

SUR

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August 30th to September 5th
2019

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TRAVEL SPECIAL

The colourful Cuban capital

Andrew Forbes
explores Havana
as it prepares to
celebrate its 500th
birthday **P22-26**



FORTUNES SAIL INTO PUERTO BANÚS

Luxury yachts belonging to Roberto Cavalli, Ricardo Salinas, Baroness Thyssen and the Saudi royals shared the quayside in Marbella **P14**

Roberto Cavalli on his spectacular yacht in Puerto Banús. :: JOSELE

Expat Brexit groups in Spain react to latest events in the UK

Campaigners say the British government should come clean about its plans to suspend parliament

Britons in Spain concerned over Brexit learned on Wednesday that Boris Johnson will limit time for any debate by MPs, increasing the likelihood of a no-deal Brexit, unless the EU softens its stance. **P18**

Werewolf babies scare.

Body hair growth on kids is traced to mislabelling of bottles of acid reflux medicine by Malaga firm **P6**

Sharing ideas for integration.

La Viñuela councillor Ria O'Brien talks about her life in politics in Ireland and Spain **P27**

Freak weather crushes barns, goats and crops as tornadoes hit inland

A livestock farmer in Campillos lost 70 goats as farm buildings collapsed on Monday night

The storms that hit much of Spain on Monday avoided the Costa del Sol but took their toll on the Campillos area to the north of the province of Malaga. The freak weather conditions led to downpours and the formation of several tornadoes which crushed crops and tumbled six farm buildings, killing one farmer's herd of 70 goats. **P2**



Damaged caused to buildings in Campillos. :: SUR

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The remains of one of the barns destroyed by a tornado. :: SUR



A view of one of the tornadoes that formed in Campillos. :: SUR

Seventy goats killed and crops destroyed in Campillos tornadoes

Six barns were flattened and power lines damaged during the freak weather on Monday evening in inland Malaga province

:: F. T. / B. G. / L. N.

CAMPILLOS. Locals in Campillos, inland Malaga province, feared the worst on Monday evening as a series of tornadoes and heavy rain struck, mainly on the outskirts of the town.

Campillos town hall sent out a

statement on social media asking residents to remain in their homes, due to "the possibility of adverse meteorological effects". The same message also asked locals to limit the use of their cars.

Despite initial reports from emergency services that the dam-

age was minor, various crops, olive groves in particular, and six barns were destroyed. Power lines were also damaged.

The main victim of the storms was a goat farmer who lost around seventy of his herd when they became trapped in the rubble of two

collapsed barns. He is receiving assistance from the town hall.

Monday's unusual weather was caused by a cut-off low, or 'Dana' in Spanish, an isolated pocket of cold air that breaks away from main weather systems. The tornadoes, tubes of violently spinning air that touch the ground, form when changes in wind speed and direction create a horizontal spinning effect within a storm cell. This effect is then tipped vertically by air moving up through thunderclouds.

Several residents captured spectacular images of the natural phenomenon in action, later sharing them on social media.

Town hall estimates 20 hectares were burned in Marbella fire

Forty homes were evacuated on Thursday night last week as the fire ravaged the area between the Bello Horizonte development and the AP-7 motorway

:: SUR

MARBELLA. Marbella town hall estimates that the fire on scrubland near the Bello Horizonte development on Thursday night last week (22 August) destroyed a total of 20 hectares (49 acres) of land.

Emergency services began receiving reports of smoke, that could be seen as far away as Puerto Banús, at around 8.20pm.

Forty homes were evacuated as a safety precaution as the fire blazed close to the AP-7 motorway.

According to Infoca, the body responsible for the control and prevention of forest fires, 70 firefighters were deployed to the site.

The warnings caused some residents to move their vehicles as a precaution, while others used their own hoses to dampen the dry grass around them and prevent the further spread of the flames.

Local Police officer Juan Carlos Bo Morilla, who was off duty at the time, told SUR: "I took the hose to wet the dry grass and contribute in whatever way I could."

One of those evacuated, Alejandro Pino, explained how he "took the dogs and fled", concerned about how the fire would develop.

At about 8am on Friday morning, Infoca announced that the fire was under control.

This fire broke out just a day after a hillside blaze in neighbouring Estepona, which destroyed 330 hectares (815 acres), was brought under control.



The flames seen from the AP-7 toll motorway. :: JOSELE

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Tourists entering a hotel in Marbella. :: sur

IN FIGURES

127.72€

was the average cost per night of a hotel room in the province in July.

13,696

people were working in hotels in the province in July.

land also increased, with 41,508 staying in hotels between January and July this year, which was a rise of 18.6 per cent. Polish visitors increased by 12.9 per cent to 36,750, and there were 22 per cent more tourists from Russia, totalling 26,349.

The only reductions by nationality in terms of visitors in hotels and apartments were those from France (-15.1%) and Denmark (-10.9%).

The president of the Malaga Diputación, the provincial authority, and Turismo Costa del Sol, Francisco Salado, says that "the strategy of our organisation is to diversify markets, so we don't depend solely on the traditional ones. This is proving successful and we are seeing some very positive increases in tourism this year".

In fact, Malaga is third in the ranking of coastal provinces, behind Barcelona and the Balearic Islands, in terms of visitor numbers during the period in question. There were 3,385,399 tourists, which was 5.9 per cent more than the first seven months of 2018. With regard to overnight stays, Malaga province registered the fifth-highest number, behind the Balearic Islands, Las Palmas, Barcelona and Tenerife.

"These figures show that the results for this destination continue to improve, and the most important thing is that they also have a positive effect on job creation," said Salado. The number of people employed in hotels has grown by 4.6 per cent in one year, and in July there were 13,696 workers in the hotel industry on the Costa del Sol.

The growth in tourism on the Costa is reflected in hotel profits and employment

The revenue per room has improved by five per cent in a year, and occupancy and staffing levels have also increased in that time

COSTA DEL SOL. The increase in the number of people staying in hotels in Malaga province and the Costa del Sol is having a direct effect on their bottom line. The most important indicator for measuring the success of hotel businesses is RevPar (it refers to revenue per available room) and this improved by nearly five per cent between July last year and the

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same month this year.

The average revenue per available room in the province is now 104.42 euros (with an interannual increase of 4.8%) and on the Costa del Sol in particular it is 108.53 euros (+4.6%). The Malaga coast is the only tourist area of Andalucía where the RevPar has increased. On the coasts of Granada, Almeria, Cadiz and Huelva it has dropped since last year.

The average daily rate in hotels in the province rose in July to 127.72 euros, after a 3.3 per cent inter-annual increase. That figure places it at the head of Andalucía, although there is little difference from Cadiz (126.32 euros). The most expensive tourist area in the whole of Andalucía is still Marbella, at around 200 euros per room per night.

These figures are from INE, the national institute of statistics, and show the "excellent performance" of July in terms of visitors, overnight stays, occupancy rates and employment, as reported by the Costa del Sol tourist board this week.

The month ended with 2.8 per cent more overnight stays than in July

2018, and 81.7 per cent of the rooms were occupied in the 609 establishments which were open.

Looking at the period from January to July, there was an increase of 10.4 per cent in tourists from elsewhere in Spain, and 3.4 per cent of those from abroad.

Principal markets

The following markets have shown a significant increase; Ireland, with 102,807 travellers staying in hotels in the province (+13.6%); Italy, which increased by 14.9 per cent to 85,566 clients; and the USA, whose numbers grew by 11.6 per cent to 85,122.

The number of visitors from Fin-

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Police give details of their fightback on drug crime with the arrest of six gangs

Forty searches were carried out in Marbella, Manilva, Ojén, Estepona and Monda; a British group posed as a removal service back to the UK

EF **MALAGA.** The Guardia Civil has been giving details of recent operations to break up six separate gangs dedicated to smuggling or handling drugs through resorts along the Costa del Sol, before then distributing on to Spain, France, Italy and Britain. The operation was called Balbi, and included the seizure of a total of

5.3 tonnes of hashish, 322 marijuana plants, 141,000 euros in cash and 17 firearms, including an AK-47, as well as 49 vehicles, 26 of which had been stolen. A total of 85 people have been investigated and charged with a series of offences. In the final stages of the operation, there were 40 searches of property in Marbella, Manilva, Ojén, Estepona and Monda, as well as locations in the provinces of Cadiz and Granada. The operation started in August last year, when police discovered gangs stealing high-end cars from dealers and repair workshops in the Guadalhorce valley. They also stole cars from drivers parked at petrol stations or carrying out other errands.

This group of car thieves of Moroccan origin had contacts with local hashish importing gangs from North Africa, police discovered. Besides the car-theft gang, the second gang identified was responsible for getting the hashish into France at high speed. A third group consisted of four Britons who sent hashish in false floors of lorries from the Marbella area back to the UK, pretending to be a removal company. Over two tonnes of hashish were seized from the gang. A fourth group was held in Estepona, the fifth group provided logistical support to other groups and the sixth, of 50 people, was split between Manilva and Granada.

Six girls held for biting a bus driver after they insulted passengers

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ **MALAGA.** A bloody bite mark, scratches on different parts of his body and bumps on his leg after being kicked; that was the result of an attack last week on a Malaga bus driver by six girls. The driver had asked them to get off the bus after

they had been bothering other passengers with abusive behaviour. The events took place last week when the girls, who were apparently on holiday, got on the number 3 bus after a visit to the fair. They sat at the back and began to hurl insults at a couple and their two children.

Hearing shouts, the driver stopped the bus and moved to the back, suggesting the couple change seats, and asked the girls to calm down. However the girls continued bothering other passengers, so the driver asked them to get off. Meanwhile one of the group had started lighting a cigarette on the bus. The driver went to take it from her hand and the girl bit his arm before the others started scratching and kicking him. The other passengers stopped the attack and police were called.

112 REPORTS



The vehicle in the San Pedro school. :: SUR

Irish family's car crashes into schoolyard after son accelerates away

MARBELLA **C. MÁRQUEZ.** A father from Ireland got a shock last week as he was loading the car with cases at a property in San Pedro before driv-

ing to Malaga Airport. With the motor running in the garage, according to investigators, his 13-year-old son climbed into the driver's seat and pressed the accelerator. The car shot out, crossed over two lanes on Avenida Santiago de Compostela, knocking over the fence and stopping in the school yard at Laude International College.

Wanted Dutch 'hitman' is held in San Pedro

MARBELLA **SUR.** A Dutch fugitive has recently been arrested in a bar in San Pedro. National Police received a request to hold the man, who lives in Marbella and is believed to belong to a motorcycle gang. They say he had been asked to carry out various killings since 2017, two of which had been successful, said investigators.

548 people fall foul of police at Malaga feria

MALAGA **SUR.** National Police have said that during Malaga's eleven-day-long summer fair this month, they completed reports on 548 people and arrested 45 for a range of offences at the two main venues; the city centre and evening show-ground. Various checkpoints set up around the fair saw 2,374 people asked to identify themselves.

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From Friday 30 to Thursday 5: 15:45

From Friday 30 to Thursday 5: 15:45, 18:10

From Friday 30 to Thursday 5: 15:50, 17:50

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Pensions advice in Spain: Six tips for getting it right, first time

by David Bowers, Partner, Blevins Franks

With so many options for UK pensions, it can be difficult to know what to do to achieve a financially secure retirement. The ongoing uncertainty surrounding Brexit and political volatility in the UK also raises questions about how long we can expect today's opportunities for expatriates to last.

Any financial transaction brings a degree of risk, but as pensions are often especially valuable and critical in providing a comfortable retirement, making the wrong decision here can be disastrous. This is therefore an area where quality, expert advice is vital.

These six tips can help you avoid costly mistakes and establish the right pensions approach for you.

1. Check your pension adviser is regulated by the UK Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)

Regulated financial companies must meet certain standards and act in the best interests of their clients. While taking regulated advice is compulsory for people looking to transfer 'final-salary' pension benefits worth £30,000+ a year, the FCA strongly recommends it for anyone considering their pension

options. A simple online search of a provider's full name plus 'FCA' should reveal more about their relationship with the regulator and link to their record in the Financial Services Register.

2. Consider all the available options

Many expatriates transfer UK pension funds to a Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Scheme (QROPS) to unlock benefits such as flexibility to withdraw euros or sterling and more freedom to pass benefits to heirs other than your spouse. However, a QROPS will not suit everyone and is not always the most tax-efficient solution. Pension funds can potentially be restructured in arrangements that provide better tax benefits for Spanish residents, so make sure you explore the alternative options.

3. Don't overlook cross-border tax issues

The Spanish income tax treatment of pensions differs to the UK and is highly complex, with rates varying regionally between 19% and 48%.

While UK-based pension advisers may have some understanding of

Spanish taxation, they are unlikely to have the full expertise to navigate issues such as Spanish succession, wealth and income tax mitigation in the context of your overall situation. This can lead to a much higher tax bill than necessary, for you and your heirs.

A locally-based, UK-regulated adviser is best placed to establish the most tax-efficient approach for your particular circumstances and goals.

4. Beware of pension scams and unregulated investments

Be extremely cautious of advice from a company that has cold-called you, and never sign anything under pressure. Be especially wary of claims of unusually high or guaranteed returns, and opportunities to access your pension before the age of 55. Once you transfer your pension, it is too late; you could end up losing some or even all of your pension funds, and face a large UK tax bill as well as penalty fees.

Also, take note that many companies offering pension services are unregulated. Whether they aim to defraud you or not, these are unprotected investments that risk losing your money with no

opportunity for compensation if things go wrong.

Protect your pension benefits by checking your provider's credentials, including their understanding of Spanish taxation and its interaction with UK rules.

5. Research other peoples' experience

Even amongst regulated providers, check for quality. Testimonials, particularly word-of-mouth recommendations from people you trust, can provide reassurance and indicate that your provider is meeting the needs and expectations of their clients. Look for consumer reviews, ask around your local community and follow up references where possible. Be mindful, however, that other peoples' situations might be quite different to yours – what works for them may not necessarily work for you.

6. Look at the whole picture

Pensions should form just part of your overall financial plan. Your adviser should look at your pensions in the context of your unique circumstances, risk appetite and wider situation – including residency,

your other assets, tax and estate planning – to help secure the best outcome for you and your family.

Deciding what to do with your pension could be one of the most important financial decisions you make. While you should take the time to get it right, keep the Brexit countdown in mind. With many predicting that the UK could introduce tax penalties on overseas transfers and limit how expatriates in the EU can access their UK pensions post-Brexit, now is the time to review how you can best secure a prosperous retirement in Spain.

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

Specialist pension solutions for UK expatriates in Spain.

Blevins Franks specialises in cross-border wealth management and can provide personalised, UK regulated pension advice, including QROPS. If you are thinking of transferring your pension out of the UK, you may wish to take action now in case the UK extends its 25% Overseas Transfer Charge post Brexit. We can help you with all your pension options, including the tax implications in Spain.

Pension Workshops

Our workshops will discuss the key pensions concerns affecting British expatriates in Spain today. Please contact us if you are interested in attending.

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Rents are now higher than the average salary of young people in Malaga

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Although more are now living independently, the increase is very small: only two out of ten people aged under 30 have been able to move out of their parents' home

MALAGA. It is becoming increasingly difficult for young people to live independently, because rents are going up while their salaries are remaining almost the same, according to the latest report into emancipation from the Youth Council of Spain. It warns that fewer than 20 per cent are able to move out of their parents' home before the age of 30. In Malaga there is another worrying factor: the average rent for an apartment is now higher than most young people's salaries.

"The average net monthly salary of 16 to 29-year-olds in the fourth quarter of 2018 was 892 euros, and the average monthly rent for an apartment in Malaga is 903 euros. That means if someone in that age group wants to live on their own, they will have to pay an amount which is equal to 101.3 per cent of their monthly salary," explains economist Joffre López Oller, one of the authors of the report. Just two years earlier, in 2016, rent would have been equivalent to 85.9 per cent of salary. After Palma de Mallorca and Barcelona, Malaga is the third city in Spain where rents have increased the most in recent years: more than 45 per cent between



An estate agency in Malaga city. :: JOSELE

2013 and 2019. Salaries have not kept up with that increase; in fact, they have remained practically the same.

The amount needed to buy a property has also risen considerably: in two years mortgage repayments have risen from 61.5 per cent to 70.9 per cent of an average salary. Even so, in Malaga it is still more expensive to rent than to pay a mortgage.

Maria Serrano, who is a teacher, can confirm that. After five years living on her own in the UK, she came back to Malaga and had to live with her parents. "I didn't want to, but when you see how much landlords want... old-fashioned apartments from the 1970s are 700 euros a month or more. I refused to pay that," she says. She now shares a two-bedroom

apartment with her boyfriend and the rent is 800 euros a month. "That's actually cheap, because we know the owner, but we're still paying twice as much as friends who have a mortgage," she says.

Despite the difficulties, the rate of juvenile emancipation has actually improved in Malaga. In two years, the percentage of under-30s who have moved out of their parents' home has risen from 14.8 to 19.2 per cent.

"Malaga used to be below the national average, but is in line with it now," says Joffre López Oller, explaining that this is due to the rise in employment. The more young people who are in work, the more will manage to live independently. The conditions in which they do so are an

THE FIGURES

892€
is the average monthly salary of the working population aged between 16 and 29 in Malaga.

903€
is the average monthly rent in the province.

59.2%
of people aged under 30 who live independently in Spain are renting a property.

other matter.

Shared apartments

How do young people in Malaga become independent? Flatsharing, which used to be almost exclusively for students, is becoming increasingly common, even for those in their thirties. Sharing may not be the preferred option, but it is the only way for many people.

"I went to live with my girlfriend but then we broke up and I could only manage to pay the rent for one more month. I earned 900 euros, so I couldn't pay out 600. Now I share the apartment with someone I work with," says Mario Fenech, an expert in Environmental Sciences and researcher at Malaga University.

Josema Aranda, who is 28, also shares, but doesn't blame low salaries. He says the problem is the high rents. "Many people my age can't imagine ever being able to buy a place or live on their own," he says.

They are both aware that they can

count themselves lucky. Most young people couldn't even aspire to a flat-share. Maria Maldonado is among the eight out of every ten young people trapped at home with their parents. "Nearly everyone I know, even people with university degrees, either live with their parents or are struggling to live on their own, and if they are on their own it's because the apartment is a relative's second home or their parents are helping them financially," she says.

This way of living is becoming more common, according to the report. Although most of those aged between 16 and 29 who live independently are renting, the number is dropping. The figures show that 60.6 per cent were renting a property in 2017, but last year that dropped to 59.2 per cent. It is not a big reduction, but it has broken the trend of recent years.

But what is "surprising", says the report, is that it is not because more people are buying a property, but are living somewhere owned by a relative. "We can't yet say that this will be a recurring phenomenon, but at present 12 out of every one hundred independent young people in Spain are living in a property owned by a relative," says López Oller.

With regard to property ownership, although at present mortgage repayments cost less than rent, it is still impossible for many young people to obtain a mortgage, partly because they have to provide guarantees and put down a deposit and partly because the Bank of Spain is advising financial institutions against lending to those who have to spend more than 30 per cent of their income on the repayments.

This is the main reason that the percentage of young people who own a property is not increasing. At present only 17.4 per cent are among this group.



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FRIGILIANA CELEBRATES ITS THREE CULTURES IN ONE FESTIVAL

The fourteenth Festival de las Tres Culturas, celebrating Jewish, Muslim and Christian cultures, started in Frigiliana last Thursday with a vibrant street procession. The event continued over the weekend and attracted over 40,000 people. The four-day festival included a tapas route, medieval market, workshops, story telling, fireworks and live music, including Cuban singer-songwriter, Pablo Milanes, whose performance closed the festival on Sunday evening.



:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

German tourist arrested after leaving twin girls in car in full sun

:: E. CABEZAS

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. A German woman was arrested on suspicion of abandoning her children and putting their lives at risk after Local Police rescued 18-month-old twin girls from her car at El Ingenio shopping centre last Monday.

Security guards contacted police after a number of customers reported hearing the girls crying from the car, which was parked in full sun at around 2pm. An eight-year-old boy identified himself as the brother of the two girls in English and took them to his mother, who was shopping with another daughter, aged 10. The babies did not need medical assistance despite being in the car for around 30 minutes. The family had been on holiday in Cómputa at the time.

Residents brave thunderstorm threat to protest over services

Vélez-Málaga councillors say they are awaiting a response from the Junta de Andalucía to start construction on a coastal path along the N-340

:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Residents of the villages of Chilches and Benajárafé took to the streets on Monday evening to continue to protest over what they believe is a "lack of interest" from Vélez-Málaga town hall to provide basic services in the two villages.

Approximately 300 protesters marched along the N-340 between the old Chilches and Benajárafé train station buildings. "People have come out despite the threat of a thunderstorm," said Olga Rodríguez, spokesperson of the residents' association which represents the two villages.



Residents gather outside the Chilches train station building. :: E. C.

They are asking for a working group to be established with the council to see that plans for coastal path along the N-340, along with improvements to the local primary school, greater

police presence and basic health services come to fruition. The town hall has said they are awaiting a response from the Junta de Andalucía for the coastal path project.

HERE AND THERE

Limited free entrance to Rincón caves approved

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA

:: **SUR.** The Junta de Andalucía has approved new opening times including extended free entrance to La Cueva del Tesoro in Rincón de la Victoria. As of 15 September, entrance will be free to 60 people from 10 to 11am, Monday to Friday. Tourism councillor, Antonio José Martín, said the new timetable would help to "avoid long queues" on Mondays, when entrance has been free. Audio guides in five languages are included.

Opposition demands coastal parking control

TORRE DEL MAR

:: **E. C.** Vélez-Málaga's opposition PP party has demanded that the PSOE-GIPMTM coalition formation "urgently" extends the controlled parking (Zona Azul) areas along Torre del Mar's coastal road. PP spokesman, Francisco Delgado Bonilla, said that the extension was agreed at a council meeting in April but claims the coalition has "completely ignored" the agreement which he says is "necessary for residents and businesses".

New technology could open up Nerja cave

NERJA

:: **E. P.** Manager of the Nerja caves, José María Domínguez, told Europa Press last Sunday that his team are looking into the possibility of using heightened reality technology to provide visitors with greater access to the caves. Only one third of the caves is open to visitors and Domínguez said that by using technology the remaining two thirds could be 'seen' by "tourists and people with reduced mobility". He added that the project is currently "in the idea phase".

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Taxi drivers (left) with the Foreigners Department team (1r & 2r). :: SUR

Mijas taxi drivers promise to do their extra bit to help women feel safer at night

The drivers will now wait at the doors of properties until their passengers are fully inside

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

MIJAS. The Foreign Residents department of Mijas council has got behind a new initiative to help people get home more safely.

The scheme, which was the idea of Taxi Mijas, the taxi service in the municipality, is based on the driver promising to wait until their passenger is fully inside the property they are going to before they

drive away. Rafael Martín, president of Taxi Mijas, said that the initiative was, "to guarantee the safety of users, because apart from providing a service or doing business, we are also here to help residents and visitors".

The extra service is called Taxi Mijas Cares for You, and is aimed especially at women travelling alone at night. It has been backed up with a folder in English and Spanish with useful telephone numbers. Councillor for Foreigners, Arancha López, explained that her department had helped prepare the texts and translation.

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New additions to the range

Acentos Tea Boutique is pleased to announce a new addition to its range of gourmet products.

Although initially the boutique store specialised in teas, it has now expanded to include a range of gourmet ecological products. An important addition to this new line is the range of Azada oils.

Azada has, since 2009, been creating products to invoke a wonderful Mediterranean experience using only the best ingredients. The brand's oils include olive oil, olive oil and basil, olive oil and orange, olive oil and garlic, olive oil and chilli, hazelnut oil, almond oil, walnut oil, pumpkin seed oil, peanut oil and pistachio oil.

Azada products do not include any GMO ingredients. They are gluten free, most are organic certified and all are vegan certified. They strive to be as eco-friendly



New additions to the gourmet range.

as they can and use recycled materials whenever possible, and their containers, jars and bottles are fully recyclable.

Flavoured olive oils are made by crushing 100% natural ingredients along with the olives. Although more expensive than in-

fusing the oils or adding natural aromas, Azada are committed to quality and believe that is the best way to enjoy flavoured olive oils. The virgin nut oils are obtained by cold-pressing nuts and seeds (hazelnut, almond, walnut, peanut, pumpkin seed and pistachio), which have been roasted previously for greater depth of flavour. Nothing else is added.

Acentos also stocks a wide range of teas including Althaus, Mariage Frères, Pure Tea, Tè Forte and Shabbat Kosher Tea. Plus, they have a variety of tea accessories and gourmet chocolates available, and various gift sets and boxes bound to delight tea-lovers.

Visit Acentos at Avda de Salamanca, local 15B, San Pedro Alcántara between 10am and 8pm or call 952 788 103



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The premises of the firm Magrudis where the outbreak originated. :: EFE

More meat products recalled as officials extend listeriosis alert

Of more than 200 cases, by Wednesday 77 people were still in hospital; the outbreak has so far claimed the lives of two women in Seville

SEVILLE. Spanish health officials extended their listeriosis warning on Thursday, recalling all the meat products made by the firm Magrudis, under the brand La Mechá.

The recent outbreak of the illness caused by the *Listeria* bacteria, the worst ever recorded in Spain, was traced earlier this month to a type of processed pork known as ‘carne mechada’ sold under the La Mechá brand of a Seville-based company, Magrudis.

On Wednesday regional Health minister Jesús Aguirre said that some 5,800 kilos of processed meat thought to be contaminated with the bacteria had been recalled by the authorities in Andalucía. Now the brand’s chorizo and blood sausage have joined the list of pork products that have been taken off the shelves.

The move comes just a day after the president of the Junta de Andalucía, Juanma Moreno, said that the outbreak of listeriosis had passed its worst, celebrating the first 24 hours with no new cases reported. The absence of diagnoses was shortlived, though, as a new case was confirmed in Seville on Thursday.

Since the alarm was raised on 15 August, 204 people, the vast majority in Andalucía, have been found to be affected in Spain by the *Listeria* bacteria. Of the 197 cases in Andalucía, 162 are in the province of Seville.

So far two deaths have been confirmed to have been caused by the outbreak; the first was a 90-year-old woman on 19 August, and the second, a 74-year-old woman on Tuesday. It is still to be confirmed whether a third death, that of a 72-year-old man with terminal cancer, was caused by the bacteria.

By Wednesday the number of hospitalised patients had gone down to 77, including 28 pregnant women. Four people were in intensive care. Among the pregnant women affected by the bacteria, one suffered a miscarriage and another gave birth prematurely, at 33 weeks.

An infected dog

The Spanish vets association said this week that a dog is suspected to have been infected with the bacteria. The 10-year-old greyhound was taken to the vet last Friday by its owners, who had several relatives in hospital due to the infection. Association president Delia Saleno said that the animal was recovering well. “Fortunately it is a bacteria that affects dogs less.”

British man contracts listeriosis infection after eating contaminated meat in Seville

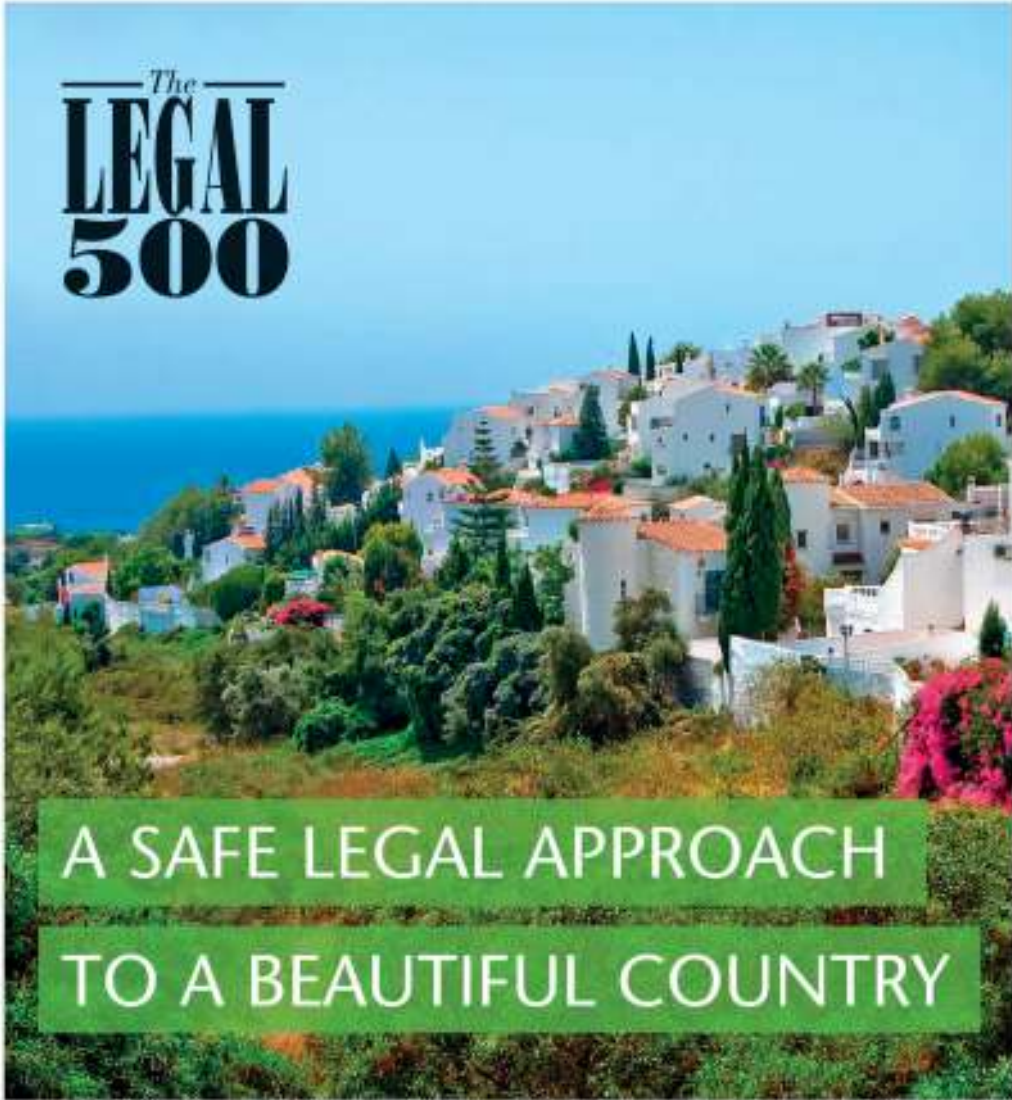

SUR

A British man has become the first foreign victim of Spain’s worst ever outbreak of listeriosis it was reported this week. The Ministry of Health believes that the man contracted the infection while on holiday in Andalucía before returning to the UK.


The man travelled via France, where it was confirmed that he had

the infection and was admitted into hospital for two days, before completing his journey.

Fernando Simón, responsible for the national coordination of health warnings, has explained that the British man visited a health centre in Seville after consuming some of the contaminated ‘carne mechada’ around the middle of August.



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† IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Alex Hide

Who passed away on July 30th

YOU'LL BE FOREVER MISSED. You were a perfect gentleman, responsible hard-working, honest, a generous man of exquisite manners, considerate with your family and friends. A British sense of humour but an Andalusian heart.

Dear friend, Rest in Peace. WE WILL NOT FORGET YOU.

A mass will be held at the Virgen del Rocío church in San Pedro de Alcántara on Friday the 30th of August at 7pm.



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The long battle against illiteracy in Spain

Almost 600,000 people in Spain don't know how to read or write, although the figure has fallen by 160,000 in the last five years

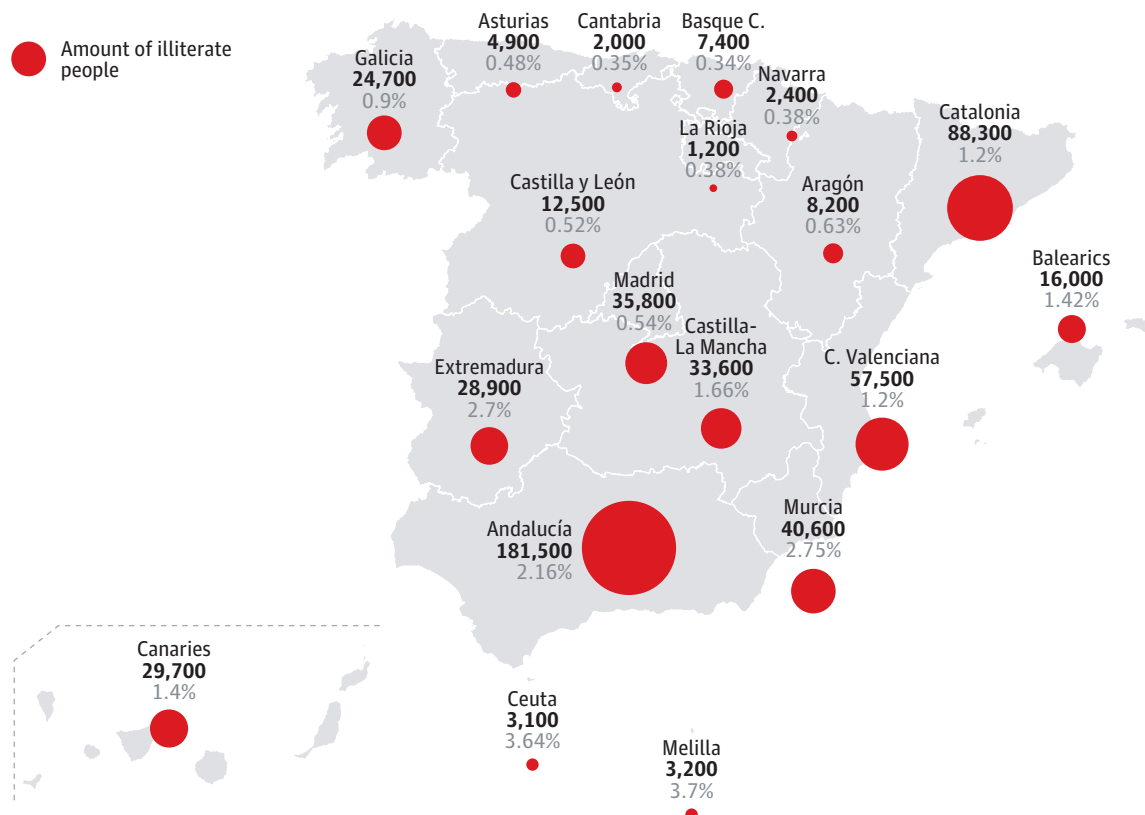
ALMUDENA SANTOS / LUCY NEWBY

MADRID. "I needed an air conditioning unit and a fridge so I went to the shopping centre," says Antonia, a woman from Extremadura. So far, nothing out of the ordinary. But Antonia is illiterate and something as simple as shopping with her credit card becomes an obstacle course for people like her. To get the card, which had a limit of 300 euros, the bank made her sign papers that she "didn't understand" and after buying the appliances, the bank claimed 1,200 euros from her. The case ended up in court, which eventually stopped Antonia from having to pay the money. The defendant's lawyer, Fernando Cumbres, argued that because she could not read, she could not understand the writing.

Illiteracy in Spain was a scourge until the second half of the 20th century. In 1936, the year the Civil War began, 25% of Spaniards were illiterate. The extension of education gradually reduced the rates, but even today, 581,600 in Spain, 1.25% of the total population, do not know how to read or write, according to the report on population over 16 years old by level of education, published by the National Statistics Institute (INE).

Illiteracy levels in Spain

Among those aged 16 and over. The percentage is calculated based on the population of each autonomous region.



(*)The results for Ceuta and Melilla must be viewed with caution as they could be affected by sampling errors.

Source: National Institute of Statistics

ENRIQUE SÁNCHEZ

The number of illiterate people decreases year by year in Spain, mainly because the elderly, the demographic with the lowest level of education, are dying. Five years ago, 745,100 people were illiterate in Spain and in 2018 there were 614,200. Illiteracy is a problem

which affects more women (387,900) than men (193,700), and there is also a difference between regions: Melilla tops the list with 3.7% of people being illiterate (3,200), ahead of Ceuta at 3.64%, Murcia (2.75%), Extremadura (2.7%) and Andalucía (2.16%)

On the other hand, the Basque Country, with a 0.34% illiteracy rate, Cantabria (0.35%) and La Rioja (0.38%) are the autonomous regions with the lowest illiteracy levels.

The fight against illiteracy owes much to adult education centres,

DATA

1.25%

of people in Spain don't know how to read or write, according to the INE report 'Población de más de 16 años por nivel de formación'.

which have evolved over time. They began as places for older people who had not been able to finish basic education, but now most of those using them are foreigners.

"Nineteen years ago when I joined the EPA [adult education centre], most of the students had a lower level than secondary education (ESO). They were women of retirement age, over 60, and came from fairly humble backgrounds," says Belén Soroa, an ESO teacher at an adult education centre in San Sebastián. This teacher explains that illiteracy is still kept a "secret". "Many of the women who attend classes do not want to be seen in their home environment as illiterate," explains Soroa. "They are capable of changing villages and going to places where no one knows them, in order to hide it. They feel that they are stigmatised and don't want it to be known," she says.

"The centres have changed a lot," agrees María Jesús Alonso, a former student at an adult centre. "Now we are looking for more school graduates looking for work." Alonso entered this school to get the secondary education certificate, since he only had primary level. After achieving it, he attended computer classes. Adult education courses last two years and their content is "a little lighter" than in secondary schools, says Soroa. "The subjects covered are adapted to those who are attending classes. As a teacher, you can't give students the same subject matter as a 10-year-old, even if they're both learning to write," she says.

How does Spain compare globally?

On an international level, Spain and the rest of Europe are some of the most literate countries in the world. According to UNESCO, 99 percent of European and North American adults (15 years and older) are literate, in contrast to eighty-six per cent globally.

However, 750 million of the world's adults still remain illiterate, two-thirds of whom are women, with 49 percent of the world's illiterate population living in South Asia.

UNESCO findings show huge disparities between factors such as region, gender and also age, with the elderly being much more likely to be illiterate than youths, emphasising an increase in global literacy over time.





The town hall in Marbella will be helping budding athletes. :: N.C.

Marbella council to start sponsoring local athletes

The project aims to raise the profile of the town at international and national competitions and also involve private firms

:: NIEVES CASTRO

MARBELLA. The council in Marbella is to set aside funds to support the training of the municipality's elite sports men and women.

The main part of the programme will be the sponsorship of individuals and teams competing in national

or international competitions.

The town hall says that the scheme has two advantages. Not only will the competitors have the resources to do well, but the town will also raise its profile. The project has been christened Marca Marbella (Brand Marbella).

The plan will be built into the town hall budget for next year and local firms will be encouraged to take advantage of the sponsorship opportunities. To benefit, clubs must be registered associations and individuals must be on the 'padrón' town hall census roll.

Bumper figures for July delight tourism chiefs in Marbella and Estepona

:: NIEVES CASTRO / CHARO MÁRQUEZ

MARBELLA / ESTEPONA. Tourism bosses at Marbella and Estepona councils have been commenting on the release of data showing the increase in the number of tourists staying in hotels in the two resorts in July.

Official government data confirms what those who tried to find a parking space or seat in a restaurant last month already know: that part of the Costa is booming this summer.

In July, 97,452 people stayed in Marbella hotels, the best July figures for 13 years, up slightly on last

year and 20 per cent on 2017.

The average hotel room price also increased slightly to 199 euros per night in Marbella, says the data.

Head of Tourism in Marbella, Laura de Arce, explained that national tourism is increasing and tourism from other countries is declining slightly.

In Estepona, July was the busiest ever in the resort's hotels. The same survey said that 43,155 stayed last month, a 30 per cent increase on last year. The council explained that its Estepona, Garden of the Costa del Sol initiative was working and that more hotels would shortly be opening in the old town.

Bin men reportedly putting rubbish in stream suspended without pay

:: NIEVES CASTRO

MARBELLA. Two refuse collectors in Marbella have been suspended without pay as a cautionary measure after recent revela-

tions that they may have been throwing rubbish bags into a stream instead of picking them up.

Last week SUR in English reported how locals near the La Ermita industrial estate had become worried about the practice and started secret filming. The recording apparently showed how instead of putting rubbish into their bin lorry, they put around six bags in the stream.

Marbella council continues to investigate the incident.

Estepona council to part fund tree replanting after devastating forest fire

:: CHARO MÁRQUEZ

ESTEPONA. The council in Estepona has decided to take the initiative in recovering the 330 hectares (3.3 square kilometres) burned in last week's forest fire.

It has announced that it will set aside funds in the 2020 budget to start to replant lost trees, although it hasn't given a specific amount.

However, environmental group, Ecologistas en Acción, has criticised the council's apparent haste. They say the ground needs to be able to regenerate naturally, without human interference.



Fire devastation. :: SUR

CONTENTS INSURANCE GUARANTEE

What about the contents of your fridge?

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PUTTING IN A CLAIM

If you need to claim, simply provide a copy of the repair invoice for the fridge or freezer, and in the event of a power cut spoiling your food contents, then a justification from the electricity company confirming the power outage.

TIPS FOR POWER CUTS AND SURGES

Power cuts and surges are a nuisance and often occur during thunderstorms during the hotter summer months. And it's not only the contents of your fridge or freezer that can be spoiled, expensive electronics, home alarm systems and other appliances may be affected.

We recommend you install surge protectors and remember to unplug your most prized electronics during thunderstorms.



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The megayachts of four huge international fortunes make waves in Puerto Banús

The impressive vessels of fashion magnate, Roberto Cavalli and Mexican TV tycoon, Ricardo Salinas, shared the marina with Baroness Thyssen's sailing yacht and the Saudi royal family's luxury boat

by NIEVES CASTRO

MARBELLA. It was difficult to know which way to turn for the biggest sign of opulence. Puerto Banús was destination of choice last weekend for the luxury playthings of four huge international fortunes.

Italian fashion designer, Roberto Cavalli arrived at the luxury Marbella marina from Mallorca aboard his recent purchase, Freedom. A 28-metre-long psychedelic yacht, dripping in pure luxury and capable of sailing up to 40 knots. The designer Tommaso Spadolini is responsible for this floating work of art, with a hull made of lightweight materials, such as carbon fibre and aluminium, while Cavalli himself put his seal on the interior, as could be seen from the leather prints of African animals used for upholstery and cushions, recurring prints in some of his fashion collections. Freedom was also seen docked in Malaga city's Muelle Uno on Tuesday.

Turning heads just for its size

The designer's boat was sharing the harbour with the Azteca, owned by billionaire Ricardo Salinas, owner of one of the most important communication groups in Mexico. This 72-metre-long megayacht, complete with helipad and five decks, was anchored majestically in its berth.

This is not the first time that Salinas has stopped in Marbella waters with this boat that turns heads just for its huge dimensions. It includes a main suite of 50-square-metres and four en-suite double rooms, a 100-metre terrace and several living rooms, among other amenities. Of course, it has a jacuzzi, a bathing deck and even a garage for more modest boats. The vessel travels the seas with a permanent crew of 20 people and stabilisers for a smooth crossing in rough sea.



The Azteca, property of billionaire Ricardo Salinas, received a lot of admiring attention for its vast size. :: PHOTOS: JOSELE



The Saudi royal family's Shaf London, a regular in Puerto Banús.

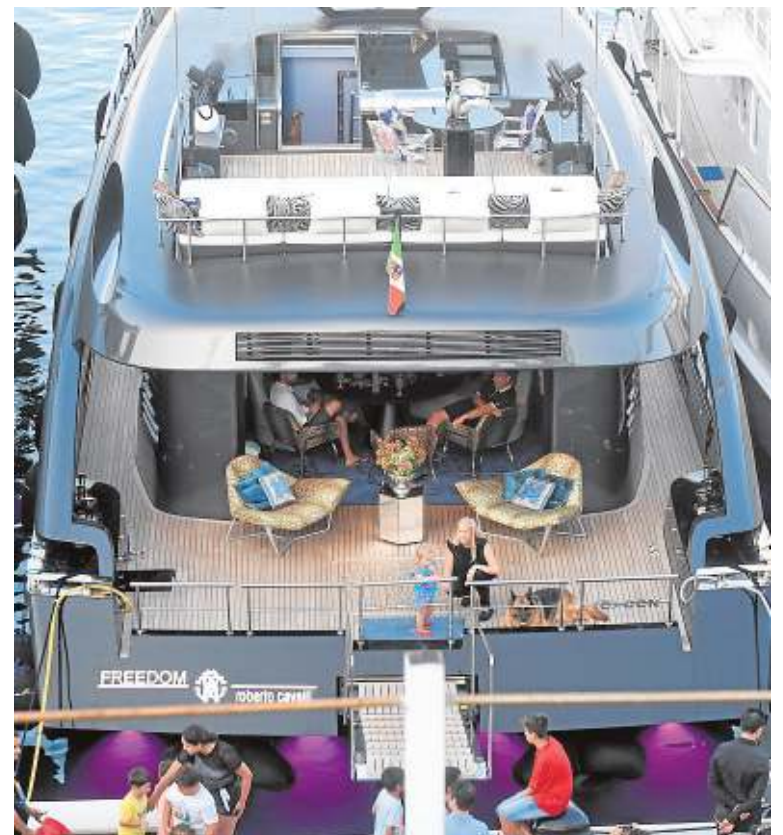
These impressive yachts were joined by Shaf London, owned by the Saudi royal family. The vessel, which is 53-metres-long and has 13 cabins, is a regular in Puerto Banús.

An art theme on board ship

Another type of boat, in this case a sailing yacht, used and enjoyed by Carmen Cervera, Baroness Thyssen, was also docked in the marina for several days. It was the Mata Mua and it is no coincidence that the baroness's boat bears the same name as Paul Gau-

guin's painting, as it is her favourite piece of art. Her well-known passion for art, in particular, for work by the French artist, is reflected not only in the hull of the boat, but also in the interior, as the sofas in the lounge are lined with cushions decorated with images of this painting.

The aristocrat was joined in Marbella by her son, Borja, and his family, who also anchored their boat in Banús. It was a weekend to savour a striking nautical showcase and to marvel at how the other half live.



Cavalli's stunning boat is called Freedom.

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In the second quarter of this year, Spain's GDP expanded by 0.5% rather than the 0.6% predicted by the Spanish government. Does that depress you? Is your life going to be affected, in any meaningful way, by the fact that the country's economy failed to meet that forecast by 0.1%? Exactly. Curious to see, then, that the Q2 statistics have been described by an international newswire as "adding another layer of gloom to an increasingly fragile situation in the euro region". The same article also cited a Spanish infrastructure group as reporting a tiny drop in its domestic sales, in part because of the "uncertain political environment".

There's lots to unpack here, such as the idea that the miniscule

THE EURO ZONE
MARK NAYLER

DOOM AND GLOOM



slowdown might be a cause for doom and gloom, which obviously it's not (unless, perhaps, you're an academic economist obsessed with Spain's economic plight). In fact, the rate of Spain's GDP expansion has consistently beaten the eurozone average over the last five years, posting numbers that make countries such as France and Germany look sluggish.

There are still many problems dogging the Spanish economy - unemployment and debt levels chief among them - but its overall performance since 2014 has been remarkable, a fact which isn't changed in the slightest by the Q2 statistics (the eurozone as a whole expanded by about 0.2% during the same period). Rather than adding "another layer of gloom"

(to what, exactly?), the fact that Spain's GDP growth failed to meet its goal between April and July illustrates the esoteric aspect of macroeconomics, and how easily they can be used to bolster opposing narratives.

Secondly, I'm always amazed when "experts" or research papers speak of "political uncertainty" in Spain as if it's anything new, as if it's something that's suddenly making people or companies stop and think. There's been no real political certainty in Spain since the general election of December 2015, which exploded the forty-year duopoly of the Conservative People's Party and the Socialists. There's been even less political certainty since October 2017, when Catalonia's regional government held an illegal independ-

ence referendum, prompting a furious backlash from Madrid.

Ever since the historic vote of 2015 - which launched Ciudadanos and leftist Podemos onto the national scene, much to the annoyance of the older parties - coalitions and deadlock have characterised Spanish politics, yet the country's GDP hasn't flinched. During 2016, when Spain lacked a functioning government for ten months, its economy expanded by 3.3%, compared to France's 1.2% and Germany and the UK's 1.9%. Again, those facts could be used to various ends: to argue for the small state, for example, or for the economic irrelevance of the squabbling and posturing that so many politicians prioritise over policy formation. That they do so certainly provides reason to be gloomy.

Prices on zero-kilometre cars slashed ahead of rule change

Dealers on the Costa have to clear a stock of new, licenced vehicles because new emissions regulations are coming into force. Savings of up to 40% are available

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

MÁLAGA. If you're thinking of buying a new car, now's the time to take advantage of savings of up to 40 per cent because of a new rule on presenting emission levels coming in in Spain this Sunday, 1 September.

From this weekend, manufacturers are required to carry out more stringent Real Driving Emissions tests before a car can be registered for driving. It comes after recent scandals over fuel emissions. To beat the deadline with their unsold cars in stock, dealers have been registering brand new cars as zero-kilometre, and reducing them to clear from the forecourts.

The vehicle is new and legal, only it already has had one owner, the dealer themselves. One downside is that potential buyers can only pick up what a dealer has in stock, and not wait for a specific finish or trim.



Deals are being offered across Malaga and the Costa. **FÉLIX PALACIOS**

The dealers are at pains to point out that these are not really second-hand cars and that they are totally compliant. Carlos Oliva of AMA, the Malaga automotive association, said, "There's nothing wrong with these cars, it's just they have gone through a different sort of testing and approval. This has nothing to do with what people have been saying about the outlook for diesel, as it affects all types of motor. All it is is a new system that requires the [published]

data on fuel consumption and emissions to be based on real conditions."

Oliva claims that there are 500 zero-kilometre cars needing to be cleared along the Costa del Sol, adding that, with the average 2,000 to 3,000 euros saving, plus existing special offers, buyers could potentially get up to 40 per cent savings. For example an Opel Corsa at the main Malaga dealer, normally at 18,000 euros, could be bought this week for 10,200 euros, Oliva explained.

Some 1.6 billion euros of old pesetas still not handed in and time is running out

Notes and coins of the former Spanish currency can only be swapped to euros before the end of 2020

JOSÉ ANTONIO BRAVO

MADRID. The Spanish peseta may have been consigned to history in 2002 with the introduction of the euro, but a regular report that monitors the old notes and coins from the Banco de España says that in July people still had 268.5

billion pesetas (1.66 billion euros) in kitchen drawers and down the back of sofas, or much of it may have been lost forever.

Last year only 10 million euros worth was handed in to the central bank to be swapped into euros, mostly notes, and a tiny amount compared to what is missing.

Experts say that factors behind the missing money may include coins and notes that went home with tourists as souvenirs and collectors. The official deadline to swap at a branch of the Banco de España is December 2020.


Spanish-based pilots join cabin crew for September strike action at Ryanair

SUR

MADRID. Spanish-based pilots at Ryanair have said they will strike on some dates in September, along with cabin crews, in protest at the closure of the airline's bases in the

Canaries and Girona. The government has ordered minimum service levels during strike action. Dates in September are: 19, 20, 22, 27 and 29 for pilot action; and 1, 2, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27 and 29 for cabin crew action. Madrid says that 35 per cent of international flights under five hours must be operated.

Some Ryanair flights out of Spain are operated by Spanish crews, others by international crews. During UK pilot action last week, Ryanair eventually managed to cover its full schedule by using other staff and disruption was minimal.



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German tourists among seven killed as helicopter and microlight aircraft collide on Mallorca

:: EFE / SUR IN ENGLISH

MALLORCA. Police on Mallorca are still investigating an accident in which seven people died after a helicopter and a microlight aircraft crashed near the town of Inca last Sunday, 25 August.

Two Spanish men travelling in the microlight and four German tourists and their pilot in the helicopter lost their lives.

The accident happened at around 1.30pm, when, according to international media, the German couple and their two children were travelling to a birthday lunch. The father was reported to be August Inselkammer Jr, 43, from a high-profile brewing family in Bavaria.



The microlight caught fire. :: EFE

Brexit campaigners in Spain react to Johnson's prorogation plans

Protesters took to the streets across the UK and 1.2 million people had signed a petition in less than 24 hours after the announcement was made

:: JENNIE RHODES

MALAGA. Spain-based campaigning groups have been reacting to news this week that UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has gained approval from the Queen to suspend parliament for up to five weeks in the final lead up to what is currently believed to be Brexit day, 31 October.

Sue Wilson, chair of Bremain in Spain, responded to the prorogation saying, "Brits in Spain reacted with a mixture of shock and anger, but also a feeling that now perhaps parliament would understand just how we've felt for the last three years - being excluded from the debate."

She went on to say, "It's a wake-up call for MPs to act and the final straw for wavering Tory rebels who have yet to put their heads above the parapet. Johnson has just geared everyone up for a fight, and we say, bring it on!"

Anne Hernandez, president of Brexpat in Spain, who will be talking to BBC Breakfast today, Friday, said, "How are we supposed to be-



Protesters gather after the prorogation announcement. :: REUTERS

lieve [Johnson's] lie that the controversial prorogation is not intended to prevent [his] no-deal Brexit and that returning on 14 October gives ample time to discuss Brexit? Effectively [he is] claiming that 10 working days will suffice when three plus years haven't been long enough."

There are a number of options for MPs now, including calling a vote of no confidence, which Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn could orchestrate, if he gets the support of Labour and Liberal Democrat politicians, in an attempt to prevent the prorogation.

Should Johnson lose the vote, the UK could be looking at a general election, or the risk of a no-deal Brexit on 31 October, if he wins.

In the UK, a petition to stop the prorogation had been signed by over 1.2 million people and impromptu anti-Brexit protests broke out across the country on Wednesday.

Some British residents in Spain concerned about the potential fallout of Brexit will be travelling to London on 12 October for the Rally for our Rights event or 19 October for the Put it to the People march.

Spanish MPs prepare to return to work with still no sign of a deal on new government

:: SUR

MADRID. As MPs start to contemplate a return to work, the PSOE Socialist party, the largest party after last April's election, will attempt to return to the negotiation table next week. They hope to find agreement on a support deal with Unidas Podemos (UP) in order to form a new government.

The PSOE is aiming to improve its terms from last time to tempt in UP with 300 measures to agree a "cooperation" government, and not the coalition government that UP leader Pablo Iglesias is demanding.

On Thursday, PSOE party secretary, José Luis Ábalos, referring to UP said, "They are still insisting on conditions. As if our lives depended on the conditions that they are laying down."

Pedro Sánchez has spent August meeting with representatives of civic groups to formulate his proposals to present next week, said party sources.

If no party can gain the support of a majority of MPs in order to form a government by 23 September, a new national election will be called, most likely on 10 November.

King Emeritus Juan Carlos leaves intensive care after open-heart surgery

The 81-year-old former king had triple bypass surgery at the Quirón Hospital in Madrid, following a routine checkup in June

:: SUR / LUCY NEWBY

MADRID. King Emeritus Juan Carlos I is recovering well following open heart surgery on Saturday. The 81-year-old former monarch

had a triple heart bypass at the Quirón Hospital in Madrid.

The decision was made following the results of a routine health check in June. He left the hospital's intensive care unit on Monday and has now begun therapy.

Visiting his father with his mother by his side, King Felipe VI, stated that "it has all gone perfectly well".

"There have not been any complications and we are very happy with the doctors' and all of the

team's work," he said, speaking of Juan Carlos's seventeenth operation to date.

The Head of State returned to his father's bedside again the following day, but this time accompanied by his wife Queen Letizia.

Queen Emerita Sofia, told reporters that her husband "is in good hands".

The King Emeritus also received a visit on Monday from his daughter Infanta Cristina and her three children.




Juan Carlos arrives at the hospital on Friday evening. :: EFE


King Felipe stated that he does not know how long his father will stay in hospital, however some medical sources estimate a mini-

mum of ten days.

The 81-year-old retired from public duty this year after abdicating in favour of his son in 2014.



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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Gibraltar university prepares to offer maritime training

The minister for the university says Gibraltar, with its excellent reputation in the shipping world, is the obvious choice

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. The minister with responsibility for the university and for the port, Gilbert Licudi, recently held a meeting with Kathryn Neilson, a director of the Merchant Navy Training Board (MNTB), as part of the preparations for the maritime training courses which are to be offered by the Gibraltar Maritime Academy at the University of Gibraltar from September next year. Also present were representatives of the university, the Gibraltar Maritime Administration and the Gibraltar Port Authority, as well as Gary Hindmarch, a maritime education consultant.

The MNTB is the shipping industry's central body for promoting and developing seafarer education, training and skills. Neilson was in Gibraltar for two days of meetings, and also toured the university's facilities and the new Gibraltar Port Authority offices.



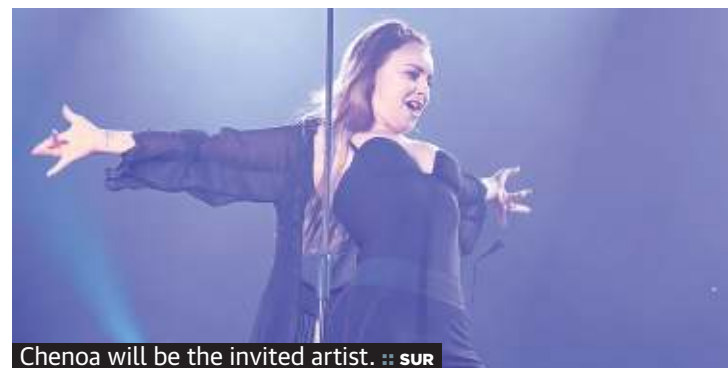
Kathryn Neilson (left) and Gilbert Licudi (right) met recently. :: SUR

The Gibraltar Maritime Academy, which is part of the University of Gibraltar, will be offering four maritime degrees and associated officer cadet training leading to maritime engineer or deck officer qualifications.

Licudi said: "Gibraltar is the ideal location for major shipping companies to look to for their training needs. Our historical links with the maritime industry, our proximity to ma-

ior shipping lanes, our excellent reputation in the shipping world and the fact that we now have a university and student accommodation all make Gibraltar an obvious choice for maritime training. This is an area which will be unaffected by Brexit. It is therefore important to develop the Gibraltar Maritime Academy as Gibraltar positions itself to face a post-Brexit scenario."

IN BRIEF



Chenao will be the invited artist. :: SUR

International Song Festival on 12 October

GIBRALTAR

:: D. B. The Gibraltar International Song Festival is taking place on 12 October at the Tercentenary Hall with a record-breaking number of entries from over 27 countries. Cele-

brating its tenth anniversary this year, the GISF is one of the most important festivals for up-and-coming artists to compete in, and this year's invited artist is Chenao, the Argentinian-Spanish singer who became successful after appearing on the TV contest Operación Triunfo. Tickets and information are available online (www.buytickets.gi).

Police recover body from the sea

GIBRALTAR

:: D. B. Officers from the Royal Gibraltar Police recovered the lifeless body of an adult man from the sea approximately 1.5 Nm off Europa Point on Wednesday afternoon, after being alerted by the Gibraltar Port Authority. The man has not yet been identified, but the authorities believe he could be of North African descent.

Steve 'Stop Brexit' Bray visits Gibraltar

GIBRALTAR

:: D.B. Steve Bray, who is famous - or rather notorious - for shouting 'Stop Brexit' through a megaphone outside Parliament and Downing Street in recent months, was in Gibraltar this week. He described it as a "stunning, beautiful place" and said he was interested to have seen the border, and that Gibraltar deserved its own MP in London.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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The fun of the fair

As someone else who has lived here for years and years - and also used to enjoy the annual fair - I have to agree with Debbie Bartlett ["Traditions or torment?" SUR in English, August 23rd, page 20] that dangerously loud head-banging music is not a local tradition - or at least it is only a recent one!

I also take exception to the idea that as a foreigner, I have no right to complain or criticise. As a resident, and tax-payer, and lover of most things Spanish, I think I have as much right as my neighbour to object to dog dirt on the pavement, corruption, noise fit to shatter our eardrums, and anything else that vast numbers of Spaniards also complain about! Just read the Spanish version of SUR if you don't think they do...

MEGAN JONES
BY EMAIL

Sierra Bermeja fire

You rightly mention the "immense ecological importance" of the area affected by last week's fire in the Sierra Bermeja, Estepona [SUR in English, August 23rd, pages 2-3] but many local residents and visitors to this region will probably be unaware of the fact that environmentalists, with the support of notable academic experts, NGOs as well as many town halls along the coast and in the Valle del Genal, are campaigning for this mountain range to be included in the future Sierra de las Nieves Na-

tional Park.

The Sierra Bermeja has one of the best and largest expanses of peridotite rock worldwide. These globally important and rare outcrops, which originate from the upper Mantle, feature serpentine ecosystems that are unique in terms of the degree of adaptation of flora and vegetation to very hostile conditions, and at Los Reales you will find the only pinsapo fir forest on peridotite rock. Whilst the National Park proposal includes a small area of the Sierra Bermeja, the most ecologically and geologically valuable areas such as Los Reales have been omitted and the Sierra Bermeja is not specifically included in the name of the future park.

Anyone interested can obtain more information and show their support: www.facebook.com/pg/estepona.sier-rabermeja and www.twitter.com/sierrabermeja1

M. TIEDTKE
ESTEPONA,

Solar panels

Was I the only person who was appalled by N.I.V. in the Legal Advice column [SUR in English, August 23rd, page 27], who said he/she would vote against the installation of solar panels on the roof of his/her building as "they would totally destroy the look of the building"?

Does he/she not understand that global warming is going to totally destroy the world!

ELAINE GONZALES
BY EMAIL

Let us pay

PETER EDGERTON
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

It's not entirely clear to me how our economy works these days. Recorded music is, to all intents and purposes, free to listen to and, similarly, series and films can be watched for such a paltry sum that the cost is barely noticeable to most people. How is this viable?

Newspapers have a big problem too. For reasons I find impossible to fathom, vast swathes of the population think it's a fine idea to read their news on an electronic device and, it seems, they expect this service to be provided for free. Only recently a well-known publication not a million miles from here, decided to implement a very reasonable monthly charge for those wanting to read their work online. The vitriol in their comments section the same day was quite something to behold.

"How dare you pretend to charge

me 20 cents a day! Don't you know who I am?! I've got a tattoo! We deserve to enjoy your labours for free! For free I tell you!" Well, something like that except with a lot more swearing.

Actually, quite the opposite is true - people who read their news on a mobile phone deserve to be charged at least 20 euros per second such is the level of their folly. Any sentient soul knows that sitting with a cup of coffee and a light breakfast (morning) or five pints of best and a cheese and pickle sandwich (evening) and flicking idly through a newspaper in physical form is one of the greatest pleasures known to man, second only perhaps to watching Manchester United miss yet another penalty.

This expectation we have for getting everything for the minimum possible cost - or none at all - in return for as little effort as pos-

sible, surely isn't sustainable. It's not surprising that the word in the corridors of power and finance is that we're in for another recession any minute now. (I've never been present the the corridors of power and finance, you understand, but I did read about what's going on in a newspaper. Which I paid for. Excellent cheese and pickle sandwich to boot.)

The trouble is, we're too used to it all. Ask anyone under thirty to pay ten euros for a CD and they believe their human rights have been contravened (actually, if it's by Ed Sheeran, they probably have).

It's clear that we need to cough up more readily for what we consume. To this end, I suggest a small annual surcharge for fans of this weekly column of, let's say, ten euros.

That'll give me thirty euros for the Christmas party.

SANSÓN



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Speaking on BBC Radio Four's The Today programme on Thursday, Commons Leader and hard Brexiteer Jacob Rees Mogg described the impromptu anti-Brexit protests that erupted across the UK following the announcement that Parliament was to be suspended for five weeks, as a "candy floss of outrage". He went on to deftly point out that it was coming from "people who never wanted to leave the EU". No shit Sherlock.

So while the anti-Brexit candy floss is outraged, it would seem the old school ties really have taken over the country. "Democracy is dead" read one banner photographed during Wednesday and Thursday's protests.

Candy floss

JENNIE RHODES

A Portuguese protester interrupted a Sky News interview during the protests on Parliament Square with an impassioned speech about why she was so angry at the "unelected" UK government and why she fears for

her future in the country. Her heartfelt message certainly rang true with me and had gone viral on social media by Thursday morning.

On the same day as the announcement and ensuing protests, I bade

farewell to two of my best friends, Carmen and José, who were returning to their teaching jobs in London, having spent summer back home with their families in Malaga. We're all uncertain about our future, but we have been since June 2016. This latest move is just one more in the roller coaster that has been the last three years.

However, for many the fight isn't over yet. Sue Wilson told SUR, "Johnson has just geared everyone up for a fight, and we say, bring it on!" But are we up against a network of Brexiteers, with the old school ties hardwired into their brains? A few years ago the Guardian newspaper ran an article about

the effect elite boarding schools have on leaders, in which a psychotherapist was quoted as saying, "It leaves them ill-prepared for relationships in the adult world and the nation with a cadre of leaders who perpetuate a culture of elitism, bullying and misogyny affecting the whole of society." Sound familiar?

How the other half live.

The rest of us, or at least those of us who don't want the UK to leave the EU are just candy floss. And permit me to slightly misquote, if I may, Marie Antoinette, the last queen of France before the revolution (now there's an idea); it's not so much a case of "qu'ils mangent de la brioche", than let them eat candy floss.

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ANDREW
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Powder blue, bright pink, vivid green; these were just some of the exaggerated, vibrant, 'candy colours' of the vintage cars lined up outside my Havana hotel. They conveyed an optimistic, although somewhat 'theme-park', tone to this crumbling Caribbean metropolis. From the guest room window, I had a privileged perspective of La Habana Vieja, the Unesco World Heritage historical centre of Cuba's sprawling maritime capital. The warm tropical breeze carried up to the window the smell of motor-bike and car exhaust from the street below, together with the muscular sounds of the idling car engines, as the drivers hustled for business.

In front of me were the palm trees of Central Park, surrounding the statue of José Martí, the revolutionary philosopher, poet and Cuban national hero, who symbolised island's desire for independence from colonial Spain. Beyond, towering above the surrounding belle-epoque buildings, is El Capitolio Nacional, the former home of the Cuban Congress, and now an icon of early 20th century Cuba, when the country was very much in the US sphere of influence.

Standing aloft glistening white stonework, the Capitol's vast dome is shrouded by protective covers, hiding the final labours of craftsmen who have been working on this years-long renovation project. Yet soon the glistening new dome will be unveiled - a powerful symbol of Cuba's 'obras por el 500 aniversario' architectural restoration projects. In the last few years these works have accelerated as the city prepares to mark its 500 years of history.

Cuba's capital has a population of over two million people, and Old Havana is home to some 50,000 of these Habaneros, living within a tight-knit community, sharing the dilapidated apartment blocks of the once opulent and decadent city centre. Havana has been ravaged not



The colourful capital of Cuba, founded in 1519, is putting on its best clothes to welcome the world

only by poverty under the country's anti-capitalist Marxism-Leninism one-party government, but also by the unforgiving seasonal tropical storms and hurricanes that sweep across the Caribbean.

On first impression, the dereliction and decay of Old Havana lends the city a weathered beauty. An exotic, romantic atmosphere that is amplified by the classic cars, and the sounds of Cuban tunes and rhythms spilling out from the bars and restaurants.

Behind the weathered beauty
Yet the crumbling architecture of

some 60 years of neglect also represents an urban community that lives in extremely challenging conditions. If you can speak some Spanish, your experience as a visitor will be greatly enriched - yet also more challenging as one sees beyond the tourist world of art studios, boutique hotels and modern restaurants and instead gains an insight into the reality of life in urban Cuba.

Meander through the scruffy streets and you have the opportunity to meet friendly residents eager to help with directions, recommend a music bar or nearby place to eat. Chat more and you realise that

the issues that absorb them are not international politics or global events; they are the mundane challenges of Cuban daily life, such as water or power cuts, unreliable waste collection and the limited availability of affordable, varied food.

However, as a traveller you can indulge in another Cuba, one of refreshing mojitos and colourful daiquiris - and abundant regional delicacies such as 'tamal en hojas' (maize with pork, cooked wrapped in corn leaves) and 'tostones rellenos' (fried plantain filled with fish or cheese). In the lively city restaurants, you will no doubt be served by Cubans, and entertained

by talented Cuban musicians, but the chances are, you won't be dining with Cubans. That's because in this predominantly cash economy, there are presently two currencies used on the island.

The CUP (Cuban peso or moneda nacional) is used by locals, whilst the CUC (Cuban convertible peso) is used by visitors. Arriving at the airport you queue at special government cash machines that debit your foreign account and issue CUCs. Almost everything for visitors is priced in CUCs. Since they are valued at some 25 times more than the local currency, don't expect to see any locals sipping cocktails in your hotel bar. With the monthly salary of most public sector employees being around 1,000 CUP (less than 40 euros), Cubans are priced-out of much of the heart of their own capital city. The occasional fruit stall; mini-market with rationed produce; kiosks selling rum; or an ice cream vendor will be the few CUP-priced enterprises in touristy old Havana.

Yet it appears the focus of Havana's investment is to grow high-end international tourism, in the hope that the wealth created might trickle down to the locals. Of the 3,000 or so buildings that are just about standing in old Havana, the most emblematic Spanish colonial, neoclassical, and Cuban baroque are being saved and restored. Many are becoming hotels to accommodate the growing number of inquisitive travellers eager to become immersed in this romantic city of tropical rhythms and late-night dancing.

Welcoming the world at 500

With the city's official 500th anniversary fast approaching, the established hotels are all getting a facelift; and new ones are under construction.

Gran Hotel Manzana Kempinski is one such landmark that has already been given a new lease of life. This stunning building occupies the entire city-centre block of Manzana de Gómez. In the early 1920s it was the city's first luxury shopping centre, at the epicentre of Havana's indulgent, privileged lifestyle. After the Cuban Revolution, the grand building fell into disrepair; until a few years ago when it was developed by the Communist Party authorities into a 240-

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room luxury hotel.

Starting the day here with breakfast in the Confluencias restaurant, with the Caribbean sunlight bouncing off the mirrors and crystal chandeliers, I had found it hard to imagine that I was staying in a Communist country that rationed food to residents. The generous breakfast buffet was much like any other international five-star hotel. Yet here such an abundance of food could only be dreamed of by the local residents who lived in the surrounding streets.

With the on-going US trade embargo, Russia's diminishing support, and the crisis in Venezuela, Cuba is more economically isolated than ever before. With limited commercial enterprise, tourism is an increasingly important sector that is keeping this country from collapse.

Classic cars

Antonio, my guide for a morning classic-car tour, was waiting for me at the hotel entrance. The lobby air was scented with the rich earthy aromas of cigars that must have been enjoyed late into the night in the hotel's smoking lounge by wealthy aficionados from the US, Asia and Europe.

My ride for the morning was a first-generation Chevrolet Bel Air hard top. Its chrome trim and wheels sparkled against the polished black bodywork. Inside one felt cocooned in Eisenhower-era luxury with a thick upholstered roof and bouncy, sofa-like seats. The retro-fitted air conditioning was thankfully set to full-blast, a respite from the Caribbean humidity.

During Cuba's economic boom years in the 1950s, before Castro seized control, the island imported over 100,000 of these luxury Detroit-made cars from the US including Chevrolets, Buicks, Ford Fairlans and others. Today over half are thought to have survived - remarkable when you think that spare parts were not allowed to be legally imported for 60 years! Hermes, our driver, told me that these restored classic vehicles now have new engines from China or Korea and are set



Colourful buildings in Havana. :: SUR

to continue to be in use for many years to come.

A tour in one of these huge machines certainly lends a sense of surreal, anachronistic glamour among the poverty of Havana. Cruising the city's famous boulevards is a memorable way to take in the sights - from the imposing communist architecture of the Plaza de la Revolución; the cracked and faded pastel-plastered Spanish colonial buildings of Paseo del Prado to the lively El Malecon seafront boulevard.

Old Havana

Yet Havana, especially the older quarters surrounding the main squares of Partagas, Catedral, Vieja and Armas, can only really be explored on foot. Bars such as La Floridita or La Bodeguita del Medio, so evocative of the Ernest Hemingway era, may well come as a disappointment though, as you wrestle to get a daiquiri at the bar through a two-people-deep crowd. So be willing to explore a little further

to discover the Havana that has not yet been gentrified, and 'repackaged' for tourists.

For my first night in Havana I had booked a 'casa particular', a private home converted for tourism use. Travel specialists Cuba Direct had recommended the family-run Residencia Santa Clara guest house. Found in a residential neighbourhood, away from the man tourist sights, it offered

an authentic experience in the city. A chance to meet and chat with locals, to eat home-cooking and glimpse the simplicity of a typical residential neighbourhood.

Pristine white bed sheets billowed in the breeze, hung on washing lines in front of ramshackle and fragile colonial-era façades. Dogs lay in the shade of trees. A few women chatted quietly, while their children sat

crouched on the pavement kerbstones. A few hole-in-the-wall stores sold tourist paraphernalia; others home-made art; another stocked just with a few local-branded beers and bottles of Cuban rum.

I walked a little further and stumbled upon small courtyard, attracted by the sound of conversation and laughter. It was the Book and Curiosities Market. Surrounded by vendors' bookshelves laden with copies of Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*; and biographies of Che Guevara, Fidel Castro, and José Martí, were four men sitting at a small folding table playing dominos. The pace of life appeared undeniable slow.

Yet throughout my stay in Havana I couldn't help feeling that the residents were impatient for a better future, for faster growth in the city's quality of life. For the Cuban authorities it would appear the means to a brighter tomorrow is linked to the income from international tourism.

Of the 3,000 or so buildings that are just about standing in old Havana, the most emblematic Spanish colonial, neoclassical, and Cuban baroque are being saved and restored



A traditional street vendor. :: A. FORBES

THE INSIDER GUIDE

Havana



Gran Hotel Manzana Kempinski. :: A. FORBES

:: ANDREW FORBES

The inside track on Cuba's capital, an extraordinary Caribbean metropolis with Unesco World Heritage old town.

STAY:

Residencia Santa Clara

Authentic 'casa particular' close to Havana's harbour and within walking distance of the sights of Old Havana. Talented carpenter Alexis and his sister Marisol have created a stylish, family-run guesthouse with ground-floor bar and rooftop terrace. Recognised by Fábrica de Arte Cubano for its imaginative, contemporary renovation of an old Havana townhouse, this boutique property has light-filled guest rooms with lots of design features, like original wall murals; and private bathrooms with showers creatively made from recycled galvanised steel pipes and watering can 'roses'. Free Wi-Fi.

ResidenciaHotels.com

Gran Hotel Manzana Kempinski La Habana

The luxury 246-room Gran Hotel Manzana Kempinski La Habana is the epitome of relaxed Cuban sophistication. Probably the finest hotel in Havana, its sleek, top-floor roof terrace is the capital's hot hangout, with spectacular views across to El Capitolio Nacional, and across the skyline of La Havana Vieja.

The tempting choice of bars and restaurants includes the first floor Bar Constante, with romantic tables for two, set on small balconies overlooking the city; and the stylish Evocación smoking lounge with the finest collection of Cuban cigars.

The ground floor is once again

dedicated to luxury boutiques, echoing the building's history as a 1920 upscale shopping centre.

The hotel is right by the Central Park, opposite the ornate Alicia Alonso Gran Teatro de La Habana - the city's finest example of Catalan modernist architecture - as well as being steps away from the legendary bar La Floridita.

kempinski.com

Hotel Nacional de Cuba

This 1930s hotel is probably the most iconic of Cuba. Found in El Vedado, the wealthier business and residential district, the hotel's position on a small hill means visitors have superb views across the city, bay and the Caribbean. Hotel Nacional de Cuba is a national monument, but I can't help but feel it has become a bit of pastiche of its remarkable history. Famous guests including Ernest Hemingway, Marlon Brando, Winston Churchill and Frank Sinatra have been immortalised in a rather tacky 'Hall of Fame' in the public bar. The hotel is worthy of a visit, if only to enjoy an ice-cold Cristal or Bucanero beer on the terrace and then stroll down through the gardens to see the World Heritage guns from the old Santa Clara Battery, and the small exhibition about the Cuban Missile Crisis.

HotelNacionalDeCuba.com

EAT:

TaBARish

It may sound a little strange to go all the way to Cuba to eat in a Russian restaurant but Tabarish was one of the best places for authentic Cuban food, friendly service, and excellent live music!

Start the meal with a house

cocktail, like a Cuban mojito or daiquiri, and then order signature sharing plates like fish and seafood including grilled octopus; or classic meat dishes like 'ropa vieja' (pulled pork).

Facebook.com/bar.tabarish/

Reliquia Bar Restaurant

Low-key Old Havana bar with well-priced drinks and live music.

Facebook.com/reliquiahabana

La Guarida

Originally, 'paladares' were informal, unregulated pop-up restaurants in people's homes. Now most are licensed and have become part of Havana commercial dining scene. Probably the most famous of these private restaurants, La Guarida is an institution, attracting guests such as Beyoncé, and Pedro Almodóvar. Found in a romantically crumbling mansion apartment block, it was featured in the cult film *Fresa y Chocolate* and has become a tourist attraction in itself. Elegantly decorated with period furniture, antiques and art, a visit here is less about the food and more about being immersed in part of Havana's history.

LaGuarida.com

El Cocinero Restaurant Terrace & Lounge

Rooftop bar and restaurant that's a hip choice for drinks. Nextdoor is the über cool Fábrica del Arte Cubano arts centre.

Facebook.com/elcocinerohabana/

aQui

Herminio López Díaz was a Cuban diplomat, posted to Communist Vietnam. Having left the Cuban government, he went into hospitality, creating his restaurant, aQui - offering plenty of excellent home-cooked Cuban dishes. The restaurant is presently relocating. Intends to reopen later



Gran Hotel roof terrace. :: A. F.



Fine Arts Museum. :: A. F.



Museum of the Revolution. :: A. F.



Residencia Santa Clara. :: A. F.



Vintage American cars. :: SUR



Street scene. :: A. FORBES

this year.

Facebook.com/aquiempedrado/

DO:

Casa de la Música de Galiano

The place for salsa lovers, where bands play into the early hours. Two floors, and three bars. Found on Calle Galiano, between Neptuno and Concordia.

Partagás Real Fábrica de Tabacos

This historic, landmark cigar factory close to the Capitol building has been a place of pilgrimage for cigar aficionados for more than a century. The actual factory has moved, and this dilapidated iconic building is now a museum and shop, selling premium cigars, as well as rum. The 'modern' tobacco factory is nearby and offers tours of the rolling floor.

Classic car tour

In addition to the bright yellow 'Cocotaxis' that noisily buzz through the city, one can also hail a classic car taxi. It's a special way to get around and explore the city - and certainly considered a safer way to travel than on the auto rickshaws.

Museo de la Revolución

Dedicated to the protagonists, events and history of the Cuban Revolution, this museum is considerably more compelling than in sounds, thanks partly to its setting, the spectacular former Presidential Palace, which still bears the bullet holes from an earlier failed revolutionary attack in 1957 on the then President Fulgencio Batista.

MuseoDeLaRevolucion.org

Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de La Habana

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WHERE IN THE WORLD?



The throwing of hammers, Tug-o-war and hill running are some of the main attractions this time of year in the place pictured above.

Thousands of visitors, with some coming from far afield, descend on this place on the first Saturday of September each year for a day of fun-filled activities and traditional competitions.

The country's monarch, who is patron of the event, also attends and cheers on participants from the sidelines alongside much of her family.

The festivities, which date back

more than 200 years, also include the world's oldest foot races.

The home of the popular cultural and sporting event is set in the heart of the country's largest national park, covering more than



4,500 square kilometres and is a popular destination for activities such as fishing, walking, wildlife watching, golf and skiing. After all that fresh air, many visitors choose to have a taste of the area's most well-known drink at nearby distilleries.

If you know where this is, you could win a prize. Please send the name of village and the event to english@diariosur.es. Only entries with your full name, address and telephone number will be considered.

Last month's photo showed Boryeong, South Korea, which holds an annual Mud Festival.

Congratulations to Carmella Nobleza Nagamos in Fuengirola who answered correctly. Your prize will be on its way to you soon.

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No gum in Singapore or Skype in Oman

The Spanish Foreign Ministry website warns travellers of some unusual rules which have to be complied with when visiting certain countries

EF E

Foreign travel can be a risky business if you're not aware of the rules in some countries. That is the warning given by the Foreign Ministry in Spain, which quotes as an example the fact that chewing gum is banned in Singapore and getting drunk is prohibited in Micronesia.

The recommendations section on the Ministry's website also advises travellers of the risks involved in, for example, having a tattoo of a Buddha if you are in Sri Lanka and Myanmar, or using a laser pointer in Uzbekistan.

These are some of the least-known and unusual rules the authorities want visitors to know about about.

Offensive and punishable behaviour in public

Not knowing the rules in a country can lead to immediate expulsion or arrest, such as displaying tattoos of Buddha in Sri Lanka and Myanmar. This is considered offensive, and the Foreign Ministry recommends that travellers with such tattoos keep them covered up at all times.

Some prohibitions are related to religious and social customs, such as chewing gum or waving flags in Singapore, being drunk in Micronesia or showing affection and dancing in public in the United Arab Emirates.

Other behaviour may not be punishable but is badly viewed by the local population, such as giving a tip in the Cook Islands and Western Samoa, or wearing short clothing or low necklines in Malawi, which is considered provocative and offensive.

Prohibitions on relationships and sexuality

In Kuwait, unmarried pregnant women "run the risk of being detained and deported" and so can the parents of a child born in the country if they got married during the last six months of pregnancy, warns the



A tourist talks with locals in a busy street in Thailand. :: EFE



Tourists in the United Arab Emirates. :: REUTERS

Ministry website.

Relationships between men are punished by 100 lashes and several months in jail in Yemen, and between three and seven months in jail for women. In Singapore, this is only

deemed a crime between men.

Other countries in which homosexuality is also considered a crime and persecuted are the Maldives, Saudi Arabia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Oman, Iraq, Turkmenistan, Pakistan, Uzbeki-

stan, Myanmar, Malaysia, West Timor, the Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

Sharing photos and international phone calls

Sharing travel photos on social media or making local or international phone calls can also be tricky in some countries where there are restrictions on the internet and some mobile apps, as well as poor telecommunications coverage.

For example, Oman has banned the Skype app and in China the use of Google, Facebook, YouTube, Gmail and Twitter is restricted and a law limiting access to certain websites has been in force since 1996.

In part of Namibia there is no telephone cover, even in tourist areas, which makes it considerably difficult to obtain help in the case of an emergency.

In other countries like North Korea you need a local SIM card for a mobile phone connection, and in Turkmenistan foreign mobiles do not work at all.

Drugs: death sentence, life imprisonment or lashes

Possession and trafficking of drugs

in Myanmar carries sentences ranging from five years in prison to a life sentence, no matter what type or amount of drug, which means that just possessing drugs can result in someone being considered a trafficker.

In Taiwan and Singapore, consuming or trafficking drugs can result in a death sentence, and also in Malaysia, where offenders can also be punished by "lashings with a stick" and up to 20 years in prison.

The death sentence is also applied for consumption and trafficking of drugs in the United Arab Emirates, and it should be remembered that certain medications which are regularly used in Europe can be considered drugs in that country, such as some contraceptive pills, cough syrups (containing codeine) and some antibiotics for tonsillitis.

Mines, radiation and no tourist infrastructure

Thailand, an increasingly popular tourist destination, is a "highly mined" country, according to the Spanish Foreign Ministry, which also warns that there are undetonated artefacts and mines in the Lebanese Republic, and that Afghanistan is one of the countries with the most mines on the planet.

In Micronesia it is prohibited to possess any object removed from ships from the Second World War, and in Palau (one of its four countries) there are still some explosives dating back to that war, which is why the Foreign Ministry advises "caution when diving and exploring caves".

Nuclear tests carried out in the Marshall Islands during the Cold War have resulted in a very high level of radioactivity in the area, especially on Bikini.

Also in Oceania, there is the island country of Nauru where, despite its fabulous beaches, it is known as the least 'touristy' island in the world and the Spanish authorities feel obliged to point out its lack of tourist infrastructure and facilities.

These are some of the most unusual warnings on the Ministry website, and it also stresses that the Spanish government will take no responsibility whatsoever, whether through lack of knowledge or ignoring advice, for any harm or damage which may occur when travelling to these countries.

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Ria O'Brien was elected as a councillor in La Viñuela for a second term in the local elections in May. She was first approached in 2015 by the village's PSOE-A mayor, José Juan Jiménez López, as he recognised a need to have a native English-speaking person on the council to be able to help with integration and the foreign community in general. The mayor explains that the foreign population of La Viñuela is around 40 per cent of the village's total, the majority of whom are retired Brits.

Ria, 69, is no stranger to politics, having been the first woman elected to Dungarvan Urban Council in her native Republic of Ireland. She was the 'Chairman' from 1975 to 1976; "There was no such thing as Chairwoman or Chairperson then," laughs Ria, who was just 26 at the time. She also sat on the National Executive Committee of the Fianna Fáil party for seven years. Ria went on to be nominated by then Taoiseach (Prime Minister), Jack Lynch, and stood for general election for both the lower and upper houses (Senate) of the Irish parliament. She was narrowly beaten and decided not to stand again in the following election. "I would have had a good chance of winning but by then I had a young family and had to make a choice between family and politics," Ria recalls.

She adds that it was tough for women who wanted to get into politics in Ireland in the 1970s and jokes that Lynch didn't have "many women to choose from" at the time, despite wanting to encourage more women to get involved. Ria was also Vice-Chair of a cross-party group of elected women politicians, which provided help and support for the few female politicians that existed at the time. Ria says of her experience, "I learned more than at school or college and it really whetted my appetite for politics."

Move to Spain

After standing down as a councillor, Ria opened a clothing boutique and ran three shops across Ireland, but admits she always "dreamed of moving to Spain." She and her family used to come on holiday and eventually bought an apartment in Marbella, where they frequently holidayed. It was in the early 2000s that she discovered and "fell in love with" the Axarquía, and in 2005 bought her house in Los Romanes, which is a small hamlet belonging to La Viñuela. "I never moved to Spain, I just

IN THE FRAME

Sharing political ideas for integration



Councillor Ria O'Brien and Mayor José Juan Jiménez López. :: JENNIE RHODES

Ria O'Brien has been on La Viñuela council since 2015 when the current mayor, José Juan Jiménez López, invited her to stand thanks to her previous experience as a councillor in Ireland and her popularity among Spanish and foreign residents in the village. Since then they have shared ideas on integration and a number of other policies

JENNIE RHODES



stopped going home," Ria jokes when asked when she decided to move here permanently. "I really can't remember when the line was drawn. The idea was just to do trips but those trips eventually started to become more permanent," she adds.

Ria has been involved in village life from the beginning and that is what led to Jiménez López inviting her to be on his party's list in 2015

to be "the link" between the town hall and the foreign community. The mayor says that Ria is "popular" among foreign and Spanish residents alike and he recognised that Ria could "bring a lot to the council with her previous political experience and she is practical."

Despite the socialist PSOE party being ideologically unaligned to Fianna Fáil, Ria says that she and Jiménez

López "share a lot of ideas" but admits that she does the job as she enjoys being the link "between expats and the town hall" rather than really getting involved in the politics.

The mayor says that since Ria became councillor, more foreigners have joined the village's town hall census (Padrón). She is also working hard to make sure that the foreign community integrates more and the

town hall organises activities and excursions in which both Spanish and foreign residents participate. "The language barrier will always be a problem," admits Ria, who points out that around 70 foreign residents regularly attend the village's free Spanish classes. "But if people meet during the activities, at least when they see each other in the street they can greet each other."

All of the information that comes from the town hall is now in Spanish and in English, and Ria provides a link for people who need a problem to be solved. "Around 60 per cent of the foreigners live in the 'campo' around the village so of course many have been caught up in the illegal housing problem," Jiménez López admits and adds that Ria's help as well as organisations like SOHA (Save Our Homes Axarquía) have been a vital lifeline for people who have found themselves affected by the scandal.

Ria's next project is to set up a U3A group in the village and she says she's had "quite a lot of interest," so far. When I met her she was busy helping a British lady who makes dolls houses with her forthcoming exhibition at the Pantano restaurant at the Viñuela reservoir, and she has many more plans for the future.

The mayor also touches on the problem of depopulation of rural areas of Spain and says that foreigners moving to villages like La Viñuela is positive. "Foreigners bring money to the village and help the economy. In fact we have gone from nine councillors in 2015 to 11 in 2019 and that is largely due to the foreign people moving here," he explains.

Being involved in local politics has also lead to an appearance on the popular El Intermedio programme on Spain's La Sexta TV channel. In the lead-up to May's elections, Ria and former mayor of nearby Alcaucín, Mario Blancke, were contacted by the programme and invited to appear to talk to presenter, Fernando González, known as 'Gonzo', about foreign people standing in local elections. "It was quite an experience. Very surreal," confesses Ria. "A researcher called me and asked me to be on the programme, but hung up when I said my Spanish wasn't good enough. An hour later she called me back to say I could do it in English."

Ria does speak some Spanish and it is enough for her to be a respected member of the town hall team, highly esteemed by the mayor and as he said, popular among all residents in the village.



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DENISE BUSH

GARDENING

Dragon's tongue plant

A tropical, creeping groundcover with attractive bronze and burgundy foliage and delicate white flowers

The genus *Hemigraphis* has about thirty species and is a member of the *Acanthaceae* family. It is native to South East Asia and is a tropical understorey plant, thriving in dappled shade. *H. repanda* is one of the more striking species in the genus. It is native to Malaysia and is commonly called dragon's tongue /

breath, flame leaf ivy and waffle plant (the latter being the name for some of the other species too). It is sometimes listed as *Ruellia repanda* and included in the *Strobilanthus* genus.

The leaves of this species are shades of olive green, burgundy and deep bronze and have delicate red stems. The edges of each of the 10cm by 1cm leaves are ruffled and wavy. Although mainly used as a foliage accent, particularly popular for mixed plantings in terrariums, *H. repanda* has tiny white or pinkish flowers which form in tight clusters in the leaf axils and are pretty in their own right and attract bees and butterflies.

Dragon's tongue is slow growing and its spreading habit makes it an ideal ground cover plant which will reach around 15 to 23cm tall. It can be used as edging, in rockeries or in containers and hanging baskets where it can hang down over the edge.

It is not drought resistant and needs rich soil that is kept moist but not soggy. Once the soil has been exhausted it will be necessary to feed it during the spring and summer months to keep it healthy. Being a tropical plant it will not withstand the cold and will need protection during the winter.

Its compact growth rarely needs pruning; however it may be necessary to pinch off any yellowing leaves.

Propagation is very easy, stem-tip cuttings root quickly.

The genus name comes from the Greek 'hmi' meaning 'half' and 'grafis' meaning 'stylus'. The specific epithet comes from the Latin 'repondum' meaning 'spreading out'.

The leaves of *H. colorata* have been proven to have antiseptic properties and are used in Malaysia for healing cuts and wounds. The leaves of *H. alternata* are rubbed on bruises and wounds to promote healing in South India and in Java they are used to treat diarrhoea and haemorrhoids.



Hemigraphis repanda and flower (inset). :: WIKIMEDIA

READERS' PHOTOS



:: CAROLINE SELLERS

AN INDIAN BEAN TREE

"This fine looking tree, which has seed pods that look like runner beans and huge leaves, provided me with some welcome shade," says Caroline Sellers of the *Catalpa* tree she spotted in a local park recently. The *Catalpa* or Indian bean tree is native to parts of North America and grows in hot, dry soils. It has beautiful panicles of white flowers with maroon blotched throats in spring which are followed by long bean-like seed pods.

QUEEN OF THE NIGHT CACTUS

Eija Kovanen from Torreblanca in Fuengirola sent in this photo of an *Epiphyllum oxypetalum* in flower. The 'Queen of the Night', as it is commonly called, flowers between dusk and dawn with the scented bloom gradually fading throughout the following day. The main pollinators are bats and moths.



:: EIJA KOVANEN

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

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

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



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Famous faces at Marbella's International Film Festival

A number of British actors will be among those attending screenings for the town's 14th annual event in October



ASH BOLTON
ashbolton@hotmail.com

MARBELLA. Hundreds of film fans are expected to descend on Marbella for the town's international film festival from 2 to 6 October.

A red carpet will be rolled out during the five-day movie extravaganza that will see 30 independent films screened at the Teatro Goya in Puerto Banús.

The festival will be packed with features, animations, documentaries and world premieres from a host of countries around the world.

This year selected films are being screened from Spain, the UK, the USA, Switzerland, Brazil, Mexico, Ukraine, Turkey, Argentina, China, Poland, India, Paraguay and Germany.

Festival Director Mac Chakaveh, told SUR in English that the event should be the "biggest yet" since it started in 2006.

"We are getting so much more interest," said Mac.

"There are at least three world premieres this year and Marbella's Film Festival is now becoming the event everyone talks about."

Actors Jason Flemyng (Lock Stock and 2 Smoking Barrels), Kris Marshall (Love Actually), Frances Barber (Benidorm), and Craig Kelly (The Full Monty) are among the guests that will be walking down the red carpet for the premier of Trick & Treat. The thriller was shot in Marbella last year.



Actor Steven Berkoff and Mac Chakaveh at last year's film festival. :: SUR

The cast includes: Craig Fairbrass, Terry Stone, Emily Wyatt, Jessica Wright, Nick Nevern and Andy Loveday — who directed the film.

Other stars attending the event include Gavin and Stacey actor Larry Lamb.

Mac explained that all films are supported by their directors, production companies and in many cases with their cast in attendance, offering the audience the opportunity to meet the film makers, their stars and attend Q&A sessions when applicable.

Mac added that festival guests are invited to walk the red carpet along with the celebrities and attend the after parties, allowing film fans to rub shoulders with celebrities, actors and industry professionals.

During the five-day film frenzy a number of workshops, seminars and networking events will also be held at the H10 Andalucía Plaza Hotel.

The workshops cover subjects such as film finance, investments in the industry, sales and distribution, marketing, promotion and PR.

The event ends with a glitzy Gala Awards Dinner and closing ceremony, where guests dress in black ties and sleek dresses to enjoy cocktails and live music at the H10 on Sunday 6 October.

Tickets for films can be purchased from the Teatro Goya.

i For more information visit www.marbellafilmfestival.com

LIONS CLUB MIJAS REWARDS FUNDRAISER JACK MCDONNELL

When Jack McDonnell put together a football event, to raise money for charity, he approached the Lions Club of La Cala de Mijas. He had chosen them because of the work they do for the local community and because he wanted the money to go to a good cause. With the help of the club and the town hall, the event raised over 1,000 euros. The Lions presented Jack with a certificate of appreciation for all his hard work and as proof of his achievement, with his efforts have also contributed to his university studies.



:: SUR

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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

30 AUGUST 1999

700 million stolen in daring airport raid

Five armed raiders attacked the Proseur security personnel as they delivered 11 sacks of cash and diamonds to the airport cargo terminal

Following a daring raid that took place shortly after 8am on Monday 30 August 1999, five masked gunmen made off with 700 million pesetas (more than four million euros) in cash and precious stones after raiding a security van that was delivering to the cargo terminal of the Pablo Ruiz Picasso Airport in Malaga.

As the security staff began to unload the 11 sacks, a vehicle screeched to a halt at the loading bay and five armed individuals with machine guns and automatic weapons began to fire intimidation shots into the air. The gang, who used considerable force to make their demands



**The loading
raid took**

understood, had previously overpowered the airport surveillance personnel. The gunmen attacked the Prosegur security staff, hitting one with the barrel of a gun and forcing another to the ground, while threatening to shoot them if they defied their orders. The terrified personnel did as instructed as the gang began loading the sacks into their own vehicle and fled the scene before the authorities could be alerted.



Another security officer, who had arrived at the loading bay with the authentication paperwork, opened fire on the van as it sped away from the warehouse, but the raiders escaped unscathed.

The vehicle, which had been



The loading bay where the raid took place. ■ SUR



Police inspect the abandoned van used in the airport raid. ■ ■ SUR

stolen from a horticultural company in Marbella a few days previously, was found just a few kilometres from the scene of the crime. Police said that this was most probably the spot where the haul was transferred to another vehicle. Two revolvers that had been taken from the security staff

were found in the back of the abandoned van.

Police immediately set up road blocks in an attempt to apprehend the five individuals, but the gang, who were thought to have been accompanied by a getaway driver, appeared to have vanished into thin air.

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Aeropuerto	Airport
Asalto	Raid
Atracador	Robber
Atraco	Robbery
Ladrón	Thief
Diamante	Diamond
Divisa	Foreign currency
Carga	Cargo
Guardia jurado	Security guard
Furgón	Van
Metralleta	Machine gun
Disparo	Shot
Forcejeo	Struggle
Vigilancia	Surveillance
Conductor	Driver
Vehículo	Vehicle
Encapuchado	Hooded

Following three days of scrutinising the statements of the security guards, police were no closer to identifying the robbers. The raiders had used Uzi and AK-47 machine guns during the raid, leading the police to the theory that they were part of a French/Italian organised crime syndicate. The organisation was thought to have been responsible for a series of similar raids carried out on airports in Ibiza and Bastia in 1992, and in Perpignan in 1997.

**i Bilingual crossword
inside back page**

LEGAL ADVICE



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is not very stable - we have already broken up twice so far. My question is, will I have a problem with the property if I allow him to register here and then for some reason we stop living together? Would he have any right to the house?

You can rest assured that registration is a right that anyone who lives in a property has, but does not give the person any rights to the ownership of the dwelling. You are still the sole owner, so if there is no lease between you both, he will have to leave the house when you want him to.

got a job again, and my ex-wife asked to have part of my salary retained for the amount I could not pay when I was unemployed, so these months I have been getting less money. Now I have discovered that this summer she won more than a hundred thousand euros in a lottery, so her economic situation has changed considerably. Can I request that the retention on my salary be cancelled and that the alimony that I have to pay be reduced, given that she now has more economic power than I do?

REF. T. N. I.

I am the only owner of a property that I bought three years ago, and in which I now live with my partner. We are not married or registered as a common-law couple, but my partner would like to register as living at my house, because he is still registered as living in his parents' home. Although we live together, our relationship

REF. G. N. I.

I have a problem with my children's alimony. Two years ago I lost my job and could not pay the full amount set by the judge for child support (three hundred euros for each child). My wife had custody and did not work, so I had to pay so much money. Six months ago I

You will have to pay the money you owe for the non-payment anyway, because in the circumstances in which the debt occurred, your ex-wife's situation had not changed. However, you can ask the court to reduce the amount you have to pay from now on, by filing a modification claim in the court where your divorce was filed.

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Babies given the wrong drug develop werewolf syndrome

At least 20 children in Spain have hypertrichosis after taking hair-growth drug, minoxidil, in place of stomach-acid medication supplied by a Malaga firm

■ SUR

MADRID / MALAGA. Twenty babies, so far, have been diagnosed with hypertrichosis, an illness also known as werewolf syndrome, which causes excessive hair growth all over the body. The children were prescribed omeprazole in liquid form that turned out to have minoxidil, an active ingredient in medications to treat hair loss.

On 11 July the Spanish Medications and Health Products agency ordered several packs that had been distributed by the Farma-Química Sur S.L. company in Malaga to be withdrawn. The Malaga firm, based on the Guadalhorce industrial estate, has now been closed down by health officials.

The 20 children suffering from hypertrichosis are from Cantabria, Andalucía and the Valencia area, and par-

ents believed their youngsters were taking omeprazole, a drug which reduces the levels of acid in the stomach.

At first, health officials received notification of cases of excessive body hair developing in children who had been given omeprazole from a specific batch number of the product. After testing a sample, the minoxidil was found and the batch withdrawn. Officials were later notified of new cases of hypertrichosis from a different batch, so on 6 August 21 packs which could potentially have been contaminated were withdrawn as well.

Acting minister for Health, María Luisa Carcedo, said on Wednesday that the mistake was "in part due to bottling errors" and the bottling company put minoxidil in a container that was marked omeprazole.

Distribution

The Spanish Medications agency confirmed that it has collated the information about the distribution of bottles which could be affected and, in coordination with the different regional governments in Spain, is contacting people who may have been



The Farma-Química Sur facility on the Guadalhorce industrial estate. ■ NITO SALAS

given the medication.

They also say that because of this incident, and from inspections carried out at the Farma-Química Sur premises, its licence to produce, import and distribute active ingredients for medications was suspended in July, and the laboratory has since been closed by the Ministry of Health.

Parents whose children have taken liquid medicine with omeprazole have been asked to go to their pharmacy to check the batch number.

"While he was taking the drug, my son was always poorly"

Ángela, a mother from Granada, has spent five months without being able to confirm what was wrong with her son. She is one of the mothers with

a child affected by faulty omeprazole. "It could even be something else that caused the hair growth," said Ángela, whose son has been suffering from hypertrichosis for months. "During the time he was taking the supposed omeprazole my son was always poorly, as if he had a cold," she explained.



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W W W . K A A S K I R K E M A N N . N E T

Summer increases the risk of relapses for those addicted to drugs and gambling

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

✉ agalmendres@diariosur.es



People tend to resume their treatments after the holidays, as the free time and change of routine tempt them back into unhealthy habits

MÁLAGA. He started consuming to relax among friends, always at a party. It was a few months before he did it alone, at home. Then the pleasant effects of the cocaine began to last for a shorter time, and he started to take it more frequently. Before realising it, José Manuel had fallen into the spiral of self-destruction which addictions generate. He lost money, his health was affected and his relationship broke up. He touched rock bottom when he stole 300 euros of his mother's pension. Only then did he ask for help. He was "clean" for seven months but



Young people are among the most vulnerable to addictions. :: SUR

last month he suffered a relapse after a long and leisurely lunch which had gone on until well after midnight.

His is not an isolated case. Numerous people relapse in the summer. Holidays, good weather and a lack of obligations increase the risk factors. Addicts fall back into their bad habits, to the point that they end up asking for help again. That's why they don't receive treatment until September or October, when the illness once again ruins their routine.

"After the summer and Christmas there are always more requests for information or treatment," says Amaia Escalza, subdirector of the reception programme at Proyecto Hombre in Málaga: "There are also more requests for help after the Málaga fair, like any other time when their self-control is diminished".

Psychiatrist Carlos Sánchez, of the Triora clinic, recommends that people with addictions should be admitted as a preventive measure in the most serious cases, and attributes the increase in relapses in the summer to the "therapeutic distancing" produced by travelling and holi-

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days. "They usually give up their treatment after a few days. Some centres close because the therapists go on holiday. All that reduces their defences and can cause them to relapse," he says.

Hashish, alcohol and cocaine are the substances which attract most patients, although in recent years there has been an increase in what the psychiatrists call "non-substance addictions," especially gambling, bingo, slot machines and sports betting on the Internet. The addiction to betting is causing havoc, especially among young people, with thousands of new cases of gambling addiction registered. In many cases, this results in debts because they take out loans with very high interest rates which they cannot pay back.

"Addiction is an illness. These are people suffering from a mental disorder who need to be treated. They present a biological predisposition to developing addictions, whether to toxic substances or gambling, video games, sex, shopping or eating," says Carlos Sánchez. He says prevention is better than a cure and proposes isolating people from environments and circles which pose a risk to them: "It is never easy to get over an addiction, but the success of the treatment depends on the patient's emotional and intellectual resources, their family en-

vironment, their work and other variables which make it impossible to generalise".

In the case of betting on sports, Sánchez recognises that "medicine, like the law, is behind reality". That is why policies are only starting to be introduced to deal with the problem now, when addiction is already destroying the lives of thousands of people.

"Betting has made its way into society, often in the case of young people without resources, in a progressive and silent way, to the point that it is causing a great deal of damage. Can anyone imagine a football player advertising cocaine? There is dangerous publicity which we are still seeing every day, and more frequently in the summer".

At Proyecto Hombre the therapy is based on what is called "personal growth", through programmes which are adapted to the personal and work circumstances of the patients. "The first thing is to analyse what has been happening to someone for them to end up consuming or addicted to games, and then teach them changes in their lifestyle, healthy habits and control to stay away from risk factors and enhance protective factors," explains Escalza, who says relapses tend to be part of the therapeutic process. "We all need to feel valued and secure, and when

we don't there is the possibility of finding ourselves trapped in problems of this type".

Cannabis and cocaine

An addiction to cannabis has also resulted in more people being admitted for treatment in recent months. About 17 per cent of people aged between 15 and 34 consume this substance in Spain, according to the European Drugs Observatory. The figures are even higher in the case of alcohol, with more than one and a half million addicts, and around 120,000 are ad-

dicted to cocaine. Treatments vary, depending on the severity of the addiction and profile of the patient, from therapies which do not interfere with their professional routine to admittance to specialist centres.

Psychiatrists warn that addictions and relapses leave signs to be detected by those around the patients, such as changes in mood, irritability and depression, reduced academic or professional performance, strange behaviour, headaches, lack of appetite or uncontrollable hunger, isolation, changes in consumer habits and their relationship with money,

such as unusual spending or bank withdrawals for no apparent reason.

Therapists also agree that it is essential for addicts to resume their treatment as soon as possible to mitigate the consequences of their relapses, even though these are "habitual" in the detox processes. "And any situation which arises from an addiction, no matter how difficult it may seem, can be overcome with time and effort," says José Manuel, who has been having treatment for five weeks after his relapse in July. Those are the words of a survivor.

Alcohol, the legal 'gateway' to other addictions

by A. GÓMEZ

MÁLAGA. Addictions almost never occur on their own. Their victims are people with an "addictive neurobiological profile," says Carlos Sánchez. Rather than the increasingly popular opinion that these patients are to blame for their situation, scientific research has shown that addiction is a mental illness.

This classification challenges the belief that addicts are irresponsible and lack self-control. Multiple consumption is one factor that supports the theories linking addictions with a psychological disorder; it is rare for there to be an addiction to just one substance or habit, and it is more a compulsive attitude which is recurring and not isolated.

Alcohol is present in at least 95 per cent of cases of multiple consumption. "It is the key that opens the door to other addictions; from there, it is easier to climb steps," says Sánchez.

And that 'staircase' of addictions is more terrifying the higher you go up. Drinks and flirting with marijuana are considered a preliminary step. Many people go no further but some do, on to devastating drugs, in the same way that the first coin in a slot machine can later result in huge debts with the ability to destroy

an addict's life.

"Alcohol is socially accepted, to the extent that if somebody doesn't drink there will always be people egging them on to 'have a small one'. Although that seems innocuous, for addicts it is a dangerous risk factor because they lose control," says Amaia Escalza. The battle to break the vicious circle which leads to drug consumption is particularly hard in the summer, when social contacts multiply: "Those around the addict don't understand why he or she doesn't want a drink, or to go out for a meal like they did before, and that creates a high risk of them giving in and then relapsing, when they are on their own and after they have had a drink".

In 2018, alcohol was the main cause of people applying to join the Proyecto Hombre detox programmes: 37.3 per cent of the total. Although there are still requests for treatment and information, alcohol consumption has dropped in recent years compared with the rise in cocaine, where the requests for therapy have risen almost ten points in the past five years, to 35 per cent.

During the same period, the requests for help due to alcohol addiction dropped by one percentage point.

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BORJA GUTIÉRREZ



Twitter: @borja3gutierrez

A seven-year-old boy from Malaga with an inoperable brain stem tumour may have to go abroad for treatment that an Andalusian businessman has offered to pay for

MALAGA. Cristian doesn't like to lose. He's not happy if 'Fortnite' doesn't go his way. He is shy about having his photo taken, but mischievous when not in the limelight. He has a strong character, his mother says, and is generally coping well with his present situation. However, it is desperate.

For Noelia Rubio the past few months have been very difficult. Towards the end of May, her son was diagnosed with an advanced grade four brain stem tumour. The maximum grade is five. The technical name given to it is DIPG (Diffuse



Cristian with his mother and a family friend who has helped with the social media campaign. :: NITO SALAS

Intrinsic Pontine Glioma).

"It was after a school activity. Cristian likes to dance and he took part in a ballet about the film Coco. He wore a costume and we painted his face. Afterwards, he complained that

his eye was hurting and we took him to the health centre. They prescribed eye drops because they thought it was a reaction to the face paint, but about a week later I noticed that his eye was moving in a strange way and took him straight to the hospital. He had a CAT scan and then they broke the news to me," says Noelia who, despite everything, radiates energy and positivity. She was told the tumour was inoperable and that her

son probably had just seven months to live. It was a desperately hard, but she decided to use social media to spread the word, thinking that the more people who knew about Cristian's case, the better.

"We made it very clear we weren't asking for money. We wanted second opinions and to know about studies which might hold a solution for Cristian and other children in the same situation," says Noelia. The family is overwhelmed by the response. The messages of support keep coming in and reports of similar cases, and famous people have shared 'We are with Cristian' on their social media profiles.

Protons, a chance of life

The most recent step has been a visit to the Niño Jesús children's hospital in Madrid, where specialists agreed that an operation would be very risky and almost impossible, because it would need precision which is beyond the skill of any human. The slightest mistake could leave Cristian paralysed or even worse.

The little boy is having radiotherapy, but its success may be limited. Another possible solution is proton therapy, but that is not available in Spain. However, there has just been some excellent news: a business owner who wishes to remain anonymous has come forward and offered to pay for Cristian to have this therapy in another country, despite the cost, which can be 80,000 to 100,000 euros. "It is not right that Spain doesn't have this type of medical equipment," he said.

Cristian's condition is stable at present and Noelia is waiting for the next medical appointment to see whether the radiation is working. If not, then proton therapy may be the only answer.

His condition is stable after his last radiotherapy session and it remains to be seen if the treatment is working or not

Funds and a football treat for little Cristian

The response to Cristian's family's campaign on social media included hundreds of messages of support as well as greater awareness of his condition. By far the most relevant message was the one that came from an important Andalusian businessman with his offer to pay for treatment abroad if necessary.

Meanwhile, Cristian's wait for



Cristian with Malaga football players. :: SUR

Malaga football club to visit the teams at their training grounds. The young football fan was welcomed by members of both the men's and women's squads as well as academy boss Hamyan Al-Thani.

Gifts came in the

form of toys, a ball and a Malaga shirt, but his favourite was the pair of gloves given to him by goalkeeper Munir.

the latest test results has been brightened up by gestures from many corners of society. Among them was an invitation from

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DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA



The Alanís de la Sierra Castle is one of the backdrops for this event. :: AYTO. ALANÍS

A trip to the Middle Ages

Historical reenactments and live music are part of the fun in Alanís this weekend

JAVIER ALMELLONES

ALANÍS DE LA SIERRA
Seville province



The Middle Ages is one of the most exciting periods in Andalucía's history. Long before television and literature revived it as a genre, in the village of Alanís de la Sierra they knew how to take advantage of it with an event that entices thousands of visitors in the final stretch of the summer.

From today until Sunday, in this Andalusian town that borders Extremadura, the sixteenth Medieval Days of the Sierra Morena of Seville are being held.

During these three days, this village, which preserves an important legacy of the period both in the town centre and in its surroundings, will become a stage of this period, where it played an important strategic

role as a border town.

The programme of activities, the involvement of its neighbours and the physical setting in which this themed festival takes place make the event one of the unmissable events for lovers of the Middle Ages.

Both young and old will be able to enjoy the different activities offered this weekend both in the surroundings of the Alanís' castle and in the historic centre.

In addition to scenery of the period, with banners and torches distributed through the streets and around the fortress itself, many villages will demonstrate their enjoyment of the event by wearing traditional clothing of the Middle Ages.

Another great attraction of this event is a large themed

market, where you can buy or try various products related in one way or another to that exciting time. In addition, there is a very special atmosphere, which is achieved with activities such as historical reenactments and live music, scheduled during the three days.

Alanís de la Sierra is a village with history, as can be seen in some of its most emblematic buildings, which were built between the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, such as the San Juan chapel, the church of Nuestra Señora de las Nieves or the fountains of Santa María and Las Pilitas, among other enclaves of interest.

However, the main attraction of the town is its fortress, of Arab origin, but rebuilt in the fourteenth century under

QUICK GUIDE



Castle. This fortress dates back to the 14th century and was taken in 1477 by the Catholic monarchs.

Nuestra Señora de las Nieves church. From the 14th century and restored during the 18th century after an earthquake.



San Juan chapel. Considered the oldest building in Alanís de la Sierra.

the order of Castile.

In addition to its relatively good state of conservation, the most attractive feature of this castle is its location on a mound that stands as a watchtower over the territory. Specifically, it is located on a hill in front of the urban centre of Alanís.

But beyond its heritage, these medieval days should also serve to show the ecological richness of this town in the Sierra Morena of Seville.

The town, located on the border with the province of Badajoz, offers visitors, especially between autumn and spring, a unique landscape that can be seen on various accessible routes.

Among the hikes that can be made through its territory are both the Aguardienteros and Cerro del Cura (both circular) and one of the stages of the GR-48, which passes to the south of the territory, where the famous Huéznar Waterfalls are located, a natural spot that it shares with the town of San Nicolás del Puerto.

Another highly recommended place for nature lovers is the viewpoint of La Loma del Aire, which is located on the north-eastern boundary of the Sierra Norte of Seville Natural Park, that is, between the Onza stream and the Huéznar basin.

EXHIBITIONS

Retro Video Game Consoles

Estepona. From 21 August. Auditorio Felipe VI
Expo Experience Play Again has the largest numbers of original consoles and arcade machines in Europe. To take part tickets are 15 euros for three hours or 30 euros for a day pass.



Video game consoles, Estepona.

Sholeh Abghari

Marbella. Until 30 September. Calle Ricardo Soriano 72. Sholeh Abghari Art Gallery is a contemporary gallery which supports and promotes both established and emerging artists from Iran and around the world. The present exhibition includes contemporary works by Iranian artists. <https://sholehabghari.com/>

Luis Seoane - Museo Ralli

Marbella. Until 22 May, 2021. Urbanisation Coral beach, N340, km176. Free entry. The current exhibition consists of a selection of portraits by Argentinian artist Luis Seoane.

Joint photographic exhibition

Mijas. Until 23 September. Centro Cultural La Cala de Mijas. Cordoba photographer María Ca-

brero Murillo will be exhibiting a selection of her work alongside that of Alosaina artist Antonio Sepúlveda Merino.

Penny Bancroft

Mijas. 1 until 30 September. Hotel TRH Mijas. Penny Bancroft's art is inspired by everything, including washing up bubbles. Her artwork includes colourful landscapes of the Andalusian countryside and abstract paintings.

José Torres

Mijas. Until 17 September. Casa Museo de Mijas. A selection of paintings by José Torres.

Fiftieth Anniversary of the Lunar Landings

Mijas Pueblo. Until 30 September. Mijas tourist office. An exhibition to commemorate the landing on the moon in 1969.

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 Terry O'Neill and Gered Mankowitz as well as some photographs by the great photographer Baron Wolman.

The Russian museum

Malaga. Until 8 September. Edificio Tabacalera, Avda Sor Teresa Prat. Colección Gmurzynska is a collection of the work of Polish-born artist Antonina Gmurzynska who showed a profound interest in Russian art of the early 20th century.

Centre Pompidou

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

Le Chant des Morts

Malaga. Until 13 October. Casa Natal de Picasso. The exhibition at the birth house consists of works created by Picasso to illustrate Le Chant des Morts by Pierre Reverdy.

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.



Penny Bancroft, Mijas.

Carmen Thyssen Museum

Malaga. Until 8 September. Perversity. Femmes Fatales in Modern Art features women artists who invaded spaces that were previously out of bounds to them or restricted.

Henry Moore

Malaga. Until 28 September. Museo Jorge Rando. Stonehenge is the title of a series of 15 engravings that make up this exhibition by the famous artist and sculptor Henry Moore between 1971 and 1973.

Banksy. The Art of Protest

Malaga. Until 13 October. 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.

Lego exhibition

Malaga. Until 22 September. Muelle Uno, Malaga Port. The biggest exhibition of Lego models in Europe including an 11-metre-long replica of the Titanic, characters from Lord Of The Rings, the Statue of Liberty, Sydney Opera House etc.

Rita Hayworth and The Golden Age

Malaga. From 6 to 28 September. Sociedad Económica Amigos del Pais, Plaza de la Constitución. A collection of posters of Rita Hayworth that illustrate the Golden Age of Hollywood. The exhibition



José Torres, Mijas.

Animal Care España celebrates its 20th anniversary with a party

:: TONY BRYANT

MIJAS. ACE (Animal Care España) will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a series of events, starting with a special party night at the Snack Attack restaurant in La Cala de Mijas on Saturday 14 September. Tickets for the event, which is sponsored by Ibex Insurance, cost 20 euros (10 euros for children under 12) and will include paella (mixed or vegetarian) and live music and entertainment.

The event starts at 7pm, while at 8pm, guests will be entertained by Dragtastic, the coast's most popular family drag show.

Ten euros from each ticket sale will be donated to the charity. There will also be a raffle with prizes supplied by local businesses and organisations.

ACE, also known as Spanish Honden in Need (SHIN) was founded in December 1999 by Belgian animal lover Fabienne Paques and Dutchman Ton van den Broek. Fabienne decided to do something about the pitiful situation of the stray and abandoned dogs in the



Dragtastic will host the ACE 20th anniversary party in Mijas. :: SUR

Mijas area, many of whom were destroyed at the El Refugio killing station. She began by renting kennels at the refuge, where she took care of hundreds of neglected and abused animals.

Fabienne and Ton now rent all the kennels at the former killing station and they have transformed it into the current shelter where the animals receive care and attention and the chance of a new home.

Over the past 20 years, ACE has

found homes for more than 13,000 dogs in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Finland and Denmark, and it has become one of the most experienced rescue organisations in Spain.

Tickets for the anniversary party are available from the Snack Attack restaurant, the Ibex offices in Fuengirola and from the ACE shelter in Mijas.

For more information, call Carolyn on 647 647 671.

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is linked with a series of films of the same era which are being shown until 12 September at Cine Albéniz.

Trinidad Rosillo

Torremolinos. Until 20 September. Centro Cultural Pablo Ruiz Picasso. Around 51 watercolour and oil paintings make up the exhibition by the Malaga artist Trinidad Rosillo.

Mi Tierra

La Herradura. Until 30 September. Mercado Municipal. An exhibition of around 50 photographs taken by five photographers from the Almuñécar Foto Club.

CHARITY

Picnic in the Park

Benahavis. 31 August, from 9pm (doors open 7.45pm). Parque Torre Leonera. Donation 15€. In memory of much loved entertainer Mel Williams who died last year, Ricky Lavazza, Mark T Connor and Ron Howells and Karen Danzig will be in concert. Musicians are performing free and all entry donations will go to Cudeca and Hogar Betania.

Música Con Encanto

Marbella. 6 September, 8.45pm. Clínica Buchinger Wilhelmi. 20€



The Antonio Lizana Quinteto will be playing Flamenco Fusion in this concert to raise funds for Pozos Sin Fronteras (Wells Without Borders). www.musica-conencanto.org

Lions charity lunch

La Cala de Mijas. 8 September, 12.30pm. Restaurante Valparaíso. 35€. A three-course meal including wine, beer, soft drinks, liqueurs or coffee plus canapes and an aperitif on arrival. Entertainment from Laura Elen. Tickets from the Lions Shop or tel: 637185533 / 952485975.

Cudeca Pop Rock Tribute

Benalmádena. 6 September, 9pm. Municipal Auditorium. 10€. The festival will feature bands The Soaks, a 60s and 70s music tribute band; The Silver Beats tribute to The Beatles and Los Remolones tribute to The Ramones. Tickets 10€ in advance or 12€ on the door, available from www.entradium.com/es/events/musicstory or the Cudeca shop in Arroyo de la Miel or Cudeca Centre in Benalmádena.

Animals In Distress auctions

Alhaurín el Grande. 13 September, 11 October viewing from 6pm. Peña Asfahal. Fifteen per cent commission from each sale goes to AID. Sellers need to advise AID (Joe: 626942427) at least 3 to 4 weeks before the auction and bring the items for logging in between 5 and 6pm. www.animals-in-distress.eu/

Domino Golf tournament

Mijas Costa. 14 September, 8.45am. Club de Golf La Siesta, Calahonda. Members 20€, non members 36€. To sponsor 50€. A golf tournament in aid of Dogs Of Malaga In Need. Four player Texas Scramble. Breakfast roll with coffee, juice and water after nine holes. Prize giving at 1.30pm followed by lunch. Call Petra: 620651365

The Irish International Music Festival returns to Marbella

ASH BOLTON

MALAGA. Thousands of revelers will pack a Marbella park for the town's annual Irish International Music Festival from 20 to 22 September.

During the three-day popular event a number of Irish and Spanish performers will take to the stage at Parque de la Constitución. There will also be music workshops, food stalls, gin bars, street performers and a family day on Sunday.

Among those performing are Finbar Furey, Stone Free, the Art Club Band, Spiders from Marbs, Thrifty Malone, Blues Stompers, Fraces Celebres, Colm Fitzpatrick, Ras Tikki and Ciaran Farell.

Organised in collaboration with the Irish Association Marbella, Marbella town hall and the Claddagh Irish Bar, the event is set to be the biggest yet in its three-year history.

One of the organisers Colm Fitzpatrick, who is originally from Cork and has lived in San Pedro since January 2017, told SUR in English: "I would expect a minimum of 3,000 and up to 5,000 people over the three days, so we are expecting big numbers."

"The whole point of the festival is a celebration of Irish, Span-



Last year's event with Finbar Furey on stage. :: JOHNNY GATES

ish and international culture. We also aim to integrate ourselves with the people of Marbella.

"Our goal is to give the Irish a reason to come out and enjoy themselves, but also to get all the nationalities and the cultures here to join in the festivities."

One of the highlights, according to Colm, will be the musician Finbar Furey. He added: "We are getting a real legendary Irish musician in Finbar Furey and he's not only going to be playing solo,

but with guests. In terms of Irish folk music, Finbar Furey is a huge name in the Irish industry."

In addition to Irish music, there will be a number of Spanish bands playing blues, jazz and rock throughout the weekend.

The event starts at The Claddagh Bar on Friday 20 September and moves to Parque de la Constitución on Saturday from 12pm.

For more information visit www.facebook.com/TheCladdaghIrishBar.

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The traditional treading of the grapes. :: SUR

Grape Expectations for three days in Manilva

ASH BOLTON

MANILVA. Wine fans are getting ready to stomp on some grapes for the 40th Manilva Grape Harvest Festival this weekend.

The festival was founded in the 1960s and is one of the most important events of the year in Manilva. Hundreds of wine enthusiasts from across the region will descend on the festival, which also features flamenco, wine tasting, live music and the famous treading of the grapes.

The festival traditionally signals the end of the grape harvest (or 'vendimia' in Spanish) and starts at 10pm today (Friday) with a flamenco festival at the Pablo Picasso primary school. The venue will also see performances from Mayte Martín, accompanied by Alejandro Hurtado on guitar, Alfredo Tejada, Guillermo Cano and Laura Vital, along with Patrocinio Hijo, Juani Marín and Eduardo Rebollar.

During the day a competition for the biggest bunch of grapes

takes place, as well as live music.

From 10pm the bands Deley and Latidos will put on a concert in Calle Mar. Sunday marks the biggest day of the festival, with wine tasting from Manilva's vineyards. From 2pm there is more live music and from 5pm there will be a parade of horses and riders on Calle Mar.

The traditional treading of the grapes starts at 7pm in Plaza de la Vendimia to extract the first wine of the year, which is then offered to visitors for tasting.

At 9.30pm the band Ruta 80 will be in concert and the celebrations will continue until the early hours of Monday morning.

Tickets cost 20 euros and are available from the Sabinillas multipurpose building, the Tourist Office in Duquesa port, Musisol in Estepona, Estanco Reyes in Casares and Salvi Supercien in Sabinillas. Tickets can also be bought from the box office from 9pm.

For more information, visit www.manilva.es.

CHARITY

Southern Impact for AID

Mijas. 15 September from 1pm. Valparaíso Restaurant. 25€. Boogie the afternoon away with classics such as Car Wash, Disco Inferno and Young Hearts with Southern Impact and DJ Mad Rich at this fundraising event for animal charity AID which includes cava and canapés, a three course meal with half a bottle of wine followed by coffee. Adnace bookings only at the restaurant, the AID second-hand warehouse in Alhaurín el Grande and IBEX insurance in Fuengirola.

Pawsawhile Golf Party

Alhaurín el Grande. 22 September from 10am. Alhaurín Golf Club. 25€.

A 9 hole shotgun round to raise funds for Pawsawhile Dog Rescue. Cost 25 euros per player which includes paella, a drink and live entertainment. Non players are welcome to enjoy the lunch and entertainment for 15 euros. There will be a raffle too. Reservation email: reservas@alhaurin.golf.com or call: 952 595 800



Flamenco Festival, Torremolinos.

MUSIC & DANCE

The Al Ijl as orchestra

Torremolinos. 30 August from 9pm. Plaza de la Nogalera. Medieval Spanish music to celebrate the heritage of Al-Andalus and the first 'Encuentro de Moras y Cristianas' in Torremolinos.

Louie Louie Rock Bar

Estepona. Avda Luis Braille. 30 August, midnight. The Buzz Lovers tribute to Nirvana. **31 August, midnight.** KP Band followed by We Are Not DJs (1am). 5€. **7 September, 11.30pm.** Bourbon. 10€. **14 September, 11.45pm.** Rob Sas. Rock tribute band playing music from Free, Whitesnake, Deep Purple, Jimi Hendrix, Black Sabbath, Led Zeppelin and AC/DC.

Green Covers 80s tribute

Benalmádena. 30 August, 9pm. La Paloma Park. 20€ on door, 14€ in advance. The Valencia based tribute band Green Covers will be performing some of the best loved hits of the 80s by artists such as U2, Depeche Mode and The Cure. Tickets: www.costadeldisco.com

Music Festival Piano Concerts Marbella. 1st until 12 September.

Various venues. Free.

2 September, 8pm. Museo de Grabación (MGEC). Michael Davidov will be playing a programme dedicated to Beethoven.

6 September, 8pm. Masterclass in the Auditorio del Parque de la Constitución.

7 September, 8pm. Museo de Grabación (MGEC). Anastasia Yasko will be playing a programme dedicated to Chopin.

8 September, 8pm. Masterclass in Jimena de la Frontera.

9 September, 8pm. Masterclass in the Museo Ralli de Marbella.

11 September, 7.30pm. Escuela Municipal de Danza Anastasia Yasko will be playing a programme dedicated to Chopin.

12 September, 8pm. Anastasia Yasko will be playing a programme dedicated to Chopin in the Hospital Real de la Misericordia.

Rob Sas

Estepona. 7 September, 9.30pm. La Cabana, El Padrón (formerly The Eden Bar).

The Rob Sas band will perform classic rock songs from a wealth of artists such as Free, Whitesnake, Deep Purple, Jimi Hendrix, Black Sabbath, Led Zeppelin, AC/DC and many more at the Sabi Street Party. They will be supported by The Silver Dollar Forgers. www.therobsasband.com

Jazz Concert

Malaga. 13 September, 8pm. St George's Anglican Church. 10€. The Jitterbug Jazz Group will be holding a concert in the grounds. Reservations: 638339691

V Jazz Festival

Nerja. Hotel Paraíso del Mar. 10pm. 4 September. Eva Jiménez Quartet

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



Eva Jiménez Jazz, Nerja

the programme of concerts planned for the Gibraltar Calling Festival. Tickets and information: www.gibraltarcalling.com.

FLAMENCO FESTIVAL

Torremolinos. 31 August, 10.30pm. Plaza del Toros. 10€. Around 21 flamenco artistes including dancers, singers and musicians will be performing at this festival which is in memory of Francisco Gómez Amaya 'Paco de Gaster', a famous gipsy flamenco guitarist from Seville. Tickets from www.uniticket.es.

FESTIVALS

Corrida Goyesca

Ronda. 31 August, bullring. First celebrated in 1954, the Corrida Goyesca celebrates the famous Ronda bullfighter, Pedro Romero. This hugely popular event is attended by many famous Spanish personalities.

Feria de Ronda

Ronda. 3 - 8 September. The festival includes a parade of antique carriages, horses and riders all looking their best. Live music and dancing all night until the early hours. Competitions and flamenco shows.

Feria de Ajoblanco

Almáchar. 7 September, from midday. This gastronomic festival celebrates the famous chilled white soup made with garlic, olive oil and almonds and garnished with green grapes or local raisins. Every year the festival includes a flamenco show.

EVENTS

British Stand-Up Comedy

Estepona. 5 September, 7pm. Louie Louie Rock Bar. 25€. The hugely popular British comedy show is back at Louie Louie in Estepona, only this time with a bit

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The Al Ijl as Orchestra, Torremolinos.

of a twist. A touch of German has been added to the mix. Joining resident MC Nik Coppin along with Matt Price and Stefano Paolini will be the German Comedy Ambassador to the UK, Henning Wehn. Henning has appeared on TV shows like Live at the Apollo, 8 out of 10 Cats, QI and many others, whilst Nik, Matt and Stefano are seasoned comedy professionals who have taken their comedy all over the world from Australia and New Zealand, to the USA, Canada, South-East Asia and all over Europe.



Corrida Goyesca, Ronda

International Craft Fair

Puerto Banús. Until 31 August. Crafts and art etc from all over the world at this international fair.

Trip to Cáceres, Trujillo, Mérida and Guadalupe

Fuengirola. 14-17 October. Various departure points. 319 / 394€ Booking before 20 July. Full details contact Fundación Lux Mundi Fuengirola, C/Nueva 3. Tel:

952474840. www.lux-mundi.org/

Trip to Baeza, Úbeda and Cazorla

Fuengirola/Torre del Mar. 21-24 October. Various departure points. 309 / 339€

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

Trip to Gibraltar

Torre del Mar. 19 September, 17 October, 21 November. Various departure points. 13€.

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

O. V. FILM

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

Cine Albéniz

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

Once Upon a Time In Hollywood: 16.30, 19.25, 22.20

The Rocky Horror Picture Show: 7 Sept, 9.30pm.

The Last Waltz: 9 Sept, 9.45pm.

Pink Floyd The Wall: 10 Sept, 9.30pm.

The Golden Age of Hollywood

Ninotchka: 5 Sept, 10pm

Only Angels Have Wings: 6 Sept, 7.30pm.

Once Upon a Time In The West: 6 Sept, 9.45pm.

Killer's Kiss: 7 Sept, 8pm.

Stagecoach: 8 Sept, 6pm.

A Fist Full Of Dollars: 8 Sept, 9.15pm.

The Roaring Twenties: 9 Sept, 7.45pm.

The Killing: 10 Sept, 7.50pm.

Paths Of Glory: 11 Sept, 10.am.

The Good, The Bad and The Ugly: 11 Sept, 8.20pm.

Gone With The Wind: 12 Sept, 6pm.

Paths of Glory: 12 Sept, 10.15pm.

Cinesur El Ingenio

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

Once Upon a Time In Hollywood: 11.45, 16.00, 19.10, 22.15

Washington DC: 11.45, 14.15.

Cinesur Miramar

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

Angel Has Fallen: 15.50 (Mon-



Ajoblanco, Almáchar



Golden Age of Hollywood.

Thurs).

Once Upon a Time In Hollywood: 12.15, 15.50; 18.55, 22.05.

Mid 90s: 21.00 (Tues).

Opera live: Turandot: 21.00 (Thurs).

Cines Teatro Goya

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

Crawl: 15.45.

Playmobil The Movie: 15.50, 17.50.

Once Upon a Time In Hollywood: 19.30, 22.30.

Angel Has Fallen: 15.45, 18.10.

The Angry Birds Movie 2: 16.00, 17.30.

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

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

Tel: 902 902 103 or visit

www.yelmocines.es

The Angry Birds Movie 2: 16.15 (Tues, Thurs).

The Lion King: 21.10 (Tues, Thurs).

Crawl: 17.00 (Thurs); 17.30 (Tues).

Pets 2: 18.05 (Tues, Thurs).

Scary Stories To Tell In The Dark: 22.40 (Tues, Thurs).

Once Upon a Time In Hollywood: 12.40 (Sat, Sun); 17.45 (every day).

Good Boys: 20.45 (Tues, Thurs).

It: 18.30 (Thurs).

It 2: 21.05 (Thurs)

Anna: 14.45 (Sat, Sun); 19.35 (Tues).

Angel Has Fallen: 16.45 (Mon, Thurs); 19.15 (Tues).

Playmobile The Movie: 15.50 (Tues, Thurs)

Yelmo Cines, Rincón de la Victoria.

Calle Arroyo Totalán Tel: 902 220 922 or visit

www.yelmocines.es

Good Boys: 16.35 (Tues).

The Lion King: 21.30 (Tues).

Once Upon a Time In Hollywood: 21.15 (Tues).

Crawl: 23.00 (Tues).

Angel Has Fallen: 20.00 (Tues).

Playmobile The Movie: 20.25 (Tues)

Yelmo Cines, Vialia.

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

Fallen Angel: 19.40 (Tues).

The Lion King: 16.20 (Tues).

Once Upon a Time In Hollywood: 20.55 (Tues).

Good Boys: 21.40 (Tues).

K-12 Melanie Martinez: 20.15 (Thurs).

Playmobile The Movie: 16.20 (Tues).



Jersey 3 during a show. :: SUR

Summer concert in aid of Age Concern

:: T. BRYANT

MIJAS. Age Concern Fuengirola/Mijas will hold its annual summer concert at the Val-paraiso restaurant in Mijas on Saturday 7 September. This year, the charity organisation will present an afternoon of entertainment supplied by Jersey 3, the Costa del Sol's top Jersey Boys tribute.

The party starts at 1pm, when welcome drinks and canapés will be served, followed by a three-course lunch with wine. The concert begins at 3pm and continues at 4.30pm, following

an interval for the grand charity raffle.

Tickets, which cost 25 euros, can be obtained from the Age Concern shop in Calle Francisco Cano in Los Boliches, or by calling 686 289 904.

Guests can take advantage of transport to and from the venue for an extra five euros. The coach will pick up at La Cala de Mijas at 11.45am (the main bus stop under the bridge), and at Los Boliches at 12.15pm (Yaramar Hotel).

For more information, call Steve Marshall on 667834450.

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DANI GARCÍA PICKS THE BEST CROQUETTES IN LA RIOJA

Marbella's own Dani García joined fellow chef Luisa Santamaría last weekend to judge a competition for the best home-made croquettes in which 65 people took part. The competition was part of the 1st Mama Festival Gastronómico held in Ezcaray in La Rioja on Sunday with the aim of reviving traditional cooking. María Luz López won with her cured ham croquettes and Matilde Ródenas with her chicken croquettes; both contestants live in the area. Besides the croquette competition there were also talks, live music performances, tastings and show cooking. The demonstrations included how to make eggs in bechamel sauce, stuffed peppers and how to prepare pig's ears.



ANDREW J. LINN

POISON CHALICE



Brexit supporters are convinced that the UK will not lack for trading partners once its European neighbours have left the shop. While the more imaginative of the idealists predict a nostalgic return to the time when the Commonwealth provided all that Britain needed, what are now mostly third-world countries are unlikely to be the answer as far as basic or even non-basic needs are concerned.

The US seems to be on a lot of lips, but why has it never been a significant trading partner of the EU? The answer is that it offers little. Most of the manufactured products come from China, and the only made-in-US items are agricultural produce, which unfortunately cannot be sold to Europe as it falls short of EU standards.

Genetically modified food is widely consumed in the States and labels do not even have to mention its presence. Many chemicals and food supplements banned in Europe (and most other first-world countries) are used in the US. Livestock is pumped full of growth hormones and antibiotics that have been earmarked as potentially dangerous to the consumer. And best not to mention animal welfare with permanently tethered sows and overcrowded feedlots that would make any animal welfare activist scream. So it is hardly surprising that last week it was acknowl-

edged that nearly all the wines made in the US have dangerously high levels of glyphosate, thanks to Roundup, a pesticide made by Monsanto. The highest concentrations are in northern California, home of the Mondavi, Gallo and Beringer brands. Why worry? All wines contain chemicals and pesticides. Yes, but glyphosate, according to the World Health Organisation, can cause cancer, destroy intestinal bacteria, affect the nervous system and damage the liver and the kidneys.

So just in case we did not already have sufficient reasons for turning our backs on US wines as a consequence of Trump's threats of banning European wines from the US, let's just forget they even exist. On a straight value-for-money scale, they are not very good anyway.

WINE OF THE WEEK

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Deadline day approaches with a lot of work still left to do

Malaga's squad is lacking in depth but recruitment still depends on the sales of Alfred N'Diaye and Juanpi

by **SERGIO CORTÉS / PEDRO LUIS ALONSO**

MALAGA. Just days remain until transfer deadline (midnight on Monday 2 September) but after a scurry of action last week, it has been relatively quiet in the offices of La Rosaleda this week.

This, however, is just the calm before the storm as Alfred N'Diaye's switch to Saudi Arabian side Al Shabab neared its conclusion on Thursday afternoon.

The midfielder was a key component of Malaga's squad last season but with an obligatory purchase of six million euros written into the two-year loan agreement with Villarreal, the club have been working all summer to find a side willing to take on the deal to reduce the financial risk.

Getafe were initially willing to accept the deal on the same terms, but now Al Shabab have jumped to the



Alfred N'Diaye is about to sign for Saudi Arabian side Al Shabab. **AGENCIA LOF**

front of the queue with an offer to buy the Senegal international outright.

This deal will free up Malaga to register new signings Shinji Okazaki and José Rodríguez. Last week's sales of Javi Ontiveros and Michael San-

tos lifted the registration ban imposed on the Blue and Whites by La Liga, but the club were not permitted to declare a preference over which players were registered.

La Liga called for Malaga to register returning loan players first, which

meant that Mikel Villanueva, Esteban Rolón, Keko and Juanpi were included in the squad for Saturday's game against Las Palmas, as well as Cifu, who renewed his contract with the club after his previous one expired. This then left no space for Oka-

zaki and Rodríguez who would have been coach Víctor Sánchez del Amo's preference. Iván and Álex Mula, too, were left out; the pair also needed to re-register after signing professional contracts.

Other departures

N'Diaye is not the only player on the exit ramp. Buyers are also being searched for a number of players, including the aforementioned Mikel, Rolón, Keko and Juanpi.

The latter's case is the most urgent. Despite starring in Saturday's game and earning praise from the coach, Juanpi's salary (1.7 million euros this year) is much too high for a club of Malaga's financial limitations.

The stumbling block so far, however, has been over an option to buy. A number of clubs seem willing to take the economic risk of covering his salary but will only do so if there is option to buy in any loan agreement.

The Venezuelan's departure seems a formality, especially after his number 10 shirt was given to new signing Rodríguez and he was forced to wear 16 against Las Palmas.

Areas still to strengthen

Coach Víctor made no secret of his desire to strengthen in attacking areas. One player who seems set to arrive is Villarreal's Simón Moreno.

The 22-year-old is surplus to requirements at Almeria where the new owners only want loan players with an option to buy.

Defence is another area over which there are massive doubts. At present only David Lombán (currently injured) is considered a nailed-on starter. Meanwhile, there has been interest from Turkey in Diego González and Deportivo Alavés in Luis Hernández. Should both leave, in addition to Mikel, that will leave just one recognised centre-back and one recognised left-back (Juankar).

On the wings, options are also scarce with just Renato Santos and Dani Pacheco among the senior ranks. Despite not featuring much at all under Víctor last season, Iván Alejo could make a return to the club from Getafe.

Between the sticks is another area that urgently needs strengthening after the news on Thursday that Cenk Gonen's contract had been terminated. That leaves only youngsters Kellyan and Gonzalo as back-up to Munir who, as a full international with Morocco, will be missing for the upcoming game with Almeria on 9 September.

No points deduction as complaint over ineligible matchday squad is shelved

by **PEDRO LUIS ALONSO**

MALAGA. After a disastrous summer for Malaga CF, there was finally some good news on Wednesday when Spanish football federation (RFEF) announced that the club would not be facing a points deduction.

Following Malaga's 1-0 victory at El Sardinero on 17 August, their defeated opponents Racing Santander filed a complaint that the

Malaga squad on the day didn't comply with league regulations. Racing argued that the match day squad exceeded the six youth players allowed (there were nine in total).

For their part, however, Malaga maintained that only five participated in the match (Ismael, Keidi and Hugo started with Luis Muñoz and Ramón coming off the bench) and that the rules only stipulate



Hugo Vallejo (c) was one of the youngsters fielded. **JAVIER COTERA**

"active participants" in the game.

Gonzalo, Cristo, Iván Jaime and Hicham were all unused substitutes on the day.

Spanish football's governing body ruled in favour of Malaga and the complaint has been officially shelved.

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DAILY TASTINGS

ACENTOS

Adrián rescues a point for Malaga

DARYL FINCH

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A late penalty from the captain helped to maintain the Blue and Whites' unbeaten start to the season

MALAGA. As he did on the opening day in Santander, Malaga captain Adrián came to the rescue for his side on Saturday evening, converting his penalty kick in the 80th minute to seal a share of the points against Las Palmas.

Following the high-profile sales of Javi Ontiveros and Michael Santos to Villarreal and Copenhagen, respectively, Malaga coach Víctor Sánchez del Amo had many more options available to him for the fixture. Into the squad came Mikel Villanueva, Juanpi (both starters), Kellyan, Esteban Rolón and Keko, though there was still no spot for new signing Shinji Okazaki.

Hugo Vallejo, who started up top in Santander, was left on the bench, leaving Adrián in a 'false nine' position ahead of Juanpi.

Mr Versatile

Despite the former playing out of position and the latter lacking match practice, the pair combined well in the final third. Adrián had Malaga's first clear chance when the ball broke to him after a poor kick from keeper Josep but Malaga's Mr Versatile dragged his shot wide of the post.

Juanpi came closer, curling his effort from just outside the area onto the post.

At the break, the hosts will have been the happier of the two sides having maintained better possession and created the better chances.

However, an error nine minutes after the restart changed everything. When Mikel overran the ball as he advanced out of defence, Pedri seized on the opportunity to play a first-time pass into the path



Adrián encourages the fans after scoring the equalising goal on Saturday. :: NITO SALAS

of veteran striker Rubén Castro who nonchalantly chipped the ball over Munir from almost 40 yards out, catching the goalkeeper in no man's land.

This freak goal, against the run of play, gave Pepe Mel's side a massive boost and the Canarians almost grabbed a second when Rubén Castro gave Mikel the runaround on the byline before teeing up Lemos who was denied by a superb save from Munir who acrobatically pushed the ball over the bar for a corner.

However, with the introduction of Hugo Vallejo, Malaga showed much greater urgency in attack.

With the final ten minutes approaching, a quick flick from Adrián into Juanpi created danger for the Las Palmas backline; Martín Mantovani took evasive action,

1-1 MALAGA-LAS PALMAS

Malaga: Munir; Cifu, Diego González, Mikel, Juankar; Renato, Juanpi, Keidi, Boulahroud (Hugo Vallejo, 57'), Dani Pacheco; Adrián. Unused substitutes: Kellyan, Ismael Casas, Luis Muñoz, Rolón, Ramón, Keko.

Las Palmas: Josep; Curbelo, Mantovani, Aythami, De la Bella; Lemos (Dani Castellano, 80'), Galarreta, Timor, Kirian (Javi Castellano, 86'), Pedri (Srnic, 71'); Rubén Castro. Unused substitutes: Vallés, Deivid, Antonio, Josemi.

Goals: 0-1 Rubén Castro (54'); 1-1 Adrián (80') [pen].

Referee: Sagués Osoz. Yellow cards for Pedri, Diego González, Kirian, Curbelo and Timor.

Ground: La Rosaleda (17,600 spectators).

clipping the Venezuelan on the ankle from behind, resulting in a penalty.

Last season's top scorer, Adrián, stepped up and tucked the spot-kick away with aplomb, sending Josep the wrong way.

In the dying embers of the game, Juanpi almost caught Josep out but his dipping effort from long range was unorthodoxly pushed over the frame of the goal.

"We deserved more"

"If we analyse the 90 minutes, I think we can say we deserved more," said coach Victor following the game.

"We did everything possible to try and win against a good side. We did a lot to disrupt their flow so I'm happy with our work both in attack and defence."

Late Saúl González equaliser earns share of the points in Marbella's league opener

OPTA

TALAVERA DE LA REINA (TOLEDO). Marbella's season opener didn't exactly go to plan, having to rescue a point late on during a game defined by the poor state of the pitch.

David Cubillo's side, this year aiming for promotion to the second tier, travelled to Talavera on Sunday and quickly went behind. Damián Zamorano, formerly of El Palo, gave the hosts the lead in the sixth minute, converting a penalty after a handball, which bobbled up off the turf, was given.

Marbella struggled to cope with the surface, allowing the hosts to have the upper hand for much of the first half.

However, the introductions of Añón and Juerger in the second half swung the game back in the visitors' favour. The equaliser finally came in the 86th minute from debutant Saúl González (signed from Cultural Leonesa) who prodded home Añón's cross from just centimetres out.



A Marbella cross during Sunday's match. :: A. A. TORRES

This sentiment was echoed by full-back Cifu who had to be re-registered after signing a contract extension after his previous deal had expired: "I felt that we controlled the play. They hardly had any chances and we created a lot of dangerous moments."

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A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports
@robbopalmer



Laying new foundations

Real Madrid are modernising off the pitch, but the playing squad is still in need of new blood

When the Real Madrid team posed for the celebratory photo after reclaiming the Champions League trophy in 2018, it appeared that it would be the last time the gang were all together.

The super band was breaking up, they knew Ronaldo's days were done, Zinedine Zidane was to dramatically quit and Gareth Bale wasn't expected to stay around after failing to make the starting XI.

Spin forward 15 months and the band is back together. When Zidane pinned his teamsheet up for the game with Valladolid last weekend, all 10 outfield players were inherited when he took over as coach in Janu-

ary 2016.

When president Florentino Pérez was quoted as saying "we will start the process of modernisation and transformation", he wasn't talking about the team, he was commenting on the financing of the stadium project. The club are investing around 500 million euros in the scheme which is set to be completed in 2022.

The modernisation and transformation of the team appears to be somewhat behind that of the stadium. Zidane was allowed to invest 300 million euro in new players this summer but none made it to the pitch at kick-off last Saturday as

he went all retro. Whereas the Bernabéu is going through "radical appearance changes", the team remains familiar.

It appears that Zidane is in need of a marquee signing to liven the place up. True, Eden Hazard was a significant and expensive signing but he's just short of Galáctico status.

Paul Pogba's entourage continue to make overtures and Neymar seems to be playing Real Madrid off against Barcelona. To ignite interest, President Pérez may have to dig even deeper into his financial reserves as his manager is lacking decent reserve players.

James Rodríguez made a comeback but is now injured, Marco Asensio is out for the long term, while summer signings Ferland Mendy, Éder Militão, Luka Jović and Rodrygo have struggled for fitness.

It's quite a contrast to Barcelona, who were unleashing a 16-year-old and celebrating Antoine Griezmann scoring his first goals. The Catalan



A projection of the new Bernabéu stadium. :: REUTERS

club has issues of its own, but at least they gave a glimpse into the future as Luis Suárez and Lionel Messi babysat on the side-lines. It was an exciting weekend.

I don't condone spending for spending's sake but it looks like Real may have to swoop before the transfer deadline to create fresh interest. A few years ago, President Pérez told me in an interview that he wanted to use Dis-

neyland methods to take his club to new levels. But now it's like a theme park without any new rides or attractions. What they have introduced is still under wraps. Work on the stadium is far more visual and exciting than work on the team!

The Real Madrid architect should place a bet with Zidane on who will lay the foundations first and complete the restoration the quickest.



Bale back in action. :: AFP

From police officer to Brazilian jiu-jitsu world champion

Antonio González, who lives in Torremolinos, says this martial art has changed his life, after competing for the gold medal in Las Vegas

:: FERNANDO TORRES

MALAGA. Everyone is thrilled to see him. "You are an inspiration for me, ever since I found out I have been much more keen to train," says one of his companions at the gym. They cheer him when he returns from the changing room, wearing his kimono. The training session is about to begin on the tatami at Lilius Barnatt martial arts school, but before the session begins there is a family photo with pupils and teachers. "Ever since I came back from Las Vegas people haven't stopped congratulating me, here at the gym and at the police station," he says.

Antonio González has lived in Torremolinos for ten years and has been working as an officer with the judiciary police there for a month. Before that, he was based at the main police station. "They

are the ones who supported me most during the training period, and they were the first to congratulate me. They have been behind me right from the start," he says.

A few days ago the Brazilian jiu-jitsu world championship, which Antonio won, came to an end; he began to practise the sport just over three years ago and now dedicates nearly all his time to it. "When I'm working I train every day, and when I'm not working I train twice a day," he says.

He has always been keen on sports, but none drew him like this martial art which has just turned his world upside down. "I live for this now. Jiu-jitsu has changed my life completely," he says. He won the European championship last year and has now gone up a further step to win a medal which has made him feel "satisfied with my work".

For Antonio, this has been "a tremendous joy", although he admits he is not really one for celebrations. "I feel great, but I'm happiest to have pleased other people, my wife, my daughter, my family, my mother, my colleagues, the people I train with and the others at the



Antonio González, police officer and Brazilian jiu-jitsu world champion, at the gym. :: F. TORRES

gym. They deserve to be represented far afield, because this is an important title. If I hadn't trained there, I wouldn't have got where I am today," he says.

"This martial art enables you to overcome a person without hurting or injuring them"

Jiu-jitsu is no longer just a hobby, and when asked whether it makes him a better person (or better police officer) he says it has given him more confidence in himself when dealing with certain situations. In fact, he says that if every police officer in Spain received more training in martial arts, "a lot of unpleasant situations could be avoided", not only because this discipline teaches you to overcome a rival, but because it "gives you knowledge which enables you to prevent conflicts".

"Just as every police officer is

trained in the use of weapons every year, there should be something similar with martial arts. Statistically, you are more likely to end up in physical confrontation than to use your gun during your police career," he explains. All new officers are taught to box, "which is good because it takes away the fear of being hit". However, he says that is not enough. "A police officer can't go around punching people, that isn't the way things should be," he stresses. "Jiu-jitsu enables you to overcome a person without hurting or injuring them."

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Velez-Málaga, La Antigua Capilla de S. José, C/. Linares 7. Sundays 10.30am
Anglican Chaplaincy of St. Andrew, Costa del Sol (East)
Chaplaincy Office 952580600.
Los Boliches, St. Andrew's Holy Communion 1st, 3rd Sun. Morning Worship 2nd, 4th Sun. Morning Prayer Mon, Tues, Thurs 9.30am. Holy Communion (BCP) Wed. 9.30am.
Benalmádena Costa, San José chapel, 9.30am; Morning Worship 2nd, 4th Sun; Holy Communion 1st, 3rd Sun.
Calahonda, Ermita de San Miguel, 9.30am. Morning Worship 1st, 3rd Sun; Holy Communion 2nd, 4th Sun.
Alhaurín el Grande: Cemetery Chapel Sun. at 11.30am. All age service 1st Sun; Morning Worship 3rd Sun; Holy Communion 2nd, 4th Sun.
Costa del Sol (West)
San Pedro, Sunday 10a.m. (Holy Communion) Parroquia Virgen del Rocío.
Sotogrande, Sunday 12 noon. (Holy Communion 2nd & 4th Sundays) La Iglesia de Nuestra Sra. de la Merced. Chaplaincy House. www.costachurch.com
Nerja: Sun 12 noon, San Miguel church, Wed. 9.30am. (Church shop, C/Malaga 952 522 460.) Rev. Geoffrey Johnston, 952521339.
Almuñécar: Capilla de Nuestra Señora del Carmen, (Fishermen's chapel) Chinasol. Sun. 9.30am. (not August) Priest as Nerja.
Torre del Mar: St Barnabas IERE, 11am. Morning Prayer 1st and 3rd Sunday, H.C. 2nd and 4th. Lux Mundi centre. 952030461.
Gibraltar: Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Sun 10.30. Tel. 78377.
Benalmádena Costa: Songs of Praise, Interdenominational church service, Castillo Bil Bil. Sun. 5.30pm. Oct. – May. 648666152.

MUSLIM

Marbella: Mezquita del Rey Abdulaziz. Friday 2.30pm. 952774143.
Fuengirola: Mezquita del Centro Cultural Suhail, Parque Doña Sofía. Friday worship 2.30pm. Tel 952473916.
Malaga: Mezquita, C/San Agustín 11. Friday 2.30pm. 952228595.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Marbella: Santo Cristo del Calvario Church, Avda. del Calvario: Holy Mass in English, 11am. every Sunday. Tel: 952774 899.
Fuengirola: Capilla San José, Las Rampas (Upper Level), Daily Mass (in English): Mon-Fri 11am. Sat 7pm. Sun 11am.
Fuengirola: Lux Mundi, C/ Nueva, 12 Sun.
Arroyo de la Miel: Mass in English Parroquia de la Inmaculada, Sunday 1.30pm.
Calahonda: Ermita de San Miguel, 12 Sun.
Benalmádena Costa: Parish Church of La Virgen del Carmen, Avda. Bonanza. Bilingual mass English/Spanish Sundays 10.30am.
Torre del Mar: Lux Mundi, Avda. Moscatel,1-“I”. Saturday. Winter 5pm, summer 6 pm. 952543334.
Chiclana (Cadiz): Nstra Señora de Europa church, Urb. Novo Sancti Petri, RC Mass in English and German, Sunday 10.30am
Pueblo Nuevo de Guadiaro - Sotogrande (Cadiz): Mass in English, Saturday 7pm and Sunday 10.30am at Santuario de la Divina Misericodia
Malaga: Catholic mass in English, Avenida Santiago Ramón y Cajal, Ciudad Jardín. 11.30am Sunday. 952260760.

METHODIST CHURCH

Gibraltar: Methodist Church, 297 Main Street. Sun 11am and 8pm. +350 200 77491/+350 200 40870. Rev. Fidel Patron.
Sotogrande: La Iglesia de Nuestra Sra. de la Merced 1st and 3rd Sundays 11.45a.m. For more info. call 952 895 102.

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Malaga: Sun 10.30 am, C/Babel 1.
Algeciras: Sun 10.30 am. C/Sevilla 43. Tel. 956630894.
Nerja: Sun. 10.30 a.m. C/Granada,83. Tel. 607 522 671

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Arroyo de la Miel: Avda Del Cerro de Viento, s/n . Tues. 7.30pm. Sat. 4.30pm. Tel. 952561170.
Fuengirola: Kingdom Hall, Plaza Hispanidad, Service Meeting, Fri 7.30pm. 952469082.
Malaga: C/José Palanca, 20. Service Fri 8pm. Tues 7.15pm.
San Pedro: C/ Amor 6, Fuente Nueva. English: Sun 11am & Wed 7.30pm. Tagalog: Sun 1.30pm & Tues 7.30pm. Kingdom Hall 952788855.
Torrox Costa: Local 17, Urb Costa de Oro. Sun 11 a.m., Weds 7pm. Tel. 952526740.
Torre del Mar: Calle Infantes, Conjuntos Islas del Sol. Scandinavian Sun 6pm, Thurs 7pm. German Sun 11am and Fri 7pm.
Coín: Calle Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente. Weds 7.30pm, Sun 11.30am. 952499239.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH / BAPTIST CHURCH

Los Boliches: Evangelical Church, Paseo Marítimo 77. Sun:Worship and Bible teaching, 4pm. Weds: Bible study and prayer 7.30pm. Tel 952460728
Torremolinos: Evangelical Community Church. Sun service 11am. C/Gregorio Marañón 4. 952384706
Torremolinos: Gloryhouse International Christian Center. African Pentecostal style. Sun 11am C/ Danza Invisible, 7/8, Bloque D, Nogalera. Pastor Moses. 679740825, 951210300
Nerja: Fellowship of the King, Pasaje San Miguel, Sundays at 10.30am. 952 969 058 / 958 658 439.
Nerja: Community Bible Fellowship, C/ Pintada 35, 2nd floor. English/ Spanish Worship, Sunday 10am. 952521776.
Torre del Mar: Cornerstone International Church. C/Solera 2. Sunday 11.30am. Wednesday 6.30pm Bible study.
Calahonda: The Evangelical Christian Fellowship, Ermita San Miguel. Sun 4.30pm. Rev. Peter Riggall, 952 588 160.
Arroyo de la Miel: Arroyo Baptist Church, Sun 4pm. Conjunto Zodiaco, Edif. Aries, C/ Sagitario. Tel. 95244796/952386716.
Calahonda: Baptist Church, Calle San Jeronimo 1, Worship Sunday 11 am with Sunday School. 952832533.
La Línea: Asambleas de Dios. C/San José, 41. Thurs 9pm. Sun 11am & 8 pm.
Marbella: Int. Christian F'ship. Sun 11.30am Ed. Milla de Oro. Tel 952810391.
Mijas Costa: Iglesias International Costa del Sol, C/José de Orbaneja 10. Sun 11am and 7pm; Thur 7pm Tel:636 422 7
Puerto Banús: Christian Church (The Wave) Worship Service: Sun 11am. The Wave Café: Wed 11am. Prayer: Fri 12pm. 637408194/5 puertobanuschurch.com
Salobreña: Fellowship of the King. Various locations. Sundays at 10am Tel.635 358 808 / 958 645 027
La Viñuela: El Puente Christian Fellowship. Sundays 11am. Under Maroma Inmobiliaria. 952117145 / 952518185
Fuengirola: Living Waters Community Fellowship. C/Pintor Nogales, Las Rampas. Sundays 11am.

Torremolinos: Christian ministry. Healing of traumatic memories. Tel.604199751
Gibraltar: Brethren Assembly, Queensway Quay. Sun 11am, Minister F. Baldachino.
Benalmádena Costa: Elim Family F'ship. Sun 11am. Pastor Howard 647379564 www.elimfamilyfellowship.com
San Pedro: Elim Family Fellowship. Sun 3.30pm. 695 115 496
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Fuengirola: Ark Christian Fellowship Family Worship. Sun 11am, C/Rio Darro 2, Plaza Juncal. Tel.: 952 592 171.
Fuengirola: Costa del Sol Bible School, Healing Clinic and “The Beauty of Holiness”. Rev. Joyce McNaughton 663706806.
Fuengirola: The Way, Christian Counselling Ministry. Tel. 634369414/ 951135441.
Malaga: Believers Loveworld Inc.(Christ Embassy) Sunday11am, Wed 7pm, Sat 5pm. C/Cantimpla 11, Av. de Europa 951955354/672805789.
Marbella: House of Judah (Jewish & Gentile Believers) Bilingual Fri. Worship 7.30pm - NH Marbella Hotel Tel: 605924555.
Mijas Costa: Baptist, Bi-Lingual services Sun 11.30am and 7pm; Thur 7pm Tel:636 422 717 www.libertadmijascosta.com
Heaven's Gate Pentecostal Church Int: Benalmádena: Carril de Sirocco 1, Worship- Sun 11am- 6pm, F'ship- Friday 7.30pm, 602392139
Fuengirola: Christian Family Centre Int. Worship Sun 1pm, Fellowship Tue 7pm Church auditorium, C/Jacinto Benavente, 10. Tel: 605329074
Granada: Avda Andalucía, 53, La Chana, Worship- Sun 6pm, 605329074
Malaga: Avda de Europa, 69, Worship- Sunday 9am, Fellowship- Wednesday 7.30pm, 605329074

DUTCH EVANGELICAL

Fuengirola: Skandinaviska Turistkyran. Ed. M del Carmen. Paseo Marítimo 77 Los Boliches, Sundays 9.30.
Torremolinos: Sun 11.30 in Holland Huis. Avenida Carlota Alessandri 12.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (PRESBYTERIAN)

Fuengirola: Sun 10.30am at Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, C/Nueva 3. Tel 952638245 or 952475474.
Gibraltar: St. Andrew's Church, Sun 10.30am. Tel 20077040.
Torre del Mar: Sun 11am, Legend's Bar, C/Don Cipriano Maldonado Jiménez.

BAHAI

Bahai Information Office, C/Ricardo Soriano, 35, Marbella.
Marbella: 952 90 21 21
Fuengirola: 951 259 742.
Malaga: 952 214 052.
Benalmádena: 952 442 424.
Alhaurín de la Torre: 952411496.
Rincón de la Victoria: 952 402 870.
Gibraltar: +350 200 73287.

SYNAGOGUES

Torremolinos: Beth Minzi, Av. Palma de Mallorca 55; Castillo San Luis, Local 14. Daily services. 952052550.
Marbella: Beth El, Urb. El Real, Km 184. Services, Fri in summer 8.30pm winter 7pm Sat & holidays 10am 952859395

QUAKERS

Malaga: Quakers (Society of Friends). Info: zvi@gotadsl.co.uk

NORWEGIAN SEAMEN'S CHURCH

Calahonda: El Campanario, Av del Cortijo 3. Sun 4 pm, 952939800
www.sjomannskirken.no/costadelsol

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Denmark	Calle Córdoba 6 404, Malaga	952211797
Norway	Avda Los Boliches, 60, Edf Rosenkranz, Fuengirola	952667955
Canada	C/Cervantes, Edif. Horizonte, Malaga	952223346
Germany	Mauricio Moro Pareto 2, Malaga	952363591
Sweden	Calle Córdoba 6, 5th floor, Malaga	952604383
Ireland	Avda. Los Boliches, Fuengirola	952475108
France	1, Plaza de Santa Cruz, Seville	954293200
Italy	Calle Lagasca, 98, Madrid	912106910
Austria	Alameda de Colón 26, Malaga	952600267
Finland	Calle Blasco de Garay, 7, Malaga	952212435
Saudi Arabia	Mauricio M. Pareto 2 bloque Sur 2º, Malaga	952310358
Greece	Salitre, 16, Malaga	952311847
Iceland	Paseo Marítimo 91, 29640 Fuengirola	952661200
Philippines	C/Marqués de Larios 4, 2º, Malaga	952222757
Hungary	Av. de Andalucía 26 29007 Malaga	952308393

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National Police	091	
Local (municipal) Police	092	
Medical	061	
Fire	080	
Guardia Civil	062	
Sea Rescue	900202202	
Crime report	902102112	
ENGLISH-SPEAKING HELP		
Samaritans in Spain	900525100	
Alcoholics Anonymous	600379110	
Age Care	952933409	
Age Concern (Estepona)	608458555	
ANDALUSIAN HEALTH SERVICE		
Salud Responde (doctors' appointments & advice)	955545060	
ESTEPONA		
Bus Station	955038665	
Taxi Service	952802900	
Tourist Office	952802002	
Town Hall	952801100	
Foreign Residents Dept.	952809031	
FUENGIROLA		
Bus Station	952475066	
Taxi Service	952471000	
Tourist Office	952467625	
Town Hall	952589300	
Foreign Residents Dept.	952589440	
MALAGA		
Bus Station	952350061	
Railway Station	902240202	
Taxi Service	952345693	
Tourist Office	951926020	
MARBELLA		
Bus Station	955038665	
Taxi Service	952774488	

TOURIST OFFICES		
Tourist Office	952768760	
Town Hall	952761100	
Foreign Residents Dept.	952768766	
MIJAS		
Town Hall	952485900	
Town Hall Las Lagunas	952473125	
Taxi	952478288	
Tourism Office	952589034	
Foreign Resident Dept.	952589010	
NERJA		
Bus Station	902422242	
Taxi Service	952520537	
Tourist Information	952521531	
Town Hall	952548400	
Foreign Resident Dept.	952548401	
TORREMOLINOS		
Bus Station	902143144	
Taxi Service	952380600	
Tourist Office	952371909	
Town Hall	952379400	
Foreign Residents Dept.	952374231	
BENALMADENA		
Bus Station	902450550	
Taxi Service	952441545	
Tourist Office	952442494	
Town Hall	952374231	
Foreign Residents Dept.	952442494	
VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA		
Bus Station	952503162	
Taxi	952540016	
Town Hall	952559100	
Tourist Office	952541104	
GIBALTAR		
General emergency	199/112(mobiles)	
Fire/ambulance (emergency)	190	
Tourist Office	(00350) 20074950	
Taxi	(00350) 20070027	

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION
CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Harmony V	30-31/08	Marbella	Motril	01.00	23.59
Seabourn Encore	04/09	-	Cartagena	07.00	17.00
Azura	06/09	Southampton	Messina	07.00	18.00
Aidastella	07/09	-	-	08.00	18.00
Wind Surf	07/09	Almeria	Gibraltar	09.00	23.59
Harmony V	9-10/09	Marbella	Marbella	01.00	23.59
Mein Schiff 5	11/09	Cadiz	Palma	08.00	19.00



CLUBS

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
Puerto de la Duquesa: 634717317 / duquesaportrbtlspainsouth@gmail.com Mijas Costa: 615758959. Fuengirola: 952468106. Costa del Sol-Torre del Mar: 628343198 Los Romanes: 618293749. Torremolinos: 952370907 Welfare 951309610. Coín: 663157776 www.coinrbl.info Marbella: 952774572 www.britishlegion.org.uk/ branches/marbella Alhaurín el Grande: 952112118/637134616. Benjarafe: 685413642. Nerja: 952526423. Albox: albox.chairman@rbl.community Mollina: 957535211. Riders' branch: 952514226 /653108415
BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
andalucia@britchamber.com 951203094
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
English-speaking groups. 600379110.
AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS
English meetings: www.alanonspain.org
POSITIVELY PINK ASSOCIATION
Breast cancer. www.positively-pink.com info@positively-pink.com
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


ROYAL AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
Costa del Sol, www.rafacostadelsol.co.uk
CONSERVATIVES ABROAD
conservatives.costadelsol@gmail.com
INTERNAT. LABOUR GROUP
Fuengirola: Alf Brewer 952449408
ASSOC. FRANCÓFONOS
All French speakers welcome. 951087994
AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL CLUB
Almuñécar-Torrox nerjaclub@yahoo.com www.americaninternationalclub.com
NEDERLANSE CLUB COSTA DEL SOL
Tel: 952473545. Various Costa locations
AMERICAN CLUB COSTA DEL SOL
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.
SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING
Arroyo. Terry 952468498/666622204
INTERNATIONAL CLUB ESTEPONA
www.theiceclub.es 952802549.
OUT OF AFRICA CLUB
Trish: 952668081
U3A LEARNING FOR PLEASURE
Axarquía: www.u3aaxarquia.com Fuengirola: www.u3afuengirolacostadelsol.com Marbella & Inland: www.u3a.international
BRITISH SCOUTING MOVEMENT
1st Fuengirola Scout Group. Robert Troost 610755995 www.fuengirolascouts.com
THE ARTS SOCIETY
Costa del Sol: www.theartssociety-costadelsol.org/ Nerja: 952533373. theartssocietynerja.com De la Frontera: San Roque Club. nadfas-delafrontera.org Gibraltar: theartssociety.org/gibraltar Benahavis: 663459103. theartssocietybenahavis.com
MARBELLA BUSINESS NETWORK
Joe 694442331 wednesdayjoe@gmail.com
THE SENDERISTAS
Multi national walking group. www.senderistas.eu
THE FIELD CLUB
Walks. Fuengirola. www.thefieldclub.org

COSTA CHORDBUSTERS
Anne Bowles. 952464184
THE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC SOCIETY
www.timschoir.org. Gilly: 952573983.
COLLEGIUM MUSICUM COSTA DEL SOL
International choir/orchestra. 952775492.
CANTOLIBRE CHOIR
Amateur singers Estepona. 692558 041
NEW SAYDO SINGERS
Every Tuesday: Kate: 685563764 jj2devine@yahoo.co.uk
R.T.'S LINE DANCE CLUB
Calahonda / Fuengirola / Benalmádena. Bob 952931754 or 697441313.
BOOGIE SHOES LINE DANCE CLUB
Estepona, The Roadhouse Bar. Thurs 19.45
MISSISSIPPI COASTERS
Line dance. Fuengirola. Bob 697441313.
JIVE DANCE CLUB
jivespain.com 635717211.
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
ANDALUCIA BIRD SOCIETY
952817843 www.andaluciabirdsociety.org
COSTA PRESS CLUB
www.costapressclub.com
COSTA WOMEN
www.costawomen.com/ 677251058
TANGENT CLUB & EX-LADIES CIRCLERS
952886772 mbl63@hotmail.co.uk
41 CLUBS & EX-ROUND TABLERS
Costa del Sol: 952818772 / 627462410 Nerja: Alfie 626998626 41clubnerja.org
PATCHWORK AND QUILTING
www.quiltersdelsol.org
COSTA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
www.photoclubspain.com
ASTRONOMY COSTA DEL SOL
astronomycostadelsol.com 616679453.
NERJA CHICK-LIT BOOK CLUB
New friends, great books! 693373530
LIONS CLUBS
Malaga Ilusion: May Ramirez 616613705;


Leos: Gonzalo 627712351; University: Sara 626835485 Marbella Costa del Sol: Jacqueline Dueñas 619755031; Marbella Francófono: Rosalyn Bakker; 952884340; Marbella German: T. Heyden 667760230; Marbella Decano: M. Álvarez 619414119; Mijas: Jose Guasp Borreda 639 080 569; La Cala: 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 Benahavis: 695542881 Estepona: 952800999. Fuengirola/Mijas: 696494492. Marbella: 952821121 San Pedro: 951318381 Marbella - Guadalmina: 952888077, Mijas International: 644242365
OVER 40S SINGLES CLUB
Estepona: El Limonero Tel: 952806759
ARROYO SOCIAL & WELFARE CLUB
Arroyo de la Miel. Jean 952563580.
TORREMOLINOS & DIST. SOCIAL CLUB
Wed am. Rosaleda Bar. Mike 626880722.
ARROYO FRIENDLY CLUB
Benalmádena. 952446935.
SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
653771625 www.soroptimist.es
HASH HOUSE HARRIERS
Mijas: 695660450. Malaga: 654633430.
AMIGAS DE CASA
Vva del Trabuco. 952751424/952751304 www.trabucotimes.com/amigasdecasa.htm
CLUB CHARITY AND PLEASURE
Estepona. President Terry 952813336 clubcharityandpleasure.wordpress.com
COLMENAR DISTRICT SOCIAL CLUB
Marjorie 951163071.
TENNIS CLUB 'EL CAPITAN INT'
Torre del Mar. Patrick 675391967.
THE GOOD COMPANIONS CLUB
Los Boliches. Tel: Tony White 951661201.
CLUB DE BÉISBOL COSTA DEL SOL B.B.C.
952202940 / 952464468. Mijas
AIKIDO TOMIKI SHODOKAN
Different levels. Tel: 952131670, Malaga
TAEKWONDO CLUB
Fighting Dragons Club Benalmádena. Mike 618149373 www.vipfitness.tv
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
KNITTED KNOCKERS SPAIN
Free handmade breast prostheses. www.kkscostadelsol.org or email info.spanishknockers@gmail.com
FABULOSO SINGING GROUP
Mijas / Fuengirola 622514781
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 21st - February 19th
Midweek and the weekend can be truly romantic times when a commitment may be given. Is this real passion? Be prepared to fully enjoy it.




Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Have a favour to ask someone? Midweek could see the best chance of success. Remember that knowledge can be fun and maybe enrol in a course or club beginning this week.




Aries
March 21st - April 20th
In a busy and productive time you are seen at your best. Social and business connections are supportive, helping to solve some long-term problems.




Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Social gatherings take up some time as there is reason to celebrate. Pleasure is utmost in your mind but it is certainly shared by others. A romantic time.




Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Spending time on improving your surroundings gives you pleasure. Clearing out cupboards and lofts seems like the thing to do now but check with loved ones.




Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Business being on the back burner a bit this week, please do get out and enjoy yourself. Any low mood moments will pass quickly if you look ahead.




Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
If energy is low for a few days then a slight delay to a plan can get it off to a better start. Socially you have everything to play for and you do need to have some of that playtime!




Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
A change in someone's attitude could take you by surprise. Before you have a knee-jerk reaction, however, think their reasons through.




Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Having a bright and enthusiastic air about you really works this week. Your creative side is in full swing so don't resist the urge to indulge it. Make the most of your time.



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Have confidence and enthusiasm in your ideas. The way forward becomes clear as a new member of your group makes suggestions. Sometimes, it can be fun to go more with the flow

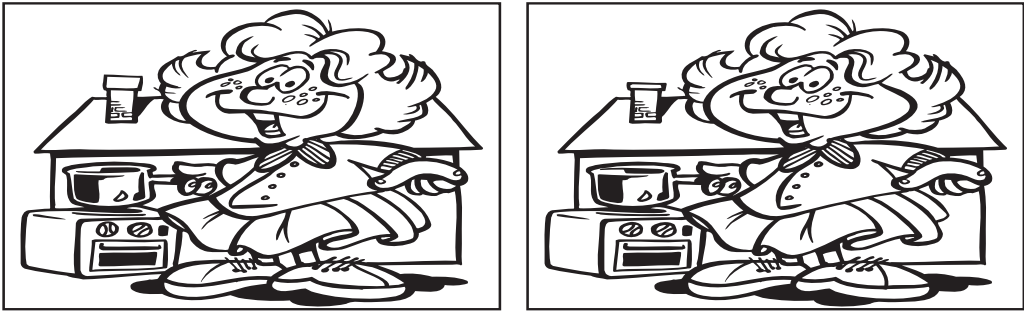


Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Friends can be persuasive when it comes to a pet project but few things are as simple as they first appear. Keep these business matters for the weekdays, anyway.

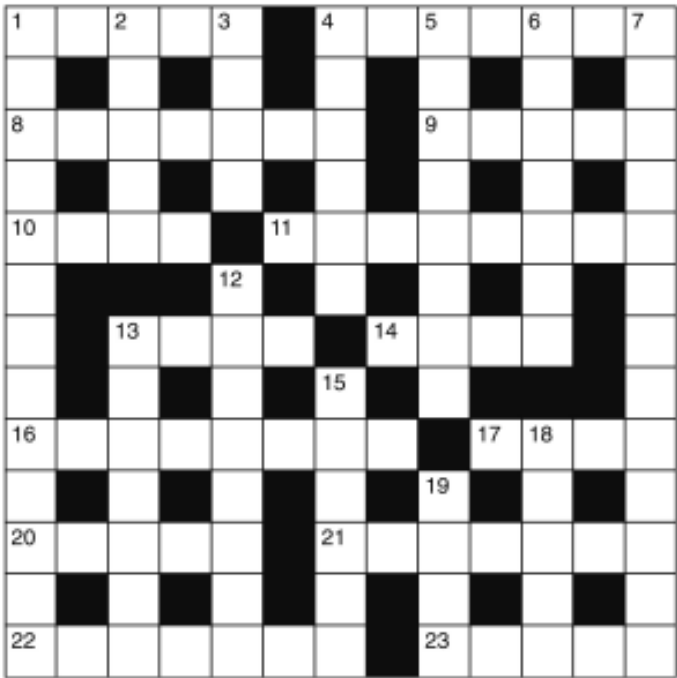


Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Love and support from those who love you is only a phone call away. Letting someone closer into your life could do them a favour. Maybe they have issues of their own that you can help with?

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11373



Across

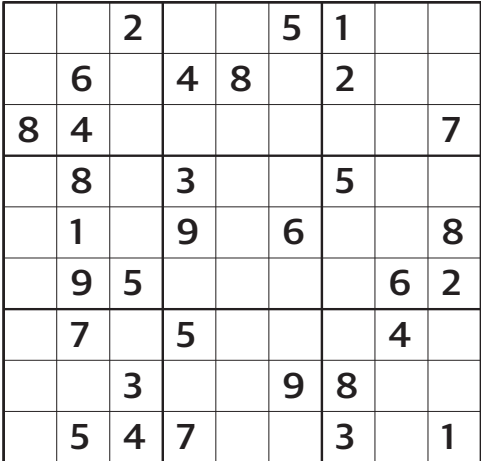
- 1 Medical man gets to the right vehicle (5)
- 4 In shocking stress, one doesn't surrender (7)
- 8 About some uncertainty in the defence (7)
- 9 Kind of accent found in the dead centre (5)
- 10 See 13 Across
- 11 It involves sportsman in a row (4-4)
- 13 & 10Ac You'll find drinkers break up a ball here! (4,4)
- 14 Shoots for trophies (4)
- 16 See 5 Down
- 17 Part of a leg of veal? (4)
- 20 Celebrated description of a score (5)
- 21 Unconscious, exhausted, eclipsed (7)
- 22 Alarmed about the end of the paper being marked (7)
- 23 Signifies what the poverty-stricken lack (5)

Down

- 1 The strains associated with troop movements (8,5)
- 2 Showing a regular variation in current levels (5)
- 3 Short way to inflict utter defeat (4)
- 4 Impose a limit on the fare (6)
- 5 & 16Ac A welcome spectacle for pupils with tender spots! (5,3,4,4)
- 6 The lowest of the marine creatures? (3-4)
- 7 Those connected with moving parts in the theatre (5-8)
- 12 Competing title-holder to put off the final held inside (8)
- 13 When red, it provides cardinal cover (7)
- 15 Back a proposition for a short time (8)
- 18 The scent of one with wanderlust, we hear (5)
- 19 A particular part of a Carmelite monastery (4)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

Instructions
Complete the square making sure that every row of nine numbers includes all digits from 1 to 9, every column includes all digits from 1 to 9 and every 3 by 3 subsection includes all digits from 1 to 9



THE WORDPUZZLER

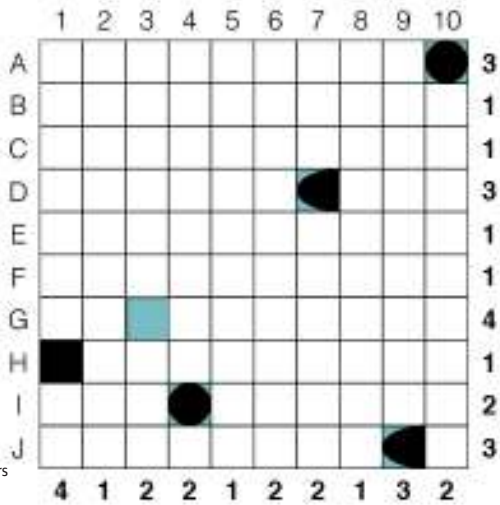
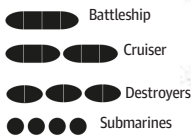


Can you identify the trees and shrubs from the anagrams listed below?

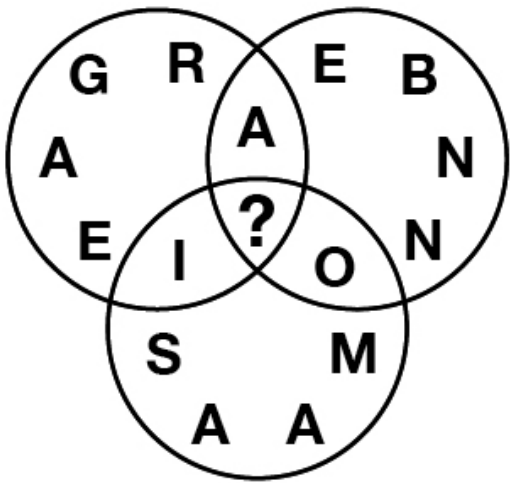
- 1. Inep
- 2. Slaab
- 3. Raced
- 4. Tead
- 5. Rulao
- 6. Zahla
- 7. Malp
- 8. Kate
- 9. Harcl
- 10. Pares

BATTLESHIPS

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



CIRCLEGRAM



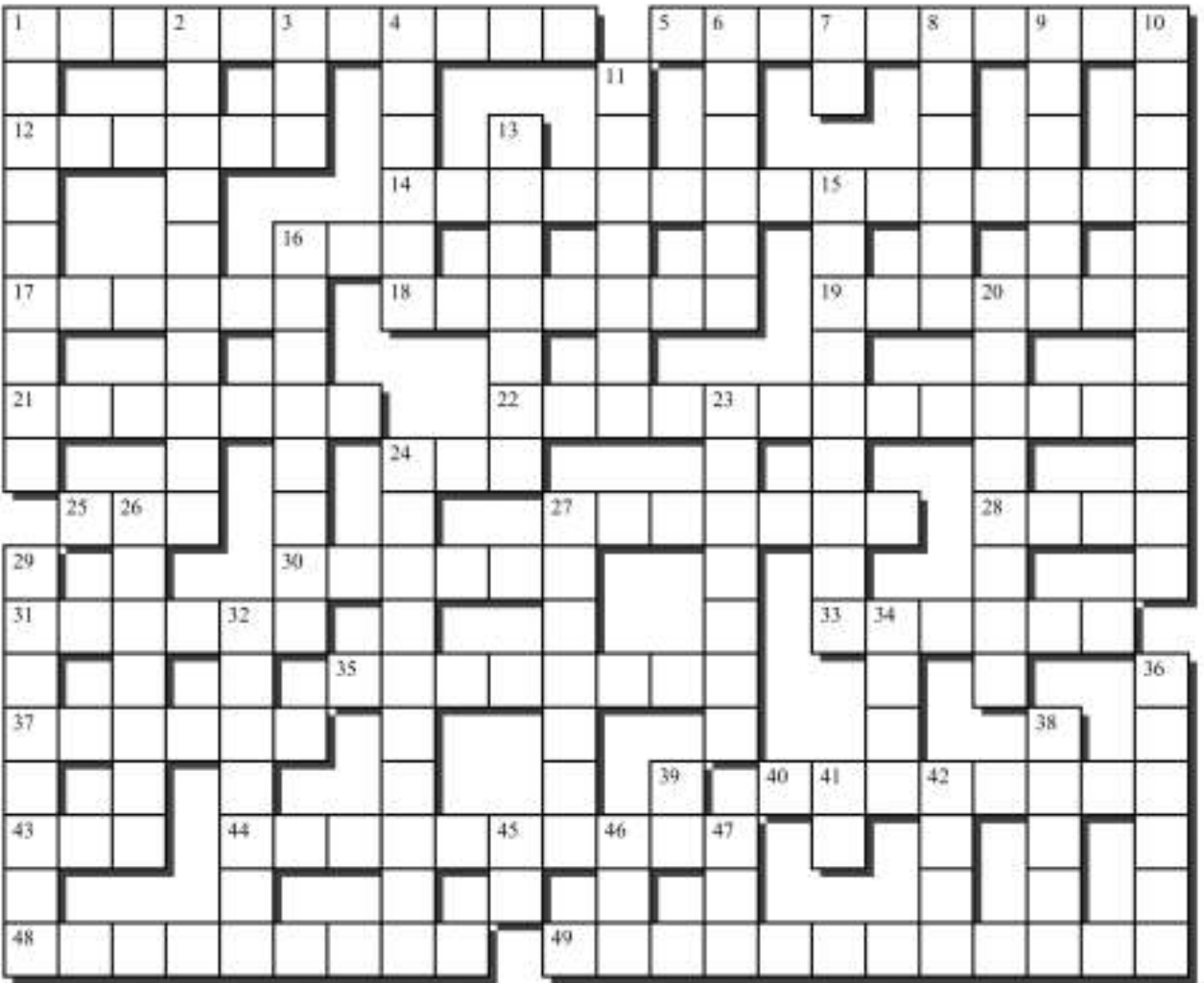
Instructions
Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters in each circle can be arranged to form words, names or terms on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across

 - 1) Hooded (11)
 - 5) Machine gun (10)
 - 12) Port (6)
 - 14) Cargo terminal (8,2,5) (15)
 - 16) I see (3)
 - 17) I walked (6)
 - 18) He will suffer (7)
 - 19) Hostess (7)
 - 21) To happen (7)
 - 22) Security guard (7,6) (13)
 - 24) Road (3)
 - 25) Echo (3)
 - 27) Informer (7)
 - 28) East (4)
 - 30) Lake (6)
 - 31) Raid (6)
 - 33) Southern (6)
 - 35) Germany (8)
 - 37) Routine (6)
 - 40) To shoot (8)
 - 43) Us (3)
 - 44) I didn't know (10)
 - 48) Security (9)
 - 49) Intimidation (12)
- Down

 - 1) Employees (9)
 - 2) Airport (10)
 - 3) One (3)
 - 4) Thefts (6)
 - 6) He escapes (6)
 - 7) D (musical note) (2)
 - 8) Boat (6)
 - 9) It cools (6)
 - 10) Robbers (11)
 - 11) Office (7)
 - 13) Fugitive (f) (7)
 - 15) Diamonds (9)
 - 16) Vehicle (8)
 - 20) Struggle (8)
 - 23) Foreign currencies (7)
 - 24) Surveillance (10)
 - 26) How many (7)
 - 27) Horse (7)
 - 29) Thieves (8)
 - 32) Fork (7)
 - 34) Uses (4)
 - 36) Van (6)
 - 38) I grew (5)
 - 39) My (2)
 - 41) To go (2)
 - 42) Battery (4)
 - 45) Neither (2)
 - 46) With (3)
 - 47) Like that (3)



Correction: There was an unfortunate error in the Language Crossword published on August 23rd. The answer to 17 Across was given as “deci” which of course should have been “dije” as “decir” is an irregular verb. We apologise for the confusion caused and thank the reader who pointed this out.

ANSWERS

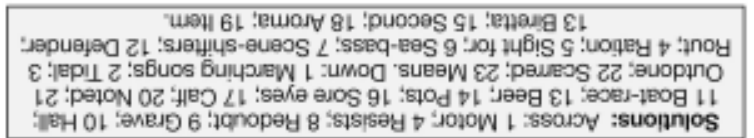
Quiz answers

Kalaallit is closely related to Inuit. English as second languages. (Greenlandic) with Danish and of Greenland is Kalaallit. **Of interest:** The official language of Greenland is Kalaallit. **Answer:** Greenland. Klondike Gold Strike in 1896. of Alaska subsidised with the Icebox. "Opposition to the purchase "Seward's Folly" or "Seward's deal to purchase Alaska called it price of \$7.2 million. Critics of the purchase Alaska from Russia for a Seward signed an agreement to the US Secretary of State William **Of interest:** On March 30, 1867, **Answer:** 7.2 million

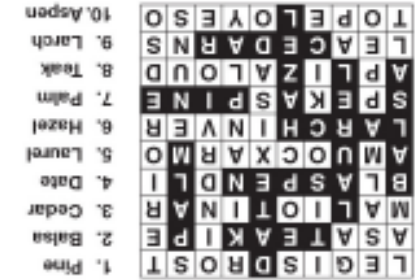
Language Crossword



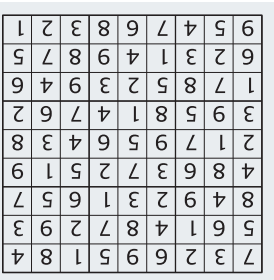
Cryptic Crossword



Wordpuzzler solution



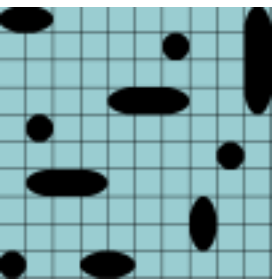
Sudoku solution



Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is L. Algeria, Lebanon, Somalia, all Arabic countries.

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



A hero of the US War of Independence

Last week: Marbella

This pretty scene with cross and drinking fountain is in Marbella old town in the leafy Plaza de la Iglesia.



THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

Heading to the end of summer

Time flies, as we all say, when a significant date or anniversary comes round on the calendar. So we're already heading into September, the Malaga fair is over and the next big fiestas can almost be labelled autumnal. In this, the latter part of the summer, the faces of local residents gain that tired look as they carry their chairs to the beach, a daily routine they carried out with fresher faces and more sprightly steps in June and July. At SUR in English we hope we can brighten up that final stretch of the sea-

son with the usual combination of news and features. Meanwhile it's time to start talking about going "back to school". The the football season has started again and as usual we'll bring the Malaga CF match reports to you online and in the following Friday's edition. Let's hope we'll be reporting a win for the Blues and Whites next week as they are playing Girona in Girona this Sunday. Contact us by email: surinenglish.su@diariosur.es or via Facebook @surenglish or Twitter@SUR_English



The only woman at the sardine fire

Extremadura-born Dolores Blanco has mastered the art of the 'espeto', traditionally a male-dominated profession on the Costa del Sol

**SUSANA
ZAMORA**



At the age of 20, Dolores Blanco (Trujillo, 1977) found a job in the hospitality industry and spent the next 15 years waiting on tables. She started in her native Extremadura, but her profession saw her move where the work was: Cadiz, Huelva, Pamplona... until in 2010 she arrived on the Costa del Sol. "Ten years ago coming to 'work the coast' in the summer was still a good option," she says.

Since then she has never been without work and now she admits that she is in love with her current role as an 'espetera'. She is one of the select group of professionals responsible for the skewers of sardines ('espetos') cooked on the open wood fires at beach restaurants. And she is the only woman in Malaga province in this traditionally male role.

But how exactly did a woman from the coastless province of Cáceres end up cooking what is the Costa del Sol's most traditional seaside dish?

"When I arrived in Malaga, I'd never seen an espeto before and I was fascinated by this way of cooking sardines from day one," she explains. By chance that same year there was an espetero course in Amfremar, an association Dolores was involved with as a volunteer.

"I asked if I could do it as there weren't any women. There I learned the basics." It was working later in 'chiringuitos' (beach restaurants)



Dolores Blanco with an espeto of tasty sardines at the beach bar where she works. :: S. ZAMORA

alongside professionals that she says she really picked up the tricks of the trade.

"The sardines are toasted in the heat from the flames, a kind of hot chamber that forms between the fire and the fish," she explains. "This heat is fundamental," she reveals, "as is time - around eight minutes. You can't rush them. The fish needs permanent attention to make sure it is cooked just right."

The 42-year-old recently confirmed her commitment to her profession when she turned down the offer of a job as a secretary in Gijón in northern Spain. "I've never been without work," she says.

This traditional way of cooking sardines is currently among the

hopefuls to be declared intangible cultural heritage by Unesco. Dolores supports the bid.

"It's unique and deserves that distinction," she says. "It has to be preserved."

She doesn't rule out the idea of transporting the espeto to other areas, even her hometown of Trujillo, providing there is "good olive wood" for the fire. However the reason for this tradition being special to the Costa del Sol is clear: "The small sardine that lives in the Alboran Sea is exceptional, first for its small size (around 12 centimetres), its shiny skin and for being especially tasty. In the summer they eat more, because there is more plankton and so they have more oil." These sar-

"Malaga's sardines are something else. They're like sweets - you can't get enough of them"

dines, ideal for espetos, are known as "manolitas".

This explains the general rule that sardines can only be eaten when there's no R in the month; the sardines are at their best between May and August, but the espeteros don't stand with their arms folded for the rest of the year, when other types of fish are cooked in the same way.

But spending the day in front of a

fire in the heat of the Costa del Sol summer, is not the most comfortable of jobs. "I try to drink a lot of water to keep hydrated and use sun cream, especially on the face. Sometimes, if I get really hot and bothered I wet my head in the shower next to the chiringuito to cool off," she says.

The job is also a smelly one. "The smell goes with you until you've had a shower with soap and water at home," she adds.

Pleasant surprise

Dolores admits she never liked sardines much until she tried the Costa's espetos. "These are something else. They're like sweets, you can't get enough of them. What's more they're healthy and reasonably priced," she points out. A typical espeto with five or six sardines can cost between two and six euros.

While the traditional skewer was always made of cane, Dolores has happily moved on to the stainless steel version. "I live in the 21st century. I can understand how the veteran espeteros get nostalgic over canes, but these can leave splinters, they're less hygienic and what's more are banned by the Health authorities. I prefer the steel. It's cleaner and lasts longer," she says.

Dolores makes up for her petite 1.50 metres in height and 40 kilos with her positive and extrovert personality, reflected by her blue hair. So, how does she feel about being the only woman in a typically male profession?

"I don't understand it because women are now in all professions. A woman can do the job as well as a man, if not better. In general we women are perfectionists, organised, disciplined, tidy and very clean. I thought at first that it was going to be harder but everyone has supported me," she says.

Little surprise, then, that her current employers, who were reticent when they took her on last year, are happy with their unique espetera.

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