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COSTA DEL GOLF

The best of the month's golf action

Reaction from Augusta,
news from the Armada
and amateur tournaments
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"I KILLED HER OUT OF LOVE"

A Dutch resident on the Costa del Sol breaks his silence about the night he helped his soulmate end years of suffering and torment **P18&19**



Robert Vandamm, in Benalmádena, looks at the spot where he said his final goodbye to his partner. **TONY BRYANT**

Unicaja-Liberbank merger falls through

Talks were unanimously called off after the Malaga-based bank refused to offer more than 40 per cent

The proposed merger between Unicaja and Liberbank is off. This follows a disagreement over what share of the new group would go to Liberbank, with the Madrid-based bank balking at an offer of a 40 per cent share. **P14**

Urban slide in Estepona closed after less than 24 hours following reports of scratches and bruises suffered by users **P11**

Selfies help police to track down serial rapist. Clues in the photos helped track down the man to Malaga **P4**

Foreign residents keen to get involved. Parties across the spectrum have selected expat candidates for the council elections **P5&6**

Surge in Costa crime leaves authorities "seriously concerned"

Cases of revenge killings, the use of explosives and so-called 'narcoterrorism' have risen sharply in Malaga province

The public prosecution service has expressed its concern at the rise in violent crime, including revenge attacks and premeditated murders, in recent months on the Costa del Sol. In 2018 the authorities opened 95

homicide inquiries (44 per cent more than the previous year), with assassinations rising by 40 per cent. Violent crime in general has increased by 61 per cent over the last four years. Most of the cases are associated with

criminal organisations, many of them drugs-related, and involve revenge attacks between gangs. One area of special concern is the use of explosives against members of rival organisations and their properties, so-called 'narcoterrorism'.

The Malaga coastline is especially attractive for criminals because of its good connections and the proximity to Morocco, where the main hashish producers are based. **P2&3**



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Increase in killings on the Costa del Sol leaves authorities "seriously concerned"

The Public Prosecution Department is also worried about the fact that cases of what is known as 'narcoterrorism' have now also occurred in Malaga province

✶ **ÁLVARO FRÍAS / JUAN CANO**

MALAGA. In 2018, organised crime left an unprecedented trail of bloody incidents on the Costa del Sol. Nobody can fail to be worried by this. Certainly not local residents, or institutions such as the Prosecution Service in Malaga, which has expressed "serious concern" at the increase in violent crimes related to revenge attacks between gangs, such as commissioned killings.

The figures speak for themselves. Last year the authorities in Malaga opened 95 cases of homicide (premeditated and manslaughter), and that was 44 per cent more than the previous year. Figures show that violent crime has increased by 61 per cent when compared with four years ago.

Premeditated murders, in other words those in which the criminal plans the victim's death, increased from 52 cases in 2017 to 65 last year. Assassinations rose by 40 per cent, from five to seven.

The prosecution service in Malaga is worried by the rise in this type of crime on the Costa del Sol, most of which is associated with criminal or-

THE FIGURE

95

cases of murder or manslaughter were investigated by the Prosecution Service in Malaga in 2018. This was an increase of 44 per cent compared with the previous year and 61 per cent more than four years previously.

One area of special concern is the use of explosives against members of rival organisations

ganisations. Sources there say the Malaga coast is an ideal place for members of these gangs to live and hide, because of the good communications and the proximity to Morocco, where the main hashish producers are based.

They say that different types of organised crime exist in Malaga, including transnational. These people specialise in numerous types of crime, such as drug trafficking, robberies and burglaries, but always with the same benefit in mind: money.

That is the Gordian Knot of the problem. The prosecution service says these types of criminal organisations spare no efforts, firstly in avoiding

being caught by the authorities and secondly to be able to enjoy freely the financial benefits of their crimes.

That is when the revenge attacks between the different organisations tend to occur. The Public Prosecution Department has expressed its concern, not only at the rise in violent crime, such as revenge attacks and premeditated murders, but also by the qualitative leap in the figures in the past year.

One area of special concern is the use of explosives against members of rival organisations and their properties. The prosecution service stresses the "potential harm" these methods can cause and the danger involved in the fact that these materials have already been used in revenge attacks between gangs.

They are talking about what has become known as 'narcoterrorism'. There was an unprecedented attack on the Costa del Sol in September, when explosives experts from the National Police's TEDAX squad had to detonate a device found in the Alto de los Monteros residential development in Marbella, an area of luxury houses. The investigation soon pointed to the fact that the bomb was intended to have been used in a revenge attack related to organised crime.

This was one of the most worrying incidents in the spiralling violence on the Costa del Sol until, a month later, Malaga experienced its first successful case of narcoterrorism.

This was on 10 October, when two



Police officers on the scene after a man was killed on the day his son

devices exploded. The first was in the Mirador de la Alquería urbanisation in Benahavís, when a car caught fire and the front of a house was damaged by the explosion. A few minutes later there was a huge fire after another bomb went off on the industrial estate in San Pedro Alcántara, damaging five warehouses and several cars.

It turned out that the car wash business which was attacked also belonged to the owner of the house which was bombed in Benahavís. Again, this case was deemed to have been associated with organised crime. It was another revenge attack on the Costa del Sol.

On that occasion they used bombs, but gunmen have also left a long and bloody trail behind them in the past year.

One of the crimes which caused the most alarm was a year ago when a man was shot dead at the entrance to the church in San Pedro Alcántara, where his son had just taken his first holy communion.

The revenge attacks reported here all occurred in 2018, but the disputes between rival gangs are by no means over, and so far this year there have already been other violent incidents and revenge attacks on the Costa del Sol.

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took his first communion. :: JOSELE-LANZA

The police and Guardia Civil have already solved several of the violent crimes

:: A. FRÍAS / J. CANO

MALAGA. Thanks to the unstinting efforts of the police and Guardia Civil, some of the violent crimes carried out on the Costa del Sol last year have already been solved, including the cases of narcoterrorism.

Just a few weeks after explosive experts detonated a device in a Marbella urbanisation in September, detectives arrested a 33-year-old man who is originally from Utrecht (the Netherlands).

A joint operation by the Guardia Civil and National Police also resulted in the arrest of three individuals who are alleged to be part of a hired assassin business in Malmö, Sweden, which also operates in Malaga province and elsewhere. They are accused of planting the explosive devices in Benahavis and San Pedro last year.

Other individuals who are believed to be members of this gang, which is considered to be the most dangerous ever known on the Costa del Sol, were also arrested in 'Operation Rueda' in 2018. It is said have been responsible for two murders in Marbella and Estepona.



The vehicle was travelling to the coast before the accident. :: SUR

Police find a million euros in camper van overturned on its way to Malaga on A-92

Three people from Lithuania were injured and they may be fined for moving large quantities of cash

:: JUAN CANO/ ÁLVARO FRÍAS

MALAGA. An early-morning call out to an overturned camper van on the A-92 in Granada province yielded more than three injured Lithuanians. No other vehicle was involved but Guardia Civil officers were surprised to find

one million euros in cash hidden inside. The vehicle was travelling to the Costa del Sol area and the driver tested positive for alcohol and drugs, according to sources.

As yet there has been no explanation as to why the two Lithuanian men and one woman were travelling with so much cash. However they could face a fine for failing to declare more than 10,000 euros being brought in from outside Spain (or 100,000 being moved within Spain).

One of the three injured is resident in Malaga.

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MARBELLA - FUENGIROLA - MANILVA

Alleged rapist snared by selfie shots and good detective work

A 28-year-old man has been held without bail for almost four years on suspicion of robbery and sexual attacks that put fear into a part of Malaga

by JUAN CANO/ÁLVARO FRÍAS

MALAGA. Police in Malaga have revealed how they snared a suspected robber and serial rapist that terrorised the Teatinos area of Malaga in summer 2015. Investigators believe he was involved in around 100 robberies in the underground car parks of blocks of flats and four sexual attacks on women inside them. The 28-year-old has been held without bail for almost the four-year legal limit and could be released in September if a trial doesn't start. The complexity of the case is believed to be behind the delay.

Some 100 police were involved in the search in 2015 which caused widespread alarm and investigators had faced a dead end in their inquiries. Although they had a main suspect, there was no way of tracing him or proving involvement.

However the suspect unwittingly led officers to him by two photo-



Bike mentioned by witnesses. :: SUR

graphs he posted on social media giving away important clues.

In the first selfie, the man is shown next to a red-striped bike taken soon after one of the attacks and matching a description by witnesses. In the second shot, the suspect appeared in a lift. Investigators were able to trace the location from the serial number and manufacturer to an address that he once occupied. The bike was found locked on a roof terrace, along with some effects al-



The lift was a big clue. :: SUR

legedly from the robberies. A friend led investigators to the suspect's new address for the arrest.

One witness, a worker at a petrol station, had said that the suspect had bought a bottle of Pepsi one night of the attacks, whereas investigators knew he preferred Coke. One single bottle of Pepsi was found next to several Coke bottles on a search of his home with the same batch number as those on sale in the petrol station.



The town hall doorway where the women slept rough. :: A.G.

Mother accused of trying to kill homeless disabled daughter in suicide pact

by A. GÓMEZ / J. CANO

MALAGA. A desperate mother, who had pleaded for her disabled daughter not to be left to sleep rough with her after their latest home eviction, was apparently driven to help her kill herself last week ahead of trying to take her own life.

In the tragic story, both mother, Carmen, and daughter, Ana, are safe, both recovering from injuries that the mother supposedly inflicted on their wrists. An initial charge of attempted murder was dropped against her and changed

to assisting in a suicide. In the pact, the daughter's severe disability prevented her taking her own life without her mother's assistance. The mother's custody of the daughter has been withdrawn.

Mother and daughter had been sleeping rough for several days in the doorway of Torremolinos town hall and have been well known to council social workers since 1991. Both women had been evicted from a series of flats for not paying the rent and had received a range of help. A road sweeper found the women in a pool of blood.

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Foreign residents keen to get involved

Left and right wing parties across the province are fielding 'expat' candidates in this month's local elections

Brits on the Costa del Sol are taking advantage of a bilateral agreement which allows them to stand in Spanish local elections

:: JENNIE RHODES

MALAGA. Thanks to a bilateral agreement signed by the UK and Spanish governments allowing both Brits to vote and stand in local elections in Spain and Spaniards to do likewise if they are resident in the UK (regardless of the outcome of

Brexit) many UK residents on the Costa del Sol are taking advantage of this right. They are joining a number of other foreign residents who want to be more involved in their local community.

When towns and villages from Estepona to Nerja published their lo-

cal election lists, foreign names stood out across all of the political parties, from the left-wing Izquierda Unida, to the far-right Vox, and in around 30 of the province's municipalities.

In some cases foreign residents were approached by their local mayors and in others, there was a feel-

ing that the non-Spanish communities didn't have any kind of representation or voice within their town halls. Some have previous political experience, while this is the first time for others, and dealing with Brexit locally is inevitably an issue for many.

"The huge expat population hasn't had a voice"

Darren Sands Candidate PP, Marbella

Darren Sands hopes to act as a bridge between foreigners and the town hall

:: R. HAYNES

MARBELLA. Darren Sands, 52, is originally from Leeds, UK, and arrived in Spain in 1998, moving to Marbella in 2006. For the last eight years this real estate developer has been president of the El Rosario community of property owners and as a result has been involved in meetings with the town hall over the problems that his and dozens of other 'urbanisations' in Marbella suffer, especially wastewater drainage and the blocking of licences.

When the current Partido Popular mayor, Ángeles Muñoz, asked Sands to join the party's list as an independent candidate in the upcoming council elections he agreed.

Sands believes continuity and stability is important on the political side and says that's not going to happen if there is another coalition government as there was after the elections four years ago.



Muñoz and Sands. :: SUR

"I think the best option is [the PP local government] we have right now," he said, adding that, although at number 23 of the list it is highly unlikely that he will win a seat on the council, he hopes to "help out as a bridge between foreigners and the town hall".

"We've got a huge expat population that really hasn't had any representation, hasn't had a voice, explained Sands. "I intend to be there to help to be that voice for the urbanisations."

Ria O'Brien

PSOE councillor, La Viñuela

"Being number four shows a commitment to foreigners"

Ria O'Brien, 68, is originally from Tipperary in Ireland and has lived in Spain since 2005.

Ria is no stranger to politics and from a young age was actively involved in both local and politics in Ireland. She was asked by then Taoiseach, Jack Lynch, to get involved as "they were trying to get more women involved, you know, women's lib and all that," explains Ria.

She has been a PSOE councillor in La Viñuela since the 2015 elections, when the mayor, José Juan Jiménez López, invited her to stand. Ria sees her role, "not as a politician but as a community person who links the expat community and locals". As number four on the list, she is "confident" she'll be reelected and says of the mayor, "being number four shows a commitment to the foreign community". She speaks highly of Jiménez, who she says is a "great guy for the area".



"I need to stand up for something I believe in"

Ann and Simon Hewitt PP candidates, Arenas

Ann and Simon Hewitt are numbers five and six on the PP list in Arenas

:: J. RHODES

ARENAS. Ann and Simon Hewitt have lived in Arenas for 13 years. They say they are among the very few foreigners who actually live in the village itself as most have houses in the surrounding countryside which belongs to the village. They had never been involved in politics back home and this is the first time Ann is getting involved in Spain.

For Simon, it's the second time he has been on the Partido Popular's list, having stood, but not won a seat, in 2015. Ann is number five and Simon number six on the party's list and while they don't think they will get elected as Arenas only has six councillors, they want to support the village's PP candidate, Manuel Rios, who they believe was unfairly "ousted" after a vote of no confidence in 2016. "There are lots of foreigners living in the campo and Manuel is hoping to count on their vote," says Ann. She says the main reason she is standing is, "I need to stand up for something I believe in."



Ann and Simon Hewitt are standing for the PP in Arenas. :: A. H.

Anne Hernández

Candidate Movimiento Vecinal Mijeño (MVM), Mijas

"As a foreigner here, I don't believe I have the right to change Mijas, but I do believe we can improve on it."

Former university lecturer Anne Hernández was born in Hertfordshire and she has lived in Spain for 34 years, although this is the first time she has ventured into politics. President of Brexipats in Spain, a platform that defends the rights of British citizens, Anne was approached



to stand as a councillor for the new Mijas action group, MVM, one of the first non-political groups to be allowed to stand for elections in local government.

Anne, number seven of the list of candidates, says that she chose the party because it is not "politically biased". She claims she will concentrate on animal welfare, the environment and Brexit. "I want to deal with Brexit.

The Spanish realise that it is going to adversely affect them, so they want us to all pull together in support of every member of the community.

"As a foreigner here, I don't believe I have the right to change Mijas, but I do believe we can improve on it."

Dean Tyler Shelton

Councillor, Compromiso Manilva

"Being independent we can concentrate on the needs of our municipality"

Dean Tyler Shelton has lived in Spain since his parents decided to move here when Dean was 10 and has lived in Manilva for around 20 years. He was first elected onto Manilva council in 2015, with Izquierda Unida, becoming the town's first ever foreign councillor. However, he has recently changed to Compromiso



Manilva, which is currently the governing party.

He says he believes Compromiso Manilva is "the best qualified with the most experience and best positioned political group in our municipality" and expects the party will be "the most voted list on 26 May".

Dean says he's committed to helping residents of Manilva "no matter what their nationality".

He adds, "Being independent we can concentrate on the needs of our municipality rather than towing the burden and big party political line as happens with some of the larger parties such as PSOE or PP."

Chris Cluderay

Candidate, C's, Alcaucín

"I'm on the list purely to support the mayor"

Chris Cluderay, 69, is originally from Yorkshire and has lived in Alcaucín for 25 years where he is a retired language teacher. He was never involved in politics back at home, but first appeared on current mayor, Belgian Mario Blancke's Ciudadanos list in the 2015 elections. He didn't win a seat then and says he's unlikely to this time round either but is keen to support Blancke, who he considers "the best mayor by far" the village has had in his time there and has "a proven track record".





Mike Drury is number 17 on the list for Impulsa Ciudad. :: SUR

"I am excited to help the young people get their ideas heard"

Michael Drury Impulsa Ciudad, Marbella

Language teacher Michael Drury was born in what was Rhodesia, and moved to Spain 40 years ago

:: G. KENNY

MALAGA. In 1979 Michael Drury moved to Spain. Since then he has set up Angela's School in Marbella, where he and his wife teach non-English students, in order to equip them for integration into the international school system.

Drury explains that it is down to his interactions with young people, both Spanish and international, in education that pushed him to support the new group Impulsa Ciudad. He believes that because the movement is new, they have fresh ideas with no obligations to other political motives.

The preservation of the environ-

ment is a major policy for Impulsa Ciudad, says Drury. He believes that educating the local children on the natural beauty of Marbella will allow the conservation of the town's environment to extend well into the future.

According to Drury, Impulsa Ciudad is also working to integrate foreigners further into Spanish society. The candidate explains that the "old" Marbella is no longer what people are looking for, but now are rather more interested in a "healthier place to live". He wants to push for more facilities which promote healthy living to attract tourists and internationals. "It is important to get foreigners involved," he explained. Having recently completed his CCSE test, which is part of the process for obtaining Spanish nationality, Drury learned a lot about the Spanish electoral system. He believes that the reason more foreigners are not voting is because they have a lack of interest, and are "tired of politics".

"No other team has the experience to move Mijas forward"

Bill Anderson PP candidate, Mijas

The 61-year-old university lecturer worked as a policy advisor to the UK and Scottish governments

:: T. BRYANT

MIJAS. Edinburgh-born Bill Anderson says he is honoured to be presented as number seven on the candidate list of the Partido Popular in Mijas: only the second time in 40 years that a foreigner has been in this position.

The 61-year-old university lecturer and novelist, who has lived in Mijas since 2002, spent many years working as a policy advisor to the UK and then the Scottish governments, and to several local authorities, but he claims "this was enough to persuade me not to dip my toes further into the political arena". Since then, he has always tried to avoid politics, but after becoming unhappy about the management of Mijas over the last four years, he decided to do something or "suffer in silence".

He has now been working with the Partido Popular (PP) for over two years and is convinced that there is no other team with the "experience, vision and imagination to move Mijas forward and deal with the complex problems of such a large municipality".

"My years in Mijas under the Nozal government (2011-2015) were, in my opinion, the golden years for Mijas. Nozal was determined to include someone from the international community on his team and brought me in two



Candidate Bill Anderson. :: SUR

and a half years ago. Much of what the international community needs is the same as the Spanish community: security, clean streets, reduced bureaucracy, community policing, a specialist unit for animal welfare, and a solution to the services to the urbanisations."

There are over 120 nationalities in Mijas and Anderson's vision is to make life in Spain less complicated for the expat community and to make them feel more involved, despite possible language difficulties. He feels there are many reasons why foreigners don't vote, but believes that we could soon see a change in this.

"I don't think that there is a single reason why many foreigners don't vote. Some say they never voted in their home country, so why do it here? Some even feel that they are living in Spain and the Spanish voters should decide. I think, however, that with being more aware of the role they can play, this may be changing."

Elizabeth Morrison & Paul Knight Izquierda Unida, Sedella

"I want to support the mayor who has done so much"

Paul Knight, 66, is already a councillor in the village of Sedella and has been since the 2015 elections when current mayor, Francisco (Paco) Abolafio, invited him to put his name forward. Paul's originally from Stoke-on-Trent but has lived in the village for 17 years. He says, "I joined Paco because of the mess Sedella was in. He's a village person and the changes to Sedella are incredible."

Elizabeth Morrison, 70, has been coming to her second home in Sedella since 1986 from her home in Scotland and she says that she feels like a local when she is here.

Morrison is a 'Suplente', or substitute, on the Izquierda Unida list, so is unlikely to be elected as a councillor. However, she says she felt "honoured" when Abolafio asked her to be on his list. "I was really chuffed," says Elizabeth, who adds that the mayor "does a lot for the village and for foreign residents". She goes on to say, "He's very kind and you can always go to him if you have a problem."



Liz Keag

Por Mi Pueblo candidate, Cómputa

"We need an influx of young people to do things in the village"

Liz Keag, 64, has lived in Cómputa permanently for 25 years where she is an estate agent.

She was born in Northern Ireland and also lived in Scotland and the Isle of Man before coming to Spain.

This is the first time that Liz has got involved in politics and is passionate about Cómputa and about the party. "I love the village very much," she enthuses. However, the self-confessed "sales person" says that like much of rural Spain, Cómputa is losing its young people. "We need an influx of young people here to do things."

Liz says she's really pleased that most of the Por Mi Pueblo team are "young and vibrant" and firmly believes that because of that they can improve things. "The village is great but of course there are things that can be improved," she recognises.

Liz is number eight on her list, but that does not stop her from thinking she could win a seat on the council. "I'm a sales person and if you want to sell something you have to believe in it," she concludes.



"I have been involved in the foreigners' office for four years"

Chloe Gavin PSOE candidate, Periana

:: J. RHODES

PERIANA. Chloe Gavin, 47, originally from London, has lived in Periana for 19 years. She is married to a Spaniard and has two sons. Workwise, Chloe does a lot of translating and interpreting as well as teaching and as she puts it, "mothering".

-Is this the first time you are standing in the local elections here?

Yes.

-Were you involved in local politics in your home country?

No.

-Why did you get involved in the elections?

I have been involved in the village's foreigners' office for the last four years and I was approached by the mayor, Rafael Torrubia, (PSOE) to join his team. "My initial reaction was no, having never been particularly political, but having seen the shambles that is Westminster, I thought I can do better than that, so I reconsidered. On a local level I believe it's more about dealing with people than follow-

ing a particular ideology.

-Why did you choose PSOE?

I didn't choose the party so much as the party chose me. I've known Rafael for 19 years - he's been mayor for the last four - and he's very open to new ideas and suggestions - hence asking a 'guiri' to be on his team.

-What will the party do for the community in general and in particular the foreign residents?

The programme includes all aspects of village life (infrastructure, social and public services, employment, culture, health, third age, environment). For the international community, we are hoping to provide more integration, helping with day-to-day aspects of village life for the lingu-

tically challenged, as well as boosting tourism.

-Are you likely to get a seat on the council?

It is unlikely as there are eight councillors presently and I'm number nine, although I was offered a higher number. Even if I'm not elected, the idea is to form a separate role for me.

-Are there many foreigners in the village and do they generally get involved in local politics and or vote in elections?

There are perhaps a couple of hundred on the 'padrón' but only around 50 who have given their intention to vote. Generally speaking the foreigners are a good source of new ideas when it comes to local politics even if they're not directly involved.



How will you benefit from the Andalucía tax reforms?

The local government has introduced new tax rules from 11 April, designed to position Andalucía as one of the lowest taxed regions in Spain. It is reducing the regional income tax rates every year from 2019 to 2023, and has established a 99% succession and gift tax relief for group I and II beneficiaries.

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Tourists in Puerto Banús in summer (file photo). :: JOSLE-LANZA

Arab royal families set to head to Marbella once Ramadan ends

The tourism sector has been promoting the Costa del Sol in Dubai and hopes for a bumper season from higher-spending Muslim holidaymakers

:: NIEVES CASTRO

MARBELLA. Tourism bosses in Marbella are preparing for a strong summer season of business from high-spending customers from Arab-speaking countries.

Mayor of Marbella, Ángeles Muñoz, has confirmed to SUR that the town hall has been informed, via different consulates, that this summer members of royal families from different Arab states will once again choose the resort for their holidays.

The mayor said that as the Ramadan festival finishes before the start

of the summer season this year, stays will be longer and the peak season won't be split in two. She also highlighted the importance of improved air links to the Middle East that will contribute to "fantastic visitor numbers".

On 4 June, Ramadan, the month of meditation and fasting, ends, and even the least optimistic are pointing to 2019 being a strong year for Muslim visitors.

Direct twice-weekly flights from Saudi Arabia, plus more flights from Qatar, will restart as the festival finishes and Turismo Costa del Sol has invested more in marketing, attending the recent Arabian Travel Market (ATM) with local suppliers.

Not all Muslim visitors follow their religion strictly while they are on the Costa, however Marbella businesses are prepared for all needs.

At the Alanda Hotel Marbella on the Golden Mile, the first hotel in Spain to be certified as halal, they

are expecting an increase in business. José Ramón Urzay, sales director, said, "After the ATM, our expectations are really high for this year. Predictions are for an increase of around 20 per cent in July and August." The hotel is well prepared to serve halal food and in the bedrooms there are signs showing which way Mecca is for prayer times.

Late bookers

According to Turismo Costa del Sol, the Muslim travel market is growing significantly worldwide.

"This year it seems that everything has come together in the best possible circumstances," said Fernando Al-Farkh, vice-president of Aehcos, the Costa hoteliers' association and the director of the well-known Hotel Los Monteros.

However Muslim clients are known for booking late, so as yet businesses don't know just how well the season will go for them.

Junta promises a Silicon Valley of tourism tech innovation on the Costa

Andalucía Lab, near Marbella, will be the focus for investment from private companies in a 650,000-euro plan

:: PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. Juan Marín, vice-president of the regional government and regional minister for Tourism, has said that the Junta is to invest 650,000 euros over three and a half years in upgrading its Andalucía Lab innovation centre.

It is hoped that the building, just east of Marbella, will become an enhanced centre for new ideas in technology to support the industry and a base for companies

Speaking at a forum in Malaga with local tourist leaders organised by SUR, Marín said, "We've activated the first international tourism and technology hub. We



Marín at the meeting. :: S. S.

want to create an international community of professionals, experts, companies and specialists so that Andalucía can lead the future and the sector."

The first phase will involve promoting the initiative internationally before companies start to move in.

Passenger numbers at Malaga Airport rose by 7.3% in the first four months of this year

:: PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. The Costa del Sol's airport continues its strong start to the year. In the period January to April, compared to last year, there were 7.3 per cent more passengers arriving or departing.

Data from Aena, the airport operator, says that 5.2 million passengers used Malaga Airport in the first four months of the year. Of these, 4.3 million were arriving or leaving on international

flights. There were 29,514 international flights over the four-month period, 5.6 per cent up on a year ago.

The number of British visitors doesn't seem to have been affected by Brexit. From January to April, 548,502 passengers arrived or left from the UK, up 3.4 per cent. Germany had 156,259 passengers, up 7.5 per cent, and France 119,715, up almost 20 per cent on a year ago.

Domestic flights also saw an uplift in the first four months. There were 8,897 take-offs and landings to or from Spanish airports, an increase of 8.5 per cent year-on-year with 885,772 domestic passengers.

The busiest day in the first four months of the year was Saturday 13 April, with 72,399 passengers.

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One of the new buses. :: JOSELE-LANZA

New bus route to link La Cañada and Miraflores after surge in demand

The 6B route will connect Bello Horizonte with the La Cañada shopping centre, passing through the centre and Miraflores

:: **CHARO MÁRQUEZ**

MARBELLA. A new bus route will start operating in Marbella this Saturday, running from the Bello Horizonte area to La Cañada shopping centre. The route will also pass through the town centre and the Miraflores neighbourhood.

The 6B route will allow residents

of Miraflores to get to the shopping centre in as little as seven minutes. Buses will leave from Bello Horizonte every 30 minutes.

This new route has been created in response to an increase in registered bus users of 150 per cent in the Miraflores area.

According to municipal spokesperson, Félix Romero, the town hall is "leading the way" in personal mobility, following the introduction of free travel for residents, the modernisation of the fleet of buses and the creation of new routes, including changes to routes 2 and 6 which mostly covered the same areas.

Ojén town hall removes monument dedicated to Nazi after seven months

The monolith bore the name of Juan Hoffman who previously had that honour removed from the square and school

:: **H. BARBOTTA/ C. MÁRQUEZ**

MARBELLA. A monument which bore the name of Juan Hoffman has finally been removed in the town of Ojén. This comes seven months after the town hall unanimously decided to change the name of the square to Plaza Alemania, which is situated in front of the German School, founded by Hoffman himself and which for years also took his name.

During his life, Hoffman was known on the Costa del Sol as the German consul in Malaga and the school's founder. However, research carried out by the Spanish-German historian Carlos Collado Seidel brought to light Hoffman's past and revealed that he had in fact been an agent of the Gestapo and the SS.

Hoffman acted as an interpreter, first in the Condor Legion, a unit sent by Hitler to assist in the Spanish Civil War, and then in the Blue Division (División Azul), a favour returned by Franco to assist the Nazis in their Soviet invasion.

According to the mayor of Ojén, José Antonio Gómez, the delay in the statue's removal is owed to some type of logistical complication.



The space, left, which was occupied by the monument. :: JOSELE-LANZA

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IN BRIEF

Agreement reached to repair old Istán road

MARBELLA

:: **N. CASTRO.** An agreement has been reached between Marbella town hall and the Junta de Andalucía to jointly fund much-needed repairs to the Carretera de Istán, between the Puente Romano hotel and the Manolo Santana Racquets Club. A plan to repair the road, which the council says poses a risk to public safety (it is too narrow and lacks a pavement and lighting), will be drawn up this year.

Starlite to recruit 400 staff members this year

MARBELLA

:: **C. M.** Organisers for the annual Starlite Festival in Marbella are looking to fill 400 vacancies for the upcoming series of concerts this summer.

A first round of interviews will take place from 21 to 23 May at the Palacio de Ferias y Congresos.

Those interested must first register online (<https://empleo.landings.jobandtalent.com/starlitemarbella/>). Some 1,400 people have already done so.

Estepona slide closed after less than 24 hours following reports of bumps and bruises

The attraction, which boasts being the longest urban slide in Spain, served as a shortcut between two streets

CHARO MÁRQUEZ

ESTEPONA. Estepona town hall closed its new urban slide last Friday less than 24 hours after it was opened to the public. The move comes after several users reported suffering scratches and bruising while using the novel shortcut joining two of the town's streets.

The attraction was described last Thursday as Spain's longest urban slide, measuring 38 metres, with an incline of between 32 and 34 degrees.

Its "first day of operation" (and not an official opening as we are in an election period) was attended by mayor José María García Urbano who was encouraged to be the first to use it. He refused, saying he had already been down it in the morning with no one present. His councillors, how-

ever, were keen to sample it, but the amusement soon started to turn sour.

After several users published videos and images on social media showing personal damage suffered, the town hall defended the slide, claiming it had all of its safety certificates in order, and pointed out that more than a thousand people had used the slide on Thursday last week without a problem. Later on Friday however the local authority said it had closed the slide as a "precautionary" measure and ordered a further safety assessment.

The town hall pointed out that signs advised users of how to use the slide safely; lying down was not allowed, they said, and the slide could only be used by one person at a time. The images on the signs at the top however showed a person seated, but didn't specifically stress that lying down was prohibited.

The slide was installed to provide a shortcut between Calle Reina Sofía and Calle Eslovaquia. The town hall also created a footpath down the steep embankment for the less daring.



The opening attracted large crowds. CHARO MÁRQUEZ



Councillor Ana Velasco gave the slide a go. C. M.



Freddie Starr. FACEBOOK

British comedian Freddie Starr died of a heart attack, aged 76, autopsy confirms

SUR

MIJAS. British comedian Freddie Starr died last Thursday, 9 May, in his home in Mijas Costa. According to sources he was found by his carer who raised the alarm at 3.30pm. He was 76 years old.

The comedian, who rose to fame as a stand-up comic in the 1970s, suffered a heart attack, the autopsy confirmed last Friday. A previous heart attack in 2010 led to major bypass surgery.

Freddie was born on 9 January 1943 in Lancashire. He moved to Spain in 2015 after losing his High Court claim for damages against a woman who had accused him of sexual abuse during the Yewtree investigations into historical abuse in 2012. He was not prosecuted.

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Families to exhibit empowering artwork

Malaga's Jorge Rando museum and the Arts Society are collaborating in a June exhibition

JENNIE RHODES

✉ rhodes_jennie@hotmail.com



MALAGA. A two-day exhibition of artwork next month will be the culmination of an innovative and international project in which local Arts Societies (Nerja, Costa del Sol and Benahavis) have collaborated with the Museo Jorge Rando in Malaga and the NGO Aldeas Infantiles SOS (SOS-Children's Villages) day centre in El Palo.

The project came about through previous collaboration between the centre in El Palo and the museum, as well as through the contact that the museum had with Helen Sijssling, Chair of the Nerja Arts Society. Sijssling said of the society's involvement in the project, "We believe art enriches, empowers, soothes and stimulates."

Three groups are making art to exhibit: young children, teenagers and a small group of parents, who use the services at the centre in El Palo. Sessions have taken place at the Jorge Rando museum and at the centre in El Palo throughout spring. Each workshop has been led by a professional art teacher, who has introduced the participants to different techniques of expressionist painting from acrylic to watercolour and gouache to collage.

Antonio Rodríguez, Director of the El Palo centre, said, "The families and children are super excited about the exhibition. They get to see a museum as a living space, not just as a boring place full of paintings and they can identify with the art they are creating."

The SOS Aldeas Infantiles day



Two of the mothers take part in one of the art workshops. :: YVONNE SJOKVIST

centre in El Palo opened in March 2017 and currently offers its services to around 50 children and teenagers between the ages of five and 16 from 35 families.

They work closely with social services teams in the east of Malaga district to provide help to families with a wide range of needs. Staff at the centre help the children with anything from homework to social and cultural development. The centre has a network of volunteers who help out with a wide range of projects, from gardening to art.

Emotional expression

Antonio Cabello, who is an educator at the centre and is closely involved in the project, told SUR in English that the centre sees art as a way for people to "express themselves emotionally".

He explained that through the projects run at the centre, users learn about "self-awareness, teamwork, respect and family", all aspects that many take for granted, but are more difficult to appreciate for some of the children and families who go through the centre's doors.

The Arts Society's objective through this project is to use art as a tool to enable children and their parents to encourage teamwork, positivism and creative expression as well as the development of their self-esteem and values.

Yvonne Sjukvist, Chair of the Arts Society Costa del Sol, told SUR in English that projects like this are at the very heart of what the Arts Society aims to do.

"As a charitable association we are delighted to be able to support

this project. We know from previous Young Arts Projects how much the arts can help young people to express their feelings and to develop beneficial life skills such as imagination and creativity and to build self-esteem and social skills."

Sjukvist added, "I visited one of the workshops with the mothers and what a delight! It was clear that the mothers and Enrique Agusti Lafuente, the artist, were having a good time together and that they enjoyed their class and were proud of their work. Heart-warming."

Jorge Rando is a Malaga-born artist. Speaking earlier this year when the museum announced its plans to collaborate with the NGO, museum director Vanesa Díez said that one of the principal objectives of the museum is to "stimulate the artistic capacity of all people who

THE ORGANISERS

Antonio Rodríguez
Director, Aldeas Infantiles SOS

"The families and children are super excited about the exhibition"



Antonio Cabello
Educator, Aldeas Infantiles SOS

"The project is a good way for the children to express themselves emotionally"



Yvonne Sjukvist
Chair, Arts Society Costa del Sol

"We are delighted to be able to support this project."



Helen Sijssling
Chair, Arts Society Nerja

"We believe art enriches, empowers, soothes and stimulates."



find themselves in a situation of vulnerability".

The exhibition will be inaugurated on 10 June and will be open to the public until 12 June during the normal museum opening hours.

SOS-Children's Villages is a global federation and is a member of Unesco. It was founded in 1949 in Imst, Austria, and works with children and families in 135 countries.

Jorge Rando Museum:
www.museojorgerando.org

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Merger between Unicaja and Liberbank is called off

Unicaja was asking for 60 per cent of the new group, but Liberbank wanted more than the 40 per cent offered; both boards voted to end the talks

:: JOSÉ VICENTE ASTORGA

MALAGA. The dream of creating one of Spain's biggest banking groups with a likely head office in Malaga was over this week.

The respective boards of Unicaja Banco and Liberbank voted to end the talks between them in a disagreement over what share of the new group would go to Liberbank, and hence the value to Liberbank's shareholders of the deal.

Unicaja Banco, based in Malaga, had almost 7,000 employees in 2018, 3,000 more than Liberbank, and its profits were 142 million euros, compared to Liberbank's 108 million. Unicaja was turned into a publicly-quoted bank, losing its savings bank status, as part



Unicaja Banco and Liberbank branches in Malaga. :: SUR

of the shake up of the Spanish banking system after the recent financial crisis. Directors were hoping for a 60 per cent share of a group formed with the merger with Liberbank and to keep the head office in Malaga.

However, venture capital group Oceanwood, which is the largest shareholder in Liberbank, wanted more than 40 per cent.

No overlap

Liberbank is also a former savings bank that was forced to go public and the two banks were seen as a good fit as there is very little overlap in the branch network, as Liberbank is strong in the north.

The new company would have had joint assets of 97 billion euros and been the sixth biggest banking group in Spain.



:: GERMÁN POZO

FIREFIGHTER DEMONSTRATION FILLS STREETS

It is estimated that a thousand people participated in the firefighters demonstration in Malaga last Saturday. The main aim of the demonstration was to get the mayor, Francisco de la Torre to "sit down and talk to the firefighters" with regards to working conditions and retirement funds.



Ledesma (seated left) watches Teresa Sánchez (right). :: F. TORRES

No-confidence vote ousts mayor before upcoming election

In an explosive council meeting in Alhaurín el Grande, Teresa Sánchez took over from Antonia Ledesma after a court had intervened to force the vote

:: FERNANDO TORRES

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE. A court sentence, two clarification requests, various legal reports, an order to comply and a final ultimatum from a judge. All this was needed for a no-confidence vote in Alhaurín el Grande's mayor to be carried out that was started then stopped in January 2017.

Last Saturday, the Guadalhorce valley town closed a chapter in its political history with the voting down of the mayor, Antonia Ledesma. Ledesma had taken over as mayor for right-leaning Por Al-

haurín in 2016 - although later passing back with her councillors to the conservative PP whip.

The court had ordered the no-confidence vote be finally carried out after the original one was suspended by Ledesma in a complicated row over voting procedure. One of Ledesma's councillors had defected away from the party and had joined with left-wing parties to give a majority against the sitting mayor.

The vote finally went ahead last Saturday, over two years later, in an explosive atmosphere in the council chamber. The Izquierda Unida's Teresa Sánchez has now taken over as mayor.

Sánchez said. "This [outgoing] administration is heir to a council condemned in the courts for corruption."

The new mayor will be in power for only a short period ahead of the 26 May municipal elections.

Torremolinos foreigners department launches new blog-site in English

:: TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. Torremolinos Foreign Residents Department has launched a new English-language blog-site.

The platform (www.blog.turismotorremolinos.es/en/) has been set up to help English-speaking residents with information concerning all aspects of living in the town, as well as suggestions and ideas for those visiting the resort.

The site features a guide to forthcoming festivals and cultural events, as well as focusing on the many attractions the town has to offer.

The town hall is also encouraging people to upload photographs and share stories concerning their experiences in the town.



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Current and former mayors to give evidence in sewage treatment case

A number of Nerja politicians will appear in court over possible offences committed in relation to the wastewater treatment plant

:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

NERJA. Current mayor of Nerja, Rosa Arrabal (PSOE), and José Alberto Armijo, who served as mayor under the Partido Popular from 1995 until 2015, are to give evidence in the ongoing 'Operación Vastum' case which is investigating possible offences in relation to the town's controversial wastewater treatment plant.

The two politicians, who are top of their respective lists for the forthcoming local elections, will appear in court in Torrox in June to testify, along with six other cur-



A pipe discharging raw sewage into the sea in Nerja. :: SUR ARCHIVES

rent and former councillors and two managers from local water company, Aguas de Narixa, which is responsible for water supply and wastewater disposal in Nerja.

Operación Vastum started in 2017 when environmental group, Ecologistas en Acción, denounced Nerja town hall, along with those of Coín and Alhaurín el Grande, for

not treating sewage before discharging it into the sea or rivers, which the action group claims breaches a European Union directive on water sanitation in municipalities with populations above 15,000.

Possible fraud

The politicians are also being investigated for possible fraud, as Nerja residents have been charged for sewage treatment on their water bills since 2011, despite the treatment plant never having been completed.

A former councillor and local businessman, Jorge Naváez, who owns a business on Burriana beach, has also repeatedly reported the authorities for the lack of water treatment as he claims raw sewage is tipped into a stream which passes his establishment before going into the sea.

A magistrate dealing with the case, Laura Crossa Gil, told SUR last week that the first judge in the case will be the local elections on 26 May, when many of those being investigated will be hoping that Nerja residents, who still don't have a working treatment plant, will be voting for them.

Axarquía to be home to international flight school

The town hall has signed a contract with a local aviation company who say most of the trainee pilots are expected to be international

:: E. CABEZAS

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Vélez-Málaga mayor Antonio Ferrer along with councillor María Santana, signed a contract with the company Axarquía Aviation Park on Tuesday which paves the way for a flight school in the Axarquía.

The town hall sold a plot of land at



Ferrer and Martín on Tuesday. :: E.C.

the Parque Tecnológico in Trápiche for 419,793 euros, with options for the company to purchase more land in the future. The project will comprise an academy and residence and a "pioneering" flight simulator is also set to be installed by the end of this year.

Director General of Aerodynamics Málaga Juan Manuel Martín said on Tuesday that he believes the majority of trainee pilots who will use the accommodation will be "international," adding that the "communications, services and climate" of the Axarquía are "unbeatable".

IN BRIEF

Man suspected of arson attacks arrested

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

:: E. C. A 28-year-old local man was arrested in the early hours of Saturday morning after being found with a lighter near a burning container in Vélez-Málaga. The arrest comes after a new wave of arson attacks on bins, cars and wasteland in the town. The attacks, which happened frequently last year and earlier this year, appeared to have stopped, until four containers and three cars were set on fire early last Friday morning. The man was carrying a lighter, which police said was "still hot" when they caught him "in the act".



Velecito the fox. :: SUR

'Velecito' taken to reserve in Ojén

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

:: E. C. Velecito, the young fox that keeps appearing on the Axarquía coast, has been taken to a nature reserve in Ojén after he was found for the third time in as many weeks. Rescuers believe that Velecito has been raised by humans in the area and that is why, despite having been released into the wild, he always finds his way back to the coast. When police received a call from Caleta de Vélez on Monday, they identified the young fox and he was taken to the reserve where police say "he will get all the food and care he needs in a natural environment".

83-year-old German tourist drowns in sea

TORROX

:: E. C. / B. G. An 83-year-old German tourist has died after drowning in the sea off Torrox Costa. Emergency services were called to the beach at around 6pm last Sunday when a body was spotted floating near to the shore. Paramedics attempted to resuscitate the man for around 30 minutes. He had been staying in a hotel in the town with his wife, who became concerned about his whereabouts when she lost sight of him a few minutes after he'd gone into the sea for a swim.

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"I killed the woman I loved out of love"

Robert Vandamm assisted the suicide of his girlfriend to release her from a lifetime of pain and anguish

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Robert lived alone with a terrible secret for six months, and it was another three years before he confessed the truth surrounding his partner's death to the police. Now a high profile case in Madrid has prompted him to tell his story

TORREMOLINOS. Robert Vandamm, a Dutch national resident on the Costa del Sol, has recently lived through the most difficult period of his life. Not a day goes by without devastating flashbacks, feelings of severe guilt, anxiety attacks and even suicidal thoughts.

In October 2018, Robert was convicted of assisting suicide, a crime that could carry a prison sentence according to the Spanish criminal code.

He decided to tell his story to SUR in English after learning about the case of Ángel Hernández, who was arrested for aiding his wife's suicide in Madrid last month. Hernández, who admitted the charges, was released on unconditional bail pending police inquiries.

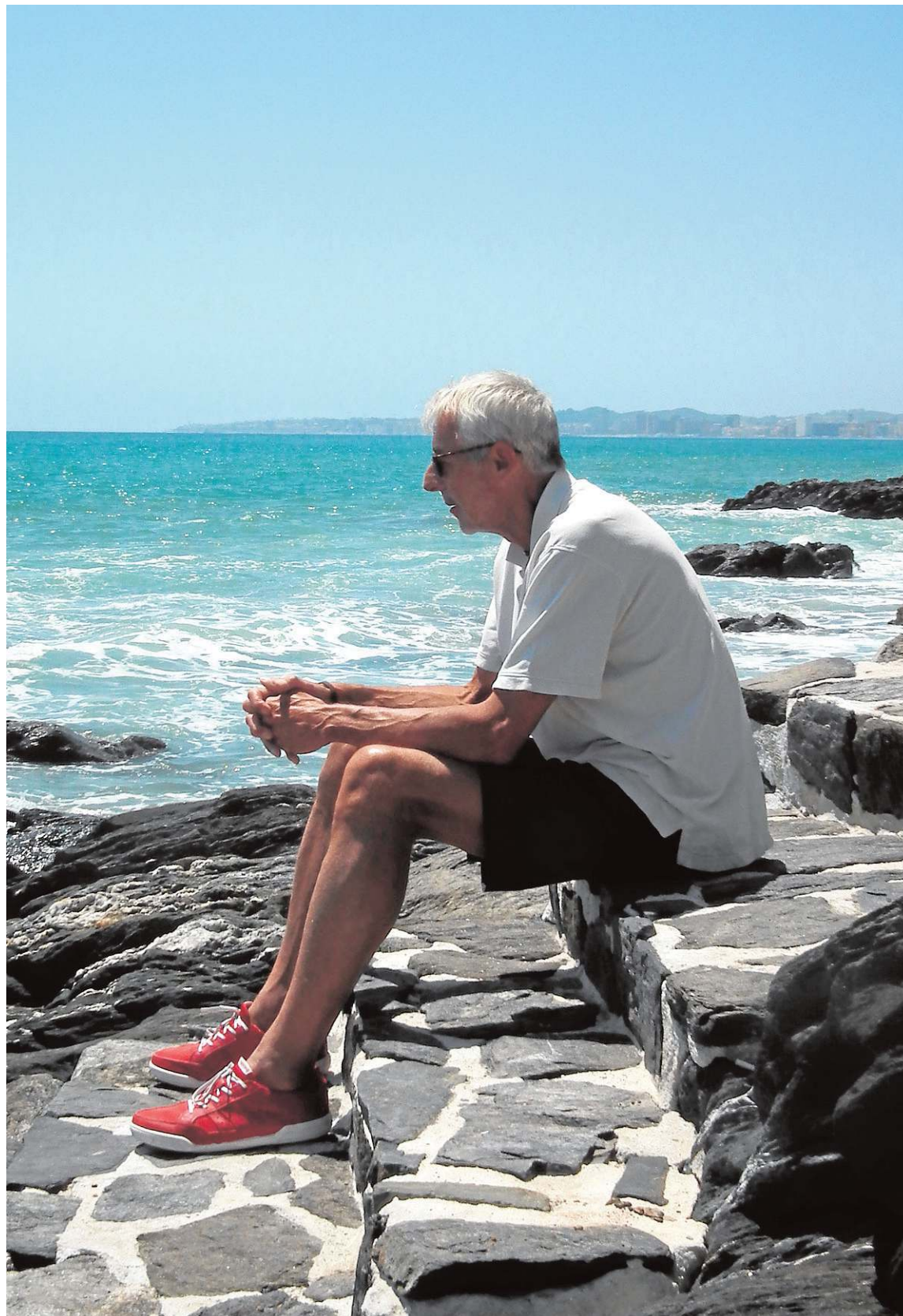
Robert escaped a custodial sentence. He was given a six-month suspended sentence and a two-year probation order. However, even though Robert had his liberty, he would never be totally free from the guilt he feels for the part he played in the death of his long-time girlfriend in 2014.

Charlee

Born into a Jehovah's Witness family in Antwerp in 1961, Charlee d'Anvers was 33 when she first met Robert. For most of her adult life she had suffered from fibromyalgia syndrome (FMS), a long-term condition that causes pain all over the body, as well as chronic fatigue syndrome, both illnesses that limit a person's ability to carry out ordinary daily activities.

She also lived with a dark secret that caused severe mental problems. From the age of four, Charlee had been sexually abused by her father and other family members and this continued throughout her childhood, until she managed to escape at the age of 17. A string of abusive relationships followed, before she finally met the man who would dedicate his life to her.

The couple, who shared the same birthday, met in Amsterdam dur-



Robert at the spot where he helped his soul mate end years of agony and torment. :: T. BRYANT

ing the mid-1990s. Charlee - who had changed her birth name in order to erase her past - and Robert set up home in Antwerp, but after just two years, Charlee's health began to fade and she suffered severe physical and mental pain. She began seeking psychiatric help, but nothing seemed to help, so the couple decided to move to Portugal. After two months, though, they relocated to the south of Spain. They lived in several locations, before settling in Benalmádena.

At first it seemed as though the change of scenery and the warm temperatures were helping Char-

lee's health, but after a few years it became apparent to Robert that all was not well.

"Moving to Spain had a positive effect on Charlee at first. For the first few years she seemed to be doing quite OK. She tried to get better, but the harder she tried to get to the bottom of her problems the harder it got. She tried to get to the dark thing that was inside her, but she never managed to overcome this," Robert, 65, explains.

Charlee's condition deteriorated and she would spend long periods in the home, not wanting to go out, especially to the beach, because she

feared she would just "walk into the sea and vanish", adds Robert.

"Unbearable"

"Her decline began in 2010 and she was in constant physical and mental pain. She didn't leave the house and she had a very poor way of life. She needed medication to go to sleep and she needed medication during the day, and it became quite unbearable, life became unbearable. Every day when I came home I was scared that she might have taken her own life because she was very suicidal at that point," says the Dutchman, who worked as a com-

puter technician.

A week before her 53rd birthday, in 2014, Charlee went for a fortnightly medical check-up to see how she had progressed, but the doctors told her there was nothing more they could do, continues Robert. They explained that her organs were beginning to fail and suggested palliative care, which Charlee refused.

Suicide plan

Charlee did not want to return to Antwerp and she did not want any contact with her family, so she decided to stay in Spain. It was around this time, says Robert, that she expressed a desire to end her own life. The subject had come up before, but this time it was different; Robert knew that she was sure that the time had come, so he agreed to let her die.

"The suicide plan was discussed on 27 May, our birthday. We compared the two medical reports over dinner and realised that she was not going to get better. She basically just asked me the question. 'Can I please go? I can't stand the pain anymore. I can't do this anymore'," Robert explains, fighting back tears.

Charlee decided that she would take her own life on 3 June and began making preparations. She instructed Robert not to tell anyone what had happened to her as she did not want anyone to look for her. She did not want to be found. She told Robert to tell friends and neighbours that she had returned to Belgium (where euthanasia is legal) to die.

"We spent a lot of time talking that week, but I never tried to dissuade her because I knew that she had made up her mind. I just tried to support her as much as I could, which was difficult knowing what she wanted to do.

"She wrote every day: love letters, thank you notes and instructions on how I should conduct my life after her death," Robert says.

Charlee had no faith in religion and she did not want to be buried or cremated. She simply wanted to return to nature and she could not do this "hooked up to a machine that was simply keeping her alive".

She used the internet to research the best ways to die, explains Robert, and she ruled out anything that would involve anyone else. She also ruled out anything that she could possibly survive and so she decided that the best way to go would be to drown.

Charlee was determined not to implicate Robert in the suicide, so she instructed him to purchase a small inflatable kayak in which she planned to row out to sea from the beach near their home in Torremuelle and simply disappear.

Two days before the planned date, Charlee decided that she could wait no longer and informed Robert that the time was right. "She

said, 'It's time', and we dragged the boat down to the shore. She was so brave, but it was very windy and the sea was rough. I put her in the boat, but she just didn't have the strength to row out to sea, so we decided to return to the house. It was a total fucking disaster," Robert says, as tears fill his eyes once again.

However, Charlee still planned to go ahead, although now she needed the help of her soul mate. This would obviously implicate Robert, but he agreed to assist her.

"We talked it through and I said, 'Ok, if that's what you really want to do, then I'll help you all the way.' It was very surreal. The next day we began to plan it again. It was never a spur of the moment decision: we discussed every detail."

In the early hours of Tuesday 3 June 2014, Robert filled two backpacks with rocks and dragged the kayak back down to the shore, where he waited for Charlee to join him.

Calm and composed

"What I remember most of that night was that it was a calm sea, no wind, no waves. I took everything down to the beach. Charlee was still in the house. She was so calm, so composed. I watched her walking towards me and she looked so at ease. She sat in the boat and we rowed out to sea: we sat talking for a while before she turned to me and said, 'Honey, it's time.' She hugged and kissed me, I helped her put the packs on, and then she just slipped away," Robert recalls.



Robert and Charlee during happier times. :: RV

"She basically just asked me the question. Can I please go? I can't stand the pain anymore"

"She wrote every day, love letters, thank you notes and instructions on how I should conduct my life after her death"

"She turned to me and said, 'Honey, it's time'. She hugged and kissed me and then just slipped away"

"We spent a lot of time talking that week, but I never tried to dissuade her because I knew that she had made up her mind"

Robert went home and was completely alone. He knew he would never see, touch or be able to talk to Charlee again, but he felt he had offered her the best solution, "the ultimate sacrifice of love".

However, he says he was not prepared for the terrible feelings of guilt that he would suffer over the coming months. He began drinking heavily in order to blot out the pain and even contemplated his own suicide, but he knew that Charlee would not have wanted him to do this.

He lived alone with the secret for six months before he found the courage to speak with a trusted friend. The friend advised him to go to the police, but Robert wanted to keep the promise he had made to Charlee.

Waiting for the police

"I thought I would be able to handle it, but I couldn't. I was drinking one litre of vodka every day, but even this did not ease the anguish," he explains. "I knew this would eventually catch up with me and I spent the next few years just waiting for the police to knock at the door."

It was when Charlee's mother died in 2017 that the truth would finally come out. After trying unsuccessfully to get in touch with her, the family contacted the Belgian consulate in Spain, who in turn contacted the police.

Robert had moved to La Carihuela in Torremolinos and was well known among the local Spanish community. The police eventually

tracked him down and Robert told them exactly what had happened. He also showed them the letters Charlee had written in the weeks prior to her death. He was arrested and taken to Malaga police station.

He appeared at the court in Torremolinos the next morning and was released on bail pending a police inquiry.

"I have nothing but respect for the police and the courts, because they were extremely considerate and sympathetic. I was never made to feel like a criminal," says Robert.

The case took 12 months to go to trial and he was warned that he could face a prison sentence of between two and five years. He prepared for the worst, although, as he points out, he would have been quite happy to serve a custodial sentence.

"My lawyer told me that there was a possibility of a prison sentence, although he explained that this was highly unlikely. I was not scared, because I did this out of my unconditional love for Charlee," Robert says.

In the end Robert did not have to go to jail, but today, he is still trying to make some sense out of his life, although he feels that he made the correct decision to let Charlee die.

"She was an incredibly brave woman and I am responsible for her death, but I know I have given her the ultimate gift. I killed the one I loved out of love. I gave her what she wanted. Never a day goes past without me seeing the vision of her drowning and this is something that will stay with me forever," he concludes.



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Jailed Catalan leaders to be allowed out to take seats as MPs

Catalonia secessionists have been centre stage again this week in legal battles in Madrid and Barcelona while also blocking the PM's candidate to lead the Senate

■ SUR

MADRID / BARCELONA. The Supreme Court in Madrid has given the go-ahead for five of the 12 Catalan separatist leaders on trial over charges including rebellion to be allowed out for the day to take up their seats in the two houses of the newly elected Spanish parliament at the swearing in ceremony on 21 May. However the court denied the five new MPs' request to be allowed to go completely free.

Four will now be allowed under



Five of the 12 on trial will go out for the day (file photo) . ■ EFE

guard to attend the opening session in Congreso; Oriol Junqueras, Josep Rull, Jordi Turull and Jordi Sánchez. Raül Romeva will be allowed to go the Senado. They are not expected

to be let out on an ongoing basis to attend debates or votes.

'Organised criminality'

Meanwhile prosecutors have asked

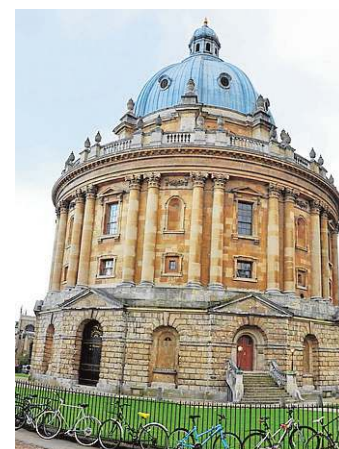
a Barcelona court to charge alleged participants in the failed Catalan independence bid of being part of an organised criminal group. Not even top leaders currently on trial in Madrid have had this charge levied at them. The extra accusation applies to 28 of the 30 accused who are being handled by the regional and not national court and include heads of regional broadcasters.

Case of the yellow ribbons

The current secessionist president of Catalonia, Quim Torra, met a judge at the high court in Barcelona this week over the investigation into his initial refusal to remove the separatist yellow ribbon symbol from public buildings ahead of last month's general election. Afterwards, Torra said, "You can't obey an unjust legal order and we have gone ahead facing all the possible consequences."

Separatist Senate block

Back in Madrid, acting PM, Pedro Sánchez accused separatist senators of vetoing "cooperation and dialogue" after they refused to back the PSOE's Miquel Iceta, a Catalan, to head the Senado after that party took control in the elections.



The Oxford Union's speakers are often controversial. ■ SUR

Spain complains about Oxford student invite to Catalonia's Puigdemont

■ SUR

LONDON. Spain's ambassador in the UK, Carlos Bastarreche, has stated his "firm disagreement" with the invitation by the Oxford Union university debating club to the former president of Catalonia, Carles Puigdemont. He said he was "a fugitive from Spanish justice".

In a letter to the prestigious society, Bastarreche wrote that Puigdemont is accused of "a series of crimes in Spain". He added that the invitation to speak on 28 May was "highly inappropriate" and "not a balanced" debate, as only Puigdemont will be taking part.

The Oxford Union had billed Puigdemont as "head of the Catalan resistance", which the ambassador said was "morally unacceptable".

Organisers have now modified the description of Puigdemont to the less controversial "ex-president of the Catalan government".



NATION PAYS ITS RESPECTS TO 'STATESMAN' WHO HELPED END ETA

King Emeritus Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia were among the mourners at the chapel of rest of Alberto Pérez Rubalcaba last weekend. The well-respected politician died last Friday, aged 67, after a stroke. Politicians from all parties joined in saying that he had been a "true statesman". Campaigning was suspended in the Euro, regional and municipal elections for much of the weekend. Rubalcaba is seen as having helped end ETA terrorism while he was Interior minister.

Eat. play. relax...

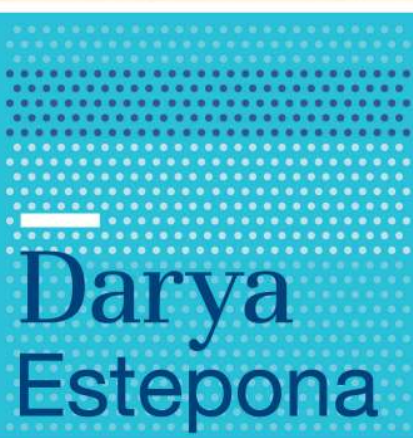
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Ambitious new park project planned for Gibraltar town centre

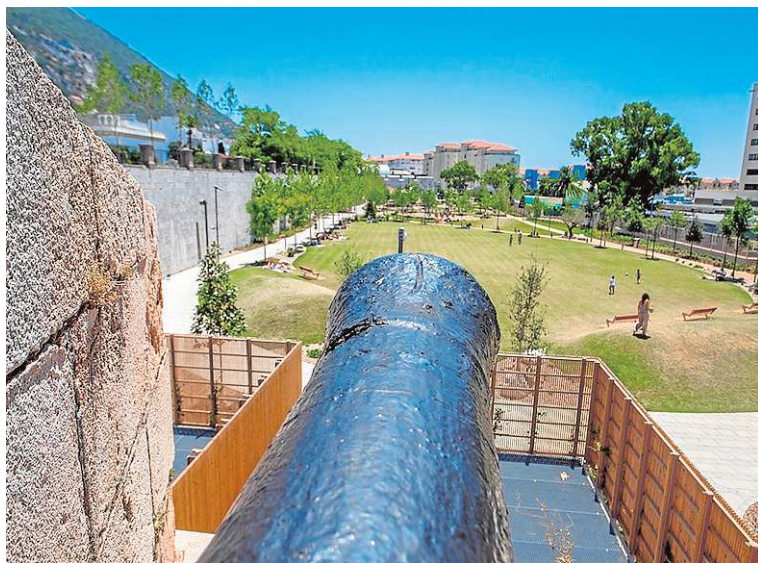
The latest addition to the Rock's green spaces will be between the MidTown development and the King's Bastion leisure centre

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. The Commonwealth Park project in the town centre has proven so popular that the Gibraltar government has now announced that another park is to be built in the area between the MidTown development and the King's Bastion leisure centre.

The new park will be similar in style to Commonwealth Park, and the two will be linked via the leisure centre and along Queensway. The plans include extensive grassed areas as well as an open paved space which can be used for screenings, live performances and other cultural events.

The project will see the planting of 80 new mature trees, which will provide a shaded canopy and a new carbon sink for Gibraltar. It will also incorporate a natural children's play area featuring wood structures in keeping with the environmental aims of the space. The



View of Commonwealth Park from King's Bastion. VISIT GIBRALTAR

junction linking Queensway and Reclamation road will be moved north along the edge of MidTown, allowing for a seamless pedestrian flow between the new park, the leisure centre and Commonwealth Park.

The Cross of Sacrifice will be moved from its current location on Winston Churchill Avenue to become a landmark feature of the new park. Its new location next to the British War Memorial will provide

a new place for remembrance in a green area at the heart of town, and will mean that in future the annual Remembrance Day service can take place in an open public area with minimum disruption to traffic.

Environment minister Dr John Cortes says the new park "is consistent with our climate change aims and will bring more new life - in more ways than one - into the heart of Gibraltar".

IN BRIEF



The lifts improve access for those with mobility issues. SUR

Two new lifts installed at St Bernard's Hospital

GIBRALTAR

D. BARTLETT. Two new lifts have now been installed at the front entrance of St Bernard's Hospital to improve access to the hospital and new primary care centre, especially for visitors or staff who have mo-

bility issues. The lifts operate from pavement level to the podium level of the hospital. Tony Dolding of the Gibraltar Health Authority says that as an organisation, the GHA is committed to modifying its buildings and systems in line with current legislation and health industry best practice, and that the new lifts are part of an ongoing programme of improvements.

Queensway and Glacis Road to be resurfaced

GIBRALTAR

D. B. Road resurfacing works are to be carried out to parts of Queensway and Glacis Road, starting on Monday 20 May and lasting for no more than six weeks. The works will be done in phases, and between 7pm and midnight, to minimise disruption to traffic and the public as much as possible.

National Museum Open Day on Saturday

GIBRALTAR

D. B. The Gibraltar National Museum is holding its 18th Open Day tomorrow, 18 May, from 8am to 6pm. This is a fun visit for people of all ages, with workshops and activities for children. Visitors will also be able to see the recently acquired 18th-century gold pocket watch engraved with the name of Henry Cowper, for the first time.

EDITORIAL CONTENT

MAD ABOUT MOTORING?

Whether you're a car enthusiast or rely on your car for just about everything, keeping your vehicle on the road is a costly endeavor. Prices for car insurance can vary greatly between providers depending on different risk factors. While reducing your annual mileage and keeping your car in a secure location will help keep your premiums down, Línea Directa recommend shopping around for insurance quotes to get the best possible price with the best possible cover.

MINOR CAR PROBLEMS

At this time of the year in the early morning sunshine, condensation is particularly troublesome especially in older vehicles. Motorists and other road users are at risk. Accidents can be caused when drivers try to wipe down the windscreen. 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 DOESN'T START?

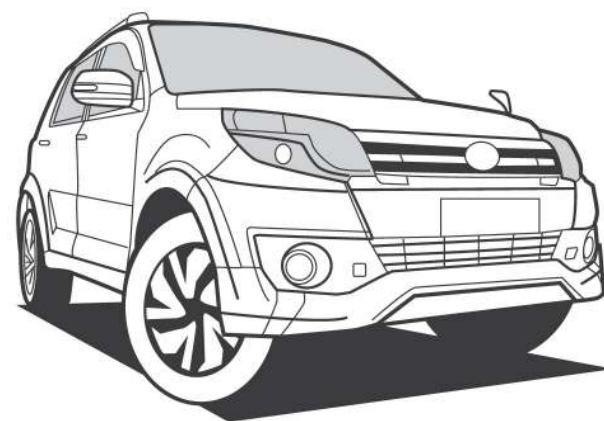
A flat battery is a great inconvenience, jump-starting your car from the roadside can be hazardous and new batteries are expensive and can be troublesome to fit. These tips can help prolong the life of your battery. Keep the terminals clean of residue that builds up over time. And remember to turn off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

HELP IS AT HAND

Línea Directa offers service, support and 24-hour roadside assistance to over 3 million customers in Spain. Should you break down or your car won't start, they will immediately dispatch an approved mechanic to help get you back on the road again as soon as possible. And with their new GPS Geolocation service Línea Directa can pinpoint your exact location and send breakdown recovery even faster.



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A nurse checks a patient's oxygen level at an NHS hospital in Sheffield, UK. :: REUTERS



Sick of Brexit

Spanish employees in the NHS warn that British hospitals are in danger of collapse because fewer workers are arriving from EU countries and the numbers who are leaving have increased

:: F. J. CALERO

The Brexit campaign seduced millions of British citizens with its mantra of “take back control” and the promise to rescue the National Health Service from future oblivion. Boris Johnson and Nigel Farage, with their huge sign on the side of a red bus, promised to fund the NHS, the “jewel of the British crown”, with the 350 million pounds a week which, they said, were being “sent” to the European bureaucracy.

Nearly three years after the EU referendum, the British government is facing the risk of the NHS collapsing in the medium-term, due to the reduction in the number of health professionals from EU countries and uncertainty over medical supplies if there is an abrupt withdrawal from the European Union.

According to a report from charity organisation The Health Foundation, at the start of 2019 the NHS needed to cover 100,000 vacancies, ranging from doctors to nursing auxiliaries. In the 12 months after the referendum, and before the UK formally leaves the bloc, the number of nurses arriving from the European Economic Area (EU plus Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) to work in the NHS fell by 17 per cent, while the number leaving increased by 15 per cent. London, where 11 per cent of workers are from the EU, and south-east England

rely particularly on EU staff for their hospitals.

A lack of job opportunities in Spain led Miguel J. Garcilópez, a 30-year-old historian and author of the blog ‘Cartas a Adso’ about his experiences in the NHS, to move to Southampton. There he has been progressing at the hospital where he works thanks to the training provided: he began as a cleaner and later worked as the curtain controller.

“In my unit we are 13 foreigners and seven British. I think the situation is similar everywhere in the NHS,” he says.

On the other hand, he adds that the “golden age for Spanish arrivals” is over because now they mostly come for a short time to earn points which will help them to find work in Spain, “unlike the Polish and Portuguese, who are more inclined to stay longer”.

Southampton (population 250,000), historic gateway to the British Isles and the port from which the Titanic departed on 10 April 1912, voted Leave (53.8 per cent) in the referendum, like many other places in England.

Maria, a 31-year-old from Madrid who has already been in the UK for eight years, says she can see a noticeable change in the number of people arriving from abroad.

“Before, a lot of Spanish would arrive two or three times a year, but now it is Filipinos. The problem of a

shortage of medical staff goes back a long time. It used to be cheaper for governments to bring people from the EU than to finance nursing schools. In the past month, four Filipinos have started work in my department,” she says. After the British, Indians (19,142 workers) and Filipinos (16,807) are the most numerous workers in the NHS.

At María’s hospital, the staff are having to do overtime to try to make up for the lack of workers. “People in general don’t realise the problem because there was always a shortage of staff, but now we’re having to do a lot of overtime. We’re paid well for it, but people are feeling burned-out and becoming ill because of all the extra work,” says María. At that hospital, between 30 and 35 per cent of staff are from the EU.

Returning to Spain

After the Withdrawal Agreement was signed by Theresa May and Brussels, Garcilópez attended a seminar at his hospital, where the terms of the agreement were explained and details were given of the British plan for EU workers, called the EU Settlement Scheme.

“We were told that under this scheme, EU citizens who had been living in the UK continually for five or more years would obtain settled status, and those who had been there for less time would have pre-settled status,” he says.

The British government has given assurances that even in the event of a No-Deal Brexit - the withdrawal date has now been extended to 31 October - EU workers would be covered by this plan. According to the European Parliament, “the rights of people who exercised their right to free movement before the United Kingdom leaves the EU are guaranteed”.

“All of us who were in the UK knew that the immigration policies were very aggressive towards immigrants. They gave us no guarantee from a professional point of view after the referendum, just told us not to worry, but at the same time they were giving out messages like “you can stay here for as long as we don’t have enough staff,” says Violeta, a 38-year-old neurologist who, after eight years working in the NHS, left Britain (and a good salary) last December to work in a hospital in Andalucía.

She says she came back because of the uncertainty and “seeing what

they did with the Windrush Generation, Caribbean people from Commonwealth countries like Jamaica, who were recruited to the UK to work between 1940 and 1970 and were recently treated as illegal immigrants,” she explains.

She is also worried about working conditions if supplies of necessary medication cannot be guaranteed, and she gives an example. “If they want to leave Euratom (The European Atomic Agency Community), they won’t be able to give cancer patients radiotherapy. Where are they going to get the radioactive substances from? You can’t accumulate them,” she says.

Violeta mainly worked in hospitals in the London area, but also in Kent, where 59 per cent of voters opted for Leave.

“I remember the day after the referendum, at the hospital, my colleagues who had voted for Brexit brought cakes in to celebrate the ‘independence’. Independence from what? They had no idea what leaving might mean,” she says.

Thanks to the EU Directive on Working Hours, for example, which is not applied in Spain, there are no 24-hour duty shifts in the UK and the residents don’t do more than 12 hours.

“Nobody took the trouble to explain to them the real benefits of staying in the EU,” says Violeta.

“They have no idea what leaving the EU will mean,” says a neurologist who has returned to Spain

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We accept letters by email (surinenglish.su@diariosur.es), post or fax, but they must include identification and a telephone number, and be exclusive to SUR in English. We do not publish anonymous letters. Opinions expressed by contributors to this and other pages of SUR in English do not necessarily reflect those of the publishers. No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission from the publishers.

Roman Oasis

I am sure I am not alone in feeling sad that the Roman Oasis has closed.

In the many years I have lived here, so many places open and close. But we could always count on the Roman Oasis. It was always there - this special magical place. Paul has had an amazing run, truly deserved, and given us all unforgettable nights.

Who will ever forget the large numbers placed by the side of the road giving a daily count-down till opening day - the amaz-

ing Opening and Closing parties.

So many very entertaining acts to be seen, wonderful food, incredible decor with all the pretty twinkling lights. It was a truly remarkable place.

Paul reckons to keep it and not sell it as who else could run it like he did?

How true - lots of happiness Paul in your retirement and thank you for the memories.

SANDY AVIS
MARINA DE CASARES

Restored faith

I am an 86-year-old English woman who on Thursday 11 April was taking a large sum of Sterling to the money exchange in a bag.

On Calle Ciudad de Melilla in Arroyo de la Miel I was overheating and stopped to take off my jacket and must have dropped my bag but didn't realise until some time later. I frantically retraced my steps but could not find it.

I reported this to the Local and National Police stations the next day and the bag and contents had been handed in by a Spanish lady called Verónica.

I'd like to express my sincere thanks to Verónica and to the

policemen who so swiftly returned my bag.

This wonderful lady has restored my faith in human nature.

BRENDA BODEN
BY EMAIL

Not all great

Hats off to the authorities, hotels, restaurants, etc. for their best winter visitor numbers (May 10th to 16th).

But failure to relocate the big wheel, temporary closure of CAC, negligible promotion of the Bob Dylan concert and poorly translated attraction displays?

CHRIS DOVE
BY EMAIL

The weird and the wonderful

PETER EDGERTON
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

'Merciless caterwauling' would probably be an apt description. We've had many excellent performances down at the Shakespeare on open mic nights but this certainly wasn't one of them.

Robin (not his real name) had told me he used to be an actor in Holland and liked to sing a bit in his spare time. As his screechfest juddered to its tympanum-splitting climax, I was sincerely hoping that he trod the boards rather better than he tinkled the old tonsils, for everyone's sake. Nonetheless, the crowd had kind of warmed to him by the end and offered a round of applause which was both incredible and incredulous.

Robin was a neighbour of ours at that time and I spent many a night dreaming up reasons why he wouldn't be able to perform, if he ever asked again - not enough time tonight, language barrier, univer-

sally bleeding eardrums, etc. Anyway, much to my relief, he never did ask again and moved back home a few months later without further ado.

Imagine my face, then, when only yesterday evening, Robin came bounding through the door followed by four chums who looked like they were auditioning for a sitcom set in a train spotting club.

'Hi, Peter!' he beamed.
'Hi, Robin! What are you up to these days?'

Robin had more important things on his mind.

'Five pints, please. I'll fill you in later. How's it going here?'

'Great guns these days, thankfully, except that the open mic night is suspended until ...how long are you here for?'

Only kidding. We exchanged pleasantries, Robin & Co. downed four rounds in half an hour and bade a fond farewell. I stopped him at the door.

'You never said what you're doing now.'

'Oh, yeah. Well, it's really great, actually. I have my own business - a theatre company which works with people with mental health problems. You know, people sleeping rough, and things like that.'

'That's absolutely brilliant. I'd dearly love to know more but I've got to get back to work.'

He gave me his card and I fully intend to investigate further. It is, as I said to him, a quite brilliant concept.

'Bye, then, Robin.'

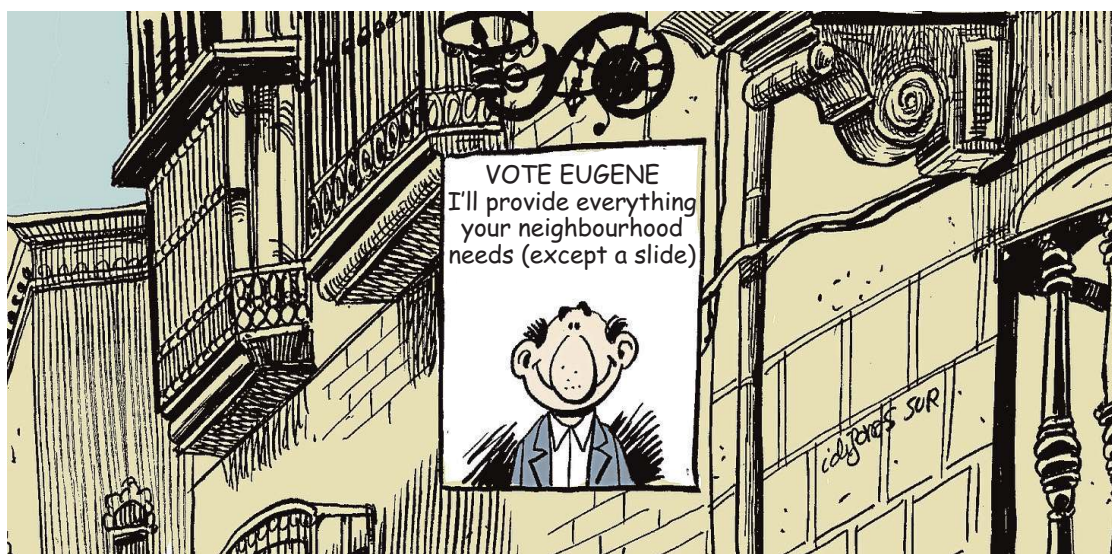
He smiled softly and looked, fleetingly, about seven years old, pausing in the doorway.

'Peter, I do know that I'm quite a weird person, but I've finally found my place.'

As he disappeared into the warm evening air, I could see in his eyes that he really has.

Let's just hope his theatre company doesn't do musicals.

IDÍGORAS



SUR in English

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I won't deny that it's sometimes funny. Other times less so, but it is true that the universalisation of stupidity provides a unique anthropological view of what's going on around us. Especially because human beings in general take little notice of detail.

Perhaps this common condition of ignorance comes from a population that prefers to watch celebrities living in the jungle on TV instead of acquiring knowledge to prevent people from taking them for a ride. Add to this the impulsive idiosyncrasy that has led us historically to join in the criticism before listening to the other side.

In reality, social media has replaced the bravado of bar talk, ignited by Soberano, with the fast and intense fingers of Twitter, en-

Bring on the meteorite

ANTONIO ORTÍN

couraged by the always cowardly anonymity. This combines with the ignorance-fuelled audacity that causes many to lose their fear of making a fool of themselves. That leaves us with an explosive cocktail that has filled the world with idiots with airs of experts.

This has come up because it's difficult not to be perplexed at the succession of 'new trends' that often make you think it might be better if a big ball of fire fell on us, sending us straight to the sixth extinction, leaving just a few left to start again from scratch, accompa-

nied by the resistant cockroaches.

The worst thing, for example about the anti-vaxx movement isn't what they think. The problem is that by not vaccinating their children they are putting them at risk and by extension everyone who lives around them by allowing this new outbreak of illnesses that we thought had been wiped out. It's as though all the progress made since Edward Jenner hadn't existed.

Less toxic, but no less idiotic, is the flat-Earth movement, you know the group who believe that the world is not a sphere. All they needed to do was read a few manuals, even some old school notes about Copernicus and Galileo, instead of sticking their heads in YouTube, Facebook and who knows

where else.

However, that's probably too much to ask in this day and age when we're following a trial in which a specimen of those who call themselves YouTubers justifies making fun of a homeless man in front of the camera of his mobile phone with the excuse that it was just "a joke".

This is the common denominator among this crowd. They are all the product of the uncontrolled nonsense that flows freely around social media.

And perhaps it grows because we give too much priority to the superficial, the showcase. I hope that's the reason, at least. If not I really don't think it would be such a bad idea for that meteorite to come and end everything.



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From Malaga to London's West End

Julia Ruiz has taken the leap to the British musical scene, starring in a show about the life of Gloria Estefan

REGINA
SOTORRÍO



@ReginaSotorrio

On Your Feet!, a Broadway production with the singer's seal of approval, debuts at the London Coliseum in June

MALAGA. Julia Ruiz, who lives in London, has recently arrived home from Paris, where she gave a Latin dance workshop. She is passionate about dance and travelling, which are the two most important things in her life currently. After working around the world for four years, attending audition after audition, Ruiz is grateful for the "peace of mind" that comes with a contract of at least a year and a half.

The dancer, originally from Malaga, joins the cast of On Your Feet!, the musical about Emilio and Gloria Estefan that premieres on 14 June at the London Coliseum. With 2,359 seats, it is the largest theatre in the British capital and one of the most prominent in the West End.

Ruiz has been working towards being in a Broadway musical for five years. "It's a big opportunity. Once you enter the circle of musicals it's easier to move from one to another, and even go to Broadway. It's a chance for them to get to know me and for me to show them how much I really want this," said the 23-year-old from Fuengirola.

She has lived in the city for four years, in a shared flat, and still does other jobs as well as dancing. As soon as she settled in England, she joined the 'corps de ballet' for Verdi's La Traviata at the Royal Opera House. This is a lyrical production that runs for two months every year, and has become a great way to learn the trade, while also providing sporadic jobs for dancers.



Ruiz, a 23-year-old dancer from Fuengirola, with Canary Wharf in London in the background. :: DILESH SOLANKI

Julia Ruiz will now be involved in On Your Feet!, which begins in June and is performed in London for two-and-a-half months before setting off on a tour of the UK and Ireland.

Set in Cuba, the musical tells the love story of Emilio and Gloria Estefan and the singer's rise to fame, with her popular songs as the soundtrack.

Ruiz will be one of the main dancers in the show. Estefan herself helped to select the stars of

the musical, including Julia. "I looked her straight in the eye and told her it was an honour to perform for her," Ruiz said. The directors were looking for a versatile Mediterranean profile, and being trained in acting, singing and dancing at ESAEM (Escuela Superior de Artes Escénicas de Málaga), Ruiz was perfect.

"I never wanted to focus on just one style, I'm passionate about dance itself and each dance transmits a different energy to me," she

explained.

Ruiz has won 14 titles in national and European dance championships despite having only started dancing at age 14. She is "happy" about the opportunities that are opening up in Malaga for artists, but for the moment she is not coming back to Spain. "In Spain, art is not highly valued, nor is there much work," she explained.

Having arrived in London at the age of 19, she now has perfect command of the English language, as

for four years she was "very focused on trying to improve and learn every day," she said. Going to London was "the best choice I ever made. I miss the good weather, the food and my family, but I'm working to make my parents proud of me."

It is clear that she loves what she does. Despite being two thousand kilometres away from home, and having dealt with a lot of rejection, she is happy with where she is. "I can follow my dream and do something I love every day."

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Hundreds of pets join in the city's Dog Party

A series of events and activities in Malaga's Plaza de la Marina aimed to raise awareness about the adoption of dogs

by JOSÉ MIGUEL RAMÍREZ

MALAGA. Hundreds of owners and their dogs descended on Plaza de la Marina in Malaga for the Malaga Dog Party last weekend.

The two-day event, sponsored by Tiendanimal and Royal Canin, saw

the dogs being paraded in the square in an attempt to raise awareness about the importance of adoption. The Party also recognised the work of organisations and individuals committed to animal wellbeing such as Perros de Málaga and Galgo 112.

The activities included disc throwing and other demonstrations and exhibitions. The high temperatures did, however, disrupt some of the events.

The fun continued on Sunday with a fun run in which owners took part with their pets.



Dogs and their owners in Malaga's Plaza de la Marina. :: SUR



Walkers on Benalmádena seafront last Sunday. :: TONY BRYANT

Walkathon raises 22,000 euros for Cudeca cancer care

by SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. A crowd of 1,100 people took part in the annual Cudeca Walkathon on the seafront in Benalmádena on Sunday.

Helped along by around 100 volunteers, the event raised more than 22,000 euros for the hospice charity, which cares for patients in the final stages of cancer and other terminal illnesses and provides support for

their families.

The mayor of Benalmádena, Víctor Navas, attended the day's activities, joining, on behalf of the Cudeca Hospice, chief executive and medical director, Dr Marisa Martín, and deputy chief executive and financial director, Rafael Olalla.

Entertainment was provided by singer Mario Ross (a friend of the recently deceased, Mel Williams, a regu-

lar performer at the Walkathon), the belly dance group Naima, Banana Studios, Barbara Pereda, yoga with Sankalpa Torremolinos and Ritmo FM. Cudeca physiotherapist Carolina Martín helped the participants warm up before embarking on their routes.

Other activities ranged from a bouncy castle to giant paellas.

The prize for raising the most funds went to the group Peluquería Gottlieb, who raised 2,356 euros; Soroptimists, with a collection of 1,051€, came in second place. Ten-year-old Jago Bux was the biggest child fundraiser for the third consecutive year.



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Some of the cars taking part in the event. :: MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

Classic cars take to the streets to raise funds for Syrian refugees

:: JUAN SOTO

MALAGA. Scores of classic cars took to the streets of Malaga last Sunday for an event organised by the city's automobile museum.

The gathering, the fourth Caravana Solidaria, brought together classic car enthusiasts and their motors in order to raise money for Madad, a Red Cross programme offering medical attention to Syrian refugees.

"It is a good opportunity to get together for charity and, at the same time, have a fun weekend," said Javier Gómez, a spectator at the event.

Through the collaboration of local businesses and individuals, a crowdfunding page and the sales of products on the day, the event managed to raise 5,752 euros for the charity organisation.

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Marketing Director Tony Watts thinks Lobster's flippin' great!

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service is, they're currently offering the first month's plan completely free of charge and with no commitment. "We want our customers to stay with us because they're happy with the service, not because they've signed a contract or are locked-in," Tony explained.

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DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

Allium carinatum

The dainty, pendulous flowers of this member of the onion family belie its hardness

Commonly called keeled garlic or witches' garlic, *Allium carinatum* is a member of the onion family (Alliaceae). It is native to the Mediterranean from Spain to Turkey and is found across central Europe.

Although smelling like garlic when bruised, *Allium carinatum*

grows from a single small bulb about 15 millimetres long. The silvery-green strap-like leaves are flat (not hollow like onion leaves) and form a stunning foil for other plants. The bulbs flower in summer, sending up a lone stem about 60 centimetres tall and

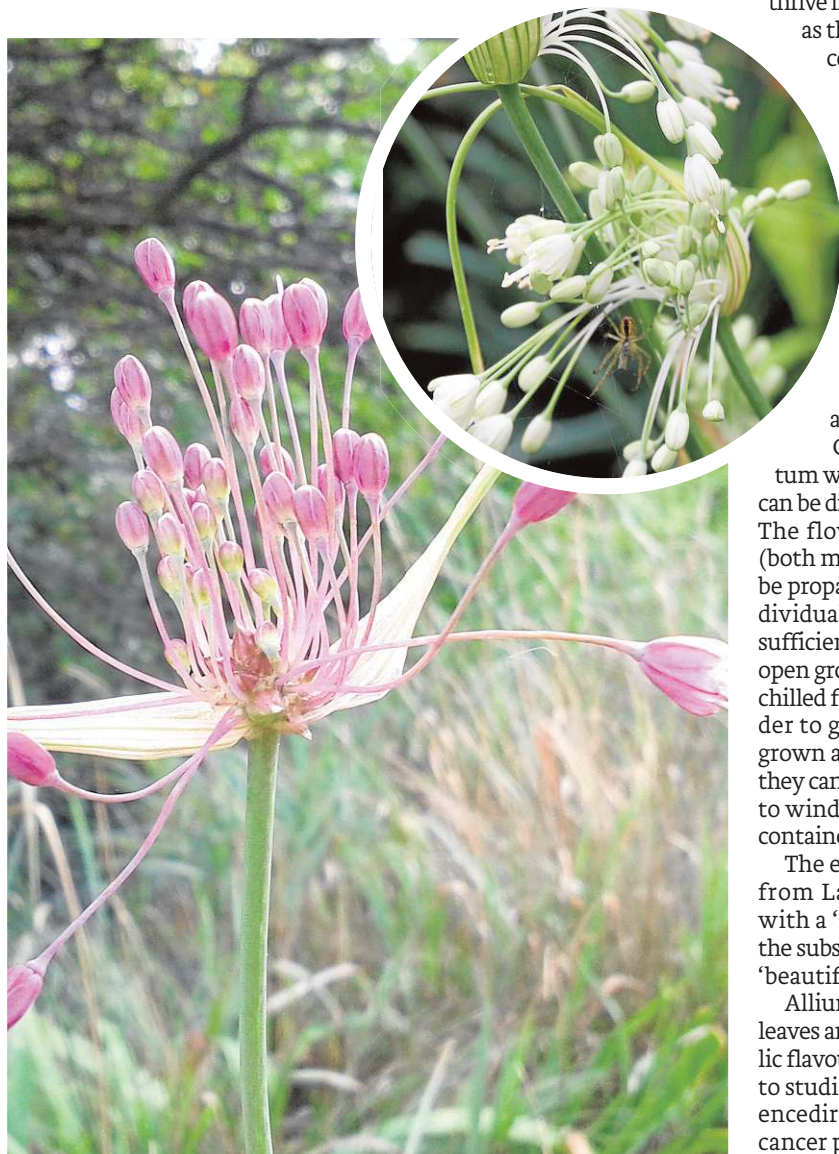
topped by a loose umbel of red to purple, star or bell-shaped flowers. *Allium carinatum* subspecies *pulchellum* also has a white form called 'Album' but it is not easy to find.

Keeled garlic is easy to grow and hardy; withstanding frost, extreme heat, drought and salt air. It will also thrive in the poorest of soils as long as the drainage is adequate. Of course, for the best show of the dainty pendulous flowers, *Allium carinatum* needs a fertile, well-drained soil and occasional watering. The flower heads provide nectar for bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects and retain their colour when dried, making them popular for dried flower arrangements.

Over time *Allium carinatum* will form a thick clump and can be divided to make new plants. The flowers are hermaphrodite (both male and female) and it can be propagated by seed sown in individual pots and grown on until sufficiently big enough to plant in open ground. The seed needs to be chilled for a few months first in order to germinate. Besides being grown as accent plants in borders they can also be planted in swathes to wind among other plants or in containers.

The epithet 'carinatum' comes from Latin meaning to supply with a 'keel' or with a 'shell' and the subspecies 'pulchellum' means 'beautiful'.

Allium carinatum is edible, the leaves and flowers giving mild garlic flavour to dishes and, according to studies published by www.sciencedirect.com, they have anti-cancer properties and are cardio-protective.



A *carinatum pulchellum* and the white species 'Album'. :: WIKIMED/FLICKR

READERS' PHOTOS



::PATTY UNWIN

NOT A BANANA

Patty Unwin sent in this photo and thought it might be a banana palm. It is a Giant Bird of Paradise (*Strelitzia reginae*), the leaves and trunk are similar to a banana however the flowers give it away. It can grow up to 9 metres tall as opposed to the 'normal' bird of paradise which is usually up to about a metre.



:: CAROLINE SELLERS

PURPLE FLOWERED TREE

Caroline Sellers sent in this photo of a beautiful tree on the Marbella seafront. We think it could be a member of the *Tibouchina* genus; can anyone confirm the identity?

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

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

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

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Pink Ladies charity gala raises 3,750 euros for cancer care

The money will go towards the Spanish Association Against Cancer's service for foreign residents on the Costa del Sol

■ SUR

MIJAS. The Pink Ladies from the Mijas and Fuengirola branches of the Spanish Association against Cancer (AECC) raised 3,750 euros as a

result of their first charity gala, held at the Valparaíso restaurant in Mijas on Wednesday last week.

The gala, attended by over 200 people, was organised with the help of former professional football player, Roger Wedge.

The Pink Ladies form part of a service for foreigners offered by AECC, composed of volunteers who speak different languages, covering the extensive services offered by the AECC for cancer patients and their families.



Roger Wedge with Paloma Gómez, vicepresident of AECC Fuengirola, Paula Casas, president of AECC Fuengirola, and two volunteers. ■ SUR

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REF. T. E. U.

A relative of mine has been swindled. A compatriot gained his trust and made him sign some papers, but my relative did not know what he was signing, because it was in Spanish. He is an unstable person, he has psychological problems, and he had recently accepted an inheritance, which the fraudster knew. A

short time later, he received a complaint from the fraudster, demanding a large sum of money. It seems that the document he signed was a kind of acknowledgement of debt, but my relative didn't go to court, we don't know if he didn't receive any notification or ignored it. Now the money in his bank account has been seized. What can we do?

It is a complicated situation, because if your relative did not attend the trial and therefore did not have a chance to defend himself, the judge sentenced in favour of the complainant. It would be necessary to study the procedure that has been carried out, see the way in which they notified your relative of the procedure ... If you can prove that your relative is psychologically unstable, or if he is even incapacitated, there is the possibility that he can request that the action is annulled or denounce the fraudster.

REF. Q. U. O.

My boyfriend is a professional footballer from Burkina-Faso. Due to the current unstable situation in the country, it is always him who travels to see me. I recently moved to Spain, and he wants to come for a month's holiday. What do we need to do so that he can come to Spain? Can I do it from here?

Unfortunately not. In order to come to Spain, your boyfriend must apply for a tourist visa at the embassy. Unfortunately, in Burkina-Faso Spain does not have an embassy, so he should go to the Spanish embassy in Mali, which provides services for Burkina-Faso as well. Having a steady job and an accredited income as a professional footballer, he should have no problems getting the visa. The only thing you can do from Spain is send an invitation letter to the Embassy and which may also help him to obtain the visa more easily.

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GEORGIE KENNY



WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

17 MAY 2005

The first International Day Against Homophobia

Over 132 countries take part in the day with parades and protests taking place in many major cities

A year-long campaign which started in 2004 resulted in the first official International Day Against Homophobia being celebrated on 17 May 2005. The date was specifically chosen to commemorate the World Health Organisation's decision in 1990 to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder. Some 24,000 people, as well as organisations such as the International Lesbian and Gay Association, signed an appeal to support the "IDAHO initiative".



Now, over 132 countries take part in this commemoration, including 37 where same-sex relations are still illegal. It is particularly prominent in European and Latin American countries, with Spain being one of the main participants. Throughout major cities such as Madrid, marches and celebrations are held throughout the day. Smaller towns are also known to hold their own celebrations. In 2009, transphobia was added to the campaign and in that year there was a special focus on campaigning against the violence and discrimination suffered by transgender people. Biphobia was added to the name of the campaign in 2015. Large-scale street marches, parades and festivals are now very common throughout the world on



A gay rights celebration in Madrid. :: REUTERS

17 May. Arts and culture are also prominent, with movements such as Love Music Hate Homophobia using the medium of music to help promote and celebrate diversity. The main purpose of 17 May is to celebrate sexual and gender diversity, and campaign against the

violence and discrimination experienced by LGBT+ people internationally. This in turn provides a unique opportunity to take action and engage in dialogue with the media, policy makers, public opinion, and wider society. After all, there are over 70 countries in the world

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Homofobia	Homophobia
Sexualidad	Sexuality
Trastorno	Disorder
Illegal	Illegal
Desfile	Parade
Transgénero	Transgender
Activista	Activist
Cultura	Culture
Arcoiris	Rainbow
Conciencia	Awareness
Represión	Repression
Mundial	World
Ajustarse	To conform
Expresar	To express
Auténtico/a	Authentic
Abuso	Bullying
Libertad	Freedom
Apoyar	To support

where same-sex relationships are still illegal; in around 10 of these countries the punishment could be death. It is estimated that 70 per cent of the world's population live under laws and regulations that limit freedom of expression around sexual orientation and gender identity. Events will be carried out across Malaga province with a number of Pride flags unfurled outside public institutions.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

It is always good to read something new, especially good news. I was delighted to read in the 10 May edition of SUR in English that the long-awaited sewage plant for the Guadalhorce valley is now operational to process effluent from Coín, Álora and Pizarra, thereby avoiding the pollution of the river. This explains why coots and moorhens have now returned to the Guadalhorce river. Living north of Álora we need to cross the river by a narrow bridge which has light traffic in order to get anywhere, and it was always a joy to stop and watch these beautiful birds and throw them a crust or two. That was a strong attraction some twenty years back but over the years their numbers have dwindle

PETER HARRISON

WILDLIFE

WATER AND WILDLIFE

The new water treatment plant for the Guadalhorce valley appears to have already brought birds back to the river

dled and in the past two years the birds have vanished. The pollution of the river water has caused them to seek a more hygienic environment and we missed them. Now joy of joys they are back. Happily pecking for food. They are a wonderful sight with their yellow beaks. Coots are easily recognised with their white chests and black bodies as are the all-black moorhens. They belong to the same family. All are rejoicing in the clean water of yesterday, thanks to the new plant. My fascination with moorhens and coots goes back several years to when I had cause to spend a week on business at Schaffhausen overlooking the famous falls on the Rhine. The hotel was delightful, made en-

tirely of wood, but the view was the main feature. The Rhine hosted a huge number of coots and moorhens swimming against the flow. After breakfast I took a walk and fed them the toast remnants. Next day, feeling a little guilty at misappropriating the hotel fare I went to the baker and bought some bread. This continued through the week and on day three I acquired an audience of fellow hotel guests keen to watch this crazy Englishman feeding the "ducks". I left at the weekend but my observers who had a longer stay took over my role of feeder. Good on the Junta de Andalucía in funding 15 million euros to improve the environment, making life more pleasant for both humans and wildlife.

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DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA



The world-famous Cordoba patio festival concludes this Sunday. :: SUR



The feria starts on 25 May. :: T. A.

Cordoba's May highlights

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Fair: 6 hours.

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May is, without a doubt, the month in which Cordoba reaches its greatest splendor. The Moorish city becomes a spectacle in the middle of spring, thanks to events such as the Batalla de las Flores (flower battle), which has already taken place, the world-famous patio festival, which reaches its final stages this Sunday or the Nuestra Señora de la Salud fair,

which begins in a week.

Tradition, folklore and gastronomy come together in this city for the enjoyment of visitors who are searching for everything from great entertainment to the most floral of walks.

The Festival de los Patios offers another opportunity this weekend to delight in the most traditional corners of Cordoba's old town. Access to the patios is free without restriction (in the hours of

11am to 2pm and 6pm to 10pm) and offers an opportunity to look round the old town and see the decorated spaces and their colourful flowerpots.

Each year a contest is held to look for those who have been most meticulous in this unique tradition of the city, whose origins are said to be in the Roman era.

Live music and a great fun and festive atmosphere provide some entertainment, which is an excellent preamble for another event of the Andalusian spring, the Feria de Córdoba. Visitors will have to wait until next Saturday 25 May to enjoy these traditional celebrations dedicated to the Virgen de la Salud.

In the style of an Andalusian feria, the 'casetas' (large bars open to the general public), the main promenade and the funfair make up this event, which will kickoff with the traditional light show in the Arenal area and will conclude on Saturday 1 June.

The week's festivities kick off with the procession through the streets of the city of the image of the Virgen de la Salud, opening a week of festivities and joy with a wide range of shows and concerts, among other activities.



The entrance to the Arenal fairground. :: TURISMO ANDALUZ

QUICK GUIDE

What to see

▶ **Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos.** Fortress of Arabic origin that today is one of the biggest attractions of the city. Campo Santo de los Mártires, s/n. 14004 Córdoba.

Mezquita-Catedral.

▶ Situated in the heart of the historic centre, it is considered as one of the most important monuments in the world. Calle Torrijos, 10. 14003 Córdoba.

▶ **Puente Romano.** Built in the 1st century on the river Guadalquivir. It has a total of 16 arches. Puente Romano, 14003 Córdoba.

Medina Azahara.

Remains of the Palace built by Abderramán III. Carretera Palma del Río, km. 5,5. 14071 Córdoba.

Museum Julio Romero de Torres.

An important art gallery which houses an important collection by this painter from Cordoba. Plaza del Potro, 1. 14002. Córdoba.



EXHIBITIONS

The World of Science

Gibraltar. Until 17 May, *The Fine Arts Gallery, The Balcony, Casemates.*

Aaron Seruya is an artist and a lawyer. He is exhibiting 84 of his oil paintings which are all in the genre pop / fan art and include works from the Marvel and DC franchises plus scenes based on the Star Wars movies. The inauguration earlier this month was attended by members of the 501st Legion Stormtroopers. Tel: 0035020052126

Ice Age Europe Now

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

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

Art Gaucín Open Studios

Gaucín. 24 - 26 May, 31 May - 2 June, *Gaucín village.*

The event will showcase new work by Art Gaucín's member artists as well as by guest artists Pepe Barroso, Lieuwke Loth, and Karina Zothner. www.artgaucin.com

Granada Mi Aire

Estepona. Until 31 August. *Patio Top Garden Furniture, Carretera A7 163- Urb El Pirata.*

Andalusian landscapes focusing on light and power.

Music themed photo exhibition

Malaga. Until 31 May. *Museo Interactivo de Música Málaga (MIMMA).* The association Aula 7 is celebrating its 35th anniversary with a collective exhibition of photographs of concerts, musicians and musical instruments as well as images of every day life connected to music.



Galería JM, Malaga

Museums, monuments and music late into the night

REGINA SOTORRÍO

MALAGA. The biggest cultural event of the year, the city-wide La Noche En Blanco, will this Saturday include 182 activities, workshops and concerts, many of them at Malaga's museums and monuments. The majority are free but some of them need prior booking and collection of tickets.

Anyone wanting to see the city's Alcazaba can do so by collecting a ticket for the guided nighttime tour from the reception of the fortress from 8am to today, Friday.

One of the more unusual opportunities during Noche en Blanco is some stargazing with Astroandalus which will be installing a portable planetarium (the largest in Spain) in the Plaza de la Merced. Entry is free from 9pm but must be booked first by email (info@astroandalus.com). Along the same lines is the giant Classroom of the Sky in Plaza Alemania with a 4K screen and sound. Again, entry is free but you must first sign up (www.auladelcielo.es).

Two of Malaga's most famous cemeteries will be introducing some of the most important figures of city's past with guided visits. Reservations to see the Cementario Histórico San Miguel can be reserved by email (sanmiguel@parcemasa.es) while places for a tour of the English Cemetery can be reserved at the cemetery office.

Outside the city centre, but bound to be extremely popular, is



The Alcazaba will be offering guided nighttime visits. :: SUR

INFORMATION

► **What.** Noche En Blanco, a late night opening of museums, galleries and monuments, live music and dance performances, many of which are free.

► **Where.** Across Malaga city.

► **When.** 18 May

► **Further information.** www.lanocheenblanco.com

a special beer tasting (with tapas) and beer-making workshop at the San Miguel factory next to Malaga Sirport. Book early to get a place (www.sanmiguel.es).

The youngsters are not forgotten either with a special musical trip though different countries with Novaschool in Calle Los

Negros (0- 3 years. Call 951100096), or a painting and music workshop in Mavega Centro Infantil, Calle Elena Soriano (2-14 years. Reserve a place by email: info@mavego.es or call 664273260).

There is also a children's workshop at the Museum of Malaga which will present 'Malaka' during the times of the Phoenicians and Romans. Email (visitas.museomalaga.ccul@junta-deandalucia.es) to register and include 'Nochecita en Blanco' in the subject line.

There are many more places to visit and the Russian museum, MUPAM, the Centre Pompidou, Museo Picasso Málaga and Museo Carmen Thyssen Málaga all have special events and free or reduced access.

Visit www.lanocheenblanco.com for the full programme.

Picasso Malaga.

Olga Khokhlova was Picasso's first wife. This exhibition is based on their relationship and how it and the time of political and social change affected his art.

Mar Garrido

Malaga. Until 26 May. *Salas Mingorance, Archivo Municipal.*

A selection of photographs and videos created by the Madrid born art-

ist Mar Garrido will be on display.

Mister Kaikus

Malaga. Until 28 May. *La Casa Amarilla.*

The exhibition, Paisajes Habitados, is a series of works by Mister Kaikus produced this year.

Pedro de Mena Granatensis Malacae

Malaga. Until 14 July. *Palacio Episcopal.*

The exhibition will consist of 63 religious works created by sculptor Pedro de Mena y Medrano.

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.

Sandra Art-Ceramik

Malaga. Until 11 June. *Alfajar galería, C/Cister.*

'Caminando, dejando huella' is the title of this exhibition of ceramic art by Sandra Martínez.



Picasso and Iliazd, Malaga

Yusto Giner

Marbella. *Galería Yusto Giner, C/Madera.*

Until 24 May: An exhibition entitled Hotel Ostende by Ángel Mateo Charris and Gonzalo Sicre.

Until 22 June: Victoria Maldonado exhibits some of her textile art.

Iliazd and Picasso

Malaga. Until 23 June. *Salas de Exposiciones, Fundación Picasso, Plaza d la Merced (Casa Natal).*

This is the first time that the works of Georgian artist and editor Iliazd will be displayed in Spain. The Pushkin Museum in Moscow is collaborating with the Fundación Picasso to exhibit 200 works by artists including Picasso who illustrated Iliazd's books.



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Live concerts and comedy drag shows are held in the Plaza La Nogalera . :: SUR



The rainbow flag, a symbol of diversity. :: SUR

INFORMATION

- **Thursday 30 May.** Inaugural speech and unfurling of the rainbow flag at the town hall. 1pm.
- **Friday 31 May.** OBK and Karina. Plaza La Nogalera. 10pm
- **Saturday 1 June.** Parade. 8pm from town hall / Loreen concert. Plaza La Nogalera. 10pm
- **Sunday 2 June.** All-day beach party/ Kate Ryan concert. Playa Bajondillo. From 3pm

to constitute the most important event leading to the gay liberation movement in America.

This year's line-up of performers includes Swedish singer Loreen, who triumphed at the 2012 Eurovision Song Contest; and Belgium's 2006 Eurovision entry Kate Ryan. The programme includes performances by national artists like Loco Mía, OBK, Karina and DJ Sofia Cristo, along with shows by some of Torremolinos' most outrageous drag queens.

One of the highlights of the event is the Gay Pride Parade, which takes place on Saturday 1 June at 8pm. This colourful cavalcade of outrageously-decorated floats winds its way from the town hall to the Plaza La Nogalera. The final act of the festival is an all-day beach party that takes place on Bajondillo beach on Sunday 2 June.

More information is available online (www.torremolinos.es).

Torremolinos prepares for Pride

The popular festival serves to celebrate and defend the visibility and equality of the LGBT+ collective

:: TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. The LGBT+ community of Torremolinos will be painting the town pink during the forth-

coming Pride 2019 - an event that is fast becoming one of Andalucía's most popular gay festivals.

Organised by Torremolinos town hall and several local LGBT+ associations, the event will serve to celebrate and defend the rights of coexistence, diversity, visibility and equality of the LGBT+ collective. This will be the fourth consecutive year the town has hosted the festival, which presents a series of live music concerts, comedy drag shows, films, beach

and pool parties, competitions, workshops and colourful street parades.

The festival, held from Saturday 25 May until Sunday 2 June, will take place in various venues and locations in the town, although the principal events will be held on the main stage in Plaza La Nogalera.

The fun gets going on Sunday 26 May with an inaugural pool party at 10pm in the Sala Centuryon in Torremolinos.

Several educational and cultural

activities will take place in the streets of the town centre throughout the week until Thursday, when the rainbow flag will be unfurled from the balcony of the town hall building at 1pm. The opening speech will be given by the Spanish Olympic water polo player, Víctor Gutiérrez, the first athlete of the sport to 'come out' and announce his sexual orientation.

Remembering Stonewall

This year's festival acknowledges the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots, a series of spontaneous demonstrations by the Greenwich Village gay community against the NYPD in 1969.

The uprising is widely considered

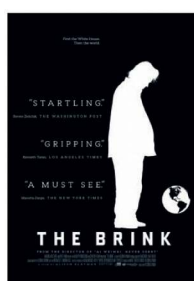


MOVIE LISTING

From Friday 17th to Thursday 23rd of May



Friday 17: 20:10, 22:45
Saturday 18: 16:00, 20:10, 22:45
Sunday 19: 20:10, 22:45
From Monday 20 to Wednesday 22: 20:10, 22:30
Thursday 23: 17:30, 22:30



Friday 17: 17:40, 20:30
From Monday 20 to Wednesday 22: 17:30, 20:30



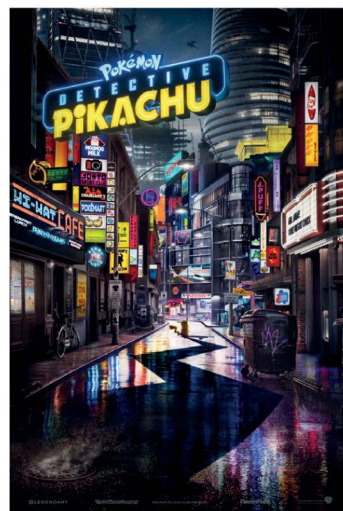
Friday 17: 18:00
Saturday 18 and Sunday 19: 15:40, 18:10
From Monday 20 to Wednesday 22: 18:00
Thursday 23: 20:00



Friday 17: 17:45
Saturday 18: 15:30, 17:45
Sunday 19: 15:30, 17:40
From Monday 20 to Thursday 23: 17:45



Friday 17: 18:00, 22:45
Saturday 18 and Sunday 19: 15:40, 18:00, 22:45
From Monday 20 to Thursday 23: 17:50, 22:30



Friday 17: 17:45
Saturday 18: 15:45, 17:45
Sunday 19: 15:45
From Monday 20 to Wednesday 22: 17:45 Thursday 23: 17:50



Friday 17: 19:30
Saturday 18 and Sunday 19: 15:45, 19:15
From Monday 20 to Thursday 23: 19:15



International residents line up last year. :: SUR

Manilva celebrates its mix of cultures

:: ASH BOLTON

MALAGA. Five thousand people are expected to attend the 13th annual International Day at Castillo de la Duquesa this Saturday.

The popular event will see 25 different nationalities put up colourful stands around the historic castle to showcase their country's gastronomy, culture and music. During the lively event, scores of performances will also take place from the different nationalities, local schools and entertainers.

Dean Shelton, councillor of Foreign Affairs at Manilva council, told SUR in English: "This is one of the most important events in our calendar for the Foreign Residents Department. It's multicultural and there will be plenty going on throughout the day to cater for all tastes. Like most years we expect thousands of people to attend over the day and we're hoping for our biggest year yet.

"This year we will also be handing over some trophies to members of the foreign community who have gone above and

beyond to help out in their community over the past few years."

Countries represented at the event will include: Brazil, Ukraine, the United States, Russia, England, Ireland, Cuba, Argentina, Peru, Uruguay, Paraguay, Morocco, Thailand, Bangladesh and Romania.

During the event, an International Family Day event will run simultaneously at Huerto Park next to the castle from 1pm to 8pm. This will feature bouncy castles, workshops, games, singing and dances.

At 10pm inside the historic castle there will also be a performance from Iván Gonzalo, a Michael Jackson tribute singer.

Manilva, which includes Puerto de la Duquesa, Sabinillas and Castillo de la Duquesa, has some 16,000 residents, of which 42 per cent are foreigners.

Organised by the Foreign Residents Department in Manilva, the event is designed to bring the various communities living in the town together.

The International Day starts at 12.30am and ends at midnight.

EXHIBITIONS

Modernas y Seductoras

Malaga. Until 26 May. Sala Noble, Carmen Thyssen Museum. Modernas y seductoras. Mujeres en la Colección ABC (1900-1936) is the title of the new exhibition at the museum. It symbolises the image of the modern woman at the beginning of the 20th century and how it broke the traditional stereotype of women in the home.

Van Gogh Alive

Malaga. Until 9 June. The marquee in Malaga port. 10am-8pm. A multi-media exhibition that brings the life and paintings of the Dutch artist Van Gogh 'alive'.

Jesús de Perceval

Antequera. Until 26 July, 5-8pm. Centro Fundación Unicaja. Over 70 photographs by Almeria photographer, painter and sculptor Jesús de Perceval.



Kelly Fischer, Mijas.

Kelly Fischer

Mijas. Until 31 May. Mijas town hall. Swiss-American artist Kelly Fischer presents her work for the first time in Spain.

Holocaust exhibition

Torremolinos. Until 20 May, Centro Cultural Pablo Ruiz Picasso. The exhibition 'Memoria: Olvido y el Holocausto' consists of around 18 photographs accompanied by short texts by Nora Gaon. Nora Gaon has studied the holocaust over the last twenty years, while working at the Beit Lohamei Haguetat Museum in Israel.

Galería Krabbe

Frigiliana. Until 22 June. C/Rosarico. An exhibition with works by Luise Haugen and Vivi Linnemann. Email: galeriakrabbe@gmail.com

El Toko Pop Up Gallery

Frigiliana. From 18 until 28 May. C/Rosarico la Joaquín, 18. Exhibitions change every two weeks. The present joint exhibition is by Dutch artists Anton Dijkgraaf and Prisca Sinay.

Eva Bekier

Macharaviaya. Until 2 June. Museo de Los Gálvez. Un Espejo de Emociones is the title of the new exhibition by Eva Bekier.

Miradas de Al-Ándalus

Nerja. Until 30 June. Museo de Nerja. The artist Miguel Ángel López

Expósito, will be exhibiting a selection of his paintings inspired by Spain's Moorish past.

Mi Tierra

La Herradura. Until 30 September, 9am-3pm. Mercado Municipal. An exhibition of around 50 photographs taken by five photographers from the Almuñécar Foto Club.

Collective art exhibition

Vélez de Benaudalla, Granada. Until 2 June. Jardín Nazari. Nick Fudge, Emma Plunkett, Gareth Lister and Jessica Shepherd are displaying a selection of their works which includes botanical paintings, feminine forms, vivid colours and expressive art.

Costa del Arte Collective

Almuñécar. Until 24 May. Espacio Creativo, C/Baja del Mar. The Costa del Sol Collective is a group of five professional international artists. They will be exhibiting small format works not larger than 25x25cm. During the exhibition there will be a series of creative workshops including making handmade paper, mixed media painting, watercolour and book making. Places are limited. www.annabelkeatley.com

CHARITY

Horizonte Marbella market

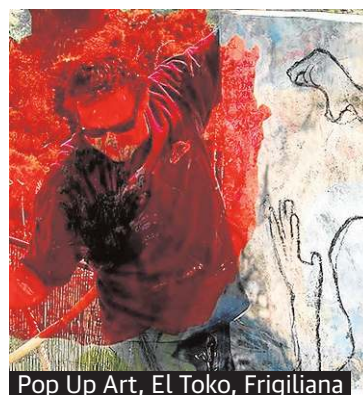
Marbella. 19 May, 4 August, 6 October, 1 December from 10am. Parque de la Alameda. Clothing, toys and electronics, home decor, jewellery and books etc. New and second hand. Funds go towards helping improve the lives of vulnerable people whether suffering from emotional problems or with substance addiction.

Fashion Show and Spring Fair

Mijas. 20 May, from 11.30am. The Tamisa Golf Hotel. La Cala de Mijas Lions are holding a spring fair with lots of stalls and a raffle. Refreshments available: purchase snacks or have a buffet lunch for 20€ per person (tickets from Lions shop or the hotel).

ACE animal adoption day

Mijas. 25 May from 10am to 10pm. Kiwoko Animal World, Miramar (opp Mijas Aqua Park). The pet shop Kiwoko are hosting a special adoption day for Animal Care España. Puppies and dogs of who are longing to find a loving forever home can be reserved during the event. There will also be information about the La Cala de Mijas-based shelter and the ways in which supporters can help, includ-



Pop Up Art, El Toko, Frigiliana



Horizonte market, Marbella

ing fostering, sponsoring, virtual adoption, dog walking and socialising, etc. Donations and food are also greatly appreciated. www.ace-charity.org

The Vervet Forest

Mijas Costa. 25 May, noon. Urb. La Sierrezuela. 15€. The Vervet Forest is an award winning short film which will be shown for the first time at this environmental charity event which includes an organic, plant-based lunch. The Vervet Forest will be a place where rehabilitated monkeys and other wildlife can run free in South Africa protected from human harm. www.vervet.za.org Tickets: <https://app.eticketts.to/buy/?e=17492>

AID anniversary

Mijas. 26 May, 1pm. Valaparaíso restaurant. 35€. Tribute band Take A Chance On Us will be performing Abba's greatest hits at this special anniversary dinner for AID charity (Animals In Distress) There will be cava and canapés on arrival followed by a three-course meal and entertainment from DJ Mad Rich and Take a Chance on Us. www.animals-in-distress.eu

Ladies' lunch and clothing sale

Mijas. 29 May, noon. Valaparaíso restaurant. 29.95€. Cava and canapés on arrival followed by a three-course meal with half a bottle of wine per person. There will be a sale of ladies' and mens' clothing, handbags, jewellery and more. Tickets from the restaurant or the AID secondhand furniture store in Alhaurín el Grande. www.animals-in-distress.eu

Children with Cancer UK

Marbella. 2 June, 7.30pm. Villa Tiberio. 75€. Sandro Morelli will be hosting the 12th charity gala for this good cause. After aperitifs in the gardens, a three-course dinner, wines and coffee included, will be followed by a celebrity memorabilia auction. All proceeds from the auction will go to the charity, as well as 25 euros from each ticket. For reservations please call 952771799

Women's Race against Cancer

Malaga. 2 June, from 10am. Paseo del Parque. The VII Carrera Mujeres Contra el Cáncer "Ciudad de Málaga" will be held 2 June in the park on the Alameda in Malaga. It will take approximately 1.5 hours and will pass through the historic centre returning to the park. All women over the age of 12 can take part. Registration



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is 8€ and can be done online only: http://www.dorsalchip.es/car-rera/2019/6/2/Carreda_de_la_Mujer.aspx#PanelInscripcion Race numbers can be collected from 30 May 10am-2pm and 4-8pm from the sports department of El Corte Inglés. Money raised goes to the association 'Grupos Unidos Contra el Cáncer'.

TOPS comedy show

Alhaurín el Grande. 7, 8 June from 8.30pm. *The Afahal*, Polígono La Rosa. 10€.

All proceeds from the show will go to Cáritas and a local animal rescue centre. Meals are available but must be pre-booked. All meals served at 7pm prompt, the show begins at 8.30pm. Tickets to include a meal 16 euros. Available from Martin's Paper Shop and Cristina's Paper Shop in Alhaurín el Grande.

MUSIC & DANCE

Louie Louie Live

Estepona. *Louie Louie Bar.* 17 May, **midnight.** Kulebra & Cheyennes. Rock'n'roll. 5€

Ruta del Rock

Torremolinos. 18, 19 May. Various venues in the town. Thirty five places in the town among them bars, restaurants, squares and streets will be the stages for rock, pop, soul and jazz concerts, among other genres. Most of the performances will start from around 7pm onwards.



Javier Navas, Malaga

TIMS concerts

Las Lagunas de Mijas. 17 May, 7pm. *The Danish Church, C/Cipres.* 5€. The TIMS choir meet with Ballerup Choir from Denmark to perform music by composers Grieg, Ola Gjeilo, Evert Taube, Kai Normann Andersen, Nils Lindberg, David Foltz, César Franck, Karl Jenkins, Mozart, John Rutter and Giuseppe Verdi, conducted by Denis Segond and Margaret Williams. timschoir@gmail.com

Mama Mia sing-along

Torre del Mar. 29 May, 6.30pm. *Lux Mundi, Avda Muscatel.* 8€. Watch the film, sing-along and dance to the music. A tapas supper and more dancing to ABBA.

El Berenjenal

Estepona. 30 May, 6.30pm. *Plaza de las Flores.* Pura and Fortuna share a special passion for South American music, especially the music from Brazil and Argentina. They will be performing a repertoire of songs especially for female vocalists, and dedicated to Mercedes Sosa. Email: el-berenjenalac@gmail.com Tel: 659724606 / 607291680

Gibraltar Proms

Gibraltar. 23 May 8pm, *The Alameda Open Air Theatre.* 20€ The European Sinfonietta with Domenico Pierini violinist / conductor. In the event of rain, it will take place at the Grand Battery House. Tickets from Scarello's coffee shop, the Silver Shop. Discount tickets (10£) for pensioners and students, from the John Mackintosh Hall.

Javier Navas Quartet

Malaga. 31 May, 10pm, *La Cochera Vabaret, Avda de Los Guindos, 19.* Javier Navas presents his new album 'Fresh Start' with his quartet. They play a repertoire of authentic jazz with Javier Navas on the vibraphone, Juan Galiardo, piano, Bori Alberro, double bass; Dani Domínguez drums and with Enrique Oliver playing tenor and soprano sax. www.lacocheracabaret.com



Princess Maria and Annemarie Philipps at the presentation of last year's event :: SUR.

Welsh composer Karl Jenkins honoured in choir concert

FUENGIROLA. On Sunday 26 May the choir and orchestra, Collegium Musicum Costa del Sol, directed by Annemarie Philipps, and the Camerata Singers from Sotogrande will be in concert in the Salón Real Hotel IPV Palace and Spa Fuengirola.

More than 100 singers and 50 musicians will perform works by the contemporary Welsh composer, Karl Jenkins (including *Stabat Mater*, a 13th-century hymn to Mary that portrays her suffering as

the mother of Jesus during his crucifixion), Vivaldi and Bach.

For tickets, call 952 775492 / 686 277 272 or e-mail info@colmus.org.

The performance will be repeated at a charity concert on Tuesday, 28 May, 9.30pm in the Encarnación church in Marbella old town.

This is a benefit concert for the local AIDS charity, Concoridia, which is headed by Princess Maria Luisa of Prussia. Entry by donation.

INFORMATION

► **When.** 26 May, 7.15pm.




► **Where.** Hotel IPV Palace and Spa Fuengirola.




► **Tickets.** 12€ from the hotel, Nicholson's Jewellers (near Plaza Constitución), from Collegium Musicum and on the door from 7pm.

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REF: SUR IN ENGLISH

MUSIC & DANCE

Three choirs concert

Vélez-Málaga. 1 June 8pm. *Teatro del Carmen*. 8€.

The Coral CoraXalia (Viñuela), Taller Coral Aurum (La Zubia) and Coral Polifónica María del Carmen Romero Avellaneda (Loja) choirs will be performing together at this special concert.

Rob Sas

Estepona. 1 June, 8pm. *La Cabana, El Padrón* (formerly *The Eden Bar*).

The Rob Sas band performs classic rock songs from a wealth of artists such as Free, Whitesnake, Deep Purple, Jimi Hendrix, Black Sabbath, Led Zeppelin, AC/DC and many more.

www.therobsasband.com



ROB Sas Band, Estepona.

Todo Danza Festival

Malaga. Until 17 May, 9pm. *Teatro Ciudad de Marbella*.

Sixteen dance companies are taking part in the Todo Danza festival, staged in the Teatro de Marbella itself and seven in other venues including the Paseo de Alameda, the Río Huelo sports stadium, the Parque de la Constitución and Centro Cultural Cortijo Miraflores. The full programme of events: www.marbella.es/images/docs/TODO_DANZA_2019.pdf

Simona Mango and Cornelia Lenzin

Alhaurín de la Torre. 18 May, 8.30pm. *Centro Cultural Vincente Aleixandre*.

Simona Mango, mezzosoprano and Cornelia Lenzin, pianist, will be in concert exploring the works of famous romantic composers like Clara Schumann, Fanny Mendelssohn, Amy Beach and others.



The concerts will be held in various venues in Granada. :: SUR

Historical music in the ancient monuments of Granada

GRANADA. The ancient music of Granada will be the subject of a series of concerts and exhibitions at the Festival Música Antigua de Granada (Granada MAG).

The festival will rediscover the music that has been created in Granada century after century. The aim is to encourage an artistic and multicultural encounter where established artists can share the stage with new musical groups.

In addition to concerts, there

will be exhibitions, master classes, courses and conferences with experts in the field of ancient music (Baroque, medieval and Renaissance).

In short, the festival hopes to highlight the cultural richness of these ancient periods in Granada's history, covering subjects such as art, history and literature.

Entry to the concerts is free but spaces are very limited so it is advisable to arrive early.

INFORMATION

► **When.** From 20 May until 1 June.

► **Where.** Various historical sites in Granada.

► **Concert dates and other details.** www.granadaescultura.com/festival-musica-antigua-de-granada/

Golden Scores

Malaga. 25 May, 7pm. *Teatro Cervantes*. 18€.

The Malaga Provincial Symphony Orchestra, directed by Arturo Diez Boscovich and Joan Martorell, will play sound tracks from famous films including *Star Trek II*, *Edge of Darkness*, *Avalon* plus many others.

LECTURES

Lux Mundi Art Appreciation

Torre del Mar. 20 May, 17 June, 11am. *Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre*. 3€

Following a short introduction about Dalí (Gaudí in June) the documentary film will be played and followed by a discussion.

The Arts Society Benahavis

Benahavis. 21 May, 6.30pm. *Benahavis town hall*.

'Pop art in the UK and America.'

Focusing on artists like Hockney and Warhol, the talk will show how the style differed in the UK from the USA.

www.theartsocietybenahavis.com

FESTIVALS

Cruces de Mayo

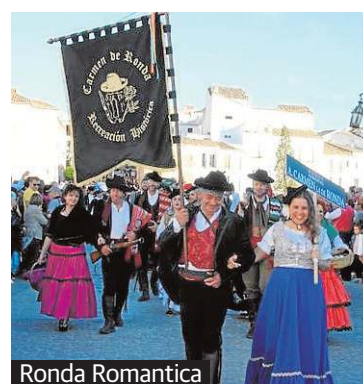
Humilladero. Until 19 May. Around twenty 'May crosses' will be exhibited on the Ruta de la Cruz. Fifteen of the crosses are in a competition to win 500, 350 and 200 euros respectively.

San Isidro

Churriana. Until 20 May.

This year, events are being held in the El Pizarrillo. The day fair starts 18 May with exhibitions of dressage, live music and dance.

Montellano (Seville). 19 May. The Romería de Montellano is one



Ronda Romantica

of the most important celebrations in the province during San Isidro week. It leaves from the Plaza de la Romería de Montellano at around 7.30am and the line of decorated wagons and riders slowly make their way behind the image of San Isidro up into the hills, returning later the same evening.

Periana. Until 20 May. The village of Periana will be

honouring their patron saint this weekend with the fiesta de San Isidro with a romería tomorrow Saturday that leaves the village around 9am to walk to the shores of the La Viñuela reservoir.



Floral Art, Estepona

Ronda Romántica

Tajo. Until 19 May.

Bandits, farm labourers, travellers and other people from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries will be walking (or riding) around the streets of Tajo this weekend in historical recreations of village life in the past. There will be flamenco performances, a market and a chance to try the local gastronomy.

Feria del Caballo

Jerez de la Frontera. Until 18 May.

A hugely-popular festival dedicated to the horse with an amazing parade of horses and riders, flamenco demonstrations and local wine tasting.

EVENTS

Floral Art Club

Estepona. 21 May, 3pm. *Agro-jardín, Cancelada*. Visitors 10€. Nigel Whyles from Shropshire will be demonstrating 'A Floral Celebration'. This will be the last demonstration before the AGM and summer recess so last chance to stock up on floral accessories. 694425219 or online www.facebook.com/esteponafloralartclub, or email esteponafloralartclub@hotmail.com

Salón Moto Málaga

Malaga. 17-19 May, *Palacio de Ferias y Congresos*.

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The cast includes 36 Caribbean performers and expert choreography :: **ÑITO SALAS**



Cuban cabaret comes to life in Malaga

A cast of 36 artists and dancers from the Caribbean will perform in the Hotel Habana Show at Cortijo de Torres fairground

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

MALAGA. In the 1950s, Rita Valdés was the star of the Havana hotel at a time when Cuba was home to the biggest cabaret acts in the world. Luck changed, the theatre lowered its curtains and the cabaret building became home to Rita until she was evicted. It was then that Joao, the diva's nephew, organised a show to

raise funds to recover the hotel's lost splendour. The Hotel Habana Show was born.

This is the story told by the organisers of the show. It is set to arrive in Malaga on 21 May and remain in the city, at the Cortijo de Torres fairground, for five weeks. The show brings together 36 Caribbean performers.

"This is a story that proves that if we're united, we can achieve our goals. In life, if you fight for something together, you can achieve it, that's the message of this show," said the director of LetsGo theatre company, Iñaki Fernández.

The production, which will be staged in a marquee, combines music, dance and circus and is aimed at

family audiences.

Fernández explains that when he visited Cuba he was inspired to create this "renewed and fresh" show and recreate the "energy and magic" with the cast which is headed by Sihara Dolores Balart, who plays Rita, and for two decades was the popular face of Cabaret Tropicana on the Caribbean island.

Tickets for a show exclusively for SUR readers on 24 May, 7pm, are available from: www.ofertplan.diario-sur.es/ofertas-especiales/hotel-habana-show/

etc. More information (look for MOMA 2019) can be found on : www.eventosmotor.com

Intercultural Encounter

Istán. 18 May, from 1.30pm. Plaza de Andalucía.

There will be stands identified by countries with homemade cuisine provided by residents of Istán who originate from Scotland, South Africa, India, Nicaragua, England, etc. Live music with British singer and Istán resident, Helena Paul. All profit will go to Cudeca Cancer Hospice.

Weekend market

Coin. Behind Bar Los Arcos.

Goods including artisan products, fresh vegetables, British food products, craft beer, wine and general bric-a-brac. Also, from February there will be a cheese and bakers stall. Food and drinks available from the venta. Stalls have to be booked in advance on the Facebook page Los Mercado.

Botanical gardens open

Alpujarra. Every Friday, 10am - 6pm. Jardín de la Alpujarra, Cta Atalbeitar, Pórtugos. Stroll around the gardens which are stocked with a wide range of plants and admire the view. Refreshments are available. Donations towards the upkeep are much appreciated. Call: 646430656 www.jardinalpujarra.com

Craft Market

Torremolinos. Every Wednesday and Thursday until 31 May, 11am-

7pm. Avda Palma de Mallorca. Crafts made from wood, leather, ceramic, metal, stone etc.

Thespa

Los Boliches. 29 May, 7.30pm. Masonic Hall, Edf Bougainvillea.

Members 16€, guest 18€. The first one-act play will be 'Saving Grace' by Cliff Gillies. Reservations (by 26 May): thespabooking@gmail.com or call: 652726624

Charter Night Ball

Mijas. 9 June, from 7pm. The Tamisa Golf Hotel. 45€.

La Cala de Mijas Lions are holding a Charter Night Ball with three-course dinner, wine beer and soft drinks. Entertainment and dancing. Tickets from La Cala Lions charity shop or Hotel Tamisa Golf.

Trip to Gibraltar

Torre del Mar. 20 June. Various departure points. 13€.



Thespa, Los Boliches

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

O. V. FILM

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

Cine Albéniz

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

Ronin: 20.00 (Thurs).

Bad Lieutenant: 20.00 (Thurs 30 May).

Cinesur El Ingenio

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

Avengers Endgame: 17.10, 20.40.

Long Shot: 18.30, 21.00.

Hellboy: 12.00, 17.00, 19.30, 22.00.

Cinesur Miramar

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

The Hustle: 12.05, 16.15, 18.45, 21.15, 23.40 (every day).

The Avengers End Game: 18.00, 21.30 (every day).

Pokemon Detective Pikachu : 12.30, 16.15 (every day).

The Sisters Brothers : 12.30, 16.30, 0.00 (every day).

Asbury Park: Riot Redemption : 21.00 (Wed).

Cines Teatro Goya

For tickets and information call



Gardens open, Alpujarra

951196665. www.cinesteatrogoya.com

Avengers End Game : 15.45 (Sat, Sun); 19.15 (Sat-Thurs); 19.30 (Fri).

The Sisters Brothers: 15.30 (Sat, Sun); 17.40 (Sun); 17.45 (every day except Sun).

Long Shot: 15.40, 18.10 (Sat, Sun); 18.00 (Fri, Mon-Wed); 20.00 (Thurs).

The Brink: 17.30 (Mon-Wed), 17.40 (Fri); 20.30 (Fri, Mon-Wed).

The Hustle: 16.00 (Sat); 17.30 (Thurs); 20.10 (every day except Thurs); 22.30 (Mon-Thurs); 22.45 (Fri, Sat, Sun).

Pokémon: Detective Pikachu: 15.45 (Sat, Sun); 17.45 (every day except Thurs); 17.50 (Thurs).

Hellboy: 15.40 (Sat, Sun); 17.50, 22.30 (Mon-Thurs); 18.00, 22.45 (Fri-Sun).

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

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

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

Long Shot: 13.20 (Sat, Sun);

20.55 (Tues).

Avengers End Game: 12.10, 15.00 (Sat, Sun); 17.05 (every day).

Red Joan: 17.40 (Tues).

Pokemon Detective Pikachu: 13.05 (Sat, Sun); 19.50 (every day).

The Hustle: 13.00 (Sat, Sun); 20.20 (Tues).

Hellboy: 15.45 (every day); 18.15 (Tues).

Mia and the White Lion: 16.05 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Rincón de la Victoria

Calle Arroyo Totalán

Tel: 902 220 922 or visit

www.yelmocines.es

Avengers End Game: 20.30

(Tues).

Pokemon: Detective Pikachu:

20.10 (Tues).

The Hustle: 22.15 (Tues).

Long Shot: 20.00 (Tues).

Hellboy: 22.00 (Tues)

Yelmo Cines, Vialia

Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902 220 922

or visit www.yelmocines.es

Avengers End Game: 20.35

(Tues).

Red Joan: 21.15 (Tues).

Sisters Brothers: 19.05 (Tues).

The White Crow: 19.10 (Tues).

Hellboy: 20.25 (Tues).

Long Shot: 21.35 (Tues).

The White Crow: 22.00 (Tues)

Cine Club

Centro Cultural Padre Manuel, Estepona.

Dunkirk : 23 May, 8pm. Free entry. In English with Spanish subtitles.

The Spanish are no different from other Europeans, so it gives them a shot of Schadenfreude when they hear about Britain's difficulties extracting itself from the European Union.

It is incomprehensible to them how what they, and most of the world, always considered to be 'The Mother of Parliaments', could find itself in such a mess.

However, what makes them shake their heads in sheer amazement is the apparent inclination of many island dwellers to cut all ties with the EU at whatever cost.

If the country were self-supporting in food, it may be different, but since 60% is imported – and most of that from Europe – where is Britain supposed to turn? It seems that most supporters of a hard Brexit

ANDREW J. LINN

THE BREXIT DIET



Sixty per cent of food is imported into Britain - and most of that is from Europe

have little idea of the mechanism that puts food on their tables.

A hard Brexit, reason Spaniards, means that the cost of imported food will increase, in some cases putting certain things out of reach for many people. The only option will be to increase the production of home-grown items, even though this is not the complete answer.

Britain has more than enough dairy products to survive, and hopefully cheese makers will start replicating continental varieties. Bread will never be in short supply, nor will lamb, although mutton will make a comeback out of necessity. The chicken, beef and pork normally seen in the shops is a mix of imported and home-grown that has traditionally resulted in a wide selection, so the most likely outcome is that the British would have

to start learning how to enjoy some of the less desirable cuts of meat that were previously exported.

Most of the cod comes from Norway and Iceland, although hopefully the post-EU extended fishing zone should compensate for any supply difficulties.

Most shellfish currently goes to the continent, so that will in the future have to be consumed at home. No hardship there.

Potatoes and eggs will never run short, but broccoli and many vegetables, such as tomatoes (now nearly all foreign-grown), would only be in the shops when in season. Likewise strawberries and raspberries.

Imports of wine would reduce because of price increases, but beer and whisky are assured for life.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Paixar 06 Mencia

As they say here, this is a 'vinazo', or 'quite a wine!' from El Bierzo. It may even be too full on the tongue for many tastes, and although it will improve in the bottle for many years, it is very drinkable now. Better decanted, the Mencia grape from 70-year-old vines gives it body and a long finish. Around 24 euros.



Nowadays there are many different types of breads available. :: SUR

Bread isn't what it seems

In Spain, the 'integral' label doesn't guarantee that wholemeal flour has been used to make the loaf, but that is about to change

:: JAVIER MORALLÓN

MALAGA. Just before the most recent general election, the government introduced long-awaited regulations regarding bread. This may seem a very basic product, but the situation wasn't actually as simple as it seemed. For example, the 'pan integral', which was supposed to be wholemeal bread, did not live up to its name.

Unfortunately, in Spain there were no regulations to insist on the

percentage of wholemeal flour in this type of bread, and some varieties which are called 'pan integral' contain no flour of this type at all.

It is not difficult to imagine that producers have been taking full advantage of this lack of regulation. Many of the loaves we have been buying as wholemeal only contained a small amount of wheat bran, but credulous consumers would see that the bread was brown and had a few bits of cereal

and believe that they were buying a quality product. It was an easy mistake to make, because the colour could be obtained by adding other flours which were darker in colour, or molasses.

There are basically three parts to a wheat seed: the grain, the germ and the bran. In white flours, the germ and bran are removed. This results in a considerable reduction in fibre, minerals and vitamins, so the refined flour becomes little more than starch and a little protein.

People generally prefer the taste of white bread, for the simple reason that it is similar to sugars - in other words, sweeter. We get used to sweet tastes as a child and our brain generates a strong link with them which is hard to lose. In fact, it is adults rather than children who tend to eat brown bread, which means we are depriving our youngsters of a series of benefits which they should have at their age. Also, the rapid absorption can lead to dangerous peaks of blood glucose which our body will resolve with a generous production of insulin, and in the long term can lead to a number of health problems, including: lipogenesis, metabolic syndrome or type 2 diabetes.

The main benefit of wholemeal bread is soluble fibre. This fibre makes us feel fuller, because it hydrates with water and takes up more space in our digestive tube; but the most interesting thing is that it will modulate the absorption of starch, preventing the increase in blood sugar which is asso-

ciated with white bread. Nor should we forget that the minerals and vitamins in wholemeal bread make it much more interesting from a nutritional point of view.

The principal change in the new regulations, which are being updated for the first time in 30 years, is that the term "pan integral" will only be permitted to apply to bread which is made with 100 per cent wholemeal flour. This may sound obvious, but in fact it is major progress compared with the regulations until now.

The government has also decided that breads which are made from different flours must clearly state the percentage of each type of flour, and that was also a huge achievement by the legislators.

The new Royal Decree will also expand the denomination 'pan común' to more varieties of bread, including rye and wholemeal. This is more important than it seems, because only four per cent VAT is charged on 'pan común', while the rest is subject to ten per cent. We can now look forward to finding wholemeal bread which really is what it says on the label, and at a better price in the near future.

This major improvement in a product which is consumed by millions every day highlights the problems with existing food legislation. It seems surprising that something so simple and commonsense has not been done earlier, and it makes us wonder how many other tricks the food industry is playing on us, under the legal cover of existing laws and regulations.

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"It's easier than it seems to educate without punishment; not shouting is harder"

Álvaro Bilbao Neuropsychologist

ROSSEL APARICIO

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The specialist in the functioning of children's brains says we should set limits, treat youngsters with affection and give them space to grow

He takes our call during a gap in his busy schedule at the State Centre for Attention to Brain Damage in Madrid, but there are still a few interruptions. However, he quickly returns to the matter of positive education, which was the subject of a conference-workshop he gave in Malaga recently. He believes children should be brought up without punishment, with no shouting, with clear limits, always with affection and space to grow. Álvaro Bilbao, a neuropsychologist specialising in the functioning of children's brains, father of three and the author of several books, insists that knowing how a child's brain works means you can educate them more effectively.

–For many parents that would seem like Utopia. Can you really educate children without shouting at them or punishing them?

–It's easier than it seems to educate them without punishment. It's harder to educate them without shouting. In our house, we never punish. Yes, there are consequences: if my son



Bilbao took part in a course on positive education in Malaga. :: G. C.

doesn't turn off the TV at the time he is supposed to, he can't watch it the next day. You have to know the difference between what is a punishment and what is a natural, logical consequence of a behaviour. Educating without shouting is more difficult. We all do it sometimes, but it is good to know that there are other strategies so that bit by bit shouting becomes an exception. It is also advisable not to confuse love with over-protection, and to lead by example.

–When parents shout at their children or punish them, what are they doing wrong?

–One basic mistake is not having realistic expectations. We think children are going to take notice right from the start, that from the age of two they are going to sit quietly in a restaurant, for example. Because that expectation is not realistic we become more frustrated. Secondly, we don't know how to anticipate stressful situations. To avoid those we need to work on household rules. And thirdly, we don't learn from our mistakes: after overcoming a difficult situation which has made us lose our temper, once things have calmed down, we don't take advantage of that time to ensure that it doesn't happen again. We react hotheadedly instead of educating our children when we are feeling calm again.

–It's a sign that the parents lack resources, isn't it?

–Well, it's not easy being a parent! Children have their inner world, they want to play and that's normal because it's the natural way the brain learns. But it is useful to look at one question: the brain is a combination of natural instincts, yes, but also of the culture we live in. In our culture we know what a red traffic light means, and that you can eat croquettes with your hands but not spaghetti, for example. All these cultural codes have to be gradually introduced by parents and that requires a series of strategies which not everyone knows, and that makes them more likely to shout.

–Can you give us some guidelines to positive education?

–For a start, parents should be affectionate towards their children and be able to detect negative feelings. In the workshop we also looked at

"We react hotheadedly and in anger, instead of educating our children when we are calm again"

what we said earlier about realistic expectations. It is also fundamental to respond kindly to a child and set limits when they are very young. Communication should be positive and in a format the child understands: kneel down, speak quietly and avoid verbal constructions which they may construe as imperatives, for example.

–How should we deal with a tantrum, if our child has one?

–There are things which can affect a child's behaviour. Leaving him alone will make him feel frightened, for example. We shouldn't shout at him or grab hold of him. On the contrary, just stay at his side and be patient, and that will help to calm him down.

–Should we forget about ignoring the child, then, as advised on the TV programme Supernanny?

–If you're beside the child he or she will calm down sooner and everything will be sorted out more quickly. It is better to wait than to ignore, because that transmits an attitude of intransigence to the child.

–What do you think of the Estivill method for getting children to sleep?

–Personally I don't like it and I haven't used it with my children. It's not good for the children. They suffer stress, but does that stress have long-term neurological consequences? Scientific studies appear to say it doesn't. However, in my opinion they should be given attention because to do otherwise has a psychological and emotional effect.

–At what age do you recommend use of the new technologies?

–The American Pediatrics Society says two years with no technology whatsoever. I'm more radical and always say there should be none before the age of six. And then it is essential to keep two things clearly in mind: limited time, and self-control. When it's time to turn the devices off, they should be able to do so without shouting and getting angry.

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Eating highly-processed foods can result in a greater risk of developing depression

A project by the University of Navarra, published in the European Journal of Nutrition, concludes that consumption of products "with low nutritional quality" increases the chances of suffering from this illness

EP

PAMPLONA. Regular consumption of highly-processed foods has been associated with a greater risk of developing clinical depression in the future, according to a study of more than 14,000 volunteers carried out for a project called 'Seguimiento Universidad de Navarra' (SUN).

The project has been directed by Miguel A. Martínez-González, principal researcher in the Physiopathology of Obesity and Nutrition section at the biomedical research centre Ciber. The work has been published in the European Journal of Nutrition, explained a press release from Navarra university.

After analysing 14,907 volunteers who had not suffered from depression for more than ten years, 774 new cases of clinical depression were diagnosed during monitoring which continued for a period of up to 16 years.

Equally and independently of other factors, those who consumed highly processed food showed a 33 per cent higher risk of developing depression, compared with people who ate no or very few foods of this type. This adverse effect was even greater in those who did little physical exercise.

According to Clara Gómez Donoso, a researcher in Preventive Medicine at the University of Navarra and the primary author of the report, studies which had been carried out prior to the SUN project had already found that highly processed foods increased the risk of hypertension and obesity. "These cardiometabolic conditions



Research finds negative affects of processed foods. :: SUR

share physiopathological mechanisms and risk factors of depression," she said.

She also pointed out that this finding about depression "contributes to growing scientific evidence about the serious damaging effects of highly processed foods, and confirms the findings of the French NutriNet-Santé cohort, which evaluated depressive symptoms and new cases of clinical depression, and found similar results".

According to the Nova classification, which catalogues foods in accordance with their degree of processing, highly processed foods

People who consumed highly processed food showed a 33 per cent higher risk of developing depression, compared with those who ate healthier foods

are industrial formulations produced from refined ingredients (sugar, starches, vegetable oils, salt) or synthesised ones (trans fats, hydrolysed protein, additives) which do not contain any recognisable whole food. Some examples are: sugary drinks, cured meats, sugared dairy desserts, biscuits, industrial bakery products and breakfast cereals.

"They are characterised for their low nutritional quality, their convenience (because they are ready to be consumed at any time, with no need for preparation), availability (the environment influences their consumption) and hyper-palatability (they are extremely tasty)," said Clara Gómez.

They also "displace the consumption of beneficial foods and move people away from truly healthy food guidelines," she said.

The Mediterranean diet, for example, has been studied by the SUN cohort and is associated with a strong reduction in the risk of cardiovascular illness and breast cancer, as shown in the Predimed (Prevention with Mediterranean Diet) study.

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Why are cases of mumps increasing?

ÁNGEL
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The rise is linked to a vaccine that was used in the 1990s in Andalucía which was less effective

MÁLAGA. Every three or four years there is a new outbreak of mumps, a viral infection that is characterised by inflammation of the salivary glands. As a means of prevention, children are given the MMR vaccination (a vaccine against measles, mumps and rubella). However in the 1990s (particularly between 1993 and 1997) the vaccination that was used on children contained some errors and was less effective at preventing mumps, or parotiditis. The consequence is that young adults today are more likely to get the illness.

So far this year, cases of parotiditis have quadrupled with 277 reg-



A file image of a vaccination. :: SUR

istered as opposed to 70 last year.

Experts consulted by SUR indicated that in the 1990s there were some mistakes in the MMR vaccination. When measuring antibody levels in patients it was found that in those years the vaccine had not

given sufficient immunity to offer a very high protection against the infection. The question that people are asking, therefore, is: why are vaccinated people still getting mumps?

The response is related to the

The number of mumps cases in Malaga has quadrupled this year

fact that the dose of the MMR vaccine that was used on children in the 1990s gave less protection against the infection, since it contained the Rubini strain, which only provides a minor immunisation against mumps.

Sources at the Ministry of Health told SUR that since the first use of the vaccination, at the start of the 1980s, cases of mumps have decreased in both Andalucía and Spain. However, there are times when larger numbers of cases of mumps have been reported. The sources specified that the cases are in young adults and are mild.

The MMR is included in the routine childhood immunisation schedule. Currently, two doses are administered, one at 12 months and another at three years. The ministry estimates that the protection provided by the MMR vaccine in Andalucía is around 97 per cent after the second dose. Sources also stressed that, in regard to parotidi-

tis, the vaccine does not protect one hundred per cent, so isolated or clustered cases can occur. According to protocol, on all occasions where someone has contracted mumps, the same procedure is followed: identify the people in their close surroundings, check who is vaccinated and vaccinate those who are not. Those born before 1966, however, are exempt, because they are considered already immunised through previously catching the infection naturally.

In Andalucía

This year so far, in Andalucía 1,945 cases of mumps have been registered. Of those 277 are in the province of Malaga. In 2018, 885 cases were registered in Andalucía, of those 70 were in Malaga. In regards to the several students from the Faculty of Communication Science who caught mumps, prompting warnings to young people to get a vaccination, the Ministry of Health has released a message to give peace of mind, since "it is a situation which is normal".

Mumps is the common name for parotiditis, a viral infection characterised not only by the inflammation of the salivary glands, but also other symptoms including a fever, headaches, joint pain or a lack of appetite.

Transmission of the infection is through saliva droplets - when talking, sneezing and coughing - or by direct contact with an infected individual's saliva.



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When prevention is not necessarily better than cure

Recent studies suggest that taking aspirin as a precautionary measure could cause more problems than it is supposed to prevent

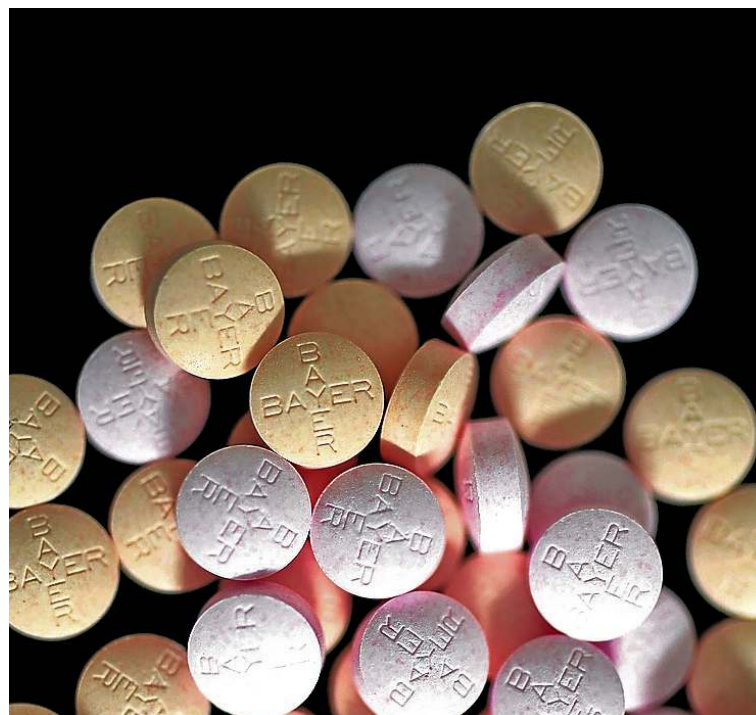
ISABEL IBÁÑEZ

Some people take an aspirin a day on advice from their specialist. These are patients with risk factors which could lead to cardiovascular problems, even though they have not suffered from them so far. This amount of acetylsalicylic acid used to be recommended as a precautionary measure to try to compensate for the problems which could arise from cholesterol, hypertension, diabetes etc, but now recent studies show that things have changed and people are being advised to change their habits and lead a healthier lifestyle, rather than give the body a drug which might cause more problems than it is supposed to prevent.

Dr Alfonso Valle is on the board of the Spanish Cardiology Society (SEC) Vascular Risk and Cardiac Rehabilitation Section. He says that last year

three different studies were published, featuring 47,000 patients treated with aspirin as a precautionary measure. In other words, they had never had a stroke, heart attack or angina, but were taking aspirin because they were in a group which could be at risk. They were all over the age of 70, some had diabetes and some didn't, some were obese, sedentary, smokers...

"We found that what they had in common was that aspirin was increasing the risk of intestinal bleeding without reducing the risk it was supposed to prevent. So we saw there was a need to change the recommendations, although in fact the advice had been changing gradually for some time. In other words, people who have not had an episode of this type are no longer advised to take aspirin as a preventive measure, because the



Aspirin has been in existence for more than 120 years. :: SUR

benefit of not taking it is greater than the risk of side effects," he explains.

However, aspirin is absolutely necessary in those who have suffered such health problems. "If you have had a stroke, angina or a heart attack, you definitely need to take aspirin. People with high blood pressure, smokers, those with a sedentary lifestyle, are now advised to change their habits, instead. If you are overweight, if you are diabetic and you smoke, then lose weight, look after yourself, go walking, change your bad habits for healthier ones," he says.

Dr Valle recognises that ibuprofen and paracetamol are competition for aspirin and have reduced demand for it, and this could also have influenced these new recommendations. However it is also the case that, despite everything, aspirin is good for a huge number of people. Many patients who have experienced certain health problems need to take aspirin for the rest of their lives, to try to stop them recurring.

When there is chest pain

Most people have heard that it is a

good idea to always keep an aspirin to hand, to place under the tongue in case of symptoms which could mean they are about to have a heart attack... "That is something people have always said," says Dr Valle, "but in the context of a heart attack it has to be used with caution, because it could be that someone has chest pain because of another problem. Imagine if the aorta artery was bursting... if you take an aspirin the surgeon is going to put his head in his hands, and you will remember that when he has to open you up. That's why it isn't a good idea to take it if you have never had a heart attack," he says.

Acetylsalicylic acid has been in existence for more than 120 years and is the most-studied medication in the world. It is on the list of essential drugs drawn up by the World Health Organization. More than 3,500 works about this active ingredient are published in scientific magazines a year, including some that until recently were giving the opposite advice. In 2016, a report published by the University of Southern California said that people of advanced age who have a high risk of suffering a cardiac illness, but who have never had one, should take one low-dosage aspirin tablet a day, as this could reduce their probability of a heart attack, prevent some types of cancer and lengthen their lives. That would save the State around 700,000 dollars a year. Research is continually advancing and new data is contributing enough information to redirect the paths to follow in treatments and prevention.

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101KM IN 24 HOURS IN PICTURES

Cyclists set off from the starting point in the Ronda athletics stadium. :: V. MELGAR



Women's winner, Ana María Cerván. :: V. M.



Winning cyclist José Márquez (centre). :: V. M.



Runners on their way through the Ronda bullring. :: V. M.



The two final 'centurions' with overall winner Joan Marc Falcó. :: V. M.

Centurions brave the heat in Ronda

The high temperatures saw a drop-out rate of 30.2% for the 24-hour challenge over the weekend

:: VANESSA MELGAR

RONDA. The heat is always the biggest worry for those who wish to compete in the famous 101-kilometre 24-hour challenge organised by the Spanish Legion in Ronda every year.

In this year's edition, the 22nd in the event's history, those fears were justified. With blazing heat and sunshine bathing the town and its surroundings, 30.2 per cent

of runners (3,694 in total) who started the course on Saturday didn't reach the finishing line.

The number was lower, but still significant, among those aiming to complete the circuit by bike - seven per cent (of 3,239) didn't make it to the ribbon on the Alameda del Tajo. In fact, the majority of those taken to the Serranía hospital had been suffering from some form of dehydration.

The race, which takes in many of the emblematic sites of the area, including the town's bullring, also winds through the scenic towns of the Serranía de Ronda, namely Arriate, Montejaque and Benaolán, and towns in Cadiz province such as Setenil de las Bodegas and Alcalá del Valle.

After the cyclists completed the route, led by José Márquez (3h 50:52) and Rocío Rojas (5h

50:24) in the men's and women's categories, respectively, it was the turn of the runners. Joan Marc Falcó added to his victories in 2017 and 2018, edging out José Antonio Urbaneja by more than seven minutes, with a time of 9h 05:08. Ana María Cerván won the women's category with a time of 10h 53:21.

The last to cross the line on Sunday, just before the 24 hours

was up, were Juan Pablo Yusto and Coronel Vicente León Zafra who were presented with medals of their own by winner Falcó.

The event, which brought together 8,500 athletes (including veteran 'Super Paco' dressed, as always, in his traditional Andalusian farmer clothes), continues to grow in popularity with a total of almost 30,000 applicants for this year's challenge.

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A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports
@robbopalmer



From IMAX to iPhone

Just a year after committing himself to the cause, Antoine Griezmann has announced he will be leaving Atlético Madrid

Last summer it was all subtle lighting, expensive editing, moody locations and pensive posturing as Antoine Griezmann pondered publicly on 'La Decisión'. The climax was he stayed at Atlético Madrid.

The sequel was a low-budget job, shot against a brick wall, on an iPhone, possibly belonging to a junior member of the Atleti social media team. The conclusion was: "Thank you so much and goodbye."

The France World Cup winner left himself open to parody and mockery by changing his mind less than 12 months after so dramatically pledging himself to the cause.

There's plenty of righteous editorials out there, but in the business of football he's made a series of considered decisions that make sense.

In deciding to stay with Atlé-

tico in the summer of 2018, he allowed the club a shot at reaching the Champions League final at their own stadium. He gave it his all, scoring four goals in the six group games before they succumbed to Juventus in the knock-outs.

When negotiating his new deal, he was shrewd enough to demand a clause that allowed him to leave for 120 million euros from 1 July this year. The negotiations were concluded before he became a World Cup winner and one of the players of the tournament in Russia.

It's reported that he's the third best paid player in the world and it could be argued that he is the third-best player in the world after Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo. His goals took Atlético to the 2016 Champions League final, won the 2018 Europa League final and he never failed to record 20 goals

in his five seasons in the capital.

There is a plaque at the Wanda Metropolitano and it should remain intact. He went above and beyond in this age of little loyalty. When the club were given a transfer ban and transfer fees were not quite so crazy, he agreed to stay.

Now aged 28, Griezmann must make a club- and career-defining decision. It's anticipated that his destination is Barcelona, but the truth is he'd improve any side. The 120-million-euro tag is almost a bargain in the current market.

But this is just the latest instalment in what is turning out to be a sad dismantling of the team that Diego Simeone built.

Before Griezmann announced his intentions, Diego Godín bade farewell to the fans he shared success with for nine years. It had already been agreed that Lucas Hernández would join Bayern Mu-



Griezmann made it into the World Cup 'dream team'. :: REUTERS

nich at the season's conclusion for 70 million euros; Juanfran is leaving and probably Felipe Luis, too.

Rodri looks like the successor to Sergi Busquets as the enforcer in the Spain national team and when he signed for Atleti, his people agreed a 70-million buy-out clause. Barça would love him, but Manchester City could do with him to succeed Fernandinho.

Now, it seems, Spanish football needs some stardust to be thrown

up into the air. Eden Hazard may well be preparing a farewell film himself as Real Madrid are desperate to revive their fortunes. If Griezmann does head to the Camp Nou, he'll be joined by the Ajax starlet Frenkie de Jong and possibly Matthijs de Ligt.

Griezmann gave one final aside to the Atlético supporters: "You are in my heart." Alas, the bank balance and trophy cabinet rules the heart.

Real Sociedad surprise winners in Copa de la Reina final

The Basque side came from behind in Granada to topple the runaway league champions

ATLÉTICO 1 REAL SOCIEDAD 2

JOSE MANUEL ANDRÉS

MADRID. Real Sociedad racked up

their first ever women's title on Saturday when they ran out surprise winners in the final of the Copa de la Reina in front of 17,550 fans at the Nuevo Los Cármenes in Granada on Saturday.

League champions Atlético de Madrid stood in their way and took the lead in the 15th minute through Esther. However, Palacio struck back just four minutes later, before a second-half strike from Nahikari sealed the win.



Queen Letizia hands over the trophy to Real Sociedad captain Sandra Ramajo. :: JORGE ZAPATA / EFE

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Javi Ontiveros doubled his side's lead in spectacular fashion just before half time. :: SALVADOR SALAS

Ten-man Malaga keep play-off hopes alive with resounding win

Goals from Adrián, Javi Ontiveros and Cifu propel Malaga back up to fifth place

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Despite Keidi Bare receiving a straight red early in the first half, Víctor Sánchez's side put on their best performance of the season

MALAGA. La Rosaleda has been far from a happy place in the last few months; poor results here are what ultimately cost Juan Ramón Muñoz his job as head coach. However the fans were given plenty to cheer about as Malaga dragged themselves back into play-off contention on Monday night with a resounding 3-0 victory over fellow promotion hopefuls Real Oviedo.

On paper, this was the hardest of the Blue and Whites' remaining challenges. However, as if we needed to be reminded, football is not played on paper. But even when Adrián gave the hosts the lead from the

DARYL FINCH

✉ dfinch@diariosur.es



Keidi Bare was sent off for a high foot. :: S. SALAS

LA LIGA 123									
Results					Next match day				
Osasuna - Reus	*1-0	Zaragoza - Sporting							
Granada - Tenerife	2-1	Alcorcón - Extremadura							
Sporting - Lugo	0-0	Elche - Tenerife							
Gimnàstic - Mallorca	2-1	Mallorca - Almería							
Extremadura-Zaragoza	0-3	Oviedo - Numancia							
Numancia - Alcorcón	2-0	*Reus - MALAGA							
Almería - Elche	5-3	Las Palmas-Majadahonda							
Deportivo - Cádiz	1-1	Cádiz - Osasuna							
Majadahonda-Albacete	2-3	Córdoba - Gimnàstic							
Las Palmas - Córdoba	1-0	Lugo - Deportivo							
MALAGA - Oviedo	3-0	Albacete - Granada							
Table									
TEAM	PTS	P	W	D	L	GF	GA		
★ 1.Osasuna	77	38	23	8	7	53	33		
★ 2.Granada	71	38	20	11	7	47	25		
3.Albacete	68	38	18	14	6	51	32		
4.Mallorca	64	38	18	10	10	51	35		
5. MALAGA	62	38	17	11	10	42	29		
6.Cádiz	62	38	16	14	8	52	33		
7.Deportivo	61	38	15	16	7	47	31		
8.Oviedo	57	38	15	12	11	42	42		
9.Almería	55	38	14	13	11	48	38		
10. Sporting	55	38	14	13	11	39	32		
11. Alcorcón	51	38	14	9	15	35	38		
12. Elche	50	38	12	14	12	43	46		
13. Las Palmas	49	38	11	16	11	44	45		
14. Zaragoza	47	38	12	11	15	44	45		
15. Extremadura	45	38	12	9	17	41	47		
16. Numancia	44	38	10	14	14	42	48		
17. Tenerife	43	38	9	16	13	37	46		
18. Lugo	41	38	9	14	15	41	50		
▼ 19. R. Majadahonda	41	38	11	8	19	40	54		
▼ 20. Gimnàstic	31	38	8	7	23	22	55		
▼ 21. Córdoba	30	38	6	12	20	42	71		
▼ 22. Reus	0	38	5	6	27	16	44		

3-0 MALAGA-OVIEDO

Malaga: Munir; Cifu, Luis Hernández, Pau Torres, Juanar (Diego González, 60'); Keidi, N'Diaye; Renato, Adrián, Ontiveros (Iván Alejo, 70'); Blanco Leschuk (Koné, 84'). Unused substitutes: Kieszek, Iván, Mula, Harper.

Oviedo: Champagne; Johannesson, Carlos Hernández, Javi Hernández, Christian; Bärnas (Omar, 64'), Jimmy, Tejera, Saúl (Mossa, 70'); Ibra (Toché, 58'), Joselu. Unused substitutes: Alfonso, Viti, Alanis, Folch.

Goals: 1-0 Adrián (16') [pen], 2-0 Ontiveros (45'), 3-0 Cifu (80').

Referee: Pulido Santana. Red card for Keidi (30'); yellow cards for Jimmy, Carlos Hernández and Joselu.

Ground: La Rosaleda (15,894 spectators).

penalty spot after Ibra tangled with Javi Ontiveros on the corner of the area in the 16th minute, few could have predicted what was to follow.

Malaga, who had not won at home since beating Lugo on 19 January, justifiably gave their fans cause to fear the worst when combative midfielder Keidi Bare was sent off for an inadvertent chest-high boot to an Oviedo midfielder.

However the hosts were seemingly unfazed by this with Adrián slotting seamlessly back into midfield to make up the numbers.

Then, as is quite often the way, the side down to ten men stepped up a gear. Ontiveros, who had already struck fear into the visiting

Up next

REUS (A)

Malaga's schedule has shown no sign of abating over recent weeks, so this week's empty match day comes as a welcome break.

Next up on the schedule was the away fixture against Reus who, on 28 January, were expelled by the Liga de Fútbol Profesional (LFP) from the competition for three years and given a fine of 250,000 euros over unpaid wages for their players - six of whom had torn up their contracts in the weeks prior to the ban.

Since then, all teams who have had Reus on their fixture list have been given a free match day, with an automatic 1-0 win granted (calculated based on Reus' goal difference at the time of the ban).

Malaga hosted Reus at La Rosaleda just weeks before the ban was handed down and suffered a humiliating 0-3 reversal - undoubtedly the lowest point in the reign of Juan Ramón Muñoz as head coach.

defenders after the penalty incident, had them tied in knots once again just before half-time. On this occasion, no one was able to prevent the winger from tricking his way into shooting range and whipping his strike into the top corner: 2-0.

With a coach of such immense experience as Sergio Egea, one might have expected a reaction from the visitors after the break. However, Malaga's newfound calm under Víctor Sánchez limited Oviedo to possession in the central third and precious little else.

Munir in the Malaga goal was hardly tested at all; the highlight of his game came in the form of a nasty clash of heads with his own defender, Pau Torres. Luckily both were able to continue.

There was further good news on the injury front: Juankar made it through 60 minutes on his return from long-term injury in the left-back slot, while striker Mamadou Koné was fit enough for a late cameo.

The icing on the cake

Better was still to come, however. Few could believe what they were seeing when right-back Cifu rounded off a classic counter-attack with a delicate chip over the keeper to make it 3-0 - the second victory by this margin in Víctor's fledgling career in the Malaga hotseat.

"It's just three points, but the confidence boost it has given us is enormous," said Víctor following the game.

"The group is doing very well and they showed that today."

With disqualified Reus next on the calendar, the Costa side are now guaranteed to remain in the play-off places at the end of match-day 39, with just three games left to play.



GERMÁN POZO

FESTIVAL OF SPORT FOR DISABLED FOOTBALLERS

Málaga Genuine and Newcastle United DS Active played out an entertaining 6-6 draw on Saturday for the first edition of the 'Súpercapacidad@s' international football match organised by the Malaga Foundation. Entrance was free for the game held at the University of Malaga, in exchange for a kilo of non-perishable food for local charities. For the occasion, the Malaga side was boosted by former Malaga men's player Weligton and Femenino's Leti, while Jesús Gámez and Chelsea played for Newcastle.

Win lifts Marbella into Copa del Rey contention

Goals from Añón and Jürgen helped move Marbella into seventh place ahead of San Fernando

MARBELLA 2 UCAM MURCIA 0

by JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

MARBELLA. With a game to go, all is still to play for as Marbella FC pursue qualification for next season's Copa del Rey.

Thanks to goals from Añón and Jürgen, a disastrous campaign, turned around just too late by David Cubillo since the turn of the year, could still end in glory. Seventh place will be enough and a 2-0 victory against bogey team UCAM Murcia helped the side to rise into that spot for the first time this season.

A first half low on action

Captain Añón gave his side the lead

in the 22nd minute when he took advantage of a defensive mix-up to latch on to a ball over the top before firing it past the keeper.

This was by far and away the highlight of a first half punctuated by consistent fouling and during which the keepers touched the ball much more with their feet than their hands.

UCAM, chasing promotion, were prompted into quick action after the break. Coach Juan Merino made a double change and the effect was felt almost immediately.

Marbella keeper Wilfred had to be sharp to send Onwuque's effort out for a corner and again, moments later, when the resulting corner almost flew straight in.

The match certainly livened up as a spectacle in the second half and it was Marbella who always looked most likely to get the next goal.

Paulo Vitor was denied by a fine save from Parreño after Samu Delgado fed the Brazilian after beating

two men himself.

The exciting attacker then had the crowd on its feet when his strike cannoned back out off the post.

However, it wasn't until stoppage time when the goal finally came, with Jürgen registering a typical poacher's finish.

This goal could prove crucial as it moved Marbella ahead of San Fernando on goal difference with the sides' head-to-head record identical.

Marbella travel to Jumilla on the final day on Sunday (kick-off 6pm), knowing that a win will secure their place in the illustrious knock-out competition next year.



Añón celebrates giving Marbella the lead. by JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

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SUR

American skier Lindsay Vonn to receive Princess of Asturias award

She is the first woman to win the prize in ten years, just the sixth woman following Isinbayeva, Graff, Boulmerka, Navratilova and Arantxa

:: RODRIGO ERRASTI

MADRID. For the first time in ten years, a woman has been awarded the Princess of Asturias Award for Sports. Lindsey Vonn is the skier with the highest number of victories (82) in the history of the Alpine Ski World Cup, four wins off the absolute record of Swede Ingemar Stenmark (86), as well as the highest number of victories in the downhill (39) and supergiant (27) disciplines.

At 34 years old, and after victories in all alpine disciplines as well as eight world medals (two of them gold) and three Olympic medals (gold in descent in Vancouver 2010), Vonn brought an end to her career after participating in the supergiant and in the descent at Are where she claimed bronze after overcoming the knee problems that plagued her since the beginning of the season.

Members of the jury for the Princess of Asturias Award for Sports highlighted her achievements but also the "ability to overcome adversity" of the American who in February, after feeling unable to continue performing at an elite level without pain, opted to retire. "Unfortunately, my body and my state of mind are not up to the task. After many sleepless nights, I ended up accepting that I couldn't continue in competitive skiing. In the last



Lindsay Vonn. :: AFP

few years I had more injuries and operations than I could imagine. I have always tried to go beyond the limit, which has allowed me to experience incredible successes, but also serious accidents." One of them, a fall in Schladming in 2013 caused a ruptured ligament of the right knee with a fractured tibia.

Theresa Zabell from Malaga, president of the Ecomar Foundation, proposed her candidacy. The skier will be only the sixth woman to win in the category in 33 editions. The last one was ten years ago, the Russian athlete Yelena Isinbáyeva, while the before her came Steffi Graff in 1999, just one year after Arantxa Sánchez Vicario had won it. The first woman to open the list of winners was Martina Navratilova in 1994, 365 days before the Algerian athlete Hassiba Boulmerka.



The launch at the Diputación building in Malaga on Wednesday. :: SUR

Traditional jábegas league returns with 13 regattas and a new competitor

:: ENRIQUE MIRANDA

MALAGA. This centuries-old tradition, with its roots back in Phoenician times, returns in 2019, bigger than ever. The Liga de Jábegas, a series of regattas involving boats

traditionally used for fishing in the area, will run from 25 May until the end of August, with a total of 13 races and a new competitor.

The Benalmádena regatta makes a return this year while students from the provincial school will take to the water for the first time.

This eighth edition was officially presented at the Diputación building in Malaga on Wednesday where it was announced that the first regatta, with four competing categories, will take place at El Candado (Malaga) on 25 May.

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THE STARS



Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
Home life provides the spark that sets imagination flowing. Hold fire on anything very expensive though as plans are still rather fluid.



Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
A journey may be easier if you go by coach rather than train. Could save some cash, too. Show your firm or soft side this week depending on who you are dealing with.



Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Determination and hard work see you free of tedious tasks by midweek. Let your instincts guide you when it comes to any romantic offers.



Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
As you are looking for swift progress on the home front it may be necessary to give up one of your treats. See this as a matter of balance rather than a chore.



Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Expect too much and it is almost sure to end in disappointment. Look around you and realise just how lucky you are. Be patient and progress will be made sooner rather than later.



Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
A lot of success comes from social meetings rather than boardroom blurbs. When communications are sweet they really do oil the wheels of progress!



Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Being a hard act to follow, it could be that some competition drops out. That may not be your aim as you do enjoy a bit of resistance!



Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Be prepared to rein in your more speculative side at work. By all means get an idea over but do it without treading on toes! Take advice when an offer looks too good to be true.



Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
To curb someone who is making a big mistake, be prepared to spend some time with them. Giving them a lecture will not work. Any communications need extra effort this week.



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
At the moment your confidence needs a boost, not dragging down. Is it a mystery why someone is taking a sharp attitude? Factoring in a little jealousy could explain a lot.

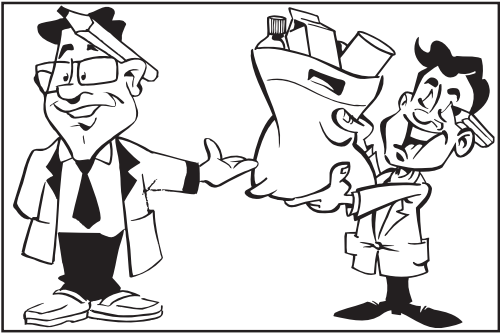
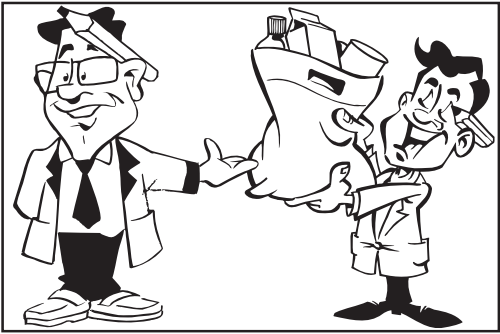


Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Long-term projects are favoured at the moment. That means some frustrations may have to be tolerated. You can only do your best.

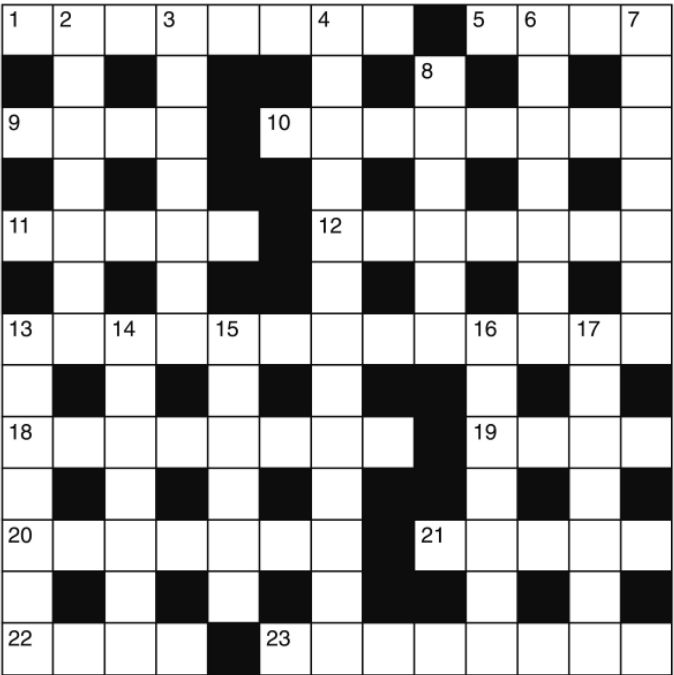


Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
You may well take certain things and people for granted but don't be foolish enough to let them know that! Over-confidence could see you come unstuck and so a little humility please.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



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Across

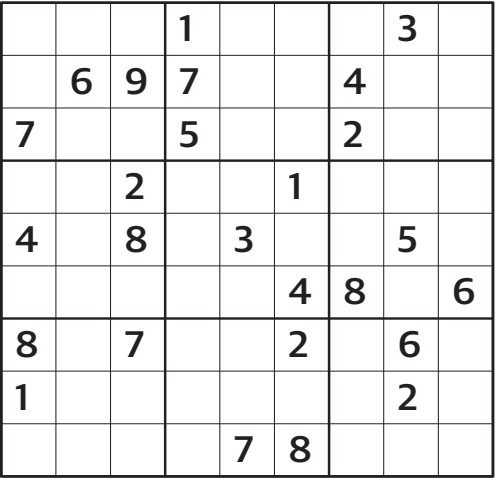
- 1 Axe used by boy on a bird of prey (8)
- 5 Goddess who emphatically exists (4)
- 9 Number not in style, what an eyesore (4)
- 10 Fall that impairs vision (8)
- 11 Black and blue Roman figures (5)
- 12 They're temporary obstacles, of course (7)
- 13 Successfully persuade others to have a private road built? (3,4,3,3)
- 18 How one is taken by surprise (8)
- 19 Long stitch may fasten a carpet (4)
- 20 After this evening (7)
- 21 A doctor my take one for an idler (5)
- 22 Inclines to agree (4)
- 23 How a bright idea comes to you? (2,1,5)

Down

- 2 One must do it to survive (7)
- 3 Any time for pleasantness (7)
- 4 Defeated by the elements? (7-6)
- 6 Not only is it swift, it looks like one (7)
- 7 Stays if made content (7)
- 8 Thin pointed weapon (6)
- 13 Excess weight? It's his danger (7)
- 14 Given instruction in trade organisation (7)
- 15 Love to wander about for fruit (6)
- 16 Not artificial, as you might expect (7)
- 17 Goes up in the world? (7)

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

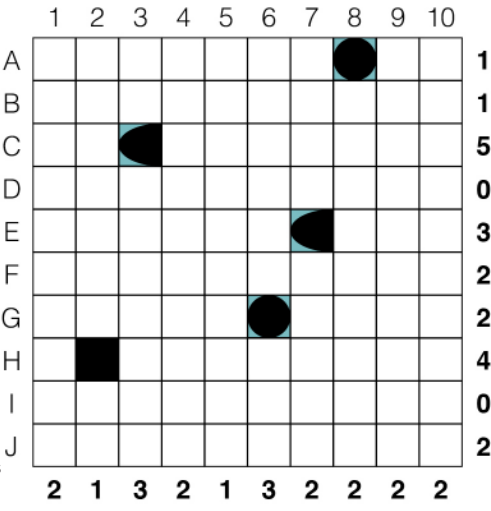
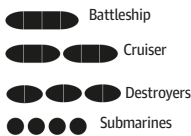


Can you identify the breeds of dog from the anagrams listed below?

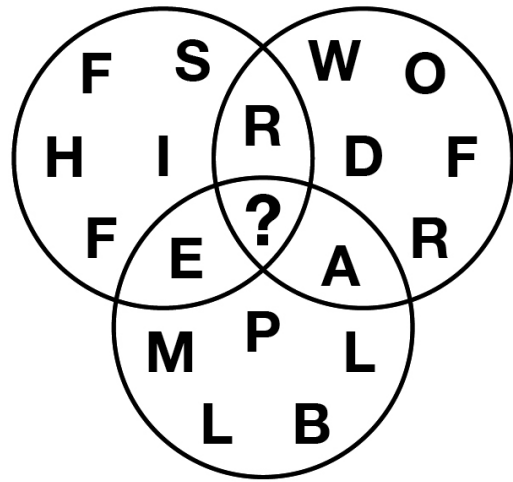
- 1. Doing
- 2. Abeleg
- 3. Hangaf
- 4. Woch
- 5. Exrob
- 6. Rogic
- 7. Shyku
- 8. Dolope
- 9. Betass
- 10. Keep

BATTLESHIPS

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



CIRCLEGRAM



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

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

Across

1) Homosexuality (14)

7) Rejection (7)

12) World (7)

15) Marriage (10)

16) Photographer (9)

18) Echo (3)

19) Equality (8)

20) In (2)

21) Both (5)

22) Airs (5)

25) A (2)

26) Identity (9)

30) Goose (3)

32) Eleven (4)

33) Strawberry (5)

34) I (2)

35) Bland (4)

40) Death penalty (4,2,6) (12)

41) Health (5)

44) The (f.pl) (3)

47) Period (5)

48) I opted (4)

49) To criminalise (9)

50) It was (3)

51) I appeared (7)

53) To fill (6)

54) They scare (7)

56) Activities (11)

57) Diversity (10)

Down

1) Homophobia (9)

2) Minute (6)

3) That (f) (3)

4) Phew! (2)

5) To wrap (4)

6) Rights (8)

8) Fee (5)

9) Ally (6)

10) Western (10)

11) Hill (6)

13) Ungrateful (pl) (1)

14) Calls (8)

17) Daring (5)

23) I'll go (3)

24) Illnesses (12)

27) That (3)

28) Unhappy (7)

29) Gender (6)

31) I believe (4)

36) You (pl) (2)

37) Gay (3)

38) Assembly (8)

39) I failed (8)

42) Back (7)

43) Quality (7)

44) To read (4)

45) Countries (6)

46) Large (6)

52) Age (4)

55) Thirst (3)

ANSWERS

Quiz answers

Of interest: Mahjong is a tile-based game that was developed in China during the Qing dynasty. It is believed to be called 'sparrows' after the clacking noise the tiles make during shuffling.

Answer: Sparrows

Of interest: Around 1200, lady, lavede, from Old English hlæddige meant "mistress of a household, wife of a lord," apparently literally "one who kneads bread," from hlaf "bread" + -dige "maid," which is related to dæge "maker of dough".

Answer: Lady

Language Crossword

ACROSS:

1. HOMOSEXUALIDAD 7. RECHAZO

2. MINUTO 15. MONTAÑÓN

3. CHOW 16. FOTOGRAFÍA

4. BOXER 17. ALBUQUERQUE

5. BORDA 18. COCA

6. CORDA 19. SALUD

7. HUSKY 20. EN

8. POOL 21. AMBOS

9. BASSET 22. ASES

10. PEKE 23. FREJA

DOWN:

1. HOMOFOBIA 2. MINUTO 3. ESA

4. LUF 5. LAR 6. DERRECHOS

7. CUOTA 8. ALIADO

9. OCCIDENTAL 10. COLINA

11. INGRATOS 12. LLAMADAS

13. OSADO 14. INFERMIDADES

15. ESO 16. FOTOGRAFÍA

17. COCA 18. SALUD

19. AMBOS 20. EN

21. ASES 22. ASES

23. FREJA 24. BORDA

25. CORDA 26. MINUTO

27. RECHAZO 28. ALBUQUERQUE

29. CHOW 30. BOXER

31. CORDA 32. HUSKY

33. POOL 34. BASSET

35. PEKE 36. HOMOSEXUALIDAD

Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 1 Tomahawk; 5 Isis; 9 Stye; 10 Cataract; 11 Livid; 12 Hurdles; 13 Get your own way; 18 Unaware; 19 Tack; 20 Tonight; 21 Drone; 22 Nods; 23 In a flash; 2 Outlive; 3 Amently; 4 Weather-beaten; 6 Swallow; 7 Satisfy; 8 Narrow; 13 Glutton; 14 Trained; 15 Orange; 16 Natural; 17 Ascends.

Wordpuzzler solution

Sudoku solution

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

Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is C. Schiffer, Crawford, Campbell, all supermodels.

Battleships

WHERE IS THIS?

No stopping the traffic here

Last week: Mijas

This fun statue of a golfer in mid-swing with golf buggy, is found on the roundabout near to the entrance to Mijas Golf Estate.

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Sea Cloud II	19/05	Alicante	Cadiz	08.00	17.00
Sun Princess	21/05	Barcelona	Lisbon	07.00	16.00
Boudicca	22/05	A Coruña	Mahon	00.00	00.00
Harmony V	22-23/05	Marbella	Motril	01.00	23.59
Seven Seas Explorer	22/05	Cartagena	Cadiz	09.00	19.00
Disney Magic	23/05	Cadiz	Ibiza	06.45	18.30
Costa Pacifica	23/05	Funchal	Civitavecchia	07.00	13.00
Marbella Discovery 2	23/05	Cadiz	Alicante	08.00	17.00
Marina	23/05	Cartagena	Cadiz	08.00	18.00
Norwegian Spirit	24/05	Cartagena	Cadiz	07.00	19.00
Costa Neoriviera	24/05	Cadiz	-	09.00	18.00



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Banksy checks in to La Térmica for the summer

The arts centre is hosting an exhibition of works by the enigmatic street artist which are being shown for the first time in Spain

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

MALAGA. There is a way to determine to what extent an artist is a celebrity: his work has to be much more famous than he is, to the extent that it becomes an icon. This could apply, for example, to the two angels painted by Rafael, Leonardo's Mona Lisa, Picasso's Guernica and, nowadays, the vandal with his face covered about to throw a bunch of flowers, by the artist known as Banksy.

"Banksy is probably the best-known contemporary artist in the world," said Alexander Nachkebiya, curator of Banksy. The Art of Protest, the exhibition that opens at La Térmica on 24 May. With more than 40 works by the enigmatic street artist who jealously hides his identity, it includes iconic series such as the portraits of Kate Moss in the style of Warhol's Marilyn, the bulldog which became the artist's hallmark and a serigraph of the series Girl with Balloon, like the one destroyed by the artist a few



The exhibition includes iconic works by Banksy. :: SUR

months ago at Sotheby's.

Nachkebiya said this exhibition differs from the one which is about to close in Madrid and takes a look at the works which have passed from graffiti to the collective imagination.

"People always ask me what the difference is between urban art and vandalism. If you see a picture on a wall and the image touches your heart and soul and makes you

think, it's urban art. If it has no effect on you, then it isn't. That's why I am absolutely convinced that Banksy is an extraordinary artist," he said about the exhibition, which has been organised in collaboration with SUR and will remain open until 29 September.

The Art of Protest includes sculptures, installations, videos and photos. The works are on loan from international private collections and

THE EXHIBITION

► **Title.** Banksy. The Art of Protest.

► **Where.** La Térmica. Avenida de los Guindos, 48. Málaga.

► **Dates.** From 24 May to 29 September 2019.

► **Opening hours.** Tuesdays to Sundays, from 11am to 10pm.

► **Tickets.** General entry, 9 euros (plus processing fees); children (up to 12 years old), 5 euros (plus processing fees); discounted price (over-65s, students and disabled visitors), 6 euros. On sale via the website www.eventbrite.es.

are being shown in Spain for the first time.

"Banksy never comes to exhibitions of his work because he insists on anonymity and wants to remain outside the system and market for art," Nachkebiya pointed out.

"Banksy is a cultural phenomenon. His work is very attractive to all types of people, and we hope this exhibition will be as well received as others that have taken place in other countries," he says.





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