

Back to work for Malaga Femenino

The revamped squad have returned from their summer break ahead of the new season **P55**



Residents use new law to stop holiday lets in their blocks

Communities now have more flexibility to restrict their neighbours, but property managers warn there is still confusion

A recent law that allows communities of owners to more effectively control how many homes in their blocks or estates are rented out to tourists is starting to bear fruit.

Owners can restrict new holiday lets or even increase the manage-

ment fees of those owners who rent to holidaymakers.

But the provincial association of management agents, who are informing homeowners about the law, says there is still a lack of clarity over what parts of it mean. **P2**

Traffic police launch drone to monitor the Costa's main roads and catch offending drivers

Officials from the DGT traffic agency and the Guardia Civil have presented their new drone for the Malaga area, which started operating this week.

The 25-minute flights won't be able to catch speeding motorists

but will spot visible offences, such as using a mobile phone or erratic overtaking, and issue fines.

The launch coincided with the start of the 1 August getaway on the area's roads, the busiest of the summer. **P20**

More than just recycling.

The Zero Waste movement is gaining ground among consumers looking to live sustainably **P34&35**

The Goyas are coming to Malaga.

The Spanish Film Academy has confirmed the city as host for next year's award ceremony **P10**

Nerja Cave to stop live performances

as fears grow over the site's conservation and spectator safety **P14**

MARBELLA'S ART ATTRACTION

Forty galleries from around the world are exhibiting at the modern and contemporary art fair in the congress centre **P28**



Some of the works on display this week at Art Marbella. :: GABRIELA BERNER

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Communities of owners are starting to ban or restrict holiday lets in apartment blocks

JUAN
SOTO

@JJSotoT

The rule can't be backdated, but it allows neighbours to vote to increase community fees by up to 20% on holiday lets

MALAGA. The sound of suitcases being pulled along, loud music and conversations in the early hours have become normal for María Ángeles Sicilia and her neighbours. They live in Calle Ollerías in Malaga city, and for more than two years several apartments in their block have been used for holiday lets. They say they find it hard to sleep because of the disturbance.

"It's logical, they're on holiday and they forget that other people live here," says María Ángeles. This is why, when the government approved a new set of urgent regulations for holiday properties in March this year, this particular community of owners lost no time in prohibiting them.

Although the new law has only been in force for a short time, it has come as a huge relief for communities of owners in Malaga province. Community management agents say they are overwhelmed with requests for information and are currently holding two or three meetings a week about the situation. Francisco González Palma, a legal advisor at the Colegio de Administradores de Fincas, the provincial body overseeing management agents, says "a lot of people are worried and all the communities want to limit the number of holiday properties to avoid problems in the future".

Although the new regulations cannot be applied retroactively - properties which were already registered for tourism with the Junta de Andalucía can continue to be rented for holidays - they do provide



An apartment block in Marbella. :: JOSELE

a series of tools to prevent any more being used for this purpose and it is also possible to charge the owners extra fees or to increase their share of communal expenses by up to 20 per cent. For any of these measures

to be approved, three-fifths of the owners must vote in favour.

Community administrators say owners of apartments in Malaga city centre and the nearby districts of Carretera de Cádiz, Paseo Marítimo,

La Malagueta and even Teatinos have been the first to take action. Emilio Raya Castillo has already organised restrictions on holiday lets in two blocks in the historic city centre and on the seafront.

"The new law came into force with immediate effect, but there are still some uncertainties over whether the law allows a total ban on apartments being used for holiday lets or only a restriction on numbers, whether it can be applied all year round, and whether it has to apply to the entire building or can be restricted to certain floors," he says. One of these cases has already been validated by the Malaga Property Registry. "The owners were very concerned about the problem and wanted to take action as soon as possible," he explains.

Change in the rules

It is now easier to regulate properties which are used for tourism than it was a few months ago, because originally every owner in a community had to agree. Now, a majority of three-fifths is deemed sufficient, although every owner has to take part in the vote. If some fail to attend the meeting, the management agent has to contact them to explain the situation and ask whether they agree with or reject the proposal.

The provincial delegate of the College of Property Registrars, María García, admits that there are still doubts and unknown aspects about the new Royal decree. The fact that it has only been in force for a short time and the number of people who are keen to restrict holiday lets in their apartment blocks has led to numerous enquiries.

"Many communities don't know

Bans have included holiday lets on certain floors and the use of communal facilities

:: J. SOTO

MALAGA The increase in the number of apartments which are being used for holiday lets in Malaga has exercised the ingenuity of many communities of owners who want to restrict this type of tourism as much as possible. Potential loopholes in the new

law, which does not make it clear whether holiday lets can be banned completely or only restricted, has led to some owners taking extreme measures, including banning holiday clients from using communal facilities and smoking.

Francisco González Palma, a le-

gal advisor at the Colegio de Administradores de Fincas, says every community is different and has its own problems and proposals. In some, he says, they want to stop apartments being used for holiday lets on certain floors of the block, or stop these clients using the swimming pool or com-

munal washing lines.

Francisco, who gave a talk on the new law to a large audience at the College last week, believes many of the measures which are being put into force by communities of owners could be thrown out by the courts on the grounds that they are not legal.

He says it is vital to study any type of potential ban in detail, and provide full information and evidence. "For example, it won't be enough if there has only been an occasional problem with a visitor," he stresses.



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At least seven communities in Malaga city have already banned holiday lets

The first to take action were owners in blocks in the city centre and nearby districts

how to register the restriction, what it involves or how much it is going to cost the owners," she says.

The head of the Colegio de Administradores de Fincas, Alejandro Pestaña, is aware of at least seven blocks in Malaga city where holiday lets have been restricted. Although he points out that this type of tourism can be positive for the city, he is aware that it can also cause problems such as noise, excessive use of communal facilities and a lack of security because doors are always open. "It is not up to us to make judgments, we have to enact the will of the residential blocks," he says.

Pestaña says there are still unanswered questions and he believes the government should clarify the situation before it is too late. "There are doubts to clear up, for example whether a property which was already registered is now liable to pay the extra charge or not," he explains.

Costa maximum temperatures were almost two degrees warmer than normal in July

Meteorologists blame the rise on global warming and prevailing westerly winds off the land on some days

:: IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. Temperatures on the Costa continue their upward climb, with above-average highs in July. Provisional data from the Aemet weather station, at El Cónsul near Malaga Airport, shows that the average daily maximum temperature was 32.4 degrees last month, 1.9 degrees more than the 1980-2010 average.

Also rising were the nighttime minimum temperatures, as many who had trouble sleeping last month already know. Average lows were 22.6 degrees, 1.6 degrees more than usual.

Overall, the meteorologists at the station near the airport, which is the reference point for the whole province, have classed July as "very warm".

Apart from climate change, the increase is being put down to more westerly winds than easterly last month, bringing warmer air to the



Tourists enjoying a reserved sunbed area in Marbella. :: JOSELE

JULY'S HIGH

39.1

degrees was the highest temperature last month, on 15 July, due to a warm westerly Terral wind off the land.

Malaga city area off the land. While record highs haven't been achieved, meaning the general perception in the street is that temperatures aren't much more than normal, prevailing westerlies lasted several days, pushing the average up.

The forecast is that August will also be a particularly warmer month than average.

Experts predict a low risk of jellyfish affecting bathers this August

:: I. LILLO

MALAGA. They're one of the things beachgoers on the Costa are most scared of, but this year they've hardly been noticed. Unlike last year, swarms of stinging jellyfish along the water's edge have been few and far between.

"This is a normal summer; there has been just the odd [jellyfish] on certain days but a lot fewer than 2018," said Jesús Bellido, expert at Malaga's Aula del Mar oceanographic centre.

He added that August should see the same low numbers. As the water in the Med directly off the Costa, known as the Alboran Sea, behaves differently to the main Mediterranean sea basin, the swarms reported further to the east shouldn't get this far.

Bathers can download an app in Spanish, Infomedusa, to keep up to date on local jellyfish movements.

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Patient goes on rampage in San Pedro health centre because of 15-minute wait

The man started headbutting walls and threatened to kill staff if they reported him; the trade union is calling for more security

:: ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

MARBELLA. A patient has gone on the rampage, threatening to kill staff in San Pedro health centre, after being told to wait 15 minutes to be seen. The incident happened on Tuesday lunchtime when parts of the build-

ing were damaged by the man who had arrived demanding he be given some medicine immediately.

According to staff union, CSIF, the patient started headbutting glass partition walls in the health centre "cutting his head open". He also overturned a table and cornered nursing staff "until a group of people came to their rescue and managed to get the aggressor to leave them alone".

Before leaving the centre, the man allegedly threatened to kill everyone there and said that, if they reported what had happened to the



The patient upturned furniture in the health centre. :: SUR

police and he was arrested, he'd "come back to finish them off".

San Pedro health centre has also been in the spotlight recently after a doctor was assaulted.

The union has called for more security in San Pedro and also at Las Lagunas health centre, Mijas Costa, which they say both see a rise in violence, especially in the summer.

Bomb squad called as explosive from original A-7 builders is found

:: J. CANO / A. FRÍAS

MÁLAGA. Traffic in both directions on the A-7 motorway by the Arroyo de la Miel - Benalmádena turn-off was cut off for 10 minutes on Tuesday night to allow National Police explosive experts to dispose of a device discovered by a construc-

tion worker during work to improve the junction.

The alarm had been raised earlier in the day when the worker spotted apparently live explosive, complete with detonation cable, of the type used to blast rock apart during building work.



File photo of the junction. :: SUR

The device is believed to have been left behind by construction workers when the A-7, which opened in 1992, was originally built.

A new exit roundabout is currently being constructed at the Arroyo de la Miel exit, between kilometres 222 and 223 of the busy road, as the existing junction has become too congested.

When the police's Tedax bomb squad arrived they decided it was safest to carry out a controlled explosion at the site.

112 REPORTS

Squatters caught for redoing and renting out

MARBELLA

:: C. MÁRQUEZ. An organised gang of squatters, who entered unoccupied homes in Marbella, renovated them and then rented them out to unsuspecting tenants has been caught.

Police say the group of Spanish nationals had carefully designated roles on the team and charged their tenants a year's rent up front. They suspect as much as 80,000 euros could have been fraudulently taken in rent.

Two found dead and unconscious in town

MARBELLA

:: C. MÁRQUEZ. Two men, at first believed to be dead, were discovered in the street in a central area of San Pedro yesterday morning.

The discovery was made in the Plaza de La Libertad and, after emergency services were called, one was found to be unconscious instead and taken to the Costa del Sol hospital.

The men were described as in their 30s or 40s and it is thought that they may have taken an overdose, although investigations are still ongoing.



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Planning a tax-efficient move to Spain

By Javi Rostam, Associate Partner, Blevins Franks

If you have been dreaming about living full time in Spain but haven't yet, what is stopping you? While many people need to wait until retirement, for others it may be the fear of foreign taxes, or just weighing up the pros and cons of such a big life change. And, of course, ongoing Brexit uncertainty has muddied the waters for would-be expatriates.

Interestingly, the current unsettled political situation in the UK, triggered by Brexit frustration, is the very reason some Britons are considering leaving to become tax resident elsewhere. A new UK government, of any denomination, is likely to introduce changes when taking over the nation's purse strings. There is speculation, for instance, that higher earners or those holding valuable assets could be hit with more punitive taxes following a general election. This could be through higher income or capital gains taxes, pension reform, or tightening of the inheritance tax regime to capture more revenue. Some are even touting the possibility of a UK wealth tax.

However, no-one can predict for sure what the future holds for taxation. Your tax burden can rise and fall at any given time. While good financial

planning can help protect your wealth, wherever you are resident, if you are considering moving to Spain, this may be the time to start putting an action plan in place.

Once you have made the decision to move, it is sensible to start reviewing your financial planning.

As a resident of Spain, you will be liable for Spanish income, capital gains and wealth taxes on worldwide assets and subject to Spanish succession and gift tax rules – so make sure you are prepared.

Establish how your wealth will be affected by these taxes and what mitigation opportunities are available. With early planning it is possible to time your change of residency to minimise tax liabilities – and maximise opportunities – in both countries.

Tax residence

Tax residency in Spain is not just about day counting. You could be resident even if you do not live in Spain but your spouse and/or minor dependent children do, or if your centre of economic interests is here. You need to be clear on your situation and plan around it. The Spanish tax

office has increased inspections on tax residency, with some wealthy people being caught out by the "centre of economic interests" rule.

Understand also how the UK's statutory residence test could continue to apply to you even after you have left.

Income tax

In *Andalucía* income tax rates currently range from 19.25% to 47.4%. Savings income benefits from lower rates of 19%, 21% and 23%.

Wealth tax

Spain currently imposes an annual wealth tax, which generally hits those with worldwide assets worth over €1 million – there is a personal allowance of €700,000 plus up to €300,000 for a resident's main home.

Rates start at 0.2% and rise to 2.5% for wealth over €10,695,996 (with some variations across regions).

Succession and gift tax

Succession tax in Spain works quite differently from UK inheritance tax. The rates and allowances depend on the beneficiary, where the deceased

and beneficiary are resident, and where assets are located. Rates, allowances and exemptions can vary considerably depending on region.

Tax planning

You can often use compliant arrangements to lower taxes on investment income, assets, pensions and estate. This is not an area for 'do it yourself' financial planning, you do need specialist guidance.

Other wealth management for moving to Spain

While tax planning is a vital step to protecting your wealth, it's also important to your whole wealth management.

Your **estate planning** needs to take account of both Spanish succession law and succession tax.

Consider the various options for your **pensions**, including transferring your funds out of the UK into a QROPS, to establish which works best for your goals and life in Spain.

Moving to Spain is also an opportune time to review your **investment portfolio**. It should be designed specifically around your current

circumstance (including the fact that you are now spending Euros), income needs, future goals, time horizon, risk profile and estate planning wishes.

Careful and early financial planning can help you make the most of living in Spain. Cross-border wealth management is a complex area, so take specialist advice to secure the best results. Blevins Franks has 40 years' experience advising British expatriates in Spain and can guide you through the various aspects of your move, providing holistic advice on tax mitigation, estate planning, investments and pensions. www.blevinsfranks.com

The tax rates, scope and reliefs may change. Any statements concerning taxation are based upon our understanding of current taxation laws and practices which are subject to change. Tax information has been summarised; an individual is advised to seek personalised advice.

Worried that the next UK election could damage your wealth?

There has been much speculation about what could happen if an election were called and a change of government ensued.

If you have built your wealth over a number of years (through business, savings, inheritance or property) and are considering settling in sunnier climes, talk to us about the tax-efficient options for Spain. We have decades of experience advising clients on the steps to take before, during and after such a move and the wealth preservation options you can potentially enjoy.

But if you are worried about what could happen in the future in the UK, perhaps the time to start talking to us is now.

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Child caught firing air pistol at others on a summer camp can't be charged because of his age

:: JUAN CANO

MALAGA. At least six children and three helpers taking part in a summer camp at a Malaga school were hit by lead pellets from an air pistol last week. The weapon was being fired from one of the blocks of flats surrounding the school playground.

The person firing was identified by National Police as a child under 14 years of old, who cannot be charged as he is too young.

Some 150 children were enjoying a break from summer holiday activities at the school when the school assistants on duty realised that something was happening, hearing the noise of the impacts on doors and windows.

Children started to approach them saying that something had hit them and initially the adults thought that there were insects biting. However the real reason soon became clear.

"A colleague started to pick up the projectiles from the ground and showed us. We then took the children inside and called the police," said the camp organiser.

Nobody was seriously hurt.

Polish man in loincloth arrested after "brushing up to kids" in water play park

One mother told officers that the garment was very small and "badly put on, exposing his penis"

:: JUAN CANO

MALAGA. Police have been giving details of the arrest of a 29-year-old Polish man on 25 July after parents became alarmed about his revealing loincloth and attitude towards their children in a water play park.

The incident happened on the promenade on the western side of Malaga city as families were enjoying the water feature.

The man was wearing a "very



The man being led away. :: SUR

small" loincloth that was "badly put on, exposing his penis", according to one mother. Witnesses said that he had "brushed up" against their children.

A senior Malaga city council official, who is also a Local Police officer on sabbatical, happened to be at the popular beachside play area and held on to the man until his colleagues arrived. The man insulted those present with offensive language as he was led away.

People in the area reported that moments before the incident in the water play park, the man had been going into nearby bars and cafes asking for money "in an intimidating way".

Three held for taunting a disabled youth to gain social media fans

:: JUAN CANO

MALAGA. Three men from Rincón de la Victoria have been arrested accused of recording and sharing video content that "clearly taunts" a boy with a psychiatric condition. Reports said that the youth had been encouraged to swallow a live small

lizard in order to attract more views of their music videos.

The three men, all in their 20s, are being investigated for offences against "moral integrity".

In addition, they are also being investigated over public health offences, as one of the three, with

the same aim of increasing visits to their Instagram account, had been raffling a marijuana plant over social media.

The operation to arrest the men arose out of another joint operation between Guardia Civil and Local Police into graffiti vandals in the area and their social media use. That operation started after the eighteenth century fort in Rincón, a listed building, was vandalised. Removing the graffiti there cost 34,000 euros.

Bush fire damages land around Tibetan temple near Benalmádena

:: SUR

BENLMÁDEN. Last Saturday morning fire was spotted in undergrowth on land next to the Stupa, the gold-topped Tibetan temple near Benalmádena Pueblo.

Forest fire protection service, Infoca, said that 34 fire officers, three operations directors, an environmental expert and a water plane were sent to the scene.

By 2pm the fire, which had spread close the hillside viewpoint around the building, was under control although officers stayed well into the afternoon extinguishing it.

Flames were visible from a long distance, drawing onlookers.



Smoke at the Stupa. :: S. SALAS

A large advertisement for 'PEST CONTROL' featuring a yellow and green van. The van has graphics of a rat, palm trees, and a beetle. The text 'PEST CONTROL' is written in large yellow letters on the green side panel. A phone number '952 77 19 39' is visible on the side door. The background shows a scenic view of a mountain range under a blue sky.

WWW.PESTCONTROLMARBELLA.COM

Six political parties reach deal on body that handles water and waste on western Costa

The Mancomunidad, the joint authority between 11 municipalities, will be headed by the PP party and the way of allocating seats will be revised

SUR

MARBELLA. The new line-up of the Mancomunidad de Municipios de la Costa del Sol Occidente (the joint public authority for the western Costa del Sol) has been agreed at last after the council elections in May.

Last Friday, the 39 representatives on the authority, from six different political parties and sent by 11 local town halls, finalised a compromise power-sharing deal. The Mancomunidad provides shared strategic services to the 11, especially water, sewerage and solid waste management.

The Partido Popular (PP), PSOE, Ciudadanos, Izquierda Unida (IU) Compromis Manilva and Ojén's Por mi Pueblo will all have some say in its running, with the PP mayor of Benahavís, José Antonio Mena, heading the whole organisation. The PP will look after beaches and environment, among



Eleven councils currently send 39 representatives to the joint authority which will fall to 22 again. :: JOSELE

other areas, as well as operations at the western Costa's public water company, Acosol, while the PSOE will head up all of Acosol, as well as Tourism and Training and other areas. IU will be responsible for solid waste management.

After protracted negotiations, three disputes among the 39 delegates have been also decided.

The party factions that were in favour of depoliticising negotiations and sharing as much as possible succeeded, winning over other elements that wanted a deal either of left-wing or right-wing parties.

Secondly, a grievance of the smaller municipalities has been resolved. Recently the system of sending representatives was

changed by the PP party, that previously had control of the Mancomunidad. Bigger municipalities, such as Marbella and Mijas have more representatives than smaller places like Casares or Ojén. This approach has been subject to an ongoing legal challenge.

It was agreed in the future the Mancomunidad will go back to the

CURRENT SPLIT OF THE 39

- Benahavís. PP 1, PSOE 1.
- Benalmádena. PSOE 3, PP 1.
- Casares. IU 1; PSOE 1.
- Estepona PP 4.
- Fuengirola. PP 4; PSOE 1.
- Istán. IU 1; PSOE 1.
- Manilva. IU 1; Compromiso 1.
- Marbella. PP 4; PSOE 3.
- Mijas. PP 2; PSOE 2; Cs 1.
- Ojén. PSOE 1, PMP 1.
- Torremolinos. PP 2, PSOE 2.

old formula of two representatives only from each of the 11 municipalities, but with each council's representatives being chosen in proportion to the votes in each municipality for each party rather than by councillors themselves.

Thirdly, there will also be a different way of allocating the authority's expenditure, including a strategic pot of money for activity benefiting all areas. The small municipality of Casares in particular has been complaining that the old funding system didn't treat it fairly as the area's solid-waste handling system is within its boundaries but serves the whole western coast.

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Academy confirms choice of Malaga as Goya ceremony venue

The Martín Carpena sports arena will host the event on 25 January with at least 3,000 guests and huge television audiences

by FRANCISCO GRIÑÁN

MALAGA. Representatives from the prestigious Spanish Film Academy (Academia de las Artes y las Ciencias Cinematográficas de España) on Monday confirmed Malaga as the host of next year's Goya awards ceremony.

The awards, which promote Spanish film, are the equivalent of the Oscars in the US or the UK's Baftas.

Malaga-born Antonio de la Torre, who won the Best Actor award at the last ceremony for his role in *El Reino*, showed his support for the decision. He told SUR that he feels very

"happy" about the recognition of Malaga, which "has always supported Spanish cinema with its festival", referring to the Spanish-language film festival held in the city every spring since 1998. Spanish director Isabel Coixet agreed, saying: "Malaga is the ideal city for the Goyas."

Malaga's most famous actor, Antonio Banderas, also expressed his "immense joy", saying on social media that "after so many years of Malaga backing culture, the Spanish film academy recognises this work by bringing the Goya ceremony [here]".

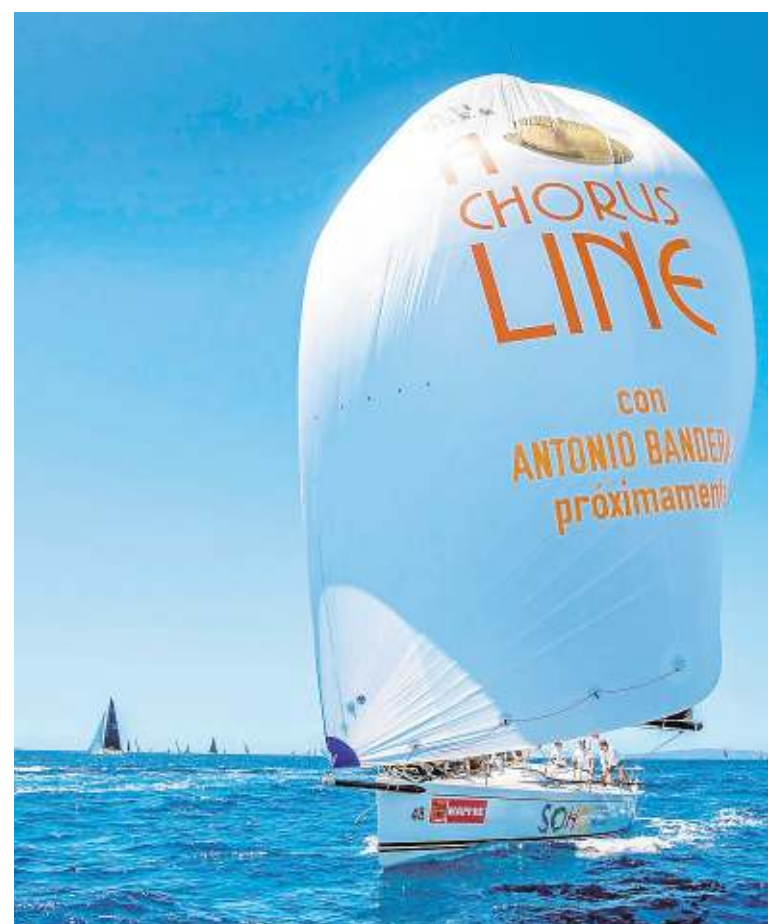
Antonio de la Torre suggested that Malaga's own Hollywood star will be one of the stars of the 2020 gala. "I bet Antonio Banderas will be nominated and is the favourite," said De la Torre, referring to his fellow Malagueño's role in *Dolor y Gloria*



Representatives of the local, provincial and regional authorities, Unicaja Bank and the film academy with a Goya



FOR THOSE CAR OWNERS



Antonio Banderas' yacht advertises A Chorus Line. by EFE

A Chorus Line gathers wind in its sails prior to opening at Soho theatre

The promotion of the musical that will open Antonio Banderas' new theatre project is well under way, even at a Mallorca regatta

by F. GRIÑÁN

MALAGA. Preparations for the upcoming production of *A Chorus Line* at the Soho Caixabank Theatre in Malaga are picking up speed.

The musical, to be launched by actor Antonio Banderas as the opening show in his new theatre project, opens on 18 October in Malaga but is already being promoted around the country.

The name SohoCaixabank has also been given to the Malaga actor's yacht participating in the Copa del Rey regatta taking place in Palma

de Mallorca.

After two and a half months in Malaga, the show will begin its tour, starting with a stint at the Teatro Arriaga in Bilbao between 6 and 16 February. Barcelona will also be included in the tour.

Antonio Banderas co-directs the show, to be performed in Spanish but maintaining some of the original song lyrics in English, with American actress and choreographer Bayork Lee (who performed in the original show in New York in 1975). The actor has said that anyone who wants to see him on stage will have to go to the Malaga theatre as he will move on to new acting commitments next year.

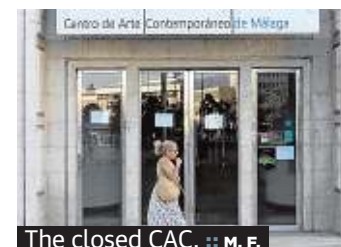
While the show will not officially be launched until 19 September, Banderas has said that tickets will be on sale at prices ranging between 18 and 70 euros.

IN BRIEF

Contract dispute goes on and CAC stays closed

MALAGA

by F. GRIÑÁN. Malaga city's Contemporary Art Centre (CAC) remains closed to the public as firms dispute the awarding of the contract to run the gallery for the next four years. Three firms whose bids were rejected have formally appealed the city hall's decision to award the contract to the company that has directed the centre since 2003. An administrative tribunal is expected to meet to hear the claims later this month and the city hall hopes to finalise the tender and reopen the centre as soon as possible.



The closed CAC. by M.F.



statuette on Tuesday. :: SALVADOR SALAS

(Pain and Glory), the latest film directed by Pedro Almodóvar, which was rewarded in Cannes earlier this year.

He will have to wait until 2 December when the nominations are announced to confirm his prediction.

The Goya ceremony will be held on 25 January in the Martín Carpena basketball arena (the copper-domed building on the outskirts of the city). This will be the first time that a sports facility instead of a theatre will be the venue for this annual event which attracts large television audiences in Spanish-speaking countries. This venue choice offers organisers sufficient capacity for their audience of 3,000, and more if necessary.

Normally the gala is held in Madrid, but recently efforts have been made to organise it outside the capital. Last year it was held in Seville.

The cost of the ceremony will be more than two million euros, which will be provided in equal parts by the city hall (Ayuntamiento), the regional government (Junta de Andalucía), the provincial government (Diputación) and Unicaja Banco.

The Goyas will provide a boost both to the image of the city and local business, especially at a quieter time of year on the Costa.

Bullring renovation concludes ahead of reopening at Marbella Arena

The Puerto Banús venue opens on Sunday with an international boxing tournament

:: A. JIMÉNEZ

MARBELLA. The Puerto Banús bullring prepares to unveil its face-lift this weekend as it reopens as a venue for sports and cultural events.

Renamed Marbella Arena, the bullring will host a two-month programme of events before it closes again in October for the second stage of its renovation work.

The opening comes late, however, as the venue was originally set to hold its first events in May or June. Complications with the works were behind the delay.

"As the bullring has been closed for eight years, the cement of the spectator stands had suffered moisture penetration and corrosion that has had to be repaired," ex-



Preparations in the Marbella Arena at the end of last week. :: SUR

plained Rafael Sánchez, of the TeatroGoya group which now owns the building.

The area is due to reopen this Sunday 4 August for a boxing tournament in which Joana Pastrana will defend her International Boxing Federation world title against Costa Rican Yokasta Valle. The eve-

ning will also include fights involving local stars of K1 kickboxing and Muay Thai.

The programme of concerts starts with Diego El Cigala and Navajita Plateá on 6 August.

The new arena has a capacity for 5,300 people (1,200 seated in the ring and the rest in the stands).

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RAPHAEL JOINS STARS TO LIGHT UP MARBELLA'S NAGÜELES QUARRY

Legendary Spanish crooner Raphael delighted fans last Saturday when he took to the Starlite festival stage in the old Nagüeles quarry. Accompanied by the Malaga Symphony Orchestra, the singer introduced his new album RESinphónico as well as offering fans renditions of some of his classics such as Yo Soy Aquel and Escándalo. The Marbella concert marked his return to Spain after performing to a packed Royal Albert Hall in July. The Starlite programme continues throughout August with Bertín Osborne, Pitingo, Luis Fonsi, James Rhodes, Katie Melua, Juan Magán and David Bisbal over the next few days.



:: JOSELE



Last year's Los Álamos festival in Estepona. :: SUR

Los Álamos Beach festival expected to attract 75,000

:: CHARO MÁRQUEZ

ESTEPONA. Los Álamos Beach dance music festival, which opened in Estepona on Wednesday, is expected to beat last year's visitor figures and attract some 75,000 music lovers. The event, which continues on the town's fairground until Sunday, boasts musicians such as

Oliver Heldens, Karol G, Danny Avila, Third Party and Green Valley among many others on Friday, with Fangoria and Juanito Makandé headlining on Saturday.

The event, in its fifth year (its second in Estepona after moving from Torremolinos), was expected to create around 200 jobs over its five days.

Giant remote-controlled flower pots to solve tricky Estepona traffic problem

The new, solar-powered additions to the Garden of the Costa del Sol are on wheels and are on trial to see how effective they are

CHARO MÁRQUEZ

ESTEPONA. As locals and visitors all know, there's no shortage of flower pots on the streets of Estepona. After all, the seaside town lays claim to the title of Garden of the Costa del Sol.

But the world of flower pots doesn't stand still for long. The town hall has just installed the next generation of plant holder as it moves to solve a street-barrier problem.

The giant, remote-controlled flower pots on wheels have been put in place as a trial on central Calle Terraza. Old town streets are often closed off using big plant holders to



Council official inspect the next-generation street barriers. :: C. MÁRQUEZ

give priority to pedestrians. And now the difficulty of moving these heavy containers quickly to allow vehicles through appears to have been solved.

The six new wheelie plant holders have solar panels on the side to generate power and can be controlled remotely by Local Police officers and council workers, who

guide them to one side to clear the way for vehicles.

The town hall will monitor the effectiveness of the new roaming flower pots with a view to rolling them out to other parts of the town where barriers are also needed at the end of streets.

However council officials are quick to point out that all the traditional pots aren't going to be replaced as those are somewhat better looking.

Spanish record

Estepona aims to be the Spanish town or city with the most flower pots in its streets. Last year it was aiming to have 20,000 decorating public thoroughfares to create an image of a typical Andalusian town in bloom. It's now up to the six remote-controlled newcomers to prove that they can fit in as part of the Estepona flower pot team.

Marbella cancels tender process for writing its urgently needed new master town plan

HÉCTOR BARBOTA

MARBELLA. There's been no other setback on the long road to updating Marbella's master town plan. A council audit committee has ordered a rerun of the tender process for the compilation of the new PGOU plan after complaints by two architectural firms who lost out in the bidding process.

Marbella is still using a patched-up version of a 1986 town plan, despite the resort evolving considerably since then. A 2010 version was struck down in court in 2015 and key planning decisions since then have been left in limbo.

The two losing bidders made nine complaints, five of which were upheld, centring on irregularities in deadline extensions and the make-up of the expert panel that evaluated the bids.

Clamp down on use of electric scooters in Marbella

CHARO MÁRQUEZ

MARBELLA. The council in Marbella is continuing its attempts to create an electric-scooter-free resort, and set it apart from competitor towns on the Costa.

This week, the town hall has sent out a temporary order on where scooters can be used with a view to a full bylaw being approved in September.

The order makes it clear that these types of vehicles cannot be used on pavements, roads, hard shoulders, parks or squares. Electric scooters or similar can only be used on cycle lanes, paths used by bikes, driveable

areas of the Paseo Marítimo and on the earth-paved area of the same promenade. During the summer months, July to September, the paved marble area of the promenade cannot be accessed.

Up to 250 watts

The order also reminds users that the maximum speed permitted is 10 km/h, covering anything with up to 250 watts power. This also includes segways and hoverboards.

Above 250 watts, vehicles have to have a registration plate.

Children's scooters, going up to 6 km/h, are excluded however and can still go on the pavements.

So far, the council has only authorised rental operators where customers are forced to return scooters to a fixed base, and it has refused licences to ten companies for the alternative 'leave-it-anywhere' model.



Marbella's promenade. :: JOSELE

La Rada in Estepona to become Costa's first official smoke-free beach

CHARO MÁRQUEZ

ESTEPONA. A trip to the beach without the need to dodge others' cigarette smoke will soon be a reality on a central Estepona beach.

The council is making La Rada beach a smoking-free zone, the first of its type on the Costa del Sol.

The designated area will cover around one square kilometre, alongside a water play park and sports pitch. This area has been

chosen as it is used mostly by children and people playing sports outdoors.

Estepona's councillor for Beaches, Susana Aragón, said that the aim is to promote a healthy lifestyle to beachgoers. Users won't be fined, but instead alerted to the risks of smoking.

This is the second measure that the town hall has recently taken to combat smoking on the municipality's many beaches. In conjunction with around 15 beach bars, it started its environmental awareness campaign, 'Las orillas sin colillas' (cigarette butts off the beach).

Beach bars and restaurants will give out a free beer or soft drink to everyone who brings a plastic glass full of cigarette ends that they have found along the shoreline.

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Musical performances inside Nerja Cave are to be stopped

Politicians highlighted the importance of conserving the Neolithic tourist attraction but haven't ruled out occasional events being held there

✿ EUGENIO CABEZAS

NERJA. Last Saturday's performance by Concerto Málaga could be the last live event of its kind to take place inside the Nerja cave.

On Sunday, as the 60th International Festival of Music and Dance drew to an end, the cave's managing foundation announced that there would be no more performances inside the Neolithic cavern itself, for "conservation" purposes.

The caves, which were discovered by five young boys playing in the area exactly 60 years ago this year, have hosted the international festival since 1959 and there have been performances within the caves every year. In 2016 the decision was taken to have fewer performances and instead use the outdoor auditorium to the left of the cave, in the surrounding gardens.

This year just two of the festival's performances took place inside;



Rocio Molina performing inside the cave last Friday. ✿ E. CABEZAS

Torre del Mar-born dancer Rocio Molina last Friday and Concerto Málaga, who ended their performance with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Salzburg Symphony No. 1.

Vice-president of the Nerja cave foundation and mayor of Nerja, José Alberto Armijo, said on Monday, "We are not ruling out performances for special occasions inside the caves, but strict guidelines and direction would have to be followed." He

added that there would be more live performances on the Balcón de Europa and Plaza de España as well as the cave's gardens.

President of the foundation and Málaga's central government representative, María Gamez, said that the cave was "incomparable" as a stage, but that "conservation" as well as "safety" must come first, in order to "preserve the caves for future generations."



The pumping station at the Río Chillar is in place. ✿ E. C.

Nerja mayor expresses "concern" and "surprise" over delays to treatment plant

✿ EUGENIO CABEZAS

NERJA. Mayor of Nerja, José Alberto Armijo, has expressed his "concern" over the paralysis to work at Nerja's waste water treatment plant.

His comments came last Thursday following a meeting with the central government's environment ministry. Armijo, who was reelected in June having been mayor from 2005 to 2015, said he was "surprised by the information" he received from the central government that there had been no progress on a judicial report which is preventing the work from being completed. He added that the town hall would

"take whatever action is necessary" for work to start again.

Plans for a treatment plant in Nerja first came about in 1996 but a contract to start work wasn't signed until the end of 2013. Work should have finished by summer 2016. However, a series of delays, including the company overseeing the project, Isolux-Corsán-Corviam, declared bankruptcy in 2017, have prevented the project from being completed. Earlier this year the government's representative in Málaga, María Gamez, said the plant was expected to be finished by the end of 2019.

IN BRIEF



The eight Asturian miners involved in the rescue operation. ✿ E. P.

Asturian Miners to receive top honour

✿ ASTURIAS

✿ E. P. The president of the Medalla de Oro de Asturias (Asturias gold medal), Adrián Barbón, announced last Friday that the miners involved in the operation to rescue Julen Roselló in Totalán in January would

be this year's recipients of the prestigious prize.

Speaking last Friday, Barbón said that the eight Asturian miners "deserve the praise of all of Spain". The Asturias mining rescue brigade made international headlines during the rescue operation, which ended on 26 January when two-year-old Julen's body was found, after a 12-day search.

Calls on council to save Phoenician settlements

✿ VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

✿ E. C. The friends of Vélez-Málaga culture association have called on the town hall to "act urgently" at the Toscanos Phoenician settlement near the mouth of the Río Vélez to remove rubbish, which includes building waste and furniture, as well as prickly pears which are infested with woodlice and are destroying the walls around the area.

Axarquía town halls ask for solution to erosion

✿ AXARQUÍA

✿ E. C. A number of town halls in the Axarquía have asked the Junta de Andalucía's coastal department for a "definitive solution" to the erosion on beaches which has been caused by bad weather in recent years. Rincón de la Victoria, Vélez-Málaga, Torrox and Nerja have all seen segments of their beaches washed away.



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

MINOR CAR PROBLEMS

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

BUT WHAT IF IT WON'T START?

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



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New outlet village extension at Plaza Mayor is nearing completion

The Malaga Designer Outlet, near the airport, is being built by British developer McArthurGlen and may open as early as November

by JUAN SOTO

MALAGA. The British developers behind the first luxury fashion outlet village in the south of Spain have been giving the latest update on the project that is due to open as early as November.

Bosses at McArthurGlen said that "all openings are special, but we have high hopes for this one".

The outlet mall will be an extension to the existing Plaza Mayor mall owned by Sonae Sierra close to Malaga Airport. The new fashion outlet area will start with around 100 stores on a 17,500-square-metre site. Full details of the brands that will open have



Discounted fashion brands will surround the central plaza. by S. SALAS

not been released yet but names expected to be present include Michael Kors, Armani, Versace, Prada and Bulgari. Confirmed names so far include Diesel, Lacoste, Antony Morato, Roberto Verino and Ralph Lauren.

Operators typically offer discounts of between 30 and 70 per cent on high street prices found elsewhere.

"We've noticed that brand names are keen to be in Malaga because of the mix of the local population and tourism," says José Luis Arenas, national operations director.

Malaga Designer Outlet centres on an oval-shaped plaza with a pagoda that will house a restaurant. There will be two main access routes and links to the existing Plaza Mayor shopping and leisure centre. One zone will focus on higher-end brands.

McArthurGlen doesn't think that the new stores will do damage to the existing business at adjoining Plaza Mayor. "The customer that wants two pairs of trousers goes to the shopping mall, while the outlet customer comes to browse and look for deals."

London-based McArthurGlen is in ten countries. In the UK, it includes well-known outlet villages at Cheshire Oaks, York, Ashford and Swindon, among others.

New figures boost Torremolinos' status as Costa tourism leader

by TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. Torremolinos has underpinned its tourism leadership status on the Costa del Sol by becoming the favourite choice for holidaymakers during the month of June.

Following an outstanding month in May - exceeding tourism figures of June, July and September 2018 - Torremolinos received 117,909 tourists and 543,279 overnight stays in June, representing an increase of 12.32 per cent in the number of tourists received in the same month of last year (105,588).

The official data is based on a survey of hotel occupation carried out by the National Institute of Statistics (INE). The recently revamped destination strengthens its grip on top place in the ranking of Costa tourist hotspots, receiving more visitors than Marbella (86,339), Benalmádena (60,185), Fuengirola (54,599) and Estepona (54,057).

The survey shows that Torremolinos received 31.6 per cent of the total visitors that chose the Western Costa del Sol for their vacations in June.

The town's hotel occupancy rate was also higher than Malaga city: Torremolinos hotels boasted an occupancy rate of 82.47 per cent (rising to 87.65 at weekends), while Malaga reached 69.91 per cent, which rose to 77.56 per cent at weekends.

The survey showed that over 36 per cent of the tourists visiting Torremolinos were Spanish, while 54.2 per cent came from countries within the EU.

More than 75,000 foreign tourists visited the town in June; visitors from the UK made up more than 30 per cent of the total (24,947), followed by the French (7,156) and the Irish (5,653).

IN BRIEF

Vox to expel Mijas councillor who changed his mind at the last minute

by MIJAS

I. GELIBTER. The hard-right Vox party confirmed this week that it will expel the new councillor on Mijas council, Carlos Rivero.

It follows the bizarre events before and after the local election in late May. Rivero first decided well before the vote to withdraw as head of the electoral list for Vox but it was too late to take his name off the ballot paper. The number two on the Vox list, Maya Escobar, stepped in and carried out all the campaigning as Vox's public face. However Rivero reportedly changed his mind at the last minute and



Carlos Rivero. by SUR

went on to take up the only seat Vox won, but with a twist; he took up the seat as an independent councillor and not officially for Vox.

The party has now lost patience and Rivero will be expelled.

Beach bars activate scheme to help lost kids

by MALAGA

P. MARTÍNEZ. The 'chiringuito' beach bars and restaurants the length of the Costa del Sol have launched a scheme this summer to help parents relax more easily on the beach.

The association of Costa beach businesses, which represents the famous 'chiringuitos', has explained that wristbands will be given out to children with the name and contact details of the nearest beach bar to where the parents are sitting.

If younger children should wander off, the person finding them will know who to contact, and parents will know where to go to seek assistance.

Questions still two years after little Lucía's death

by MALAGA

J. CANO. The family of toddler Lucía Vivar remembered her death two years ago this week after she disappeared one evening playing by a restaurant at Pizarra station. She apparently wandered in the dark along the tracks for over four kilometres. An inquest said she had probably been hit by the first train of the morning of 27 July and the inquiry was closed.

Lucía's parents continue legal moves to find more information. In a report, the Guardia Civil has defended its actions the night of the search, with a particular focus on how train services came to be restarted again. Officers say it wasn't their decision to restart rail services.

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"There are clear figures about climate change; we should put them up at bus stops"

Carlos Duarte Oceanographer



A photo of Carlos Duarte taken during one of his expeditions to the Arctic. :: SUR

EARTH MATTERS

Duarte, whose mother is from Malaga, is one of the greatest experts on oceans and climate

MÁLAGA. He has a very close relationship with the sea and there are two aspects to his love of it, leisure and business, or, to be more exact in the latter case, science. Professionally, Carlos Duarte's achievements are as varied as they are impressive. He has been awarded the National Research Prize and has 25 years' experience at the CSIC. He has travelled round the world by

MATÍAS STUBER

✉ mstuber@diariosur.es



boat to study the effects of climate change on the seas, and took the time to discuss the subject with us.
–**Tides come in, tides go out. Is that how we should imagine your life?**
–It could be one definition.
–**Is the sea always the same?**
–It always looks different. The colour changes. The texture changes. The wind changes. The sea isn't the same at night as it is during the day. It is a landscape which is always in motion. The sunrises and sunsets are incredible out at sea.

–**How and when did you fall in love with oceans?**

–I believe it must have been from birth. I was born in Lisbon, although my mother is from Malaga, and I am a Spanish citizen. With that mixture in my blood, it was impossible not to love the sea from the start.

–**About 70 per cent of the Earth's surface consists of seas and oceans. Are people generally aware of the dimensions?**

–No. The sea is a habitat with three dimensions, but we only see the surface, the flat area. If we were able to go deep down into it we would discover a much greater diversity of species. It is a habitat completely different to the one we are accustomed to when we walk around on land.

–**Is there anything left to explore?**

–There is everything left to explore.

If we laid all the underwater exploration which has been carried out so far in a straight line, it wouldn't cover 50 kilometres of those that Jules Vernes' Captain Nemo did. Trump says he is going to take Americans to Mars, but we don't even have suitable ships to explore the oceans.

–**Does Man need the sea more, or does the sea need Man?**

–Man needs the sea. The sea can do without Man altogether, and it did for millions of years. On the other hand, we depend on it, from breathing to eating. The sea is beneficial for our health and even for our psychological wellbeing. We depend on our oceans being healthy.

–**Are we causing damage to ourselves, do you think?**

–Every degradation of the oceans is

a degradation of our quality of life and our potential for the future. The good news is that it is not irreversible. We have already made some progress and that should cheer us up. The sea hasn't been lost yet. Absolutely not.

–**Did the deterioration begin with the industrial revolution?**

–That is a good point of reference. When the industrial revolution occurred a great deal of damage had already been caused by hunting and some marine species had already been extinguished, but the development of steam power for ships turned fishing into a type of war against fish. We reached rock bottom in that sense around the year 2000.

–**Is the sea like a gigantic sponge?**

–Yes, especially with regard to heat and carbon dioxide. Because we have altered the composition of the atmosphere we have trapped the heat which used to escape into space. The sea absorbs 95 per cent of the excess heat we produce. So it acts like a sponge, absorbing the heat and also a third of the carbon dioxide we produce, but this capacity for absorption has limits. The rise in temperatures is making species suffer.

–**One might be tempted to think that is a price that has to be paid for the development of societies.**

–No. That would be like taking a risk on our own survival. We would be placing our economic and human development in danger. The ocean is all we have, to absorb the growth of humanity. There is no other way of obtaining food in a sustainable manner. We cannot accept that deterioration is a price which has to be paid. We have to change the narrative about sustainability to the one about recovery.

–**People at bus stops talk about the weather, not about climate change.**

–There are figures about climate change which are evident. We need to put those at the bus stops. Every month the amount of carbon diox-

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"The sea can do without Man, it has already done so for millions of years"

ide we emit into the atmosphere increases, and that is the element that causes the change. However, the effect this has on temperature is measured in the longer term.

-How much talk about climate change reflects reality and how much is alarmist?

-There is confusion in society. A cold winter makes some people think climate change doesn't exist, but that isn't the way to measure it. We can check climate change by comparing the summers and winters of our childhood with those of now. It is a scientifically demonstrated reality. Yes, the way it is communicated can sound a bit alarmist at times.

-It seems difficult to fight against something which is invisible.

-People are accustomed to making decisions about risks and events in the long term. They buy life assurance and pension plans.

-What effect does the rising temperature have on the seas?

-The response of marine life to a rise in temperatures is that the animals and plants start to move towards areas in higher latitudes in search of colder waters.

If the sardines move away, there won't be many of the famous 'espetos' that we eat in Malaga any more.

-How could global warming affect us in Malaga?

-As a result of the warming, the sea

"We need to change the narrative about sustainability for the one about recovery"

"If a winter is cold, some people think that means that climate change doesn't exist"



Duarte, in his office. :: SUR

is producing less. When there is less plankton, the sardines will no longer have the quality, fat or size that they do now.

-Describe the Alborán sea in just a few words.

-It is a very important strip of ocean. In geography we learn that the boundary between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic is in Gibraltar, but in fact it isn't. The sea doesn't understand borders.

-What marine currents do we find in Malaga?

-The Atlantic water near Gibraltar is like a type of whirlwind, it creates swirls which change with the winds. That makes the sea very dynamic. That movement of the sea provides a great wealth of food in the form of plankton. And, at the same time, a wealth and flavour of fish you only find here.

-Jellyfish are also very common in the summer nowadays. Is it too soon to talk about a plague?

-There have always been jellyfish. Sometimes our memories fail us. The arrivals of jellyfish are in long cycles, normally 18 to 20 years. Now we are in a low period. There are other types of animal, like the Portuguese man of war, which cause alarm because their sting is very dangerous, but they are not really jellyfish. It isn't true that the numbers of jellyfish are increasing, locally or globally. What happens is

"The sea will regenerate if we give it some breathing space"

-Is plastic the biggest threat to our seas right now?

-It's the most visible problem but it isn't the most important one. Plastic is the tip of the iceberg of marine contamination. An iceberg has a point sticking up above the surface, but an enormous mass below. Plastic is the point we can see. It's something we can touch and understand, but marine contamination is invisible. I'm talking about chemical components here. That's why plastic makes us aware of marine contamination. If we only concentrate on plastic, we are losing a golden opportunity to act on the problem of marine contamination which is a much bigger one than plastic.

-What exactly do you mean by marine contamination? Sewage being

released into the sea, for example?

-I'm referring to all the chemical elements that enter the oceans as a result of human activity. Fertilisers we use in our fields, for example the ones which are used massively in many of the tropical orchards in Malaga. Yes, it also includes organic material released into the sea because of a lack of treatment plants. In Malaga that is a chronic problem. I'm also talking about the detergents we use in our homes, which have toxic components. Nowadays more than 50,000 chemical components are used by different industrial sectors.

-Does the sea have the ability to regenerate itself?

-It has an impressive ability to regenerate, as long as we give it a breathing space to do so. If we give it a break, we can practically recover it completely. The only thing we have to do is adapt a series of rules, and those are easy. We can do it. I want children, in 2050, to be able to enjoy the beaches in Malaga in the same condition as when we used to play there when we were young.

that we are more exposed to them these days. There are more people on the beaches, and a lot of mobile phones to film them.

-There is no end to the contamination of the seas. Are we swapping fish for rubbish?

-Put like that, it seems a bit excessive. People always say that by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish, but in fact that is not the case. The state of the seas isn't as bad as people say. During our explorations, we came across a stock of fish which have never been fished. They are mesopelagic fish, at a depth of between 400 and 700 metres. The stock of those fishes is about 30 times greater than all the known species put together. The health of the

oceans is better than we used to think. We have problems but we know how to solve them if there is enough willingness to do so. I insist, there will never be more plastic than fishes in the oceans. People shouldn't try to create fear.

-What's the most surprising thing you have ever found below the sea?

-I couldn't choose just one. I have dived more than 2,000 times, in many places in the world. I have seen a lot of things which have been special for some reason. I have also seen a lot of negative things, which are hard from an emotional point of view. Seeing how we ill-treat the ocean, for example. But even in the worst places there has always been something lovely as well.

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Officials present the new drone in Malaga this week. :: F. S.

Traffic police start using a drone on Costa to spot driving offences

The system will not monitor speeding, but mobile phone use, distractions and inappropriate overtaking will be targeted

:: IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. The government's road traffic authority (DGT) and the Guardia Civil have launched a video surveillance drone on motorways and main roads in Malaga and the Costa del Sol for the first time.

The drone will not monitor the speed of vehicles but will look out for "visible" offences, such as the use of a mobile phones while driving, irresponsible overtaking and distractions, as highlighted on Wednesday in a video at the campaign's presentation in Malaga city.

Each flight will have a duration of 25 minutes, and the equipment will rely on several batteries in order to keep running during each expedition. In Andalucía, there are now three drones of this kind in operation, of which one is based in Malaga.

As a priority, the equipment will

be used to monitor stretches of roads that have a high risk of accidents, above all on motorways and main roads where there are more vulnerable users, such as cyclists and motorcyclists, explained the DGT. Any fines given out will be accompanied by a certified photo with evidence of the offence that has been committed.

Peak summer getaway

The drone was introduced as part of the 1 August holiday getaway, the busiest time of the summer. Up to midnight last night (Thursday), some 121,000 long-distance journeys were expected in Malaga, the second biggest volume in Andalucía, after Seville (150,000).

Central government officials; the Guardia Civil head in Malaga, Jesus Esteban; and head of Traffic for Malaga, Trinidad Hernández, announced the drone campaign on Wednesday.

There will be special attention paid to motorcyclists, a group of users which they pointed out have had an increase in fatal accidents - eight in Andalucía throughout the month of July.

Any fines given will be accompanied by a certified photo with evidence of the offence committed.

PTA 'metrobus' gets 300 daily passengers, much fewer than predicted

The service will be suspended for the August holidays before starting up again in September

:: I. LILLO

MALAGA. The new 'metrobus' which links the final stop on the Malaga Metro to the Parque Tecnológico Andalucía (PTA) has now completed its first phase of operation ahead of a pause for August when the majority of companies on the park close.

Though a number of complaints have been registered regarding this pause, the uptake on the service during its first three months of operation has been well below ex-

pected levels.

So far, 20,000 people have used this service since it was first put into operation on 22 April - an average of 300 per day, well below the predicted 1,000 daily users.

A survey carried out by the University of Malaga (UMA) on behalf of the Malaga municipal transport company (EMT) found that the primary reason the service's lack of popularity was price (2.20 euros for a return trip, including a trip on the metro from the city centre). EMT boss Miguel Ruiz said: "Not all salaries at the PTA are high so this is a significant amount of money."

As a result, the EMT will propose that the bus should be free to workers as well as a series of proposals including adjusting the timetables to better suit working hours.

IN BRIEF

Local start-up nominated for international award

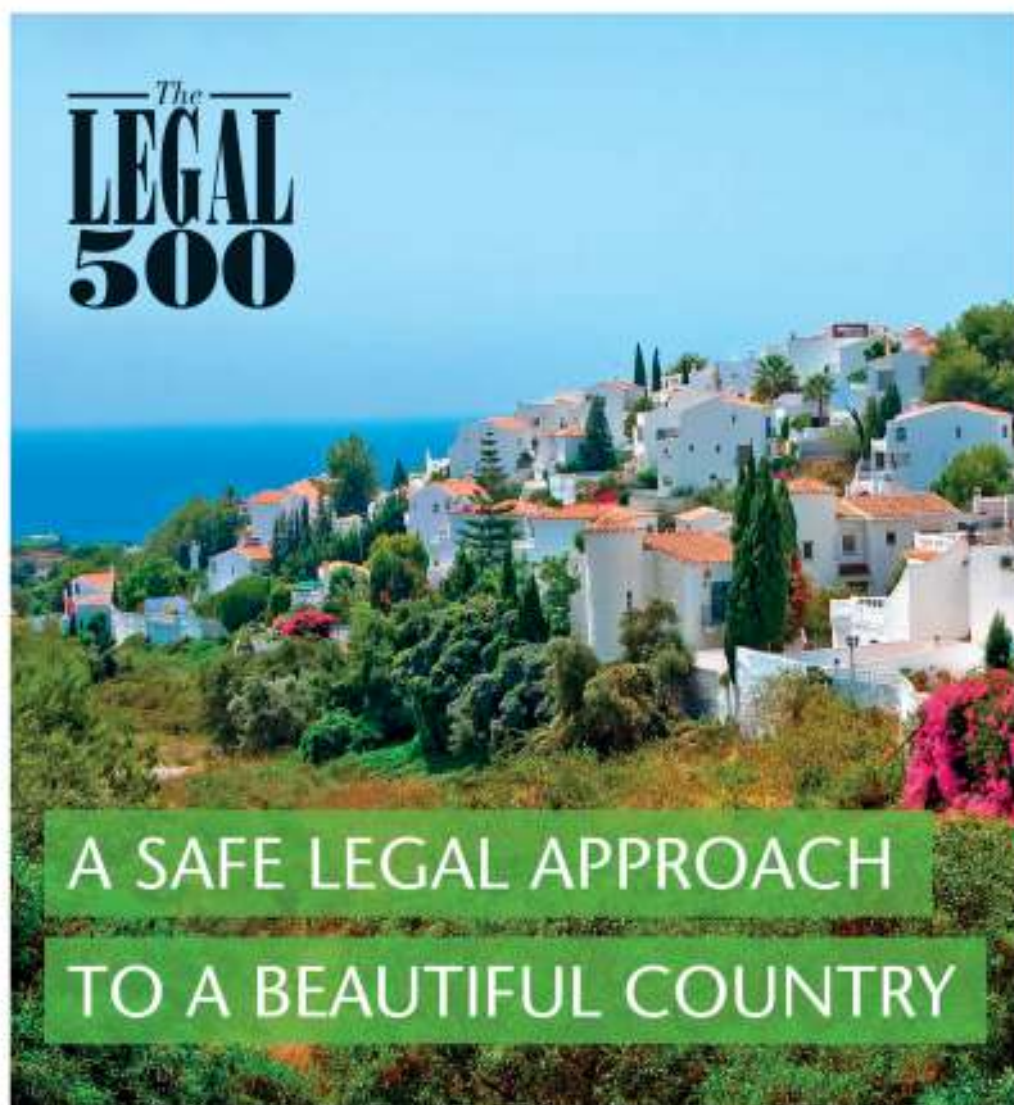
MIJAS

:: **SUR.** Check-in Scan, a tech start-up from Mijas, has been nominated for a VRTECH award for its mobile application which helps holiday home owners and rental companies to register their guests with the local authorities or police, depending

on the local regulations.

The app has been in operation for a year and at present over 8,000 properties throughout Spain are using its system, currently processing one holiday guest ID every 20 seconds.

The VRTECH 2019 competition aims to find the best technology start-up for the vacation rental industry. You can cast your vote online (<https://vrtech.events/vote/>).



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The Malaga economy is withstanding international tensions and growing fast

GDP in the province is expected to show an increase of 2.6 per cent by the end of the year, mainly thanks to exports, tourism and the property sector

■ **NURIA TRIGUERO**

MALAGA. The Malaga provincial economy is growing faster than that of the rest of Andalucía and Spain (which are more or less equal), and also faster than nearby countries. The commercial and geopolitical tensions which had been worrying analysts have not had the effects they feared so far, and unless there are any shocks between now and the end of the year (with Brexit in mind), 2019 will end with a significant increase in GDP of 2.6 per cent in Malaga and the Costa del Sol. This will be the highest in Andalucía, which is expected to be around 2.4 per cent, in line with Spain as a whole.

These forecasts have been made by Analistas Económicos de Andalucía (AEA), the Unicaja Group's analyst company, in its latest quarterly report.

AEA says that employment is also expected to increase at a good pace. The economists at Unicaja estimate a growth of 2.5 per cent this year, and an 8.3 per cent reduction in unemployment. In absolute numbers, this would mean more than 12,000 fewer unemployed compared with the average for last year (149,000).



The presentation of the AEA report. ■ SUR

It is more difficult to predict the rate of unemployment, because this depends not only on how many jobs are created but also movement in the active population in Malaga. Recently there have been continual increases in the number of people looking for work, which has slowed down the improvement in the unemployment rate. However, Felisa Becerra of the AEA says that if "the current rate of economic growth continues, the unemployment rate will also visibly reduce as well". In the first quarter of this year, the rate was 17.5 per cent.

The AEA report quantifies the

growth in the Malaga economy during the first quarter of 2019 as 3.0 per cent, above the regional average (2.6 per cent) and the highest of all the Andalusian provinces. Good performance by exports, which increased by about six per cent, is one of the reasons for optimism, says Felisa: "The international commercial tensions are not affecting exporters in Malaga and Andalucía too much, because they are having most effect on industrial sectors and most of the products we send to the exterior market are agricultural". Positive results in the property and tourism sectors are other

The figures for the rest of Andalucía and Spain as a whole are not as good as those in Malaga

factors in the faster growth of the Malaga economy.

Labour market

With regard to the Malaga labour market, in interannual terms the active population has increased by 2.5 per cent, occupied jobs by 8.6 per cent and Social Security affiliations by 3.9 per cent, all of which are higher than the Andalusian average. By sector, employment in the construction sector rose by 23.9 per cent, industry by 18.7 per cent and services 7.9 per cent, whereas in the agricultural sector it fell by 26.8 per cent.

The report also shows that there are 136,900 people unemployed in the province, with an interannual reduction of 32,300. This is a drop of 19.1 per cent, compared with 15 per cent in Andalucía in general.

Many of the new jobs were in the residential property sector. In the first quarter of this year permission was granted to build 3,307 homes in Malaga, (57 per cent of the Andalusian total), which was the highest number since the fourth quarter of 2007 and an interannual increase of 70.5%. However, Analistas Económicos also warns that demand for housing "is slowing down in 2019".

Marín plans more inspections to improve employment in the tourism sector

■ **PILAR MARTÍNEZ**

MALAGA. Boosting employment and improving quality in the tourism sector is a priority for the Junta de Andalucía, says Juan Marín, the vice-president of the regional government and minister for Tourism, Justice and Local Administration. He has just announced a new plan, in which business owners, unions and the Administration will take part, which will include inspections, a specific programme to control temporary work contracts and encourage employers to issue more permanent ones.

Among the actions proposed for this plan, which was agreed with the CC OO and UGT unions at a meeting on 12 July, Marín says there will be a focus on removing discrimination between men and women and campaigns to control the way in which hotel cleaners are employed. Companies which are committed to creating and maintaining employment will also be given priority when it comes to incentives. The plan will also focus on training within the hospitality industry, with new courses in the colleges which are run by the Junta de Andalucía. The authorities also want La Cónsula and La Fonda catering colleges to be fully operative again, and to reopen the CIO centre in Malaga.

The Professional Association of Real Estate Managers in Building Developments (GIPE) is an association of professionals from the real estate sector who offer their services in intermediation and management of all types of real estate operations, with offices all over the country.

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John Mackintosh Hall set for major transformation

The central core of the building in Main Street is to be ripped out and converted into the new Gibraltar National Theatre

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. The government has scrapped plans to turn the old Queen's Cinema into the Gibraltar National Theatre and decided to convert the John Mackintosh Hall instead.

In an announcement this week, it was revealed that the central core of the John Mackintosh Hall is to be removed, together with the area which currently houses the annex to the Gibraltar College, and will be replaced with a new full-sized theatre.

The plans include an auditorium with seating for over 900 people, a stage measuring more than 13 metres in width with large areas for wings, and a fly tower, facilities which are currently lacking in Gibraltar's other theatres.

The works will not affect the entrance to the John Mackintosh Hall in Main Street, the courtyard,



The Queen's Cinema is expected to be demolished. :: SUR

or the Hebrew School at the northern end of the site.

The design of the new National Theatre will also result in a larger library at the Hall and enhancements to other areas, which the government says will help to expand the John Mackintosh Hall's role as a cultural centre.

The original idea of converting the Queen's Cinema into the National Theatre was dropped on grounds of cost and because it was

decided that a theatre of this importance should be in a more central location. It also releases the Queen's Cinema site for other uses. No official plans for its future have been released, but it is reported locally that the building is to be demolished and the site will initially be used to provide 23 car parking spaces.

The cinema, which is in Boyd Street, opened in the 1960s and closed down in 2014.

IN BRIEF



The delegation was hosted by Dr Joseph Garcia. :: SUR

US Congress members on two-day visit

GIBRALTAR

D. B. A delegation of five Members of Congress of the United States of America arrived in Gibraltar for a two-day visit on Wednesday. It follows the trip to Washington made by deputy chief min-

ister Dr Joseph Garcia earlier this year, and was organised through the United Kingdom under the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act (MECEA) scheme.

After a briefing on political developments including Brexit, the visitors met the Governor of Gibraltar, Lt General Edward Davis, toured Parliament and were given a sightseeing tour.

Gibraltar Crystal to close this month

GIBRALTAR

D. B. It has almost become an institution on the Rock, but the Gibraltar Crystal shop in Casemates Square has announced that it is closing down at the end of this month. However, lovers of their beautiful hand-crafted items now have the chance to snatch up some bargains, as there is a 50 per cent discount on existing stock.

Firefighter becomes British Champion again

GIBRALTAR

D. B. Matt Coulthard has been crowned British Champion at the Firefighter Challenge for the second time, and says he was thrilled to have represented Gibraltar and competed for the British title. The challenge is organised for charity and replicates the arduous physical challenges faced by firefighters in the course of duty.

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Help needed to track down 11 of UK's most wanted believed to be in Spain

Residents and tourists are being asked to do their bit in the hunt and to contact Crimestoppers anonymously

:: SUR

MADRID. Expat residents and holidaymakers are being asked to help fight crime in the UK during these summer holidays. Britain's National Crime Agency (NCA) is trying to find the last 11 of the UK's most wanted fugitives with known links to Spain.

The NCA works closely with Crimestoppers, the Spanish authorities, UK law enforcement agencies and the British Embassy in Madrid as part of the Operation Captura campaign. Eighty-four fugitives have been returned to the UK out of 96 publicised cases; 11 are left to track down.

In June, Christopher Guest More



These are the faces of the most wanted with links to Spain. :: SUR

Jr, 41, became the latest fugitive to be arrested and returned to the UK after being on the run for 16 years.

Andy Cooke-Welling, of the NCA said: "Operation Captura has been a resounding success. But we are still hunting the remaining fugitives on

our list and will not stop."

More details on the fugitives can be found online (www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/most-wanted). To give information anonymously, you can call 0800 555 111 (UK) or 900 555 111 (Spain).

Sánchez suggests a Portuguese or Danish model in order to be next PM

:: SUR

MADRID. The leader of the Socialist PSOE party and acting prime minister, Pedro Sánchez, has once again blamed opposition parties for the failure of his investiture as new prime minister. He has asked them for "responsibility" and "reflection" to help smooth the way towards a new government following the example of other countries such as Portugal or Denmark.

In both these countries the Socialists govern alone but with support from other left-wing parties, an option that Sánchez is pushing for after losing last week's vote by MPs.



Sánchez in Madrid this week. :: EFE

Sánchez leads the largest party but not a majority and if no new government is voted on by MPs before 23 September, new elections will be needed. However, opinion polls show that few in Spain want a repeat election.

IN BRIEF

Gibraltar Strait drug crackdown gets results

MADRID

:: SUR. The government has been giving details of its success on the first anniversary of a crackdown on drug trafficking in the Strait of Gibraltar.

According to the Interior ministry, 4,852 people have been arrested in the last year, 149 tonnes of drugs have been seized, mostly hashish, and 759,000 multipack cartons of cigarettes.

Some 2,761,000 euros were found and 750 vehicles supposedly used by gangs were impounded, of which 133 are boats.

The number of operations against drug trafficking has increased 78 per cent in the last year.

THE EURO ZONE
MARK NAYLER

HOW DO I LOOK?



You've got Brexit, and we've got THIS." So said the owner of my local bar last week as he pointed to the TV, which was showing hypnotisingly dull footage of Pedro Sánchez's investiture vote. As each of the 350 deputies rose to say "Yes" or "No", I reflected on the similarities between the chaos in the UK and the chaos here in Spain: politicians tackling unprecedentedly complex realities, public dissatisfaction with their attempts and tarnished international reputations. There's a certain bored exasperation among Britons and Spaniards and it's brought on, respectively, by the interminable farce that is Brexit and by Spain's all-too-familiar governmental vacuum.

The latest Good Governance Index, compiled on the basis of World Bank data, confirms that Spain has taken a reputational hit as a result of its political uncertainty: the country dropped two places overall, from 25th in 2016 to 27th in 2017. In the category of "Political Instability" Spain fell seven places, from 33 to 40, prompting one to wonder how much further it would have fallen if the latest governmental void - now entering its fourth month - had been taken into account (the most recent data only takes us up to 2017).

There was plenty of chaos back in 2017 too, of course. Catalan separatists were gearing up to hold an illegal independence referendum, while Mariano Rajoy's ruling Popular Party was embroiled in the biggest corruption scandal in Spain's demo-

cratic history (surprisingly, the country only dropped one place in the "Control of Corruption" category, from 31 to 32). There was, at least, a government in office throughout 2017, although its minority status meant that it struggled to pass legislation. Unsurprisingly, Spain fell two places in the "Government Effectiveness" field, from 21 to 23.

The country moved up in the "Rule of Law" category though, from 26th to 25th place: perhaps Rajoy's heavy-handedness over Catalonia was perceived in some quarters as a display of regulatory strength. But there's still an incongruity between Spain being promoted in this respect while being demoted in the "Control of Corruption" category.

It was depressing watching Sánchez's defeat in the investiture votes, even though I did so perched at the bar in my local with an ice-cold beer (the barman speculated that Sánchez, too, was probably off to the pub after losing the second vote. And why not?). The Socialist leader is the best candidate Spaniards have for prime minister at the moment and, if given a second term, could set about repairing Spain's dented international reputation.

Boris Johnson faces a similarly tough PR exercise in the UK over Brexit, which he's promised to deliver on Halloween come what may (not a pun on the name of his hopeless predecessor). Neither of them will have it easy, but my money's on Sánchez doing a better job.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shameful behaviour

I have recently been to two different events: a concert at the Marenstrum Castle Music Festival and a gig at the Pogs Old Irish Pub. On both occasions some Brits attending them behaved shamelessly, due to the excessive alcohol intake.

They showed no respect at all to the rest of the audience, by just standing in front of us, while dancing and waving flags, in an all-seated area, at the Rod Stewart concert, thus blocking our view. Obviously, one avoids intervening as alcohol excess generally leads to non-reasonable understanding - and ultimately to a fight.

When will these Brits, residents and holidaymakers, learn to behave, show respect and not be a shame to fellow nationals, especially when abroad?

PAUL MROCEK
BY EMAIL

Unemployment

The economic crisis has passed but one aspect seems not to have moved on yet - working conditions. In your paper you published the latest unemployment figures ("Job creation on the Costa slowed down this spring" SUR in English July 26th) which showed that "135,000 people in the Malaga province are available to work but unable to find jobs". However, from my experience at least, there is no shortage of work available. Just go on LinkedIn (or similar) and you are inundated with listings for the Costa area. The problem, though, is that companies are still only willing to pay the absolute minimum possible.

I've had several job interviews in the past months and they all followed the same pattern. I had the languages, the qualifications, the experience... they wanted, I had the flexibility to work the shift patterns they needed. But one obstacle: they wanted all of that for the minimum wage.

How is anyone with a mortgage and children expected to live on 700 euros a month? It's not as if I was being interviewed for low-skilled work, either. These vacancies were all with international companies. If I was fresh out of university, living with my

parents, then fine. But how can they DEMAND experience AND qualifications for such derisory figures?

BETH MORRISON
BY EMAIL

Hotel discounts

Pilar Martínez reports that hotel reservations have not been meeting expectations this summer ("Hotels are offering discounts" SUR in English July 26th) and suggests high temperatures in northern Europe and competition from other destinations as two reasons. What she doesn't mention is the possibility that many holidaymakers may have decided against repeating last year's beach holiday on the Costa del Sol, having been unable to actually go in the sea because of the jellyfish.

So far this year they have not been a problem, but how many of the people whose holiday was ruined last year would have wanted to run the risk?

MEGAN JONES
MALAGA

Sky-high prices

With regards to hotels offering discounts to attract more business this summer, I find this very unsurprising. As tourism started to pick up here again, the prices started to shoot up massively. I understand that this is market economics - demand up, prices up. But to overshoot so massively will only backfire on the most faithful holidaymakers who, after coming year after year, are starting to turn their backs on the Costa del Sol.

Of course those who live here can appreciate what a wonderful place this truly is, but if you're only after a sun tan and a dip in the sea, unfortunately there are much better places where you get much more for your money.

The Costa benefits too much from the loyalty of the Brits, Dutch, Scandinavians etc to allow greed to take over. The high season just keeps getting longer and longer and the quality on offer at many of these hotels and resorts simply doesn't match the price tag they slap on them.

ADEN XAVIER-BRUCE
BY EMAIL

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Island games

PETER EDGERTON
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

Three or four times a week we receive private messages to The Shakespeare's TwitFace page, usually enquiring about our cultural events, asking if we can host private parties or wanting information about the sport we have on.

"Hi - will you be showing Grimsby reserves versus Scunthorpe reserves in the Ee By Gum Northern Territories Trophy first round replay three weeks on Tuesday?"

"Hi - we most certainly will. Bring your own pork scratchings."

This is all fairly common stuff. Imagine our surprise this week, then, when we received not one, but two messages of a quite different nature. They were both asking the same thing.

"Hi - will you be showing the Love Island final tomorrow night?"

When the first message arrived, I thought it must be a mistake and the sender had confused us with a

local pole dancing club. Upon receipt of the second enquiry, however, I realised that this must actually be a thing and some people who'd come to Malaga on holiday had decided that rather than enjoy a wide range of exquisite tapas and several glasses of wine on a rooftop terrace on a balmy July evening, they would prefer to watch some reality TV in a pub. Each to their own, I suppose.

"Love", "Island" and "final" are three very odd words to see in a sentence together, aren't they? I've never watched the programme but presume that it does actually take place on an island - Anglesey? - but that there isn't much love involved at all and that for it to be a final, the people on the show must have to compete against each other in some way possibly involving Botox injections and eyebrow shaping. I imagine that everyone present is in their twenties (although a senior Love Island for over seventies would be a

sure fire hit), good-looking and that none of them reads a compendium of classic poetry in their down time. Almost certainly, they all call each other "Guys", even when addressing just one other person and they all have tattoos, possibly written in Sanskrit.

Anyway, like I say, I haven't seen the programme in question but I'm pretty sure that'd be the gist of proceedings. It's odd, then, how this type of show is categorised with the term "reality" when such ludicrous shenanigans are about as far from most people's reality as it is possible to get.

No, I'm afraid we cited technical difficulties and steered our enquirees (very polite, both, by the way) in a different direction.

Not to worry, though; the football season starts soon and, with any luck, heavily featuring Grimsby and Scunthorpe reserves.

Now that's what I call reality.

IDÍGORAS

The traffic authority has started using a drone that will issue fines to drivers



Two degrees

IGNACIO LILLO

The average high temperature on the Costa del Sol in July has been two degrees hotter than the historical average, which is taken from a not-so-far-off period from 1980 to 2010. For 31 days we had to cope with highs of an average of 32.4 degrees, according to the Spanish met office Aemet. It's true that not all of the increase in the last month can be put down to climate change, but it's fair to assume that part of it is related to the phenomenon. In fact the Aemet meteorologists themselves have warned of the speed at which temperatures are rising.

As university lecturer Enrique

Salvo points out, we're one step closer to becoming like Tripoli or Oran. The next stage, though, would take us to the conditions of Timbuktu, although by then I doubt there will be many native Europeans living in Malaga. In a not-too-distant future men and women from northern and central Africa, more accustomed to life in the desert and its hardships, will colonise the south of Spain. The European tourists will have long gone, except perhaps for a few in winter, because for the rest of the year, the weather in their countries will have become quite mild. The Costa del Sol will no longer make sense as a tourist destination,

it will lose its main source of income and that will lead to mass emigration towards cooler and more habitable climes. Perhaps a family running a beach restaurant in La Carlhuela will move to a small colony in the south of Sweden that they'll call Nuevo Torremolinos and serve herring cooked on skewers, which won't be half as good as sardines from the Med but it's all they'll have.

The Jiminy Crickets of climate change don't stop shouting into the ear of a Pinocchio whose nose no longer fits on his face for so many lies. The warnings are coming from more and more sides, but the reality is that nobody cares, starting with the governments. After all, it's not that noticeable yet, and when it's really scorching we won't be here to tell the tale. Youngsters have had to take the helm of the demands for change, concerned by the legacy we're leaving them. For them, those two degrees might be the difference between having a future or not.

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ART FAIR MARBELLA

Artists of the world
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Art Marbella provides a good overview of the latest international art trends

:: GABRIELA BERNER

MARBELLA. The largest fair for international, contemporary art on the Costa del Sol celebrates its fifth edition this week, coming to an end this Saturday 3 August. Already on Monday, one day before the official opening, hundreds of art lovers had gathered at the Marbella congress centre, where 40 galleries from different countries are showcasing works by painters, graphic designers, sculptors, photographers and other artists represented by them.

The majority of these galleries are located in Spain and seven of them are in Marbella: Reiners Contemporary Art, Es Arte, Messeg Sculptures, Nouvelle Vague, Shulet Abghari, Waldström Tönneheim and Excellence Art.

Other well-known exhibitors have come from New York, Buenos Aires, Toronto, Miami, Paris, Vienna and Lisbon.

This year, the exhibition focuses on major artistic projects such as the fascinating portrait photographs by Jesús Chacón, portraying people from Marbella's cultural scene.

The fair is open until 3 August from 6pm until 10.30pm. Admission costs between 8 and 12 euros.



An attractive corner at the show. :: GABRIELA BERNER



The central exhibition area is perfect for a short break and a chat. :: GABRIELA BERNER



Some of the works at the art fair. :: GABRIELA BERNER



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IN THE FRAME

From the army to becoming an author

It was a military posting to Gibraltar that initially brought Scott Alcroft to the Costa del Sol over a decade ago.

The former non-commissioned officer lived on the Rock for three years, which gave him the chance to fall in love with this part of the world.

And despite being posted all over the world to destinations including Germany, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan and Belize, it was this corner of Andalusia that he enjoyed the most.

So when his posting was over and he left the army, it was with a heavy heart that he returned to his native Scotland - vowing to return one day.

On arrival back in Ayrshire in 2010, he took up a job at the local NHS hospital as a head porter.

Describing his time at the NHS, he said: "I loved it! Every single day was different, dealing with patients, and the staff were always very professional. As stressful as it is in the NHS, we always had a good laugh."

Over the next six years he continued working at the hospital, until his 16 year marriage to his wife ended last summer.

On the plus side though, it gave him the perfect opportunity to return to Gibraltar and southern Spain.

"I thought to myself, if I don't do it now, then I'll never do it," said the 41-year-old.

"I fell in love with the place and always dreamed of coming back, so when I got the opportunity that's exactly what I did. My wife at the time didn't like it here, so there was no way I was going to move here with her.

"I thought if it works, it works, and if not, I can always come back to my old job. But once I got here last summer there was no way I was going back - you couldn't drag me back to Scotland!"

Born in Irvine in Ayrshire, in 1978, Scott joined the army at 21 years of age, after growing up in Saltcoats, a small fishing village on the west coast of Scotland.

Now living in Manilva and commuting to Gibraltar, the Celtic Football Club fan works for a security firm on the Rock as his main job.

However, more interestingly, he has also discovered he has a knack

for writing, after self-publishing three books in the past 12 months.

The prolific writer told SUR in English that he started writing about two years ago, after being asked to write a blog for an American Celtic FC website.

He explained: "I ended up taking over the website. I then went on to

write for another two websites and then started on my first book.

"To be honest I was bored at night after moving out here. I didn't have a girlfriend at the time and one night I just got the laptop out and started writing, and that was it. I already had the idea for a story in my head, and as I started writing, more ideas

came to me. In the end my first book took me about a month to write."

Asked how long he spends writing each day, he explained that it depends, with anything from 30 minutes to four hours if he "gets in the flow".

He added: "After finishing my first book I spoke to a few mates who

"There's talk of turning my books into a TV series or a film already"

were writers and they said I should go down the route of self-publishing and get myself a proofreader." Fast forward a year and Scott has now self-published three books: The Bunnet, Hugo and The Factory Girls.

He said that he's now making money from his books through Amazon, and that local book shops in his home town are also selling them.

He said: "I wasn't really interested in writing at school to be honest. It's come later in life, I guess I'm a late bloomer."

Pressed on how it feels to be an author, he said it feels "surreal" and that the feedback so far has been amazing.

Scott said: "The feedback from family and friends has been brilliant. Most, if not all have read the books. They're normally your toughest critics, but it's all been positive."

In addition to writing fiction, Scott also writes for two online Celtic FC websites; ACSOM (A Celtic State Of Mind) and a Celtic fanzine named More Than 90 Minutes.

Asked where he gets his ideas from, Scott explained that his second book, Hugo, which is based in La Linea, contains a lot of real life events that have happened involving the drug trade in the border town.

He went on to say the book is about a Scottish guy who inadvertently takes over the drugs trade on the Costa del Sol in the 1990s.

As for any tips for budding writers, he added: "Go for it for sure! I didn't think one person would want to read anything I ever came up with. There's talk of turning my books into a TV series or a film already."

"Just go for it, you never know."

Looking forward, Scott plans to carry on writing fiction and is currently working on a children's book.

For more information on his books visit Amazon where all are available on Kindle and paperback.



Scott Alcroft. :: SUR

After moving to the Costa del Sol, Scott Alcroft discovered a hidden talent for writing

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Samantha helps bring medieval silver to Spain

A local girl makes Malaga proud as the Spanish women's medieval combat team return triumphant from an international competition in Italy

CHARLOTTE WAY

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MALAGA. Costa del Sol-born Samantha Chapman clashed in combat alongside team members in the annual Dij Cossot Buhurt tournament held outside Turin in July.

Tension was high as the crusaders travelled back to medieval times, warring against rivals to bring home the silver medal. Spain revelled in success, as the men's team, Urna Sur, also triumphed, conquering all teams except one to bring home silver: Spain's first international medal.

Dij Cossot Buhurt was Samantha's first taste of competing internationally. "To get a silver medal was pretty amazing for us," she tells SUR in English. Live action roleplay of medieval battles made the Italian town come alive, Samantha explains, but remembers, in the same breath, to make a distinction between the two: "Roleplay is not what we do. What we do is actually a sport," she is quick to clarify. "It is very easily confused."

The 29-year-old from Mijas first tried medieval combat two years ago with her boyfriend, whose "lifelong dream" was to jump on the battling bandwagon. The trial period got her gripped. "It is an intense sport, it's not for everybody. It's very claustrophobic and hot," Samantha says, although she is not one to shy away from the challenge.

Medieval combat can be ruthlessly "unforgiving towards your body", and so Samantha stresses the need to condition her ligaments to her armour's weight. Training in the two months leading up to a tournament



Spain's silver-winning women's medieval combat team, with Samantha bottom left, in Turin, Italy. :: THE MEDIEVAL THINGS



Combatants in action. :: THE MEDIEVAL THINGS

is intense, and Samantha follows a strict regime of running, boxing and exercising with her armour on, with a bit of dodging practice on the side. The Almodóvar del Río Castle in Córdoba province is the backdrop to many of the team's training sessions.

Samantha, who works as a project manager for a software development company, is no stranger to physical exertion, however, having earned gold in the Andalusian Taikwondo Championship back in 2017.

Emphasis on teamwork is what differentiates the sports; Taikwondo is a "very solitary sport. Everybody gets in the zone and they don't want

to talk with anybody else", whereas Samantha describes her medieval combat team as her second family. Were it not for the women's dedication, camping trips together would involve more laughs than training, and the supportive relationship extends onto the battleground; despite healthy rivalry, even the male teams "all got together to cheer on the girls" in Italy. "It really makes you feel like you're part of something."

Nevertheless, medieval combat is not free from drawbacks. Funding is troublesome and starting the sport comes at a cost; a full kit of armour could strip your pocket of anything up to an extortionate 2,600 euros.

The situation in Ukraine and Russia, where championing combatants are recruited from the young age of five, is a country mile away from that in Spain, where medieval combat is still not recognised as an official sport, and securing sponsors proves another battle to beat. In

Spain, "We do it out of enjoyment," says Samantha.

As in other sports, female participation can also regrettably be a struggle, and Samantha's team in Turin was an amalgamation of women from across Andalucía and Madrid, and it even borrowed a combatant from the Czech Republic. Raising awareness and attracting more women to the sport is next on Samantha's list.

The plated winners are not ones to rest on their laurels, and Samantha assures SUR that after a week of "chilling", Andalucía's female warriors will be back on their feet.

The Spanish national tournament this autumn is the next fence to hurdle, but much of their training will be focused on vanquishing all at the IMCF (International Medieval Combat Federation) World Championship next year.

Held in Barcelona, the tournament promises to be a "huge event for Spain", and particularly for

"It is an intense sport, it's not for everybody. It's very hot and claustrophobic"

"We've proved ourselves in Italy, so all of us are pumped to do the same in Barcelona"

"Everybody is very supportive. It really makes you feel like you're part of something"

A look through the lens on medieval combat

Medieval combat, as practised today, is a full-contact fighting sport. Weapons are exact replicas of what were used in the 15th and 16th centuries, with the single difference being their blunted edge. Contestants do not escape from risk entirely, however; on the contrary, the suits of armour weighing 25 kilos upwards increase the risk of sprains, and bruising from a hit at full-force against an unprotected area is inevitable. Trousers and a thick quilted jacket are worn underneath the body armour. Unlike the USA, Spain, conscious of animal cruelty, does not practise jousting within the sport. Battles are contested according to HMB (Historical Medieval Battles) regulations, and the events are refereed by knight marshals.

Samantha's women's team: "It is going to be amazing because there hasn't been a girls' team in two or three years."

The women's intrepidity is impressive. "We've proved ourselves in Italy, so all of us are really pumped to do the same in the international one," says Samantha.

Gold in Barcelona is not out of the question and the message seems to be "Warriors watch out".

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More than just recycling plastic

Zero Waste followers go beyond recycling in their aim to lead more sustainable lifestyles

EARTH MATTERS

Esther Lorenzo is one of the people behind the Zero Waste movement in Malaga, a network of consumers whose aim is to live sustainably

by A. SALAZAR / J. RHODES

MALAGA. Cups, straws, cotton buds and other single-use plastics have their days numbered. The European Union and other individual countries are starting to approve laws to ban them because of the harm they are doing to the planet, especially the seas and oceans. The EU ban comes into effect in 2021.

Changing shopping habits is one step towards reducing plastic usage that is already under way. Supermarket chains across Spain have either stopped supplying plastic bags and swapped them for paper or raffia ones, or at least provide the alternatives. Meanwhile a growing number of eco-friendly websites and social media pages are encouraging consumers to take reusable containers when shopping for fresh products. It is also no longer uncommon to see supermarket trolleys with loose fruit and vegetables, instead of customers automatically putting them into plastic bags.

There is growing awareness that we are not going to save the planet just by recycling. Social networks have become the planet's best ally in the fight against plastics and mass consumerism, with videos being shared about the islands of plastic floating in the oceans and heart-wrenching images of animals either found dead because they got caught in a fishing net or with countless pieces of plastic in their stomachs. The Zero Waste Spain Facebook page alone already has well over 11,000 followers and rising. There is even a Malaga branch of the same group (Zero Waste/Desperdicio Cero-Málaga Provincia).

Esther Lorenzo, 31, is one of the people behind this group locally and she explains how she has gradually



Esther buys fresh produce weekly and dried foods once a month. :: G. P.

managed to reduce the amount of plastic she uses. "As human beings we are destroying our world and the deterioration of the environment is something that has always worried me. About a year ago I found out about the Zero Waste group and I decided to change the way I consume," explains Esther.

But just using reusable bags instead of plastic ones to do the shopping is not enough, she says. "Plastic is being demonised and it's true that it is the most damaging material because it isn't biodegradable, but the objective is to reduce the use of all materials. Paper and bamboo, for example, both have a big impact on the environment with tree-felling; and what about the pollution caused by transporting all of these materials?" she says.

Through the Zero Waste group Esther is getting people to think about their use of materials. "Is it really necessary to put every vegetable you buy in a separate plastic bag?" she asks the group's followers.

Planning

In order to follow the Zero Waste movement properly, Esther says that as consumers we need to take a good look at how we shop: buy only what we really need; make the most of what we already have at home; take a container and shopping bags from home every time we do the shopping; and use sustainable products to clean the house.

There are already cleaning brands such as Ecover that have been around for years, although these products still come in plastic containers. It is also possible to make homemade cleaning products with ingredients such as bicarbonate of soda, vinegar, lemon juice and adding essential oils. There are plenty of recipes on the internet.

Getting into the habit

While at the beginning it might seem like a daunting task to change habits of a lifetime, Esther insists that "once you get into the habit it's not that difficult to do".

However she agrees it requires "a bit more planning". Esther explains that she buys items such as pasta, pulses, spices and nuts once a month by weight, and that for fruit and vegetables she belongs to a group that delivers a box once a week to a local delivery point. "They are grown organically at an allotment in Alhaurin de la Torre," she explains, adding that she spends roughly 80 euros a month on food, which busts the myth that eating organically is more expensive than going to the supermarket.

In Malaga alone there is a growing number of shops that are selling products by weight, which is really a return to the way that people used to shop, before the onslaught of large supermarkets and convenience food.

Hungarian Greg Both has opened up El Hombre del Bolso (the bag man) in the city's Calle Mármol and Bulk

The Bag Man - buying products by the kilo

by SUR

MALAGA. Greg Both, 39, is originally from Hungary and calls himself 'The Bag Man'. Far from trying to scare people, he says that with that name he wants to attract attention and encourage people to buy products by weight. In his shop on Calle Mármol in Malaga, Greg sells items such as pulses, tea, coffee and

other dry food. He is convinced that there is a growing demand from consumers to shop in this way as awareness of the damage plastic and other resources are doing to the environment grows.

"I also share the zero waste philosophy and leading a much more environmentally aware lifestyle now. I have worked for large multi-



Greg Both in his shop. :: G. POZO

national companies, always in a hurry, racing from one place to another and I got to the point where I decided that I needed to change," Greg explains, adding that he has managed to learn to live with less and feels much better.

He says that a lot of his customers live in the neighbourhood and like it because, he says, "It's the way people used to shop before." He has more than 350 products in the shop and also asks customers to donate glass jars and bottles so that other shoppers can reuse them. His business can be found online (www.elhombredelsaco.eu).

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Shop is doing the same thing in Calle Amadeo Vives, in Huelin. Costa del Sol-based British women Steph and Sarah run Ecopassion.es, an online store that sells environmentally-friendly kitchen and hygiene products, including bamboo toothbrushes and reusable food containers.

Esther uses bars of soap instead of shower gels and shampoos and makes her own deodorant and toothpaste "with recipes that people share on the internet". For the housework and washing Esther uses detergent made from recycled soap by people in her Zero Waste group.

She admits, however, that her family and partner don't go to the same lengths as she does and said that sometimes it's "frustrating" to maintain a zero waste lifestyle; she says she focuses on what she can do and not on what she can't. She is convinced that little by little more people will start to do what she is doing.

It's become a way of life for Esther and affects almost every thing she does. For example in order to avoid using rubbish bags, she keeps organic waste in a bucket and takes it to the University of Malaga where they make compost. "In summer I put the waste in the freezer until I take it to the university," she adds.

Sustainable consumerism

As far as clothes are concerned, Esther says she much prefers to spend a bit more money on good quality items from a shop with a good policy on sustainability which guarantees the minimum human rights for its workers, rather than buying cheap items from large, high street chains. "What I save from not buying in supermarkets I invest in better quality clothing," she said.

There are also alternatives to disposable sanitary towels and tampons, such as the "moon cup" and organic products. Parents are going back to using towelling nappies instead of disposable ones too. "With this lifestyle I am learning a lot about myself and how the mind works in general, I see the excuses that people give. This translates into greater awareness, freedom and responsibility. It's a never-ending learning process," Esther concludes.

European medical students give benefit concert for Cudeca

LIZ PARRY

✉ lparry@diariosur.es



MALAGA. The only possible reason for a few empty seats at the EMSOC concert for Cudeca last Friday is that the music-loving public in Malaga didn't know what an absolute treat it was going to be. Tickets were advertised at a mere five euros, there was plenty of parking space right outside the venue - and the music was nothing short of inspiring. It was a good cause and it should have been sold out.

EMSOC is the European Medical Students' Orchestra and Choir: future doctors from more than 25

countries who gather annually to share their passion for music and create bonds of friendship and international cooperation. This year they met in Granada, but travelled to Malaga to give a benefit concert for Cudeca at the Faculty of Telecommunications Engineering.

First on the programme was 'Goyescas' by Enrique Granados, beautifully played by the orchestra conducted by Edmon Levon. This was followed by Dvorak's Symphony N° 8, putting the audience in cheerful and optimistic mood for the interval. After that came Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco's charming 'Romancero Gitano' for choir and guitar with soloist Soledad Martínez Fernández on the guitar, and 'Gloria' by Karl Jenkins with movement IV, 'The song: I'll make music' exquisitely sung solo by the choir's conductor, Angeliki Ploka.



EMSOC brings together future doctors from 25 countries. :: MARIO ZENARI

A prolonged standing ovation brought an encore in the form of a lively 'Seguidillas' from 'La verbena de la Paloma' by Tomás Breton.

As the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine in Malaga put it, EMSOC "represents some of the human values we consider to be essential in our profession, combining culture, solidarity and medicine... The medicine of the future is in good hands, the hands of new generations who know, and share with others, that

it is studied as a Science but practised as an Art".

It is hoped that this concert will become an annual event in Malaga. Eavesdropping on the comments of the audience reluctantly leaving the auditorium at the end we heard the words "uplifting", "professional", and even: "That was the loveliest concert I've ever been to." Those who went this year will be the first to snap up tickets in future.

SOCIETY SCENE



Members of Costa Women. :: SUR

Costa Women welcome 8,000th member

MALAGA

:: **SUR IN ENGLISH.** Costa Women continues to grow and last week were excited to welcome the 8,000th member on their website (costawomen.com).

The community was created in 2010 by Ali Meehan as a way to connect, inspire, enable and support women in their journeys to and around Spain. Members can now enjoy over 20 events per month at different locations in Spain.

The online community connects over 68 nationalities of women living across the whole of Spain.



Classic Car Club members. :: SOL

Classic Car Club enjoy summer garden party

MALAGA

:: **SUR IN ENGLISH.** The July event in the SOL Classic Car Club calendar was their annual Summer Garden Party. This year the event was held in the home of the club president and his wife. Live music was provided by local musicians Ian Hunt and Marcelo Sáenz. The club is taking a break in August but will be back in September with a full programme of events. www.solclassiccarclub.net

Age Care welfare officer ordained as church elder

FUENGIROLA

:: **SUR IN ENGLISH.** Lesley Berridge, Welfare Officer for Age Care, Calahonda, was ordained as an Elder into the Church of Scotland, Fuen-girola, by Reverend Norman Hutcheson, on 28 July.

The Church of Scotland has weekly services at Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre on Calle Nueva (Fuengirola) every Sunday at 10.30am but is currently closed for the summer holidays.

Services resume on Sunday, 1 September.



Lesley Berridge.

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JENNIE RHODES



WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

2 AUGUST 1385

The first recorded bullfight in Pamplona

The spectacle was initially reserved for selected members of the aristocracy and became part of the city's annual summer fair in 1590

The first ever recorded bullfight in Pamplona took place on 2 August 1385, paving the way for what would become the world-famous Sanfermines, or 'running of the bulls'.

According to Spain's royal archives, King Charles II of Navarre ordered the payment of 50 Aragonese pounds to a Christian and Moor who were brought from Zaragoza to fight and kill two bulls for his entertainment.

While it is known that bullfighting events had been taking place in the city for many centuries, this is the first on record.

Three years after the Pamplona event, in 1388, another

bullfight was organised for Constance of Castile, the Duchess of Lancaster, who was the king's cousin and was passing through Pamplona on her way to Castile.

Spain was at the time divided into the Kingdoms of Castile and León, Navarre, Aragon and Granada, which included Malaga and was still Muslim. Pamplona belonged to the Kingdom of Navarre which today is the autonomous region of Navarra.

In 1385 there was no official bullring in Pamplona and the bullfights took place in the main square, Plaza del Castillo. The bulls were brought into the square by herdsmen on horses and the fight commenced.



Charles II of Navarre.



Running of the bulls, Pamplona, 2019. :: D. FERNÁNDEZ / EFE

Bullfights were originally reserved for selected members of the aristocracy.

It wasn't until 1590 that the by then annual event was moved to July to coincide with the annual summer fair, which was held in honour of San Fermin, Pamplona's first ever bishop. In

1591 the first accounts of men running with the bulls were recorded, starting the tradition which still takes place every July. The current bullring was constructed in 1922, a year before American writer Ernest Hemingway first visited the city and became an aficionado of the San-

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Tauromaquia	Bullfighting
Castellano	Castilian
Toro	Bull
Musulmán	Muslim
Corrida de toros	Bullfight
Plaza de toros	Bullring
Prohibido	Banned
Monarca	Monarch
Soberano	Sovereign
Festejos	Festivities
Reino	Kingdom
Edad Media	Middle Ages
Conquistar	To conquer
Agosto	August
Espectadores	Spectators
Feria	Fair
Siglo	Century
Caballo	Horse

fermines festival, inspiring him to write the novel, *The Sun Also Rises*.

Despite the controversy surrounding bullfighting in Spain and regular protests by animal welfare organisations, the running of the bulls still takes place every July in Pamplona, attracting people from all over the world.

Bullfighting was banned in Catalonia in 2011.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

LEGAL ADVICE

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REF. R. E. T.

I have a problem with a dental clinic of which I have been a client for years because I have always received good service. A few months ago my dentist retired and one of his children started to see me. In a check-up, he saw that a tooth was quite deteriorated and he recommended to remove it and have an implant. The problem

is that he did not do it well and although at first he told me that the discomfort was normal, I had a serious infection. He then admitted that the implant had not been done correctly and offered to have another one done at no cost. My question is, could I ask for the money back to go to another clinic, instead of having another implant?

In the event of professional malpractice, the client can request reimbursement of the amount paid for the service, plus possible compensation for damages, provided that such damages exist and can be proven. However, if the dentist performs a further implant, the chances of claiming what has already been paid are reduced as repairs have been made to the work initially badly done. In this case, it would be possible to claim damages that would have been caused, as long as they can be credited, but not the cost itself.

REF. S. A. O.

I have a country house in Spain. There is a wall separating my plot from the neighbour's, and my house has a sunny patio in that area of the plot. I do not live here, and I have found that the neighbour has made a construction that protrudes above the wall, "invading" part of my patio and taking away a lot of sunlight. Can he do this?

In this case, the best idea would be to send a letter to your neighbour to try to reach an agreement, as usually the regulations state that you can not build within three metres of a boundary. If he does not reply, there would be no choice but to lodge a complaint at court. On the other hand, you can also denounce the fact before the town hall, as if he doesn't have all the legal permits in place they can order the demolition of the building in some cases.

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DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

The walking iris

This shade loving relation of the iris has small, white and purple flowers on long arching stems every spring

Originally categorised as the Trimezia genus, this member of the Iridaceae family (iris) has now been given a genus of its own, Neomarica. It was discovered that unlike other members of the Trimezia group,

Neomarica had flattened stems in cross-section, not round. However this plant, Neomarica gracilis, commonly called walking iris or the apostle plant, is

still often listed in plant catalogues as Trimezia gracilis.

Neomarica gracilis is a clumping herbaceous perennial with rhizomous roots, long, glossy leaves and small exotic blooms. It is native to south Mexico and Central and South America. The flowers, which start to appear in spring and only last one day, consist of three large white petals arranged like a propeller and three purple inner petals curled in to the throat which is striped with burgundy and yellow.

Once flowering is finished, the arching stems form small plantlets at their tips and bend down further until they touch the ground. These plantlets root into the soil and grow into new plants a little way away from the main clump, hence 'walking iris'. The other name 'the apostle plant' is believed to have arisen from the mistaken idea that the clump needed at least twelve leaves to flower.

The walking iris needs moist soil in full or partial shade. It is not fussy about soil type but it must be free-draining. It is not frost hardy and may die back to soil level in colder, inland areas. Overall height is between 60 and 90 cm although Trimezia spathata can reach 1.6 metres. Other species include N. Longifolia which has yellow flowers with burgundy patches and N. caerulea has purple/blue petals but doesn't 'walk'.

Neomarica gracilis can be grown in a border but looks spectacular in a container or hanging basket where the blooms can arch down over the sides.



The walking iris and close-up of a bloom (inset). :: WIKIMEDIA

READERS' PHOTOS



:: ROSALIND CAPLAN

RESTAURANT FLOWERS

This picture of a Lagerstroemia was sent in by SUR in English reader Rosalind Caplan who says, "This tree is outside our favourite local restaurant. Every year I mean to find out what is." The common name for this stunning small tree or shrub is crepe myrtle and there are around 50 species in the genus with colours ranging from deep purple to red, pink and white.

RED HOT FIRECRACKER PLANT

"Red hot like the weather" is how Caroline Sellers describes this plant in her patio. Commonly called the firecracker plant, Russelia equisetiformis is native to Mexico.



:: CAROLINE SELLERS

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

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

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

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Fairy tales and dolls' houses for grown-ups

An exhibition of Angie Huzzey's miniature creations is running throughout August at El Pantano restaurant at La Viñuela reservoir

■ JENNIE RHODES

LA VIÑUELA. Los Romanes resident Angie Huzzey is exhibiting her fascinating collection of dolls' houses at El Pantano restaurant by La Viñuela reservoir until the end of August. The collection of 12 houses, which Angie explains, she has made from scratch, will be on display in the entrance to the restaurant every day except Tuesdays, when it is closed, from 12 to 11pm.

Each one of the miniature buildings, which vary from houses, to beauty centres and cafés, is complete with furniture and décor, which Angie explains she has made herself. "I don't buy anything," she reveals. "I use bits of wood that



Angie Huzzey. ■ J. RHODES



One of Angie's dolls houses with a can of tonic water to show the scale. ■ A. H.

we have at home as my husband is a carpenter and people donate bits and pieces, especially jewellery," she explains.

Angie, 69, is originally from Cornwall but has lived in Los Romanes with her husband, Richard, for 17 years and more recently their two grown-up sons have followed

them here. She explains that she started making the houses about four years ago. "I knit and sew and I've always had a longing to make things," she confesses. "I wanted

to make rocking horses but they were very difficult, so I started making the dolls' houses. The first one was the wizard's house and it went on from there."

Angie has also written short stories to go with each of the houses. She has created a series of fairy tales (each of the buildings is occupied by fairies) and explains that they are "big girls' dolls' houses where wands can do anything and there are no tax inspectors!" Some of the characters are based on people she knows and her husband even features in one of the houses as 'Risky Ricky'. The bar is run by 'Billy Boracho' (meaning 'drunk' in Spanish).

Another of Angie's creations was a replica of the popular kiosk-style cafeteria in Los Romanes, 'The Shack', which she gave to Paco, the owner. "He was really surprised and got quite emotional when I gave it to him," Angie reveals.

The exhibition runs until 31 August at El Pantano restaurant at La Viñuela reservoir, on the A-356. The houses will also be for sale and a price list is available on request.

EL Pantano restaurant :
<http://elpantanorestaurante.blogspot.com>



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EXHIBITIONS

Rooted in Gibraltar

Gibraltar. Until 30 August. John Mackintosh Hall. Tamara Shaw opens her exhibition in Gibraltar. The abstract realism exhibition features large canvas pieces, oil paintings and collage rope works, with sailing as the underlying theme.

Victorian Spain

Ronda. Until 31 August. El Museo Unicaja Joaquín Peinado. 'A vision of Victorian Spain' is the theme for this exhibition which consists of around 75 works by 20 British artists (including John Philip, Edwin Long, John Bagnold Burgess, John Haynes Williams, Robert Kemm and Edwin Roberts) who painted romantic landscapes of Spain in Victorian times.

Granada Mi Aire

Estepona. Until 31 August. Patio Top Garden Furniture, Carretera A7 163- Urb El Pirata. Andalusian landscapes focusing on light and power.

Francisco Benzal

Luz de La Vida, Cómpera

Estepona. Until 29 August. Casa de Las Tejerinas. Tues-Fri 9am-9pm, Sat 10am-2pm, 3pm-7.30pm. Free entry.

An exhibition of Estepona-born Francisco Benzal's artwork. 20 works of art will be featured.

El Pinto de los Toros

Estepona. Until 15 August. Casa de Las Tejerinas. Exhibition of the work of Italian painter Roberto Montanari. His work is characterised by Spanish landscapes, and more specifically Andalusia, with a great passion for bulls.

The Beatles and the Rolling Stones

Mijas. Until 1 September. Casa

Museo de Mijas.

The exhibition captures the magic of the bands when they were still young and relatively unknown. The pieces in the exhibition come from the private collections of Erry O'Neill and Gered Mankowitz as well as some photographs by the great photographer Baron Wolman.

Fundación Unicaja

Malaga. Until 29 August. Sociedad Económica Amigos del País.

The exhibition is called 'Tesoros Ocultos. Una muestra de la colección de Francisco Martín Sáenz e Hijos' and is a collection of 28 distinct pieces by artists such as Denis Belgrano and Enrique Simonet, among others.

Centre Pompidou

Malaga. Until 15 September. ¡Con Ojo! is an interactive installation for children.

Museo de Nerja

Nerja. Until 25 August. Plaza de España. Nerja.

Artistic group Visuel brings together 10 of their contemporary artists for their exhibition 'Underground', where all of the artists

work in Triptych format.

Bruce Nauman

Malaga. Until 1 September. Museo Picasso Málaga.

Rooms, Bodies, Words is the title of the exhibition of around 100 works by contemporary artist and sculptor Bruce Nauman.

Max Ernst Historia Natural

Malaga. Until 13 October. Carmen Thyssen Museum. Free with ticket to visit the museum.

An exhibition of 34 works by surrealist painter Max Ernst.

Carmen Thyssen Museum

Malaga. Until 8 September.



Evaristo Guerra, Rincón.

'Perversidad. Mujeres fatales en el arte moderno' features women artists who invaded spaces that were previously out of bounds to them or restricted.

Banksy The Art of Protest

Malaga. Until 15 September. La Térmica.

The exhibition is La Térmica's most ambitious to date and includes iconic series such as the portrait of Kate Moss in the style of Warhol's Marilyn, The Bulldog and serigraph of the series Girl with Balloon.

Galería Luz de la Vida

Cómpera. Until 30 August. Calle Laberinto 15 Bajo.

The exhibition includes art works by Leanda Jaine, Sandra Costello, Nanon Morsink, Lieuwke Loth and Bo Arenander. www.galerialuzde-lavida.com

Evaristo Guerra

Rincón de la Victoria. Until 30 August. Casa Fuerte de Bezmiliana.

'El Alma de Color' is the title of this exhibition by Vélez-Málaga artist Evaristo Guerra. It consists of around thirty of his recent works including oils, drawings, prints and serigraphs.

Celebrated Swiss pianist offers recital in Torremolinos bullring

TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. The celebrated Swiss pianist and composer, David Gómez, who is currently touring Spain with his '1 Piano and 200 Candles' show, will stop off to perform in the bullring in Torremolinos on Thursday 8 August. The 44-year-old pianist will offer a recital of popular classical music, as well as compositions from his latest recording Pianographie.

Organised by Torremolinos town hall, the show has already visited Mallorca, Madrid, Navarra, Cadiz and Granada. Each performance, which is illuminated by the glow of 200 candles, has been presented in a unique environment, including lighthouses, churches, abandoned buildings, train stations and historic ruins.

Gómez gave his first recital at the age of 14 and he began to make



The Swiss pianist brings his show to Torremolinos bullring. :: SUR

his mark in the world of classical music after studying with several renowned maestros. He has since performed as a soloist in Carnegie Hall in New York, the Opera House in Cairo and the National

Concert Hall in Dublin.

The show begins at 10pm and tickets, priced between 20 and 99 euros, can be purchased from www.ticketea.com or on 902 008 367.

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CHARITY

Horizonte Marbella market
Marbella. 4 August 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.

Football match for Cudeca
San Pedro de Alcántara. 7 August from 8.30pm. *Municipal sports stadium.*
The match, which will be celebrated in memory of the honorary president of Unión Deportivo San Pedro, will be between his former side and Marbella FC. The entrance fee of 2€ will be donated to Cudeca Cancer Hospice.

MUSIC & DANCE

The Wall Bar
Malaga. *Hotel Vincci Posada del Patio, 11pm, entry free.*
2 August. Dana and Gianni. International songs, jazz fusion and blues.
9 August. Iris Nieto. Oboe and acoustic guitar play adapted jazz, soul, rock and pop music.

The Ocean Bar
Malaga. *Hotel Vincci, C/Pacífico, 11pm, entry free.*
3 August. Iris Nieto. Oboe and

acoustic guitar play adapted jazz, soul, rock and pop music.
8 August. Constanza Jazz Duet.

Louie Louie Bar Blues
Estepona. *Avda Luis Braille, Puerto Deportivo.*
3 August, 11.30pm. Brian Ashley Jones. 10€.
4 August, 11pm. Take Evison Band. 10€.
5 August, 11pm. Oscar Ornelas. 10€.
6 August, 10€. Joe King Carrasco. 10€.

Musical Marbella
Marbella. *Until end of August. La Cañada shopping centre.*
Gastronomy, a market, various activities and a series of concerts which starts with Ozuna tomorrow, 27 July. Tickets: www.ciclomusical-lc.com

Junior Aces Dance Company
Torremolinos. 2 August, 9.30pm. *Plaza Chiriva.*
The Junior Aces Dance Company, formed by students of the Ontario (Canada) ACE Dance Theatre, will be giving a free performance.

Los Álamos Beach Festival
Estepona. *Until 4 August. Parque Ferial y Deportivo.*
Over 50 international musicians will be taking part in this annual urban and electronic music festival including Oliver Heldens, Sunney James & Ryan Marciano, Karol G., Fangoria, Juanito Makandé and more.



The Auditorio Blas Infante, Ronda. :: J. M. GRIMALDI

Country comes to the pueblos blancos

MALAGA. The spirit of Austin Texas, the live music capital of the world, comes to Malaga and Cadiz for the fourth year running for the Pueblos Blancos Music Festival.

From 8 to 11 August, cowboy hats and country music will be filling the plazas of Ronda, Montejaque, Grazalema and Villalengua del Rosario.

Around twenty bands have flown over from America (mainly Austin, Houston and Nashville),

Costa Rica, the UK, Brazil and Mexico and there is also a local band from Montejaque performing. The range of music genres include rock, blues, country, tex-mex, jazz, funk and R&B.

As a preview for the festival there will be a rock concert in the Arena Marbella on 7 August with Burning, La Frontera, Rubén Pozo and Lichis among the performers. Tickets for this start at 30 euros; the rest of the concerts are free.

INFORMATION

► **When.** 8 to 11 August.

► **Where:** Auditorio Blas Infante, Ronda; Plaza del Ayuntamiento, Montejaque; Plaza de España, Grazalema; Plaza de la Alameda, Villalengua del Rosario.

► **More information:** pueblos-blancosmusicfestival.org

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The Joven Orquesta Provincial de Málaga. :: SUR

Summer nights of culture on Playamar

TORREMOLINOS. The Playamar beach is going to be the venue for a varied series of films such as Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again and Avengers Infinity War and classical music concerts during the month of August.

The films will be shown in wide screen format and although in Spanish, all but two will have English subtitles. From 6 to 15 August they will be shown at 10pm while from 20 to 29 August they will be screened at 9.30pm. A full listing of all the films can be found in the cinema listings at the end

of this section.

Also planned for the evenings on the beach are free classical music concerts by the Joven Orquesta Provincial de Málaga. The ages of the members of the orchestra range from nine to 16 years and they will be performing a mixture of contemporary and classical music with works by Bach and Vivaldi interspersed with Bohemian Rhapsody and Viva La Vida.

The concerts will take place on the 12, 19 and 26 August on Playamar next to the Restaurante Copacabana from 9.30pm.

MUSIC & DANCE

Age Concern Summer Concert

Mijas. 7 September, from 1-6pm. Restaurant Valparaíso. 25€. Age Concern Fuengirola and Mijas annual event. Price includes lunch and a concert by the Jersey Boys. There will also be a raffle. Tickets from: Age Concern Charity shop /club in Los Boliches; Age Concern club in La Cala and Ibex Insurance, Fuengirola.

Tribute Concerts

San Roque. Admiral Casino. Doors open 9pm.
3 August. Rod Stewart and Queen tributes.
17 August. Madonna, Kylie Minogue and Robbie Williams tributes.

Celtic Night

Mijas. 3 August. Doors open 8pm. Auditorio Municipal Mijas. Traditional Celtic music and dance, pipers and bar with typical celtic food. Groups include Stolen Gnomes, Dex's Celtic Connections and The Whisky Jills. www.costadeldisco.com

Beatles Tribute

Istán. 3 August, 10pm. Plaza del Pueblo. The Beatles tribute band Samper Beat will be performing the legendary group's classic hits from 1962 to 1970.

Starlite Festival

Marbella. Until 24 August. Cantera Nagüeles.
2 August. Bertín Osborne (ranchera) and Pitingo (flamenco) double bill.
3 August. Luis Fonsi. Latin rhythms.
5 August. James Rhodes and Katie Melua double bill.

V Jazz Festival

Nerja. Hotel Paraíso del Mar. 10pm.
2 August. Miguel Rodríguez trio with Enrique Oliver
14 August. Félix Rossy Quartet

Cueva de Nerja Festival

Nerja. Until 3 August. Nerja Cave Gardens.
2 August. Cepeda.
3 August. Carlos Riviera. In the Caves.

West Side Story

Malaga. Until 4 August, 8.30pm. Teatro Cervantes.

The classic Broadway production of West Side Story in Spanish. www.westsidestory.es
Tickets www.unientradas.es

Music under the grapevine

Mijas Pueblo. Until 21 August, 9pm. Casa Museo. Free.
7 August. Skafeinados. Reggae, ska and rock.
14 August. Cuarteto Gradus. Schumann and Brahms.
21 August. Manu Sonido System. Cumbia, ska, reggae.

The Jacksons

Marbella. 8 August, midnight. Club de Tenis Puente Romano. Jermaine, Tito, Jackie and Marion Jackson will be performing all their classic hits from the 60s on the fiftieth anniversary of The Jackson Five. Tickets from 60€: www.wegow.com

Music in the open-air

La Cala de Mijas. 10, 16, 23 August, 9pm. Plaza Torreón. Free.
10 August. III Festival de Folclore Internacional.
16 August. Fran Blanco and Claudia Vega.
23 August. Bohío Flamenco with Adriana la Pimienta.



Enrique Iglesias, Gibraltar.

Tony Hadley

Marbella. 19 August, 8pm. Club de Tenis Puente Romano. Tony Hadley will be in concert with his new group performing hits from the height of Spandau Ballet's fame when he was the lead singer. Tickets from 45€: www.wegow.com

Festival Terral

Malaga. 7 August, 8.30pm. Teatro Cervantes. The skilled Yamato drummers from Japan will be performing.

Jennifer López

Fuengirola. 8 August, 10pm. Marenostrum, Castillo Solhail. The queen of Latin pop and urban

music Jennifer López will be performing at the Marenostrum festival held at Castillo Solhail in Fuengirola. Tickets are on sale now from www.masterentradas.com and www.marenostrumfuengirola.com

Gibraltar National Celebrations

Gibraltar. 3 September, 8pm. St Michael's Cave. £20
The European Symphony Orchestra conducted by Denis Vlasenko will be playing Tchaikovsky's Symphony No 4; Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture and the 1812 Festival Overture. Tickets available from Sacarello's Coffee Shop or the Silver Shop or online: www.buytickets.gi. Some discounted tickets available for pensioners and students from John Mackintosh Hall. Call: 20072134 or www.philharmonic.gi

Gibraltar Calling

Gibraltar. 7 September. Enrique Iglesias will be headlining the programme of concerts planned for the Gibraltar Calling Festival. Tickets and information: www.gibraltarcalling.com.

FLAMENCO

José Carlos Gómez

Sotogrande 8 August, 9pm. Espacio Cultural Osvaldo Lobalzo, Ribera del Marlin. 15€.
A flamenco guitar recital by José Carlos Gómez. www.musicaconencanto.org

Sombras

Estepona 10 August, 10.15pm. Plaza de Toros. Flamenco performance by Sara Baras.

Acompasao

Vélez-Málaga. 2, 9, 16 August, 10.30pm. Cerro de San Cristóbal. Rubem Dantas and his trio will be performing 2 August. La Negra and El Panky on 9 August and La Tremendita on 16 August. Free.

La Caña Flamenca

Costa Tropical.
9 August. Parque El Majuelo, Almuñécar. Curro Albaicín.
10 August. Parque El Majuelo, Almuñécar. El Farruquito.

EVENTS

Jamaican Independence Day
Ahaurín El Grande. 3 August, from 8pm. Restaurant Los Arcos.

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Hosted by Malaga Soul n Reggae Revival there will be DJs playing old and new Jamaican reggae and food provided again this year by Mama's Spicy Jerk.



IBeach Wear Fashion Show Marbella. 9 August, 12am-6pm. Nao Pool Club.

An exhibition, shopping stands and fashion show of luxury designer beach wear (starting at 4pm) will be held at the Nao Pool Club.

Theatrical tours of the English Cemetery

Malaga. 9 August, 10-11pm. Cementario Inglés, Av. de Pries, 1. 10€. Actors will play the part of some of the most famous inhabitants of the cemetery including Robert Boyd.

Trip to Almuñécar

Torre del Mar. 15 August. Various departure points (evening). 31€ A trip to see the traditional Virgen de la Antigua procession followed

by firework display. Lux Mundi Torre del Mar. Tel:952 543 334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

Trip to Cáceres, Trujillo, Mérida and Guadalupe Fuengirola. 14-17 October.

Booking before 20 July. Full details contact Lux Mundi Fuengirola, C/Nueva 3. Tel: 952474840. www.lux-mundi.org/

Trip to Baeza, Úbeda, Cazorla Fuengirola/Torre del Mar. 21-24 October.

Full details contact Lux Mundi Fuengirola, C/Nueva 3. Tel: 952474840. www.lux-mundi.org/ or Lux Mundi Torre del Mar. Tel:952543334 or e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

Trip to Gibraltar

Torre del Mar. 19 September, 17 October. Various departure points. 13€.

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

Trip to Almuñécar

Torre del Mar. 15 August. Various departure points. 13€. Coach trip to see the procession of the Virgen de la Antigua followed by a firework display. 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 min-

ute time changes. Lunchtime and late night screenings weekends only.

Cine Albéniz

C/Alcazabilla 4, Malaga. Tel: 902 36 02 95 www.cinealbeniz.com
Singin' in the Rain: 18.05.

Cinesur El Ingenio

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

The Lion King: 12.25, 16.05 (everyday); 19.10, 21.40 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).

Cinesur Miramar

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

The Lion King: 12.15, 16.15, 18.45, 21.15, 23.45.

Fast & Furious: 12.15, 16.30, 19.10, 21.50, 00.30.

Toy Story 4: 15.55 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).

Spider Man Far From Home: 12.15, 15.50.

Opera: Nabucco: 21.00 (Thurs).

Cines Teatro Goya

For tickets and information call 951196665. www.cinesteatro-goya.com

Singin' in the Rain: 20.30 (everyday).

Fast and Furious: Hobbs & Shaw: 15.30, 17.45, 20.15, 22.45 (everyday).

Midsommar: 15.30 (everyday).

Toy Story 4: 15.50 (everyday).

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

Centro de Ocio Plaza Mayor, Avda.

Alfonso Ponce de León. Tel: 902 902 103 or visit www.yelmocines.es

Bookmart: 15.45 (Tues).

Aladdin: 16.20 (Tues).

The Lion King: 12.00 (Sat, Sun); 19.00 (every day); 21.55 (Tues).

Midsommar: 13.00 (Sat, Sun); 21.35 (Tues).

Toy Story 4: 17.55 (Tues).

Cold Pursuit: 12.40 (Sat, Sun); 21.40 (Tues).

Fast & Furious. Hobbs & Shaw: 12.00 (Sat, Sun); 22.05 (every day).

Yesterday: 21.10 (Tues).

BTS Bring The Soul The Movie: 20.00 (Wed, Thurs).

Yelmo Cines, Rincón de la Victoria.

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

Yesterday: 17.15 (Tues).

Cold Pursuit: 21.30 (Tues).



Toy Story 4.

The Lion King: 18.30 (Tues).

Midsommar: 22.00 (Tues).

BTS Bring The Soul The Movie: 20.00 (Wed, Thurs).

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

The Lion King: 12.05 (Sat, Sun); 19.30 (Tues).

Midsommar: 12.50 (Sat, Sun); 22.05 (Tues).

Toy Story 4: 15.45 (Tues).

Cold Pursuit: 22.45 (Tues).

Yesterday: 19.00 (Tues).

BTS Bring The Soul The Movie: 20.00 (Wed, Thurs).

Remember Me: 19.45 (Tues).

Cinema on the Beach. Playamar beach. Torremolinos. Free viewing. English sub-titles.

6 August: Mama Mia Here We Go Again, 10pm

7 August: Jurassic World Fallen Kingdom, 10pm.

8 August: Avengers Infinity War, 10pm.

13 August: Mission Impossible Fall Out 10pm.

14 August: Coco, 10pm.

15 August: Black Panther, 10pm.

20 August: Yucatán (Spanish) 9.30pm

21 August: Moana, 9.30pm.

22 August: Thor Ragnarok, 9.30pm.

27 August: Murder on the Orient Express, 9.30pm.


28 August: Campeones (Spanish), 9.30pm.

29 August: Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 2, 9.30pm.


MOVIE LISTING
From Friday 2nd
to Thursday 8th of August


From Friday 2nd to Thursday 8th:
15:45, 18:10, 20:15, 22:45


From Friday 2nd to Thursday 8th:
15:30


From Friday 2nd to Thursday 8th:
17:50


From Friday 2nd to Thursday 8th:
15:30, 17:45, 20:15, 22:45


From Friday 2nd to Thursday 8th:
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From Friday 2nd
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Programming and schedules subject to last
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ORIGINAL VERSION SUBTITLED SPANISH



Grapes and gazpacho take centre stage in the Axarquía this Saturday

Iznate and Alfarnatejo celebrate the summer with two of the best gastronomy festivals in the region

:: JAVIER ALMELLONES

IZNATE / ALFARNATEJO. Two of the best gastronomy festivals of the summer in the Axarquía are celebrated on the first Saturday in August every year. In Iznate, the Día de la Uva Moscatel is held with the renowned gastronomic route through the village which takes place from 7pm and into the evening.

In Alfarnatejo the Feria del Gazpacho de los Tres Golpes (gazpacho made with three main ingredients: olive oil, salt and vinegar) takes place from midday with tastings of the unique chilled 'soup', live music and dancing.



The Día de la Uva Moscatel in Iznate is held this Saturday. **:: SUR**

ANDREW J. LINN

FROM THE DUERO TO THE GUADALQUIVIR



Once upon a time there was a Dane whose ambition was to make wine in Spain. He arrived 30 years ago and it wasn't long before Pingus came to be acknowledged as a notable wine, often commanding prices in excess of 1,000 euros a bottle. Peter Sisseck had started as a technical advisor, but such was his expertise and marketing skills that he soon had his own bodega producing other varieties. Back in 2002 he had a vision that would take him from the Ribera del Duero region in the north of Spain to the Guadalquivir river in deepest Andalucía. Having successfully produced one of Spain's best red wines, Sisseck decided that he would now make Spain's best white wine. But.... and to the surprise of almost everybody, he chose Jerez as the region where he would do it. At this first visit 17 years ago, he went on record as saying, "Fino sherry is Spain's best white wine, although worldwide it is not recognised as such... It is a forgotten wine or maybe little understood."

This master winemaker's new project comprises of making single vineyard wines, as opposed to the traditional sherry practice of blending everything together, even different vintages. Indeed it involves making sherry as it was never made before, to the extent of categorising each wine accord-

ing to the vineyard where the grapes were grown. The produce from each of the two plots Sisseck has acquired with his partner, Carlos del Río González Gordon, will remain independent and unblended. As Sisseck points out, "The concept of sherry outside Spain leads consumers to believe a dry fino sherry is a fortified wine, not a regular white wine." There are actually several young idealists, notably Willy Pérez, Ibáñez, and others, working on similar projects, aimed at demonstrating that wines of character can triumph over the traditional sherry blends. The \$64,000 question of course is why the sherry producers' association spent millions promoting sherry as a cocktail ingredient or long drink mix, instead of promoting it as a single vineyard wine?

WINE OF THE WEEK

Leyre Chordá

A wine from the Rías Baixas inspired by a 20-year-old writer Leyre Chordá, whose book about wine was published earlier this year, and who is a regular visitor to the Coast. A very smooth Albariño with just the right amount of fruity overtones, and at 13 euros good value for this region.



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DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA



The competition takes place mainly on Sanlúcar de Barrameda beach. :: SUR

At full gallop next to Doñana

On the second and fourth weekends of August, one of Andalusia's most important summer events takes place, set in one of Cadiz coast's idyllic enclaves

JAVIER ALMELLONES

SANLÚCAR DE BARRAMEDA

How to get there

Approximately 3 hours from Malaga, via the A-7.



Emotion and a unique landscape await visitors each August at one of the most original sports competitions in the country. The traditional Sanlúcar de Barrameda horse races (Carreras de Caballo de Sanlúcar de Barrameda) also became some years ago one of the biggest attractions of the summer on the Cadiz coast.

Just a stone's throw from Doñana, this competition takes place on the shores of the Sanlúcar beach, a natural and Atlantic scenery that gives this sporting event a great touristic dimension. In fact, every year thousands of people arrive in this town for the excitement of the race.

The backdrop for this event,

declared a Festival of National Tourist Interest, is unbeatable. Doñana Park serves as a backdrop for this spectacular race.

The Sanlúcar Horse Races, as is tradition, will have two different editions, on the second and fourth weekends in August. The first will be held between 9 and 11 August, while there will also be a second chance to enjoy this equine event between 25 and 27 of this month.

The choice of these dates is not a coincidence and corresponds to the days of low tide on the beach at dusk. The main beach of this town becomes a natural racetrack, with a wide bank that accommodates both the track and the thousands of spectators watching this spec-

tacular race just one step from the mouth of the river Guadalquivir.

The timetables of the races are not known with complete certainty until the day of the celebration, as it depends on both the number of horses that will run and the state of the tide. However, the most common time is from half past six in the afternoon. Consequently, after the end of the sporting event, attendees can watch the spectacular sunset over the Atlantic.

A summer visit to this town is a good excuse to get to know 'the tireless watchman of the Guadalquivir'. The town came to have a complex system of fortifications, which was made up of the castles of the Holy

QUICK GUIDE



Santiago Castle. Also known as Cava del Castillo, it is an old fortress in the upper part of Sanlúcar.

Covachas. Remains of gothic arches which formed part of the façade of the Medina Sisonia Palace.



Sherry museum. Located in the Barbadillo winery, celebrating this local speciality.

Nuestra Señora de la O church. Main church in the town, which was constructed in 1360, funded by the first countess of Medinaceli.

Spirit (no longer there), the port of San Salvador de Bonanza (covered partly by dunes) and Santiago, located in the upper part of the town. This is not only the most important but also the only one that can be seen on a tourist visit.

Sanlúcar is an ideal destination at any time of the year, but especially in the summer. In fact, during the summer season this town in Cadiz province also has other important attractions as well as its famous horse races on its beaches, which are held twice every August.

Although Sanlúcar's cuisine is very rich and varied, during these days of celebrations some famous products will be fundamental, such as king prawns and prawn tortillas, which will go perfectly with the dry sherries of some of the eight wineries that today produce high quality products in this Cadiz municipality.

Although Sanlúcar forms part of the Jerez region, it has an exclusive dry sherry from its wineries, which open their doors to visitors to promote the excellence of the sherry and other wines.

"Sudden death can affect anyone"

Pedro Brugada Head of Arrhythmias at Hospiten Estepona

He has been awarded the scientific prize by the Lefoulon-Delalande Foundation for his cardiac research

CHARO MÁRQUEZ

✉ diariasurestepona@gmail.com



ESTEPONA. Thirty years ago Pedro Brugada discovered the syndrome which now bears his name and he has spent his whole career researching it and trying to find a cure, so far without success. He is, however, confident that it will happen soon. As a result of his work, he has been awarded the scientific prize by the Lefoulon-Delalande Foundation at the Institut de France, the equivalent of the Nobel Prize for cardiology.

-What does that award mean, from a professional point of view?

- Well, it's the cherry on the cake of a 40-year career in cardiology in which I have worked hard as a doctor and also as a scientist. It's a very special award because it is a very important recognition for cardiology. It's a great honour, because you can't put yourself forward as

a candidate, they grant it to you when they consider that you have made an important contribution to medicine.

- And what does it mean for the healthcare system in Malaga? You work at Hospiten Estepona, don't you?

- It's as if a worker in a factory won a prize and the company is delighted. I hope the whole medical collective in Malaga is happy too. But I am, in fact, a man with no frontiers. For me, Spain, Belgium, Holland, and the USA are all the same from a scientific point of view.

- In this country there are often complaints about the lack of support for scientific research. Are those criticisms justified?

- There is very good scientific research in Spain. There are numerous research centres and univer-

sity hospitals, where they are doing important things. Nowadays, the level in this country is very high. The problem is in the whole of Europe, not just Spain, and it is due to a lack of funding. Things have changed. Research used to receive a lot of support from industry but that has decreased a great deal since the relationship between industry and the medical world was changed to prevent conflicts of interests. The economic crisis in 2008 also had an impact on the whole of Europe and that is still being felt today. Despite having researchers of a very high standard, the resources are very limited.

- You discovered the Brugada sudden death syndrome, which has been named after you. What is it, exactly?

- It is an illness in the electrical part of the heart. The structure is normal, but the electrical part has a genetic defect which means that suddenly, without warning, there can be arrhythmia, an irregular heartbeat or ventricular fibrillation which causes sudden death. The cause is probably due to problems in the sodium channel which



Pedro Brugada. :: CHARO MÁRQUEZ



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controls the electricity of the heart. It is a hereditary condition which is passed from parents to children without missing generations.

- How prevalent is it?

- The first case I saw was in a child, 33 years ago, and six years after that I published my first findings. At that time it was a curiosity and didn't arouse much interest, but nowadays we know that Brugada syndrome is the most important cause of sudden death in young people with a normal heart, thanks to a study carried out in Britain. If you look at families in which somebody apparently healthy has suddenly died, Brugada syndrome is the number one cause. About 62 per cent of sudden deaths are due to Brugada syndrome. In areas where this illness is endemic, like south-east Asia for example, one in every hundred men is a carrier of this syndrome, and in Europe it would be one in a thousand. It has completely changed the concept of this illness, which used to be classified as rare but is very common now.

- And is it detected easily?

- It isn't often diagnosed. When a young person dies, if there is no autopsy or studies done on the family to find out whether it is hereditary, it isn't going to be diagnosed. If they don't do autopsies, we are never going to be clear about the diagnosis. And a molecular or genetic autopsy is also necessary, to look into the genetic material and see whether the person was a carrier of this hereditary illness.

- So cardiac check-ups are very important even if there do not appear to be any heart problems.

- Definitely, and the person's family history should also be checked. If there are two or more cases of unexpected deaths in a family without the cause being known, that sets alarm bells ringing for us because it could be a case of Brugada syndrome. Doctors often examine patients but forget to ask whether any family members have had problems. If they have, then we need to look into it further and do more tests.

- So should we forget the idea that sudden death is an illness which only affects people who do sports?

- Most victims of sudden death don't do sport. Two out of every three people who die suddenly have no relation to sport whatsoever. If we only checked athletes, we would only be looking at one-third of those affected. We need to check the whole population.

- What stage is your research at now?

- We are in an interesting phase. First we found that it was a genetic defect, and we also realised that it is passed from parents to children. We also know how the electric function of the heart is altered now. They have carried out research to find medication, but unfortunately those haven't worked because of the side effects.

- So there is still no cure for Brugada syndrome?

- At present, the only way to prevent sudden death is with an im-

Brugada syndrome is the most important cause of sudden death in young people with a normal heart

Two out of every three people who die suddenly have no association whatsoever with sport

plantable defibrillator, but as we know what the genetic defect is now, I believe that in the near future it will be possible to manipulate the illness genetically and cure the patients. In other words, once we know that this genetic defect exists, we cut it with genetic scissors; we cut the piece and substitute it with a normal bit. It's what is known as CRISPR. For the moment, Brugada syndrome can't be cured with genetic scissors but experiments are being carried out on animals to correct these defects in the future. I never thought I would

see a cure, but now it seems that I might. But what is most important is the diagnosis, because if you don't know that a patient is affected, the first sign of it can be sudden death.

- So what measures are taken with regard to people who are diagnosed with it?

- We carry out tests to see who is suitable to be given an implantable defibrillator, because it is a very serious decision and it depends on the risk. At the moment it is all we have to combat sudden death syndrome.



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Haematologists apply a technique to show whether leukaemia will return

ÁNGEL
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The method enables early detection and means that the patient can be given treatment to stop the illness reappearing

MÁLAGA. Knowing in advance whether a patient is going to suffer from leukaemia again is key to taking early action and preventing the illness reappearing. That's why a technique which is currently being applied successfully by haematologists in Málaga to anticipate relapses in leukaemia patients is so important.

Professionals from the haematology unit at the Regional Hospital (formerly called the Carlos Haya) and the Málaga Biomedical Research Institute (Ibima) have published the results of a study which shows that, through a technique which analyses markers in blood, it is possible to predict an early relapse in leukaemia patients more quickly. This enables doctors to react faster, and maybe even prevent it from occurring.



Antonio Jiménez Velasco. :: SUR

chnique which analyses markers in blood, it is possible to predict an early relapse in leukaemia patients more quickly. This enables doctors to react faster, and maybe even prevent it from occurring.

tients more quickly. This enables doctors to react faster, and maybe even prevent it from occurring.

The study has been coordinated by Antonio Jiménez Velasco, head of molecular biology at the hospital's haematology laboratory. It is based on the application of the digital PCR technique (digital polymerase chain reaction) to the haematopoietic chimerism study, providing genetic markers that enable doctors to see whether or not residual cells from the illness remain following a bone marrow transplant from a compatible donor.

Detection

A haematopoietic chimerism survey through digital PCR means that residual cells can be detected in a patient with a risk of recurring leukaemia in approximately 90 per cent of cases.

"The work tried to determine what advantages are provided by the digital PCR technique compared with the conventional PCR technique in real time, regarding the prediction of relapses in patients

Genetic markers enable doctors to see whether residual cells from the illness remain post-transplant

"If we act early, it is possible to prevent the relapse in approximately 50 per cent of cases"

28 hospital patients who had had bone marrow transplants took part in the latest stage of the project

who undergo an allogeneic transplant of haematopoietic precursors," says Jiménez Velasco.

This method has been used to determine that the application of the technique makes it possible for patients to be treated more effectively against a possible relapse, and gives them a better quality of life.

This study started from preliminary results produced by the Málaga research team, revealed at the American Human Genetics Society conference in Boston in 2013. It had used samples from eight patients and was deemed the top piece of research among more than 500 from all over the world.

"From then onwards, we continued to improve the technique and expand the number of genetic markers so we could monitor more transplant patients. We worked in conjunction with the IMEGEN (Institute of Genomic Medicine) biotechnology company on this," says Jiménez Velasco, who is also the chief researcher in the Ibima haematology and haemotherapy group. 28 patients at the hospital who had had bone marrow transplants took part in this latest stage of the project.

Therapeutic measures

Once the haematologists have found, through this technology, that the transplant patient still has sick cells of their own as well as those from the donor, and that these grow progressively more during the monitoring period compared with the healthy cells, they take therapeutic measures such as a reduction of immunosuppression or an infusion of lymphocytes from the donor to try to prevent relapse.

"At the moment we are working on this, and although the data is very preliminary, we can say that in approximately 50 per cent of patients it is possible to prevent the relapse if we act early," says this expert.

This technique is available at the Regional Hospital in Málaga and is used to monitor patients who have had an allogeneic transplant of haematopoietic precursors. Every year between 70 and 80 have allogeneic transplants at the hospital and the numbers are rising. The technique benefits those who have recently had transplants as well as those who are being monitored over time.

Last year the haematology laboratory at the hospital carried out 1,682 molecular haematopoietic chimerism studies.

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Under the banner of Trifit Marbella Big Challenge, two athletes will undertake a gruelling triathlon in order to raise money for prosthetic limbs for a youngster from Marbella

MARBELLA. Two athletic expats are to undertake a gruelling triathlon in order to help Sarah Almagro Vallejo, the youngster from Marbella who had her hands and feet amputated after contracting septicaemia, a potentially life-threatening condition caused by the body's response to infection.

Chris Grenfell (53) and Jansen Riley (55) learned of Sarah's plight from friends at the gym where they train in Marbella and decided to organise the event in a bid to raise money for prosthetic limbs, which will cost around 200,000 euros.

Under the banner of Trifit Marbella Big Challenge, the two athletes will undertake a five kilometre swim along the Marbella coastline, before embarking on a 200 kilometre bicycle ride to Granada, and then a race on foot up the highest tarmac road in Europe to Pico Veleta,



Chris (l) and Jansen promote the fundraiser on local radio last week. :: SUR

a mountain that is over 3,300 metres above sea level.

Chris, originally from Eastbourne, Sussex, has lived in Spain for more than 30 years and he is no stranger to challenges. The fitness instructor and personal trainer has participated in several Ironman competitions in Marbella.

"I've done some crazy fundraising challenges over the past few years, like carrying a fridge on my

back from Puerto Banús to Elviria. I also did a similar triathlon in aid of the Butterfly Children last year, although this was done over three days, so this one will be a little more demanding," the energetic athlete told SUR in English.

Chris, who is working alongside the Somos tu Ola foundation set up to raise money for Sarah, set his sights on a target of 3,000 euros, but he has already reached this total and

is now calling on the public to help raise as much money as possible.

Several swimmers and cyclists will also participate, but only Chris and Jansen will endure the entire event, which they say will be "difficult, but worth doing for such a worthy cause".

"We are trying to raise funds for

superior prosthetics so that Sarah can walk again and do all the things we all take for granted. Can you imagine that you have no arms or legs and are completely dependent on others? It's a completely shocking thing to happen to someone at such a young age," Chris said.

Sarah's life changed dramatically at the end of July 2018. The 18-year-old was a healthy girl who loved sport, especially swimming and surfing, but after becoming ill with sepsis, surgeons had to amputate her arms and legs in order to save her life. She spent ten days in an induced coma and also suffered kidney damage. However, she remains confident for the future and is hopeful that with a little help from people like Chris and Jansen, she will be able to get on with her life.

"Her situation really hit me because she is a academically bright and was into just about every sport before her life was devastated last year. I am convinced that she will go on to inspire so many people because she is determined to succeed and enjoy a normal life again," Chris concluded.

For more information on how to sponsor Chris and Jansen, search 'Trifitmarbella' on Facebook.



Sarah Almagro Vallejo. :: SUR



Tournament winners Smiles WFC. :: SUR

Walking footballers raise 2,300 euros for local MND sufferer

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

BENALMÁDENA. Hosts Smiles, Viñuela and three teams from Walking Football Spain (Benalmádena, Benahavis and Elviria) all took part in a fundraising tournament at the Retamar sports complex in Benalmádena last week to help local resident Della Adern with home conversions. It is hoped they will make her life easier

following her diagnosis with motor neurone disease.

Smiles followed up their victory in the La Cala Cup three weeks previously with a 2-0 victory in the final against Elviria. Some of this success could be attributed to the coaching received from ex-Liverpool, Nottingham Forest and England legend Larry Lloyd.

The Player of the Tournament bottle of champagne went to Julie of Viñuela who was in no way fazed by some of her bigger opponents.

Despite an initial target of 1,000 euros, Gray Salt of Smiles put tremendous efforts into collecting as much in donations as was possible and Della and husband Simon, who were both in attendance, received a total of 2,300 euros at a presentation following the tournament.

Footage of the event can be seen when Channel 5's Bargain-Loving Brits In The Sun is broadcast next January.



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Okazaki signs but cannot be registered as Malaga are above the wage cap limit

The Japanese forward was officially presented on Wednesday but won't be able to play a competitive game until Malaga trim the squad further

:: PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

MALAGA. August has begun and Malaga are still struggling to put their squad together for the new season. Wednesday was a bitter-sweet day at La Rosaleda as the protracted transfer of Japan forward Shinji Okazaki was finally completed but also news filtered out that La Liga had been issuing warnings that Malaga are unable to register any new players, Okazaki included, because they have surpassed the wage cap limit.

La Liga have issued warnings to the Spanish Association of Football Agents that there are currently three professional clubs that cannot add to their squads without selling first. They are Malaga, Las Palmas and Granada. The first two are unsurprising, having both been relegated in the same year and failing to win promotion back at the first time of asking. The latter, however, comes as a bit of a shock with the Andalusian side having just earned promotion back to the big time.

This is not the first time that such restrictions have been inflicted on Malaga. Last season, Dani Pacheco, Badr Boulahroud, Mehdi Lacen, Mamadou Koné and Sead Haksabanović missed the opening fixtures of the season because they couldn't be registered over salary cap breaches.

This time, however, Malaga will be hoping to solve the issue before the season starts. Despite having sold Roberto Rosales and Jack Harper this window, as well as terminating the contracts of Miguel Torres, Mehdi Lacen and Rajko Brežančić, more outgoing transfers are still necessary. At the queue to the exit door currently are Jony (who has agreed a move to Lazio), Emanuel Cecchini (who is interesting MLS side Seattle Sounders), Federico Ricca (set to join Belgian side Bruges) and Javi Ontiveros (for whom a deal has been agreed



Okazaki with sporting director José Luis Caminero on Wednesday. :: G. P.

with Villarreal). In all these cases, the club is awaiting the final thumbs up from president Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani. These deals, especially those for Ricca and Ontiveros, will free up considerable funds. The club is also hoping to find new homes for Juanpi, Michael Santos and Alfred N'Diaye but must work fast to allow time to bring in new recruits.

"I had a number of offers"

The first and only recruit so far has

been Okazaki who told press at his presentation on Wednesday that he had "a number of offers" but that he knew that he wanted to join a Spanish team. "I feel like I've made the right choice," he said. "There's a lot of potential [here] and I feel at ease with this team."

Speaking in Japanese through a translator, the 33-year-old said: "I'm very excited about this project and I really want to score a lot of goals."

Okazaki will wear the number 23 shirt, one that is close to his heart. "I started out with this number and I've kept it whenever I've been able to."

Following the press conference, the forward posed for photographers in the full kit, albeit without boots which he left at the team hotel.

Captain Federico Ricca says his good-byes to the group

As expected, Malaga captain Federico Ricca is set to complete a move away from the club this summer, to Belgian side Bruges.

The Uruguayan left-back will activate a clause in his contract which allows him to join a first division side while Malaga are still in Segunda. He didn't do so last year, attracted by the promise of the armband, but after the club's failed promotion bid, will head to Belgium.

Though this is a loan deal, it is highly unlikely that the 24-year-old will return with his contract



Training in Benahavís. :: JOSELE

expiring in June 2020. Though a loss to the squad, his wages were one of the highest in the group so will give Malaga room to manoeuvre in the transfer market - when Al-Thani signs off on it.

Two draws from two matches as friendlies begin

Youth players and returning loan stars have lined up to take on Algeciras and Cordoba

:: ANTONIO GÓNGORA

MALAGA. Malaga followed up a goalless draw against Algeciras last week with a 1-1 draw in Coín against Cordoba on Tuesday. A mix of youth and returning loan players took to the field for a half each in both games

with a predictable lack of cohesion on display as a result.

But after Juanto gave relegated Cordoba the lead with a superb volley in the first half, there was a moment of promise in the second half when Renato's cross picked out Hugo at the back post to equalise with a header.

At the time of going to print, Malaga were taking on new La Liga side Mallorca at the Marbella Football Center.



Hugo headed home the equaliser in Coín on Tuesday. :: GERMÁN POZO

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Part of the squad in the tunnel at La Rosaleda. :: SALVADOR SALAS

Femenino get back down to work

:: MARINA RIVAS

MÁLAGA. The countdown to the new season began for Málaga Femenino on Wednesday as the players reported back following their summer holidays. The players arrived at La Rosaleda stadium early in the morning to begin a series of physical examinations before they were able to take to the field once again.

Sixteen first-team players, plus seven from the Academy made up the squad on the first day with only seven players remaining from last season (Ruth, Farfán, Postigo, María Ruiz, Encarni, Pamela and Adriana).

On Wednesday, two new signings were announced: forward Judith Acosta, 26, from Zaragoza and 20-year-old winger Cintia Hormigo from Pozoalbenise.

The last expected signing is imminent, that of midfielder Edna Imade who is of Nigerian descent



Routine tests. :: S. SALAS



New forward Carol on the treatment table. :: S. S.

but was raised in Seville.

With so many new faces and a disappointing campaign last year, Femenino are keen to get going.



A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER

Commentator, Sky Sports
@robbopalmer



Unanswered questions

As usual, there is fixture mayhem just weeks before the season's start

The most frequently asked questions by fans of Spanish football are definitely: "Where can we see the game on television?" and "What day will it be played?"

Rarely can I give the answer to either; it's not ignorance, it's just a downright lack of professional planning by the Spanish footballing authorities.

As I write this, the fans of Premier League clubs are being informed of the schedule for October. In Spain we are two weeks away from the first kick of a ball in La Liga and nobody has a clue what day that kick will take place.

The Spanish season is supposed to start on Friday 16 August with a very tasty tie between Barcelona and Athletic Bilbao. This was announced by La Liga but the Spanish FA have taken them to civil court. It's a mess, it's always been the case.

If it ever gets sorted out, this will be my 25th season commenting on La Liga and none have been straightforward. Full of enthusiasm, I attended night school in 1996 to learn Spanish. Just as my GCSE certificate arrived I was told that talks had broken down over the rights and Sky would be switching their attention to the Bundesliga. Luckily I didn't sign up for German classes as the deal was resurrected in the autumn of 1997.

Here's the contrast between the running of the English league and Spain. This week I attended a 'media content day' at Burnley where partner broadcasters from all over the world were invited to interview and film players. The

players know that the billions pumped into the game come from these global deals that make them household names from Nottingham to New Zealand. The players answered questions and to requests to read messages in many languages. That's the industry!

As I left the media circus, news broke that there was no television deal in place to show La Liga games outside of Spain after a tender process. You can't blame the broadcasters. How can they commit billions of pounds, euros or dollars to a mystery product? It's like buying from a reputable department store. The item is beautifully presented and wrapped for you to take away with a guarantee, compared to buying the same product from a market stall where you get it in a re-used brown paper bag and you don't know if the trader will be there next week.

I appreciate different cultures but for goodness sake Spain is the country of El Cortes Inglés, the

finest chain of department stores in the world. You can go to one in any town or city and know exactly what you are getting.

So no, I have absolutely no idea where fans can see their Liga heroes on TV, especially in the UK. This is costing La Liga and the Spanish FA billions.

It's the same for fans. There's an industry in football tourists, especially in Spain. Barcelona told me that up to 10,000 visitors stroll through the Nou Camp museum on a good day, most vacating the premises clutching a bag with some kind of souvenir from the last stop on the tour, the vast club shop (my mum has a dog bowl for her pooch Messi!)

So please don't ask! No, I have no idea what day the games will be on, plan a very long weekend wherever you are heading. No, I have no clue about where or indeed if they will be broadcast on TV to the non-Spanish public.

As they say... "mañana"!



Athletic-Barça will be the curtain raiser. But when? :: L. A. GÁMEZ

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A great end to the Costa del Golf Tour

More than 200 players took part in the final at the Real Club de Guadalmina on Saturday

This was the fifth year that this amateur tour, organised by SUR and its specialist golf publication, had taken place

■ ALEJANDRO DÍAZ

MÁLAGA. The grand final of the Costa del Golf Tour at the Real Club de Guadalmina proved to be a truly intensive day of golf. This tournament has already become a benchmark in the world of amateur golf, and an unmissable event every summer. Now in its fifth year, it is organised by SUR and its specialist publication Costa del Golf, and more than 200 players took part in this year's grand final on Saturday.

The day began early and was marked by a strong westerly wind. The course was in impeccable condition, and everyone was looking forward to a day of amateur golf which has all the lure of a professional event. As well as those who had classified in the previous rounds, there was also a special category with the name of 'Amigos de SUR', for those who had registered through Oferplan and members of the club itself.



Family photo of those involved with the Costa del Golf Tour. ■ ANTONIO PAZ

Francisco Gómez, the technical director of the Costa del Golf Tour, said afterwards that there had been a great atmosphere between the different participants and that the grass and the course in general were in perfect condition. He also congratulated the players for their performance, especially in the strong wind.

In the first category, Daniel Palma Quintana was the winner on the day, while José Antonio Benítez Domínguez and Antonio Arjona Marín completed the podium with second and third place, respectively.

In the second category, Antonio Grau Gómez led the ranking, with Damián Serrano and Francisco J. Muñoz Blázquez coming second and third.

The women's category was hard-fought right to the end. Finally, Patricia V. Thiele Rico took first place, while Rosa Quintana González and

Francine Giussepone joined her on the podium in second and third place.

The 'Amigos de SUR' category also provided a stunning day's golf, with a fantastic performance by the players who took the top three places, Javier Mezquita Zurutuza, Fernando Gutiérrez Torres and Álvaro Fernán-

dez Molina, respectively.

Los Arqueros, El Paraíso, Alcaidesa Links and Cabopino Golf had hosted the classifying rounds prior to the grand final at Guadalmina, which was inaugurated in 1959 and is the second oldest course on the Costa del Sol.

The final day was an excellent end to a very special edition of this tournament, which broke all records for participation in all categories, included one more leg than usual and was celebrating its fifth anniversary. Thanks to this initiative by SUR, this tournament is now a benchmark for fans of amateur golf and it takes place every summer on some of the best courses in Andalucía.

As usual, the day of the grand final ended quite late due to the number of players taking part. The prizegiving began at approximately 9.30pm, and was attended by representatives of SUR, including sales director Jorge Artero and Pilar Perea, who is the head of the external relations department.

The Costa del Golf Tour will return next summer, and will undoubtedly bring new surprises.



Daniel Palma Quintana, centre, winner of the men's category. ■ A. PAZ

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BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
andalucia@britchamber.com 951203094
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
English-speaking groups. 600379110.
AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS
English meetings: www.alanonspain.org
POSITIVELY PINK ASSOCIATION
Breast cancer. www.positively-pink.com info@positively-pink.com
AECC PINK LADIES
Cancer Support Group: 658 946 903
DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP
Fuengirola. Anne Bowles: 607879450 annediabetics@gmail.com
MY WEIGH, WEIGHT LOSS
www.facebook.com/myweighspain 952583907/ 663674804
OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS
Estepona: Janet 69445754/Ben 7557048 006. Bar Cristobel, Thurs 6pm.
CUDECA SUPPORT GROUPS
952 564 910 or susanhannam@cudeca.org Estepona: ACE Club 11.30am 1st Thurs. Nerja: Cáritas 11.30am 2nd Thurs. Cómpeta: 11.30am 3rd Thurs Axareducación.
MABS CANCER SUPPORT GROUP
Fourth Tuesday, Miraflores Club, Marbella, 11.30 a.m. 952833568/ 647054945
CANCER SUCKS SPAIN
Cancer support group. 662446388 Facebook & cancersucksspain@outlook.com
AGE CARE ASSOCIATION
Coffee mornings: from 11am-12.30 pm. Benalmádena: Mon, Bar Pitanza; Calahonda: Tues, Thurs, Calahonda Int. Baptist Church; Fuengirola: Wed, Bar Salon Varietés; Coín: Thurs, Pépe's Bar; Los Boliches: Frid, Hogar de Jubilados. Advice: 635407255 info@agecarecosta.org
AGE CONCERN
Estepona and Manilva: Lifeline 608458555 acesteponaymanilva@ageconcernespana.org / www.acesteponaymanilva.org. Fuengirola: Los Bolichos, Thurs 11am-1pm. Pensionista building near station. Mijas: Mijas Pueblo, Thurs 11am-1pm. Julio Bartolo Bar. La Cala, Fri 11.30am-1pm Bar Peña Flamenca del Sur. Helpline (10am-5pm weekdays) 652537615. Marbella, San Pedro: Lifeline: 689355198. 1st Thurs, 11am. Real Club Padel, Marbella. www.ageconcernmarbella.com
ANREM - RESIDENTS & FOREIGNERS
info@anrem.org 630927226 anrem.org
FOREIGN RESIDENTS' ASS. ANDALUCIA
thefraa@hotmail.com 658426227
LUX MUNDI ECUMENICAL CENTRE
Torre del Mar: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org 952543334. Fuengirola: 952474840


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Fuengirola: Alf Brewer 952449408
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Almuñécar-Torrox nerjaclub@yahoo.com www.americaninternationalclub.com
NEDERLANSE CLUB COSTA DEL SOL
Tel: 952473545. Various Costa locations
AMERICAN CLUB COSTA DEL SOL
Bill Oliver 607629435
ACE AMERICAN CLUB OF ESTEPONA
Calle San Roque. Tel: 952793059.
ENGLISH-SPEAKING CLUB MALAGA
English/Spanish conversation. englishspeakingclubofmalaga.blogspot.com.es
WELSH SOCIETY
Arroyo de la Miel. Debbie 626292707
THE BRITISH SOCIETY
John Kelly 603223163 Benalmádena Pueblo. britsocietyspain@hotmail.com
BRITISH ASSOCIATION MARBELLA
Meets weekly. Jan/Joan 952835947
ENGLISH PHOENIX CLUB
Torre del Mar: Gael: 951067723
INTERNAT. CLUB OF SALOBREÑA
icsalobrena@hotmail.com
ASOCIACIÓN IRLANDESA
President Finola Sloyan: 607340523
IRISH ASSOCIATION OF SPAIN
618680148. Facebook.
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Trish: 952668081
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BRITISH SCOUTING MOVEMENT
1st Fuengirola Scout Group. Robert Troost 610755995 www.fuengirolascouts.com
THE ARTS SOCIETY
Costa del Sol: www.theartssociety-costadelsol.org/ Nerja: 952533373. theartssocietynerja.com De la Frontera: San Roque Club. nadfas-delafrontera.org Gibraltar: theartssociety.org/gibraltar Benahavís: 663459103. theartssocietybenahavis.com
MARBELLA BUSINESS NETWORK
Joe 694442331 wednesdayjoe@gmail.com
THE SENDERISTAS
Multi national walking group. www.senderistas.eu
THE FIELD CLUB
Walks. Fuengirola. www.thefieldclub.org

COSTA CHORDBUSTERS
Anne Bowles. 952464184
THE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC SOCIETY
www.timschoir.org. Gilly: 952573983.
COLLEGIUM MUSICUM COSTA DEL SOL
International choir/orchestra. 952775492.
CANTOLIBRE CHOIR
Amateur singers Estepona. 692558 041
NEW SAYDO SINGERS
Every Tuesday: Kate: 685563764 jj2devine@yahoo.co.uk
R.T.'S LINE DANCE CLUB
Calahonda / Fuengirola / Benalmádena. Bob 952931754 or 697441313.
BOOGIE SHOES LINE DANCE CLUB
Estepona, The Roadhouse Bar. Thurs 19.45
MISSISSIPPI COASTERS
Line dance. Fuengirola. Bob 697441313.
JIVE DANCE CLUB
jivespain.com 635717211.
JJ'S COSTA DEL SOL DANCE CLUB
Ballroom, Sequence & Latin 627658925
FOTA, FRIENDS OF THE THEATRE
Desk open Mon/Wed/Fri 11.30am-1.15pm. Salon Varietés, Fuengirola. 952584268.
INTERNATIONAL THEATRE STUDIO
San Pedro district. Tel 952884034
THESPA-ENGLISH SPEAKING PLAYERS
Dinner and Drama. Los Boliches. 622454422. www.theatrecostadelsol.com.
NERJA HISTORY GROUP
Talks/trips. Christina Sinclair 687602057 email: nerjahistorygroup@yahoo.com
ESTEPONA FLORAL ART CLUB
esteponafloralartclub@hotmail.com www.facebook.com/esteponafloralartclub
FLOWER ARRANGING CLUB
Venta Platero (Coin-Cartama road)
THE ANDALUCIAN GARDEN GROUP
Alh. el Grande. 952119767/952455213
THE AXARQUÍA GARDEN CLUB
www.axarquiagartenclub.blogspot.com
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952817843 www.andaluciabirdsociety.org
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www.costapressclub.com
COSTA WOMEN
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952886772 mbl63@hotmail.co.uk
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astronomycostadelsol.com 616679453.
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Malaga Ilusion: May Ramirez 616613705;


Leos: Gonzalo 627712351; University: Sara 626835485 Marbella Costa del Sol: Jacqueline Dueñas 619755031; Marbella Francófono: Rosalyn Bakker; 952884340; Marbella German: T. Heyden 667760230; Marbella Decano: M. Álvarez 619414119; Mijas: Jose Guasp Borreda 639 080 569; La Cala: Anita Humphreys 610868505; Nerja: Elke Lange 693706900; Puerto Banús Cosmopolitan: Egidia Ingels 68032009; Rincón de la Victoria: Doris: 952407824
TOASTMASTERS PUBLIC SPEAKING
Al-Andalus Toastmasters Club #1788: Donna 956 840 497. Rota, Cadiz. The Achievers Toastmasters Club #5183: Nueva Andalucía, Percy 646533112. Gibraltar: Luis 606460025. Malaga: PTA English / Spanish, Claudia 685965867.
FREEMASONS
Fuengirola: Norman Hay 674755024. Calahonda: Mike Williams 644133186. Los Boliches: Paul Clueit 667156806. Mijas Costa: David Mantle 952934193. Coín: Ian Bushnell 611020641. Alhaurín: Vic Dean 952450678.
LODGE EUROPEAN FRATERNITY 52
Tel:658655511 or 646436967
ROTARY CLUB
Benalmádena: 952441440 Benahavís: 695542881 Estepona: 952800999. Fuengirola/Mijas: 696494492. Marbella: 952821121 San Pedro: 951318381 Marbella - Guadalmina: 952888077, Mijas International: 644242365
OVER 40S SINGLES CLUB
Estepona: El Limonero Tel: 952806759
ARROYO SOCIAL & WELFARE CLUB
Arroyo de la Miel. Jean 952563580.
TORREMOLINOS & DIST. SOCIAL CLUB
Wed am. Rosaleda Bar. Mike 626880722.
ARROYO FRIENDLY CLUB
Benalmádena. 952446935.
SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
653771625 www.soroptimist.es
HASH HOUSE HARRIERS
Mijas: 695660450. Malaga: 654633430.
AMIGAS DE CASA
Vva del Trabuco. 952751424/952751304 www.trabucotimes.com/amigasdecasa.htm
CLUB CHARITY AND PLEASURE
Estepona. President Terry 952813336 clubcharityandpleasure.wordpress.com
COLMENAR DISTRICT SOCIAL CLUB
Marjorie 951163071.
TENNIS CLUB 'EL CAPITAN INT'
Torre del Mar. Patrick 675391967.
THE GOOD COMPANIONS CLUB
Los Boliches. Tel: Tony White 951661201.
CLUB DE BÉISBOL COSTA DEL SOL B.B.C.
952202940 / 952464468. Mijas
AIKIDO TOMIKI SHODOKAN
Different levels. Tel: 952131670, Malaga
TAEKWONDO CLUB
Fighting Dragons Club Benalmádena. Mike 618149373 www.vipfitness.tv
ALHAURÍN BRIDGE CLUB
Jeremy Rittener 629138606 or rittener@gmail.com
CALAHONDA BRIDGE CLUB
Club Naranja. 952198789 / 670593 232.

ACE BRIDGE CLUB
Fuengirola. Deanne Mutter: 747771404.
NERJA BRIDGE CLUB
Joan 952520579 or Trevor on 952524743
LOS BOLICHES BRIDGE CLUB
Dominiques. Mon & Fri. 645684756
C C MARBELLA BRIDGE
Wed, Thurs, Sat, Sun. With Bridgemate. Tel: 636 673 372 or www.mx77.com
CASTILLO BRIDGE CLUB
Tel: 655459576 www.bridgewebs.com
ST ANDREW'S BRIDGE CLUB
Los Boliches. 697769170 / 952667861.
COSTA DEL SOL CRICKET CLUB
League cricket. Previn: 606526618.
MARBELLA SURF CLUB
Avda. Independencia, 17, Tel:952778617.
INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS CLUB
Benalmádena Costa. 952373813.
MIJAS LAWN BOWLS CLUB
Tel: 952 466 038.
MARBELLA SINGLES SOCIAL GROUP
Over 45s. marycormack1@aol.com
COSTA DISCUSSION GROUP
CostaDiscussionGroup@yahoo.com, David 672 356 829, monthly
PAINTING GROUP
Fueng. -Marbella. cicelycarroll@yahoo.com
THE ART CLUB
San Pedro www.theartclub.es
YORUBA ASSOCIATION OF MALAGA
Aluko 691314576 yorubassmlg@hotmail.com
SOTOGRADE WRITERS CLUB
http://www.sotograndewriters.com
COMMUNITY PRESIDENTS CLUB
Marbella: 645784718/ Fuengirola: 952591071 www.urbytus.es/pc/
BENALMÁDENA HEALING GROUP
Spiritual Group Tel Liz 951947480
CLASSIC CARS CLUB
Mijas. 3rd Sat each month. 607690057
FERRARI OWNERS CLUB
607562057ferrariownersclubandalucia.com
PORCHE OWNERS' CLUB
peter@porscheownersandalucia.eu
SPANISH/ENGLISH INTERCAMBIO
Malaga. Raff Bar, C/José Denis Belgrano Tues 8.30pm 672 356 829 David.
INDIAN COMMUNITY
indiancommunitymalaga@gmail.comTel: 952477171 / 627108987
THE IMAGE GROUP
Photographic club. imagegroupspain.com
GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS
jackwatson10@gmail.com Tel:620786772
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Free handmade breast prostheses. www.kkscostadelsol.org or email info.spanishknockers@gmail.com
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ALIVE AND KICKING LINEDANCING
Fuengirola. Jennifer 663516654
REFUGE RECOVERY FOR ADDICTIONS
El Trapiche: Bob 642352013
Send any corrections or details of new clubs by email marked ‘For the clubs page’. surinenglish.su@diariosur.es


THE STARS




Aquarius
January 21 - February 19
Anyone or anything that has made your life difficult over the last year now needs to go. Try as you may there is not much chance of this particular leopard changing its spots!




Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
An artistic project sees success. Have you at last written that novel? Do not undervalue your talent either at work or at leisure.




Aries
March 21st - April 20th
As much as someone wants to please you they may be unsure how. Maybe they can help you to find a new approach to both your love and your work life?




Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Try to be ready to answer a tricky question. Some conversations seem disjointed. Could it be because you do not know all the facts?




Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Do you suspect that a friendship has run its course? Maybe the other person feels the same. Just pull back and see what happens.




Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Those who need to be convinced that you are on the right track may want explanations. You don't have to provide them as actions speak louder than words.




Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Awkward moments at work lead you to question an idea. If you are going to make a suggestion here, be diplomatic. Be ready to join others at the weekend for some fun and frolics.




Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Whatever you do this week, let yourself feel and enjoy the moment when it all comes together. Some probing questions from a friend may make you feel uncomfortable.




Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Now is the best time to ask for money owed to you. Keep those finances in tip-top condition in these volatile times. It is a bad time to rely on the generosity of others. Stay sharp.



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
You don't have to twist anyone's arm to get what you want this week. Just use your charm and knowledge. This time is one of action and surprises.

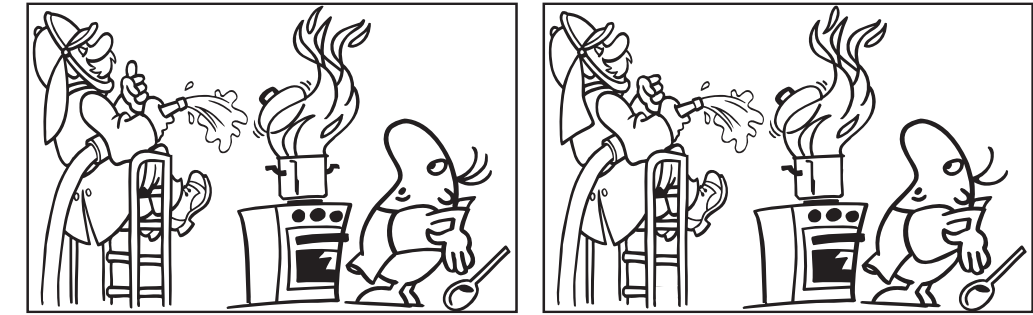


Sagittarius
November 223rd - December 21st
Nothing can upset your applectart this week. Showing others that you have more than one string to your bow makes them realise that winding you up is just a waste of time

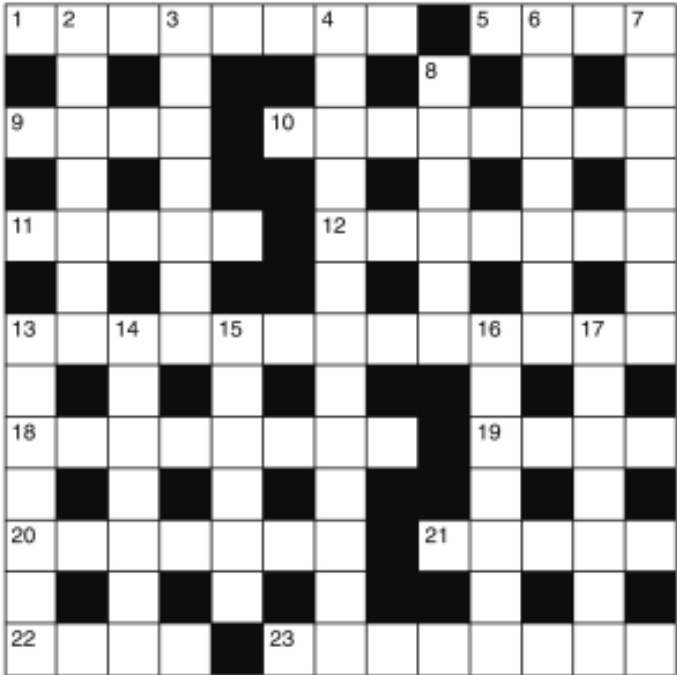


Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
A difficult conversation of last week seems to have cleared the air. Being mates again means making a real effort and thinking about it.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11369



LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across

1) Bullfight (7,2,5) (14)

6) Horse (7)

11) News (8)

12) Him (2)

14) Thirst (3)

15) Territory (10)

17) Trade (6)

19) He'll go (3)

21) Gold (3)

22) Province (9)

26) Bullfighting (11)

28) Partridge (6)

29) Castilian (10)

30) Law (3)

34) Muslims (10)

36) Christian (9)

40) Festivities (8)

42) I dared (6)

43) To air (6)

44) Spectators (12)

46) Ambitions (10)

47) Documented (11)
- Down

1) To conquer (10)

2) Kingdom (5)

3) Diversion (6)

4) Such (3)

5) Oyster (5)

7) Something (4)

8) Smooth (4)

9) Bylaw (9)

10) To guide (5)

13) Eternal (pl) (9)

16) Roots (6)

18) Paper lantern (9)

20) Notes (7)

23) Stain (6)

24) You went (6)

25) Anchor (5)

27) To contract (9)

31) Middle Ages (4,5)

32) You spied (8)

33) Sovereign (8)

34) Monarch (7)

35) Us (3)

37) Eyelet (5)

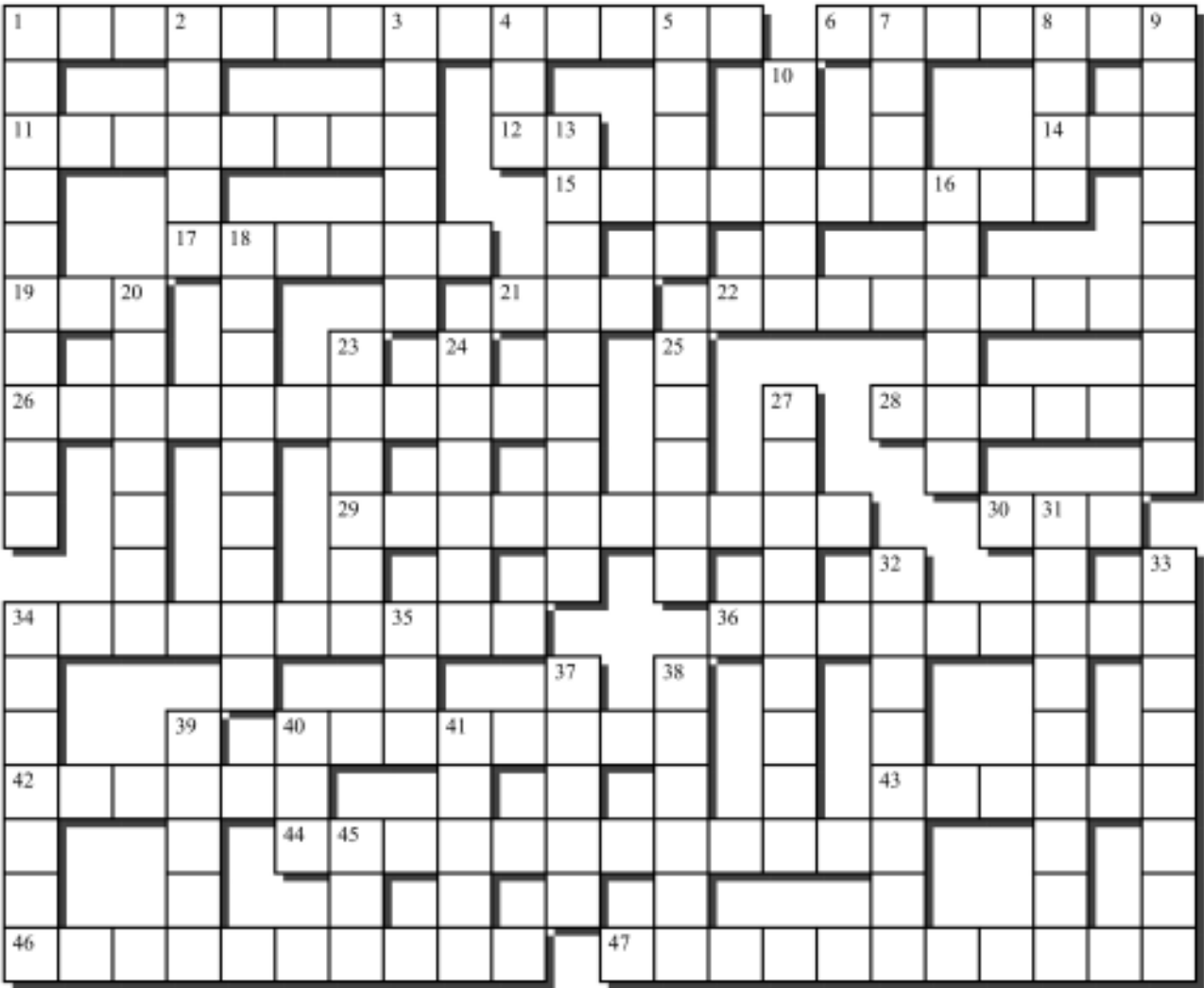
38) Regular (6)

39) I felt (5)

40) I trusted (3)

41) Thirteen (5)

45) Cathedral (3)



ANSWERS

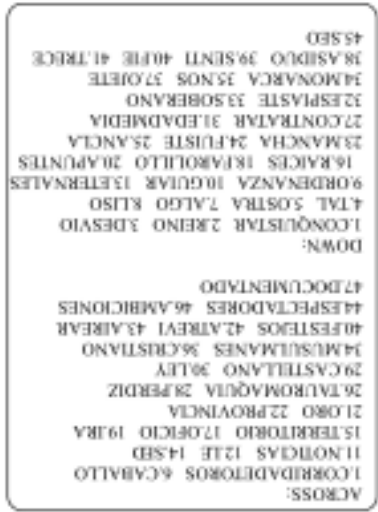
Quiz answers

Of interest: Started around 1215, York Minster took more than 250 years to build. It is filled with unique carvings and the greatest collection of intact, Medieval stained glass windows in the world.

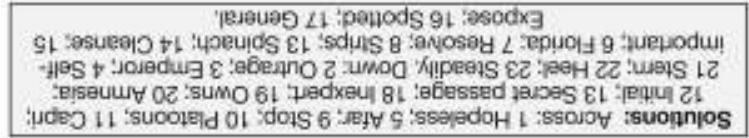
Answer: York Minster

Of interest: St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, was designed in the style of high Gothic architecture of the 15th century, and the chapel and its anti chapel celebrate the three themes, Christianity, Scotland, and Chivalry.

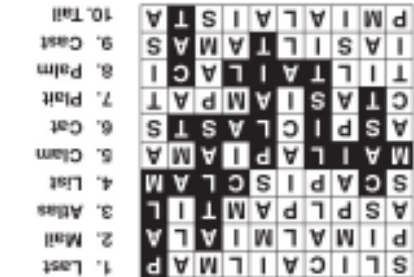
Language Crossword



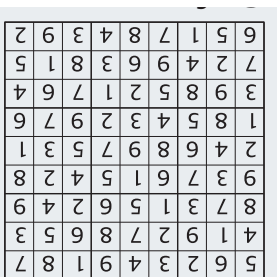
Cryptic Crossword



Wordpuzzler solution



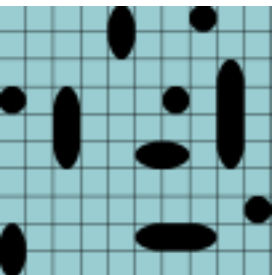
Sudoku solution



Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is T. Stewart, Atherton, Boycott all former England cricketers.

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



The patron saint of seafarers

Last week:
Marbella

This unusual sculpture can be found on the roundabout at the junction of Calle Platino and Calle José Manuel Vallés.



MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Harmony V	03-04/08	Marbella	Marbella	06.00	23.59
Europa 2	04/08	Valencia	Cadiz	08.00	19.00
Aidastella	06/08	Palma	Cadiz	08.00	18.00
Stad Amsterdam	06-07/08	Cagliari	Leixoes	11.00	10.00
Independence o t Seas	06/08	Ajaccio	Cadiz	12.00	20.00
Silver Shadow	15/08	Valencia	Cadiz	08.00	21.00







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Cancer heroes shadow shepherds

Five young cancer survivors accompany shepherds in León and Asturias on a trip to learn about an ancient grazing ritual

:: MATÍAS STUBER

MÁLAGA. "Walking through the mountains has been very complicated. The routes haven't been easy. But I give everything in life a good go. If I see that it's not working, I ask for help." These are the words of José Emilio Gil, a 17-year-old from Málaga who attends the Miraya del Mar secondary school.

José Emilio walks with a limp, leaning forwards a little and to the right to balance his weight. His teenage body might struggle due to his amputated leg, but he makes up for it with willpower.

His diagnosis came when he was not even aware of it: thoracic neuroblastoma at only 13 months old. In José Emilio's case, though, this diagnosis was his second, following a disease in his leg, congenital pseudoarthrosis of the tibia, which put his life in danger and led to amputation. But far from letting his dif-



The teenagers from Málaga, with Manuel Calvo and the shepherds. **:: SUR**

ficulties get him down, he adopted a 'say yes' attitude.

It was this same positive approach that enabled José Emilio to complete his eight-day adventure last month across the highest peaks of León and Asturias in northern Spain.

He was one of five Málaga teenagers, all cancer survivors, who spent a week in July following flocks of sheep to experience the transhu-

mance ritual first-hand.

José Emilio, Tania, Elena Ainhoa, Vanesa and Enrique were selected by AVOI (Association of Volunteers for Child Oncology) to participate in the first "transhumance adventure", a volunteer initiative launched by pet shop Tiendanimal and Royal Canin.

The expedition was organised by local adventurer, Manuel Calvo, who was accompanied by AVOI volun-

teers. The group trekked 71 kilometres along high mountain trails, slept in tents and even went in canoes down the Sella river. They also learned about the ancestral tradition of transhumance, the oldest grazing economy in the world, in which the dog demonstrates, once again, its importance for the human being.

The young cancer survivors learned how the shepherds accom-

pany their flocks of sheep over the mountains, following tracks in search of food. Man and animal become one with nature; it is a relationship and tradition guided by survival instinct.

Some shepherds keep up the tradition today, especially in the Castilla y León and Asturias regions. Their life alternates between the open mountain and a type of shelter known as "choza": measuring three square metres, without internet, television or a bathroom.

Elena Ainhoa Reyes wants to repeat the experience. She is also 17 and at secondary school. She knows what it is like to beat liver and kidney cancer. For Elena, the trip went above and beyond her expectations. "It was an incredible experience and I would like other people to enjoy it in the same way as we have," she said.

One of the objectives of the trip was to raise awareness of the importance of dogs for human beings. The mastiffs' barks are essential to warn shepherds of danger while out in the mountains and frighten off wolves, the natural enemy of the flock.

"We wanted the teenagers to understand the role of the mastiffs as protectors of the flock from wolf attacks. Both species have a love-hate relationship. Without the wolf, centuries-old breeds of dog such as the mastiff, would not have survived. Flocks driven by mastiffs are protected from attacks," Manuel Calvo explained to the five youngsters.

"This will not be the last adventure of its kind," he added.




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Restaurant

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Apartamentos

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Hotel & Spa ****

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