

# SUR

## in English

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April 5th to 11th 2019  
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WHAT TO DO

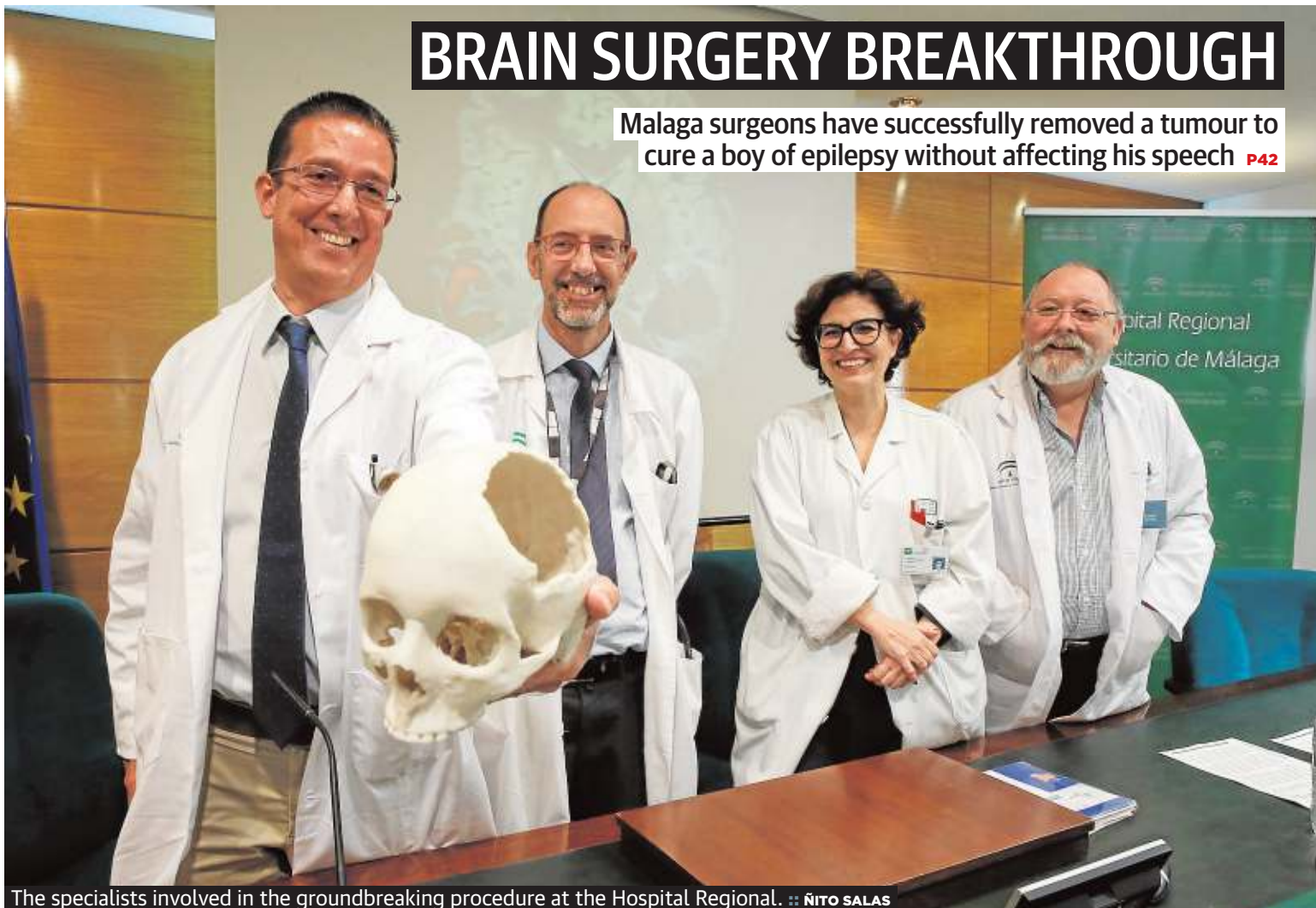
### The femmes fatales of modern art

Baroness Thyssen has unveiled her museum's new exhibition on "perverse" women **P36&37**



## BRAIN SURGERY BREAKTHROUGH

Malaga surgeons have successfully removed a tumour to cure a boy of epilepsy without affecting his speech **P42**



The specialists involved in the groundbreaking procedure at the Hospital Regional. **ÑITO SALAS**

### Auditor who reported Mijas spying under investigation

Mayor says the allegations of phone-tapping at the local TV station appear to be part of a con attempt

The technician who reported finding evidence of spying on computers at Mijas Comunicación is now under investigation for apparent fraud after the mayor took his suspicions to the Guardia Civil. **P7**

**Owners of illegal homes to get "second chance":** Junta boss tells SUR forum that 90% of properties could be "regularised" **P14**

**Malaga karate reaches new heights.** Local karatekas Damián Quintero and Marta Vega claim European gold **P52**



## Search stepped up for lasting fix for storm-damaged beaches

An EU-funded study examines long-term solutions as local councils struggle once more to repair beaches ahead of Easter

Work is already well under way as local authorities on the Costa del Sol rush to restore the area's beaches in time for Easter after they took a battering from the elements last week. On Wednesday the focus switched

to finding a long-term solution, when central government representative María Gámez announced a study, approved and funded by the EU, which will search for more lasting protection for the coastline. **P3**

**Twenty-two new direct routes** will run from Malaga Airport this summer with 9.1 per cent more seats on offer **P2**

## Obama talks of travel and climate change at global tourism summit in Seville

The former US president, guest keynote speaker at the WTTC event, also met with Spanish PM Pedro Sánchez

Barack Obama was in the Andalusian capital this week to speak to more than 2,000 international delegates at the World Travel and Tourism Council global summit. The ex-president met with Prime Minister Sánchez as well as enjoying some private sightseeing. **P14**



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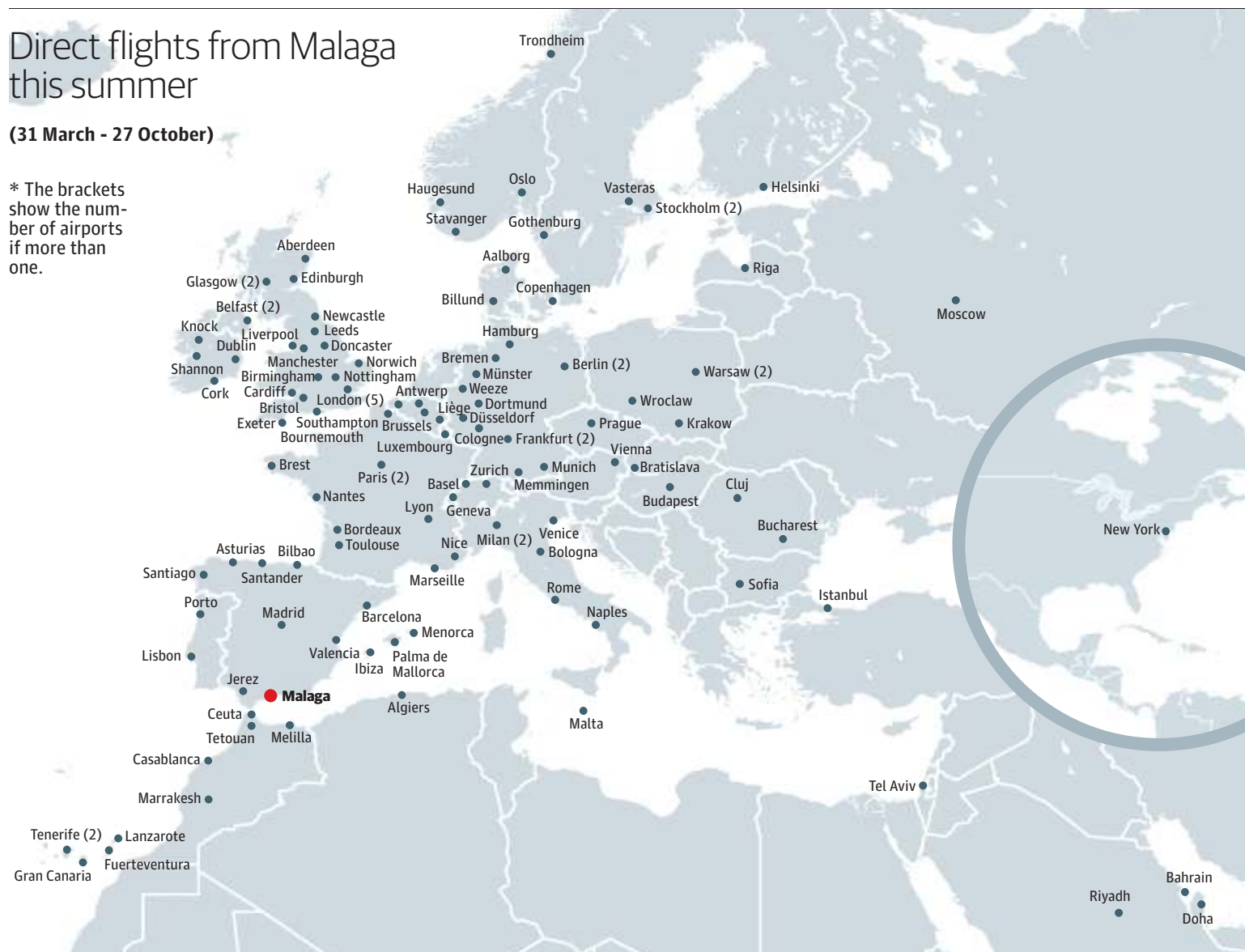


# Malaga Airport starts its busiest time of year, with 22 new routes this summer

## Direct flights from Malaga this summer

**(31 March - 27 October)**

\* The brackets show the number of airports if more than one.



port, with 9.1 more seats available than last year, and London being the most popular UK destination.

Between now and the end of October there will be nearly five million seats and more than 27,000 flights between Malaga and UK cities.

The direct flights from Malaga to destinations further afield will also continue this summer, including a connection with Bahrain for the first time.

Once again there will be flights to Doha, Riyadh and Tel Aviv, inaugurated last year, which have become key connections to the

Asiatic nations which have no direct flights to the Costa del Sol, and Delta Airlines is also due to start its daily direct flight to and from JFK in New York on 24 May.

The company will run this service until the end of September, using a Boeing 757-200 with room for 164 passengers. The flight, which is operated jointly with Air France and KLM, has been the only direct connection between Malaga and New York since 2008.

Qatar Airways has also confirmed that it will be running its direct flight between Malaga and Doha this summer, but with more seats and greater frequency.

Last year, there were four connections a week, using a Boeing 787 Dreamliner with 22 business and 232 tourist seats. This year there will be five flights, on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, with a Boeing 777 which can carry more passengers: 42 in business class and 316 tourists.

Saudi Arabia's flagship airline, Saudia Airlines, is also consolidating its operations to Malaga airport this summer with a direct flight to and from Riyadh starting on 6 June and running twice a week, on Thursdays and Saturdays. The airline will be using a Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

The UK is once again the strongest market this peak season, with 9.1 per cent more seats and London remaining the most popular destination

**MALAGA.** The Costa del Sol's airport is now beginning its busiest time of year, with 7.1 per cent more seats on offer and flights to new destinations. Between now and the end of October, 22 new routes are

**PILAR MARTÍNEZ**

✉ pmartinez@diariosur.es

being incorporated into the programming, and there will be more than 92,400 flights, which is an increase of 5.8 per cent compared with the same period last year.

The new routes are mostly in

Europe, and have been introduced by the principal companies, Ryanair, Easyjet, Vueling and Norwegian. The new destinations include Porto, Bordeaux, Cardiff, Milan, Exeter, Luton, Southend, Naples, Lyon and Billund (the Legoland city in Denmark), Tetouan and Marrakesh.

There will also be more domestic operations from Malaga this summer, including flights to and from Santiago de Compostela, Gran Canaria and Santander.

Of all the routes available, the

majority (195) will be in Europe, with 6.7 more seats and 4.7 more flight operations. The UK is still the biggest market for Malaga air-

**Of the 235 routes programmed this summer, 195 will be to European cities**

An advertisement for Fetajo Rent a car. On the left, the Fetajo logo is displayed in a green oval with a yellow sun-like shape above it. The text 'Fetajo' is in large white letters, and 'Rent a car' is in smaller white letters below it. In the center, a white Nissan SUV is shown from a front-three-quarter view. The car has 'Feel the difference' written on its side in green and yellow. The background is split: white on the left and green on the right. A green wavy line separates the two backgrounds, passing behind the car. On the green background, the text 'Your Quality Local Company' is at the top. Below it, 'You'll obtain a' is followed by a large '10%' and the word 'Discount' below that. To the right of this, separated by a vertical line, is the text 'By introducing this promotional code: golfsur'. Below that, in smaller text, is '\*Exclusive offer for SUR in English reader'. At the bottom right, the website 'www.fetajorentacar.com' is written in white.



## THE FIGURES

# 16

million seats are on offer from the airlines which operate from Malaga airport this summer, an increase of 7.1 per cent.

# 92,486

flights have been programmed this summer, until 29 October, 5.8 per cent more than last year.

Maria González Carmona, Saudia's director of Sales and Marketing for Spain and Portugal, points out that Riyadh is a hub with connections to about 20 destinations in Asia and the Pacific, including the island of Mauritius, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Bangladesh, Singapore and Pakistan.

There will also be a direct connection this summer between Malaga and Tel Aviv, operated by Sun d'Or, which is part of the Elal group. This route was inaugurated last summer and once again there will be two flights a week.

The newcomer in terms of flights this peak season, is the first direct connection between Malaga and Bahrain, operated by the national airline Gulf Air. It will begin on 14 June and there will be two flights a week until 15 September.

# EU-funded study to come up with proposals to end annual Costa beach destruction

The area faces another race against the clock to get its beaches ready for Easter Week after they took a battering during last week's storms

■ A. GÓMEZ / C. MÁRQUEZ / M. PÉREZ

**COSTA DEL SOL.** With Semana Santa fast approaching, the Costa del Sol must take fast action to ensure that its beaches are in perfect condition for the upcoming influx of visitors.

Emergency work had already started on Saturday in Marbella after the town hall earmarked a sum of 200,000 euros to get the beaches back to normal as soon as possible and repair damage the strong Levant wind and waves up to six metres high caused to walkways, showers and even lifeguards' towers.

In Estepona, they have a long "to do" list ahead of Easter, including levelling out the surface of the sand, removing the sharp drops created by the bad weather, and ensuring that all the facilities are in full working order.

However, this problem which blights the Costa del Sol every year



Works under way to repair damage on El Rodeito beach last Saturday. ■ JOSELE-LANZA

could have a permanent solution. The central government representative for Malaga, María Gámez, announced on Wednesday that a study to analyse and propose potential solutions had been approved by the European Commission, which would foot the 400,000-euro bill.

The study, which began in February and will last two years, will involve specialists and technicians from various institutions such as the Coasts department (Demarcación de Costas), the Ministry of Environment, the town halls of the Costa del Sol, private companies and the Cantabria Hydrologi-

cal Institute.

While in recent years, replenishing the lost sand has worked, this has been described as an "adequate but not definitive solution".

"This is something that happens every year. So why not instead of reacting every time, we create an overall strategy?" said Gámez.

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112 REPORTS

Man held over setting fire to Mijas Costa home with his partner still inside in the toilet

**MALAGA**  
**J. CANO / Á. FRÍAS.** A man from the Las Lagunas area of Mijas has been held over allegedly causing a fire at his home that destroyed the property and threatened the life of his partner. The 42-year-old woman

had to hide in the bathroom, using the shower to keep wet, and was unconscious when she was rescued. The incident happened shortly before 5pm on Friday, 29 March. Relatives of the man came forward at the scene to explain that he had allegedly said he was going to burn the house down if he wasn't given money to buy drugs. A later statement to the Guardia Civil from the woman rescued said that she had gone to the toilet and opened the door afterwards to find the sofa on fire.



The burned-out home. :: SUR

Wanted ex-councillor is found asleep drunk in car

**MALAGA**  
**Á. F. / J. C.** Manuel Reina, a former councillor of Estepona who had two outstanding arrest warrants in his name for skipping a trial and missing a prison sentence, was found asleep at the wheel of a car in the centre of Malaga on Sunday with the motor running. A worker on a construction site reported a car hitting a barrier and police were called.

Policeman carried along on drunk driver's bonnet

**MARBELLA**  
**C. MÁRQUEZ.** A Local Police officer was injured last Friday in the Trápiche Norte area after trying to stop a driver going the wrong way down a one-way road. The driver, who subsequently was breathalysed and tested positive, appeared to slow down but then sped up and carried the officer along for at least 100 metres on his bonnet. The man and passenger fled but were tracked down.

Police arrest former head of body that oversees property management agents in Malaga province

Francisco Pastor is being investigated over supposedly misusing money from fees belonging to owners of property in La Alcaidesa

**JUAN CANO / ÁLVARO FRÍAS**  
**MALAGA.** National Police have arrested the former head of the Colegio de Administraciones de Fincas for Malaga province and the Costa del Sol. The Colegio is the official association of professional management agents working for "comunidades" of apartment and house owners.

Fernando Pastor is accused of syphoning off to his own bank account more than 100,000 euros from the owners of the La Alcaidesa development near Sotogrande. Investigators believe that Pastor had cashed blank cheques to pay off debts and for personal expenses. The inquiry was started in June last year when the president of the "comunidad" at La Alcaidesa re-



Francisco Pastor in a file photo. :: SUR

ported to police "numerous transfers for high sums of money to the personal bank account of the person responsible for managing that community". Officers rapidly identified the ex-head of the Malaga association and discovered that Pastor, whose

Lawyers said that the debts with the "comunidad" had been settled

company is based in Marbella, had allegedly misused the bank accounts of the residents "comunidad" and made free use of the money. A search was carried out last week on Pastor's home and offices where 6,000 euros in cash was found. Investigators are now reviewing all the documents seized to see if there are any other offences, said sources.

**November resignation**  
 Fernando Pastor resigned his post as president of the provincial association of property agents last November after the Andalusian regional council of agents received reports from two "comunidades" of supposed mismanagement of funds. One was in La Alcaidesa, and the other, according to reports, was in Benalmádena. Lawyers for Pastor said last week that all the debts with the La Alcaidesa "comunidad" of owners had now been settled and no more money needed to be repaid. The judge has placed him under investigation for supposed improper management and misappropriation and he has been bailed. Pastor's lawyers added that he paid back all the money with interest in March last year, which the residents had agreed to. The lawyers also said that money found in the search was petty cash belonging to the estates managed as well as a property deposit for a client.

Twitter-user summoned by investigators over "degrading" tweet during Julen rescue

**J. CANO / A. FRÍAS**  
**MALAGA.** During the 13 days of the rescue of Julen, the toddler who fell down a narrow borehole and died earlier this year, his parents repeatedly called for social media users not share offensive messages nor speculation on the bid to retrieve their son. Some messages, however, were reported to the police by the family and the first person has been summoned to declare. This week, one Twitter-user, Camilo de Ory, was placed under investigation over alleged "degrading treatment" and will appear before a magistrate on 21 May. De Ory published from his Twitter account numerous sarcastic and cutting messages over the events in the village of Totlán, outside Malaga. Other users at the time openly criticised the "inhuman" nature of some of the content. De Ory has said he didn't set out to offend anybody. In a statement to SUR he explained, "I've been doing black humour for years and I've never had problems with anybody before."

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# Cudeca announces revenue of four million euros for 2018

The cancer charity has grown to meet the demand for care and to advance its work through training and research

BY TONY BRYANT

**BENALMÁDENA.** During the annual results presentation held in Benalmádena this week, the Cudeca Foundation announced an income of more than four million euros for 2018. The money had been raised throughout the year via Cudeca's charity shops, fundraising events and collection tins, donations, wills and a lucrative contract with the Junta de Andalucía.

The results were presented this week, in Spanish on Wednesday and English on Thursday, at events attended by the founder and honorary president, Joan Hunt; president Rafael Urdiales; chief executive and medical director, Dr Marisa Martín; financial director, Rafael Olalla; and vice-president, Susan Hannam.

Marisa Martín gave details of the results obtained during 2018, while focusing on the fact that Cudeca has

grown, not only to meet the demand for care, but to improve and advance its work through training and research. She reported that the home care teams had attended more than 1,400 patients last year, while adding that the new training and research centre project - the first stone of which was laid last July - continues to develop thanks to the generous donation of Dr Hamied.

The medical director commented, "After 26 years, Cudeca is today a benchmark in the field of palliative care in our country and also forms an active part of the international community of professionals determined to promote and improve care, and offer a competent, compassionate and dignified accompaniment at the end of life."

## A positive year

Rafael Olalla said that 2018 had been a "positive year in the economic aspect". He explained that despite the growth of healthcare costs and the rise of patients cared for last year, Cudeca received enough income to almost



The results were presented in English on Thursday. :: SUR



Sandro Morelli's fundraising efforts were recognised. :: SUR

cover costs. He pointed out that "Malaga society as a whole continues to support Cudeca very generously". He also highlighted the new training project, saying, "It is a new and exciting entrepreneurial challenge for this foundation and we hope this will become another source of funding for our work."

Thursday's event included the presentation of Cudeca's Golden Pin Award, an annual honour given for outstanding commitment to

Cudeca. Sandro Morelli, owner of the Villa Tiberio Restaurant in Marbella, was recognised this year for organising numerous fundraising dinner galas, which, since 2011, have raised in excess of 16,000 euros for Cudeca.

The pin was also awarded to Mercedes Mengibar, Director of the Costa del Sol Area of the Vithas Hospitals Group, in recognition of the commitment and dedication of the Xanit International Hospital Foundation, which, since the inauguration of the Cudeca Hospice Unit, has offered essential 24-hour care support 365 days a year.

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# Guardia Civil called in as mayor accuses Mijas phone-tapping auditor of fraud

Last week's revelation that spying of councillors may have been going on at the town hall's TV and radio station appears to have been a hoax

:: IVÁN GELIBTER

**MIJAS.** An accusation of phone-tapping of Mijas councillors and the mayor revealed last week was strange enough. But the story took a stranger turn this week with the news that the technical auditor who first discovered the reported tapping while checking staff computers is now under police investigation over suspected fraud.

Last week SUR reported that bugging had been "uncovered" by an independent external technician at the municipal-run broadcaster. Several councillors on the board were said to have been spied on in the "expert's" first conclusions presented to Mijas Comunicación, and he had asked for more money to carry on the work.

However, despite some opposition parties insisting the internal inquiry should continue, Mayor of Mijas, Juan Carlos Maldonado, who is also chair of the board at the broadcaster, had his suspicions all was not right with the auditor.

## Suspected fraud

When rumours of the bugging scandal emerged last week, the Treasury department cut off business for a day amid seemingly unfounded fears that the department had been hit by eavesdropping as well. With that news, the mayor lost patience with the internal inquiry at the television and radio station, and, after ordering the Treasury department back to work, reported the external auditor to the local Guardia Civil for apparent fraud.

The technician who made the supposed bugging discovery has been named as César Gil Mauriz. He told board members he was a "perito judicial", a form of authorised judicial investigative agent, and had carried on with his work in Mijas after the "bugging" discovery wearing an official identification jacket and an ID badge while promising to hand over full details of his finds in the following days.

Speaking to SUR at the time, Maldonado said that the audit process "is in no way clear" and that, in his opinion, it had caused public unease, "based on nothing up to now". A lawyer acting for the mayor asked the technician to come up with proof at another board meeting of Mijas

Comunicación last Friday but none was forthcoming, nor had any proof of the technician's credentials been shown to members.

The mayor continued earlier this week, "In among this storm whipped up in the media, some questions need answering: Is it really a judicial investigative expert who is carrying out this investigation? Does he have legal permission to carry out this work? Just like it says in the press, if he had taken on this role, has he told an investigating court? Is he technically qualified to carry out this work?"

The auditor, Gil Mauriz, was interviewed by local Guardia Civil on Tuesday this week. On Wednesday the mayor appeared before the media to give advance details of the police reports and to reassure the mu-



Maldonado on Wednesday. :: I. G.

nicipality that the whole incidence appears to have been a false alarm.

## Previous arrests

He said that Laura Delgado, the new station manager, had hired Gil Mauriz in good faith to carry out the audit of staff computers as she had just taken over. But it appears that the auditor has been involved in similar incidents at other companies recently in which he has been arrested, although the mayor didn't know the status of those investigations on Wednesday.

Far from being a spy scandal as he claimed, it seems he found only some supposed illegal software on workers' computers and the report showed no evidence of anything else.



Anne Hernández. :: SUR

## Citizens' rights campaigner to stand for Mijas council in municipal elections

:: TONY BRYANT

**MIJAS.** A Mijas-based expat known for her continuous efforts to protect the rights of British citizens living in Spain has decided to stand for election in the municipal elections in May.

Anne Hernández was approached to stand for a seat on the council by a new Mijas action group called MVM (Movimiento Vecinal Mijeño), one of the first non-political groups to stand for elections in local government. The group was started by the president of the La Cala Residents Association, Francisco Sepúlveda, who became disillusioned with the services offered to residents in Mijas and identified the need to respond to their demands.

Anne, who is originally from Hertfordshire, is also the president of Brexpats in Spain, a platform set up to defend the rights of British citizens when the UK leaves the EU. She believes that foreign residents in Mijas have seen that an important change is necessary and she has promised to campaign to secure the "unswerving support" of local councils.

## A voice for Brits

"I have been giving this serious thought and with the way Brexit is unfolding I genuinely believe that I will be in a better position within the council to continue my fight to defend our rights than as an outsider. We have no MEP to support us, we are really out on a limb and it is up to us to be our own voice," Anne explained to SUR in English.

Anne will begin her campaign via social media, but in May she will be out on the streets talking to residents and drumming up support for her plans for the future of Mijas. "If MVM had any political bias, I would not have even considered joining them, but I feel it's time to give back to our Spanish hosts some of the help and support they have given us. I'll fight for any injustice and once I get the bit between my teeth I tend not to let it go," she said.



## Royal Caribbean to unveil new Spectrum of the Seas liner in Malaga

:: PILAR MARTÍNEZ

**MALAGA.** Cruise company, Royal Caribbean, has chosen Malaga as the first stop for its new liner, Spectrum of the Seas, which will dock in the city's port on 16 April straight from German shipbuilders, Meyer Werft. The company is promoting this latest addition, which will be in the city during Holy Week, as the most technologically advanced yet in its fleet. In recent years Royal Caribbean has chosen Malaga as first port for new ships and last year it hosted Symphony of the Seas, the largest ever built for cruising.

This time, the visiting ship has about half the capacity and is designed for the Asian market and for higher-spending customers. From Malaga it will go on to Barcelona to start a 51-day cruise to Shanghai, its new base port.

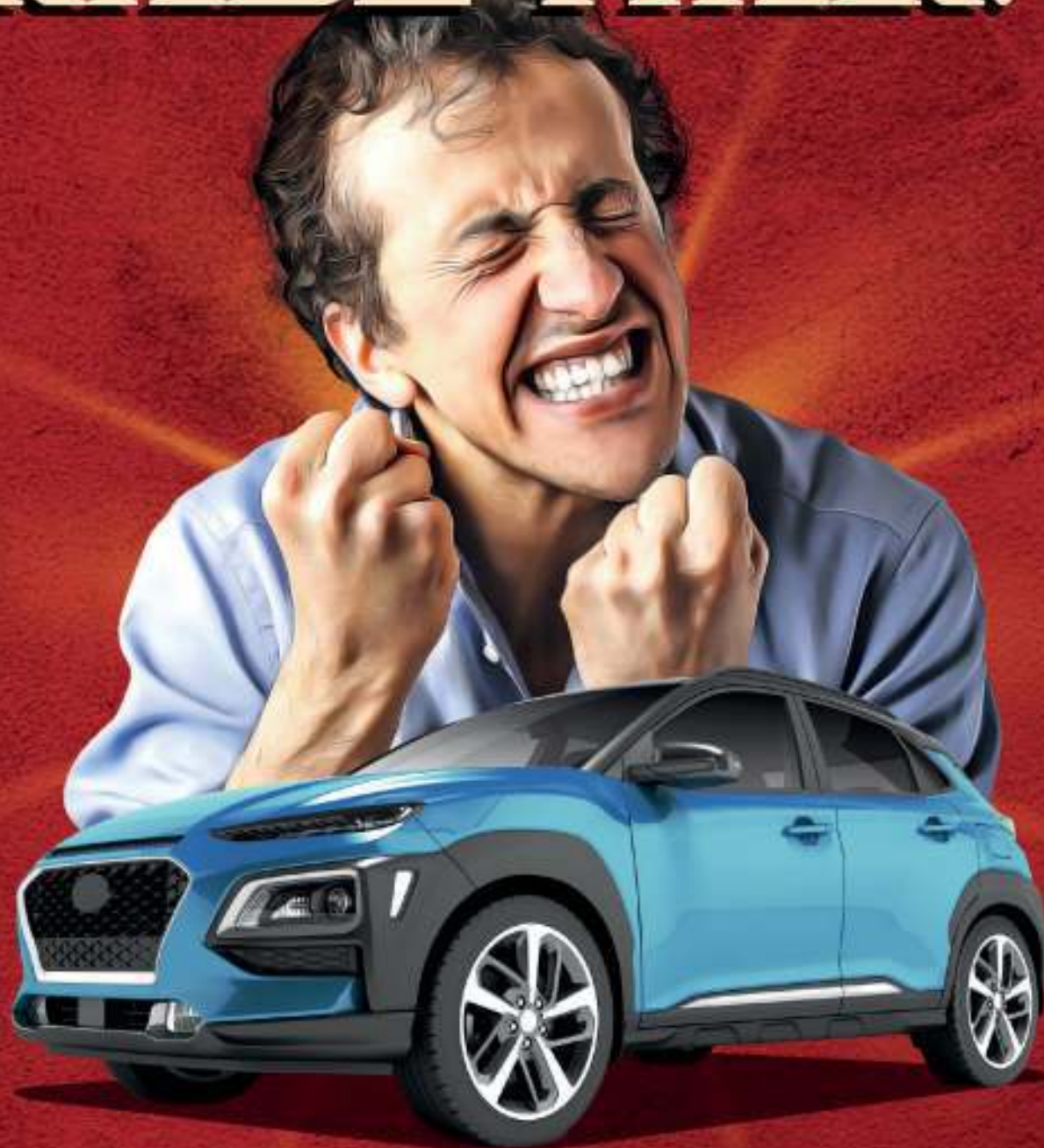


The new ship is for the Asian market. :: ROYAL CARIBBEAN

**A lawyer acting for the mayor asked the technician to come up with proof at a board meeting**



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## HERE AND THERE

**Two companies show interest in tram repairs****VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA**

✪ **E. CABEZAS.** Mayor of Vélez-Málaga, Antonio Ferrer, has told SUR that two companies have shown interest in the project to repair the town's tram system infrastructure, since the work was put out to tender for a second time in January this year. A previous call had failed to attract any interest.

However, Ferrer, who is hoping to reach a deal before the local elections in May, admitted that both companies are "studying the situation of the infrastructure carefully" as parts of it are difficult to access and the companies believe there may be hidden costs, which would take the project over its current 1.94-million-euro budget. The tram, which connected Vélez-Málaga and Torre del Mar and was the first of its kind in Andalucía, was withdrawn from service in June 2012.

**Road closures for Vélez pedestrianisation works****VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA**

✪ **E. C.** As part of the plans to pedestrianise Vélez-Málaga town centre, from next Tuesday some roads will be closed off to traffic while in others the traffic will change direction.

Some of the work has already started, including creating new roundabouts and parking spaces.

The major work is now due to start after Holy Week and should be finished by the end of September.

**This year's Residents' Day cancelled altogether****NERJA**

✪ **J. R.** Nerja Foreigners' Office announced earlier this week that the annual Residents' Day will not go ahead at all this year. It was originally due to take place on Sunday 24 March and then postponed to the 31st and later to 7 April due to bad weather.

However, the department says that it decided to cancel the event altogether due to further forecasts of bad weather and lack of participants.

**Man crushed to death by beams while at work****PERIANA**

✪ **SUR.** A 50-year-old man was killed last Friday when two beams fell on top of him and crushed him in an industrial unit in the village of Periana. Emergency services were called to the scene at just after 5pm and confirmed his death shortly after, without giving further details as to how the tragedy occurred. Sources from the village said that he was a popular and well-liked resident.



Cave discoverers and other representatives in front of an illuminated column for World Autism Day. ✪ **E. C.**

**Nerja caves bathed in blue to mark World Autism Day**

A number of town halls across Malaga and the airport's control tower were lit up in blue to raise awareness and mark the international event

**✪ EUGENIO CABEZAS / SUR**

**NERJA.** The Nerja caves provided the stage for Malaga's main event to

mark World Autism Day on Tuesday.

The caves' discoverers were joined by the Nerja Caves Foundation director, Chema Domínguez, Malaga's autism association president, José Reyes and representatives from the province's governmental institutions to mark the international day. Antequera painter, Antonio Montiel, who collaborates closely with the association and painted a picture to mark its 25th anniversary last year,

recited a text written by an autistic boy from the UK, in which he describes the world as he sees it.

A number of town halls took part in the day by lighting up their public buildings in blue. Malaga Airport's control tower and the central column in the Nerja caves were also bathed in blue light and Rincón de la Victoria council organised a human 'infinity chain' on Plaza Al-Andalus to raise awareness of autism.

**Mondrón 'liquid gold' picks up third international prize in just one year of production**

The Único company started producing the oil in March 2018 and launched its first organic line in January this year

**✪ AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ**

**MONDRÓN.** Único de Mondrón olive oil has been awarded a gold medal at the Athena International Olive Oil Competition, which took place in Greece, from 18 to 20 March.

This is the third time in a year that the oil, which was only launched in March last year, has been awarded top prizes in major international olive oil competitions.

In April 2018, it won a prize at the World Olive Oil Competition in New York and just three months later, in June last year, it picked up another gold medal at the International Mediterranean Extra Virgin Olive Oil Competition in Jerusalem.

"We are very happy right now as this recognises all the hard work done by all of our members. Único is a great product and the



Único de Mondrón oil. ✪ **SUR**

award values what we are able to do at a small olive mill," said manager, Francisco Alcántara, on picking up the award.

**Organic olive oil**

In January this year the company, based in the small hamlet of Mondrón, which belongs to Periana in the Axarquía, launched its first organic olive oil, using only olives picked at the beginning of the season, in early November, from the mountains in the local area.

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Piquer (second left) and officials on the dunes. :: JOSELE-LANZA

# Drip irrigation system will help with the replanting of the dunes in Marbella

At the moment, just pines have been planted but native species of mastic, broom and other shrubs are planned

:: NIEVES CASTRO

**MARBELLA.** Volunteers from the ProDunas Association will no longer have to water the vegetation on the dunes in Marbella by hand. A drip irrigation system is being installed on the Barronal de la Morena dune, one of the protected areas in the Reserva Ecológica. Around 150 metres of pipes have been laid here, on the outskirts of the Playas Andaluzas residential zone, to help with the task of repopulating the dunes with native vegetation.

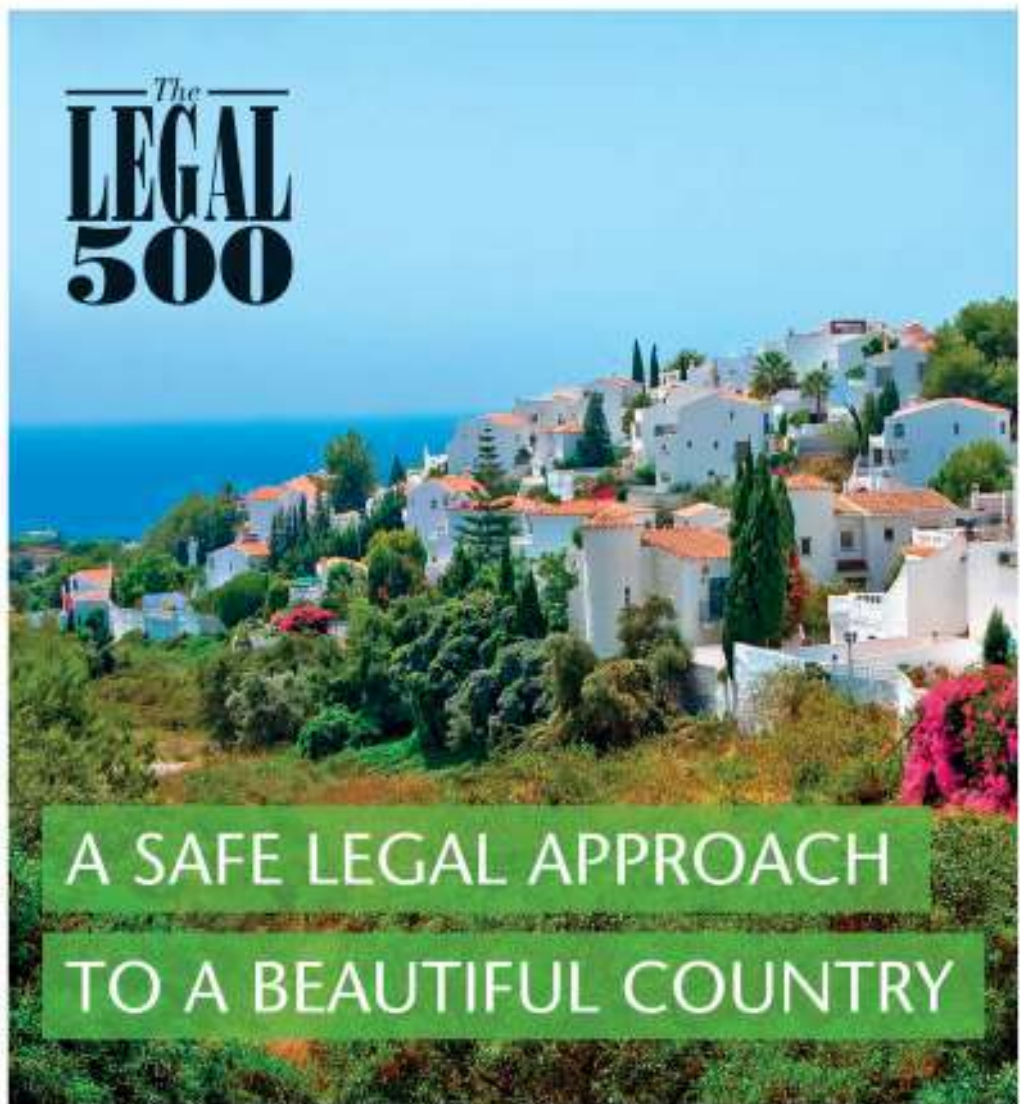
In total, around 600 metres of drip irrigation pipes will be laid so that water can reach all of the pro-

tected dune areas.

At the moment, the planting of native species has been limited to pines but it is planned to reintroduce shrubs such as mastic and broom as well as aromatic plants like rosemary and thyme. In total some 700 specimens will be planted across the Reserva.

The water company Hidralia is going to carry out the work to connect the area to the local water supply and the Department of the Environment and Beaches of Marbella town hall will install the irrigation network. Town hall representative Manuel Cardena explained that the irrigation in the Los Monteros area would use recycled water thanks to work by Acosol (the western Costa del Sol's public water company of which he is CEO).

The ProDunas president, Fernando Piquer, said "this replanting project is the basis for creating a green lung in the heart of the Marbella dunes."



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:: NIEVES CASTRO / SUR

## HOTEL DON MIGUEL OPENING DELAYED

Marbella mayor, Ángeles Muñoz (centre), announced on Tuesday that the reopening of the iconic Hotel Don Miguel in the town had been set back to 2020. This was because, she said, of the magnitude of the task taken on by Club Med to implement a 70-million-euro investment to transform the hotel into a luxury family resort. Originally scheduled to open this summer, it will now open next spring.

## Two arrests made after man tells police he was kidnapped and tortured for days

:: J. CANO / Á. FRÍAS

**MARBELLA.** Two men of French origin have been arrested as part of an operation which started after a man turned up at Marbella police station on Tuesday at around 7pm, alleging he had been kidnapped and tortured for days and that he could lead the police to those responsible.

The man, who still had bits of tape stuck to his face and hands, was able

to provide information about his alleged assailants, as well as the registration plate of the car that they transported him in.

It took just a couple of hours for Udyco, the specialist drugs unit, to locate the car on Calle Esmeralda, in Riviera del Sol, Mijas, and to arrest its two occupants.

The pair were seemingly on their way to their home, located in the area, and upon their arrest, a search warrant of their property was granted. However, there were enough clues on them personally and in their vehicle to link them to the incident, including drops of blood of one suspect's shoes and plastic cable ties in the car.

The investigation continues as police establish whether more individuals were involved.

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## THE MARQUIS OF LARIOS ON SHOW AT MALAGA CITY HALL

The statue of the Marquis of Larios is back in Malaga after spending five months being restored in Antequera while remodelling work took over the Alameda Principal. The sculpture, made by Mariano Benlliure, will take pride of place in the City Hall courtyard before returning to its spot at the end of Calle Larios at the end of the month. The statue has gone through a restoration process by the company Chapitel, undergoing a surface clean, salt removal and corrosion elimination. Finally, a protective coating was applied. It is open to visit Monday-Friday between 9am and 2pm and 5pm and 8pm, and on the weekends from 9am to 1.30pm.



:: SALVADOR SALAS



Residents currently have to walk on the tarmac. :: SUR

## New path to improve connections in Cártama

:: FERNANDO TORRES

**CÁRTAMA.** After two years of petitioning and activism on social media, the residents of La Atalaya de Cártama and Sierra Llana have finally got their wish. The Public Works department of the Junta de Andalucía regional government has approved the construction of a new pedestrian and cycle path that will

connect the aforementioned areas with the two urban centres in the municipality - Cártama and Estación de Cártama.

This new path, according to the draft law to which SUR has had access, "will improve and widen the pavement" as well as improve safety with the installation of crash barriers and lighting.

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# Obama recalls his travels with his family at tourism summit in Seville

The ex-president of the United States was in the Andalusian capital on Wednesday where he held a brief meeting with PM Pedro Sánchez

**:: MARÍA DOLORES TORTOSA**  
**SEVILLE.** Barack Obama was in Seville on Wednesday where he was the keynote speaker at the World Travel & Tourism Council's global summit.

The former US president expressed his satisfaction at finally being able to see the city after having to cancel his planned institutional visit in 2016 due to a terrorist attack in Dallas.

His sightseeing tour, however, which included the Real Alcázar and tapas in the old town, was enjoyed behind a strict security barrier, impenetrable by photographers.

Obama landed in Seville in the early hours of Wednesday morning and stayed at the city's most iconic hotel, the Alfonso XIII.

There was great expectation among the around 2,000 delegates at the WTTC summit, as Obama took to the stage to speak of his own travels, using the theme as a base from which to approach climate change, populism, women's rights, migration and the future of today's youth, an issue particularly close to his heart since he left the White House in 2017.

He spoke especially of his daughters Sasha and Malia and his wife Michelle, saying that his most memorable travels had been with his family. He probably didn't have much time left to enjoy travelling as a family, he said, as his daughters are now 20 and 17. The elder of the two, Malia, is perhaps responsible for the ex-president's acceptance of the invitation to speak



Barack Obama addresses the WTTC global summit in Seville. :: EP

in Seville: she had previously spent several months studying in Seville.

His participation at the summit, which was attended by numerous tourism ministers from around the world, as well as business owners and another former president, Mexico's Felipe Calderón, was billed as a "Conversation" with Hilton CEO Chris Nassetta.

Obama, who revealed he was writing his memoirs, also spoke of his trip as a young man to Kenya to meet his father's family. He expressed his concerns, however, that future generations might not have so many opportunities. If the oceans

rise a few centimetres more, he said, "some of the most spectacular parts of the world we always want to visit might not survive".

## Meeting with Sánchez

The issue of climate change was among others that came up in his later meeting with Spanish prime minister Pedro Sánchez.

According to sources at Moncloa, the pair also discussed their concerns about youth and employment and the situation of women as well as how building walls against immigration was not the path to follow.

# Juanma Moreno announces "second chance" for owners of illegal homes in Andalucía

Speaking at a SUR forum the president of the Junta said that tacit acceptance would apply to certain urban planning procedures

**:: ANTONIO M. ROMERO**

**MÁLAGA.** The president of the Junta de Andalucía, Juanma Moreno, announced at a SUR forum on Monday that in its modification of the Andalusian planning law (LOUA), the new PP-Cs coalition government would give the owners of illegal homes a "second chance".

"We can't have 300,000 illegal homes in Andalucía," he said, adding that 90 per cent of these homes would be "regularised" in the current term of office. He did not specify however what criteria would have to be met by owners to take advantage of this "second chance".

## Administrative procedures

Moreno, who became president of the Junta of Andalucía in January, also announced that a tacit acceptance policy would be applied in the case of consultations made by local authorities regarding partial changes to their town planning regulations. In other words, if a town hall has heard nothing after 15 days it can assume that its application has the green light. Regional minister Elías Bendodo added this week that this "positive administrative silence" would also apply to applications for flood risk reports.

This has been welcomed by property developers, whose projects are often delayed indefinitely due to slow bureaucratic procedures. However experts have pointed out that the tacit acceptance can only apply if the project is legal; high court sentences have



Juanma Moreno. :: S. SALAS

previously ruled that the policy does not protect illegal construction works. Bendodo has stressed, however, that the regional Public Works ministry "considers itself capable" of giving a green or red light to an application within a period of 15 days.

## Inheritance tax

Also during the forum in Málaga, Moreno announced that inheritance tax in Andalucía would be abolished from 9 April. He said that the measure, which was included in his party's election manifesto last year, would attract more wealthy investors to the region. The previous Socialist government abolished the tax for inheritance of up to a million euros. Now, however, 99 per cent of the tax payable on inheritance worth more than a million euros will no longer be applied.

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# People from inland areas protest over long-term decline of rural population in Spain

Half of Spain's municipalities have only 500 people living in them and locals have come together to demand services are maintained

:: ALFONSO TORICES / NEIL HESKETH

**MADRID.** Up to 100,000 people from towns and villages in rural areas in inland Spain took to the streets of Madrid last Sunday. They were calling on the government and all political parties to take urgent action to stop the fall in the numbers living in places outside the big urban areas, where the population is declining leading to a reduction in services and, in some cases, whole villages becoming empty.

Half of Spain's municipalities have a population of under 500, which means basic services like schools and bus links are disappearing, as younger people move to larger towns to find work and the population left behind grows older.

The decline has been under way for many decades but now a group of 90 different residents and business organisations from across the 26 worst-affected provinces have de-



A deserted village in Soria, central Spain. :: EFE

cided to join forces to call for action.

Among the most vociferous in the good-natured protest were whole families from Soria and Teruel, the least-populated provinces with only 10 inhabitants per square kilometre.

At the head of the group named "Soria Now!", (Soria ¡ya!), Sonia Martínez said, to the applause of those around her, "We want to be heard for once. We're really fed up. We've been completely forgotten about in terms of communication

links, companies, work... and every day it's getting worse. All our young people have to leave because in Soria they've got no future. I think it's time we were listened to."

The march, which ended with the reading out of a list of demands for Congress, was full of banners and placards, such as, "I want to live

in my village," "If the countryside doesn't produce, the city doesn't eat," or "Lack of investment brings depopulation."

Organisers asked for the marchers to be politically neutral, although representatives of all parties took part. In the forthcoming general election on 28 April, the smallest provinces have a disproportionate say in deciding which party governs, under the structure of the proportional representation system, especially in the Senate, and so all politicians were keen to court this rural vote.

Some 53 per cent of Spain's surface area is home to only five per cent of the total population, mostly in central areas. Between 2009 and 2018 the total national population hardly changed, but the distribution got worse.

The province of Zamora lost 12 per cent of its residents over the period; Cuenca 10 per cent; Teruel nine per cent; and Orense and Ávila over eight per cent. As a comparison, Malaga and the Costa del Sol grew three per cent in the same period.



Thousands marched in Madrid. :: AFP

## Top Catalan court to formally investigate Quim Torra for "disobedience"

:: CRISTIAN REINO

**BARCELONA.** The high court of Catalonia has formally agreed to investigate the regional president, Quim Torra, over "disobeying" the Junta Electoral, Spain's electoral commission. If charged and found guilty he could be banned from public office. The case relates to Torra's refusal to remove the yellow ribbon political symbol and comply with the requirement that public authorities show neutrality in upcoming elections in Spain. The yellow symbol shows support for separatist prisoners.



Torra on Wednesday. :: EFE

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# Consulates offer advice for those who can't get "green card"

British authorities update website with more information on residency in a deal or no-deal scenario

## ■ SUR IN ENGLISH

**MALAGA.** British consulates in Spain published more information on their official website this week aimed at reassuring Britons who have had problems registering as resident of Spain ahead of Brexit. Many applicants have been unable to get appointments because of high demand for the so-called "green card" proof-of-residency document with Spanish authorities.

An update was added to the residency section of the Living in Spain website. Although it repeats the legal requirement for Britons to have a green registration card (or older A4 piece of paper) if they are in Spain for more than three months, it also helps put that requirement in perspective.

## If there is a deal

In the consulate guidance, officials explain what will happen if Theresa May's Withdrawal Agreement goes ahead. "If the UK leaves the EU with a deal, any UK national arriving in

Spain before 31 December 2020 will be able to register as resident in Spain under the current rules and will have their right to residence in Spain protected for as long as they remain living here," the site says.

## And if there is no deal?

The advice continues by explaining what alternative terms are on offer from the Spanish government if the UK leaves with a hard Brexit and no deal with the EU. "If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, any UK national residing in Spain before the date the UK leaves will be considered legally resident for a period of 21 months, irrespective of whether they currently hold a residency document."

The information is reassuring for UK nationals who cannot get an online appointment to apply for a green card ahead of any Brexit date. It continues, "In some parts of Spain UK nationals are currently unable to register as a resident as appointments are not available. If you don't yet have a residence certificate, the advice [of the Spanish government] is to make sure you have proof you were living here before we leave the EU (eg. "padrón" registration from your town hall), and to keep checking the online appointment system for new appointments."

The Spanish authorities have also said they are working to make more appointments available. They have also published details of the likely process after Brexit which would involve registered British citizens automatically swapping their EU resident green cards (or green A4 paper) for a Tarjeta de Identificación de Extranjeros, a TIE, over a grace period of several months. Otherwise, those with no green certificate would need to apply for a TIE.

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

**Official UK site:**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-spain#residency-and-visas> (sign up also for email alerts)

**UK Embassy facebook page for daily comment:**

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**Spanish government site in English on residency plans (bottom of page):**

<http://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lamng/en/brexit/howtoprepare/Paginas/190108residence.aspx>

**Online residency appointments:**

<https://sede.administracionespublicas.gob.es/icpplus/>



The House of Commons at 11.30pm on Wednesday evening. ■ AFP

# Bill passes by one vote to seek Article 50 extension

## ■ JENNIE RHODES

**MALAGA.** A Bill which seeks to ask the European Union for an extension to Article 50 beyond 12 April and to avoid a no-deal scenario was passed by one vote in the House of Commons at 11.30pm on Wednesday. The Bill, written by Yvette Cooper and Oliver Letwin, passed through all stages of legislation in one day.

On the same day, John Bercow, used his speaker's prerogative to cast a vote to unblock Hilary Benn's amendment for further indicative votes. Bercow voted against the amendment and blocked more indicative votes. He said afterwards that it was the first

time a speaker had used the right since a debate over the Maastricht Treaty in 1993.

The Cooper-Letwin Bill was due to be heard in the House of Lords on Thursday, where it is expected to pass with a large anti-hard Brexit majority.

Assuming it passes and is given royal assent before 10 April, Theresa May will take the latest extension request to Brussels for the EU emergency summit that day.

Speaking on Thursday, European Commission president, Jean-Claude Juncker, said that the "ultimate deadline" to pass the Withdrawal Agreement was 12 April for the EU to agree to the extension.

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**A**s the weekend begins, Pedro Sánchez's Socialists must be in high spirits. On Wednesday, the PSOE leader secured approval from a parliamentary panel for a decree that bolsters the rights of tenants and restricts those of landlords. Last week also saw the release of the official GDP statistics for last year, which showed that Spain's budget deficit was 2.6% in 2018 - the first time it has been brought below the EU requirement of 3% since 2007. With a general election due in just over three weeks, both pieces of news come at the perfect time for Sánchez's government.

Although less attention-grabbing than the deficit reduction, the rental decree is actually more significant. It shows us where Sánchez's legislative priorities lie

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- namely, with the prosperity of average or vulnerable Spanish households. That this issue is top of his "To Do" list was also evident at the end of last year, when the prime minister announced an unprecedented 22% raise in Spain's minimum wage for 2019. Just ahead of the country's third general election in five years, the measures that were approved on

Wednesday are a timely reminder of the PSOE leader's commitment to social issues.

Designed to address the "grave situation of economic and social vulnerability of a great number of families", as the government's Public Works minister said this week, the new legislation caps rental costs for tenants, reduces the power of commercial and private

landlords and delays evictions. Sánchez showed canniness in putting the decree before a parliamentary panel rather than a vote in congress (he's already dissolved parliament in preparation for the election): securing its approval proved much more straightforward that way.

Last year's GDP statistics are also a well-timed piece of good news for the PSOE. The Spanish government hasn't hit an EU deficit-reduction target since 2007, when Socialist prime minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero (another PSOE leader) presided over a contraction of 1.9% of GDP. For all his claims to economic prowess, Popular Party leader Mariano Rajoy didn't meet this particular target once during the six-and-a-half years that he led the Spanish government. Sánchez - who removed

the Conservative dinosaur from office with a no-confidence vote last June - is not going to let that fact escape the electorate's notice once campaigning begins.

The Socialist leader can also point to GDP expansion of 2.6% last year, in line with his government's own forecast and 0.8% ahead of the eurozone average. This is of less significance than the rental decree and deficit reduction, as Spain's economy has expanded steadily despite the political chaos of recent years (it even grew throughout 2016, when the country went for ten months without a government). Nevertheless, such a statistic will only enhance the image and credentials of a party that looks in great shape for the upcoming election.

# German-Dutch group launches 130-million luxury property project in Benahavís



The apartments will be in Benahavís's "Golf Valley". :: SUR

Wilma Europe Holdings has teamed up with local high-end developers, Sierra Blanca Global, to build 120 apartments that will have a distinctive circular design

:: HÉCTOR BARBOTA

**MARBELLA.** Real estate developers, Wilma Europe Holdings, based in Germany and the Netherlands, has arrived on the Costa del Sol with a project for 120 luxury apartments in the municipality of Benahavís, next to Marbella. The scheme is valued at 130 million euros in sales prices.

The group has formed a partnership with established local developers, Sierra Blanca Global, which belongs to Marbella businessman, Pedro Rodríguez, and with which it hopes to go on to develop more projects worth 200 million euros.

The launch project for the Wilma-Sierra Blanca alliance has been named The View Marbella and will be built on a 50,000-square-metre plot in Benahavís's own "Golf Valley" area.

The new development will consist of 120 apartments with an average sales price of around one mil-

lion euros; they start from 600,000 euros for the cheapest and go up to 2.5 million euros for the most expensive.

The new apartments will have a communal spa area, choice of swimming pools, landscaped gardens, security and concierge, although their unique feature will be their circular design, surrounded completely with glass.

According to the company at the launch of the project on Tuesday, an energy-saving technique will be used.

**Plans to be finished in 2021**

The project is planned to be finished by spring 2021 and generate 250 jobs during its construction. Wilma hopes this will be the flagship development of more to come on the Costa del Sol from the company.

Although there are already some deposits paid by buyers in central Europe and the Baltic countries, the main markets for the development are expected to be Belgium and Germany.

Wilma was founded in 1939 and now has a sales volume of 350 million euros a year. According to a company statement, it specialises in sustainable, high-quality residential projects.

## IN BRIEF

### Car sales continue to slip shows data

**MADRID**

:: **J. M. CAMARERO.** Warning signs are becoming stronger in the automobile sector after vehicle registrations fell in March by 4.3 per cent compared to the previous month. In the first quarter of the year, sales are down 6.9 per cent on the same time last year, according to motor industry data. Private second-hand sales is the biggest market segment to go down in March. Sales overall have been dropping for seven months.

### Period open to do tax return online to 1 July

**MADRID**

:: **E.M.** The period is now open until 1 July for more than 20 million taxpayers in Spain to do their online IRPF (income) tax declaration, the annual campaign known as the Renta. This is the first time that all will be handled electronically. There will also be a telephone completion service to save people travelling to a local tax office as has normally happened in the past. Some items can be deducted from the tax bill, such as maternity/paternity payments and a childcare reduction.

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# Gibraltar downplays 'colony' footnote on no-deal Brexit visa waiver legislation

The footnote does not change Gibraltar's status and the government describes it as an attempt to irritate with no practical consequence

DEBBIE BARTLETT

**GIBRALTAR.** As long as the UK government agrees to make it reciprocal, British citizens making short trips to EU countries will not have to obtain a visa even in the event of a no-deal Brexit, following legislation passed by the European Parliament on Thursday. However, this apparently sensible agreement came with a sting in the tail: despite it being irrelevant to this piece of legislation and appearing nowhere in the Withdrawal Agreement or Political Declaration, Spain persuaded enough of the other EU nations to include a footnote describing Gibraltar as a 'Colony of the British Crown', something which has raised tensions, resulted in Czech MEP Petr Jezek resigning as a negotiator and MEP Claude Moraes being forced out of his position as rapporteur after claims from Spain that there was a conflict of interest in this argument because

he is British.

There will be a general election in Spain on 28 April and this is being seen as a victory for prime minister Pedro Sánchez, of the socialist PSOE party, who has come under fierce criticism from rival parties for not having taken advantage of Brexit to push for sovereignty over Gibraltar.

However, Gibraltar and the UK have a different perspective, insisting that the footnote makes no difference to the territory's status and is more of an irritant and an attempt to offend than anything else. In a press release on Wednesday, the Gibraltar government said: "It is obvious that extreme pressure exerted by Spain and the bullying tactics of Spanish MEPs, on purely nationalistic grounds, has led to the acceptance of the 'colony' language in relation to Gibraltar. This is a disgraceful state of affairs. The possibility of a no-deal Brexit on 12 April has not helped. This meant that many MEPs, who would otherwise

have been supportive, also wanted the legislation in place in time for that deadline".

The former Bulgarian prime min-

ister and current president of the Party of European Socialists (PES), Sergei Stanishev, was brought in as rapporteur to replace Moraes on the EP's LIBE committee, which had until this week unanimously rejected the addition of the footnote. As Moraes had done several times, Stanishev also proposed alternative wordings to satisfy everybody, but was unsuccessful. LIBE passed the motion and it was ratified in the EP plenary session on Thursday, but not unanimously in either case.

However, Stanishev had harsh words for the situation which had arisen over Gibraltar during recent weeks, saying that the footnote was only accepted to protect the interests of EU and British citizens and for no other reason, and accusing the European Council, at Spain's insistence, of putting them at risk through its intransigence. "This is not in the spirit of European cooperation," he said. EU sources say the situation has left a "bad taste in the mouth".



MEP Claude Moraes was forced out of his post as rapporteur. ::

KIRIL KONSTANTINOV

## IN BRIEF

### International Song Festival postponed

#### GIBRALTAR

**DEBBIE BARTLETT.** The Gibraltar International Song Festival, which is open to composers and authors worldwide and was due to take place at the Tercentenary Sports Hall on 18 May, has had to be postponed. The organisers say the decision was regrettably necessary but is due to circumstances beyond their control. A new date has been set for the festival, and it is now due to be held at the same venue on the evening of Saturday 12 October.

### Drone acquired for aerial imagery

#### GIBRALTAR

**DEBBIE BARTLETT.** The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change has acquired a drone which will be used for terrestrial and marine mammal monitoring, renewing and updating the aerial imagery of Gibraltar with new Orthophoto (geospatially corrected aerial images), generating 3D building models, contour maps and solar panel inspections. The technology will also be a tool for enhanced environmental law enforcement.

## Officer trains for marathon effort for cancer relief

**A Gibraltar police officer is preparing to pound the streets of Lisbon to raise thousands of pounds for a Gibraltar cancer charity**

ASH BOLTON

**GIBRALTAR.** A Royal Gibraltar Police officer is swapping her boots for her running shoes as she prepares to run the Lisbon Marathon in Portugal later this year.

Sharon Berini is hoping to raise thousands of pounds for The Cancer Relief Centre by completing the gruelling 42-kilometre run.

The officer will be running the marathon in memory of her mother Catherine Berini, who passed away from cancer in January 2018.

For Sharon, 43, who was born in Peterborough, and has been in the RGP for 12 years, this will be her first marathon on 20 October.

Asked what made her want to run a marathon, she told SUR in English: "It was a moment of madness I think! I wanted to raise money for the Cancer Relief Centre in Gibraltar as my mum was diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer in September 2017, where she was devastatingly told she had about a year to live. Sadly she only

made it to four months as she passed away in January 2018.

"The Cancer Relief Centre offered my mum and family support during her illness and to me and my sister after her passing.

"I wanted to show them our gratitude for what they do and initially thought about doing a parachute jump, but I had already raised money for charity in that way and, although it was challenging, as I am quite fearful of heights, it wasn't challenging enough. I am not a runner and never have been, so the most challenging thing I could do was run a marathon."

Sharon, who is hoping to raise £5,000 for the charity, added: "In September 2018 my partner's father was diagnosed with terminal cancer and passed away within a very short period of three weeks. [My partner] will be running the marathon with me to help drag me to the end and in honour of our parents and everyone else who has been touched by cancer."



Sharon Berini (right) with her mother Catherine who passed away last year. :: SUR

**To sponsor Sharon visit:** [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Sharon-Berini](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Sharon-Berini)



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## We don't get Brexit

In the end we learned English. It was hard enough: cassettes, books, CDs... even visits to England. With our English we communicate with people from all over the world; they understand us and we understand them. It's not the same with the English, though. We don't understand them. But of course they haven't studied as we have; they haven't had to make that same effort to speak English. That must be why. It's the same with Brexit. We don't know what they want or what they are debating in parliament. I would recommend

watching, though. You learn new words and how to pronounce them. They are also great fun. All of them squashed up together uncomfortably. They invented parliamentarianism. We understand the words they say, but what do they mean? I find it hard to follow. They vote on one thing, then another and the result is always the same. We can't understand them. We'll just have to keep trying until we decide to ask them to make an effort to make themselves understood.

**JAVIER FERNÁNDEZ**  
BY EMAIL

## Catalonia and Brexit

In his letter of your March 15th edition Mr Wilcox makes reference to my comment regarding the harm done in Catalonia by the separatist movement El Procés. He speaks of financial statistics which would seemingly contradict this comment. However I would remind him that quality of life is not all about money and the damage done within the social structure is now deep-rooted and extremely painful for many Catalans in their day-to-day lives. Families are divided, in particular the ones with "charnego" (the rather derogatory term used for workers from other parts of Spain) origins. Their children are receiving a bigoted inward looking education in a

world where tolerant and global education must be the key to the future.

He remarks that "the government of Spain ordered many companies to move their registered office". This is not an accurate statement. The moves were made in their own interest and only those seeing potential risks to remaining did so.

The Catalan economy is buoyant due to its geographical advantages and the preponderantly high proportion of investment by the INI in Franco's times.

I cannot help seeing similarities with Brexit in the xenophobia, intolerance and lack of solidarity encouraged by the interested parties.

**N. BARKER**  
BY EMAIL

## No Spain, no gain

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

**T**he Bloomberg Health Index declared Spain the healthiest country in the whole wide world a few weeks back and it came as little surprise to those of us lucky enough to live here.

The study takes into account a variety of factors such as life expectancy at birth, sanitation and health services. Britain came in at nineteenth, presumably after factoring in our national passion for beating each others brains out on a Friday night and the quaint Scottish custom of deep fat frying unsuspecting Mars bars before consumption. Actually, nineteenth looks like a jolly high ranking when you begin to think about it.

Anyway, back to Spain. I had some salad the other day for reasons I still can't fathom and, to tell the truth, it wasn't half as bad as I recalled, having last pushed a bit of lettuce past my reluctant

lips in about 1872. That's not to say it won't be a good while before I indulge in the rabbit food option again simply because there are so many more tasty options to enjoy. Let's face it, anyone who chooses water cress and sweetcorn over pie and chips might be healthy of body but is certainly not sound of mind.

That's the thing though, our fine Spanish hosts eat salad with everything, dousing it unmercifully in vast quantities of olive oil and vinegar. Clearly, you're going to live to be three hundred if you do this every day. Three times. That's not to say humungous slabs of meat aren't consistently present but the old salad/oil combo soon puts paid to any devious plans a steak might have to scupper a bloke's health.

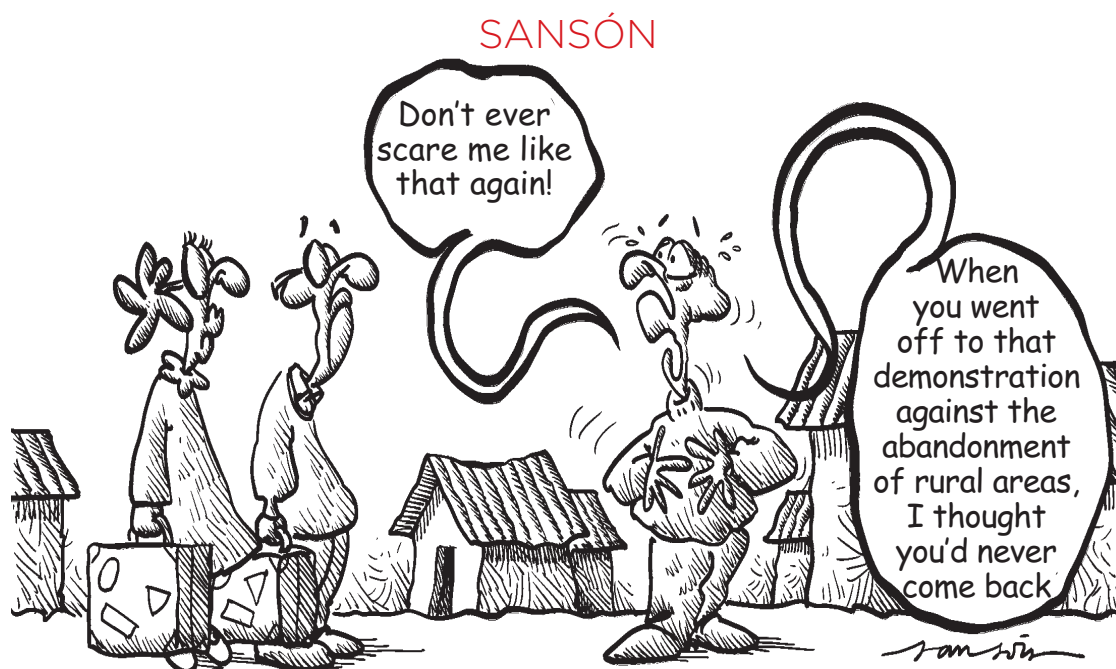
The siesta has got to be one of the best inventions known to man and a massive contributory factor to Spain's number one

health spot. I always indulge, even if I only got up at midday. It's a marvellous custom, made all the more enjoyable by the weird and wonderful dreams a good afternoon sleep inspires.

Compare and contrast with the ludicrous American offering of the power nap. No wonder the US came in at number 35 on the Bloomberg list. Their sandwiches the size of Vesuvius and farm buckets of Coca Cola may also have had some influence on their position.

Spain's health service is second to none. In my - thankfully - limited experience, I've been met with nothing less than the highest level of professionalism at all times. Hats off.

To recap, then. We live in the healthiest country in the world and this fact should grant us the liberty to keep all those intolerable salads at bay without having to worry too much about it.



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**W**ith a little under a month to go until the Spanish general election and a further month for the municipal, regional and European elections, it is becoming increasingly evident that the political landscape is yet again undergoing movements of seismic proportions. The two-party system which has dominated Spanish politics for so long has been seriously undermined by the emergence of two new formations nationally some four years ago.

However Ciudadanos and Podemos have now been joined in the political firmament by Vox, an extreme right wing party which is against immigration and promotes traditional Spanish values. Several surveys of voting inten-

tions confirm the results of the recent Andalusian elections in which alliances proved to be necessary to form a government, with neither the left wing nor right wing national parties obtaining sufficient votes to have an absolute majority in the regional parliament.

As a result we now have a political panorama that very much resembles the forward line of any football team some 40 years ago. On the left wing wearing number 11 is Podemos, a ponytailed player of whom great things were expected when he emerged on the scene some four

years ago. Recently however he has shown signs of fatigue and, following a red card for fighting, is no longer certain of his place in the team.

Occupying the inside left position is the player with the most experience in the form of the socialist party or PSOE. Having been elevated to captain of the team some eight months ago in controversial circumstances his performance has depended upon the ability of some junior players and his continuity as captain is not assured.

At centre forward we have Ciudadanos, a right sided player who burst on the scene following a number of years playing for the reserves in Catalonia. Playing at inside right and sporting the number 10 shirt we have the Partido Popular, a player who has been around for

many years and whose effectiveness is not what it was, following a recent series of injuries.

On the right wing is a new signing, Vox. Having earned his spurs in the Andalusian league he has now been catapulted on to the national stage and a great deal is expected of him in the near future. Unfortunately there are not many substitutes available to occupy the bench.

Apart from a several junior players, the only possible replacement would be Izquierda Unida, another left winger and colleague of Podemos. Playing him in the team in his own right would cause much congestion on the left hand side of the pitch and so he is likely to remain on the bench for the foreseeable future.

## Political football

**PETER SANDERSON**



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# "Women are still a very vulnerable group in our society"

**Bianca Jagger** *Activist*

She calls for human rights to be defended in Nicaragua, saying crimes are being committed against humanity

**JOSEFINA G. STEGMANN**

**MADRID.** The way Bianca Jagger looks at you makes you catch your breath. She comes through the door of one of the impressive rooms at the Comunidad de Madrid headquarters and everything is in harmony: the white sofas and tables match her immaculate suit of jacket, trousers, shirt and even white socks. Only her stick, which is black and white, breaks the purity. Walking slowly, with smooth movements, everything about her radiates elegance and calm. Until she looks at you; that takes your breath away.

She looks at her notes and the questions she is going to be asked, reflects for a few moments and then fires off her answers. This defender of the rights of women, indigenous peoples, children and prisoners sentenced to

death has been in Madrid to take part in the Santander WomenNOW summit, the event organised by SUR in English's media group, Vocento. An impressive array of well-known personalities participated, and Bianca Jagger hopes it will become a benchmark in promoting equality between men and women.

**-What was it that you saw and experienced which led you to become such a strong defender of human rights?**

-I was born in Nicaragua and spent my childhood and adolescence under the oppressive and brutal dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza. That was the first experience that made me aware of what it was like to live under oppression. Then my mother separated from my father. She had no training in anything, but she found herself alone with three children and had to go to work, and I saw the discrimination she suffered: for being a woman, for being divorced and for having to work. That showed me at first hand what discrimination against women meant. That is where my commitment to human rights, and

especially women's rights, came from.

**-The fight for women's rights is much more visible now than when you started. What has changed?**

-There have been advances. I was surprised to see how many women protested in Madrid on 8 March, but there is still a long way to go. When you look at the statistics from the World Economic Forum, for example, you realise how many years it will take to close the pay gap between men and women. Also when you look at the numbers of women in power. Today only 17 women are heads of state. It is very evident that there is a glass ceiling.

**-The call for women's rights has become stronger. Is that also the case for the other causes you defend, like prisoners who have been given death sentences and indigenous peoples?**

-At my foundation for the defence of human rights we defend all vulnerable groups: children, indigenous peoples, those sentenced to death and women, because women are still a vulnerable group. I also defend rights where there are war crimes,

**"Daniel Ortega is worse than Somoza and uses political prisoners as a negotiating tool"**

**"We live in a world where there is an enormous gap between the richest and the poorest"**

**"We are failing, we are betraying the new generations, our children and our grandchildren"**

crimes against humanity. I have defended rights in countries like Myanmar, I was in Bosnia documenting the mass rapes of women during the war. I am also a European Union goodwill ambassador for the abolition of the death penalty.

**-Are there any causes that you believe need defending especially urgently?**

-I see how human rights are violated in my country by the murderous tyrant Daniel Ortega and how important it is to defend those. Right now defending Nicaragua is very urgent. Ortega has assassinated more than 500 people since April 2018, there are more than 3,000 injured, more than 600 political prisoners, over 70,000 refugees in Costa Rica, and hundreds of people have disappeared. He continues to abduct young people and anyone who opposes him. The press is being persecuted, more than 60 journalists have had to flee. They have committed crimes against humanity in my country.

**-How do you see the world in which you live in terms of politics, education and the environment?**



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Bianca Jagger, during the interview in Madrid. :: ÁNGEL DE ANTONIO<

–Very much under threat, especially with regard to climate change. We have had the hottest February since they first began registering the temperatures. We have seen that the Paris Accord was not enough to stop the rising temperatures and maintain the increase around 1.5 degrees. They reached an agreement

but it turned out to be cheating. Natural disasters, which are a direct consequence of climate change, are occurring everywhere. We have seen them in countries in Europe, in the USA. This isn't just a threat to poor countries. I don't believe enough is being done to prevent these disasters. Young people and children are

more aware than adults, like those who have marched in different countries around the world following the example of Greta Thunberg, the girl who is an activist against climate change. We are letting them down, betraying the new generations, our children and grandchildren.

–Do you think it is necessary to defend those young people as well, these new generations who suffer from job insecurity which prevents them developing?

–Young people are suffering from that, just as women do. We live in a world with huge inequality where there is an enormous gap, and one

which is increasing, between the richest and the poorest. It is unjust and has serious consequences.

–You grew up under one dictatorship and now you talk about another. Why do you think your country has spent decades without moving forward?

–It makes me so sad. I feel betrayed. When I was young, in 1979, I believed that revolution was going to be the democratic solution for Nicaragua, that it was going to bring justice, respect for human rights, that we were going to have free elections. Daniel Ortega is worse than Somoza and has dismantled all the legal institutions. He uses political prisoners as human negotiating tools. People have to realise that what Ortega has is a regime, and he does not represent the left.

–You wouldn't describe it as a left-wing tyranny?

–We are talking of criminals on the left and the right, but in this case this government and its policies are in fact neo-liberal. They favour the richest and the private sector.

–What is your opinion of human rights in Spain?

–Spain is a democratic country and it respects human rights, but I hope we will see a female prime minister and that women will stop the attempts to revoke the abortion law.

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# Singing for street cats

A Costa del Sol expat choir hits the right notes during a feline-fundraiser in Manilva

by ASH BOLTON

**MANILVA.** A Manilva-based choir has raised 410 euros for street cats by holding a concert at the town's Bella Vista camp site.

The event saw a crowd of 45 people enjoy songs from the "Love to Sing" choir during the hour-long performance. The lunchtime concert, which included popular songs from musicals, was led by Musical Director, Shirley Helleur, and was followed by a raffle.

The money raised from the show

is being donated to Manilva-based cat charity, Asociación Gatos De Manilva (AGDM).

Melissa White, Fundraising & Communications Manager at the cat charity, told SUR in English: "The management team at Gatos de Manilva is absolutely delighted with the positive results today in terms of the number of attendees, the venue and the excellent catering. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who helped to make this event such a great success."

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

Melissa added: "There is much work to be done within the mu-

nicipality of Manilva in terms of controlled and appropriate support to care for the many stray cats in the area. Funds raised today have gone beyond our expectations, and will assist the charity to continue to reduce the number of feral cats in the future, and improve the health and wellbeing of those already living on the streets."

The charity is also keen to hear from anyone wishing to subscribe annually as an official charity member for €25, or those who can donate wet or dry food, bags of cat litter or pre-used cat carriers. Anyone interested in future charity events can keep updated via Gatos de Manilva's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/gatosdemanilva](http://www.facebook.com/gatosdemanilva)



President of the AGDM, Amanda Kiff, speaks to the audience before the concert. :: SUR



Members of the group with knitted blankets. :: SUR

## The Knitter Natter group turns two

The group has knitted hundreds of items for charities since it first started two years ago

by SUR IN ENGLISH

**ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE.** The Inland Knitter/Natter Group started with six members and now has 25 and has just celebrated its second birthday. Over the two years the group has produced over 500 gar-

ments for the Malaga Maternity Department's Premature Baby and Children's Cancer Unit as well as for Lux Mundi Fuengirola, with hats, scarves and gloves for the homeless, knee blankets and many other items. The group meets monthly at the Alegria Alhaurin Golf Resort and is always grateful for any donations of knitting wool so they can continue knitting and nattering. If you have any spare baby or double knit wool, or would like to join, call Monique: 629221173.

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## PET CARE

PETER HARRISON



## Words and dogs

Giving commands in a language you don't know can be a good idea

It is small wonder that dogs are often confused when given commands by their owners. How can a canine mind work out that "Sit" means the same as "Will you sit down for heaven's sake" or "Come when I call" means the same as "Here". When in training and indeed afterwards it is very important to use exactly the same words, preferably of single syllable and sharp in tone, prefaced with the dog's name: "Blazer here", not "Come when I call you."

The vocabulary should consist of eight, maximum ten commands and never vary in content. Then the dog knows where he or she stands. Regrettably children do not follow this rule and the dog gets very confused.

A good idea is to give commands in another language than your own, one which is totally alien to you. Anyone can

learn ten words in a language within half an hour but you do not know the variant.

When in Egypt I inherited a German Shepherd that had been trained by the local police but had failed her final test so was in need of a new home. I needed a guard dog so I learned ten words in Arabic. It worked a treat as I knew only those words and did not know their variants.

What is the most important command a dog should learn? In my opinion it is "Here" or "Come", one or the other and never vary. All kinds of situations occur and your dog may want to investigate or play. Often this is to his or her peril. You need to keep the dog close to deal with the situation. The dog is not in his or her natural world but a human world with human perils for dog and people. The owner is equipped to deal with the situation.



An unusually bookish crowd filled a cosy bar when The Arts Society Benahavis organised a lighthearted event in the iconic white village. As a change from the purely visual arts, it featured local writers and writing.

#### Tales from across the world

Three speakers described their experiences and the books they had inspired. Two were authors, the third, Lynda Woodin, was the broadcaster instrumental in the publication of the controversial bestseller *Matabele Rising* by David Hilton-Barber. Marbella resident Lynda was in Zimbabwe during the ascent of Robert Mugabe and explained how she was caught up in the political and tribal unrest at the time.

Author Di Beach, who now runs a boutique hotel near Ronda, had to sit down to talk about *The Ocean Voyager and Me*, having recently broken her foot, Far worse, she said, than anything that happened when she sailed across wild oceans with her swashbuckling husband, their two little girls and an eccentric crew aboard a small boat with no modern navigational aids.

The second author was me, although my own book, *Walter's War* and the *Compassionate Heart*, written in San Pedro Alcántara, owes its existence more to the letters my dad wrote home to England rather than my own travels. A

## SOCIETY SCENE

HELEN O'LEARY

### LITERARY LOCALS

Local writers had their moment at a recent Arts Society event in Benahavis as former chairman gets on her bike



James Kayll with June Rendle and Helen O'Leary (right). :: SUR

few family skeletons leapt out of cupboards, otherwise visits to the Imperial War Museum and trawls through the internet kept me geographically on track.

#### Start a novel - win a bottle

The grand finale to this evening of anecdotes, laughter and discussion was a competition to start a novel and win a bottle of wine, inviting visitors to begin a novel of their own with the words 'It must have been in Benahavis....'

This produced lively glimpses of the sunshine and charm of Spanish village life but some of the fifteen entries introduced a darker theme. Prizewinners June Rendle and Heather Mitches left us with cliffhangers that captured the imagination and the enthusiasm of the judges.

#### A tribute

The Arts Society Benahavis was founded by the charismatic Betty Fooks in 1912. It has gone from strength to strength ever since. When Betty retired in 2017, Grace McNabola took a temporary career break to follow in her footsteps until James Kayll was elected to the post.

Betty is as busy as ever but now has had time to resume one of her favourite hobbies, exploring the Andalusian countryside around Benahavis on the back of a motorbike. She's unrecognisable once she puts on her helmet.



A fun barbecue. :: SUR

### The La Cala de Mijas Lions has a new project for friends of the club

#### :: SUR IN ENGLISH

**MIJAS.** A fundraising afternoon at the Miraflores Bowls Club, raised 615 euros for La Cala de Mijas Lions Club recently. It started with a quiz and finished with a barbecue.

The Vice President, Anita Humphreys thanked everyone and talked about the new project which sends friends a monthly newsletter for just 10 euros per year.

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# The Finnish crimes of Fuengirola explored

Fran Perea and Riitta Havukainen reveal the secrets of the thriller Paradise, which is shot in Malaga

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The series is set in the Finnish community of the Costa del Sol and narrates the investigation of Nordic and Spanish police agents on the trail of murders

**MALAGA.** Detective Hikka Mäntymäki has been out of the service for a couple of months. Her husband suffers from Alzheimer's and she has decided to take care of him; a difficult career decision for her to make. A friend comes to her explaining that her family, who are travelling through Spain, have gone missing. She asks Mäntymäki to go and look for them. She doesn't have to look very far, before she locates them in a Fuengirola campsite. The thing is, they are all dead.

This is morbid beginning of the first chapter of the series Paradise, a 'Hispanic-Nordic' thriller filmed on the Costa del Sol, starring Riitta Havukainen and Fran Perea. However, the most iconic part of this series is the stage on which it is played out on; Fuengirola, also known as the 'Little Finland'.

"The story is based on the 15,000 Finns who, although living outside their country, reside inside a 'bubble' in Fuengirola, as if they have not left Finland", explains Ran Tellam, director of international development of Mediapro. This company presented the film at a press conference, in which Spanish, Finnish and English could be heard, the same lan-

guages as the original version of this thriller which contrasts the darkness and coldness of 'Nordic Noir' with the light, and the passion of some crimes on the Costa del Sol.

The murders in the campsite are where the Finnish detective, played by Havukainen and the Spanish agent, played by Fran Perea first meet. The character Perea is playing "also has emotional baggage that has left him feeling dead on the inside, but this case forces him to rediscover his energy" explains the Malaga actor, in impeccable English.

"I was interested in the plot from the beginning, but above all, I loved that the characters are very different but they have to work together in an investigation in which the memory is very important" says Marja Pyykkö, director of the series and others such as 'Black Widows'. She speaks good Spanish, as she lived for a while in Spain.

Actress Hikka Mäntymäki also knows the Costa del Sol well, as her family have an apartment in Marbella. Mäntymäki wants to highlight the fact that veteran translator is at the centre of the plot. "This approach is very innovative because in the world of TV series, the older woman is never the main character. When there is a pair of police officers, the experienced one is usually the older man, and the woman is usually young," she explained. In the series 'Paradise' her character faces a serial killer, as the deaths at the campsite are connected with the deaths of older women.

Produced by the Finnish company YLE, MRP Matila Röhr Productions Oy and Spain's The Mediapro Studio, 'Paradise' will be shot at different locations on the Costa del Sol until April 10. The team have already visited Fuengirola, Torremolinos and Malaga centre. The series is set to be released in Finland in December this



Fran Perea and Riitta Havukainen, in a scene for the new series Paradise set in Fuengirola. :: NITO SALAS

year. The distribution in Spain is still pending, explained Tellam, who added that the title of the series was created after talking to a police officer from Fuengirola and a Finnish citizen.

"The police were quick to tell us about the crimes that are committed in this community and the Finns told us that nothing was happening and that this was a paradise. At that moment we realised that there were big differences in the story being told," said the director of Mediapro. Tellam also added that both the main actors in this series are both popular in Finland. Perea's popularity came after the premier of 'Los Serrano', a series in which he played a part.

"It is amazing that the series will premier in Finland, and will even allow me to promote my album, but being approached about this project actually came as a surprise," said Fran Perea.

He also expressed his gratitude for having two weeks of rehearsals



The director Marja Pyykkö, with the cast of the series. :: FRANCIS SILVA

to prepare his character and the scenes. He acknowledged that it was 'not usual' to have this time when filming for a Spanish series. Director Marja Pyykkö admitted that she herself had requested the two week

preparation period as "to be honest, I was a bit worried about filming outside Finland for the first time and I needed some rehearsals to see what differences there would be, in reality I haven't found many" she added.

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DENISE BUSH



## GARDENING

## Senna lindheimeriana

**Velvetleaf senna is a graceful, tall shrub with grey-green leaves and sulphur-yellow flowers in the summer**

Native to northern Mexico, South West Texas, southern New Mexico and south eastern Arizona, *Senna lindheimeriana* is a bushy perennial shrub with a sprawling habit and stunning yellow blooms.

Common names include Lindheimer's senna, velvetleaf senna and puppy-dog ears. It is sometimes listed as *Cassia lindheimeriana* and is a member of the huge Fabaceae

family (pea/bean family).

Velvetleaf senna can grow up to two metres tall and is therefore suited to a location at the back of an informal border. Its graceful, arching stems may need staking once it starts flowering in the summer as the weight of the sulphur-yellow

low blooms that form in racemes at the ends of the branches, pulls the stems downwards. The flowers attract lots of pollinating insects, especially butterflies and bumblebees. Each bloom has five petals and each petal is prettily crimped around the edges.

The grey-green leaves are made up of up to eight leaflets arranged in pairs and are velvety soft, covered in fine hairs, as are the stems.

After flowering, green seed pods appear which turn brown as they ripen, attracting birds in the late autumn. The seeds germinate easily and can be collected once dried and sown the following spring to produce new plants. In ideal conditions, Velvetleaf senna may self seed and naturalise.

Once established it will need little watering and is drought tolerant. It will also withstand cold weather although it may lose its leaves. Velvetleaf senna is not fussy about soil quality, as long as it is free-draining, but does need plenty of sun. Although it will grow in partial shade it tends to get very leggy.

It is poisonous to livestock although very unpalatable so animals are very unlikely to eat it.

*Senna lindheimeriana* is named after Ferdinand Jacob Lindheimer (1801-79) who is credited with discovering hundreds of species of plant, many which carry his name, and is known as the Father of Texas Botany.



Senna lindheimeriana and close up of flower :: EBAY / FLICKR

## READER'S PHOTO



CHARLOTTE LEE

## STUNNING CORAL TREE

The Coral Tree (*Erythrina caffra*) is not an unusual sight on the coast of Malaga in spring, but it is always one that will stop you in your tracks. Clusters of bright, coral-red flowers on naked branches caught Charlotte Lee's attention on a walk and she sent us the picture for everyone to enjoy.

## GARDENING IN APRIL

## Feeding citrus trees

April is one of the busiest months for gardeners. With so much new growth burgeoning, don't forget to start feeding, especially citrus trees. According to research, citrus trees demand nitrogen from the time they start blooming through to about August. A supplemental nitrogen fertiliser can be given through the irrigation system once a month or spread about two tablespoons of granulated nitrogen around the base of a mature tree be-

fore you water it, again on a monthly basis, until about August. Younger trees will not need so much and be careful with container grown specimens as too much fertiliser may burn the roots. If your citrus tree drops its leaves after you've been feeding it, this may be because you've given it too much. Less is always more and don't worry, if feeding is the cause, it's likely the leaves will grow back in a few months.

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

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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

5 APRIL 1419

Death of Saint Vincent Ferrer

Portrayed as having a gentle manner, the priest is said to have used questionable methods to convert Jews to Catholicism

Saint Vincent Ferrer, who died on 5 April 1419, was a Spanish Catholic priest who played a significant role in the conversion of Jews to Catholicism during the early fifteenth century. He also participated in the management of a significant political crisis in 1410, when King Martin of Aragon died without a legitimate heir to the throne. Ferrer was part of a committee established to review possible heirs and select the next king: they chose the Castilian prince, Ferdinand de Antequera (Ferdinand I of Aragon). Born in Valencia in 1350, St Vincent Ferrer (Sant Vicent Ferrer in Valencian), patron saint of orphanages, was the fourth child of a nobleman called Guillem Ferrer. His birth is surrounded in mystery and legend claims that his mother experienced no pain while giving birth. It is also said that his father

was told in a dream by a Dominican friar that his son would become famous throughout the world. Named after the patron saint of Valencia (St Vincent Martyr), Vincent began his classical studies at the age of eight and took up his study of theology and philosophy six years later. By the age of 19, he had entered the Dominican Order (known as the Black Friars in England), although he is said to have experienced temptations forcing him to leave in order to become a secular priest. Over the next three years, he studied the Sacred Scripture, which he committed to memory, and was ordained a Catholic priest in Barcelona in 1379. Eventually becoming a Master of Sacred Theology, he spent the next 20 years travelling through France, Italy, England, Ireland and Scotland in order to preach the Gospel.



Seventeenth century depiction of St Vincent Ferrer. :: SUR

Historians claim that the priest could speak only Valencian, although it is suggested that he was blessed with the ‘gift of tongues’, a phenomenon which sees people speak in languages unknown to them. St Vincent Ferrer is described as a man of very distinct features who would fast on Wednesdays

and Fridays, and who would offer charitable donations of money and food to the poor. Although he is portrayed as having a gentle manner, the Jewish Encyclopaedia claims Vincent used questionable methods in order to convert Jews to Catholicism - greatly contributing to anti-Semitism in Spain. However, many

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE	
Santo	Saint
Cura	Priest
Heredero	Heir
Conversión	Conversion
Orfanato	Orphanage
Huérfano	Orphan
Teología	Theology
Filosofía	Philosophy
Evangelio	Gospel
Escrituras	Scriptures
Seleccionar	To select
Predicar	To preach
Tentación	Temptation
Fraile	Friar
Leyenda	Legend
Historiador	Historian

believe these allegations are unfounded. It is claimed that Vincent put down an uprising against Jews in Valencia and defused a persecution against them in Toledo. He also attended the Disputation of Tortosa ordered by Pope Benedict XIII in an effort to convert Jews during a debate among scholars of both faiths. Vincent died in Brittany on 5 April 1419. He was buried in Vanes Cathedral and was canonised by Pope Calixtus in 1455. His feast day is celebrated on 5 April.

**Bilingual crossword inside back page**



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## VOLUNTEERS CLEAN UP THE BEACH

CLC World team members volunteer each month to clean either of the two beaches that face the Club La Costa World and California Beach resorts. In the nine months since the initiative began, more than 300 kilos of rubbish have been collected, in addition to the routine cleaning carried out by the local authority. To solve the problem of cigarette butts being left on the sand, last summer CLC World provided eco-ashtrays made from recycled materials) at the entrances to the beach.



Sandie and Steve Hughes (centre) with the stars of the show. :: SUR

## Costa musicians unite in support of Debra

Under the banner of 'A Way of Life', the charity event attracted 150 people and raised more than 2,000 euros for the 'butterfly children'

BY TONY BRYANT

**CALAHONDA.** Local expat musicians and entertainers raised more than 2,000 euros last weekend during a charity event in aid of Debra, the Marbella-based charity founded with the aim of improving the lives of children who suffer from Epidermolysis bullosa (butterfly children).

Organised by Steve Hughes (One Wish Steve) and his wife Sandie, more than 150 people attended the star-studded charity night held at the Millennium Cocktail Bar in Calahonda. Under the banner of 'A Way of Life', the event presented a night of music dedicated to the 1960s mod era and included performances by Steve Owen, Anthony Wolfson, Debra Stacey, Susan Mohr, Maya Chewaluzza and specialist ska DJ, Steve Goodey. The acts were

sponsored by K and M Services, while numerous local businesses donated prizes for the charity auction and raffle.

The Los Motos Locos scooter club lent their support to the event once again, although this year, heavy rain prevented them from arriving on a convoy of customised Lambrettas and Vespas.

This was the sixth consecutive year that Steve has organised the fundraising bash, and he has so far donated around 15,000 euros to local charities.

Steve decided to support Debra this year because the charity is very close to the entertainer's heart.

He told SUR in English of his delight at the sum raised, while also expressing his sincere gratitude to everyone who made the event a "fantastic success".

"We would like to thank everyone involved. We raised around 2,000 euros and we expect this total to rise. You can all pat yourselves on the back, because you helped the butterfly children and gave them wings. I can't thank you enough. God bless you all."

## LEGAL ADVICE



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## REF. T. R. U.

I divorced five years ago, and in the divorce decree it was established that I should pay alimony to my son of 350 euros per month. Last year I remarried, and now my wife and I have had a child. Taking this into account, could I apply for a reduction in the alimony I pay, bearing in mind that I now have to support two children?

Not necessarily. In this case, it all depends on your current economic situation. The alimony is set on the basis of the economic capacity of the parents at that time. For this reason, if, after the divorce, your financial circumstances change, you can request a modification of the measures to reduce the amount to be paid. In your specific case, if your income remains the same as when you divorced, the judge will most likely agree to reduce the amount of the payment, as you have more expenses to bear with the arrival of your new child.

## REF. N. I. A.

Taking advantage of the good weather, last week I went to the beach with my dog to spend the morning. The dog is well trained and was lying next to me, without moving and without bothering anyone. However, a family

with two small children appeared, and they found it fun to throw sand at my dog and bother her. Faced with that, the dog stood up and barked at them, and immediately the parents of the children told me that my dog could not be there, that it was a danger and also that the presence of pets on the beach is prohibited. They threatened me that if I did not leave immediately, they would call the police. In order not to have problems, I left, but I would like to know if it is true that I cannot go with my dog to the beach.

It depends on where the beach is located, as the town halls are the ones to regulate what activities are permitted or prohibited on the beach, such as whether pets can be there or not. If they are not allowed, the agents of the authority can force you to leave the beach immediately with the animal, and give you a fine.

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VANIAN

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# The art that saw women as perverse

The Thyssen Museum is exhibiting the evolution of female identity in modern creation, from the 19th century 'femme fatale' to the new woman of the 20th



REGINA SOTORRIO

@ReginaSotorrio

The word 'perverse' is generally understood to mean having a deliberate and obstinate desire to behave badly, to deviate from what is good. However, less common is a surprising definition which changes that around: perverse can also be applied to someone characterised by determination or willfulness.

In the mid-19th century, art tended towards the first definition, portraying the cursed beauty of the woman who leads to the destruction of the man. But by the 20th century there had been a rebellion and women were



Carmen Thyssen, next to the painting 'La gitana' by Manuel Benedito. :: SALVADOR SALAS

being portrayed as strong, seductive and independent. Perversity, the new exhibition at the Carmen Thyssen Museum which is sponsored by the Unicaja Foundation, looks at this evolution in female identity: from 'femme fatale' to the new woman.

"I find it very interesting and relevant at the present time, when women are often in the news. This exhibition will have an effect," said Baroness Carmen Thyssen, president of the Palacio Villalón Foundation at the launch of the exhibition.

The strong red colour of the walls

is a warning that this is an "intense" exhibition. The first picture is a woman in an attitude of waiting, sensual, with a see-through blouse and, of course, she is a red-head, the colour of danger. In 1880 Georges Clairin turned to the archetypes of provocative women to portray one who was in reality a transgression, the actress Sarah Bernhardt, actress and the first female entrepreneur in the world of theatre. The tour of the exhibition ends with a very different pose: in the 20th century, Delhy Tejero painted his friend in trousers, looking powerful, decided and brave. Perversity is a collection of almost 70 visions of woman through paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures by artists such as Klimt, Modigliani, Van Dongen, Man Ray, Picasso, Dalí, Gargallo, Zuloaga and Romero de Torres, among others. Institutions and collections from France, Switzerland, Germany and Spain have loaned their works for this exhibition.

As the curator and artistic director of the museum, Lourdes Moreno, explained, these are a faithful reflection of society of the time. The way art portrayed women in the 19th century "showed a powerful and negative human sentiment: fear".

The alarm caused in society by the



## MOVIE LISTING From Friday 5th to Thursday 11th April

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### DUMBO

Director Tim Burton  
Starring Colin Farrell, Michael Keaton, Danny DeVito  
FANTASY - 111 min.

A young elephant, whose oversized ears enable him to fly, helps save a struggling circus, but when the circus plans a new venture, Dumbo and his friends discover dark secrets beneath its shiny veneer.

Friday 5: 18:15, 20:30  
Saturday 6: 15:30, 18:15, 20:30  
Sunday 7: 11:45, 15:30, 18:15, 20:30  
From Monday 8 to Thursday 11: 17:45, 20:15



### THE MULE

Director Clint Eastwood  
Starring Clint Eastwood, Patrick L. Reyes, Cesar De Leon  
DRAMA - 116 min.

A 90-year-old horticulturist and Korean War veteran turns drug mule for a Mexican cartel.

Friday 5: 20:30  
Saturday 6 and Sunday 7: 22:45  
Monday 8, Tuesday 9 and Thursday 11: 20:15



### SHAZAM!

Director David F. Sandberg  
Starring Zachary Levi, Michelle Borth, Djimon Hounsou  
ACTION - 132 min.

We all have a superhero inside us, it just takes a bit of magic to bring it out.

Friday 5: 18:00, 20:15, 22:45  
Saturday 6: 15:30, 18:00, 20:15, 22:45  
Sunday 7: 11:30, 15:30, 18:00, 20:15, 22:45  
From Monday 8 to Thursday 11: 17:45, 19:50, 22:30



### CAPTAIN MARVEL

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

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

Saturday 6 and Sunday 7: 15:30



### HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD

Friday 5: 18:00  
Saturday 6: 15:50, 18:00  
Sunday 7: 12:00, 15:50, 18:00  
From Monday 8 to Thursday 11: 17:45



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From Friday 5 to Sunday 7: 18:00  
Monday 8, Tuesday 9 and Thursday 11: 17:45



## IN DETAIL

► **Exhibition.** Perversity. Femmes Fatales in Modern Art (1880–1950).

► **What.** 71 works from institutions and collections in France, Switzerland, Germany and Spain.

► **Where.** Museo Carmen Thyssen.

► **When.** Until 8 September.

incorporation of women into work in the industrial revolution and their demands regarding employment generated this reaction, which stemmed from literary, mythological and biblical tradition. Anglada-Camarasa paints a Salomé without a face, only interested in her shape; Franz Von Stuck winds a serpent around a red-headed Eve who holds her breast as if it were the forbidden apple; and Rogelio de Egusquiza echoes a misogynistic philosophical trend in 'Kundry' (the cause of perdition in Wagner's 'Parsifal'), the tallest picture ever to have been displayed at the Thyssen Museum, at 2.4 metres.

For many, like Picasso and Penagos, the myth of Carmen, the Spanish 'femme fatale' was an inspiration, while others preferred the native tradition of the 'maja'. Zuloaga paints her in 'Desnudo del clavel', and Kees van Dongen reviews her in 'El chal español', a provocative work where he places the woman's naked pubis at the eye level of the spectator. The picture was expelled from the Exhibition in Paris in the autumn of 1913. Later, Van Dongen again showed signs of his disruptive character in

## In the 19th century they were painted looking provocative and causing the downfall of men

'Tango', where a naked woman dances with a man in a jacket with angel wings. Look out, though: he is wearing high-heeled shoes.

The first part of the exhibition is titled 'Damned beauty', and the second is graph of the first part of the exhibition. It is followed by 'Queens of the abyss', encompassing the women of the night who survived during a time of exodus to the cities by offering their bodies in the suburbs and the 'maison close' (French brothels).

## EXHIBITIONS

### 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](mailto:info@artesonsoles.com) [artesonsoles.com](http://artesonsoles.com)

### The Greyhound

**Malaga.** Until 10 April. *La Casa Amarilla, C/Santos.*

La Galga (the greyhound) is the title of this exhibition by artist Pedro Lindez. Although a sculptor at heart, Lindez was motivated to study the form of this animal in several large format canvases.

### Galería Krabbe

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

Collective exhibition of art at the Krabbe gallery. Email: [galeriakrabbe@gmail.com](mailto:galeriakrabbe@gmail.com)

### Happy Artists

**La Cala de Mijas.** Until 30 April.

*BocArte Restaurant, C/Cómpeta.* Jane Gomis and Astrid Frida Zehetner from the Happy Artists group are exhibiting a collection of paintings.

## CHARITY

### 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@dabruno.com](mailto:mijas-costa@dabruno.com) or 654513380, [starbabies5@gmail.com](mailto:starbabies5@gmail.com)

### Charity vegan buffet

**Estepona.** 6 April, 9.30pm. *Louie Louie Rock Bar.* 10€.

A special vegan buffet will be available with all profits going to finish the building work at the Protectora Pulgas animal shelter. There will be a live rock band playing afterwards. Reservations, send a message to 661155174 or 649692364.

### Concert for autism charity

**Estepona.** 5 April, 10.30pm. *Louie Louie Rock Bar.* 15€.

The Habituales Rock band, Clásicos

del Rock and The Never Too Late Band (UK) will be playing. All the money from ticket sales will go to the Asociación Autismo Estepona.

### 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. 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](mailto:reservas@hoteltamisa-golf.com)

### Horizonte Marbella market

**Marbella.** 7 April, from 10am. *Parque de la Alameda.*

Clothing, toys and electronics, home decor, jewellery and books etc. New and second hand. Funds go towards helping improve the lives of vulnerable people whether suffering from emotional problems or with substance addiction.

### OFM charity performance

**Estepona.** 13 April, 8pm. *Auditorio Felipe VI.* 10€

The Orquesta Filarmónica de Málaga will be playing Mozart's Requiem with soprano Berna Perles, mezzosoprano Carol García, tenor Juan Antonio Sanabria and baritone José Antonio López. The concert is for the Plataforma del Voluntariados. Tickets: Centro Entre Todos, Caixa and the Sur restaurant in Plazoleta Ortiz.



Zuloaga and Camoin portrayed prostitutes. :: SALVADOR SALAS



This work by Van Dongen was banned in París in 1913. :: S. SALAS

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by Oscar Velasco

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## MUSIC &amp; DANCE

## The Wall Bar

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

**6 April.** Irissoboe. Oboe and acoustic guitar play adapted jazz, soul, rock and pop music.

## Sidecars

**Malaga.** 5 April, 8pm. Teatro Cervantes. 30€.

The Madrid band Sidecars are visiting Malaga as part of the tour for their fourth album, 'Cuestión de Gravedad'. [www.sidecarsrock.es](http://www.sidecarsrock.es)

## EnTRIOPia Jazz

**Nerja.** 6 April, 8pm. Hotel Plaza Cavana, C/Granada, 3. Seats 18€, stool 12€.

Fran Malpica, Blanca Barranco and Ramón López won second prize at El Portón del Jazz in Alhaurín de la Torre and the first prize in the II Olive Jazz of Jaén. Reservations: 690073871 or email: [ventana.abierta.acp@gmail.com](mailto:ventana.abierta.acp@gmail.com)



Berna Perles, OFM charity.

## Pink Floyd tribute

**Malaga.** 6 April, 9.30pm. Sala Paris 15, C/ La Orotova. 24€.

The Pink Floyd tribute band, The Pink Tones will be in concert playing some of the greatest hits of the legendary band. Tickets from

[www.entradium.com](http://www.entradium.com)

## Stabat Mater

**Mijas Pueblo.** 7 April, 7pm. Church of the Inmaculada Concepción. Stabat Mater by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi will be performed by soprano Sonia García Quintero, contralto Mariza Ruppman and cello and keyboard by John Meshreky.

## Louie Louie Live

**Estepona.** Louie Louie Bar.

**6 April, midnight.** Los Brazos present their new album Live. 10€. <https://entradium.com/events/los-brazos-louie-louie-rock-estepona>  
**10 April, 10.30pm.** The Fleshtones on tour. 13€ in advance, 15€ on door.

## Cologne Chamber Orchestra

**Nerja.** 11 April, 8.30pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. Includes Vivaldi La Tempesta di Mare and pieces by Bach, Schubert and Paganini. [www.kammerphilharmonie-koeln.de](http://www.kammerphilharmonie-koeln.de)

## Violin and piano duet

**Nerja.** 12 April, 9pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. 10€. Violinist Francesca Bonaita and pianist Gloria Ciancheta will play pieces by Beethoven and C. Franck.

## Funk, soul and jazz

**Almuñécar.** 6 April, 8pm. Casa de la Cultura. Julia Martín presents a concert 'Viaje a través de Funk, Soul y Jazz'.

## Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

**Malaga.** Auditorio Edgar Neville  
**5 April, 8pm.** Schumann's Concerto for piano and orchestra in A minor in part one. In part two, Shostakovich's Symphony n°9 in B flat Major.  
**Malaga.** Museo de Málaga

## 7 April, midday. Free.

The Cuarteto Cuaresma will be playing a selection of different pieces.

## Malaga. Teatro Cervantes

**11, 12, April, 8.30pm.** A concert for Easter with works by composers M. Franco and Mozart (Requiem). Berna Perles soprano.

## 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](http://www.museopicassomalaga.org)

## Nancy Ruth

**Malaga.** 12 April, 9.30pm. La Nave, C/Cerrajeros. 8€, (La Nave club members, 4€).

Nancy Ruth, singer, composer and pianist, combines jazz, flamenco and Latin rhythms in her concerts. [www.nancyruth.com](http://www.nancyruth.com)

## Moreno Gistain Duo

**Gibraltar.** 12 April, 8pm. Museo Picasso de Málaga.

A piano duet by brothers José Enrique and Juan Fernando Moreno Gistain.

## FLAMENCO

## Young flamenco

**Malaga.** 5 April, 9pm. Escuela de Artes Escénicas de David Martín, Avda Ortega y Gasset, 98 (local 5). Aroa Soto and Fran Blanco vocals; Julio Cortés and Manu guitar, Paula Carmona and Bastián Jiménez dance. Reservations: 618 556 088 / 687 607 526



Easter Island lecture.

## Café de Chinitas

**Malaga.** 5 April, 9pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. 12€. Gaspar Rodríguez (guitar), Carmen Comacho and Rafael Ramírez choreography.

## FESTIVALS

## Día de la yunta y su gañán

**Almayate.** 7 April, from 10am. Prize giving at 1pm.

There were once 2,500 heads of yunta (a breed of oxen) in Andalucía and now there are just 150. This festival aims to keep the memory of these magnificent beasts and their gañán (the labourer who drove them) alive.

## Día del Aceite Verdial

**Periana.** 6-7 April.

The festival pays tribute to the verdial variety of olive. There will be music, tastings of the oil and other local products.

## Día del Pipeo

**Casarabonela.** 6 April. The main square. One of the area's traditional dishes,

El Pipeo, is celebrated in this festival with samples of the stew handed out to visitors and residents.

## LECTURES

## The Arts Society Costa del Sol

**Fuengirola.** 8 April, 4.30pm. Salon Varietés Theatre. Visitors 10€. [www.theartssociety-costadel-sol.org](http://www.theartssociety-costadel-sol.org)

**Nerja.** 9 April, 6pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. Visitors 10€

[www.theartssocietynerja.com](http://www.theartssocietynerja.com)

## 'What happened on Easter Island?'

The isolated Easter Island produced a most extraordinary Stone Age culture: more than a thousand enormous stone statues and a unique writing system. This talk provides an introduction to the discovery of this culture, its principle features and what evidence teaches us about the island's cultural rise and decline. Lecturer Paul Bahn. [www.theartssociety-costadelsol.org](http://www.theartssociety-costadelsol.org)

## EVENTS

## Feria de la Artesanía y Diseño

**Almuñécar.** 5-7 April, 11am until 8pm. Parque el Majuelo. A huge craft and art market with lots of stalls and workshops organised by Cuatro Vientos.

## Birra&amp;Art

**Rincón de la Victoria.** 5-7 April from 12.30pm. Plaza Al Andalus. Free concerts from The Stone Bobbers among others and a Bon Jovi tribute act plus local

# Reliving the era of the 1960s youth-driven mod subculture

## :: TONY BRYANT

**MALAGA.** Those who remember the fashionable mod subculture that took over swinging London during the early 1960s will enjoy a special event that will recreate the youth-driven cultural revolution of one of music's most exciting eras.

Organised by online retro clothing specialist Pepe Morales Mods, 'Tough Nut' will feature several DJs that specialise in northern soul, ska and the music of the iconic mod bands of the 60s. The event will include performances by local retro DJ Fali, and British DJ Schaeffer McLean, whose sister, Levanna, will headline the gig.

Levanna McLean, a 22-year-old dancer and DJ from Bristol, will be presenting her new album, Express Your Soul.

The UK northern soul scene has experienced a number of revivals over the last 30 years and Levanna, also known as 'Northern Soul Girl', has become one of today's main protagonists. De-



Levanna McLean will headline the retro night in Malaga. :: SUR.

scribed as the 'fresh young face of northern soul', the dancer performed with American superstar Pharrell Williams and legendary musician Nile Rodgers at the 2014 BRIT awards, an experience she described as "the best night of my life" and an "incredible honour".

Members of local scooter clubs will be supporting the event by creating the ambience of the mod era with their customised

scooters, parkas, tailor-made zoot-suits and sneakers.

"We have put together this night to make the link and show that British culture is an amazing phenomenon which transcends countries," the organisers explained.

The event, which is free, will be held in the Culture Club Malaga (Calle Manrique 29, Malaga) on Saturday 6 April, from 10pm until 4am.

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gastronomy and 30 craft beers made by nine breweries including beers from Granada (Segal), Huelva (Odiel), Cantabria (Dougall's) and Scotland (Brewdog).

#### Foreign residents' day

**Torremolinos.** 6-7 April, from mid-day. Plaza de la Nogalera.

Many of the different cultures in the town are represented, as well as their customs and gastronomy.

#### Tapas Barn Dance

**Coín.** 12 April, 7pm. El Portón de Piedra.

A traditional barn dance to support local charities. Food and drink available from the bar.



The yunta and gañán, Almayate.

#### Trip to Gibraltar

**Torre del Mar.** 17 April, 16 May, 20 June. Various departure points. 13€.

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

#### O. V. FILM

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

#### Cine Albéniz

C/Alcazabilla 4, Malaga. Tel: 902 36 02 95 www.cinealbeniz.com  
**Green Book:** 22.20 (every day).

#### Cinesur El Ingenio

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

**Pet Cemetery:** 18.00, 20.15, 22.30.

**Shazam:** 12.25 (every day), 17.00, 19.40, 22.20 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).

**Dumbo:** 12.20 (every day), 16.45, 19.05, 21.20 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).

**Captain Marvel:** 18.35, 20.43, 21.10, 23.18 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).

#### Cinesur Miramar

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

**Captain Marvel:** 16.00 (every day).

**Boy Erased:** 15.50 (every day).

**Dumbo:** 12.05 (Fri, Sat, Sun); 15.45, 18.00, 20.15 (every day); 22.30 (Mon-Thurs).

**Pet Cemetery:** 16.00 (Mon-Thurs); 22.30, 00.30 (Fri, Sat, Sun).

**Shazam:** 12.30 (Fri, Sat, Sun); 17.00, 22.15 (every day); 19.45 (Mon-Thurs).

**Opera: La Gioconda:** 8pm (Wed).

#### Cines Teatro Goya

For tickets and information call 951196665. www.cinesteatro-

goya.com

**Green Book:** 17.45 (Mon, Tues, Thurs); 18.00 (Fri-Sun).

**Dumbo:** 11.45 (Sun); 15.30 (Sat, Sun); 17.45, 20.15 (Mon-Thurs); 20.30 (Fri, Sat, Sun).

**Captain Marvel:** 15.30 (Sat, Sun).

**How To Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World:** 12.00 (Sun), 15.50 (Sat, Sun); 17.45 (Mon-Thurs); 18.00 (Fri, Sat, Sun).

**The Mule:** 20.15 (Mon, Tues, Thurs); 20.30 (Fri) 22.45 (Sat, Sun).

**Shazam:** 11.30 (Sun); 15.30 (Sat, Sun); 18.00, 20.15, 22.45 (Fri, Sat,

Sun); 17.45, 19.50, 22.30 (Mon-Thurs).

#### Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

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

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

**Shazam:** 16.16 (every day).

**Alita, Battle Angel:** 21.10 (Tues).

**Captain Marvel:** 12.00 (Sat, Sun).

**Pet Cemetery:** 19.00 (Tues).

**Dumbo:** 12.45 (Sat, Sun); 20.20 (Fri, Sat, Sun).

**Escape Room:** 20.00 (Tues).

**Boy Erased:** 19.35 (Tues).

**Green Book:** 21.30 (Tues).

**Mule:** 19.10 (Tues)

**Us:** 12.25 (Sat, Sun).

#### Yelmo Cines, Rincón de la Victoria

Calle Arroyo Totalán

Tel: 902 220 922 or visit www.yelmocines.es

**Green Book:** 18.40 (Tues).

**Mule:** 19.40 (Tues).

**Shazam:** 19.45 (Tues).

**Pet Cemetery:** 20.10 (Tues)

**Us:** 20.25 (Tues)

#### Yelmo Cines, Vialia

Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902 220 922

or visit www.yelmocines.es

**Shazam:** 21.15 (Tues).

**Captain Marvel:** 12.00 (Sat, Sun).

**Pet Cemetery:** 19.50 (Tues).

**Dumbo:** 20.25 (Tues).

**Green Book:** 17.35, 22.20 (Tues).

**Mule:** 20.00 (Tues)

**Us:** 20.10 (Sat, Sun)

#### Musica Con Encanto

Urb La Alzambra, Puerto Banús Marbella. Bookings: 689 000 944. Beethoven: **Immortal Beloved**: 6 April, 8pm. Vasari Centre. A film by Bernard Rose. 12€. www.musicaconencanto.org

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in English

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**"Form part of the community, register as a resident in Marbella, there are many benefits"**

CONFERENCE by Pedro Fernández, Tax Partner with Garrigues.



Pedro Fernández is a partner with Garrigues, the leading Spanish law firm, and specialises in tax law. He has practised in the Málaga office throughout his 25-years career and has been highly exposed to inbound investment in real estate and taxation affairs for foreigners coming to live in Spain. He will be presenting his views of the current regulatory environment affecting Britons living and waiting to live in Spain in view of the forthcoming Brexit.

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**ADVERTORIAL** Salitre Taberna Marinera

# The best in seafood cuisine, fresh from the sea's pantry

**FUENGIROLA**

Salitre Taberna Marinera opened its doors in Fuengirola on 15 February with a special inauguration which offered a taste of a selection of dishes from the extensive menu based on the star ingredient: wild bluefin tuna. The response since the opening, from locals and visitors alike, has been amazing.

Head of the professional and friendly team at Salitre Taberna Marinera is Abraham Garrote, an experienced chef who has honed his skill in many European countries as well as in Spain. Now based in Fuengirola, with its traditional seafaring history, Abraham wanted to bring back the seafood cuisine of yesteryear for the clients of Salitre Taberna Marinera.

He supports the art of sustainable fishing, which has been carried out for more than 3,000 years on the coast, and offers his food in a cosy tavern environment which is divided into three areas: a spacious decked terrace, cosy bar and a smart lounge - ideal for both daily and special events, for couples, families and colleagues etc.

The Salitre Taberna Marinera menu includes an exciting selection of dishes, tapas and snacks from seafood from the coast to traditional stews, salads and savouries with over 25 dishes based on wild bluefin tuna.

To reserve a table call 951 407 492. Abraham and his team will be delighted to welcome you to Salitre Taberna Marinera in Avenida Ramón y Cajal 22, Fuengirola (closed Sunday evenings and Mondays).

**Salitre Taberna Marinera**  
Address: Avda Ramón y Cajal 22.  
Tel: 951407492  
Internet: [www.tabernasalitre.es](http://www.tabernasalitre.es)



The cosy, tavern environment is split into three different areas.



Fresh, local seafood.



Delicious salads.

ANDREW J. LINN

## YOUR TRUFFLES OR YOUR LIFE



**T**he Spanish truffle-collecting season has just finished, but the relative lack of rain was a hindrance to the hunters and their excited dogs (they don't use pigs here, this being a French tradition). Many an early-riser returned home with an empty basket. Not a high price to pay for the disappointment, above all when the compensation prize is a clear morning with views up and down the coast. They were reasonably lucky. In other countries truffle hunting can be terminal.

Shortly before hostilities ceased entirely the other week, two Kurdish friends, Khogir and Goran, struck out into the no-man's land between the front lines of the Peshmerga and Islamic State, not far from Kirkuk. They wanted to find 'desert truffles' to trade for some other commodity hard to obtain in the war zone. It was nearly the last thing they ever did. With their gazes fixed firmly on the ground and absorbed in their task, they were easy prey to the figures that crept up unawares and captured them without a struggle. They became prisoners numbers 44 and 45 of Isis this year. But luck was on their side. Because they were Sunnis, they were set free after a ransom of around \$10,000 had been paid by their families. Had they been Shiites, within hours of their seizure they would have been decapitated - not for truffle

hunting but for being apostates. Money doesn't enter into the matter in such circumstance.

Anyway, the poor-quality truffles they were looking for are worth pennies not pounds, and like other so-called luxury items, their value appears to be based on dubious claims about mythical aphrodisiac properties. No chef is about to grate the rare tubers onto some delicate dish. They are cooked and consumed as kebabs, boiled to make a weak soup, or fried with raisins and rice. In fact, nothing to write home about, even if you are a captive of Isis at the time, and certainly not worth risking your life for.

**WINE OF THE WEEK****Tempranillo Blanco 2017**

The title may strike some as oxymoronic. Everyone knows that Spain's flagship grape, Tempranillo, is red, so 'white'? Actually it is not the only unusual thing about this small Rioja bodega that produces just eight superb wines. Rioja Vega started making wine in 1882, before Rioja as a denomination even existed. There is also a Reserva 2014 - absolutely not to be missed. Around 13 euros (Birdie Wines).



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## DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA



View of Conil de la Frontera. :: TURISMO ANDALUZ



The historic town centre. :: TURISMO CONIL

# Flavours of land and sea

JAVIER  
ALMELLONES

### 2 days in Conil de la Frontera

Car + Walking.

Journey time: 2 and a half hours from Malaga.  
Gastronomic events: 5 hours.

Other visits: 3 hours.



Although many people think of it as one of the most popular tourist towns on Andalusia's Atlantic coast, Conil de la Frontera is also one of the places in Cadiz province which can boast long-standing gastronomic fame. This is especially so in the spring, thanks to its seasonal produce: delicious locally-grown fruits and vegetables, and tuna caught by the traditional 'almadraba'

method.

In fact, from early April until June, Conil's products and typical dishes are a major tourist attraction in themselves, and from now until Sunday 14 April the ninth edition of its gastronomic festival, the 'Jornadas Gastronómicas de la Huerta', will be taking place with the participation of 25 local bars and restaurants.

During the festival, all these establishments will be including dishes made

with local products on their menus, so this is the ideal opportunity to sample some made with tomatoes, aubergines, cauliflower, artichokes or broad beans, including the typical 'collard greens from Conil' and stew made with tagarnina thistles.

The event will be officially inaugurated on Saturday 6 April in the emblematic Plaza Santa Catalina, with an array of tapas made with these seasonal products from Conil. There will be something to please all palates: soups, stews, fries and grills, stir-fries, scrambled eggs with a variety of ingredients, salads and desserts.

It will serve as a taste of what is to come in the local bars and restaurants until the final day, which is Palm Sunday.

This gastronomic route will also be an excellent forerunner for the Tuna Route, or Ruta del Atún, which will be taking place from 3 May to 3 June. This will be the ideal opportunity to try the genuine bluefin tuna 'de almadraba', which gets its name from the thousand-year-old method of fishing which is still used to catch it.

Thanks to these two gastronomic events, Conil becomes a paradise for food lovers in Andalusia every spring.



Conil is famous for its fruit and veg. :: TURISMO CONIL

### QUICK GUIDE

#### What to see in Conil

- Food market. Ideal for buying local produce and seafood.  
Calle Catadores, 1, 11140 Conil de la Frontera.

Museo de Raíces Conileñas. A museum about the customs and history of the town.

- Plaza de Santa Catalina, 9. 11140 Conil de la Frontera.

Centro de Interpretación del Mar, del Atún y de las Almadrabas. Information centre about the local fishing industry, including the almadraba-caught tuna.

- Calle Almadraba, 7. 11140 Conil de la Frontera.



El Baluarte. Remains of the old walls which used to surround Conil. The entrance is in Calle Extramuros. 11140 Conil de la Frontera.

Centro Cultural Santa Catalina. A former 15th century church, now restored for cultural use and tourism events. Plaza Santa Catalina, s/n. 11140 Conil de la Frontera.



# Malaga surgeons cure boy's epilepsy after carrying out unique operation

The problematic brain tumour was removed following a procedure which remodelled brain functions and enabled speech to be unaffected

✶ **ÁNGEL ESCALERA**

**MALAGA.** The life of a 17-year-old boy has changed completely and for the better, thanks to an operation carried out at the Hospital Regional in Malaga to remove a tumour from the left hemisphere of his brain, which is where the language area is situated. The surgery, which was carried out

while the patient was awake, removed the tumour which was causing him to have epileptic fits almost every day and stopped him leading a normal life. He also underwent a procedure to remodel cerebral functions, and can now speak normally because the language area of his brain has been moved from the left hemisphere to the right.

The operation was carried out last July by the neurosciences department, and this week they held a press conference to explain what they had done. Present were the head of neurology, Pedro Serrano; the coordinator of the neurophysiology service, Victoria Fernández; the head of adult



Guillermo Ibáñez, Pedro Serrano, Victoria Fernández and Luis Muñoz on Wednesday. ✶ **ÑITO SALAS**

neurosurgery, Guillermo Ibáñez and neuropsychologist, Luis Muñoz.

The tumour was diagnosed when the patient was seven years old; it was found to be the cause of his epilepsy. He underwent surgery, but it was not possible to remove the whole tumour because it was located very close to the language area and there was the risk that he would lose the faculty of speech. As time went by his epileptic crises continued, because the tumour started to grow again. The doctors didn't want to operate again at that time because the patient needs to be awake and that was not possible in the case of a child.

Ten years after the first operation, doctors spotted that the patient's brain was starting to move the language area from the left hemisphere to the right naturally, but very slowly, while the tumour was growing quickly. To avoid his ability to speak being permanently impaired, the doctors decided to apply direct electrical stimulation to the cerebral cortex to speed up the innate processes of neuronal

plasticity which had already begun autonomously. Their objective was to move the language function from the left part of the brain to the right and, once that had been done, remove the tumour and cure the epilepsy.

The neurosurgeons carried out a craniotomy and placed a blanket of electrodes over the area of the lesion. Using cortical mapping they located the language function and applied an inhibitory cortical electrical stimulus to annul the func-

tion. At the same time, they carried out intensive rehabilitation of the language faculty, literally forcing it to use the area developed in the right hemisphere.

The language stimulation was carried out by Luis Muñoz, who set up a rehabilitation programme to encourage the activation of the contralateral areas (in the right hemisphere) so they took on the language function. The rehabilitation took place over a week, including the weekend, for three hours a day.

After seven days the patient was able to speak and understand, and the language area on the left side of the brain had been deactivated so it could function normally on the right. The next step was to operate to remove the tumour.

The operation was successful. The tumour was removed, the epilepsy stopped and the teenager was able to speak. This major success brings hope for other epileptic patients who are unable to have surgery at present for fear that it could cause damage in some areas of the brain.

**The operation could not be carried out when the patient was a child because he had to be awake**

**Doctors successfully moved the language function from one side of the brain to the other**

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# When spring is the enemy

Many people suffer from the effects of asthenia when the season changes

ÁNGEL  
ESCALERA

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**MÁLAGA.** The arrival of spring should be welcomed because it brings more hours of daylight, the weather is better and the days are longer, but some people feel low in energy, sleepy, lethargic or even sad at the beginning of this season.

These symptoms are known under the generic name of spring asthenia, or spring fatigue or lethargy, and although there is no scientific evidence to explain why it happens and doctors don't consider it an illness, it is quite common at this time of year. It is related to the way our bodies go through the process of adapting to the change of season.

Psychologist Eva Ugarte, a member of the medical team at the iSalud.com insurance comparison site, says the arrival of spring means the evenings are lighter and longer, the weather gets warmer and there are often modifications to the daily rou-



Spring asthenia is also known as spring fatigue. :: SUR

tine. As a result, many people suffer from spring fatigue to a greater or lesser extent. However, she makes it clear that it is nothing to worry about, because it doesn't last long and disappears by itself without needing treatment.

As well as feeling generally unwell, the symptoms of spring fatigue in-

clude irritability, headache, difficulty in concentrating and a loss of memory. These symptoms can be tackled with the right food, physical exercise and plenty of rest.

#### Advice from experts

Experts recommend a healthy and balanced diet, because that is bene-

ficial for the whole body. People who suffer the effects of spring fatigue are advised to introduce foods which provide energy into their diet, such as cereals, pulses and oily fish like tuna or salmon. It is also a good idea to eat fruit and vegetables, preferably those in season such as apricots, strawberries, spin-

The symptoms are a general feeling of being unwell, fatigue, sleepiness and irritability

The condition doesn't last very long and disappears automatically without treatment

ach, radishes and endive.

"In addition, you should avoid abusing stimulants like alcohol, coffee and tea. To stay hydrated, water is best, or you can substitute it with infusions or natural juices, for example," says Eva Ugarte.

Physical exercise can also help to overcome spring fatigue, and if possible it should be in the open air: go for a bike ride, run or simply walk. Eva also points out that "activities associated with relaxation, such as yoga, can also help to improve the way you feel".

In addition to eating properly and taking exercise, it is important that anyone suffering from spring fatigue gets plenty of rest.

"It is essential for people to get as much rest and sleep as they need because then they will feel more energetic," says Eva.

She also advises taking short five-minute breaks during the working day, because it will make it seem less onerous.

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*Helen Keller*

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# "The hospital is at the limit of its capacity and we need to restart the extension project"

**Luisa Lorenzo** Managing Director of the Costa del Sol Health Agency

**MÓNICA PÉREZ**

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She recognises that this is the "most difficult" time for the hospital when, as well as the extension works, it may also be incorporated into the health service

**MARBELLA.** She has first-hand knowledge of the Costa del Sol Hospital because she has worked there for years. In fact, until taking up her new post very recently, Luisa Lorenzo, who is qualified in Medicine and General Surgery, was the head of Healthcare Management. She has already drawn up a list of priorities, with a special fo-

cus on providing more space in a hospital which, she admits, is no longer big enough. The building is to be extended, but she is also trying to find interim solutions while the works are being carried out.

**-How do you feel about your new position?**

-I'm grateful to the head of the Andalusian Health Service and the regional Ministry of Health for placing their trust in me. I believe this will be a very difficult challenge, because there are some very important projects coming up, like the extension and the new HAR in Estepona, which I imagine we will also run. They are complicated, but I'm glad they are happening. Also, I am not tackling this on my own. Many people are supporting me and that makes me feel very proud, but it is also a great responsibility because I mustn't let them down.

**-What have you done in these first few days?**

-I have tried not to slow anything down, so that everything could

continue as usual, but at the same time I need to understand what the most important problems are at the hospital. That's what I'm doing at present.

**-What are the most important things right now?**

-For me the most important of all is to unblock the extension. We have been waiting for it for ten years now. This hospital was designed for a certain size of population, but that has grown enormously. The hospital is at its physical limit. We are operating in the mornings and evenings, and holding consultations in the mornings and evenings, and we are still struggling to keep up. We have the shortest waiting lists in the whole of Andalucía, because the staff here are very committed, but it is absolutely essential to start to think about how we can expand our space.

**-What is the situation regarding the concession for the works at the moment?**

-Because it will cost more than

**"We're going to do some minor works to create more space while the hospital is being extended"**

**"We take on more staff in the Emergencies department every year, but we do need more specialists in some areas"**

600,000 euros to reactivate the expansion project, I can't approve it on my own. It had to be approved by the board of administration, and that was done at a meeting last week. However, there is still another step to go, because the payment has to be handled by the Junta de Andalucía. Another important step is to examine the plans carefully, because the origi-

nal project was designed a long time ago and in the meantime medicine has changed, the hospital has changed, and our needs are no longer the same. I'm going to sit down with the professionals here to draw up a sensible plan for the extension which best suits the needs of the hospital.

**-The hospital may have the lowest waiting lists, but the emergency department appears to be pushed to the limit.**

-The number of people admitted to hospital is more or less similar all through the year, maybe slightly lower in the summer, but the emergency department is much busier in the summer because as well as the usual population we have so many visitors. Normally we analyse the situation in July and August and take on extra staff to work in Emergencies in the summer. It suffers from the same problem as the operating theatres and consultations, though: it lacks space. The emergency department is too small for the number of patients who need the service.

**-What do you intend to do about that?**

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–We are considering minor changes which would give us more space. I want the expansion works to begin as soon as possible, but you have to bear in mind that they will take time and we can't carry on as we are for much longer. That's why we are analysing ways of creating more space in the interim period.

–Will that mean taking on more staff?

–We take on more staff in Emergencies every year, as I said. Some departments do need more doctors, for example Traumatology. I think we have as many patients in that department as they do at the Virgen de la Victoria hospital in Malaga, and they have many more traumatologists. So in some departments, yes, we need to employ more staff.

–The standard of work here has won the hospital numerous awards and certificates. What can be improved?

–I think there are always ways to improve and I have noticed some organisational aspects where there is room for improvement.

–You were pioneers in Spain with your sun protection campaign. Will that continue this year?

–Yes, the campaign began in 2009 with Magdalena de Troya, who still runs it. I think it has been very interesting because it has been supported by professionals, raised awareness among the public and the institutions and, very importantly, town halls, hospitals and health centres have also become



Luisa Lorenzo, in her office at the Hospital Costa del Sol. :: JOSELE-LANZA

involved.

–In his recent visit to the hospital, the Health delegate for Malaga province, Carlos Bautista, mentioned that the health agency

may no longer be a public company and the hospital might be brought under the umbrella of the Andalusian Health Service.

–It has been suggested, and my

opinion is a bit divided about that. I believe this hospital works in a different way to the Andalusian Health Service, but I also understand that in terms of regulation

and staff mobility it could be interesting. You have to remember, for example, that a professional from here who wants to move into a health service job can't do so. I understand the idea behind integration, but I would like to be able to retain the same commitment and values and for those to be taken up by the health service, because I really do believe we do things differently here. In any case, the integration seems logical because within one public health system we can't have different models, and there are three different models.

–What other priorities have you set for yourself?

–I'm in the process of meeting staff from all departments to find out what they need and can now start some new initiatives. For example, a working group to analyse how we can continue to reduce waiting lists. I have also discussed ways of carrying out more operations every day. I'm looking at the possibility of extending telemedicine, as well.

–How would telemedicine benefit the Costa del Sol hospital?

–It would mean fewer patients had to travel to the hospital and it would relieve the pressure on us. I have already talked to several people about extending it, because we already do some teleconsultations in the Dermatology and Cardiology departments, so the idea is to expand the reach of virtual consultations.



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Almagro, her parents, María Bravo, and Isabel Cintado. :: JOSELE-LANZA

## The María Bravo foundation raises 50,000 euros in Dubai for Sarah

The teenager, who lost both hands and feet to sepsis, was presented with a symbolic cheque at an event at Marbella town hall

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ

**MARBELLA.** "We applaud your strength. You are an example for many and make us realise that people can carry on and do well in life, no matter what may happen to them. I am proud of you." With these words the founder and president of the Global Gift Foundation, María Bravo, handed over a symbolic cheque this week for the amount raised at a charity event in Dubai to help Sarah Almagro buy the prostheses she needs.

The teenager had to have both hands and feet amputated after suffering from sepsis. Sarah's parents,

Ismael and Silvia, were also at Marbella town hall to receive the donation and were visibly moved by the gesture.

Like the rest of the money raised so far, these 50,000 euros will be paid into the account opened by the non-profit-making association 'Somos Tu Ola' to manage the donations. María Bravo praised the efforts made by Sarah and her parents to change the vaccination system and improve the ortho-prosthetic equipment available to amputees. "Sarah, you are a reflection of your parents, and that is because your parents are incredible," she said.

Silvia Vallejo, Sarah's mother, thanked everyone who has been supporting her daughter in recent months. "We are so grateful for all this support, and to those who raise awareness of this case and of our wish to help others," she said.

Their determination paid off, be-

cause two weeks ago Ismael and Silvia had a meeting at the Junta de Andalucía's Ministry of Health, with the general secretary, Faustino Blanco, and the director of the Health Promotion department, Aurora Limia.

"They told us that they will start using the tetravalent vaccine, because the one they are using at present isn't scientifically proven to cover 100 per cent of cases," explained Ismael. He and his wife are also calling for the sepsis code, which is activated when a case is detected in hospital, to remain active until the moment the patient is discharged.

Marbella's Social Rights councillor, Isabel Cintado, was also present at the event and described Sarah as an example of enthusiasm, fortitude and achievement.

"We are sure that very soon you will be able to carry on with your projects where you were forced to leave off," she told her.

## 'Not The Christmas Party' helps the cause

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

**MIJAS.** Walking Football Spain hosted a 'Not The Christmas Party' on Thursday last week to raise funds to buy prosthetic limbs for Sarah Almagro at Our Bar in Calahonda, Mijas Costa.

The event, which replaced the mini international tournament cancelled on 23 March, was enjoyed by members, spouses and friends, who ate, drank and danced the night away.

The karaoke saw no shortage of volunteers who were happy to pay five euros to sing.

The evening raised 200 euros which was added to the 250 euros from the collecting tin and donations. The group thanked Our Bar for the use of the premises and the buffet as well as Global Radio DJ Mark Peters.



The event replaced the tournament that was cancelled. :: SUR

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Blanco Leschuk collects the ball from the net after ending his goal drought as Iván Alejo celebrates. :: NITO SALAS

# Malaga score late to seal another agonising draw

The Blue and Whites limped over the finishing line against Sporting who took the lead with a penalty in the first half at La Rosaleda last Friday

Both sides finished the game with ten men after Pablo Pérez and Diego González received their marching orders in the second half

:: SERGIO CORTÉS / FERNANDO MORGADO

**MALAGA.** The nearly 17,000 Malaga fans who were in the stands at La Rosaleda stadium last Friday night were denied the chance yet again to see their team win at home. They

were lucky in fact that they didn't have to witness a defeat, as it took the Blue and Whites until the last ten minutes of the match to equalise against visitors Sporting.

In the first half Malaga were the dominant side, keeping the ball and pinning Sporting into their own half. However, as in other recent games, they failed to hit the target when chances presented themselves. The first came to Iván Alejo who slid the ball past the post after Adrián's cutback to the penalty spot. Overall, they lacked precision and quality and made mistakes at

key moments in the game.

Sporting went ahead in the 20th minute of the game when Uros Djurdjevic slotted his penalty past Munir, who went the right way, after Adrián mistimed his challenge and tripped Cristian in the area.

Federico Ricca had a chance to level shortly after but he showed just why he is a defender by dragging his side-foot effort into the side netting when a ball across the face would have been the more sensible option.

The second half began with two scares for Malaga as a shot by Sport-

ing's Peybernes cannoned off the crossbar from close range and Geraldles, left unmarked by Ricca nearly increased the lead.

However, Sporting's ascendancy was halted as they went down to ten men when the referee showed Pablo Pérez a straight red card four minutes after coming on as he scythed down Javi Ontiveros, missing the ball completely.

It didn't take Malaga long to lose their numerical advantage, though, as Diego González followed his opponent down the tunnel just six minutes later after picking up his

LA LIGA 123									
Results					Next match day				
Reus - Cádiz	0-1	Tenerife - Sporting	1-1	Deportivo-Majadahonda	Granada - MALAGA	2-2	Extremadura - Almería	Oviedo - Las Palmas	Alcorcón - Albacete
MALAGA - Sporting	1-1	Almería - Majadahonda	2-2	Granada - MALAGA	Oviedo - Las Palmas	2-2	Alcorcón - Albacete	Lugo - Osasuna	Mallorca - Reus
Almería - Majadahonda	2-2	Granada - MALAGA	2-1	Extremadura - Almería	Gimnástico - Numancia	1-1	Elche - Córdoba	Cádiz - Zaragoza	
Numancia - Granada	2-1	Oviedo - Las Palmas	2-2	Alcorcón - Albacete					
Albacete - Tenerife	2-2	Alcorcón - Albacete	3-2	Lugo - Osasuna					
Córdoba - Mallorca	3-2	Lugo - Osasuna	1-0	Mallorca - Reus					
Osasuna - Extremadura	1-0	Mallorca - Reus	0-0	Gimnástico - Numancia					
Alcorcón - Lugo	0-0	Gimnástico - Numancia	1-1	Elche - Córdoba					
Oviedo - Deportivo	1-1	Elche - Córdoba	0-1	Cádiz - Zaragoza					
Las Palmas - Elche	0-1								
Zaragoza - Gimnástico	3-0								
Table									
TEAM	PT	P	W	D	L	GF	GA		
★ 1.Osasuna	63	32	19	6	7	44	29		
★ 2.Granada	58	32	16	10	6	39	21		
3.Albacete	57	32	15	12	5	42	25		
4.MALAGA	55	32	15	10	7	33	23		
5.Deportivo	54	32	13	15	4	41	23		
6.Cádiz	52	32	14	10	8	41	26		
7.Mallorca	51	32	14	9	9	43	31		
8.Oviedo	48	32	13	9	10	35	34		
9.Almería	46	32	11	13	8	35	28		
10. Sporting	46	32	12	10	10	35	29		
11. Alcorcón	44	32	12	8	12	31	31		
12. Elche	42	32	10	12	10	34	36		
13. Las Palmas	42	32	9	15	8	35	34		
14. Numancia	39	32	9	12	11	37	41		
15. Zaragoza	37	32	9	10	13	34	39		
16. Tenerife	37	32	7	16	9	30	37		
17. R. Majadahonda	37	32	10	7	15	33	43		
18. Lugo	33	32	7	12	13	29	40		
▼ 19. Extremadura	30	32	7	9	16	34	42		
▼ 20. Córdoba	26	32	5	11	16	38	59		
▼ 21. Gimnástico	24	32	6	6	20	18	48		
▼ 22. Reus	0	32	5	6	21	16	38		

1-1

MALAGA-SPORTING

**Malaga:** Munir; Iván (Mula, 74'), Luis Hernández, Diego González, Ricca; Erik Morán (Seleznov, 52'), N'Diaye; Iván Alejo, Adrián, Ontiveros; Blanco Leschuk. Unused substitutes: Kieszek, Cifu, Pau Torres, Keidi, Renato.

**Sporting:** Mariño; Geraldles, Peybernes, Babin, Molinero; Traver, Nacho Méndez, Cristian, Aitor García (Lod, 78'); Álex Alegría (Álex Pérez, 89), Djurdjevic (Pablo Pérez, 62'). Unused substitutes: Dani Martín, Canello, Hernán, Álvaro Jiménez.

**Goals:** 0-1 Djurdjevic (20') [pen]; 1-1 Blanco Leschuk (82').

**Referee:** Pizarro Gómez. Straight red for Pablo Pérez (66') and a dismissal for two yellows for Diego González (72'). Yellow cards for Erik Morán, Adrián, Molinero, Iván Alejo, Babin, Geraldles, Lod, Traver, N'Diaye and Álex Alegría.

**Ground:** La Rosaleda (16,996 spectators).

second yellow card for an elbow on Álex Alegría as the pair jumped to win an aerial challenge.

But this didn't stop them finding the equaliser. In the 82nd minute, Gustavo Blanco Leschuk fi-



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Up next

## GRANADA (A)

Malaga's next fixture could be decisive in the chase for automatic promotion with the Blue and Whites heading to near-neighbours Granada for a highly-important Andalusian derby (kick-off Saturday, 6pm).

The hosts at the Nuevo Los Cármenes currently sit second in the league, five points adrift of leaders Osasuna. However, should Malaga win by two goals, they will leapfrog their rivals. Defeat, however, could see them six points adrift with only nine games left to play.

Granada, managed by Diego Martínez, had been on a good run of from with four wins in a row, but two draws and a 2-1 defeat away to Numancia on Saturday have seen their lead reduced.

With six players one yellow away from suspension (Lombán, Dani Pacheco, Erik Morán, Iván Alejo, Ricca and Adrián), Malaga must be careful not to let the occasion get to them.

nally brought his 19-game goal drought to end when he latched on to Ricca's flick-on from Luis Hernández's long throw, turning and prodding the ball past Mariño from just six yards out.

After that, neither side was able to alter the scoreboard, despite chances wasted by Sporting's Robin Lod, who rocked the woodwork again, this time from a freekick, and Malaga's Yevhen Seleznyov who nodded his header onto the post.

Despite a strong start to the encounter, Malaga coach Juan Ramón Muñiz admitted that Sporting were "well organised" and that his side were too "tentative" in attack. "Overall I think the crowd can be satisfied with our work because we overcame adversity and rescued the point."

The draw leaves Malaga in fourth place, just three points away from second place and direct promotion. Their next opponents are precisely the team they want to swap places with: Granada. The Blue and Whites need to beat their Andalusian rivals by more than one goal and hope that third-placed Albacete don't win their match to slip in behind top team Osasuna.

# Femenino show they've still got the fight to remain among the elite

## 4-2 MALAGA-ALBACETE

**Malaga:** Chelsea; Ruth, Raquel, Cazalla, Postigo; Paula Fernández (Ode, 67'), Pamela, Dominika (Adriana, 90'); María Ruiz (Miriam, 79'), Mascaró (Armisa, 59'), Leticia.

**Albacete:** De Toro, Padi, Miri, Mati, Carmen Fernández (Navarro, 62'), Alba Redondo, Cintia (Tomo, 69'), Pomares, Sandra Luzardo, Leles, Kuki.

**Goals:** 1-0 Cazalla (22'); 1-1 Pomares (42'); 2-1 Paula Fernández (57'), 3-1 Leticia (74'); 3-2 Bulatovic (79'); 4-2 Raquel (86').

**Referee:** Acevedo Dudley. Yellow cards for Ruth, Paula Fernández, Pamela, Leles and Alba Redondo.

**Ground:** Federación Malagueña de Fútbol. (250 spectators).



Malaga Femenino pose after the match to celebrate their win. :: GERMÁN POZO

Malaga's women took one step closer to salvation on Sunday with their first win in 16 games

### :: MARINA RIVAS

**MALAGA.** Malaga's women's team chalked up their first win in 16 games on Sunday when they took on visitors Albacete on the Federación ground.

Despite the rain, the mud and the

poor turnout of just 250 spectators, Malaga proved they're not ready to throw in the towel just yet and can still fight to lift themselves up from the bottom of the first division.

After 15 games without a win, their reaction came at a crucial point when they faced their direct rivals in the danger zone, Fundación Albacete. And they did it in style - scoring four goals in the same game for the first time this season.

The first half began with the visitors in control, all out to get an early

goal, but Malaga were quick to take the reins. This newfound confidence was rewarded with a goal in the 22nd minute, when Cazalla headed the ball into the back of the net off a corner taken by Leticia.

Their lead was cut short however when Albacete scored through Pomares just before half time.

The second half brought Malaga fresh chances as they upped the pace and a goal from Paula put them back in the lead. The home side's possibilities increased when Armisa was

brought on for Mascaró, soon scoring Malaga's third.

The fans feared the worst when Albacete reacted and Bulatovic scored, but Malaga played on their counter-attack and Raquel sealed their victory in the last few minutes.

With just five games to go, Malaga remain bottom of the first division but just one point away from their defeated rivals Albacete, who now sit just above the relegation zone. Their next game is away to Barcelona on 14 April.



:: OPTA

## PROMOTION FAVOURITES INFLICT DEFEAT ON MALAGUEÑO

Atlético Malagueño remain at the foot of Segunda B group four after a quick-fire double in the first half from Melilla, scored by Menudo and Moha Traoré, left Malaga's reserves with a mountain to climb. The visitors, who were forced to play the match in Melilla's second strip, managed to get a goal back in the 90th minute through Ramos but it proved to be too little, too late.



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## A LOOK AT LA LIGA

**ROB PALMER**  
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# The Aspas Arena

**The man who lied about his age to get a trial is almost single-handedly responsible for the Celta Vigo's modern La Liga existence**

Sometime soon they need to rename the Celta Vigo stadium after their saviour Iago Aspas.

Bear in mind that Getafe play their games at the Estadio Coliseum Alfonso Pérez (in honour of a player who was born in the area but never actually played for the club), Aspas is almost single-handedly responsible for the club's modern La Liga existence. He's as important to the town of Vigo as Alan Shearer is to Newcastle or Matt Le Tissier to Southampton. He is the essence of the club.

His teammate Brais Méndez went as far as exclaiming this week that he's "as important for us as Messi is for Barcelona".

Yes, this is the same footballer who is remembered at Liverpool as the man who took one of the worst corners in the history of Anfield in a vital match against Chelsea. He

soon vacated the number nine shirt after a single goal against Oldham in 15 appearances.

There is always a Scouser who somehow manages to single me out when I'm at the stadium to chastise me about my prediction on Liverpool's club TV station that Aspas could be one of the club's most astute signings.

But back in Vigo he's a footballing god. He earned his move to the Premier League after his 23 goals won promotion for Celta in 2012 and he kept them up with his prolific scoring the next season.

He returned in 2015 via a loan to Sevilla and it was if he'd never been away. It was one of the great comebacks. His goals earned him a Spain call-up and he scored the equaliser on his debut at Wembley with a backheel. The English ghost was exercised.

He's been the top Spaniard in La Liga for the previous two campaigns. Last season only Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo and Luis Suárez recorded more goals in La Liga.

This season he's once more the leading Spanish scorer but has missed half the season and his club have suffered in his absence.

Last week he returned in a blaze of glory and a flood of tears. Celta were two goals down in a vital relegation battle with Villarreal when he took a grip of the game with a brace of goals. His second was a penalty to win the game with four minutes remaining. He kept his cool but was an emotional wreck at the end of the game.

The man who lied about his age as an eight-year-old boy to get a trial at the club is Celta's best bet of remaining in the top flight. When he was injured for



Iago Aspas with Huesca's forward Ezequiel Ávila . :: EFE

three months, they lost 10 out of 12 games; the fightback really started once he returned to a team that had dropped into the bottom three. He scored the two against Villarreal and followed it up with a goal and two assists at

Huesca.

On Merseyside, there is talk of preserving the corner flag in the club museum. Now he's back in his hometown, if they do stay up, the whole stadium should be named in his honour.

## Points shared among Segunda B's most in-form sides

Marbella looked the most likely to win but had to settle for a point on their trip to Huelva

**RECREATIVO 0 MARBELLA 0**

:: OPTA

**HUELVA.** The points were shared on Sunday as Segunda B's two teams to beat of late, Recreativo

and Marbella, faced off at the Nuevo Colombino in Huelva.

It was the visitors who got off to the better start, maintaining possession and creating dangerous situations throughout the opening 30 minutes.

Mustafá created all sorts of problems down the right wing and he laid on a chance for Juergen who fired narrowly over the bar after nine minutes.

Though the high pressure kept the hosts pegged back in their own



Juergen acrobatically attempts to bring down the ball. :: OPTA

half, Marbella failed to create many clear-cut opportunities, barring one spurned by captain Añón on the half-hour mark.

A tame effort from Recre's Iago Díaz and an off-target strike from Caye Quintana came just before the half-time whistle interrupted the hosts' newfound rhythm.

The start of the second half belonged to the goalkeepers. First, Marc Martínez pulled off an impossible reaction save to deny Cruz's header from the corner, then Wilfred pulled off an equally impressive stop to deny Valentín.

The remaining 20 minutes was end to end, with seemingly the first to score set to claim all three points. However, the elusive goal never came and the game ended goalless.

With the draw, Recre and Marbella's unbeaten runs have extended to 15 and 12, respectively.

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## SPORT IN PHOTOS



▲ **Rugby.** The Spanish women's rugby team were crowned European Champions on Saturday, after beating the Netherlands 54-0. The two teams battled it out at the Estadio Nacional Complutense in Madrid, in front of 8,900 spectators, a record number for the sport. The team trained by José Antonio Barrio showed their superiority on the pitch, winning their seventh title. :: AFP



▲ **Motor GP.** Marc Márquez claimed his first victory of the year with unerring ease on Sunday, dominating the Argentinian Grand Prix from start to finish. After just three laps he had put three seconds between himself and his rivals. The fight for second and third was perhaps more equal, with Valentino Rossi and Andrea Dovizioso crossing the line 9.8 and 10.5 seconds later, respectively. :: JUAN MABROMATA / AFP



▲ **Basketball.** Finnish Unicaja fans in Fuengirola were paid a special visit by compatriot Sasu Salin (front, centre). The shooting guard spent an hour at a half at the Refla restaurant last week, a popular meeting point ahead of games, well attended by the Finnish community since Salin's arrival. With his contract expiring in June, the most frequently-asked question was, predictably, "Are you going to stay next year?" :: J. CALDERÓN

► **Golf.** Azahara Muñoz's best start to a season continued on Sunday as the San Pedro golfer turned back the clock to come second in the Kia Classic at Carlsbad, California (USA). Muñoz now has her sights set on the ANA Inspiration this week - the first major of the year. :: AFP



▲ **Inline hockey.** The Fuengirola Lions last Saturday won the Liga Sur regular season on home soil where the last games of the season were played. The Lions beat Tiburones de Cartagena 12-3, Troyanos de Villarrobledo 14-0 and Sevilla Dragons 17-1 on Saturday. The playoffs will be in Cartagena on the last weekend of April. :: SUR

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# Malaga karatekas set the bar high and dominate at the European Championships

**Local stars Marta Vega and Damián Quintero came away from Guadalajara with gold medals at the weekend**

**:: EMILIO MORALES / SERGIO CORTÉS / EFE**

**MALAGA.** Team Malaga set the bar high as the European Karate Championships, held in Guadalajara, came to its conclusion on Sunday. Damián Quintero, who trains in Torremolinos, brought home the first gold medal on Saturday while Marta Vega and her team, Lidia Rodríguez and Raquel Roy, collected the second on Sunday.

Quintero proved once again that there are very few athletes in this sport like him. It came as no real surprise when he added the sixth individual gold medal to his repertoire; his fifth in succession. Since 2013 he only failed to bring home gold once - in 2014.

He asserted his dominance over Turkish rival Ali Sofuoglu, winning by almost a point's difference (27.36 to 26.48).

Quintero, who has his sights set on the next Olympic Games, held in Tokyo in 2020, is currently world runner-up after winning silver in Madrid last November.

"This medal has made me especially excited as it is number 100," said the Spaniard. He added: "There is a year and half left until the Games, so a lot of work is still ahead."

Nineteen-year-old Marta Vega also brought home gold in the team event. "We are very proud that all the effort we put in has granted us



Marta Vega (right) and her teammates Lidia Rodríguez and Raquel Roy. :: EFE



Damián Quintero brings home his sixth gold medal :: EFE

this success. We have achieved the gold that last year we could not. There is nothing better than winning at home," said Lidia Rodríguez, Vega's teammate.

Vega is the youngest in the team, but by the end of 2018 she already achieved her first international gold at the Shanghai Open.

While training at the Goju Ryu gym in Torremolinos, she combines elite sport with her studies in Industrial Engineering.

## Andújar claims Casino Admiral Trophy after mammoth final

The Spaniard saw off favourite Benoît Paire in a two-and-a-half-hour final on Sunday after eliminating local favourite Alejandro Davidovich

**:: PEDRO LUIS ALONSO**

**MARBELLA.** The final of the Marbella Challenger went the full distance on centre court at the Puente Romano tennis club on Sunday. After a grueling two-and-a-half-hour match, it was Spaniard Pablo Andújar (88th ATP ranking) who emerged victorious, winning the Admiral Casino Trophy.

His rival, Benoît Paire (67th) had been the favourite to win in the Marbella Challenger and started well, winning the first set 6-4, but missed his opportunity to get an early win



Paire and Andújar, after the final on Sunday. :: J-L

after he failed to take advantage of the match point in the second.

Andújar showed a formidable reaction in the second set, breaking his rival's serve in the tenth game and winning a tie-break. Paire struck back with some powerful

play, but it wasn't quite enough to beat the Spaniard. This tournament victory is the tenth of Andújar's career and the sixth Challenger title he has won.

Andújar played and beat local tennis star Alejandro Davidovich in the semi-finals on Saturday. However, the young Malaga player suffered an injury in the second set which required treatment on the side of the court.



Davidovich undergoes treatment. :: JOSELE-LANZA

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THE STARS




**Aquarius**  
January 21 - February 19  
Opportunities to surge ahead may not be here at the moment. They will come and you will be ready. A ten-year plan should be enough, do you think?




**Pisces**  
February 20th - March 20th  
The time is now to seek out friends and relatives who are willing to understand and want to be a part of your life and future. Get out and about.




**Aries**  
March 21st - April 20th  
A group activity at the weekend brings the chance to be a part of something new. Join with others and make new friends. You can never have too many!




**Taurus**  
April 21st - May 21st  
Although there is a feeling that you should be doing something, keep your mind calm. Distract yourself with music, the outdoors, reading, whatever relaxes you. For now, don't stress.




**Gemini**  
May 22nd - June 21st  
So what was all the fuss about? You are not alone in having these little bursts of crisis. Deserve more sympathy? Well, if it doesn't come from others then give it to yourself!




**Cancer**  
June 22nd - July 23rd  
There are chances to build on your confidence and happiness in the weeks ahead. Keep the things and people around you who really add to your life. Avoid those that only cause friction.




**Leo**  
July 24th - August 23rd  
Time taken up with silly arguments is time wasted and who wants to do that! The weekend brings a chance to find out about something new.




**Virgo**  
August 24th - September 23rd  
You may not want to read this but the time is now to sort your cash flow. A plan would be good. Megabucks may not be on the horizon but smaller amounts are good..




**Libra**  
September 24th - October 23rd  
Keep life light by refusing to take on too much. Yes, you like to be helpful but there is a limit. Taking care of your own needs this week involves not being sidetracked.



**Scorpio**  
October 24th - November 22nd  
Check out finances and hopefully find a way to save on a big-ticket item. Share the information with others. It's a really good feeling to be able to help loved ones.



**Sagittarius**  
November 23rd - December 21st  
Just when you are wanting to get going, others seem lethargic. Rather than bang your head against the proverbial, why not just get on with something different?

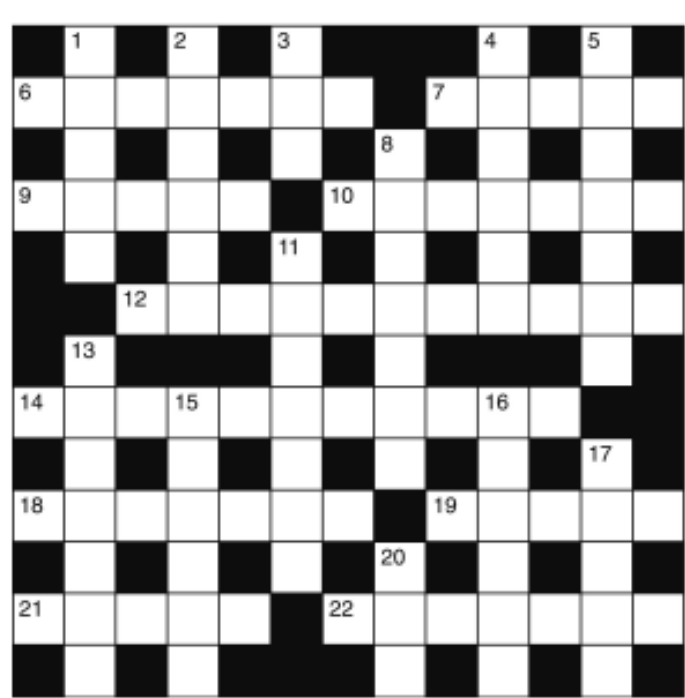


**Capricorn**  
December 22nd - January 20th  
Frustration at colleagues at work could spill over to arguments at home or with a loved one. Having been warned, please avoid this.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11351



- Across**  
6 & 9Ac Serious offence in London, maybe (7,5)  
7 Southern friend for Sarah (5)  
9 See 6 Across  
10 Rubbish sack in French railway terminal (7)  
12 In the business one restricts weaknesses (11)  
14 His interest lies in making advances (11)  
18 Give the details about the census (7)  
19 Wages for southern group of seamen (5)  
21 Freight vehicle to leave (5)  
22 He's a fool to have a clash with relations (7)
- Down**  
1 It's used for writing about a chaplain (5)  
2 Is this underground worker short-handed? (6)  
3 See 20 Down  
4 Tricky move for a piece after the game almost finishes (6)  
5 Shot that's continually advertised (7)  
8 Red member in nice mess (7)  
11 They are properly keyed up before the bowmen go into action (7)  
13 Place to disturb this obnoxious animal (7)  
15 Showing no deficiency, one is upset by a cry of disgust (6)  
16 Fight will disturb the peace around the capital of Spain (6)  
17 Material that's blown up on return (5)  
20 & 3Dn Capital means of preventing heatstroke! (3,3)





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

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

BATTLESHIPS

**Instructions** Find where the fleet of ships (1 battleship, 2 cruisers, 3 destroyers, 4 submarines) are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some have been filled in to start you off.

 Battleship  
 Cruiser  
 Destroyers  
 Submarines

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
A				■							3
B											2
C							■				3
D											1
E											2
F			■								2
G											2
H							■				2
I											2
J					■						1
	3	2	3	1	3	1	1	4	1	1	

THE WORDPUZZLER

L	I	K	I	R	K	E	N	D	U
A	G	O	N	D	N	O	B	E	M
V	E	R	G	L	E	N	N	D	A
I	N	E	M	B	L	A	D	E	N
L	E	N	A	I	L	L	O	Y	D
A	R	O	R	B	A	D	E	N	U
R	A	G	G	O	B	E	D	A	L
R	B	L	I	L	L	E	M	R	C
Y	I	A	N	V	E	X	A	X	I
S	T	H	O	R	A	M	B	L	E

**Can you identify the first names of the famous personalities listed below, all born in the 1910s?**  
1. Fitzgerald  
2. Kelly  
3. Hird  
4. Bridges  
5. Douglas  
6. Gray  
7. Bergman  
8. Adler  
9. Home  
10. Ford

CIRCLEGRAM

**Instructions**  
Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters in each circle can be arranged to form words, names or terms on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

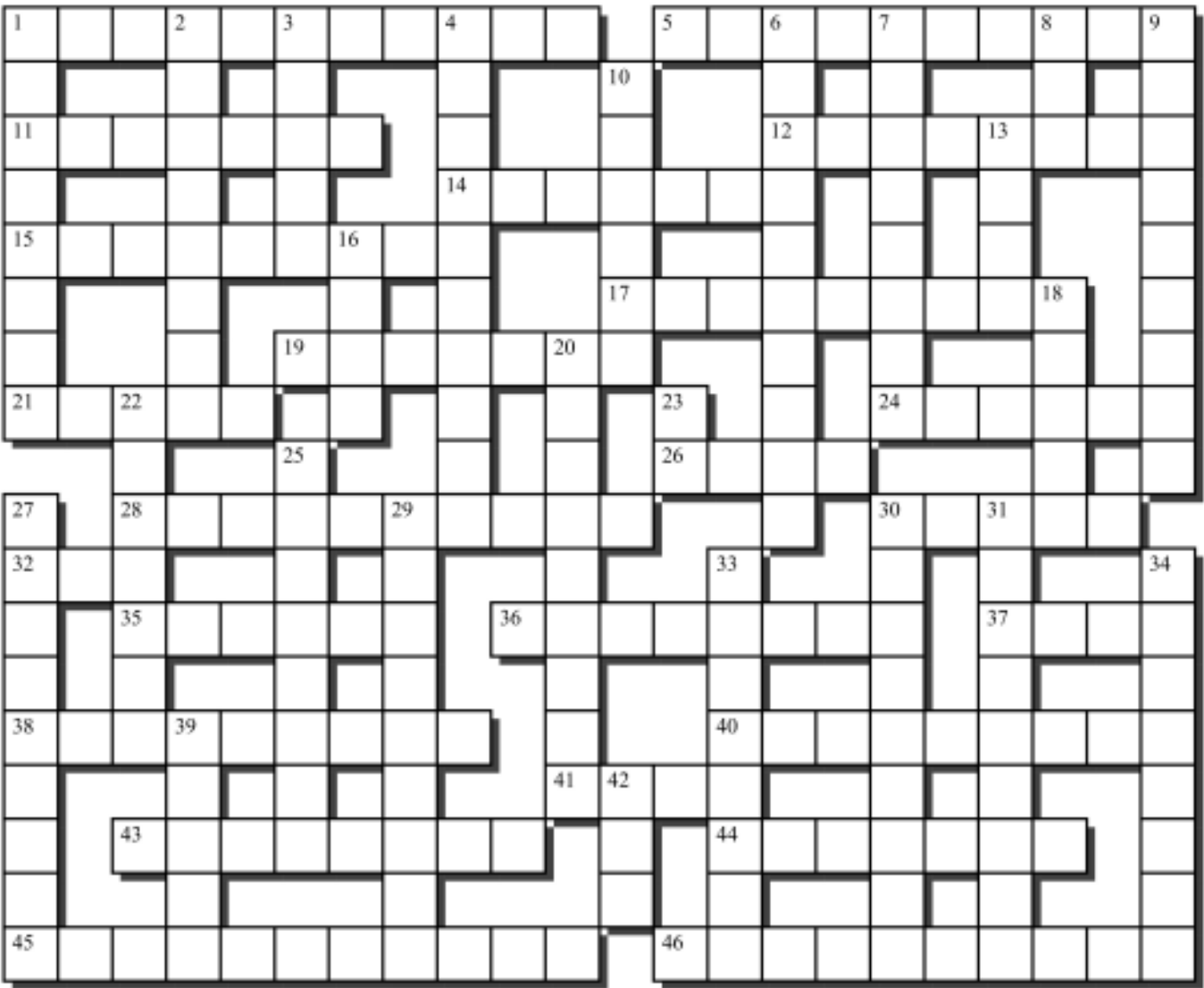


LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across

  - 1) Historian (11)
  - 5) Nineteen (10)
  - 11) Scotland (7)
  - 12) Complete (f) (8)
  - 14) To sail (7)
  - 15) Philosophy (9)
  - 17) Dentists (9)
  - 19) Legend (7)
  - 21) Works (5)
  - 24) I smiled (6)
  - 26) Fate (4)
  - 28) Morally (10)
  - 30) Goddess (5)
  - 32) Eye (3)
  - 35) Thursday (6)
  - 36) Dubbed (pl) (8)
  - 37) Flower (4)
  - 38) Temptation (9)
  - 40) Brotherhood (9)
  - 41) Prayer (4)
  - 43) Heir (8)
  - 44) Cast (7)
  - 45) To select (11)
  - 46) Conversion (10)
- Down

  - 1) Orphan (8)
  - 2) Theology (8)
  - 3) Noise (5)
  - 4) With dignity (10)
  - 6) Scriptures (10)
  - 7) Immersed (pl) (8)
  - 8) Axis (3)
  - 9) Gospel (9)
  - 10) Shop (6)
  - 13) Magnifying glass (4)
  - 16) Faithful (4)
  - 18) Beings (5)
  - 20) To destroy (9)
  - 22) They soak (7)
  - 23) The (f) (2)
  - 25) Baldness (8)
  - 27) Donations (9)
  - 29) Missionary (9)
  - 30) Tie breaker (9)
  - 31) Orphanages (9)
  - 33) Puppy (8)
  - 34) They preach (8)
  - 39) He has (5)
  - 42) That (3)



ANSWERS

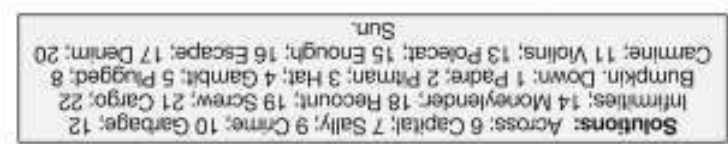
Quiz answers

Answer: Liver  
**Of interest:** The largest internal organ is the liver. It is also the heaviest organ, with an average of 1.6 kilograms (3.5 pounds). The largest external organ, which is also the largest organ in general, is the skin.  
**Answer:** Cornea  
**Of interest:** Because the cornea needs to be transparent (it covers the front of the eye) it has no blood vessels. Instead it receives oxygen from the air, dissolved in tear fluid. It is also the quickest tissue to heal, with most abrasions healing in 24-36 hours.

Language Crossword



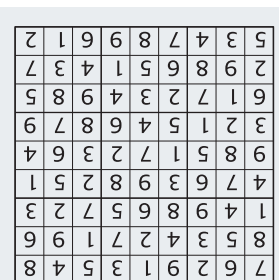
Cryptic Crossword



Wordpuzzler solution



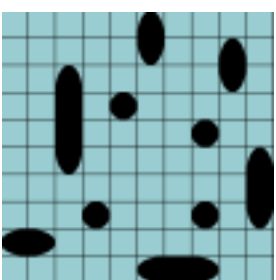
Sudoku solution



Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is I. Ophelia, Claudius, Polonius, all characters in Shakespeare's Hamlet.

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



Last week: Marbella

Just past the iconic arch way at the entrance to Marbella is the Fuente de los Tres Barcos (or Tres Carabelas) roundabout. The large structure represents the three ships that sailed with Christopher Columbus when he discovered America.



MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Balmoral	06/04	A Coruña	Cartagena	08.00	18.00
Saga Sapphire	06/04	Motril	Cadiz	08.00	17.00
Horizon	07/04	Alicante	Casablanca	09.30	17.00
Azamara Pursuit	09/04	Seville	Almeria	15.30	22.00
Braemar	11/04	Southampton	Seville	08.00	18.00
Mein Schiff 2	11/04	Gibraltar	Barcelona	08.00	18.00
Costa Favolosa	11/04	Arrecife	Barcelona	09.00	19.00
MSC Sea View	11/04	Tenerife	Barcelona	10.30	20.00







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## BEFORE



## AFTER



The building was reduced to rubble in just a matter of hours on Sunday afternoon. :: SALVADOR SALAS

# Out with the old, in with the new

**The old Pensión La Mundial's controversial demolition took place on Sunday**

:: JUAN SOTO / DARYL FINCH

**MÁLAGA.** The former Pensión La Mundial is no more. Despite calls for its preservation and refurbishment, the controversial demolition of this once-famous guesthouse took place on Sunday to pave the way for a new chapter in the city's historic centre.

Designed by Eduardo Strachan, the

architect also responsible for the iconic Calle Larios, the building, located between the Guadalmedina river and the Atarazanas market, has been in a state of disrepair for a number of years.

With its surroundings (including the former rehearsal hall for the Municipal Band) also abandoned, this well-located plot has been attracting interest from developers for a number of years.

The Catalan hotel chain, H10, now plans to build a luxury 138-room hotel on the site, designed by renowned Spanish architect Rafael Moneo, responsible for various projects across Spain and North America, including the National Museum of Roman Art in Murcia and the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles.

This has divided opinion across the spectrum with around 200 people joining the "Save La Mundial" protests last month in a bid to preserve "the heritage of the city". A few days later, the demolition order was halted after a complaint was filed by an individual belonging to the citizens' movement. However, it was eventually lifted and the works went ahead on Sunday.

The demolition attracted a lot of attention from passersby and tourists, many of whom took photos to remember the moment that the old paved way for the new. "It's incredible that a building like this was allowed to get in such a state," said Jorge, camera in hand, who believes it should have been pulled down ten years ago.

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