

Real football, just a bit slower

Southern Spain's only walking football league got under way at the weekend **P40&41**



POLITICAL SCANDAL IN ANDALUCÍA

Jail sentences handed down for a decade of corruption in the regional government

'ERE' case

Former politicians and officials found guilty of 680m-euro misappropriation

Presidents at fault

Ex-PSOE Junta president José Antonio Griñán given six years

Juanma Moreno, PP Junta leader

"I feel ashamed. Today is a sad day for Andalucía"

On Tuesday, judges in the ERE mega corruption case at the Junta de Andalucía from 2001-2009 delivered their first damning verdict. Nineteen former top PSOE politicians

and heads of department were sentenced with varying prison sentences of up to almost eight years and bans from public office for misappropriation and corruption.

Firms in trouble, often favourable to the party, were given public money for redundancies without control, even adding fake employees or mispending funds. **P14**



DOUBLE STAR TRIUMPH FOR RONDA AND MARBELLA

Restaurants Bardal and Skima bring back two stars each from the Michelin gala in Seville, while Kabuki Raw in Casares loses its distinction **P6**

All the Malaga-based restaurateurs awarded Michelin stars: Mauricio Giovanini (Messina), Juanjo Carmona (El Lago), José Carlos García, Diego Gallegos (Sollo), Mario Cachinero (Skina), Benito Gómez (Bardel) and Marcos Granda (Skina) after the gala. **RAÚL DOBLADO**

New UK ambassador Hugh Elliott pays official visit to the Costa del Sol

The new British ambassador to Spain had a packed diary for his two days on the Costa del Sol this week. Meeting both members of the British community in the area and local Spanish officials, he provided a reassuring message to both groups about life after Brexit.

In Manilva on Wednesday, Hugh Elliott attended the 5th Brexit Seminar, taking questions alongside local mayors. On Thursday, he met officials from different authorities in Malaga and thanked them for their support for UK citizens. **P2&3**



International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Gender violence victim numbers continue to rise **P10**

Unique Civil War information and research centre in Jimena de la Frontera celebrates its third birthday **P26**

A star-studded opening for A Chorus Line. Red carpet glamour in Malaga as Antonio Banderas opens his new theatre **P20**



Hugh Elliott: "If you are British and living in Spain, make sure you are registered as resident"

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Dozens of people attended the 5th Manilva Brexit Seminar as a panel of experts, including the new ambassador, addressed the concerns of British residents

MANILVA. Britain's new ambassador to Spain, Hugh Elliott spoke to expats in Manilva on Wednesday evening about Brexit worries. A panel of experts was also on hand to discuss issues affecting Britons, such as pensions, residency and healthcare.

Some 60 people attended the seminar that was organised by Manilva council. The ambassador's visit was part of a whistle-stop tour of the Costa del Sol, after travelling down from Madrid that morning.

Speaking to SUR in English at



Hugh Elliott (left) with local political and community leaders on Wednesday. :: ASH BOLTON

the event, Hugh Elliott, who has been in his role for three months, said that despite a change of prime minister in the United Kingdom, a new government and a new Brexit deal, the protection of citizens' rights had not changed.

He explained: "Citizens' rights, which is a key issue of that withdrawal agreement, are not changed. So citizens' rights are fully protected. There is a transition period until the end of 2020 under that withdrawal agreement.

"On those fundamental things that are of most interest to people here, things have not changed."

Asked what the most important advice people should take away from the seminar was, Hugh added: "One, if you are British and living

in Spain, make sure that you are registered as resident in Spain, [the green card or A4 paper from National Police stations]. It's a very key thing to do. Many people have done that, but by no means everybody.

"The second thing is to sign up to our online Living In Spain guide. That will keep you up to date with the very latest information that we have got as things develop."

After the panel had finished speaking, questions were taken from the audience. An issue that cropped up was how Britons living abroad for more than 15 years still can't vote in the United Kingdom.

Helen Woodrow, 68, from England, who has lived in Manilva for 15 years, made a plea to the ambassador to talk to MPs in the UK about abolishing the 15-year voting rule.

Addressing fellow Brits, she said: "What you need to do, even if you have been here for a number of years, is contact the MP where you were last registered to vote and ask them if they can support a government bill to get us the vote. Nobody knows what's going to happen in the election. We might be in the realms of another referendum, in which case we need a voice."

Marbella's population rises to 152,000 after registration campaign

The council has boosted the number of official residents thanks to Brexit and free bus travel

:: HÉCTOR BARBOTTA / N. H.

MARBELLA. Councillors in Marbella are celebrating a rise in the resort's population of some 10,000 in the last year, in part thanks to a drive to get unregistered local residents to sign on to the town hall census

roll, or 'padrón'. Marbella's population now stands at around 152,000, making it the seventh biggest municipal area by number of residents in Andalucía.

Spokesperson for the council, Félix Romero, said that two incentives had helped boost the number of official residents. Firstly, the new town hall policy to offer free bus travel to locals listed on the padrón, and secondly, a likely imminent Brexit, which has encouraged more UK na-



The resort is believed to have a 'hidden' population. :: J-L

tionals to come forward and join the census, as a step towards protecting their rights when Britain leaves the EU.

Romero explained that initially after the referendum many Britons left the register, but that, in the past year, there has been an increase in

UK residents again.

Real figures for Marbella's population are estimated to be as high as 200,000 for most of the year, however some people choose not to join the padrón and declare where they live, despite a legal requirement to do so. The council in Marbella admits that it does not know how much of the 10,000 increase in the last year is down to newcomers, or people who already resided in the area but still hadn't come forward.

Not the same as the green card

Registering on the town hall padrón is a requirement for foreigners who live several months a year in Spain and does not affect tax status. It is not the same as the green EU certificate of residency card (or A4 paper), organised via National Police stations, which is the main document needed in preparation for Brexit.

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BREXIT INFORMATION

► **Nerja meeting.** A British consulate pop-up event will be held at Nerja town hall on Wednesday 27 November from 10.30am to 12.30pm. A member of the consular team will be on hand to answer questions.

► **UK government website.** www.gov.uk/living-in-spain

Hugh Elliott responded: "It is something that we regularly report back as a major concern. I'll continue to do that." The ambassador added that for those who were still eligible to vote, there was time to register online, as the deadline is 26 November.

Also speaking at the event was the mayor of Manilva, Mario Jiménez, the mayor of Casares, Pepe Carrasco, Carlos Jordan from San Roque council, host Dean Tyler Shelton, Derek Langley from the British Chamber of Commerce in Spain, Alex Radford from My Lawyer in Spain, Joni Burnett of the Colegio de Administradores de Fincas de Malaga and Maryna Sergiyivna Yatsenyuk from Hola Bank.

Earlier on Wednesday Elliott and the British Consul, Charmaine Arbouin, attended an informal lunch in La Cala de Mijas. There he had the chance to meet representatives of a cross-section of British associations and charities on the Costa.



Charmaine Arbouin (left), Hugh Elliott (centre) and Francisco Salado. :: FRANCIS SILVA

UK ambassador hears about provincial drive to get foreigners to join the padrón

:: ANTONIO M. ROMERO

MALAGA. The Diputación, the provincial authority for Malaga, is to launch a public information campaign to encourage more of the foreign residents in the province, including the Costa del Sol, to join their local municipal 'padrón'.

The padrón, the town hall census of who is living in an area, is a legal requirement if people spend a lot of time in Spain and brings certain advantages. But many expatriates don't get around to going to their town hall to register.

The campaign will be aimed es-

pecially at British residents in the province, estimated to be more than 50,000 people, ahead of a possible exit from the European Union early next year.

The initiative was announced by Francisco Salado, president of the Diputación, after a meeting

with the new British Ambassador, Hugh Elliott, and the Malaga-based British Consul for Andalucía, Charmaine Arbouin on Thursday.

Tourism and trade

As well as the effects of Brexit on UK residents, the meeting also addressed both the possible impact on the some three million Britons that visit the area every year on holiday and the effect on trade between the UK and Malaga province, estimated at some 200 million euros a year.

Salado highlighted the success of Marbella council's recent initiative to encourage foreign residents to 'empadronarse' and join the town hall census, (see page 2). He explained that the padrón is used by central government to calculate how much money it gives to a municipality to support basic services such as policing, waste collection and public transport. In addition, the sooner the register is joined, residents who might need support in the future can access more council social services.

Salado also highlighted in the meeting the "excellent relationship" between Spain and the UK. Hugh Elliott thanked the Diputación for the campaign, saying it was important for people "to have their paperwork in order" ahead of Brexit. The ambassador also added that he expected tourism from Britain to be largely unaffected after Brexit as visitors "are welcomed so well".

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MARBELLA - FUENGIROLA - MANILVA

Sky Princess debuts in Malaga

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The Costa del Sol's cruise port welcomes one of the world's newest liners, the Sky Princess

MALAGA. The sparklingly new ocean liner Sky Princess commenced its inaugural cruise around the Iberian peninsula this week. On Tuesday it docked at the Levante quayside of Malaga's cruise liner port and was welcomed by city and regional tourism officials.

Malaga has emerged as a popular cruise port-of-call on Mediterranean itineraries, with thousands of visitors discovering the city each year. Princess cruises has a fleet of 19 vessels, with a three further 'Royal Class' cruise liners launching over the coming years, which are hoped to visit the Costa del Sol's capital.



The Sky Princess in Malaga port. :: A. FORBES



The cruise ship's atrium. :: PEDRO J. QUERO

The value of cruise tourism remains controversial, with some cities across the world attempting to reduce the impact of short-term visitors. Yet Rosa Sánchez, Malaga's Councillor for Tourism, who was among those who welcomed Sky Princess to the city, said that these premium cruise ships represented a valuable opportunity for visitors to discover Malaga, the city's art, history, gastronomy and wines. She also suggested that cruise visitors would be tempted to return again for a longer visit to discover more of what Malaga has to offer.

Sky Princess has a capacity of 3,500 guests, looked after by an international crew of over 1,400. The ship boasts the latest in guest services technology including Princess Cruises' 'OceanMedallion' system. Just a little larger than a euro coin, the wearable Medallion is not only a location device, but also allows guests to unlock their cabin; purchase products and services; quickly locate members of their family or group through interactive screens throughout the liner; and personalise their experiences on board.

Sky Princess is now crossing the Atlantic on a repositioning cruise, ready for its winter itineraries in the Caribbean.

112 REPORTS

Briton, 39, shot dead in Riviera del Sol

MIJAS

:: **Á. F. / J. C.** A 39-year-old British man died as a result of gunshot wounds in Riviera del Sol, Mijas, following a shootout on Thursday afternoon.

The emergency services were called at around 3.15pm and despite attempts at resuscitation, his life couldn't be saved.

The alleged perpetrator fled the scene in a high-end vehicle. Guardia Civil officers gave chase but at the time of going to press, no arrests had been made.

One dead and one injured in score settling

MARBELLA

:: **C. MÁRQUEZ.** One man was killed and another injured in a shoot-out in Marbella last Friday which appears to have been a settling of scores.

The incident occurred in the Andasol development and the emergency services were alerted at around 7.23pm.

According to sources, the man who died was of Arab origin, while the other man was taken to Hospital Costa del Sol with serious injuries as a result of bullet wounds.

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Owning Spanish property through a company – times have changed.

By Kelman Chambers, Partner, Blevins Franks

It used to be fairly common for people to own Spanish real estate through onshore and offshore corporate structures, particularly properties valued over €1 million. While there may be different reasons for choosing this ownership method, many people were aiming to avoid Spanish wealth tax and/or succession and gift tax.

But we are living in a very different world now. Governments, including Spain, have successfully implemented methods to crack down on tax fraud, to prevent future tax evasion and uncover past transgressions. They have now set their sights on 'aggressive tax planning' structures.

Spain's 2019 tax inspection plan focuses on international investors using opaque structures. The tax authorities are actively reviewing properties in Spain owned through corporate structures, with most inspections taking place in Malaga and Cadiz provinces and Balearic Islands. Various commentators are describing this type of ownership as a 'ticking timebomb'.

The tax consequences for Spanish residents owning Spanish properties through corporate structures

If a property is available for the shareholder's use (especially as their main home) and they are resident in Spain, this structure is inefficient for Spanish tax purposes. Here is a summary of the key tax implications:

- The shareholder must pay market rent to the company, for use of the property, through a commercial rental agreement based on its market value, otherwise the tax office can determine a deemed rent.
- The company has to pay Spanish corporation tax.
- Any distribution of profits to the shareholder is liable to Spanish income tax at the savings income rates, subject to any limits imposed by a double tax treaty.
- Since the individual is resident in Spain, their entire wealth is subject to wealth tax, including shares in the property-owning company. They do not benefit from the €300,000 main home wealth tax allowance normally available to residents.
- When selling the property, the shareholder is not eligible for the main residence relief from capital gains tax. For succession tax purposes, the beneficiaries would not be entitled to the main home relief.
- Shares in foreign companies must

be accurately listed on the *Modelo 720* declaration of non-Spanish assets.

Non-Spanish residents

The key tax implications for non-Spanish residents who are shareholders of a company that owns real estate assets are:

- If the property is available to shareholders, they should pay a market rent to the company, otherwise the tax office could claim the deemed rental amount.
- The company in turn, is required to pay non-resident tax.
- Distributions of profit to the shareholder are liable for income tax at the savings income rates.
- Rental income and any capital gains are taxed in Spain at company level, applying the tax rate for non-resident companies of 19%.
- When it comes to wealth tax, Spain's double tax treaties with the UK (and some other countries) include a clause allowing Spain to tax shareholdings of foreign companies which mainly own Spanish real estate. Therefore, UK residents would be liable for Spanish wealth tax on shares in the company,

wherever it is based.

Additional considerations

Spanish real estate owned by companies based in a territory classified as a 'tax haven' by Spain (British Virgin Islands, Gibraltar etc.), is subject to an annual 3% tax on its value.

The company's assets are subject to Spanish succession and gift tax if it does not have a genuine economic activity. The Spanish tax authority has shown it will not accept the use of a non-Spanish company to hold property in Spain purely to avoid succession tax.

We know the Spanish tax authority is making use of information received through the Common Reporting Standard's automatic exchange of information regime. Now it can also use the 'Beneficial Owner Register', which came into force in 2018 following some EU Directives. Each country's register lists the 'Ultimate Beneficial Owner' of companies, trusts, foundations etc. Spanish companies are obliged to disclose the beneficial owner on their annual corporate tax return and detail shareholders who own 25% or more of the share capital.

The Spanish authorities are using the

register to scrutinise opaque structures, to determine cases where the beneficial owner was using the property, but this was not accounted for correctly.

It is more important than ever to ensure you are correctly meeting your tax obligations.

There is no perfect solution for reducing tax on properties in Spain unfortunately, especially not a 'one-size-fits-all' one. However, you can often take steps to reduce your overall tax position, and you need to take personalised, specialist advice, from a firm like Blevins Franks, based on your situation and objectives. www.blevinsfranks.com

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

Keep up to date on the financial issues that may affect you on the Blevins Franks news page at www.blevinsfranks.com

Can I continue to use my UK Financial Adviser now that I live outside the UK?

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More stars for Malaga restaurants in the 2020 Michelin Guide

Benito Gómez and Marcos Granda have been awarded two stars in the latest edition of the guide, but Kabuki Raw has lost its distinction

■ MARINA MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. A year ago, Dani García made history in Lisbon by becoming the first chef from Malaga to be awarded three Michelin stars. Now, with the latest edition of this gastronomy guide, Malaga is once again in the news, because for the first time two restaurants from the province can boast two stars at the same time: Benito Gómez's Bardal, in Ronda, and Marcos Granda's Skina, in Marbella. Only two others from Malaga have achieved two stars in the past - Paul Schiff and Dani García, and that was with 30 years between them, in 1980 and 2010.

The 2020 Michelin Guide for Spain and Portugal was launched at the Lope de Vega Theatre in Seville this week, but it wasn't all good news: Kabuki Raw, in Casares, has unexpectedly lost the star it was awarded in 2015.

There were mixed emotions, then, but the rest of the restaurants in the province retained their distinctions: José Carlos García (the only one in Malaga city), El Lago (Marbella), Sollo (Fuengirola) and Messina (Marbella).

There was also a new addition to the Bib Gourmand category, as Fernando Alcalá's Kava, in Marbella, has now joined Café de Paris, Figón de Juan, Aderezzo, BiBo, Platero & Co



Two Michelin stars for Ronda and Marbella. ■ M. M.

THE CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

► **Three stars.** One of the 11 Spanish restaurants with three Michelin stars is in Andalucía: Aponiente, in El Puerto de Santa María (Cadiz)

► **Two stars.** Andalucía now boasts three restaurants with two stars, and two of them are in Malaga.

and El Palangre.

The Michelin Guide had particular praise for Mario Cachinero, the young chef at Skina, in Marbella, saying that he demonstrates true talent in constructing a creative cuisine

which evolves traditional Andalusian recipes.

Few restaurants were awarded two Michelin stars this year, so Bardal and Skina are in very select company: just El Poblet (Valencia), Angle (Barcelona) and Noor (Cordoba).

Elsewhere in Andalucía Mantúa (Jerez de la Frontera, Cadiz) and Dama Juana (Jaén) received a star for the first time, and Aponiente, Ángel León's restaurant with three Michelin stars in El Puerto de Santa María (Cadiz), was also awarded this year's Sustainability Prize.

❗ **Dani García closes restaurant and heads for New York** : Page 34



Representatives from Malaga and the world of culture. ■ F. L.

Cities and museums, a relationship to be analysed at trade fair next year

■ PEDRO LUIS GÓMEZ

MADRID. The Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum in Madrid was the venue chosen on Wednesday for the launch of the international CM Malaga, Cities & Museums Trade Fair, which will be taking place on 22 and 23 June next year in Malaga's Palacio de Congresos.

The general focus of the fair, organised jointly by the Malaga congress centre and the SUR media group, will be the role of museums in cities and the way they act as social, cultural, economic and tourism agents. It will explore the changes that some cities have implemented thanks to their museums and how they fit into a world where new technology and social media play such an important role.

The launch was attended by around 100 personalities from the

world of culture, many of them professionals associated with museums around the country.

"Museums have never played such an important role in the life of cities as they do now, and we need to analyse how and why that is, and also study the present and future for museums in these modern times, when there are new technological advances almost every day," said Yolanda Aguilar, the director of the congress centre, while SUR editor-in-chief Manuel Castillo pointed out that, like museums, newspapers also need to play a role in the life of local society. "This is a very exciting project," he said.

The fair is expected to attract around 1,000 professional visitors from 30 countries in its first edition next June, with 50 stands and 120 speakers.

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Caminito del Rey officially puts forward Unesco heritage candidacy

The bid was officially presented on Tuesday after ten months of work on the part of local and provincial experts

:: FERNANDO TORRES

ARDALES. The Diputación provincial authority has this week officially presented its candidacy for the Caminito del Rey 'daredevil walkway' in El Chorro to become a Unesco World Heritage site to the regional government's Culture and Heritage ministry.

This was announced on Tuesday by the ministry's chief, Patricia del Pozo, and Diputación head, Francisco Salado, at a ceremony which brought an end to ten months of work on the part of a team of experts who wrote up the proposal with the collaboration of Ardales town hall and the Diputación itself.



Patricia del Pozo and Francisco Salado on Tuesday. :: SUR

"The bid is strong," said Del Pozo, who recognised the work of the Diputación who had "put aside all ideological differences to do something great for the province".

She added: "[The Caminito del Rey] ticks all of the boxes for it to be considered an exceptional place and gain a place on the Unesco list."

For his part, Salado recognised the "continually growing" support the project had received from the general public.

The next phase will see the regional government present the case to the National Heritage Council which will decide if it qualifies for the definitive shortlist.

Council looking into taking back kennels following Parque Animal scandal

Torremolinos town hall would like to cancel the 50-year concession so it can create a new municipal rescue centre

:: ALBERTO GÓMEZ

TORREMOLINOS. Torremolinos town hall is looking into the creation of a new municipal animal rescue centre, following the scandal which hit the privately owned but town-hall-subsidised Parque Animal pound.

Its president, Carmen Marín, was sent to prison in 2017 for killing hundreds of cats and dogs, many in an inhumane way, for financial gain, as well as falsifying documents and animal cruelty. Now, the town hall, in collaboration with a number of local animal associations, is looking

ing to draw a line under the whole debacle.

A working group, led by Josefina Serdio (Unidas Podemos) and José Antonio Martín (PSOE), will look into ways to bring the premises, which still belong to Parque Animal, back under council control.

The council leased the premises to Parque Animal in 1998 for fifty years but calls have been increasing, given the controversy, for the contract to be rescinded, as well as that granted to the association for a 'caseta' bar on the town's fairground.

Animal groups are calling for this to happen urgently given the growing crisis in the town regarding street cats. There are calling for a mass sterilisation programme, something for which the town hall is considering adding funds in its budget for next year.



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Benalmádena school, pioneers in sustainable development

The Colegio Internacional Torrequebrada has been officially recognised by the UN for its promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals

:: JUAN SOTO

MÁLAGA. The Colegio Internacional Torrequebrada school in Benalmádena has been officially recognised by the United Nations for its practices in helping to promote sustainable development among its students.

It is the first school to be given this recognition and it was granted after evaluating the experience gained by students across the entirety of their time at the school with a special focus on their participation in social programmes and volunteering.

With this distinction, Colegio Internacional Torrequebrada can offi-



Students from the school at the CIFAL event this week. :: SUR

cially teach both students and teachers about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations which aims to eradicate poverty, guarantee a healthy life, a quality education and equal opportunities for all.

This distinction was made official

at the 16th meeting of the CIFAL Global Network, part of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), in Málaga this week.

It was attended by delegations from 17 countries, including UNITAR's executive director, Nikhil Seth.



KING OF CHESS OPENS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Former world chess champion Anatoli Kárpov (standing) was in Marbella on Saturday to launch the Spanish Chess Championship, held at the town's Puerto Deportivo, in which 142 players are taking part over nine days. Kárpov also participated in matches against 17 youngsters from across Spain and Gibraltar simultaneously. The Russian came out on top in all but one: he lost to Miguel Ruiz Buendía from Cuenca.



A computer-generated image of the Torrequebrada project. :: SUR

Almost 140 new builds for La Leala and Torrequebrada

Grupo Lar has stepped up its projects in Torremolinos and Benalmádena

:: A. GÓMEZ

TORREMOLINOS. The next few months will see the Costa del Sol increase its housing stock once more with Grupo Lar stepping up its projects under way in Benalmádena and

Torremolinos.

Work to build 90 homes across 9,000 square metres, beside Torrequebrada golf course, has already started, as has a project for 46 homes in La Leala, Torremolinos, across 5,900 square metres.

The developers, founded by the Pereda family, are developing a strategy based in the rental market. It is not year clear whether these homes, of between one and four bedrooms, are part of this strategy.

New "important" archaeological remains found at Cortijo de Acebedo in Mijas

:: SUR

MIJAS. The department for Historical Heritage at Mijas town hall has made a series of new discoveries during its continuing excavation work at the Cortijo de Acebedo archaeological site.

The town's mayor, Josele González, confirmed the discovery of "several rooms that formed part of a large building". These, he said, "will allow us to confirm what type of building it was, its function and chronology". This find is beside that of a bathhouse where previous excavations showed the existence of a cold water swimming pool and some latrines.

These new findings "highlight the archaeological importance of this site, not only for Mijas, but for the province," said González, who has committed to further research on the site.

Malaga to introduce new brown containers for organic waste in 2020

:: FRANCISCO JIMÉMEZ

MALAGA. Residents in Malaga city are going to have to adjust their habits again with the progressive introduction across the city of new container bins for organic waste from next year.

The brown bins will be introduced in the Parque Litoral area on a trial

basis next February before being introduced across the city.

The objective is two-fold: recycling organic waste to create compost which will then be sold on and to reduce the strain on the landfill site at Los Ruices which has just a decade left until it is completely full.



One of the brown containers in the Basque region. :: DIARIO VASCO

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Charity launches annual Christmas present appeal in Manilva

Locals are being asked to dig deep for underprivileged children this holiday season

:: ASH BOLTON

MANILVA. A Manilva-based charity has launched its annual festive scheme to give local underprivileged children presents this Christmas.

The St George Charity is hoping to deliver gifts to more than 500 children from Manilva and Casares as well as those who use the Emaus soup kitchen in Estepona.

Now in its sixth year, the project has given Christmas presents to thousands of children over previous festive periods. Social Services provide the expat-run charity with a list of children most in need of gifts.

A small team of volunteers at the charity then buy gifts totalling up to 15 euros per child, with the emphasis on creativity, fun and education.



A previous campaign. :: SUR

Gary Beaumont, Vice-President of the charity, told SUR in English: "With the festive season fast approaching it is important that we turn our thoughts to those less fortunate than ourselves.

"The gift bags are delivered to social services and the social kitchen where the parents can collect them and give them to their children on

Three Kings.

"This is very important as the charity feels that the only thing sadder than a child receiving no gifts at Christmas time is a parent being unable to give a gift!"

Gary added that the charity aims to put together more than 500 gift bags this Christmas.

He said: "It is a mammoth task to raise funds, purchase the gifts, and put together the gift bags, but the St George Charity's volunteers have it down to a well-honed operation."

The Duquesa Charitable Society of St George originally opened in 2013 and was founded by a group of foreign residents.

Donations can be made at any of the St George Shops in Calle Duquesa de Arcos (opposite O'Callaghans) and in Plaza de las Naranjas, Sabinillas, or under the Aparthotel Autosole, Avenida Marqués del Duero 9, Cancelada, Estepona, or online (www.go-fundme.com/f/StGeorge2019).



The snow last year in the town centre. :: SUR

Artificial snow forms part of Estepona's festive celebrations

The town's Christmas lights will be switched on tonight in Plaza Antonia Guerrero at 7pm

:: CHARO MÁRQUEZ

ESTEPONA. Christmas arrives in Estepona tonight, 22 November, as hundreds of people are expected to turn out for the big switch-on of the festive illuminations.

It will take place at 7pm in Plaza Antonia Guerrero with the participation of carol singing groups Nostalgia Navideña and Jesús Cautivo.

One of the highlights of the town's Christmas programme will come on 21 December when Father Christmas visits, accompanied by three artificial snow showers at 7, 8 and 9pm. All children dressed as Santa during the first visit will receive a present.

More help at hand as number of gender violence victims continues to rise in Malaga

The UN Women organisation is planning 16 days of activism from 25 November to 10 December to eradicate violence against women

:: SUR

MALAGA. Monday 25 November is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and figures issued at the end of the third quarter of this year show that between the beginning of January and the end of September the Insti-

tuto Andaluz de la Mujer (IAM) attended to 232 female victims of gender violence and their dependents in Malaga. In 2018 the association assisted 255 people in total.

The services, which are managed by Andaluza de Gestión de Servicios Especializados (Agise), include emer-

gency centres, shelters and apartments for victims of gender violence, and urgent help is available 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

In Malaga there are 90 beds, 12 apartments and 40 rooms for victims of gender violence, and in the third quarter of this year the organisation provided accommodation for 125 women, four fewer than the same period in 2018. In Malaga province 186 people sought refuge in the emergency centre.

Slight regional increase

The budget for the service for victims of gender violence in Andalucía has been increased to 7.5 million euros for 2020, because in addition to the 6.2 million euros assigned by the regional government, it will receive at least 1.3 million from the funds of the State Pact against Gender Violence to increase psychological and social assistance for the women and their children, and reinforce security at the centres and shelters.

In Andalucía as a whole the Integral Service for Attention and Shelter for Female Victims of Gender Violence has attended to 1,999 adults and children so far this year, com-

English-language helpline for victims of violence

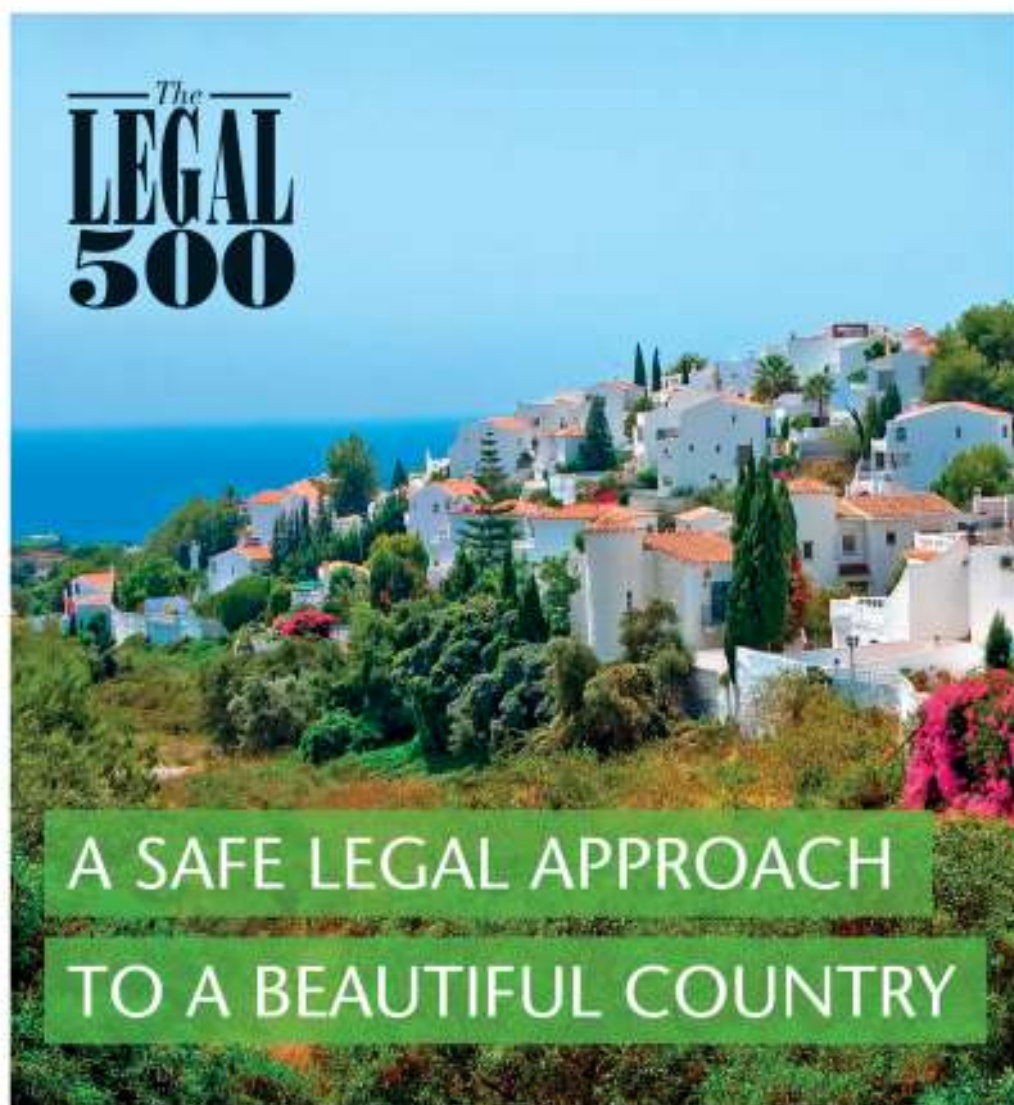
The Junta de Andalucía offers a 24-hour helpline (900200999) that provides advice and assistance in English to victims of gender violence.

Lena Thygesen, Secretary of Soroptimist International Costa del Sol - an organisation dedicated to the eradication of violence against women - told SUR in English, "The helpline is available seven days a week and offers assistance to anyone who needs it. The service is available in 46 languages and can help with things like sexual abuse and domestic violence."

pared with 1,929 during the same period last year. This is 70 more people and an increase of 3.62 per cent.

The latest government figures for Spain show that 1,027 women have died as a result of gender violence since 1 January 2003, and so far this year 51 have lost their lives at the hands of their partner or ex-partner.

This year, the UN Women organisation is planning 16 days of activism to eradicate violence against women, running from 25 November to Human Rights Day on 10 December.



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Torremolinos town hall will support victims of gender violence. :: SUR

Town halls support fight for elimination of gender violence

:: TONY BRYANT

MALAGA. The Malaga provincial government has organised various activities to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on 25 November.

Workshops for young people, informative talks, self-defence classes and theatrical performances, together with the reinforcement of campaigns such as 'No No. Solo Sí Sí' and 'No Violencia Machista', will take place from Manilva to Vélez-Málaga, and inland in Arriate, Casabermeja, Pizarra, Coin, Mijas and Cómpeta, among others.

Other events will take place in Benalmádena and Torremolinos, where, collectively, 338 women are currently under police protection: 68 of these are considered to be living under a high risk of further aggression.

The Municipal Information Center for Woman (CMIM) in Arroyo de la Miel will host a series of programmes and projects on gender equality and violence, while also offering legal advice and individualised psychological care.

On Monday 25 November, members and employees of Torremolinos town hall will gather in Plaza Blas Infante for a minute's silence in honour of the victims of gender violence. This will be followed by a flash mob performed by students of IES Playamar. The song chosen for the occasion is Manuel Carrasco's Woman of a Thousand Battles.

Fuengirola council has installed a purple ribbon on the facade of the town hall in commemoration of the day, while a tree that symbolises all female victims of sexist violence so far this year has been placed in the entrance.

Carrefour



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OFFERS OF THE WEEK

FROM THE VEGETABLE FARMS TO THE TABLE



The Carrefour centres in Estepona, Mijas, Fuengirola, Torremolinos and Valle del Guadalhorce have a wide range of seasonal fruit and vegetables from local producers

Eating vegetables and greens is an essential part of a balanced diet, so the Carrefour centres in Estepona, Mijas, Fuengirola, Torremolinos and Valle del Guadalhorce place a wide selection of fresh and seasonal fruit, vegetables and greens at the disposal of their clients.

To guarantee freshness, quality and flavour, these hypermarkets have agreements with vegetable farms and local suppliers so clients can enjoy the taste of freshly harvested produce at the best prices.

That's why the entire fruit and vegetable section occupies a prime place in the

area known as La Plaza (The Square). This allows clients to see, in a glimpse, where each item on sale is displayed. A global vision that facilitates shopping and improves time optimization.

As well as local producers, Costasol has a wide range of Sabor a Málaga (Málaga Flavour) brand products and agreements with suppliers from the Axarquía and other places in the region. In addition, there is a selection of Bio and organic products for the more conscientious consumers. All of this makes their fruit and vegetables a benchmark for quality.

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 1 mesh 3.95€ Works out a 0.79€ per Kilo	CARREFOUR WASHED POTATOES YOUR CARREFOUR BRAND Mesh: 5 kilos. Calibre: 45 and + Category: 1st. Variety: Agata
 BANANAS Variedad: Cavendish Calibre: 19 y + Categoría: 1* 0.89€ per Kilo	 CARREFOUR VINE TOMATOES YOUR CARREFOUR BRAND Origin: Andalusia. Variety: Pitenza Calibre: M. Category: 1st 1.89€ per Kilo
 GOLDEN APPLES CARREFOUR QUALITY AND ORIGIN Origin: Aragón and Cataluña. Variety: Golden Calibre: 80 + Category: 1st 1.45€ per Kilo	 CARREFOUR JUICE ORANGES YOUR CARREFOUR BRAND Origin: Valencian Community and Andalusia Mesh: 4 kilos. Variety: Salustiana Calibre: 6/7. Category: 1st 1 mesh 3.96€ Works out a 0.99€ per Kilo
 1.55€ per Kilo	MANDARINS WITH LEAVES CARREFOUR QUALITY AND ORIGIN Origin: Valencian Community and Andalusia Variety: Clementine. Calibre: 1-2-3 Category: 1st

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C.C. La Trocha,
Ctra. Coin-Cártama, Km 1. Coin

Judges hear from friend of La Viñuela murder victim how scared she was of her new partner

:: E. CABEZAS

LA VIÑUELA. Judges involved in the trial of José O. T., the man accused of murdering La Viñuela resident, Adela, on 13 February 2018, heard on Wednesday that the murdered woman had confessed to a friend that she “was scared” of her partner.

The friend, who was one of a number of witnesses giving evidence on the third day of the hearing on Wednesday, explained how Adela had sent him WhatsApp messages just days before her brutal killing saying that she was afraid of him.

Other witnesses include the victim’s former parents-in-law and her son, who said that he had only met the man “two or three times” but he knew they were “seeing and calling each other.”

Adela’s son is said to have seen José O. T. driving towards his mother’s house shortly before she was found dead by her ex father-in-law. She had been stabbed 30 times. José O. T. was later arrested while driving in Marbella with traces of Adela’s blood on the clothes he was wearing at the time.

Owners still ignored by home law, says SOHA

While the campaigners for the legalisation of illegal homes say they support any initiative taken by regional government, they maintains owners are being forgotten

:: EUGENIO CABEZAS

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. President, Philip Smalley, and spokesperson, Mario Blancke, of SOHA (Save Our Homes Axarquía), have expressed their concern that that the new decree passed in September by the Junta de Andalucía “leaves out people who had their building licences annulled.”

While the campaigners said that they would “always support any initiative taken by the Junta to help legalise homes,” the latest ruling “makes the same mistake as previous ones,” with respect to the annulled licences.

“This time is no different and it leaves out those who bought in good faith and are victims of local authorities, the only entity able to issue the permits,” Blancke said.

The new decree means that the 68,652 properties recognised by the regional government as being irregular can now be registered. However, this still leaves a high number of property owners off the list. “Our fight must continue,” added Blancke.



Archive photo of Philip Smalley and Mario Blancke. :: SUR

HERE AND THERE



One of the messages on a building in Nerja. :: E. CABEZAS

'Franco Lives' graffiti appears on Nerja walls

NERJA

:: E. C. Around a dozen graffitied messages saying ‘Franco Vive’ (Franco Lives) appeared on buildings around Nerja on Wednesday morning, including one near the Balcón de Europa. The vandalism

coincides with the 44th anniversary of the former dictator’s death.

The same message has been painted onto buildings in the town in recent weeks, but not as many as those which appeared on Wednesday morning.

Town hall workers immediately started to clean the graffiti and police have opened up an investigation to find the culprits.

Machine installed to soften drinking water

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

:: E. C. Following years of complaints about hard water from residents in Vélez-Málaga, the town hall has invested 150,000 euros in machinery which is designed soften the town’s drinking water. Residents have long complained of damage to pipes and electrical appliances. The town hall insists that the water has always met legal requirements.

Project to build 1,900 homes reinitiated

TORROX

:: E. C. A project to build 1,900 homes in Torrox has been reinitiated a decade after it was pulled due to Spain’s financial crisis. Puerto Narixa is located near the historic centre of Torrox and on the border with neighbouring Nerja. The project was presented at this month’s World Travel Market in London as “ecological and sustainable.”

Three arrested following Algarrobo mugging

ALGARROBO

:: SUR. Three men have been arrested following an incident in August in Algarrobo when a woman was mugged and sexually assaulted by three men while putting her three-month-old baby in his car seat.

The attack happened on an area

of wasteland which is used as a car park. One of the men allegedly held a revolver to the woman while he touched her and another took two bags containing money, documents and other personal items. They are believed to have told the woman that they would kill her and her family if she reported them.

Police found the revolver used, along with other weapons, while searching the men’s houses and the suspects are being held in custody.



:: A. PELÁEZ

BEACH BAR DAMAGED IN STRONG WINDS

The Pantai beach bar in Torre del Mar lost its covered terrace when strong winds and huge waves caused a loss of sand to 300 metres of the town’s west end beach earlier this week. The bad weather also caused a palm tree planted on the beach to fall and a three metre drop from the beach to the shore. The beach has been one of the worst affected by bad weather along the Vélez-Málaga coastline.

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Even if you’re not looking to buy anything new, Oro y Hora may be able to help you out in other ways. This family business opened in 1964 and three generations have now been helping meet customers’ needs. Although they do sell a large selection of watches and jewellery and can also be relied on to source and supply specific items customers may be looking for, Oro y Hora is much more than just a shop. Whether you’re looking to replace a watch battery or have a diamond cut, the staff will do all they can to help. The excellent, trustworthy service provided at all times has, over the years, helped the establishment make a



The Oro y Hora shop in Fuengirola town centre. SUR

name for itself and customers always come back for more as they know they can rely on Oro y Hora.

The shop has its own jeweller’s and watchmaker’s workshops as well as a gemological laboratory, meaning it’s perfectly equipped for anything from minor adjustments or repairs to larger, more complicated tasks. No job is too big or small, no challenge too taxing for Oro y Hora, where every team member constantly strives for excellence.

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Long prison terms as judges rule on regional government corruption

The ERE case goes back to the previous Socialist administration at the Junta de Andalucía, when up to 680m euros of public money was criminally misspent

■ SUR

SEVILLE. A court in Seville has delivered its verdicts in the first part of the so-called 'ERE' mega-corruption case, involving 21 former Andalusian politicians and top regional government officials, including two former regional presidents.

All those accused worked at the Junta de Andalucía from 2001 to 2009, when it was run by the PSOE Socialist party, and almost 680 million euros of mismanaged public money was given out to ailing companies in out-of-control unemployment subsidies. These sometimes went to supporters of the PSOE apparently as political favours.

Of the 21 on trial in this highest profile part of the very complex ERE case, only two had the accusations against them dismissed by the panel

of three judges. The remaining 19 had sentences awarded for offences ranging from misappropriation of public funds to corruption in public office. In the court's damning verdict, finally delivered on Tuesday this week after the trial ended almost a year ago, those closest to the heart of the scandal have received long prison sentences.

Two regional presidents

Two former presidents of the regional government were among the accused who arrived in court to hear the decision on their futures. José Antonio Griñán, president from 2009 to 2013, was handed a six-year jail sentence and banned from public office for 15 years. Before becoming president, he had been regional minister for Finance, one of the departments at the heart of the illegal funding operation. His predecessor as president, Manuel Chaves, a PSOE party grandee, was banned from public office for nine years, escaping a jail sentence.

The ERE trial, named after the Spanish abbreviation for a round of compulsory redundancies when a firm has financial difficulties, cen-



José Antonio Griñán

Jail: six years. 15-year ban from public office.



Manuel Chaves

Ban from public office for nine years.



Magdalena Álvarez

Ban from public office for nine years.



Four of the accused in Seville on Tuesday. ■ EFE

Francisco Javier Guerrero

Jail: seven years, 11 months.

tres principally on the uncontrolled public subsidies to companies to dismiss staff, laced with corruption. The trial explained that Junta officials paid out grants randomly, avoiding any form of scrutiny, and that

warnings from top civil servants were repeatedly ignored in the arrangement that was repeated year after year. In some cases, firms were given money to pay redundancy to fictitious employees.

Severest sentences

The severest prison terms went to those heading departments managing the money. Former director general of Work and Social Security at the Junta, Francisco Javier Guerrero, received seven years, 11 months while Antonio Fernández, ex-regional minister for Employment got the same. Both men were banned from public office for 19 and a half years.

Among those avoiding prison but receiving a public office ban for "prevaricación" (knowingly making corrupt or unfair decisions in public office) was Magdalena Álvarez, a former regional and national minister for the PSOE.

Current regional president, Juanma Moreno, who heads a coa-

lition of the Partido Popular (PP) and Ciudadanos since last year, said he felt ashamed. "Fortunately this land is now nothing like it was when these events took place. We're in different times now, where the way of doing things, priorities and people are different."

No comment from Sánchez

Pressed to make a comment on what had happened regionally in his PSOE, the acting prime minister and leader, Pedro Sánchez, did not comment this week. Party spokesperson, José Luis Ábalos, responding to calls from opposition parties for Sánchez to resign, said, "It doesn't involve the current [acting] government or the current leadership of the PSOE."

The Seville sentences are expected to be appealed to the Supreme Court. In the meantime, prosecutors have asked for the four with the longest sentences to have their bail cancelled and to enter prison immediately.

In some cases, firms were given money to pay redundancy to fictitious employees

Public money, partly spent on bribes, cocaine and prostitutes

■ SUR

SEVILLE. In April 2009, the PP members of Seville council reported two former directors of the city's wholesale market for supposedly trying to charge an illegal commission of 450,000 euros in return for granting a concession to run a catering school. It was the tip of the iceberg and the start of the massive investigation into the 'ERE' case, the first part of which, the political element, reached sentencing this week.

ERE stands for Expediente de Regulación de Empleo in Spanish, and is a routine way for companies in trouble to agree collective dismissal. Sometimes it can involve legitimate public subsidies, except in the case of the scheme devised by the Junta de Andalucía under the former PSOE administration, money was given out without any validation or control and often to

those who the politicians favoured most. Sometimes imaginary employees were added to a payroll in order to inflate the payments.

While none of those convicted benefited personally, it is alleged that many PSOE supporters got money. A special, opaque budget item was created in the region's annual accounts which has since been dubbed "the reptile fund".

In one memorable part of the trial, the former chauffeur of Francisco Javier Guerrero, one of the main accused, admitted receiving almost 1.5 million euros for companies he also owned, of which some went on cocaine and prostitutes for him and his Junta boss.

The present Junta administration has said it will try to recover much of the 680m euros, but after so many years, commentators and lawyers said it could be very difficult.



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Cabin baggage ruling goes against Ryanair

A passenger on a flight from Madrid objected to paying 20 euros for her hand baggage going into the hold

■ SUR

MADRID. A court in Madrid has told Ryanair that its cabin bag restrictions policy is "abusive", in a potentially landmark ruling.

A passenger on a Madrid to Brussels flight last January complained to a small-claims website after Ryanair had charged her 20 euros to

put her bag in the hold as she had not paid the priority supplement. The passenger was also carrying a small bag to go underseat, and the two bags went against the airline's policy.

The judge, ordering Ryanair to pay back the 20 euros, said that the company had contravened European law by making her pay for hand baggage as she had a right to it.

Ryanair responded in a statement, saying that the ruling would make no difference to its policy as the judge had "misinterpreted" its commercial right to define the size of hand luggage carried.



Ryanair has said the ruling is due to a "misinterpretation". ■ REUTERS

MALAGA SHOPPING MALL RELAUNCHES AFTER REVAMP

Malaga city's Larios indoor shopping centre was re-launched last weekend with a mixture of official presentations with local dignitaries and a concert for shoppers. The large mall, between the main railway station and the city centre, has been undergoing a revamp for more than a year, adding more eating areas, brighter decoration and new top-name shops, including a flagship store for H&M.



■ SUR

IN BRIEF

Costa firm wins data technology prize

MALAGA

■ **SUR.** A startup company from Malaga has won the Global Blockchain Challenge with an online platform to promote vaccination in underdeveloped countries.

Rewire Social won the award for the best scalable blockchain project during the Global Blockchain Convergence congress held in Malaga. Blockchain is an ad-

vanced way of encrypting important data online.

The competition identified startups that fit UN objectives for sustainable development.

The team from Malaga, led by Daniel Santos and Vicente Ortiz, presented a digital platform aimed at improving vaccination rates in underdeveloped countries through a reward system for doctors and patients that will increase the security of records. The panel also recognised that this initiative is applicable to other fields.

Economists say Malaga will cope with downturn

MALAGA

■ **N. TRIGUERO.** The Colegio de Economistas, the professional body for economists and accountants in Malaga province, has said in its latest regular report on the local economy that an economic downturn in Spain is a reality. It is optimistic, however, saying that Malaga and the Costa del Sol "shows it is in a more solvent position than the rest of Andalucía and Spain in order to cope with this situation".

Speaking on Wednesday, European Commission vice-president Valdis Dombrovskis revealed what he wants for Christmas - namely, that Spain has a stable government for the start of 2020, specifically one able to pass new budgets. Latvia's former prime minister also said that he expects the next Spanish administration, whenever it arrives, to reduce the country's bloated public debt (which currently stands at 97.6% of GDP), in line with the content of a letter the Commission sent Madrid a few weeks ago. But if Socialist leader Pedro Sánchez and Unidas Podemos (UP) president Pablo Iglesias head up the incoming government, as per the tentative coalition deal they struck last week, both Dom-

THE EURO ZONE MARK NAYLER

EITHER OR



brovskis' wishes are unlikely to come true at the same time.

First of all, one has to think about what "stable" means in the wider context of modern Spanish politics. As Dombrovskis implied, a very basic test of any government's functionality is whether it can formulate and pass a new budget every year (forget, for now, any more lofty definitions, such as

steering a country out of a constitutional crisis, or improving social inequality or problematic levels of unemployment, especially among Spain's youth).

Using this definition, Sánchez's previous administration, which sat on just 82 of the 350 seats in congress, was far from stable: in fact, its failure to pass a spending plan for 2019 prompted the April 28th

election, which in turn gave way to the vote held on November 10th. Pablo Casado, leader of the conservative People's Party (PP), called the levels of expenditure contained in the proposed budget "suicidal".

Given that they're both left of centre and jointly opposed to the PP and far right Vox, Sánchez's Socialists and Iglesias' UP have plenty of ideology and policies in common. But UP tend to lean further to the left of the Socialists on economic issues, and will push for higher levels of public spending than even Sánchez - who's hardly tight-fisted when it comes to the welfare state - is comfortable with.

Indeed, Podemos rose to prominence with a strong anti-austerity message, presenting itself as the only party that could radically im-

prove the lives of the disadvantaged and vulnerable. No surprise, then, that Iglesias wants a further raise on Spain's minimum wage, which the Socialist leader has already increased by a substantial 22% this year.

Even if a profligate PSOE-UP coalition materialises and confirms to Dombrovskis' definition of stability, it'll have a tough time reducing Spain's structural deficit by 0.65% of GDP (as per the EU's most recent stipulation) as well as its public debt. Should Sánchez and Iglesias take the helm of the next Spanish government, the Commission will probably have to settle for stability alone (providing even that requirement is met) - because it will be one more committed to spending than to saving.

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Local residents start a petition to save Gibraltar from overdevelopment

The Change.org petition is addressed to the chief minister and Gibraltar government, and says people have had enough of large scale disruption

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. Gibraltar is a small place with a growing population and a thriving economy so it needs housing and office space, but a group of local residents who are fed up with the constant noise and dust from construction have begun a petition on Change.org to “save Gibraltar being destroyed by overdevelopment”.

Under the title ‘Save Gibraltar!!!’ the wording of the petition, which has been signed by 384 people so far, is: “We, the people of Gibraltar, have had enough of the large scale disruption to our lives caused by continuous builders noise and dust.

Although we the undersigned acknowledge that Gibraltar may need further large new developments in the future, any large new development needs to be in a properly planned and organised manner, taking into account, infrastructure, the health of the nation, and people’s right to open space, light, sunshine,



Local residents say they are fed up with constant construction. :: SUR

and privacy.

We, therefore, respectfully request the HM Government of Gibraltar not to consider any large new developments which are contrary to the Gibraltar Development Plan Parts I&II 2009, such as Coal- ing Island Land Reclamation, Victoria Keys, and Queensway Quay Marina, until a new Gibraltar De-

velopment Plan is in place, and then only, after extensive consultation with Non Government Organisations and members of the public”.

Another petition calling for historical buildings in Gibraltar Town not to be replaced with concrete tower blocks has been signed by 1,398 people.

IN BRIEF



Juan Lozano (right) with Fabian Picardo and Dr Joseph Garcia. :: SUR

Meeting with president of the Mancomunidad

GIBRALTAR

DEBBIE BARTLETT. The chief minister and deputy chief minister of Gibraltar held a meeting with the president of the Mancomunidad de Municipios of the

Campo de Gibraltar, Juan Lozano, on Wednesday morning.

The meeting took place at No 6 Convent Place, the seat of the Gibraltar government, and among the matters discussed were Brexit, the border, waste disposal and other items of mutual interest. Fabian Picardo then hosted a working lunch for Juan Lozano.

GFSB Business Innovation Award

GIBRALTAR

D.B. The Gibraltar Federation of Small Businesses has announced the opening of applications for next years GFSB Business Innovation Award sponsored by Gibtelecom. The application form can be found on the Awards page at www.gfsb.gi and needs to be submitted before Friday 20th March 2020.

Two-tier weather warning system

GIBRALTAR

D.B. The government, in association with MeteoGib, is introducing a two-tier system to warn of impending bad weather. The lower tier issues advisory warnings of winds between 34-40 knots and heavy rain but less than 50mm, and the upper tier issues flash warnings of gales, severe rain and four-metre swells.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ballet correction

While I was interested to read that Tony Bryant chose the birth of dancer Ángel Corella for What Happened Today in SUR in English dated November 8th to 14th, nevertheless I have to point out that he gives the impression that the company that Corella set up in Spain in 2008 still exists.

Sadly that is not the case. Promised funds were not forthcoming and even though Ángel sold all his assets (flats in Madrid and New York, a house on the Costa Brava and even his car) in an attempt to keep the company afloat, in the end it was just not possible and it closed in 2014.

He said at the time: "They

are kicking me out of Spain." Since the 2014-15 season he has been artistic director of Pennsylvania Ballet based in Philadelphia, a post for which he was chosen out of 30 candidates.

Perhaps the confusion arose because another company called Ballet de Barcelona, with about ten dancers plus apprentices, has just recently been set up by Chase Jounsey and Carlos Renedo, both former dancers with the all-male New York-based company Les Ballets de Trocadero de Monte Carlo, affectionately known as "The Trocks".

KATE RAYNER
MALAGA

Airport assistance

Further to Aine Leahy's letter re Malaga Airport Assistance, I agree that the assistance staff are magnificent.

However, they are overstretched to the point where my partner waited over an hour to be taken to her boarding gate and then had to walk there in pain, with her sticks because the staff couldn't promise to get her to the gate in time for her flight.

The staff couldn't apologise enough and explained that they had a strict first-come-first-

served policy and a lot of the people before her were those that had no problems walking unaided and just wanted an easy passage through the airport and security.

Why do airlines not check that only those with Blue Badges or Doctors' Certificates are accepted as "Requiring Assistance"? This will weed out the bone idle and selfish people that cause additional hardships to those that really need help.

JOHN STOREY
ESTEPONA

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SUR in English

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Numerous major corruption scandals of one sort or other have come to light in Spain in recent years. They have all followed similar patterns: police raids, shock-horror high-profile arrests and pages and pages of revelations of the many ingenious or downright stupid ways in which public money was looted, mismanaged or simply made to vanish. Then come long investigations, even longer trials, much speculation and nail-biting as the judges deliberate for months... and finally the sentencing, which, in many cases comes as an anti-climax, with short prison sentences that the guilty will never have to serve and damages that will never be paid. Follow that with further months or years of appealing and by the time final sentences come through we've

forgotten what it was all about in the first place.

This week, however, after a year of analysing the ERE case and writing a sentence that goes on for 1,821 pages, judges have handed out severe penalties to politicians and officials at the Socialist-run Junta de Andalucía for corruption that went on between 2001 and 2009.

This case differs to others in the

past in that the accused did not abuse their access to public funds for their own personal financial gain. None of the politicians involved had bin liners full of cash under mattresses, huge villas in Marbella or Swiss bank accounts. They have received bans on holding public office and lengthy prison sentences for administering public funds in an unlawful manner. For running a sys-

Brolly good show

PETER EDGERTON
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

Thwack! The old woman's umbrella hit the rain-sodden pavement with a light splash and immediately cast me onto the horns of a dilemma.

The scene unfolded thus: a strikingly tall lady about eighty years old was walking towards me on an otherwise empty street when her brolly slipped from her grasp and hit the deck crisply. Whatever was I to do? "Pick it up for her, you fool!" I hear you cry. The trouble is, things weren't quite that simple. She was accompanied by a much younger man, possibly her son, which made the whole scenario a great deal more awkward. Any chap worth his salt knows that you should never step into another man's chivalry scenario and that there's an unspoken pecking order to these things. It was quite clearly his role to resolve the stricken umbrella situation. Unfortunately, in the few

seconds that had elapsed by now, he hadn't shown the slightest interest in fulfilling his duty. Whatever was I to do? To hell with it, I thought, I'll return the object in question to the frail grasp of the poor despondent woman and risk the bother of being challenged to a terribly inconvenient pistols-at-dawn duel the following morning for my impertinence.

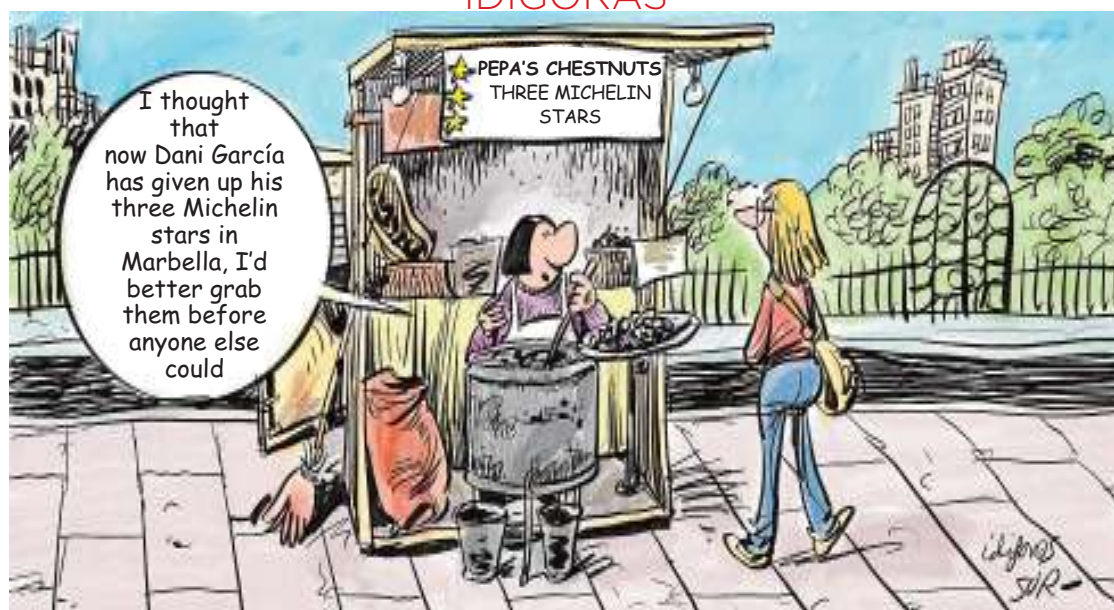
I was bracing myself to lurch downwards and incur the young man's wrath when something quite extraordinary occurred. The woman swung out one leg horizontally behind her, leaning forward with one of her arms outstretched while the other hand homed in on the brolly which she duly swept up with an elegance not seen since Margot Fonteyn in her heyday, before returning to an upright position, having barely broken her stride, and continuing on her merry way. I was half expecting a pas de deux to round

things off. The man briefly flicked his eyebrows upwards at me as if to say "It's always happening, what can I do?" as he too strolled off into the evening twilight.

She must surely have been a dancer when she was younger, I thought, or, judging by that performance, maybe she still was. Now I understood her companion's reluctance to pick up the umbrella - experience had taught him that he was, frankly, a redundant bystander in these matters as, indeed, was I. Thank heavens I hadn't grunted and puffed myself onto my haunches to complete the task in a manner which, let's be honest, wouldn't have been quite so becoming of Rudolf Nureyev.

I tootled home with an unexpected spring in my step, though it was of nothing compared to the exquisite spring in the step of the tall, elegant woman, I can assure you.

IDÍGORAS



Responsibilities

RACHEL HAYNES

tem of uncontrolled subsidies that ate up more than 600 million euros of public funds.

Votes and loyalty from the many thousands who benefited from the handouts appear to have been what the politicians who either dealt with, or turned a blind eye to, the illegal system gained from it.

So how can foreign residents in Andalucía digest this scandal? Some may see it as a mere confirmation of the sweeping "Spanish politicians are all corrupt" statement. Others though, could be encouraged by the idea that the mismanagement of public funds can constitute a criminal offence, be prosecuted and lead to prison sentences.

Abuse of power, from giving contracts to your relatives to embezzling millions of euros, is by no means something Spain has the mo-

nopoly on. However foreigners who arrived decades ago and encountered examples of unethical administration learned simply to shrug and say "This is Spain". Some even followed the locals' example and found their own "enchufe" contact to help their affairs along.

The sentence delivered this week in Seville ought at least to ensure that the new generation of politicians, who claim they have nothing to do with their predecessors' practices, are aware of their actions and their consequences. Now they have to prove that administration in Spain is now transparent and clean.

Meanwhile those sentenced this week are preparing their appeals to the Supreme Court. So that's months more of ERE case still ahead of us.

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Star-studded opening for Soho theatre

Crowds lined the red carpet last Friday night as celebrities filed in to watch Banderas in *A Chorus Line*

by FRANCISCO GRIÑÁN / SUR

MÁLAGA. Actor Antonio Banderas filled Málaga's Soho district with Spanish celebrities last Friday night for the opening of his production of the musical *A Chorus Line* at his new theatre.

Crowds lined the red carpet that stretched from the Valeria hotel to the Soho Caixabank theatre, a walk of around 300 metres that guests, among them numerous actors and singers, covered as cameras flashed on all sides.

The opening of the theatre with *A Chorus Line* is the culmination of a project with which Banderas has filled his home city with glamour. For decades he had been dreaming of opening his own theatre in Málaga and Friday night saw not only the realisation of that dream, but also the final step in the transformation of the district that is now known as Soho.

Banderas himself was the first to appear to greet the crowds before preparing for the performance in which he sings and dances as audition director Zach. Between now and 19 January, Banderas is due to take to the Soho theatre stage around 50 times with the more than 40,000 tickets put on sale practically sold out.

Among the famous faces who later followed Banderas into the theatre were fellow actors such as Natalia de Molina, Rossy de Palma, Loles León, Juan Diego, Santiago Segura and Fran Perea; singers, such as opera giants Carlos Álvarez and Ainhoa Arteta, and flamenco and copla stars Miguel Poveda and Pasión Vega; and bull-fighters Javier Conde and Enrique Ponce.

Banderas's girlfriend, Dutch investment adviser Nicole Kimpel, was accompanied by her sister Barbara, as she stopped to talk to fans.

Local, regional and national authorities were represented at the opening, from the mayor of Málaga, Francisco de la Torre, to the president of the Junta de Andalucía, Juanma Moreno and the acting deputy prime minister Carmen Calvo.

The star who won the most cheers and clamour for selfies, however, was film director Pedro Almodóvar, whose latest movie, *Pain and Glory*, which stars Antonio Banderas, is enjoying international success.



Banderas greets the crowds on his way into the theatre. :: MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ



Pedro Almodóvar. :: MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ



Nicole and Barbara Kimpel. :: M. F.



Rossy de Palma and Loles León. :: S. S.



Carlos Álvarez. :: FÉLIX PALACIOS



Pasión Vega. :: M. FERNÁNDEZ



Carmen Calvo (r) and PSOE representatives. :: S. SALAS



President of the Junta, Mayor of Málaga and regional ministers. :: S. SALAS



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Hundreds visited the traditional festive market in search of Christmas gift ideas. :: T. BRYANT

Cudeca Goldies host Christmas fair

The traditional festive market boasted over 20 stalls and a mixture of live entertainment

:: TONY BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. The Cudeca Goldies hosted their annual Christmas fair at the Ilunion Hotel in Fuengirola last weekend. The two-day event took the form of a traditional Christmas market with more than 20 stalls offering everything from handmade jewellery, clothing and accessories to festive food and decorations.

Local radio presenter Lee Jay sup-

plied a mix of classic pop tunes and a karaoke sing-along, while the coast's popular theatrical group A Touch of Class presented a medley of music and dance from the 1960s and 70s. Along with a performance by the talented Reflections Acapella quartet and a surprise visit by Father Christmas, visitors also enjoyed a ladies' fashion show.

Several Cudeca volunteers were on hand to give information about the services Cudeca offers, and advice about how people can become involved with the charity.

The cancer hospice also used the event to launch its exclusive selec-

tion of Christmas cards, which are designed by a loyal team of talented volunteers.

Hundreds of people visited the market in search of Christmas gift ideas. Among them were John and Doreen Taylor, who had travelled from their home in Benalmádena.

"We like to support local charities and we think that Cudeca deserves all the support it can get. These guys have worked really hard to make this happen. It has been a lovely afternoon and we have both really enjoyed the entertainment and the atmosphere," Doreen explained to SUR in English.

Costa choir sings with love to raise funds for Sarah

:: ASH BOLTON

ESTEPONA. Members of an international choir are celebrating after raising 1,500 euros for charity at a concert in Estepona earlier this month.

The concert was organised by the Love to Sing Choir and was in aid of local girl Sarah Almagro, who lost her feet and hands to a lethal bacteria in July last year.

Around 200 people attended the fundraiser at the Centro Cultural Padre Manuel, which featured songs from popular Broadway musicals and Hollywood films including Chicago, Guys and Dolls and Skyfall.

Shirley Helleur, the choir's mu-

sical director, told SUR in English: "It was a great night for the choir. We had been working on this programme for months so it was a real pleasure to perform for such a warm and appreciative audience. We all thoroughly enjoyed the experience."

The money raised on the night will help buy prosthetic limbs for Sarah.

The Manilva based choir was founded in September 2017 and performs concerts along the coast, raising thousands of euros for local charities.

More information about the choir can be found on their Facebook page @Love2SingCDS



Shirley Helleur with the Love to Sing Choir during the concert. :: A. B.

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SOCIETY SCENE

Tours and anniversaries warm the autumn chill

While Lux Mundi and a law firm hold birthday parties, classic cars venture east

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

Lux Mundi Torre del Mar 90th birthday

The Lux Mundi ecumenical centre in Torre del Mar was the scene of a special celebration recently when friends from the Half Orange Group wished a belated happy 90th birthday to John Williams. John had been in the UK for his actual birthday, but his friends at Lux Mundi hosted a bring-and-share lunch, complete with bubbly and birthday cake, for him on his return. The Half Orange Group, for widows, widowers and singles, meets at the Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, in Avda. Moscatel (Jardines Viña Málaga/Antigua Casa de la Viña), Torre del Mar. Telephone 952543334, email: lux-mundi@lux-mundi.org or visit www.lux-mundi.org.

SOL Classic Car Club November outing goes east

The SOL Classic Car Club's November outing began in Trapiche, east of Malaga, which gave members from Estepona and Marbella areas an opportunity to enjoy some rural roads not previously driven. Twenty-four members set out towards Viñuela and up into the Sierra de Tejeda to drive some scenic mountain roads on a 150-kilometre circular route. After passing through beautiful mountain scenery and coastal roads, the club members ended the tour

with lunch in Torrox Costa.

The next SOL Classic Car Club meeting will be the Winter Celebration on 11 December near San Pedro Alcántara. New members are always welcome. Contact: jcolton1@hotmail.co.uk or www.sol-classiccarclub.net

The Field Club Autumn holiday

The Costa del Sol-based Field Club recently enjoyed a trip to the Alpujarras region. The group is now renewing memberships for 2020 and tak-



SOL Club members stop for coffee in the mountains. :: SUR



The Half Orange Group with 90-year-old John Williams. :: SUR

ing bookings for the annual Christmas Dinner Dance. This will be held at the Treetops Restaurant, El Chaparral Golf, on 7 December. www.the-fieldclub.org.

Vogt law firm 20th anniversary party

Marbella-based Norwegian law firm Vogt Advokatfirma España held its 20th anniversary and an-

nual cocktail party at Boho Club in Marbella last week. Around 120 people attended the event including clients, real estate agents, architects and notaries. The firm was founded in 1999 by Norwegian Lawyer Einar Askvig and is currently run by two new partners, José Luis Rojas and Christine Solle Jensen, with a team of 12 staff members.



Part of the Vogt law team at the 20th anniversary party. :: PEDRO JAÉN

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DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

Tapeworm plant

The unusual segmented stems of this large bushy perennial are what gives it its rather unattractive common name

The tapeworm plant is one of those plants that leave visitors wondering what on earth it is. It's tall - up to an incredible four metres if it has something to support it - and nearly leafless; only the new growth has short little

leaves which soon drop off. Along the sides of the flattened, bright-green stems, at the joint of each segment, form tiny white or pinkish - white

flowers. When the flowers have finished, bright red berries take their place.

Its botanical name is Homalocladium platycladum, sometimes listed by its synonym Muehlenbeckia platyclada, and it is a member of the Polygonaceae family which includes buckwheat (Fagopyrum) and rhubarb (Rheum). It is native to The Solomon Islands and New Guinea although it has naturalised in several other warm climate countries.

The tapeworm plant is not drought or frost hardy and needs to be watered regularly, preferably as soon as the soil dries out. Use a free-draining compost to make sure it is never waterlogged.

Frosts will kill the top growth but provided the root ball is protected, it should reshoot in the spring. If the tapeworm plant is trimmed it can be kept small enough to cover with fleece during the coldest months or alternatively, grow it in a pot so that it can be moved undercover.

Although it will withstand some full sun, afternoon protection from the sun or partial shade all day in the height of the summer, will help prevent the stems getting scorched.

Propagation is best by stem cuttings which don't take long to root and, as the plant is fast growing, will soon become big enough to plant up.

A mature specimen of Homalocladium platycladum can be seen in the botanical garden (Jardin Botánico) at Malaga University.



The tapeworm plant and the flowers/berries. :: WIKIMEDIA

READER'S PHOTO



:: ANN PENNINGTON

BRILLIANT TRADESCANTIA

Ann Pennington sent in this photo of a beautiful variegated Tradescantia. She says, "I know this must be quite a common plant and so easy to grow and take cuttings, but I'm finding it difficult to name it. It looks wonderful when the sun shines through the brilliant purple leaves."

GARDENING IN NOVEMBER

Stop the rot

Cold, waterlogged soil is not good for the roots of any plants and especially bad for some delicate bulbs, tubers and rhizomes. Once the top vegetation has died off it is advisable to dig a hole and carefully lift the bulbs of gladioli, lilies and dahlia tubers. They should then be laid out in a single layer and left to dry a little.

Discard any that show signs of rotting, are mouldy or soft and pack then in a crate between layers of straw or peat moss if you can get it. The bulbs of Amaryllis should also be stored like this, their normal flowering period is May to June but nurseries force them to bloom early for Christmas displays.

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

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

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

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Three years restoring memory in Jimena

The Casa de la Memoria Civil War information and research centre in is unique in Spain

DEBBIE
BARTLETT

✉ debbieb.editorial@gmail.com

The way the centre has evolved in three years has been "totally unexpected" says the president of the two associations which founded it

JIMENA. There is a saying that from little acorns great oak trees grow, and that certainly seems applicable to the Casa de la Memoria La Saucedá, in Jimena de la Frontera, Cadiz province, which has just celebrated its third anniversary.

This information centre about the Spanish Civil War was set up by two associations, the Forum for Historical Memory in the Campo de Gibraltar and the Association of Families affected by Francoist Repression, and in its three years of existence it has grown phenomenally to become a major research centre and a specialist library, the only one of its type in Spain.

The first question that springs to mind is: why Jimena? Why would a small village in the Campo de Gibraltar area have a facility of this type?

The answer is clear from the permanent exhibition on the ground floor of the Casa de la Memoria. Half is dedicated to the civil war in general in the Campo de Gibraltar, because this is one of the places where the war started, on 18 and 19 July 1936, when Franco brought troops across from Morocco and instilled terror into the local towns and villages. The exhibition includes information about the civil war in this area, the guerrilla movement in the



Part of the permanent exhibition at the Casa de la Memoria La Saucedá in Jimena. :: SUR



The library (left) and president Andrés Rebolledo (right) making the presentation to Jesús Román :: SUR

Ronda mountains which continued until the 1950s and the way republican prisoners were used as slave labour to build roads and military facilities to prepare for the Second World War when the civil war ended.

The other reason this information centre is in Jimena, and this is why

it is named after La Saucedá, is that this very rural area 25 kilometres from Jimena was bombed by Franco's planes and attacked by four columns of troops on 31 October 1936. Those who survived were taken to a huge estate a few kilometres away, called El Marrufo, which

became a concentration and extermination camp.

Funded only by private donations, in 2011 and 2012 the two associations carried out soundings and excavations at El Marrufo, found seven of the mass graves, containing 28 bodies, and exhumed them. They

also rebuilt the cemetery at La Saucedá and that is where those victims now lie at rest. Full information is given in the other part of the permanent exhibition at the Casa de la Memoria.

Since opening on 18 November 2016, the Casa has received numerous valuable donations of books and archive materials and now receives a little support from the Cadiz provincial government and the Junta de Andalucía. A historian and archivist have now created a major research facility which is of tremendous use to students, historians, writers and others with an interest in the Spanish Civil War, and the Casa produces a magazine, 'Cuatro Esquinas', in Spanish and English, with cooperation from the Gibraltar government.

"The way the Casa has evolved in these three years has been totally unexpected, in terms of general visitors, school visits, tours in English, the annual seminars as part of the University of Cadiz summer courses in San Roque, the archive and of course the library, which now has over 4,000 books. It is classified as a specialist document centre and library as part of the Junta de Andalucía's Red IDEA, and contains books and documents which don't exist anywhere else, not even in the National Library. We also raise awareness of Historical Memory and continue to call for truth, justice, and reparation for the victims of Francoism, and offer a service to help people try to find out what happened to relatives who disappeared in the civil war. The Casa de la Memoria is unique in Spain," said Andrés Rebolledo Barreno, the president of the two associations.

Last Friday, to commemorate the third anniversary, several presentations were made, including to Jesús Román, the archaeologist who led the exhumations at El Marrufo and in other places in Andalucía.

WILDLIFE

Out of their natural environment

An humans started to travel, animals have "hopped aboard" and settled in new habitats

I like to have questions from readers, and will try to answer them providing they are not veterinary ones, but a recent statement surprised me when a lady said: "My neighbours think I am mad and seeing things. Please convince me I am not. I have seen raccoons in America but I am sure I saw two in my garden."

I assured her it was probably not

an illusion as I have observed them here in Spain from time to time, indeed one ran in front of our car not so long ago. They are indigenous to America but have found their way here. They are not the only animals to have settled here. Animals have a habit of changing their habitat often over surprisingly long distance especially when humans have de-

veloped travel modes and animals have "hopped aboard".

Many breeds of dog originate from the Americas. The Labrador came with sailors back in 1800 and fifty years later a travelling circus, so popular at the time, brought the Golden Retriever when some gave birth on tour and the puppies were sold off. The Chihuahua came from Mexico. A small step with no natural borders and the spread across Europe is easy. Those are just a few examples of breeds traceable.

Other animals have found their way across the Atlantic. In 1876 the grey squirrel arrived in Europe, forcing the native red squirrels to take refuge in places like Brownsea Island off the coast of Bournemouth and in the several parks in Amsterdam.

When we lived on Dartmoor I was startled to see a llama in a neighbouring field. When we rented a house on the Coromondel peninsula in New Zealand we once found llamas in the garden. These lovely creatures originate from Peru and live happily in the Andes. Back home in Spain our Labrador Digger startled an alpaca, a smaller relative of the llama, from his resting place and

gave chase until called back.

It is not just the Atlantic and other water barriers which have proved a surmountable barrier. Several times we have encountered an Egyptian mongoose here in Spain. These prehistoric looking animals have made their way across the Mediterranean and settled here.

As the world shrinks with the building of tunnels, bridges and human travel with modern devices we can expect more animals to take advantage and gain access to areas not indigenous to them. I should be delighted to hear of readers' experiences; write to surinenglish.su@diariosur.es or Apartado 254, Álora 29500 Malaga.

PETER
HARRISON





Chicano, by an example of his work at a past Malaga feria :: SUR

Famous avant-garde local pop artist, Eugenio Chicano, dies

:: ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

MALAGA. A key artist in the modernisation of the art scene in Malaga has died. Eugenio Chicano was known for his distinctive, avant-garde pop art and also for campaigning for the cultural life of the city, which has exploded in recent years.

His work and lifestyle matched

the traditions of his home city, especially Semana Santa, with his challenging creations. Chicano, who was 83, was behind the early days of the Ateneo arts club as well as setting up the Pablo Picasso birthplace foundation. He also campaigned for the old customs house, the Aduana, as a site for a museum.

LEGAL ADVICE



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REF. A. D. A.

I am organising in my company the Christmas meal, because if we wait longer all the restaurants are reserved and only the worst are left. I have been looking at various options, but I have noticed that prices at this time of the year increase a lot, compared to the same menus at any other time of the year, just because it is

Christmas. Why is this? Is it legal for a restaurant to take advantage of the holidays to raise the prices of the menus?

It is true that meals in restaurants tend to be more expensive at Christmas, and this may be due to various factors, such as the fact that the wholesale market increases its prices during these holidays, forcing the restaurateur to also raise their prices because the cost of the menu becomes more expensive, or that the selection of the elements used to prepare the menu is not the same for a daily menu as for a menu created for a special event. In any case, the retail price is free, so each restaurant has the right to set the price it considers appropriate.

REF. N. A. R.

In the office where I work we have been talking about buying a ticket for the Spanish Christmas lottery and sharing

it with each other. Each one contributes a ticket, which we give to one of the colleagues, and they send us a Whatsapp with the photo of all the tickets before the draw. But what is the best way to make sure that if we win a prize, each of us will get our share?

The best way to share a ticket of a lottery is to leave in writing, in a document, the agreement signed by all the people who share the ticket, specifying, if necessary, how the money is divided if you get a prize. It is also recommended to include a photocopy of the identity card or passport of all participants, as well as the date and a photo of the tickets to be shared. Doing so simply by Whatsapp is not recommended, as screenshots can be forged and messages can be manipulated. The ideal way is to leave everything in writing to avoid any kind of problem.

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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

22 NOVEMBER 1975

Juan Carlos I is made King of Spain

Two days after Franco's death, the prince he had named as his successor was sworn in as king and a major new phase began in Spanish history

On 22 November 1975, two days after the death of dictator General Francisco Franco, Prince Juan Carlos was sworn in as King of Spain. Franco had ruled with an iron hand for 36 years, after winning the 1936 to 1939 civil war, so this was a turning point in the country's history and transition towards democracy.

Normally, Juan Carlos would not have acceded to the throne because his father, Don Juan de Borbón, was still alive. However, in 1969 Franco had announced that he had designated the young prince as his successor. In the same year, Juan Carlos had sworn "in the name of

God and on the holy gospels to uphold the laws of the Francoist state and remain loyal to the principles of the Movimiento Nacional". He repeated this oath at his investiture, but in his first speech as king he also referred to a new stage in Spain's history and the need to make radical improvements.

One of the new king's top priorities was to earn international support for his campaign for democracy. His investiture was attended by representatives of some of the major democracies, including President Giscard d'Estaing of France and the UK's Duke of Edinburgh, and the monarch made a point of handling many of Spain's



Swearing the oath: Juan Carlos alongside Queen Sofía and their three children, Felipe (the current king), Elena and Cristina. :: EFE

foreign relations in person. The king's personal popularity at home and abroad continued to increase and was sealed by the way he responded to an attempted military coup on 23 February 1981. However, years later he started to come under criticism for alleged extramarital relationships and incidents such as a private trip to Botswana to hunt elephants, without the government's knowledge, while acting as the head of the Spanish branch of the World Wildlife Fund. It came to light when he broke a hip and had to be flown home at taxpayers' expense. The outcry was so great that he was forced to make a public apology.

LANGUAGE
FOOTNOTE

Rey	King
Proclamar	To proclaim
Coronación	Coronation
Ceremonia	Ceremony
Discurso	Speech
Himno	Anthem
Monarquía	Monarchy
Juramento	Oath
Retransmitido	Broadcast
Congreso	Congress
Noviembre	November
Pancartas	Banners
Aplausos	Applause
Crucifijo	Crucifix
Cetro	Sceptre
Terziopelo	Velvet
Invitados	Guests
Uniforme	Uniform
Hereder	Heir

Perhaps the final straw, though, was the scandal involving his son-in-law Iñaki Urdangarin, who was found guilty of embezzlement through a company he had set up as a non-profit-making foundation. The king's daughter, the Infanta Cristina, was found not guilty of tax fraud.

King Juan Carlos abdicated in favour of his son Prince Felipe in 2014, after 39 years on the throne.

Bilingual crossword
inside back page



A JOURNEY THROUGH JAPANESE AVANT-GARDE CUISINE.

Indulge in Japanese avant-garde cuisine of 99 Sushi Bar.

Just arrived in Marbella, 99 Sushi Bar offers innovative dishes fusing East with West, marrying the freshest Spanish produce with classic Japanese presentation.

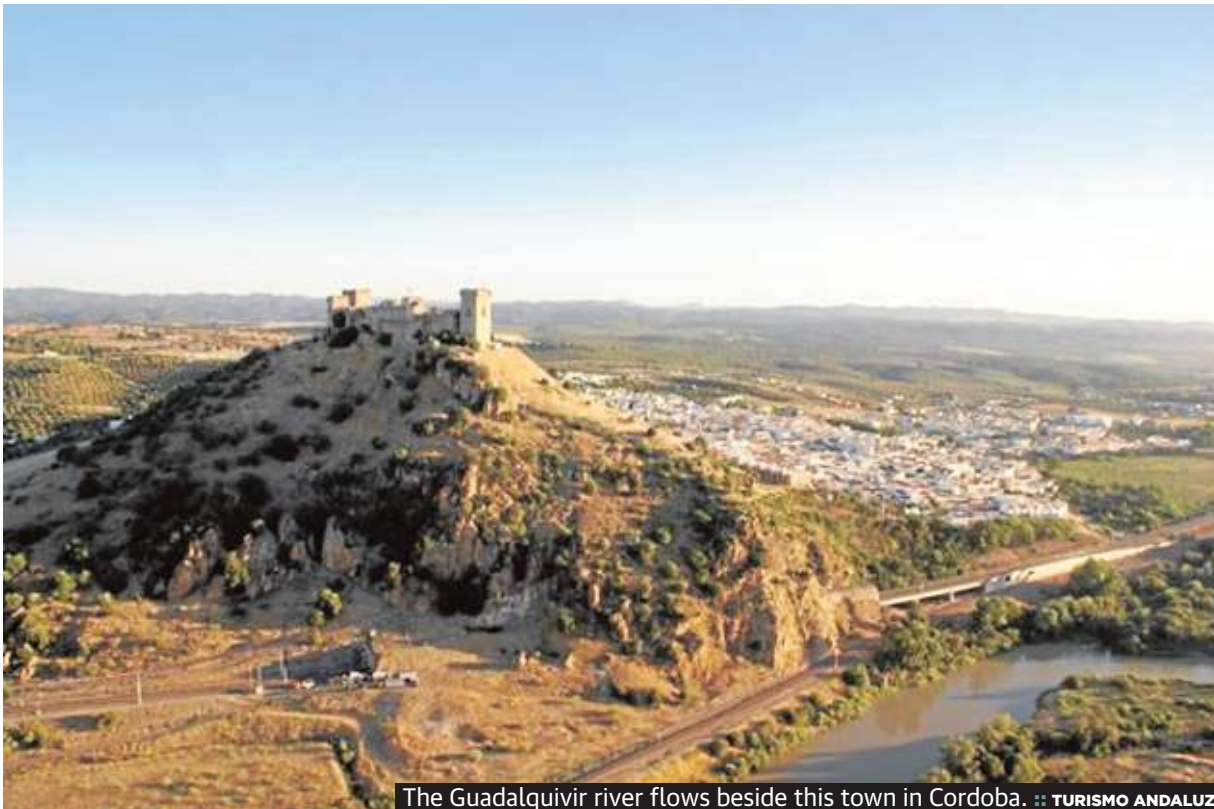


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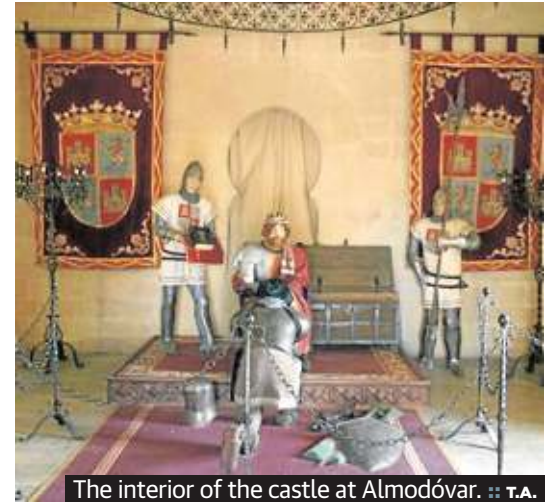


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DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA



The Guadalquivir river flows beside this town in Córdoba. :: TURISMO ANDALUZ



The interior of the castle at Almodóvar. :: T.A.



QUICK GUIDE

What to see in Almodóvar

Church of the Inmaculada Concepción. Originally built in the 14th century, but restored in 1627.

C/. Maestro Amalio Labajo, 1, 5, 14720 Almodóvar del Río

Roman portus. This important Roman construction is on the right bank of the Guadalquivir. C/. Extrarradio, 1, 14720 Almodóvar del Río.



Church of La Virgen del Rosario y San Sebastián. Believed to have been built in the 14th century, it was once the parish church.

Calle Santo, 18, 14720 Almodóvar del Río.



Almodóvar castle. This is one of the best-preserved fortresses in the province of Córdoba. Calle Castillo, s/n. 14720 Almodóvar del Río.

Ateneo Popular. Cultural organisation based in an 18th century mansion. Plaza de la Constitución, 9, 14720 Almodóvar del Río.

More than just a large castle

JAVIER
ALMELLONES

2 days in Almodóvar

Car + Walking.

Journey time: 2 hours from Málaga.

Castle: 3 hours.

Visits to other monuments: 6 hours.

La Breña: 3 hours.



Almodóvar del Río is a town in Córdoba province whose name and layout clearly reflect its medieval past. The main monument is its historical castle, whose interior and exterior can be visited all year round.

This fortress was built in the middle of the eighth century to monitor the Guadalquivir river, which at that time was navigable by small boats. Situated on the top of a

200-metre-high hill, it was one of the most important in Andalucía before the town was taken by the troops from Castile.

At the beginning of the last century it was remodelled by its then owner, the Conde de Torralva. Thanks to these works, the castle is still in good condition and tours are available led by actors playing the role of characters from the past, such as King Pedro I's butler, and the aforementioned Conde de Torralva.

However, in addition to its castle, Almodóvar has other interesting historical monuments, such as its Roman 'portus' beside the river, the church of the Inmaculada Concepción and the chapel of El Rosario. There is also an impressive 18th century mansion, which is now the headquarters of the Ateneo Popular.

Some of the attractions of this town are to be found outside the centre, including La Breña reservoir, which is not just a lovely place to visit but also used for different outdoor activities.

The traditional gastronomy also draws visitors to Almodóvar. One of the most famous dishes, which is thought to date back to Roman times, is the 'mazamorra', which is similar to the 'ajoblanco' soup but does not contain almonds. It is made with garlic, olive oil, vinegar, water and salt.

Croquettes are another local speciality which no visitor should fail to try. The legendary Taberna de Almodóvar still has the hundred-year-old recipe which Ricardo Arribas was commissioned to publish.

Other popular dishes to look out for on the menu are the 'gazpacho de jeringuilla', 'conejo en pepitoria' and 'guiso de cardos'.



La Breña II reservoir. :: T.A.

EXHIBITIONS**Smile**

Malaga. Until 24 January. *La Casa Amarilla.*
Rebecca Vilches takes us on a journey for the senses in which we follow the protagonist on their escape from negativity.

Journey

Alozaina. Until 11 January. *Casa del Río.*
Journey is the title of the exhibition which includes oils, acrylics and mixed media produced between 2013 until the present. The artist is dmcq.

Visibles

Marbella. Until 30 November. *Hospital Real de la Misericordia and San Pedro Centro Cultural.*
In a tribute to the women of Mar-

bella and San Pedro this exhibition consists of photographs presented as if they were the front cover of a magazine. The photos, dating back to the thirties up to present day, demonstrate the 'visibility' of these female business owners, housewives, entrepreneurs, teachers etc, all of whom "could star on a front page in the media".

Collective exhibition

Mijas. Until 16 December. *Centro Cultural de La Cala.*
Works with different textiles by Corinne Marguerite, Antonio Marc, Heidi Textil and Lana Luz.

Pedro Gabiola

Estepona. 29 November to 11 December. *Casa de Las Tejerinas.*
Local resident and painter Pedro Gabiola presents 14 works which bring together a passion for painting and bullfighting in 'The exquisite and the tragic'.

Magpie International Art

Marbella. Until 30 November. *C/Virgen del Pilar.*
'November Collective' art exhibition of various format.

Extraordinary women

Marbella. Until 29 November. *Hospital Costa del Sol.*
Frida Kahlo, Malala Yousafzai, Eva Perón and Cleopatra are some of just a few women who feature in 'Luminaries, extraordinary women' - 34 works in an exhibition to mark the International Day of the Elimination of Gender Violence.



Pedro Gabiola, Estepona.

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Nigel Gilbert, Benamargosa.

Piel de Libro

Mijas. Until 25 November. *Mijas town hall.*
The exhibition entitled 'Realidades Alteradas' is by the Piel de Libro collective. Open from 9am until 2pm, Monday to Friday.

Nuevo Enfoque

Mijas. Until 2 December. *Casa de la Cultura, Las Lagunas.*
Enfoque Libre is the title of this exhibition of photographs taken by the Asociación Nuevo Enfoque Mijas.

Ángel Giró2

Fuengirola. Until 22 November. *Casa de la Cultura de Fuengirola, Avda Juan Gómez Juanito.*
An exhibition of photographs and paintings by Ángel Giró Camacho and Ángel Giró Galacho.

Nigel Gilbert

Benamargosa. 23 November to 20 December. *La Vaquería.*
Paintings and prints by award winning illustrator Nigel Gilbert.

Territorio Axarco

Benalmádena. Until 12 January 2020. *Centro de Exposiciones.*
Commissioned by Antonio Sánchez Marín, the exhibition consists of 80 works in different formats using different techniques by a total of thirteen international and Malaga artists. Eight are painters and five of them sculptors, all living in the Axarquía.

The use of space, Calder-Picasso

Malaga. Until 2 February 2020. *Museo Picasso Málaga.*
A joint exhibition explores the use of space by two famous artists, the American sculptor Alexander Calder and Malaga's Pablo Ruiz Picasso.

Exile and Nostalgia

Malaga. Until 2 February. *Museo Casa Natal Picasso.*
A collection of writings, paintings and drawings, many of them on newspaper pages, that form part of the legacy left by Eugenio Arias. Arias and Picasso met and became friends while both were in exile in France and shared a common interest, bullfighting.

Lola Recio

Torremolinos. Until 22 November. *Casa de los Navajas.*
An exhibition of landscapes by artist Lola Recio.

The Russian museum

Malaga. *Edificio Tabacalera, Avda Sor Teresa Prat.*

The annual exhibition is entitled 'Saints, queens and workers. The image of women in Russian art' and runs until 27 February 2020 while the temporary shows 'Nikolai Roerich. In Search of Shambhala' and 'Anna Ajmátova. Poetry and life' run until 1 March 2020. 'La Mirada Lateral' by Emmanuel Lafonte on the staircase to the exhibition rooms will be on display until February 2020.

Modern Utopias

Malaga. Until 26 January 2020. *Centre Pompidou, Muelle Uno.*
'Modern Utopias' is an exhibition reflecting the historical events that have defined our time and fed the imagination of modern and contemporary artists.

La Luna

Malaga. Until 24 November. *Centre Pompidou, Muelle Uno.*
'La Luna, un espacio imaginario por defender' is an exhibition dedicated to the moon which forms part of the 'Hors Pistes' cycle currently running at the Pompidou. It includes videos, photographs and many other articles connected to the moon and space travel.

Sorolla Tierra Adentro

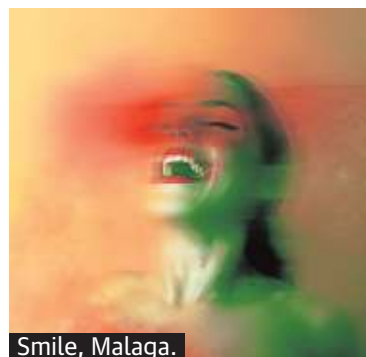
Malaga. Until 30 January. *Palacio Episcopal.*
A display of more than 100 works by Joaquín Sorolla featuring landscapes and characters far removed from his usual seaside scenes.

Fortuny

Malaga. Until 2 February. *Sala Noble, Museo Carmen Thyssen.*
Around 30 images by Mariano Fortuny created when he was experimenting with different techniques. Many have never been catalogued before.

Estanislao Lanza

Malaga. Until 10 December. *Alfajar, C/Císter.*
An exhibition of ceramics entitled Caronte by Estanislao Lanza will be open until the end of October. www.alfajar.es



Smile, Malaga.

Arabian Fantasy

Malaga. Until 1 March. *Carmen Thyssen Museum.*
'Arabian Fantasy' is the title of a new exhibition consisting of works by Fortuny, Tapiró, Fabrès, Lameyer, Delacroix, Benjamin-Constant and Dehodencq with the common theme of Arabic life or how it was romantically depicted by artists in the 19th century.

Sean Scully

Malaga. Until 19 January 2020. *Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.* Open Tues to Sun, 9am-9pm, and third Monday of each month.
The exhibition entitled 'Eleuthera', is an exhibition of abstract works by "one of the most outstanding figures on the international art scene" (as described by CAC artistic director Helena Juncosa), Sean Scully.

Ernst Kraft

Vélez-Málaga. Until 10 December. *Sala El Pósito.*
'El Universo' by Ernst Kraft consists of two metal structures and multiple drawings showing their creation.

Japanese culture and traditions

Macharaviaya. Until 12 January. *Museo Los Gálvez.*
This exhibition includes a selection of traditional Ukiyo-e art from the 19th century with scenes depicting the countryside, sumo wrestlers, courtesans and some sexually explicit paintings.

Foto Poética

Gaucín. 22, 23 November, open 11am-2pm, 5-8pm. *El Cuartito, C/Nueva.*
The exhibition by Francis Prieto consists of a series of photographs with Japanese-style Haiku poetry.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS**Christmas craft fair**

Coin. 30 November. *Venta La Masía, Villafranco.* 12 to 3pm. Free entry.
TAPAS (The Andalucía Performing Arts Society) has organised a fair with stalls, gifts, crafts and entertainment - a chance to buy Christmas gifts and stocking fillers. Money raised will go to CHAIN animal charity and the Un Si por La Vida cancer support charity. 5€ pitch fee for stallholders (call Betty on 679 757 610).

Lavazza's Christmas Cracker

Benalmádena. 7 December, doors 8pm. *Moonlight Lounge, Sunset Beach Hotel.* 12.50€.
By invitation, the TAPAS choir join popular vocalist Ricky Lavazza in his Christmas Show. Karen Danzig will also appear. Tickets available from Sunset Beach reception or www.lava-productions.rocks

Christmas fair

Fuengirola. 23 November, 11am to 2pm. *St Andrew's community centre, Los Boliches.*
Enjoy bacon butties, hot dogs, tea and coffee and cakes. There will be a bar, and stalls including bottles, books, bric-a-brac, clothes, a tombola and raffle.

Musical Christmas party

Coin. 16 December, 5pm. Olive Tree Restaurante. 14€ members / 16€ non-members.

The TAPAS choir will be singing festive favourites, old and new. There will be dance music from the TAPAS guitar group and DJ Carl Coulton following a two-course Christmas dinner. Everyone is welcome; call 679 757 610.

Paws-Awhile-Dog-Rescue

Benalmádena. 24 November, 12-6pm. Lewis's Irish Pub. Avda Antonio Machado.

A variety of stalls with crafts etc and live entertainment.

Christmas Fair

Estepona. 23 November, from 11am until 3pm. Palacio de Congresos. Free entry.

Food, music gifts plus Santa's grotto and a free advent calendar. Proceeds for various charities.

Last Chance Animal Rescue

El Paraíso. 29 November, 5-7pm. Neli G's Bistro Café.

Christmas gift ideas, stalls, mince pies, mulled wine, Christmas Bake Off, live music, tombola and more.

La Cala Lions Christmas Fayre

Las Lagunas. 30 November, 11am-5pm. Treetops, El Chaparral Golf.

The Costa Soul Singers and Stagecoach's Children's Choir will be providing the music at this Christmas fair which will have stalls selling crafts, cakes, gifts etc.

ADANA Christmas Fair

Estepona. 1 December, 10.30am - 4pm. Palacio de Congresos.

Various stalls, entertainment, activities for children.

Lux Mundi Bazaar

Fuengirola. 4 December, 10.30am - 12.30pm. Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, C/Nueva.

Cakes, jewellery, books, toys, gifts etc. Free entry.

Christmas Cookie event

Álora. 30 November, from 9.30am until 5pm. El Nido del Chorro, C/Conde del Guadalhorce 20.

Mince pies and mulled wine, juice for little ones, churros and hot chocolate. 10 per cent of cookie sales will be split between Cudeca and Cruz Roja charities. Places are limited. Bookings: 663 086 637.

MUSIC & DANCE

Dire Straits tribute

Malaga. 29 November, 9.30pm.

París 15, Polígono Industrial San Luís. 15€ + fees.

Alchemy Project will perform a tribute to the band's 1983 concert in London.

www.proyectoalchemy.com

Dance shows

Sotogrande. 23 November, 6-9pm.

24 November, 12.30am-3pm. Marina, Plaza las Palmeras.

A unique live musical spectacle from MOSAYKO Arte Música with-

various dancing styles from around the world, as well as wine and cider tastings.

The Rob Sas band

Estepona.

23 November, 11.45pm. Louie Louie rock bar, Estepona port.

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.

www.therobsasband.com



Dire Straits tribute, Malaga.

The Animals III

Vélez-Málaga. 22 November, 8pm.

Jardines de Trapiche. 20€

Cártama. 23 November, 8pm.

Carthima theatre. 10€ in advance, 15€ on the door.

One of the most iconic bands of the British music scene of the 60s and 70s will perform two concerts.

Tickets: www.costadeldisco.com

A romantic setting for Cudeca's Advent charity concert

by T. BRYANT

BENALMÁDEN. Cudeca will host its annual Advent Charity Concert at the Bil Bil Castle in Benalmádena Costa next Friday, 29 November.

This year, the festive music event will again present the Mijas-based mezzosoprano, Mariza Ruppman, a singer who has performed numerous concerts in support of the cancer charity.

Mariza will be accompanied by vocalist and trumpeter Mitch Jansen and gifted concert pianist Heather Bellene. The trio will perform a selection of gospel and other traditional Christmas music.

Tickets for the concert, which starts at 7.30pm, cost 12 euros and will be available at the door on the night of the event. All proceeds from the concert will go to the Cudeca Hospice.



Mariza Ruppman. by SUR

INFORMATION

► **When.** Friday 29 November, 7.30pm.

► **Where.** Castillo Bil Bil, Benalmádena Costa.

► **Tickets.** 12 euros on the door.

Michael Jackson tribute

Malaga. 24 November, 6.30pm.

La Cochera Cabaret. 12€.

With a live band, dancers and a spectacular stage show, Miguel

Concha pays tribute to Michael Jackson. Concha is considered one of the best tribute acts in the world, gaining recognition in Rolling Stone magazine.



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MUSIC & DANCE

Opera & ballet at the Cervantes Malaga. *Teatro Cervantes.*
www.teatrocervantes.com

22, 23 November, 8pm.

The Ballet Nacional de España will be performing Electra.

26 November, 8pm.

The Malandain Ballet Biarritz will perform Marie Antoinette with the Royal Versailles Opera company.

27 November, 8pm.

Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet will be staged by the Russian National Ballet.



Michael Jackson tribute, Malaga.

Saint Cecilia

Mijas. *Teatro Las Lagunas.*

23 November, 7.30pm. 3€

A tribute to the patron saint of music and charity concert to raise funds for Carmen Leyre, a young girl with a rare medical condition.

24 November, 12pm. Free.

A concert filled with film scores.

Álora. 23 November, 8pm. *Teatro Cervantes.*

Álora's municipal band will celebrate the patron saint of music with a special concert. The 2€ entry will go to the Hemiparalysis Association.

Estepona. 22 November, 7.30pm. *Nuestra Señora del Carmen church.*

The Magnum Mysterium choir, led by Miguel Ángel Garrido Sánchez,

Punkirola comes to Torremolinos

The hardcore music festival will present two of the most iconic bands of the British garage and punk rock scene

:: TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. The explosive music scene of the late 1970s will be relived during the second edition of the Punkirola festival in Torremolinos on Friday 6 and Saturday 7 December.

This nostalgic punk rock festival will invoke the spirit of an era when the youth of the UK adorned safety-pins, spiked hair, offensive T-shirts and created their own brand of anarchist music.

The festival, which will be held in the Black Velvet Club in the centre of Torremolinos, will present some of the British garage and punk scene's most iconic bands, including legendary punk rockers, The Wasps.

Formed in 1976, The Wasps perform in the styles of the Velvet Underground and Iggy Pop & The



The Reinfected will perform at the Punkirola festival. :: SUR

Stooges. They were one of the principal gigging bands of the London punk scene during the 1970s, and their performance at this event is sure to get the audience pogoing.

Now based in Spain, Welsh rockers Picture Frame Seduction will headline the festival on Saturday night. This hardcore punk band have been together for over 40 years, although, as with many bands of the early punk scene, the group's music was considered too

disruptive and they were largely overlooked by promoters. The band helped develop the hardcore punk scene in the UK, recording several albums with different record companies between 1979 and 1987.

Several bands from Spain will also appear at the event, including Absolute Pantz, Guiri Resort, Fiction, The Altoonas, and the Costa del Sol's top punk act, The Reinfected.

The Reinfected is made up of

INFORMATION

► **When.** Friday 6 and Saturday 7 December.

► **Where.** Black Velvet, Pasaje Zacatin (Avenida Palma de Mallorca), Torremolinos.

► **More information.** Bands include The Wasps, Picture Frame Seduction, Guiri Resort and The Reinfected.

several established musicians, including Martin Hope, former guitarist of The Accused - a group that received relative success on the UK punk scene. The band perform covers of some of the most influential bands of the era, including The Sex Pistols, The Clash and The Damned.

Tickets for the festival, which begins at 9pm and continues until 3am, cost 10 euros for each night, or 15 euros for a two-night pass. The venue capacity is limited so early booking is advised.

For information and tickets, see the Punkirola Facebook page.

will deliver a concert.

Benalmádena. 22 November, 8pm. *Castillo Bil Bil.*

Campillos. 24 November, 11.30am. *Town hall esplanade.*

Marbella. 22 November. *Teatro de Marbella.*

Torremolinos. 22 November, 8pm. *Casa de los Navajas.*

Vélez-Málaga. 24 November,

12.30pm. *Teatro del Carmen.* The municipal band and choirs.

Blues at Moonlight

Benalmádena. Until 24 November.

A series of free concerts will be held on the terrace of the Oasis bar from midday while the main concerts will be in The Moonlight Lounge starting at 8pm. Performing will be

Cat Lee King and his Cocks, Dany O and the Astrotones, rockabillys Crystal and Runnin Wild, as well as Viktor Huganet among others. www.bluesatmoonlight.com

CHARITY

SEARCH Garden Party

Coín. 23 November, from 1.30pm. *Finca El Sueño.* 12€.

The Spanish Equine Association for Rescue, Care and Homing is holding a garden party to raise funds for the centre's horses. There will be live music with singer Laura Elen and a saxophonist with food and drink available. Reservations: info@serch.es or 660 220 700.

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ADVERTORIAL Furniture Deals

Furniture Deals arrive on the Costa del Sol

The successful UK-based firm Furniture Deals is now operating on the Costa del Sol, bringing a selection of beds, mattresses, sofas and more. The new showroom is located just off the A-7053 in Las Lagunas, Mijas Costa.

Owner Ricardo Thornton Bell said that after 12 months of research, talking to home owners and residents to find out their home furniture requirements, he decided to set up a duplicate of his successful UK business on the Costa del Sol.

Only opening on 1 November, Ricardo has been overwhelmed by the amount of sales and enquiries, not just regarding the stock he's carrying here in Spain,



and but also items that can be ordered in.

Many beds can be made to order, choosing colours, styles and size, then shipped directly to Costa del Sol.

In the new year, Ricardo is going to expand to include made-to-measure sofas, which he already supplies in the UK, letting the customer choose fabrics, styles and sizes.

Furniture Deals can easily be found on Facebook or located next to RMC's glass curtains and PDP drinks company in Las Lagunas. Telephone 711004848.

Animals In Distress auctions
Fuengirola. 28 November. Viewing from 6-7pm. *El Rengo Restaurante La Ponderosa.*
Fifteen per cent commission from each sale goes to AID. Sellers need to advise Joe (626 942 427) in advance and bring the items for logging in between 5 and 6pm.
www.animals-in-distress.eu

THEATRE & COMEDY

Thespa
Los Boliches. 27 November, 7.30pm. *Masonic Hall.* Members 16€, guests 18€.
First play: 'Birdbath' by Leonard Malfi followed by three-course lunch and then the second play, 'Husband and Wife' by Jack Kent. Reservations (by 24 November): thespabooking@gmail.com or 652726624

British comedy
Estepona. 28 November, 8pm. *Louie Louie Rock Bar.* 20€ 17€.
Stand-Up Comedy Spain presents a night of British Comedy with Larry Dean, Bruce Pummery, Jenny BSide and Nik Coppin. Tickets: www.eventbrite.com

LECTURES & TALKS

U3A Lectures
Fuengirola. 27 November, 11am. *Lux Mundi room B3-R4, free to*



Marie Antoinette, Malaga.

members, guests 5€. Email: u3a-fuengirola@gmail.com
'Great Painters of Horses. Horses deserve a chapter to themselves.'
Group Leader Liz Cochrane.

The Arts Society
Benahavís. 26 November, 6.30pm. *Benahavís town hall.* 12€ includes glass of wine.
'The Astonishing Master Mozart Comes to Town'
The talk will deal with the period the Mozart family spent in London in 1764-5. Speaker Graham Griffiths is himself a renowned pianist and conductor with a world-wide following. He will illustrate his talk at the keyboard with witty performances of Mozart's miniatures.
www.theartsocietybenahavis.com

Brexit Q&A
Nerja. 27 November, 10.30am to

12.30pm. *Nerja town hall meeting room.*

A member of the British consular team will be on hand to answer questions and point UK nationals to the right sources of information.

Foreigners information day
Estepona. 22 November, 11am. *Palacio de Congresos*
Information on changes to administrative processes for foreigners. Reservations: jornadas@gestoresmalaga.com

FESTIVALS

Fiesta de la Chanfaina
Totalán. 24 November.
The agricultural village of Totalán celebrates its traditions with a day dedicated to its speciality, chanfaina. The stew is made with potatoes, black pudding and pork flavoured with various spices, will be offered to visitors to taste. There will also be various activities and live music.

EVENTS

ExPatExpo
Fuengirola. 23, 24 November, 12 to 5pm. *IPV Spah Hotel.* Free.
A wide range of businesses, clubs and associations that cater foreign residents will gather under one roof. Antiques valuing from Eric Knowles, a workshop from artist Roger Cummiskey and performances from the Reflections

acapella quartet.

U3A Photography Group
Torre del Mar. 3 December. 3 to 5pm. 5€ (4€ for members). *Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre.*
Improve your photography with Rob Bell Photography. Open to all, from beginners to the more experienced photographer, with a focus on various styles and computer software. Don't forget your camera.

TRIPS

Garden centre and Mijas Pueblo
Torre del Mar. 28 November. *Various departure points.* 16€.
Lux Mundi Torre del Mar. 952 543 334 or luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

Seville Christmas lights
Torre del Mar. 10-12 December. *Various departure points.*
Staying at 4* Hotel Fernando. 219-239€. Lux Mundi Torre del Mar. 952 543 334 or luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

Cáceres, Trujillo, Mérida
Fuengirola. 17-23 February. *Various departure points.*
Full details, contact Fundación Lux Mundi Fuengirola, C/Nueva 3. 952474840. www.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
The Irishman: 16.30, 20.10.
Marriage Story: 20.05.
A Rainy Day In New York: 22.35.

Cinesur El Ingenio
Avda. Juan Carlos I, Vélez-Málaga. Tel. 667 77 31 87.
Frozen II: 12.30, 15.00, 17.15, 19.30, 21.45, 0.00.

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor
Centro de Ocio Plaza Mayor, Avda. Alfonso Ponce de León. Tel: 902 902 103 or visit www.yelmocines.es
Hustlers: 21.45 (Tues).
Frozen II: 17.30 (every day); 12.30 (Sat, Sun); 20.45 (Tues).
Joker: 19.10 (Tues).
Le Mans '66: 16.05 (every day, except Tues); 19.00 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Rincón de la Victoria. Calle Arroyo Totalán Tel: 902 220 922 or visit www.yelmocines.es
Hustlers: 20.50 (Tues).
Frozen II: 21.30 (Tues).
Joker: 19.50 (Tues).
Le Mans '66: 18.50 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Vialia. Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902 220 922 or visit www.yelmocines.es
Doctor Sleep: 21.30 (Tues).
Hustlers: 21.45 (Tues).
Joker: 19.35 (Tues).
Le Mans '66: 18.55 (Tues).

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Italian winemakers are particularly malicious when it comes to attacking the competition, and mafia-style methods are common. We heard last week of two cooperatives that had been broken into at night, the intruders opening the taps of all the tanks and barrels to release 40,000 hectolitres of wine. Result: two million euros' worth of losses.

The dirtiest trick a restaurant can play on a competitor is to steal the reservations book. This makes it impossible to know whether diners without bookings can be admitted, so tables are left empty. In this day and age such dirty tricks are not necessary. There are computer hackers, who, for a price, will hack into



ANDREW J. LINN

WINE FOR RANSOM

the operating system of a competitor.

Ransomware is the best option. Last week a message appeared on all Everis's computer screens, 'Hello Everis, your network was hacked and encrypted. No decryption software is available on the Web. Email us at xxxx, and keep our contact safe. Disclosure can mean impossibility of decryption...'

Everis, Spain's largest IT con-

sultants, had to close down everything. The price asked by the hacker for the decryption key was €750,000. The same day other companies were attacked, among them La Cadena Ser, KPMG and Accenture. As in nearly all such cases the victims do not publicise the attacks, following the instructions of the hackers, but it is an open secret that at least one of the country's biggest wine producers also had

to close down their entire network in every country where they operate. No orders could be accepted as no stock figures were available, and no customers could be advised about orders pending. Bottling lines were halted. It is not known whether the victims paid the ransom, but normally the victim has just two options: pay the hackers or pay experts to resolve the problem. Neither option is guaranteed to work. Many people pay the hacker and receive nothing in return. One of Europe's largest drinks distributors was told if it did not pay three million euros its files would never be recovered. The shareholding family took a decision not to give in to such demands and closed the business forever.

WINE OF THE WEEK

La Fuente de Nekeas

It is not very obvious how they have done it, but this small family bodega, Nekeas, has succeeded in getting its Navarra wines into the top slot almost everywhere.

This blend of tempranillo and cabernet sauvignon is particularly successful, although the bodega's Chardonnay is superb. Around €7.30.



Dani García heads back to New York

The chef closed his three-Michelin-star restaurant in Marbella last week

✪ MARINA MARTÍNEZ

MÁLAGA. As he promised when his Marbella restaurant was given its third Michelin star this time last year, chef Dani García served his last customers at his haute cuisine venue last week. Less than 48 hours after celebrating an emotional "last supper" with friends and many of Spain's best known chefs, García revealed some of his new projects during a talk on Monday at the Basque Culinary Center in San Sebastián. These include his new burger with truffle sauce now available at McDonald's restaurants, and a return to New York, a city where his Manzanilla project was a flop five years ago. This time he goes back with three brands, two fast food and one Mediterranean cuisine.



García with fellow top chefs at his farewell dinner in Marbella. ✪ JOSELE



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Ministry of Health warns of the effects of not using antibiotics properly

An awareness campaign states that bacteria develop a resistance to antibiotics if they are not used properly

ALMUDENA NOGUÉS

MÁLAGA. What would happen if we tried to clean our teeth with a hairbrush? The image in a new campaign launched by Spain's Ministry of Health could not be clearer. The aim of the campaign is to make

people aware of what can happen when they use a product incorrectly. And the message it wants to get across? That the said product is not just failing to fulfil its function, but is actually of no use whatsoever.

This, warns the Ministry, is exactly what is happening with antibiotics: "They can't be used to treat everything" is the slogan being used in this initiative, which coincides with European Antibiotics Awareness Week.

The statistics are worrying. According to the latest report issued by the European Commission about people's knowledge of antibiotics, 36 per cent of those surveyed mistakenly believe that they can cure a cold and 42 per cent admit that they have taken them in the past 12 months. None of them were aware of the risks that incorrect use of antibiotics can bring.

Experts say that self-medication with antibiotics in cases of viral infections, such as common flu, can increase resistance and compromise the therapeutic effect of these medicines in future treatments.

The doctors point out that, con-

trary to many patients' beliefs, antibiotics only treat bacterial infections. They do not relieve pain or high temperature and should only be used under medical prescription.

It is also important to beware of not taking antibiotics properly: "It is particularly dangerous to not finish a course of antibiotics, because the micro-organism will not be completely eliminated and it will know its enemy in such a way that it learns how to fight against it," explain specialists.

The Ministry of Health wants this message to reach the whole population, so until 24 November it is broadcasting an advertisement on national and regional television. It is being shown 1,085 times in all, at a cost of 590,000 euros. One of the objectives of the campaign is to reduce the number of deaths through hospital infections caused by the aforementioned 'resistant bacteria'.

As the director general of the WHO, Tedros Adhanom, warned recently, one of the greatest challenges facing humanity in terms of health is this resistance to antibiotics, which occurs when the bacteria develop the ability to survive exposure to medications designed to kill them or stop them increasing.

It is calculated that 33,000 people in Europe die from this cause every year, 3,000 of them in Spain. That is why it is so important for measures to be put into effect and, especially, for people to be educated about the correct use of antibiotics.

It is calculated that resistance to antibiotics is behind the death of 33,000 people in Europe every year, 3,000 in Spain

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no antibiotics CANNOT be used for everything



The Spanish government's current campaign. :: **SUR**

Government plans more training for professionals to encourage fewer prescriptions

EFE

MADRID. The Ministry of Health is to improve training for Spanish professionals regarding resistance to antibiotics, with the aim of reducing the use of these drugs and improving the way they are used.

It is also creating a diploma for experts in programmes designed to optimise the use of medications to

combat different infections caused by bacteria.

These form part of a plan called PRAN, the Plan Nacional frente a la Resistencia a los Antibióticos, which also intends to optimise the prescribing of antibiotics by vets, through an epidemiological map of clinical pathogens.

Both initiatives were presented on Monday, European Antibiotic Awareness Day, by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fishing and Food (MAPA).

According to the latest figures collated as part of the PRAN, between 2015 and 2018 Spain reduced the use of antibiotics in human health by 7.2 per cent, and total sales of veterinary antibiotics fell by 52.3 per cent between 2014 and 2018.

Diabetic Support Group tests over 500 people in Costa campaign

Events organised to raise awareness of the disease culminated in a fun walk and entertainment in La Cala de Mijas on Sunday

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. The Diabetic Support Group run by La Cala de Mijas Lions Club has reported a successful awareness campaign to mark World Diabetes Day, which is commemorated each year on 14 November.

Over a number of days the group took their information table to different locations in the Mijas area, where they carried out more than 500 free glucose tests on members of the public with the help of diabetic nurses.

On Thursday 14th itself more than 100 passers-by were tested when they passed the town hall offices in La Cala. The blood sugar levels testing is part of the Lions International Federation campaign, which has so far tested nearly one million people, worldwide.

Events culminated on Sunday with the Walk for Diabetes Awareness organised in collaboration with the Mijas Foreign Residents and Sports Departments. As well as walk-



Volunteers help raise awareness of diabetes in La Cala. :: SUR



Getting moving at the Walk for Diabetes. :: SUR

ing through La Cala de Mijas and along the boardwalk, participants enjoyed Zumba and Dancercise sessions with live entertainment from the Costa Soul Singers.

The Diabetic Support Group

meets one a month in Fuengirola. Upcoming events include a Christmas fair on 30 November at Tree-tops Restaurant, El Chaparral Golf.

For more information contact the group on 607879450.

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The guitars are currently on display at the Hard Rock Cafe Madrid. :: ÓSCAR CHAMORRO

Guitars to help remember

Hard Rock Cafe Madrid is auctioning 25 personalised instruments belonging to famous musicians to raise funds for further research into Alzheimer's disease

:: ALFONSO TORICES

The world of rock music has once again taken action in support of a worthy cause. Twenty-five musicians and members of Spanish and international pop, rock and rap bands have joined forces with the Hard Rock Cafe Madrid for an auction to raise money for further research into Alzheimer's in Spain.

Bands like Ketama, La Oreja de Van Gogh, Hombres G, Estopa, La Unión and Los Secretos; soloists such as Carlos Tarque, Manolo García, Carlos Jean and Dani Martín; and well-known musicians including Rudy Sarzo (bass player with Ozzy Osborne, Whitesnake and Dio) and Tim Stewart (guitarist with Lady Gaga) have decorated and personalised 25 guitars; now people can place their bids for these unique items on the todocoleccion.net plat-

form until 24 November.

The money raised will be donated to the Fundación Reina Sofía's Alzheimer's centre, which focuses on all aspects of this neurodegenerative illness which affects more than one million people in Spain, including research, training and personal assistance.

Messages for the memory

The artists were totally free to decorate the guitars in any way they liked, and they also wrote a personal message on the back of the instruments. The messages all relate to memory, in the hope that nobody or nothing will ever take this away from the new owners of the guitars, not even Alzheimer's.

Some of the instruments have been painted, while others have been decorated with collage, drawings or graffiti. Anyone who would like to see the 25 guitars can do so at the exhibition at the Hard Rock Cafe in Madrid.

There, they can see how Amaral focuses on the idea of adventure with a guitar with a map of the world on it; that the band Marea opted to personalise their instrument with a caricature of the five members of the group; that David Otero etched in braille one of his best-loved songs, Baile; that the

rockers of Sôber paid tribute to the late Alberto Madrid, who used to be a member of the band; and that rap artist Rayden has decorated his guitar with small fragments of his most representative songs.

The messages about memory chosen by the artists are also personal and varied. The members of Mägo de Oz, for example, chose a verse from Sueños Dormidos, the song that Txus - the group founder and drummer - dedicated to his grandfather, who suffered from Alzheimer's.

The same line of inspiration led Rulo y la Contrabanda to write on the back of the guitar the words of La Reina del Barrio, which Rulo wrote for two much-loved relatives who also had to fight against Alzheimer's, his grandmother and mother-in-law.

Singer Malú, on the other hand, decided to write something which she has always believed during her career: "Donde las palabras fallan, la música habla" (where words fail, music speaks).

Music was also the inspiration for Carlos Jean's private message about memory. Written in Spanish, it translates as: "I want the songs that make me smile, cry, discover, think and fly to always remain in my mind."

Foundation gives 15,000 euros to cancer charity

Staff at CLC World Resorts & Hotels raised the funds for AECC during October

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. Representatives from the Spanish cancer association, AECC were in Mijas last Friday to pick up a cheque for 15,000 euros from Fundación CLC World. The funds were raised by staff at the

CLC holiday resort in Mijas during the month of October through the sale of T-shirts and ribbons as well as organising charity breakfasts and lunches, raffles, car washing and parties.

Last week's presentation was attended by the founder of CLC, Roy Peires; the mayor of Mijas, Josele González; the president of the Fundación, Juan Miguel Marcos; and provincial manager of AECC, Pedro González.



Fundación CLC World gives the cheque to AECC. :: SUR



Alicia Laddaga (1st left) :: SUR

Initiative to promote healthy lifestyles among children

:: TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. Benalmádena town hall has launched a new initiative to encourage children to eat more fruit in an attempt to raise awareness of the dangers of obesity. The scheme, which will be aimed at all schools in the municipality, will be launched today (Friday) during the 35th Día de la Fruta (Fruit Day).

The Health and Education departments have joined forces for a series of programmes that will

promote healthy lifestyle habits among youngsters.

"With this initiative we want to recommend that students swap their break-time snack for a piece of fruit," explained councillor for Health, Alicia Laddaga.

The Spanish COSI (Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative) data shows that more than 40 per cent of children in Spain between the ages of six and nine years are overweight and that 18 per cent are obese.

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Depending on your citizen status in the UK you might be able to claim back up to 80% of the costs for any selective surgery that you might want to undergo in Spain.

If you are in the need of any surgery and you are considering having it done down here in Spain, like a total knee or total hip replacement, you could be eligible for a considerable refund by the British NHS. Although you are most certainly in possession of the European Health Insurance Card (E111), this card would only cover you for emergency treatments, but it would not cover the costs for any elective surgery that you might want to have done in any country of the European Economic Area, including Switzerland.

If you are in the need of any surgery and you are considering having it done down here in Spain, like a total knee or total hip replacement, you could be eligible for a considerable refund by the British NHS



:: SANDALF

There are two possible routes to claim some refunds from the NHS. The so called S2 route is a direct funding arrangement between the NHS and the state healthcare provider in the country of your choice. This would mean that you would have to go to a national health hospital here in Spain to have the procedure done. In that case the NHS would most certainly pay the full amount of the costs. But you might not only be faced with a long waiting list, but also encounter some communication problems due to a possible language barrier.

The other option would be the EU directive route. This is a funding arrangement between you and the NHS. Using this route means you will have to pay the costs of your treatment abroad upfront and then claim eligible costs from the NHS when you return.

For some treatments you'll need to get authorisation from NHS England prior to receiving treatment. But it would give you the option to receive treatment by a private surgeon and have the procedure performed in a private hospital. The typical surgical procedure eligible for funding are elective surgeries with a long waiting list in the UK, like hip and knee replacement surgery.

It is important though that you get in touch with the NHS prior to the procedure, and proof that you are eligible for the procedure by providing the appropriate paper work. Our team would

Keep in mind that this NHS funding might not be available anymore once Brexit has gone through

be more than happy to help you with that. Once you get the approval by the NHS, they might even pay a certain amount in advanced as part of the funding, to help you financing the cost of the surgical procedure. The other important details is the above mentioned funding scheme might not be available anymore once Brexit has gone through. For any further questions please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.



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Teams from La Viñuela, Calahonda and Marbella brought this British export to the warmer climes of the Costa del Sol

BENALMÁDENA. The ball sails through the crisp November air towards the net, but Ronnie Waugh, shielded from the midday sun by his cap, handles it expertly, and rolls the ball out to a defender.

With their opponents still committed forward, the football fan in me wants, and half-expects, a swift counter attack from Ronnie's side. But this is something of an unrealistic prospect; after all, running is strictly prohibited in this sport.

Welcome to southern Spain's first walking football league. On Saturday, Benalmádena Pueblo's sports centre hosted the first set of matches in the Blue Sky Marbella league, which brought together Walking Football Spain (WFS), Smiles Calahonda (both of whom fielded an A team and a B team) and Aston Viñuela, to play four games in a competition which from now on will have one fixture a month.

Though this is the first walking football league in the country's south - in fact, Smiles' Gray Salt is insistent it is the first such league in Spain full stop - the sport has had a presence on the Costa del Sol for a while. The aforementioned clubs (along with The Walking Dead, who sat out the opening round of matches) have carried out plenty of laudable charity work over the past



"Just because we walk, it doesn't mean we're not competitive"

The inaugural fixtures of southern Spain's first walking football league were played in Benalmádena Pueblo on Saturday



around a decade ago, one of the main objectives was to tackle the loneliness crisis among older men. All of the players I spoke to were keen to emphasise the social aspect of the sport.

"It's a sport for everyone. For a start, it's a great cure for loneliness. People who may have been recently widowed, or don't really have a friendship group - it's a great thing for them to get involved with," Gray tells me.

An inclusive sport

It is worth mentioning, however, that although the sport may have initially been directed at men, this league is open to all. Only one woman currently plays in the tournament, for Aston Viñuela, but this is a figure the organisers will be looking to boost. Ronnie is confident that greater female participation will come naturally, especially with

the increasing focus on women's football in recent times: "It's only a matter of time until one or two women turn up at our training sessions, and we'd make them welcome, of course. Hopefully, in time, we'll get a women's team together."

The inactivity that walking football aims to challenge is physical as much as it is social. Sedentary lifestyles are all too common, especially among older people, and the players were all enthusiastic about the health benefits that walking football has

What is walking football?

Walking football is a sport which began in the UK in 2011. The premise is fairly simple: with a few other minor tweaks, it is simply football where running is penalised with a free kick to the other side. There are some areas of controversy in the rules - some favour an age-restricted game, while others think it should be

open to all; some believe it should be non-contact, while others see room for some physicality.

The sport began as an attempt to tackle loneliness and physical inactivity among older men. Its profile was hugely raised by a 2014 Barclays advert which featured walking football, and it has since become enormously popular in the UK, where there are now over 1,000 clubs registered, and a Walking Football Association.

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A Smiles B player shapes up to shoot in Saturday's game against Aston Viñuela. :: FRANK GAVURIN

brought them. John Ramage, Aston Viñuela's keeper, tells me that he is one of only two players on his side who still plays normal-rules football as well. "The rest couldn't manage it - they have injuries that stop them. It gets them

BLUE SKY MARBELLA									
Results				December fixtures					
Aston Viñuela - Smiles B	4-2	Aston Viñuela - Smiles A		Aston Viñuela - Smiles B					
WFS B - Smiles B	3-2	Walking Dead - Smiles B		WFS A - WFS B					
Aston Viñuela - WFS B	2-2								
WFS A - Smiles A	6-0								
League table									
TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT		
1. Aston Viñuela	2	1	1	0	6	4	4		
2. WFS B	2	1	1	0	5	4	4		
3. WFS A	1	1	0	0	6	0	3		
4. Smiles B	2	0	0	2	4	7	0		
5. Smiles A	1	0	0	1	0	6	0		
6. Walking Dead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		

IN THEIR WORDS

Ronnie Waugh
WFS B

"Men who live on their own who've joined in - it's been really good for them."

John Ramage
Aston Viñuela

"It gets people out, and they're loving it. We get people who are nearly 80!"

Gray Salt
Smiles Calahonda

"It's a sport for everyone, a great cure for loneliness. Great to get involved with."

Carlos Jiménez
Smiles Calahonda

"Eventually the floodgates will open and we'll have a Spanish walking league."

Brian Russell
Referee

"Let's hope people see today and think, 'I might have a go at that'. Just give it a try."

all out, and they're loving it."

The age range is impressive - the league's rules stipulate that all players must be 50 or older (and have the ID to prove it), but Ronnie is still playing in his mid-70s. John says that at Aston Viñuela's Thursday night training sessions "we get people who are nearly 80. And there's about 25 people coming in a small place like Viñuela".

There certainly seems to be no shortage of enthusiasm for walking football on the Costa del Sol, then. In fact, Ronnie told me that WFS may begin to field a third team, such is the level of interest in the new league. But the sport was, after all, born in the UK, and this is where the vast majority of the players come from as well. This is something that the organisers are keen to change

Gray, who speaks excellent Spanish, says the league is crying out for more Spanish participants and is adamant that there would not be a real language barrier.

Official recognition

One challenge the league is facing is the lack of official recognition. Ronnie tells me that the league has

sought affiliated status from the regional government's Ministry of Education and Sports, which could bring numerous benefits, including being able to block book venues for training and league matches.

"The problem is, they don't consider it a sport," he says. He believes that getting the imprimatur of the Andalusian Football Federation would be an important step towards official recognition, but that has not been forthcoming. Nor has acknowledgement of the health benefits of walking football on the part of the Andalusian authorities' medical health board.

Nevertheless, with or without the authorities' seal of approval, the players are confident that this British export could take root in Iberian soil. Gray is certainly of this opinion: "Older people here stop playing as well - there's a gap in the market. I don't see any reason why it couldn't be as big here as it is in the UK."

His teammate Carlos Jiménez, who proudly says he's the league's only Spaniard, is equally optimistic. In fluent English, he tells me, "The Spanish are mad for football. The minute the older guys pick up on something like this, they'd just want to run with it."

A perhaps slightly ironic turn of phrase, given the nature of the sport. But what exactly counts as running? Referee Brian Russell tells me that one foot has to be on the ground at any given time. He recognises, however, that as in regular football, there will always be grey areas - and there was certainly no VAR to help him out on Saturday. According to Brian, the main challenge is noticing off-the-ball running. "It's so difficult, believe me. If my assistant hadn't been there today, there would have been a lot more going on behind me which I wouldn't have seen."

On Saturday, the topic of off-the-ball running came the closest to making tempers flare. Gray had told me that the game was just as competitive as regular football, and judging by his touchline complaints to Brian in the last of the day's fixtures, it seems he was right.

All the teams would welcome fresh recruits, or even the addition of a new team. But those thinking of joining in should just remember one thing, no matter their haste to sign up: walk, don't run.

For more information on joining a team, search walkingfooty.com on Facebook.

IN BRIEF



Saúl González celebrates his goal with his teammates. :: ADG

Last-gasp winner seals victory for Marbella

MARBELLA

J. RODRÍGUEZ. Marbella consolidated their play-off position in Segunda B with an exhilarating last-minute triumph over Yeclano on Sunday.

Oscar got his sixth of the season when he expertly controlled a long ball with his chest and beat the goalkeeper with a fine finish from a nar-

row angle. The visitors got themselves back into the game with a wonderful chip from Tonete before half-time, but the second half was all Marbella's, and a last-minute bullet header from Manuel Martínez won it for the hosts.

The result means that David Cubillo's side remain the only unbeaten side in Spain this season. They are currently in third place, only three points off leaders Cartagena. Their next match is a tough away trip to fourth-placed Badajoz on Sunday.

Malaga face trip to Escobedo in the Copa del Rey

MALAGA

P. L. ALONSO. Malaga will visit Cantabrian side Unión Montañesa Escobedo in the first round of the Copa del Rey. They may be somewhat relieved to have drawn an opponent from the Tercera División. The game will be played on either 17, 18 or 19 December.

Meanwhile, Marbella will host Guijuelo, who compete in Group II of Segunda B.

Malcolm Dare wins Miraflores Handicap Bowls tournament

MIJAS

SUR. Malcolm Dare emerged victorious from this week's Handicap Bowls tournament, organised by Miraflores Lawn Bowls Club.

Dare faced Terry Stone in one of the semi-finals, defeating him 27-10, while Derek Carr beat Nancy Shaw 21-8 in the other.

A hotly-contested final ensued, with Dare eventually coming out on top, winning 25-17.

Former Malaga player Koke jailed in anti-drugs operation

MALAGA

Á. FRIAS / J. CANO. A judge sent former footballer Sergio Contreras Pardo (Koke) to prison on Thursday as part of a Guardia Civil operation against a drug ring.

Koke, 36, who came through Malaga's academy, is believed to be the one of the leaders of the

criminal network in question. More than 30 individuals across Andalucía, including in Malaga, were detained as part of the police operation.

Koke himself was arrested at his home in Estepona on Tuesday, and the police subsequently carried out a search of the property. Koke's brother has also been arrested.

The operation has led to the seizure of huge amounts of cash, as well as arms. Around a tonne of hashish has also been confiscated.



Koke

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Malaga's players applaud the travelling fans on Sunday. :: AGENCIA LOF

Malaga lose on the road again as goalless run stretches to three games

The Blue and Whites, severely depleted by the international break, have taken just one point from the last nine available

FRANK GAVURIN

MALAGA. There was little for Víctor Sánchez del Amo to cheer on his return to the touchline as Malaga were defeated 1-0 in Alcorcón on Sunday.

Malaga's head coach has previously bemoaned the absence of an international break in the Segunda División; he will no doubt be feeling frustrated again after Keidi Bare, Munir, Juanpi and Mikel were all made unavailable by international commitments.

The visitors got off to the worst possible start, as an Alcorcón corner eight minutes into the encounter was redirected goalwards by David Fernández. Malaga's stand-in debutant keeper Gonzalo was wrong-footed, and he couldn't stop the ball bobbling into the corner of the net.

Malaga did little to trouble the hosts until a short-lived revival began around midway through the first half. First, a strike from Mohamed Benkhemassa was deflected narrowly wide, and then Antoñín came agonisingly close to connecting with a driven ball in from Juankar down the left.

Ultimately, though, the first half was not a high-quality affair, as Alcorcón were clearly not going to risk much in pursuit of a second,

while Malaga didn't show the requisite intensity or incisiveness to earn the equaliser.



Gonzalo made his Malaga debut on Sunday. :: AGENCIA LOF

The hosts' decision to largely sit back on their lead did afford Malaga the better of the chances in the second half, and the quality of the visitors' play did improve as the game wore on. Perhaps Malaga's best chance arrived in the 58th minute, courtesy of a sumptuous cross from Juankar, but Antoñín could only head it over.

The youngster had another headed chance minutes later, but Alcorcón keeper Ximo Miralles dealt with the looping effort impressively, and produced an even better save to deal with Diego González's bouncing header from the resulting corner.

It would be fair to say that Malaga created enough chances to merit a point from this encounter. However, as Víctor is always keen to em-

SEGUNDA DIVISIÓN									
Results					Match day 16				
CF Fuenlabrada - Huesca	3-2	Sporting - Tenerife			Rayo - Zaragoza	2-0			
Extremadura - Deportivo	2-0	Racing - Extremadura			Deportivo - Alcorcón				
Elche - Almería	1-1	Huesca - Ponferradina			Almería - Numancia				
Numancia - Rayo	2-2	Albacete - Mirandés			Malaga - Elche				
Zaragoza - Albacete	0-1	Girona - CF Fuenlabrada			Mirandés - Las Palmas	2-1			
Ponferradina - Girona	1-1	Cádiz - Lugo							
Alcorcón - Malaga	1-0								
Oviedo - Sporting	0-0								
Lugo - Racing	1-1								
Mirandés - Las Palmas	2-1								
Tenerife - Cadiz	1-1								
League table									
TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT		
1. Cadiz	16	11	3	2	25	13	36		
2. CF Fuenlabrada	16	8	4	4	22	16	28		
3. Almería	16	6	8	2	23	15	26		
4. Huesca	16	8	2	6	19	13	26		
5. Numancia	16	6	7	3	19	14	25		
6. Albacete	16	8	1	7	11	16	25		
7. Alcorcón	16	6	6	4	21	18	24		
8. Girona	16	7	3	6	20	18	24		
9. Ponferradina	16	5	8	3	23	18	23		
10. Zaragoza	16	6	5	5	21	18	23		
11. Elche	16	6	5	5	19	17	23		
12. Rayo	16	4	9	3	24	21	21		
13. Mirandés	16	5	6	5	20	25	21		
14. Lugo	16	4	8	4	17	21	20		
15. Las Palmas	16	5	4	7	17	21	19		
16. Sporting	16	4	6	6	17	17	18		
17. Extremadura	16	4	4	8	16	22	16		
18. Tenerife	16	3	6	7	18	21	15		
19. Malaga	16	3	6	7	11	15	15		
20. Oviedo	16	3	6	7	19	24	15		
21. Racing	16	1	10	5	17	21	13		
22. Deportivo	16	1	7	8	14	29	10		

1-0 ALCORCÓN-MALAGA

Alcorcón: Miralles; Laure, David Fernández, Diéguez, Bellvis; Boateng (Aguilera, 74'), Dorca; Ernesto (Paris Adot, 84'), Stoichkov, Arribas (Dani Romero, 60'); Harper. Unused substitutes: Mena, Bernardo, Myakushko, Raúl Costa.

Malaga: Gonzalo; Cifu, Luis Hernández, Luis Muñoz, Diego González; Keko (Sadiku, 46'), Boulahroud, Benkhemassa (Hicham, 69'), Juankar; Pacheco, Antoñín. Unused substitutes: Kellyan, Ismael, Lombán, Rolón.

Goals: David Fernández (8').

Referee: Javier Iglesias Villanueva. Yellow cards for Bellvis, Arribas, Aguilera and Benkhemassa.

Ground: Santo Domingo (4,000 spectators).

phasing, efficiency is the deciding factor in a low-scoring sport like football, and Malaga have been guilty of wasting chance after chance this season.

During Sunday's game, Antoñín, Cifu, Dani Pacheco and Luis Muñoz were all wasteful with the ball in the final third and Malaga were not able to capitalise on the clear-cut occasions they did create.



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María Ruiz. :: NITO SALAS

The floodgates finally open as Femenino put league's bottom side to the sword

:: MARINA RIVAS

MALAGA. Any thoughts of Malaga Femenino's frustrating draw at Colerense last weekend were put to bed with a thumping 4-0 win over Tacuense on Sunday.

In the first half, Malaga had little to show for their domination of the ball, with their play often too hasty to create occasions of note.

Malaga coach José Herrera tweaked his lineup at half-time by bringing Cintia on for Farfán, and this decision bore immediate fruit when María Ruiz converted a cross from the substitute a minute after the restart.

Cintia was heavily involved in Malaga's second, too. It arrived ten minutes later when her shot cannoned back off the crossbar and Adriana was alert enough to poke the rebound home.

The third came when Arantxa's shot from the edge of the area deflected off the unfortunate Yazmina into her own net.

There was no doubting the authorship of the fourth goal, which Arantxa scored to kill off Tacuense's lingering hopes of a comeback. Malaga now find themselves sixth in the table.

With slightly better fortune, Malaga could have taken a point, or perhaps all three, from this encounter. The Blue and Whites now have just one point from their last three games - a run of games in which they haven't scored once.

Luck doesn't seem to be on the Andalusians' side at the moment, and without it, they are completely at sea.



A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports
@robbopalmer



A bittersweet turn of events

It's a happy return for Luis Enrique as national team coach, but the Federation's discarding of Robert Moreno has drawn plenty of criticism

When Spain completed qualification for the European Championships, we expected an outpouring of emotion - just not the kind we encountered.

Robert Moreno celebrated on the final whistle after hammering Romania to secure a seeded spot in the draw for next summer, but the coach never emerged for the press conference. He was too cut up after being told he was out of the door.

Like Julen Lopetegui on the eve of the World Cup finals, he made a sudden departure and was replaced without ceremony. Like Lopetegui, he was undefeated as a manager.

It's a saga in which there were no winners... well, apart from the team who won seven of his nine games on the touchline.

In case you don't know the story so far, Moreno was the trusty assistant to Luis Enrique at Roma, Celta, Barcelona and the national team. He stepped forward when his friend took compassionate leave following the illness and tragic death of his daughter.

Moreno was appointed permanently when Enrique said he didn't want to come back. That was the story until Monday night.

What happened next smacks of the famous fallouts between Brian Clough and Peter Taylor and Alex Ferguson and Brian Kidd.

Clough called Taylor a "rattlesnake" when he left his side at Nottingham Forest, only to emerge at Derby County a few months later. Ferguson labelled Kidd as "insecure" when he took



Robert Moreno during his last game as Spain coach. :: EFE

on the Blackburn Rovers number one job in 1989.

On this occasion it's the former assistant who is the upset party. His anger wasn't aimed at his old pal but instead the Spanish Football Federation president.

"They've tossed me aside, they've thrown me aside" was his

parting shot. He said: "My experience as the national team manager started and has ended in the same way, with a bittersweet taste."

He felt betrayed but it wasn't helped when his boss Luis Rubiales claimed it wasn't a resignation nor a sacking. The president

merely claimed Luis Enrique had walked back through the doors which had always remained open to his return.

In some ways it's so sweet, in others unsavoury.

It's touching that Luis Enrique has been welcomed back after a personal tragedy and he's the kind of successful manager you want leading the nation to a major tournament. Professionally it's probably the right thing to do.

Professional doesn't describe the way they dealt with Moreno. They took the plunge to make his role permanent and then a few months later discarded him even though Moreno had ably guided Spain through the qualifiers.

It now means there's been five changes of manager in seventeen months. Spain should be heading to the Championships as one of the favourites, as they should have gone to Russia as one of the countries to fear.

Spain are afraid of few opponents, however the biggest enemy is themselves.

Spain get top seeding for Euro 2020 with two resounding victories

:: IGNACIO TYLKO

MADRID. Spain put in two convincing displays to beat Malta and Romania and secure top seeding for next summer's European Championship Final this week.

The first game came against minnows Malta in Cadiz on Friday, and it largely corresponded to expectations going into the game, ending 7-0.

Pau Torres and Dani Olmo both made their debuts for La Roja,

grabbing a goal apiece shortly after coming on.

Gerard Moreno also got his first international goal, with his veteran Villareal teammate Santi Cazorla also getting in on the act.

The other scorers were Álvaro Morata, Pablo Sarabia and converted veteran right-back Jesús Navas.

The final score was nearly as dramatic in Spain's second game at the Wanda Metropolitano on

Monday, where they brushed aside Romania 5-0. The impressive Fabián Ruiz opened the scoring, Moreno bagged another two, before Adrian Rus put the ball in his own net on the stroke of half-time.

Spain took their foot off the gas in the second half, but there was still time for Mikel Oyarzabal to score the fifth.

These victories were somewhat overshadowed by the departure of Spain's coach, Robert Moreno. Moreno had stepped in to replace Luis Enrique a few months ago after the death of Enrique's daughter, and was made permanent manager when Enrique signalled he did not want to return.

However, the Asturian made a U-turn, which led to Moreno's acrimonious exit.



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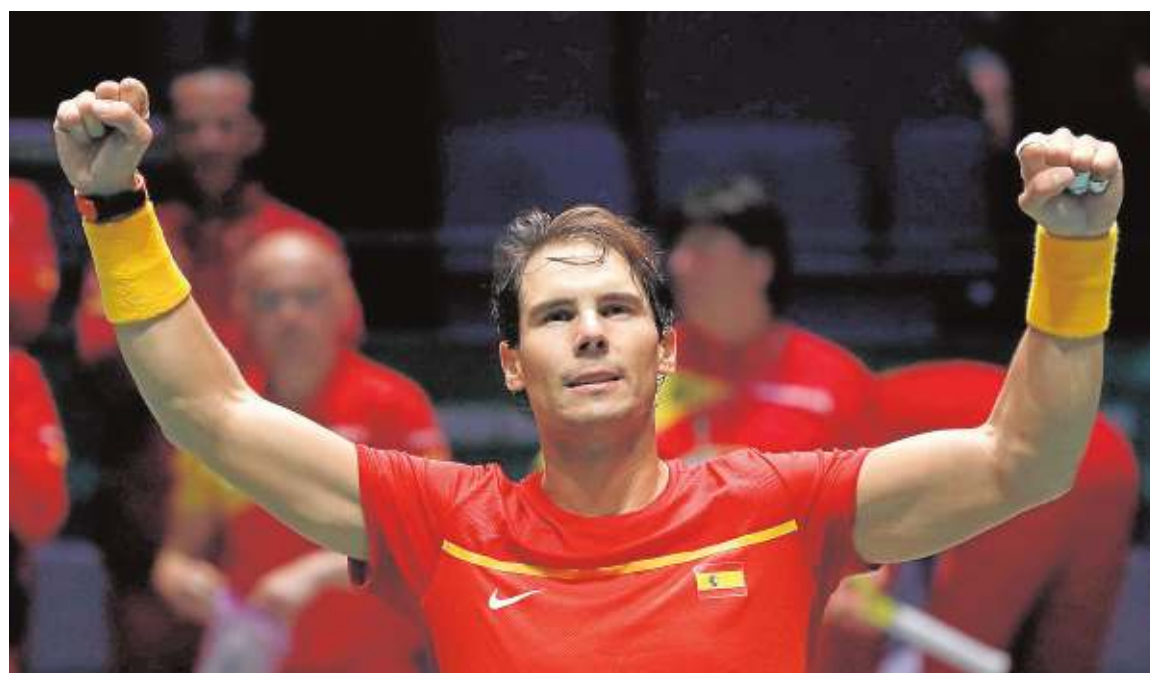
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ATHLETES OUT IN THEIR NUMBERS IN TORREMOLINOS

El Cross de Torremolinos, a popular six-kilometre street race, attracted more than 800 athletes from all over Andalucía last weekend. Held in the El Pinar district of the town, the race, which celebrated its 36th edition, was won by Dani García (Club de Atletismo de Nerja) with a time of 00.21.27. María Bravo (Club de Atletismo Rincón de la Victoria) came in first place in the woman's category with a time of 00.26.16.



Nadal celebrates his victory over Borna Gojo. :: JUANJO MARTÍN. EFE

Nadal victory secures top spot for Spain and safe passage to the Davis Cup quarter-finals

Despite an impressive performance from the Croat Borna Gojo, it was ultimately Nadal who came out on top (4-6, 3-6) on Wednesday

:: JOSÉ MANUEL ANDRÉS

MADRID. Rafael Nadal beat Borna Gojo in two sets on Wednesday to secure Spain top spot in their Davis Cup group and a place in the tournament's quarter finals.

After Roberto Bautista had beaten the Croat Nikola Mektić, Spain needed another victory to secure top spot. Nevertheless, it would be a stretch to say that the pressure was on Nadal in Madrid; many saw his match as a foregone conclusion, given the world number one's op-

ponent currently occupies the 280th spot in the ATP rankings.

Ultimately, there were no shocks, although Gojo certainly performed impressively, playing aggressive tennis and showing no signs of being intimidated by the stature of the player on the other side of the net.

At times in the first set, a shout of "vamos" accompanied each point that Nadal won, demonstrating that the encounter was not as easy for the Mallorcan as many had foreseen. Ultimately, though, a break allowed Nadal to reach a 5-4 advantage, and he put the set to bed with a resounding service game.

Nadal got off to the best possible start in the second set, breaking his opponent in the first game. The 21-year-old Gojo, making his Davis Cup debut, did not crumble in the same way that Mektić had against Bau-

tista, fighting hard but ultimately losing the second set 6-3.

In the end, Nadal's very best tennis was not required to guarantee Spain top spot in Group B. It could have been a different story had Croatia's team not been marked by several key absences, notably Marin Čilić and Borna Ćorić.

In what was by this point a dead rubber, Nadal then played alongside Marcel Granollers in a doubles match against Croatia's Ivan Dodig and Mate Pavić. It was a match that the Spanish duo would end up winning by the same margin that Nadal had won his earlier match (3-6, 4-6).

The pair went on to win the first set comfortably after breaking their Croatian opponents in the fifth game, and came out on top as well in what was a slightly nervier second set.

IN BRIEF

Regino Hernández and Damián Quintero awarded silver honours

MALAGA

:: **EFE.** The Spanish Sports Council has announced additions to the Spanish Order of Sporting Merit, with two Malaga sportsmen receiving silver honours.

Damián Quintero is the world number two in karate kata, while Regino Hernández, a snowboarder, won a bronze medal at the last Winter Olympic Games.

Notable additions to the list of gold honours are triathlete Mario Mola, basketball players Laia Palau and Juan Carlos Navarro (retired), and cyclist Ricardo Ten. There was also a posthumous award for golfer Celia Barquín, who was murdered in the United States last year.

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THE STARS




Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
Someone who you have not been getting on too well with could be drawn in to make them feel more accepted.




Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
You don't need an excuse for a party but do share the cost with others. Joining in with something that is raising money for a good cause goes well.




Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Determined and dynamic, you really do aim to get things done. Of course you also realise that you need the cooperation of others for success.




Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Picking up on an old idea could improve your finances. Nothing happens immediately but if you use finances carefully patience will do the rest.




Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Someone may try to change your direction to gain an advantage for themselves. You always like to think the best of others, just be aware that not everyone is like you!




Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
A new arrival at work could throw a plan off kilter, so be the one to speak first. Socially, be aware not to take anyone for granted just because you are busy.




Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Worried about the expense of getting presents? Visit some charity shops and find those elusive bargains. You will also be helping others at the same time!




Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
As much as you love to make others happy and be useful, you can say no. A stale situation socially can be livened up by you issuing some invitations.




Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Do try to get more of a balance between what you want to do and what you feel obliged to do. Getting it right is important or you could end up feeling sorry for yourself.



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
A lack of cooperation from someone close is annoying but not important. You can go ahead without their input. Should they show a change of heart be gracious and bring them up to date.

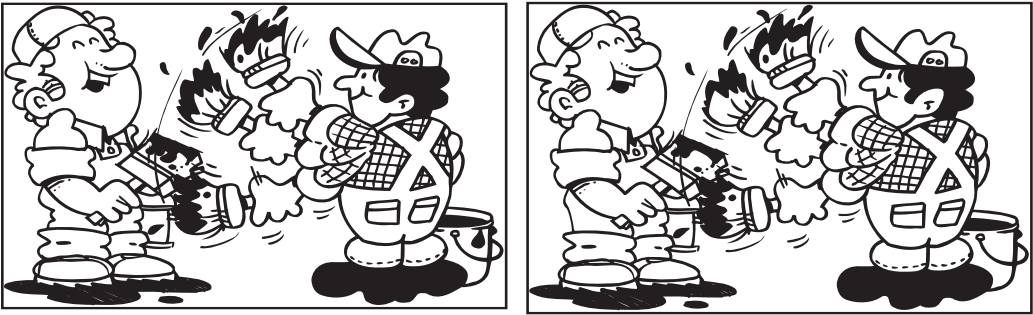


Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
A new idea that brings more balance to home and work is worth exploring. Will it work? Maybe there is only one way to find out but hold on to your cash. Just make sure it is cost-effective or free!

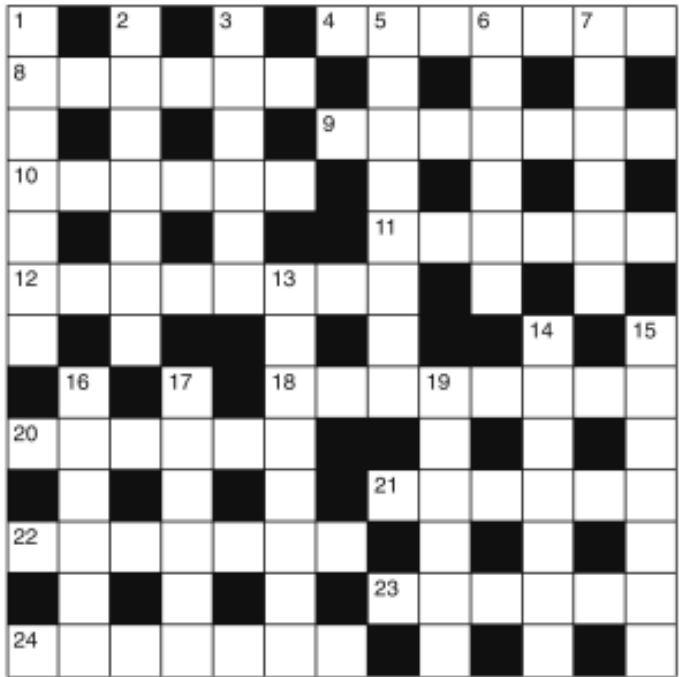


Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Give health your priority both for yourself and loved ones. With a busy time ahead you need to be firing on all cylinders. There are beginnings and ends in relationships.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11384



- Across**

 - 4 Pardon the girl without a home (7)
 - 8 Hold the admiral (6)
 - 9 Quite an unusual old thing (7)
 - 10 Midshipman's cigarette (6)
 - 11 Shouts "Which person works" (6)
 - 12 Hold onto the drink as a souvenir (8)
 - 18 Quiet worker and resistance fighter (8)
 - 20 Head tipster? (6)
 - 21 Used to be her ring (6)
 - 22 Photographic equipment can be a scream (7)
 - 23 Safe dry river (6)
 - 24 Law they break, being rich (7)
- Down**

 - 1 Jackets to soak with rain, perhaps, when one is out (7)
 - 2 Overcharged for having a coat (7)
 - 3 Do they argue about catching a crab? (6)
 - 5 People curse certain clothes (8)
 - 6 To ride out with a journalist (6)
 - 7 A chosen suit (6)
 - 13 Near a very quiet fish (8)
 - 14 A strip of land - perhaps it's mush (7)
 - 15 Growled about slander (7)
 - 16 Royal building - a friend has one (6)
 - 17 Attractiveness of a request for aid (6)
 - 19 Taunted about a drink Des returns (6)

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

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

THE WORDPUZZLER

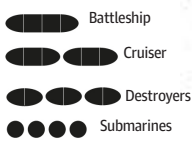
A	L	F	E	D	B	R	E	F	T
M	E	L	L	I	E	S	T	L	U
S	P	O	D	I	T	H	R	E	E
A	S	C	O	D	R	O	V	E	T
L	A	K	R	E	A	V	I	T	E
S	T	E	P	R	I	D	E	A	R
O	H	L	A	I	N	O	T	C	U
B	R	A	C	E	N	T	E	A	M
I	O	M	K	N	E	E	V	S	A
T	W	P	A	L	X	O	I	T	R

Can you identify the collective terms from the clues listed below?

- 1. Coach
- 2. Fill a suitcase
- 3. Group of players
- 4. Seed case
- 5. Quick
- 6. Hand tool
- 7. Theatre company
- 8. Went by car
- 9. Type of wallpaper
- 10. Conceit

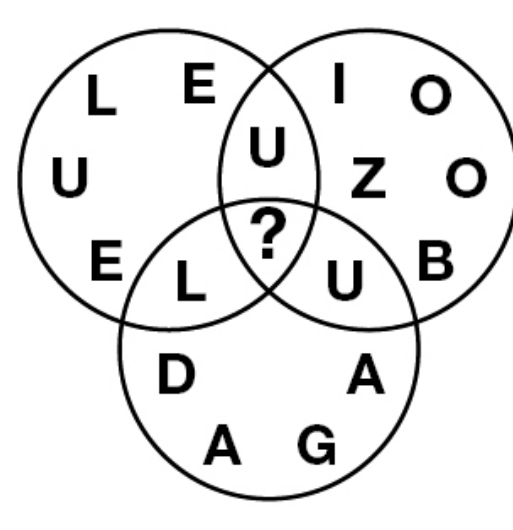
BATTLESHIPS

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.



A										1
B										2
C										1
D										4
E										2
F										1
G										3
H										2
I										4
J										0
	3	2	1	4	0	2	3	1	3	1

CIRCLEGRAM



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

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across
- Down
- 1) Coronation (10)

6) Expectancy (11)

12) Rotation (8)

13) Pretending (9)

16) I twisted (5)

17) Monarchy (9)

18) Speech (8)

19) No (2)

21) Dryer (7)

22) Wine glass (4)

23) To proclaim (9)

26) Oath (9)

27) Velvet (10)

32) Cassock (6)

33) Voltage (7)

34) Eleven (4)

35) Cold (m.pl) (5)

37) He complies with (5)

38) Twelve (4)

39) Façade (7)

40) Sideways (look) (5)

42) Neither (2)

43) Spillage (7)

45) To bury (8)

46) Broadcast (13)
- 1) Ceremony (9)

2) Routine (6)

3) To be born (5)

4) Sketch (7)

5) I heard (2)

7) Wig (6)

8) Congress (8)

9) Lifeless (6)

10) November (9)

11) Cities (8)

14) Autumnal (6)

15) Banners (9)

20) Applause (8)

22) Crucifix (9)

23) Chatterbox (f) (11)

24) Encouraging (9)

25) Democracy (10)

28) Guests (9)

29) Uniform (8)

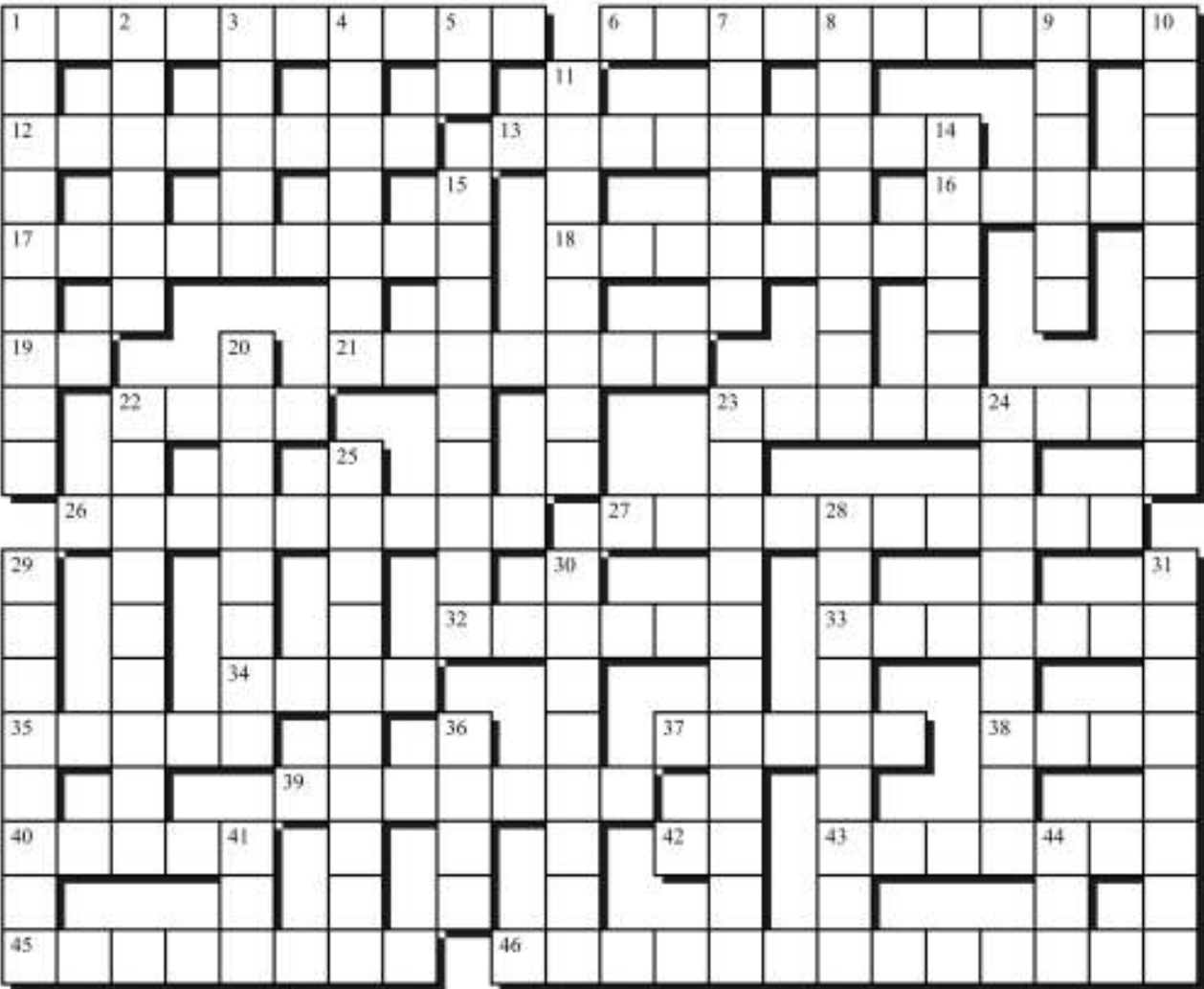
30) It gets dark (8)

31) Heir (8)

36) Shawl (4)

41) To hear (3)

44) Like that (3)

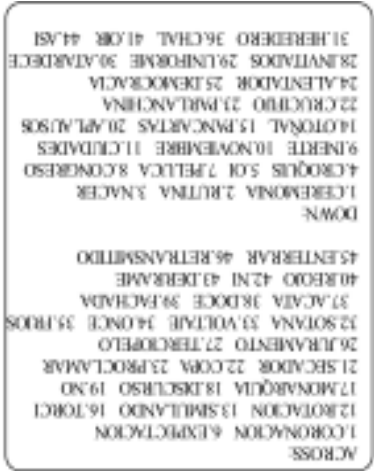


ANSWERS

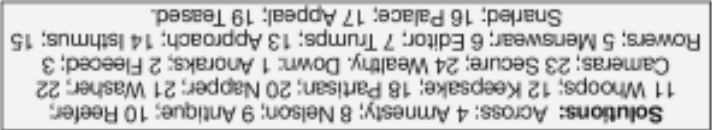
Quiz answers

Answer: John the Baptist
Of interest: The Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Amiens was built to house the reputed head of John the Baptist which was part of the loot of the Fourth Crusade. Although it was later lost, a 19th-century replica still provides a focus for prayer and meditation in the North aisle.
Answer: Blondi
Of interest: Blondi was given to Hitler as a puppy by Martin Bormann. Although Hitler is said to have loved Blondi, he tested the potency of one of Himmlers cyanide capsules on her and she died as a result.

Language Crossword



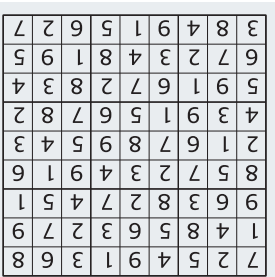
Cryptic Crossword



Wordpuzzler solution



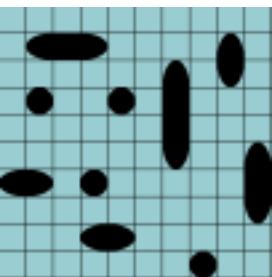
Sudoku solution



Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is K. Ukulele, bouzouki, gadulka, all string instruments.

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



A room with a view

Last week:
Monda

This fountain and tiny plaza can be found just off Calle Dolores in the historic village of Monda. It is called the Parque Doctor Villanueva and was created in 1993.



MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Spirit of Discovery	22/11	A Coruña	El Ferrol	08.00	12.00
MSC Poesia	23/11	Funchal	Civitavecchia	07.00	14.00
Costa Favolosa	23/11	Marseille	Lisbon	09.00	19.00
Norwegian Star	24/11	Palma	Cadiz	07.00	17.00
MSC Seaview	24/11	Valencia	Tenerife	11.00	18.00
Norwegian Epic	25/11	Cadiz	Cartagena	08.00	18.00
Amera	25/11	Cadiz	Valencia	08.00	20.00
MSC Preziosa	25/11	Barecelona	Tenerife	08.00	17.00
Mein Schiff 4	27/11	Gibraltar	Valencia	07.00	23.00
Berlin	28/11	Ibiza	La Luz/Las Palmas	05.00	21.00



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Bamba gets to stay in Malaga

Pupils at a Torremolinos school started a petition to stop their new classmate from Ivory Coast from being moved away

by **ALBERTO GÓMEZ**

MALAGA. A teenager who risked his life to escape from the conditions of extreme poverty in which he and his family lived in Ivory Coast has been told he can stay in Malaga, thanks to a campaign by fellow pupils at the Costa del Sol secondary school in Torremolinos.

Three months ago Abdoulaye Bamba hid underneath a lorry to journey across Africa to Morocco, and then travelled on board a small migrant boat to the Malaga coast. He was carrying no documentation, but tests on his bones indicated that he was 16 years old; classified as an unaccompanied foreign child, he was taken to the Virgen de la Esperanza migrant centre in Torremolinos.

Youngsters normally only stay there for a short time before being moved somewhere else on a permanent basis. However last week, Abdoulaye's fellow pupils at the school, fed up with having said goodbye to so many classmates in a similar situation, started a petition asking for Bamba (they started to call him af-

fectionately by his surname as it was easier to pronounce) to be allowed to stay.

They were partly successful: the regional government's Ministry of Education decided that he should be transferred to the residential centre at the Ciudad de los Niños, in Malaga, because there he would be able to receive an education especially adapted to meet his needs. Although he is 16 years old, he only went to school in Ivory Coast for two years, and has only very basic academic knowledge. This special education will enable him to sit exams in the future and train for a job.

The teachers at the Costa del Sol school are pleased by the decision and convinced Abdoulaye will do well.

"He is very keen to learn and he has fitted in very well with the group, which is why the other pupils are fond of him and took action to stop him having to be moved elsewhere," said head teacher Ángela Vázquez.

She said the staff are very proud of the children for this initiative, and it shows that claims that these unac-



Abdoulaye with fellow pupils at the Costa del Sol school. by **A.GÓMEZ**

companied minors don't get on with other children are unfounded. At this school, which is one of the most multicultural in the province because of

its proximity to the migrant centre, things are very different. "They're normally very polite, adapt well and are grateful for everything," she said.

The 16-year-old will receive special classes for his needs, but will stay in touch with his old classmates

The delegate for Education in Malaga, Mercedes García Paine, initially promised to do everything possible to ensure that Bamba was able to stay at the Costa del Sol school, until she was advised that immigrants who attend the Malaga centre are guaranteed an education adapted to their special needs and are therefore more likely to find work. He will, however, still have plenty of contact with his friends from the Torremolinos school, especially at weekends.

Staff at the school have often expressed their dissatisfaction with the regulations that mean that migrants like Abdoulaye are moved away after a few months, just when they have begun to make friends and settle down and started to learn.

"We want the best for Bamba, and we have very good reports about him," said García Paine, who herself adopted a Moroccan boy 15 years ago. He is now an army officer. "Some of the children run away from the centres, but many of them just want to make a life for themselves, to study and find a job," she added.

That is exactly what Bamba is hoping, although it will be a long way in the future. Almost as far away as the country he left behind, in search of the better life that is now starting.

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