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Audited by PGD/OJD

March 22nd to 28th 2019
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DE MÁLAGA

FILM FESTIVAL GLAMOUR

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on the red carpet this week as
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Spanish-language film **P28&29**

Actors pose for
cameras outside
Malaga's Cervantes
theatre. :: NITO SALAS

Nerja's seabed is 'an underwater rubbish dump' say investigators

Councillors and officials in Nerja and Coín
have been quizzed over the pumping of
raw sewage out to sea and into rivers

A Guardia Civil investigation, started
by a complaint from environmentalists,
into irregularities in effluent treatment
in Nerja and Coín, has now been passed
to a judge. A survey ship found an
estimated nine tonnes of used wet
wipes in a

"mountain" under the water last
summer off Nerja. Mayors and former
mayors have been questioned by
officers but strongly deny that it is
their responsibility, blaming the
Junta de Andalucía for failing to
provide infrastructure. **P2-3**



A sewage outlet clogged with wipes off the Nerja coastline. :: SUR

**British residents around
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Inquiry ramps up into raw sewage illegally dumped in the sea or rivers by town councils

Some councillors and officials in Nerja and Coín have been quizzed but they say it is the regional government's job to use money from locals' water bills to build new treatment plants

:: JUAN CANO / FERNANDO TORRES / ÁLVARO FRÍAS

MALAGA. The minister for the Interior has confirmed that a judge has now taken over the investigation into some members, past and present, of two local councils and the dumping of untreated sewage in nearby waterways or the sea.

Fernando Grande-Marlaska, on a visit to Malaga on Wednesday, commented on the investigation, code-named Operation Vastum, (from the Latin for waste dump). He said, "It's early days and we'll see what the outcome is."

The Guardia Civil's environmental protection unit, Seprona, has been leading an inquiry since November 2017 into some public officials, initially at Coín and Nerja councils and more recently extending into Alhaurín el Grande.

However, those quizzed so far, including some current and former mayors, have hit back saying that it isn't their town halls' job to treat waste if the Junta de Andalucía regional government hasn't provided the treatment plants to do it.

Fines for polluting

For several years, Spain has been fined by the EU for continuing to allow some of its councils to dump untreated waste. The current investigation stems from a complaint by green action group, Ecologistas en Acción, claiming that councils were



A file photograph of pollution in the water on Burriana beach in Nerja. :: EUGENIO CABEZAS

committing fraud by adding a sewage-treatment levy to people's water bills even though no treatment was going on. The levy is passed on by the town halls to the Junta de Andalucía, which, the council officials say, should be getting on with putting in the missing treatment works.

In total, 16 mayors, former mayors, councillors and public officials in Nerja and Coín have been questioned by police. The complaint was originally against five local urban areas where waste went untreated, including Estepona and San Pedro, but with a new treatment plant now open at Guadalmanza, near Estepona, only three town halls are apparently now flouting a 2001 law

for municipalities with populations over 15,000 that says they should have treatment plants in place.

Coín waste

In inland Coín, police say waste is being dumped in protected tributaries of the Pereilas river, causing "a lifeless area". Most towns and villages in the Guadalhorce valley, except Alhaurín de la Torre, dump waste from homes and businesses.

Former mayor of Coín for the PP party, Fernando Fernández-Tapia, who has now, ironically, taken on a role in the new Junta de Andalucía, said that in 2010 "the Junta promised 47 sewage treatment plants paid for by the water-bill levy. All town halls can do is wait".

The planned lower Guadalhorce treatment plant for Coín, which also would serve Pizarra and Álora, should go into test phase shortly, having been started in 2013.

Nerja's three outflow pipes

In Nerja, untreated sewage is still pumped into the sea at three points. Two pipes offshore opposite Burriana and Torrecilla beaches and one closer to shore near the Maro cliffs.

The current mayor of Nerja, Rosa Arrabal, of the PSOE said, "It's a municipal responsibility once the infrastructure is in place, but not before," saying she was surprised by the inquiry and that she would tell that to the judge if asked.

In Nerja, work on a treatment plant started in 2014 and it should have been up and running three years ago, however constructors' financial problems and differences within the council have stopped it coming into service, even through it is four-fifths finished.

The third phase of Operation Vastum, involving Alhaurín el Grande, is still in the early stages and has not yet been passed to a judge.

WHAT THE MINISTER AND MAYORS SAID

Fernando Grande-Marlaska
Minister for the Interior

"It's early days and we'll see what the outcome is"

José A. Armijo
Former PP mayor of Nerja

"Nerja town hall met its obligation in 2002 by handing over the land to the Junta and the Ministry for a treatment plant that isn't in service yet"

Fernando Fernández-Tapia
Former PP mayor of Coín

"In 2010 the Junta promised 47 sewage treatment plants paid for by the water-bill levy. All a town hall can do is wait"

Rosa Arrabal
PSOE mayor of Nerja

"It's municipal responsibility once the infrastructure is in place, but not before"

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Nerja seabed is covered with nine tonnes of used wet wipes

As part of the Operation Vastum inquiry, a boat from the Instituto de Oceanografía and the Guardia Civil analysed the damage caused by pipes pumping out raw sewage

by JUAN CANO / ÁLVARO FRÍAS

MALAGA. Imagine, if you can, a seabed where instead of thriving seagrass there is a carpet of wet wipes. One already exists on the Costa del Sol, just 700 metres from the Maro-Cerro Gordo nature reserve, near Nerja. Guardia Civil investigators and scientists witnessed it in a five-day study last summer as part of their Operation Vastum inquiries.

Based on photos and videos taken off the Nerja coastline at a depth of up to about 50 metres, they say that the bottom of the Mediterranean is home to a build-up of nine tonnes of the small disposable towels.

So far 16 former and current public officials in Nerja and Coin have been questioned as part of the investigation into “serious irregu-

larities” in the dumping of untreated sewage in waterways and out at sea.

In Nerja, three outflow pipes pump effluent into the sea. One is only in water two metres deep and close to a protected natural area; it can be seen from any boat or kayak. The others, offshore from Burriana and Torrecilla beach, end about a kilometre out and the raw sewage flows in at a depth of about 40-50 metres.

As part of their study last August, Seprona, the specialist environmental agency of the Guardia Civil, used professional divers and sounding teams to assess the extent of the affected area. They called on the government’s Instituto Español de Oceanografía, the national ocean-study institute, and used its 46-metre-long survey

They reported back on a sort of “crust” that forms over the residue from the pipe, hugging its mouth

ship, the Ángeles Alvariño, which is normally based in Galicia.

The cost for the expedition was 11,000 euros, which is paid for by the government but can potentially be recovered if anyone is eventually tried and found guilty.

Public prosecutor

The public prosecutor with responsibility for environmental cases in Malaga, Fernando Benítez, was on deck to witness the extent of the wet wipe “mountain” first hand via the video link.

He described the situation as “very worrying”, as “the marine life is being upset by public authorities’ inefficiency.”

As well as identifying the destruction of an important area of protected shellfish, investigators saw that new species were appearing and taking advantage of the polluted water.

They reported back on a sort “crust” that forms over the residue from the pipe, hugging its opening, and a layer of waste 20 metres in diameter and, in some places, three metres deep, full of plastic and other solid waste, but mostly wet wipes.



Opening of an underwater pipe with the raw waste near Nerja. :: SUR



The pipes carrying untreated effluent run out to sea offshore. :: SUR

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Four years for Guardia Civil officer who caused three deaths on the A-7

The court found that the off-duty man had been under the influence of drink and drugs when he caused the multiple pile-up in June 2017

:: JUAN CANO / ÁLVARO FRÍAS

MALAGA. A court in Malaga has sentenced a Guardia Civil officer for causing a fatal accident on the A-7 motorway in June 2017 when he was off duty.

In the accident three people died and nine were injured, some seriously, at the point where the Malaga outer-ring motorway merges with the motorway from central Malaga, close to Torremolinos.

The judgement states that the off-duty officer was going at the very high speed of 149 km/h on a 120 km/h motorway, which also had a lower limit of 100 km/h on that particular stretch. He was found to be under the influence of drink and drugs, having taken a large amount of cocaine, "which affected his mental ability to drive and control of the

vehicle".

The driver was in a Hyundai 140 that had left the Churriana tunnel on the outer-ring road as it joined the motorway from Malaga going towards Fuengirola. After hitting a BMW on the left it moved over to the right-hand lane, colliding with another car. From there he was bounced across the no-go area where the two motorways merge, entering the fast lane of the road from Malaga and hitting a taxi-bus. The taxi was forced right, spinning round and flinging five of the occupants out onto the carriageway.

The court has given a sentence of four years to the driver and a driving ban of five years. In terms of his civil liability to the victims, which was also ruled on by the court, a compensation payment of 1.44 million euros was set, which will have to be paid by the former officer to the families. The judge also decided that the man is free to return home as the risk of escape is minimal while the period for a possible appeal of the sentence ends.

The victims were in a family group from the Middle East who had just arrived at Malaga station on holiday.

TEENAGER HELD OVER CALYPSO PHARMACY GUN-POINT HOLD-UP

Police have arrested a 16-year-old boy over a gunpoint robbery at a chemists' shop on Mijas Costa. The attack happened at the Farmacia Calypso alongside the A-7 in an area frequented by expats and tourists. The robber burst into the shop with the gun and pointed it at the shopworker demanding he hand over money and his mobile phone. He fled after collecting a small sum of cash.



112 REPORTS

Body found with gunshot wounds on city outskirts

MALAGA

:: **F. TORRES.** A body was found with gunshot wounds on Sunday by the sewage treatment works on the Guadalhorce industrial estate, near Malaga airport. The discovery was made shortly before 1pm and the male victim was removed for autopsy. The investigation continues.

Fake police who stole from drugs gangs held

MALAGA

:: **SUR.** Police have broken up a gang that pretended to be Guardia Civil officers to steal from drug traffickers and business people. The seven members were surprised while holding a meeting to launder 480,000 euros on behalf of a drug gang at which they falsely claimed they were undercover police in order to make off with the cash. The gang operated in Malaga, Seville and Madrid.

Cocaine bike-delivery gang is caught by police

MARBELLA

:: **SUR.** Police have arrested five people in connection with a network of motorcycle riders who distributed cocaine on demand. As part of recent searches of properties in the Marbella area, 17 kilos of cocaine were found. More than 1.2 million euros of their personal property, including luxury cars, has been frozen by a judge pending a fuller investigation.

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MARBELLA - FUENGIROLA - MANILVA

Britons accused of kidnapping Latvian woman tell court they don't know what happened to her

Westley Capper and Craig Porter answered questions in the provincial court on Monday about the disappearance of Agnese Klavina

:: J. CANO / Á. FRÍAS

MALAGA. The two British men accused of the kidnapping of a Latvian woman in Marbella in 2014, told a Malaga court on Monday that they did not know where she was.

Westley Capper, the son of British multimillionaire John Capper, and Craig Porter, face prison sentences of 12 years and damages of more than 80,000 euros for the disappearance of Agnese Klavina. The trial began on Monday in Malaga's

provincial court.

The young woman was last seen leaving the Aqwa Mist nightclub in Puerto Banús on 6 September 2014 and getting into a car with the defendants. The prosecution says that video footage shows that Agnese was forced into the car against her will. She has not been seen since.

In court on the first day of the trial, Capper, whose defence is calling for his acquittal, said that he met Agnese that night in the club and had a few drinks with her and her female friend. He then suggested, he said, that they went back to his house to continue partying and Agnese agreed.

The young woman had been drunk, he said, and stumbled on the way to the car, which is why he had to grab her arm to hold her up.

According to Capper's story, he

asked the club's doorman to close the car door and, after taking some cocaine, they drove out of the car park heading for his house on the El Madroñal estate.

Minutes later, he said, Agnese asked him to stop the car because she wanted to get out. He dropped her off at the Ronda road roundabout, he said, as she told him she lived nearby, even though her home was really two kilometres away.

Drugs and alcohol

He and Porter, he said, carried on to his home where they took more drugs and drank alcohol.

Craig Porter confirmed in court that he had gone back to Capper's home where they continued "the party" by themselves. He told the court, however, that he didn't remember anything about what happened on the journey there from the nightclub as he fell asleep in the car. In court on Monday the nightclub's doorman said that the woman got into the car of her own accord and he had to close the door twice because the first time it didn't close properly.

"Nothing unusual"

On Tuesday Agnese's sister, called as a witness, told the court that there was nothing unusual going on in her life and that she had never said she wanted to disappear.

The missing girl's mother and a male friend also stated that she lived a normal life. Everything in her apartment, they said, had been left in its place, just as it would be if someone goes out and expects to return home a few hours later. There was no indication that she might have planned to disappear of her own accord.



The defendants in the courtroom on Monday. :: F. SILVA



Images from the security footage released by the police. :: SUR

Seven arrested in connection with death of man abducted in Estepona

Brian Martos Carmona was forced into a vehicle near busy bars in October last year and his body was found an hour and a half later in Algeciras

:: J. CANO / Á. FRÍAS

MALAGA. Seven people have been arrested in connection with the death of Brian Carmona, the 27-year-old who was violently forced into a vehicle in front of customers of busy bar terraces on 2 October last year in the Plaza de Ortiz in Estepona. His body turned up just an hour and a half later near Algeciras.

National Police have now arrested seven people in connection with his death, although



The square in Estepona. :: EFE

more detentions have not been ruled out.

Brian Martos was not killed by a bullet to the head, nor was he stabbed, as initial reports stated, but he was shot in the arm and the bullet went through his side, damaging his lungs and heart.

One of the seven arrested, considered to be the victim's killer, was sent to prison without bail this week. Another four suspects have been charged but released on bail and two more were due to appear before a judge on Thursday.

The men were armed and wearing balaclavas when they reached the terrace where the victim was having a drink on the night of 2 October. Carmona attempted to flee the scene and shots were fired as the men chased. Eventually he was bundled into the vehicle by force.

Police say Agnese's gestures show "fear" in CCTV footage

In court on Tuesday police specialists explained their conclusions after analysing the CCTV footage showing Agnese leaving the nightclub and getting in the car with Capper and Porter. They explained that the last images of the missing woman show that she was afraid. The

experts is analysing body language said that Capper invades the young woman's intimate space which indicates a threat and she moves backwards "to recover her space". The images show a struggle in which the woman makes defensive gestures while the defendant "holds her tightly by the wrists" explained the officers who went on to describe how in the sequence of her getting into the car shows that her dominant emotion is "fear".

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A popular recipe for hiding drugs

Traffickers often camouflage their drugs among food items... but why?



JUAN CANO | **ÁLVARO FRÍAS**

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MALAGA. They have been found hidden in an artificial leg, the brake fluid of a lorry, avocados in a warehouse, tins of sardines and even inside the body of a pet dog. The inventiveness of traffickers when looking for ways to hide their drugs constantly tests those whose mission it is to find them: the State security forces.

If there is one recurring factor, though, it is food. That became clear several months ago with 'Operación Bananero', the biggest haul of cocaine in the history of Malaga and the second biggest in Spain and Europe. More than 6,300 kilos of white powder, which once cut and adulterated would have sold for more than one billion euros on the black market, were camouflaged among tons of bananas. Yes: bananas. Which raises the question, why do the traffickers choose to hide their drugs among fruit, fish or frozen foods?

The answer from an officer experienced in the fight against drug trafficking is logical: "Because it is not an easy decision for sanitary reasons and the cold chain, to open the containers. Just think, if you're wrong and the cargo goes bad, you run the risk of legal action and a demand for compensation".

The organisation behind the massive haul of cocaine discovered in Malaga used that strategy, although with a twist. They had designed a business structure which imported such a volume of merchandise that it gave it the appearance of legality. In fact, the 6,300 kilos of cocaine entered Spain via Portugal in 70 containers of bananas. In other words, it was like looking for like a needle in a haystack.

The following are just some of the operations uncovered in Malaga which demonstrate the preferred methods used by traffickers to hide their drugs.

Pineapples A haul of 990 kilos from the biggest cocaine trafficker in North Africa

He started with hashish, but soon moved on to the cocaine business, using an ingenious method to hide the drug: in cylinders covered in a type of yellow wax, hidden among pineapples. That made it extremely



difficult to detect, because it meant checking thousands of pieces of fruit to find the drugs. However, in December 2017 an investigation by the National Police and the Tax Agency resulted in one of these cargos being intercepted, and the arrest of the man believed responsible: a 72-year-old who was considered the biggest cocaine trafficker in North Africa. Although Moroccan, he was arrested in Malaga, which is where he ran his businesses. In total, officers intercepted 990 kilos of the drug. s.

Tofu and hazelnut cream Refrigerated lorries to transport frozen food

Last August, the National Police carried out an important operation

against a band of Dutch traffickers who were bringing cocaine into the country in containers of frozen food. They wrapped the drug really well and then submerged it in containers of hazelnut cream and tofu, which were then frozen and transported in refrigerated lorries together with other products such as prawn crackers and Chinese rice which did not contain drugs. This was a very detailed method, to the point that in order to lay a false trail, the traffickers falsified a well-known brand of fast food which is very popular in Holland, which is where the drugs were being taken. As a result of the police operation 550 kilos of cocaine were seized, but it also served to inform them about a previously unseen and very unusual method of

transporting the drugs.

Onions A method to confuse the sniffer dogs

The Guardia Civil called it 'Operación Caribe'. In 2015, they discovered a method used by an organisation of Spanish and Italian traffickers, the latter believed to have links with the Camorra of Naples, to bring hashish into Spain and then transport it to Italy. The network was based in Almogía, in Malaga province, where the police had to roll up their sleeves and set to work to find the 1,200 kilos of hashish which the group had hidden among tons of onions. By using this method, they had hoped to fool any sniffer dogs which were

used to check for the presence of drugs in the lorry, by masking the scent of the hashish with the smell of the onions.

Sardines Hashish hidden among boxes of fish before freezing

On this occasion, the product chosen by the drug traffickers came from the sea. In 2013, the National Police in Malaga broke up an organisation which was bringing hashish into the country, hidden among sardines. The drug was camouflaged inside the boxes of fish before being frozen in Morocco, making a compact block between the sardines and the drugs, which made it difficult for Customs to detect. However, the authorities discovered the system and confiscated around 900 kilos of the drug.

Bananas (made of plastic) Pieces of hollow fruit filled with cocaine

It was not the first time, nor the last, that an organisation hid cocaine in a container of bananas, but it was the first time that the drugs were hidden in hollow fruit made of plastic. In an attempt to fool the police checks, the traffickers filled the fake bananas with the cocaine and spread them out among real pieces of fruit in boxes in different pallets. The police discovered this trick in 2011, arrested those responsible and confiscated a cargo of 162 kilos of cocaine which had come from Ecuador.

Chard More than 2,000 kilos of hashish among tons of chard

This time, the drugs were travelling in another lorry full of chard. Twelve tons of the vegetable were used by an organisation to hide 2,200 kilos of hashish travelling from Malaga to France. The Guardia Civil intercepted the lorry in 2016 and detained the leader of the group, who were hiding their drugs among vegetables in refrigerated lorries. Thanks to the leader's knowledge of the transport sector, he used to choose the time when large numbers of lorries carrying this type of product were crossing the border, in the hope that the checks would not be very stringent.

Lettuce Marihuana hidden in a lorry heading for Ireland

It was all apparently innocuous. A lorry loaded with more than 20 tons of lettuce, packed into boxes, left Alhaurín de la Torre and set off for Ireland. However, Guardia Civil and National Police officers had information from the Irish Garda Síochána, warning that a network of Irish citizens who were living in Malaga were exporting something which wasn't exactly a salad vegetable. When the lorry was intercepted, the officers found 170 kilos of marihuana hidden among the lettuces.

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Over 100,000 people with dependency needs waiting to be seen in the region

The new PP-Cs Junta coalition claims that the outgoing PSOE party hid 34,733 from the waiting list for social care or support and announces an emergency injection of 77 million euros

:: MARÍA DOLORES TORTOSA SEVILLE. More than 100,000 people with dependency needs, including the elderly and the disabled, are waiting to be assessed and to receive social care support in Andalucía.

The data was released this week and is according to Elias Bendodo, spokesperson for the new PP-Cs administration at the Junta de Andalucía, which is responsible for delivering social care under Spain's na-

tional Dependency Law.

Bendodo, accompanied by the regional minister for Social Policy, Rocío Ruiz, said that they had found 34,733 previously-unaccounted-for applicants that were omitted from official reporting statistics as they were still waiting for the initial assessment and to see if they qualified.

Malaga affected

Some 12,000 people in Malaga province are either waiting to be assessed or waiting to hear if they qualify for the extra support, according to the Junta data.

The Dependency Law grades people according to their need. To qualify, applicants need a formal assessment and it is this long wait that has been criticised.

The Junta has announced an emergency injection of funds of 77



The Dependency Law provides extra support to those in need. **:: SUR**

million euros to try to clear the backlog, similar to the scheme recently announced to reduce waiting lists in hospitals and outpatients departments.

The PSOE party, which ran the service until recently, reacted angrily, saying that including people that may not even qualify counted as "manipulation" of the data.

WAITING BY PROVINCE

► **Almería.** 6,197 waiting to be given a personal action plan / assessment (PIA) and 18,865 benefiting.

► **Cádiz.** 13,609 waiting for their PIA and 26,211 benefiting.

► **Córdoba.** 6,620 waiting and 22,248 benefiting.

► **Granada.** 11,896 waiting and 25,558 already benefiting.

► **Huelva.** 4,576 waiting and 15,687 already benefiting

► **Jaén.** 3,660 waiting and 25,522 already benefiting.

► **Malaga.** 12,114 waiting for a personal assessment/action plan and 33,521 already benefiting

► **Seville.** 12,722 waiting for their personal action plan and 44,601 already benefiting from the scheme.



ALARMED ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING?

Hospital Costa del Sol extension will be finished soon, says Junta

The new regional government wants to end the arms-length-company status of the hospital and reintegrate it in the full Andalusian health service

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. "We'll have the extension to our hospital facilities in the not-too-distant future. There'll be no need to wait 15 years more. It will be within the duration of this regional parliament."

This announcement was made by the provincial delegate for Health of the Junta de Andalucía, Carlos Bautista, who was explaining on a visit to the Costa del Sol Hospital in Marbella that work is

still going on behind the scenes to recover the licence contract for operating the new extension. In particular, he said, the 12 million euros that has been released to be able to cancel the contract with the original company that was to build and operate the extension, is going through the last bureaucratic hurdles within the Junta. "When they give the OK, we'll pass this document to the management at the hospital and then to the regional government for approval.

Out to tender

Once this phase is over, Bautista went on to say, "The project completion will be put out to tender and we'll get back this important part of the hospital so it is up and running as soon as possible and there are more healthcare professionals and operating theatres working.

Bautista was talking to media with the new director of the Costa del Sol local health district, Luisa Lorenzo. He added that the president of the Junta, Juanma Moreno and the regional minister of health Jesús Aguirre were taking a personal interest in getting the hospital finished and open.

Public financing

The regional health service still hopes to finish the extension, which has been paralysed for many years, with public money, rather than the original private financing model that stalled over a dispute over fee income planned for the new operators from a car park onsite and other disagreements.

Bautista also said that the plan was to integrate the whole Costa del Sol Hospital back into the health service and not run it as an arms-length company anymore.

Regional hospitals to start carrying out operations on Saturdays to clear backlog

Initially the plan will focus on centres with the longest waiting lists in Almería, Huelva and Granada provinces.

:: SUR

ALMERIA. The new regional minister for Health, Jesús Aguirre, said this week in Almería that a new plan will come into force on 1 April to reduce waiting lists for surgery in the region's hospitals, with some operating theatres opening on Saturdays.

He said that initially the regional health service would prioritise those who "have been waiting for the telephone to ring for at least a year", and also the provinces of Almería, Huelva and Granada "where there are the hospitals with the highest per-

centage of people waiting".

The new regional government has allocated 25.5 million euros to the plan and Aguirre said that the work would be carried out "a hundred per cent with our network and our people", however he added that if they couldn't reach their targets they would outsource, which is something the previous PSOE government had also done.

The specialist areas with most people waiting are traumatology, ophthalmic, general surgery and urology.

The outgoing Junta de Andalucía had said there were 71,868 people waiting to be operated on at the end of June last year, however the new PP-Cs government claims that there were 86,147 more people that should have been included on the lists in the Andalucía region.

Ex-mayor of Torremolinos says he won't stand again and quits PP

The once all-powerful Pedro Fernández Montes has said he will support candidates of the independent Por Mi Pueblo party

:: IVÁN GELIBTER

TORREMOLINOS. The former long-standing mayor of Torremolinos has announced that he is leaving the conservative Partido Popular (PP) and looks set to lend his support to the independent political group, Por Mi Pueblo.

Pedro Fernández Montes was mayor of Torremolinos for two decades from 1995 to 2015 before losing his majority and a minority PSOE council taking over.

Since stepping down, Fernández Montes has been involved in a high-profile civil war within the local PP



Fernández Montes announces he is standing down. :: IVÁN GELIBTER

as the provincial leaders of the party sought to refresh its leadership. They imposed Margarita del Cid as the leader of the local PP group in the

town and therefore candidate to be mayor in May's local election.

The downgrading of the former mayor's position within the town

had caused a split which culminated this week with Fernández stepping down completely from the PP after 43 years as a member.

In his resignation announcement he didn't hold back in his criticism of the current local PP chief. Presenting a file with his accusations, he questioned Del Cid's financial affairs, including "fraudulent" separation of assets with her husband and debt in family business affairs.

He claimed that regional PP head, Elias Bendodo, hadn't allowed a free vote of party members to decide Del Cid's local leadership "because he knew that Margarita didn't have their support".

On Margarita del Cid, he said, "her marriage is deep in debt". "How can a person in that situation run a town hall when she can't even keep her own house in order?" he explained.

Fernández Montes announced that he will be supporting the Por Mi Pueblo party which is expanding its influence ahead of May's elections in many towns and villages in the province on a platform of local action and independence.

In reply Del Cid said, "The only thing I want is for everyone to keep their cool and work positively towards a common goal for Torremolinos."

Plan to reduce train fares between the four stations in Fuengirola to encourage local use

:: IVÁN GELIBTER

FUENGIROLA. The mayor of Fuengirola has been in touch with Renfe over the possibility of reducing the fare on the Cercanías rail line for the four stations that run through the municipality.

The idea, which came from the Ciudadanos group on the council, is to have cheaper fares for short hops between the stations and so create a form of urban metro in Fuengirola.

Currently the fare is 1.80 euros per trip and the idea presented to Renfe is to get the fare down to close to one euro for journeys between the four local stations of Fuengirola, Los Boliches, Torrelblanca and Carvajal on the C1 Fuengirola-Málaga line.

Renfe is said to be studying the idea, which would be via a form of prepaid 'bonotren' card.

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Jellyfish-free zones to be set up on some Marbella beaches

Last year 80 tonnes of jellyfish were scooped out of west Costa waters; now with nets and floats, councillors aim to make bathing more pleasant

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. The councillor for Beaches in Marbella, Manuel Cardaña, has announced he will set up special jellyfish-free areas in the water on some beaches this summer.

Local data shows that some 80 tonnes of organic debris, mostly jellyfish, was removed from western Costa waters last summer as the area suffered from frequent swarms putting bathers off.

Now Marbella believes that it has come up with part of a solution by asking the several floating play-park operators in the municipality to add



A surface-rubbish-removal boat for use alongside beaches. :: J-L

on a zone in the water screened by a net and floats. On days when there are a lot of jelly fish in the water, bathers will be able to swim there.

Beaches will include San Pedro, Puerto Banús, Nueva Andalucía, Estrella de Mar and Marbella Playa in Las Chapas.



:: SALVADOR SALAS

DOLPHINS IN THE PORT OF MALAGA

A small pod of dolphins was spotted inside the enclosed area of the port of Malaga last Saturday, near to the Muelle Uno shopping area. Experts from the Aula de Mar marine study centre were on the quayside for several hours to observe them. They said that, unusually, two species were playing together in the water that day; the sociable bottlenose and the more solitary striped dolphin.

Puerto Banús bullring to reopen in June with a full programme of events

Work is being carried out to adapt the old Plaza del Toros and create a multi-purpose arena suitable for cultural and sporting events

by NIEVES CASTRO

MARBELLA. The old bullring at Puerto Banús, which has been closed since 2010, is undergoing extensive works to convert it into the multi-purpose Marbella Arena, a venue for cultural and sporting events.

The company responsible for the renovations, Grupo Teatro Goya, has invested 30 million euros in the project which will adapt the bullring to make it suitable for all sorts of shows, concerts, exhibitions and presentations.

The first phase is due to be completed this May and the arena will be ready to open its doors towards the end of June.

Sunset Events, the firm responsible for the programme of events scheduled to take place this summer, is planning to offer a diverse range of entertainment.

This will not feature just live music, although they already have classical, pop, rock, hip-hop, folk,



Work being carried out in the Plaza del Toros. by JOSELE-LANZA

reggae, jazz, Indie and Latin concerts lined up, but also sports events and theatre performances.

Among the major events they have confirmed for the summer are flamenco stars Diego 'El Cigala', Navajita Plateá and Farruco and

family; a night of Spanish pop music; Cuban artist Pablo Milanés; a Hip Hop festival; a Latino festival; a musical My Way about the life of Frank Sinatra and a concert by The Wailers, Bob Marley's legendary band.



by JOSELE-LANZA

WARRIOR NUNS TAKE MARBELLA

The first scenes of a new series for Netflix, Warrior Nun were filmed last week in the Plaza de Iglesia in Marbella. The production group Fresco Film are planning to shoot scenes in Antequera, Ronda, Malaga and Marbella until the end of June. The team of 140 people, including actors and technicians, also filmed inside the Villa del Mar, the most exclusive property at the Hotel Marbella Club.



CARNIVAL TORREMOLINOS 2019

· 22 MARCH ·

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GUEST CARNIVAL GROUP

'LA GADITANÍSSIMA' OF JUAN CARLOS ARAGÓN

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· 23 MARCH ·

CHILDREN COSTUME CONTEST

PLAZA DE LA NOGALETA / 11:00AM-2:00AM

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE

GUEST CARNIVAL GROUP / 7:00PM

PARADE CALLE SAN MIGUEL

TOYAN CENTER / 8:00PM

ADULTS COSTUME CONTEST

PLAZA DE LA NOGALETA / 8:30PM-9:30PM

CARNIVAL FESTIVAL

PLAZA DE LA NOGALETA / 9:00PM-12:30NIGHT

· 24 MARCH ·

PARADE IN LA CARIHUELA

PLAZA DEL RINCÓN DEL SOL, PASEO MARÍTIMO Y PLAZA DEL REMO / 12:00 MOON

CARNIVAL PERFORMANCE

OASIS PLAZA DEL REMO / 2:00PM-3:00PM

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St George changes name to The British School of Malaga

:: SUR

MALAGA. A well-known English-language private school in Malaga city has been marking its official name change. St George, in the east of the city, is now known as The British School of Málaga after it joined the International Schools Partnership Group.

The relaunch took place last Friday, 15 March, at an event attended by members of the school community and local area.

It was a student-led event, with eight prominent members of the school and local community asked to become champions of the school's eight core values.

Among those taking on the core-champion role were; Malaga gourmet chef, José Carlos García, representing aspiration; SUR journalist, Pilar Rodríguez Quirós, representing communication; and British artist, Felicity Hindmarsh, representing creativity.

The eight champions, with help from the students, each planted a tree in the school grounds.

The morning ended with cello, violin and piano recitals from students and speeches from the principal, Fiona Lee-Allan.



The event was attended by school and community members. :: SUR

Belgian investors eyeing up city's old post office

Before it can be auctioned, debt and disagreement between different local authorities need to be sorted out

:: JESÚS HINOJOSA

MALAGA. The Correos building, once Malaga city's main post office, is getting closer to being bought and redeveloped, and it looks like a group of Belgian investors is the most interested so far.

However the building has been blighted by a game of pass the parcel between different public authorities, and getting it to a stage where it can be bought and turned into a hotel has so far been far from easy.

The modern block, on the edge of the city centre near El Corte Inglés, has been an eyesore for some time. The Junta de Andalucía, the current owner, needs to arrange a public bidding process in order for anyone to buy it.

The building, which has been wrapped in protective netting and suffers from graffiti on its lowest floor, was handed over to the regional government by Madrid in 2010 as a way of cancelling out a historic debt of 30 million euros between the two public bodies.

The situation was further complicated by an embargo placed on its sale by the Diputación provincial authority over a debt the Junta has outstanding with them. Sources say that only around 1.5 million euros is still outstanding, meaning the embargo could be lifted soon.

However the final hurdle has still to be jumped as the Junta still needs to get the city council to change the site's planning designation. Currently it is earmarked for public use but councillors need to update its status to allow a private business to use it. However the town hall has so far said 'no' as it wants the Junta to give the city a similar-sized piece of public infrastructure in compensation.



The old post office building has been disused for some time. :: SUR

Malaga's telephone boxes to become information points

:: JUAN SOTO

MALAGA. The council in Malaga plans to give a new lease of life to several of the city's disused telephone boxes. The rise of mobile phones has contributed in recent years to a huge fall in the use of telephone boxes –

of 300 across Malaga, only half are used each day. As such, there are plans to turn several into tourist information centres. These new facilities will feature tablets equipped with detailed local maps showing key information such as monuments and attractions with their opening hours. They will complement the city's six staffed tourist information centres, and will be accessible 24/7, unlike the existing centres, which are only open from 09:00-18:00 (or 22:00 during designated periods).



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Award winning motorhome park is full to capacity with international visitors



IGNACIO LILLO

✉ ilillo@diariosur.es

This method of travelling has become so popular that the park has to turn away about 20 motorhomes a day in the winter months, which is peak season

MALAGA. An idea by two friends, veteran motorhome travellers, has become a prosperous business which is so busy that it has put up the 'No Vacancies' sign during the winter, which is peak season. "We were in Tarifa about two years ago, and it occurred to us that there is nowhere in Malaga for people who have come from Europe and want a high quality park to stay in," says Francisco Jiménez, co-owner of the business.

This is actually a second line of business for both of them, because they also have other jobs. "Every hobby which is done with love and care turns out well," says Francisco, and the motorhome park has already received two top European awards. "We wanted to be different, not just a parking area. We thought about what we would like to have, and that was the concept we worked on".

There are five members of staff, all of whom speak other languages, and upon arrival clients are given maps of Malaga, information about buses, taxis, car hire and recommendations of places to visit. Although it is part of Malaga city, the park is very close to La Cala del Moral.

The result is a small village of about



Aerial view of the motorhome park in Malaga, which is usually full at this time of year.
:: NITO SALAS



Tourists soaking up the sun outside their motorhome. :: NITO SALAS

More than half the clients are from Germany or France and they stay for two months

100 motorhomes, with spaces for normal-sized and 'long body' (over eight metres) vehicles. They have drinking water and electricity, sewage disposal and rubbish recycling bins. There is also an ecological shop selling products from Malaga, a massage area and a bar. The cost is around 10 to 12 euros per vehicle per day. "A lot of people come for a few days or a week, but some stay for a month or two because they fall in love with Malaga," says Francisco. The owners called the park 'Malaga Beach' to highlight the prox-

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imity to the city and its attractions. They are already receiving repeat bookings.

Increasingly popular

Between 3,000 and 4,000 motorhomes use the park during the year, mainly retired couples in the winter and families with children in the summer. The park offers bicycle hire and will soon be introducing scooters as well. High season in this business is from December to April, because that is when retired travellers from all over Europe come for the sunshine in southern Spain. In some cases, they are living in mansions on wheels worth more than 300,000 euros, and the Andalusian coast is on their habitual route, competing with other southern destinations including Portugal and Morocco. When we visited, many of the clients were 'at home' and were relaxing, dressed in tee-shirts and shorts.

About half the clients on the Malaga Beach park are German or

French, and the others are mostly Scandinavian, British, Belgian and Dutch. Although it may come as a surprise to many, these visitors have money to spend.

"People think motorhomes are a cheap market, but it absolutely is not. They all eat out at least once a day, they go shopping, hire cars, almost as if they were in a hotel, and it is becoming more popular every year," says Jiménez.

In winter there are queues to get in to the park and they have to turn away up to 20 motorhomes a day because there is no room. However, in summer it is normally only full at weekends and during the August Fair.

Many motorhome travellers bring their pets with them, especially dogs, and the park is beside the only beach in the city where dogs are permitted to run free.

It is clear to see that the world of motorhomes is an increasingly popular form of tourism, but it is also proving to be a profitable business for Malaga and the Costa del Sol.

An enjoyable way of life for long-term visitors and permanent residents

People from Malaga who are living in their motorhome talk about their day-to-day life on the park

by I. LILLO

MALAGA. Among a mixture of conversations, most of them in German and French, outside the motorhomes at the Malaga Beach park, we hear one in Spanish, between two of the three residents of Malaga who spend most of their time here. Bernarda has a home in the city and when she retired and cashed in her pension plan she decided to invest in a small motorhome, which she shares with her dog. "I'm much happier here than at home, where I'd just sit and watch TV all day," she says, smiling.

Parked next to her is Manuel,



Manuel at home. :: NIÑO SALAS

who is divorced and wanted to move closer to his daughters. "Instead of buying an apartment I bought one of these and I'm happy living like this," he says.

"There's nothing like getting up in the morning and having break-

fast in the sun," adds Bernarda, who is also happy that she can walk her dog on the beach a few metres away.

"It's a different way of life. You have to be someone who isn't materialistic, and have a bit of hippie blood in you, but the quality of this life can't be beaten," says Manuel. He also likes the fact that all the neighbours are foreign, polite and make no noise. "It's like a commune where everyone helps everyone else. When someone tells me it's a shame I live in a motorhome I tell them that it's just like having an apartment 20 metres from the sea," he says. He also uses his vehicle to drive to other places for work.

Many motorhome owners from northern Europe were just passing through but ended up staying for several months. "They're nearly all retired and they live comfortable lives, with good pensions and luxury motorhomes. They live like kings here," says Manuel.

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The peak cruising season will bring about 180,000 passengers to Malaga

A total of 113 ships are expected, and this season the tourism industry is trying to attract more luxury cruise liners

by PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. The peak season for cruises is beginning at Malaga Port, and from 20 March to 30 June, 113 ships are expected to visit the capital city of the Costa del Sol, carrying 180,000 passengers, according to figures from Malaga port. Here, the arrival of spring marks the start of the busiest months for this sector, with 43 cruise ships due to arrive in April and in May. The only month which is busier is October, when 46 liners are scheduled to visit.

The new peak season is marked by efforts within the sector to attract



Seven of the 11 ships due to visit Malaga are luxury cruisers. :: F. SILVA

luxury cruise tourism, and Malaga is very well positioned for that as its terminal at El Palmeral is just metres from the historic city centre. Sources at Malaga port say that half of all cruise passengers who arrive in Malaga each year are on board 'premium' ships. In

fact, during the next few months seven of the 11 cruise liners which are scheduled to come to Malaga are within that category.

"The Seadream, Sea Cloud and Crystal Cruises companies have chosen Malaga to start and end their it-

neraries," say sources at the company. In addition to these cruises, where passengers stay at least one night in the city before leaving or upon arriving, Pullmantur has a further three scheduled during this period.

Malaga port has also announced a new initiative, 'Parking at your departure port', in conjunction with the cruise company, so passengers who arrive in a private car can leave it parked near the terminal while they are away.

New visitors

A total of 14 cruise ships will be visiting Malaga for the first time, including Royal Caribbean's new 'Spectrum of the Seas', for whom Malaga will be the first stop after leaving the shipyard. This giant of the seas will arrive on 16 April, during Holy Week.

Another landmark this season will be the first visit by the 'Marella Explorer 2', from the British Mar-

THE BUSIEST DAYS

► **11 April.** This will be the day with the most activity this season, as four ships carrying a total of 13,256 passengers will be arriving in Malaga.

► **9 May.** Three ships will coincide at the Port, carrying 10,606 passengers between them.

► **23 May.** Three cruise ships with 9,950 passengers will arrive in Malaga Port.

► **31 March.** Three cruise ships with 9,770 passengers are expected.

► **27 April.** A busy day in terms of arrivals, with five ships carrying 4,406 passengers.

ella Cruises company, part of TUI Group. "Other companies who are regular visitors, such as Norwegian Cruise Line, MSC Cruceros and AIDA Cruises will be using Malaga again this season, and other ships designed for more exclusive tourism will be visiting for the first time," say sources at the Port.

HERE AND THERE

Nerja - Torrox harbour plans reinstated

TORROX

:: **E. C.** A proposal to reactivate plans to build a harbour between Torrox and Nerja was one of the main items on the agenda during a visit to the Axarquía on Tuesday by Patricia Navarro from the regional government, the Junta de Andalucía. The idea has been on the cards for a number of years, although nothing has ever

come of it. The mayor of Torrox Óscar Medina, said the project was, "fundamental for social, economic and tourism development in the Axarquía." Navarro also spoke of the need "not to copy the western Costa del Sol" as she said that the Axarquía "has different characteristics" and that the area needs to consider the concept of "ecotourism." The regional politician also visited Almáchar and Vélez-Málaga, where the reinstatement of the town's tram system was discussed.

Wind and heat spread two fires in under 24 hours

TORROX

:: **E. C.** Emergency services were called to two separate fires in the Torrox area last weekend. The first broke out in a field of stubble by the Torrox to Cómputa road, while the second started in greenhouses in the Pecho la Torre area of El Morche. Both are believed to have spread due to the high temperatures and strong winds the area experienced last Saturday and Sunday.



The fire in Torrox. :: AXARQUIA PLUS

Child recovering after bouncy castle accident

PERIANA

:: **A. P.** An eight-year-old girl is recovering well at the Axarquía hospital after falling off a bouncy castle during the San José celebrations in Periana last Sunday. Strong winds caused the ropes tying the inflatable castle to give way. The girl, who is from the Periana area, was on the castle with five other children who did not need medical attention. The girl's injuries are not said to be serious.

Clubs and societies set to celebrate 20 years of Nerja's Residents' Day

The event will start at 12pm in the Plaza de España and will include a programme of live music and dancing as well as presentations of donations to charities

:: JENNIE RHODES

NERJA. Nerja will be celebrating 20 years of Residents' Day this Sunday, 24 March, from 12pm on Plaza de España. The aim is to bring residents, visitors and holiday makers together, along with the numerous clubs, societies and charities that are based in the town.

This year 39 clubs and societies, including Cudeca Cancer Hospice, various animal charities, international organisations, the town hall and businesses will have stalls around the plaza, which is located behind the town hall near to the Balcón de Europa.

Su Maull from the Cudeca Hospice, which has been participating in the event for many years, said: "On our stall you'll find a tombola, a selection of clothes from our Nerja shop and hand-crafted items donated by one of our customers. All the money raised goes towards helping people with cancer."

Peter MacLeod, from the 41 Club, said: "We welcome the opportunity to promote our club. We have nearly 50 members from 10 different countries, with a big social side, monthly meetings with speakers as well as the charity work we do." Earlier this



Visitors enjoying Residents' Day last year. :: JENNIE RHODES

month the 41 Club presented the Nerja-based Taller de la Amistad (which will also be attending) with a 500 euro cheque.

In addition to the stalls, six of the participating organisations will also be running bars, selling typical food and drinks from the different countries represented. There will be music and dancing on the stage throughout the day and at midday the town hall will be awarding Nerja's American International Club (AIC) a special honour in recognition of the work

they do for the local community. This will be followed at approximately 3.20pm with the presentation of a cheque from the AIC to the Cruz Roja (Red Cross), which will also have a stall at the event. Red Cross volunteer, Richard Weale, said, "The stall will be staffed by English-speaking volunteers and we will be able to answer questions about activities for older people and other services." In the event of rain or strong winds, Residents' Day will be postponed until Sunday 31 March.

Funding to turn Roman villa into a museum

Spain's Ministry of Public Works is going to invest 70 per cent of the total to continue the excavations and preservation of the Roman remains

:: SUR

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.

Spain's Ministry of Public Works (Ministerio de Fomento) has announced that it will invest 700,000 euros in a project to turn a Roman discovery in Rincón de la Victoria into a museum.

Speaking last week, the town's mayor, Francisco Salado, said that the ministry would cover 70 per cent of the one million euro project, which will see the completion of an excavation project which started in 1989.

Archaeologists discovered the remains of a small Roman baths, along with mosaics and tombs in 1989, and since then other pieces,

believed to date from the seventh Century BC until the 3rd Century, have been found in the Granadillas and Arroyo Benagalbón streams in Torre de Benagalbón, which belongs to Rincón de la Victoria.

The project, which is one of five in Malaga province announced by the ministry in June 2018, will culminate in an indoor museum designed to showcase and preserve the settlement.

The only other monument to receive money from the fund in the Axarquía is Vélez-Málaga's Islamic fortress.

Speaking after the funding was confirmed last week, Salado expressed his satisfaction that the project will "be a unique testament to the town's history, which until now has not seen the light of day."

He added that the project would leave "an important legacy to show visitors the magnitude of the settlement and the importance of Roman coastal towns."



Image of what the museum will look like. :: SUR



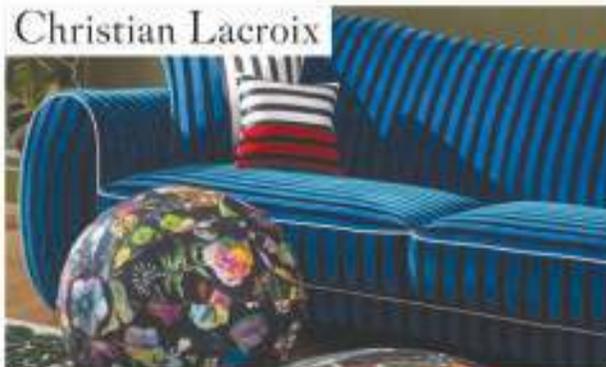
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British residents in Malaga travel to London for the Put it to the People march

Protesters are calling for the people to be consulted before any further decisions on Brexit are taken

✪ JENNIE RHODES

MALAGA. Numerous Brits living in Malaga will be among at least 100 UK residents in Spain travelling to London for Saturday's Put it to the People march, to call on the government to give the UK population another chance to vote on Brexit.

Biggest march to date

It is expected to be the biggest anti-Brexit demonstration to date and hundreds of thousands of protesters will be calling for a people's vote. For many this is a "now or never" moment to get their voices heard, with less than a week before the date set by the British government for the UK to leave the EU, and with parliament voting against a second referendum but in favour of extending Article 50 last week.

Bremain in Spain chair, Sue Wilson said in a press release this week, "If Theresa May can keep asking parliament the same question, how can she deny the public a second chance?"

Theresa O'Shea, an English teacher who has lived in Malaga province for over 20 years, is travelling to London especially for the march. She told SUR in English, "I wasn't allowed to vote in the bal-



Bremain in Spain members at the anti Brexit march last October. ✪ SUR

lot box, so I'm voting with my feet." Theresa will be meeting up with the Bremain in Spain group who are gathering at Green Park tube station at 11:30 and will join the march from there.

Other groups that represent Britons abroad and Spanish residents living in the UK to be joining Bremain in Spain include In Limbo

Project, Brexpatz-Hear our voice and Españoles en Reino Unido.

Tamara Essex, a British resident living in Malaga, will also be walking with the Bremain in Spain group, explained why she decided to fly to London for the march.

"We are at such a critical moment for the future of our country. The Prime Minister is deter-

mined to have two, three, four votes on her deal, trying to get people to change their minds, despite nothing having changed between votes. All we are asking is the chance to look at all the new information that has emerged in the last two years, and have a second referendum, because we know that many sensible people have changed their minds because of that new information."

She added, "I feel I have to march in London to play a tiny part in showing the government what we want."

Spaniards in London

Carmen Ortega and José Luis Millet, who are both from Vélez-Málaga but have lived and worked as teachers in London for over five years, are also planning to go to the event.

Millet told SUR in English, "I am going to the march because the UK deserves another opportunity to vote, as politicians lied to the people and now everyone has seen the negative consequences of those lies."

Ortega said, "I have made London my home. I work and pay my taxes here and have a life here now. I have spent the last three years worrying about my future and I feel strongly that Brexit is having a huge, negative effect on my life."

Anyone travelling to London for the march on Saturday is invited to meet up with other Brits and Spaniards at Green Park underground station from 11.30am.

Brexit set for delay as UK awaits EU's Article 50 extension decision

✪ JENNIE RHODES

MALAGA. This week in Westminster has certainly given marchers attending Saturday's protest plenty of fuel for thought. After MPs voted overwhelmingly for an extension to Article 50 last week, on Monday, House of Commons Speaker, John Bercow, rejected a third meaningful vote on Theresa May's Withdrawal Agreement, stating that the deal had to be "fundamentally different - not in terms of wording, but different in terms of substance," for it to be heard again.

Following a statement on Wednesday evening, during which she once again urged politicians to unite behind her deal, May returned to Brussels on Thursday for the Spring EU summit to negotiate the extension with the leaders of the remaining 27 countries.

In an open letter to European Council president, Donald Tusk, May asked the Council to grant an extension until 30 June. However, the Council was expected to agree to a shorter extension - until 23 May, which is the date of the European Parliament elections. A longer extension would mean the UK having to field candidates and the EU has made it clear since the 2016 referendum that Brexit needs to have happened to avoid this happening.



May on Wednesday. ✪ EP

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

Official UK site:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-spain>
(sign up there for email alerts)

UK Embassy facebook page for daily comment: <https://es-es.facebook.com/BritsInSpain/>
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<http://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/brexit/howtoprepare/Paginas/index.aspx>



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Third of jobless don't get any sort of state cash benefit

Lucía Palacios

MADRID. There were 3.2 million registered unemployed in Spain at the end of 2018, of which 1.1 million didn't get any sort of cash benefit from the state. This is either because the benefit they were entitled to had run out or

they hadn't worked long enough to get any benefits. This latter problem is fuelled by the high seasonality of the Spanish labour market, where one in four new jobs is only temporary. This figure of 37 per cent has gone up 20 points since 2009, although it has dropped since 2015.

Another reason for the increase is the high number of long-term unemployed, 1.57m in total, of which 71 per cent have been job-hunting for more than two years and many longer than four years.

Online shopping at Mercadona costs the firm 16 euros per customer

The figure is more than double the 7.21 euros that a shopper actually pays the chain, which means the company is now aiming to make the service profitable

Lucía Palacios

MADRID. It costs Mercadona, Spain's biggest supermarket group, 16 euros to deliver a home order to one of its internet customers. This is more than double what it is actually charging those people, which averages 7.21 euros.

The firm reaches that figure by calculating how much it costs for the average of 45 minutes that it takes a staff member to collect the products that have been ordered from the shelves and bag them for delivery. According to Mercadona, customers' online orders don't nor-



Inside the Mercadona internet-shopping warehouse in Valencia. :: SUR

mally have less than 70 items in them.

The discrepancy came about as for a while Juan Roig, the founder of Mercadona, didn't put much faith in internet shopping. Now that has all changed and the company is striv-

ing to make real money from it.

An experimental warehouse in its home region of Valencia is now directly handling internet orders for places up to 40 kilometres away, with packing 24 hours a day and delivery from 7am to 10pm.

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Nature reserve extended to protect it for future generations

The 2.42 square kilometre area is called Devil's Tooth Green Corridor and it is home to plant species which are not found anywhere else on the Rock

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. The Gibraltar government has extended the Nature Reserve by 2.42 square kilometres, and by doing so has protected a uniquely scenic and little-known area of Gibraltar for future generations.

The Devil's Tooth Green Corridor, as the area will be known, gets its name from the shape of the rock formation that dominates the site which is close to North Gorge. It was formerly a footpath linking the area of the Naval Hospital to Camp Bay. The extension also includes important cliff formations in the Camp Bay area, connecting these with those south of Little Bay, already within the Nature Reserve, and providing a green corridor extending all the way along Europa Foreshore to Europa Point.

The area's biodiversity is very important and it is home to a number of plant species which are rare in Gibraltar, such as the wild caper,



The area has a rich biodiversity. :: SUR

which is found nowhere else on the Rock. It also provides nesting sites for kestrels and peregrine falcons. The habitat in the area will be improved to encourage more biodiversity, and the government intends to open parts of it to the public on a restricted basis in due course.

Dr John Cortes, the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Climate Change says, "There is much comment in some quarters about concrete jungles and loss of green ar-

reas. The step we've taken today shows the Government's commitment to preserving important green areas and to environmental protection. And it goes further. These are areas that are part of our heritage and that were lost to us for years when they were under MOD control. We are giving them back to the community and we will soon be able to enjoy this long-forgotten but stunningly beautiful and unique natural area."

Operational and safety tests carried out at LNG Terminal

D. BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. All operational and safety systems at Gibraltar's new liquefied natural gas power station are currently being tested, as part of the terminal's on-going commissioning programme.

One of the tests, which was successfully carried out on Sunday, was of the systems in place to control pressure build-up in the terminal through the combustion of natural gas. This system, known as flaring, results in a small controlled flame.

Further tests of this type will continue.



The new LNG terminal. :: SUR

Students from Leiden university to take part in Gorham excavations

D.B.

GIBRALTAR. Excavation works at the Gorham's Cave World Heritage Site, which was the last known home of the Neanderthals, are due to begin again in early May

and students from Leiden university in the Netherlands will be taking part.

This year the excavations in Gorham's and Vanguard's caves will last for three months instead of two, thanks to the inclusion of the students from Leiden. The team will be supervised by Gibraltar National Museum personnel.

A similar collaboration with Liverpool's John Moores university three years ago proved very successful, and now students from John Moores are doing one-year internships at the Museum.

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A BIG DEAL



With a week to go before the official Brexit deadline, the Bank of Spain has been trying to predict the effect that the UK's withdrawal from the EU will have on the Spanish economy. Such a task is far from straightforward, not least because it remains uncertain what kind of Brexit, if any, will occur next Friday (Theresa May has requested a three-month extension to get the job done). Nevertheless, the Bank has stated that the effect on Spain's GDP over the next five years will be "significant" but not "excessive". What do these rather vague terms actually mean, though?

In the case that the UK divorces the EU with a deal next Friday, Spain's GDP will contract by 0.02% over five years, the Bank predicts. In other words, in an increasingly-unlikely scenario that everything goes more or less as it should do, the Spanish economy will barely register

Brexit over the course of the medium-term future.

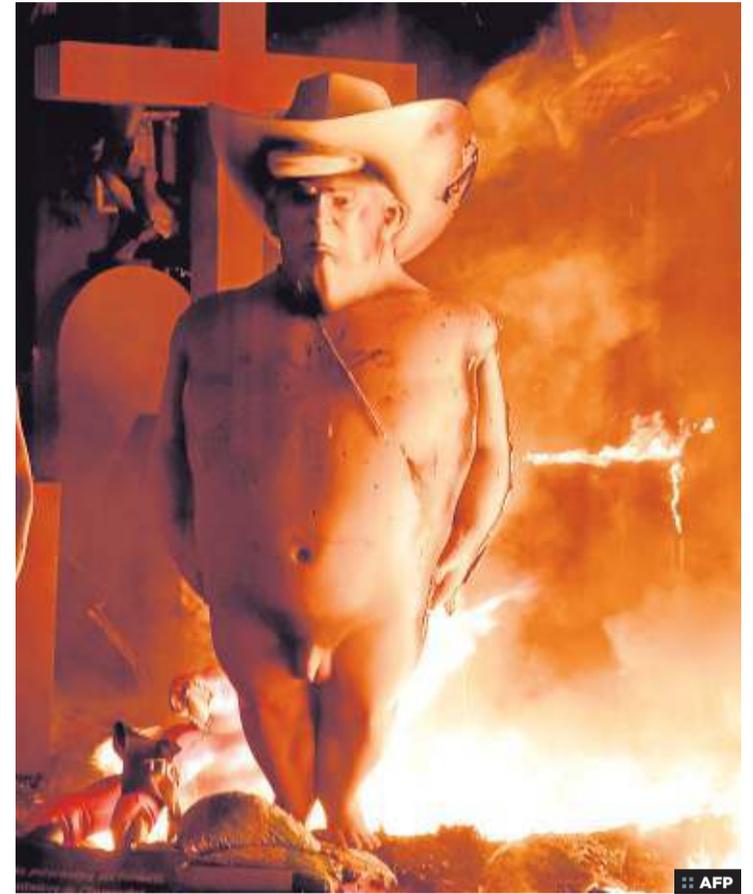
This forecast depends either on May being able to secure approval in the UK parliament for her existing deal in the next seven days, or being granted a three-month extension by the EU. The latter is the more probable of the two but still far from certain, with France requesting that Britain offer "guarantees" that it will deliver a deal in order for the deadline to be delayed. Brussels has every reason to doubt the UK's ability to make such promises, though: if May is unable to pull off Brexit in two-and-a-half years, what difference will an extra three months make?

According to the Bank of Spain, the "default option" is now that Britain will stroll (or, more accurately, stumble backwards) into the unknown without a deal on March 29th. The effect on the Spanish economy over the next five years, in this case, will be around 0.82%, says the Bank. Again, in terms of con-

crete impact, such a contraction is almost negligible.

Without wanting to be unduly pessimistic, one wonders if both these figures (especially the second one) are too optimistic. British expatriates and holidaymakers are hugely important to the Spanish economy: last year a record 18.8 million Britons visited Spain - the largest group, by some way, of all foreign tourists holidaying here - and spent over €17 billion in doing so.

If it becomes more expensive or difficult to visit or continue living in this beautiful country, many Britons will start to seek the joys of Mediterranean culture elsewhere - an exodus that would likely have a substantial impact on Spain's GDP. This is precisely why the Spanish government has been working to secure the rights of Britons in Spain and Spaniards in the UK, and why a no-deal Brexit would be the worst outcome for both countries. Let's hope it doesn't come to that next Friday.



TRUMP GOES UP IN FLAMES IN VALENCIA

On Tuesday it was St Joseph's Day, and as usual it was marked with the burning of giant colourful effigies and satirical scenes in the streets of Valencia. Celebrating the patron saint of carpenters, the 'Fallas' festival saw contemporary characters used in the design of the so-called 'ninots'. This year there were plenty of references, in the hundreds built by locals, to Catalan politics and Donald Trump.





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Catalan leader swaps the "political" yellow ribbon for a white and red one

Quim Torra complied with electoral law at last on Thursday but surprised everyone with a creative way to keep his message alive

:: SUR

BARCELONA. Every rule is made to be broken. That was what red-faced national regulators discovered on Thursday morning in their ongoing attempts to get the Catalan regional government to take down its "political" yellow ribbon symbols. It needs to comply with a rule that guarantees the neutrality of public bodies ahead of forthcoming elections in Spain.

The Spanish electoral commission had said last week that the regional government, headed by Quim Torra, needed to remove them as the local authority has the role of overseeing fair play in upcoming municipal, Euro and national votes, and so cannot be seen to be taking sides. The yellow symbol is displayed by Catalan separatist supporters in protest over the detention and trial of some of its leaders and politicians.

After initial defiance, the regional president said he would only agree to an official Catalan body, not a na-



On Thursday the yellow ribbon had been replaced with a crossed-out white symbol. :: EFE

tional one, telling him to take them down. That job fell to the Catalan public ombudsman on Wednesday, who agreed with the electoral commission. Torra then said he would comply, although it was later claimed he had already known, before publicly asking the ombudsman last Friday, what the expert's

decision was.

Spain waited on Thursday to see the removal of the yellow ribbon from the balcony of the seat of the regional government in Barcelona.

However, to people's surprise, Torra had found a way around his problem. The same banner with the yellow ribbon was swapped for an

identical one but with the ribbon in white with a red brushstroke across it.

Opposition politicians accused the regional president of playing "cat and mouse" with the electoral commission and Spain waited to see if the new-look banner would be allowed to stay or not.

IN BRIEF

General Franco could be reburied on 10 June

MADRID

:: **SUR.** The PSOE government has said that it will go ahead and rebury the body of General Franco on 10 June and will not wait for the Supreme Court to rule on the family's appeal. Ministers have said that they will take the coffin from the Valley of the Fallen monument and place it in El Pardo cemetery alongside Franco's wife. Other parties said it is more political statement than reality, coming ahead of the 28 April general election.

Parents held over bizarre child deaths

VALENCIA

:: **JAVIER MARTÍNEZ.** A mother and father are in custody as investigators try to work out the strange circumstances of the death of their two children, one a five-month-old baby and the other a three-year-old. Their battered bodies were discovered buried near a swimming pool behind a ruined shack in a squatter property. Sources suggest that the mother may have suffered a form of psychotic episode the night of the double crime. Social services had had previous contact with the family.

Vox's call for more people to buy guns causes outrage from all sides of politics

:: SUR

MADRID. Hard-fight political newcomers, Vox, were heavily criticised this week by all parts of the political spectrum for calling for more people in Spain to be allowed to buy guns.

In an interview with a Spanish pro-gun website, the leader of Vox, Santiago Abascal, said that he was in favour of people being able to carry a gun for self defence as long as they didn't have a criminal record. The Vox leader admitted he has a Smith & Wesson weapon

after being threatened by ETA in the past.

Criticism of the Vox-leader's view didn't take long to emerge. PP-leader Pablo Casado said he strongly disagreed and Ciudadanos said it seemed like something "out of the Wild West", when Spain was in fact a relatively violence-free country by international standards.

Government spokesperson Isabel Celaá said that Abascal's comments weren't very sensible and added, "Spain doesn't want to turn into the US."



File photo of guns seized by Malaga's Guardia Civil. :: F. SILVA

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REF. G. U. M.

A car ran over me while I was on a zebra crossing and I sustained various injuries. A police patrol car was near and they carried out an alcohol check on the driver, which was positive. A friend has told me that due to this, the insurance company can refuse to pay me compensation for the damages suffered. Is that true?

No, it isn't. Insurance companies are obliged to face the payment of the damages caused by the insured in an accident, normally at no cost for him/her. Nevertheless, in certain cases, as when the driver is under the influence of alcohol, it is considered that it is a clear negligence on the part of the driver, and therefore, the companies usually oblige the insured to pay the expenses. Therefore, in this case, the insurance company is obliged to pay you the corresponding compensation, irrespective of whether they later claim it from the insured. But that is an issue between them that does not affect you.

REF. R. O. T.

Two years ago I bought a house in a complex made up of thirty houses, all of them identical. The complex only includes one road with fifteen houses either side, and we do not have any kind of services. There are no common gardens or

swimming pool. However, each year we have to pay the community fees, which even though are not high (150 euros more or less a year), is paid without receiving anything in return. I think that in this case, having a community that offers nothing is nonsense and I would like to know if there exists the possibility of leaving the community renouncing to the services that it supposedly offers (that are inexistent).

If your property forms part of the complex and therefore of a Community of Owners, it is not possible to "leave". Take into account that you do not only pay for the services that the Community might offer, but also for the elements that it shares, such as the road, water, sewage, lighting... Therefore, all the owners of the community have to pay for the maintenance expenses of these common elements. Your community fee is so low precisely because you have hardly any common elements.

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LETTERS TO
THE EDITOR

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THERE IS A PRIZE FOR THE BEST
CONTRIBUTION TO THIS PAGE
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Roundabout business

As you have probably seen, every day as early as 2pm, four roundabouts in Estepona are frequented by young women offering their sexual services. That this is a trade that's unavoidable, although illegal, in Spain is a fact, but I and everyone I know who lives here takes great umbrage that it is specifically these roundabouts in sequence in the same area. From Estepona, once the Manilva district is reached, they stop.

The N-340 / A7 is a very busy road used by tourists and local residents alike. These roundabouts all have direct connections to supermarkets, Burger King and other family destinations; hotels including the 5 star Hotel Elba, and Costa Natura; the urbanisations Buenas Noches and Costa Galera and, what will be in the future, the new hospital.

Families are often put in the difficult position of having to explain to their children what exactly these women are doing on the roundabouts.

Friends who come to visit are always shocked, not only by the fact that this happens so openly, but the fact that it's happening on four consecutive roundabouts from the early afternoon onwards.

What kind of an impression

does it leave on people using this road and will it leave in the near future, when patients and ambulances have to pass by daily?

Any person who wants to sell oranges, melons or any other fruit from his garden can only do so with a special licence. What these women are doing is also a form of selling their wares!

They don't need a licence and it's supposedly illegal. So why is it going on and only in the Estepona?

In other areas the ladies ply their trade in the evening on the 'poligonos', once the businesses there close down for the day.

People on the urbanisations cannot take their dogs for a walk, or let their kids go near some areas because of parked cars with customers being serviced!

I have asked various people about what can be done but am only met with shrugged shoulders although everyone seems to agree there is a problem.

Is there any way to get to the bottom of this and have them moved somewhere else where only the customers can go to purposely meet with them?

AMANDA TOMTER
BY EMAIL

Little enlarge

PETER EDGERTON
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Dad, have you seen my pen drive anywhere?" "No, son, but I could swear I saw your stapler catch the bus last week."

Now then, that's a dad joke if ever there was one and as you can probably tell by how rubbish it is, I made it up myself.

Unfortunately, I was minded of this crime against all decent humour recently when I did, in fact, lose my pen drive. It's highly inconvenient when these things happen and I always end up cursing the misguided boffins who think that making stuff smaller is, by definition, a good move. It's not. Pen drives should be the size and weight of a house brick; that way they'd be impossible to lose.

Every time you bought ten you could get a free wheelbarrow for ease of transport. Clearly, the only thing that those self important coves in Silly Con Valley should be working on with a view to making them smaller is their own

egos.

Come to think of it, mobile phones should be the size and weight of a house brick too. That would make us all think twice about taking them out with us unless it was absolutely necessary and it'd certainly put a stop to those daft people who hold them above their heads at concerts, blocking the view of the person behind, in order to record tinny videos which they're never going to watch again in a thousand years.

Just as smaller is so often mistakenly seen as better where technology is concerned, in other areas of our lives, speed seems to have become the holy grail for far too many of us.

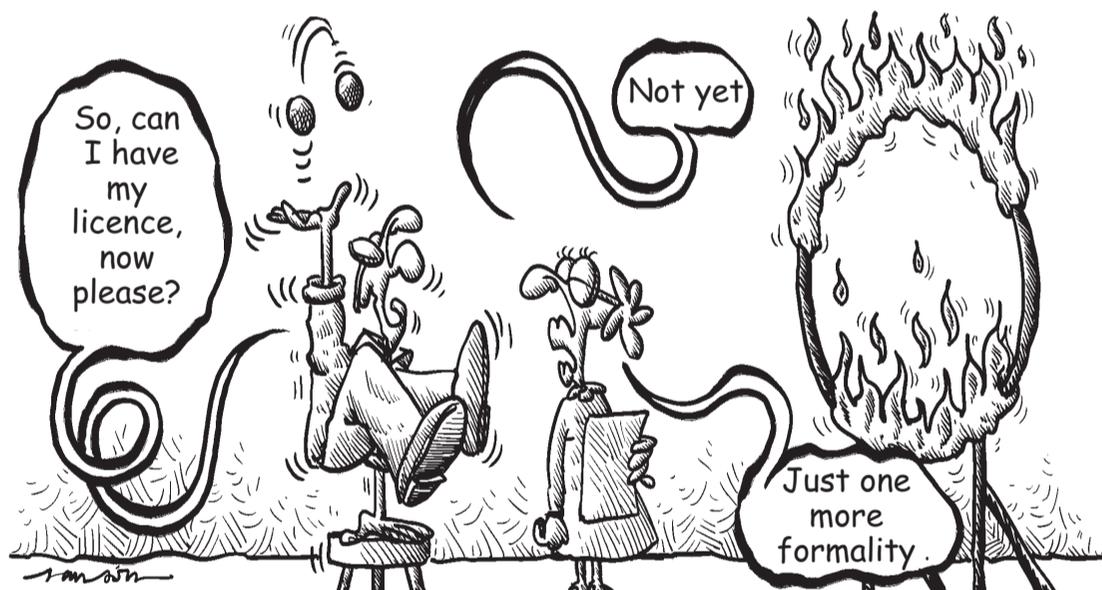
It's not the way they're abandoned round town like idly discarded lovers, or, indeed the posture of a rather camp Roman emperor that they impose on their riders. No, those electronic scooter things are guilty of many crimes

but the most heinous is the assumption that getting somewhere more quickly is an irrefutably positive goal. It quite clearly isn't. I'm sure that somebody somewhere must have written something about the journey being more important than the destination but I'm blown if I can remember who it was or what they actually said. Anyway, they were right. Pinging down the street with your nose in the air might shave some minutes off your travel time but Shanks's Pony, rather more appealingly, affords you the chance to stop and smell the roses as you go.

There's a lot to be said for plodding along, contemplating the infinite or your next beer or whatever. Moreover, if you're carrying a mobile phone on you the size and weight of a house brick, you'll be moving even more slowly.

And that can only be a good thing.

IDÍGORAS



SUR English

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

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New politics is really old politics. The most significant newcomer in this election campaign, Vox, is a party which, paradoxically, proposes taking a step back in time. Its offer is to go backwards in terms of rights that have been fought for and won, debates that have already been settled, constitutional architecture and Spain's place in Europe and therefore the world. Not to mention going backwards in terms of what we understand as democracy and even of how we have seen Spain since 1978. What's new, therefore, is not what it proposes, which takes us back more than four decades, but how it proposes it.

Vox is carrying out an underground campaign in which, save in counted exceptions, avoids public

It's not new,
it's old

HÉCTOR BARBOTTA

debate, confrontation of ideas and, above all, traditional media. Until now, the media was the main target of political parties, but that has changed. Not because through the media you don't reach the general public, but because traditional media comes with a filter called jour-

nalism. And journalism can be a problem if an entire political agenda is based on myths, half-truths and total lies.

If the pillars of an electoral programme are based on ideas such as violence against women is not a problem in Spain, that immigrants

have advantages when it comes to social benefits, that immigration itself is all down to a plan whipped up by a Jewish magnate, that there is a security problem that requires every citizen in Spain to carry a firearm or that the Constitution allows for the suppression of the devolved powers of the autonomous regions, that programme has no legs to stand on. The only way to get the message across, therefore, is to avoid it being held up against the truth. That is, to avoid journalism. For that reason and none other, Vox prefers what it calls direct contact via social media, where there is no filter whatsoever and lies can run freely.

Some say that the best antidote for Vox is not to talk about them, as they form a group that lives off what people say about them every day,

how people comment on their bright ideas, even if it's to criticise them. According to that theory, this article will only serve to strengthen them. Let's take that risk, even if it's just this once.

Their latest bright idea is that there are reasons to prohibit political parties that don't renounce Marxism. They ought to explain why to exercise a right to political participation you should have to explicitly reject the contributions Marx made to the history of thought and not those of Nietzsche, Heidegger, Hegel or Tales de Mileto. Above all, in a democracy like Spain's, so different in its generosity from those of the rest of Europe to the point of allowing those who haven't even renounced the political legacy of a dictator to have the run of the mill.



Goal 6: Access to water and sanitation for everyone.

This year the United Nations has placed the World Water Day spotlight on the theme "Leaving no one behind", the central promise of the 2030 Agenda which includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 6, focusing on water, requires a cohesive response from all parties, closer and more conversational to create and share solutions. At HIDRALIA we work on a daily basis towards meeting this challenge. Our commitment is to continue creating ways to protect the water resource and leave no one behind.



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IN THE FRAME

A lifelong devotion to language and art

Art historian and novelist, Liz Cochrane, first encountered Spain on a road trip she undertook in 1959, and this was to be the start of a long affection for a country that she would eventually call home. At an age when many might be considering retirement in order to enjoy life on the Costa del Sol, Liz, who speaks Spanish and French (her maternal grandmother's language), keeps herself busy giving well-attended talks about art. She has also lectured in Spanish on 15th century illustrated medieval manuscripts to an invited audience in the French Embassy in Madrid, which she describes as "a highlight in my lecturing career".

Born and educated in Glasgow, Liz became head teacher of a remote school in the Scottish Highlands. Her main academic interests were Modern Languages (French and Spanish) and Art – especially the history of art. She settled on a career in teaching and even though she says it was a job she loved, she took early retirement and moved to the Costa del Sol in 1991. Liz settled in Mijas, where she has written two novels - although neither is concerned with art or Spain.

Her love affair with Spain began in the late 1950s, when she travelled from Scotland to Spain in a van, stopping in Madrid, before exploring the east coast (Costa Blanca and Costa Brava), which at that time was a succession of small fishing villages and empty beaches.

"I had a secondhand Thames van and after taking the ferry across the Channel, I drove across France and north Spain, staying overnight on campsites. Every small town had one, and they were very popular with people like teachers who had long holidays but were short of money," the jovial Glaswegian explains.

This was an experience that Liz remembers with fondness, although she admits that she caused some intrigue among the locals she encountered along the way

"What I liked most was the friendliness and helpfulness of the people. I spoke pretty good high school Spanish by that time, and people were curious, but also interested in talking to such an exotic creature - a young woman who could drive a van of her own and had an

apparatus called a camera," Liz recalls.

Lifelong affection for the Tour de France

Today, Liz enjoys giving lectures at

two U3A centres (Fuengirola and Alhaurín El Grande) and continues to follow the Tour de France, a sport she has studied for more than 60 years and which became the content of her first novel, Legs. The book

is based on the final week of a Tour de France and the narrative is held together by the commentaries of Jo Bonnard, a young woman who has fought her way to the top of a male-dominated profession. Liz wrote

the novel after a friend asked what attracted her to cycle racing.

"The book was my explanation and the friend subsequently became an avid Tour de France watcher. With increasing age, I tend to watch via the TV screen, but during many years of my youth, I spent much of every summer holiday cheering on the roadsides of France, and later in Spain as well, talking to cyclists and a well-known commentator from whom I learned a great deal. I created a character who is a TV commentator – a woman in what is still a man's world," Liz explains.

Liz came into contact with the U3A in Fuengirola in 1998 and since then, she has used her expertise and knowledge to give regular talks on the history of art.

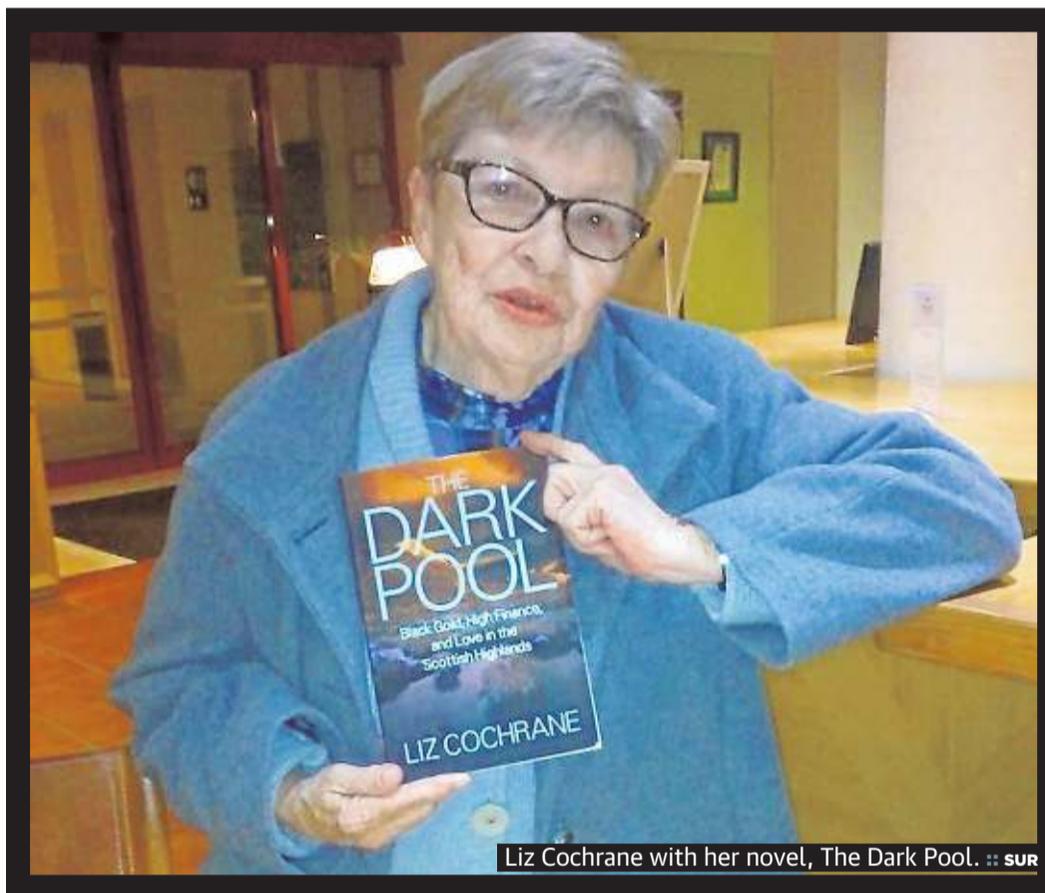
"I read, probably in Sur in English, that U3A was hoping to start a branch in Fuengirola, and the organisers were looking for volunteers willing to share their knowledge of their special interest. I went along and liked the sound of the U3A ethic," the art historian says.

A lifelong passion for the Tour de France became the subject of Liz's first novel

For her second novel, *The Dark Pool*, Liz used her knowledge of small remote Scottish villages. The book supposes an oil discovery on the Scottish mainland and underlines how small, remote communities are terribly vulnerable to any social change.

Liz has always enjoyed historical research, but she admits that her days of writing novels could possibly have come to an end. However, she has no intentions of giving up her lectures, which have attracted a steady flow of students over the years, some of whom have become personal friends of the passionate art specialist.

"I'm not thinking about retiring again just yet, although I doubt if I would write another book unless I had a publisher's contract first. All those hours at the keyboard and the effort required for marketing; I guess I'm too old now," Liz concludes.



Liz Cochrane with her novel, *The Dark Pool*. :: SUR

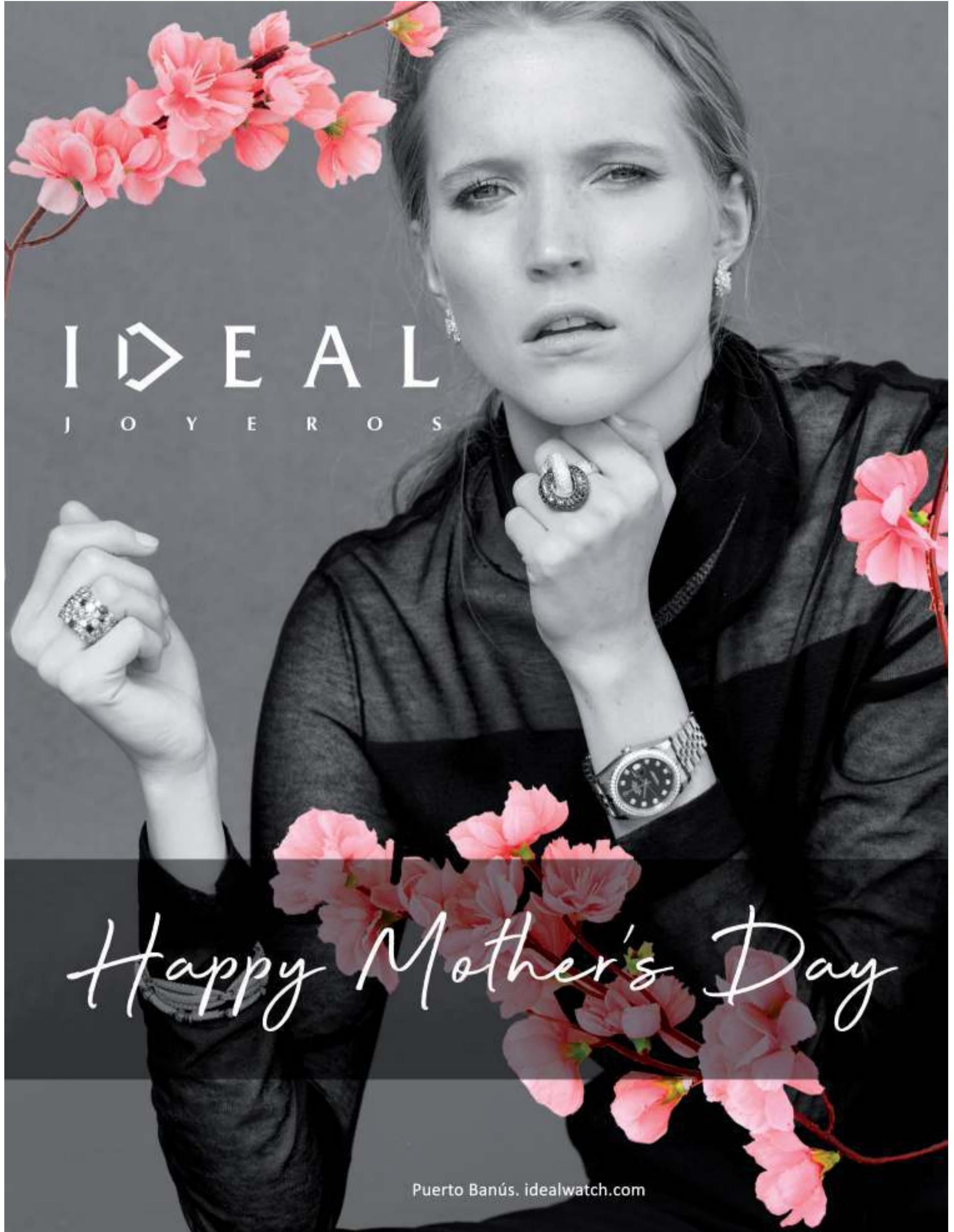
Born and educated in Glasgow, the author and art historian first encountered Spain on a road trip that she undertook in 1959, and this was to be the start of a long affection for a country she has made her home

TONY BRYANT
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Lucky fans get their selfie with heartthrob actor Óscar Casas. :: FÉLIX PALACIOS



Local favourite Dani Rovira on the red carpet outside the Cervantes theatre. :: NIÑO SALAS



Actor Javier Gutiérrez with his plaque on the promenade. :: M. F.

Film industry invades the city - in Spanish

The 22nd Malaga Film Festival, devoted to Spanish-language cinema made around the world, has brought famous faces and glamour to the city

:: SUR

MÁLAGA. Visitors to the city of Malaga will have noticed a special buzz in the atmosphere this week. Red carpets line the streets leading up to local theatres; crowds hover, phones at the ready, outside central hotels; and photographers follow smartly - or even extravagantly - dressed celebrities as they pose in

the sunshine of the port.

The city's film festival is now in its 22nd year and continues to grow in prestige. What began as a Spanish film festival is now devoted to all Spanish-language cinema with a growing number of Latin American films being screened.

The awards come in the form of the 'biznaga', Malaga's iconic jas-

mine flower arrangement. This year's Premio Málaga-SUR award went to actor Javier Gutiérrez whose recent work includes playing the coach of a basketball team with intellectual disabilities in the award-winning film Champions. This prize comes with the honour of having his hand prints cast in bronze and placed on the Antonio Banderas promenade.

The week's events kicked off with the opening gala last Friday night, when British pianist James Rhodes and acrobats from the Cirque du Soleil performed. Among the celebrities most cheered by the crowds was Malaga's own actor and comedian Dani Rovira. The grand closing gala taking place in the Cervantes theatre on Saturday night.

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WHERE YOU COME FIRST

Documentary shows how Malaga played its part in shaping the genius in Picasso

British director Phil Grabsky brought his documentary *Young Picasso* to show at the film festival

:: ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

MALAGA. The pigeons that fly away as we approach the Plaza de la Merced from the Cervantes theatre remind us of the artists who sketched them in that same spot years ago: José Ruiz Blasco and his son Pablo Ruiz Picasso, who was born in the house on the corner and now sits outside in the form of a bronze sculpture.

British filmmaker Phil Grabsky was in Malaga this week for the Spanish premiere of his new documentary, *Young Picasso*.

"The project to make the film about Picasso came up four years ago and the first question we asked ourselves was simple and crucial. Why him? Why did the boy who was born right here, and not another boy who was born next door or anywhere else? Why?" explained the director.

There is no simple answer but the quest resulted in the hour-and-a-



Phil Grabsky this week with the sculpture of Picasso in Malaga. :: F. P.

half-long film in which specialists, such as the director of the Malaga Picasso Museum José Lebero, the director of the agency that manages

the house where the artist was born, José María Luna, and the artist's grandson, Olivier Widmaier-Picasso, all give their opinions.

The first conclusion is that Picasso's childhood in Malaga played a crucial role in his rise to the pinnacle of modern art.

While he admits it would be too "reductionistic" to focus on just one reason, "we have to mention the light of the south, the Mediterranean". "It seems obvious that Picasso's use of light and colour would have been very different if he had been born in northern Europe, or even in the north of Spain," said Grabsky.

The director mentions another factor that also plays a vital role in history: luck.

"By chance his father's job as a teacher took him to La Coruña and from there to Barcelona, which in those years attracted a multitude of artists from Paris who brought avant-garde ideas with them. This experience was crucial in Picasso's career," said Grabsky. He added that in Malaga Picasso lived in a comfortably-off family but also spent his time in the street. Later, in Paris, the artist was closer to poverty, an experience that was essential in his youth.

Young Picasso, which forms part of the Exhibition On Screen project, will be shown in cinemas in Spain from 28 April.



Actors in the port. :: NITO SALAS

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Painting the town green for St Patrick's Day

Hundreds of revellers in Benalmádena and Torremolinos enjoyed traditional folk dancing, Celtic music and Irish cuisine

:: TONY BRYANT

MALAGA. Irish communities along the Costa del Sol came out in force last weekend to celebrate the feast day in honour of Saint Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland. Huge street parties were held in the coastal towns, where armies of green floppy hats enjoyed live music and entertainment washed down with a copious supply of Guinness.

Hundreds of revellers packed the Plaza de la Mezquita in Arroyo de la Miel, and also the Plaza La Nogalera in Torremolinos, for an afternoon of traditional Irish folk dancing, music and the typical gastronomy of the Emerald Isle.

Torremolinos' event lasted two days and included a performance by Euphoria, a U2 tribute band.

Both parties were organised by the Irish Association Spain and the respective town halls.

Dozens of Irish bars also joined in with the fun, especially in Montemar (known locally as little Ireland), where the Irish community comes together to celebrate the craic in style.

As with numerous cities and towns around the world that illuminate monuments and buildings to mark St Patrick's Day, Malaga's town hall building was given a green glow, as was the iconic Arco de Marbella.

President of the Irish Association, Terry McKinley, told SUR in English, "We are very happy with this year's turnout. The parties in Torremolinos and Benalmádena are absolutely packed. It is nice to see so many Irish citizens enjoying the fun and the glorious weather."



Irish rovers enjoy all-day St Patrick's party in the centre of Torremolinos. :: T. BRYANT



Local Irish bar owners joined in the fun. :: TB



Green was the preferred colour for many. :: SUR Mayor of Benalmádena, Víctor Navas (centre), welcomes the Irish Association. :: SUR



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SOCIETY SCENE

Classic motorbikes and cars at annual rally

Cancer charities Un Sí Por La Vida and Cudeca Cancer Care Hospice were both beneficiaries of fundraising events by local clubs

SUR IN ENGLISH

Motoclub Fahala Motorbike rally for charity

Motorbike clubs from all over the region attended a special rally in Alhaurín el Grande last Sunday. The rally is organised every year by the Motoclub Fahala de Alhaurín el Grande to raise money for charity. Hundreds of bikers met up in the feria ground for the event which included an exhibition of classic motorbikes and cars, as well as a visit by some of the Radical Iberia competition cars belonging to NASCAR Fans España. A tradition over the years, rockets were set off in memory of bikers who had passed away, this was made all the more poignant this year as the funds raised this year will go to Un Sí Por

La Vida, a charity which helps patients suffering from cancer in Alhaurín el Grande and the rest of the region. The charity offers specialised physiotherapy, yoga, psychological assistance, group activities and informative chats for people with the disease.

Marbella Golf Country Club Golf tournament

On 15 February, the Marbella Golf Country Club held the Members Memorial Charity Tournament to help support the Cudeca Cancer Care Hospice. A cheque for 620 euros, raised by the players who played in the Individual Stableford format, was presented to Esther Ráez from Cudeca. The prize winners were Carl Home (38 points), Norman Cameron (38 points) and Liz Britton (33 points).

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



Hundreds of bikers turned up for the charity rally in Alhaurín el Grande. :: M. V.



Satu Kaariainen, Marbella Golf Director, presents the cheque to Esther Ráez from Cudeca. :: SUR

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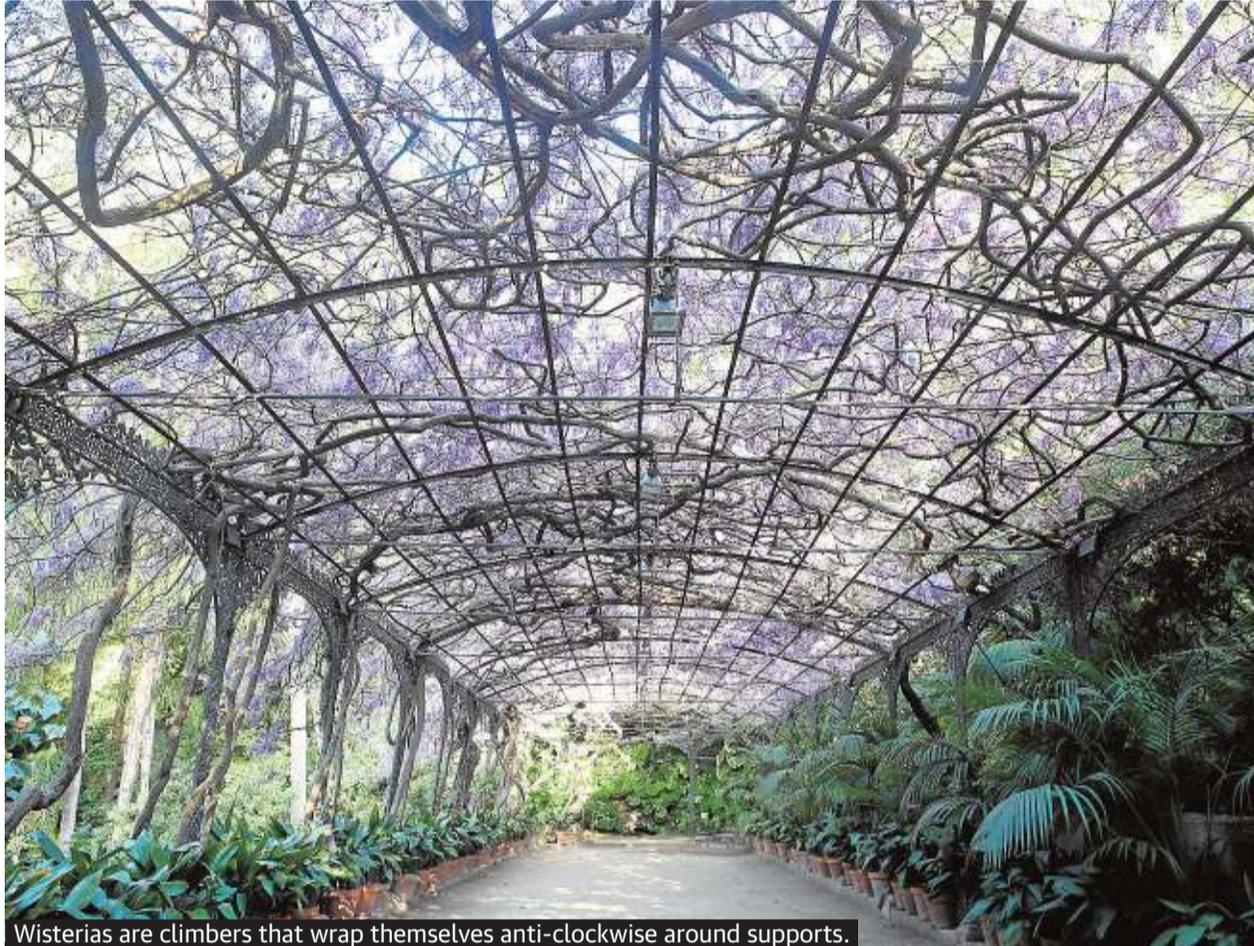
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SALVADOR SALAS

THE BOTANICAL GARDENS IN PICTURES



Wisterias are climbers that wrap themselves anti-clockwise around supports.



Clivias add a vivid touch of orange.



The lilac raceme of Ageratina.



Stunning blooms of white wisteria.

Spring colour arrives at La Concepción

The wisterias reign over all the plants at the Malaga botanical gardens at this time of year and are a wonder to behold



Strelitzia, commonly called bird of paradise.

A. ESCALERA

MALAGA. The blue flowers of the wisteria announce the arrival of spring in the Jardín Botánico -Histórico de La Concepción just outside Malaga. This haven, in which nature is dis-

played in all its glory, has many plant species that are at their best at this time of year to the delight of visitors.

The wisteria, which steals the show in La Concepción, is at its best in March, especially during

the second half of the month.

Every leafy corner of this iconic garden has something worth seeing, offering vistas that seem to have been created by the paintbrush of some famous artist.

One of the most significant

features of the gardens is the ornate iron arbour, built by the Loring-Heredia family as an outside dining area, and over which the wisterias weave an unparalleled canvas of colour and perfume.

The genus of this plant honours the American physician and professor Gaspar Wistar.

Wisteria sinensis, originally from China, is a fast-growing, strong climber that twines itself anti-clockwise around supports.

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DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

Beaucarnea recurvata

A common sight in parks and gardens on the Costa del Sol, the ponytail palm thrives in hot, dry climates

Beaucarnea recurvata, commonly called, elephant's foot (pata de elefante) or ponytail palm, is one of around ten species in the Beaucarnea genus. The genus is a member of the Asparagaceae family which includes agaves, and is named after the Belgian plant collector, Jean-Baptiste Beaucarne (1884-1959).

It is native to the semi-desert regions of south-eastern Mexico, Be-

lize and Guatemala and although referred to as a 'palm', is not related to the true palm family.

The ponytail palm is extremely long-lived with examples over 350 years-old registered in Mexico. However it is very slow growing and may take ten years to flower. Mature specimens can reach eight to ten metres tall. Most develop with a single trunk although, over time, multiple trunks may develop. Each

is topped by a fountain of strap-like leaves up to a metre long and about three centimetres wide. These leaves tend to curve under (hence 'recurvata') and resemble a ponytail. The grey-brown trunk will develop a swollen caudex at the base, which is where it stores water, and which gives it another of its common names, elephant's foot.

The species is dioecious, meaning that it has male and female reproductive systems on separate plants, even though they both might flower, so unless you have one of each no viable seeds will be produced. The creamy-white flowers form in pyramidal, upright panicles up to 60 cm tall.

Propagation can be carried out by removing any 'pups' that form at the base once they are about ten centimetres tall. The pup can be cut away with a sharp knife and planted in soil-less compost (such as cactus compost).

Faded leaves should be carefully peeled away from the trunk. The leaves contain high levels of saponins which are toxic if consumed in quantity.

Ponytail palms are drought resistant and should only be watered when the soil has dried out. As they are not frost hardy they can be grown in pots and brought inside, to a room with plenty of light, during the winter and are a popular house plant in cooler climates.



Ponytail palm and flowers (inset). :: WIKIPEDIA/WIKIMEDIA

READER'S PHOTO



:: MARGA LANGE

STRANGE TREE FRUITS

This is a Silk Floss tree or Ceiba (synonym Chorisia). In the photo the fruits have burst open exposing the woolly seeds. The caudex of a mature specimen is a swollen, bottle shape and the newer growth is covered in big thorns. It is one of the most beautiful trees grown in Malaga province with flowers in winter that resemble large lilies. Photo sent in by Patty Unwin.

GARDENING IN MARCH

Tackle those shrubs

If you're a bit behind with pruning, get the secateurs out while the weather is warm and tackle those perennials now. Buddleia is already starting to shoot but it can still be cut back fairly hard; it is a vigorous shrub and will soon recover. Forsythia has just about finished flowering and should be brought back in to shape by cutting back any long, whippy growth and

removing some older stems. Lavatera can be given a hard trim too, cut out some of the old wood to encourage new green shoots. Honeysuckle may need rejuvenation if it has become overgrown so cut out about a third of the oldest growth down to ground level. Both Pyreantha and Euonymus will also benefit from a good trim about now.

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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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

22 MARCH 1993

Celebration of the first 'World Water Day'

A celebration of freshwater was officially inaugurated March 22 1993, after it was recommended at the 1992 United Nations Conference in Rio de Janeiro

A recent study has revealed that Spain is the third country that loses the highest amount of fresh water in Europe, wasting around 25 per cent. This figure, compared to nearby countries such as Portugal, which loses 18 per cent and Germany, which loses just 7 per cent, is relatively high.

After World Water Day was inaugurated in 1993, the following years all focused around a theme to do with fresh water. In 1994, the theme was 'Caring for our Water Resources is Everybody's Business'. Some other prominent themes though-

out the years have been 'Women and Water', 'Water for the 21st Century' and 'Water for Thirsty Cities'. The theme of 2019 is 'Leaving no one behind' and it is about addressing the reasons why marginalised groups – women, children, refugees, indigenous people, disabled people – are often overlooked, and may face discrimination, as they try to access safe water.

In Spain, the events that take place to celebrate and promote this day are usually educational. They take the form of talks in schools and work places, that aim to edu-



The ease of bottled water. :: EFE



Indonesian children enjoy clean water given by local charity. :: EFE

cate people on the importance of water preservation. Sometimes they also explore the health benefits of water, and the obvious issues that come with not having direct access to fresh, clean water.

The University of Malaga also helps to promote this day in the

city, encouraging students to think about their water usage, and be more responsible.

This World Water Day an InterEcoForum conference will be held in Marbella. The aim of the forum is to discuss water and the involvement it has in sustainable development. The subject

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Agua	Water
Medioambiente	Environment
Recursos	Resources
Fuente	Source
Abastecimiento	Supply
Desperdiciar	To waste
Escasez	Shortage
Crecimiento	Growth
Sed	Thirst
Sostenible	Sustainable
Riego	Irrigation
Energía	Energy
Desafío	Challenge
Bienestar	Well-being
Salud	Health
Contaminación	Pollution
Ciudad	City
Grifo	Tap

of the upcoming conference is not accidental. 2018-2028 was declared by the United Nations General Assembly, as an International Decade for Action, with a focus on water for sustainable development.

Water is at the core of sustainable development. It is vital for socio-economic development, healthy ecosystems and for human survival itself. This World Water Day try to be mindful of how you are using fresh water.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

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The old owner of a Crystal Palace football shirt finds it in a bar in Coín

The shirt was raffled in the 1990s to raise money for the football club's redundant staff

by TONY BRYANT

COÍN. A Crystal Palace shirt that was raffled to raise money for the ailing football club in the 1990s has been discovered by its original owner in a bar in Coín.

Coín resident, Pete Carter, who has lived in Spain since 2003, recently discovered the signed football shirt, which was part of a collection of shirts the bar's owner intended to hang on the walls of his pub.

During the late 1990s, Pete, a life-long supporter of the club, was working and living in Maidstone. When Crystal Palace Football Club went into administration, he decided to organise a fundraising event called 'Glad All Over', which was staged at the Fairfields Hall in Croydon in July 1999.

The event raised more than 20,000 euros, which was given to 'Selhurst 46' – a fund set up for the club's redundant administration staff. The event included a charity raffle and one of the prizes was a



Pete Carter on the left. :: T. B.

Crystal Palace football shirt which Pete had had signed by both past and present Crystal Palace players.

The shirt had been donated to the bar in Coín by expat Mitch James, who had acquired it from former Crystal Palace player, Darren Powell. Powell was not a Palace player at the time of the 1999 charity event, and so Pete is now trying to trace the story back to the original winner of the well-travelled shirt.

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New technologies in cosmetic medicine are producing more natural results

“We all have the need to feel good about how we look”, said Raquel Moreno at the ‘Science and Health’ conference organised by SUR and the Unicaja Foundation



ÁNGEL ESCALERA
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MALAGA. Human beings have been interested in beauty and the way they look since Paleolithic times. Of course the concept has changed over time, but there has always been a wish to look good and please others by one’s appearance. “We all have a need to feel good about the way we look and we want to stay young,” says Raquel Moreno Pentinel, an expert in cosmetic medicine and specialist in anti-ageing techniques, who recently took part in a conference organised by SUR and the Unicaja Foundation. At the conference, she spoke about the important advances which have been achieved in cosmetic medicine and said that the combination of technologies now available offers a more global perspective and produces optimum results which are more natural-looking.

The greater effectiveness and safety of the treatments now used in cosmetic medicine have meant that after the therapies have been applied patients look more natural. “What the people who come to us want is that, instead of being asked what they have had done, they are just told they look good,” said Dr Moreno Pentinel. She also pointed out that cosmetic medicine has always been seen as something frivolous but in fact it is a serious aspect of medicine and one which fulfils people’s wish to feel good about the way they look. “What is beauty?” she asked, before explaining that it is rather an abstract concept. “Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. It is a subjective perception which produces a pleasant sensation in us,” she said. This specialist in cosmetic medicine also explained that even children under the age of two understand the concept of beauty, and babies spend longer looking at the faces of



Dr Moreno Pentinel, speaking at the conference. :: GERMÁN POZO

good-looking people. Dr Moreno Pentinel also said that health and youth are two terms which are closely linked to beauty, and that something which is pleasant to look at also has moral connotations. To explain the concept more clearly, she referred to children’s stories in which the princesses are beautiful and the witches are ugly, and in films the heroes are good-looking and the villains are repulsive. After taking a look at the history of beauty over time, she talked about the growth in cosmetic medicine, which has stopped being something for and has become available to all social classes, which has increased the demand for such services. In 2017, nearly half of all women in Spain had undergone some type of beauty therapy, as had 18.4 per cent of men. The reason for this increase is associated with the key role that physical appearance plays in society and people’s self-esteem, not forgetting that in social relationships “nice-looking people are more acceptable”. She also pointed out that appearance has an influence in the workplace, to the extent that in some cases and some professions, people who look good receive a higher salary. The doctor pointed out that nowadays, when people are living longer, they are not resigned to losing their looks as they age and are more inclined to turn to cosmetic medicine. Nor are they alone. Their concern is also shared by young people, who start worrying about their appearance at an increasingly early age. She

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“The Costa del Sol has become lawless with people setting up with false qualifications”

:: A. ESCALERA

MALAGA. To practise cosmetic medicine, as well as being qualified in Medicine, it is necessary to have a Masters degree from a university or an accreditation from a College of Doctors, as well as the relevant training. Nevertheless, professional intrusion is still a major problem, explained Fernando Urdiales, the medical director and owner of the Miramar Medical Institute, during the talk he gave at the conference. “The Costa del Sol has become lawless in this respect, with people setting up with fake qualifications,” he said.

Dr Urdiales criticised the authori-

“Patients need to be very sure about whose hands they are placing themselves in”

also stressed that the future of cosmetic medicine is healthy, because the techniques are less invasive, safer and offer better and more natural results. “Knowing that we look good makes us feel more confident,” she said.

ties for not taking enough action to put an end to this type of fraud. “The Association of Cosmetic Doctors of Malaga has employed detectives and provided evidence to the judiciary system of illegal practices and the use of non-authorized products,” he said, and he warned that patients need to be very sure about whose hands they are placing themselves in. “The consumer needs to know exactly who and what they are dealing with,” he insisted.

Dr Raquel Moreno, an expert in cosmetic medicine, agreed that not enough is being done to investigate professional intrusion in her field, and she and Dr Urdiales stressed that good professionals always comply with all legal and safety requirements in cosmetic medicine. They both emphasised how important it is for patients to be properly diagnosed.

She said it is wrong to give people false expectations, and that she would never apply a treatment if she didn't think it was the right thing to do. “Nobody should ever promise results beyond the ones they can achieve,” she insisted.

Queens British Grammar School is 'Doing it for Laura'

The pupils have been making break-time sandwiches to help raise funds for a friend with a form of aggressive brain cancer

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

ESTEPONA. On Thursday and Friday last week the Queens British Grammar School in Estepona held an event to help raise money for nineteen-year-old Laura Nuttall. Laura, a family friend of a couple of the students, who lives in the UK, found out before Christmas that she has glioblastoma, an extremely aggressive form of brain cancer. The prognosis is poor with this disease and the length of survival following diagnosis is just 12 to 15 months. Fewer than three to five per cent of people survive longer than five years. Without treatment, survival is typically just three months.

While Laura is undergoing surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy, the family are trying to raise £150,000 to begin DCVax experimental immunotherapy treatment, currently not funded by the NHS.

The pupils of Queens British



Two pupils make chocolate spread sandwiches. :: sur

Grammar School have been making toasted sandwiches at school break times on Thursday and Friday and charging two euros per sandwich.

In just two days the school raised just under 500 euros.

The schools says that all donations would be hugely appreciated and they can be made through the family web page: www.go-fundme.com/ngdq37-doing-it-for-laura

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A doctor who lived among pygmies

Gynaecologist José María Porta lived with his wife in Malawi for two years and then trained in psychiatry

After 22 years as director of the Sagrado Corazón psychiatric hospital, his NGO 'Andalucía por un mundo nuevo' is now building a fish factory to breed tilapia in Malawi

|| JOSÉ VICENTE ASTORGA

MALAGA. Living in Malawi for two "extremely happy" years marked him for life, but there has been a before and after for this white-skinned doctor who speaks and writes chichewa. He has done nearly everything a doctor can do in this deepest part of Africa which won his heart, "but medicine in that part of the world is always a challenge," he says.

He fell in love with the country after collaborating, first as a sociology student and then as a doctor with the Padres Blancos association. His feelings for it have never changed. The wonderful countryside of the continent, and also India, meant that he took all his future holidays in those regions, most of them with his family.

He recalls the first time he worked with a doctor from Teruel, who brought him to the harshness of the leper colonies in Cameroon and carried out surgery on anyone he could with almost no resources, and amid the routines of war. "Come on, José María, we're going to cut fingers off today," he would say.

"For a leper in the 1960s there were only two remedies: surgery, or chaunura oil," he says, still amazed at the radical binomial. When he returned after that summer he began his career as a doctor, specialising in gynaecology, before perfecting his skills in hospitals in Canada, the USA and the UK. He turned to psychiatry later, following several stays in the pygmy villages. "It was in Africa that I learned the most psychiatry," he says. His vocation gave him the subject of his doctoral thesis, based on notes he had made in the jungle of Cameroon.

He moved to Malawi, on the other side, with his wife and young son who was just learning to walk, but he considers the experience of two uninterrupted years of cooperation, including creating a hos-

pital, to be very small compared with 'giants' like Pedro Cavadas, the surgeon from Valencia, and Teresa of Calcutta who he met in 1975 when people were only just beginning to talk about her.

"I have never seen anyone with her ability to give things up and do so much for others," says this doctor who is a Catholic and has great faith in everything he does, a psychiatrist who admires the polyfaceted Nobel Prize winner Albert Schweitzer and has a transcendent vision of man, inviting people to seek happiness in per-

He moved to Malaga because his wife couldn't cope with the lack of sunshine in Navarra, where he managed two hospitals

sonal projects and small things. "People in the African villages aren't happier than we are, as some think," he says, rebutting the myth that African villagers never suffer from depression.

His father used to be a commander with the Artillery, and when José María was young he once asked him about the sign saying 'Todo por la patria' above the door of the barracks. His father adapted his answer, and it has remained his philosophy ever since: "From the time we come into the world, we all have a mission and some people love others so much that they would give their life for them," he said.

Psychiatry

He says he wasn't a brilliant medical student, "but I was very tenacious", and talks about his time at the Faculty of Zaragoza, where he took his doctorate in psychiatry before moving to his first post in Seville. 'Magical-primitive thought and psychosomatic medicine in the village of Ngovayang' was the subject of his thesis in 1977, the academic work based on his experi-

ence on the ground where, he says, "almost nobody understood the solidarity work carried out by missionaries and doctors for nothing".

After helping to set up the NGO Médicos Mundi in Seville, in 2000 he began his own project - it is called Andalucía for a new world - which has 170 members between Malaga and Seville and the ability to mobilise 250,000 euros a year in cooperation.

As a cooperating doctor he knows the problems faced by medics in some countries, where bacteria and viruses are seen as "nothing more than the evil eye and curses from somebody who wishes them ill, because for them illness and death do not have an organic cause," he says.

Not only did he have to cope with ancient beliefs and a lack of resources, but competition from more than 50 witch-doctors as well.

"Families would come with their sick children, but it was a disaster. They trusted me, but they also believed the witch-doctors, so what they did was take their advice and give their children enemas when

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José María Porta Tovar. :: FRANCIS SILVA

they took them home from the hospital where we had been trying to hydrate them”.

When he came back from Malawi he needed financial security and took a job with the Navarra regional government. “I didn’t have many expenses in Africa, but when I came back I realised I was poor and hospital management seemed a good option,” he says.

For the past 22 years he has been the medical director at the Sagrado Corazón Psychiatric Hospital in Malaga.

“My wife, who is a saint,

couldn’t cope with the lack of sunshine in Navarra,” he laughs.

The seed he sowed all those years ago has grown like a baobab tree thanks to his NGO, which is now run by his son Javier, a biologist. “In Malawi, after the hospital and a farm, we are planning a fish factory to breed tilapias, a fish which is very resistant to illnesses,” he says.

José María is now writing his memoirs, and has just decided on a title for the book. It will be called ‘Mission accomplished, commander’, dedicated to his father.

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Spanish scientists eliminate HIV in the second patient in the world to be cured

The 'London patient' overcame the infection through a bone marrow transplant and has had no sign of the virus in his blood for a year and a half

FERMÍN APEZTEGUIA

BILBAO. An international group including renowned ICREA-IrsiCaixa researcher Javier Martínez Picado has managed to eradicate all signs of the Aids virus from the body of a patient through a bone marrow transplant. It is only the second time this has been achieved. Until now, the only person to have been cured through this technique was Timothy Brown, an American who lives in Germany, who until his name was made public five years ago was known as 'the Berlin patient'. That was in 2008 and it was described as an isolated case, and very difficult to replicate. However, it opened the door to hopes that one day a cure for HIV would be possible, and that now appears more

feasible.

The objective has been achieved by repeating, in someone now known as 'the London patient', the same therapy as the one which cured Brown, but with slight differences. This was also an HIV patient who had to be treated for a lymphoma (a malign tumor of the lymphatic glands) through a transplant of hematopoietic progenitor cells, or, which is the same thing, a bone marrow transplant. Now, as before, the procedure has managed to remove at a stroke all signs of the virus in the patient's blood.

The London patient, whose identity is being kept anonymous at present, has had no sign of Aids in his blood for 18 months, but even so the doctors prefer to remain cautious. In

The 'London patient' has shown no sign of the disease for 18 months but doctors are cautious

theory, the existence of analyses showing that there is no sign of HIV in his veins would imply that he is cured: if there is no infection, there is no illness, but they prefer not to celebrate too soon: it is always possible that the virus, which has a strong ability to mutate and hide, could reappear.

"We need to be prudent and we believe it is too soon to talk of a cure," said Javier Martínez-Picado at the press conference. "We know of previous cases which were not successful, and the virus reappeared within a year. What we can say is that this patient has needed no medication for a year and a half now".

Small differences

The stories of the Berlin and London patients are slightly different, although they appear very similar, and these differences make the second case much more hopeful. The American's transplant worked because the donor was part of the one per cent of the population who lack a protein called CCR5, which is one of the ways



Members of the research team are working in London. :: EFE

the virus enters the blood cells. At the time the therapy was thought unsuitable for most patients not only because of the high cost but because it would be impossible to find compatible donors for every patient in the world. So what has changed?

Something as simple as the fact that it was not as difficult as it seemed. The London patient's Aids virus was removed with a single transplant, while his predecessor needed two op-

erations. Also, ten years later, the preparatory measures for surgery in this case were much less aggressive, and the scientists were encouraged by the fact that both patients overcame a common complication, graft versus host syndrome. "That also confirms that the Berlin patient wasn't a one-off," said Martínez-Picado. "We believe it is possible to achieve total remission of the virus, without the need for aggressive treatments".

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New and exclusive wines and gourmet products at SUR Wines & Gourmet

Around 90 exhibitors will be at the event which takes place on 25 and 26 March in the Pórtico de Velásquez restaurant

:: M. MARTÍNEZ

MÁLAGA. A total of 88 stands and close to 40 companies from the world of wines and gourmet products will be at the first edition of SUR Wines & Gourmet, which is organised by SUR and its gastronomy supplement *Málaga en la Mesa*, and Grupo La Reserva.

The event will take place on Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 March, from midday until 8pm, in the Pórtico de Velásquez restaurant in Málaga.

Over 400 national and international wines will be on display, including exclusive and unique varieties. The different wineries, companies and distributors will offer their products to professionals (who can apply for a free pass on the event's website www.surwinesgourmet.es) and to the public who will be able to attend by buying a one-day ticket for 20 euros. Tickets are limited but can be bought through Oferplan (www.oferplan.diario-



SUR Wines & Gourmet will showcase wines and gourmet products. :: SUR

[sur.es](http://www.sur.es)) or through the event website.

And that is not all. People can also sign up for the dinner on 25 March at the Pórtico de Velásquez which will be serving dishes from the chefs of Michelin starred restaurants El Lago; el Cocinero Revelación de Madrid Fusión, Fernando Alcalá; José A. Rodríguez (Envero); Aitor Perurena (1870); and Inés Arias, of the Obrador Capriccio. The menu costs 60 euros and includes Rioja wines, Schweppes mixers, assorted Mondat breads and aperitif-cocktail with Beher Iberian cured ham,

Black River caviar, parmesan cheese from La Contadina, foie gras from Bodega de Ferm Adour and sparkling wines from D.O. Cava.

The dinner menu will include: vegetable ceviche from Frutas Eladio by El Lago, El Barquero cod with Taiwanese chick peas from Fernando Alcalá (Kava), organic roast lamb from the Grupo Norteños by José A. Rodríguez, premium beef duet from Norteños by Aitor Perurena and Malaga goats' cheese ice cream roll by Inés Arias.

More information and reservations can be obtained from El Pór-

tico de Velásquez between 10am and 7pm, call: 952 174 102.

SUR Wines & Gourmet are also offering the opportunity to attend exclusive tastings. Places are limited so bookings must be made in advance by emailing: direccion@surwinesgourmet.es or call 609 590 115 or 952 649 705.

The SUR Wines & Gourmet event will provide an endless number of options to try and learn about new and unique wines. Many outstanding bodegas and distributors will be at the show including: Picking Málaga, Sabor a Málaga, Ordóñez Distribuciones, GEVE, Pebar Distribuciones, Jorge Ordóñez, Bodegas Victoria Ordóñez, Excelsia Vinos y destilados, Dehesa de Luna, Bodegas Valdemar, Grupo Viñafiel, Bodega Doña Felisa, Varma, D.O. Rias Baixas, Bacalao El Barquero, Perimuz, La Contadina, Mondat, Comercial Torremolinos Costa, Bodegas y Viñedos Escudero, Entresieras, Bodega Rioja Vega, Bodegas Señorío de Nava, Buonaiuto Premium Wines, Distribuciones Narbona Solis, Exclusivas Soto, Bodegas Lara, Mazzocco Gourmet, Bodega Cuatro Rayas, Peralada & Chivite, D.O.C. Rioja, D.O. Cava, Frutas Eladio, Grupo Norteños, Disgesur, Cervinco Wines, Barbadillo and Gin Ballix.

Mijas pueblo's new gourmet route showcases the best gastronomy in the town

:: IVÁN GELIBTER

MIJAS. This weekend is the start of the first Gourmet Route in Mijas pueblo. Eight restaurants (Chema's Terrace, Fiesta, La Cucina di Nico, Latitud 36, Triana, La Bodega del Pintor, Alboka Gastro and Koko Café) are taking part and will be offering a fixed menu for 19 euros.

Mijas Tourism official Juan Carlos Acevedo explained: "Many towns already have a 'Ruta de Tapas' so we wanted to offer something a bit different in order to distinguish ourselves from the others. The 'gourmet' concept helps us to showcase the best of our local gastronomy."

Each restaurant will be designing its own special, gourmet menu which will include delicacies such as Mango curry and Salmorejo de Frambuesas with cured ham. The menus will be available for lunch or for dinner, until 14 April. Anyone wishing to vote for the best menu can collect a 'passport' from the town hall which comes with a map showing the location of each of the establishments taking part. Votes need to be handed in to the Tourist Office before 30 April.

NEW The establishment has renovated its facilities and turned its dining rooms into terraces on which to enjoy Estepona's great weather

RESTAURANTE PLAYA BELLA OPENS UP TO THE OUTDOORS WITH A NEW TERRACE

ESTEPONA

Since it first opened more than 45 years ago, Restaurante Playa Bella has managed to stand out for its commitment to quality and to its clients, always offering the very best of itself.

Therefore, it's hardly surprising that the restaurant has made the most of the quiet season to make improvements to the premises which will now provide its clients with an excellent experience.

The renovation work has mainly consisted of removing a wall and installing large glass panels which can be opened up to the outside. This provides the restaurant with a sensation of spaciousness, allowing clients to enjoy the outdoor areas and turning its dining rooms into comfortable terraces upon which to enjoy Estepona's great weather all year round.



Regarding the gastronomy, diners will continue to enjoy the new menu, which was presented a few months ago and has been very well received by all fans of good food.

PRIME MATERIALS AND SERVICE, THE KEYS TO PLAYA BELLA'S SUCCESS

Located within the urbanisation of the same name, next to Este-

pona's Playa de los Grana-dos beach, Restaurante Playa Bella has made a name for itself on Málaga's culinary scene thanks to its commitment to quality which is reflected both in the prime materials that are employed to carefully create its dishes and in the demeanour of its staff, who offer clients a friendly and professional service.

Specialising in meat and fish, the kitchen creates Andalusian dishes with international touches that leave nobody indifferent. The specialities, such as the Spinach crepes au gratin, "Playa Bella" or

honeyed shoulder of lamb, skewer of grouper with prawns and Indian curry or scrambled eggs with Burgos black pudding and pine nuts are all well worth a try. The homemade desserts also deserve a special mention, as do the wine cellar and the international beers.



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Restaurant launches special recipe to 'Heal The World'

Every month, the Vino Mío restaurant will select a Malaga NGO to support and raise awareness as well as funds

∴ SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. The owner of the Vino Mío restaurant in Malaga, Hélène Mosterman, came up with an idea to help local NGOs raise awareness while also increasing their funds.

The project 'Heal The World' will start in April and will include a special menu costing 30 euros of which 7 euros will go to charity, a Friday charity drink between 5 and 7pm of which three euros per glass goes to charity, the sale of merchandise such as T shirts, wines carrying the logo, a monthly gala and a family day.

The restaurant will invite a group of volunteers from each NGO every month as a gesture of appreciation for the work they do for others.

The first will be in April for Málaga

Dragon Boat, an association that helps support women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer.

In May it will be the turn of the NGO INPAVI which helps families at risk of social exclusion and /or poverty, and in June the Ronald McDonald Foundation will be the focus of the restaurant. Vino Mío has for many years had a close connection with this last charity which supports families of sick children and provides parents with accommodation during their child's treatment.

ANDREW J. LINN

CONSERVATIVE TO THE CORE



From time to time it is liberating to know that no Spanish readers will pick up on this column because it has never appeared in their language. This is one of those few occasions, as there are certain themes that yours truly cannot always take on board for fear of upsetting his Spanish colleagues.

For example, when you read these lines we will be three days away from the biggest wine event ever held in Malaga. A two-day marathon, sponsored by this same media group, it has no rival in Andalucía, and although organised primarily for professionals, the interpretation of the term is wide; (SurWines 25-26 March, El Portico de Velázquez. Ask for an invitation on the website).

There are several ways of going about a massive wine-tasting like this. The amateur way is to treat it as a freebie session, and glug down whatever comes to hand. Better to head straight to the stands where there is not a familiar bottle in sight. The majority of our Spanish friends visiting this class of exhibition will be more interested in checking to see if their old Rioja and Ribera del Duero favourites are still the same as they were the week previously, which can be translated as meaning they have almost zero interest in anything innovative or unfamiliar.

It has always been said that

drinkers in non-wine producing countries are more adventurous, as they have fewer prejudices and preconceived ideas, an opinion I subscribe to wholeheartedly. To describe your average Spanish wine-lover as conservative would be over-egging it. One bibulous acquaintance told me that after a lifetime of being faithful to the Muga bodega, he has recently changed his allegiance to another great Rioja producer, Remirez de Ganuza. For him, as he described it, it had been one of the most important emotional decisions of his life – and the truth is that it probably was. Give me the Anglo-Saxon or north European aficionado any time, prejudice-free and ready to try anything.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Cerro Añon Crianza 2015

In the range of Riojas there are overpriced wines, cheap and cheerful wines, and wines that are such good value for money it is as if their existence was almost a secret. Like this blend of Tempranillo with a splash of Garnacha and Mazuelo, excellently balanced and with 16 months in oak that gives it the right finish. Around 10€, and better value than the Reserva.



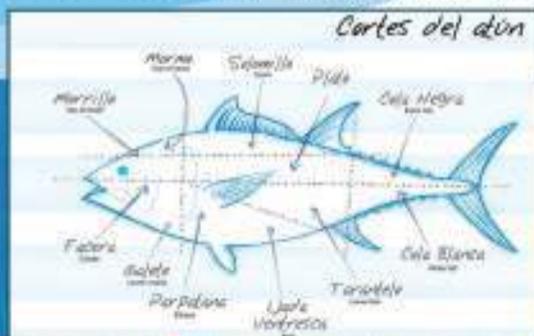
A BAKERY WITH 137 YEARS OF HISTORY

The Hermanos Guerrero bakery in Benalauría is about to celebrate its 137th anniversary and is still run by the Guerrero family, now in its fourth generation. The bakery first opened its doors in 1882 when Miguel Guerrero decided to celebrate the christening of one of his sons by making his oven available for neighbours to use. Every year on the Tuesday of Holy week, villagers keep up the tradition by taking items to be baked in the original oven.



∴ SUR

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*At the moment 9 out of 10 can save money on their energy bill if they switch to Energy Nordic (based on our current customer profile)

EXHIBITIONS

Ice Age Europe Now

Gibraltar. *Until end of May, Commonwealth Park.*

An open-air photography exhibition of fascinating finds and objects that connect the past and present from over 15 locations across Europe.



Olga Picasso, Malaga

El Arte de Pincel

Estepona. *Until 22 March. Casa de las Tejerinas, Plaza las Flores.*

Art works by El Rincón de los Pintores art group.

Julia Roder

San Pedro. *Until 8 April. Arte Sonsoles, C/Santa Gemma.*

A new exhibition of works by artist Julia Roder. Open afternoons 5-8pm, mornings by appointment only. info@artesonsoles.com artesonsoles.com

Anna Schellberg

Marbella. *Until 30 June. Amare Beach Hotel, Plaza José Luque Manzano.*

The exhibition, entitled Urban Power will be inaugurated on 21 March.

Be A Woman And Smile

San Pedro. *Until 29 March. Es.Arte Gallery, Avda del Mediterráneo.*

A total of 15 national and international artists are displaying their works which focus on the strengths, understanding, sensibility and beauty of the female form.

Saltimbanquis

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

The new exhibition is entitled 'Picasso 1904-1906: La Suite de los Saltimbanquis'. It is the first series of engravings made by Picasso with the technique of etching.

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.

Olga Picasso

Malaga. *Until 2 June. Museo Picasso Malaga.*

Olga Khokhlova was Picasso's first wife. This exhibition is based on

their relationship and how it and the time of political and social change affected his art.

Van Gogh Alive

Malaga. *Until 9 June. The marquee in Malaga port. 10am-8pm.*

A multi-media exhibition that brings the life and paintings of the Dutch artist Van Gogh 'alive'.

Painting exhibition

Mijas. *Until 25 March. Centro Cultural La Cala de Mijas.*

Students from the UP de Mijas will be exhibiting a selection of their work.

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.

Galería Krabbe

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

Collective exhibition of art at the Krabbe gallery. Email: galeriakrabbe@gmail.com



Lázara Moreno, Mijas

rabbe@gmail.com

Clara Isabel Pastor

Fuengirola. *Until 18 April. Homes Estate & Art, Avda Los Boliches*

An exhibition of paintings and sculpture by Clara Isabel Pastor.

Naked Art

Torre del Mar. *Until 21 April. Nuestra Sra. del Carmen shopping centre.*

An exhibition by a collection of artists.

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. The inauguration is on 22 February from 7pm. <http://www.artistsnetworkalpujarra.com>

Photograph exhibition

La Herradura. *Until 30 March. Centro Cívico.*

The II Muestra Fotográfica Colectiva Granada Nueve is organised by the FotoClub Almuñécar / La Herradura and is a collection of around one hundred photos on various themes taken by the members of the 14 Granada groups that come under the Granada Nueve umbrella.



Naked art, Torre del Mar.

CHARITY

ARCH charity walk

Coín. *23 March, 10.30am. Meet at The Ginger Pig. 5€.*

A walk along the river to raise money for the Andalusian Rescue centre for Horses. Contact Sabina: 637444098. Facebook Centro Andalusi de Rescate de Caballos or www.horsescuespain.org

Mods and Rockers

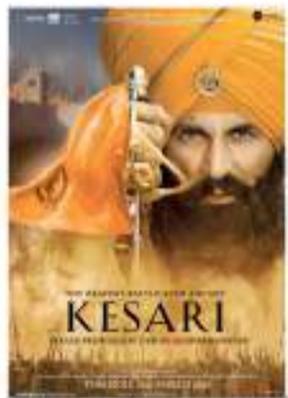
Mijas. *30 March. Millenium Bar, Calahonda. 10€*

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 'butterly skin'. DJ Steve Goodey will also be there and Los Motos Locos Scooter Club will be exhibiting their Lambrettas and Vespas. Tickets: the Millenium Bar in Calahonda or DEBRA offices in Marbella.



MOVIE LISTING
From Friday 22nd
to Thursday 28th March

ORIGINAL VERSION SUBTTLED SPANISH



KESARI

Director Anurag Singh
Starring Akshay Kumar, Parineeti Chopra, Edward Sonnenblick
HISTORICAL DRAMA - 140 min.

The story of a Sikh warrior who participates in the Battle of Saragarhi while yearning for the respect of his estranged daughter.

Friday 22: 22:00
Saturday 23: 22:20
Sunday 24: 16:00



THE KID WHO WOULD BE KING

Friday 22: 18:00
Saturday 23 and Sunday 24: 15:40, 18:00
From Monday 25 to Thursday 28: 18:00



THE MULE

Friday 22: 20:30
From Saturday 23 to Thursday 28: 20:30, 22:45



US

Director Jordan Peele
Starring Lupita Nyong'o, Winston Duke, Elisabeth Moss
HORROR - 116 min.

A family's serenity turns to chaos when a group of doppelgängers begins to terrorize them.

Friday 22: 18:00
Saturday 23 and Sunday 24: 15:40, 18:00
From Monday 25 to Thursday 28: 18:00



ESCAPE ROOM

Friday 22: 22:45
Saturday 23: 17:45, 22:45
Sunday 24: 17:50, 22:45
From Monday 25 to Thursday 28: 20:15, 22:45



CAPTAIN MARVEL

Friday 22: 18:10
Saturday 23: 15:45, 18:10
Sunday 24: 11:30, 15:45, 18:10
From Monday 25 to Thursday 28: 18:10



HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD

Friday 22: 18:10
Saturday 23: 15:45, 18:00
Sunday 24: 11:45, 15:50
From Monday 25 to Thursday 28: 18:00



GREEN BOOK

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

From Saturday 23 to Thursday 28: 20:10



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 Málaga charities. Tickets: ticketea.com More information on Facebook Piano Paradiso.

Salliver School Charity Run

Fuengirola. 31 March, from 11am. *Reserva del Higuero urbanisation.* To raise money for Cudeca cancer Hospice, the Salliver School has organised a 4km and a 8km charity run with the support of the staff at Reserva del Higuero. Inscription is 5€ and can be done at the school, at the Reserva or by email (sportclub@reservadelhigueronresort.com).



Dulcie. ADANA Dog Show.

Charity dinner for El Refugio del Burrito

Mijas Costa. 5 April, 8pm. *Da Bruno Ristorante, Centro Idea.* 39.90€
A charity three-course dinner with live entertainment and raffle with 10€ of each ticket going to the donkey sanctuary. Reservations: 952460724 or email mijas-costa@dabrano.com or 654513380, starbabies5@gmail.com

Grand National Day

Mijas 6 April, from 2pm. *Hotel Tamisa Golf.* 35€.
A complimentary drink on arrival followed by a Grand buffet at 2.30pm. Guests can bet on the horses in the line up at Aintree with all races covered starting with the GasKells Handicap at 2.45pm. The Grand National will be shown at 6.15pm. live entertainment provided by Mr Maph & Simone and DJ Lee Jay. 10€ from each ticket goes to Cudeca Cancer Hospice. Bookings: 952585988 or email: reservas@hoteltamisa-golf.com

'Unconquered' regimental bands

Gibraltar. 22-23 March, from 7.30pm. *St Michael's Cave, Gibraltar.* 20 pounds 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. tickets from: www.buyticketsgi

Charity coffee mornings

Festival to promote folklore and gastronomy of Argentina

BY TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. The Argentinian community of the Costa del Sol will come together in Arroyo de la Miel this weekend to enjoy the Festival Hispano Argentino. The three-day festival, which begins today (Friday) and continues until Sunday, 24 March, will promote the folklore, music and gastronomy of Argentina.

Live music and entertainment will include traditional Argentinian folk, rock and pop music and spectacular tango and ballet shows performed by the Ballet Raíces Argentinas, Dúo Tango, Los Gauchos and the Ballet Martín Fierro among others.

The festival will also promote Argentinian cuisine and visitors can choose from suckling pig, whole racks of ribs and giant steaks cooked over wood and charcoal barbecues, or an array of regional specialties, like empanadas (spicy meat pasties) and Quilmes, one of the coun-



Festival will promote Argentinian folklore and gastronomy. BY TB.

try's favourite beers. There will also be a small street market selling typical Argentinian clothing, wines, sweet delicacies and souvenirs.

The festival is organised by Benalmádena town hall and Babbab Eventos and visitors will enjoy a huge paella that will be cooked each day at 2pm by Gerado Sobrón, one of Malaga's most renowned chefs.

Held in the Plaza de la Mezquita from 1pm, the festival is based on the traditional gaucho festival. The gaucho (skilled horsemen) is a national symbol in Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay. They became greatly admired and renowned in legends, folklore and literature and were an important part of South America's regional cultural tradition.

Estepona. Last Wednesday of each month, from 9am. *Retro Café, Avda Luis Braille, Puerto Deportivo.*

Every last Wednesday of the month, from 9am until 12pm starting 27 March, the Retro Café will be holding a charity coffee morning with raffle to raise money for Cudeca Cancer Hospice. Information about the work of Cudeca will be available on these days.

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 or events@adana.es

MUSIC & DANCE



Luz Casal, Granada

The Wall Bar

Malaga. *Hotel Vincci Posada del Patio, 11pm, entry free.*
23 March. María Shislo and Jorge Muñoz. Tributes to Amy Winehouse, Prince, Adele, The Cranberries etc.
30 March. Chela Jazz Duo. Guitar

and vocals, jazz and blues.

Louie Louie Live

Estepona. *Louie Louie Bar.*
22 March, midnight John Doe presents his CD Indomable. 5€
29 March, midnight Top Secret in concert. 5€.
6 April, midnight Los Brazos present their new album Live. 10€. <https://entradium.com/events/los-brazos-louie-louie-rock-estepona>

Hermanos Cuenca piano and guitar concert

Torremolinos. 22 March, 8pm. *Casa de la Cultura.* Free.
José Manuel Cuenca (piano) and Francisco Cuenca (guitar) will be playing pieces by composers Albéniz, Granados, Falla and Buendía among others.

Tosca

Malaga. 23 March, from 8.30 pm. *St George's chapel, The English Cemetery, Avda de Pries.* 15€.
The opera Tosca by Puccini will be performed by El Último Trovador company. Tickets: www.cementarioinglesmalaga.org/

Teresa Karcher

Estepona.
23 March, 8pm. *Las Brisas Golf Club.* 55€.
24 March, 8.30pm. *La Veranda Restaurant, Royal Tennis Club, El Rosario.* 30€.
Soprano Teresa Karcher, accompanied by vocalist nivole Panizza performing works by Spanish composer, Manuel de Falla, and ancient Spanish folk songs.

Shotta Salvaje tour

Malaga. 23 March, from 9.30pm.

and orchestra in A minor and with Pablo Amorós on piano. In the second part they will play Shostakovich's Symphony n°9 in B flat Major.

Malaga. *Teatro Cervantes*
28, 29 March, 8pm. Paul Dukas The Sorcerer's Apprentice, Astor Piazzolla Escualo for horn in D with string orchestra and Invierno Porteño; Heitor Villa-lobos Bachianas Brasileiras for horn in F with string orchestra. Pablo Sarasate Aires Gitanos with Paco Flores on trumpet. In part two: Ralph Vaughan Williams Fantasy on a Theme by Thomas Tallis and Ottorino Respighi The Pines of Rome.

Malaga. Sala María Cristina

22 March, 8pm.
Beethoven's Concert N°5 for piano and orchestra followed by Mozart's Symphony N°41.

Luz Casal

Granada. 22 March, from 9.30m. *La Sala García Lorca, Palacio de Congresos y Exposiciones.*
Luz Casal presents her new album 'Que Corre el Aire' at this concert in Granada, the start of a tour of the same name. Tickets: www.redentradas.com

Murgas and Comparsas for Carnaval

Torremolinos. 22 March, from 9pm. *Auditorio Municipal Príncipe de Asturias.*
The finals of the competition of murgas and comparsas (two types of musical styles performed by exuberantly dressed performers) takes place on Friday 22 March.

Festival of Young Voices

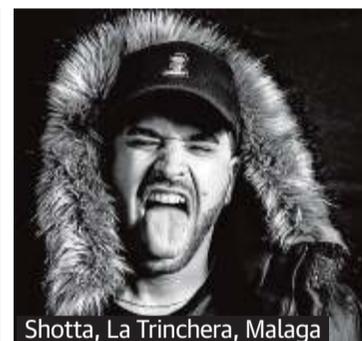
Almuñécar. 23 March, 8pm. *La Encarnación church.*
The Pedro de Mena child choir and the Ciudad de Almería orchestra will be conducted by Michael Thomas and José Antonio Pérez.

Nancy Ruth

Almuñécar. 4 April, 8pm. *Casa de la Cultura.* 10€.
Nancy Ruth, singer, composer and pianist, combines jazz, flamenco and Latin rhythms in her concerts which have toured Australia and Spain. www.nancyruth.com

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.



Shotta, La Trinchera, Malaga

Sala La Trinchera, C/La Parauta.
Rapper Shotta presents his new album Salvaje and is accompanied by DJ PLM and guest artist Toteking plus others to be confirmed. Tickets from Superskunk (C/Granada), Disaster (C/Córdoba) and South Urban (El Tocal quarter).

Sacral music

Frigiliana. 23 March, 8pm. *Casa del Apero.* 15€.
The Trío Polimnia (formed by members of the OFM) will be playing The Goldberg Variations. reservations: 690073871 or www.ventana-abierta.es

Film Symphony Orchestra

Malaga. 24 March 7pm, *Palacio de Ferias y Congresos.*
The music of John Williams will be the subject of the concert by the Film Symphony Orchestra. They will play tracks from films such as Star Wars, Memories of a Geisha, JFK, The Patriot, Jurassic Park, Fiddler On The Roof, The Adventures Of Tin Tin, Indiana Jones etc.

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

Malaga. *Auditorio Edgar Neville*
5 April, 8pm.
Schumann's Concerto for piano



Nancy Ruth, Almuñécar / Malaga

FLAMENCO

Flamenco in the Museum

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

23 March. Marcos Morales and Marta Cañizares.

28 March. Nico Jurado and his dance group.

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

Teresa Barbero Salcedo

Almuñécar. 22 March, from 8pm. Casa de la Cultura.

The first showing of Primigenia directed by the dancer and Adrián Sánchez.

Mayte Martín

Malaga. 7 April, 8pm. Museo Picasso Málaga.

Composer, singer and guitarist Mayte Martín will be performing her new show Memento. Tickets: www.museopicassomalaga.org

LECTURES

Landscape Architecture in Europe

Malaga. 22 March, 8pm. St George's Anglican Church, English Cemetery of Malaga. Free. A talk entitled 'Gardens around the corner. Landscape Architecture in Europe'. The lecturer is José Valdeón, a garden landscape designer with wide experience in both Atlantic and Mediterranean gardening.

The Arts Society Benahavis

Benahavis. 26 March, 6.30pm. Benahavis town hall.

'Helsinki: Jewel of Art Nouveau' Lecturer Brian Healey. The talk shows how art, architecture, music and literature came together in Finland in the latter years of the 19th century and helped turn its capital city into a jewel of art nouveau.

www.theartssocietybenahavis.com



Mayte Martín, Malaga

U3A Lectures

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

History:

The Hanoverian Kings

26 March, 10.45am-12.15pm.

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

FESTIVALS

La Cazuela de Abuela

Fuengirola. Until 24 March.

Head to Granada to sample craft beers from across Spain

JENNIE RHODES

GRANADA. The fourth Granada Beer Festival will be taking place on Friday 5 and Saturday 6 April at the city's Feria de Muestras de Armilla. Over 150 craft beers from across Spain will be represented, ranging from low-alcohol lagers to fruit and vintage beers and the 35 brewers participating in the event will be on hand to talk about their products. The event will give visitors the opportunity to learn about combining cheese with beer and even the best kind of chocolate to accompany the drink. There will also be a beer-making workshop.

Stalls will be selling a variety of food, from pizza to sushi and children will be able to enjoy the bouncy castle and other activities. There is live music on both days, including a Metallica tribute band on the Friday.

Tickets are available via the Granada Beer Festival website



The festival will offer over 150 craft beers. :: EFE

INFORMATION

► **What:** Granada Beer Festival

► **Where:** Feria de Muestras de Armilla, Carretera de Armilla

► **When:** Friday 5 and Saturday 6 April

► **Tickets:** www.granadabeer-festival.com

(www.granadabeerfestival.com) and can be bought at the venue on Friday (5 € in advance, 7 € from the box office on the day).

Tickets for Saturday (7€) include a number of free gifts and promotions, including two free beers on arrival and discounts for the activities and workshops. However these must be bought in advance and there is already limited availability for that day.

A total of 58 bars and restaurants are taking part in the festival which consists of a tapas route to try traditional stews served in earthenware dishes. The price for a tapa and a drink is 2€.

Día de la Tagarina

Villanueva del Rosario. 23 March from 9.30am.

The village's sixth annual gastronomic festival dedicated to the tagarina, a type of wild thistle. There will be live music, a food market and children's activities.

EVENTS

TOPS comedy play

Alhaurín el Grande. 29, 30 March, from 6.30pm. Asfahal, La Rosa Industrial Estate. 20€.

Quartet is a comedy written by Ronald Harwood and directed by Marjorie Arthurs. Tickets from Cristina's in AEG. Includes three-course-meal and adrink.

Reservations: topsforcharity@gmail.com

The Mustard Seed Gang

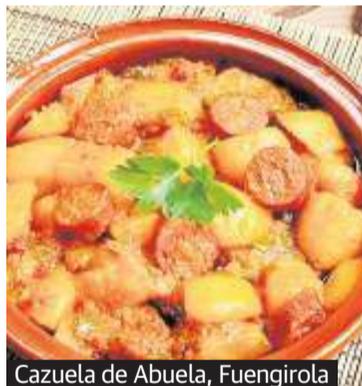
Alhaurín El Grande. 23 March, 3-4.30pm. Cemetery Chapel.

Fun for all the family, story telling, crafts for kids, songs etc. For more information: 655342874

TAPAS Spring Fair and Easter Bake-Off

Coín. 30 March, noon -3pm. Bar El Cruce.

Stalls selling gifts, refreshments, crafts etc plus music and raffles. The TAPAS choir will be performing live. Contact Angela Stopforth: 685386923 or email: publicity@tapassociety.com.



Cazuela de Abuela, Fuengirola

Santa Maria Polo Club

Sotogrande. from 28 March until 14 July.

Weekly tournaments usually start on Thursday or Friday and run until Sunday. Admission is free and food and drink is available to purchase. On Family Polo Sundays there are extra foodie options, entertainment, kids play area and VIP area. Weekly matches typically start at 4pm and run until 7.30pm and from 11.30am until 2pm on Sundays. www.santamariapoloclub.com

Thespa

Los Boliches. 27 March, 7.30pm. Masonic Hall, Edf Bougainvillea. Members 16€, guest 18€.

The first one-act play will be 'Breaking The Ice' by Raymond Hughes. This is followed by dinner. The second play will be 'Good In The Kitchen' by David Kitchener. Reservations (by 24 March): thespabooking@gmail.com or call: 652726624

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 city, visit the Prado Museum. In Segovia take a guided tour of the city. Full details contact www.luxmundi.org/

'Blood Brothers' theatre visit

Torre del Mar. 1-5 April. Various departure points. 31€.

Blood brothers is a musical by Willy Russell being performed at the Salon Varietés, Fuengirola.

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

Monday-Thursday

The Favourite: 21.30.

Green Book: 20.15, 22.30.

At Eternity's Gate: 17.00, 19.00.

Cinesur El Ingenio

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

Captain Marvel: 16.55, 19.30 (Mon, Tues, Thurs); 15.50, 18.10 (every day).

Mule: 18.00, 20.15 (Tues).

Us: 11.50, 15.50, 18.10 (every day).

Cinesur Miramar

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

Captain Marvel: 12.25, 16.15, 18.45, 21.15, 23.45 (every day).

Mule: 16.10 (every day).

Us: 12.20, 16.20, 21.30, 0.00 (every day).

Stan & Ollie: 15.50 (every day).

Degas: A Passion For Perfection: 20.00 (Mon), 16.00 (Tues).

Cines Teatro Goya

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

The Kid Who Would Be King: 15.40 (Sat, Sun); 18.00 (every day).

Green Book: 20.10 (Sat-Thurs). **Escape Room:** 17.45 (Sat); 17.50 (Sun); 20.15 (Mon-Thurs); 22.45 (every day).

Captain Marvel: 11.30 (Sun); 15.45 (Sat, Sun); 18.10 (every day).

How To Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World: 11.45, 15.50 (Sun), 15.45 (Sat); 18.00 (Sat, Sun); 18.10 (Fri).

The Mule: 20.30 (every day), 22.45 (Sat-Thurs).

Us: 15.40 (Sat, Sun); 18.00 (every day).



Mustard Seed Gang, AEG

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

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

Tel: 902 902 103 or visit www.yelmocines.es

Stan & Ollie: 15.55 (Fri, Mon-Thurs), 19.50 (every day).

Captain Marvel: 16.20, 18.50 (every day).

Us: 12.45 (Sat, Sun); 18.00 (Mon-Thurs); 20.20 (Fri, Sat, Sun).

Green Book: 00.10 (Sat, Sun), 18.45 (Tues).

Mule: 21.35 (every day).

The Kid Who Would Be King: 16.45 (Tues).

How To Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World: 17.55 (Tues).

On The Basis Of Sex: 18.35 (Tues).

Alita: Battle Angel: 19.15 (Tues).

Escape Room: 20.15 (Tues).

Bohemian Rhapsody: 22.15 (Tues)

Yelmo Cines, Rincón de la Victoria

Calle Arroyo Totalán Tel: 902 220 922 or visit www.yelmocines.es

Captain Marvel: 12.00 (Sat), 13.00 (Sun); 22.00 (Tues).

Green Book: 19.00 (Tues).

Mule: 20.00 (Tues).

Us: 20.15 (Tues)

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

Captain Marvel: 12.20 (Sat, Sun); 20.50 (Tues).

The Kid Who Would Be King: 13.15 (Sat, Sun), 18.50 (Tues).

Green Book: 18.35 (Tues).

At Eternity's Gate: 17.05 (Tues).

Us: 19.10 (Tues).

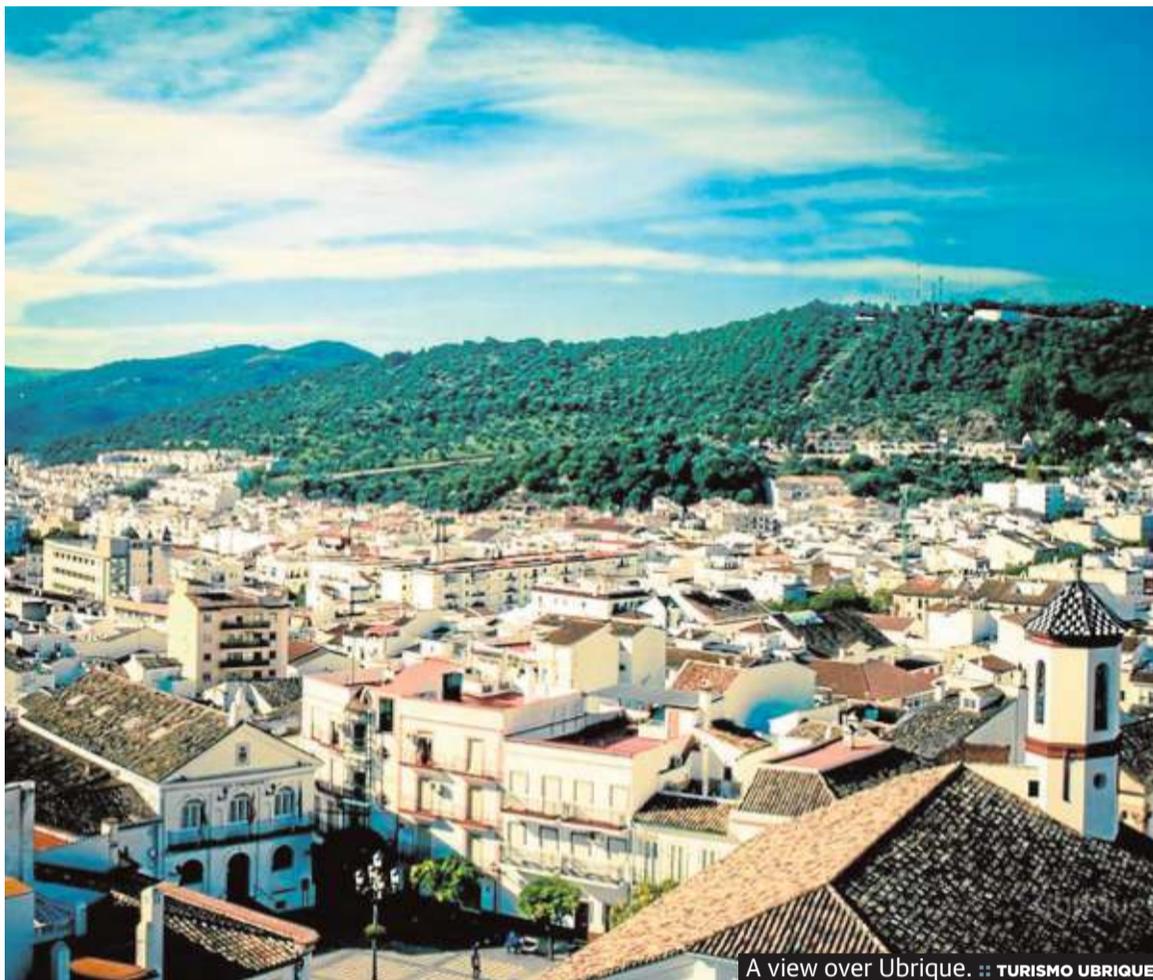
Mule: 19.15 (Tues).

Escape Room: 20.10 (Tues).

Stan & Ollie: 20.25 (Tues).

Alita: Battle Angel: 21.20 (Tues).

DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA



A view over Ubrique. :: TURISMO UBRIQUE

JAVIER
ALMELLONES

A town in Cadiz with the taste of spring

2 days in Ubrique

Car+walking.

Journey time: 2 hours and 20 minutes from Malaga.

Gastronomic event: 4 hours.

Cultural visits: 4 hours.



Paceful walks through beautiful scenery, different museums and monuments to visit and a very traditional cuisine are just some of the attractions to be found in Ubrique in the spring.

This small town, which is also famous for its artisan leather, is an ideal destination for those who want to relax amid stunning mountains and lush meadows.

Thanks to its location, Ubrique is in two natural parks, Grazalema and Los Alcornocales, and there are numerous walking routes within the municipality and in other nearby towns and villages in Cadiz province.

In addition, though, Ubrique is a destination with numerous cultural and historical attractions, and those interested in its religious buildings should make a point of seeing the San Antonio chapel, in a unique location with lovely views, and the main church, the Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de la O, in a pretty square in the historic town centre.

To find out more about its past, there are two museums which can be visited, and both are situated in buildings with religious origins. The History of Ubrique information centre is in the Ermita de San Juan de Letrán chapel, and the permanent exhibition 'Manos y Magia en la Piel', about the local leather industry, is in a former Capuchin convent.

Just outside Ubrique, it is also possible to visit what was once the town of Ocuri, which dates back to the sixth century BC although most of the remains which can be seen today are from Roman times.

Spring is also the perfect time of year for a visit to

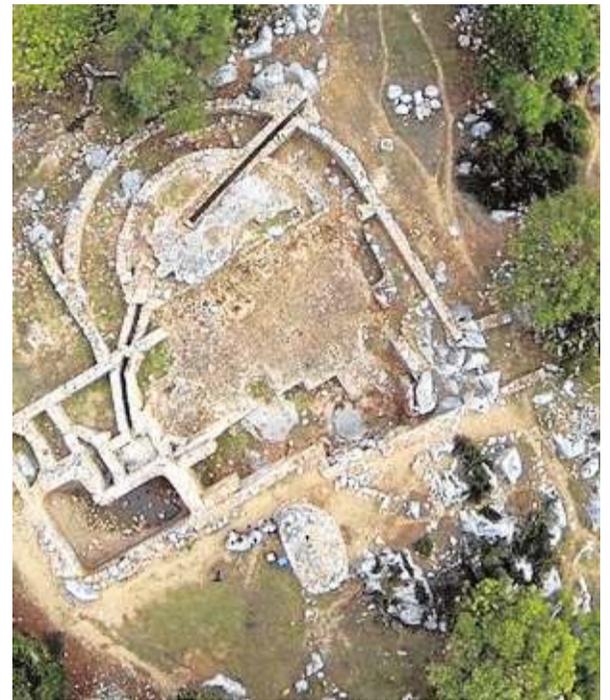
this pretty town in Cadiz province. In fact, on Saturday 23 March a gastronomic event is taking place, the seventh edition of the Migas Competition.

Organised by a local residents' association, this competition shows how the traditional 'migas cocías' spicy breadcrumb dish is made and afterwards portions are given out so people can sample it.

The basic ingredients are very simple: breadcrumbs, extra virgin olive oil, garlic, onion, tomato and pepper. There are different variations and other ingredients can be added to taste, but tradition dictates that the authentic 'migas' from Ubrique have to be made over a wood fire.

With this event, Ubrique is preparing for a spring filled with interesting activities, including the 'Gañotada', a traditional competition based on a local type of confectionery.

Once Holy Week is over, on 3 May, the Festival of the Crosses will take place and then the 'Crujía de los Gamones', a very unusual event during bonfires are made of these plants which grow in the countryside around the village.



QUICK GUIDE

What to visit in Ubrique

Ermita de San Antonio. Emblematic chapel with lovely panoramic views over the town centre. *Calle La Torre, s/n. 11600 Ubrique.e.*

Ocuri. Remains from the Roman period and earlier, situated in an area known as the Salto de la Mora. *A-374 Ubrique to Benaocaz road, km. 1. 11600 Ubrique.*

History Information Centre. A museum inside the old San Juan de Letrán chapel, telling the story of Ubrique's past. *Plaza de San Juan, s/n. 11600 Ubrique.*

Church of Nuestra Señora de la O. The main church of Ubrique. *Plaza de la Constitución, s/n. 11600 Ubrique.*

Leather museum. An information centre about the local leather industry, situated in a former Capuchin convent. *Avenida Herrera Oria, s/n. 11600 Ubrique.*

World Padel Tour Marbella approaches final

The World Padel Tour is set to crown the winners in Marbella on Sunday, as the eight day tournament draws to a close

:: IVÁN GELIBTER

MARBELLA. After several years hiatus, the World Padel Tour began last Saturday, 16 March in Marbella. To celebrate 70 years of the sport, ex-tennis player and Wimbledon champion, Manolo Santana, served as the 'godfather' to the event. Players this year included the most distinguished padel player, Carolina Navarro, and number 4 in the world, Francisco 'Paquito' Navarro.

Marbella is the starting point for this circuit that will tour nine countries, with 56 female and 100 male pairs, of 17 nationalities taking part.

Local players from Malaga are well represented in the tournament. Junior world champion José Solano and his partner Alejandro Arroyo lost to Javier González Barahona and An-

tonio Luque, so despite the strong pairing, they did not make it to the final rounds.

The Malaga women were out in force for their first matches on 20 March. Carolina Navarro, Bea González and Mari Carmen Villalba all won their first matches, showing their hard work in preseason training was paying off. Carolina Navarro, the most decorated padel player in history, with her partner, defeated rivals Isabel Dominguez and Vanessa Alonso in two sets. The young Malaga players, Carmen Castellón and Marta Caparrós left a positive feeling for the future of padel. As two very talented young players, they are the ones to watch.

Alex Ruiz, was the only male Malaga player left in the tournament on Thursday, after Jerónimo González and Matías Marina failed to qualify for the next round.

The finals of this event, for both men and women, will be held at the Palacio de los Deportes Elena Benitez in San Pedro de Alcántara on Sunday.



Fernando Belasteguín, the best player in history. :: WPT



Carolina Navarro, Manolo Santana and Paquito Navarro :: WPT



Alex Ruiz was the only male Malaga player left on Thursday :: WPT

Top players fight for Casino Admiral Trophy and the Marbella ATP Challenger title

:: JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

MALAGA. The final of the Marbella ATP Challenger will be played Sunday 31 March at 11am. It will be held on the central court of the Manolo Santana courts, with a live broadcast from Eurosport. Tickets will be free for the first two days of competition, with charges rising as the play continues.

The tournament, which starts on Monday 25 March, has announced that it has reserved a place for a major player on the international circuit. Other than this, the registration is now closed.

Among the competitors are three players from Malaga known as the 'Malagueño armada'. It consists of Adrián Menéndez, Alejandro Davidovich and Carlos Gómez Herrera.

The Casino Admiral Trophy tournament will have three of the 'top 100' players in the world taking part. The Frenchman Benoît Paire is 69th in the world. The Spaniard Pablo Andújar and the Czech Jiří Veselý are the other two highest ranked players. The organisers of the tournament have assured that there is still one final surprise; in the form of a player coming straight from the Miami Masters. The doubles competition will consist of 16 pairs. Gómez Herrera and Marko Djokovic, the brother of world number one Novak Djokovic, will compete as guests.



Adrián Menéndez :: SUR

DAYS OF COMPETITION

► **25&26 March.** Entrance will be free to watch the first two days of play.

► **27&28 March.** Tickets for the next few days of play will be 10 euros per entrance.

► **29-31 March.** The final three days of play will be able to be viewed at the stadium for 25 euros. There will also be a live streaming of the final available on Eurosport.

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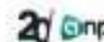
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Numancia players celebrate their goal as Malaga's N'Diaye looks on. :: AGENCIA LOF

LA LIGA 123

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

Table	TEAM	PT	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
★	1. Osasuna	60	30	18	6	6	41	26
★	2. Granada	57	30	16	9	5	37	18
■	3. Albacete	53	30	14	11	5	37	23
■	4. Deportivo	52	30	13	13	4	40	22
■	5. MALAGA	51	30	14	9	7	31	22
■	6. Cádiz	48	30	13	9	8	39	25
	7. Mallorca	48	30	13	9	8	38	28
	8. Oviedo	48	30	13	8	9	34	32
	9. Almería	44	30	11	11	8	33	26
	10. Alcorcón	43	30	12	7	11	30	28
	11. Sporting	42	30	11	9	10	33	28
	12. Las Palmas	41	30	9	14	7	34	32
	13. Numancia	36	30	8	12	10	35	36
	14. Elche	36	30	8	12	10	30	35
	15. Zaragoza	34	30	8	10	12	31	36
	16. Tenerife	33	30	6	15	9	25	33
	17. R. Majadahonda	33	30	9	6	15	27	41
	18. Lugo	32	30	7	11	12	29	37
▼	19. Extremadura	27	30	6	9	15	33	41
▼	20. Gimnàstic	24	30	6	6	18	18	44
▼	21. Córdoba	22	30	4	10	16	34	56
▼	22. Reus	0	30	5	6	19	16	36

Malaga's draw against Numancia takes them further away from direct promotion

After going a goal down during a poor first half, the Blue and Whites picked up speed and managed to equalise after the break in Soria on Monday night

■ SERGIO CORTÉS

MALAGA. After what seems like an endless string of draws, Malaga desperately need a win to boost both their spirits and their position on the league table. The point they gained after the 1-1 result against Numancia on Monday night has pushed them down to fifth place in La Liga 123, Spain's second division.

Coach Muñoz went out onto the pitch in a chilly Los Pajaritos stadium with Renato in his starting lineup, a surprising decision that

could only be explained by a need to save Iván Alejo and Hugo for later due to recent injury.

He also chose to start with Seleznov up front instead of Blanco, presumably because of the latter's recent goal drought. The Ukrainian failed to deliver, however, never being where he should have been and always arriving late.

Meanwhile, another of Muñoz's starting players, Mula, failed to provide the much-needed flow down the wing, leaving too many gaps



Ricca leaps to control the ball ahead of a Numancia player. :: A. LOF

1-1
NUMANCIA-MALAGA

Numancia: Juan Carlos; Ganea (Luis Valcarce, 46'), Gutiérrez, Atienza, Unai Medina (Nacho, 13'), Escassi; Fran Villalba, Kako (Higinio, 66'), Diamanka, Yeboah, David Rodríguez. Unused substitutes: Gaizka Campos, Derik, Viguera and Guillermo.

Malaga: Munir; Iván, Luis Hernández, Pau Torres, Ricca; Renato, N'Diaye, Keidi (Blanco Leschuk, 46'), Adrián, Mula (Iván Alejo, 46'), Seleznov (Hugo, 70'). Unused substitutes: Kieszek, Cifu, Diego González and Erik Morán.

Goals: 1-0 Diamanka (40'). 1-1 Rikki (49')

Referee: Sagués Oscoz. Yellow cards to nacho, Escassi, Higinio, Iván Alejo, Iván, N'Diaye and Pau Torres.




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Up next

GIMNÀSTIC (A)

After two consecutive Monday night matches, Malaga's next fixture moves back to Sunday when the Blue and Whites travel up to Catalonia to face Club Gimnàstic de Tarragona. Nàstic, as they are known, currently sit in a dangerous 20th position of 22, ahead only of Cordoba and disqualified Reus. Malaga safely took three points from their first leg clash with Nàstic at home in November when they beat their visitors 2-0. Malaga were in a more positive position then, this being their seventh consecutive home win, to the delight of fans in La Rosaleda. While away from home Nàstic's season record is disastrous (just one win and 12 defeats), their record at home has been a little better, with five wins, three draws and six defeats.

open for the home team.

Malaga's first half was a disaster. Their recent inability to produce quality football was evident, as was their lack of confidence, the players preferring to pass the ball to a teammate at the first opportunity rather than pausing to think about what to do with it.

The hosts went ahead in the 40th minute thanks to Diamanka. The midfielder broke through Malaga's lax defence to score his ninth goal in the Liga.

The half-time lecture from Muñiz must have been fierce as it was a different Malaga that went out for the second half and not just because of the substitutions (Keidi and Mula had been replaced by Iván Alejo and Blanco to change to a 4-4-2 system). After just four minutes they found the equaliser, thanks to Rikki who scored from a corner.

For the rest of the half Malaga seemed to have newfound concentration and ambition. This wasn't enough, however, and the visitors never got their chance to take the lead. Both sides made their final substitutions too early and the game fizzled out, leaving the score at 1-1.

Malaga's chances of automatic promotion to the first division are slipping through their fingers. They must win their next matches if they want to stay up among the leaders.

Malaga Femenino put up a good fight against third placed Levante, but still no goal

0-1

MÁLAGA-LEVANTE

Malaga: Chelsea; Leti, Ruth, Cazalla, Raquel (Adriana, 89'), Encarni; Pamela, Miriam; Paula Fernández (María Ruiz, 80'), Mascaró (Ode, 81') and Dominika.

Levante: Paraluta, One, Ruth, Guti (Corredera, 80'), Maitane (Avi, 75'), Charlyn, Zornoza, Ivana, Alaharilla, Eva Navarro (Nerea, 81') and Banini (Soni, 75').

Goals: 0-1, minute 38: Alharilla.

Ground: Federación. 300 spectators.

Malaga's women remain at the bottom of the Liga Iberdrola but Sunday's result against Levante could have been much worse

:: MARINA RIVAS

MÁLAGA. Standing their ground against Levante, the third-placed side that scored seven goals in their first round match, was never going to be easy for Malaga Femenino. This is why their 1-0 defeat at home at the Federación ground on Sunday is not such bad news.

This game was nothing like the sides' last encounter. Malaga went out to defend their goal and pre-



Encarni stood out for her ability to recover the ball and stop their rivals' dangerous passes. :: GERMÁN POZO

vented a repeat of their previous thrashing. Their plan worked; they closed the gaps at the back and goalkeeper Chelsea played a decisive role, saving at least two clear goals.

The points however went over to the visitors thanks to the goal - arguably offside - scored by Alharilla in the 38th minute.

Despite passing the defending test, Malaga failed to find their way towards their visitors' goal. Pamela made several shots, but all of them too hurried and without success.

"We've competed against a team good enough to win the league and we had our chances to draw," said

coach Contreras after the game.

This loss takes Malaga to the bottom of the women's Iberdrola league, in 16th place, with just 17 points after 24 games. Their next game is a vital one as they play away to fellow strugglers, 15th placed Madrid CFF, on Sunday 24 March.

MALAGUEÑO GAIN WELCOME LIFT FROM BOTTOM SPOT

Malaga CF's reserves side, Atlético Malagueño, lifted their heads from the bottom spot on the Segunda B Group IV table for the first time this season. The Blue and Whites beat visitors Almeria B 2-0 on Sunday thanks to goals from David Grande and Rubén. The side's next game is against Recreativo, currently second on the league table.



:: GERMÁN POZO

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A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports
@robbopalmer



Getafe gets its allure back

The 'unloved' football club is sat just behind the big three in La Liga

It really is the story of football's own Ugly Duckling; Getafe was a club where people struggled to see any redeeming feature but is about to flourish into a thing of beauty.

It's a distinct possibility that the team you must work hard to locate on a map of Madrid will soon be on a map of Europe's elite football clubs.

Just a couple of years ago they lost the annual scrap against relegation and when they passed there wasn't much of a wake.

A stadium squeezed between the motorway and apartments on the outskirts of the capital lacked any soul, the standard of football was poor, and Getafe was possibly the most unattractive club in La Liga.

They embraced the 'unloved' moniker and bounced back in unique style. To bring romance back they introduced romance. The club launched a Tinder-style app with the intention of promoting dates at the Coliseum Alfonso Pérez. You

could snuggle up on the back row; in fact times were so difficult you could have a row to yourself.

Three years after relegation, love is in the air: Everyone is learning to love Getafe.

They sit just behind the big three in La Liga and Champions League football is becoming a distinct possibility next season.

It's quite a story and European football should brace itself for a club like no other. It's a collection of characters with unique stories.

The team is led by a player who is reported to be even richer than Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo! Mathieu Flamini invested his money wisely from a fine career that took in the likes of Arsenal and ended at Crystal Palace. His biochemical company thrived so well he could offer to play for Getafe for pin money.

There are no real stars, but the leading scorer has just been called

up for Spain. Jaime Mata epitomises the club. He's knocked around the lower leagues for most of his career and now he's been given a chance in the top league by Getafe at the age of 30, he's the leading Spanish scorer in the top flight. The national team coach stopped just short of selecting his strike partner Jorge Molina, who turns 37 next month.

The team has been assembled on the tightest of budgets. They invested, €2.5 million, most of their annual budget, into Djené Dakonam Ortega in 2017; quite a gamble on a Togo international recruited from a Belgian club. Week in and week out, we singled him out in commentary for individual praise but the recruiters at the leading clubs scoffed at a 5'8 centre half.

Now statistics back our hunch that he is an outstanding defender. Getafe have the third best defence in La Liga, better than Barcelona and Real Madrid!



Getafe's Djené Ortega (L) vies with Valencia's Santi Mina. :: AFP

Suddenly representative of the best clubs in Europe are reserving seats to give Djene the once over before deciding what to bid for his talents. The same clubs could well be returning next season to play Champions League games against the team from the suburbs.

Getafe did have adventures a

decade ago when Bernd Schuster took the club to a Spanish Cup final and Michael Laudrup led them to the UEFA Cup quarters. It looked like they'd peaked and those were the glory years.

Now the allure is back, and fans are preparing for date nights with the beautiful people and in-crowd of European football.

Marbella fail to make the most of an opportunity against El Ejido

EL EJIDO 0 MARBELLA 0

The Marbella squad were unable to gain three points against opponents who hadn't won a game for four months

:: OPTA

MARBELLA. Marbella were unable to come home with a win from El Ejido on Sunday. They missed the chance to secure what seemed an easy three points, as the Almería side had not won a match for 14 weeks. The

tie leaves Marbella in ninth position, with 40 points, nine above the danger zone. El Ejido had set out to win to help their delicate situation after four weeks in the relegation zone on the Segunda B Group IV table.

The home side started the match with several approaches on the Marbella goal. Emilio Cubo stole the ball from a Marbella player, and tried his luck from the edge of the box without success. Two minutes earlier, Marbella forward Vitor had taken a powerful shot, nearly making it 0-1. The ball hit the post. El Ejido had two more clear chances on goal before the end of the first half, despite the Costa del

Sol side's control of possession.

The dynamic of the game changed little in the second half. Despite their best efforts, El Ejido couldn't break the Marbella defence. Vitor, meanwhile, was causing havoc for the host defenders Every time the 19-year-old Brazilian touched the ball there was danger, but he was unable to convert his chances into goals.

In the final stage of the match the players' fatigue was evident. El Ejido substituted Rubio in the 69th minute for Ezequiel, freshening up the midfield. Despite last minute attempts, neither team had the energy to bring it home.



Vitor, left, caused problems for the El Ejido defenders :: OPTA

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Mireya Valle shows her coordination and flexibility, with the Alcazaba and Roman Theatre in the background. :: M. RIVAS

“As I grew up I realised that my coaches were so demanding because they only wanted the best from me”

Today she trains, studies Health and coaches rhythmic gymnastics

She lives in Alhaurín de la Torre, and remembers her first falls when she began practising this sport, at the age of four and at the club she still belongs to, the Aldetor, where she trains under Pilar Serrano, Herminia Pedrera and Ana Cristina Quiroga.

Although she appears so young, weighing barely 50 kilos and measuring 1.56 in height, the sacrifices of this sport have given her a high degree of maturity which is unusual at her age. She has come to realise that the elite category has its price.

“When I was younger I thought my trainers demanded so much of me just to annoy me, but it was completely the opposite. As I grew up I realised that all the effort was worth it and it was all for my own good, to get the best from me, because this is a demanding sport,” she says now.

She says some of the hardest times have been during training sessions with the Spanish team in Madrid. “There were days when we lost track of the time and when we finished I was practically crying with pain in my room, exhausted. They would have had to drag me out of there if they wanted me to go anywhere, because my body just couldn’t take any more. But it was an incredible feeling to be able to train with the best and experience those sessions, even though they were so incredibly intense,” she says.

She dreams of being at the very top one day, like her role model Almuena Cid, although when thinking about another career she would like to work as a teacher in an academic centre, and also coach rhythmic gymnastics. That is something she is already starting to do, training a group of four and five year-olds at the Aldetor club. She follows a strict diet and has hardly any free time, but Mireya is learning to see her life as a series of small challenges which, little by little, she is achieving thanks to her talent and her great hopes and aspirations.

From Malaga to elite sport

Mireya Valle, aged 17, is the only girl from Andalucía in the select top category of rhythmic gymnastics in Spain



MARINA RIVAS

En Twitter: @MarinaRivasG

MALAGA. At the age of 17 many might think she is starting out on her sporting career, but Mireya Valle has been competing all over the country since she was five in one of the most physically and psychologically demanding activities, rhythmic gymnastics. Among her achievements, she has won nine Andalusian championships, three sub-championships of Spain, represented Andalucía in the Queen’s Cup, and been called several times to train with the national team at the High Performance

Centre in Madrid. A few days ago, she achieved a well-deserved third place in the first phase of the Iberdrola League in Zaragoza, but before that her proudest achievement was becoming part of the elite, with sixth place in the general classification for the Spanish Senior Championship. This opened the doors of the high performance centre to her, and she is also now the only gymnast from Andalucía in the first category national team.

This is actually the second step on the national ladder. The first, the Division of Honour, is restricted to those who represent the Spanish team around the world.

“The aim now is to at least stay at this level, because for me it is so-



Mireya Valle. :: M. R.

omething really great, something I have worked hard for over many years,” she says.

Although it is a second category, only a select group of 15 or 16 gymnasts from all over Spain can access it each year, depending on the results of the national championships which normally take place in June. The biggest advantage is that these gymnasts have a direct pass for the Spanish Championship. At the end of the campaign, the six who come lowest in the classification have to move back down.

Studies and sport

This is something for which Mireya appears to be mentally prepared. She trains every day but doesn’t miss out on her studies for the Baccalaureate; she is specialising in Health, and hopes to go on to study Physical Activity and Sport Sciences, as this would enable her to train as a professional and as a gymnast.

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A milestone for women's football

More than 60,000 spectators packed into the Wanda Metropolitano stadium to watch the Atlético-Barcelona game, establishing a new world record

AMADOR GÓMEZ

There are still many steps that need to be taken to bring women's sport in line with men's, but progress is happening quickly. Women's football in particular has a growing following, so much so, that last Sunday more than 60,000 people went to watch the Atlético de Madrid game against Barcelona, setting a new world record crowd for a women's club football game.

Admission to Atlético's Wanda Metropolitano stadium was free to season ticket holders, and tickets for the general public ranged from five to 15 euros. This helped fill 60,739 of the 67,829 seats in the stadium. Fans witnessed a great game although victory went to the visitors as Barcelona won 0-2. The real triumph, though, was for women's football.

In January, 48,121 fans flocked to San Mamés to watch the quarter-final match of the Copa de la Reina (Queen's Cup) between Athletic Club Bilbao and Atlético de Madrid, setting the previous record.

With six matchdays left of the championship, affordable ticket prices and mounting excitement led to the match attracting so many spectators.

It's taken nearly a hundred years for women's football to start attract-



ing crowds to beat a staggering record set in Liverpool in 1920. Back then 53,000 people packed into

Goodison Park to watch Dick Kerr's Ladies play against St Helen's Ladies. The record of number of specta-

Thousands of Atlético fans and several hundred Barcelona supporters packed into the stadium on Sunday. Left, a screen shows the total. **AFP / EFE**

tors to watch a women's football match in the World Cup was set in 1999 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, when more than 90,000 people watched China and the USA battle it out in the final.

In October 2006 Atlético and Barcelona women's teams met for the first time, with only 400 fans. Almost 13 years later a world record has been broken and women's sport is well on its way into the limelight.

IN BRIEF

Walking football Mini Charity International Tournament

MALAGA

GEORGIE KENNY. Walking Football Spain are holding a mini-tournament for charity at the Estadio Santa María (Las Chapas), Elviria, from 1pm to 4pm this Saturday 23 March.

The club's four teams of 10 players each, representing South England, North England, Scotland, Rest of the World will join a Spanish team made up of friends and family of young Marbella amputee Sarah Almagro.

Admission for spectators is free but they are invited to make a donation. All proceeds will go to Sarah's Fund.

Gibraltar play Republic of Ireland in Victoria Stadium

GIBRALTAR

GEORGIE KENNY. This Saturday Gibraltar football squad play the Republic of Ireland at the Rock's Victoria Stadium.

The match is Ireland's first game in the European Qualifiers for 2020.

As the Victoria Stadium only has capacity for 2,000 spectators, a viewing area has been allocated for fans who have not been able to purchase tickets. The Government of Gibraltar issued a statement confirming that Grand Casemates Square will be equipped with a big screen and sound system for fans to watch the match.

Kick off is at 7.45pm.

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7,500 TO RUN IN 29TH ANNUAL MALAGA HALF MARATHON

A total of 7,500 people will be running the CaixaBank Teatro Soho Malaga half marathon this Sunday, with another 500 on the waiting list. Of them, 5,817 are men and 1,683 women, a slightly greater female presence than last year. Runners represent a total of 53 different nationalities and there are special categories for people with disabilities to take part in the 29th edition of the race. The runners will set off from the start line in the city's Paseo del Parque at 9.30am.

NITO SALAS

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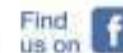
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MALAGA. HEAD OFFICE: Emma 952 649 669
 MARBELLA. 659 344 816. Jules Franken 629 589 964
 SAN PEDRO DE ALCANTARA. Traducciones San Pedro 952 789 204 / 654 613 094
 FUENGIROLA. Diana 952 580 142 / 635 716 285
 BENALMADENA. Publi Ocio del Sur 670 886 299
 MIJAS. Carrefour Mijas 952 580 726 / 670 643 488
 MIJAS COSTA. Sonja Bryce 626 539 298
 ESTEPONA. Carmen 659 344 816 / 952 806 408
 SOTOGRADE/GIBRALTAR 683 298 897
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CHURCH SERVICES INTERNATIONAL

CHURCH OF ENGLAND/
EPICOSPAL CHURCH

St George's Anglican Chaplaincy

www.stgeorgemalaga.org
email: chaplain@stgeorgemalaga.org or wardens@stgeorgemalaga.org
Malaga, St George's Church (in the English Cemetery, Av. de Pries) Sunday Holy Communion 11am. Contact: 951 287 382
Velez-Málaga, La Antigua Capilla de S. José, C/. Linares 7. Sundays 10.30am
Anglican Chaplaincy of St. Andrew, Costa del Sol (East)
Chaplaincy Office 952580600.
Los Boliches, St. Andrew's Holy Communion 1st, 3rd Sun. Morning Worship 2nd, 4th Sun. Morning Prayer Mon, Tues, Thurs 9.30am. Holy Communion (BCP) Wed. 9.30am.

Benalmádena Costa, San José chapel, 9.30am; Morning Worship 2nd, 4th Sun; Holy Communion 1st, 3rd Sun.
Calahonda, Ermita de San Miguel, 9.30am. Morning Worship 1st, 3rd Sun; Holy Communion 2nd, 4th Sun.
Alhaurín el Grande: Cemetery Chapel Sun. at 11.30am. All age service 1st Sun; Morning Worship 3rd Sun; Holy Communion 2nd, 4th Sun.
Costa del Sol (West)
San Pedro, Sunday 10a.m. (Holy Communion) Parroquia Virgen del Rocío.
Sotogrande, Sunday 12 noon. (Holy Communion 2nd & 4th Sundays) La Iglesia de Nuestra Sra. de la Merced. Chaplaincy House. www.costachurch.com
Nerja: Sun 12 noon, San Miguel church, Wed. 9.30am. (Church shop, C/Malaga 952 522 460.) Rev. Geoffrey Johnston, 952521339.

Almuñécar: Capilla de Nuestra Señora del Carmen, (Fishermen's chapel) Chinasol. Sun. 9.30am. (not August) Priest as Nerja.
Torre del Mar: St Barnabas IERE, 11am. Morning Prayer 1st and 3rd Sunday, H.C. 2nd and 4th. Lux Mundi centre. 952030461.

Gibraltar: Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Sun 10.30. Tel. 78377.

Benalmádena Costa: Songs of Praise, Interdenominational church service, Castillo Bil Bil. Sun. 5.30pm. Oct. - May. 648666152.

MUSLIM

Marbella: Mezquita del Rey Abdulaziz. Friday 2.30pm. 952774143.

Fuengirola: Mezquita del Centro Cultural Suhail, Parque Doña Sofía. Friday worship 2.30pm. Tel 952473916.

Malaga: Mezquita, C/San Agustín 11. Friday 2.30pm. 952228595.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Marbella: Santo Cristo del Calvario Church, Avda. del Calvario: Holy Mass in English, 11am. every Sunday. Tel: 952774 899.

Fuengirola: Capilla San José, Las Rampas (Upper Level), Daily Mass (in English): Mon-Fri 11am. Sat 7pm. Sun 11am.

Fuengirola: Lux Mundi, C/ Nueva, 12 Sun.

Arroyo de la Miel: Mass in English Parroquia de la Inmaculada, Sunday 1.30pm.

Calahonda: Ermita de San Miguel, 12 Sun.

Benalmádena Costa: Parish Church of La Virgen del Carmen, Avda. Bonanza. Bilingual mass English/Spanish Sundays 10.30am.

Torre del Mar: Lux Mundi, Avda. Moscatel, 1-11. Saturday. Winter 5pm, summer 6 pm. 952543334.

Chiclana (Cadiz): Nstra Señora de Europa church, Urb. Novo Sancti Petri, RC Mass in English and German, Sunday 10.30am

Pueblo Nuevo de Guadiaro - Sotogrande (Cadiz): Mass in English, Saturday 7pm and Sunday 10.30am at Santuario de la Divina Misericordia

Malaga: Catholic mass in English, Avenida Santiago Ramón y Cajal, Ciudad Jardín. 11.30am Sunday. 952260760.

METHODIST CHURCH

Gibraltar: Methodist Church, 297 Main Street. Sun 11am and 8pm. +350 200 77491/+350 200 40870. Rev. Fidel Patron.
Sotogrande: La Iglesia de Nuestra Sra. de la Merced 1st and 3rd Sundays 11.45a.m. For more info. call 952 895 102.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

Mijas internacional: 10 am Sun Calle Rueda 7, Los Boliches, 952469392 / 607521032.

Motril: Sun 10 am. C/ Jesús del Gran Poder 34. 958 825665.

Malaga: Sun 10.30 am, C/Babel 1.
Algeciras: Sun 10.30 am. C/Sevilla 43. Tel. 956630894.

Nerja: Sun. 10.30 a.m. C/Granada, 83. Tel. 607 522 671

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Arroyo de la Miel: Avda Del Cerro de Viento, s/n. Tues. 7.30pm. Sat. 4.30pm. Tel. 952561170.

Fuengirola: Kingdom Hall, Plaza Hispanidad, Service Meeting, Fri 7.30pm. 952469082.

Malaga: C/José Palanca, 20. Service Fri 8pm. Tues 7.15pm.

San Pedro: C/ Amor 6, Fuente Nueva. English: Sun 11am & Wed 7.30pm.

Tagalog: Sun 1.30pm & Tues 7.30pm. Kingdom Hall 952788855.

Torrox Costa: Local 17, Urb Costa de Oro. Sun 11 a.m., Weds 7pm. Tel. 952526740.

Torre del Mar: Calle Infantes, Conjuntos Islas del Sol. Scandinavian Sun 6pm, Thurs 7pm. German Sun 11am and Fri 7pm.

Coín: Calle Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente. Weds 7.30pm, Sun 11.30am. 952499239.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH/
BAPTIST CHURCH

Los Boliches: Evangelical Church, Paseo Marítimo 77. Sun:Worship and Bible teaching, 4pm. Weds: Bible study and prayer 7.30pm. Tel 952460728

Torremolinos: Evangelical Community Church. Sun service 11am. C/Gregorio Marañón 4. 952384706

Torremolinos: Gloryhouse International Christian Center. African Pentecostal style. Sun 11am C/ Danza Invisible, 7/8, Bloque D, Nogalera. Pastor Moses. 679740825, 951210300

Nerja: Fellowship of the King, Pasaje San Miguel, Sundays at 10.30am. 952 969 058 / 958 658 439.

Nerja: Community Bible Fellowship, C/ Pintada 35, 2nd floor. English/ Spanish Worship, Sunday 10am. 952521776.

Torre del Mar: Cornerstone International Church. C/Solera 2. Sunday 11.30am. Wednesday 6.30pm Bible study.

Calahonda: The Evangelical Christian Fellowship, Ermita San Miguel. Sun 4.30pm. Rev. Peter Riggall, 952 588 160.

Arroyo de la Miel: Arroyo Baptist Church, Sun 4pm. Conjunto Zodiaco, Edif. Aries, C/ Sagitario. Tel. 95244796/952386716.

Calahonda: Baptist Church, Calle San Jeronimo 1, Worship Sunday 11 am with Sunday School. 952832533.

La Línea: Asambleas de Dios. C/San José, 41. Thurs 9pm. Sun 11am & 8 pm.

Marbella: Int. Christian F'ship. Sun 11.30am Ed. Milla de Oro. Tel 952810391.

Mijas Costa: Iglesias International Costa del Sol, C/José de Orbaneja 10. Sun 11am and 7pm; Thur 7pm Tel:636 422 7

Puerto Banús: Christian Church (The Wave) Worship Service: Sun 11am. The Wave Café: Wed 11am. Prayer: Fri 12pm. 637408194/5 puertobanuschurch.com

Salobreña: Fellowship of the King. Various locations. Sundays at 10am Tel.635 358 808 / 958 645 027

La Viñuela: El Puente Christian Fellowship. Sundays 11am. Under Maroma

Inmobiliaria. 952117145 / 952518185

Fuengirola: Living Waters Community Fellowship. C/Pintor Nogales, Las Rampas. Sundays 11am.

Torremolinos: Christian ministry. Healing of traumatic memories. Tel.604199751

Gibraltar: Brethren Assembly, Queensway Quay. Sun 11am, Minister F. Baldachino.

Benalmádena Costa: Elim Family F'ship. Sun 11am. Pastor Dave 695115496

www.elimfamilyfellowship.com

San Pedro: Elim Family Fellowship. Sun 3.30pm. 695 115 496

San Pedro: Faith Baptist Church. Sun 6.30pm, Edif Manantial. Tel: 911820806.

Fuengirola: Ark Christian Fellowship Family Worship. Sun 11am, C/Rio Darro 2, Plaza Juncal. Tel.: 952 592 171.

Fuengirola: Costa del Sol Bible School, Healing Clinic and "The Beauty of Holiness".

Rev. Joyce McNaughton 663706806.

Fuengirola: The Way, Christian Counselling Ministry. Tel. 634369414/ 951135441.

Malaga: Believers Loveworld Inc.(Christ Embassy) Sunday 11am, Wed 7pm, Sat 5pm.

C/Cantimpla 11, Av. de Europa 951955354/672805789.

Marbella: House of Judah (Jewish & Gentile Believers) Bilingual Fri. Worship 7.30pm - NH Marbella Hotel Tel: 605924555.

Mijas Costa: Baptist, Bi-Lingual services Sun 11.30am and 7pm; Thur 7pm Tel:636 422 717 www.libertadmijascosta.com

Heaven's Gate Pentecostal Church Int:

Benalmádena: Carril de Sirocco 1, Worship- Sun 11am- 6pm, F'ship- Friday 7.30pm, 602392139

Fuengirola: Christian Family Centre Int. Worship Sun 1pm, Fellowship Tue 7pm

Church auditorium, C/Jacinto Benavente, 10. Tel: 605329074

Granada: Avda Andalucía, 53, La Chana, Worship- Sun 6pm, 605329074

Malaga: Avda de Europa, 69, Worship- Sunday 9am, Fellowship- Wednesday 7.30pm, 605329074

DUTCH EVANGELICAL

Fuengirola: Skandinaviska Turistkyran. Ed. M del Carmen. Paseo Marítimo 77 Los Boliches, Sundays 9.30.

Torremolinos: Sun 11.30 in Holland Huis. Avenida Carlota Alessandri 12.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
(PRESBYTERIAN)

Fuengirola: Sun 10.30am at Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, C/Nueva 3. Tel 952638245 or 952475474.

Gibraltar: St. Andrew's Church, Sun 10.30am. Tel 20077040.

Torre del Mar: Sun 11am, Legend's Bar, C/Don Cipriano Maldonado Jiménez.

BAHAI

Bahai Information Office, C/Ricardo Soriano, 35, Marbella.

Marbella: 952 90 21 21

Fuengirola: 951 259 742.

Malaga: 952 214 052.

Benalmádena: 952 442 424.

Alhaurín de la Torre: 952411496.

Rincón de la Victoria: 952 402 870.

Gibraltar: +350 200 73287.

SYNAGOGUES

Torremolinos: Beth Minzi, Av. Palma de Mallorca 55; Castillo San Luis, Local 14. Daily services. 952052550.

Marbella: Beth El, Urb. El Real, Km 184. Services, Fri in summer 8.30pm winter 7pm Sat & holidays 10am 952859395

QUAKERS

Malaga: Quakers (Society of Friends). Info: zvi@gotadsl.co.uk

NORWEGIAN SEAMEN'S CHURCH

Calahonda: El Campanario, Av del Cortijo 3. Sun 4 pm, 952939800

www.sjomannskirken.no/costadelsol

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Fuengirola: Sat 10am. Bible study, worship Calle Palangreros, 60. 952456672 / 633716651 ww.adventistasfuengirola.es.

CONSULATES

Great Britain	C/. Mauricio Moro Pareto 2- 2. Málaga	952352300
USA	Av. Juan Gómez 8. Ed. Lucía 1-C. Fuengirola	952474891
Belgium	Avda Ricardo Soriano 20-3C, Marbella	951516019
Denmark	Calle Córdoba 6 404, Malaga	952211797
Norway	Avda Los Boliches, 60, Edf Rosenkranz, Fuengirola	952667955
Canada	C/Cervantes, Edif. Horizonte, Malaga	952223346
Germany	Mauricio Moro Pareto 2, Malaga	952363591
Sweden	Calle Córdoba 6, 5th floor, Malaga	952604383
Ireland	Avda. Los Boliches, Fuengirola	952475108
France	1, Plaza de Santa Cruz, Seville	954293200
Italy	Calle Lagasca, 98, Madrid	912106910
Austria	Alameda de Colón 26, Malaga	952600267
Finland	Calle Blasco de Garay, 7, Malaga	952212435
Saudi Arabia	Mauricio M. Pareto 2 bloque Sur 2º, Malaga	952310358
Greece	Salitre, 16, Malaga	952311847
Iceland	Paseo Marítimo 91, 29640 Fuengirola	952661200
Philippines	C/Marqués de Larios 4, 2º, Malaga	952222757
Hungary	Av. de Andalucía 26 29007 Malaga	952308393

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCIES		
Emergency operator	112	
National Police	091	
Local (municipal) Police	092	
Medical	061	
Fire	080	
Guardia Civil	062	
Sea Rescue	900202202	
Crime report	902102112	
ENGLISH-SPEAKING HELP		
Samaritans in Spain	900525100	
Alcoholics Anonymous	600379110	
Age Care	952933409	
Age Concern (Estepona)	608458555	
ANDALUSIAN HEALTH SERVICE		
Salud Responde (doctors' appointments & advice)	955545060	
ESTEPONA		
Bus Station	955038665	
Taxi Service	952802900	
Tourist Office	952802002	
Town Hall	952801100	
Foreign Residents Dept.	952809031	
FUENGIROLA		
Bus Station	952475066	
Taxi Service	952471000	
Tourist Office	952467625	
Town Hall	952589300	
Foreign Residents Dept.	952589440	
MALAGA		
Bus Station	952350061	
Railway Station	902240202	
Taxi Service	952345693	
Tourist Office	951926020	
MARBELLA		
Bus Station	955038665	
Taxi Service	952774488	
Tourist Office	952768760	
Town Hall	952761100	
Foreign Residents Dept.	952768766	
MIJAS		
Town Hall	952485900	
Town Hall Las Lagunas	952473125	
Taxi	952478288	
Tourism Office	952589034	
Foreign Resident Dept.	952589010	
NERJA		
Bus Station	902422242	
Taxi Service	952520537	
Tourist Information	952521531	
Town Hall	952548400	
Foreign Resident Dept.	952548401	
TORREMOLINOS		
Bus Station	902143144	
Taxi Service	952380600	
Tourist Office	952371909	
Town Hall	952379400	
Foreign Residents Dept.	952374231	
BENALMADENA		
Bus Station	902450550	
Taxi Service	952441545	
Tourist Office	952442494	
Town Hall	952374231	
Foreign Residents Dept.	952442494	
VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA		
Bus Station	952503162	
Taxi	952540016	
Town Hall	952559100	
Tourist Office	952541104	
GIBRALTAR		
General emergency	199/112(mobiles)	
Fire/ambulance (emergency)	190	
Tourist Office	(00350) 20074950	
Taxi	(00350) 20070027	

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Corinthian	25/03	Gibraltar	Cartagena	07.00	16.00
Clio	26-27/03	Gibraltar	Cartagena	07.00	16.00
Norwegian Spirit	26/03	Funchal	Alicante	07.00	17.00
MSC Opera	26/03	Funchal	Alicante	08.00	18.00
Mein Schiff Herz	26/03	Palma	Cadiz	08.00	19.00
MSC Fantasia	28/03	Tenerife	Alicante	10.00	20.00
Costa Fascinosa	28/03	-	-	14.00	20.00
Marella Explorer 29-30/03		Gibraltar	Cartagena	08.00	23.59



CLUBS

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Puerto de la Duquesa: 634717317 / duquesaportrbtlspainsouth@gmail.com
Mijas Costa: 615758959. **Fuengirola:** 952468106. **Costa del Sol-Torre del Mar:** 628343198. **Los Romanes:** 618293749.
Torremolinos: 952370907 Welfare 951309610. **Coín:** 663157776 www.coinrbl.info **Marbella:** 952774572 www.britishlegion.org.uk/
branches/marbella **Alhaurín el Grande:** 952112118/637134616. **Benjarafe:** 685413642. **Nerja:** 952526423. **Albox:** albox.chairman@rbl.community **Mollina:** 957535211. **Riders' branch:** 952514226 /653108415

BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

andalucia@britchamber.com 951203094

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

English-speaking groups. 600379110.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS

English meetings: www.alanonspain.org

POSITIVELY PINK ASSOCIATION

Breast cancer. www.positively-pink.com info@positively-pink.com

DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP

Fuengirola. Anne Bowles: 607879450 annediabetics@gmail.com

MY WEIGH, WEIGHT LOSS

www.facebook.com/myweighspain 952583907/ 663674804

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

Estepona: Janet 69445754/Ben 7557048 006. Bar Cristobel, Thurs 6pm.

CUDECA SUPPORT GROUPS

952 564 910 or susanhannam@cudeca.org
Estepona: ACE Club 11.30am 1st Thurs.
Nerja: Cáritas 11.30am 2nd Thurs.
Cómpeta: 11.30am 3rd Thurs Axareducación.

MABS CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Fourth Tuesday, Miraflores Club, Marbella, 11.30 a.m. 952833568/ 647054945

CANCER SUCKS SPAIN

Cancer support group. 662446388
Facebook & cancersucksspain@outlook.com

AGE CARE ASSOCIATION

Coffee mornings: from 11am-12.30 pm.
Benalmádena: Mon, Bar Pitanza;
Calahonda: Tues, Thurs, Calahonda Int. Baptist Church; **Fuengirola:** Wed, Bar Salon Varietés; **Coín:** Thurs, Pépe's Bar; **Los Boliches:** Frid, Hogar de Jubilados. Advice: 635407255 info@agecarecosta.org

AGE CONCERN

Estepona and Manilva: Lifeline 608458555 acesteponaymanilva@ageconcernespana.org / www.acesteponaymanilva.org. **Fuengirola:** Los Bolichos, Thurs 11am-1pm. Pensionista building near station. **Mijas:** Mijas Pueblo, Thurs 11am-1pm. Julio Bartolo Bar. **La Cala,** Fri 11.30am-1pm Bar Peña Flamenco del Sur. Helpline (10am-5pm weekdays) 652537615. **Marbella, San Pedro:** Lifeline: 689355198. 1st Thurs, 11am. Paddle Tennis Club, Nueva Alcántara. www.ageconcernmarbella.com

ANREM - RESIDENTS & FOREIGNERS

info@anrem.org 630927226 anrem.org

FOREIGN RESIDENTS' ASS. ANDALUCIA

thefraa@hotmail.com 658426227

LUX MUNDI ECUMENICAL CENTRE

Torre del Mar: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org 952543334. **Fuengirola:** 952474840

ROYAL AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

Costa del Sol, www.rafacostadelsol.co.uk

CONSERVATIVES ABROAD

conservatives.costadelsol@gmail.com

INTERNAT. LABOUR GROUP

Fuengirola: Alf Brewer 952449408

ASSOC. FRANCÓFONOS

All French speakers welcome. 951087994

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Almuñécar-Torrox nerjaclub@yahoo.com www.americaninternationalclub.com

NEDERLANSE CLUB COSTA DEL SOL

Tel: 952473545. Various Costa locations

AMERICAN CLUB COSTA DEL SOL

David Kylen 653274392

ACE AMERICAN CLUB OF ESTEPONA

Calle San Roque. Tel: 952793059.

ENGLISH-SPEAKING CLUB MALAGA

English/Spanish conversation. englishspeakingclubofmalaga.blogspot.com.es

WELSH SOCIETY

Arroyo de la Miel. Debbie 626292707

THE BRITISH SOCIETY

Sandra Addison 952568291 **Benalmádena Pueblo.** britsocietyspain@hotmail.com

BRITISH ASSOCIATION MARBELLA

Meets weekly. Jan/Joan 952835947

ENGLISH PHOENIX CLUB

Torre del Mar: Gael: 951067723

INTERNAT. CLUB OF SALOBREÑA

icsalobrena@hotmail.com

ASOCIACIÓN IRLANDESA

President Finola Sloyan: 607340523

IRISH ASSOCIATION OF SPAIN

618680148. Facebook.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Arroyo. Terry 952468498/666622204

INTERNATIONAL CLUB ESTEPONA

www.siberme.com. 952802549.

OUT OF AFRICA CLUB

Trish: 952668081

U3A LEARNING FOR PLEASURE

Axarquía: www.u3aaxarquiacom
Fuengirola: www.u3afuengirolacostadelsol.com
Marbella & Inland: www.u3a.international

BRITISH SCOUTING MOVEMENT

1st Fuengirola Scout Group. Robert Troost 610755995 www.fuengirolascouts.com

THE ARTS SOCIETY

Costa del Sol: www.theartssociety-costadelsol.org/ **Nerja:** 952533373. theartssocietynerja.com
De la Frontera: San Roque Club. nadfas-delafrontera.org **Gibraltar:** theartssociety.org/gibraltar **Benahavis:** 663459103. theartssocietybenahavis.com

MARBELLA BUSINESS NETWORK

Joe 694442331 wednesdayjoe@gmail.com

THE SENDERISTAS

Multi national walking group. www.senderistas.eu

THE FIELD CLUB

Walks. **Fuengirola.** www.thefieldclub.org

COSTA CHORDBUSTERS

Anne Bowles. 952464184

THE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC SOCIETY

www.timschoir.org. Gilly: 952573983.

COLLEGIUM MUSICUM COSTA DEL SOL

International choir/orchestra. 952775492.

CANTOLIBRE CHOIR

Amateur singers **Estepona.** 692558 041

NEW SAYDO SINGERS

Every Tuesday. Kate: 685563764 jj2devine@yahoo.co.uk

R.T.'S LINE DANCE CLUB

Calahonda / Fuengirola / Benalmádena. Bob 952931754 or 697441313.

BOOGIE SHOES LINE DANCE CLUB

Estepona, The Roadhouse Bar. Thurs 19.45

MISSISSIPPI COASTERS

Line dance. **Fuengirola.** Bob 697441313.

JIVE DANCE CLUB

jivespain.com 635717211.

MODERN JIVE

Benalmádena/Fuengirola. Howard 631813877 www.dance-jive-Spain.com

JJ'S COSTA DEL SOL DANCE CLUB

Ballroom, Sequence & Latin 627658925

FOTA, FRIENDS OF THE THEATRE

Desk open Mon/Wed/Fri 11.30am-1.15pm. Salon Varietés, **Fuengirola.** 952584268.

INTERNATIONAL THEATRE STUDIO

San Pedro district. Tel 952884034

THESPA-ENGLISH SPEAKING PLAYERS

Dinner and Drama. **Los Boliches.** 622454422. www.theatrecoadelsol.com.

NERJA HISTORY GROUP

Talks/trips. Christina Sinclair 687602057 email: nerjahistorygroup@yahoo.com

ESTEPONA FLORAL ART CLUB

esteponafloralartclub@hotmail.com www.facebook.com/esteponafloralartclub

FLOWER ARRANGING CLUB

Venta Platero (**Coín**-Cartama road)

THE ANDALUCIAN GARDEN GROUP

Alh. el Grande. 952119767/952455213

THE AXARQUÍA GARDEN CLUB

www.axarquীগardenclub.blogspot.com

ANDALUCIA BIRD SOCIETY

952817843 www.andaluciabirdsociety.org

COSTA PRESS CLUB

www.costapressclub.com

COSTA WOMEN

www.costawomen.com/ 677251058

TANGENT CLUB & EX-LADIES CIRCLERS

952886772 mbl63@hotmail.co.uk

41 CLUBS & EX-ROUND TABLERS

Costa del Sol: 952818772 / 627462410
Nerja: 952529611 / 677090665

PATCHWORK AND QUILTING

www.quiltersdelsol.org

COSTA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

www.photoclubspain.com

ASTRONOMY COSTA DEL SOL

astronomycostadelsol.com 616679453.

NERJA CHICK-LIT BOOK CLUB

New friends, great books! 693373530

LIONS CLUBS

Malaga Ilusion: May Ramirez 616613705;
Leos: Gonzalo 627712351; **University:** Sara 626835485 **Marbella Costa del Sol:** Jacqueline Dueñas 619755031; **Marbella Francófono:** Rosalyn Bakker; 952884340; **Marbella German:** T. Heyden 667760230; **Marbella Decano:** M. Álvarez 619414119; **Mijas:** Jose Guasp Borreda 639 080 569; **La Cala:** Julie Barry 608315704; **Nerja:** Elke Lange 693706900; **Puerto Banús Cosmopolitan:** Egidia Ingels 68032009; **Rincón de la Victoria:** Doris: 952407824

TOASTMASTERS PUBLIC SPEAKING

Al-Andalus Toastmasters Club #1788: Donna 956 840 497. Rota, Cadiz.
The Achievers Toastmasters Club #5183: Nueva Andalucía, Percy 646533112.
Gibraltar: Luis 606460025. **Malaga:** PTA English / Spanish, Claudia 685965867.

FREEMASONS

Fuengirola: Norman Hay 674755024.
Calahonda: Mike Williams 644133186.
Los Boliches: Paul Clueit 667156806.
Mijas Costa: David Mantle 952934193.
Coín: Ian Bushnell 611020641.
Alhaurín: Vic Dean 952450678.

LODGE EUROPEAN FRATERNITY 52

Tel:658655511 or 646436967

ROTARY CLUB

Benalmádena: 952441440 **Benahavis:** 695542881 **Estepona:** 952800999.
Fuengirola/Mijas: 696494492. **Marbella:** 952821121 **San Pedro:** 951318381
Marbella - Guadalmina: 952888077,
Mijas International: 644242365

OVER 40S SINGLES CLUB

Estepona: El Limonero Tel: 952806759

ARROYO SOCIAL & WELFARE CLUB

Arroyo de la Miel. Jean 952563580.

TORREMOLINOS & DIST. SOCIAL CLUB

Wed am. Rosaleda Bar. Mike 626880722.

ARROYO FRIENDLY CLUB

Benalmádena. 952446935.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

653771625 www.soroptimist.es

HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

Mijas: 695660450. **Malaga:** 654633430.

AMIGAS DE CASA

Vva del Trabuco. 952751424/952751304
www.trabucotimes.com/amigasdecasa.htm

CLUB CHARITY AND PLEASURE

Estepona. President Terry 952813336 clubcharityandpleasure.wordpress.com

COLMENAR DISTRICT SOCIAL CLUB

Marjorie 951163071.

TENNIS CLUB 'EL CAPITAN INT'

Torre del Mar. Patrick 675391967.

THE GOOD COMPANIONS CLUB

Los Boliches. Tel: Tony White 951661201.

CLUB DE BÉISBOL COSTA DEL SOL B.B.C.

952202940 / 952464468. **Mijas**

AIKIDO TOMIKI SHODOKAN

Different levels. Tel: 952131670, **Malaga**

TAEKWONDO CLUB

Fighting Dragons Club **Benalmádena.** Mike 618149373 www.vipfitness.tv

CALAHONDA BRIDGE CLUB

Club Naranja. 952198789 / 670593 232.

ACE BRIDGE CLUB

Fuengirola. Deanne Mutter: 747771404.

NERJA BRIDGE CLUB

Joan 952520579 or Trevor on 952524743

LOS BOLICHES BRIDGE CLUB

Dominiques. Mon & Fri. 645684756

C C MARBELLA BRIDGE

Wed, Thurs, Sat, Sun. With Bridgemate. Tel: 636 673 372 or www.mx77.com

CASTILLO BRIDGE CLUB

Tel: 655459576 www.bridgewebs.com

ST ANDREW'S BRIDGE CLUB

Los Boliches. 697769170 / 952667861.

COSTA DEL SOL CRICKET CLUB

League cricket. Previn: 606526618.

MARBELLA SURF CLUB

Avda. Independencia, 17, Tel:952778617.

INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Benalmádena Costa. 952373813.

MIJAS LAWN BOWLS CLUB

Tel: 952 466 038.

MARBELLA SINGLES SOCIAL GROUP

Over 45s. marycormack1@aol.com

COSTA DISCUSSION GROUP

CostaDiscussionGroup@yahoo.com, David 672 356 829, monthly

PAINTING GROUP

Fueng. -Marbella. cicelycarroll@yahoo.com

THE ART CLUB

San Pedro www.theartclub.es

KITCHEN CLUB

angieskitchen@hotmail.co.uk 697883717

YORUBA ASSOCIATION OF MALAGA

Aluko 691314576 yorubassmlg@hotmail.com

SOTOGRADE WRITERS CLUB

http://www.sotograndewriters.com

COMMUNITY PRESIDENTS CLUB

Marbella:645784718/**Fuengirola:** 952591071 www.urbytus.es/pc/

ASTOR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Torreblanca: Brian 609548656

BENALMÁDENA HEALING GROUP

Spiritual Group Tel Liz 951947480

CLASSIC CARS CLUB

Mijas. 3rd Sat each month. 607690057

THE STARS

Aquarius
January 21 - February 19
Meeting some really different and interesting people is just what you need right now. The unexpected is happening. Isn't that just the sort of adventure that you need?

Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Romance may well have something to do with your fuzzy state of mind. Finding it enjoyable makes it hard to see things clearly to make a decision.

Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Conversations on the home front run more smoothly than those at work. Somehow it seems, this week, that everyone is out to frustrate your plans.

Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
The need to just 'get on with things' is strong to say the least. Those around you, however, seem to be rudderless and unable to make decisions.

Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
This is not a time to make far-reaching decisions on the future. Still, you can plan ahead and develop plan B and even C while waiting for others to wake up

Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
You have a strong sense of who you are. Sadly, sometimes, you suspect that others do not see you so clearly. This can be frustrating and hold your plans up.

Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Feel as though you just stepped into the wrong movie? In a crazy month it is natural for folk to get a bit frazzled. The answer is to talk to others and see how they feel also.

Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Being in a situation this week where you don't know which direction to go in is crazy. This is not like you and you are asking questions of yourself that just have no answers.

Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Being a sign that really dislikes any kind of aggravation, this can be a very uncomfortable time. Diplomatic though you are, just be open and honest.

Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
There may be some worrying things happening in the world, but in your own universe things are looking quite rosy. Gather ye rosebuds and enjoy life!

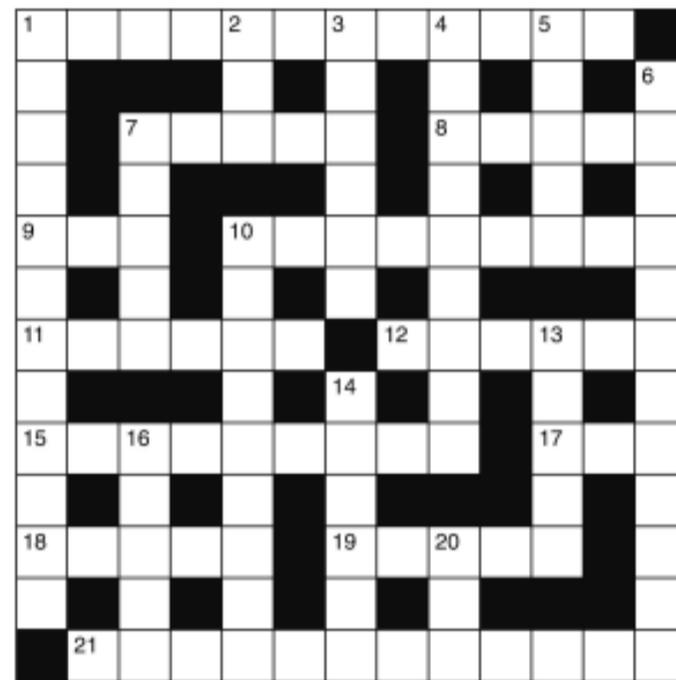
Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Something of a shock wave is slowly moving in your direction. This week there is a feeling of impending change. You would much prefer things to stay the same and to be as expected.

Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Everything seems so up in the air at the moment. As much as you may seek stability you seem to be getting quite the opposite. This is especially true when it comes to your working life.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11349



Across

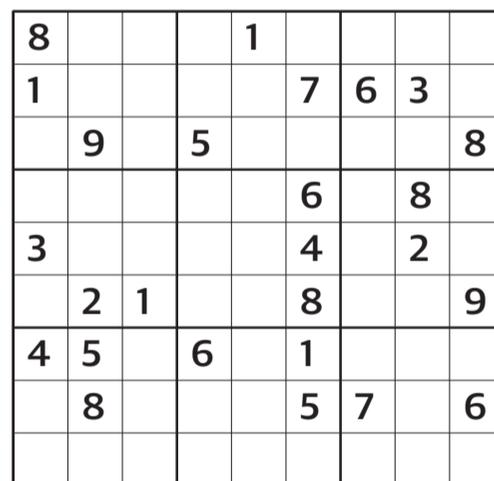
- 1 No prime consideration (12)
- 7 Laughing stock of Africa and Asia (5)
- 8 Study on leave in Africa (5)
- 9 Time for just part of the race (3)
- 10 Appearing every second (9)
- 11 I'd go in for blue dye (6)
- 12 Not an expert male vocalist? (6)
- 15 They keep shops smartened, perhaps (9)
- 17 Do the work of a pupil? (3)
- 18 Jewellery from Salop (5)
- 19 Groups of mates (5)
- 21 A current fault if there's little work for the judge (5,7)

Down

- 1 E.g., for example! (12)
- 2 Regret it's only partly true (3)
- 3 Like laughter of the earthy variety? (6)
- 4 Doubtless one isn't (9)
- 5 Layer on article turned to shade of red (5)
- 6 A moneylender may - but it won't appear in his books! (4,8)
- 7 Gather a crowd, we hear (5)
- 10 His attitude is deliberately offensive (9)
- 13 Hides request in writing (5)
- 14 Encountered broken ice all round - sickening (6)
- 16 Partly under water from waves caused by a passing vessel (5)
- 20 Musical atmosphere (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

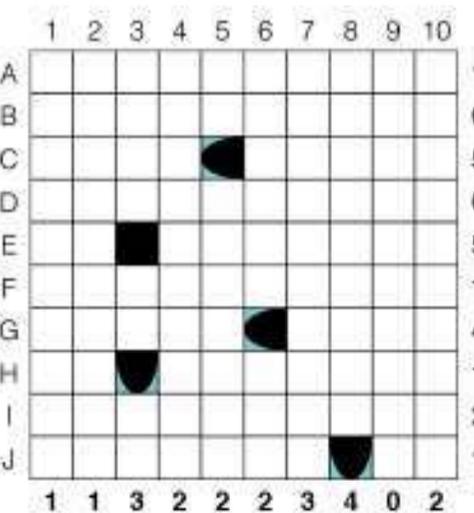


Can you identify the literary words from the anagrams listed below?

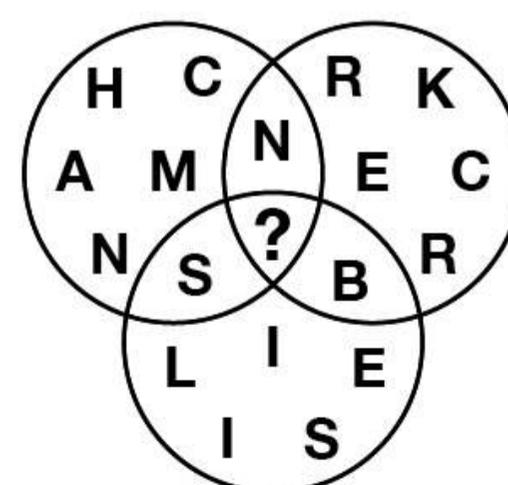
- 1. Lonco
- 2. Gaas
- 3. Drow
- 4. Aply
- 5. Berv
- 6. Unno
- 7. Mmoca
- 8. Cipe
- 9. Poser
- 10. Empo

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 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?



The disturbing gaze of Nadia Lee Cohen

The young British artist is holding her first solo photographic exhibition at La Térmica

Women are featured in a universe of American beauty and double meanings where colour and glamour coexist alongside shopping, guns and burgers

REGINA SOTORRÍO

MÁLAGA. On her Instagram account, nearly 250,000 followers see her as a daring, funny woman, who plays around with her image and displays it without taboos. Close up, though, Nadia Lee Cohen is a shy young woman of few words. She kept her sunglasses on during the presentation of her exhibition at La Térmica, and preferred to answer questions away from the microphone, whispering to someone who then translated what she had said for the press. This contrast and duality also applies to her work. What appear to be happy, bright, colourful photographs hide a certain melancholy and veiled criticism of society. Neither the artist or her art conform to their first impressions.

Nadia Lee Cohen's first major solo exhibition can now be seen at La Térmica, which is committed to showcasing the talents of young names who are already attracting interest among private collections and museums. However, 'Not a retrospective', which continues until 12 May, will always be the exhibition which showed the way and she was enthusiastic about it. "It still seems strange to see all this here," she confided in an informal huddle after the press conference.

"Welcome to the universe of Nadia Lee Cohn!", curator Mario Martín Pareja said at the presentation. "Her photos are 100 per cent technique and another 100 per cent narrative". They are powerful scenes featuring



▲ **The artist and her work.** Nadia Lee Cohen (UK, 1990) poses in front of one of her large photos in her first solo exhibition, 'Not a retrospective', at La Térmica. On the left, some of the images in the display, featuring "real women", not agency models. :: FÉLIX PALACIOS

EXHIBITION

► **What.** Photographs by British artist Nadia Lee Cohen.

► **Where.** La Térmica, Avenida de los Guindos, Málaga.

► **When.** Until 12 May. Open Tuesday to Sunday, 11am to 2pm and 5pm to 9pm. Closed Mondays.

"real women", not agency models, who in many cases display their naked bodies, with saturated colours, glamour and an apparent optimism which disappears at a closer viewing. "There are always certain things that make them unusual or strange, and those remain with you," said Martín Pareja. Nadia Lee Cohen avoids talking about messages. "What's important is that whoever looks at the photo feels something about it, good or bad. There is no defined message, I want people to be free to find their own" she says. Her work is open to multiple readings, which is partly explained

by her background. A British photographer, film-maker and self-portrait artist, she has lived in Los Angeles (USA) for years. She is attracted by iconography and American culture, the contrast between the suburbs and conformist life in residential areas. Her camera portrays this hypocrisy of a society apparently perfect but with multiple internal cracks: dissatisfactions at home which are combated with sexual escapism, the 'Made in America' consumerism, the burdens imposed on women... for example, her portrait of a naked girl carrying bags of shopping, or another with

a trolley outside a large shop with luminous signs in the background.

The 1950s style predominates, but she has no particular fondness for that period. She is a feminist, but features women because she has a "fascination for beauty". She also features in her own creations, with self-portraits playing with identity, and transforms herself, including the use of prostheses, into a friendly elderly lady on her way to bingo, a nonconformist young Goth or a typical middle-class American woman. They are her, but they're not. Like her photos, they appear to be something they aren't.

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