

### Making great strides on the tennis scene

Young local star Alejandro Davidovich has leapt 300 places in the rankings in just 14 months as a pro **P47**



# The salary gap in Spain could take more than a hundred years to close

The average woman would have to work ten years more than a man to earn the same amount, say figures

Today, 8 March, as the world celebrates International Women's Day, calls for equality are as loud as they were decades ago. Opportunities for women may have improved in recent years but figures reveal that in Spain total equality in terms of sala-

ries could take another century to achieve. A law brought in to penalise discrimination in the workplace in Spain in 2007 has so far shown negligible results. In 2016 men earned an average of 28% per cent more than women, a difference of

around 5,000 euros in an average annual salary.

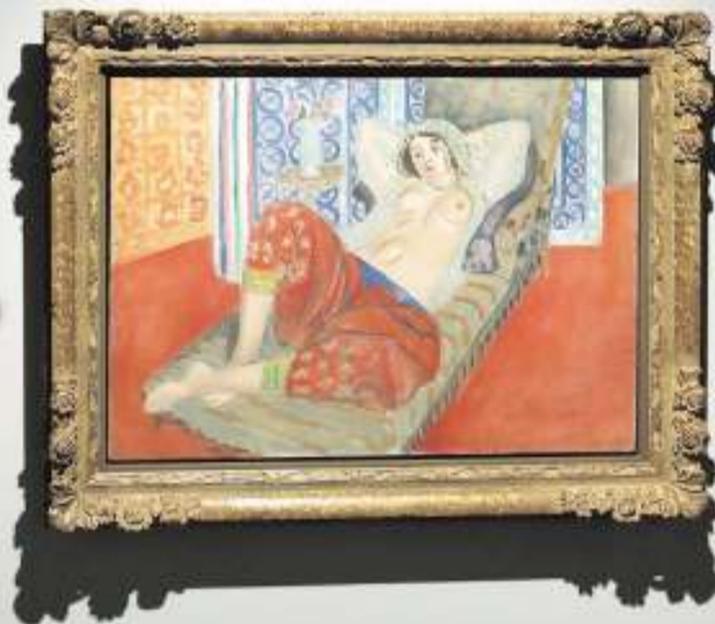
Rallies to mark International Women's Day have been organised in major cities across Spain. Thousands are expected to march in Malaga city centre from 7pm. **P4**

International Women's Day - a cross section of women from the local community give their views on equality, past and present **P2&3**

Forgotten women writers of Malaga: Jane Bowles and Gamel Woolsey, among others, were ignored in the shadow of their husbands **P22&23**

## THE POMPIDOU OPENS UP TO MATISSE

The French artist is at the centre of the Malaga museum's biggest show yet **P34**



One of the works at the new exhibition in the Pompidou. :: MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

**Countdown to possible Brexit:** British Consulate advises UK residents in Spain to keep up to date via their website and Facebook **P14**

**Father gets two years for killing four-year-old son** who was not strapped into baby seat when the car crashed speeding on the motorway in Malaga **P8**

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# Sharing in the spirit of women's day

Costa del Sol business owners, workers, students and pensioners share their views on equality



**JENNIE RHODES**

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**MALAGA.** Speaking to a wide range of women in Malaga and on the Costa del Sol, be they Spanish or from another country, in their 20s or their 70s, one thing they all agree on is that while attitudes towards gender equality have changed in their lifetimes, there is still a long way to go. Until there is total equality, expressions such as “glass ceiling” will still be

heard and movements such as #MeToo will still be needed.

Some don't feel that they have personally been victimised for being a woman while others have had direct experience of sexist work colleagues or differences in pay. Most, however ‘trivial’ the incident, could add the #MeToo hashtag to an, at best uncomfortable or embarrassing, experience with a male boss or colleague, or someone they considered a friend or even family member.

Incidents that were brushed off as “banter” in the 1970s would almost definitely either not happen or end up at a tribunal nowadays, although younger women say they continue to be asked if they are married during job interviews.

For now, however, most women agree that there is still a need to raise awareness of inappropriate conduct and differences in salaries and conditions, not just on 8 March but every day of the year.

With general, local and European elections coming up in spring, this year's Women's Day events in Andalucía and the rest of Spain have gained



**Tricia Gabbittas**  
Retired

“A boss wanted a peck on the lips”

Seventy-year-old Tricia Gabbittas explains that she has been the victim of direct sexism in the workplace. When she once queried why a less qualified male colleague was earning more than her, her boss's reply was, “Well he's a man and he has bills to pay”. Needless to say, Tricia was “furious”. She also had a male boss in the 1970s who seemed to think it was ok to get a “peck on the lips” from one of his female colleagues. While Tricia agrees it was sexist, she says she wouldn't describe it as assault and called it “banter” at the time. She adds, “We ladies were strong enough and wise enough to ignore it.”



**Aprile Winterstein Owner**  
/manager, Inmobiliaria REINES

“It should be made easier for companies to hire young women”

After running businesses in Malaga for 18 years, and before that in Granada, Aprile Winterstein believes that the law should be changed to prevent discrimination against young women in a recruitment process. “The state covers maternity leave but if a woman has to take time off during pregnancy, companies have to pay their salary,” she explains, something small companies, which also have to pay for a replacement, cannot afford. Aprile, originally from Canada, says that she supports the feminist movement as it was when it started and believes in equality, but that feminism in Spain has been taken to a political level that she finds hard to understand. International Women's Day, she says,



“should be a celebration of women”, not a reason to go on strike. As a professional in the real estate industry, Aprile says that women have gained visibility and are often recommended. “People now say, she's a woman so she must be good.”

**Patricia Welzenbach**  
Student

“I think every woman should be a feminist”

Twenty-two-year-old German Erasmus student, Patricia Welzenbach believes that more rules need to be put in place to stop inequalities before they have the chance to develop. She agrees that attitudes towards equality have changed, but we are certainly not out of the dark yet. “I think every woman should be a feminist,” she explains, adding that in order for attitudes to truly shift, an understanding of what feminism really needs to be attained. “All we want is to be given equal opportunities and rights.”



**Pili Franco Language student & Flamenco dancer**

“#MeToo exposes one of society's great evils”

Thirty-two-year-old Pili Franco says she believes the #MeToo movement is important to expose people who have used their power to force people to do something they



shouldn't have to in order to get a job. She says that while she doesn't feel she has personally experienced sexism in the workplace she has questioned why, in interviews, she has been asked whether she is married,

something that in theory should not be asked at any stage during a job selection process. “I know men who have never been asked that question and women who have been asked it a lot,” she says.

**Katie Alexandra Hallybone**  
Deputy Mayor, Macharaviaya

“The government must make strict laws on equal rights”

For 35-year-old Katie, who has lived in Spain since she was a child, the older generation in this country finds it harder to accept the idea of equality. While she does think that lot of progress has been made towards achieving greater equality between the sexes, she says there is still a lot to do. To tackle this, she says, the government “must make strict laws so that we have equal rights” and that it is “essential that more education on this subject is taught in schools”. She says we must change society “for our children's future” so that they “don't go through what we have gone through”.

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a distinct political edge.

The rise of the far right across Europe, whose policies often include a return to traditional family roles, and the arrival of the Vox party in the Andalusian government, have prompted new slogans this year. Meanwhile the Conservative Partido Popular has said that it will not be taking part in the rallies, saying they have been "politicised" by the left.

**Georgie Kenny** contributed to this article.

**Giulia Scaffidi**  
Student

"I was overbearing; he was a natural leader"



Originally from Italy, 20-year-old Giulia Scaffidi remembers the time she ran for school council. "I debated against a male candidate. We were both passionate about our cause," she explains. "Yet, I was deemed as overbearing and he, a natural leader".

**Nolwenn Gaudin** Translator

"Sexism is still very present"

Thirty-five-year-old French resident in Malaga, Nolwenn Gaudin, says she feels that generally, sexism is less accepted than it used to be, but she adds that "it is still very present". She says that the #MeToo movement is a big step forward. "I hope that abusive behaviours - men principally,



but some women are also guilty of this - will keep being reported and brought to justice," she says. "It's had an impact on society - women are not as scared to come forward and the cases are not dismissed any-more."

More awareness, more reports of experiences like the #MeToo movement and more systematic reports of sexual assault and more education, specifically in schools and about consent are needed, Nolwenn says.

**June Rendle**  
Actress

"As a fifties housewife I never felt unequal"

Born in 1930, June Rendle points out that Western women have been "liberated" for many years. "I believe that women have ensured that they are no longer treated as being 'special', in need of a seat on a train, of walking on the inside on a pavement," says June, who boasts a long career on stage and TV. With regard to sexism in the workplace she adds, "It was always degrading to be expected to sit on the boss's knee while taking dicta-



tion, but a sharp elbow in the ribs and an icy stare did not necessarily result in dismissal." June was married at 22 and soon had two children to bring up. "As a fifties housewife I ran the house while my husband earned the money. I never felt 'unequal' - nor did he," she points out.



**Irina Donskaia**  
Journalist

"Women are more understanding and tolerant than men"

Originally from St Petersburg, 61-year-old Irina Donskaia believes that Women's Day should be celebrated in a big way as it is in Russia. However after 23 years in Spain she has come to see the need for the day to represent a fight for rights and equality, rather than just a celebration of women as it is in her home country. "There's no equality," she says. "Salaries should be the same and more women should be in executive positions." After all, she adds, women are "cleverer, more understanding and tolerant".

**Maddie Hjort**  
Owner, Sunset Andalucía Real Estate

"A woman's attitude is about how she presents herself"

For Maddie Hjort, 48, a woman's attitude is all about how she presents herself. The biggest difference she sees between women in Spain and her native Denmark is that Danish women tend to just dress up for a special occasion whereas Spanish women seem to dress up every day. She says that while she has never had problems with any of her male bosses, working as a bartender in the past has brought her unwanted behaviour from male customers. Maddie doesn't call herself a feminist, but she believes that we all have different strengths, regardless of whether we're male or female.



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# The salary gap is widening in Spain and could take more than a century to close

The 2007 Equality Law has failed to equalise salaries and Spain is lagging way behind other European countries

## LUCÍA PALACIOS

MADRID. "If we show emotion, they say we're being dramatic. If we want to play against men, we're nuts. And if we dream of equal opportunities, we are delusional..."

That was the voice of American tennis star Serena Williams at the Oscar awards ceremony, talking about the lack of equality in sport. She was featuring in the latest advertisement by Nike, and her words led many to reflect upon the fact that any woman who runs a marathon, boxes, trains in the NBA, wins 23 Grand Slams, stops competing to have a baby and then comes back for more, could be called 'crazy'.

"If they want to call you crazy, fine. Show them what crazy can do," she says at the end of the advert. Thanks to "the craziest dreams" of women there has been some progress towards equality in sport, but there is still a long way to go.

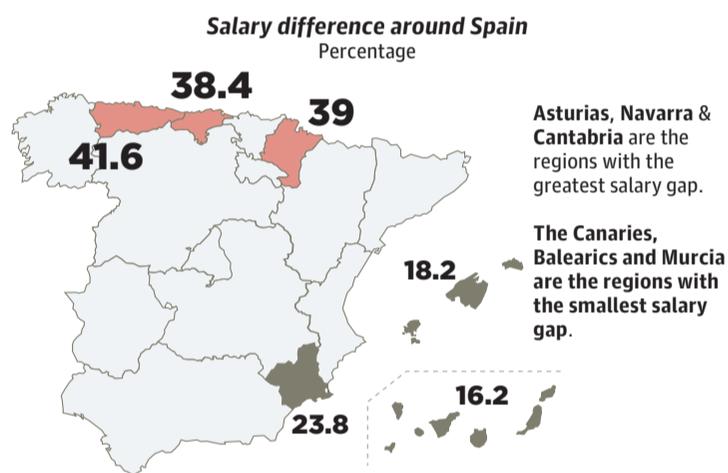
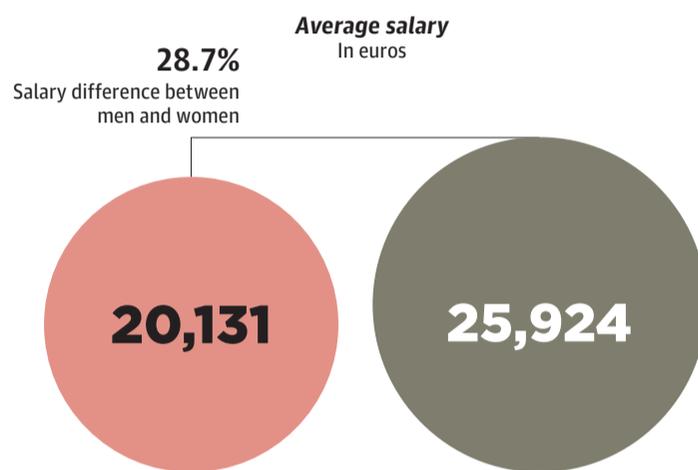
It is true that in recent decades there has been a major step forward in terms of equality in sport, including in Spain, where women won 11 of the 17 Olympic medals in Rio de Janeiro. However, the real gender gap comes in the amount of money earned by sportswomen compared with men. Tennis was the first to take a step towards equality by equalling the winning prizes in its four Grand Slams (Roland Garros, Wimbledon, the US Open and Australian Open), but in other sports such as golf, cycling and football, the differences are scandalous.

In golf, for example, the difference between the winnings of male and female players is more than one million dollars (nearly 880,000 euros), while in cycling the members of the Movistar women's team earn less than one-third of those in the men's team. In football, the difference in the amount paid by the federation to the women's league champions (1,352 euros) and their male counterparts for TV broadcasts (20 million) is, to say the least, embarrassing.

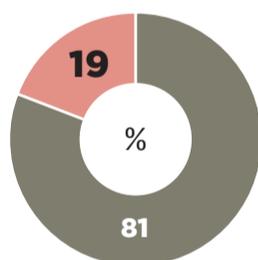
Looking at these figures, nobody can be surprised that there is only one woman on the Forbes List of the world's 100 wealthiest athletes: Serena Williams. Unfortunately, a report presented at the recent World Economic Forum in Davos made it clear that this inequality is not likely to end soon; in fact, it calculated that it could take over 100 years.

Spain is one of the most backward countries in terms of equal salaries, coming 129th out of the 149 countries studied for that Davos report. In the past decade the salary gap, far

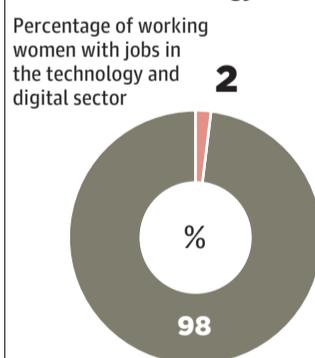
## Women in society in Spain



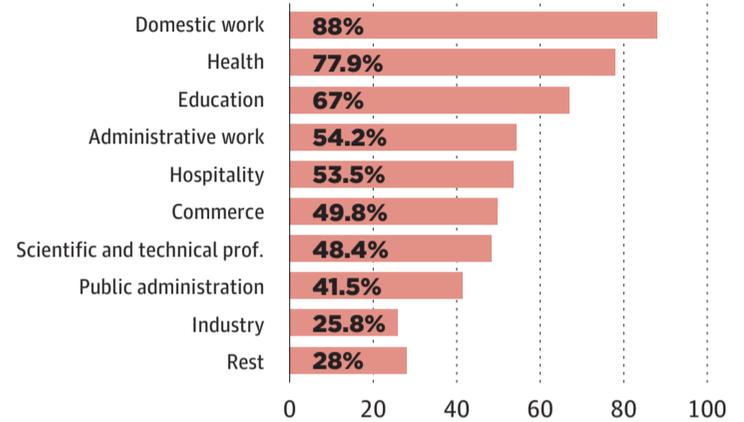
### Presence on boards of administration



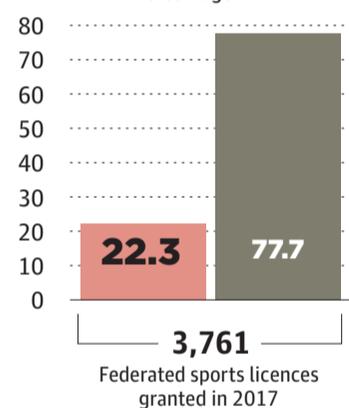
### Technology



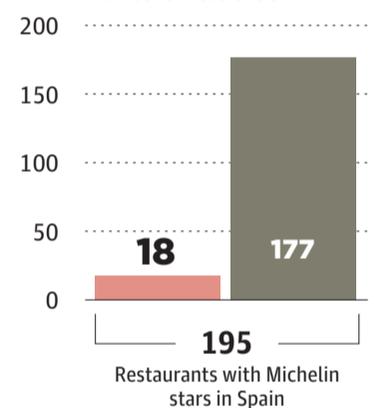
### Percentage of workers by economic activity



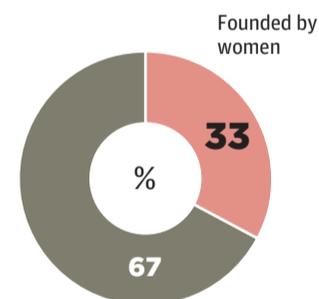
### Women in sport



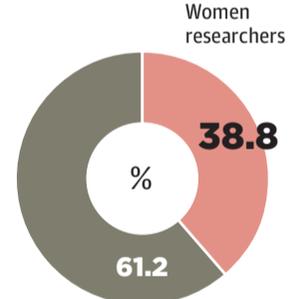
### Haute cuisine



### Founders of Start-ups



### Research



Sources: INE, Deloitte, BBVA, Ministerio de Empleo & Seguridad Social, CNMV, Asociación DigitalES, Ministerio de Cultura & Deporte.

R. PARRADO

from reducing, has increased, even though in 2007 the first law was passed to effectively eliminate any type of discrimination against women. Many of those measures have come to nothing, and even the government admits that the results have been negligible. A recent Cabinet meeting gave the go-ahead to a whole range of proposals, such as making public the average salaries of any company which discriminates by gender, to try to overcome the situation of "insupportable and unjustifiable inequality" which exists at present.

According to a recent report produced by the UGT union, on average, women in Spain earn nearly 5,800 euros a year less than men. This means that men earn 28.7% more than women; or, looked at the other way round, women earn 22.3% less than

## A new law to eliminate discrimination against women has had negligible results so far

men. This last figure is nearly half a point higher than in 2008, which was the lowest in the past decade.

The widest gap occurred in 2013, when it rose to 24 per cent after increasing over five years. It has reduced in the past three years, but not enough to mark a new low. Today, "women need to work ten years longer than men to obtain the same amount of pay," says Cristina Antoñanzas, general vice-secretary of the UGT, who also points out that two out of every ten working women are poor (twice

## The number of women in work has risen, but many still earn no more than 1,000 euros a month

as many as men) and "more than half of female workers earn 1,000 euros a month at most".

The maximum difference set by the government under this new equality law is 25 per cent; if any company has a higher gap than that, it will be considered guilty of discrimination and will have to justify it. However, in many sectors the average gap is already bigger than 25 per cent, including banking, insurance, commerce, real estate, administration, health and social services, among others.

However, it is not all bad news. Spain has advanced considerably in equality in terms of access to education and health, according to the Davos report. In fact, in this country more women than men go to university, although in the labour market there are 11 per cent fewer women than men, compared with 17.4 per cent in 2008. There are now at least 1.7 million more men working than women, although the difference has dropped by over a million in the past ten years.

On the other hand, female unemployment is 3.4 per cent higher than that of men, and even though the rate of female employment has risen nearly six points since 2013, to 59.6 per cent in 2017, Spain is still behind other European countries in this respect.

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# Luxury villas to be built on one of the Costa's last remaining undeveloped seafront plots

**HÉCTOR BARBOTTA**

@barbotta

The Mabel Capital group will build 30 villas on a beachfront plot of land in Estepona valued at more than 20 million euros

**MARBELLA.** The investment group Mabel Capital, owned by the Balearic businessman Abel Matutes (son of the former minister and businessman of the same name) and his partner Manuel Campos Guallar, has landed on the Costa del Sol with a project for the construction of more than 30 luxury seafront homes.

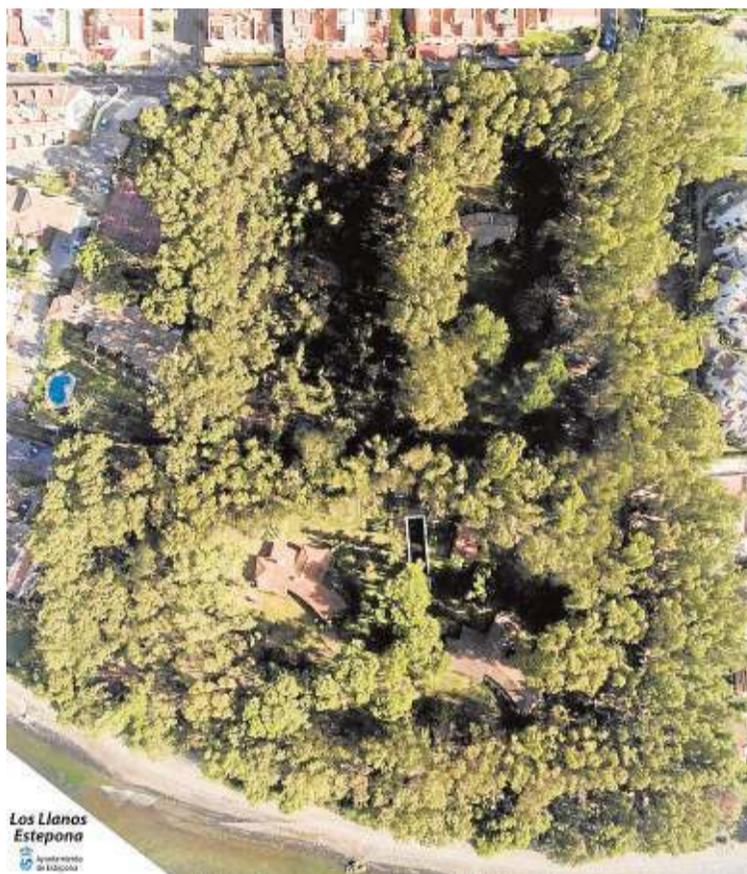
The company, based in Madrid and with interests in the real estate, financial, hospitality and sports development sectors, has earmarked more than 20 million euros for the acquisition of Los Llanos de Estepona, a 36-hectare plot located on

the beachfront in this municipality. This is one of the last undeveloped seafront plots still earmarked for real estate on the western Costa del Sol.

The land, according to the town plan in force in Estepona, permits the construction of semi-detached houses, but the intention of the investors is to construct another type of development. Specifically, the project consists of building high-end single-family homes, for which it would be necessary to make a change to the urban development plan (PGOU) which would take about a year.

## Meetings

The heads of the investment group have already held meetings with members of the municipal government team, in which they have expressed their intention to build a luxury real estate development in the area. Matutes himself recently travelled to Estepona to explain the nature of the project to the town council. There he revealed that among the potential clients interested in investing are personalities from the world of sport such as Rafa Nadal and Cristiano Ronaldo.



An aerial photograph of the plot of land. :: SUR

## Potential clients include sports stars Rafa Nadal and Cristiano Ronaldo

One of the major obstacles to high-end real estate development in Marbella and its area of influence is the scarcity of land on the beachfront, hence the interest in Los Llanos de Estepona, until now owned by a German company.

The property, planted with eucalyptus trees, is one of the last that has not yet been urbanised, hence the price - almost 600,000 euros per hectare.

The area is also surrounded by high-end housing. Among the neighbours is the bullfighter José Tomás.

The development of the real estate project will not reach the beach, as between the property and the coast there is a strip of public green land where a section of Senda Litoral coastal path, promoted by the Diputación provincial government, is planned.



JOSELE-LANZA

## THE NAO VICTORIA IN MARBELLA

Until Sunday, a replica of the Nao Victoria ship, the first to sail all the way around the globe, can be visited in La Bajadilla marina in Marbella. Marbella is just one of several stops for the international tour commemorating the fifth centenary of the journey which took three years and fourteen days. Visitors are welcome on board from 10am to 8pm.



Marbella's mayor, Ángeles Muñoz, (2nd left) with local councillors and Sando staff. :: JOSELE-LANZA

## Coastal path opens in Ventura del Mar with new sewage infrastructure in place

The works will bring an end to the disruption caused by sewage pipes surfacing during stormy weather

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ

**MARBELLA.** A new 400-metre stretch of the Senda Litoral coastal

path project was partially opened to the public in Ventura del Mar, west of Puerto Banús, on Tuesday as the improvements to local infrastructure near being finished.

The main sewerage system that was in the middle of the beach and regularly became exposed and damaged during stormy weather has been removed and, as explained by technicians from the company

Sando, has been replaced by a new network of pipes which are covered by the new walkway. A further eight manholes have also been removed.

The half-a-million-euro intervention, also sees new lighting, access, showers and litter bins installed, in addition to the walkway created using the same materials as those used to build the new Caminito del Rey.

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# Two years for father whose son died in a car crash without his child seat correctly secured

The defendant was driving at a speed of between 120 and 130 kilometres per hour on a stretch limited to 80 on the MA-20 in Malaga

:: **Á. FRÍAS / J. CANO**

**MALAGA.** A man in Malaga has been sentenced to two years in prison for his role in the traffic accident in which his son died. The sentence, to which this newspaper has had access, indicates that the defendant did not secure the child's safety seat correctly and, as a result, the child was thrown out of the vehicle and died.

The events occurred on 5 February 2017 when the defendant was driving his Opel Corsa on the MA-20 motorway close to the city's Carlos Haya tunnel at a speed of between 120 and 130 kilometres per hour in an area limited to 80.

The sentence explains that the man was distracted and moved, "inadvertently", towards the central lane. When he realised what was happening, he made a sharp turn



Tailbacks caused by the accident in February 2017. :: SUR

to the left to avoid a crash with another vehicle. However, this caused him to lose control of his car and it collided with the central reservation, causing the vehicle to roll over six times.

In the last of these rolls his son, aged four, who was riding in the back seat, was thrown out of the car. The boy, explains the court ruling, hit the ground and died instantly due to the head trauma he suffered.

The judgment states that the defendant had neither anchored the safety seat to the seat nor fastened the safety harness. Because of this he had neglected "the most elementary duties of care that, as a father and the person in control of the vehicle, were incumbent on him".

He has been sentenced to two years' imprisonment for murder by gross negligence. He has also been banned from driving for three years.



Julen's parents last week, with Serrano (right) and his wife. :: M. F.

## Judge refuses tests requested by landowner's defence team in Julen investigation

:: **Á. F. / J. C.**

**MALAGA.** The judge investigating the death of little Julen, who suffered a fatal fall down a narrow borehole in Totalán in January, has refused a request from the defence team of David Serrano, the owner of the land on which the hole was dug, to carry out further tests that would show conclusively that Julen's death was caused by the efforts of the rescue workers.

Lawyers from Lawbird Legal Services had asked for tests to be carried out to see whether falling rocks could be matched or not to the injuries which ultimately caused Julen's death.

They maintain that a metal pick, weighing seven kilos, lowered into the hole to try to unblock earth may have come into contact with Julen and have asked for rescuers, including Guardia Civil, police and fire officers to be called to make statements. However, the judge refused these requests, primarily on the basis that other more urgent lines of enquiry were still pending but said this decision could be appealed at a later date.

Meanwhile, the parents of Julen have called for "respect" this week as they announced that they would be reporting online abuse received over the case.

### 112 REPORTS

#### Man hands himself in after killing flatmate

**TORREMOLINOS**

:: **Á. F. / J. C.** A 70-year-old Spanish man handed himself into police in Torremolinos on Saturday after admitting to having killed his flatmate with a hammer days earlier following an argument between the pair.

National Police officers arrested the man while others went to the scene to confirm if what he was saying was true.

On arrival at Plaza Río Aguasvivas, they found the body of his flatmate, 77, also Spanish.

The assailant was remanded in custody as the autopsy took place on Thursday.

#### One injured in latest Marbella shooting

**MARBELLA**

:: **Á. F. / J. C.** A man was taken to the Costa del Sol hospital last Friday with a wound to his forehead after a shooting in the La Dama de Noche 'urbanisation' in Marbella.

Witnesses nearby say that they heard a number of gunshots at around 8pm while SUR sources say that those assumed responsible fled the scene in a motor vehicle.

Police this week were looking for two men in connection with the incident.

#### Mother splits teacher's lip with a headbutt

**MALAGA**

:: **F. GUTIÉRREZ.** A schoolteacher remains off work with a split lip after an angry parent headbutted her because her son was "still hungry" having received insufficient bread and oil for breakfast, laid on as part of the school's Andalucía Day celebrations.

The child's grandfather had already come into the school earlier in the day to complain, but the mother arrived at the end of the school day to confront the teacher at Miguel Fernández primary school in Churriana.

Teachers' unions have leapt to the victim's support.

#### 640,000 euros seized over false contract fraud

**MALAGA**

:: **SUR.** National Police officers have seized more than 640,000 euros in assets (including real estate and cash) from a criminal organisation which, by creating contracts for 'false' employees across four companies (supposedly fish markets), was able to cash in on payments for unemployment, pensions and other subsidies.

This was part of an investigation into Social Security fraud which has led to 21 arrests.



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# New Junta accuses Socialists of hiding half a million patients from waiting lists

Twice as many patients are waiting for operations and appointments as the figure offered by the previous PSOE regional government says the new regional Health chief

**:: M. D. TORTOSA/Á. ESCALERA**

**SEVILLE / MALAGA.** The new regional government run by the Partido Popular-Ciudadanos centre-right coalition has accused the previous Socialist-run Andalusian authority of hiding the true extent of health service waiting lists in official figures.

Regional Health minister, Jesús Aguirre, said on Tuesday that at the end of last year there were 843,538 people waiting for an operation or a specialist appointment with the SAS (Andalusian health service), 548,000 more than the figure offered by the previous government.

Of those half a million "hidden" patients, nearly 100,000 are in the province of Malaga. The Health Department's delegate for this area, Patricia Navarro, said on Wednesday that in June last year, the Socialist government reported just under 60,000 people on waiting lists in the province, whereas the real figure offered by the new government is more than 156,000.

The discrepancy appears to lie in the fact that the previous government did not include patients whose condition or treatment did not have a maximum waiting limit. Neither did the previous figures include patients who had not yet been given a date for their appointment, specialist-to-specialist referrals or patients who had been sent for treatment at private hospitals when their wait was about to exceed the maximum time allowed.

According to the new figures, pa-



Patients in a health centre waiting room. **:: SUR**

tients in Malaga province have to wait on average 332 days for an operation, a figure significantly higher than the 68 day average quoted by

the last regional government.

Of the 30,730 people currently in line for an operation, 7,397 have been waiting for more than a year,

according to the current SAS figures.

In the case of outpatient appointments with specialists, 136,387 people are waiting in the province of Malaga, with an average delay of 132 days. This waiting time was previously reported to be 51 days for a total of 50,566 patients.

To solve the waiting list problem, the regional minister announced an emergency injection of 25.5 million euros between now and the end of the year. The funds will be used to increase the number of operations carried out, reach an overtime agreement with health professionals and refer patients to private hospitals which have contracts with the public service where necessary. Of the 25.5 million, 15 will go towards contracts with private facilities.



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## PSOE defends figures and warns of privatisation

The PSOE was quick to respond to the accusations, saying that its figures were verified and compiled according to the guidelines given to regional health authorities by the central government. In a statement the Socialists accused the Junta of lying because it is paving the way for more outsourcing and privatisation. "Andalucía is below the national average in patient waiting figures, in the percentage of patients waiting for more than six months and average waiting times. In Andalucía nine out of ten patients have surgery within the established time limit," said the statement.

## MALAGA CAN NOW OFFICIALLY CLAIM "LORCA WAS HERE"

Hispanist Ian Gibson helped unveil a plaque in Malaga this week which records the time spent by poet Federico García Lorca in the city. In fact the García Lorcas regularly travelled from Granada to spend their summers in Malaga's Hotel Hernán Cortés. Federico's letters and postcards sent to figures such as the painter Benjamín Palencia and composer Manuel de Falla reflect his admiration for the city. Lorca specialist Gibson joined government delegate María Gámez on Monday for an event held at the former hotel, now central government offices.



## HERE AND THERE

### Junta announces plan to improve PTA access

**MALAGA**

**:: ÁLVARO FRÍAS.** The regional government has responded to recent warnings from companies about the congestion on roads into the PTA tech park by announcing an action plan to solve the problem. According to regional minister Elías Bendodo, the package of measures will include new traffic lights or roundabouts, among other initiatives. The plan, which is hoped will reassure the firms that hinted they could be forced to leave the park, will be on the table in three months' time, said Bendodo.



La Nogalera station. **:: SUR**

### Train station work to start in October

**TORREMOLINOS**

**:: ALBERTO GÓMEZ.** Work on the 4.5-million-euro project to rebuild the train station in the Plaza de la Nogalera in Torremolinos will start in October, the town's mayor confirmed this week. The 18-month scheme will create a more accessible station with lifts and ramps and follows years of protests from local residents, many of whom are unable to use the current station which only has a one-way escalator that is often out of order. Preliminary works to prepare the area will begin in May at the Caballitos roundabout.

### Norwegian puts 1.4 million seats on sale

**MALAGA**

**:: P. MARTÍNEZ.** The fourth biggest airline in terms of movements at Malaga airport, Norwegian, has announced that it is stepping up its links to and from the Costa del Sol this summer. A total of 1.45 million seats are available on flights between Malaga Airport and destinations in Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Germany, Poland and Spain. The announcement comes as a relief to the Costa del Sol after the airline recently closed its island bases in Palma de Mallorca, Gran Canaria and Tenerife.

## HERE AND THERE

**Innovative new pergola in central Torremolinos to be extended****TORREMOLINOS**

• **T. BRYANT.** Torremolinos town hall has announced its plans to extend the town's eye-catching new pergola so that it covers almost the entire pedestrianised central boulevard. The Pergola Torremolinos was designed by Salvador Moreno Peralta, the architect responsible for

creating the town's new look, and the decorative structure will now be extended to the Avenida Palma de Mallorca.

The aluminium covering recreates the movement of waves and has become the focal point of the redesigned Plaza Costa del Sol.

The extension will again be manufactured by Santa and Cole, who claim that the design is "so innovative that it is worth exporting to other countries in Europe and around the world".



Pergola Torremolinos is the main attraction on the boulevard. • T. B.

**Hotel Tritón expansion plan to be studied****BENALMÁDENA**

• **SUR.** The well-known Tritón hotel on Benalmádena Costa has been given the go ahead for a study on the impact of its plan to extend the property.

The owner, Best Hotels, wants to build more rooms, update the landscaping around the building and add parking for 200 cars.

The mayor has highlighted the benefits of the plan for the resort.

**Plans in motion to turn land by old Torremolinos mill into new hotel**

The 40-million-euro project in the old town will see the historic building recovered for public use, plazas and a viewpoint

**TONY BRYANT**

**TORREMOLINOS.** The council in Torremolinos has announced that a historic flour mill in the heart of the resort is to be restored as part of a luxury hotel project on the land around it. The Molina de la Bóveda is a disused 18th-century mill overlooking the sea by the cemetery and close to Calle San Miguel.

The plan was announced this week by the town's mayor, José Ortiz, and the owners of the land where the mill is located, Promociones Valdechoque SL. Although the project needs final clearance at the next council meeting, laying the foundations will start soon afterwards. The land will be used for 200-bedroom, glass-fronted hotel and include new walkways to connect the beach to the historic centre and the town's newly redeveloped pedestrianised areas.

The 3,500-square-metre development will respect the surrounding environment, including ruins of other mills nearby and the 100-year-old ficus tree that stands where the hotel's forecourt will be located. The tree has protected status, as does the old mill building which the council hopes to use as a visitor centre once it is handed over by the



Computerised image of the new hotel in Torremolinos. • SUR

landowners as part of the deal and the restoration is complete.

The work, which it is estimated will take three years to complete, will create two public squares, Plaza del Molino and Plaza del Ficus. The Plaza del Molino will connect to the Cuesta del Tajo steps up from the beach, while the 2,000-square-metre Plaza del Ficus will become a lookout point with panoramic sea views.

**Empty for many years**

The property has stood abandoned for many years and the town hall has made many unsuccessful attempts to acquire it. The mill is part of a group of mills that were built between the 15th and 18th centu-

ries to make flour and parts of it have since been used as a private home and a restaurant.

The hotel will create approximately 80 new jobs and the overall project will require an investment of 40 million euros.

The architect responsible for the project, Jesús Del Moral, said, "The main attraction of the project is that it opens up the area and generates a large square and an urban environment that recognises all the existing elements, such as the old ficus and the emblematic mills."

Major hotel chains are currently in negotiations to take over and further details are expected to be announced shortly.



Marisa Martín cuts the ribbon at the opening of the shop. • SUR

**New Cudeca charity shop opens in Los Boliches****T. BRYANT**

**FUENGIROLA.** The Cudeca Foundation opened a new charity shop in Los Boliches on Tuesday. The second-hand outlet, the charity's second in Fuengirola, was inaugurated by the mayor of Fuengirola, Ana Mula. The opening ceremony

was attended by various Cudeca officials and volunteers.

Cudeca now has 22 charity shops in the Malaga province, the first of which opened in Fuengirola in 1992. The new shop is located in Calle Párroco Ildefonso López Lozano.

**Age Concern branches out to Benalmádena****T. B.**

**FUENGIROLA.** Age Concern Fuengirola/Mijas has announced it will soon extend its services further along the coast. The charity, which began in 2014, currently covers the area of Fuengirola and Mijas, but due to an increased demand for assistance, it will soon offer help to the older expat community

living in Benalmádena and Arroyo de la Miel.

The charity, which has received the backing of the Benalmádena Foreign Residents Department, offers senior citizens a chance to socialise with like-minded people, while also offering a varied programme of care services.

However, as the organisation continues to grow, the need for volunteers has become a priority and the charity is appealing to anyone who can provide a few hours each week to help with transportation, home visits and the running of its shop in Los Boliches.

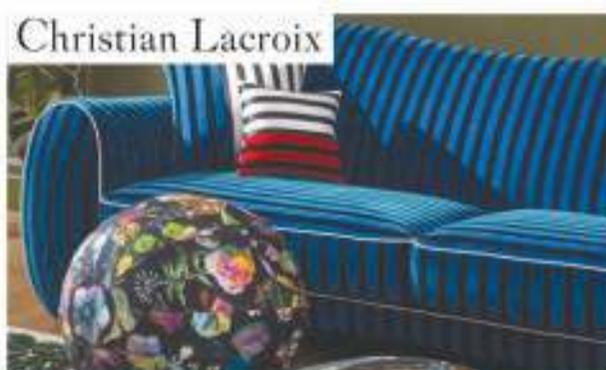


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## HERE AND THERE

## Town hall announces gourmet market plans

## TORROX

:: E. C. Torrox town hall has revealed plans to turn the existing market on its Plaza de la Constitución into a gourmet market, with a central bar where visitors will be able to sample local food. The announcement was made last Friday by mayor, Óscar Medina, a month after the town was named gastronomy capital of Malaga to promote the Sabor a Málaga (taste of Malaga) food brand.

## Latest themed shower nods to local tradition

## TORRE DEL MAR

:: SUR. The newest themed shower to be unveiled on Torre del Mar beach is in the shape of a boquerón, or anchovy; the local Malaga traditional fish. The latest addition to the beach was officially inaugurated by tourism councillor, Jesús Atencia, on Tuesday. The giant boquerón joins a dancing lighthouse, which is painted in the same blue and white stripes as the town's iconic lighthouse, and flip-flop shaped showers, which were installed last year.

## Town hall commits to renewable energy

## RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA

:: SUR. Rincón de la Victoria town hall has installed photovoltaic solar panels on its main building in the town centre. The installation measures 100 square metres, has a 15-year life span and is expected to save the council around 4,000 euros per year. "We are committed to renewable energy and to energy saving solutions," said infrastructure councillor, Sergio Díaz, on Tuesday. Last year the town hall introduced LED lighting to a number of public spaces.

## Experts carry out in-depth study of Vélez-Málaga's old watchtowers

The project forms part of a 10-million-euro European funding programme and will look into the possibility of creating holiday accommodation

## :: AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** Experts from the University of Malaga are currently carrying out an in-depth study of the state of 10 of the 17 historic watchtowers which once defended Vélez-Málaga's coastline. The study will inform the town hall as to work needed to restore the coastal towers as well as possible future uses.

According to the councillor for employment, María José Roberto, one idea is to convert some into holiday accommodation, which she believes would promote the area's diversity to tourists and increase employment. However, she added that the town hall will not be able to make any decision until the experts' report has been handed to them and studied.

Vélez-Málaga is paying for the study with part of the 10 million-euro ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) money that it has



Experts inspect the Vigía de la Manganeta tower in Almayate. :: SUR

been awarded for integrated sustainable development projects.

The Torre Moya in Benjarafe, Torre Atalaya, Torre Cortijo Los Lara, Torre de Cerro Tambor, Torre de Benadalid, Torre de Almayate Alto, Torre de Chilches, Torre del Jaral, Torre de Manganeta and Torre de Lagos are all included in the project. The Torre del Mar castle, Vélez-Málaga fort and Castillo de Marqués

in Valle-Niza, which is used as a catering school, will also be included in the study, according to Roberto. Other projects which are set to come out of the European funding include repairing the tram infrastructure, introducing renewable energy and more efficient lighting in town hall buildings, street lighting and the expansion of fibre optics throughout the municipality.

## First ever shipment of Iberian avocados en route to USA and NYC supermarkets

## :: A. PELÁEZ

**EL TRAPICHE.** El Trapiche-based fruit giant, Trops, sent its first ever shipment of avocados to the USA last week. A boat carrying a container of the subtropical fruit set sail on 1 March and is expected to arrive in New York on the 10th, where the avocados will be distributed among supermarkets in the city.

Trops first had talks with agencies in the United States as far back as 1998 to try to access the market, but it wasn't until 2015 when representatives from the US Animal and Plant Health Service (APHIS) and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) visited Trops' headquarters in the Axarquía, along with Spanish government representatives, to inspect the company's premises and protocols. "This shows the maturity of Trops as a collective of producers," said Enrique Colilles, manager of Trops, last Friday. Trops is a collective of 2,800 farmers from Andalucía, Valencia, Alicante and the Algarve in Portugal and its principal produce are mangoes and avocados.

## Frigiliana features in latest Coca-Cola advert in Spain

## :: EUGENIO CABEZAS

**FRIGILIANA.** Frigiliana features in the latest Spanish Coca-Cola advert which was first televised and shown on the internet on Monday. Viewers get a brief glimpse of people having lunch at a restaurant which was especially created for the promotional video, on the Barriarto mirador on Calle Santo Cristo. The theme of the advertisement is food bringing peo-

ple together and the music is a version of Louis Armstrong's What a Wonderful World. Frigiliana Mayor, Alejandro Herrero, said he was "pleased" with the advertisement and added that when Coca-Cola approached the town hall, they put the company in touch with residents who have mules and horses to carry materials up to the mirador as cars cannot access that part of Frigiliana.



A still of the Frigiliana scene in the latest Coca-Cola advert. :: SUR

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# Spanish government approves decree giving rights to British residents in a no-deal Brexit

As the countdown to a possible UK exit from the EU on 29 March continues, the British Consulate advises people to check its website

## ■ SUR IN ENGLISH

**MALAGA.** While the British parliament gets ready for a series of make-or-break votes next week, contingency plans continue to be put in place by both Spanish and UK authorities in the event that Britain leaves the EU with no agreed deal.

If Westminster MPs fail to back the UK-EU Withdrawal Agreement in a vote on 12 March, Prime Minister Theresa May has agreed to asking them to decide whether Britain should go for no-deal with the EU and leave on 29 March, or ask for an extension, keeping Britain in the

EU while negotiations continue. May will be hoping the EU makes acceptable concessions to satisfy MPs' concerns that the current deal may keep the UK in the EU indefinitely to avoid a hard border with Ireland.

Meanwhile, the some 400,000 British citizens living in Spain are waiting to see what their future legal position will be. The nervous situation was calmed last Friday when Spanish ministers agreed that rights for UK nationals who are resident in Spain would be broadly kept the same as now in the extreme case of no deal with the EU.

This vote of confidence from Spain, along with the EU's draft Withdrawal Agreement confirming citizens' rights if there is the opposite outcome and an exit deal is signed, brings more comfort to British residents. Rights to healthcare, UK pensions, residency, work and in other areas would continue with or without an exit deal once Britain eventually leaves the EU.

In the decree, in the event of no deal, Britons would need to apply for

a new foreigners ID card by January 2021.

The Spanish government's contingency move still has to be approved by the Madrid Congreso in the coming days and is dependent on the UK government returning the favour for Spaniards who live in Britain, something that London has previously indicated it would do.

This week British Consulates continued their activity informing British residents in Spain about the current situation. A spokesperson urged people to check the information website, Living in Spain, signing up for email updates, as well as 'following' the UK Embassy's 'Brits in Spain' Facebook page. People were also asked to share the links with their British friends in Spain.

## ■ For up-to-date official Brexit information for those in Spain:

### Official UK site:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-spain>

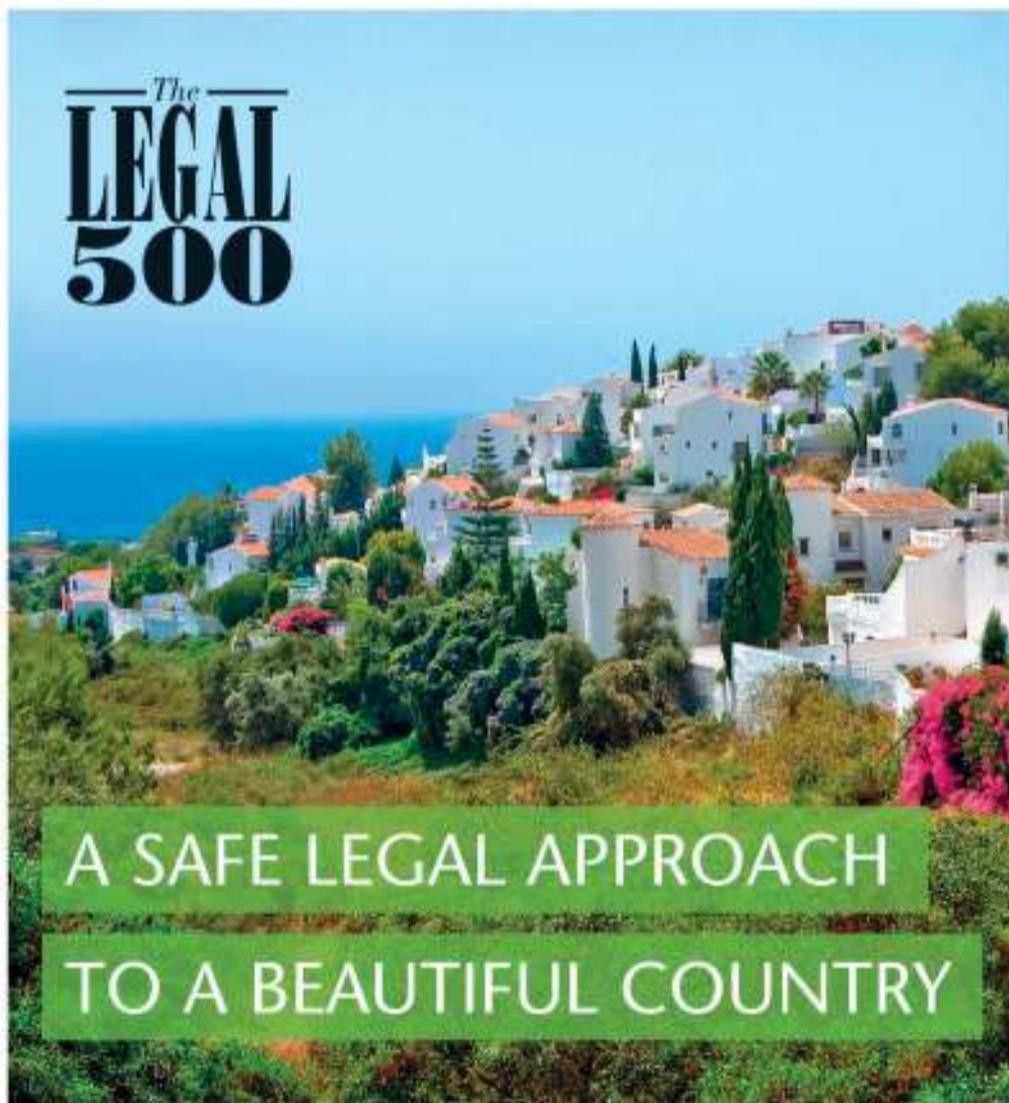
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A pro-EU protester in Westminster where MPs vote next week. ■ EP

## What will the Spanish do if there is no deal or a hard Brexit?

## ■ SUR IN ENGLISH

**MALAGA.** The Spanish government's contingency measures to protect British residents' rights issued last week would only come into effect if Britain did not reach a broader Brexit deal with the EU in the Withdrawal Agreement that UK MPs will vote on next week.

In these alternative 'hard Brexit' measures, people living in Spain would have to apply for a foreigner identity card before January 2021 to show that they were legally resident. For people who had permanent residency already as EU citizens, the ministers' decree says that the process would be largely automatic, whereas those without that

may need to take extra steps to get a foreign residents' card. The exact process has not been announced.

The Spanish government also envisages agreements whereby British registered residents would continue to receive their UK pensions in Spain and get public healthcare. In addition, the right of British workers in Spain to get healthcare would be maintained.

Tourists would also be able to receive emergency healthcare in Spain as now, providing that the UK authorities did the same thing for Spanish visitors to Britain.

The no-deal contingency measures would also apply to people living in Gibraltar.



## New tax treaty signed for Gibraltar and Spain earlier this week

The Gibraltar government says the agreement is beneficial as it protects Gibraltar as a separate and autonomous tax jurisdiction

:: DEBBIE BARTLETT

**GIBRALTAR.** The UK, on behalf of and at the request of Gibraltar, and Spain signed a tax treaty this week which the Gibraltar government says will be beneficial, not least because it protects Gibraltar as a separate and autonomous tax jurisdiction and Spain has committed to removing Gibraltar from its blacklists.

The new agreement was signed by the UK as the state responsible for Gibraltar's external relations, but was mainly negotiated between Gibraltar and Spain and only



The chief minister recorded a video about the tax treaty. :: SUR

applies to them.

The full text of the agreement was released by chief minister Fabian Picardo on Wednesday, and he recorded a video explaining the main points. These include a double taxation agreement, in other words the tax paid by Spanish

workers employed in Gibraltar or vice versa will be discounted from their taxes in their country of residence, and a commitment to exchange tax information.

The treaty now has to be ratified by the UK and Spanish parliaments before coming into force.

### IN BRIEF

#### New stamps to mark Women's Day

**GIBRALTAR**

:: D.B. The Minister for Equality, Samantha Sacramento, and the Gibraltar Philatelic Bureau launched a new set of stamps this week to commemorate International Women's Day (IWD). The stamps were designed by secondary school

pupils in a competition last November on the UN's theme for this year's IWD, 'Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change'.

The prize-winning designs were created by Eliana Medici of Westside School, Kiarah Gomez of Bay-side School and Sara Rumford, also of Westside. Ms Sacramento said she was thrilled about the new stamps, and is sure the winners are very proud of their achievements.

#### Talk on Brexit and business on Tuesday

**GIBRALTAR**

:: D.B. There will be a talk on 'Brexit- what will it mean for your business' at the university on Tuesday, starting with an address by deputy chief minister Dr Joseph Garcia at 4pm and an introduction by the Collector of Customs, John Rodriguez. The talk will be given by Dr Lars Karlsson, an advisor to the UK and EU governments on Customs, borders and trade matters related to Brexit.

#### Piano donated for John Mackintosh theatre

**GIBRALTAR**

:: D.B. A Bechstein piano has been donated to Gibraltar Cultural Services for community use, and will be kept at the John Mackintosh Hall Theatre for functions and performances. The donation was made by Ruth Parasol, from the Parasol Foundation, via the Gibraltar Academy of Music and Performing arts. The piano was used for the first time this week as part of the Young Musicians Festival.

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Increased paternity leave entitlement comes in next month as part of a raft of new measures. :: SUR

## Government agrees to give new fathers same leave as mothers

The move is among express, royal decrees issued recently which touch on areas of welfare policy and which rival political parties have criticised

:: SUR

**MADRID.** The government published a royal decree this week extending paternity leave for new dads from five to eight weeks, although it won't come properly into force until 1 April. It is one of a raft of measures approved by the Spanish Cabinet using this express legislative route ahead of elections next month.

The new paternity leave rules say that the amount being taken will rise to the same as women from eight weeks this year to 12 weeks in 2020 and 16 weeks in 2021. They won't just be applied to births, but also to

adoptions of children under a year. By 2021, a father will take six weeks after the birth and the remaining 10 weeks until the child is one, which can be spread out part time.

Both parents can now also have an hour off a day until the child is nine months old to give milk or, alternatively, accumulate them as extra days of leave.

### Criticism of use of decree

The government has issued several other royal decrees recently, which are a form of government order applied more or less immediately and then voted on by Congreso later. Designed for emergencies, there has been criticism this week from rival parties that ministers are using them too much as a form of electioneering ahead of 28 April's general election.

Although Congreso was dissolved this week ahead of the election, a permanent committee is still sitting to attend to legislative business.

As well as approving measures to protect British citizens in the event of a hard Brexit (see page 14), decrees agreed last week included a revision to property rental law after it had been rejected by Congreso twice before.

### Rental contract changes

Among the new rules are that minimum contract periods go up to five years from three years for private renters and tourist-home rentals become a regional responsibility. Residents can now say no to tourist rentals in their block or street if three fifths of the "comunidad" is against.

The government has also decreed that social security payments will continue to be paid where people are forced to stop work to look after a dependent person, and that companies with 50 staff must keep a register of pay levels of men and women to prove they are doing more to reduce any salary gap.

## Court investigators and police testify in ongoing trial of Catalan separatist leaders

The Supreme Court quizzed witnesses this week about events on 20 September and 1 October 2017

:: MATEO BALÍN

**BARCELONA.** After the twelve on trial testified in the first week and national politicians in the second, this week has focused on senior public officials who were involved in reacting to events around the illegal declaration of independence in Catalonia in autumn 2017.

On Wednesday, trial judges heard from the court secretary who went with Guardia Civil officers to search the regional finance ministry on 20 September 2017. During that search, she was trapped in the building for 15 hours as a large, organised crowd blocked the entrance, damaging police vehicles.

The court official told the Supreme Court in Madrid that she had felt threatened by the thousands outside the building and had to escape over rooftops with police once she had finished her work.

She had been looking for evidence of illegal funding for the planned independence referendum and the alleged violence outside was a main reason leading to a charge of sedition against some of the accused. The Mossos d'Esquadra regional police force was also criticised for supposedly doing little to help the Guardia Civil and the secretary.

The Guardia Civil colonel in charge of trying to stop public buildings being used for the illegal referendum on 1 October 2017 also testified this week, saying he felt "conned" by the regional-controlled police who allegedly cluded behind his back to help the referendum take place.

## Cabify returns to Catalonia after a month with way to get round private-hire-car restrictions

:: SUR

**BARCELONA.** Cabify has returned to Barcelona with half the amount of drivers it had before the Catalan government introduced a raft of regional restrictions on private-hire-vehicle services just over a month ago. Taxis had gone on strike in the city in late January, complaining that the Uber-style services were unfair competition.

Now Cabify, a Spanish brand similar to Uber, is back. In response

to the new Catalan rule that private-hire vehicles must leave a time gap between receiving a booking and picking up the passenger, Cabify is using a loophole that says 15 minutes must pass after the service has been "contracted". Users are now asked by the company's phone app to contract a continuous service agreement with the first journey, removing the need to wait 15 minutes on future trips.

Cabify has agreed to remove the GPS positioning map of its cars and only show it once the reservation is confirmed. The company has also changed its business model, acquiring 300 private hire licences, rather than work with each licence holder individually.

Uber is waiting to see what happens before reentering the city and taxi unions have claimed "fraud".

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This week saw Luis Garciano, an economic advisor for Ciudadanos, announcing that the centrist party will impose tighter regulations on corporations if it gains a share of power on April 28th. "We have been very concerned that many sectors in Spain have been getting monopolised over time," Garciano told a somewhat flustered Bloomberg TV interviewer on Wednesday.

He went on to say that major companies in the energy, electricity and telecommunications sectors have too much market power and that regulatory bodies are not sufficiently independent of political influence. Ciudadanos, said Garciano, would address both issues if in office, thus opening up competition and reducing politicians' control of big business.

## THE EURO ZONE

MARK NAYLER

### SOMETHING IN THE WAY



So-far, so market-friendly (the phrase that's most often used to describe Ciudadanos). Garciano was also asked what the party's first economic change would be if it found itself in government, and answered that the key to bolstering Spain's productivity and competitiveness is improving education. His interviewer seemed unconvinced by the response, but it revealed Ciudadanos to be far

more progressive in this respect than its potential right-wing allies - the rapidly regressing Conservatives and the far-right Vox. The only other Spanish parties one could imagine giving a similar answer at the moment are the PSOE and Podemos, although the latter has always highlighted its ideological differences with its rival newcomer.

Led by 39-year-old Catalanian

Albert Rivera, Ciudadanos describes itself as liberal, secular and post-nationalist. Currently positioned third in the opinion polls behind the PSOE and the Popular Party (PP), it's likely to be the kingmaker on April 28th, possessing the ideological flexibility to team up with parties to its right or left (in the past it has attempted to make or has made pacts with both the Conservatives and the Socialists). Over the coming weeks, as Spain enters election mode, the party will have plenty of opportunities to indicate which direction it proposes to take at the end of April.

Ciudadanos has already made one thing clear, though: it will not be teaming up with the Socialists (no party is likely to secure a parliamentary majority on April 28th, so the next government will

almost certainly be some kind of coalition). Rivera argues that Sánchez has undermined the Spanish Constitution in attempting to open a dialogue with Catalan separatists; for that reason, he has ruled out an alliance with the PSOE.

Such a pairing was also tabled in early 2016, as Spanish parties tried to form a government after December 2015's inconclusive election. But it never materialised, chiefly because Podemos leader Pablo Iglesias said he would not support a partnership between the PSOE and Ciudadanos. This time, it's the divisive issue of Catalonia that stands in the way, thus preventing the formation of a dynamic and progressive coalition - perhaps the best available out of all the possible combinations come April 28th.



A building going up on the Costa del Sol. :: NITO SALAS / FILE PHOTO

## Prices of new Costa homes among fastest rising in Spain

:: IGNACIO LILLO

**MALAGA.** The Costa del Sol is one of the parts of Spain where prices of newly-built homes are rising the fastest. According to a respected real estate valuation report, in Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol, prices were up six per cent in January 2019 compared to January 2018 for flats and houses bought new from developers.

The Sociedad de Tasación's analysts said that they expected prices to continue to rise in the Costa area this year, but with less volume of business than in the last 12 months.

It also warned that the failure of Marbella to agree a new PGOU

master town plan to replace the old 1986 one was likely to have a negative impact on the evolution of the market in that resort.

Looking at Andalucía overall, Malaga province was the fastest growing in terms of prices on new-build property, followed by Seville and Granada provinces.

At a national level, the areas where new property prices increased the most were Catalonia (7.7%), Madrid (7.5%), followed by the Balearics on 5.8%. The average for the country as a whole was 5.4%.

The report was presented in an innovative format to look like a weather map.



:: SALVADOR SALAS

## COSTA DEL SOL GOES IN SEARCH OF GERMAN TOURISTS

The huge ITB travel and tourism fair has been taking place this week in Berlin. It's a key date in the Andalusian marketing calendar. Local and regional politicians have been in the German capital to promote their areas' charms, supported by a special supplement produced by SUR, held in the photo by Bernalmádena's mayor, Víctor Navas (2nd left).

## Andalucía tops the list of properties embargoed in 2018

A total of 6,523 primary residences nationally had a resale ban put on them when owners couldn't keep up payments, 40% down on a year earlier

:: EFE

**MADRID.** The amount of properties embargoed for non-payment of the mortgage rose 1.6 per cent across Spain in 2018. In total 53,857 properties nationally were embargoed, just under 20 per cent of which were in Andalucía.

Across Spain, 6,523 were primary residences of private individuals, almost 41 per cent less than the previous year.

A further 2,389 homes were second residences, down some 30 per cent on a year ago.

The rest of the mortgages relate to other types of property, such as garages, industrial units and homes in the hands of companies.

Around 20 per cent of embargoes were on new-build properties and 80 per cent on property that had previously been occupied.

Just over 57 per cent of the mortgages on properties being embargoed were taken out in the period

## Around 20 per cent of embargoes were on new-build properties

2005-2008 at the height of the last real estate sale boom.

By region, Andalucía led the way at 10,123 mortgages embargoed, followed by the Valencia region (10,076) and Catalonia (8,841).

The lowest areas for mortgage embargoes were the Basque Country (261), Navarre (342) and the Balearics (802).

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**THERE IS A PRIZE FOR THE BEST CONTRIBUTION TO THIS PAGE**  
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## Affluence and isolation

I have just read the two letters in the edition of February 22nd and neither left me untouched.

I agree that the constant persecution of the 'manteros' seems unfair and sad when it is the only possibility they may have to earn a living. However much sadder for me is that they exist as the result of a society where people wish to exhibit their affluence carrying a handbag whose worth would feed a family for a year in a developing country.

Whether the article in question is fake or not is of little account.

As to the letter about the Catalan separatists, to say that they only 'organised a referendum' is far from the truth. Indeed, they organised an illegal referendum which more than half of the population of Catalonia did not

want, but they also provoked violent confrontation with the Spanish police ending with a UDI, which, in many countries, is considered the equivalent to a coup d'état. The reason they have been detained awaiting trial is due to the obvious risk of escape once many of their fellow instigators had already fled the country. We have yet to see the full extent of harm they have done to Catalonia, I fear the economic repercussions will be outweighed by the social rift that is damaging the co-existence for many thousands of Catalans.

Certainly in this concept there are many similarities with Brexit which reinforces my belief that pulling together and solidarity is far more conducive to human well-being than separatism and isolation.

**NICOLA BARKER**  
BY EMAIL

## Cliff edge

Our self-serving politicians keep telling us that the world is square and we will fall off the edge and crash. Poppycock!

Why is the EU so intransigent regarding the Irish Border, when the IMF and ECB bent over backwards with a 75-billion-euro bailout package in order to keep dead-weight Greece in the EU (now Greek debt is 300 billion euros)?

Also it is strange that Switzerland bordered by many countries has no backstop problems from the EU.

So the Irish border backstop is invented by the EU to keep us tied to them forever!

David Cameron and Theresa May and various ministers have been backwards and forwards to the EU to no avail whatsoever and we leave on 29 March 2019.

Once this has taken place, we will still continue with our Brussels pilgrimage to attempt to reach an agreement on how many billions in compensation the EU want from us, so it will never ever be over.

**BRIAN JOHNSTON**  
BENALMÁDENA COSTA

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Today, international women's day, will see men and women joining marches and events to support the feminist cause: women should have the same rights, power and opportunities as men.

On the surface we can argue that at least in developed countries those goals have been achieved. For decades we have been able to vote, study, work our way up to senior management positions and even become prime minister.

So why is the proportion of women in senior positions still so low? Why is there still a gender salary gap?

The answer, I believe, is the reason why feminism is still necessary.

Equal opportunities -  
in the home too

**RACHEL HAYNES**

Women may be able to access senior management positions, but they are still considered responsible for bringing up their children and running their household. One of the problems suffered by working

women is how to juggle work and family life. Why is this never a man's problem? Why is it the women who are expected to do the juggling? If one parent needs to reduce their working hours for fam-

## Good buy my love

**PETER EDGERTON**  
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

**F**rayed collar, worn out cuffs and a mysterious and rather ugly paint stain. It was no good, I really would have to buy a new jacket after having put it off for the last couple of years. But when exactly and, for that matter, how?

I certainly wasn't going to waste an afternoon in a series of high street clothes shops listening to music that nobody can possibly like beneath neon lighting presumably originally designed to guide aircraft in to a safe landing. Waddling in and out of coat hanger-strewn cubicles for hours on end, having my ears battered by Calvin Harris and Rhianna is not my idea of a good time, let me tell you.

What about online shopping, then? It's all the rage apparently. Well, no thanks - those city centre clothes shops might not be to

my taste but at least they're not hipster cafes selling seedy bread rolls and avocado smoothies. We should be thankful for small mercies and support them. Well you should; I'll just draw the line at not buying clothes on the internet which, I'm sure you'll agree, is a fair deal.

In the end, as always, I decided procrastination was the most desirable option and, as a consequence, simply stuck my fingers in my ears, closed my eyes and pretended the whole jacket buying necessity thing wasn't really happening. This went on for about a month with my coat literally falling to pieces while I looked the other way disingenuously whistling a medley of Perry Como hits.

And then a miracle. This very afternoon, I was just leaving the pub having performed some task

so mundane that I've already forgotten what it was, when the local Cudeca shop hove into view like an oasis in the desert. (For those readers who may be on a brief visit to the coast and therefore perhaps unaware of Cudeca, it's the marvellous Cancer Care Association founded in 1991 by the equally marvellous Joan Hunt). I bounded through the door, took one look at the men's jacket section, spied a cool suede number, tried it on, paid the friendly and jovial women at the counter and bade farewell all within a record-breaking three minutes.

This, my friends, is what clothes shopping should be - no GBH of the tympanum, tasteful lighting, lovely display of wares and great staff to boot.

Even better - not an avocado smoothie in sight.

## PACHI



ily reasons, it is nearly always the mother. There are two possible reasons: one, because society assumes and convention states that it will be that way round; and the other, because the father earns more than the mother - which takes us back full circle to the salary gap issue.

Women often argue that it is their choice, and perhaps even instinct, to play a more prominent role in the running of their household and the bringing up of their children, even though both parents work full time. But perhaps it's time we applied the equal opportunities approach to the domestic environment too.

More men should be given the chance to draw up the weekly shop-

ping list and cook for the family, to decide which room needs cleaning and when, and enjoy the satisfaction of leaving everything spotless, and to be in charge of identifying when a child needs new trousers. I know a lot of men already share these responsibilities, but to reach real levels of equality more men should be allowed into this world that has traditionally been dominated by women.

Today girls are being told they can aspire to be engineers, scientists, doctors... that there are no barriers for women in the workplace. At the same time, though, not enough young people are being shown that there are no barriers for men in the home.



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# Malaga's forgotten female writers

They had no grand official portraits as men did, but they challenged the rules with works of literature which were powerful but often ignored



ALBERTO GÓMEZ  
✉ agalmentres@diariosur.es

They did not have large official portraits in gold frames, as that was a privilege reserved for men. These women challenged the rules of their times and questioned the social order. They wrote about free love and motherhood, rape and submission, suicide and marriage. They were snubbed and humiliated, saw their books reduced to secondary titles and

then thrown into the rubbish bin of oblivion. They were ignored after their deaths, but in life they managed to open up a niche for themselves, publishing and leaving a record of having a voice of their own, something to say beyond the complacent silences and decorative smiles which, because they were women, were supposed to be their destiny.

The works of women writers from Malaga such as María Rosa de Gálvez and Isabel Oyarzábal Smith, and others who were local by adoption, like Gamel Woolsey, Jane Bowles and Mercedes Formica, can occasionally be found in a library, but are awaiting a definitive rescue. That, however, is not just a matter of time, but

also of justice.

Oyarzábal hated corsets, as she explains in her memoirs: "The other girls were proud of their tiny wasp waists and used to tell me I would always be remembered as the girl without a waist. I was indifferent to their comments."

That detail gained symbolism as the years passed. Born in 1878, the daughter of middle-class parents (her father was Basque and her mother Scottish), she pierced the patriarchal system to conquer new areas of equality and freedom. She faced up to Primo de Rivera to demand universal suffrage and was Spain's first female ambassador and work inspector. Madison Square Garden was

packed when she made a speech criticising the lack of international solidarity against the advance of fascism in Europe. However, it took over 70 years for her autobiography to be published in Spain.

María Rosa de Gálvez was born a century earlier and adopted by the Gálvez family, although it is suspected that she was her adoptive father's biological daughter. She received a good education which she complemented with talent and ambitious dramatic aspirations.

She separated from her husband, a gambler who led her to bankruptcy, and cultivated poetry and theatre in an era that was hostile towards women with a literary vocation. She

adored the tragic genre, although she was best-known as a writer of comedies. She defended independent, subversive women, readers and travellers, with whom she identified.

Her biography, an example of freedom, is often summed up in one single chapter: her alleged relationship with Manuel Godoy, one of Carlos IV's ministers.

Things didn't change much in the following 100 years. Oyarzábal's feminist impulse also collided with customs and laws; her husband, Ceferino Palencia, was called before the judge on several occasions to give his consent for his wife's travels. He also arranged the rights of her books, because he was responsible for managing her finances.

Women were often relegated into the shadow of their partners. Born in the USA, Gamel Woolsey is buried in the English Cemetery in



**Jane Bowles**  
(New York, 1917 -  
Malaga, 1973)

A great writer who broke taboos

Tennessee Williams and Truman Capote considered her one of the most talented but underestimated American writers. The novel *Two Serious Ladies* and the theatrical work *In the Summer House* explain why. She called for sexual freedom, overcame TB and, like Woolsey, damaged her own health through her liking for alcohol. She had a powerful personality, was heterodox and extravagant and was the wife of Paul Bowles. That marriage overshadowed her work even though its merits transcended the literary field; she overcame the taboos of the puritanical US society and many publishers and some colleagues considered her the genius of the pair, much more so than Paul. She spent the final years of her life in Malaga, and died there in 1973.



**Gamel Woolsey**  
(South Carolina, 1895 -  
Malaga, 1968)

Great chronicler of the Civil War

She was a poet and wrote *Malaga Burning*, an extraordinary chronicle of the Civil War, although the chauvinism of history relegated her to the status of Gerald Brenan's wife. This American writer, who was born in 1895, described the annihilation of everyday life, the effect on the bombardments on their neighbours in Churriana, dragged into an incomprehensible spiral of blood and revenge. She turned normal people into the protagonists of that horror. Paradoxically, she wasn't published in Spain until after her death in 1998, when *Temas de Hoy* released a translated version which, on the front cover, referred to her marriage with Brenan to attract readers. She died of cancer in 1968 and is buried in the English Cemetery in Malaga.



**María Rosa de Gálvez**  
(Malaga, 1768 -  
Madrid, 1806)

A feminist icon in the 18th century

She was rescued from a home by one of the most powerful families of the Malaga of the 18th century: the Gálvezs of Macharaviaya. She overcame chauvinist prejudices, attempts to ridicule her work, court cases and matrimonial conflicts. She gave free rein to her literary ambition and came out victorious in a difficult commitment for any women of that time. Her dramas and comedies were published and premiered with success in the main theatres of the Madrid of King Carlos IV. She admired free and subversive women, with whom she identified, and denounced with intelligence the chauvinist oppression of those years. Works such as *Los Figurones Literarios* and *Safo* displayed her feminist vocation. She died in 1806, when she was 38, and was buried with no pomp in Madrid.



**Isabel Oyarzábal**  
(Malaga, 1878 - Mexico City,  
1974)

A pioneer and social activist

Born in 1878 in Calle Peligro, near the city's Alameda, she is considered one of the mothers of modern feminism. The education she received at home was fundamental in understanding her activism, which was based on an unshakeable social commitment. She was Spain's first female ambassador, in Sweden and Finland from 1937 to 1939, after becoming the first female work inspector in 1933. However, it was more than 70 years before her autobiography, *Hambre de libertad*. *Memorias de una Embajadora Republicana* was published in Spain. Oyarzábal, whose mother was Scottish, had originally written the book in English, and published it in the USA in 1940 under the original title *I Must Have Liberty*. She was 62 years old.



**Mercedes Formica**  
(Cadiz, 1913 -  
Malaga, 2002)

The lawyer who challenged the regime

This lawyer from Cadiz, who was a dedicated supporter of the Falange, fought a major battle with the authorities to change the 66 clauses in the Civil Code which made women the prisoners of their husbands. She was a follower of Primo de Rivera and a friend of Lorca. The Women's Section cancelled one of her conferences calling for the incorporation of women into the world of work. She published some novels under a pseudonym, and others under her own name. She challenged Francoism from the inside and, in the post-war period, criticised the chauvinist attitude which judged male and female adultery differently. She died in Malaga in 2002, after losing her memory through Alzheimer's.

## Four exceptions on a long road, started by María Zambrano

Malaga, the province where she lived with Gerald Brenan. She was never a conventional woman. She avoided social and religious impositions to make up her own mind, a poetic and free perspective which resulted in a limited but intensive literary production including Málaga Burning and a collection of poems.

She survived TB, flirted with cinema in her youth, explored sexuality in turbulent relationships and at times was overcome by her liking for drink, but above all Woolsey stood out as an extraordinary chronicler of the Civil War, although she was never seen as anything but Brenan's wife.

Jane Bowles was also overshadowed by her husband Paul, although many publishers and some colleagues such as Tennessee Williams and Truman Capote considered her one of America's finest writers, better than her husband. A supporter of sexual freedom, she spent her final years in Malaga and died there in 1973.

Another local author by adoption was lawyer and novelist Mercedes Formica, who was born in Cadiz. Although a supporter of the falange, she successfully reformed 66 clauses of the Civil Code which discriminated against women. Like many others, she was also forgotten by history but now, the dust is beginning to be cleaned off.

:: ALBERTO GÓMEZ

**MALAGA.** Andrés Arenas and Enrique Girón "accidentally" came across a copy of *I Must Have Liberty* (1940), the autobiography Isabel Oyarzábal wrote in English. They were so impressed that they decided to translate it into Spanish, as it had never been published here, and gave it the title *Hambre de Libertad*.

Something similar occurred with Aurora Luque, a poet from Malaga, and María Rosa de Gálvez. Reading De Gálvez's *Safo* shifted all that she had learned about Spanish theatre in the 18th century.

"I realised that she was as good as [dramatist] Fernández de Moratín," said Luque. Therefore, as the director of the Generación del 27 centre, she began to call for recognition for forgotten female writers. "The work to recover them will not be complete until they all, one by one, are included in the academic field and in textbooks," she said.

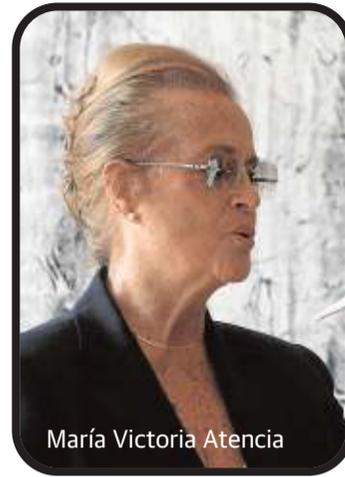
Luque considers that in literature and the rest of the arts, "there is a misogyny, a type of aristocratic hostility from men who don't want to lose ground", a situation which often leads them "to ridicule

women".

Very few female writers from Malaga achieved recognition during their life. Even María Zambrano, the clearest example, was not officially recognised until being awarded the Príncipe de Asturias prize in 1981 when she was already elderly. Seven years later, she was given the Cervantes Prize. "I was born to be a daughter, a disciple, to be obedient, and look at me now," she once wrote to her friend Rosa Charcel.

For Victoria Kent, a contemporary of Zambrano, triumph was becoming the first woman in the world to work as a lawyer before a military court. An essayist, she also wrote a fictional novel about her years in Paris, where she fled from Francoism. She humanised the penitentiary system to improve conditions in Spanish jails and opposed female suffrage because she was afraid that the influence of the Church and chauvinism would be damaging for the Republic. She was a particularly prolific writer during the final two decades of her life.

María Victoria Atencia, one of the most powerful voices of the Generación del 50, kicked off this



María Victoria Atencia



Chantal Maillard



María Zambrano



Victoria Kent

new golden age with books such as *Marta & María* and *Las contemplaciones*. She has an honorary degree from the University of Malaga, and has won the National Critics' Prize and the Reina Sofía Prize.

Chantal Maillard has also been highly praised by critics and readers. She won the National Poetry Prize for the overwhelming *Matar a Platón* and the National Critics' Prize for *Hilos*.

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# School Matters

A SENSIBLE GUIDE TO SCHOOL SELECTION

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**T**his is the story of Joan, the child, student, daughter and wife; Joan the apprentice, worker and manager and lastly, Joan the business-woman, directing the care enterprise that is the Cudeca Hospice.

Joan Hunt was born on 5 January, 1929, in Liverpool, the eighth daughter in a family of nine brothers and sisters, and today is the only surviving member. Her parents, working class and devout Catholics had come from Ireland.

Young Joan would soon come to know how hard life can be. When she was two years old she became seriously ill and began the medical treatment that would be a prominent feature throughout her childhood. She had contracted severe septic arthritis and the infection attacked her hip. This meant that while still a small child she had to undergo several operations and long stretches in hospital until she was six, which left her with a limp for life.

In 1937 the family moved to the outskirts of London where there were more job opportunities for her father. When World War II broke out, Joan was only 10 and her mother decided to send her away from the city to be with her uncle, aunt and cousins in the country.

When she returned to London the war was still not over but Joan began her studies again. Her mother realised what a bright and clever child she was and despite a

**MARISA MARTÍN**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF CUDECA

## A PORTRAIT OF MRS JOAN HUNT

To understand the grandeur of the founder of Cudeca it helps to know something about her life before she took well-deserved early retirement on the Costa del Sol



lack of means, found a way for her to study for a profession that would open doors, allow her to stand on her own feet and fend for herself. At the age of 14 her mother paid for private secretarial classes: she learned accounting, shorthand and typing and she was offered a job with a family leather business. Initially, she just made the tea and ran errands. She rose to shorthand-typist and finally to management, accounting and sales for the company.

When Joan was only 16 her mother died at the age of 54 and Joan had to take care of the family as well.

In spite of her hip problems Joan made every effort to overcome her limitations and live the life of a normal girl of her age and one day at a dance she met her future husband Fred. This was neither as easy or as happy a time as she would

have liked. Her decision to marry an older divorced man caused a rift in relations with her family because of their deep Catholic beliefs.

She nevertheless did marry Fred and carried on with her working and social life in London until she was 32 when she decided that after 16 years with the same firm she had to move forward and put her skills and experience to better use.

That was how she went to work for the large multinational company Berger Paints. Her skills were recognised immediately and six months later she was already the managing director's personal assistant. Her commitment and efficiency helped her to progress in the company to such an extent that in 1974, in a world that still had little time for women in business, she was appointed head of personnel administration. She managed the administration and the payrolls for the company's eight factories in the UK that employed a total of 14,000 workers. Thus, Joan Hunt became one of the very few women of that time to occupy a post in senior management.

We know more about the rest of her life, about her early retirement spent on the Costa del Sol. And yet again, another setback. Her husband Fred died of cancer. But not even the illness that snatched him away from her could destroy her spirit. On the contrary, it awoke a positive, caring energy in her that





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became the driving force of something as wonderful as her vocation to help others at the end of their lives. Against all odds, at the age of 65, this Englishwoman who knew few people in Malaga, who did not speak the language and had few resources decided to create the incredible project called Cudeca.

A doctor who had looked after Fred says she will always remember the day Joan returned to the Red Cross hospital after Fred's death and announced that she was going to devote the rest her life to improving the care of terminally ill cancer patients and their families, and asked if she would help. She never had a moment's doubt. Joan inspires determination and the ability to accomplish ambitions.

Aided by her tenacity, passion and her wide experience in management, the Cudeca dream came true and has more than justified the efforts made over the last twenty-five years. Instead of enjoying her well-deserved retirement, she has lived a second working life, even more intense than the first, and, at 90, continues to do so.

Joan Hunt has been an example of triumph over adversity. She has always grasped life positively and has been able to make the most of all the opportunities presented in her life.

Joan is an example of will-power, the embodiment of social,

moral and intellectual commitment. She believes firmly in the strength of the community and dedication to society. With her example, she has inspired hundreds of volunteers, built bridges between communities, with ordinary people, with public and private institutions, with sportsmen and women, with artists. Thanks to all this Cudeca exists, caring for, comforting and attending to the needs of more than 1,500 people in the last stages of their lives.

She has fought to achieve this with strength and dedication and has made this proverb her motto: Vision without action is just a day-dream and action without vision is a nightmare. She has succeeded in linking both concepts, the vision of a centre where the hardest moment is made easier, and the capacity to act and make it real.

The present time needs people like Joan with her inspiration, courage, determination and enterprise.

She has shown us by her deeds what it means to think of other people, to invest effort in their dignity to finally achieve a fairer, happier and more just society.

The international community she serves is very proud of Joan. Only a person who appreciates the value of living can devote themselves to caring for others.

We will always be grateful for her generosity, her strength - and her smile.

## Charity night raises funds for women's refuge

Regulars at a British-owned bar helped smash a fundraising target by digging deep for those less fortunate

ASH BOLTON

**MANILVA.** Fundraisers are celebrating after collecting 2,600 euros for charity at a bar in Puerto de la Duquesa last Saturday night.

More than 100 people crammed into the Mirror Mirror Bar during the four-hour charity event.

The money will go towards furnishing a new women and children's safe house run by the La Línea-based homeless charity Hogar Betania.

Mandy Thornton, who organised the fundraiser, told SUR in English: "I was absolutely overwhelmed when I found out how much we had raised. I started crying as I was speechless. Everyone was just so generous. I really didn't expect such a turnout, or to raise 2,600 euros, as my target for the night was 1,500 euros."

Mandy, 44, who is originally from Merseyside, and runs the Curtain and Bedding Shop in Sabinillas, explained that she has been



Derek Murphy and Mandy Thornton. :: SUR

fundraising and helping out at the charity for the past two years.

She added: "I usually go every other week to help out and there's a lot of nationalities there, including British, German and Columbian, not just Spanish. The women and children are normally brought there by the police as they have been beaten by their partners or they are in a difficult situation, such as prostitutes beaten by their

pimps.

"Recently there has been such a large influx of woman and children that they bought this new safe house, but it has no furniture, wardrobes, beds or furnishings. They are struggling and the house is a bit of a dive really, so that's why I organised this event.

"For me I just wanted to make it as nice as possible for them. And now we can buy extra furniture with this money, so it's great really."

During the evening a number of races from the 1990s were played on TVs, while a raffle and tombola also helped raise funds.

One of the prizes included a signed Liverpool Football Club shirt that raised 250 euros and was snapped up by regular Derek Murphy.

Christian Lee Dun, 34, who owns the Mirror Mirror Bar, added: "It was a really, really good night and a fantastic amount to raise."

Hogar Betania is run by volunteers and in addition to running a safe house for women and children, it provides food to about 520 poor families in the area, as well as putting young people into apprenticeships.

For more information visit [www.hogarbetania.es](http://www.hogarbetania.es)

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**SOCIETY SCENE**

# Events benefit Debra, animal societies and the Poppy Appeal

The Welsh Society held St David's Day celebrations last week, while the RBL danced to ABBA

== SUR IN ENGLISH

**Welsh Society Costa del Sol St David's Day fundraising**

The Welsh Society Costa del Sol raised over 1,500 euros during its St David's Day celebrations last weekend, Tony Bryant reports. The events included an all-day bash at CJ's Bar in Benalmádena, where guests enjoyed live entertainment and Welsh food. There was also a gala show held in the Moonlight Lounge Bar. All proceeds will be divided between FAMA, and Last Chance Animal Rescue, two local animal charities.

**Fundraising in Mijas Race night for Debra**

More than 1,000 euros was raised for the "butterfly children" at a charity horseracing night held at the Miraflores Golf Restaurant in Mijas last week. The event was organised

by Ian Scholes and his staff at Black Tower Financial Services. All proceeds were donated to Debra, the Marbella-based organisation that cares for sufferers of Epidermolysis Bullosa, a genetic skin-blistering condition that affects more than 1,000 children in Spain.

**RBL Coin British Legion ABBA night**

Members and guests of the Coin branch of the Royal British Legion got together last weekend for an ABBA-themed dinner-dance in aid of the 2019 poppy appeal at Las Carolinas in Alhaurín el Grande. Entertainment was provided by Juliet Williams. For more information on Coin RBL events visit [www.coinrbl.info](http://www.coinrbl.info). The next big event is a dinner at Alhaurín Golf Club on 23 April to celebrate St George's Day.

**What are you up to?**

If you are involved in a club or association and planning events, trips or activities that would be of interest to other readers of SUR in English, we would love to hear from you:  
Email: [surinenglish.su@diariosur.es](mailto:surinenglish.su@diariosur.es)



The Welsh Society raises the red flag for animal charities at its St David's Day party. == SUR



Coin RBL dinner organisers George and Marion Chaney and with Juliet Williams.



Black Tower representatives present the cheque for more than 1,000 euros to Debra. == SUR

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# Hiking for street cats

**Cat lovers raised vital funds to help look after the street cats of Manilva**

== ASH BOLTON

**MANILVA.** A group of hikers have raised 256 euros by completing an 11km walk in aid of the charity Asociación Gatos de Manilva (AGDM) last Sunday. A total of 16 hikers and their dogs took part in the three-hour jaunt around the Casares countryside.

The money raised will buy new cat traps to capture, neuter and release stray cats in the Manilva area.

Londoner Michele Yanez-Bowker, 48, who organised the hike and has lived in Spain for 10 years, told SUR in English: "It was surprisingly hot. Some walkers struggled, but for the sake of a good cause, they persisted. It was team work all the way, sharing water for dogs and humans."

Among those walking was local Manilva councillor Dean Tyler Shelton and the president of the AGDM, Amanda Kiff.

Amanda said: "Michele has been instrumental in equipping us with the money we need to buy much-needed equipment. The whole team is very appreciative of her kind and generous donation and we extend



The walkers pose with their four-legged friends. == SUR

a big thanks to the hard working hikers who took part today."

Almost 100 feral cats in the Manilva area have been spayed by the charity since it was officially launched last autumn.

Melissa White, Fundraising Manager for the AGDM, added: "Today was a great success. The weather was beautiful, the hikers did brilliantly and Michele's promotion of the event helped to raise our local profile."

"Anyone who is interested in attending our next fundraising event will be welcome. It is a choir con-

cert by Love To Sing and a 3-course lunch for 20 euros. This will be held at Bellavista Camping in Manilva at 12.30pm on Thursday 21 March."

For more information on the event or for those who would like to volunteer or offer a temporary foster home to a cat or kitten, contact the association via their Facebook page and leave a message at [www.facebook.com/gatosde-manilva](http://www.facebook.com/gatosde-manilva)

For more information on future hikes organised by Michelle Yanez Bowker, visit: [facebook.com/funandfund](http://facebook.com/funandfund)

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## GARDENING

# Medusa's head Euphorbia

**A fun plant for a sunny corner of the patio, Euphorbia caput-medusae will stop visitors in their tracks**

With numerous 'arms' that seem to writhe from a central caudex it is no wonder that this plant is called Medusa's head.

Its botanical name is Euphorbia caput-Medusae and it originates from South Africa where it can be found growing in deep sand or rocky outcrops around

Cape Town.

The long, greyish-green, scaly stems can reach up to 30 centimetres long and on mature plants a ring of white flowers appears at the end of each.

It will

tolerate short periods of drought but unlike other succulents, needs a surprising amount of water, especially during the hottest months.

In winter watering should be reduced or stopped altogether unless the plant shows signs of shrivelling. It will need protection from very cold weather and frosts.

Medusa's head Euphorbia needs well-drained soil and at least six hours of sunlight a day. When temperatures reach around 36°C it will start to suffer and show signs of sun damage unless given some shade.

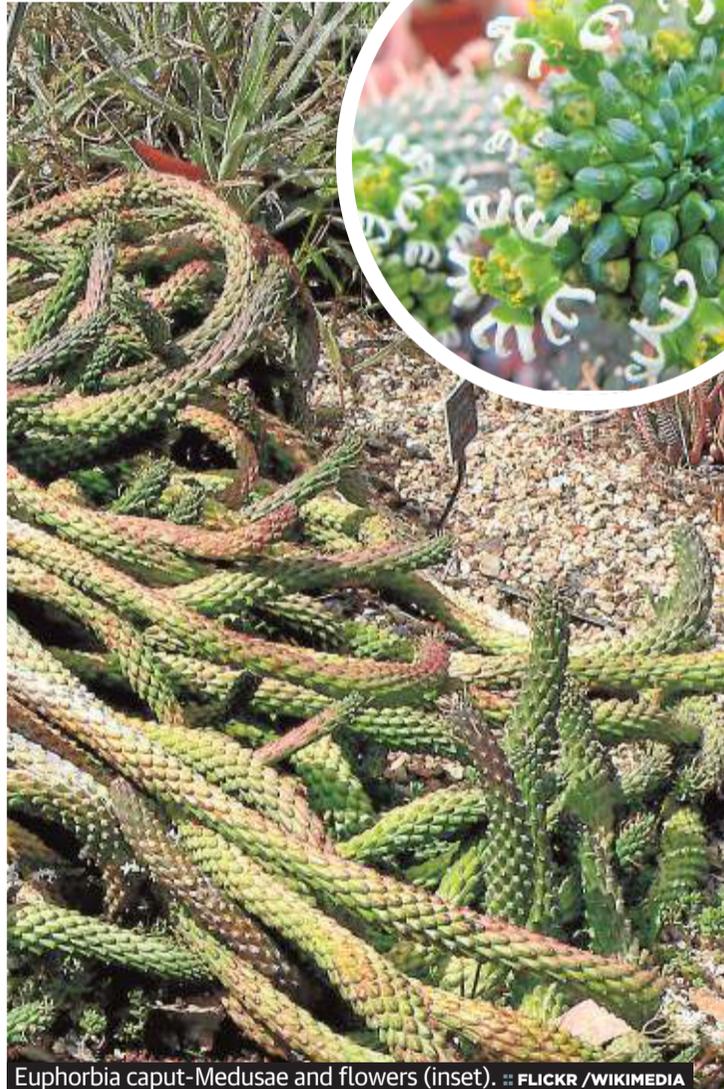
It is a favourite plant for hanging baskets but can also be grown in containers (preferably in the shape of a head) or as ground cover.

Propagation is by gently removing branches which should be left for two to three days for the cut ends to completely dry before planting.

Euphorbia is one of the biggest of the flowering-plant genera. It contains a wide variety of different flowering plants and is commonly called the Spurge family.

The sap from all the Euphorbias is notorious for causing skin or eye irritation and this one is no different. Always wash hands thoroughly after handling the plant and avoid touching the eye area.

A plant that is very similar but with yellow flowers is E. Flanaganii and sometimes the two are mis-labelled in garden centres. Either way, both will provide a talking point for anyone who visits your garden.



Euphorbia caput-Medusae and flowers (inset). :: FLICKR / WIKIMEDIA

## READER'S PHOTO



:: CAROLE EDWARDS

## SUCCULENT FLOWER

This photo of a Cotyledon 'mint truffles' in flower was sent in by SUR in English reader Carole Edwards who says this is the first time she has seen it in flower since she acquired it as a cutting three years ago.

## GARDENING IN MARCH

### Bulbs, tubers, corms and more bulbs

Start planning colourful displays of flowers for the summer season by planting summer flowering bulbs now.

You might want to include the tall spheres of alliums and agapanthus, stunning oriental lilies and heavily scented polyanthus tuberose, colourful begonias and dahlias, elegant

gladioli and cannas.

Prepare the soil well before planting by digging in some well-rotted compost or manure.

The general rule for planting depths is around three times the diameter of the bulb.

Water them in well and keep the area weed-free then stand back...

## PHOTOS

### Calling all gardeners

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

Email your photos to english@diariosur.es or send them to SUR in English, Avda Dr Marañón 48, 29009 Malaga, with a caption and a few words of explanation. Alternatively, you can send them to us via Facebook (surenglish) or Twitter (@SUR\_English)

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DEBBIE  
BARTLETT

## WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

8 MARCH 1977

# The UN day for women's rights and world peace

It is a day to celebrate womanhood, but historically IWD has also been a protest against inequality

The United Nations began celebrating International Women's Day in 1975, which had been designated International Women's Year, but it was in 1977 that the General Assembly invited member states to designate 8 March as the UN Day for women's rights and world peace.

For some, IWD is a way of celebrating womanhood, but for many it is a protest, to draw attention to the still-ongoing battle by women for equal participation and equal opportunities,

in society and in their development as people.

Many of us remember the 1970s as a time when the term "women's lib" was first used, but in fact there were already calls for equal rights for women in the early years of the 20th century, and a 'National Women's Day' was organised by the Socialist Party of America and celebrated in New York on February 28, 1909.

Two years later, on 19 March 1911, the first International Women's Day was marked in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland, with protesters calling for the right to vote and to hold public office, and against discrimination in employment.

In 1914, Germany celebrated its International Women's Day on 8 March for the first time, and it was dedicated to the right to vote,



Last year's Women's Day rally in Malaga. :: SUR

although German women were not given that right for a further four years. On the same day, in London, there was a march from Bow to Trafalgar Square to call for women's suffrage, and Sylvia Pankhurst was arrested outside Charing Cross Station as she was about to head to Trafalgar Square, where she was due to make a speech.

Other countries decided to follow Germany's example, and mark IWD on 8 March.

In Russia, on that date in 1917, female textile workers in Petrograd held a mass demonstration and women in St Petersburg went on strike for "Bread and Peace", demanding the end of World War I, an end to Russian food short-

ages, and the end of czarism. Their protests gained massive support and started a revolution; just one week later Nicholas II, the Emperor of Russia, abdicated and the interim government granted women the right to vote.

In some countries, International Women's Day is marked as a public holiday. Spain is not among them, but in 2018 millions of women all over the country went on strike to defend their rights, resulting in schools and universities closing, limited public transport and essential services cut back to a minimum level. Women were also urged not to do housework for 24 hours, and after a social media campaign called 'Take off your aprons' many women hung aprons

LANGUAGE  
FOOTNOTE

Mujer	Woman
Día	Day
Género	Gender
Derechos	Rights
Sufragio	Vote
Igualdad	Equality
Oportunidad	Opportunity
Libertad	Freedom
Maternidad	Motherhood
Trabajadora	Worker
Desarrollo	Development
Empoderamiento	Empowerment
Sindicato	Union
Pensamiento	Thought
Respaldar	To back
Sociedad	Society

outside their homes as a sign of support.

Union representatives say about six million women went on strike last year, and similar action is planned today, calling for fair promotions for women, the closure of the gender pay gap and an end to sexual harassment.

There have been advances over the decades, but there is still a long way to go before women receive the necessary support as equal members of society.

**Bilingual crossword inside back page**

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**REF. L.E.P.**

I am a UK citizen and my wife is Spanish. We have planned to travel abroad, out of the Schengen area, with our five-month-old daughter, to visit my parents who have not met their granddaughter yet. She has Spanish nationality as well. A friend has told us that the Family Book (libro de familia) is not enough to prove that she is

our daughter, and that we need to obtain a passport for her. Is that true? If that is the case, we have a problem, as I have requested an appointment but the date is after our departure date.

Minors, like any other person, need to obtain a DNI / passport to travel abroad, by being included in the passport of one of the parents or by obtaining their own passport, since the libro de familia does not have any value as an identification document as it does not contain photographs. Nevertheless, if the problem is that the appointment obtained is after the trip, you do not need to worry. You can go to the police station corresponding to your address and take with you the plane tickets or travel reservation, and the appointment they gave to you. This way, as you can prove that you need to obtain the passport and the date given is useless, they will process it instantly.

**REF. O.Y.A.**

I have lost a court proceeding about the sale of a property. In the judgment, the judge establishes that I am obliged to also pay the court costs that the plaintiff has had to pay. Am I entitled to appeal against the amount that they are claiming, if I consider that these costs are excessive?

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## WILDLIFE

PETER  
HARRISON

## Dealing with casualties

Animals suffer from inexperience just as humans do and young animals are in abundance at this time of the year. The breeding season followed by a relatively short gestation period means that spring finds plenty of young animals finding their feet or wings which are yet not streetwise. The consequences are often fatal.

Finding a bird or animal which has been struck by a passing car can be a challenging situation yet there is plenty you can do to help. Very often the victim has just been stunned and the action to take is to move it to a safe place away from the road and then offer water, never milk or food. Then apply warmth with a rug or even a cloth.

Make a definitive point of not touching the casualty with your bare hands as the mother will probably reject the infant when they are reunited. Given a little time and quiet surroundings, the victim will soon recover.

Of course there is a chance

that the injury is beyond your first aid skills. You may have to "put it to sleep", an unsavoury task but sometimes the kindest thing to do.

Maybe the professional service of a vet is required. Who pays? You do. It is the small price you pay for being a compassionate person. Would you want to be otherwise? Vets will appreciate your action and be reasonable in charges. You get a really good feeling to see a recovered healthy animal.

One important thing. When the animal is fit to return to the wild, do not prevent it. Do not attempt to make it into a pet. A wild thing it is and a wild thing it should remain.

Friends of ours adopted a starling after rescuing it from the roadside. Star became a pet and lost all its precautionary instincts, flying up to cats, sitting on car roofs and landing on people's shoulders to the alarm of the person concerned.

As a result Star came to an early demise. Leave wild animals to nature.

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# Matisse: a burst of colour comes to the Pompidou



**ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ**

@ajavierlopez

The Malaga gallery has just opened a large exhibition of 50 artworks painted by the master of modern art

**MALAGA.** The Centre Pompidou in Malaga port this week welcomes its biggest and most important exhibition yet. 'Henri Matisse. Un país nuevo' (Henri Matisse. A new country) brings together some fifty works by the master of modern art, on loan from the gallery's main base in Paris.

Until 9 June, visitors to the Pompidou can take in the artist's incessant exploration of primitivism and impressionism at the turn of the 20th century, the explosion of 'faustic' colour, the flirtations with the simplification of forms, the subsequent return to a certain classicism in the happiness of the French

coast, the experiments with trimmed papers and the final feature for which he is best known to the public: his imposing use of colour.

"He is a painter of colour, but this exhibition has contemporary relevance, because Matisse's painting appeals to the senses, but gives space to the spirit," says Aurélie Verbier, curator of the exhibition.

### Influences

Before this break into the public consciousness, Matisse, as he was about to turn 30, put himself into debt to purchase himself a drawing by Vincent van Gogh, a plaster bust by Auguste Rodin, a painting by Paul Gauguin and a small canvas by Paul Cézanne - all as charms that would help him find his way as an artist.

Just months after his Cézanne purchase came Self Portrait (1900) that welcomes visitors to the exhibition.

### Relationship with Picasso

The success of Matisse was limited until 1905 when his portrait of his wife Amélie, Woman with a Hat sparked a scandal that Matisse and his followers (Manguin, Marquet and Camoin, among them) provoked in the Paris Autumn Salon where they presented their works.

### THE EXHIBITION

► **Title.** 'Henri Matisse. Un país nuevo'.

► **Where.** Centre Pompidou Málaga, Muelle Uno, Malaga.

► **When.** Until 9 June.

► **Opening hours.** Open every day, except Tuesdays, from 9.30am to 8pm.

► **Entry.** Main collection, seven euros; temporary exhibition, four euros; combined ticket, nine euros.

Matisse was singled out as the leader of this group and from that moment on, every exhibition became an intimate and social battle.

This did nothing to dampen his radicalism, though, up to the point that he and Pablo Picasso started to cross swords and developed a rivalry which would last until their deaths.

This respectful rivalry is evident in the exhibition, above all, in a series of sketches with clear parallels to 'Les Demoiselles d'Avignon'.

"Between Picasso and Matisse we



Self Portrait (1900) welcomes visitors to the exhibition. :: M. F.



Painting, collage, sculpture and drawing are brought together. :: M. F.

can see the whole development of modern art," says Serge Lasvignes, president of the Centre Pompidou Paris. "We already know that there was fiery history between them but

they also had a lot in common." "I'd really like it if people come to see Matisse here then go to the Museo Picasso and establish a dialogue between the works."



## MOVIE LISTING

From Friday 8th to Thursday 14th March

ORIGINAL VERSION SUBTTLED SPANISH

**THE MULE**  
Director Clint Eastwood  
Starring Bradley Cooper, Clint Eastwood, Manny Montana  
DRAMA - 116 min.

A 90-year-old horticulturist and Korean War veteran is caught transporting \$3 million worth of cocaine through Illinois for a Mexican drug cartel.

Friday 8: 17:45, 22:30  
Saturday 9: 15:45, 18:00, 22:45  
Sunday 10: 11:45, 15:45, 18:00, 22:45  
From Monday 11 to Thursday 14: 17:45, 22:30

**HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD**  
Director Dean DeBlois  
Voice Jay Baruchel, America Ferrera, F. Murray Abraham  
ANIMATION - 104 min.

When Hiccup discovers Toothless isn't the only Night Fury, he must seek "The Hidden World".

Friday 8: 17:45  
Saturday 9: 15:50, 18:10  
Sunday 10: 11:45, 15:50, 18:10  
From Monday 11 to Thursday 14: 17:45

**CAPTAIN MARVEL**  
Director Anna Boden, Ryan Fleck  
Starring Ben Mendelsohn, Brie Larson, Samuel L. Jackson  
ACTION - 123 min.

Carol Danvers becomes one of the universe's most powerful heroes when Earth is caught in the middle of a galactic war between two alien races.

Friday 8: 17:40, 19:50, 22:30  
Saturday 9: 15:45, 17:40, 20:15, 22:45  
Sunday 10: 11:45, 15:45, 17:40, 20:15, 22:45  
From Monday 11 to Thursday 14: 17:40, 19:50, 22:30

**UN HOMME PRESSÉ**  
Director Hervé Mimran  
Starring Fabrice Luchini, Leïla Bekhti, Rebecca Marder  
COMEDY - 100 min.

Saturday 9 and Sunday 10: 16:30, 18:30  
From Monday 11 to Thursday 14: 18:15

**GREEN BOOK**  
Winner 3 Oscars: Best Motion Picture of the Year  
Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role - Best Original Screenplay

Friday 8: 19:45, 22:30  
Saturday 9 and Sunday 10: 20:15, 22:30  
From Monday 11 to Thursday 14: 19:45, 22:30

**THE FAVOURITE**  
Winner 1 Oscar  
Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role (Olivia Colman)

Saturday 9 and Sunday 10: 20:25  
From Monday 11 to Wednesday 13: 20:05

## DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA



Bayárcal is one of the villages in this region of Andalucía. :: AYTO. BAYÁRCAL



JAVIER ALMELLONES

## Mountains and history in Almeria

### 2 days in the Alpujarra Almeriense

Car + walking.

Journey time: 2 hours  
15 minutes from Malaga.

Monuments: 6 hours.

Walking: 5 hours.



The lesser-known face of the Alpujarra mountains is on the eastern side, in the province of Almeria. It is home to more than 20 mountain villages which are a delight to explore, as their layouts and peaceful streets retain many traces of their origins during the time of Al-Andalus.

Panoramic views over the region, stunning waterfalls and enclaves which appear to have been designed especially for relaxation are just some of the attractions

of the area known as the Alpujarra Almeriense. One of the main towns in this eastern part of Andalucía is Alhama de Almería which, as its name suggests, dates back to Moorish times. Water is one of the fundamental features of this land and its history, and it is therefore not surprising to learn that centuries ago people also used to enjoy the hot springs in what is today the Balneario de San Nicolás spa.

Known as the Gateway to the Alpujarra, Alhama de Almería also has a

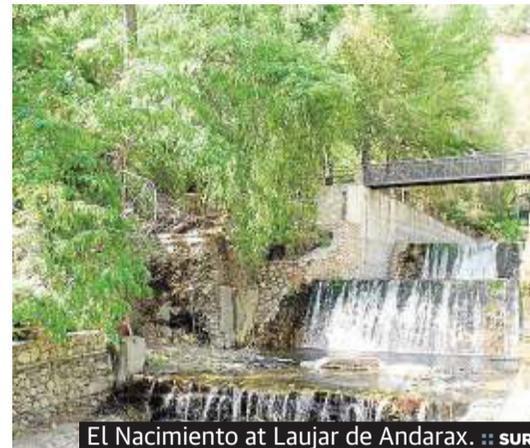
wealth of other historical remains, such as a fortress dating back to Nasrid times, the church of San Nicolás de Bari and the construction known as La Puente.

When driving to the Alpujarra Almeriense from the Mediterranean coast, it is also an excellent idea to stop off and visit Berja, an Andalusian town known for its fertile soil and ancient heritage.

Its strategic location, not far from the Mediterranean and sheltered by mountain ranges with a wealth of water, resulted in this being a coveted location for different civilisations over time, as is evident when exploring its historical and archaeological remains. The Romans and Moors left many important constructions here, including aquifers in the mountains around Berja.

Another place which is well worth visiting in this part of Almeria is Laujar de Andarax, with its large church, the Iglesia de La Encarnación, nicknamed locally the 'Cathedral of the Alpujarra'. This village, which is between the Sierra Nevada and the Gádor mountains, offers plenty of opportunities for rural tourism, such as the recreational area called El Nacimiento. That should not be confused with another village in the north-east of the region, called simply Nacimiento.

In addition to these, as visitors go further into the Alpujarra Almeriense they will find villages such as Alcolea, Alboloduy, Bayárcal, Bentarique, Huécija and Illar. This area of Almeria province, which is sparsely populated, played an especially important role in the Moorish uprisings of the 16th century, also known as the 'War of the Alpujarras'. Villages such as Canjáyar and Ohanes would have been witness to the battles that took place at that time.



El Nacimiento at Laujar de Andarax. :: SUR



### QUICK GUIDE

#### What to see in the Alpujarra Almeriense

◀ **La Puente.** Possibly of Roman origins, it was rebuilt in the time of Carlos III. Calle Gravina, s/n. 04400 Alhama de Almería.

**Nacimiento river.** A recreation area beside the source of the Andaraz river. Canal de la Hidroeléctrica Laujareña, s/n. 04470 Laujar de Andarax.

◀ **Torre de los Enciso.** A 16th-century tower in Neo-mudejar style, in the centre of Berja. Calle Agua, 18. 04760 Berja.

**Roman mausoleum.** A funerary building dating back to the 2nd century. Carretera N-324 (Almería-Guadix), km 268. 04510 Abla

**Balneario de San Nicolás.** A tourism complex where you can enjoy the waters, which are recommended to relieve certain illnesses. Calle Baños, 2, 04400 Alhama de Almería. Telephone 950 641 361.



Mojácar, Almería.

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## EXHIBITIONS

**Cáritas Exhibition**

**Estepona.** Until 15 March. *Casa del Aljibe.*

The charity Cáritas is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary of helping the poor in Andalucía with an exhibition of photographs taken over the last fifty years.

**El Arte de Pincel**

**Estepona.** From 8 until 22 March. *Casa de las Tejerinas, Plaza las Flores.*

Art works by El Rincón de los Pintores art group.

**José Hernández**

**Villanueva del Rosario.** *Casa de la Cultura.*

An exhibition of art work and letters belonging to artist José Hernández. The artist gifted around 20 works to the town shortly before his death in 2013. He spent long periods at Molino El Tejar while creating his pieces.

**Balzac and Ovid**

**Malaga.** Until 24 March. *Picasso Museo Casa Natal.*

The illustrations for Balzac and Ovid created by Picasso are on display. Picasso was so moved by the works of Balzac that he bought Balzac's old home at 7 Rue Des Grands Augustins. It was here that he completed his famous painting Guernica.

**José Villanueva**

**Malaga.** Until 12 March. *Alfajar gallery, C/Cister.*

An exhibition entitled 'Obra en papel / Paperworks' by José Villanueva.



Galeria Krabbe. :: SUR

**Dionisio González**

**Malaga.** Until 17 March, *Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.*

'Parresia y Lugar' is the latest exhibition at the CAC in Malaga. It is the most important solo exhibition by Dionisio González in Spain in recent years. Around a hundred works are on display, among them photographs, videos, holographic prisms and scale models.

**Zenonas Varnauskas**

**Malaga.** Until 4 May 2020. *Museo Ralli Marbella.*

An exhibition of works by Lithuanian artist Zenonas Varnauskas

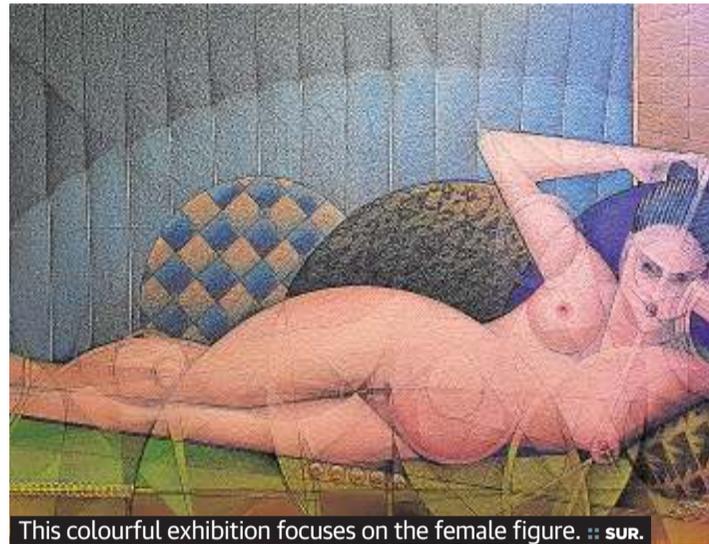
# Exhibition highlighting ethnic and cultural inequalities

:: TONY BRYANT

**MARBELLA.** Following the success of last year's 'Earth of Hunger' exhibition, the es.Arte gallery in San Pedro Alcántara is presenting a new collection of art that aims to highlight ethnic, cultural, linguistic and economic inequalities. In its struggle for awareness and change, the contemporary art gallery is hosting a special exhibition called 'Be a Woman and Smile', a group exhibition with a common message: "Fight for a change in order to give women the power to express themselves with art".

A total of 15 national and international artists have come together to exhibit their work, which focuses on the strength, capacity, sensibility, understanding, love and beauty of the female figure. The colourful and extremely visual works have been produced by both male and female artists, as the exhibition is not an appeal to feminism, but to respect and equality.

The collection will be inaugurated at 7pm on Friday (today) to coincide with International



This colourful exhibition focuses on the female figure. :: SUR.

Woman's Day. The artists will be on hand to discuss their work and answer any questions regarding their inspiration, style and technique.

The exhibition, which is free, can be visited Monday to Friday between 11am and 2pm and 6pm and 9pm until 29 March.

For more information, [www.esartegallery.com](http://www.esartegallery.com)

## INFORMATION

► **What.** Exhibition called 'Be a Woman and Smile'.

► **Where.** es.Arte Gallery, Av. del Mediterráneo, 20, 29670 San Pedro Alcántara.

► **When.** Until Friday 29 March.

(1923 - 2010). The works cover the pre-war period, the Soviet Republic and the recuperation of independent Lithuania.

**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

**Lázara Moreno**

**Mijas.** Until 1 April. *Casa de la Cultura de las Lagunas, Mijas.*

An exhibition by Lázara Moreno. The artist explores feelings, dreams and abstract drawings in surrealist and realist styles.

**Torremolinos Chic**

**Torremolinos.** *Permanent exhibition, Casa de los Navajas.*

An exhibition of photographs taken in the 60s and 70s entitled Torremolinos Chic. It features around twenty photographs including one of the legendary Bridget Bardot posing on Carhuela beach in a Cordobés hat.

**Galería Krabbe**

**Frigiliana.** Until 13 April. *C/Rosario.*

Collective exhibition of art at the Krabbe gallery. Email: [galeria\\_krabbe@gmail.com](mailto:galeria_krabbe@gmail.com)

**María Zambrano**

**Vélez-Málaga.** *Permanent exhibition. Palacio de Beniel de Vélez-Málaga. Monday-Friday, 9am-2pm.*

An exploration into the life and works of Malaga-born philosopher

and writer María Zambrano. For further information call 952500244.

**Marine collection**

**Vélez-Málaga.** *La Sala de Mezquitilla.*

Francisco Javier Pastor Daga started collecting sea shells when he was little and went on to form a collection of shells, fossils and examples of marine life totalling over 1,500 pieces. He is also a talented wood-carver winning second prize for his work from the Universidad de Bellas Artes in Seville in 2016.

**Artists' Network Alpujarra**

**Vélez de Benaudalla.** Until 24 March. *Jardín Nazari.*

Curated by Orgiva-based artists, Maxine Friday and Klaus Schumacher, the exhibition will feature a

diverse range of works from local talents. One exhibiting artist is Nicholas Fudge, a peer of Damien Hirst and Michael Landy. Mediums include painting, sculpture, photography and installations. [www.artistsnetworkalpujarra.com](http://www.artistsnetworkalpujarra.com)

## CHARITY

**St Patrick's Day for Cudeca**

**Mijas.** 17 March, from 1.30pm. *Tamisa Golf Hotel. 25€.*

The Cudeca Goldies present a St Patrick's Day special with a three-course Irish meal and entertainment with a DJ, A Touch Of Class and Reflections Acapella. 5€ of each ticket goes to Cudeca Cancer Hospice. [reservas@hoteltamisa-golf.com](mailto:reservas@hoteltamisa-golf.com) or call 952585988

**ARCH fundraiser**

**Coín.** 8 March, 7.30pm. *Parilla de Pepe, opposite La Trocha shopping centre. 25€*

Entertainment for the evening will be provided by Ricky Leach. Tickets include a welcome drink and a three-course meal with a drink. Bookings call: 628867980. [www.horserescuespain.org](http://www.horserescuespain.org)

**Mods and Rockers**

**Mijas.** 30 March. *Millenium Bar, Calahonda. 10€*

Local musicians including One Wish Steve, will be performing at a concert to raise money for DEBRA, the charity for children and adults who suffer from 'butterfly skin'. DJ Steve Goodey will also be there and Los Motos Locos Scooter Club will



Rob Sas, Estepona. :: SUR

be exhibiting their Lambrettas and Vespas. Tickets: the Millenium Bar in Calahonda or DEBRA offices in Marbella.

**Piano Paradiso**

**Malaga.** 30 March, 7pm. *Conservatorio de Música Martín Tenllado.* Fifteen film sound tracks and 17 pianists plus the school orchestra and guests Marco Socias (guitar) and Anabel Conde (vocals). Money raised to support Fundación Andrés Olivares and the Sociedad Protectora de Animales y Plantas de



ADANA dogs. :: SUR

Málaga charities. More information on Facebook Piano Paradiso. Tickets: [ticketea.com](http://ticketea.com)

**ADANA Dog Show**

**Estepona.** 14 April, from 10am. *Palacio de Congresos.*

Cups and rosettes for each category, ADANA dogs for adoption, stalls selling pet-related items and refreshments. [info@adana.es](mailto:info@adana.es) or [events@adana.es](mailto:events@adana.es)

**'Unconquered' A Musical Extravaganza**

**Gibraltar.** 22-23 March, from 7.30pm. *St Michael's Cave, Gibraltar. 20 euros per ticket.*

World-renowned tenor Wynne Evans will perform with the massed Band of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment and Irish Guards. All proceeds go to Pathway Through Pain, RG and Irish Guards Benevolent funds.

## MUSIC &amp; DANCE

**Louie Louie Live**

**Estepona.** *Louie Louie Bar.*

**7 March, 9.30pm.** Lord Bishop Rocks Spanish Tour. Funk, rock, blues, punk and a touch of reggae. 10€ in advance, 15€ on night.

**16 March, 23.45pm.** The Rob Sas Band.

**UK Legends tribute band**

**Marbella.** 9 March. *La Catarina.* The UK Legends perform the hit songs of the bands they have worked with over their musical careers, which include The Animals, Smokie, Joe Cocker, Dire Straits, Status Quo, Gary Moore, Thin Lizzy, and many more. For further details and information on tickets you can go to [www.costadeldisco.com](http://www.costadeldisco.com)

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## MUSIC &amp; DANCE

## Lady River Jazz Band

**Nerja.** 15 March, from 9pm. Nerja Cultural Centre. 10€.

**Granada.** 16 March, from 11pm. Eshivira Club.

The seven-piece Lazy River Jazz Band are on tour playing old style New Orleans and classic jazz. Their repertoire includes vintage numbers from the 1920s and 30s as well as later numbers from the 40s and 50s with elements of blues, gospel, ragtime, stride, boogie and stomps.

## Celtic Festival

**Benalmádena.** 16 March, from 7.30pm. Moonlight Bar, Sunset Beach Club. 10€.

Traditional Irish concert with Celtic dance and the TIMS choir and A Touch of Class. Tickets: 952 579 400 or 697 896 198

## Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

**Malaga.** Auditorio Edgar Neville 15 March, 8pm.

Pieces by Luigi Boccherini, Mozart and Schubert.

**Malaga.** Museo de Málaga 10 March, midday. Free.

The DeMusica Ensemble will be playing a selection of different pieces.

**Malaga.** Teatro Cervantes

**8 March, 8pm.** César Franck Les Éolides; Camille Saint-Saëns Concerto N° 2 for orchestra and piano in part one followed by Anton Bruckner Symphony N° 0 "Die Nullte".

**Malaga.** Auditorio Museo Picasso 12 March, 8pm.

Trío Círculo will be playing pieces by Fanny Mendelssohn and Clara Wieck.

**2 April, 8pm.**

Cuarteto con Fuoco.

**14 May, 8pm.**

Josu de Solaun.

**Malaga.** Sala María Cristina

**22 March, 8pm.**

Beethoven's Concert N°5 for piano and orchestra followed by Mozart's Symphony N°41.

## Chamber music at the Picasso Museum Malaga

**Malaga.** Museo Picasso. Concerts start at 8pm.

**12 March.** Trío Círculo.

**2 April.** Cuarteto con Fuoco.

**14 May.** Josu de Solaun.

## Diego Cruz and Trifásico

**Almuñécar.** 14 March, 8pm. Auditorio Casa de la Cultura.

A selection of classic rock performances. Tickets: entradasforyou.com

## Festival of White Voices

**Almuñécar.** 9 March, from 8pm.

Parroquia de la Encarnación.

Directed by Héctor El íel Márquez.

## ACDC Tribute

**Almuñécar.** 10 March, from 7pm.

Auditorio Casa de la Cultura.

For tickets go to bravoentradas.es

## The Oxford University Choir

**Malaga.** 26 March, 8pm. St George's Anglican church, Avda de Pries. 10€.

A concert with the Oxford University choir. More information and reservations call: 638339691.

## FLAMENCO

## Fase Alterna

**Almuñécar.** 15 March, 8pm.

Auditorio Casa de la Cultura.

Marco Flores dance group

performs traditional flamenco.

For tickets visit

www.ciamarcoflores.com

## LECTURES

## Magpie Gallery Talks

**Marbella.** C/Virgen del Pilar. 200m

from port. 15 March, 7pm.

'Antoni Tapiés' by Professor Juho

Ahava.

## U3A Lectures

**Fuengirola.** Lux Mundi reference li-

brary. Free to members, guests 5€.

Email: u3afuengirola@gmail.com

**History:**

**The Hanoverian Kings**

12 March, 10.45am-12.15pm.

George Augustus Frederick

"Prinny" - the Prince Regent

(George IV). Lecturer is Kay White.

26 March, 10.45am-12.15pm.



Segovia. :: C. DOMINGUEZ PRATS

George IV and brother William IV. Lecturer is Kay White.

**'The neuroscience of the teenage brain'**

20 March, 11am. A Royal Institution

talk by Prof Sarah-Jayne

Blakemore.

**'The science of conservation and restoration'**

3 April, 11am. The uses of science and technology in the conservation and restoration of art and antiques.

## Freakcon

**Malaga.** 9-10 March. Palacio de Ferias y Congresos.

This fair attracts fans of comic

books, video games and TV series

from all over the world. Stands

selling classic games and comics,

consoles and literature etc plus

workshops and demonstrations.

## St Patrick's Day Celebration

**El Perchel.** 17 March, 7pm. Centro

de Interpretación, Historico José

M. Torijos, Refectorio. Plaza de la

Libertad.

Tribute to Robert Boyd and San

Patricio Battallan.

## Weekend market

**Coin.** Behind Bar Los Arcos.

Goods including artisan products,

fresh vegetables, British food

products, craft beer, wine and

general bric-a-brac. Also, from

February there will be a cheese and

bakers stall. Food and drinks

available from the venta. Stalls

have to be booked in advance on

the Facebook page Los Mercado.

## Visit Madrid and Segovia

**Fuengirola/Tore del Mar.** 1-5 April.

Various departure points. 339€

sharing.

Aranjuez with its Renaissance pal-

ace, tourist bus trip around Madrid

## A touch of music hall and satirical fun

:: TONY BRYANT

**FUENGIROLA.** A Touch of

Class will present its latest

production at St Andrews

Church in Los Boliches today

(Friday).

All Aboard, which features

Ken Knowles, a former mem-

ber of The Hollies, will pre-

sent popular hit songs along

with satirical sketches and

dance routines. The show will also include a special Scottish set and the cast will finish the night with a rousing rendition of Scotland the Brave.

Tickets for the show, which begins at 8pm, cost 10 euros and all proceeds will go to the St Andrew's chaplaincy.

For more information, call 952026811.



The show presents popular hits and satirical sketches. :: SUR



Fase Alterna. :: EFE

city, visit the Prado Museum. In Segovia take a guided tour of the city.

Full details contact:

www.lux-mundi.org

## O. V. FILM

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

## Cine Albéniz

C/Alcazabilla 4, Malaga. Tel: 902

36 02 95 www.cinealbeniz.com

**Van Gogh: At Eternity's Gate:**

18.20, 20.00 (every day).

**Green Book:** 18.15, 20.30 (every

day).

**The Favourite:** 20.00 (every

day).

## Cinesur El Ingenio

Avda. Juan Carlos I, Vélez-Málaga.

Tel. 667 77 31 87.

**How To Train Your Dragon: The**

**Hidden World:** 16.50, 19.00

(Mon, Tues, Thurs).

**Captain Marvel:** 16.55, 19.30,

22.05 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).

**The Mule:** 15.45, 18.00 (Tues).

## Cinesur Miramar

Avda. de la Encarnación, Fuengi-

rola. Tel. 952 19 86 00.

**How To Train Your Dragon: The**

**Hidden World:** 12.15 (Sat, Sun);

16.20 (everyday).

**Captain Marvel:** 12.25 (Sat, Sun);

16.15, 18.45, 21.15, 23.30 (every

day).

**The Mule:** 12.15 (Sat, Sun); 16.30,

18.55, 21.15, 23.30 (everyday).

**Green Book:** 12.10 (Sat, Sun);

16.10 (every day).

## Cines Teatro Goya

For tickets and information call

951196665.

www.cinesteatrogoya.com

**The Mule:** 17.45, 22.30 (Fri, Mon,

Thurs); 15.45, 18.00, 22.45 (Sat,

Sun); 11.45 (Sun).

**Green Book:** 19.45, 22.30 (Fri,

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs); 20.15,

22.30 (Sat, Sun).

**The Favourite:** 20.25 (Sat, Sun);

20.05 (Mon, Tues, Wed).

**The Favourite:** 11.45, 15.40 (Sun),

15.30 (Sat, Wed); 15.45 (Mon,

Tues); 22.45 (every day).

**How To Train Your Dragon: The**

**Hidden World:** 17.45 (Fri, Mon,

Tues, Wed, Thurs); 15.50, 18.10

(Sat, Sun); 11.45 (Sun).

**Captain Marvel:** 17.40, 19.50,

22.30 (Fri, Mon, Tues, Wed,

Thurs); 15.45, 17.40, 20.15, 22.45

(Sat, Sun); 11.45 (Sun).

## Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

Centro de Ocio Plaza Mayor, Avda.

Alfonso Ponce de León.

Tel: 902 902 103 or visit

www.yelmocines.es

**Bohemian Rhapsody:** 22.25

(Tues).

**Captain Marvel:** 17.50, 20.30

(every day); 12.30 (Sat, Sun).

**How To Train Your Dragon: The**

**Hidden World:** 12.15, 14.20 (Sat,

Sun); 19.20 (Tues).

**The Queen's Corgi:** 20.10 (Tues).

**Feedback:** 22.25 (Tues).

**Glass:** 22.30 (Tues).

**Green Book:** 16.30 (every day).

**The Mule:** 20.05 (Fri, Sat, Sun);

18.50 (Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs).

**On The Basis Of Sex:** 22.05

(Tues).

## Yelmo Cines, Rincón de la

Victoria. Calle Arroyo Totalán

Tel: 902 220 922 or visit

www.yelmocines.es

**Alita: Battle Angel:** 19.10 (Tues).

**Captain Marvel:** 19.30 (Tues).

**The Queen's Corgi:** 19.55 (Tues).

**Feedback:** 21.50 (Tues).

**Green Book:** 19.50 (Tues).

**The Favourite:** 18.10 (Tues).

**The Mule:** 20.05 (Tues).

**On The Basis Of Sex:** 21.40

(Tues).



ACDC tribute band. :: SUR

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**Alita: Battle Angel:** 19.20 (Tues).

**Bohemian Rhapsody:** 21.55

(Tues).

**Captain Marvel:** 20.30 (Tues).

**The Queen's Corgi:** 20.20

(Tues).

**Feedback:** 22.15 (Tues).

**Green Book:** 19.00 (Tues)

**Julius Caesar:** 20.00 (Thurs) live

from the National Theatre.

**The Favourite:** 18.15 (Tues).

**The Mule:** 19.10 (Tues).

**On The Basis Of Sex:** 19.35

(Tues).

**Van Gogh: At Eternity's Gate:**

12.45 (Sat, Sun); 20.35 (Tues).

# Malaga-grown edible flowers find their way into the kitchens of some of Spain's greatest chefs



AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

✉ apelaez@diariosur.es

Sabor y Salud, a company in the Axarquía which supplies the country's principal chefs, has now obtained certification as an ecological producer

**MALAGA.** Sabor y Salud is a company in the Axarquía region which produces edible flowers, herbs and salad leaves. It started life in Canillas de Aceituno, producing edible flowers, and then expanded and moved to Valle-Niza and Algarrobo. In 2017 the company took over new premises and it now consists of an area of 12,000 square metres of greenhouses on the boundary between Vélez and Benamocarra.

Sabor y Salud is run by two Germans, Peter Knacke, the manager, and Til Runge, the head of production. At the moment they produce more than 200 different varieties of flowers (a million flowers a year) and Spain is their main market, although they also export to France.

"We are currently in negotiations with a wholesaler in the Netherlands, with a view to distributing our products there," says Peter, who expects production and sales to increase by around 40 per cent this year.

The company has just successfully obtained its certification of ecological production, so the packages of edible flowers, herbs and salad leaves they sell now bear that stamp.

"Our move to the present premises was key in getting this certification. We realise it is important because it guarantees the quality of our products. In Spain the clients, who are mainly well-known chefs, already value our edible flowers for their flavour, but for people elsewhere in Europe the ecological certificate is important," says Peter. "We take great care with our production and that is something our clients ought to know, so that is why we decided to apply for the ecological certificate."

Peter can boast of having some of Spain's greatest chefs among his clients, including the Roca brothers, Juan Mari Arzak, Pedro Su-

bijana, Dani García, José Carlos García, Kisko García, Carme Ruscalleda and Ferran Adrià.

As suppliers, Sabor y Salud also provides advice on how to use the edible flowers. "We're not just farmers, we also love culinary experiences, the flavours, the appearance and the health aspects of what we grow," explains Peter.

He believes that edible flowers should be an integral part of a dish. "They need to make sense and contribute something, not just be used for visual effect. For us as producers, edible flowers are a type of visual condiment in the kitchen," says Peter, who is also convinced that the best way to produce quality natural products with a better flavour is through natural and ecological cultivation.

In addition to producing the ecologically-grown edible flowers, herbs and salad leaves, Sabor y Salud also organises courses and workshops about how to use them in cooking.



Garlic flowers, one of many varieties sold by the company.

:: SUR

## THE DATA

**12,000**

square metres of land are used by Sabor y Salud for the production of edible flowers. The company is based in Benamocarra.

**200**

different varieties of edible flowers are grown by the company, which also produces herbs and salad leaves.

**10%**

of the production is exported to France, where it is also used for haute cuisine and restaurants.



Sabor y Salud grows more than 200 varieties of edible flowers. :: SUR

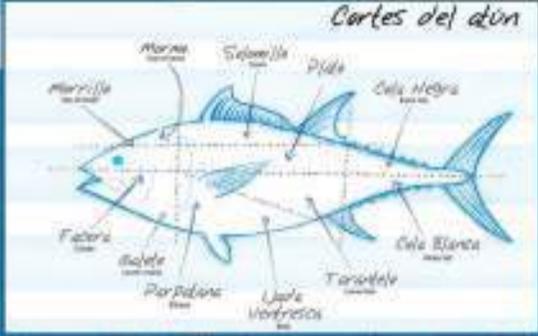
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## A NEW ANGLE ON A TRADITIONAL SPANISH FOOD

Retiree Diego Muñoz, who used to run the Mesón Los Chopos restaurant in Campillos, has been showing off the invention he patented for 300,000 pesetas in 2001; the idea allows you to cut traditional jamón more safely as well as giving a better quality product, he explains. His device, which rotates the jamón by 90 degrees, means that "the fat flows to bottom, giving more freshness" and that you get "a cut against the fibre" as you do with the majority of meats. The device, which has been selling around Europe also has a practical use: "You also won't end up cutting your hand off!"



ANDREW J. LINN

## ANYONE FOR CHEESE?



Scientific studies show that the consumption of dairy products is of little benefit. We are the only mammals that drink milk after we've been weaned, and whether it comes from a cow, a sheep, a goat or a buffalo, it originates from another animal. Illogical as it may seem to non-milk-drinking populations, in countries like USA, Britain and Finland, milk consumption is an everyday custom. In Britain milk has for decades been delivered to homes daily, something that was either motivated by clever marketing or the best way to deal with a glut.

Dairy products are not a feature of the Mediterranean diet, nor is there an established tradition of milk and cheese consumption in southern Europe. In spite of its current popularity, Greek yoghurt has an obscure history. No, Spain and the like are definitely not milk drinkers, nor, in spite of what any restaurant or bar customer may believe, great cheese consumers. The latest statistics show Spain at #31 in the world ranking, between Chile and Uruguay, less than half the EU figure and way behind frontrunner Denmark. However, it seems unthinkable to serve an aperitif here that does not include *jamón de bellota*, *lomo*, and aged goat's or sheep's cheese. Many swear their allegiance to a daily ration of old

Manchego, in spite of the adage that decrees '*Queso todos los días, pero uno al año*' ('Cheese every day but only one cheese a year'). Cheese provides protein as it is composed of dairy fat with salt, but is definitely not a health food. Nutritionists insist it should not form any part of our regular diet. Even limited consumption can cause inflammation of the intestine, which in turn reduces our capacity to absorb vitamins and minerals. As an unrepentant cheese lover I have no intention of changing my habits any time soon, although there is a chink of light visible through the gloom. Unpasteurised goat's or sheep's cheese made with raw milk is said to be beneficial due to its positive effect on the development of gut bacteria.

### WINE OF THE WEEK Áster 2014

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# Children who drive to the theatre

Vithas Parque San Antonio hospital has introduced a scheme to reduce anxiety in young surgical patients and their parents

:: **ÁNGEL ESCALERA**

**MÁLAGA.** Gonzalo came into the meeting room at the Vithas Parque San Antonio hospital in Malaga, 'driving' a car which was guided by remote control. He was demonstrating a new scheme which is now being applied at the hospital, where young children who are going to have surgery travel to the operating theatre in a remote-controlled car operated by nursing staff from the paediatric surgery department. The project, called 'Los peques van al quirófano en coche', was officially presented to the public last week, with little Gonzalo as test driver.

This is a joint initiative between Vithas Parque San Antonio and the Air Liquide Healthcare company, and the aim is twofold: to reduce the stress associated with surgery, and help children and their parents through a complicated health situation. The car will be used by youngsters under the age of six or seven, depending on their weight.



Little Gonzalo demonstrated the remote-controlled car at the official launch. :: SUR

The staff hope that, instead of crying as they go into the operating theatre, as often happens, the little ones will be smiling as they arrive by electric car and not whe-

eled in on a stretcher.

The Costa del Sol director of Vithas, Mercedes Mengibar, says the idea is to humanise the moments which can be difficult for any child.

"These electric cars create a more relaxing situation for the children's families as well, and help to reduce the emotional stress of these occasions," she explained at the

presentation, which was also attended by the medical director of Vithas Parque San Antonio, Miguel Ángel Guzmán, and the head of paediatric surgery, Juan Pérez.

After thanking Air Liquide Healthcare for its involvement in the project, Mercedes Mengibar said that: "This hospital is famous for its mother and child unit, because we have a fundamental commitment to the health of young children. For us it is an honour to have a company such as Air Liquide Healthcare sharing that sentiment and commitment with the hospital, and doing so in such a special and original way".

### Makes the work easier

Juan Pérez stressed that when a patient is relaxed in the minutes before surgery, no matter how serious their condition, it makes the work of doctors and nurses much easier.

Miguel Ángel Guzmán expressed his gratitude for the support from private companies for initiatives of this type. "Any success, including in an operating theatre, depends on team work and this project is a good example of that. We have to thank the Air Liquide Healthcare company for joining the Vithas family in this way," he said.

The remote-controlled car scheme will also be used in other hospitals within the group, to turn the journey to the operating theatre into a game and reduce the stress of the whole situation for the young patients and their families.

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# The unknown work of midwives

These specialists look after women at all stages of life, not just when they become mothers

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"In many cases the work a midwife would normally do is handled by other professionals, and that has an effect on the quality of attention," they say

**RONDA.** Eloisa Molina and Ana Belén Pérez are the two midwives for the town of Ronda and the villages in the nearby countryside, and they are based in the local health centres. There are also seven midwives at the Serranía hospital in Ronda and, curiously, as this is usually seen as a female profession, four of them are men.

The work of the midwives at the hospital is mainly to do with labour and birth, but for those who work in health centres, it is much more varied. These midwives assist women in every stage of their life, from puberty to menopause: in adolescence, during pregnancy, in the postpartum period, breastfeeding, menopause... the role of the midwife is very much wider than it used to be. Eloisa and Ana Belén have 16 and eight years experience, respectively, and both worked in hospitals before transferring to the health centres.

These midwives deal with family planning, cervical smears, disfunctions of the pelvic floor, urinary incontinence, sexual education in schools, sexual health, contraception... "the women ask us about all sorts of things," they say.



Eloisa, in the foreground, and Ana Belén, standing, on the left. :: V. MELGAR

Nowadays, midwifery is a nursing speciality. To become a midwife you need to graduate in nursing and then study obstetric-gynaecological nursing, pass an exam and spend a period of residency just like other specialists.

Eloisa and Ana Belén are aware that theirs is often seen as women's work, although the hospital in Ronda is the exception.

"In general I believe the situation of our profession is fine, but maybe we could do with more midwives at health centres. In many cases the work a midwife would normally do is handled by other professionals, and that has an effect on the quality of

attention," they say.

## False beliefs

Although there are many reasons to see a midwife, pregnancy, postpartum and breastfeeding are among the main ones. Eloisa and Ana Belén don't have official figures to hand, but they have noticed that the number of pregnancies in the Ronda area has dropped, and that these days many women only want to have one child. "Two is unusual now, although some women do want two children, but many are convinced they only want one," they say.

The most frequent questions they are asked are about false beliefs or

myths which many people still maintain, such as that pregnancy can be considered an illness.

"I believe the women feel more confident when we tell them what they can do and shouldn't do, especially if it is their first pregnancy," says Eloisa.

"The problem can be that the mother-to-be does know, but people around her don't and they give her advice such as "you can't eat ham or paté, but you can have a glass of wine", or that you can smoke during pregnancy, but only a little," says Ana Belén.

The midwives stress that pregnancy doesn't stop women being ac-

tive, and say that it is a very good time to adopt healthy lifestyle habits, such as cooking meat or fish well, washing fruit and vegetables, and maintaining them afterwards. "For example, you can go running when you're pregnant. In fact, sport is highly recommended," they say.

With regard to breast feeding, both midwives say this is the best option and they encourage it, although many women decide against it. "Everyone breast feeds their baby in the delivery room and wants to continue, but after a few days things change; problems can arise and we try to resolve them. There is pressure on mothers to breast feed. It is an emotional time for women and they can be influenced by their mothers and mothers-in-law, for example. We believe breast feeding is best, but if a mother decides not to, then we must respect that," they say.

"We try to assist women during breast feeding, and only a very small percentage of women experience problems, but the postpartum period is not just about being a woman with a breast," they stress. "It takes time and effort and many women wrongly believe that breast milk alone isn't enough for a baby, or that they can't produce enough of it to satisfy them."

Eloisa and Ana Belén say that the women's partners are more involved these days, and they believe maternity leave needs to be extended, so that mothers do not have to stop breast feeding because they are going back to work.

The work carried out by these midwives includes organising groups in which the mothers and their partners, with their babies, share their experiences; classes in the swimming pool to prepare the muscles for a vaginal birth, using the Aipap method; talks on health; maternal education; and a visit to the hospital before the baby is due.



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# ARTHRITIS: SURGERY, YES OR NO?

## Should you hold on as long as possible without surgery or rather go for it?

### BENALMADENA

Unfortunately time won't pass by without leaving arthritic marks on our joints. The most often effected joints are hips and knees, followed by shoulders and fingers.

After many decades of weight bearing pressure, signs of so called arthritic changes will appear eventually. And as there are no nerve endings inside a joint the initial stage of arthritic changes of the joint won't have clinical symptoms and is usually detected as a secondary diagnosis when radiographic images are taking for other reasons. This is considered stage I of arthritis, and does not require any treatment. But the far more advanced stage III and the final stage IV would cause significant pain even when resting, due to the by then very much deformed joint, untreated often ending in an inability of moving that joint.

In the moderate stage of the arthritis, when the joint is not worn out and the symptoms appear only occasionally, conservative treatment can be applied consisting in specific physiotherapy, gentle sports like swimming, anti-inflammatory medication in form of crèmes or tablets, as well as direct infiltrations with Cortisone and/ or hyaluronic acid. In the very advanced (III. degree) and the final stage (IV. Degree) of the arthritis the surgical substitution should be considered. In these stages of arthritis there is a generally accepted rule of thumb that in men over 60 and women over 65 the joint replacement should be the treatment of choice.

In the hands of an experienced orthopaedic surgeon a joint replacement is considered a routine surgical procedure. Follow-



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ing a hip or knee replacement you would be allowed full weight bearing immediately. In-patient stay would be 2 - 4 days, in a private hospital, and under supervision and training by a specialist trained physiotherapist

the joint would gain practically full range of movement within 2-4 weeks, pain free. Returning to normal daily activities like longer walks, swimming and even an easy round of golf should be possible after 6-8 weeks. Statistics have shown that out of 100 hip or knee replacements 99 are functioning that well that only the scar would remind you that you actually have an artificial joint.

The generally accepted recommendation is that in case of advanced arthritis with significantly reduced life quality, and the patient being in the equivalent age group, the surgical replacement should be done rather sooner than later, allowing to re-

**In the hands of an experienced orthopaedic surgeon a joint replacement is considered a routine surgical procedure**

turn to usual daily activities and a normal life quality. Postponing the surgery for a prolonged time could not only cause damage on the joints of the other leg due to compensatory limping, but also lead to other medical problems like diabetes and heart

conditions coming in, making the surgery more difficult or even impossible.



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Francisco Piñal. :: VIRGINIA CARRASCO

# Providing a helping hand

**Surgeon Francisco Piñal transplants toes onto the hands of people who have lost fingers or thumbs. He has carried out 500 operations of this type. "The possibilities of failure are endless," he says**

**:: ANTONIO PANIAGUA**

There is no difference between operating on a teenager with three fingers mutilated by a firework or a merchant seaman with half his hand missing, says Francisco Piñal, who at the age of 58 is now one of the best hand surgeons in the world. He specialises in what for many people appears to be a miracle, but is actually the result of innumerable hours of work in the operating theatre, dedicated study and a great deal of expertise.

Piñal is an expert at transplanting toes onto the hands of patients who have suffered serious injuries. He has already carried out more than 500 operations of this type, making him the surgeon with the greatest experience in this field. His success rate is 99 per cent. He once treated a piano teacher who was able to play again

afterwards and perform in concerts, but is never blasé about his skills. "The possibilities of failure are endless," he says. After nearly a quarter of a century working at the Valdecilla hospital in Santander, he is now the head of hand and wrist surgery at La Luz hospital in Madrid.

Losing a thumb may seem inconvenient but not serious, but in fact that it is not the case. With no thumb, nearly half of the hand's function is lost and any task becomes very difficult: grasping and manipulating objects of all sizes becomes very hard work.

"Transplanting a big toe onto the hand improves its function by 90 per cent. For people who have lost all five fingers, we try to reconstruct it. We make the thumb with the big toe of one foot and transfer the second and third toes from the other one," says

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Piñal, who has spent a great deal of time in the USA and Australia learning the secrets of hand microsurgery.

It is very rare for someone using a mechanical saw to cut a finger off at the base. It is more common to suffer a cut across the index finger, the palm and part of the third finger, with an incision on different levels. "In those cases, we use the longest toes for the reconstruction, so the patient's hand is as near normal as possible. We don't try to place the toes indiscriminately, or use four of different lengths. It is important not only to re-establish the function of the hand, but also to make it look as normal as possible," he explains.

Plastic surgery plays an important role, too, and it should not be forgotten that the amputation of a finger has a major psychological effect.

### A cool head

It takes time to connect nerves, bones and tendons with the aim of restoring movement, sensitivity and blood flow. Sometimes it can be done in three and a half hours, but at others it can take up to 18. That is when a cool head is necessary, to be in control of the situation. "I never shout or get angry. In Australia they taught me that if something goes wrong in the operating theatre, the surgeon is responsible. You mustn't change the ambience of a place where it is difficult to be."

A prosthesis cannot be compared with toe transplants. The false hands are not as stable and the patient does

not recover their feeling. Prostheses are cosmetic more than anything else, while implants restore function. However, the fact that the transplants are successful does not mean they are not complex.

"The key to everything is called microsurgery. You have to connect arteries which are one millimetre in diameter, which means nine different stitches with a thread which is barely a few microns. You also have to connect a vein so the blood can flow. A microscope is needed for that. Tendons and bones are put in place every day, but vascular reconnection is more exceptional," he says. To join bones they use screws, plates or wire, normal tools in any operating theatre.

The technique of implanting toes onto hands began in the early 1970s. Not every hospital does this type of surgery and the surgeons need to be specially qualified. A patient needs to be confident and psychologically prepared for one or more toes to be removed and transplanted. If they have suffered a serious hand injury, it is logical that they will be wary of losing their toes. Among the few surgical teams that perform these operations, Piñal's is the most active. However, he doesn't boast about his achievements and has no interest in becoming world famous. "In the operating theatre I just want to concentrate on what I'm doing, so there is always music playing. I'm relaxed with my team, but prepared," he says.

It bothers him that some doctors, despite their accredited skills and

### TRANSPLANTS

# 500

transplants of toes onto hands have been carried out by surgeon Francisco Piñal, the head of hand and wrist surgery at La Luz hospital in Madrid. Piñal is a specialist in re-establishing the ability to grasp with the hand. It is a fundamental manoeuvre for carrying out basic tasks. With this type of transplant, 90 per cent of the grasp and manipulate function is recovered.

### Less common

The reduction in wars and conflicts and better safety conditions at work have reduced the frequency of finger amputations. Most of the patients treated by Dr Piñal and his team have suffered an accident while working.

brilliant reputation, love to appear in front of the cameras. He respects those who travel altruistically to underdeveloped countries to treat disadvantaged people, but shun publicity. "There are surgeons who operate free of charge on patients in Africa who otherwise wouldn't be treated, and there are humanitarian organisations which do excellent work, but you mustn't confuse altruism with vanity. There are some



# 30%

was the success rate in transplanting toes onto the hands of amputees thirty years ago. The figure has now risen to 90 per cent. The lack of a thumb limits the use of a hand by 50 per cent.

people who only want to be photographed doing it. I don't understand how people can spend time in Africa and then charge 50,000 euros for an operation. When there are so many people here who need help, why go so far? If you operate on someone free in Spain, you don't have to go round telling everyone about it. I have friends who go to the Sahara and when they come back they don't boast about it. I can

allow myself the luxury of not charging many people who need surgery because, thank God, I earn money. Although nowadays if you want to do it under Social Security, the system and the doctors themselves make it difficult."

Many amputees ask Francisco Piñal if there will be unpleasant consequences of losing a toe. "They are afraid they'll end up with a reconstructed hand but they'll limp. The way of walking isn't affected. If it were, I'd have 500 lame people waiting outside my door," he says. It is normal for the patient to feel a pulling sensation of the skin for the first few weeks, but after three months they don't even remember that.

In general, it is best to remove two toes from one foot and two from the other, although there are always exceptions. Piñal has come across situations where patients have lost all the fingers of both hands, and in those cases there is no option but to remove three toes from each foot, something which affects the appearance but not the ability to walk. "It doesn't affect a normal person: they can go to work, drive and run with no problems," he says. Paradoxically, Francisco Piñal mostly remembers the operations which have gone badly, but even with his three failures there was never necrosis and he learned a lot from them.

How does he relax, after carrying out an exhausting 18-hour operation? "I like to get up early the next morning and go running. That's what relaxes me most," he says.



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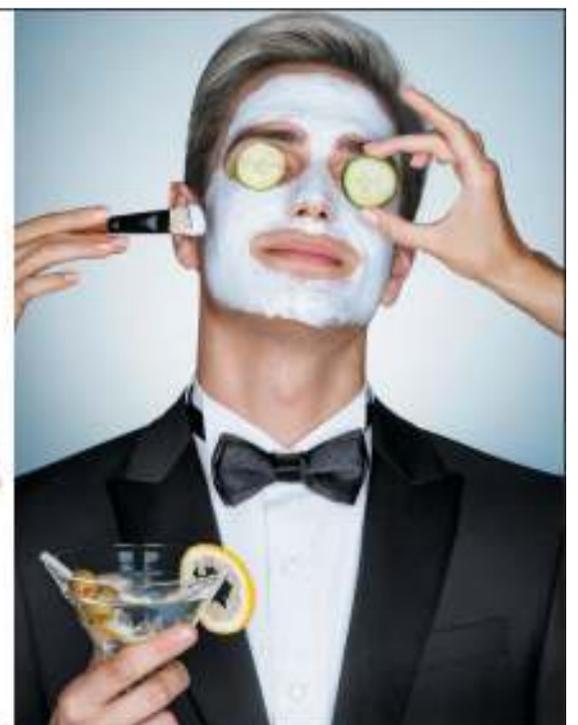
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# Taking up running? Read these guidelines first

**It is important to take certain factors into account before starting, such as state of health, physical performance and running style**

**:: SUR**

Call it running, jogging or what you will, this type of physical activity when your feet touch the ground alternately at a faster speed than walking is becoming more and more popular.

Although it has almost always existed as a type of exercise, in recent years an increasing number of

people have taken it up, in many cases because they can fit it into their busy lives.

There are numerous benefits to running. It improves the immune and cardiovascular system, stimulates lung capacity, speeds up the metabolism and raises levels of 'good cholesterol'. It also strengthens bones and helps to combat anxiety.

Another advantage is that it costs absolutely nothing to go running (apart from the shoes etc), and it can be done any time, outside, alone or in company. A runner not only makes close contact with himself or herself as a person but also with the environment, which adds psychological and social benefits to the purely physical ones.

However, although it may not seem so, running isn't as simple as just putting on a pair of suitable shoes and setting off. It is very important to bear in mind different guidelines and techniques to avoid injury, and make sure this type of exercise doesn't actually cause harm to your body.

One of the first aspects to consider before taking up running is your body weight, because that can increase the chance of suffering an injury. Experts say someone with a body mass index higher than 25 is 25 per cent more at risk of injuring themselves.

It should also be remembered that this type of physical activity has a major impact on weight-bearing joints and the spinal column, so excess weight can cause damage and injuries to those as well.

It is always advisable to have a complete medical check-up and cardiac stress test to ensure there are no potential heart problems, before starting.

**Gradual progress and foot care, keys to success**

Experts recommend that anyone who is just starting to take up running should start off by walking. This will strengthen the muscles, tendons and joints which will later be used during running. However, for it to really

serve as an introduction, you need to walk at least 10,000 steps at least twice a week, at a moderate speed. The American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) recommends a walking speed of between 4.8 and 6.4 kilometres an hour, for a healthy adult.

When you first take up running, you should do it gradually and not increase your distance by more than 10 per cent a week. Equally, length of stride should also be increased little by little because, although expert runners have a long stride, those who are not used to it can suffer injury from the impact of contact with the ground.

Anyone who wants to be a successful runner must also take good care of their feet. Choosing suitable running shoes isn't as easy as it may seem because people's feet differ so much and the shoes must adapt to individual characteristics. There is a huge range to choose from, including pronation shoes, neutral tread, highly cushioned, shoes for mountains, shoes for roads and many other possibilities.

There are certain elements to bear in mind when choosing, such as foot shape, type of tread, body weight,

type of terrain on which you'll be running, how often you run, distance etc. It is also important to remember that poor support will result in an unusual movement which has a repercussion on the whole locomotor apparatus, and that can result in injury.

With all this in mind, a visit to a sports podologist before taking up running is the best way to make a good start and avoid injury. These professionals can study possible anatomical factors, level the step and introduce measures that improve and prevent future damage. They will also analyse the way you run and correct the technique if necessary, because in many cases this is the cause of injuries no matter how good the equipment and footwear are.

If you are injured, it is essential to consult a physiotherapist in case treatment is needed, so you can recover and work on ensuring it doesn't happen again. And of course, when choosing a physiotherapist, make sure you consult someone who is registered with the Professional College of Physiotherapists in your region, as that is the only way to be sure that they are properly qualified.

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It is best to progress slowly and surely when you are new to running. :: SUR

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**PEDRO LUIS ALONSO**

Twitter: @Plalonso27

At 19 years of age, he has broken into the top 200 players in the world, he is the 15th best in Spain and there are just four younger players ahead of him on the ATP rankings

**MALAGA.** Things are really starting to get serious for Alejandro Davidovich. The career of the young tennis star, raised in La Cala del Moral and made in Marbella, is just getting started in earnest.

The 19-year-old, who first shot to prominence with victory at Junior Wimbledon in 2017, has been a professional for 14 months now. The original adjustment period contained more ups than downs, but the final third of 2018 and the start of 2019 have seen Davidovich take a massive step forward - reflected in a massive leap in his ATP ranking.

Currently in 181st place, Davidovich is one of Spain's greatest hopes for the future and is certainly one of the favourites for the Next Gen world championships in November.

Between the Davidovich of January 2018, when he had just started his life as a pro, and the current Davidovich, there are more than 300 places. After reaching the final of the Bangkok Challenger last week, he achieved a career-high 184th, rising a further three this week without even competing.

His progression is advancing at a steady rate, especially impressive in an environment in which players are competing well into their 30s, making a breakthrough into the top 100 more difficult than ever.

Fourteen months after finishing his junior career, Davidovich already has his first title, winning the Futures Quinta do Lago; he also reached three finals on the Challenger Tour, losing in Szczecin, Shenzhen and Bangkok. He was in the preliminary phase at Wimbledon and in the Australian Open, earning himself a call to join the Spain team for training to warm up for the Davis Cup in Marbella. To his achievements you can also add victory in the Master Futuro Nacional Mapfre under-23 tournament.

His meteoric rise so far has been



Alejandro Davidovich, in a promotional image distributed by his new sponsor Diadora. :: SUR

# Making great strides

Young Malaga tennis star Alejandro Davidovich has climbed 300 places in just 14 months as a professional

managed by coach Jorge Aguirre who carefully selects the tournaments his young protégé will enter to avoid filling up his calendar and pushing him too far.

### History in the making?

If just a few months ago Davidovich's participation in Challengers tournaments was in doubt, now he starts them among the favourites. He is not far behind his fellow 'malagueño' Adrián Menéndez (141st), whom he has never faced on the tour, and could be-

### Anticipation will be high for the local youngster at the Marbella Challenger at the end of March

come only the second player from the province to break into the top 100, following in the footsteps of Emilio Álvarez.

At present he is the 15th best Spaniard in the rankings and is younger than all of those above him. In fact, there are high hopes for him with ten players in their thirties ahead of him: Feliciano López (37), David Ferrer (36), Guillermo García-López and Fernando Verdasco (35), Pablo Andújar and Adrián Menéndez (33), Rafa Nadal and Marcel Granollers (32), Al-

### RANKING PROGRESS

Davidovich has risen more than 300 places in just 14 months as a senior:

Date	Ranking
January 2016	1469th
January 2017	859th
January 2018	493rd
February 2018	487th
March 2018	477th
April 2018	393rd
May 2018	408th
June 2018	396th
July 2018	377th
August 2018	369th
September 2018	400th
October 2018	285th
November 2018	233rd
December 2018	231st
January 2019	237th
February 2019	184th
March 2019	181st

### SPANISH TENNIS

There are only 14 Spanish tennis players with a better ATP ranking than Davidovich; many of them are in their thirties:

Player	Ranking/Age
1st Rafa Nadal	2nd/32
2nd Pablo Carreño	20th/27
3rd Roberto Bautista	22nd/30
4th Fernando Verdasco	36th/35
5th Jaume Munar	61st/21
6th Feliciano López	78th/37
7th Albert Ramos	91st/31
8th Pablo Andújar	93rd/33
9th Marcel Granollers	108th/32
10th Guillermo García-López	109th/35
11th Roberto Carballés	111th/25
12th Adrián Menéndez	141st/33
13th David Ferrer	143rd/36
14th Pedro Martínez Portero	162nd/21
15th Alejandro Davidovich	181st/19

bert Ramos (31) and Roberto Bautista (30). Davidovich and Nicola Pietrangeli (248th and a year his junior, who missed most of 2018 through injury) are the big hopes, alongside Pedro Martínez Portero (162nd, 21 years old) and Jaume Munar (61st, also 21).

Globally there are just three higher-ranked tennis players than Davidovich who are younger: Felix Auger-Aliassime (58th, 18), Miomir Kecmanovic (130th, 19) and Alexei Popyrin (131st, 19).

Davidovich will compete in another Challenger in China this week ahead of his long-awaited appearance on clay, his preferred surface, at the Casino Admiral Trophy at the Puente Romano Tennis Club in Marbella at the end of the month. Expectations will be high.

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Alfred N'Diaye, left, is denied by a superb reaction save from Carlos Abad; Seleznov couldn't follow up on the rebound. :: VALERIO MERINO

**LA LIGA 123**

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

Table	TEAM	PT	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
★	1.Osasuna	54	28	16	6	6	36	25
★	2.Granada	53	28	15	8	5	36	18
■	3.Albacete	50	28	13	11	4	36	22
■	4.MALAGA	50	28	14	8	6	29	19
■	5.Deportivo	49	28	12	13	3	39	21
■	6.Cádiz	47	28	13	8	7	38	23
	7.Oviedo	44	28	12	8	8	32	31
	8.Almería	43	28	11	10	7	33	25
	9.Mallorca	42	28	11	9	8	35	27
	10.Alcorcón	42	28	12	6	10	29	25
	11.Las Palmas	38	28	8	14	6	32	30
	12.Sporting	36	28	9	9	10	30	27
	13.Numancia	34	28	8	10	10	33	34
	14.Elche	33	28	7	12	9	29	34
	15.Zaragoza	31	28	7	10	11	30	35
	16.Tenerife	31	28	6	13	9	23	31
	17.R. Majadahonda	30	28	8	6	14	25	38
	18.Lugo	28	28	6	10	12	27	36
▼	19.Extremadura	24	28	5	9	14	30	40
▼	20.Córdoba	22	28	4	10	14	33	51
▼	21.Gimnàstic	21	28	5	6	17	17	42
▼	22.Reus	0	28	5	6	17	16	34

# A point with a bitter aftertaste

# 1-1

**CORDOBA-MALAGA**

## N'Diaye's last-minute equaliser spared Malaga's blushes in Saturday's Andalusian derby against an inferior Cordoba side battling the drop



**DARYL FINCH**

✉ dfinch@diariosur.es

Blanco Leschuk and Seleznov drew blanks once again as Muñoz's side's struggles in front of goal continue

**MALAGA.** Everyone wants it, but no one is letting it show. Promotion to the big time is worth millions of euros and, despite a dismal run of just one win in six matches, Malaga are still within touching distance of the top of the table.

It is testament to the strength of the division that none of the teams in the hunt for promotion seems capable of stringing together results and running away with the lead.

Malaga, who after Saturday's result have now drawn eight matches this season, certainly have had their opportunities. The Andalusian derby at El Arcángel on Saturday was no different.

Cordoba, who have just appointed Rafa Navarro as their new coach, may have had the famous 'new manager bounce', but Malaga had more than enough chances to win the game.

One player who wasn't there to take them was top scorer Adrián González who had to be withdrawn after just nine minutes through injury. Much like the team as a whole, his replacement, Erik Morán, simply wasn't up to speed and he was hooked off at half time following an opening 45 minutes in which the hosts carved out the only real opening.

That was when José Ángel Carrillo nipped in front of Luis Hernández, not quite up to speed

after a long injury layoff, to get to a cross from the right wing before being upended. The referee, however, was in no mood to give a penalty despite the defender clipping at the forward's heels from behind.

Malaga coach Juan Ramón Muñoz may have shaken up his side's tactics at the break, but it was the hosts who drew first blood. Miguel de las Cuevas skilfully brought Jaime's low cross under his spell on the edge of the area, sitting Federico Ricca on his backside before firing the ball into the top corner, well beyond the reach of Munir.

Jack Harper, restored to a central area in the second half, almost laid on a goal for his struggling col-

**Cordoba:** Carlos Abad; Fernández, Luis Muñoz, Quintanilla, Alex Menéndez; Andrés (Manzambi, 76'), Bodiger, Touré, Jaime; De las Cuevas (Aguado, 79'), Carrillo (Piovaccari, 81'). Unused substitutes: Lavín, Loureiro, Kevin, Alfaro.

**Malaga:** Munir; Iván, Luis Hernández, Pau Torres, Federico Ricca; Iván Alejo (Seleznov, 65'), Keidi, N'Diaye, Adrián (Erik Morán, 9' (Ontiveros, 46')), Harper; Blanco Leschuk. Unused substitutes: Kieszek, Cifu, Lombán, Renato.

**Goals:** 1-0 De las Cuevas (61'); 1-1 N'Diaye (90+3').

**Referee:** Bikandi Garrido. Yellow cards for Erik Morán, Luis Muñoz, Blanco Leschuk, Touré, De las Cuevas, Manzambi, Ricca, Fernández.

**Venue:** El Arcángel (13,885 spectators).

league Gustavo Blanco Leschuk as he nodded Luis Hernández's long ball into the Argentinian's path, only for his looping header to be cleared off the line by the defender with the keeper beaten.

The visitors continued to step

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Up next

## OSASUNA (H)

Next up for Malaga is the visit of current league leaders, Osasuna. Victory over Gimnàstic at the weekend (1-0) was the Pamplona side's seventh in a row, helping to negate the effects of their poor start to the campaign.

In fact, it was only after beating Malaga (2-1) on matchday 12 (3 November) that Osasuna, managed by Jagoba Arrasate, could climb out of the bottom half of the table.

Since then, they have only failed to win on four occasions (losing to Dépor and Las Palmas; drawing with Albacete and Numanzia). Juan Villar and Roberto Torres, both scorers in the reverse fixture, have been instruments in this run, scoring nine and ten goals, respectively.

The clash on Monday night (kick-off 9pm) will only be the third ever between the sides at this level. As it stands, Osasuna edge the head-to-head with two wins to one.

on the gas and substitute Yevhen Seleznov missed a clear chance to level the scores after Alfred N'Diaye's header was spectacularly denied by Carlos Abad on the stretch, leaving the Ukrainian with all the goal to aim at. But, on his weaker foot, he could only direct his effort into the side netting.

The breakthrough did eventually come, deep into stoppage time, when the persistence of Javi Ontiveros, who came on at half time, paid off as the ball broke to Ricca, whose first-time cross was stroked home by N'Diaye on the edge of the box.

This was the least their performance deserved, said Muñiz following the game. "We had a lot of clear chances but we shouldn't get fixated on the lack of goals. We just need a lucky break and our fortunes in front of goal will change."

# New academy will not be ready in time for the summer

Construction on the new sports complex close to the city's airport has come to a complete standstill because of a lack of funding

BY ANTONIO GÓNGORA

**MALAGA.** The Malaga Academy project has been dealt yet another setback this week with the news that the new sports complex, in the Arraijanal district of Malaga city close to the airport, will not be ready in time for the summer as scheduled.

The stumbling block has been finance tied up in land owned by the club in El Viso which is being sold to form part of the expansion of the University of Malaga.

Though the 4.5-million-euro sale was agreed several years ago, red tape has held up the process and the club's relegation from La Liga



The current state of the site. BY SALVADOR SALAS

has meant that alternative funding could not be found, bringing construction to a complete standstill. The construction firm Bilba has removed all machinery from the site.

Although it is now unlikely

that the academy will be ready in time for the summer, the club expects to find out this week when the 4.5 million euros will be released so that it can plan the resumption of works.

## Cordoba publish statement condemning Caminero's match behaviour

BY PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

**MALAGA.** After rumours started to spread of an attack by Malaga sporting director José Luis Caminero on Cordoba CF president Jesús León in the executive box during Saturday's derby, the host club decided to publish a statement to clear up what happened.

"After the Malaga equaliser, José Luis Pérez Caminero reacted by banging the glass on the front of the box at El Arcángel," the statement read. "After being reprimanded for this, Mr Pérez Caminero decided to leave the box, shouting insults and expletives at the Cordoba directors, among whom was the president."

The statement concluded by condemning Caminero's behaviour which it says "was contrary to that of the Malaga fans which, as always, was exemplary".



## FIGHTING SPIRIT IN DEFEAT FOR TEN-MAN MALAGUEÑO

Malaga's reserve side, Atlético Malagueño, ultimately crashed to a 3-0 home defeat to UCAM Murcia on Sunday. This came after the hosts went down to ten when Ian Soler saw red with just 28 minutes gone. The side nonetheless held strong until the 88th minute until Murcia netted three goals in less than five minutes to claim all three points.

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## A LOOK AT LA LIGA

**ROB PALMER**  
Commentator, Sky Sports  
@robbopalmer



# The fire sale starts now

**Back-to-back Barça defeats and Champions League elimination must surely now signal the start of the rebuild for Real Madrid**

It's going to be like one of those furniture sales you see around Christmas time: "Billions of pounds' worth of stock must go!"

Real Madrid need to ignite a fire sale; not one player can be assured of a locker at the Bernabéu next season. It's said that every footballer has his price and this could well be proven this summer. It's become increasingly obvious that the reigning European champions must start again, almost from scratch. There must be a mass clear-out and major reinvestment.

Gareth Bale, a Champions League final winning hero, is already working his notice; Luka Modrić, the current Ballon d'Or holder, has reached his sell-by date; Isco needs a new challenge; even Sergio Ramos's shirt isn't safe.

The problem is that the stock of each player has dropped dramatically over the past twelve months. Bale may interest his old club Tottenham, but he could just be a part exchange for Dele Alli or Harry Kane – maybe both?

Isco has suffered a miserable cou-

ple of years and needs an institution that can recognise his talents. If Chelsea can avert their transfer ban with an appeal, they could be tempted to swap the Spain international for Eden Hazard.

Even Mohamed Salah may be on the shopping list for Real Madrid who will have to break the bank to bring in a Galático. I'm not sure there's a player at the capital club who would interest Liverpool, though.

After the debacle of back-to-back defeats to Barcelona and Champions League elimination, there are very few players who would be guaranteed to make a retained list. Vinícius Júnior, Thibaut Courtois, Marco Asensio and possibly Raphaël Varane are the future of the club and there will be places for the labourers like Dani Carvajal, Casemiro, Nacho and Lucas Vázquez.

The most significant decision is who will be given responsibility for the biggest recruitment drive in many decades.

There was never a reason given for Zinedine Zidane's sudden de-



Real Madrid's European reign came to an abrupt end on Tuesday. :: AFP

parture, but I suspect it had something to do with him having little say in the transfer policy. His successors Julen Lopetegui and Santi Solari have just been puppets for the president. The next man must be allowed to be the chief architect.

I suspect that Mauricio Po-

chettino would have leapt at an offer to return to La Liga some months ago but since then things have festered. It's not unlike the situation at Manchester United where it has taken almost six years for the positivity to return to the club.

There is talk of José Mourinho

returning and he has his cheerleaders in the Spanish media. (That's a rarity - using cheer and Mourinho in the same sentence!) But it needs somebody special and he's no longer 'The Special One'.

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The visitors had greater success in their aerial duels. :: OPTA

## Marbella peg back Murcia to maintain unbeaten run

:: OPTA

**MURCIA.** It is now eight games without defeat for Marbella after coming from a goal down to draw with Real Murcia at the Nueva Condomina on Sunday.

The hosts took the lead in the 23rd minute when Armando took advantage of a packed six-yard box to score directly from a corner.

"The goal complicated our game plan," admitted coach David Cubillo, but his side were able to get back on level terms just 11 minutes later through Juanma's perfectly executed volley at the back post.

Marbella's impressive run of form means that they can start to look forward rather than back as they sit comfortably in mid-table.

## Federation chief announces the end to Monday night Liga games from next season

:: AMADOR GÓMEZ

**MADRID.** From next season on, there will no longer be televised La Liga matches on Monday nights, the president of the Spanish Football Federation (FEF), Luis Rubiales, has announced.

"Business is important, but the fans are more important," he said, after supporters of Athletic, Alavés, Leganés, Rayo Vallecano, Levante and Girona joined protests against having to regularly play in this unpopular slot.

Due to not having any European commitments, these clubs have seen their attendances fall by being regularly selected to play on Mondays, while Champions and Europa League teams have been largely exempt.

The Monday fixture is expected to move to Sunday at 2pm, while Friday night football is set to be reviewed.

IN THE FRAME

# The Brit who's a national champion

**S**onia Vokes has been playing badminton at regional and national level for 14 years and has been a member of the well-known Jorge Guillén badminton club in El Palo almost since she first came to Malaga in 1989.

Sonia says she believes she is one of the very few foreign badminton players who compete at national level in Spain, although she does know of at least one other English couple who play for a club in Benalmádena. She regularly competes in the Liga Andaluza of the Federación Andaluza de Bádminton.

### Winning competitions

Sonia has been a member of the Club Bádminton Jorge Guillén, which was established in 1985. It is located in the El Palo neighbourhood of Malaga, where Sonia, her Spanish husband, Santiago and their daughter, Carmen, live.

When Sonia, 54, says "I usually do quite well" in competitions, what she actually means is that she always gets a place on the podium at regional and national tournaments and usually comes not less than first or second.

She says she competes in the Andalusian competitions every year, but national events can be more difficult to attend due to work commitments as they are always on 1 May and often in other parts of Spain. "I enter the national competitions when the date and venue are good. If 1 May falls on a Friday, weekend or Monday then I can travel, but if it's midweek and not local it's impossible to do," she admits.

National tournaments have taken her to Santander and the Canary islands, among other places and she generally plays in singles, as well as ladies' and mixed doubles matches. Sonia recognises that there is a "shortage of female players" in Andalucía and particularly in senior categories, that is, over the age of 30.

She says that she has "always been into sport" from an early age and lived next to a sports centre while at Liverpool Polytechnic (now John Moores university) and since being in Malaga she has been able to continue with her passion.

The badminton player, who is

originally from Birmingham, first came to Malaga as part of her year abroad while she was studying French and Spanish in Liverpool. She met her now husband during that year and, after a year apart, when Sonia returned to the UK for the final year of her degree, she was lured back to the Costa del Sol and to her Spanish boyfriend.

Since she came back, Sonia has worked as an English teacher, firstly at the school of tourism on Paseo de Sancha in Malaga and then at the Centro de Idiomas at Malaga University, which is where she is still.

The sports fan says that she continued to play badminton and other sports until the birth of her

daughter in 1998, after which she says she had a seven-year break. It was in 2005 when she went back to playing the sport and started to "take it seriously," entering competitions at both regional and national level. Sonia, who speaks fluent Spanish, says that she has "always felt very welcome" in the club and that the founders are good

**Sonia Vokes is one of very few foreigners who competes at regional level**

friends of her husband.

Her daughter, who is studying physical education at Granada University, has clearly followed in her mum's sporty footsteps, although Sonia explains that Carmen is more interested in basketball, dance and acting than badminton.

Nowadays Sonia combines work with training three times a week and playing in matches most Saturday mornings. "We play until we drop," she laughs. The most recent competition was at the end of January in La Rinconada in Seville, where she participated in the ladies' and mixed doubles with her partner, Mateo Garrido, who belongs to the Club Bádminton Alhaurín de la Torre. Sonia won the ladies' competition and she and Mateo also came first in the mixed doubles.

### Trophy collection

Sonia jokes that she has recently had to take her collection of trophies to the family farmhouse as there "wasn't enough space for them all in the flat in El Palo. They take up too much space and are a pain to dust," she laughs. There are some competitions where the prize is a good quality badminton T-shirt, which Sonia admits is "much more useful than a trophy!"

Sonia says she won't be taking part in the national competition this year as it's taking place in the Balearics and the bank holiday is a Wednesday, but she will continue to train and play regionally.

"I have no plans to stop playing and am lucky that I've never had any injuries, but it is nice to have the choice to compete or not, especially in the nationals," Sonia confesses.

**For further information about the Jorge Guillén Club de Bádminton:** (in Spanish) <http://cbjorgeguillen.blogspot.com>



Sonia Vokes with Mateo Garrido. :: S. VOKES

**Sonia Vokes has been competing in regional and national badminton tournaments for 14 years and says there is a shortage of female players**

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# Six medals in a successful week for Spanish athletics

Peleteiro, De Arriba and Ureña were among those who came away with gold from the European Indoor Championships in Glasgow

## :: MIGUEL OLMEDA

**MADRID.** A third-place finish overall capped off a successful European Indoor Championships for the Spanish contingent. With three golds, one silver and a bronze on Sunday, in addition to Óscar Husillos' silver on Saturday in the 400 metres, Spain finished only behind Poland and Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the final rankings in Glasgow.

Sunday was particularly sweet as Ana Peleteiro, from Galicia, came out on top in the final of the triple jump in the morning. She set a new Spanish record with a distance of 14.73 metres.

The 23-year-old, who was junior world champion in 2012, has now, under the tutelage of retired Cuban track and field athlete Iván Pedroso, come of age and sealed an elusive



Heptathlete Jorge Ureña celebrates with the Spanish flag. :: EFE

European Championship win after so many false starts in her fledgling career.

Salamanca's Álvaro de Arriba followed, also with a gold, with a time of 1:46.83 in the 800-metre final in which he was up against local favourite Jamie Webb. However, De Arriba went on the attack in the final lap and he couldn't be matched. Webb, took silver (1:47.13), while Ireland's Mark English had to settle for bronze (1:47.39). The other Spaniard in the final, Mariano García, came close to a podium finish but a personal best 1:47.58 was only good enough for fourth.

Minutes later came gold for Jorge Ureña. The heptathlete from Alicante was proclaimed European champion with a total of 6,218 points after coming out on top in the 1,000 metres. He also pipped a



Ana Peleteiro after winning gold in the triple jump. :: ROBERT PERRY. EFE

British athlete to the post, in this case Tim Duckworth who finished on 6,156 points.

This was just the third medal won by a Spanish athlete in a combined indoor event after Antonio Peñalver in Genoa 1992 (bronze) and Ureña himself in Belgrade two years ago (silver).

A further two medals completed Sunday as far as the Spanish contingent was concerned. Jesús Gómez bagged bronze in the 1,500 metres

with a time of 3:44.39 and shortly afterwards Óscar Husillos, Manuel Guijarro, Lucas Búa and Bernat Erta claimed silver in the 4X400 with a time of 3:06.32 - a new national record. This was Husillos' second medal of the championships having claimed silver in the 400 metres on Saturday with a Spanish-record time of 45.66, losing out to Karsten Warholm (Norway), current world and European champion in the 400-metre hurdles.

## IN BRIEF

### Valentín finally gets her hands on Olympic gold

#### MADRID

Spanish weightlifter Lydia Valentín last Thursday finally got her hands on her Olympic gold medal, almost seven years after the Games in London. After three of her rivals were disqualified for doping, Valentín has now been given the gold medal which she can add to the silver granted for Beijing 2008 and bronze picked up at Rio 2016. She will "shortly" receive the corresponding prize money too.



Lydia Valentín. :: EFE

### Third place in Singapore for Azahara Muñoz

#### MALAGA

Marbella golfer Azahara Muñoz is experiencing her best start to a season to date. Muñoz finished in third place in the HSBC Women's World Championship in Singapore with rounds of 71, 68, 69 and 69 for a final card of 277. This earned her 92,440 dollars in prize money. This is the golfer's third top-ten finish of the season so far after four tournaments played.

Muñoz returns to action on 21 March in the Bank of Hope Founders Cup in Arizona.

### Malaga confirmed as host of two major tournaments next year

#### MALAGA

February 2020 will be a big month for sport in the city of Malaga with both the basketball Copa del Rey and the futsal Copa de España hosted at the city's Palacio de Deportes.

On Monday at the headquarters of the Malaga provincial government, representatives of the city hall and the provincial and regional governments signed an agreement to pay the one-million-euro fee to Liga ACB for the rights to host the

annual cup competition for Spanish basketball teams which takes place every February. All that remains is the official announcement at the League Assembly.

Also next February will be the the eight-team play-off between the best futsal teams in the country. A letter of intent between all of the involved parties was signed at the Education headquarters of the Junta de Andalucía, just hours after the aforementioned agreement.

"This has been a very important day for the city," said Malaga city councillor for Sport, Elisa Pérez de Siles. "We want to invite all citizens to participate in what will be a sports extravaganza."

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### RACE TO THE SUMMIT OF CALAMORRO

The Alpine Club of Benalmádena hosted the 10th edition of the SkyRace last week, a competitive race to the summit of the Calamorro mountain. Approved by the Andalusian Mountaineering Federation, the race was won by Juan Bravo, who completed the route in 2:03.12. Mariola García won the women's category with a time of 2:48.21.

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**THE STARS**



**Aquarius**  
January 21 - February 19  
Frustratingly slow progress cannot be avoided. Tackle one thing at a time and keep everything as simple as possible. You understand yourself far more than others do most of the time.



**Pisces**  
February 20th - March 20th  
Try not to be in awe of someone who can help your plans. Just ask. It is surprising how easy something can be once we have faced it and gone through that confidence barrier.



**Aries**  
March 21st - April 20th  
Try not to be impatient, especially in matters of romance. This could be the moment when showing interest in something else brings a better response.



**Taurus**  
April 21st - May 21st  
Look for that chance to shine this weekend. Until then you may be irked by the way that others misunderstand you. Try not to strike out.



**Gemini**  
May 22nd - June 21st  
Take one step at a time. Some days there is so much going on around you that your world feels wobbly. When you can't move forward, take a good look around. You are not alone.



**Cancer**  
June 22nd - July 23rd  
Someone you helped out recently now has a chance to return the favour. It may not be easy to work together at first but soon common ground will be found.



**Leo**  
July 24th - August 23rd  
Let your enthusiasm show and others will follow. This is a better way for you to get the cooperation that you need than just asking.



**Virgo**  
August 24th - September 23rd  
Pay close attention to finer details in a deal. To not do so could leave you seriously out of pocket. Being sure of your ambitions and dreams certainly helps any decisions.



**Libra**  
September 24th - October 23rd  
Listen carefully to what is going on around you as important information slips out. Your indecision gives others a chance to make you a better offer.



**Scorpio**  
October 24th - November 22nd  
There is a ripple of happiness running through this week. Making contact with people you have not seen for some time brings your sparkling smile into action.



**Sagittarius**  
November 23rd - December 21st  
A ragged feeling could put you off balance. This is mainly due to changes that are going on around you. With your time so much in demand it is important to look after yourself.



**Capricorn**  
December 22nd - January 20th  
Finances may be foremost in your mind. Thinking about how you can get to where you want to be work-wise brings up many possibilities.

**THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES**



**QUIZ**

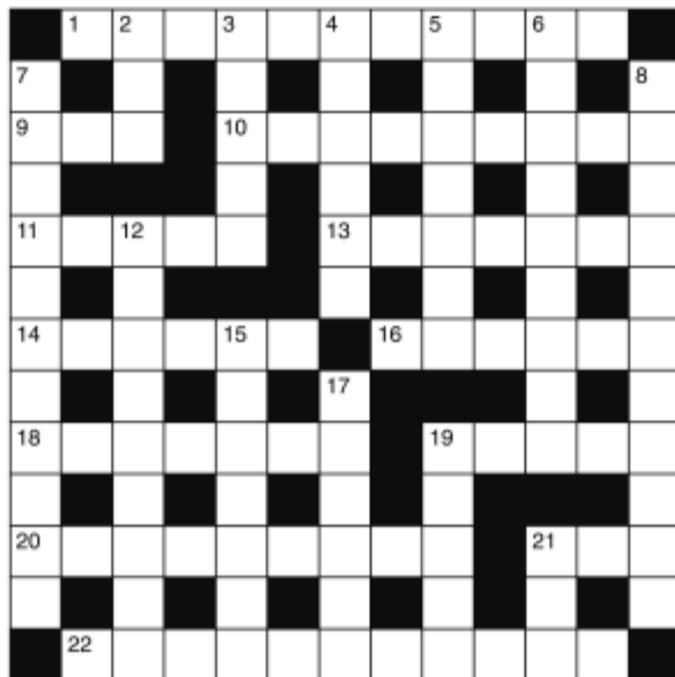
**What was Baroness Thatcher's middle name?**

1. Helen
2. Heather
3. Hilda
4. Hilary

**Name Tom Jones' first single?**

1. It's Not Unusual
2. Chills and Fever
3. Deliah
4. Kiss

**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11347**



**Across**

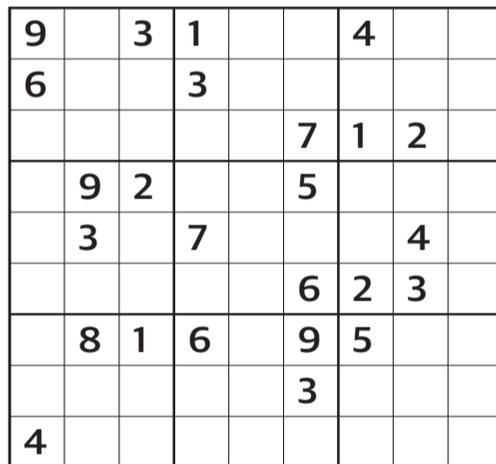
- 1 His is a down-to-earth occupation (11)
- 9 Fuel used in the boiler (3)
- 10 An assembly to study the route (9)
- 11 Fate's twist may bring it to a beggar (5)
- 13 His is a searching examination, by all accounts (7)
- 14 Stays will alter a waist (6)
- 16 I've now become available for inspection (2,4)
- 18 Books of record I'd take back to sign (7)
- 19 Stiff clothes I'd put on (5)
- 20 Need no luxury (9)
- 21 Cut a piece from the wedding cake (3)
- 22 He prefers to be a man lacking spirit (11)

**Down**

- 2 Everything, we hear, for the shoemaker (3)
- 3 Fashionable racecourse for a northerner (5)
- 4 Shelter for fliers (6)
- 5 Trampled, with or without study (7)
- 6 Their guns will be broken, you can safely bet on it! (4,5)
- 7 Highly cultivated features of modern cities (4,7)
- 8 Their husbands didn't leave them unconsoled, apparently (5,6)
- 12 Dreadful comedown for Alpine travellers (9)
- 15 Madly entwine pullovers (7)
- 17 A ship, it's about to help (6)
- 19 Of a king back in play or film (5)
- 21 It is used for weeding us out of the house (3)

**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**

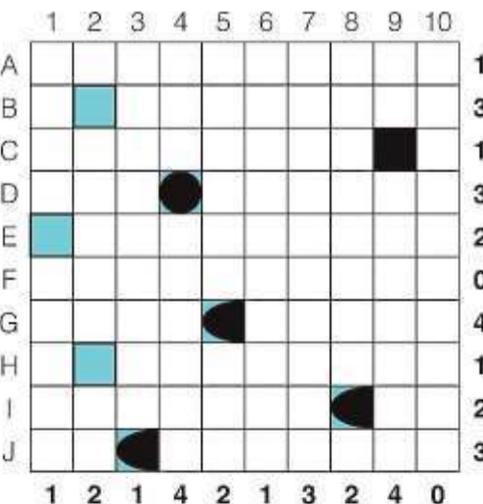
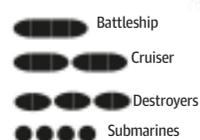


Can you identify the words that may be made from the letters of **PRESIDENT** from the clues listed below?

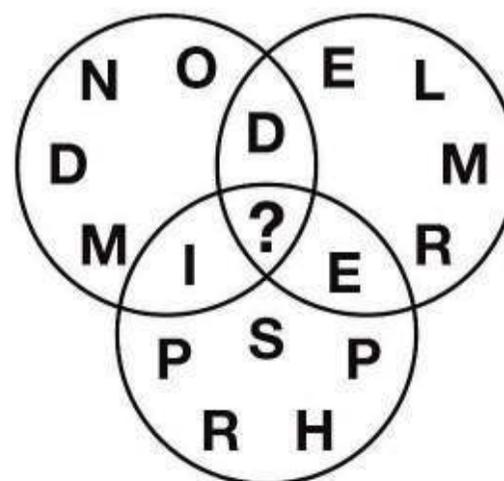
1. Liquid measure
2. Exhausted
3. Clause
4. Regiment
5. Saucy
6. Attempts
7. Require
8. Nobleman
9. Bury
10. Eat

**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.



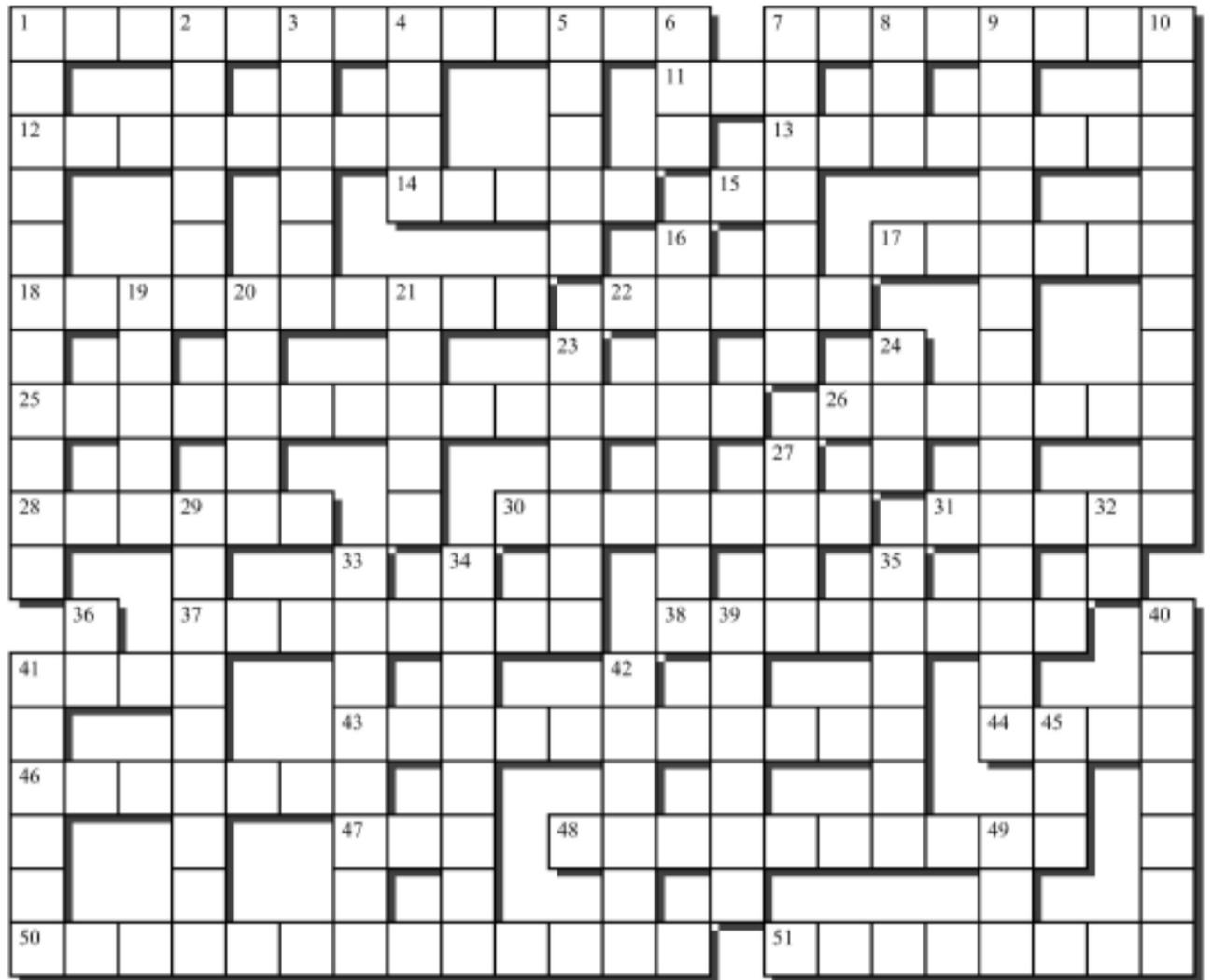
**CIRCLEGRAM**



**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

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Across</b>          | <b>Down</b>           |
| 1) Participation (13)  | 1) Thought (11)       |
| 7) Freedom (8)         | 2) Sad (6)            |
| 11) I smelled (3)      | 3) They sing (6)      |
| 12) Nations (8)        | 4) Flat (4)           |
| 13) Rights (8)         | 5) Idol (5)           |
| 14) If only! (5)       | 6) Us (3)             |
| 15) Faith (2)          | 7) Leaders (7)        |
| 17) To lie (6)         | 8) Bar (3)            |
| 18) Motherhood (10)    | 9) Recognition (14)   |
| 22) Woman (5)          | 10) Development (10)  |
| 25) Empowerment (14)   | 16) Justice (8)       |
| 26) Difficult (7)      | 19) To cover (5)      |
| 28) To take (time) (6) | 20) It surrounds (5)  |
| 30) Circle (7)         | 21) Target (5)        |
| 31) Heaven (5)         | 23) Tenth (6)         |
| 37) Vote (8)           | 24) Without (3)       |
| 38) Olive (8)          | 27) Moose (4)         |
| 41) She wins (4)       | 29) To dishearten (9) |
| 43) Worker (f) (11)    | 32) The (f) (2)       |
| 44) Smell (4)          | 33) They shouted (8)  |
| 46) News (7)           | 34) Equality (8)      |
| 47) Network (3)        | 35) Hold-up (6)       |
| 48) Writers (f) (10)   | 36) Already (2)       |
| 50) Opportunities (13) | 39) Hip (6)           |
| 51) Backing (8)        | 40) Permission (7)    |
|                        | 41) Gender (6)        |
|                        | 42) Adjustment (6)    |
|                        | 45) The (f. pl) (3)   |
|                        | 49) Wing (3)          |



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

**Of interest:** She was the longest-serving British prime minister of the 20th century and the first woman to hold that office. A Soviet journalist dubbed her "The Iron Lady".  
**Answer:** Chills and Fever.  
**Of interest:** Decca Records signed Jones, but his first single, Chills and Fever, didn't catch on. However, his second single, the groovy, carefree It's Not Unusual, peaked at No. 1 on the British charts in 1965 and was an American top 10 hit.

Language Crossword



Cryptic Crossword

**Solutions:** Across: 1 Parachutist; 9 Oil; 10 Concourse; 11 Feast; 13 Auditor; 14 Awaits; 16 On view; 18 Dishes; 19 Rigid; 20 Necessity; 21 Hew; 22 Teetotaler; Down: 2 Awt; 3 Ascot; 4 Hangar; 5 Trodden; 6 Sure thing; 7 Roof gardens; 8 Merry widows; 12 Avalanche; 15 Twinset; 17 Assist; 19 Royal; 21 Hoe.

Wordpuzzler solution



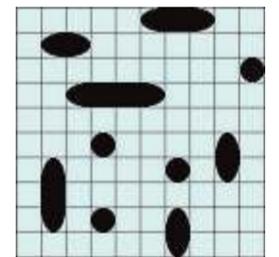
Sudoku solution

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

Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is A. Diamond, Emerald, Sapphire, all gemstones.

Battleships



WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN THIS?



Last week: Los Boliches, Fuengirola

The Roman monument is located on the seafront in Los Boliches opposite Plaza San Rafael. The monument pays tribute to the town's Roman past and is not far away from the Finca El Secretario archaeological site.



MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

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Clio	13-14/03	Cartagena	Tangier	08.00	23.00
Norwegian Spirit	15/03	Funchal	Alicante	07.00	17.00
Costa Deliziosa	19/03	-	-	08.00	14.00





# "The Netflix series Warrior Nun is in Malaga because of Game of Thrones"

**FRANCISCO GRINIÁN**



En twitter: @pacogrinan

Simon Barry, the creator of the Netflix series, talks to us about this fantasy thriller about a "feminist superheroine", which is being filmed in Malaga despite the tax incentives of other options such as Ireland or Hungary

**MALAGA.** They were looking for settings with Baroque religious architecture, so filming at home in the USA or Canada was ruled out and they decided to look for somewhere in historical Europe. There were basically two choices, Ireland or Hungary, both of which have old churches for the new Netflix series 'Warrior Nun' as well as important tax advantages. However, a colleague who had worked on Game of Thrones recommended the Malaga production company Fresco Film, which had handled the filming of the four seasons of the HBO series in Spain.

Even though the only thing he knew about this country was from a brief tourist trip to Barcelona, Simon Barry, the creator of the series, took notice of his friend's advice and contacted the company, which is run by Peter Welter Soler. In response he received a dossier with possible locations in Malaga province. He liked what he saw, and the 'showrunner' came to the Costa del Sol last summer to check it out. "And that's why we're here,



Simon Barry (left), with Peter Welter and Ana Cabello of Fresco Film, at Malaga city's digital hub. :: PEDRO QUERO

because of Game of Thrones," says Barry, who is also the scriptwriter and executive producer of the gangster series 'Bad Blood'.

"When I saw the locations and how versatile they were, I realised that the story could be set in Malaga, and also the province is perfect because everything I need for filming is close at hand," says the creator of Warrior Nun, a series based on the American comic created by Ben Dunn.

Apart from Malaga city, Marbella, Ronda and Antequera will be the other settings for this story

about a feminist superheroine which Netflix hopes will delight viewers who love fantasy and science fiction.

Convinced that Fresco Film and Malaga are the perfect partners for filming, Simon Barry admits that he had to work on persuading the American streaming multinational that the Costa del Sol was the right place to set the series in Europe.

"It took me a while to convince Netflix because in comparison with Spain, Ireland and Hungary have more tax incentives for films and series," he says. "In the end we ad-

## QUOTES FROM SIMON BARRY

A series about a superheroine  
**"Netflix saw the audacity of this supernatural story about a girl who is given a second chance"**

The production company  
**"A friend who worked on Game of Thrones recommended that we shoot the series in Malaga with Fresco Film"**

Filming in Malaga  
**"It took me a while to convince Netflix; Hungary and Ireland have more tax incentives than Spain"**

Based at the Digital Hub  
**"These facilities are of the same standard as those in Los Angeles or Toronto"**

justed the budget in order to be able to film here, but for major productions this country is at a disadvantage compared with elsewhere on the continent".

The American platform had fewer doubts when Barry proposed this project to them. After the cancellation of the Marvel series - Disney is taking them to its own platform, which it plans to launch this year - Netflix is developing its own universe of superheroes and this warrior nun was soon given the go-ahead.

"The company saw the audacity of the project, of the title and this

supernatural story about a girl who is given a second chance," says Barry, who also created the series 'Ghost Wars' and 'Van Helsing'. He says Warrior Nun has a "feminine and feminist" character. Although he will be directing some of the ten episodes himself, he says that many of the other directors will be women, as will many of the characters in the series.

**Hoping for a second season**  
Simon Barry doesn't want to reveal the names of the leading actresses yet, although he says the main character is called Ava, a young woman who wakes up in a morgue after coming back to life thanks to a religious reliquary which she carries attached to her body and which gives her powers. However, the artifact was not meant for her; it was for a nun from an order which fights against the devil, so they try to persuade her to join the community and fulfil their mission of combating evil.

"There is a part where this superheroine confronts the most important masculine power in the world, which is the Catholic church," says Barry, who will be coordinating a team of 150 people, eight scriptwriters and five directors, as well as around 3,000 extras. "My job is to make everything flow in the same direction," he says about the production.

The amount of investment in the project has not been revealed. "It isn't Game of Thrones, but it does have a Netflix-type budget," he says. As there will be ten episodes in the first season, the total must be in millions. As well as the support of Fresco Film, the Warrior Nun team have also discovered the facilities of the Polo Digital hub in Malaga, which has become its local base. The series is occupying a wing on the first floor and dozens of employees are working there on the pre-production, so that everything is ready when the time comes to start filming next week.

"These facilities are fantastic, and the same standard you would expect to find in Los Angeles or Toronto, says Simon Barry, who says they will be staying for one season. "Although our intention is to return, but of course that depends on the audience," he explains.

**Saturday**  
**9<sup>th</sup>**  
**March**

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