*

**MOVIE LISTING**
From Friday 15th
to Thursday 21th February

ORIGINAL VERSION SUBTITLED SPANISH

**THE FRONT RUNNER**

Director Jason Reitman
Starring Hugh Jackman, Vera Farmiga, J.K. Simmons
BIOGRAPHY - 113 min.

American Senator Gary Hart's presidential campaign in 1988 is derailed when he's caught in a scandalous love affair.

Friday 15: 18:00, 19:50
Saturday 16: 15:40, 18:00, 19:50
Sunday 17: 15:40, 18:00, 19:45
From Monday 18 to Thursday 21: 18:00, 19:50

**GULLY BOY**

Saturday 16: 22:00
Sunday 17: 16:00

**GREEN BOOK**

Friday 15: 20:00, 22:00
Saturday 16: 20:15, 22:30
Sunday 17: 20:15, 22:00
From Monday 18 to Thursday 21: 20:00, 22:00

**ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL**

Director Robert Rodriguez
Starring Rosa Salazar, Christoph Waltz, Jennifer Connelly
ACTION - 122 min.

A deactivated female cyborg is revived, but cannot remember anything of her past life and goes on a quest to find out who she is.

Friday 15: 17:50, 20:15
Saturday 16: 15:45, 18:00, 20:20
Sunday 17: 11:30, 15:45, 18:00, 20:20
From Monday 18 to
Thursday 21: 17:50, 20:15

**THE FAVOURITE**

Director Yorgos Lanthimos
Starring Olivia Colman, Emma Stone, Rachel Weisz
DRAMA - 121 min.

In early 18th century England, a frail Queen Anne occupies the throne and her close friend, Lady Sarah, governs the country in her stead.

When a new servant, Abigail, arrives, her charm endears her to Sarah
Friday 15: 17:40, 20:15, 22:00
Saturday 16 and Sunday 17: 17:45, 20:15, 22:45
Monday 18, Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21: 17:40, 20:15, 22:00
Tuesday 19: 17:40, 20:15, 22:30

**SECOND ACT**

Saturday 16: 15:40
Sunday 17: 11:30, 15:40

**CREED II**

Friday 15: 22:30
Saturday 16: 15:40
Sunday 17: 22:30
Monday 18, Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21: 22:30



The Marbella Golf and Country Club is organising its popular and traditional open tournament, the Memorial Members Charity Tournament to help the Cudeca Cancer Care Hospice. Golfers will play in Stableford Individual format. Prizes will be awarded to the top three and to the nearest ball of ladies and gentlemen. Registration fee 35€ for members, 75€ for non members (both include 14€ donation to Cudeca). 20€ for lunch. Email: reservas@marbellagolf.com or call: 952830500

Football Tournament

La Cala de Mijas. 22 February, 7pm. Football ground. The La Cala Lions Club has organised a charity football match with local veteran players from Spain, UK, Germany and Denmark. Spectators entry is by donation and there will be food and drinks available as well as a tombola. Funds raised will go to local causes as needed.



MUSIC & DANCE

The Wall Bar

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

16 February. Irissoboe. Oboe and acoustic guitar play adapted jazz, soul, rock and pop music.

23 February. Susan Valery & Adrian Lombardi. Voice and guitar. Jazz style.

International piano concert

Almuñécar. 15 February, 8pm.

Auditorio Casa de la Cultura

The international competition finishes at 6pm and is followed at 8pm by the closing concert with Francisco Escoda and music from Chopin's Concert 1. www.concursointernacionalpiano.com Tickets from braventradas.com

Daniel Cano

Nerja. 16 February, 8pm. hotel Plaza Cavana

Daniel Cano is a trumpeter and composer. He has performed at such venues as Ronnie Scott's, Philly Joe's (Tallinn, Estonia), as well as the Tangier, San Sebastian, Margate, Seville Jazz Festivals. Bookings: 690073871 or email: ventana.abierta.acp@gmail.com www.ventana-abierta.es

Tribute to the Three Tenors

Almuñécar. 17 February, 7pm.

Auditorio Casa de la Cultura.

A concert tribute to the Three Tenors with Il Divo. Tickets from Viajes Ecuador, Casa de la Cultura and www.barvotradas.es

Les Étoiles

Almuñécar. 20 February, 8pm.

Auditorio Casa de la Cultura

The Ensemble Afrodita consisting of mezzosoprano Simona Mango, saxophonist Elisa Urrestarazu and pianist Cornelia Lenzin will be performing romantic pieces by composers such as Amy Beach, Clara Schumann, Mel Bonis,



Les Étoiles, Almuñécar

Rebecca Clarke and Pauline Viardot.

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

Malaga. Teatro Cervantes

15 February, 8pm. The first part will include works by R Strauss (Four Last Songs) and the second half will be Symphony N° 4 in G major by Gustav Mahler. Soprano Raquel Lojendio. Tickets: www.teatrocervantes.com/es/genero/ofm/ciclo/164/espectaculo/2176

Música Con Encanto

Marbella. 16 February, 7pm. Les Roches, Urb Lomas de Sierra Blanca. 25€

A tribute to Philip Glass with two pianos played by Alborade Moreno and Ignacio Torner. Also pieces by Ludovico Einaudi, Le-roen van Veen and Meredith Monk. Info: www.musicaconencanto.org Tickets: 689 000 944

International soprano comes to Estepona

21 February, 25 euros or 65 euros including menu. Kempinski Hotel Bahía.

American soprano Karen August Schriesheim will be performing.

More information: email pmmtickets@mail.com or call +34 693751857.

Jazz night

Estepona. 23 February, 8.30pm.

Centro Dolménico de Corominas, Parque de los Pedregales. 15€.

A jazz concert with David Lenker (pianist and composer) and Vicente Solsona (guitarist). Tickets: 675942975

Opera Cádiz

Estepona. 15 February, 7pm. Teatro Padre Manuel. 10€.

The Ópera Cádiz will be performing arias from Bizet's Carmen. The cast includes alto Clarice Williams and baritone David Geary.

LECTURES

U3A Lectures

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

Debate and Discussion:

'Recent pictures of the Royal Family crowded onto the balcony of Buckingham Palace perhaps caused many to ask- 'Continuity or Change?'



David Lenker jazz, Estepona.

20 February, 1-2.30pm.

In order to answer this question it Geoff Cooke examines the background of each of those on the balcony to see whether they are suitable to represent the Monarch or the people in any way, or indeed whether a Royal Family is needed at all or just a monarch.

A Mixed Bag:

'Britain's Heritage Railways - A tribute to mark the end of the main steam line'.

19 February, 11am.

Geoff Cooke describes how four grammar school boys kick started the concept of Heritage Steam Railways to become the most popular weekend family attraction and why we are building new steam engines.

Science and technology:

'The voyages of the Beagle - Tragedies and triumphs'

20 February, 11am. The Beagle made Charles Darwin famous, but what of other voyages? www.theartssociety-costadelsol.org

The Arts Society de la Frontera

San Roque. 20 February, 11am. San Roque Golf and Country Club.

Visitors 12€

'From Downton to Gatsby, Jewellery and Fashion 1890-1929'

Includes a complimentary glass of wine after the lecture. delafrontera@theartssociety.org www.theartssocietybenahavis.com

Lux Mundi Art Appreciation

Torre del Mar. 18 February, 10.30am. Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre. 2€

The Great Artist Series' which was a BBC arts documentary telling the stories behind great artists. The original narrations were done by Tim Marlow. Following a short introduction about El Greco the the documentary will be played and followed by a discussion.

Montejaque hosts traditional 'game of the pitcher'

BY TONY BRYANT

MONTEJAQUE. The town of Montejaque, located in the Serranía de Ronda, is celebrating Andalucía Day with a traditional event known as the Juego del Cántaro. The 'game of the pitcher' is a participatory sport in which teams compete in a tournament that involves throwing a clay water pitcher.

The teams consist of six members who pass the jug between one another on a concentric pitch which gets wider as the game progresses. If the jug is dropped, the team is eliminated and the remaining teams continue until just two remain in the final.

The event is held during Montejaque's carnival week proceedings and the tradition of the game goes back to the last century, before the arrival of running water. Prior to the



Water pitchers have taken on a new role in Montejaque. BY SUR.

1960s, local woman had to carry water from the central fountain, placing one pitcher on their head and a second vessel on the right hip. This practice is no longer necessary, but the pitchers have taken on a new

role in this festival, which has been declared a Fiesta de Singularidad Turística Provincial.

The festival is held in the Plaza de la Constitución from midday on Thursday 28 February.

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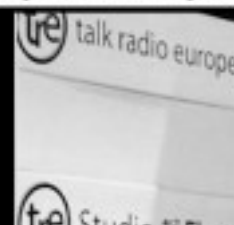
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EVENTS

Trip to Gibraltar

Torre del Mar. 21 February, 21 March, 25 April Various departure points. 12€.

Coach trip to Gibraltar. Passports required. Lux Mundi Torre del Mar. Tel: 952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

EVENTS

Floral Art Club

Estepona. 19 February, 3pm. Agro-jardín, Cancelada. Visitors 10€. Nina Tucknott, originally from Finland, has been involved with flowers for a number of years and until recently was the Editor of Floral International magazine. Nina's demonstration is called 'Come Fly With Me'. Call Janet: 694425219 or online www.facebook.com/esteponafloralartclub, or email esteponafloralartclub@hotmail.com

Curtain Up Productions

Puerto Banús. 25 February, 7pm. La Sala. '84 Charing Cross Road' is the name of the play and the address of a bookseller in London. In 1949 Helene Hanff, a struggling New York writer, started a correspondence with the bookseller which was to last for twenty years. Act one is performed before dinner and act two after. Glass of cava on arrival and wine at the table. Bookings: 952814145 or email: reservations@LaSalaBanus.com

Faulty Towers dining

Officially the world's longest running dining experience, this one-of-a-kind original has been selling out at venues around the world for nearly 22 years. www.torquay-suitetheatre.com

Nerja. 20 February, Casa Grande. **Torre del Mar.** 21 February, Salon del Mar, C/ los Fenicios.

Gibraltar. 22 February, Sunborn, 35 Ocean Village Promenade.

Benalmádena. 23 February, Sunset Beach Club.



Flamenco en el Museo, Malaga

Trip to Osuna

Fuengirola. 22 February Various departure points. 26€

Includes visit to Renaissance Collegiate Church. Full details contact Fundación Lux Mundi Fuengirola, C/Nueva 3. Tel: 952474840

Trip to Écija

Torre del Mar. 27 February. Various departure points. 25€.

Visit Écija and the Benamejí palace, Plaza del España or Palacio de Alcántara. Lux Mundi Torre del Mar. Tel: 952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

FLAMENCO

Flamenco in the Museum

Malaga. Museo de Arte Flamenco Peña Juan Breva, C/Ramón Franguelo. 8.30pm.

16 February. Eva Bravo and flamenco group.

21 February. Raúl Ruiz and flamenco group. For information and bookings call 687 607 526 or email: info@flamenka.com

Creencias

Almuñécar. 16 February, 7pm. Auditorium of the Casa de la Cultura. Juan Carlos Avecilla and his dance company.

O. V. FILM

SUR in English advises calling cinemas to check for any last min-

ute time changes. Lunchtime and late night screenings weekends only.

Cine Albéniz

C/Alcazabilla 4, Malaga. Tel: 902 36 02 95 www.cinealbeniz.com

The Old Man and the Gun : 16.30 (every day).

Green Book: 18.15, 20.30, 22.45 (every day).

The Favourite: 18.15, 20.25 (every day).

Cinesur El Ingenio

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

Mary Queen of Scots: 18.30, 21.00 (Tues).

Green Book: 18.30, 21.00 (Tues).

Alita: Battle Angel: 17.00, 19.30, 22.00 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).

Cinesur Miramar

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

Alita: Battle Angel: 12.00, 16.30, 19.00, 21.30, 0.00.

Green Book: 12.20, 16.15.

Mary Queen of Scots: 12.05, 16.20, 18.50.

Beetlejuice: 20.00 (Thurs).

Ballet: Don Quijote: 20.15 (Tues).

Documentary: Generation Zapped: 20.00 (Mon).

Cines Teatro Goya

For tickets and information call 951196665.

www.cinesteatrogoya.com

Creed II: The Legend of Rocky: 15.40 (Sat); 22.30 (Frid, Sun-Thurs).

Green Book: 20.00 (Fri, Mon-Thurs); 20.15 (Sat, Sun); 22.00 (every day except Sat), 22.30 (Sat).

Second Act: 11.30 (Sun), 15.40 (Sat, Sun).

The Favourite: 17.40 (every day except Sat, Sun); 17.45, 22.45 (Sat, Sun); 20.15 (every day); 22.00 (Fri, Mon, Wed, Thurs); 22.30 (Tues).

Gully Boy: 16.00 (Sunday); 22.00 (Sat).

The Front Runner: 15.40 (Sat, Sun), 18.00 (every day); 19.45 (Sun); 19.50 (every day except Sunday).

Alita: Battle Angel: 11.30 (Sun), 15.45, 18.00, 20.20 (Sat, Sun); 17.50, 20.15 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

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

Tel: 902 902 103 or visit

www.yelmocines.es

Alita: Battle Angel 3D: 17.45 (Tues).

Alita: Battle Angel: 16.15, 20.15 (every day).

The Favourite: 20.30 (Tues)

Bohemian Rhapsody: 21.05 (Tues).

Mary Queen of Scots: 20.45 (Tues).

Glass: 00.10 (Sat, Sun); 19.00

(Tues).

Second Act: 17.50 (Tues).

Green Book: 12.50 (Sat, Sun); 18.50 (Tues).

The Favourite: 21.20 (every day).

Creed II: The Legend of Rocky: 12.40, 00.25 (Sat, Sun); 19.15 (Tues).

Happy Death Day 2: 20.10 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Rincón de la

Victoria. Calle Arroyo Totalán

Tel: 902 220 922 or visit

www.yelmocines.es

Alita: Battle Angel: 18.45 (Tues).

Happy Death Day: 22.20 (Tues).

Glass: 21.55 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Vialia.

Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902 220 922 or visit www.yelmocines.es

Happy Death Day 2: 22.15 (Tues).

Glass: 18.20 (Tues).

Vice: 20.00 (Wed).

Green Book: 20.00 (Tues).

The Old Man and the Gun: 22.35 (Tues).

The Favourite: 21.10 (Tues);

20.00 (Thurs).

Mary Queen of Scots: 18.40 (Tues).

Creed II: The Legend of Rocky: 18.10 (Tues).

Cine Club

Centro Cultural Padre Manuel, Estepona.

Three Billboards Outside

Ebbing, Missouri : 21 February, 8pm. Free entry.

The Norwegian orchestra "learning by doing"

:: GEORGIE KENNY

The junior Norwegian orchestra Barratt Due will perform in concert on Tuesday 19 February at 8pm in the Sala Unicaja de Conciertos María Cristina in Calle Marqués de Valdecañas, Malaga.

Founded in 1927, Barratt Due is dedicated to the musical education of young people in Norway, with their motto 'Learning by doing'.

Performing throughout Europe, the junior ensemble, with ages ranging from 12 to 16, have a lot of experience playing with distinguished soloists and groups. In 2012, the group played alongside the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra and have also provided musical accompaniment for the Norwegian Opera performances of Brundibar, Cinderella and the Astrid Lindgren show.

The group have toured both London and Berlin and have proudly performed with notable soloists such as Walter Renter and Guro Kleven Hagen.

In this concert the orchestra will be accompanying Anna M. Nilson, a well-known Norwegian violinist, who is also the director at the Galamian Music Academy in Malaga - alongside



The Barratt Due youth orchestra. :: SUR

her husband Jesús Reina.

For the young orchestra, to be playing with such a distinguished Norwegian musician "is the most important part" of the concert, explained organiser Daniel Lamenza. He added that "it is also very special that these young musicians dedicate all their time to classical music".

The high level of the orchestra allows them to share the stage with acclaimed soloists,

as well as other promising music students, like those from the Galamian Academy.

With the help and support of Lamenza Nielsen and Advokaterispania from Fuengirola, Clue Digital Ordebok and Unof, who are the sponsors of the orchestra on this occasion, two free concerts will also be held.

One will take place in the Norwegian Church of Calahonda and the other in the Swedish Church of Fuengirola.

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When Spaniards hear expats refer to ‘Project Fear’ (‘Proyecto Miedo’) they have little idea what they are talking about, even if their knowledge of English is above average.

Trying to explain that the half of the population of Britain that prefers to leave the European Union is having the frighteners put on them by those who wished to remain, produces looks of incredulity.

The news that the Queen may go into hiding and that supplies of imported medicines may dry up, are pretty serious matters.

What is also taken very seriously is the continuance of wine imports to the UK. Yes, there is some very good English wine, but it is almost all red, and, not sur-

A. J. LINN

PROJECT FEAR



prisingly because it is taxed at the same rate as all imported wine, quite expensive. Certainly it could never take the place of that cheap and cheerful Rioja we all drink.

So sombreros off to a few enterprising wineries, namely Bodegas Riojanas in the first instance, that have thoughtfully sent to the UK in January the equivalent quantity of wine they send in half a year.

Other wineries have of course followed suit. Post-Brexit UK may be short of critical drug supplies, but sufficient tinto will not be a problem.

Project Fear really gets up a head of steam when it comes to adequate food supplies. Rumours are rife, and when news that London restaurant Native, in Borough Market, was serving grey squirrel

cooked in various ways, it was too good a story not to exaggerate.

There was even the myth, initially given wide credence, that an apprehensive French hunter had organised a shoot, the outcome of which enabled him to deliver a thousand squirrels to the British Embassy in Paris with the message, ‘A present to our dear British cousins, so they need not go hungry’.

There is no record of what the Embassy staff did with all those poor little grey-furred carcasses. They doubtless respected previous form and put them through a shredder.

What is evident is that whatever happens, wine aficionados of post-Brexit Britain will not go short of Rioja, nor of organic wild meat, ergo grey squirrels.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Ochoa de Lagrías

It used to be said that rosé wines were for the ladies, but these days a decent host will take trouble to find a sensibly-priced example for everyone. The best Spanish rosados come from Navarra and are made by leaving the skin of the red grapes in contact with the must after pressing.

In this case Garnacha, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Priced at around 6 euros.





ALL THINGS IBERIAN AT EL PIMPI

El Pimpi restaurant in Malaga is celebrating Iberian pork products with a special menu from 18 to 28 February. Besides succulent ‘lomo’ and wafer thin slices of cured ham, there will be other cuts such as ‘carillada de castañas al Oporto’ (chestnut-fed pork cheeks with port), which can be sampled at lunchtime and dinner. The photo shows El Pimpi owner Pepe Cobos (far right) with Iberian pig farmer Juan Carlos Torres Chacón.

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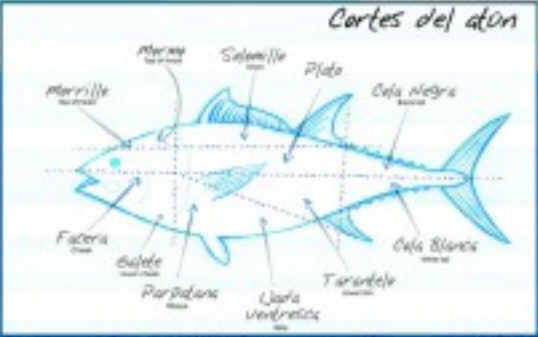
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The contestants came from catering colleges across the province. :: **SUR**

La Cónsula students win Young Chef award at the Salón H&T

Students from La Cónsula in Malaga, La Fonda in Benalmádena, Hostelería Costa del Sol in Estepona and Escuela Castillo de Marqués in Torre del Mar, all took part in the contest

:: **E. P. N.**

MALAGA. Rafael García and Adrián Rosa, students at the Escuela de Hostelería La Cónsula, have been

awarded first prize in the 2019 edition of the Joven Chef Sabor a Málaga competition which was held last week at the Salón H&T in the Palacio de Ferias y Congresos in Malaga.

A special jury, chaired by the historian and gourmet Fernando Rueda, judged the work of the contestants, all of whom were students of catering colleges in the province.

Second prize was shared by José Francisco Marín and Miguel Martín from the Escuela de Hostelería in

Benalmádena La Fonda and José Luis Martín and Jorge Molina from the Escuela de Hostelería Costa Del Sol in Estepona. Third prize went to Silvia Huete and Francisco Palomo from the Escuela Castillo del Marqués.

The competition was the climax of the Salón de Hostelería y Turismo, organised by Fernando Rueda, which brought together 15 chefs from Michelin-starred restaurants and some of the best national and international sommeliers for workshops and 'showcooking'.

Torrox picks up Sabor a Málaga prize for gastronomy sector

The 35,000-euro cash award will go towards promoting local products in including sardines, subtropical fruit, grapes and wine

:: **EUGENIO CABEZAS**

TORROX. Torrox has been named gastronomy capital of Malaga following a competition held by the Diputación provincial government to promote the Sabor a Málaga (taste of Malaga) brand.

Mayor of Torrox, Óscar Medina, along with Tourism councillor, Sandra Extremera, picked up the prize during a ceremony in Malaga last

Thursday.

Presenting the award, Jacobo Flórido, head of economic and productivity development at the Diputación, congratulated Torrox's hospitality sector for its "excellent work to develop tourism based on gastronomy". He added that along with cultural tourism, gastronomy provides "good quality" tourism to Malaga province.

The town hall was awarded a 35,000-euro cash prize, which will be spent on promoting an espeto (grilled sardine skewer) day as well as events designed to promote the local subtropical fruit, wine and grape sectors. There are also plans for a photography exhibition and activities for people of all ages.



Jacobo Flórido and Óscar Medina last Thursday. :: **SUR**



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The players surround the referee after he showed red to Keidi Bare for his second yellow card. :: NITO SALAS

LA LIGA 123

Results	Next match day
Sporting - Osasuna 0-2	Córdoba - Granada
Gimnàstic - Reus 1-0	Deportivo - Gimnàstic
Elche - Oviedo 1-2	Zaragoza - Albacete
Extremadura-Majadahonda1-1	Elche - Extremadura
Tenerife - Córdoba 0-2	Oviedo - Alcorcón
Lugo - Zaragoza 1-2	Cádiz - Tenerife
Alcorcón - Cádiz 1-2	Mallorca - Lugo
Albacete - Mallorca 2-0	Numancia - Osasuna
Granada - Deportivo 0-1	R. Majadahonda-MALAGA
Almería - Numancia 1-0	Reus - Almería
MALAGA - Las Palmas 0-0	Las Palmas - Sporting

Table	TEAM	PT	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
★	1.Albacete	48	25	13	9	3	36	21
★	2.Osasuna	47	25	14	5	6	33	24
■	3.Deportivo	46	25	12	10	3	36	18
■	4.MALAGA	45	25	13	6	6	27	18
■	5.Granada	44	25	12	8	5	30	17
■	6.Oviedo	39	25	11	6	8	30	30
	7.Alcorcón	38	25	11	5	9	25	22
	8.Cádiz	38	25	10	8	7	32	21
	9.Mallorca	37	25	10	7	8	29	24
	10. Almería	34	25	8	10	7	27	23
	11. Las Palmas	34	25	7	13	5	30	27
	12. Sporting	33	25	8	9	8	26	22
	13. Numancia	30	25	7	9	9	30	31
	14. Zaragoza	30	25	7	9	9	29	32
	15. Elche	28	25	6	10	9	24	31
	16. Tenerife	27	25	5	12	8	20	27
	17. R. Majadahonda	27	25	7	6	12	22	32
	18. Lugo	26	25	6	8	11	24	30
▼	19. Extremadura	23	25	5	8	12	29	36
▼	20. Córdoba	21	25	4	9	12	30	45
▼	21. Gimnàstic	20	25	5	5	15	14	37
▼	22. Reus	0	25	5	6	14	16	31

Refereeing decisions cost Malaga who lose ground in promotion push

The hosts were left feeling aggrieved after two first-half goals were controversially chalked off before Keidi Bare saw red during Sunday's goalless draw against Las Palmas at La Rosaleda



DARYL FINCH

✉ dfinch@diariosur.es

MALAGA. Malaga lost ground on their promotion rivals on Sunday after a controversy-packed goalless draw against Las Palmas at La Rosaleda on Sunday evening. The hosts had two goals disallowed in the first half before being reduced to ten men in the second

half after midfielder Keidi Bare picked up his second yellow card of the match. It was the Albanian who looked to have given his side the lead in the opening minutes when he tucked in debutant Iván Alejo's low cross from the right, only for the linesman to judge Alejo to have been offside - when replays showed there were centimetres in it at most. Gustavo Blanco Leschuk, who continues to lead the line despite his now 14-match goal drought, almost got his lucky break when his mishit cross from close to the corner flag sent Raúl Fernández back-

pedalling before the ball bounced off the top of the crossbar and to safety. However, fortune was clearly not on his side on the night as he was penalised for holding his man in the area as Adrián volleyed home Keidi's corner behind him. As a result, it remained 0-0 at half time, with the visitors not creating a single chance of note in the entirety of the first half, barring a Rubén Castro freekick blasted into the stand. That threatened to change 15 minutes after the restart when Malaga went down to ten men as

Keidi picked up a second yellow after his elbow collided with Cala as he jumped to challenge for the header. The scores on that front were quickly evened up, though, when Deivid received a straight red card after scything down Alejo with a rash challenge in the 72rd minute. This prompted the immediate introduction of Jack Harper, back from suspension, as well as that of Yevhen Seleznov seven minutes later, as coach Juan Ramón Muñoz sensed that the three points were about to slip away from his team. However, barring a long diago-

nal to Seleznov which the keeper swatted away before the Ukrainian could apply the finishing touch, the hosts were unable to carve out any meaningful opening. "Draws are draws, but some leave a different taste in the mouth than others," said Muñoz in his post-match press conference, in reference to the refereeing decisions that cost his team. "The best we can do is keep our mouths shut." The Blue and Whites have now fallen to fourth, three points off leaders Albacete, ahead of Sunday's trip to Madrid to take on struggling Rayo Majadahonda.



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Up next

MAJADAHONDA (A)

Malaga's next game will see them travel to Madrid and the Cerro del Espino stadium to take on Segunda newcomers Rayo Majadahonda (Sunday, 6pm). The hosts have only recently returned to their ground having played many of their home games this season at Atlético's Wanda Metropolitano while works to bring the ground in line with the league's standards were ongoing.

Whether playing at their spiritual home will improve their fortunes remains to be seen as they try to stave off relegation back to the third tier.

In an attempt to improve their chances, Rayo were active in the January transfer window and upgraded all but one of their forwards, Aitor Ruibal. One of those to come in was Héctor Hernández whose loan to Malaga from Atlético was cut short to allow him to make the move. He scored seven minutes into his debut, grabbing the equaliser in their last game against Extremadura (1-1).



MALAGA-LAS PALMAS

Malaga: Munir; Iván, Diego González, Pau Torres, Ricca; Iván Alejo (Renato Santos, 86'), Keidi, Erik Morán (Harper, 73'), N'Diaye, Adrián; Blanco Leschuk (Seleznov, 80'). Unused substitutes: Kieszek, Cifu, Lombán, Mula.

Las Palmas: Raúl Fernández; Eric Curbelo (Lemos, 71'), Mantovani, Cala, Dani Castellano; Javi Castellano, Timor (Deivid, 54'); Blum, Galarreta, Rafa Mir; Rubén Castro (Araújo, 77'). Unused substitutes: Nauzet, Fidel, Srnic, Aythami.

Goals: None.

Referee: Ocón Arraiz. Second yellow card for Keidi (60'); straight red for Deivid (72'). Yellow cards for Iván Alejo, Cala, Iván, Blanco and Cala.

Ground: La Rosaleda (15,842 spectators).

Mamadou Koné could miss the rest of the season after going under the knife

The striker first suffered the injury in November but broke down again two weeks ago after making his comeback

by PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

MALAGA. The season looks to be over for Malaga forward Mamadou Koné. The Ivorian underwent surgery to repair damage to a torn quadriceps muscle on his left leg on Wednesday.

Koné initially suffered the injury on 17 November during the first half of the game against Gimnàstic (in which he scored) at La Rosaleda. He was withdrawn at half time and has not played for the club since.

The on-loan Leganés man recovered from this initial injury to be named on the bench against Almería on 1 February but suffered a recurrence of the same injury a week later.



Koné picked up the injury against Nàstic in November. by NITO SALAS

After some deliberation, as the club pondered less invasive options which would have increased the possibility of him appearing again this season, it was decided

that the best course of action would be to send him for surgery.

The club haven't officially stated the severity of the injury but it is unlikely that Koné will feature for

the club again this season.

Lacen out too

Koné's surgery capped off a bad week for Malaga's medical team who received another casualty in the form of Mehdi Lacen.

Just like Koné, the Algerian midfielder has suffered muscle damage, but in his case to his calf. The length of his expected absence is not known either.

With these two absentees, as well as suspensions for Keidi Bare and Gustavo Blanco Leschuk, who saw red and picked up a fifth yellow card of the season, respectively, coach Juan Ramón Muñoz has suddenly seen his options reduced for the trip to face Rayo Majadahonda.

He may have to abandon his newly-favoured 4-1-4-1 system with lack of cover in the centre, especially given Badr Boulahroud's ongoing bureaucratic problems which have kept him in Morocco for almost two weeks.

IN BRIEF

Femenino still in the drop zone after two draws from two

by MALAGA

by OPTA / M. RIVAS. The situation at the bottom of the Liga Iberdrola could not be tighter, but it is Malaga who join Sevilla in the relegation spots after match day 21 after failing to gain ground on any of their relegation rivals, following two 1-1 draws in the space of a week - both in so-called 'six-pointers'.

On Sunday, Malaga Femenino secured a 1-1 draw away to Espanyol. The hosts, with Salva-



After Sunday's equaliser. by OPTA

dor Jaspe in the dugout for the first time, took the lead six minutes before half time after a total breakdown in communication between Malaga keeper Chelsea and one of her defenders allowed Eli

del Estal in to score.

Just after the break Malaga got the equaliser they were looking for as Ode headed in Dominika's cross.

The script was practically repeated on Wednesday afternoon as Malaga hosted Logroño. The visitors took the lead in the first half through Jade Boho, but Leti scored in the 49th minute to level things up.

But despite being the better side in the second half, the visitors were unable to find the winner that would have lifted them out of the relegation.

The two results, in truth, benefited no one as just two points separate bottom side Sevilla and Albacete in 10th.

A point apiece in the 'clash of the reserves'

by GRANADA

by OPTA. Atlético Malagueño came away from the 'clash of the reserves' with a share of the points with their Granada counterparts on Sunday.

In what was a very even game, Manolo Sanlúcar's team had the best chances to claim a win. After Hicham was fouled in the area, Chica stepped up but hit his penalty onto the crossbar.

Then, in the final minute, Rubén couldn't convert after the goalkeeper got himself in a muddle.

Malagueño remain bottom, eight points from safety.



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A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER

 Commentator, Sky Sports
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A Real resurgence

The start of the season might have been rocky for the Champions League winners, but things are slowly coming together again

Let's get this straight. I'm sticking by my early season prediction that Paris Saint Germain and Manchester City will contest the Champions League Final... but Real Madrid are beginning to do that thing again!

I witnessed a footballing masterclass at the Etihad last Sunday when the artistry was right up there with Pep Guardiola's Barcelona teams. They have taken English football to another level. Liverpool's best chance of winning the Premier League is City prioritising the elite European competition. In my view, City can take their pick.

If they're not drawn together, I think they are destined to face the wealthy French club. PSG are more mature, have a top-class coach and are not as reliant on Neymar as they were twelve months ago. The Brazilian was absent this week, yet they swept

aside Manchester United.

They're the two favourites, but coming up on the outside is the thoroughbred. It's hard to believe that a club that lost twice to CSKA Moscow could be considered as worthy contenders. Six days after they limped past Viktoria Plzen in October, Julen Lopetegui was put out of his 138-day misery. It appeared that Santi Solari was just holding the fort until a headline name was appointed.

Spin forwards four months and Solari is managing with authority and Real Madrid are being spoken about as credible contenders.

He's made some big decisions and it's paying off. Vinícius Júnior is well ahead of schedule for what everyone expects will be a classic career. Consider that he is a true millennial, born in the year 2000 and it's quite scary. Solari's given

the Brazilian licence to express himself with a dozen continuous starts. He's weighed in with four goals and six assists and appears to be a fixture for years to come.

His development is a contrast to Gareth Bale's stalemate. Liga fans haven't warmed to him as he's failed to learn the language and outwardly embrace the culture. He did score his 100th goal for the Spanish giants last weekend and gave his doubters the Spanish equivalent of the "up yours" gesture. The problem was that he'd misread how to mime the gesture – even that was lost in translation!

Another of the establishment is also struggling hold down a place. Marcelo seems to have been around an absolute age yet he's still only thirty. His name has been one of the first on the team sheet since he signed thirteen years ago. Now, Ser-



Vinícius has started a dozen consecutive games. :: EFE

gio Reguilón, has emerged to displace him.

It's hardly a revolution at the Bernabéu but changes are being made. My theory that the prominent club can't be reliant on a single player applies to Real Madrid now that Cristiano Ronaldo has vacated his throne. It has taken a long time to readjust to life without his

influence, but the King has gone, long live the new King.

It's not unlike Zinedine Zidane's first season at Real Madrid when he slowly turned things around and it ended up in glory. History could be repeating itself, history could be made, if they claim a fourteenth European title and their fourth in a row.

Jürgen bags winner to extend Marbella's impressive run

It is now four wins from five games for Cubillo's rejuvenated side who can now start to look up rather than down

MARBELLA 1 SANLUQUEÑO 0

:: JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

MARBELLA. A goal from Jürgen made it four wins in five games for Marbella as they saw off Sanluqueño at the Antonio Lorenzo sta-

dium on Sunday.

The hosts, who fielded four winter signings from the start in a 4-1-4-1 formation, had the better of the first-half action, controlling large portions of the play and having the better of the chances.

Brazilian winger Paulo Vitor was a particular menace to the Sanluqueño defence, using his pace and trickery to trouble the full-backs on both sides of the pitch who were lucky to get away without being carded for persistent fouling.

Despite one half chance for vet-

eran Dani Güiza at the other end, the best chances fell to Marbella attacker Juanma. The first brought a good save out of keeper Javi Jiménez as he connected with Jürgen's cross from the left; the second saw him miss the target after being put through on goal five minutes before the break.

The game was completely different in the second 45 with the hosts unable to maintain their expansive play, instead patiently looking for any opening they could find.

It finally came in the 58th minute when Juanma again ran in behind the backline, before squaring the ball for Jürgen who was waiting on the penalty spot to convert at the second time of asking.

Sanluqueño, as they had to, came back into the game and Dani Güiza was denied an equaliser when Wilfred pushed his volley out for a corner.

The onslaught continued and the Marbella keeper had to be sharp to deny David Toro's freekick.

Dani Güiza came close again from a tight angle but narrowly missed the far post.

Marbella, however, were able to hold on and preserve their lead and their climb up the table continues. Los Blanquillos sit in tenth and with the form they're in, they could be in with an outside chance of finishing in the play-off positions come the end of the season.

Just as it looked like the three points would be coming back to the Costa del Sol, Sevilla wonderkid Bryan Gil popped up with the equaliser deep into stoppage time at the Cisneros Palacios sports complex on Sunday afternoon.

Sevilla Atlético saved their best until last in their clash with Marbella as a moment of genius from Bryan Gil, with a neat one-two, opened up the backline for the forward to slot past Wilfred who had been on top form throughout the afternoon.

This was a crushing blow for the visitors who had gone ahead with 20 minutes left to go after Dani slotted home at the far post after a well-worked set piece.

This result sees the end of the Costa side's winning run which was very nearly extended to four. They sit in 11th place, six points clear of the danger zone.

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SPORT IN PICTURES



◀ **Walking football.** Walking Football Spain (WFS) sent a strong team but were ultimately beaten 10-4 in a friendly match against England Walking Football at Gibraltar's Victoria Stadium last Friday. WFS were invited by England to take part as a warm-up to their full international friendly against Gibraltar the following day (won by England 11-0). The England squad had flown out to La Línea as part of their preparations for the upcoming Walking Football European Championship in Paris this May. :: SUR



▲ **Tennis.** Young Malaga tennis star Alejandro Davidovich's journey in the Bangkok Challenger was brought to a premature end on Thursday morning as he was eliminated at the last 16 stage by the tournament's second favourite Tatsuma Ito 6-1 3-6 4-6. :: SUR



▲ **Football.** Liverpool FC took advantage of a break in their league schedule to take in some warm-weather training in Marbella this week. The team trained at the Marbella Football Center, a favourite of coach Jürgen Klopp (left). :: GASTON IGLESIAS-FOOTBALL IMPACT



◀ **Karate.** Estepona's La Lobilla pavilion will this Saturday play host to the Andalusian Youth Karate Championships. Around 500 youngsters, aged between 6 and 13, will take part. :: C. MÁRQUEZ

IN BRIEF

Almost 500 athletes head to Antequera for Athletics Championships

MARBELLA

Antequera's Athletics Centre will this weekend play host to the 55th edition of the Spanish Indoor Athletics Championships. The event, which will attract almost 500 athletes, will for the second time have more female than male representation, confirmed the president of the Spanish Athletics Federation, Raúl Chapado, at the tournament's presentation in Malaga on Monday. They will be out in search of qualification in 13 different disciplines for the European Championships which will be held in Glasgow in less than two weeks' time. The mayor of Antequera, Francisco Salado said: "To bring the championships back again for the second time in four years speaks a lot about our town's capabilities for hosting this type of sporting event. The economic impact it will generate and the image it will create will be positive for generations to come."

Club Rugby Nerja maintain lead at the top with win in Granada

GRANADA

Club Rugby Nerja remain top of the Andalusian Second Division after a bonus point 29-12 win over Escoriones in Granada on Sunday. Nerja dominated the opening passage of play and their efforts were eventually rewarded when Emilio Guzmán Molina touched down for the opening try. Rogelio Armijo López then used his speed to evade chasing defenders to score the first two of his three tries to give Nerja a comfortable 15-0 at the interval. The home side fought back and cut the visitors' lead to eight points. But Nerja responded and Rogelio scored the try which, when converted, restored the 15-point margin. A late push from Escoriones added another try to reduce the lead to 10 points but Nerja were able to hold out and in injury time extended their lead to an unassailable 17. Nerja's next game is on 3 March when they return to Granada to take on CD Granada 2004. Then they play Jaén at home on 10 March in what is likely to be the league decider.

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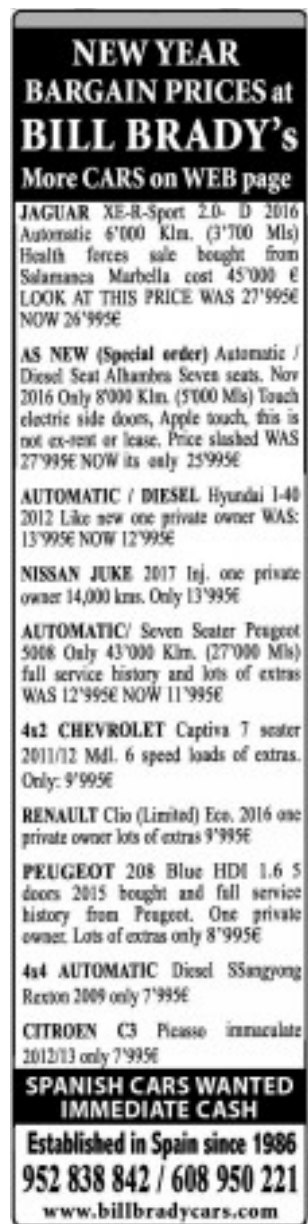
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CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Corinthian	18-19/02	Cartagena	Tangier	08.00	23.00
Norwegian Spirit	22/02	Funchal	Alicante	07.00	17.00
Corinthian	03-04/03	Gibraltar	Cartagena	07.00	16.00



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THE STARS



Aquarius
January 21 - February 19
Some shifts in the home situation are surprising to you but maybe you have taken something for granted. Be creative and forthcoming but start to pace yourself.



Pisces
February 20th – March 20th
In dreams you see things clearly and find solutions to problems. Keep a dream diary to make the most use of these.



Aries
March 21st - April 20th
A complete change of attitude leads you to be more ambitious and inspired. Making changes and adjustments to a relationship can be fun.



Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
An inspiring new friend kick-starts your social life and interests you in a project. It may be something simple but, oh boy, it can be fun!



Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Spending more time at home becomes attractive as you get to grips with some improvements. This is a great time to bond with family members and gain their trust.



Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
At times this week you could feel a little lost and unsure. Give yourself time to just be by yourself and think deeply. Never mind what you want. What do you actually need?



Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Are you thinking of changing a relationship but unsure why? You must understand this before you act. Maybe you have not been honest with yourself?



Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Sometimes you expect too much of your love life. Remember that you will only get out of it what you are willing to put in. There may be some confusion about what you want and when.



Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Questions that you may have about the people in your life are intriguing. How do they make it better? How do they cause you stress? Worth an hour of your time!



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Personal charm and the ability to see the funny side of things makes you popular. Travel and new projects need careful thought. It is not a time for running ahead if you can't see the road.

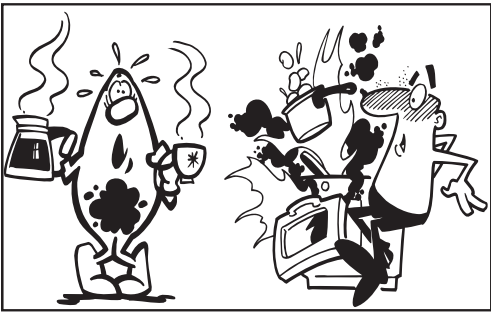
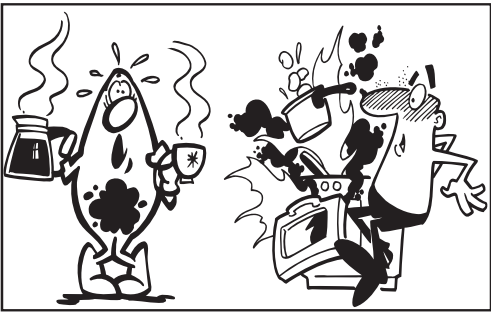


Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Seeking certainty, the wish may be to spend less. Not so easy when your social life is so busy. Still, you would rather be exhausted by having fun than working.



Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Some home problems may not be easy to solve and the temptation is to ignore them. This can only work in the short term.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11334



Across

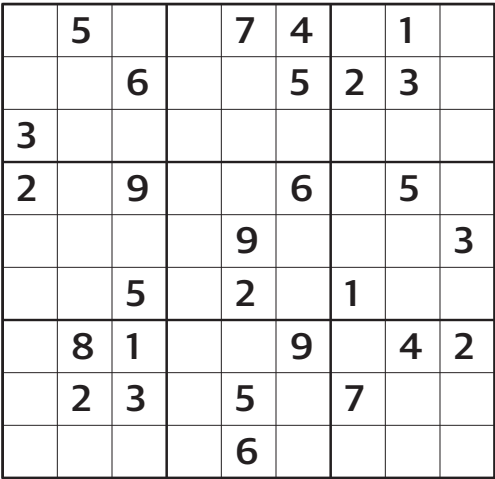
- 1 It costs nothing, it's simple, it's informal (4,3,4)
- 9 Let main disease emerge (7)
- 10 The correct side? (5)
- 11 Body of men who believe in coercion? (5)
- 12 Expect the actors on strike (4,3)
- 13 Get up tree, somehow, to show esteem (6)
- 15 Spread out in crisp, raw lettuce (6)
- 18 Cultivation up to decline of life? (7)
- 20 Fire raising by clergyman who lost his head (5)
- 22 Animal from oriental country (5)
- 23 If as far as matters go (7)
- 24 Character type no liars could have (11)

Down

- 2 Head of state to get the measure of things? (5)
- 3 Make egghead allow men to enter in proper state (7)
- 4 Observe it isn't frozen water (6)
- 5 Merits what listeners give Poles (5)
- 6 Soaring like a lady? (7)
- 7 Relation in semi-religious order? (4-7)
- 8 The majesty of a ship belonging to the nationalised fleet? (11)
- 14 Plunder pithead fort in 18 (7)
- 16 Sportive like an inspired dramatist? (7)
- 17 Get back for example in wet weather (6)
- 19 Also two points in the mountains (5)
- 21 The artifice of a relay of workers (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



THE WORDPUZZLER

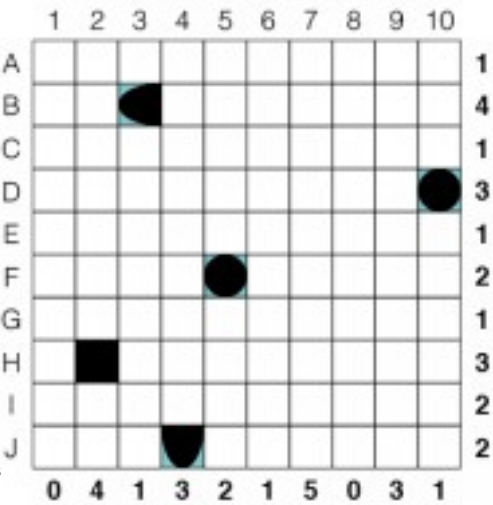
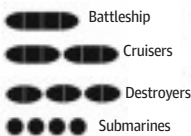


Can you identify the words missing from the titles of the Prince songs listed below?

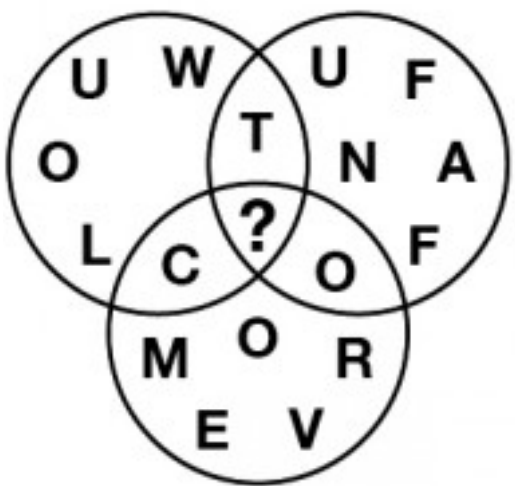
- 1. Diamonds and ---
- 2. Sign o' the ---
- 3. Alphabet ---
- 4. When --- Cry
- 5. --- MF
- 6. Thieves in the ---
- 7. Purple ---
- 8. Let's Go ---
- 9. Paisley ---
- 10. U Got the ---

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.



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) Demonstration (13)

6) Oil (8)

12) In (2)

13) Protest (8)

14) I operate (5)

15) War (6)

16) Road (3)

17) You stayed (8)

19) Evidence (7)

23) There (4)

26) Peace (3)

27) It was (3)

28) Millions (8)

29) Colours (7)

31) To open (5)

32) Managed (10)

37) Destruction (11)

38) Platform (5)

39) Birds (4)

41) Tooth (6)

43) Underwear (8)

44) He coordinates (8)

45) To go (2)

46) Speech (8)

49) Ace (2)

50) Solidarity (11)

51) Generation (10)
- 1) Majority (7)

2) Intrepid (pl) (10)

3) Blood (6)

4) Figures (6)

5) You (pl) (2)

7) American (US) (14)

8) Roses (5)

9) Key (5)

10) To organise (9)

11) Fraudulent (pl) (12)

18) You (2)

20) Phew! (2)

21) Academy (8)

22) I demanded (5)

24) Mess (3)

25) That (f) (3)

26) In favour of (10)

27) It is (2)

29) Citizens (10)

30) Enraged (f) (10)

33) Tenacity (9)

34) Special (8)

35) Banner (8)

36) Invasion (8)

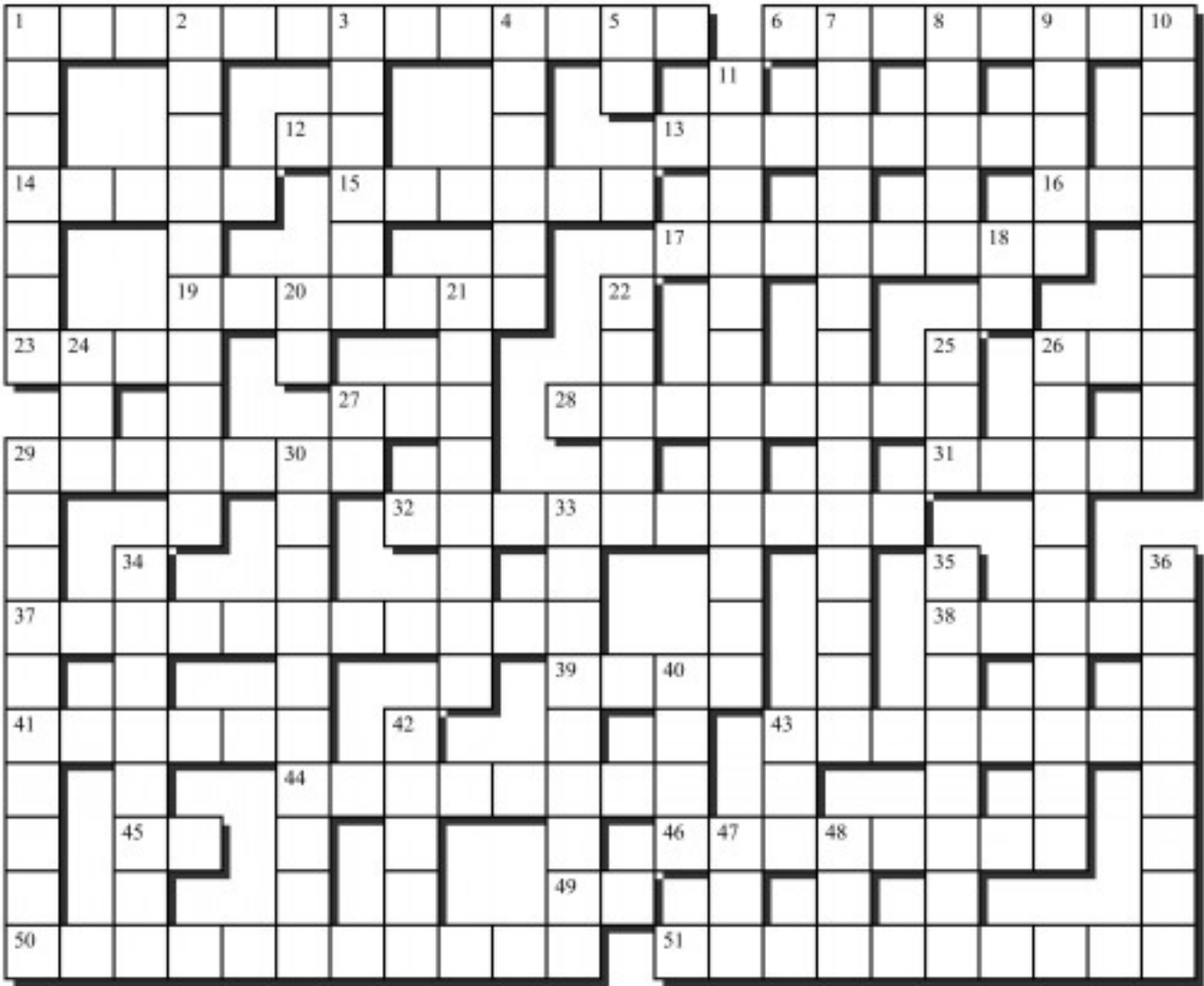
40) Age (4)

42) I slept (5)

43) The (f.pl) (3)

47) I'll go (3)

48) It falls (3)



ANSWERS

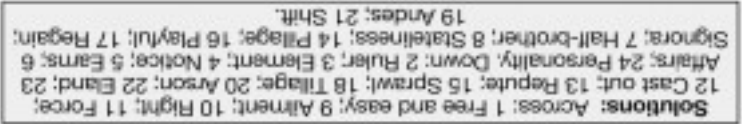
Quiz answers

called India ink.
Indies. This is probably why it was
imported from China via the West
from Europe where India ink was
The name for the ink originated
and gum and moulded in to sticks.
black ink which is mixed with resin
Of interest: India ink is a carbon
Answer: China.
blunt snout.
their flattened, rounded body and
common names refer directly to
the family Phrynosomatidae. The
toads or horned lizards, are a genus in
(Phrynosoma), also known as horn
Of interest: Horned lizards
Answer: Lizard.

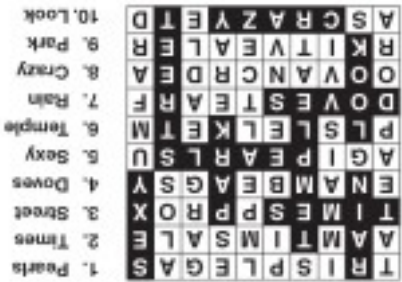
Language Crossword



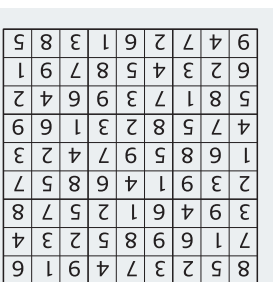
Cryptic Crossword



Wordpuzzler solution



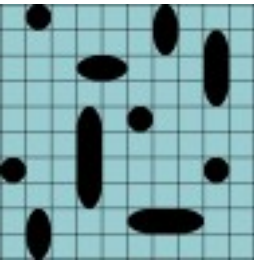
Sudoku solution



Circlegram

The letter represented by the
question mark is B. Bowlicut,
bouffant, combover, all
hairstyles

Battleships



WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN THIS?



Last week:
Fuengirola

The roundabout next to Muebles Benítez was revamped by Fuengirola town hall and now has a sculpture representing the town's emblem of a sun and its motto 'Un Sol de Ciudad'.



THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

We want to hear from you!

At SUR in English we are proud of our reputation for publishing a wide variety of Spanish news of interest to our readers, and as part of the SUR media group we have access to all the best and most reliable sources. Another part of our remit is to publish all the local news concerning the English-speaking community in Andalucía, and for that, we have several sources including our team of roving reporters and you, the reader!

We often get calls asking the question "Can

you mention this in SUR in English?" The "this" can be anything from an art exhibition to an event in aid of charity, a change in church service times, the establishment of a pressure group, a wedding or a dolphin washed up on the shores of the Mediterranean. The answer to all of these is "yes". If it is of interest to our readers we can mention it, and if it is a big story we can send one of our team of journalists to write about it.

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Rock and roll, better in the sunshine

More than 5,000 people visited the Rockin Race Jamboree in Torremolinos, which showcased rock and roll, swing, rockabilly and beat music

by **TONY BRYANT**

TORREMOLINOS. Rock and roll fans from all over Europe, the USA and Latin America came together in Torremolinos last weekend to celebrate the coveted Rockin Race Jamboree, the most important rockabilly gathering in Europe. The festival was celebrating its 25th edition and organisers had pulled out all the stops to ensure that the silver anniversary was an extra special occasion.

Nominated for 'best music festival' at last year's Ameripolitan Music Awards in Memphis, the four-day event welcomed 30 bands and solo performers from 11 countries. This year's line-up included The Planet Rockers (Nashville), Dave Phillips and the Hot Rod Gang (UK) and Mike Bell and the Belltones (Finland).

More than 5,000 people visited the festival to hear rock and roll, swing, rockabilly and beat music. The concerts were held in various loca-



Festival-goers relax between concerts. :: MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ



Testing the water. :: M.F.



Singer Sarah Vista. :: M.F.

tions in Torremolinos, including the Municipal Auditorium and the Hotel Barracuda.

The highlight of the festival took place on the beach front in Bajondillo on Saturday, when revellers enjoyed an afternoon of live music, and The Dash, a vintage car parade. The 200-metre dash showcased around 20 classic cars, which included Buicks, Cobras, Cadillacs and station wagons, all of which predated 1965. There was also a collection of 1920s Ford T Roadsters from the Malaga car museum.

Hundreds of music fans, many dressed in classic 50s style attire, demonstrated their skill with the bop and the jitterbug to the sounds of the Spanish rockers, Los Torontos, and

the celebrated American singer, Mitch Polzak. Polzak is renowned for his southern style rock and roll and he had travelled to Spain especially for the gig, his first in the country.

He told SUR in English of his joy at performing at the festival, saying, "I feel fortunate and so grateful to be in a town where people respond so well to music that is played from the heart: it's been a wonderful experience and I will definitely return."

The music moved to the main auditorium on Saturday night, where the party continued until 5am. The festival finished on Sunday, with an open air concert staged in the Plaza del Remo, followed by a poolside party in the Hotel Barracuda.

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