

# SUR

## in English

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April 12th to 18th 2019  
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News	2	What To Do	42
Comment	23	Sport	48
Lifestyle	24	My Home	53
Health & Beauty	35	Classified	57
Food & Drink	40	Time Out	62

COSTA DEL GOLF

### Women's golf making great strides

Spain now has a female golfer in the top 10 for the first time **INSIDE**



The Malaga actor chats with hopeful cast members at the school of performing arts. :: NITO SALAS

## DOING JUST WHAT HE WANTS TO DO

Antonio Banderas selects the cast of A Chorus Line, the first show in his new Soho theatre **P28**

## City hall moves to bring order to scooter invasion in time for Easter

New regulations have seen rental firms' electric scooters being removed from Malaga's streets **P14**



:: SALVADOR SALAS

**Work on Costa del Sol hospital extension free to resume** after Junta pays 12 million euros to get out of old contract **P11**

**The arrest of a man who helped his terminally ill wife to die** has reopened the euthanasia debate in Spain **P36&37**

**General election campaign kicks off** with first party rallies and polls showing a surge in votes for the Socialist party **P18**

# Councils rake in 65 million euros thanks to property inspections

Over the last four years the tax authority has had its drones out to detect changes to properties that affect IBI charges

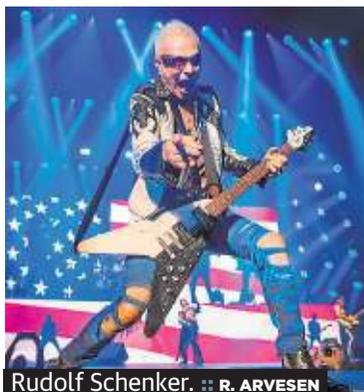
Local councils in the province of Malaga are set to rake in an extra 65 million euros in total thanks to the detection of construction work that should have increased the owners' IBI bill. Building projects from brand new properties to extensions and

swimming pools should be registered at the local Catastro office to update the properties' cadastral values. Owners whose building works were detected in the inspection face an average charge of 150 euros plus 600 for arrears. **P6**

RUDOLF SCHENKER GUITARIST AND FOUNDER OF THE SCORPIONS

## "Meditation helped me create some great songs"

The Scorpions guitarist speaks of his 50-year career ahead of the band's June Costa visit **P24**



Rudolf Schenker. :: R. ARVESEN

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# A lasting legacy for Marbella's elderly

Day centres in the town are being modernised after an Austrian lady left a million euros specifically for the care of old people in her will



MÓNICA PÉREZ

✉ mperezg@diariosur.es

Margit Selzer had no children so left a property to the council, with strict instructions on how the money was to be spent

**MARBELLA.** Few people will remember her (she used to go to the Encarna Cantero centre, but that was years ago), but many are now grateful to her for a gesture which has provided no less than one mil-

lion euros to modernise and equip the new Active Participation Centres in Marbella.

This is the money that the council obtained from the sale of a house in the prestigious Los Monteros area, which had belonged to Margit Selzer, an Austrian lady who was born in 1929 in Reichenberg and lived for several years in Marbella. She left the property to the local council in her will. She wanted the money raised from its sale to be spent on improving the day centres for the elderly.

In recent weeks the users of these centres have been watching the arrival of deliveries of all types of domestic appliances, sound systems, air conditioning units, deep fryers and a long list of other equipment, and minor works being carried out on soundproofing and modernising kitchens.

"We are delighted. We never thought anything like this would happen. We're getting everything now," says a longstanding user, Encarna Cantero, after whom one of the centres has been named.

"We're very happy about all this. It has changed everything. We even have more light now. One of our companions here says people can see all our wrinkles now that there is more light," jokes María Romero, of the Plaza de Toros centre. "This woman has done something wonderful for elderly people in Marbella, and we should all be grateful to her."

At the Santa Marta centre, very little remains to be done now. "Everything is different. It really needed this, and we are over the moon," says Ana Naranjo.

Before drawing up the list of what was needed, a team from the



Soundproofing works at the Santa Marta centre :: JOSELE-LANZA



The kitchens have been equipped with new deep fryers :: JOSELE-LANZA

## 2019 HOLY WEEK IN TORREMOLINOS

### PALM SUNDAY

JESÚS A SU ENTRADA EN JERUSALÉN ("LA POLLINICA") AND SANTA MARÍA REINA DE LA PAZ

14TH OF APRIL, 10AM

BLESSING OF THE PALMS  
PARISH OF MADRE DEL BUEN CONSEJO  
(PLAZA PICASSO)

### HOLY TUESDAY

SANTÍSIMO CRISTO DE LA SENTENCIA AND NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL CALVARIO EN SUS MISTERIOS DOLOROSOS

16TH OF APRIL, 8PM

PARISH OF CRISTO RESUCITADO  
(EL CALVARIO)

### GOOD FRIDAY

NUESTRO PADRE JESÚS NAZARENO AND MARÍA SANTÍSIMA DE LOS DOLORES

19TH OF APRIL, 7PM

PARISH OF MADRE DEL BUEN CONSEJO  
(PLAZA PICASSO)

### EASTER SUNDAY

SANTÍSIMO CRISTO RESUCITADO AND VIRGEN DE LA ESTRELLA

1ST OF APRIL, 11:30AM

PARISH OF CRISTO RESUCITADO  
(EL CALVARIO)



Torremolinos  
AYUNTAMIENTO



New kitchen at San Pedro Alcántara. :: SUR

council arranged meetings with users of each centre to learn what their priorities were, and then organised an equal allocation of funds.

The lists were sent to Andrew González, the executor of Margit Selzer's estate, who approved the council's plans and has been keeping a close eye on everything. He agreed that a reputable company such as El Corte Inglés would be ideal for providing what was wanted.

Now that the works are about to come to an end, the centres are visibly improved. They all have defibrillators, wall clocks, comfortable and practical new furniture, audiovisual and sound equipment with the facility for screenings, air conditioning, new kitchens, professional cooking equipment and LED lighting.

In addition to the general equipment, each centre has requested its own improvements, which range from a billiards table to static bicycles and treadmills, and IT facilities including computers.

### Courses

The council will provide the staff to teach the courses once all the equipment has been installed. Sinks, tables, chairs, curtains, bookshelves, freezers, fridges, ceiling fans, armchairs, coat stands, sewing machines, parquet flooring, mirrors... the list is very long for the nine Active Participation Centres for Elderly People in Marbella (Encarna Cantero, Las Chapas, Los

## Years ago, Margit used to attend the Encarna Cantero centre in Marbella

Paisajes, Miraflores, Nueva Andalucía, Plaza de Toros, San Pedro Alcántara I and II, and Santa Marta). Altogether it has cost about one million euros.

"The idea was, as she stated in her will, that everything had to be spent on improving the centres for the elderly. We provided the executor with the list of needs. Once everything is done and he has seen the accounts, he will know whether there is anything left to spend or not. If there is, we will buy more items for the centres," says the councillor for Social Rights, Isabel Cintado.

She is also very grateful to Margit. "She has enabled us to carry out major improvements at all the centres for the elderly, with a sum of money which would have been very difficult for the council to have obtained otherwise, all at once and immediately," she says. "What is important is that we comply with this lady's wishes, and she wanted a major improvement of the facilities. It was wonderful news for us when we returned to government in 2017. That's when we discovered that the file about this inheritance had been kept in a drawer since 2015," she says.



The mayor, Ángeles Muñoz, with representatives of the centres and the executor, Andrew González. :: SUR

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# Malaga city bus careers out of control into parked cars as driver suffers heart attack

The driver was revived by emergency services and is in a serious but stable condition. No one else was injured

:: **ÁLVARO FRÍAS / JUAN CANO**

**MALAGA.** An out-of-control city bus crashed into several parked cars early on Friday morning when the driver suffered a heart attack at the wheel. The accident, in which “miraculously” - according to onlookers - no one else was injured, occurred at 8.15am on Calle Héroe de Sostoa in Malaga.

Out of control, the bus left its lane and ploughed into twelve parked cars, pulling up trees and scattering refuse containers as it went.

When the emergency services arrived on the scene the only person who needed treatment was the 49-year-old driver, who responded to resuscitation attempts and was rushed to hospital in a serious but stable condition. He had recently passed a company medical checkup.

The 13 passengers on the bus at the time were all able to leave the vehicle unhurt, according to the city’s bus company, EMT.



The bus pushed a total of 12 vehicles along for several metres. :: SALVADOR SALAS



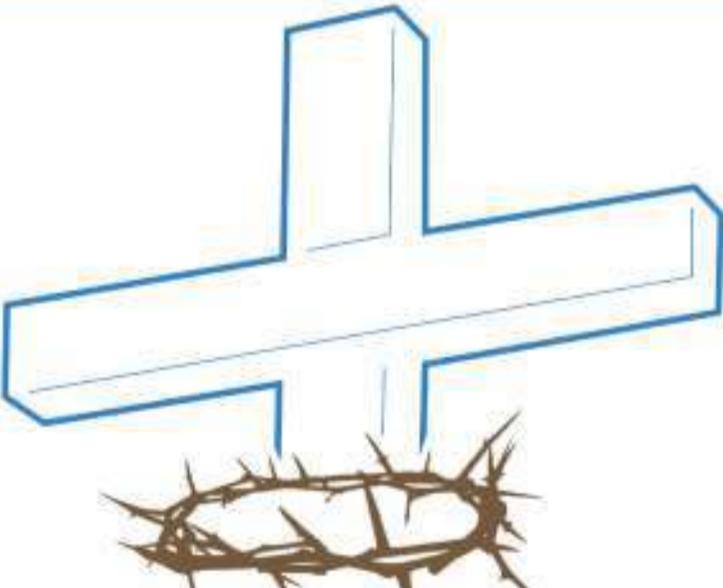
Emergency services arrived quickly. :: S. SALAS



One of the affected vehicles. :: S. SALAS



Firefighters on the scene. :: S. SALAS



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ALHAURIN  
EL GRANDE

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Francisco Guzmán, a paediatrician, helped to save the driver. :: SUR

## The new 'heroes of Sostoa'

:: J. CANO / Á. FRÍAS

**MALAGA.** Calle Héroe de Sostoa is one of the main arteries into the city from the western side and has provoked a lot of debate among locals over the years: who is the 'hero of Sostoa'? Was there just one or several? From which battle was it?

The truth is there was one, called Tomás, and he was known for his bravery in the face of Napoleonic troops. However now, we must add four more: Antonio, Francisco, Clara and an anonymous passenger on the number 1 bus which crashed into 12 vehicles, mostly cars, after the driver suffered a heart attack.

These heroes, not known to one another, came together like a well-drilled rescue team, removing the driver's foot from the pedal, calling on the radio to find out how to switch off the engine, opening the doors to evacuate the passengers, and performing lifesaving cardiopulmonary resuscitation manoeuvres to bring him back to life.

At the Carlos Haya hospital, where he is recovering from heart failure, the driver was told that his passengers had saved his life.

### Fate

Antonio Guzmán shouldn't have been on that bus, "although now I'm glad I was there, because I was able to help," he says. He normally took the earlier one but on Friday he just missed it.

Just like Tomás de Sostoa, who was

born in Uruguay, Antonio is also from the other side of the pond. This 39-year-old from the Dominican Republic, said: "After the first impact I saw that the driver was convulsing and then the cars started piling up. The screams of the people and the panic will stay with me forever."

Francisco Luis Guzmán always goes to work by car but he had a dinner with friends and didn't want to drive. "My wife offered to take me but I told her I didn't mind taking the bus." Francisco, from Malaga, was sat in the seat closest to the driver doing a sudoku on his phone when he heard "a loud crash". After finding a way, with the help of another man, to get him out of his seat, he made it known he was a doctor. As did Clara. The pair of them carried out cardiopulmonary resuscitation manoeuvres and his pulse returned. However, it went once more at which point the emergency services took over. "I was very dejected because he had suffered a massive heart attack," said the paediatrician.

While this was all going on, Antonio was looking out for the safety of the passengers on board, on the radio trying to work out how to shut down the engine and open the doors.

With everyone finally off the bus, attention turned back to the driver. The anxious wait continued until from the ambulance came a thumbs up. "That made us all smile," he said.



Antonio Guzmán turned off the engine and alerted the bus company. :: SUR

# 50,000 euros in compensation granted to family whose baby was dropped during birth

:: J. C. / Á. F.

**MALAGA.** "I heard the bang. Since then, I haven't been able to sleep for six years." These are the words of Ana García whose daughter fell to the floor during childbirth at the Hospital Clínico in Malaga in January 2013. Now, after six years, the Andalusian Health Service (SAS) has acknowledged the damage suffered by the minor as a result.

The Patients Ombudsman has announced that the SAS has agreed to pay compensation of 46,942 euros to the parents of the minor after it was acknowledged that the fall was the cause of the girl's slow development. Future neurological damage also cannot be ruled out.

The ombudsman says that, "while the midwife was exerting pressure on the tummy, the gynaecologist deemed the use of forceps to be necessary. While she was taking out the girl, specifically when she had taken out half of the body, the gynaecologist turned, ignoring the situation, so the newborn fell to the ground from a great height with great force".



Ana García with her daughter, now six. :: SUR

For its part, the SAS say that the fall was unfortunate. A report states that "the withdrawal of the forceps coincided with a contraction that caused the unexpected expulsion of the foetus".

But the battle isn't over yet. The lawyer for the Patient Ombudsman, Francisco Damián Vázquez, has said that the legal battle is not over as the compensation does not

satisfactorily cover the extra care that she requires.

Her mother Ana says, "She's improved a lot but she's the worst in her class and she suffers terrible vertigo when she's in a car or a bus."

She added: "She's suffered so much. Every time she sees a white coat she starts to tremble. I lost my job because I have to take her to so many appointments."

### 112 REPORTS

## Girl, 2, dies after falling in swimming pool

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE

:: J. C. / F. T. A 22-month-old girl died on Monday at the Hospital Materno in Malaga, where she had been admitted on Sunday after falling into a swimming pool in a family home in Alhaurín el Grande.

The events took place around 5.50pm. According to 112 sources, the parents of the minor, who live in Cortijo Alto area of Malaga, had gone to spend the day at the grandparents' home, just on the border with neighboring Coin. It seems that they lost sight of her for a few moments and, when they began to look for her, found her inside the swimming pool, apparently in cardiac arrest.

## Man with amputated penis is identified

MALAGA

:: Á. F. / J. C. The mystery over the man found disorientated and wondering the streets of Torremuelle in Benalmádena with a head wound and a partially-amputated penis continues.

After being unable to identify him since his admission to the Hospital Clínico in Malaga on Saturday (the man referred to himself as Sergio, Rafael and Naomí), SUR sources have confirmed that a positive identification was made on Tuesday and that he is a 32-year-old Spanish national.

The origin of his injuries, however, still remain unknown but investigations point towards a mental disorder and that he inflicted the injuries on himself, though other hypotheses have not been ruled out.

## Third arrest made over torture and kidnapping

MARBELLA

:: C. MÁRQUEZ. The investigation into the alleged kidnapping and torture of a man who turned up at Marbella police station last week has yielded another arrest.

The man, who still had bits of tape stuck to his face and hands, was able to provide information, including the number plate of the car that they transported him in, and this led to the immediate arrest of two men.

This week, however, a third man was also arrested, but the victim alleges that there were seven involved in total.

The three arrested, 27, 34 and 41 and of French or Belgian nationality, have been charged with false imprisonment, causing injury, drug trafficking and belonging to a criminal organisation.

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# Town halls are 65 million euros better off thanks to undeclared changes to properties

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

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The tax authority has finished its inspections and discovered 89,000 properties whose owners will have to pay an extra 150 euros on their IBI bill on average, and a further 600 euros for arrears

**MALAGA.** Town halls have found themselves with considerable extra income from IBI property tax thanks to the inspections under way in the province since 2014.

The authorities have been searching for cases of new construction, extensions, renovation work or change of use of buildings that had gone under the IBI radar. This is mainly because neither the owners nor the relevant town hall had added the work to the official Catastro property records, whether or not they had a building licence or certificate of habitability.

After four years of work on this "regularisation plan", the authorities have now finished checking the 1.8 million buildings in Malaga province, and found irregularities in

88,919 of them (about five per cent of the total). Among the list of undeclared works are brand new construction projects, extensions and swimming pools which, although they may have had a works licence, had not been declared at the town hall's Catastro office where the cadastral values should have been updated; their owners, therefore, had not been charged the extra IBI tax they should have been paying.

Now things are changing, and after paying the Catastro a fee of 60 euros to correct their records, people will find that their IBI bills have also been updated accordingly. Not everyone will be affected equally, because the amount varies according to the type of construction and the square metres which have been added, but the average increase is 150 euros and the town halls are demanding a further 600 euros for late payments for the past four tax years, which is the longest period the authorities can claim for.

Altogether, this regularisation plan will enable the 103 municipalities in the province to collect over 65 million euros. This is around ten per cent of the total collected every year through the IBI tax, which is the main, but not the only, contribution to be affected by the updating of cadastral values.

The figures held by the Catastro are also applied to decide the amount payable of another municipal tax, 'plusvalía', which has

## Buildings added in Malaga properties

Municipality	Total buildings	Regularised	Municipality	Total buildings	Regularised
Alameda	5,982	886	Frigiliana	7,377	1,170
Alcaucín	6,779	969	Fuengirola	79,513	814
Alfarnate	2,379	168	Fuente de Piedra	4,709	460
Alfarnatejo	1,561	126	Gaucín	3,187	493
Algarrobo	9,568	461	Genalguacil	2,363	163
Algatocín	2,270	314	Guaro	5,218	407
Alh. de la Torre	25,659	1,168	Humilladero	3,387	539
Alh. el Grande	26,607	1,363	Igualeja	1,959	280
Almáchar	4,697	618	Istán	4,145	335
Almargen	3,465	1,067	Iznate	1,915	197
Almogía	13,257	936	Jimera De Libar	1,536	131
Álora	19,241	2,144	Jubrique	2,855	427
Alozaina	4,604	467	Júzcar	889	104
Alpandeirola	1,099	125	Macharaviaya	1,179	90
Antequera	44,690	3,931	Malaga	410,510	13,050
Árchez	1,647	302	Manilva	29,130	472
Archidona	15,778	1,748	Marbella	175,268	1,039
Ardales	4,902	685	Mijas	95,226	4,357
Arenas	5,645	496	Moctinejo	4,550	218
Arriate	3,199	808	Mollina	6,811	846
Atajate	922	69	Monda	6,671	879
Benadalid	1,222	123	Montecorto	1,171	192
Benahavís	15,489	433	Montejaque	1,710	152
Benalauría	1,708	130	Nerja	26,498	2,015
Benalmádena	78,350	1,509	Ojen	7,393	354
Benamargosa	4,524	291	Parauta	906	58
Benamocarra	2,224	412	Periana	7,803	911
Benaolán	1,803	415	Pizarra	8,148	809
Benarrabá	1,929	130	Pujerra	1,065	134
El Borge	2,944	433	Rincón de la Victoria	44,635	1,854
El Burgo	3,548	415	Riogordo	5,765	478
Campillos	11,014	1,124	Ronda	33,469	3,851
Canillas de Aceituno	10,642	583	Salares	1,650	84
Canillas de Albaida	2,867	191	Sayalonga	5,143	720
Cañete la Real	4,400	584	Sedella	5,209	343
Carratraca	1,783	182	Serrato	765	116
Cartajima	1,003	136	Sierra de Yeguas	4,224	156
Cartama	26,166	1,865	Teba	5,913	1,235
Casabermeja	10,289	820	Tolox	6,371	575
Casarabonela	5,491	828	Torremolinos	71,250	1,524
Casares	15,116	982	Torrox	41,774	1,305
Coín	31,262	1,967	Totalán	2,074	115
Colmenar	6,289	218	Valle de Abdalajís	2,463	347
Comares	6,046	500	Vélez	85,079	2,616
Cómpeta	6,665	802	Vva. de Algaidas	9,593	456
Cortes de la Frontera	4,330	852	Vva. de la Concepcion	6,109	806
Cuevas Bajas	2,914	295	Vva. del Rosario	5,936	281
Cuevas del Becerro	2,435	482	Vva. de Tapia	2,669	158
Cuevas de San Marcos	8,578	471	Vva. del Trabuco	7,414	328
Cútar	3,721	213	Viñuela	6,373	470
Estepona	82,155	2,884	Yunquera	6,625	710
Faraján	705	174			

Source: Dirección General del Catastro

to be paid when a property is sold, inherited or gifted, and also in some regional taxes, and state ones such as wealth and income tax.

Many of the undeclared changes detected concerned brand new construction work, such as a new house or storage facility. These amounted to 34.2 per cent of the detected fraud.

However, there were also numerous house extensions and rebuilding work in of buildings that were already registered. These represented 38.4 per cent of the infractions. Another 21.5 per cent were renovation work and changes of use (such as enclosing terraces with windows, or restoring an old house). The remaining 5.9 per cent of properties had swimming pools that did not figure on the authorities' database.

## Place to place

By municipality, Malaga city stands out with 13,050 properties being regularised, of which half were extensions or rehabilitation. Nevertheless, in relative terms, it is striking that the inspectors detected irregularities in one in every ten buildings in Álora (2,144 out of a total of 19,241), with an almost equal amount of new constructions and extensions.

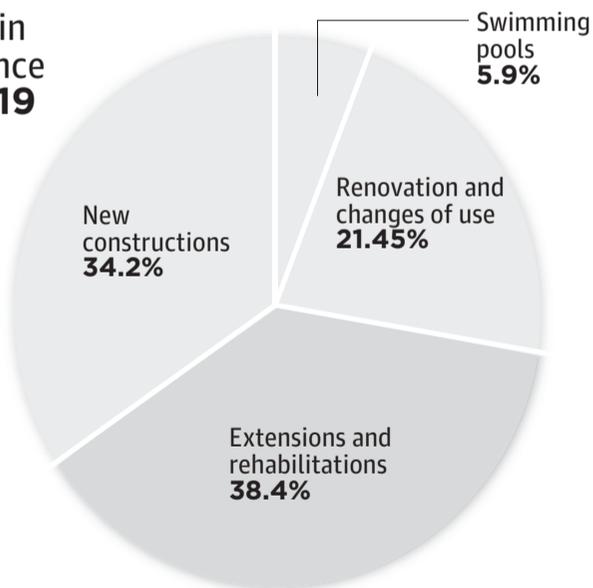
In the list of municipalities, it can also be seen that three of every four infractions in Vélez were for new buildings, most of them on rustic land between the numerous hamlets in its vast terrain. In Benalmádena and Cártama new swimming pools predominated, accounting for one in every four infractions detected.

Although this is officially tax fraud, no fines are being imposed. Hacienda says the 60 euros it charges are to cover the cost of the inspection services, which included personal visits, orthophotos and drones. The Cadastral Law obliges people to declare fully and correctly any new constructions or modifications carried out to existing ones, whether they are economic, physical or a change to ownership, or be fined between 60 and 6,000 euros.

Despite this type of amnesty by the tax authority, the town halls are still able to issue fines for illegal works, and in this case they can include those which have been carried out in the past six years.

## TYPES OF IRREGULARITY DETECTED

Total in province  
88,919



## THE CADASTRAL REGULARISATION PLAN

► **What is it?** It is an initiative from the Ministry of Finance and Taxation to detect fiscal fraud. The aim is to ensure that all new constructions or alterations to existing buildings are notified to the Catastro, whether or not they had a works licence or habitability cer-

tificate. The registered description must be completely accurate.

► **How is it done?** The Catastro compares the orthophotos already in its possession with aerial photos taken recently to spot any alternations. It costs 60 euros to regularise a property, to

cover the inspection costs.

► **The effects.** The increase in the cadastral value of a property affects local, regional and State taxes which are set in accordance with this variable. Councils can demand back payments for the past four years.

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# QROPS: The pros and cons of transferring your UK pension

By Steve Langford, Partner, Blevins Franks

One of the many pension options available to British expatriates today is transferring to a Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Scheme (QROPS).

QROPS are foreign pension schemes recognised by HM Revenue & Customs to receive tax-free transfers from UK-registered pension funds. They were introduced in 2006 to help Britons who permanently move abroad simplify their affairs by taking their pension savings with them.

Despite being widely seen as the answer for expatriate retirees, QROPS are by no means a one-size-fits-all solution. Here we explore some of their advantages and disadvantages.

## Tax efficiency

Currently, Spain residents can transfer UK pensions into an EU/EEA-based QROPS without taxation, while transfers outside the bloc attract the UK 'overseas transfer charge' of 25%. There are expectations the UK could extend this within the EU/EEA after Brexit, so time may be limited for tax-free transfers.

Once in a QROPS, funds are sheltered from future UK taxes on

income and gains. They no longer count towards your lifetime pension allowance (LTA), so can grow unlimited without attracting 25% or 55% LTA penalties when accessing your money.

QROPS funds only become taxable once you start taking benefits in your country of residence.

When accessing QROPS or taking UK pension lump sums and income, the general Spanish income tax rates apply for residents. These vary regionally but range from 9.5% to 48%.

Depending on your situation, it may be more beneficial to reinvest UK pension funds into an alternative tax-efficient structure that is compliant in Spain, so explore your options.

## Flexible access

Many QROPS allow you to take as much cash or income as you like, however and whenever you want. You could, for example, draw a higher income in early retirement and reduce it in later years, or take a lump sum and preserve the rest.

However, with this freedom comes more potential to exhaust your funds

– unlike a UK annuity or 'final salary' pension which provide a guaranteed income for life.

## Diversification and investment choice

QROPS usually offer more options than UK pensions for how your money is invested, and are not as over-exposed to UK assets. You can choose a flexible investment plan across a wide range of funds to suit your circumstances, objectives and risk appetite.

As the value of any investment can go down as well as up, this introduces an element of risk to your retirement funds that is absent from a guaranteed annuity. However, an active, well-diversified investment approach can manage and minimise risk.

## Estate planning flexibility

While most UK pensions are only payable to your spouse on death, QROPS offers the option to include other heirs.

QROPS may also offer some protection from UK inheritance tax when passing pension assets to non-UK resident heirs, although they may be subject to local succession taxes.

## Multi-currency options

While UK pensions only pay out in sterling, some QROPS allow you to invest funds and make withdrawals in more than one currency. This is a major advantage for British expatriates in Spain as it reduces dependence on pound/euro exchange rates and removes currency conversion costs.

## Freedom from UK rules... to a point

Funds in a QROPS are no longer governed by UK pension legislation, so are protected from future changes to UK rules. However, you could still be subject to UK legislation – and taxation – if you transfer funds again to an unapproved scheme within five tax years (for funds transferred from March 2017) or you permanently return to the UK within ten years.

Note also that the goalposts for QROPS are likely to shift in the future. Since their inception HMRC has made numerous revisions to the rules and delisted thousands of QROPS from various jurisdictions. There is far more complexity in the QROPS market than people realise.

For example, currently there are no Spanish schemes on the HMRC list

of approved QROPS. Expatriates resident in Spain therefore need to take care to choose an eligible scheme in another EU/EEA country – such as Malta – to avoid transfer penalties.

Where HMRC deems that its rules have been broken, it can charge a 55% tax penalty on the transfer amount.

## Regulated, tailored advice is crucial

Overseas pension transfers are a complex area so regulated advice is essential. Take care to explore your range of options to establish the most suitable solution for your circumstances. If you decide to transfer, you need specialist guidance to find a suitable product, navigate the cross-border tax and jurisdiction issues, and ultimately secure your long-term financial security in this ever-changing pensions landscape.

*Tax rates, scope and reliefs may change. Any statements concerning taxation are based upon our understanding of current taxation laws and practices which are subject to change. Tax information has been summarised; individuals should seek personalised advice.*

# Thinking of moving your pension out of the UK? Is it risky to wait?

Many British expatriates in Spain benefit from transferring their UK pensions into a QROPS without a UK tax charge – but time may be running out. The UK already imposes a 25% 'overseas transfer charge' on EU residents who transfer to QROPS outside the EU or EEA. After Brexit it could start charging transfers within the EU too.

You should always take regulated advice to establish if a QROPS is suitable for you, but do so now, rather than risk losing 25% of your pension if the rules change.

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# Refuse collection strike threat for next month in Fuengirola

Workers for the council's service operator, Urbaser, believe the company has still not kept a collective-bargaining promise

**IVÁN GELIBTER**

**FUENGIROLA.** The industrial unrest affecting refuse collection workers in Fuengirola that has been ongoing for two years is set to escalate once again in the coming weeks.

Employees at the refuse collection operator, Urbaser, that holds a contract from the council, have said they will start direct action again after, what they claim is, the refusal of the company to improve their working conditions as promised when Urbaser took over the contract.

According to sources, the work-



File photo of Fuengirola during the last strike. :: i.g.

place committee have put forward a series of actions that includes a strike in May, which will be the third since summer last year.

The committee say they feel they

have been tricked by the company that claims it cannot improve financial conditions while the current contract terms are in force. Urbaser has also said that improvements to

non-financial terms need to be cleared by the town hall as well.

The dispute goes back to summer 2017 after Urbaser had taken over the contract for all street refuse collection and part of the street sweeping in the municipality in 2016.

The company stopped a new employment deal for workers in 2017 promising that it would be brought in in 2018. When this didn't happen, workers went on strike for 10 days last summer when only minimum legal refuse-collection cover was given..

The granting of the contract to Urbaser has been mired in controversy. The former licence holder, FCC, launched legal action claiming it had made a better offer than Urbaser that was ignored, and a court upheld the FCC complaint although the council then appealed

Meanwhile, Urbaser asked to break the contract with the town hall, claiming the council wasn't meeting its side of the deal in terms of support and resources, but the town hall refused to cancel it.

The council also owes Urbaser several million euros in a dispute involving interest payouts on an old 2012 contract held prior to FCC.

## HERE AND THERE

### British candidate in mayor's reelection bid

**MARBELLA**

**:: N. CASTRO.** The mayor of Marbella has included a British man on her party's list of candidates in the forthcoming municipal election. Ángeles Muñoz of the conservative Partido Popular is bidding to be reelected and announced her potential team last weekend. Darren Sands is currently president of the El Rosario residents community. In the 2015 election, the PP won 13 councilors, taken from the first 13 names on the voting list. Muñoz will hope to increase that amount.

### San Pedro party asks for more autonomy

**MARBELLA**

**:: M. PÉREZ.** The OSP San Pedro party, who are the PP's coalition partners on Marbella council, have said that a precondition for a pact with any party after the May elections is for San Pedro to be given Entidad Local Autónoma (ELA) status, a form of semi-independence from Marbella town hall. OSP have recently been kingmakers on the council, helping the PP to power two years ago by withdrawing support for the PSOE.

### Dean Tyler to stand for CM after leaving IU

**MANILVA**

**:: C. MÁRQUEZ.** Dean Tyler, current Foreign Residents councillor in Manilva, is to stand with the current mayor's Compromiso Manilva (CM) party in the elections on 26 May. Tyler was with the IU, CM's coalition partner, but he left after a recent falling out. Mayor of Manilva, Mario Jiménez, said that Tyler was well known and respected by the foreign population, which makes up 43 per cent of local residents.

## SUR TALK CONTRIBUTES TO MARBELLA 'PADRÓN' DRIVE

Marbella council continues its campaign to boost its municipal population census, the Padrón. In a talk on Thursday, held in collaboration with SUR in English, tax practitioner Pedro Fernández of Garrigues law firm explained how the municipal register was separate from any other residency paperwork obligations for tax purposes. In the photo, Pedro Fernández, Mayor of Marbella Ángeles Muñoz, SUR in English editor Rachel Haynes and SUR in Russian editor Elena Khakimova.



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HERE AND THERE

**Works on improvements to PTA access begin**

**MALAGA**

:: **I. LILLO.** Works to improve access to the Andalucía Technology Park (PTA) got under way on Monday, a week after regional president Juanma Moreno announced it at a SUR forum.

The 486,974-euro project will last no more than two months and is ex-

pected to be operational by the end of May.

The project will see the creation of a reversible lane on the A-7056 entrance road into the PTA, as well as the expansion of the roundabout at its crossing with the A-7054.

The so-called 'metrobus', which will connect the park with the final station on the Malaga Metro line (Andalucía Tech), will also be operational after Easter Week, it has been announced.

**Spelling gaffe spotted on new Malaga drain covers**

**MALAGA**

:: **J. SOTO.** The new drain covers installed on the Alameda Principal in Malaga city centre have caused a stir this week after a spelling mistake was spotted. Instead of 'Ayuntamiento de Málaga', the word for city hall was instead spelt 'ajuntamiento'.

The offending drain covers have since been removed and replaced.



The covers were removed. :: s. s.

**Works almost complete at San Bernabé cemetery**

**MARBELLA**

:: **N. CASTRO.** The rooms under construction at the new central funeral parlour (tanatorio) at San Bernabé cemetery, the oldest in Marbella, will be ready for use by May.

The 726,308-euro project to demolish and construct the new 376-square-metre facilities inside the complex are 80 per cent complete, the constructors have said.



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Measurements being taking in Pinos de Alhaurín. :: SUR

**Study into relocation of Alhaurín de la Torre power lines to take place before summer**

Residents have been calling for the pylons to be moved away from residential areas for years

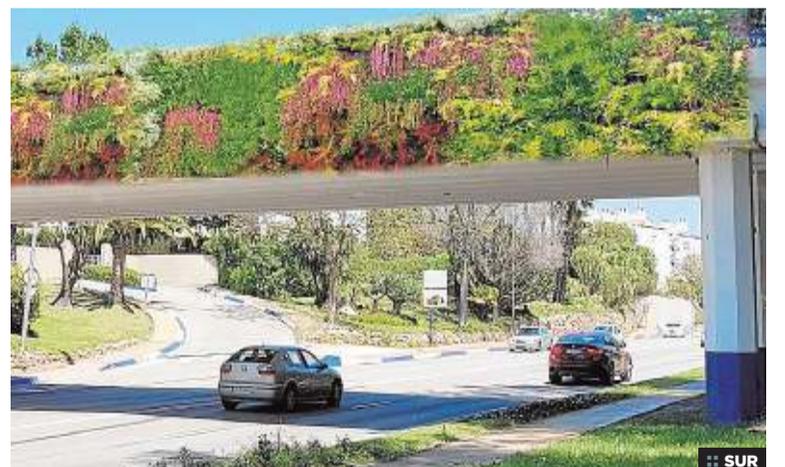
:: **FERNANDO TORRES**

**ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE.** Residents in the Pinos de Alhaurín area of Alhaurín de la Torre have moved one step closer to getting their wish of having the area's high voltage

power lines moved away from their homes.

Their efforts over the years resulted in a study in 2018 which confirmed that the electric and electromagnetic field levels were above those recommended by the World Health Organization.

As a result, the town hall this week has committed to carrying out and funding fifty per cent of a study which will, before the summer, look into alternative locations for the lines.



:: SUR

**GARDEN BRIDGES CONTRACT AWARDED**

The contract for the project to install vertical gardens on overpasses in some of Marbella's busiest spots has been signed off. With a budget of 150,000 euros, the works to replace advertising hoardings with self-watering plants are expected to take six weeks to complete.

# Costa del Sol hospital extension project to resume after Junta pays 12 million euros

The regional government has approved this payment which will rip up the contract with the current concession holder and resume the expansion which stopped in 2010

:: **HÉCTOR BARBOTA**

**MARBELLA.** Ministers at the Junta de Andalucía regional government this week approved the payment of 12 million euros that will allow the project to expand the Costa del Sol hospital in Marbella to resume. These funds will allow the Costa del Sol Health Agency to terminate the contract with the concession holder, giving free rein to the Andalusian government to resume the works.

This brings an end to a nine-year standstill, which began when the contractors, Concesionaria Costa del Sol SA, decided to halt works after a disagreement with Marbella town hall. This dispute was over the underground car park. The Junta had decided, as part of the financing of the project, to allow the company to take over its operation for a period of 40 years. Marbella town hall, however, disagreed with charging users to park every time they came to the hospital and denied permissions to install barriers.

From that moment on, the works were halted and the matter became held up in the courts. In August 2014 an agreement was announced obliging the three parties (the health agency, Marbella town hall and the concession holder) to withdraw the lawsuits filed in court, but no agreement could be reached between the Junta and the concession holder on the amount it should receive for profits lost from the car park.

In November last year, with the



Expansion work ground to a halt in 2010. :: JOSELE-LANZA

PSOE still running the Junta, it was announced that the concession could be annulled with the payment of 12 million euros, a figure set by the mercantile court in Malaga. However, it wasn't until after the election that this was approved.

The works, which have been at a standstill since 2010, began two years previously with a budget of 48.5 million euros. But due to the time that has elapsed, a new project, which will add a total of 88,000 square metres, will need to be drawn up.

The new managing director of the Costa del Sol Health Agency, Luisa Lorenzo, acknowledged last week in an interview granted to SUR that the hospital is at the limit of its capacity and that it is a priority to resume the expansion.

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## HERE AND THERE

### Ikos begins work on luxury hotel complex in Estepona

**ESTEPONA**

:: **P. MARTÍNEZ.** The first all-inclusive luxury hotel complex in Spain created by Greek chain Ikos is starting to take shape.

Works have got under way to transform the current Hotel Princess in Estepona into a beachfront complex with 411 rooms and 11 swimming pools.

The contract has been awarded to Acciona Construcciones y Sando. Construction is expected to last 15 months at a cost of 55 million euros, taking the total investment up to around 75 million.



The dredging boat. :: J-L

### Dredging under way to improve boat access to La Bajadilla port

**MARBELLA**

:: **M. PÉREZ.** After months had passed without some larger fishing boats being able to enter La Bajadilla port, dredging of the built-up sand got under way on Tuesday.

The dredging, which will continue for up to a month, will remove up to 60,000 cubic metres of sand which will then be used to replenish the beaches in central Marbella ahead of Easter Week and the high season.

These actions will restore a depth of 4.5 metres

### Villa Padierna Palace to be managed by international chain

**MARBELLA**

:: **H. B.** International chain Minor Hotels and NH Hotel Group have announced a deal to manage the Villa Padierna Palace in Benahavís.

The establishment, which belongs to the Villa Padierna group, will be relaunched as part of Minor Hotels' luxury brand, Anantara Hotels, Resorts & Spas.

It will be the first Anantara in Spain and only the second in Europe. It will be renamed Anantara Villa Padierna Palace Benahavís Marbella Resort.

# Marbella updates entire bus fleet and introduces new routes

:: **MÓNICA PÉREZ**

**MARBELLA.** The Pablo Ráez boulevard in Marbella was the setting on Tuesday for the launch of the town's new and improved bus service.

Avanza-Portillo, who won the contract, has overseen the complete renewal of the town's fleet of buses. The 19 new vehicles, all Mercedes, were put into operation throughout the day on Wednesday. They are fully adapted for passengers with mobility issues. They are also equipped with GPS technology so passengers can see their exact location on the 68 screens installed at bus stops, as well as Wi-

Fi and USB charging points and CCTV cameras.

The number of the buses in operation remains the same, but a number of improvements have been implemented to step up the service. These include the creation of new routes, alterations to existing ones and the possibility of calling upon "reserve" vehicles at times of high demand.

One new route will now see Cabopino served by buses for the first time, while there are new routes between La Cañada and El Ángel and Puerto Banús-San Pedro-El Salto. There is also a new circular route in



The new buses were presented on Tuesday. :: JOSELE-LANZA

San Pedro and two nighttime routes (La Cañada-San Pedro and Cabopino-Marbella) will operate with the option for solo female passengers to alight where you like.

### Free travel for residents

The launch coincided this week

with the delivery of free bus passes for those registered on the 'padrón' in the town.

Some 1,200 people collected their passes, valid from 1 May, on the first day, with a total of around 31,000 expected to follow before the end of the month.

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## Residents take Vélez council to court over infrastructure shortfalls

Around 30 homes near Lagos and Mezquitilla can only be accessed by dirt tracks

:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** Residents in the Cerro y Mar and Chorreras housing developments, which are situated between Lagos and Mezquitilla in the Axarquía, have gone back to court to seek a solution to an ongoing legal battle with Vélez-Málaga town hall over incomplete work to the roads and electricity supply to

their neighbourhood.

They claim that despite the approximately 30 houses appearing in the town's PGOU, the council has failed to carry out work it is obliged, under the general plan, to do.

"The houses feature in the plans and we pay IBI, but we don't get the services we're paying for," community president, Juan Ramón Ibarguengoitia, told SUR on Tuesday.

He said that the roads, most of which are still dirt tracks, suffer subsidence when it rains and that there is a lack of street lighting.



The dirt tracks suffer from subsidence when it rains. :: E. C.



Part of the exhibition. :: V. B.

## Rincón school's Holy Week exhibition open to everyone

:: VICTORIA BUSTAMANTE

**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.** For the fifth year running, La Marina school in Torre de Benagalbón will be offering visitors the chance to see its Holy Week exhibition.

The collection of images, posters and statues representing 17 of the 'tronos' that take part in Malaga's Holy Week processions was started by Sister Mercedes Fernández and has grown over the years with teachers and pupils adding their own contributions.

Guided tours are available to anyone who goes along to the school during Holy Week.

## HERE AND THERE

### Vélez-Málaga bus station reopened

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA**

:: E. C. The main bus station in Vélez-Málaga reopened last Friday following two years of work to reform the building which was, until the 1960s, the town's train station.

The Malaga provincial government, Diputación, financed the entire project, which cost 241,000 euros and has kept as many of the features of the original, early 19th-century building, as possible. Vélez-Málaga mayor, Antonio Moreno Fer-

rer, thanked the Diputación at the opening and said, "We have been able to restore a very symbolic and emblematic building for Vélez-Málaga."

Old photographs showing the original train, known as 'La Cochinita' have been hung on the walls of the building. Ferrer added, "Many of us have fond memories of catching the train."

A waiting room along with timetable information is already available and there are plans to open a café in the building in the near future. The bus station is open from 7.45am to 10.15pm.

### Summer tourist train back in operation

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA**

:: E. C. / J. R. A tourist and cultural train running between Torre del Mar and Vélez-Málaga will operate every Tuesday morning as of next week and throughout the summer months. The train will depart from the Azucarera (sugar cane factory) in Torre del Mar at 10am and take in the town's lighthouses and Casa Larios, before making its way to Vélez-Málaga where it will take visitors to the MUVEL, CAC, Casa Cervantes and San Francisco market. There will be free time for eating and shopping. Visit: [www.apta.axarquiacostadelsol.org](http://www.apta.axarquiacostadelsol.org).

### Diputación to fund El Paso ground uplift

**RIOGORDO**

:: E. C. Malaga's provincial government, Diputación, has announced that it is to fund a major renovation to Riogordo's El Paso (Passion Play) ground, to the tune of 270,000 euros. The money is coming from Diputación's co-financing investment plan, meaning Riogordo town hall will also contribute 30,000 euros. Work is due to start after this year's Passion Play and Holy Week is over and is expected to take 10 months. Once complete, the work will allow visitors to access the ground all year round.



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## Electric scooters rounded up in Malaga as new regulations controlling their use come into force

As of Tuesday it is forbidden to park these vehicles in pedestrian areas, with fines of 200 euros being issued

:: IGNACIO LILLO

**MALAGA.** The Local Police, in collaboration with the traffic enforcement authorities, removed 27 electric scooters belonging to four different companies from the streets of Malaga's historic centre on Wednesday morning. This came a day after a municipal edict from mayor Francisco de la Torre prohibited parking these vehicles in pedestrian areas, with fines of 200 euros being issued to those who fail to comply.

This came in response to a number of complaints filed by residents in the city, arguing that many of these scooters were being left on pavements, blocking entrances to buildings, crossings and making access difficult for those with limited mobility.

This new edict (as well as the provision of 29 official parking spaces

throughout the city centre, on the seafront and in areas of frequent use such as Teatinos and Huelin) has received the support of the companies renting out the scooters, though the speed with which it was pushed through took many by surprise.

Clara Vallvé, director of Bird in Spain, applauded Malaga's "innovative and progressive" attitude but called for better communication. "We are happy that Malaga has de-

cidated to provide spaces but it has not given us a lot of time to adapt to the new rules," she said.

Gerard Sellarés, of Wind España, supports the initiative but admits that 29 spaces "falls short" of the demand, given that 2,000 scooters are rented out every day.

Niether company would confirm whether the fines would be passed on to the users who are now also limited to 10km/h on pavements.



Users watch as other scooters are taken away. :: SALVADOR SALAS

## Junta to cap GPs' daily appointments to give more time with patients

The regional minister for Health has said that primary care should be at the heart of the care system and promised more resources

:: SUR

**CORDOBA.** The Andalusian regional minister for Health, Jesús Aguirre, said on Thursday that the public health service will take steps to improve access to GP visits and primary healthcare with "a real reform" of service levels. The aim will be to limit how many patients a GP sees to 30 a day. The move comes in reply to doctors' and patients' groups who say that medics don't have enough time to see to patients.

Aguirre said that he was "completely in agreement with the industrial action" that doctors in health centres in Andalucía had announced for May as he himself wanted, "more time per appointment, getting to ten minutes [with each patient]", although he admitted that the new action plan is

only forecasting seven minutes.

The regional minister went on to say that the new plan meets many of healthcare staff's other demands and hoped it was enough to halt their planned action in May. He asked for more time for the new Junta de Andalucía government to take action.

The new primary-healthcare action plan, currently being presented to trade unions, will focus on three main areas; cutting red tape, improving diary management, and triage (categorising patients before they are seen).

Aguirre criticised central government for rushing the regions into preparing an action plan, but recognised that "it could serve as a starting point" for the "debate" about putting the primary care area of the health service at the centre of the operation.

As part of the diary measures, GP appointments will be limited to 30 a day, up to half the current amount. Primary care would also be given a higher share of total healthcare budgets and linked more closely to social services, so more people could be taken care of at home.

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# Semana Santa brotherhoods put finishing touches to their annual week of processions

Easter celebrations take on a grand scale from Palm Sunday and thousands will flock to town and village centres to witness this cultural and religious tradition

:: NEIL HESKETH

**MALAGA.** All eyes in the last few days have been on the weather forecast for next week ahead of Semana Santa celebrations. The most important period in Spain's cultural calendar starts this weekend with processions, run by the *Confradías* (or brotherhoods), on Palm Sunday (14 April).

In larger towns in Malaga province there are religious processions throughout much of next week, especially in Malaga city, Marbella and Vélez-Málaga on the Costa. More places join in as the week goes on and by next weekend, Easter itself, towns and villages will be taking part on Good Friday and Easter Sunday, with a rest day on Saturday.

With so much effort going into preparations for the *tronos* (ornate platforms carrying images of Jesus and Mary and often other figures from the story of the crucifixion of Christ), any rain would cause huge disappointment. Penitents' clothes have been spring-cleaned and band music polished as thousands get ready to take part. Each year more tourists flock to the ornate and moving spectacles.



Images have been moved into place this week. :: E.N.

## Malaga city

The centrepiece of the Costa del Sol's Holy Week events is as usual Malaga city centre. From Palm Sunday through to Good Friday, over 50 different processions spread over six days will wind their way through the streets, staggered from mid-afternoon to the early hours of the next morning.

This Sunday the processions start a bit earlier at 10.15am with the *Pollinica*, a representation of Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey and a favourite of local children.

As usual, it is relatively easy for spectators to get a good view whatever town or village they are in as the processional routes cover relatively long routes. In Malaga the central stretch of the procession, around the Calle Larios area has been radically altered this year to make it longer and will now finish near the Cathedral. Brotherhoods have been rehearsing new routes to get to the centre and a special metal ramp has been built at the Cathedral for those 'tronos' small enough to fit through the



The temporary ramp at Malaga Cathedral. :: F.S.

doors and to take into account the new route.

Outside Malaga city, Marbella's old town is venue to several processions throughout the week and it also has its own *Pollinica* this Sunday starting at 6pm.

In the Axarquía, Vélez-Málaga is known particularly for its 20 processions over the week. The Palm Sunday procession starts at 5pm.

Elsewhere in Malaga province Ronda and Antequera also have spectacular historic processions that attract many visitors.

Good weather is forecast for next few days as tourist industry gets ready

:: P. MARTÍNEZ / I. LILLO

**MALAGA.** It wasn't just the thousands due to take part in the religious processions that have been watching the skies ahead of next week. Bosses in the tourism sector were hoping for a dry start to the peak season this year with high occupancies expected in hotels and apartments and busy restaurant terraces.

The association of Costa hoteliers, Aehcos, said this week that its members were expecting an average occupancy of 80 per cent in the coming week, with a peak next weekend.

The first detailed weather forecast for the Semana Santa week issued on Thursday by Aemet, the Spanish met office, brought good news, at least for the first half of next week.

From today (Friday 12th) to Palm Sunday (Sunday 14th), settled weather and rising temperatures were forecast, reaching 25 degrees on the coast with a light westerly wind.

From Monday to Wednesday of next week's Semana Santa, partly cloudy skies are expected with the possibility of a light shower in inland Malaga province but not on the Costa.

Temperatures should also rise inland on Maundy Thursday.

From Good Friday, a lot more instability is expected with a front crossing the country.

## HOLY WEEK INFO. FOR LARGER TOWNS

- ▶ **Malaga.** [www.diariosur.es/semana-santa/itinerarios/](http://www.diariosur.es/semana-santa/itinerarios/)
- ▶ **Marbella.** [www.semanasantamarbella.com/semanasanta/](http://www.semanasantamarbella.com/semanasanta/)
- ▶ **Mijas.** [www.mijas.es/portal/es/festividades](http://www.mijas.es/portal/es/festividades)
- ▶ **Torremolinos.** [turismotorremolinos.es/en/discover/great-events/holy-week/](http://turismotorremolinos.es/en/discover/great-events/holy-week/)
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- ▶ **Vélez-Málaga.** [www.agrupacioncofradiasvelez-malaga.es/noticias/files/horarios\\_itinerarios\\_2019.pdf](http://www.agrupacioncofradiasvelez-malaga.es/noticias/files/horarios_itinerarios_2019.pdf)
- ▶ **Nerja.** [turismo.nerja.es/semana-santa-2/](http://turismo.nerja.es/semana-santa-2/)

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# VANIAN

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# Election campaign kicks off with first party rallies and poll showing likely Socialist surge

The survey also suggests a big vote for far-right Vox and that 40 per cent of voters have still to make up their mind

**SUR**

**MADRID.** The campaign to win voters' support in the Spanish general election officially started at midnight last night and today, Friday 12th, is the first full day of campaigning.

Ahead are two weeks of wall-to-wall coverage of the campaign that will end on Friday 26 April. Saturday 27th is a day of reflection under Spanish electoral law, with no campaigning, and Sunday 28th is polling day.

A survey published this week by the government-run CIS polling agency was heavily commented on in the media. It showed the PSOE Socialist party as biggest party according to voting intention, estimated to win 123-138 seats in the 350-seat Congreso, the lower house, but short of the 176 majority needed. This would be significantly up on the seats won last time in 2016.

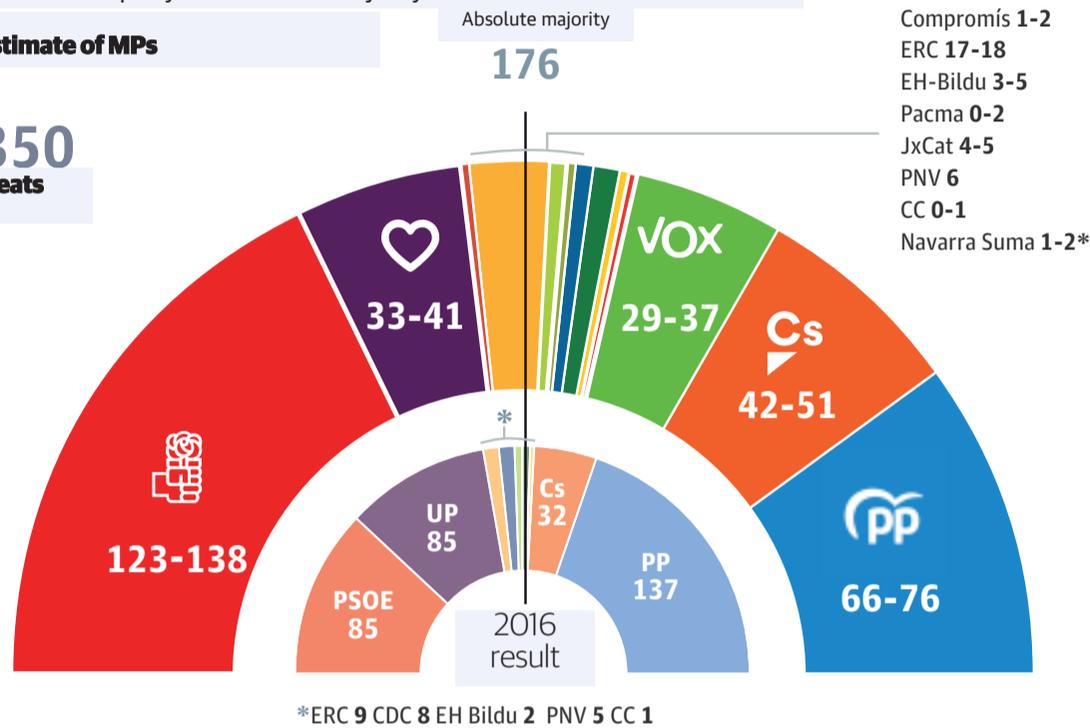
The other main headline from the CIS survey was that the three right-of-centre parties, Ciudadanos, Partido Popular (PP) and

## CIS opinion poll

The Socialist party could reach a majority with Ciudadanos or Podemos.

**Estimate of MPs**

**350 seats**



Vox wouldn't have enough to form a majority. The PP, according to the CIS data, would see a significant fall in seats from 137 in 2016 to be-

tween 66-76 this year. The survey also showed that 40 per cent of voters were still to make up their minds.

For last night's launch meetings, all the main parties chose rallies in Madrid, except the PSOE that organised a meeting near Seville.

Government-funded opinion poll sparks controversy over "political bias"

**SUR**

**MADRID.** Parties on the right questioned the veracity of the CIS official-government opinion poll published this week. CIS (Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas) is a research agency of the government and its director is appointed with the approval of the prime minister. Traditionally it monitors public opinion.

The current director, José Félix Tezanos, is a senior member of the ruling PSOE party and has faced criticism since the party came into power last summer over a change in methodology used in the poll, as rival parties have questioned his independence.

A senior PP politician said the CIS data was "an electoral obscenity" and had been used by the PSOE "on party lines", in reaction to the apparent collapse in the PP vote in the poll.

Even Tezanos, the poll's publisher, said he was surprised. "I don't think the PP will fall so much. And I have the impression that [hard-right] Vox could do better than the survey says," he commented.



### Insider Tips CAR INSURANCE

“Any tips on condensation and how to demist a fogged up windscreen?”

**MINOR CAR PROBLEMS**

Here are some handy tips to help you tackle condensation. Wash your car regularly as dirt and dust attract moisture and early morning dew. Remove any damp items like towels or coats from inside the car. When safe to do so, leave the windows open for a few hours. Switch on the air conditioning and wipe down the inside of the windows. Finally, you can fill a sock with cat litter and place it in your car to help absorb excess moisture.

**BUT WHAT IF IT WON'T START?**

A flat battery is inconvenient, jump-starting your car from the roadside can be hazardous and new batteries are expensive and can be troublesome to fit. These tips can help prolong the life of your battery. Keep the terminals clean of residue that builds up over time. And remember to turn off air conditioning, lights, radio and other battery draining systems whenever possible.



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## Numbers of UK residents in Spain rose in 2018 despite Brexit

New national population data for 1 January this year shows Spain now has a total population of 47 million again, and almost 250,000 are British, a yearly increase of 2.5 per cent

:: SUR

**MADRID.** The population of Spain has reached 47 million again for the first time since 2013. According to the national statistics institute's advance figures for 1 January this year, Spain had 47,007,367 people. This represents a 0.6 per cent year-on-year growth and a third consecutive year of increases.

New immigration was the main reason, with 290,573 arrivals, while the number of Spanish na-



More entered in 2018. :: SUR

tionals dropped 6,186.

The British community increased 2.5 per cent in the twelve months to 1 January, helped by

more people registering for the first time ahead of Brexit this year. There are now officially 249,015 UK nationals "empadronados" at Spanish town halls, by January's data.

Of the total population in Spain, 10.7 per cent are foreign. There was a big rise in the Venezuelan population last year, some 44 per cent, because of the economic unrest there, increasing to 137,589.

The three biggest foreign national groups are, in order of size, Moroccans, Romanians and British. Ecuadorians, who were once the biggest group in Spain, have now fallen into eighth place.

By region, the most populated parts of the country are the same as at the start of 2018, with Andalusia home to the most, followed by Catalonia then the Madrid region. The autonomous regions with the smallest populations are La Rioja, Cantabria and Navarra.



:: EFE

## SPANISH PM BACKS TIME EXTENSION

The Spanish prime minister, Pedro Sánchez, was in Brussels this week for the emergency meeting of EU leaders to decide upon an extension for the UK's departure. Sánchez supported the move to give Britain until 31 October, saying the ball was now in the UK's court. "Nobody wants a hard Brexit but nobody is ruling it out," he added.

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## A fifth of jobs in Malaga province are in the tourism sector

The number in work in this key part of the area's economy grew by six per cent last year but only 46% of workers have permanent contracts

by PILAR MARTÍNEZ

**MALAGA.** A study released by a Costa del Sol planning body has reported that 20 per cent of jobs in Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol, are in tourism. The percentage is a long way above the national average of 13.7 per cent and the Andalusian regional average of 13.5 per cent.

The study by Turismo y Planificación Costa del Sol, part of the Diputación provincial authority, says that in 2018 there were 6.2 per cent more jobs in tourism than a year earlier.

Just over 70 per cent of people in the tourism sector work for companies and the rest are self-employed. Within the tourism sector, hotels, restaurants and bars employ 82,674 workers, according to social security registration data, and 11,680 are em-



Jobs in tourism grew by six per cent last year. by MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

ployed in leisure, cultural or sporting activities related to tourism.

Almost eight in ten workers in tourism have Spanish nationality. Just over 80 per cent of all workers in the sector are on full time contracts.

All the subsectors within tourism showed a strong trend towards job

creation last year, with the tour operators and car rental sector recording the highest growth, 10 per cent, and reaching 9,138 employees paying social security.

However, on the downside, only 46.6 per cent of workers in the whole tourist sector have permanent, stable contracts.

## Junta: 618,000 taxpayers locally should see bills fall after reform

by ALBERTO GÓMEZ

**MALAGA.** Almost 618,000 taxpayers in Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol, should see their taxes fall, the Junta de Andalucía has claimed after carrying out a reform to the part of income tax controlled by regional government.

The reduction in the income tax levied regionally on tax bills will be applied gradually up to 2023. From now on only incomes over 20,200

will have the Junta's own part applied, and the starting rate will fall from 10 to 9.5 per cent.

The move, said the head of the Junta's provincial delegation in Malaga, Patricia Navarro, is designed to make it more attractive for companies to relocate to Andalucía, as the taxes paid by companies on their employees' salaries will fall. Andalucía is now only behind Madrid and Castilla y León in terms of Spanish

regions with the lowest regional taxation.

Patricia Navarro also gave more details this week of the effects of the regional government's decision to virtually eliminate the need for direct family to pay tax on inheritance, which in Spain is levied on the beneficiary and not the dead person's estate. Inheritance tax on amounts up to one million euros will be reduced by 99 per cent.

Gifts between family members will also see the tax level brought down by the same amount. For example, a gift of 10,000 euros will now have just a 7.82-euro tax as opposed to 782 euros previously.

THE EURO ZONE  
MARK NAYLER

## PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER 1?



**A**ccording to Popular Party (PP) leader Pablo Casado, Spain's prime minister Pedro Sánchez represents a "public danger" to his country. Ciudadanos' Albert Rivera is in agreement, saying this week that it has become a "national emergency" that Sánchez be removed from office. Ahead of what is going to be a general election of incredibly fine margins on April 28th, such hyperbole is to be expected. But Casado's and Rivera's rhetoric paints a misleading picture of a prime minister who has achieved a lot during his stint in the top job.

On the day that the UK's second attempt to leave the EU was supposed to succeed, it's apt to remember that Sánchez's government has worked hard to secure the rights of Britons in Spain and Spaniards in Britain after Brexit. Sánchez passed a royal decree early in March that enshrined in law his plans to preserve British expatriates' access to healthcare and voting rights in the case of a no-deal departure from the EU. Amid all the hysteria, Spain thus emerges as the most progressive country in Europe when it comes to preparing for a worst case scenario - namely, one in which the UK divorces Brussels without any kind of plan in place (although the latest extension granted by the EU, to October 31st, is designed to ensure that that doesn't happen).

When it comes to economics, the minority status of Sánchez's

administration has proved a real barrier to progress (the PSOE holds just 84 seats in the 350-seat congress). The government's inability to pass its proposed 2019 budget was, after all, the failure that triggered the upcoming election. Despite that, the Socialist leader managed to increase Spain's minimum wage by a substantial 22% as of January this year, from €736 to €900 - a raise that will make an enormous difference to many Spanish households.

The same could be said of a decree for which Sánchez secured the approval of a parliamentary panel two weeks ago, and which aims to protect tenants from mercurial and profit-hungry landlords. Such legislation goes a long way towards showing that, when the Socialist leader says that his priority is the lot of average Spaniards, it's not just political posturing (or not entirely, anyway).

What Casado and Rivera really have in mind when they brand Sánchez "Public Enemy Number 1", though, is Catalonia. Both the PP and Ciudadanos leaders are ramping up their criticism of his attempt to start a dialogue with the region's separatists, saying that it undermines Spanish unity; yet they seem to forget - or choose to ignore - that the PSOE leader is as fundamentally opposed to Catalan secession as they are. Far from being a "public danger" to his country, then, Sánchez will prove a hard act to follow if someone new moves into Moncloa after April 28th.

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# Ambitious garden city project planned inside Gibraltar's port

The 100,000-square-metre residential development, which will also have leisure and retail facilities, is to be called Victoria Keys

BY DEBBIE BARTLETT

**GIBRALTAR.** Plans were announced this week for an ambitious new development within Gibraltar harbour, west of Coaling Island and in Port waters, which will be called Victoria Keys. The project will involve creating 60,000 square metres of new land, using material from the unsightly 'rubble mountain' on the East side of the Rock for the reclamation, and it will provide 100,000 square metres of residential buildings with leisure, community, commercial and retail use.

According to the plans, Victoria Keys will be mainly pedestrianised, with parking and traffic movements underground. There will be an extensive landscaped promenade, solely for pedestrians and cyclists, along the entire waterfront perimeter, and wide tree-lined avenues running east to west with views across the bay.

If this major project sounds expensive, well, yes it is. However the



A model of the proposed Victoria Keys development. BY SUR

Gibraltar government insists that it will cost taxpayers virtually nothing.

A press release from the government says the works will be carried out by Harbour Developments Limited, a consortium of locally-based developers. The reclamation costs will be financed by a Government owned company on a fully secured basis using funds raised from the £300 million institutional investment in Gibraltar.

Once the reclamation is complete,

the Government-owned company will be repaid, with interest, and will also receive a prime site (50% of the southernmost side of the reclaimed plot) with a guaranteed value of £25 million. The government will also receive a 20% share in the equity of the developer.

It will be a while before Victoria Keys becomes reality, however, as it has yet to go through all the town planning regulation and environmental impact procedures.

# Full Spring Festival programme now available

BY D. BARTLETT

**GIBRALTAR.** The programme of events for the Spring Festival, which runs from 1 May to 20 June, has now been announced. A full run-down can be obtained from the Cultural Department, but in the meantime these are a few of the many highlights coming up soon.

The busy schedule of events kicks off on May Day with music and dance performances in Casemates Square between 11am and 7pm, and 'Art Dance 2019' will be taking place on Saturday 4th in John Mackintosh Square from 8.30 to 10.30 pm, where international

artists will be exhibiting their works and local dancers are being invited to participate.

On 8 and 9 May at 8pm at the John Mackintosh Hall there will be a Zarzuela, 'La del Manojó de Rosas', and tickets - which cost £5 - can be purchased from the John Mackintosh Hall from Tuesday 23 April between 9am and 4pm.

On Saturday 11 May from 10am to 3pm there will be a public display of Field Gun Crew in Casemates Square, and on 15 May the Arts Society Gibraltar will be hosting a talk on The Great Velázquez at Court in Madrid at the Garrison Library.

# Annual skin cancer screening day is on Saturday at the Primary Care Centre

BY D. B.

**GIBRALTAR.** The Gibraltar Health Authority is holding its annual skin cancer screening day on Saturday (13 April), from 9am to 1pm at the Primary Care Cen-

tre. Anyone interested in having moles or growths on their skin checked is asked to use the entrance via the front of the ICC building. Users should also remember that these checks are only to detect possible skin cancer and not for advice on other skin problems such as psoriasis or eczema.

The GHA says these screening days are important as they serve as a reminder of the importance of sun protection and they enable diagnoses to be made early, thereby saving people's lives.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Catalonia

Thank you very much for your letter [by N. Barker] about Catalonia and Brexit published in the 5 April edition of SUR in English.

I found the letter to be very educational, as a result of your words of wisdom I've come to realise that despite having lived here for 37 years I know little about this country.

I didn't know that Catalonia is partly to blame for Brexit, and I doubt whether many Catalans know that either.

Another 'fact' that I didn't know is that the buoyant economy that Catalonia enjoys is all thanks to Franco, apparently because of investments made by the INI in his time. I think the least you could do is to inform the government of Catalonia of that 'fact'.

I have to admit that in my many visits to Catalonia I have never noticed that in the Catalan social structure "deep rooted and extremely painful damage has been done". No-one has ever mentioned it to me and I go out of my way to enter into conversation with the locals when I'm there.

Your mention of 'charnego' is interesting. Charnego in Spanish is a pejorative or descriptive term used primarily in the 1950s-70s in Catalonia (Spain) to refer to economic

migrants from other typically poorer regions of Spain such as Andalusia or Extremadura. Are you trying to tell us that in that context it is still in everyday use in Catalonia? I think not, I believe that it's only used by a handful of extremists.

My comment about companies having to relocate their registered offices is completely accurate. A total of 3,023 companies moved their registered offices out of Catalonia between October 2nd and December 13th 2017, according to the data gathered by the Spanish Association of Registrars.

The idea came from Rajoy and was designed to cut down the income of the Catalan government. It did not occur to him that damaging the Catalan economy was in reality damaging the economy of Spain. It is my belief that Catalonia was and is part of Spain but apparently Rajoy didn't know. Seemingly a year after the measure came into force it was reversed. Common sense prevailed.

Well, to end, I'd like to thank you once more for keeping me so well informed about Catalan affairs. Your information is invaluable.

ED WILCOX  
BY EMAIL

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# Everybody's talkin'

PETER EDGERTON  
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**T**he Cultural Centre in Malaga used to put on regular free concerts in their small but rather charming theatre quite a few years ago. The trouble was that, especially if it was cold, groups of older people from the area used to attend just to be able to have a good old natter with their chums somewhere warm. So, then the people in charge began to put a nominal price on the door (one or two euros, I think) which immediately put paid to the problem of the real life chat groups.

Today, I visited the Arabic baths in Malaga city centre in order to disengage from the hustle and bustle of city life for an hour or two. The atmosphere engendered by the decor and ambient lighting was just as you might expect - tranquil and relaxing.

Unfortunately, our deep-seated need to jabber at each other in-

cessantly no matter the context meant that the a constant burble of chit chat considerably lessened the effect of my little time out.

One small group of women from the UK seemed to think they were in Blackpool municipal baths such was their behaviour. I half expected one of them to indulge in a bit of pool bombing à la Peter Kay. Mercifully we were spared.

Then, about an hour in, there was an almighty kerfuffle with people yelling in Spanish at the top of their voices. At first I thought our UK women friends must have undertaken the most intensive one-hour language course ever, but no it was a group from Malaga urgently calling their friends over.

For a split second, it crossed my mind to say something but no one wants to be the whinging old bloke so I put a sock in it. This turned out to be extremely for-

lunate, since the cause of the hullabaloo was somebody having slipped and fallen, resulting in minor injuries. Imagine the embarrassment of intervening.

"Excuse me. Would you mind piping down, please? Some of us are here to contemplate the deeper questions in life and all this yelling is simply not conducive. I say! Didn't you hear me? You! Yes, you with the stethoscope! Turn that ambulance siren down before I throw you in the thermal pool."

Things subsequently became much calmer and I had a marvellous time in the end but the fact remains - we've become very limited in our ability to adapt our social behaviour to our surroundings.

It's a basic human need to converse and socialise with others but there's a time and a place - about nine thirty in the local pub, in my experience.

SANSÓN



**F**aced with a new situation that could have consequences for the economy - from the crisis to Brexit, from election results to a board of directors at a bank - we, as journalists, often find we need to call up an economist twice. The first time is so they can predict what might happen; the second, so they can analyse what really has happened and explain what went wrong in their forecast.

Perhaps the cause of so many shots off target can be found among myths and beliefs that have settled down as unquestionable truths in economic science, which were born by chance out of logical reasoning but rarely go from theory to reality.

The fathers of economic science,

## New image

HÉCTOR BARBOTTA

from Smith to present day, established their theories based on a scenario that only exists in theory, the perfect competition market. Economics, however is not mathematical but a social science, that

is, where the human factor intervenes with all its complexities.

What's more, economic activity itself generates inequalities that alter the framework so that theory and practice follow paths

that sometimes never even meet.

The perfect market of free competition simply does not exist. It has never existed. Behaviour derived from considering that the scenario is real must be permanently checked with another tool resorted to by economists who are less affected by traditionalism, the empirical test.

Well, there is no empirical study that proves that reducing taxes for those who contribute most will activate the economy or have any beneficial effect apart from on the pockets of those directly concerned. The overflow theory, that maintains that when the cup of the most wealthy fills up that wealth starts to spread among the rest of the actors in society, has never managed

to work, apart from as an alibi.

Therefore it is certainly hard to explain why the Andalusian government has made the abolition of inheritance tax one of the highlights of its first months in charge, when the measure only benefits families in which each one of the children inherit a million euros or more. Unless this forms part of a campaign to put an end to the image of an Andalucía plagued by the problem of unemployment, low salaries and temporary contracts, to draw a new picture of a region in which the vast majority of its inhabitants were seriously concerned about the taxes they would have to pay when they inherited a fortune. And now, they are all breathing a sigh of relief.

# "Meditation helped me create great songs"

**Rudolf Schenker** Guitarist, songwriter and founder member of the Scorpions



REGINA SOTORRIO

RACHEL HAYNES

After 54 years on the road, the Scorpions founder and guitarist speaks to SUR ahead of the band's gig in Fuengirola in June

**MALAGA.** "It's all about timing," says Rudolf Schenker, "You have to wait for the magic moment." Before explaining how the Scorpions' story is all about doing the right thing at the right time, the 70-year-old founder of the band proves that he applies this theory to his daily agenda. How long is the interview going to be?" he asks when this newspaper calls him up at the allotted time, "Can you call back in 45 minutes? Then we'll have more time to talk."

Whatever the commitment that would have limited the original call, it was just as well we agreed to wait, because Rudolf Schenker likes to talk. His band, his music, his family, his career that already spans more than half a century, and above all the energy that holds them all together, spill out in a conversation with this German rock star who has found all the answers, and finds it frustrating that others fail to do the same.

The interview comes ahead of the Scorpions' trip to Fuengirola in June when they headline the Rock the Coast festival. Schenker, in his unmistakable German accent, explains that now, after 54 years on the road, the Scorpions only play what they consider to be "fun" gigs and festivals. It's not hard to see why the Costa event fits the criteria - Schenker's relationship with Spain goes back to when he was a child.

## Memories of Spain

"My father was a big Spain fan, especially Malaga, and the streets of Granada and of course the Rock of Gibraltar," he explains. He remembers when his family first went to Barcelona when he was nine or ten and how "the next vacation was to Valencia, Tarragona, and then we ended up in Malaga".

As Schenker reminisces about Spain, it's easy to forget that at the other end of the telephone is the heavy metal hero who has toured the world several times over, made 18 studio albums and sold millions of records. Of course, he mentions touring in Spain and this country's "fantastic crowds" at their concerts, but it's clear that his family holiday



Rudolf Schenker, on stage with his "yin and yang" guitar. :: RALPH ARVESEN

memories are those that count.

When he had his own family they also holidayed in Spain. Why? "In Germany half the people went to Italy and the other half to Spain," he explains, as if his was just an ordinary German family who came on holiday and found, as he says, "nice oranges and nice people".

His visits to the Costa continued, especially after his father retired to a motor home and lived for more than ten years on a campsite near Algeciras. "It's like coming home," he says.

Unlike his father though, Schenker has no plans to disappear in his own retirement caravan. When his age - he was 70 last August - is brought up in the conversation, he laughs out loud: "54 years playing rock music, it's amazing!" he exclaims.

When he realised interviewers had started asking more about the past than the future, he looked back and took stock. "I see what we've done - travelling around, bringing people together, having friends in China, Spain, Africa - it's unbelievable."

The weight of 50 years hit home when Schenker came across an old accounts book from 1965 that his mother kept to keep track of the money he'd borrowed from his father

- a loan, he hastens to add, that he paid back in full. This was probably about the time when people were telling him to "find a proper job", as they said the music wouldn't last.

Now he is a father and grandfather himself; "Of course they like the music," he says of his two teenage grandchildren, before proudly talking about his granddaughter's athletics and ice skating success. "They are a gift," he adds. And his life gained a new gift in 2015 when his girlfriend gave birth to their son, who, now nearly four, also finds his father's veteran rocker lifestyle fun.

So where does Rudolf Schenker get his energy from to keep going on stage? "From the audience, from the music," he says. "We get our energy from being on stage, seeing our fans smiling, full of emotion. If you give energy you always get energy back. We want to create a feeling, an atmosphere, where people become one."

As Schenker looks back at the 54-year history of his band it's clear what he means about things happening when the time was right.

In the heyday of heavy rock in the 1980s the Scorpions shared the limelight with bands like Def Leppard, Bon Jovi and Iron Maiden.

## HIS WORDS

**"The ballads are like a rose with a thorn; they are very great, but also fearful"**

**"We get our energy from being on stage; if you give energy you get energy back"**

**"What we've done - travelling around, bringing people together.... it's unbelievable"**

**"The friendship is still there, the chemistry is right, we have everything we need to give people the optimum"**

## ROCK THE COAST

► **When.** 14 and 15 June from 1.30pm

► **Where.** Fuengirola. Marenstrum Music Castle Park

► **Bands.** Scorpions, Europe, UFO, Rainbow, The Darkness.... plus many more.

► **More information.** [www.rockthecoastfestival.es](http://www.rockthecoastfestival.es)

"We had parties like crazy; that was a fantastic time but you can't turn time back," says Schenker when asked whether he misses those years.

In the nineties the band's fame in Asia came as the ideal antidote to the damage grunge and alternative music were doing to heavy metal. "We were lucky. We could play in Asia and Russia so we didn't have to suffer," he explains.

It was a project with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, says Schenker, that made them realise just how good their songs were. "We said, 'we have to go back to where we came from'. Then we did our next albums in 2004 and 2005. which were successful, because rock music was in again. It's all about timing," he repeats.

## False alarm farewell

The Scorpions guitarist claims that announcing their farewell tour in 2010 was also done at "the right moment", despite them realising later that saying goodbye was the last thing they wanted to do.

The idea that this would be their last chance to see the band live brought old fans out of the woodwork. "It was an alarm clock moment," says Schenker, adding that

these old fans were joined in front of the stage by a new generation the band hadn't been fully aware of. "In 2010 we had over one million on Facebook," he says. Of them, "80 per cent were between 16 and 28 years old. Unbelievable."

So they didn't stop, and five years after announcing their departure they were on their 50th anniversary tour with a new recruit.

"We got Mikkey Dee [ex-Motörhead] in the band and we realised how much fun we still have, so this is why we changed our minds," says the guitarist. "The friendship is still there, the chemistry is right, we have everything we need to give the people the optimum."

Many of the classic songs the Scorpions produced over the years are the result of a different side to Rudolf Schenker that he admits does not fit much with the image of a heavy metal guitarist.

## Songwriting

"Meditation helped me create great songs like Still Loving You, like Lady Starlight, like Rocking Like a Hurricane," he says, describing his daily routine back in the seventies as "meditate, compose, meditate, compose, meditate, compose, with lunch and dinner in between".

"If you do meditation you find yourself, and then you are what you are. Everybody is somebody special, but most people don't see it. Most people want to be somebody else," the guitarist explains with frustration in his voice.

Schenker explains that he has always been able to "find my way back home" when others lost their way during the party years of the 80s. "My guitar is black and white - yin and yang. I'm always the kind of guy that goes from one extreme to another," he says, "My good point is that I always find my way back to the centre."

Schenker's meditation is responsible for some of the ballads that, due to their popularity, perhaps eclipse the band's purer heavy metal tracks. The classic Still Loving You had its right moment to be recorded in 1983, seven years after Schenker wrote it, and became the most sold record ever in France, recalls the musician.

"I'm always asked why the ballads are so successful played by a rock band. I say that when a rocker shows his feelings, that feeling in music is stronger - that's the edge. It's like a rose with a thorn," continues Schenker. "The ballads are somehow very, very great, and also fearful."

Now the Scorpions have promised a new album and they'll be going into the studio this spring. No dates have been given though. "We don't want any pressure; we have to be inspired."

So are we likely to hear new songs at the Fuengirola concert? "Everything is possible," says Schenker. "Wait for the magic moment - that's the important point."

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# "I always thought it would be ace if I could perform in Malaga and visit my father"

## Tony Vino Stand-up comedian



TONY BRYANT  
✉ tonysureng@gmail.com

The Malaga-born stand-up comedian, Tony Vino, will fulfil his dream when he performs on the Costa del Sol for the first time this weekend

**FUENGIROLA.** The Salon Varietés Theatre in Fuengirola is to host the third consecutive season of stand-up comedy nights this weekend. The two shows will take place on Friday (today) and Saturday and will again be compered by Dave Thompson, the madcap comedian who found fame as Tinky Winky in the BBC's Teletubbies children's series. Dave will be supported by Matthew Baylis (former story-liner on EastEnders) and Tony Vino, two British stand-ups popular on the UK comedy circuit.

Tony Vino was born in Malaga; his father is Spanish and his mother was born in Scotland, but since childhood, he has lived in the north of England. The former solicitor began working on the comedy circuit in 2005, performing across the UK and internationally. He has worked as a stand-up comedian and comper and is well known for the way he seamlessly mixes well thought-out observational humour with audience interaction.

His non-offensive style of humour mixes social and political issues, which has made him a favour-

ite choice for corporate functions and high profile events for charities like Oxfam, Christian Aid and TearFund. He has also worked with celebrity acts like Jimmy Cricket and Tim Vine, and was once commissioned to warm the audience for the BBC's Songs of Praise, an event he describes as a "low point in my career".

SUR in English caught up with the comedian prior to his arrival on the Costa and he explained how excited he is to be able to perform in Malaga for the first time; especially seeing as his father will be in the audience, along with several of his Scottish relatives.

### Is Vino your birth name?

I've slightly shortened my real name for the stage. My full name is Anthony Triviño. Although my dad is from Malaga and lives most of the year there, I grew up in Preston. Even though I'm half Spanish, I sound as northern English as is possible and my ginger hair and freckly skin are due to my mother being from Glasgow.

### How did you make a living before becoming a stand-up?

I gave up a lucrative career in law to do this. I studied law and then did a masters in something called Jurisprudence, which is legal philosophy. I worked for a few years and decided that life as a solicitor wasn't for me - much to the approval of my clients.

### What made you decide to make a career out of comedy?

Back in 2005, a friend in Leeds started an amateur comedy night and asked me if I would MC it as I had done a lot of acting and liked making people laugh, most importantly; I said I would do it for free. The first night went amazingly



Tony Vino gave up a career in law to become a comedian. :: SUR

well. In fact, I met my wife that night. We clicked instantly and made each other laugh on and off stage. Fourteen years later we are still together, so who's laughing now?

### What is the most bizarre place you have ever performed in?

I reckon it must be performing from the middle of a boxing ring. The organiser of the boxing competition thought it was a good idea to have a comedian on before the fights. It wasn't a good idea. Let's say that I lasted the full 12 rounds but the audience won on points.

### Where do you get your ideas for material from?

Sometimes it is random and funny ideas crop up that I jot down as quickly as possible. Other times it is in conversations when people laugh and we've hit a golden seam of comedy that I then think I can work on. Mainly though, ideas

come from intentional thought. I have a discipline where I just write without worrying whether the ideas are funny or not.

### How do you practise your new jokes?

Every time before going on (stage) I practise. I suppose it's like a musician playing an instrument - there is always a level of practice needed to stay sharp. I then sandwich new jokes into a performance to try things out.

### Are you superstitious?

I wouldn't say I'm superstitious, but before going on stage I have various little rituals that I always need to do or I feel off centre.

### Your act has been described as 'socially aware inoffensive fun': how would you describe your sense of humour?

A lot of my humour is derived from wordplay. I like to be silly, and simply for everyone to have fun. My

## COMEDY SHOWS

► **Where.** Salon Varietés Theatre, Fuengirola.

► **When.** Friday 12 and Saturday 13 April. 7.30 pm.

► **Tickets.** 18 Euros.  
www.salonvarietes.com

stage persona is affable and friendly (to mask my true self, which is full of anger and judgement).

### How do you feel about performing in Malaga for the first time?

This is genuinely one of my dreams come true. It was on my bucket list. My dad lives in Malaga and for years now I always thought it would be ace if I could get to perform in Malaga and have chance to visit my father.

### Will any Spanish relatives come to see you perform?

Apart from my dad, none of my Spanish relatives can speak English, so I don't think it would work for them. Ironically though, I have a load of Scottish relatives coming as they happen to be in Malaga this week.

### What can the audience expect at the Salon Varietés in Fuengirola?

Expect the unexpected. There will be jokes, banter, audience interaction, stories, some poignant moments and a good sprinkle of fun.

### Your friend Dave Thompson describes you as 'a sharp-witted comedian with a sublime sense of the ridiculous': how would you describe Dave?

A fine judge of comics. Seriously though, Dave is a seasoned veteran of the comedy scene. You know any night he is on that you are in safe hands. He is hilarious, likeable, surreal and quick.

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# Banderas: "I changed my life and am now doing what I really want to do"

The actor is selecting the cast of *A Chorus Line*, which will open the new Soho theatre in October. "It's giving me a fantastic problem, because there is so much talent," he says

## REGINA SOTORRÍO

**MALAGA.** Antonio Banderas takes a short break from the auditions, but he doesn't leave through the back door or look for a quiet corner in which to relax. He goes into the corridor where, nervous and concentrating hard, the next hopefuls are waiting to take their turn. He encourages them, wishes them luck, makes them laugh, just as if he were one of them. He always looks directly into the eyes of the person he is talking to. "Now I'm doing what I really want to do," he says firmly to me.

After more than two weeks of auditions in Malaga, Madrid and Barcelona, the final cast of *A Chorus Line* is being decided this week at ESAEM, the Senior School of Performing Arts in Malaga. About 500 applicants have come here to audition, of the nearly 2,000 who



Antonio Banderas at the ESAEM, where he is holding auditions for 'A chorus line'. :: NITO SALAS

originally applied to accompany Banderas in the inaugural musical at the 931-seat Caixabank Soho Theatre in October.

"I'm finding I have a fantastic problem. There is so much talent and it's going to be sad, because we're going to have to turn down some very good people and that is a painful thing to do," says Banderas.

In order to go ahead with this local project, he has already turned down two films this year, but he doesn't care. The heart attack he suffered a couple of years ago was a warning that made him decide to change his life.

"People live as if they are never going to die, but we all will. And I don't want to die asking myself

why I hadn't done something. When I saw death close up, I thought: I have to do something I really want to do. I started my career in theatre and got into cinema almost by accident, although it has brought me some very good things," he says.

The Malaga-born actor has made 112 films, spent 26 years in Holly-

## HIS WORDS

"I don't want to die asking myself why I hadn't done something. When I saw death close up, that is what I realised"

"The idea is to create a production centre of performing arts which has muscle and adds value to the city"

wood and is now tired of living abroad. "I want to do things in my own city, live in my home and only leave when they need me for work somewhere else," he explains.

When he isn't filming, he'll be found backstage, on stage or teaching a masterclass because, he insists, Soho won't just be a theatre: it'll be a cultural and production centre.

"Our slogan is 'for Malaga from Malaga'. Local people will be the first to enjoy the shows we produce, but we will also have to take them to Barcelona, Madrid, New York, wherever. The idea is to have a stage arts production centre which gives value to the city," he says. "We want people to come, and find out what theatre is all about. Sometime in October we will be here, waiting for them, keen to perform for them on their doorstep, in Soho".

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SOCIETY SCENE

# Spring walking holiday for the Field Club

Aracena was the base for the Costa walkers; the Lions donate funds for Knitted Knockers; and walking footballers plan a new event

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

### The Field Club Walking in Huelva

Forty-nine members of the Field Club went on a three-night walking holiday earlier this month, staying at Hotel Los Castaños in Aracena (Huelva). They stopped off on the way to visit La Minilla reservoir and went for walks each day in the Parque Natural Picos de Aroche.

The group have a holiday every spring and autumn and in between walk twice a week from January to the end of May and September until Christmas. More information: [www.thefieldclub.org](http://www.thefieldclub.org)

### La Cala de Mijas Lions Club Donation to knitters

The president of the La Cala de Mijas

Lions Club, Margaret Bobowicz, recently presented a cheque for 2,002 euros for AECC (Asociación Española Contra el Cancer) Pink Ladies to Maria Bailey, president of the Knitted Knockers charity.

The money will be used to help fund the knitting breast prosthetics for women who have had to have a mastectomy as a result of cancer and to help with the rest of the services they provide. Hospital Costa del Sol and Hospital Clínico in Malaga have collaborated with this project. La Cala de Mijas Lions have been donating to Knitted Knockers since the association was started, over three years ago. To see or request the finished article call into the Lions La Cala de Mijas shop.

### Walking Football Spain Future festival

Walking Football Spain has confirmed that Benalmádena Polideportivo (next to the bullring) will be the venue for their May Festival of Walking Football. The event will take place on Friday 17 May from 11am to 4pm. Ten teams



Field Club members visited La Minilla reservoir on their trip to the Picos de Aroche park, Aracena. :: SUR

will be competing with Chorley (UK) participating with Over 50s and Over 60s teams, also Manchester City Fans and Bristol Over 60s teams. There will also be two teams from "Smiles" (Fuengirola) and three teams from Walking Football Spain.

All proceeds from the festival will be donated to the Somos Tu Ola fund to raise money to pay for bionic prostheses for Sarah Almagro Vallejo after she had her arms and legs amputated as a result of sepsis.

### What are you up to?

If you are involved in a club or association and planning events, trips or activities that would be of interest to other readers of SUR in English, we would love to hear from you:

Email: [surinenglish.su@diariosur.es](mailto:surinenglish.su@diariosur.es)



Members of AECC, La Cala Lions and Knitted Knockers. :: SUR

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DENISE BUSH



## GARDENING

# The cast iron plant

**A favourite in Victorian times, the aspidistra is undergoing a 'facelift' with new varieties available**

A familiar sight in towns and villages during showery weather is at least one pot of a large, leafy plant, stood outside the owner's front door getting a rinse in the rain. Once extremely popular in Victorian Britain, the Aspidistra has never really gone out of favour in Spain.

In Britain, it was about the only plant that would grow inside the dark, gloomy Victorian houses and the only plant that could survive the fumes from gas lighting, hence the common name 'cast iron plant'. However with the advent of electric lights, the Aspidistra fell out of fashion.

It remained a 'forgotten' plant until the 1980s when the genus Aspidistra started to be studied closely and the number of recognised species rose from 7 to 10 in the 70s, to nearly a hundred today.

Native to China, Vietnam and Japan, the Aspidistra (named by John Ker in 1822 after the Greek 'aspidion' mean-

ing 'shield') grows in dry shade, under trees and shrubs. Although considered a house plant, it can withstand drought, draughts, below freezing temperatures and neglect. It needs minimum light and a free-draining soil; water logging will rot the rhizomous roots.

The paddle-shaped, dark-green, leathery leaves, 50-70cm long, form on short stems and grow very slowly. This is one of the reasons that Aspidistras are sometimes hard to find in garden centres; it grows so slowly that production is expensive, plus they are still not fully appreciated by many customers. However, nowadays there are lovely variegated species available, striped with creamy-white or butter-yellow or a spotted-leaved Aspidistra 'Milky Way' which is stunning although not quite as hardy as the original Victorian favourite.

Aspidistras will survive under a thick layer of dust for a very long time, some families passing them on from generation to generation. What they do not put up with is too much water or sunlight and root disturbance.

Aspidistras rarely flower, but sometimes a small violet-brown flower appears, resting on the soil although it is often hidden by leaves. It produces one berry which, if the flower has not been pollinated (this is done by slugs and snails in the wild) will be sterile. The only way to successfully propagate Aspidistra is by very carefully dividing it, avoiding any damage to the white stringy roots. This is best done when repotting which is only advisable once every three to four years.



Aspidistra elatior and a close-up of the flower :: WIKIMEDIA / FLICKR

### READER'S PHOTO



:: MARIA HILLEN

## THE POWDER PUFF TREE

Reader Maria Hillen sent in this photo of a Calliandra, possibly *C. emarginata*, which she says has taken a few years to 'get going' but is now doing really well. Calliandra are popular plants for bonsai and are suitable for growing in containers. It is not drought resistant and performs best with regular watering.

### GARDENING IN APRIL

## Transplanting shrubs

Generally speaking, autumn is the best time to move established shrubs, but with this lovely spring rain the soil is soft and if you need to move any, now couldn't be a better time to do it. A plant that is already established is going to suffer some shock if you have to uproot it but to minimise this as much as possible, do it while the weather is cold and damp. Make sure you dig it out with as much

soil around the root ball as possible and avoid breakages, although some damage to the root system is inevitable. Make sure that the hole you have dug to put the shrub in is large enough for it to be at exactly the same level as it was before. Back fill carefully and firm the soil down well. Water in copiously and you may need to keep watering it at intervals, especially in hot dry weather.

### PHOTOS

#### Calling all gardeners

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

Email your photos to [english@diariosur.es](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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DEBBIE BARTLETT



## WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

12 APRIL 1931

# Local elections led to the Second Republic

**A landslide victory for republican and left-wing parties resulted in the king leaving the country and the Republic being declared two days later**

**O**n 12 April 1931 local elections were held in Spain for the first time in years, and the result - a landslide victory for republicans and left-wing parties - changed the course of history.

The number of seats on each council was determined by the number of inhabitants. Voting was compulsory, but only men were allowed to vote as suffrage for women had not yet been introduced.

The republicans won by a large margin in the regions of Asturias, Aragón and Catalonia, with a majority in most provincial capital cities. In Bar-

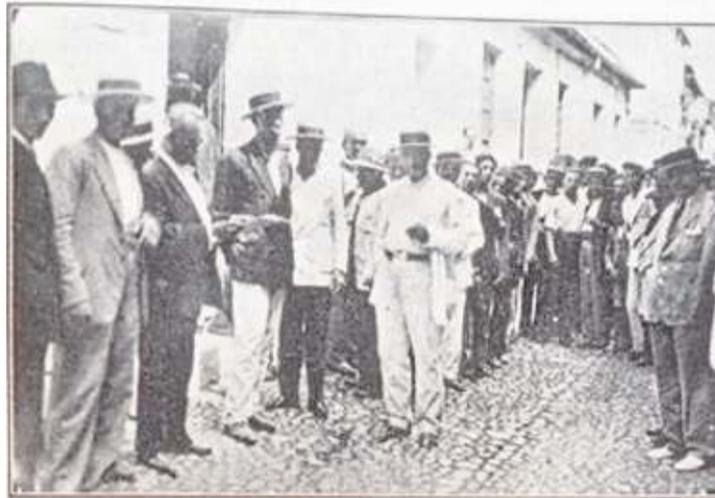
celona they won 75 per cent of the seats.

Out of a total of 80,472 possible seats on local councils, the republicans won 34,368, socialists 4,813, communists 67, and monarchists 19,035, with their best results being in the Balearic Islands and the regions of Andalucía and Extremadura.

Two days later the king, Alfonso XIII, who had come to power in 1902 and had become extremely unpopular, left the country, saying that he no longer had the support of the people. He had been advised that this would avoid violence breaking out.



King Alfonso XIII. :: SUR



A queue outside a polling station in Malaga on 12 April 1931. :: SUR

After travelling to Austria, Switzerland, England and Egypt, he finally settled in Rome, but he only absented himself from Spain: he did not abdicate the throne. On the same day that he went into exile, 14 April, the Second Republic was proclaimed.

The politicians who took over the government of Spain on 14

April 1931 were from several small parties, and the prime minister of the new regime was Niceto Alcalá Zamora. However, he resigned in October after disagreeing with some of the articles in the new Constitution. He was also selected to be the President of the new Republic, a post he retained until the Civil War

## LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

República	Republic
Elecciones	Elections
Escaños	Seats
Concejal/a	Councillor
Votación	Voting
Gobierno	Government
Exilio	Exile
Abdicar	To abdicate
Presidente del gobierno	Prime Minister
Presidente	President
Leyes	Laws
Libertad	Freedom
Divorcio	Divorce
Sufragio	Suffrage
Estatus	Status
Inovaciones	Innovations
Suffrage	Suffragio

began in 1936.

Under the new government, many things changed rapidly in Spain.

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guarantor. My parents' house is already paid for, and when I told them my father was reluctant because it is a risk, since they would lose the house if I do not manage to pay the mortgage. On the other hand, he wondered what would happen if he dies (the house is in his name), since he has always said that this house is what he will leave my brothers and me as inheritance. When the guarantor dies, is his obligation with respect to the mortgage cancelled?

No, unless the document that is signed expressly stipulates otherwise. In this case, moreover, if the heirs accept the inheritance, they will be responsible for the guarantee with their present assets and those they may have in the future. Therefore, it is a decision that should be taken very seriously, since, in the event of death, the rest of your siblings will be affected by this decision. In

any case, the most advisable solution in the event of your father's death is for the heirs to accept the inheritance for the benefit of the inventory, that is to say, they accept the inheritance, but have no personal responsibility for the debts that might exist when they receive it, since in any case the debts would be settled with the inherited property.

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Anette Skou and Katja Thirion of the Mijas Foreigners' Department with Jesper Sander Pedersen and the three speakers. :: KARL SMALLMAN

**Mijas town hall hosts Press Club journalism debate**

A round table talk about investigative journalism, entitled "Is investigative journalism a dying dinosaur?" was the format for the April meeting of the Costa Press Club. At a time when anyone with a smartphone can instantly publish their version of "news" to the world, what is the future for professionals trained to sift information and contrast sources?

This was the topic discussed by local journalists Agustín Rivero, Malaga correspondent for El Confidencial; Damián Ruíz Fájula, freelance journalist (former correspondent for El Mundo); and Mats Björkman, chief editor of Sydkusten, in a discussion led by the Costa Press Club president, Jesper Sander Pedersen. The panellists agreed that professional investigative journalism

is essential and must be fostered, to avoid political censorship or the pressure of big businesses.

Mats Björkman spoke of the recent trend in Spain towards more independent media, funded by subscribers or systems like crowdfunding rather than advertising.

Dutch journalist Elsa Beckman also spoke from the floor about the danger of public opinion being polarised by uncontrasted opinions and "reports" on social media. The consensus was that there will always be a role for the professional media as an impartial watchdog, and to ensure the accountability of decision-makers.

The event, which was hosted by the Mijas Foreigners' Department in La Cala, was followed by dinner at the Restaurante El Torreón.

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# The campaign for hope in the fight against cancer

The Clínico hospital now has three bells which are rung by oncology patients to celebrate the end of their treatment

### ÁNGEL ESCALERA

**MALAGA.** Miriam Segura Navarro used to dream of the oncology departments of hospitals having bells for patients to ring, to celebrate the end of their treatment. Miriam died in 2017, aged 32, from cervical cancer, and never saw her wish come true. But now, thanks to the provincial board of the Spanish Association against Cancer (AECC), in collaboration with the Clínico Universitario hospital, three 'bells of dreams' have been installed (in the medical oncology day unit, radiotherapy oncology and the phase one clinical testing department).

The Clínico is the second hospital in the province of Malaga to have these bells, following the example of the Costa del Sol hospital in Marbella, which incorporated them last December.

"Through this campaign, my daughter wanted patients to be able to share their joy when their treatment was completed or when



Concha Navarro, between Virginia and Antonia, patients who have finished their treatment in the Clínico hospital. :: PEDRO J. QUERO

they received good news. The ringing of the bell signifies hope," said Miriam's mother, Concha Navarro. "That was her great dream. This

is for you, Miriam, forever," said Concha, her voice filled with emotion as she rang one of the bells at the official launch of the project.

Miriam Segura was an AECC volunteer and the face of 'La Niña de la Perla' which the association used on its poster for the II Andalusian Congress of Cancer Patients. She had the idea for the 'bells of dreams' in hospitals after seeing one in a hospital in Toronto, Canada, where she had part of her treatment.

The first of these bells, which was bronze and had once belonged to a ship, was installed in the MD Anderson centre in Houston, USA. It was donated by admiral Irve Le Moyne when the treatment for his cancer was completed.

At the launch there were performances by the Crescendo music group before and after the inauguration ceremony.

After Concha Navarro had rung the bell in memory of her daughter, the group went down to the radiotherapeutic oncology department where Virginia and Antonia, patients who had just finished their courses of treatment, rang the bell on their own and then with Miriam's mother, Concha. It was an emotional moment.

### Beating the illness

José Antonio Medina said that for him, an oncologist by profession, this was a very special day. "Ob-

viously, I care very much about our patients so I am delighted that we have this bell in our hospital. The AECC deserves our gratitude for this initiative," he said.

Yolanda Lupiáñez pointed out that, once patients have finished their treatment, the bells are a sign of hope for the future.

Oncologist Begoña Jiménez paid tribute to Miriam Segura, saying that she had learned from Miriam that seemingly small details can lead to a better world. "She taught us that if we try hard enough, dreams can come true. Thank you, Miriam, for showing us that," she said.

Pedro González, of the AECC in Malaga, described these bells in the hospitals as transmitting an invisible strength to patients who are undergoing treatment, and said they symbolise the end of a difficult time when the patients are able to ring them.

While she was in Toronto, Miriam Segura wrote in her blog 'Psicocina de Ideas': "The ringing of the bell is very significant and symbolic. The first time I saw it I became very emotional and cried a lot, too. Next week it will be my turn to ring it, and I'll make sure it can be heard on all 23 floors of the hospital."

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# Madrid arrest reopens euthanasia debate

Ángel Hernández recorded how he helped his terminally ill wife die last week to relieve her suffering

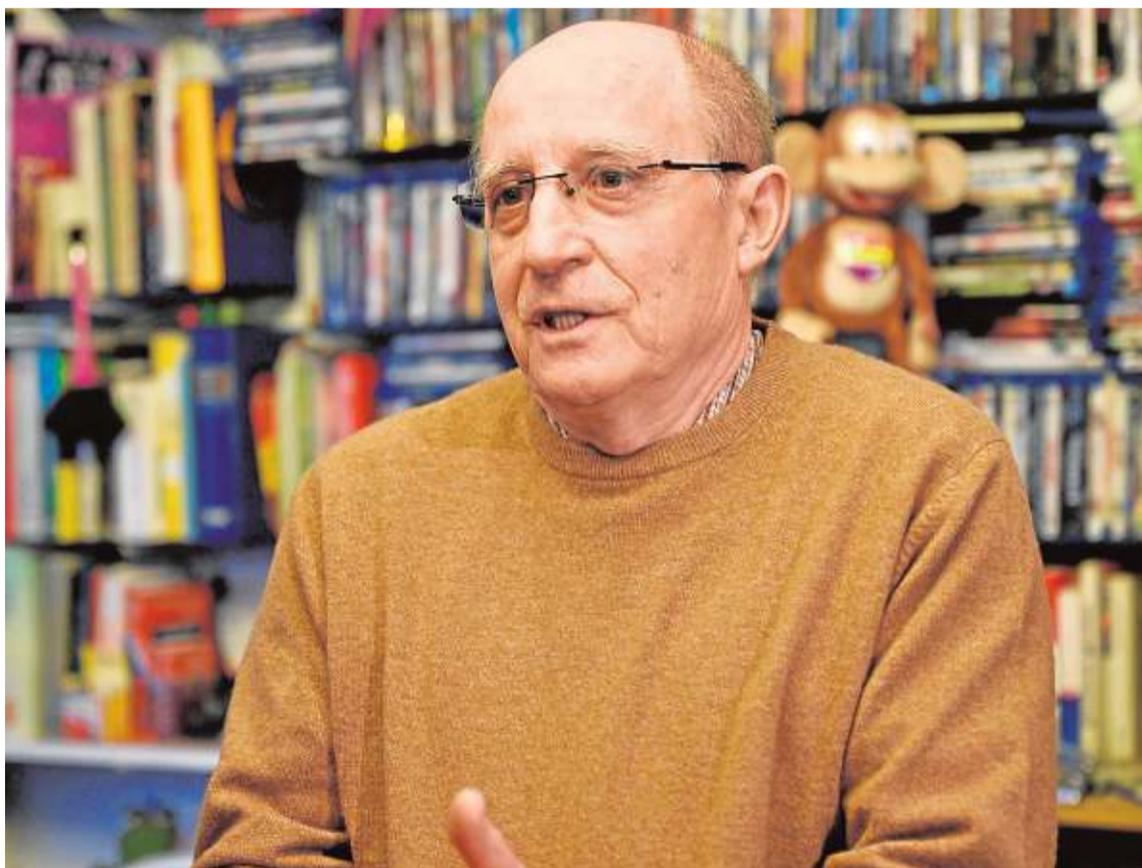
More than 80% of people in Spain approve of assisted suicide, while politicians and the Church adopt their positions with regard to death with dignity

by D. CHIAPPE / D. ROLDÁN

**MADRID.** For the last three decades María José, 61, had suffered multiple sclerosis. She no longer had strength to move by herself and depended entirely on her husband, Ángel Hernández, 69, who retired eight years ago to care for her. They had decided that he would help her to die and that they would film their final moment together.

“My wife has needed a lot of care over the last years and it has been worse in recent months,” said Hernández, who was arrested after María José’s death for aiding suicide and later released on unconditional bail.

“[The last few months] have been terrible, she was very unsettled, she suffered a great deal. There was no way of helping and she was terrified of asking me to [help her die]. I said



Ángel Hernández during an interview in his home last Friday. by CARLOS PÉREZ / EFE

that if she didn’t ask me, I couldn’t do it,” he explained.

That day, however, the couple went ahead with their plan.

“Well, María José, the moment you’ve been wishing for has come,” he says on the video and she nods. “I’m going to lend you my hands... only because you can’t [do it].”

“We had to do it in a way that people could see it,” said Hernández. “It had to be documented to show that people suffer, really suffer.”

According to the results of a survey revealed at the end of last week by the CSIC (Spain’s Council for Scientific Research), between 72 and 88 per cent of the population of Spain is in favour of active voluntary euthanasia and assisted suicide.

The day before the date chosen for María José’s death they recorded another video in which she explicitly gives her consent.

The video continues: “First we’re going to try with a little water.” He offers her a cup with a drinking straw. “Because I don’t know if you can swallow, you know? If we see that you can’t we’ll stop,” we hear Ángel say.

“I seem calm, but inside I was like jelly,” said Hernández in a TV inter-

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Hernández, with his wife, María José Carrasco, in the video. :: MEDIASET

view. “I knew that once she passed away, I would no longer feel her, see her, listen to her or talk to her, but for me her suffering was stronger than that.”

She puts out her lips in search of the end of the straw, sucks up the liquid and swallows. Ángel picks up a similar cup and holds it for her. This time it contains pentobarbital, the drug used to help people to die in countries where euthanasia is legal.

“It was my wife who found out about it and prepared everything so that, if the time came, she could do it,” said Hernández. “She got the medication on internet.”

With the lethal formula in his hands the video shows Hernández say: “It’s not much but it might not taste nice. Are you sure?”

“Yes,” she replies in a soft voice.

#### No relief from medicine

“The medication did nothing for her,” Hernández explained. “I used to give her drops of concentrated morphine, every two hours. I was scared of giving her an overdose, if you can believe it. I didn’t want her to die from morphine, because doctors had prescribed it and I didn’t want to involve them,” he said.

After María José’s death hit the headlines doctors released a statement defending their palliative care and political parties stuck to the same positions they adopted months ago, when a euthanasia law was debated with no consequence.

Pedro Sánchez (PSOE) has promised to “regulate” euthanasia if he is elected in the coming general election; Albert Rivera (Cs) and Pablo Iglesias (Podemos) have called for a

death with dignity law; Pablo Casado (PP) has kept out of it, not wanting the issue to creep into an election campaign.

No party spokesperson, however, called for a prison sentence for Hernández, who was arrested for manslaughter by aiding suicide when National Police officers turned up at the couple’s apartment in the Moncloa-Aravaca district of Madrid on Wednesday last week.

On Thursday after he admitted the charges in front of a judge, he was released on unconditional bail.

“This has to serve to help the regularisation of euthanasia,” said Hernández, aware that he has reopened a debate in which the Church is on the other side.

“Provoked death is never a solution to conflicts, not in the case of abortion or euthanasia or in any other situation,” said the secretary general of the Spanish Episcopal Conference, Luis Argüello. “We must defend life, palliative care and oppose therapeutic harm.”

The video shows how María José drinks the liquid; the astringent changes her face and she retches. The image skips to the point when her husband says: “Give me your hand, I want to feel the absence of your suffering,” as he takes her right hand between his and holds it to his chest. “Don’t worry, you’ll soon fall asleep,” he says, just before she dies.

#### What do you think?

If you have an opinion about this or any other topic in SUR in English, we want to hear from you. Your comments could be published as a Letter to the Editor.

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## Andalusian government announces improvements to palliative care

:: ADRIÁN GONZÁLEZ

**SEVILLE.** The president of the Junta de Andalucía, Juanma Moreno (PP), said that euthanasia in cases of terminally ill patients signified a “failure” of the palliative care services offered by the public health service.

During this term of office, he said, his government plans to “expand

and strengthen” palliative care, making sure it is available in all corners of the Andalusian health service and to all ages.

“We’re going to work seriously on this,” he said, “There is room for significant improvement.”

His words came in response to the debate sparked last week by the

case of Ángel Hernández, who was arrested for helping his terminally ill wife to die in Madrid.

In 2010 Andalucía became the first Spanish region to introduce a death with dignity law, which enables people to leave a “living will” to request not to be kept alive by artificial means in terminal cases.

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## PARKINSON'S AWARENESS IN ESTEPONA

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# Padel player wins a match point against diabetes

## Álex Ruiz talks of his personal experience with the illness

He started the #Soydiabético hashtag on Twitter to encourage and inspire children who also suffer from the chronic illness

**ENRIQUE MIRANDA MALAGA.** Álex Ruiz is 24 years old and for several seasons he has represented Malaga in the elite section of world padel. Like many of those who play racquet sports, Álex, from Alhaurin, started playing tennis before taking up this alternative sport. He is currently in 27th place in the World Padel Tour classification and has many active years ahead of him.

Now, however, he has taken a different step to talk about an aspect of his personal life of which most people are unaware, and he wants to use his position as an athlete to help other people. He has revealed that he is diabetic and has suffered from this chronic illness since he was ten years old. He has learned to control it, in order to be an elite athlete.

He has decided to talk about his experience with Type One diabetes for the first time to raise awareness

of the fact that it has not held him back in his career and to demonstrate to children with diabetes that they can lead a totally normal life and not be restricted in terms of sport, as long as they eat properly and keep the diabetes under control.

"The idea came from a friend of mine, Álvaro López, who helps me with social media. His partner's daughter is diabetic, and he suggested that it would be a good idea for me to tell my story," says Álex, speaking from Madrid where he is training for the World Padel Tour in Logroño.

"I have had diabetes since I was ten, so I have had it for most of my life and I wasn't sure how I could help. I have never talked about it before, but they said it would be a way of helping other people who are in the same situation," he explains.

### Social media

Using the hashtag #Soydiabético, Álex (@1alexruiz) has started to post videos about his personal experience on Twitter. "There are families with diabetic children who have doubts about whether they should do sport or whether there is any risk of it affecting their sugar levels. My experience is that with good control and

behaving responsibly you can compete at top level with no problem.

"For me, diabetes has helped me to mature, to know my body better, and to know what my needs are at certain times when I'm competing or training," he says.

Álex, who plays for the Adidas Padel Team, admits that he is amazed by the response he has received since his videos were posted online.

"I never imagined they would be so well received, honestly. Reading some of the messages brought tears to my eyes, for example when parents have said my story will be such a help to their child. It makes me feel very emotional. I'm going to try to help the people who have written to me as much as I can," he says.

For the moment he is planning to post a series of videos with anecdotes and advice about how he manages his diabetes.

When asked whether his illness has never affected his performance, Álex is sincere. "I have to control myself much more than other colleagues. It's true that if my sugar level drops my performance is not the same, but that's something I have to live with. It isn't going to hold me back. It's just a case of dealing with it," he says.

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Ruiz has been part of the World Padel Tour for several years. :: M. RIVAS

**INNOVATION** Interview with Dr Jorge Contreras, specialist in radiation oncology, president-elect of the Spanish Radiation Oncology Society (SEOR) and medical coordinator of GenesisCare Málaga

# “Radiotherapy helps cure 40% of patients with cancer”

## MÁLAGA

Leading international company in cancer treatments GenesisCare has recently opened Andalusia's largest private oncology centre in Málaga. What is this new centre's vocation?

We're very ambitious with this project. As you mentioned, this private oncology centre belongs to international company GenesisCare, which is present in many Spanish provinces with a total of 21 centres spread across the country. In Málaga, however, where there was no previous presence, they have made an enormous effort to create a centre of excellence to provide oncological attention with a difference.

Why is the attention offered at the centre different?

We can say that the differentiating profile of this centre is based on three pillars. First of all, a model of attention that focuses on the patient's needs: accessibility, proximity, extensive timetables, etc. Moreover, it stands out for the multidisciplinary and complementary services, which are now believed to help obtain the best results in oncology. At this centre, every patient with cancer is evaluated by an oncologist, a nurse, a psychologist and a nutritionist. Every case is consulted individually with different specialists, who provide their opinions on the best therapeutic option.

Another of the pillars of the centre is the innovative, avant-garde technology. For example, we have a latest generation Siemens scanner and radiotherapy treatments with image-guided linear accelerators, which as well as being very precise, it allows us to provide more efficient treatments (that is, with lower toxicity and in fewer sessions.)

And finally, the third pillar of the centre is most definitely the professional team of renowned prestige. In fact, my mission is to attract the best professionals to collaborate with us and, from the multidisciplinary point of view I spoke of before, allow us

to provide the most beneficial oncology assistance for patients with cancer.

Which treatments does the centre offer?

We apply the latest treatments for each condition, always seeking the patient's well-being and comfort. To this respect it's worth mentioning that our priority is to provide the oncology patient with integral attention. This covers everything from the moment of diagnosis to treatment with the therapy that best suits their needs (radiotherapy, chemotherapy, brachytherapy or surgical interventions with professional collaborators) and, of course, the follow up and monitoring. We want to follow up in a way that makes the patient feel they have someone they can depend on, not only to discover the result of their treatment, but also

**“We apply the latest treatments for each condition, always seeking the patient's well-being and comfort”**

to ask about any doubts they may have after it ends.

How important is technology for GenesisCare?

I must start by underlining the fact that, when it comes to radiotherapy, the technology in Spain has in the past been a bit behind compared to other countries in the area. Due to the fact that we do now have access to the latest technology, like what we have at our centre (for example the Elekta Versa HD accelerator), we can now provide much more precise treatment.

Yet we mustn't forget that the machines don't work by themselves. They need to be handled by professionals with the correct instructions, who know the technology they are employing. And for that, an experienced team is needed that can count on the col-



Dr Jorge Contreras, medical coordinator of GenesisCare Málaga.:: SUR

laboration of the rest of the nursing, technical and physician staff to manage and ensure what is prescribed is correct and brings the results we want. All, of course, with patient attention the priority as we said earlier.

What are the benefits of radiotherapy for oncology patients?

Although for a while radiotherapy had a bad reputation among patients, it is currently the most efficient treatment for this condition. The figures confirm this as 40% of patients with cancer overcome it with radiotherapy.

It's a very effective therapy when used correctly and for the conditions that require it. Thanks to radiotherapy we can treat very localised tumours in a single ses-

sion, especially those in the central nervous system, and with an efficiency rate similar to that of conventional surgery.

For other types such as prostate, breast, bladder or larynx tumours, among others, we can employ stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT) which is image-guided and concentrated in very few sessions. This makes it an alternative to surgery with the same guarantees, avoiding many of the usual after-effects. This allows us to have a much wider range of possibilities to guarantee the most suitable treatment for each patient.

Regarding the facilities, what makes this centre stand out? The centre is integral and focused on the oncology patient's well-be-

**“We want to be a benchmark centre for our patients and, within the difficult nature of the situation, make the patient's experience as pleasant as possible”**

ing. This is apparent in the location itself, in an area that provides privacy and peace. It also has an open-plan design and lots of light, with public transport that brings you right to the door and plenty of private parking to ensure patients and their relatives can park easily. All of this already starts to mark the difference. Once inside, the waiting room is spacious and has different areas to give patients privacy. The consultation rooms are very airy and have an area for meetings with patients and families to give often complex information in a friendly manner without a computer getting in the way.

We want to be a benchmark centre for our patients and, within the difficult nature of the situation, make the patient's experience as pleasant as possible. Therefore, we organise information sessions on nutrition and other aspects and will soon also have a specialised gymnasium for oncology patients. In essence, integral attention that focuses on the patient.



## CONTACT:

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Calle Meridiana, 20, Cerrado de Calderón, 29018 Málaga  
Mail: malaga@genesiscare.es  
Telephone: +34 921 21 00 28

**ADVERTORIAL**

# The taste of Malaga in Madrid

Nearly fifty companies in the local agri-food and beverage sector took their most innovative produce to **Salón Gourmets Madrid**

by **AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ**

**MADRID.** Extra virgin olive oils of incomparable quality, table olives marinated the way you only find in Malaga province, premium goat cheeses, exceptional wines, pure craft beers, flavourful sausages and meat products, spices, nuts, sub-tropical fruits, sweets made with local ingredients, preserves, liqueurs and gins, Moringa tree products, infusions with natural stevia, artisan breads and juices as typical of Malaga as sugar cane. This is just a sample of the wide range of products that the agri-food and beverage sectors of Malaga presented at the 23rd Feria Internacional de Alimentación y Bebidas de Calidad, **Salón Gourmets** which took place at the Madrid Ifema centre from 9 to 11 April.

### Sixth year attending

The event was attended by 49 companies from Malaga, 36 of them under the umbrella of the provincial government's promotional brand, 'Sabor a Málaga', (taste of Malaga). This is the sixth consecutive year it has attended the fair with its own stand, aiming to give companies included under this seal of quality the opportunity to find a new niche in the market.

In an attempt to capture the attention of restaurateurs, companies



Malaga companies at the **Salón Gourmets**. :: **SUR**

and distributors, many of the firms took the opportunity to present their latest innovations. Javier Mesa de la Torre, director of the family-run Ingenio de Nuestra Señora del Carmen, in Frigiliana, which has been manufacturing sugar cane molasses since 1728 with the same recipe, commented, "We only know how to make molasses, but that doesn't mean that we are stuck in the past. We have brought new products to the fair such as sweets made from cane molasses, and single-dose packaging, with which we expect to continue winning markets".

Another of the novelties presented on the first day of the **Salón Gourmets** was a gelatinous sweet

made from an infusion of orange blossom grown in the Guadalhorce valley (one of the largest citrus producing areas in Andalucía) by company **Coín para Comérselo**, and which goes well with Malaga goat cheese as well as pate and toast.

**Puente Nuevo**, the Ronda brewery, were among the first to present their new lines at the show. "We are the only brewery that ferments our beers underwater, off the coast of Estepona," explained project leader Jenny Heredia. The beer is unique and is made on demand costing between three and six euros a bottle.

"We are hoping to make contact with distributors that specialise in high quality products," she added.

ANDREW J. LINN

## REALLY COOL



There are fewer more bucolic images than those of fisherman relaxing on a riverbank, enjoying the beers they had left in the water to cool earlier. However, unless it is a mountain stream flowing down from cooler altitudes, it is unlikely the temperature will be low enough for the discerning drinker. So what do we do when we want to drink the contents but the bottle needs cooling down before we open it? A crisp white wine or cava at room temperature is ghastly to taste.

The expert will get an ice bucket and half fill it with ice cubes, top up with water, and throw in a couple of handfuls of salt. Guaranteed to bring any liquid down to single centigrade figures in a very short time – providing we have all that equipment to hand – but remember to put the bottle in up to its neck or the first glasses will not be cold enough.

There are those who swear by wrapping the bottle in a damp cloth and putting it in the freezer, but unsurprisingly the cloth acts as insulation, so cooling actually takes longer. It is also worth bearing in mind that a bottle cooled in a horizontal position takes half the time of one that is standing up.

It is really much quicker to cool wine in the glass, so best to keep a tray of ice cubes made from white wine in the fridge, or frozen grapes. In emergency situations

we have to ignore aesthetics and just get the damned thing cold enough to drink. In-glass cooling is fast and practical but deprives the senses of the joy of seeing the liquid poured out. Nevertheless, a full glass put in a fridge will take minutes to cool, and if you use a plastic bag, faster still. Plastic is a better conductor than glass. If we have a competition the winner would be the wine transferred to a plastic bag and cooled in the freezer. But we aren't going to do that, are we? From personal experience the neatest and least complicated solution is to use those plastic gel-filled jackets that slide onto the bottle.

### WINE OF THE WEEK

#### Encina Blanca de Alburquerque

Of all Spanish wine regions, the provinces of Extremadura must be the least attractive scenically. Dry and mostly flat, it is notable for its cold winters and steamy summers, and definitely not the source of great wines. Nevertheless this very unique white wine is unusual to the point of being unmissable, not least for using as many as nine local grape varieties. All of a new experience at around ten euros.



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# The long (and wobbly) story of gelatine

Moulds and multicoloured gelatine featured in various recipes from the 19th century

Gelatine was once the height of sophistication and demonstrated the status of the host through the food they served to guests

ANNA VEGA PÉREZ DE ARLUCEA

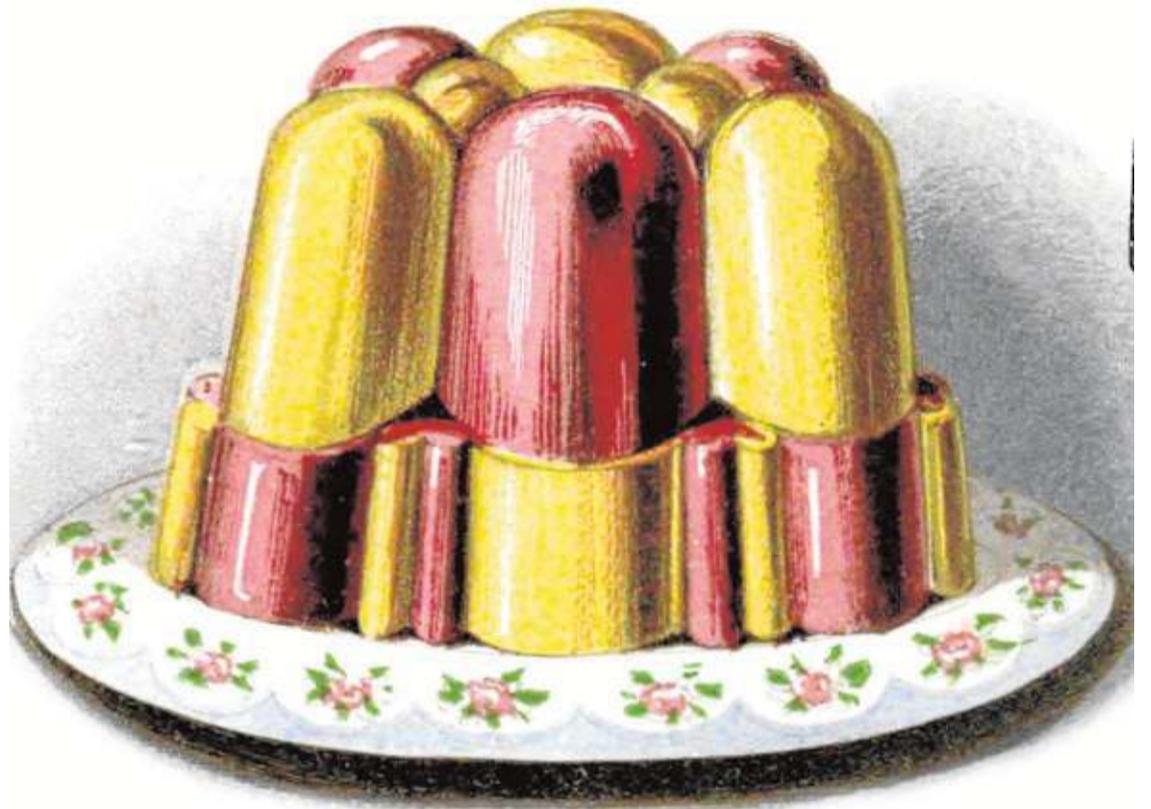
**MÁLAGA.** If I were to tell you that strawberry jelly was today's dessert, you probably wouldn't think that was interesting. However, if in an upmarket restaurant they suggested that you try the spherification of coulis of red fruit, or the spring dessert with a gel texture and aroma of trifle, that would be different. That is totally normal because although the main ingredient is the same and the three options all use a gelling agent to give them texture, these days the word gelatine sounds more off-putting than a small touch of 'guatiné', while 'agar-agar' or 'alginato' still give the idea of something innovative and therefore desirable.

Haute cuisine is increasingly finding new ways to jellify, thicken and coagulate, but the reputation

of the simple gelatine - the former queen of the dinner table - is heading downhill fast with no brakes, relegated to hospital food or an insubstantial dessert for children.

Ironically, the defenestration of poor gelatine is a consequence of its own overwhelming success. The obsession for textures between mucilaginous and plasticised was a gastronomic fashion at a certain time, but it was also the result of a desire which was largely cherished by any cook with pretensions, whether domestic or professional: the - final! - democratisation of gelatine. The food industry had managed to make one of the most difficult and expensive creations in the history of gastronomy available to all, and Spain went crazy for it, adored it, praised it, spent money on it and, in the end, fell out of love with it through overuse.

But you must understand, dear readers, that before all this occurred gelatine was not only the height of sophistication but also demonstrated the status of a host through the food they served. It was also the definitive proof of the skill of a chef, and one of the most arduous and costly



preparations possible in a medieval kitchen. Laboriously extracted from bones, tissues and other parts of animals, gelatine first needed enormous amounts of ingredients such as cows' feet, deer antlers and surgeon bladders.

## Iced substance

Then came a lengthy and tedious process of cooking, clarifying, straining and filtering to achieve a transparent and miraculous liquid which set as it cooled, or 'froze' as they used to say centuries ago. In fact, the words freeze, jelly and gelatine have the same origins in Latin: 'gelatus', meaning cold. Long before the Royal Academy defined gelatine as an "iced substance and available in the form of jelly", used frequently by foreigners and introduced by them, it was already very well-known in the kingdoms of the Iberian peninsula. What happened is that they called it something else.

From 'gelea' to 'jieladina', but also gelata, jelabea, giladea and geladía, these are the names that appear in some ancient recipe books such as the 'Llibre de Sent Soví' (14th century), the 'Llibre del Coch' and 'Libro de guisados' by Ruperto de Nola (published in Catalan in 1520 and in Castilian in 1525) and the Vergel de Señores, which showed how to make all types of preserves (15th century).

Reading their instructions for making gelatine helps us to understand why it became an aristocratic technique, used in wealthy households with enough raw materials and staff to prepare it.

De Nola's 'giladea' was made with chickens, cow and sheep's feet, white wine, ginger, aniseed, cinnamon, pepper, nutmeg, mace flowers and saffron, and the gelatinous liquid was poured over the cooked meat and left to cool down

and set. Gelatine was also used as a preservative, as a thick isolating layer to lengthen the useful life of foods such as fresh fish or roasted meats.

Without a doubt the jewel of our gelatinous gastronomy used to be different, less practical and infinitely more lavish, the supreme demonstration of the shaky and wobbly culture that reigned before instant powders, agars and alginates came into existence.

In the Vergel de Señores book (kept in the National Library and still not completely transcribed) there is a recipe for 'gelea de manos de ternera y de carnero', a jelly made with cow and sheep's feet. It is a multicoloured fantasy of gelatine dyed in different tones which must have adorned many noble tables in the 15th century and was the predecessor to the rainbow-coloured moulds we make nowadays. And also the spherifications, it goes without saying.

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Part of the exhibition in the Picasso birth house. :: SALVADOR SALAS



Picasso and Iliasz, photographed in 1970 by Lee Miller. :: SUR



A poster designed in June 1922. :: SUR

## Casa Natal hosts Iliasz and Picasso works in exhibition

:: ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

**MALAGA.** Picasso's birth house (Casa Natal de Picasso, Plaza de la Merced, 15) is now host to an exhibition in collaboration with the Pushkin Museum in Moscow. Until 23 June, the exhibition 'Iliasz and Picasso' is open between 9.30am and 8pm, including in the holidays. The show explores works by Picasso

and Iliá Zdanévich (Iliasz) and the friendship that formed between the two. Iliasz was a French-Georgian writer and artist, who was an active participant in Russian Futurism and Dada. Entrance to the house and the temporary exhibition is four euros, and for either the house or the temporary exhibition only it is three euros.

# "Malaga proves that culture in Spain is not limited to Barcelona and Madrid"

**Marina Loshak** Head of the Pushkin Museum in Moscow

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

@ajavierlopez



The head of the Pushkin Museum discusses the two Picasso exhibitions that are in Malaga over the next few months and confirms future projects

**MALAGA.** Marina Loshak is the head of the Pushkin Museum, one of the most important art galleries in the world, with a collection that exceeds 700,000 works of art. In the next few months, the museum will participate in two simultaneous exhibitions in Malaga with Picasso at the forefront.

- **How many exhibitions around the world does the museum have at the moment?**

- I could not say the exact number, but we are in many countries at the moment. Currently, we have an exhibition in Mexico, we just returned from Taiwan, and we have also been to the National Museum of Tokyo... There have been lots of trips. Our works are always moving from one place to another.

- **What brought the museum to Malaga for these two exhibitions on Olga Khokhlova in the Picasso Museum and the project around Iliasz and Picasso in the Casa Natal?**

- We know the two museums very well. We have a great friendship with Bernard Picasso and know the director of the museums (José Lebrero) very well. What's more, it was very important to us to make this exhibition in the Casa Natal, as for us it is something like a sacred place; where Picasso was born. Casa Natal preserves the aura of Picasso, so this project, as well as being informative, also gives a very personal glimpse into the friendship between Iliasz (Iliá Zdanévich) and Picasso. It is well known that Picasso was not the most open or friendly person, that he could be selfish at times and that he was very picky when choosing the people around him. He was however a great friend to those he cared about, and this is shown in the exhibition. That's why we wanted to start this project in Malaga, and hope that other museums will host it in the future. For example, we hope that the Pompidou Centre in Paris will hold it at some point.

- **You mention the Pompidou,**

which wants to expand internationally through museums in cities such as Malaga. This isn't a strategy you have taken for the Pushkin museum. What do you think about this strategy that many international art institutions implement?

- It is a wonderful strategy and certainly does not only happen in Malaga. It has its merits, of course, because art and culture are what unite us. However, we will not open branches of the museum in any city outside of Russia. We use projects to take our pieces to where people will find them interesting, where they will be well received.

- **Do you think there are too many museums in Malaga?**

- I think Malaga is a unique place, without any doubt. When I visited the city a few months ago, I was very surprised by everything that has been achieved in such a short time. In Spain, there are wonderful, historical places, and Malaga is no different. I believe that the museums in Malaga are an example of the importance of culture for tourism and the economy of a city.

- **The claim that Malaga uses Picasso excessively as a promotional figure arises often. What do you think?**

- There is never too much Picasso. I guess it depends on how he is pre-

sented, but he is such a versatile artist, there are endless possibilities. In Paris, the Picasso Museum is my favourite. It is one of the most visited places in the city and it is a museum that solely focuses on Picasso. There are few painters in history who offer so many possibilities and who leave a work so open to interpretation as he does. That's why I think it is impossible to abuse Picasso, because there's never too much of him.

- **There are now two exhibitions in Malaga on Picasso. Do you have any new projects on the agenda for the city?**

- We are always working on many projects. We have plans for lots of cities that want to see our pieces and exhibitions, and Malaga is one of those places. People who visit the Pompidou Centre, the Russian museum, the Thyssen, the CAC, all in Malaga, are an audience that would be interested in our other projects. But it is important for people to remember that Spain is not only Madrid and Barcelona. Malaga shows that the culture in Spain is much more than just these two cities. It has become a unique place for culture, so for us it is a pleasure to be able to think about future projects, perhaps not related to Picasso, but related to Malaga.



Marina Loshak with Picasso in Plaza de la Merced. :: SALVADOR SALAS

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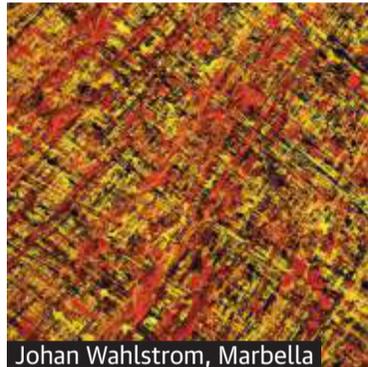
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## EXHIBITIONS

### Johan Wahlstrom

**San Pedro.** Until 30 April. *Es.Arte Gallery, Avd del Mediterráneo.* The exhibition 'Hidden Figures 2' is by Swedish artist Johan Wahlstrom, a former musician whose art has been displayed alongside Andy Warhol in New York.



Johan Wahlstrom, Marbella

### Yusto Giner

**Marbella.** Until 30 April. *Galería Yusto Giner, C/Madera.* An exhibition entitled Hotel Ostende by Ángel Mateo Charris and Gonzalo Sicre.

### '30 X 30'

**Torremolinos.** Until 30 April. *The café in the Centro Cultural Pablo Ruiz Picasso.* Free.

Students at the Universidad Popular will be displaying a selection of their works created in pastel, oils, acrylics etc. all in a 30cm by 30cm format.

# Cellist Steven Isserlis and pianist Connie Shih in concert

**GIBRALTAR.** The Gibraltar Philharmonic Society welcomes cellist Steven Isserlis and pianist Connie Shih for a recital on 18 April at the Convent Ballroom at 8pm. The concert is sponsored by the Parasol Foundation.

Worldwide acclaimed musician, British cellist Steven Isserlis has had a varied career as a soloist, chamber musician, educator, author and broadcaster. He has appeared with the world's leading orchestras and conductors, including the Leipzig, Berlin, Vienna, London, and Los Angeles Philharmonic orchestras. He works with many period instrument orchestras and gives recitals with harpsichord and forte piano. He is also a keen exponent of contemporary music and has premiered many new works, including John Tavener's *The Protecting Veil*, Thomas Adès's *Lieux retrouvés*, and Gyorgy Kurtág's 'For Steven'.

The recipient of many awards, Steven Isserlis's honours include a CBE in recognition of his serv-

## DETAILS

► **When.** 18 April, 8pm.

► **Where.** Convent Ballroom

► **What.** A recital of cello and piano including works by Beethoven, Schumann, Fauré and Brahms.

► **Tickets.** £20 are available from Sacarello's coffee shop and The Silver Shop. [www.buytickets.gi](http://www.buytickets.gi)

► **Information.** + 35020072134 or [www.philharmonic.gi](http://www.philharmonic.gi)



Connie Shih. :: SUR.

ices to music, the Schumann and the Piatigorsky Prize.

He gives most of his concerts on the Marquis de Corberon (Nelsova) Stradivarius of 1726, kindly loaned to him by the Royal Academy of Music.

The Canadian pianist, Connie Shih, is considered to be one of Canada's most outstanding artists. In 1993 she was awarded the Sylva Gelber Award for most outstanding classical artist under age 30. At the age of nine, she made her orchestral debut with Mendelssohn's first Piano Concerto with the Seattle Symphony Orchestra. At the age of 12, she was the youngest ever protégé of Gyorgy Sebok at Indiana University and then continued her studies at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia with Claude Frank, himself a protégé of Arthur Schnabel.

The programme will feature compositions for cello and piano by Beethoven, Schumann, Fauré and Brahms.

A limited number of tickets at £10 are available to senior citizens and students from the John Mackintosh Hall.

## We Are Here

**Malaga.** Until 27 April. *Sala de Exposiciones, Sociedad Económica Amigos del País.*

Young artists Rebeca Huerta, Silvia Lermo, Darko, María Dávila, Paloma de la Cruz, Javier Artero, María Vera, Julio Anaya

## 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.

## Matisse

**Malaga.** Until 9 June. *Centro Pompidou, Muelle Uno.* A selection of 50 works by the French artist Henri Matisse are on display at the centre.

## Clara Isabel Pastor

**Fuengirola.** Until 18 April. *Homes Estate & Art, Avda Los Boliches* An exhibition of paintings and sculpture by Clara Isabel Pastor.



Charris, Yusto-Giner, Marbella



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Clem Fandangos. ::

# Indie Rock acoustic music night for Alzheimer's charity

**ESTEPONA.** The Clem Fandangos are a recently formed Indie/Rock band on the Costa del Sol and they will be playing on 26 April at the Estepona Cultural Centre in a charity concert to support ADSI (Alzheimer and Dementia Support International).

The band, made up of Sami James (singer, songwriter); Bryan Wells (bass, rapper); Jofre Lomez Prego

## INFORMATION

- ▶ **When.** 26 April, 8pm.
- ▶ **Where.** centro Cultural Padre Manuel
- ▶ **Tickets.** 5€. Call: 659772448 or email: info@pinkpurpleproductions.com

(lead guitar) and Kim de Ram (percussion) is a melody driven, indie rock band with many influences from the world of funk, folk, hip hop, heavy rock, punk, and reggae. At the concert Sami James will be presenting his new single 'Alone'.

Also performing will be Colm Fitzpatrick, a multi award-winning singer and songwriter and an accomplished and versatile classical guitarist.

## CHARITY

### OFM charity performance Estepona. 13 April, 8pm. Auditorio Felipe VI. 10€

The Orquesta Filarmónica de Málaga will be playing Mozart's Requiem in D minor with soprano Berna Perles and mezzosoprano Carol García, tenor Juan Antonio Sanabria and baritone José Antonio López. The concert will raise funds for the Plataforma del Voluntariado for associations that work voluntarily for the people of Estepona. Tickets: the Centro Entre Todos, Caixa, Cocolone and Via Via and the Sur restaurant in Plazoleta Ortíz.

### ADANA Dog Show Estepona. 14 April, from 10am. Palacio de Congresos.

Cups and rosettes for each category, ADANA dogs for adoption, stalls selling pet related items and refreshments. info@adana.es or events@adana.es



Reflections, Calahonda



Rosa Ruiz, Wall Bar

### RBL St George's Day Nerja. 20 April, from 3pm. The Chapel Bar, C/Jaén.

There will be a tombola stall, burger eating competition, tug of war tournament, raffle and much more. Proceeds to the Royal British Legion Nerja Poppy Appeal.

### ARCH Spring Festival Coín. 20 April, Hacienda Moreno.

To celebrate its tenth birthday, the Andalusian Rescue Centre for Horses and Donkeys is holding a Spring Festival on Easter Saturday. There will be a fun dog show, live music, many stalls, and an Easter Egg Hunt. For more information and directions see www.horserescuespain.org, Facebook Centro Andalusi de Rescate de Caballos or ring 699808910.

### TAPAS St George's Day Garden Party Cártama Estación. 27 April, from 2pm. Casa Olivia. 5€ members, 6€ guests.

Members and guests are invited to a traditional English afternoon tea,



## MOVIE LISTING From Friday 12th to Wednesday 17th April

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### WONDER PARK

Director Dylan Brown  
Voices Sofia Mali, Jennifer Garner, Ken Hudson Campbell  
ANIMATION - 85 min.

Wonder Park tells the story of an amusement park where the imagination of a wildly creative girl named June comes alive.

Friday 12: 17:50  
Saturday 13: 15:50, 17:50  
Sunday 14: 12:00, 15:50, 17:50  
Monday 15 and Wednesday 17: 15:50, 17:50  
Tuesday 16: 16:00, 18:00



### THE AFTERMATH

Director James Kent - Starring Keira Knightley - DRAMA - 108 min.

Friday 12: 22:45  
Saturday 13 and Sunday 14: 20:00, 22:45  
Monday 15 and Wednesday 17: 20:00, 22:30  
Tuesday 16: 20:00



### SHAZAM!

Director David F. Sandberg - Starring Zachary Levi - ACTION - 132 min.

Friday 12: 20:10, 22:30  
Saturday 13 and Sunday 14: 19:50, 22:15  
Monday 15 and Wednesday 17: 19:50, 22:15  
Tuesday 16: 22:15



### AFTER

Director Jenny Gage  
Starring Hero Fiennes Tiffin, Selma Blair, Josephine Langford  
DRAMA, ROMANCE - 108 min.

A young woman falls for a guy with a dark secret and the two embark on a rocky relationship. Based on the novel by Anna Todd.

Friday 12: 18:00, 20:15  
From Saturday 13 to Wednesday 17: 15:50, 18:00, 20:15



### MIA AND THE WHITE LION

Director Gilles De Maistre  
Starring Daniah De Villiers, Mélanie Laurent, Langley Kirkwood  
ADVENTURE - 98 min.

A young girl from London moves to Africa with her parents where she befriends a lion cub.

Friday 12: 18:15  
From Saturday 13 to Wednesday 17: 16:00, 18:00



### DUMBO

Director Tim Burton - Starring Colin Farrell - FANTASY - 111 min.

Friday 12: 18:10  
Saturday 13: 15:45, 18:10  
Sunday 14: 11:45, 15:45, 18:10  
Monday 15 and Wednesday 17: 15:45, 18:10 - Tuesday 16: 15:45



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

Director Dean DeBlois - Voices Jay Baruchel - ANIMATION - 104 min.

Sunday 14: 11:45



with cakes from Betty's Salon de Té. There will be music and entertainment. Book at TAPAS box office, call: 678932284 or www.ta-passociety.com

### MUSIC & DANCE

#### Spring concert

**Calahonda.** 16 April, 10.45am. Calahonda International baptist Church.

Reflections, the four part close harmony group, will be performing for Age Care. Free cake and coffee on arrival. Dress code pink or yellow.

#### Louie Louie Live

**Estepona.** Louie Louie Bar.

13 April, midnight. David Bowie Night with I'm An Alligator. 13€

in advance, 15€ on door.

19 April, midnight. Schizophrenic Spacers and Full Colour Panda. 10€.

#### Violin and piano duet

**Nerja.** 12 April, 9pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. 10€.

Violinis Francesca Bonaita and pianist Gloria Ciancheta will play pieces by Beethoven and C. Franck.

#### Mediterranean Chamber Orchestra

**Almuñécar.** 21 April, 8pm. Casa de la Cultura.

The Orquesta de Cámara Mediterránea will be performing pieces by composers Handel and Vivaldi.

#### The Buzz Lovers

**Malaga.** 12 April, 10pm. La Cochera

**Cabaret, Avd de los Guindos.** 10€. Kane, Javi and Gonzo of The Buzz Lovers will be playing Nirvana's greatest hits.

#### 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  
www.nancyruth.com

#### Classical music concert

**Nerja.** 13 April, 9pm. Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja. 12€.

Soprano María Ángeles Delsors, mezzosoprano Julia Sánchez, tenor Daniel Romero de la Rocha and bass Francisco Javier Moreno will perform some of Mozart's Requiem. They will be accompanied by the Alminares (Nerja) and Santa María de la Victoria (Malaga) choirs



The Tragic Company, Malaga

and the chamber orchestra of the Conservatorio Superior de Música de Málaga.

#### Hip Hop weekend

**Malaga.** 13, 14 April, 10pm, 9pm. Sala París 15, C/La Orotova.

Today, Friday, Ambkor will be performing tracks from their latest album Lobonegro 2. Tickets

are between 12 and 15 euros from www.entradium.com. The following evening, Apache will be in concert. Tickets 14€ from www.ticketea.com

#### The Tragic Company

**Malaga.** 14 April, 9.30pm. The Hall, C/Héroes de Sostoa, 65.

The alternative rock band The Tragic Company are heavily influenced by the British and American rock scene of the 90s.

#### Keith James

**Cómpeta.** 14 April, 5pm. Luz de la Vida Art Gallery, C/Laberinto 15.

A concert by English singer-songwriter Keith James featuring songs by Leonard Cohen, Nick Drake, Joni Mitchell, John Martyn and Cat Stevens together with Keith's own songs. Bookings: info@lieuwkeloth.nl



A view of the Mijas water park. :: SUR.

## Start the new season with a splash at Mijas water park

**MIJAS.** AquaMijas will be opening its doors on 15 April, in time for Easter. It is one of the oldest water parks in Spain but has maintained the high quality of its aquatic attractions with continual updates, renovations and improvements.

The new season starts with a super-offer on the first day: the price for everyone will be just 13 euros.

The newest attraction is the Crazy Loop, a slide which was unveiled last season, and for those looking for something more relaxing there's a jacuzzi zone.

The other attractions such as Kamikaze, Rio Bravo and Aventura, in which you make a fascinating descent onboard a giant float, are guaranteed to keep adults and children entertained.

There is also a wave pool with artificial waves a metre high, four soft slides and a labyrinth slide or you can relax in blue lake.

The park has a large, free, parking area for visitors and a bus service runs from Fuengirola to the gates of the water park.

The park is open until the end of September depending on the weather, and offers a wide range of activities such as aquatic aerobics, children's shows, dance and interactive games. The park also has a selection of bars and restaurants, gardens, secure lockers, sunbeds, showers, changing rooms and shops.

For more information call: 952460404 or visit: www.aquamijas.com

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## MUSIC &amp; DANCE

**Magnum Mysterium choir**

**Estepona** 15 April, 8.30pm. *Iglesia del Carmen.*

The choir will be performing a repertoire of sacred music after mass, including Ave María, Nolo mortem peccatoris, Hosanna filio David and Jubilate Deo among many others.



Katiuska, operetta, Malaga.

**Orquesta Academia Galamian**

**Malaga.** 12 April, 8pm. *Sala Unica María Cristina.*

The orchestra will be performing Arriaga's Overture The Happy Slaves, Symphony n°4 Italiana by Mendelssohn and Symphony n°1 by Prokofiev.

**The Wall Bar**

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

12 April. Rosa Ruiz & Foky.

**Moreno Gistain Duo**

**Gibraltar.** 12 April, 8pm. *Museo*

**Picasso de Málaga.**

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

**Katiuska, La Mujer Rusa**

**Malaga.** 13 April, 8pm. *Teatro Cervantes.* 10-25€.

The Spanish operetta, Katiuska, La Mujer Rusa by Pablo Sorozábal by the Teatro Lírico Andaluz.

**Primavera Trompetera**

**Jerez de la Frontera.** *Until 13 April. Circuito del Jerez.*

A huge line up which includes Alborosie & Shengen Clan, Apollo 440, Mala Rodríguez, among others

**Sacred music**

**Arroyo de la Miel.** 14 April, 8.30pm. *Inmaculada Concepción church.*

The Coral Ciudad de Benalmádena, and Coral Andrés Segovia from Linares (Jaén) will perform sacred music. Conductors: María del Prado Márquez and Óscar Luis Sánchez.

**Flamenco guitar festival**

**Almuñécar.** 12 April, 8pm.

*Auditorio Casa de la Cultura.* Manuel de la Luz will be performing.

**David Martín anniversary**

**Malaga.** 12 April, 9pm. *Escuela Artes Escénicas David Martín, Avda Ortega y Gasset.*

Flamenco dance with Marcelo Rodríguez and Noelia Ruiz. Fabiola Santiago vocals and Francis Cerdán guitar.

Reservations: 618 556 088.

## LECTURES

**The Arts Society de la Frontera**

**San Roque.** 17 April, 11am. *San Roque Golf and Country Club. Visitors 12€*

**'The Rivalry between Leonardo and Michelangelo'**

Illustrated talk by James Lindow. Includes a complimentary glass of wine after the lecture. For information: 620415705 or [www.nadfas-delafrontera.org](http://www.nadfas-delafrontera.org)

## EVENTS

**Tapas Barn Dance**

**Coin.** 12 April, 7pm. *El Portón de Piedra. 5€ non members.*

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

**Foreign residents' day**

**Torremolinos.** 12-13 April, (cancelled last weekend due to the rain) from midday. *Plaza de la Nogalera.*

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

**Beer festival**

**La Cala de Mijas.** 13, 14 April, noon.

The main boulevard in Mijas is the location for this beer festival where around 40 different types of beers can be sampled, many produced in Malaga province. There will also be other products from the region and music with DJ Galiano.

## O. V. FILM

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

**Cine Albéniz**

C/Alcazabilla 4, Malaga. Tel: 902 36 02 95 [www.cinealbeniz.com](http://www.cinealbeniz.com)

**Green Book:** 16.30 (everyday)

**Cinesur El Ingenio**

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

**Dumbo:** 12.20 (everyday).

**Cinesur Miramar**

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

**Shazam!:** 20.00, 22.30.

**Dumbo:** 12.05, 15.45, 18.00.

**Boy Erased:** 11.50, 15.45.

**Cines Teatro Goya**

For tickets and information call 951196665. [www.cinesteatrogoya.com](http://www.cinesteatrogoya.com)

**After:** 18.00, 20.15 (Fri-Wed); 15.50 (Sat-Wed).

**Wonder Park:** 17.50 (Fri); 15.50, 17.00 (Sat-Wed); 12.00 (Sun); 16.00, 18.00 (Tues).

**Mia and the White Lion:** 18.15 (Fri); 16.00, 18.00 (Sat-Wed).

**The Aftermath:** 22.45 (Fri); 20.00, 22.45 (Sat, Sun); 20.00, 22.30 (Mon-Wed); 20.00 (Tues).

**Shazam!:** 20.10, 22.30 (Fri); 19.50, 22.15 (Sat-Wed); 22.15 (Tue).

**Dumbo:** 18.10 (Fri); 15.45, 18.10

(Sat-Wed); 11.45 (Sun); 15.45 (Tue).

**How To Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World:** 11.45 (Sun).

**Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor**

Centro de Ocio Plaza Mayor, Avda. Alfonso Ponce de León. Tel: 902 902 103 or visit [www.yelmocines.es](http://www.yelmocines.es)

**Escape Room:** 21.45 (Tues).

**Boy Erased:** 20.45 (Tues)

**Mule:** 16.50 (Tues).

**Us:** 22.10 (Tues).

**Shazam!:** 21.35 (Tues)

**After:** 12.30 (Sat, Sun); 21.25 (Tues).

**Pet Cemetery:** 22.50 (Tues).

**Dumbo:** 12.30 Sat, Sun); 21.40 (Tues).

**Aftermath:** 12.50 (Sat, Sun); 15.55 (Fri-Wed).

**Wonder Park:** 14.55 (Sat, Sun).

**Yelmo Cines, Rincón de la Victoria.**

Calle Arroyo Totalán Tel: 902 220 922 or visit [www.yelmocines.es](http://www.yelmocines.es)

**Shazam!:** 18.45 (Tues).

**After:** 21.15 (Tues).

**Dumbo:** 20.30 (Tues).

**Wonder Park:** 20.05 (Tues).

**Mule:** 21.40 (Tues).

**Us:** 21.20 (Tues).

**Yelmo Cines, Vialia.**

Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902 220 922 or visit [www.yelmocines.es](http://www.yelmocines.es)

**Shazam!:** 21.15 (Tues).

**After:** 22.30 (Tues).

**Mule:** 21.40 (Wed).

**Us:** 21.55 (Tues).



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## DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA



A view of Priego de Córdoba. :: TURISMO ANDALUZ



Procession in Lucena. :: TURISMO SUBBÉTICA



### QUICK GUIDE

#### What to visit in the Subbética

◀ **Castillo del Moral.** Medieval fortress which now houses the Archaeological and Ethnological Museum of Lucena. *Pasaje Cristo del Amor, s/n - Castillo del Moral 14900 Lucena.*



◀ **El Cerro district.** An emblematic area of Cabra which dates back to the 11th century. *Barriada El Cerro, s/n. 14940 Cabra.*

▶ **Birthplace of Alcalá Zamora.** 19th century building in which the president of the Second Republic was born. *Calle Río, 33. 14800 Priego de Córdoba.*

# Easter in the Subbética region

JAVIER  
ALMELLONES

#### A week in the Subbética

**Car + Walking.**  
Journey time:  
1 hour from Malaga to Lucena.  
Processions 10 hours.  
Visits to monuments and museums: 7 hours.

**F**ew areas of Andalucía immerse themselves so wholeheartedly in the traditions of Holy Week as the Subbética in Córdoba.

In this area, situated between the Guadalquivir river and the north of Malaga province, every one of the towns and villages organises some unique events over the ten days of Easter, and more than a dozen places in the Subbética area will be

competing to attract the attention of visitors who are hoping to see some truly emotional religious and popular traditions.

Villages such as Carcabuey, Almedinilla, Cabra, Lucena, Doña Mencía, Rute, Priego de Córdoba and Iznájar are among those in this area, which is partly protected by the Sierra Subbética natural park and surrounded by an immense sea of olive trees.

Any time of year is suit-

able for a trip to discover the Subbética Cordobesa, but at the moment, with relatively mild temperatures and countryside which is especially green after the winter rainfall, this area in the south of the province of Córdoba is looking at its best.

Spring is therefore an ideal time to enjoy the landscapes and, for those who are able to visit in Holy Week, traditions which date back hundreds of years.

One good example is Priego de Córdoba, which is situated in the Sierra Subbética natural park and rises like an iceberg from an ocean of olives. Together with Lucena and Cabra, its Holy Week is one of those on the Caminos de Pasión tourism route. The processions start on Palm Sunday, and the most popular is on Good Friday, which ends when the image of Christ 'the Nazarene' is carried up the Calvario hill.

Cabra can also boast that its Easter processions are among the best in the region, as it is home to 28 religious brotherhoods that still maintain many of the customs from the 15th century.

Easter week in Lucena is also famous for its historical traditions and processions. Every place has its own name for those who carry the heavy 'tronos', or floats, and here they are known as 'santeros'.

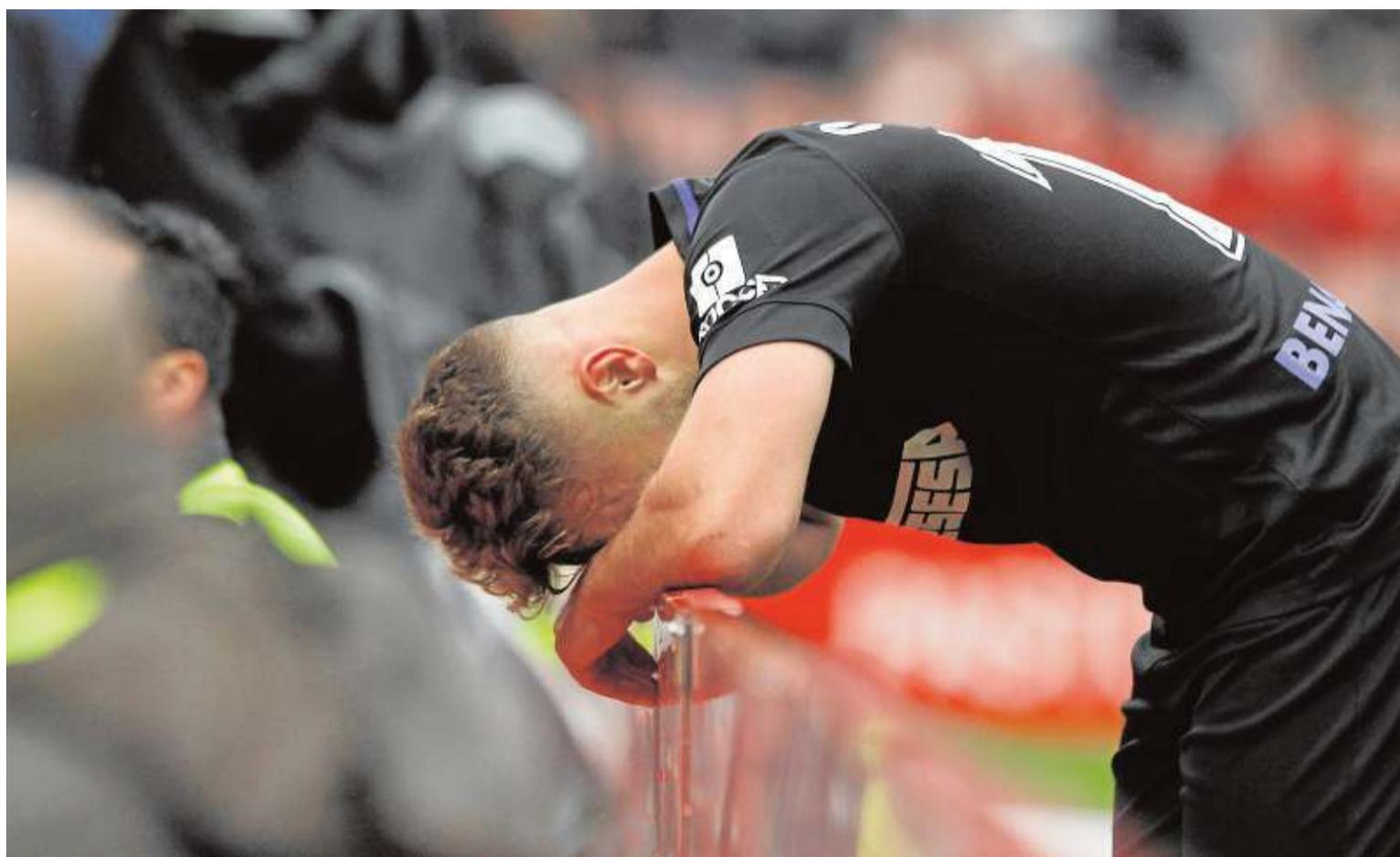


A Holy Week procession in Cabra. :: SUR



◀ **Anís museum.** Information centre about Rute's famous anís drink. *Paseo del Fresno, 2. 14960 Rute.*

▶ **History museum.** Museum about the history of Carcabuey, situated in the old Escuelas del Pilarejo building in the centre of the village. *Calle Pilarejo, s/n. 14810 Carcabuey.*



Ontiveros shows his frustration during Saturday's defeat in Granada. :: RAMÓN L. PÉREZ

LA LIGA 123

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

Table	TEAM	PT	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
★	1.Osasuna	64	33	19	7	7	46	31
★	2.Granada	61	33	17	10	6	40	21
■	3.Albacete	60	33	16	12	5	43	25
■	4. <b>MALAGA</b>	55	33	15	10	8	33	24
■	5.Deportivo	54	33	13	15	5	41	25
■	6.Mallorca	54	33	15	9	9	44	31
	7.Cádiz	53	33	14	11	8	44	29
	8.Sporting	49	33	13	10	10	36	29
	9.Oviedo	49	33	13	10	10	36	35
	10.Almería	46	33	11	13	9	35	29
	11.Elche	45	33	11	12	10	35	36
	12.Alcorcón	44	33	12	8	13	31	32
	13.Las Palmas	43	33	9	16	8	36	35
	14.R. Majadahonda	40	33	11	7	15	35	43
	15.Numancia	39	33	9	12	12	37	43
	16.Zaragoza	38	33	9	11	13	37	42
	17.Tenerife	37	33	7	16	10	30	38
	18.Lugo	34	33	7	13	13	31	42
▼	19.Extremadura	33	33	8	9	16	35	42
▼	20.Gimnástico	27	33	7	6	20	20	48
▼	21.Córdoba	26	33	5	11	17	38	60
▼	22.Reus	0	33	5	6	22	16	39

# Derby defeat spells disaster for Malaga

Antonio Puertas gave Granada an early lead and the ten-man visitors were unable to recover

The Blue and Whites are now six points off the automatic promotion places with just nine games left to play



DARYL FINCH

✉ dfinch@diariosur.es

## 1-0 GRANADA-MALAGA

**Granada:** Rui Silva; Víctor Díaz, Germán, Martínez, Quini; Puertas, Fede, Montoro (Azeez, 67'), Ojeda (Vadillo, 63'); Fede Vico, Adrián Ramos (Rodri, 77'). Unused substitutes: Aarón, Bernardo, Alberto, Pozo.

**Malaga:** Munir; Iván (Cifu, 59'), Luis Hernández, Pau Torres, Ricca; Keidi (Mula, 46'), N'Diaye; Iván Alejo (Seleznov, 46'), Adrián, Ontiveros; Blanco Leschuk. Unused substitutes: Kieszek, Lombán, Lácen, Renato.

**Goals:** 1-0 Puertas (5').

**Referee:** Trujillo Suárez. Dismissal for two yellows for N'Diaye (47'). Yellow cards for Luis Hernández, Iván Alejo, Ricca (misses the next match), Germán, Fede, Montoro, Quini.

**Ground:** Los Cármenes (15,211 spectators).

became focused on the middle third of the park with defences on top. In fact, after the goal, neither side had a shot on target for the remainder of the first half.

### The calm before the storm

This proved to be the calm before the storm, however, as everything changed after half time.

Malaga coach Juan Ramón Muñoz decided to shake up his attacking options with a double half-time switch, bringing on both Álex Mula and Yevhen Seleznov for the ineffective Keidi Bare and Iván Alejo.

However, this new strategy was thrown up in the air just two minutes later when midfield anchorman Alfred N'Diaye received his second yellow card when his loose and high foot caught Fede on the thigh.

Puertas thought he had taken ad-

vantage of his side's numerical superiority just moments later when a slide rule pass found him free on the left-hand side of the area to tuck past the exposed Munir. The linesman, however, came to Malaga's rescue and ruled the goal offside.

Still chasing the game, Muñoz had few other options available than to move the recently-introduced Mula into an unfamiliar central role and to use his final change to bring in Cifu in a wing-back role to cover the entirety of the right flank.

This left the visitors exposed and Fede Vico, left in acres of space, was able to line up a stinging long-range strike which Munir was only able to gather on the second attempt with Puertas following in on the rebound.

In stark contrast to the first half, the game opened up completely. This suited Malaga who, playing a man





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Up next

## EXTREMADURA (H)

After suffering their third defeat of 2019, Malaga must dust themselves off quickly and ready themselves for tomorrow's visit of relegation-battling Extremadura (kick-off 4pm).

Coach Juan Ramón Muñoz will have to do without the suspended duo of Alfred N'Diaye and Federico Ricca, with Erik Morán expected to replace the former and a toss-up between Diego González and Rajko Brežančić (who is yet to feature this season) to replace the latter.

The visitors have greater problems, however. They currently occupy the last relegation spot, but still remain optimistic of staying up, sitting just one point from safety.

Having won their last game (1-0) at home to Almeria, they will come to La Rosaleda with confidence high, but still lacking in goal threat after the sale of top scorer Enric Gallego to Huesca in the January window.

down and without the weight of expectation, started to create more chances.

Seleznov, whose miserable run in front of goal continues, as well as Gustavo Blanco Leschuk and even Cifu had chances to level the game but the lack of conviction displayed in front of goal cost Malaga, who now face eight crucial games (they will receive all three points from their scheduled encounter with Reus) which will determine their promotion fate.

Despite popular opinion that defeat has cost them their shot at automatic promotion, Muñoz said following the game that "losing isn't a disaster [for us]".

"There are lots of points still to play for and we're not going to throw in the towel," he said. "This is a blow [losing to a direct rival] but we'll keep working to eradicate the little errors which cost us the game."

# Rampant Marbella sweep away Talavera to secure safety

Cubillo's side are still unbeaten in the second half of the season, extending their run to 13 games unbeaten

**TALAVERA 0 MARBELLA 3**

OPTA

**TALAVERA DE LA REINA (TOLEDO).** Marbella's surge shows no sign of abating. The visitors to Talavera have still not suffered defeat in the second half of the season after securing a resounding 3-0 win on Sunday.

David Cubillo's side took the lead early on when centre-back Lolo Pavón rose highest to head home Añón's corner in the third minute.

The hosts, chasing promotion,

had a golden chance to equalise in the 22nd minute but Cristian Fernández, completely unmarked at the far post, inexplicably managed to miss the target, letting Marbella off the hook.

The game's second goal came just after the half-hour mark when Añón's high press forced an error in defence. The midfielder then laid off the ball to Juanma on the right who cut in and bagged his first of the game.

The forward, one of the stand-out performers on the day, then rounded off a faultless first half by scoring the goal which effectively ended the tie. A freekick from range was lofted into the penalty area where neither keeper Gianni nor his defenders took control of the situation, leaving Juanma free to shin the ball over the line.

The second half was a compari-



Gianni can't react to prevent Juanma getting his second. OPTA

tively dull affair with Talavera seemingly throwing in the towel, maintaining possession, albeit without committing too many men forward.

Marbella, on the other hand, remained a threat a threat on the counterattack and both Isma and Añón

passed up opportunities to bag the fourth.

As it was, the game ended 3-0 and sealed safety for the visitors who will continue to look up and set their sights on qualifying for next year's Copa del Rey.



MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

## MALAGUEÑO OFF BOTTOM WITH IMPRESSIVE 3-0 VICTORY

Malaga reserve team, Atlético Malagueño, rose off the foot of Segunda B group four with a 3-0 win over Seville counterparts Sevilla Atlético at the Malaga Football Federation ground on Sunday afternoon. All three goals came in the second half courtesy of Hicham, Deco and David Grande. Malagueño sit 11 points from safety with just 18 left to play for.

### IN BRIEF

#### Payment for Academy signed off at a notary

##### MALAGA

**A. GÓNGORA.** The end to the deadlock over the new Malaga CF Academy in Arraijanal drew one step closer on Wednesday as club president Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani signed off the outstanding 4.5-million-euro payment before a notary.

This money, which had been tied up in land owned by the club in El Viso (due to be sold to the University of Malaga), has seen construction work come to a complete standstill on the site with constructors Bilba removing all machinery.

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## A LOOK AT LA LIGA

**ROB PALMER**

 Commentator, Sky Sports  
@robbpalmer


# The Valverde Appreciation Society

**The Barça coach has dealt with every issue he's faced with calmness and distinction, yet still doesn't get much recognition**

The Ernesto Valverde Appreciation Society is an exclusive club, but membership should be growing rapidly.

The problem is that he looks more like a bank manager than a football manager; he's careful and considered rather than controversial and dramatic.

Actually, after my dealings with some of the charlatans who head up the banks here in Spain, forget the comparison to a bank manager; unlike them I'd trust Valverde with my last peseta.

He's what used to be called a "Mister" in Spanish football after gentlemen coaches were imported from England. The legen-



Valverde (r) with Luis Suárez (l) and Lionel Messi (c). :: AFP

dary Fred Pentland used to sport a bowler hat. Maybe that's what the Barcelona manager needs to give him some individuality and recognition?

His achievements at the Camp

Nou are chronically unchronicled. Every single article you research on him mentions Pep Guardiola. Damn, even I've done it!

Many say that managing Bar-

celona is easy. They used to say that about Manchester United and Real Madrid and look at the mess they're in after appointing the wrong men in recent years.

Valverde took over at a time when Gerard Piqué was declaring that he felt the club was becoming inferior to Real Madrid. He lost one of the world's great talents in Neymar and had to handle the furore that surrounded the saga. He's overseen the end of the Andrés Iniesta era. He's controlled all of these issues with calmness and distinction.

In short, he has micro managed testing situations and emerged with great success. Last season they walked La Liga and claimed the Copa. This season the title is just about tied up, the club are in the cup final again and have one foot in the Champions League semi-final.

This week he became the first Barcelona manager to celebrate a victory at Old Trafford. Not one headline has been about Valverde. He remains in the background

unruffled, suit uncreased.

He's got Messi, say the detractors. This is true but Manchester United have Paul Pogba, Real have Gareth Bale and Paris Saint Germain have Neymar. None of those players have been bossed. Messi runs the show on the pitch, but Valverde runs the circus.

This week alone Barcelona have seen off their nearest rivals Atlético Madrid and dominated Manchester United. The English club didn't register a single shot on goal. That doesn't come down to Messi's magnificence, it comes down to organisation of outstanding players and their egos.

Remarkably some fans still criticise Valverde and the newspapers yearn someone who will give them more meat to chew on. For them, Valverde is too controlled and organised.

He's not the charming Johan Cruyff or the darling who departed to Munich and then Manchester (see I avoided mentioning him again). It could be that he needs to win the Champions League to receive true recognition.

He's sensible, measured, considered and his work pays dividends. If he ever leaves Barcelona, he can take over my sham-bolic local bank branch!

### IN BRIEF

#### Davidovich reaches main draw of an ATP 250 event for the first time

##### TENNIS

Local tennis star Alejandro Davidovich's career reached a new high this week as the 19-year-old qualified for the main draw of an ATP 250 event for the first time.

Davidovich, from Rincón de la Victoria, cruised through qualifiers for the Grand Prix Hassan II in Casablanca (Morocco) but the experience of veteran Philipp Kohlschreiber told in the round of 32 and the German ran out winner on Tuesday, 7-6 7-5.

There was better luck for his compatriot Adrián Menéndez, who



Davidovich (right). :: SUR

went one step further, beating Fernando Verdasco 5-7 6-2 6-2, also on Tuesday.

However, the more experienced player from Marbella eventually came unstuck on Wednesday, losing to Japan's Taro Daniel, 6-2 1-6 6-1.

#### Real estate sector tournament raises 24,500 euros for charity

##### PADEL

Last weekend saw the First Charity Padel Tournament for the Real Estate Sector, organised by NVOGA, take place at the Los Monteros racket club. Despite the bad weather, a total of 100 people participated in the tournament and approximately 200 came and took part in the various events being held to bring together industry professionals and raise funds for charity. A total of 24,500 euros was raised and will be given to the Building the Future association to help the schoolchildren in Uganda and the Centro de Atención a la Diversidad Infantil (CADI) in Marbella principally for its equine therapy programme.



:: SUR

#### ESTEPONA OPENS ATHLETICS STADIUM

The brand-new athletics stadium in Estepona is officially open to the public. Though there was no official launch ceremony as we are during election period, around a thousand people took part in its inauguration for the town's fun run for which it served as both the start and finish line.



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## THE WEEKEND IN PICTURES

# Pounding the pavements for diverse causes

A walk, a half marathon and a prelude to a 101km trail all coincided on a rainy weekend in the province



Runners leave the start line. :: ÑITO SALAS

▶▶ **Carrera Holiday World.** The half marathon organised by Holiday World in Benalmádena on Sunday raised more than 20,000 euros for Proyecto Hombre, an association which helps to treat addictions. Around a thousand people took part. :: S. CORTÉS



Participants enjoying the race. :: Ñ. SALAS



The heavy rain turned much of the route into mud. :: V. M.

### ◀ Tribute to the Legion.

Ronda once again paid tribute to the legionnaires of the town on Saturday as 5,000 people took part in the fourth edition of HOLE (Homenaje a la Legión), the prelude to the 101km challenge which takes place in May. Despite the muddy conditions, new records were set in the mountain bike, trail and ultratril categories. :: V. MELGAR

### ▶ Walking tour of

**Coín.** Some 5,000 people took to the streets of Coín on Sunday to take part in the 50th anniversary edition of the Vuelta Pedestre a Coín, started by local school teacher Juan Jiménez Frías. Local charity for the disabled, Prodicco, received the proceeds. :: F. TORRES



People of all ages participated. :: F. TORRES

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# Jongeneel's Hawaiian challenge

**The swimmer from Malaga plans to cross from the island of Oahu to Molokai to raise funds for water treatment equipment in schools in India**

∴ JUAN CALDERÓN

**MALAGA.** Christian Jongeneel, who was born in Rincón de La Victoria in 1974, refers to kilometres way out to sea as if he were going to take a walk through his local district. He is unique even in Spanish swimming, which has accustomed us to so many epic physical and sporting feats that they almost seem normal.

One day Christian crossed the Strait of Gibraltar and, as it didn't seem very far, he swam back again. He has also crossed the Channel from Britain to France, the Cook Strait (New Zealand), did the Al-Assad crossing of Syria, swam the shark-infested Santa Catalina Channel (California), the Gateway of India (Mumbai), gone twice round Manhattan Island in New York (93 kilometres) and even swum from Tenerife to Gran Canaria, 70 kilometres in 16 hours. Best of all, he has done all this for charity, swimming for the Brazadas Solidarias association to raise funds for the Vicente Ferrer Foundation, which is doing great work with the underprivileged in India.

He now wants to raise money to install water treatment equipment in schools in one of the poorest areas of the country, where the children have no drinking water. They contract all types of illness, and some die, as a result. To raise as much money as possible, he is going to do one of the most dangerous crossings so far. In September, he plans to swim between the Hawaiian islands of Oahu and Molokai, about 55 kilometres in one of the most unpredictable seas on the world because of its huge waves and marine fauna. It has a long tradition in Hawaii, but the participants normally row across and very rarely attempt to swim.

Jongeneel analyses this challenge with a cool head, which is



Jongeneel points to the islands of Oahu and Molokai on the screen. ∴ NITO SALAS

surprising after the challenges he has faced in recent years.

"You never know what your limits are. When I went to New York I had never swum 93 kilometres before and I didn't know whether I would be able to do it. You can't wonder about things, though. You just have to try. When I was about to swim twice around Manhattan Island, the contact I had there shook my hand and said "See you tomorrow". That's when it hit me that I was going to be in the water for a whole day. It's often better not to think about things, because if you do it puts you off".

The Hawaiian islands, halfway in the Pacific, are famous for having the biggest and most powerful waves in the world. They are a paradise for surfers and other aquatic sports, but not for swimming out in the open sea. This will be a

major handicap for the swimmer from Malaga, and so will be the wind, but the large population of tiger sharks and white sharks, the

**He plans to swim 55 kilometres through a stretch of water with the biggest waves in the world**

**"It's often better not to think about things, because if you do it puts you off," he says about his challenges**

most dangerous in existence, could be the biggest problem.

Mentally, he sees these risks as relative. "I have been very lucky in the past not to come across masses of jellyfish, because if that happens you are forced to give up. Once the boat which was accompanying me lost sight of me during the night, and because of that we increased our security measures and in Hawaii I will carry a radio beacon in case I get lost," he says.

#### How to train?

Jongeneel has already begun to prepare physically for the forthcoming challenge, although he is doing it in his own way. At a time when most amateurs and professionals use advanced techniques and technology for training, his answer is surprisingly normal when asked how many kilometres he will be

swimming to train for September.

"My way of preparing is just to swim a lot and try to find as much time to do so. Until now I have been swimming in the pool, but now I'll start to swim in the sea in the mornings and evenings. Every two weeks I do a five-hour long session. I don't know how many kilometres I'll do. I know people use those watches that tell you everything but I'm very old-fashioned and I'm guided by the buildings along Rincón de la Victoria seafront, the Mercadona tower in Chilches and so on. I don't count the metres. I know sometimes people love to use training apps, and publicise their speed and distance, but I wear the cheapest watch you can buy from Decathlon...I've never been any good at that sort of thing. My way is undoubtedly not the best, but it suits me," he explains.

Last August Jorge Crivillés took 18 hours to complete this same challenge, also for charity, and he gave Jongeneel the idea. "He told me Hawaii was fantastic. The nature is almost virgin and the water is crystal clear. That also poses a risk, because the marine fauna is dangerous. There are a lot of sharks and they come close to swimmers," he says. To minimise the risks, he is thinking of wearing a wristband that repels sharks and equipping the support boat with a similar, more powerful system, although he hasn't decided yet because he fears it might have the opposite effect and attract them.

Jongeneel has already begun the campaign to raise funds for the water treatment plants that the Vicente Ferrer Foundation wants to install in schools in India. Businesses and institutions in Malaga have already shown an interest, but he is also hoping for small individual donations before and during his Oahu-Molokai attempt. "I'm so grateful that people I don't know take part in these projects, and now they can follow them in real time. When you're swimming and you are vomiting and dizzy, the fact that it is for charity makes sense of what you're doing, but so also do these people who collaborate with this campaign. We need lots of people to support challenges of this type."

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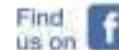
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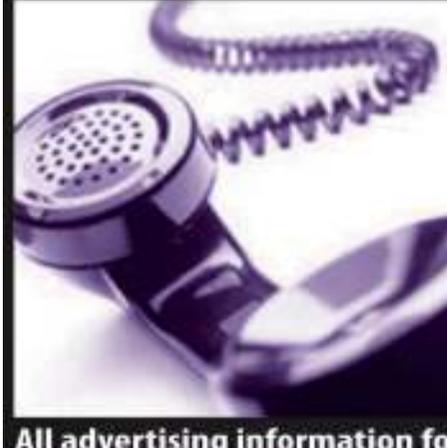
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**THE STARS**

**Aquarius**  
January 21 - February 19  
Although you would like something new and exciting to happen you don't want to lose what you have. No need for that if you are willing to be flexible.

**Pisces**  
February 20th - March 20th  
Think carefully what you want to say and don't be distracted. Your vision is clearer than others' and so you need to guide them. Avoid ruffling any feathers by being too noisy about an idea.

**Aries**  
March 21st - April 20th  
Today you wonder at your selflessness but at the weekend you will wonder at the difference it has made. Enthusiasm really seems to be your friend.

**Taurus**  
April 21st - May 21st  
There are many irritated people around at the moment and any attempt at humour could make matters worse. Instead look on the bright side. Be realistic though.

**Gemini**  
May 22nd - June 21st  
Being able to see further ahead is a gift. Add to that your knack of talking yourself into anything and you begin to believe. What do you believe in that will bring you nearer your goal?

**Cancer**  
June 22nd - July 23rd  
Someone close has a new way of looking at life that somehow passed you by. When showing enthusiasm, just see how others are carried along with you.

**Leo**  
July 24th - August 23rd  
This week could see others more receptive to permanent solutions. Don't forget, though, that in all of this activity romance should play a part.

**Virgo**  
August 24th - September 23rd  
Take advantage of any chances to increase your cash flow. This can also mean cutting back on spending. Success in this or a windfall are likely.

**Libra**  
September 24th - October 23rd  
Building up a little happiness for yourself has to come top of your list. Reach out to someone who may be feeling a bit neglected of late. Pan to see them for some quality time soon.

**Scorpio**  
October 24th - November 22nd  
Do something for yourself this week. Whatever makes you feel relaxed and fulfilled has to be good, yes? Recharging those emotional batteries brings benefits for everyone.

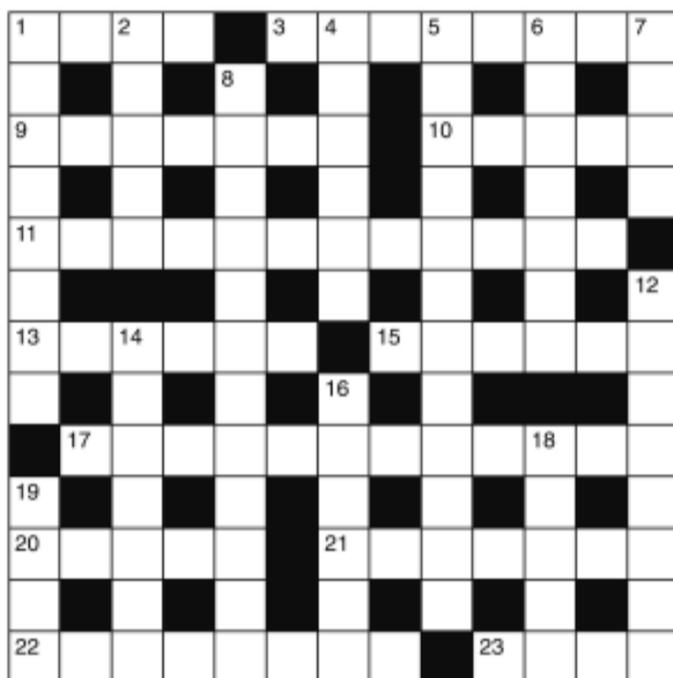
**Sagittarius**  
November 23rd - December 21st  
There may be no wind in your sails at the moment but you can be ready for when there is! Tackle any small matters that need your attention, however petty they may seem.

**Capricorn**  
December 22nd - January 20th  
Some kind of opportunity or promotion is likely this month but could take you by surprise. Why? Well, you are far too modest to blow your own trumpet. Maybe someone else did it for you.

**THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES**



**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11352**



**Across**

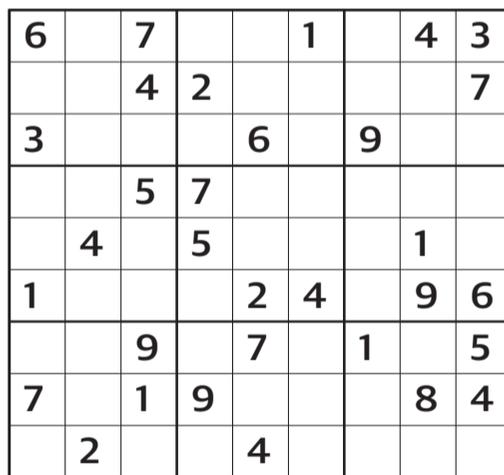
- 1 Keep mum after chartered accountant produces the money (4)
- 3 Make a joint plan to study part of the church (8)
- 9 The main course? (7)
- 10 Showed partiality for a little work by Edward (5)
- 11 Putting up some resistance to what the easel manufacturer is doing (6,1,5)
- 13 He painted "The Workman at the Lathe" (6)
- 15 Doctor, one who employs a useful cat (6)
- 17 Could they be young ladies employed by the market gardener? (12)
- 20 Being an employer will make you single-minded, in part (5)
- 21 What the retired person gets for a boarding-house (7)
- 22 The rate is modified by certain wealth (6)
- 23 In this way the horseplay upsets schoolmasters, initially (4)

**Down**

- 1 A piece of luggage, my friend, for fortified garrison (8)
- 2 The end of the coal in the bag! (5)
- 4 Endless discipline by a learner is a trying experience (6)
- 5 Scant fare for brief Parliamentary session? (5,7)
- 6 Aims to show the position of Boy Scouts? (7)
- 7 The whirl produced from a reconditioned dynamo (4)
- 8 Endorses notices put up by the shopkeeper? (12)
- 12 Puts on shows - they're associated with Christmas (8)
- 14 The way around in the regular course of action (7)
- 16 A tradesman with material possessions (8)
- 18 Sir, I showed the Hibernians inside (5)
- 19 It's hardly fair! (4)

**SUDOKU BY HANZO**

**Instructions**  
Complete the square making sure that every row of nine numbers includes all digits from 1 to 9, every column includes all digits from 1 to 9 and every 3 by 3 subsection includes all digits from 1 to 9



**THE WORDPUZZLER**

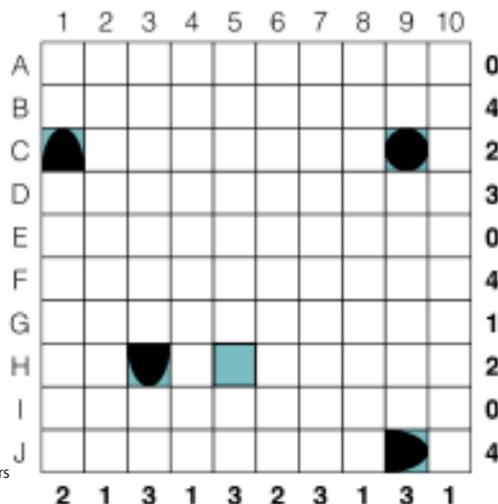
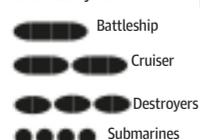


Can you identify the words with two meanings from the clues listed below?

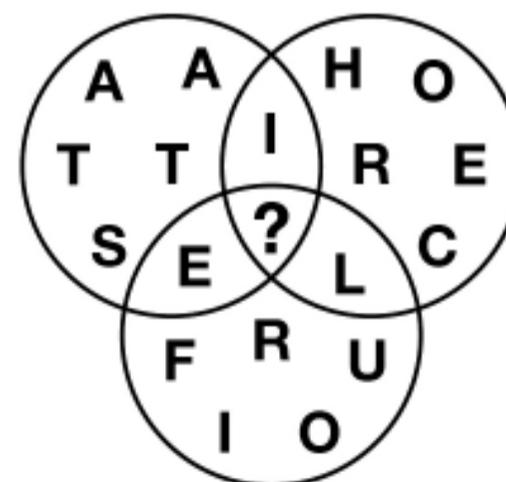
- 1. Weight/snow leopard
- 2. Notice/stain
- 3. Spice/weapon
- 4. Travel/insect
- 5. Hand tool/ witnessed
- 6. Nobleman/look
- 7. Regard/diocese
- 8. Skin/conceal
- 9. List/furniture item
- 10. Establish/ discovered

**BATTLESHIPS**

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



**CIRCLEGRAM**

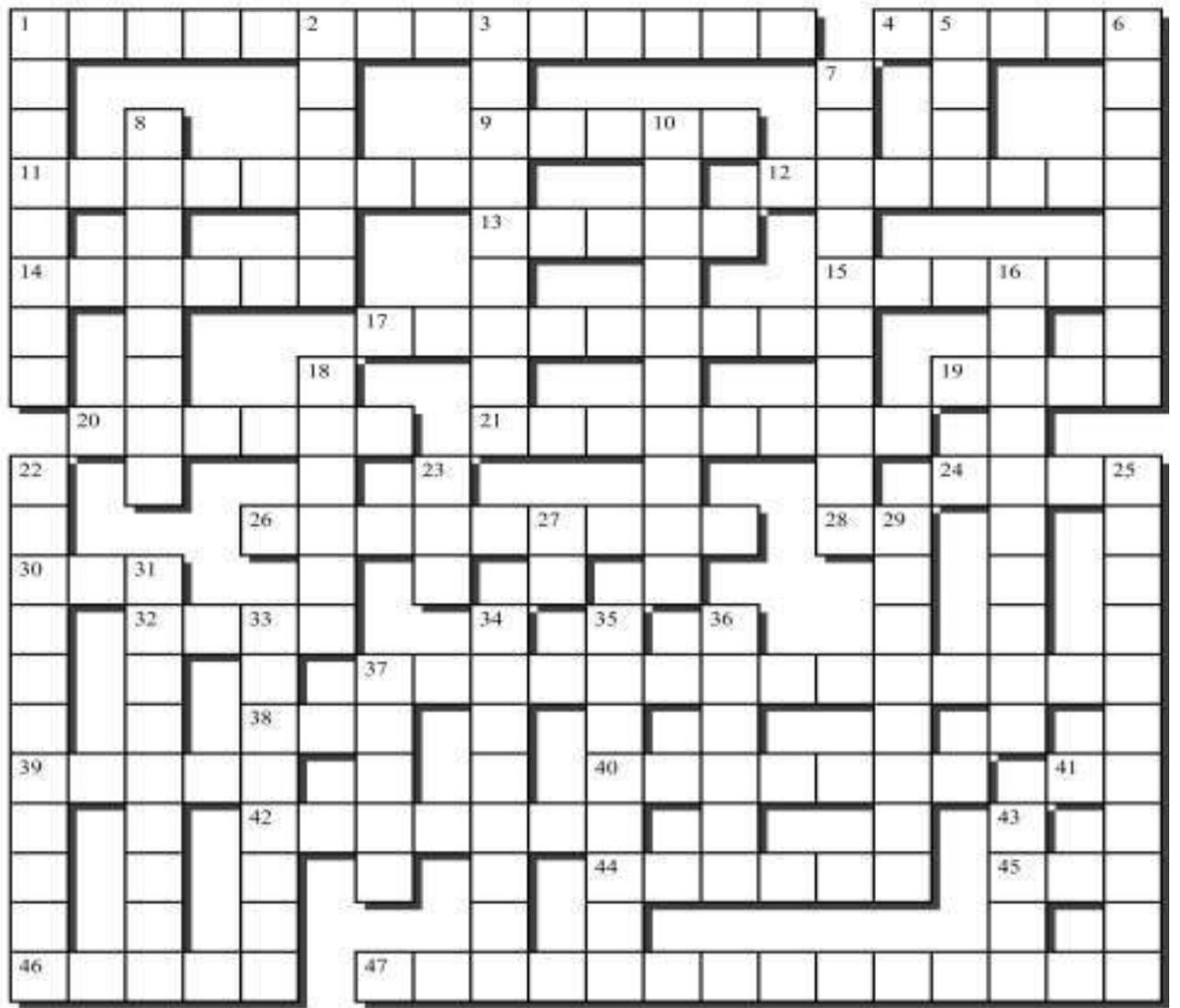


**Instructions**  
Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters in each circle can be arranged to form words, names or terms on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

Across Down

- 1) Discovery (14)
  - 4) Kingdom (5)
  - 9) It breaks (5)
  - 11) Teaching (9)
  - 12) Church (7)
  - 13) Luxuries (5)
  - 14) Ice cream (6)
  - 15) I exceeded (6)
  - 17) Natives (9)
  - 19) Other (f) (4)
  - 20) Bags (6)
  - 21) I discover (8)
  - 24) Which (4)
  - 26) Population (9)
  - 28) Nor (2)
  - 30) Foot (3)
  - 32) Map (4)
  - 37) Conquerors (14)
  - 38) He ties up (3)
  - 39) It attracts (5)
  - 40) During (7)
  - 41) The (f) (2)
  - 42) Mining (7)
  - 44) Wishes (6)
  - 45) Like this (3)
  - 46) Rule (5)
  - 47) Discrimination (14)
- 1) Rights (8)
  - 2) Mouthful (6)
  - 3) Morality (9)
  - 5) East (4)
  - 6) He organises (8)
  - 7) They returned (10)
  - 8) Slaves (8)
  - 10) Protection (10)
  - 16) Structure (10)
  - 18) Crown (6)
  - 22) Exploitation (11)
  - 23) Wing (3)
  - 25) Legislation (11)
  - 27) The letter C (2)
  - 29) Unknown (pl) (8)
  - 31) Emperor (9)
  - 33) Controversy (8)
  - 34) Surroundings (8)
  - 35) Founder (8)
  - 36) Stress (6)
  - 37) Meat (5)
  - 43) Almost (4)



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

**Answer:** Apple  
**Of interest:** The foxglove is one of the oldest surviving species of cider apple originating from the West Midlands and the May Queen apple is a red dessert apple originally raised in Worcester in the UK.  
**Answer:** Allspice, also called pimento, Jamaica pimento, is the dried unripe fruit of Pimenta dioica, a tree native to the Greater Antilles, southern Mexico, and Central America. The name "allspice" was coined around 1621 by the English, who thought it combined the flavour of cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves.

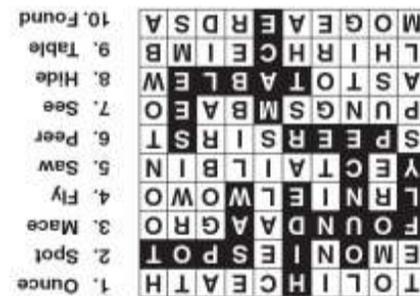
Language Crossword



Cryptic Crossword

**Solutions:** Across: 1 Cash; 3 Conspire; 9 Sealfood; 10 Opted; 11 Making a stand; 13 Turner; 15 Mouser; 17 Nursemaids; 20 Using; 21 Pension; 22 Treasure; 23 Thus; Down: 1 Casemate; 2 Slack; 4 Ordeal; 5 Short commons; 6 Intents; 7 Eddy; 8 Countersigns; 12 Presents; 14 Routine; 16 Draper; 18 Irish; 19 Just.

Wordpuzzler solution



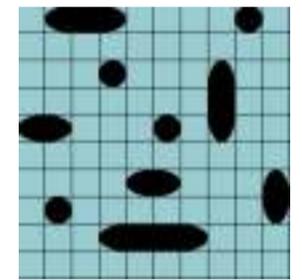
Sudoku solution



Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is N. Astatine, Chlorine, Fluorine, all halogens.

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



A symbol of the village

Last week: Fuengirola

This group of children playing on the beach is on the promenade in Fuengirola. It was created by local sculptor José Gómez Guerrero (he also designed the monument to the peseta and to Seat).



MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)					
Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Aegean Odyssey	13/04	Tangier	Malta	06.00	19.00
Viking Sea	14/04	Cartagena	-	08.00	19.00
Horizon	14/04	-	-	09.00	17.00
Artania	15/04	Agadir	Marseille	08.00	14.00
Le Bougainville	15/04	Sovik	Cartagena	08.00	19.00
Aidasol	16/04	Valencia	Cadiz	07.00	19.00
Star Pride	16/04	-	-	08.00	23.59
Spectrum of Seas	16/04	Bremerhaven	Barcelona	10.00	16.00
Aidanova	17/04	Cadiz	Barcelona	08.00	18.00
Wind Star	17/04	-	-	08.00	19.00
Koningsdam	17/04	Ponta Delgada	Cartagena	08.00	18.00
Costa Favolosa	18/04	Marseille	Lisbon	08.00	19.00
Silver Spirit	18/04	Cadiz	Valencia	08.00	21.00
Star Flyer	19/04	-	-	07.00	20.00
Club Med 2	19/04	Cadiz	Marbella	08.00	23.59
Costa Pacifica	20/04	Funchal	Civitavecchia	07.00	13.00
MSC Orchestra	20/04	Tenerife	Barcelona	10.00	22.00
Mein Schiff 1	21/04	Cadiz	Valencia	08.00	18.00



# A passion for getting involved

## INFORMATION

► **What.** El Paso (Passion Play)  
 Recreation of the life and death of Jesus Christ.

► **Where.** Riogordo.

► **When.** Friday 19 and Saturday 20 April, 5pm.

► **Further information.** Facebook: El Paso de Riogordo /  
 www.elpasoderiogordo.es  
 www.malagaentradas.com



**JENNIE RHODES**

✉ rhodes\_jennie@hotmail.com

British and German residents Raaland and Claudia Burke and their two young boys have parts in this year's Passion play that involves the entire village of Riogordo



The Burke family at a dress rehearsal last Saturday. :: LEILA LAWSON

**RIOGORDO.** Hundreds of local people and actors will be taking part in Riogordo's giant Passion play, El Paso, on Good Friday and Easter Saturday. The Easter story has been performed in the village in this way since 1951; in recent years however the cast has included a handful of foreign residents who are keen to get involved.

This year, the British-German Burke family, who moved to the village in January, have got parts as "woman, man and children of the village". Raaland, his wife Claudia and their two boys, aged nine and six, had "originally thought of be-

ing spectators this year". However, having spoken to long-term Riogordo resident, Leila Lawson, who is heavily involved in El Paso and other village activities, the whole family decided to get involved.

Raaland says that from day one it has been important for the fam-

ily to participate in village activities and they made sure they were at the recent olive oil tour and talk.

Leila herself always participates in El Paso and describes her role as "Woman of Jerusalem, third from the left".

Raaland and Claudia are taking

Spanish lessons and the boys attend the local primary school, although Raaland confesses that he doesn't think they're ready for speaking parts yet. This is probably a good thing, though, as the bigger parts are said to be highly coveted by Riogordo residents.

Other newcomers to the village are Heather Fish, 69, and Sammi Dennard, 44, who are both ballet teachers and originally from London. They have been in Riogordo since last November and, like the Burke family, are keen to embrace the events that take place throughout the year in what they have found to be a "friendly" village. Their role this year, however, will be to photograph the impressive event as they run their own film and photography company.

El Paso tells the story of the life and crucifixion of Jesus Christ in around 17 scenes and has been declared a festival of national tourist interest.

Tickets are 10 euros for adults and 7 euros for children and can be bought on the day outside the ground or in advance from: Rural-Andalus, Tienda Cofrade Nazareno, Cerería Zalo in Malaga. In Torre del Mar from the Pasatiempos bookshop or from Riogordo town hall.

## Other Passion plays in the province

The towns and villages of Istán, Benalmádena, Alhaurín el Grande, Igualeja, Casarabonela and Carratracá also hold their own Passion plays. In Istán, the story is split into three acts, performed over three days: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Saturday at the municipal sports centre. The village of Igualeja will be recreating its El Paso on Plaza de Andalucía, starting at 12pm on Saturday 20 April. The Pasión of Casarabonela takes place in the church of Santiago on Palm Sunday, Monday and Tuesday at 9pm. See town hall websites for further information and timings of all of the Passion plays.

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