

# SUR

## in English

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December 13th to 19th 2019  
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**COSTA DEL GOLF**

## The Costa's stock keeps rising

Global recognition and more local success in this month's golf special **INSIDE**



## COSTA CRIME WAVE

A young Slovenian man found shot dead in Mijas Costa on Wednesday is the latest victim in a spate of violent crime in the area **P2**



Officers inspect the spot where the body was found. :: FERNANDO TORRES

## King nominates Pedro Sánchez to be prime minister

The PSOE leader still needs to negotiate a majority of MPs' votes to win any investiture debate

Following the constitution, King Felipe named the winner of November's general election as candidate to be PM, however there is uneasiness on all sides over Sánchez's talks with Catalan separatist republicans, ERC, to gain their abstention. **P17**

**Residents in Spain keep a close eye on UK election results** as Brexit, and how it will affect them, remains uncertain **P6**

**Facing life with motor neuron disease.** A Costa resident talks of her ordeal as friends raise funds **P38**

**Sales of new cars drop in Malaga province.** Eleven per cent fewer vehicles have been registered so far this year **P18**

# British family almost cut off airport's fuel supply, court hears

Four members of a family from the UK are on trial in Malaga for siphoning off diesel from a pipeline that ran underneath a Guadalhorce valley farm

A Malaga court has heard this week how a British family of four stole 156,000 litres of diesel fuel from a pipeline that serves Malaga Airport. The defendants, who have admitted the theft, had rented a farm located above the pipeline and used

homemade equipment to siphon off the fuel. Their system, described in court as dangerous, was spotted by a helicopter investigating a loss in pressure at the airport, which could have suffered cuts in its supply, said investigators. **P2**

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**SPORT**

## Sadiku at the double in relegation six-pointer

The Albanian forward was Malaga's star man last Friday as the side moved out of the drop zone **P42**

**MALAGA 2 TENERIFE 0**



Armando Sadiku celebrates with his teammates. :: SALVADOR SALAS

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# Latest local killing: bullet-ridden body found on water's edge of Mijas Costa

So far, investigators have not linked this death to the spate of fatal shootings on the coast in recent weeks believed to have been carried out by organised drug gangs

■ FERNANDO TORRES / JUAN CANO

**MIJAS.** The Guardia Civil is investigating the death of a young man after the discovery on Wednesday morning of a bullet-ridden body on the edge of the sea next to the A-7 motorway in Mijas Costa.

The victim was reported to be a 20-year old Slovenian with a police record. He was spotted face down at the base of the low cliffs that run alongside the motorway.

The find was made near the bar at Peñón del Cura beach, the last stretch of coast before the border between Mijas and Fuengirola.



Emergency services on the scene by the A-7 motorway. ■ F. TORRES

Sources said that 15 spent bullet cases were found around the body, which had at least seven gunshot wounds, probably from an automatic weapon.

Fire crews were called to help

funeral services remove the body from the difficult-to-reach position at the base of the cliff.

Meanwhile a Guardia Civil diving team and patrol boat scoured the water by the rocks looking for

**He was spotted face down at the base of the cliffs that run alongside the motorway**

clues and investigators worked on land until mid-afternoon.

The alarm was initially raised by a passerby walking alongside the main road above at about 9am, and the large emergency services' presence by the water's edge caused tailbacks on the A-7 as drivers tried to see what was happening.

Police have so far not linked this suspected murder to the recent killing spree on the Costa del Sol. In late October and November, four people were found dead in Mijas and Marbella in separate attacks linked to organised crime and drugs, although investigators say they are all unrelated.

Guardia Civil unions call for Mijas police reinforcements

■ SUR

**MIJAS.** The union representing Guardia Civil officers, who are responsible for investigating crime in Mijas municipality, has called for more support in the face of a wave of fatal killings affecting the area. They say there are half as many Guardia Civil staff covering the 150-square-metre area of Mijas compared to National Police officers who patrol the much smaller, neighbouring Fuengirola area. "Colleagues are run down, tired and in low spirits, they feel abandoned and with no resources," said a spokesperson.

Meanwhile, a multidisciplinary team headed by National Police officers has been formed to tackle the organised violent crime that has emerged recently and work across a wider area. Head of the unit said last week, "We are up against very professional people, they are contract killers that travel round Europe and go where they are called to work."

## Malaga Airport almost lost its fuel supply due to Britons siphoning off 156,000 litres

A family of four from the UK are on trial after being caught loading up a white van at a makeshift well above the main pipeline that runs under a Guadalhorce valley farm

■ SUR

**MALAGA.** Staff on the pipeline that brings fuel into Malaga Airport noticed something was wrong when

the pressure dropped. Using a helicopter, they found a suspicious tube in the ground on a farm in the Guadalhorce valley. In October 2011 police were called and a British family of four were arrested.

The family had rented the farm and drilled down to the vital pipeline under the land. The father was arrested in a white van with a tank of 1,000 litres of diesel inside. A neighbour said that he had seen the van coming every day to the land at around 1pm. Analysis showed that

156,700 litre of diesel went missing.

At the trial this week, one investigator explained how dangerous their activity had been, using homemade equipment to perforate a pipe that also carries kerosene and gasoline. The airfield was on the verge of losing supply, he said.

The mother and father (now divorced) and children admit the thefts, saying they were ordered by somebody else to take the fuel valued at four million euros. The trial continues.



The accused in court in Malaga this week. ■ FERNANDO TORRES

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# Marbella toddler who fell six floors goes home after just three days in hospital

Relatives have described the survival of two-year-old Álvaro, who dropped more than 20 metres out of a window, as a 'miracle'

:: NIEVES CASTRO

**MARBELLA.** After three days in the Costa del Sol hospital two-year-old Álvaro went home on Tuesday unaware that his survival was being described as a "miracle".

He had fallen out of a window at his home in Marbella on Saturday afternoon, plunging six floors to the pavement below where he was found conscious and with no more than a few scratches.

Washing hung out on the fifth floor cushioned the fall of the toddler who then bounced off a small roof, before landing outside the front door of the block in Calle Salduba.

"It's not luck, it's a miracle," the boy's uncle, Jorge Jiménez, told SUR on Sunday, recounting the events

of Saturday afternoon in the flat he shares with Álvaro's parents.

Jorge explained that it all happened at around 4.30pm when his sister put Álvaro to bed for a siesta in his room while they cleared up after lunch.

"Álvaro was sleeping and we were busy in the kitchen, and when we went back into the living room we heard people shouting below, saying that a child had fallen. I rushed into his room and he wasn't there," explained Jorge. By that time the boy's mother was already rushing down the stairs.

The alarm was raised by a neighbour who was sitting on a bench outside the building. He said he saw "something" fall, but thought it was "a doll". When he realised it was a child he called over a man who was nearby on a motorcycle to help. He in turn stopped a car and the driver picked the boy up and drove him straight to the nearest health centre where he received first aid. Álvaro was later transferred to the Costa del Sol hospital where he remained



Jorge points to the boy's bedroom window. :: N. C.

in observation until Tuesday.

Jorge said that Álvaro must have climbed onto a chest of drawers next to the window before he fell more than 20 metres.

## Miracle street

This is the second time that a child has survived a fall in this same street in the Marbella neighbourhood of Plaza de Toros.

Twenty years ago, in November 1999, a five-year-old boy was saved after he fell from a fifth-floor balcony. Salvador Moreno, a neighbour who worked for a funeral company, was deemed a local hero after holding his arms out to catch the boy. The five-year-old bounced from his arms into a garden and suffered several fractures, but lived to tell the tale.

## IN BRIEF

### Brits arrested after baby intoxicated by cannabis

**MARBELLA**

:: **H. B.** The parents and uncle of a 17-month-old baby have been arrested after the child was taken to a Marbella health centre having ingested cannabis. The three adults, all British, were at home when the little girl came into contact with the drug without them noticing. During a later search of their home, police seized more than 200 grammes of cannabis and materials used for growing marijuana plants. An investigation into possible public health offences and neglect is under way.

### Police dog finds drugs in schoolbags during demonstration

**MARBELLA**

:: **C. M.** Three first and second year pupils were suspended from Las Dunas secondary school in Marbella last month after a police dog found drugs in their schoolbags. The Local Police unit was at the school to put on a demonstration in the playground, however the bad weather meant they moved their activity into the classrooms where the dog identified bags with small amounts of hashish.

A large advertisement for Andalusia's Christmas. It features a background image of a field with horses and a sunset. In the center, there is a Polaroid-style photo of a young boy looking down. Below the photo, the text "A Christmas at home" is written in a cursive font. At the bottom, the text "OUR CHRISTMAS IS EXPERIENCED intensely" is displayed, with "intensely" in a large, bold, yellow font.

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# Construction of Antequera dry port will begin next year

The first stage will cost 46 million euros, partly financed by the regional government, and take two years to complete

■ ANTONIO M. ROMERO

**ANTEQUERA.** The Junta de Andalucía plans to start building the first phase of the dry port in Antequera next summer and says the construction will take two years to complete. This phase will cover 102.26 of the total of 392 hectares, strategically located near Bobadilla station.

This stage of the project will cost 46 million euros and will be financed by the Public Ports Agency of Andalucía (43.26 per cent) and the Puerto Seco de Antequera company (56.74 per cent). The Junta has already assigned 13 million euros from its 2020 budget for the scheme.

The information was provided by the president of the Junta, Juanma Moreno, at the official presentation of the project to 400 invited guests at the Torcal Municipal Theatre in Antequera. Those present included the town's mayor, Manuel Barón, the president of the Malaga provincial government, Francisco Salado



The official presentation took place this week. ■ ANTONIO J. GUERRERO

and regional ministers Elías Bendo and Marifrán Carazo.

Juanma Moreno explained that the project will play a fundamental role among the 11 logistical areas of Andalucía and it will include the construction of a railway terminal linked to the Andalusian port system, the dry port and areas for transformation logistics and other uses.

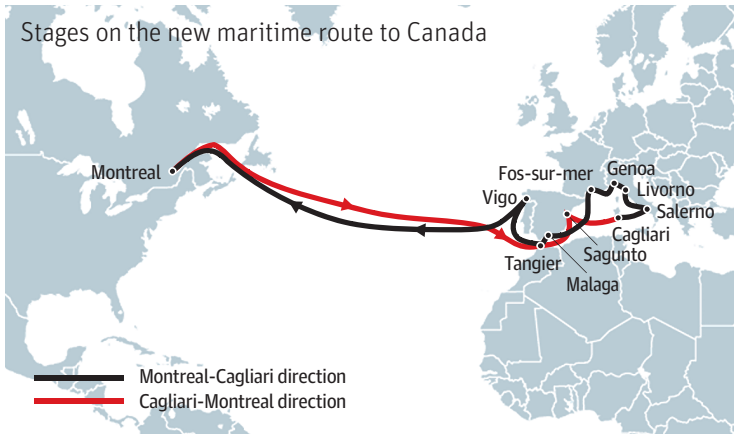
"This project is going to create

an unprecedented change to the logistics sector in Andalucía and it will be a benchmark for others," he said.

He also stressed that the initiative will create jobs and generate wealth for the region. "The dry port presents a future of possibilities, opening up Andalucía to the rest of Spain, Europe and the world."

## IN BRIEF

Stages on the new maritime route to Canada



### Successful maritime freight service

**MALAGA**

■ I. LILLO. The maritime freight service between Malaga Port, Tangier and Canada has "exceeded expectations" with around ten per cent more business than initially forecast by the German company

Hapag-Lloyd, which runs the service. One reason is that the company is transporting high-value technological and industrial products, in addition to fruit and refrigerated foods. After a five-year gap in the service, goods are transported once again by train from Madrid to Malaga Port and from there by ship to Tangier and on to Canada, as Malaga now forms part of the MCA route.

### Airport will end the year with record figures

**MALAGA**

■ P. MARTÍNEZ. Malaga Airport is expected to close the year with a record-breaking figure of nearly 20 million passengers. Statistics show that in the first 11 months of this year, 18.7 million passengers used the airport, which was an increase

of 4.5 per cent compared with the same period in 2018. There were 135,896 flights, which was nearly three per cent more than last year. The majority of travellers took international flights, although there was an eight per cent increase in flights to other Spanish destinations. The AENA airport authority believes it is unlikely that Malaga will break the 20 million barrier, this year but the final figure will be very close.

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# Spain keeps a close eye on the UK General Election results

Britons living in Spain realised the importance of the so-called Brexit election and many were upset they could not vote

by JENNIE RHODES

**MALAGA.** As the UK went to the polls on Thursday, not only were Britons living in Spain watching closely, but also Spanish citizens residing in the UK.

The UK media claimed the 2019 General Election was “the most important in a generation” and news was coming in by midmorn-

ing of unprecedented numbers of people forming queues outside polling stations, following reports of a surge in people registering in the weeks leading up to the vote.

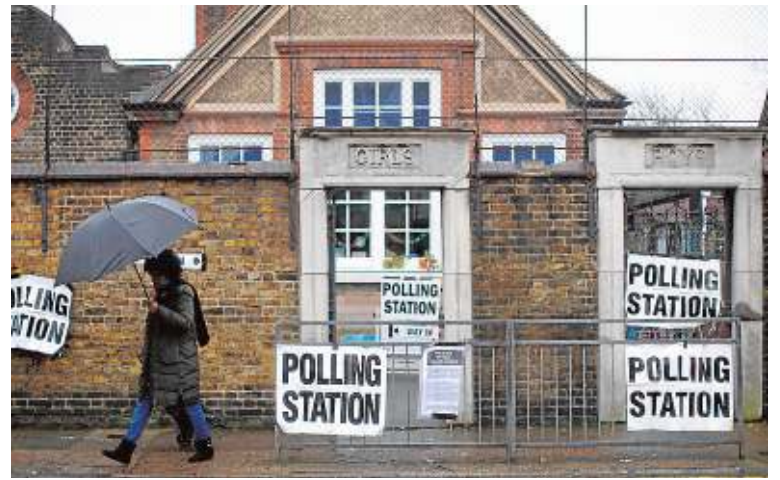
Anti-Brexit groups were calling for voters to vote tactically in order to get the pro-Brexit Conservatives out of government.

Britons in Spain, many of whom were unable to vote having lived abroad for more than 15 years, were well aware that the outcome of the election will affect how and when Britain leaves the EU, and therefore could make a difference to their future rights.

Anne Hernandez of the association Brexipats in Spain said on

Thursday: “Our futures are dependent on today’s vote and our 9,000 members are worried.” She added, “Despite being a general election, it is being labelled the Brexit election because our futures here could all change at the drop of a hat in a no-deal.”

Sue Wilson, Chair of the association Bremain in Spain, said, “Brexit has been the most damaging and painful experience that many Brits in Europe have ever experienced. Yet, even after three and a half years of living in limbo, we absolutely do not want to ‘Get Brexit Done’ - rather, we want to ‘Get Brexit Gone’.” She went on to say, “This election is the most un-



A polling station on Thursday in London. :: REUTERS

predictable in living memory.”

Michael Soffe, long-term Malaga resident and businessman, also expressed his concern and frustration at how the outcome of the election could affect British residents in EU countries. “I and many other disenfranchised voters are watching the proceedings today,

consigned to the sidelines yet again, no vote on our futures,” he said on Thursday. “If a Tory government is returned I have a feeling that the whole ‘leave with no deal’ scenario will be back on the table again in a year’s time as the chances of having a trade deal in a year are not realistic.”

## Malaga pays annual tribute to Torrijos

On the anniversary of his execution in the city in 1831, Malaga recalled General Torrijos with a series of commemorative events

by FRANK GAVURIN

**MALAGA.** The city of Malaga remembered, as usual, on Wednesday a local hero, General José María Torrijos y Uriarte, who was shot along with 48 companions after rising up against the absolutist rule of King Fernando VII in 1831.

A procession of the Asociación Histórico-Cultural Torrijos 1831 set out in the morning from the San Andrés convent to the memorial cross to Torrijos in El Bulto, where a wreath was laid. The procession then continued to the English Cemetery, which is the resting site of Robert Boyd, an Irishman whom

Torrijos persuaded to join his cause when exiled in London.

Homage was paid here to the bravery and internationalist outlook of Boyd, before the procession moved on to its last stop, the Plaza de la Merced. This is the resting place of Torrijos and all of his companions bar Boyd.

In a ceremony attended by the city’s mayor, Francisco de la Torre, several more wreaths were laid by civic organisations at the foot of the obelisk dedicated to the general and his men. A reenactment of the execution of Torrijos and his companions was carried out by the associa-



Reenactment of the execution of General Torrijos at the Plaza de la Merced on Wednesday. :: F. GAVURIN

tion and Torrijos’ last letter to his wife was read out.

### Irish links

Also in attendance at the day’s events was Irish journalist Ciaran O’Neill, who was in Malaga filming an inde-

pendent documentary about Robert Boyd. The story of Boyd, like O’Neill a native of Londonderry, caught his attention after the Asociación’s José Antonio Sierra gave a talk on him at the town’s Central Library this summer.

O’Neill admits he had not even heard of Boyd until this talk, but was immediately fascinated by his story. “It’s an amazing tale of how this young Irishman gave up his fortune” - Boyd had inherited around 4,000 pounds from his father - and poured it all into Torrijos’ project - “and ultimately his life, for a cause in a country that he had never even been to.”

Torrijos and his followers aimed to overthrow the despotic King Fernando VII and restore liberal, constitutional rule to Spain. After several months of fairly blatant plotting in Gibraltar, an attempt at an insurrection was launched.

However, Torrijos had been betrayed by someone known only as ‘Viriato’, thought to be a pseudonym of a trusted collaborator, and he and his men were captured at Alhaurin de la Torre.

They were shot on San Andrés beach on 11 December. Later, he came to be celebrated as a liberal hero, and the obelisk to him and his followers in the famous Plaza de la Merced was erected in 1848.



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## HERE AND THERE

**Puerto Banús plans its 50th anniversary****ESTEPONA**

■ **C. M.** Puerto Banús celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2020 and is planning events and festivals all through the year, special activities in collaboration with luxury brands and a campaign aimed at 'millennials' to focus more of its attention on young people, especially via social media. The aim is to attract more

tourism, not only to the port but to Marbella as a whole, says CEO Juan Nuñez Insausti.

Puerto Banús has always been popular with jet setters, but the 50th anniversary is seen as a turning point in its marketing and promotion.

The marina is currently celebrating the festive season with its Christmas Market, which continues on the Muelle de Ribera until 5 January from 10am to 8pm. It includes 27 stands selling a variety of goods, and there are activities for children.

**St Nicholas pays a visit to local children by boat****ESTEPONA**

■ **C. M.** St. Nicholas arrived at Estepona fishing port on board a boat this week, as the guest of the Hermandad del Carmen. He visited the brotherhood's headquarters to collect the letters from children detailing their wishes for Christmas. The Hermandad also organised the traditional 'arastre de latas', and is continuing its campaign to collect toys for children who are in hospital.



St. Nicholas :: SUR

**Starlite impact is 183 million euros, says study****MARBELLA**

■ **H. B.** A report drawn up for the organisers of Marbella's Starlite music festival calculates the event's economic impact on the area to be 183 million euros. In 2019 260,000 people visited the Nagüeles venue during the two-month summer event which generated 870 jobs. Names have already been released for the 2020 Starlite festival, including Lionel Richie and Raphael.

# La Cañada owner Tomás Olivo now controls most of the land in Marbella

The president of the company that owns La Cañada is now also buying up land elsewhere in Malaga province and Andalucía

**■ HÉCTOR BARBOTA**

**MARBELLA.** The entrepreneur Tomás Olivo, president of the company which owns La Cañada shopping centre and considered by Forbes magazine to be the richest person in Malaga and seventh richest in Spain, now controls most of the land in the urban expansion areas of Marbella and is about to become the biggest landowner in the province.

Olivo is believed to be worth around 2.1 billion euros. His wealth has increased tremendously since his company - General de Galerias Comerciales - was launched on the stock market and since he won a legal case against the Junta de Andalucía and was ordered to be paid 165 million euros in compensation for the paralysing of the Nevada shopping centre project in Armilla (Granada).

He has embarked on a strategy of buying up land and other assets to consolidate his presence in the sector of commercial centres and gain a predominant position in the real estate sector.

In 2014, Olivo bought one million square metres of land in the Guadaiza area, between San Pedro Alcántara and Puerto Banús, for around 30 million euros. It stretches between the AP-7 toll motorway and A-7 highway near the entrance to the tunnel at San Pedro and is considered one of the most privileged locations not only in Marbella but on the whole of the Costa del Sol because the terrain is flat and strategically located.

His biggest property transaction in Malaga province, however, was in February this year, when he purchased two million square metres of land in Marbella for 25.7 million euros, which he paid for from his personal funds. Most of this land, including 800,000 square metres at La Serranía, to the north of and bordering La Cañada, used to belong to British magnate Judah Binstock, who died in December 2016. With this purchase, Tomás Olivo gained control of so much land overall that he



Tomás Olivo. :: JOSELE

**With the purchase of Binstock's land, the entrepreneur became a decisive player for the future of the town**

has become a decisive actor for the future of the town.

The General de Galerias Comerciales company is now planning to build an additional 50,000 square metre car park on part of the land acquired from Judah Binstock's widow, with platforms and lifts between the parking area and the shopping centre.

Olivo has already begun to develop projects on some of the land he holds, aiming to do so before the new Urban Plan for Marbella is approved and comes into force.

He is also expanding into other parts of the province. For instance, in July he announced the purchase of several plots of land in Rincón de la Victoria for 9.8 million euros plus IVA, where he plans to build 1,200 homes, and the acquisition of the whole La Azucarera site, 83,000 square metres in Malaga city beside the Guadalhorce industrial estate, for four million euros.

He has also invested 17 million euros in land in Huelva province, and since the company was launched on the stock market he has increased his number of commercial centres from six to nine.

## New centre for the homeless planned by Red Cross in San Pedro

**■ NIEVES CASTRO**

**MARBELLA.** If all goes according to plan, a centre for homeless people will be run by Cruz Roja in council-owned premises in Calle Fantasía, in the Fuente Nueva area of San Pedro, next year. The agreement with the local authority just needs to be ratified by the provincial committee of the NGO. From its regular patrols, Cruz Roja has ascertained that between 12 and 14 people are living permanently in the streets of San Pedro, as well as others who spend some time there and then move on. Councillor Begoña Rueda says it is hoped the centre will be able to open in the spring.



Calle Finlandia. :: JOSELE

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**REF. N. I. R.**

I have a Spanish driver's license so I am subject to the point system. Lately I have received three fines and lost six points for parking improperly, but it is possible that within a while I may forget or not be sure about how many points I have. Is the DGT obliged to inform

the driver when he runs out of points? On the other hand, is it possible to recover the points before they run out?

The administration is obliged to inform the driver the moment the points on the card are all gone, but in order to be informed of the balance you must register on the DGT website. On the other hand, it is possible to sign up for awareness-raising courses when points are lost. With these courses, which may be held once every two years, or once a year in the case of being a professional driver, a maximum of six points can be recovered.

**REF. R. E. T.**

I have had a villa with a garage for several years and every year I pay the tax for the entrance. Last week I was in a hurry and left the car parked in front of the garage door. I assumed that

there was no problem, because the garage is mine and therefore I am not blocking the exit to any car, but to my amazement, when I left the next day, my car was not there, the municipal tow truck had taken it! To recover it I had to pay a penalty, plus the costs of the car's stay in the depot. My question is, if I pay the tax for the entrance and I did not bother anyone, is it legal for them to take my car?

It is normal to think that if your garage has a right of entry, and you are not bothering anyone, you can park without any problem, but this is not the case. When you pay for the right of entry, what you get is the right to go onto the pavement and drive across it, either to get in or out of the garage, but it does not give you the right to park in front of it, because the pavement is not your property, it is part of the public road.

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## HERE AND THERE

**Costa Christmas ham heist: lorry driver sleeps as 300 legs disappear****MALAGA**

∴ **J.C. / A.F.** It's one product that a Spanish Christmas meal cannot be without, which makes cured legs of ham particularly attractive loot for thieves at this time of year.

Last week robbers made off with 300 of the delicacies destined for Costa dinner tables as the driver of the refrigerated truck they were being transported in slept on obliviously. The robbery took place at a truckers' rest stop by the motorway near Antequera.

Investigators said that the driver had not heard anything suspicious above the noise from cooling motors. The first he knew of the theft was when he woke up at 5.45am to drive the last few kilometres to a supermarket in Malaga. The thieves had disconnected the trailer from the cabin and emptied it of the legs of ham, each of which could be worth up to 140 euros, sources said.

Police said the type of operation suggests it was carried out by an organised gang and warned retailers and logistics companies to watch out for people on the look out for valuable festive produce.

**Brave abseilers raise 1,700 euros for Age Concern****FUENGIROLA**

∴ **T. BRYANT.** Age Concern has announced that the fundraising abseil challenge it organised at the Sunset Beach Hotel in October earlier this year has raised 1,700 euros.

Secretary Steve Marshall said: "What a fantastic effort from some very brave people."

"All donations will help us fight the hidden scourge of loneliness that many accept is part of growing old."

**Extended car park opening hours during the festive season****TORREMOLINOS**

∴ **T. BRYANT.** In order to enable visitors to enjoy the extensive programme of Christmas events taking place in Torremolinos over the festive period, the car park of the Centro Cultural Pablo Ruiz Picasso will now be open for longer: between 7.30am and 2am from Monday to Friday.

During the weekend and public holidays, the free car park will open from 9am until 2am.

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## Foundation votes to end live performances inside Nerja cave

Visitor numbers have increased because of online ticket sales, more tourists coming to the province and changes to opening hours

:: E. C. / EP

**NERJA.** During its annual budget meeting which took place last week, the Nerja cave foundation announced a 2.39 per cent increase in visitor numbers in 2019 compared with last year and that it is estimated that 445,000 visitors will have visited by the end of 2019. The foundation puts the growth down to factors including online ticket sales as well as high numbers of tourists coming to Malaga province and changes to the opening hours. The cave foundation said it forecasts that 450,000 people will visit the tourist attraction in 2020.

Next year's budget was also ap-



There will be no more performances inside the cave. :: ISABEL DÍAZ / EFE

proved at the meeting, which will see a 15.8 per cent increase, bringing it up to six million euros. One of the projects planned for next year is a virtual reality room to show visitors areas of the caves not currently open to the public.

During the meeting, the founda-

tion ratified the decision adopted in summer not to hold any further performances inside the caves. The decision is based on scientists' recommendations in order to preserve the caves. In future the annual international dance and music festival will be held exclusively in the gardens.

## Children plant 50 trees for Plant for the Planet event

**EARTH MATTERS**

:: SUR

**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.**

Rincón de la Victoria town hall's Environment department held a tree-planting event last weekend during which 14 children planted 50 trees and shrubs in a green area of La Cala del Moral.

Before the tree planting event

a clean up operation took place in the area. 300 kilos of household waste and 200 kilos of plastics were collected.

Environment councillor, Sergio Díaz, took part in the clean up and tree planting, which was organised by the Plant for the Planet organisation and with the collaboration of the Mahou-San Miguel foundation.



14 children helped to plant 50 trees in La Cala del Moral. :: SUR

### HERE AND THERE

#### Town hall faces criticism over pedestrianisation of Vélez-Málaga centre

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA**

:: E. C. Around 100 people gathered on Plaza las Carmelitas in Vélez-Málaga on Tuesday to protest against elements of the pedestrianisation of the town centre. In particular, residents along with business owners and the opposition Partido Popular party are unhappy about the new

kiosks which have replaced the older versions. The work which started in April to pedestrianise the town centre has run up against other complaints and problems, including a 3,000 euro fine for removing a step from the Carmelitas convent. The Junta de Andalucía regional government said the town hall carried out the work without getting permission from its Culture department. The town hall has said that kiosk workers were consulted over the new design.

#### 23-year prison sentence for La Viñuela murderer

**LA VIÑUELA**

:: E. C. José Manuel O. T., the man found guilty of murdering La Viñuela resident, María Adela F. M., 44, in February 2018, was sentenced to 23 years in prison for murder on Tuesday. He was also ordered to pay his victim's only son 175,400 euros in compensation. While reading out the sentence, the judge described the murder as "premeditated" and carried out with "extreme cruelty."

#### Sports clubs to take Nativity to La Maroma

**CANILLAS DE ACEITUNO**

:: J. R. For the second year running, mountaineers and runners will be climbing La Maroma mountain on Sunday 22 December to perform a live nativity play. Up to 55 people can register to take part in the event, which is believed to be the highest of its kind, at an altitude of 2,069 metres above sea level. The nativity is performed using biodegradable products. To subscribe email: [playasdetorredelmar@gmail.com](mailto:playasdetorredelmar@gmail.com)

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# Preparatory works begin on the recreational area at The Mount

The historic estate, which was traditionally the home of senior Navy officers, will become a park with research and discovery facilities

DEBBIE BARTLETT

**GIBRALTAR.** Preparatory works are about to begin for the project to turn The Mount into a green area, resembling the Commonwealth Park but with woodland and in the south of Gibraltar. It will become a recreation area with a research and discovery park, and the plans also include an adventure park, padel tennis and an events centre. In the future, the civil wedding registry will be based in the gatehouse at The Mount, so civil marriages will be able to take place there with the reception in the events hall which has use of the grounds.

The 18th-century Mount estate is 3,350 m<sup>2</sup> in size and has an interesting history. It was the home of Major General Sir William Green from 1778. He was responsible for strengthening Gibraltar's fortifications prior to the Great Siege and for the raising of the forerunners of the Royal Engineers. The plot was purchased by



The Mount will also become an excellent wedding venue. :: SUR

the Admiralty in 1797. The residence was reconstructed in 1846 and the stables after a fire in 1859. It has traditionally been occupied by senior naval officers.

The Mount was owned by the Ministry of Defence for many years and at that time the people of Gibraltar were unable to access the grounds. Once it was no longer in MOD hands there was a proposal to turn it into a private residential development, but the government decided it made no

sense for the public to be denied access to it once again, and that it would be an ideal additional green space for the Rock.

The site has become very overgrown over the years so the contract has now been awarded for removing some of the vegetation so the condition of the walls, structures and paths can be determined. The squash court will also be cleared out to ground level. This will be the first phase of the project.

## IN BRIEF



The airline is to add its fifth destination. :: GIBRALTAR AIRPORT

## Easyjet to start Gibraltar-Edinburgh flights

GIBRALTAR

DEBBIE BARTLETT The Easyjet airline has announced that it is to begin direct flights between Gibraltar and Edinburgh from late March next year, and this will be

the first connection between Gibraltar and Scotland. There will be two flights a week, all through the year. Tickets are already on sale from £15.99 one way per person, including taxes.

This is the fifth Easyjet destination from Gibraltar, as the company already flies to Gatwick, Luton, Manchester and Bristol.

## Guided tours of Alameda Gardens

GIBRALTAR

DEBBIE BARTLETT The Alameda Gardens tours will continue on the last Saturday of each month (except December) next year, starting at 10.30am from the George Don Gates. The guided tours of these fascinating botanical gardens, which also have an interesting history, cost £5 for adults and are free for children.

## New Year's Classical Concert 2020

GIBRALTAR

DEBBIE BARTLETT The Gibraltar Philharmonic Society is organising the New Year's Concert at the John Mackintosh Hall on Tuesday 7 January at 8.30 pm. Tickets cost £20 and are available from Sacarello's Coffee Shop in Irish Town, the Silver Shop at 222 Main Street, the Philharmonic Society by phoning 200 72134 or at [www.philharmonic.gi](http://www.philharmonic.gi)

Horizonte **BBVA**

# BBVA AND SANITAS RENEW THEIR HEALTH INSURANCE ALLIANCE UNTIL 2033

Innovation, competitiveness, personalisation and the best client experience are some of the benefits of the joint proposal they have developed

BBVA and Sanitas have extended their agreement to jointly develop and sell health insurance for another 14 years. Cristina de Parias, director of BBVA España, and Iñaki Ereño, delegate advisor for Sanitas, have signed the renewal of this alliance, which the groups entered into in 2006, and which now has almost 300,000 insureds.

With this renewal, BBVA and Sanitas consolidate their strategic co-insurance agreement which aims to provide an excellent service, with high levels of quality both of healthcare and in all dealings with clients. All with the needs of BBVA's current and future clients in mind.

During the encounter to sign the agreement, Iñaki Ereño stressed that "both companies share a digital DNA and we are committed to the benefits that digital transformation brings to the relationship with the client." According to Ereño, "Sanitas works to bring the healthcare of the future to their clients; this



The Alliance has 300,000 insureds :: FREEPIK

means it is vital to make use of the advantages of technology as a tool, rather than as an end in itself. This way of thinking is very similar to that of BBVA in

the banking sector, which is why this agreement is the most natural way of placing the facilities of digital transformation in health management at the disposal of the

## BBVA MÁS SALUD

► More than 45,000 specialists and 1,200 medical centres at the patients' disposal

► Access to the Sanitas medical team

► Allows clients to save by combining with other insurance policies

## The goal is to offer an excellent service with high levels of quality in healthcare

clients of both companies."

Cristina de Parias meanwhile stressed that "the success of our association with Sanitas is based on a shared, strategic vision and very similar values where the client comes first and we focus on offering them the best possible experience in every interaction."

In this way, innovation will play a fundamental role in the attainment of the set targets, which both parties are committed to, leading to a continuous improvement of both the products and the services, offering BBVA's clients a wide range of personalised, competitive health insurance options.



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# European Commission announces target of zero emissions by 2050

## EARTH MATTERS

The proposals would mean a 50 to 55% reduction in emissions by 2030, as opposed to 40% in current plans

### BY SALVADOR ARROYO

**BRUSSELS.** While UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has bemoaned the bureaucratic obstacles blocking significant progress at the COP25 climate summit in Madrid, the EU has launched a serious climate project of its own.

Just 11 days into her presidency, the leader of the European Commission, Ursula Von der Leyen, announced on Wednesday the ambitious so-called European Green Deal, a far-reaching set of proposals which aim to decarbonise the European Union by 2050.

Her plans would affect multiple sectors of the economy, including agriculture, transport, construction, and energy production. Von der Leyen insists that the move towards zero net emissions is as much an opportunity as it is a challenge, and that growth need not be affected by a move towards a green economy. Ac-



Von der Leyen with members of the European Commission. :: REUTERS

cording to the latest Eurobarometer, public opinion is on her side: 77% of EU citizens believe that action to protect the environment could boost growth.

Current EU plans involve a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, which estimates suggest would require an annual investment of 260 billion euros, or 1.5 per cent of the EU's combined GDP in 2018. Von Der Leyen's new plans of 50 or even 55% reductions by 2030 would raise this cost further, but the

German stressed the huge costs of inaction; droughts and floods currently cost EU countries 15 billion euros a year.

The Commission's plan would involve a yearly investment of 100 billion euros, and also involves the European Investment Bank incentivising billions of euros of green investment between 2021 and 2030. Her plans may, however, meet resistance from Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary. Poland notably relies on coal for 80% of its electricity production.



## GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE ANNOUNCED

Greta Thunberg has accused the world's rich countries of failing to live up to their climate pledges at the COP25 conference. She accused the politicians at the summit of "negotiating loopholes and avoiding more ambitious targets". Meanwhile, Fridays for Future have announced a global strike today, since they believe that the COP25 "has failed us all" and demonstrated a lack of ambition.

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### MÁLAGA

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In essence, all the necessary services to ensure their clients'



BY SUR

dealings transpire with the maximum guarantees and with no unpleasant surprises. "We carry out an exhaustive study of the situation for every case. This

allows us, for example, to ensure there are no issues with ownership or outstanding debts when it comes to acquiring a property, among many other

**13 Abogados provides all the necessary services to ensure their clients' dealings transpire with the maximum guarantees and with no unpleasant surprises**

issues," explains Manuel L. Romeo, director of the company.

They also handle residence permits and dealings with the Consulates, as well as any procedures the client requires, both for individuals and for companies.

The firm has two offices in the provincial capital city, located on Alameda de Colón and in Teatinos beside the Courts of Law, as well as consultancies in Málaga city, Arroyo de la Miel (Benalmádena) and Marbella. This allows them to assist clients practically anywhere in the province of Málaga.

Under the motto "Amen Egi is Alun" (of Iberian origins), 13 Abogados works for their clients with personalised attention, also provided in English and German.

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**ADVERTORIAL**



# King names Pedro Sánchez as candidate to be prime minister

PSOE and opposition politicians are worried about the concessions that he will have to make to Catalan separatism to win support in Congreso

:: SUR

**MADRID.** King Felipe held separate meetings with all party leaders this week, as the constitution demands, to decide on who to nominate to the Congreso as candidate to be the next prime minister.

It was no surprise when, on

Wednesday evening, the Speaker of parliament, Meritzell Batet, announced that the King had said that Pedro Sánchez should be candidate to be PM. Sánchez's PSOE party has the largest number of seats in Congreso after last month's general election but not a majority.

MPs will now debate and vote on his candidacy, although the date for that is unlikely to be set until the PSOE has exhausted all possibility of winning majority support.

Sánchez's party has been talking with the separatist Catalan republican party, ERC, to try to win their abstention. He already has agree-

ment with left-wing Unidas Podemos to go into coalition but still needs an abstention or more support.

In a press conference on Wednesday, Sánchez blamed opposition parties for not abstaining to allow the government to start work and also agreed to call Catalan leader Quim Torra, something ERC had been demanding.

Many politicians inside and outside the PSOE are nervous about the talks with the Catalan republicans. Worried about the effort and concessions needed to gain their support, one PSOE party grandee said "I don't want vaseline for Christmas".



The PSOE leader and King Felipe on Wednesday . :: EFE

## Separatist protest threatens Barça-Real Madrid clash

The Tsunami Democràtic activist group has warned it will block access to Nou Camp if its messages are banned from the ground

:: SUR

**BARCELONA.** A high-profile Catalan separatist group behind recent street protests has threatened to disrupt the forthcoming 'Clásico' football match between Barcelona and Real Madrid in the Catalan capital next Wednesday, 18 December. The

match had already been rescheduled after fears of violence in Catalonia.

In messages over social media, Tsunami Democràtic has called for its supporters to gather at strategic points close to FC Barcelona's Nou Camp stadium and told organisers that if they allow banners into the stadium saying "Spain Sit and Talk", then they will not prevent people entering the stadium.

Tensions were rising this week amid concerns over whether the game could go ahead. The Mossos d'Esquadra regional police have said they are confident they can protect the match.



Planned protest spots near Nou Camp. :: TWITTER / TSUNAMI DEMOCRÀTIC

## Government puts out to tender the contract for 'big brother' facial recognition borders

:: M. SÁIZ-PARDO

**MADRID.** The Interior ministry has put out to tender a contract for facial recognition border control technology.

The government is offering 4.1 mil-

lion euros for the design and running of the Spanish version of the Entry/Exit System (EES), under new EU rules to monitor the entry from outside the common Schengen travel area, including from UK and Ireland.

The technology chosen should "be able to record and store the time, day and place of entry and exit of nationals of third-party countries".

In addition it should automatically calculate "the authorised length of stay" and "generate alerts".

It will use biometric and facial recognition technology and cover both airports and ports when up and running.





## Malaga needs large amount of new, modern office space to keep up with demand

■ EUGENIO CABEZAS

**MALAGA.** The rise in demand for office space in Malaga city and surrounding area that started in 2016 continues, and real estate agents estimate that 50,000 square metres more are urgently needed in prime locations to keep up with demand. The most sought after areas for offices include the city's business district, near El Corte Inglés department store and the María Zambrano main railway station.

According to consultants Savills Aguirre Newman, Malaga city has a stock of about 420,000 square metres and under ten per cent is available to be leased. This amount should increase by 100,000 square metres in the next five years, as more office building projects are completed.

The analysis says that companies from outside the area looking to set up locally are attracted by the lifestyle and available workforce. They need modern, open-plan spaces that are flexible. New developments near the coast to the west of the city centre are expected to create another prime area in the future.

## Local vehicle sales fall 11% so far this year and dealers call for incentives

The Malaga association of car sellers claims there is lots of pent-up demand and that the government needs to step in

■ I. LILLO / M. STUBER

**MALAGA.** These past twelve months will go down as a bad year for vehicle sales in the province of Malaga, including the Costa del Sol. Although there are a few days left of December still to go, sales to private individuals up to November were down 16.7 per cent year-on-year. At just over 18,000 vehicles sold, it's one of the lowest figures in recent times.

When company vehicles and those bought by the dealerships themselves are added in, the total rises to 25,652, 11.7 per cent less.

In an analysis carried out by SUR, talking to members of the industry in the province, the reason for the decline appears to be down to a number of factors. Will diesel be scrapped? Will electric cars triumph? Other reasons include fears over job security, growing lack of interest among younger generations in having a car and also a fall in birthrate.



Cars parked up waiting to be sent to dealerships. ■ SUR

The decline is also being put down to improvements in public transport, more people using bikes or electric scooters and new online services, such as renting mopeds by the minute.

### Decline doesn't make sense

The head of the association of local dealerships (AMA), Carlos Oliva, said that although there are long-term sociological factors at play, their impact is more gradual. Instead, he believes that people are

just keeping their old cars longer. "There is pent-up demand; the cars on the road haven't been replaced, and the average age has gone up from seven to thirteen years, the second highest in Europe. People are still driving, but cars are getting older. It doesn't make sense."

Oliva called for the government to incentivise people to change their cars, as happened in the past. "They don't have to be electric. A 2019 petrol engine gives off 30 per cent less than ten years ago."

## Antonio González is the new director general of SUR newspapers

■ SUR

**MALAGA.** Prensa Malagueña, the publisher of Malaga province's most-read newspaper, SUR, and SUR in English, among other titles, has a new director general.

Madrid-born Antonio González has worked for titles belonging to the Vocento group, national parent company of Prensa Malagueña, since 1997.

He is well known to the SUR team, having previously worked in Malaga, as well as stints in Madrid, Cadiz and Murcia.



Antonio González. ■ S. SALAS

On Wednesday, the King of Spain yet again asked Socialist (PSOE) leader and acting prime minister Pedro Sánchez to try and form the country's next government. Sánchez, as leader of the party that took the most votes on November 10th, is now headed for a second bout of investiture votes, in which he is by no means guaranteed to succeed. Given the continued political uncertainty, the changes that Sánchez has suggested making to the 1978 Spanish Constitution may appear entirely reasonable.

The PSOE leader has proposed altering Article 99 of the Constitution, believing that governmental deadlocks would thereby be prevented. Article 99 states that, once nominated by the King, a prospec-

THE EURO ZONE  
MARK NAYLER

## WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?



tive president must secure an absolute majority in the first investiture vote in congress or, failing that, a simple majority in a repeat vote held no more than 48 hours later. If he or she fails in the second investiture, there are two months for a new candidate to be proposed. And if that also fails to happen, parliament is dissolved and new elections are called.

Sánchez wants to change the Constitution so that the party with the biggest share of the national vote - in this case, his Socialists, who took 28.7% on November 10th, 12 points ahead of the second-placed party, the Conservative PP - automatically gets to form a government, without having to first go through a nerve-wracking investiture process.

Well, why shouldn't the leading party automatically have the first shot at putting together a government (which is always what ends up happening anyway)? Surely that is a democratically earned right for the political group that's first past the post on election day? The investiture process, you could argue, is a convoluted and unnecessary step - one that often triggers a repeat election because the prime ministerial candidate can't secure enough support.

However, if the proposed changes to Article 99 meant that Sánchez's Socialists automatically became the next government, Spain would be ruled by a party lacking either a parliamentary majority or more than 50% of the national vote. To come at it from another angle, imagine that, after No-

vember 10th, no investiture votes were necessary because Sánchez had automatically assumed the responsibility of forming the next administration. The PSOE leader would still have had to try and create a coalition with or secure parliamentary votes from other parties to govern. But it was precisely the impossibility of either feat that triggered the last election, which was itself the result of Sánchez's failure in investitures held after the April 28th vote.

Perhaps the real problem lies elsewhere. Might it be Spanish politicians' refusal to recognise the importance of compromise in a fragmented political landscape, rather than Article 99 of the Constitution, that is preventing the formation of a stable government? I think it might.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Hostile environments

It started with Theresa May, when she was Home Secretary in the UK and promoted the infamous “hostile environment” which encouraged racism towards foreigners (and anyone who the great British public thought might be foreign for whatever reason).

The situation has been going steadily downhill from there, but just when one might have thought it couldn't get worse, this week UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he will stop European Union migrants from treating Britain “as their own” if he wins this week's election.

Just one of many reactions I have seen came from a Brit-

ish man who had lived for years in Holland then returned to the UK with his Dutch wife. They had children, worked for years and paid taxes, but now according to the PM she should not feel at home.

There must be thousands and thousands in similar situations.

There is a lot of talk about reciprocity after Brexit. If Johnson returns as Prime Minister, should Brits who have made our homes in Spain worry that the Spanish government will decide to make us feel thoroughly unwelcome?

**GLORIA JAMES**  
BY EMAIL

## Who are the real pests?

With a certain uneasy feeling I read the article in your December 6th issue about Malaga city fighting its parakeet pest.

Is it not the other way round, that parakeets need to get rid of US for shamelessly taking their territory, polluting the air they live in, dirtying their riverwater and spoiling their environment with plastics and lots more?

We are hunting wild boar because there are too many and they destroy our golf courses...

is it not the other way round?

Where did we get the rights from to move in to Africa and finish off hundreds of animal species and all this just for the fun of it? Claiming some species get too many... is it not us who grow too many?

Maybe it is a pity that animals can not remove “our nests” as it said so nicely in the article.

This is only a thought; if people don't agree with me I am always open to critics.

**DIRK VANDENDRIESSCHE**  
MARBELLA

## Talk about a green revolution

Interesting to read Junta president Juanma Moreno's plans for a green revolution in Andalusia.

I live in Vélez-Málaga where even optimistically I would estimate that less than 10 per cent of domestic waste is recycled.

We place all our waste in dumpsters which are then tipped into a compactor truck

along with many others.

Unless the municipality possesses some extraordinary processing plant, I guess the whole lot goes into a landfill. Very eco-friendly.

We have been asking for over a decade for recycling bins but we rarely even receive an acknowledgement.

Long way to go I think, Señor Moreno.

**COLIN PHILLIPS**  
MARBELLA

## Techno qualities

**PETER EDGERTON**  
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On 26 June 1974, at Marsh's supermarket in Troy Ohio, Clyde Dawson and Sharon Buchanan participated in a humble interaction which would prove to have enormous significance in the history of technology. Clyde as customer and Sharon as check-out girl were involved in the first public bar code transaction. The purchase was of a pack of Wrigley's Juicy Fruit chewing gum. I'm not sure if Clyde was in on it or just some bloke who wanted to freshen his breath before a hot date. Let's hope it wasn't the latter.

“Good morning, sir.”  
“Good morning. I'd like to buy this pack of lovely gum, please.”  
“Certainly, sir. I just need to .. erm... how was it again? .... erm...”  
\*Bleep  
“What the hell was that? Is this gum radioactive?”  
“No, sir. It's our new system. That'll be 684 dollars please.”

Ok, I'm sure that everything actually went exactly to plan but to be the first member of the general public to use almost anything must really be quite discombobulating.

Imagine being the first person to use a cashpoint, for example.

“Sorry, sir, we're closing the bank now, you'll have to use the cash-point.”

“The what?”

“The machine on the wall outside, sir.”

“Listen here, young man, the three words in the English language that I least want to hear regarding the withdrawal of my hard-earned money are ‘machine’, ‘wall’ and ‘outside’, thank you very much. Get me the manager.”

I still remember setting up my first email account and my sister trying to explain to me how it works.

“It's like getting a letter except it arrives almost immediately.”

“Er, ok. But what if I can't get back to this internet cafe for a week or

two, I might miss something important.”

“You can just go to another internet cafe anywhere in the world and open your mail there.”

This was like somebody telling me I didn't have to pick up my posted mail at my own house because there would be duplicates posted to every other address around the globe at the same time. I'm surprised to this day that my head didn't implode trying to take it all in.

Mind you, even the humble television still feels like a miracle to me. How can you possibly be able to watch a football match being played thousands of miles away in a corner of your living room next to a radiator where your socks are drying? It's mind-boggling.

We're absurdly fortunate to live in the times that we do.

I really must try to remember that the next time a bar code purchase doesn't register at the first attempt.

## IDÍGORAS

I have proof that climate change doesn't exist. Look!  
A real photo of Father Christmas and there's still snow there in Greenland... where you can fall off the edge of the Earth



## ‘Que sera sera’

**JENNIE RHODES**

By the time readers get their hands on today's SUR in English, the result of the UK General Election should be known and as such Brexit may be slightly clearer.

By mid-morning on Thursday, reports were coming in of unprecedented numbers of people queuing outside polling stations, following a surge of people registering to vote. But it won't have been until after 10pm when they closed that we

started to get an idea of what kind of voters they were.

But will we be able to focus on enjoying Christmas without the B word now that it's all over for a few years? The answer is no. If the Tories win, which the polls suggest, there'll be more gruelling months of the Brexit deal and then years of negotiations. Not to mention the NHS being shipped off to the USA and straight into the hands of Donald Trump. Bah, humbug!

If images of Boris Johnson hiding in fridges to avoid reporters were enough to persuade undecided voters to vote Labour and they win, the chances are we (those of us who can) are looking at another trip to the local polling station for a second referendum sometime soon.

But let's face it, while this is a general election and other issues should be considered, it's about Brexit. Brexit can't be undone, at least not for a very, very long time. General elections, however, come and go and minds can be changed the next time round. With Brexit it's now or never.

Whichever way the vote goes, at least the electorate should have gone to the polls more informed about what Brexit actually entails. Britain has never felt so European!

‘Que sera sera’. Whatever will be will be. Perhaps, though, Brexit will hide in a fridge long enough for us all to enjoy Christmas.





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## Golden Globe nomination follows top European award for Banderas

News of the Malaga actor's nomination for his role in *Pain and Glory* came just days after he won the Best European Actor award

by F. GRIÑÁN / I. U.

**MALAGA / BERLIN.** Malaga actor Antonio Banderas sees his chances of an Oscar rise as yet more success has come his way this week. On Saturday he was named Best European Ac-

tor at the European Film Academy awards in Berlin, and on Monday he learned that he had been nominated by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association for a Golden Globe.

The performance that has taken him this far, and could even take him as far as the Oscars, is his role in *Pain and Glory*, Pedro Almodóvar's quasi-autobiographical movie.

The film has not stopped reaping in international praise since it premiered in Cannes, where Banderas also picked up the Best Actor award.

On Saturday the actor accepted his

prize from the European Film Academy by videoconference from Malaga, where he is currently starring in the musical *A Chorus Line* at his own new theatre project.

"Almodóvar, whom I've known for 40 years, has been a miracle in my life, I respect him and love him," said Banderas in his message.

Almodóvar will be accompanying the actor at the Golden Globes gala in Los Angeles on 6 January, as *Pain and Glory* also competes in the Best Motion Picture - Foreign Language category.

For the award Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Drama, Banderas faces fierce competition from fellow nominees, Christian Bale (*Ford v Ferrari*), Adam Driver (*Marriage Story*), Joaquin Phoenix (*Joker*) and Jonathon Pryce (*The Two Popes*).

The Malaga actor however goes to the Globes with heavy support, from the Cannes prize and the European award, to the Hollywood Actor Award, a recognition at the Palm Springs Festival, Goya nominations and being named actor of the year by Time magazine.

In the foreign language film category, *Pain and Glory* is less strong, up against favourite *Parasite* from South Korea.



Banderas received his European Actor award via video link. :: EFE

## Clean-up removes 650 kilogrammes of waste from Fuengirola river

by DARYL FINCH

**FUENGIROLA.** Environmental awareness group Mi Moana brought together around 35 volunteers on Saturday for their monthly cleanup, this time on the river Fuengirola.

The volunteers, aided by divers from Diving with Nic, retrieved over 650 kilogrammes of waste from the river, including an floating island which had formed, made up of wetwipes, condoms and sanitary pads.

"It's clear that this has something to do with an open or broken sewage pipe," said Mi Moana co-founder Natasha Wegloop. "The divers informed us that they felt that they were walking on wetwipes," she added, pointing out that these are causing lots of damage to sewers and are non-biodegradable.

### Dead fish and rats

"Several people approached us during the cleanup, telling us that in the last year they had seen lots of dead fish and rats floating in this part of the river [between Dunnes Stores and the Miramar shopping centre]."

"Our marine biologist has taken a water sample and we hope to get



Volunteers in action. :: SUR

the results back this week."

Mi Moana has brought this "urgent" problem to the attention of Fuengirola town hall and have offered their help in resolving this "unhealthy situation".

"This river belongs to Fuengirola and is connected to the part of the beach where people are swimming and renting small boats," Natasha warned.

Mi Moana organises monthly beach, underwater and river cleanups across the Costa del Sol, details of which can be found on their Facebook page.

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SOCIETY SCENE

# Christmas fairs, hampers and jumpers

Associations and clubs are busy holding festive fundraising markets, fairs and other events in the run-up to Christmas

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

## La Cala de Mijas Lions Christmas fair

The La Cala de Mijas Lions recently held their Christmas fair with stalls selling everything from cakes and Christmas decorations to toiletries and funeral plans. Visitors were entertained by the young Stage Coach Singers and the Costa Soul Singers. During the event, club president Anita Humphries presented a cheque for 500 euros to the Royal British Legion for the Poppy Appeal. The event raised a sum of 3,000 euros which will be used to support other charities throughout the year.

## The Royal British Legion Mollina Christmas jumpers

At the branch meeting this week, chairman Austin Tansley announced that the RBL Mollina branch had raised 7,700 euros for the Poppy Appeal, topping all previous records. Following the meeting the club celebrated with mince pies and a drink with a festive quiz and a Christmas jumper competition which was won by Lorraine Fraser.

## Lux Mundi Torre del Mar Christmas Artisan Market

The Torre del Mar branch of Lux Mundi held their Christmas market recently and sold books, clothing, Christmas decorations, crafts, jew-

ellery and art, raising 914 euros.

## Age Concern Estepona and Manilva Busy fundraising

Age Concern Estepona and Manilva had stalls at both the ADANA and Anglican Church Christmas Fairs recently. They also received a donation from the Fun & Fund Walking Group which will go towards equipment such as wheelchairs.

## Age Concern Fuengirola, Mijas and Benalmádena Bag packing at Iceland

On 7 December, volunteers for Age Concern Fuengirola, Mijas and Benalmádena spent the day helping shoppers pack their bags in the busy Iceland Overseas store raising 500 euros for charity in the process.

## Trapiche Christmas market Axarquía Animal Rescue stall

Axarquía Animal Rescue will be holding a prize draw at Trapiche market on 17 December with the chance to win a Christmas food hamper. On Christmas Eve there will be a further raffle and festive games. Father Christmas will be helping out at the stall.

## What are you up to?

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

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



RBL Mollina branch held a Christmas jumper competition. :: SUR



La Cala de Mijas Lions Christmas fair. :: SUR



The Lux Mundi stall selling Christmas decorations. :: SUR

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## IN THE FRAME

# An innovative life on the Costa del Sol

**G**ill Scott-Gribler first arrived on the Costa del Sol in 1965, and she opened the first beach bar in Los Boliches shortly after. Since then, she has worked as a secretary to several high-profile tycoons, including Henry Tiarks, the last generation of one of the City of London's merchant banking dynasties.

Born in Coventry in 1941, Gill was brought up in Bournemouth. She left England at the age of 20 and went to Tehran to work as secretary to the director general of Radio and Television Iran. She had decided to go to the Middle East in order to learn some of the languages, although she only stayed for three months, returning to the UK after her mother suffered a stroke. Gill never returned to Iran, because the political situation was uncertain at that time, but she still holds a warm spot for it in her heart.

"I loved Iran and would have loved to have gone back. I found it wonderful. It was very sophisticated and cultured, and the people were wonderful and extremely welcoming," Gill explains to SUR in English.

On returning to the UK, Gill shared a flat with a friend whose business partner would eventually become her husband. Ian Gribler was looking for a new business venture and had decided to go to Spain, inviting Gill to go with him. She agreed and they settled in Los Boliches.

Noticing that there was nowhere to eat on the seafront the couple came up with the idea of opening a small bar on the beach.

"There were no bars along the beach at that time and we didn't know anything about how to open one. I went off to Malaga with just half a dozen words in Spanish and a short skirt and I got permission to open a beach bar," she says, smiling as she recalls the period.

They opened their bar - which was the first chiringuito in Los Boliches - and called it the Sugar Shack. It quickly gained a reputation and gave the couple a steady income. They ran the bar for one year, before returning to the UK briefly. They had decided to get married and shortly after Gill became pregnant, so her husband thought it best they settle in the UK. However, Gill soon persuaded

her reluctant husband to return to Spain, where their first child was born in 1967.

"I had cravings for everything Spanish, even Spanish onions, so I said look, I want to go back to Spain.

He thought I was crazy, but agreed to return for a five-year period."

## Pioneering idea

The couple brought a house for 2,000 pounds and reopened their

bar. It would be one of their regular customers who would give the couple the opportunity to start their next business venture, which again proved to be a pioneering move.



Gill relaxing at her home in Fuengirola. :: SUR

**Before moving to Spain in 1965, Gill Scott-Gribler worked as a secretary in Iran. She opened the first beach bar in Los Boliches and went on to become a pioneer in the prepared vegetable business on the Costa del Sol**

TONY BRYANT



The customer admired Gill and Ian's capacity for hard work and offered to finance a new business project that they were considering at the time. After spending years peeling vegetables at their beach bar, they came up with the idea of supplying bars with prepared potatoes. At the time, the catering trade was taking off in the area and so they couple opened the first processed potato factory in Fuengirola.

"Cafes, bars and restaurants were opening up like mushrooms so we set up a factory to supply peeled and chipped potatoes. We had many women from Ronda working in the factory, and boy did they work," Gill says, appreciatively.

The couple eventually sold the factory, and it was around this time that they also sold their bar.

By then, Gill had three children and decided to stop work and become a housewife. It was during this period that her marriage broke up and she found a small escape in writing poetry, although she never published anything.

**"I went off to Malaga with just half a dozen words in Spanish and a short skirt and I got permission to open a beach bar"**

She decided to go back to work, taking a job as a secretary to a yacht broker in Puerto Banús. This was a position she held for almost ten years. After this, she worked as secretary to merchant banker Henry Tiarks. He died in 1995 and left Gill a "sizable amount of money". He also left her 3,000 books, although she had nowhere to store such a large collection and was forced to sell them at the flea market.

Gill has now lived in Fuengirola for more than 50 years. Although she fell in love when she arrived in 1965, there are a few things that she still misses about England.

"I have to return to England at least once a year. I miss policemen's helmets, country lanes and celery that isn't so stringy," the sprightly 78-year-old concludes.

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DENISE BUSH

# GARDENING

## The delicate Aztec lily

The fiery red blooms of this relation to *Hippeastrum* may not appear very often but they are worth the wait

A member of the Amaryllidaceae family (of which the popular Christmas Amaryllis bulb is a member), *Sprekelia formosissima* is native to Mexico and Guatemala. Unrelated to true lilies, com-

mon names for *Sprekelia* include Aztec lily, Mexican fire lily, Jacobean and St James' lily. It is a herbaceous perennial with shiny, strap-like leaves and the fiery red blooms, up to 12cm

across and one per stem, are more reminiscent of an orchid than a lily.

The bulb is tender and often grown as an annual in cold climates and is therefore best grown in a container so that it can be moved under cover in cold winters, especially inland from the coast.

In bloom, the Aztec lily can reach 35cm tall. Even with regular feeding during the growing season blooming can be unreliable. Planted in groups, only two or three may flower in a year.

However it may sometimes bloom twice in one year, in the spring and again in the autumn. Other times it may not send up a flower for several years.

Although this bulb was common in conservatories and greenhouses in Victorian Britain, the inconsistency of flowering has made *Sprekelia formosissima* less popular nowadays than Amaryllis (*Hippeastrum*) but the exceptional beauty of the crimson velvet petals with green throat makes up for its unreliability.

The Aztec lily needs a sunny or partially shaded spot and rich, moist soil, preferably slightly acidic. Propagation can be carried out by sowing seeds collected after flowering however a lot of patience would be needed until the resulting seedlings flower. A better method is to remove and pot up the bulblets; left undisturbed *Sprekelia* will multiply and form a large clump.



*Sprekelia formosissima* and close up of a bloom (inset). :: WIKIMEDIA

### READERS' PHOTOS

## A DIFFERENT CHRISTMAS TREE

Susan Hannam sent in this photo and says, "This Poinsettia tree was well established when we bought the house over 40 years ago. Each year it welcomes the Christmas season." For some of us who can't keep a Poinsettia alive beyond January, this statement will probably cause a degree of anguish but it is a fact that Poinsettias bought from shops at Christmas often don't survive the transition from shop to home environments very well and to get one to survive in the garden takes great care.



:: SUSAN HANNAM



:: CARL WILTSHIRE

## A TOUCH OF THE TROPICAL

Reader Carl Wiltshire sent in this photo of his sunny terrace garden and says, "My tropical terrace garden has plants from Spain, South Africa, Vietnam and Hawaii."

### PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

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

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

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JENNIE RHODES



## WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

13 DECEMBER 1938

# The birth of ONCE, help for the blind

Old ONCE 'cupones', or lottery tickets, are collectors' items, with designs changing to represent major events in Spanish history

**O**n 13 December 1938 ONCE, an organisation to provide assistance to blind people in Spain, was created.

A government decree endorsed its foundation and granted the then national organisation of the blind the right to sell the so-called "pro-blind" lottery tickets, to provide members with a livelihood. The very first draw was held on 8 May 1939.

ONCE stands for Organización Nacional de Ciegos Españoles (national organisation for Spanish blind people).

Although ONCE now has several gambling products available, the organisation's traditional product is the charity lot-

tery ticket known throughout Spain as the 'cupón'.

Sales of the ticket are the main source of income for ONCE and can carry huge tax-exempt cash prizes. The draw has different tickets for different days of the week, a special weekend ticket as well as special tickets with higher prizes at different times of year.

The draw has for many years been broadcast live every night on Spanish TV channels, including Telecinco, Cuatro and

CNN+. From January 3, 2017, it has been shown on the Spanish television channel La 1.

The basic graphic designs on the cupón are always the same, but the theme changes to correspond to current



Presentation of the Príncipe de Asturias prize in 2013. :: EFE

events, for example when the Euro became legal tender in 2002, or cultural references such as national or local monuments. Collecting old issues of the cupón has become a hobby for many people in Spain.

In September 2013, coinciding with the organisation's 75th anniversary, ONCE was awarded

Spain's Príncipe de Asturias prize for Concord. From 1989 to 2003 ONCE sponsored one of Spain's leading cycling teams.

As of September 2013, membership of the organisation was 71,460 people, of whom 40 per cent were over the age of 65.

ONCE, whose work includes providing guide dogs for blind and

## LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Sorteo	Draw
Cupón	Coupon (ONCE ticket)
Ciego	Blind
Discapacidad	Disability
Deficiencia	Impairment
Empleo	Employment
Vendedor	Seller
Impuestos	Taxes
Diseño	Design
Premio	Prize
Perro-guía	Guide dog
Ceguera	Blindness
Patrocinar	To sponsor
Afiliado	Member
Educar	To educate
Crecimiento	Growth

visually impaired people, is made up of three pillars: the Directorate-General; the Foundation; and CEOSA, ONCE's business corporation. This employs over 136,000 staff, of whom 88.5 per cent are people with disabilities.

ONCE continues to raise funds to provide services for the blind and people with serious visual impairment, as well as those with other disabilities, and sellers are a familiar sight in all Spanish towns, cities and villages.

**Bilingual crossword inside back page**



ONCE ticket seller :: SUR

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## DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA



Above the town of Montemayor stands a medieval fortress. :: AYTO MONTEMAYOR



Night time ambience. :: AYTO MONTEMAYOR



## QUICK GUIDE

## What to see in Montemayor

## Thematic Centre Memo-rias Pedro Ximénez.

Thematic space that revolves around the world of wine.  
Ctra. Córdoba-Málaga, s/n. 14530 Montemayor.



**Museo de Ullia.** Montemayor's valuable archaeological and ethnographic collection.  
Calle Juan Pedro Carmona, 6. 14530 Montemayor.

**Castillo Ducal de Frías.** Historical fortress that today is considered one of the best examples of military architecture in the province of Córdoba.  
Calle Mirador de la Campiña. 14530 Montemayor.



**Iglesia de la Asunción.** Main church in the area built in the sixteenth century.  
Calle Juan Pedro Carmona, 1. 14530 Montemayor.

**Manchón de los Navarros.** A natural enclave of great biological value, located 11 kilometres from the town centre.  
Cerro de la Pollera, s/n. 14530 Montemayor.

## Christmas at the foot of a castle

JAVIER  
ALMELLONES

## 2 days in Montemayor

Car + Walking.

Duration of journey: 1 hour and 20 minutes from Malaga.

Christmas Market: 3 hours.

Monuments: 5 hours.



Towns and villages across Andalucía become a hive of activity during the second half of December. In some of them, the celebrations revolve around commercial and leisure activities that attract tourists such as the themed market that is held until Sunday in the Córdoba town of Montemayor.

This weekend, this quiet town located just a stone's

throw from Montilla, concentrates on celebrating Christmas in such a way that everyone, both old and young, are guaranteed to enjoy themselves.

On the one hand, for many visitors and residents the big attraction will be the commercial aspect of this event which showcases the gastronomy of the town and surrounding area.

Among the local prod-

ucts will of course be the Pedro Ximénez wine which is probably the most famous and oldest product from this region of Andalucía which carries the DO Montilla-Moriles.

There will also be no shortage of handicrafts and fashion items, ideal for gifts at this time of year.

On the other hand, this Christmas market has become consolidated in the calendar of events thanks to its extensive programme of activities that run in parallel. Over these three days, those who visit Montemayor will find live music, guided tours and open days to some of its monuments and museums and, of course, lots of things for children to do.

There will be children's theatre and a visit by the Royal Entourage during the weekend.

This Christmas festival presents an opportunity to get to know this historic town in the heart of Córdoba province. One of the most important fortresses of the Al-Ándalus era, the ducal castle of Frías which is all that remains of the Dos Hermanas bastion, is preserved in the town centre.

However, beyond these walled enclosures of Montemayor there is much more to see including its churches and its museum.



The themed market. :: DIPUTACIÓN CÓRDOBA



## EXHIBITIONS

### 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.

### Marbella design Academy Expo

**Marbella.** 13 December, 7pm. Camino Hotanca, Monda.

The Graphic Design and Interior Architect students will be displaying their creative design projects and the Fashion Design students will be showcasing their collections on the runway. Free snacks, welcome drink and music. [www.designschool.com](http://www.designschool.com)

### Belleza Accidental

**Marbella.** Until 18 December. Centro Cultural San Pedro. Free. Fabiana Schulz is exhibiting 28 abstract photos taken on Formentera island.



### Typing Feminism

**Malaga.** Until 19 December. Escuela de Arte San Telmo.

The fight for feminism is reflected in this exhibition which consists of posters all carrying messages such as 'Girl Stop Saying Sorry' and 'Females Are Strong As Hell'. The initiative was started by Lucía Types who contacted designers from other countries to participate.

### Madueños Art

**Mijas.** Until 7 January. Casa Museo de Mijas.

The three siblings from the Madueño family will be exhibiting their works which includes paintings (Tere Madueño); cross stitch (Peña Madueño) and sculpture (Salvador Madueño).

## CHRISTMAS EVENTS

### Love To Sing Carol Concerts

**Sabinillas.** 14 December. Plaza de la Naranja.

**Monte Duquesa.** 15 December, 7.30pm.

The Flying Squirrel.

**Sabinillas.** 18 & 19 December, 7.30pm.

Sabinillas Church.

**Estepona.** 20 December, 8.30pm. Plaza de Antonia Guerrero.

### Meeting of Christmas choirs

**Nerja.** 13 December, 9pm. Iglesia de El Salvador.

The Orfeón Virgen de la Escalera (from Cadiz) and the Coral Alminares from Nerja will be in concert together.

### TAPAS Christmas Carols

**Coín.** 13 December, from 6pm. La Trocha shopping centre.

**Fuengirola.** 14 December, from 12pm. Dunnes Stores, Miramar shopping centre.

The choir will be raising money for CHAIN and Un Sí por La Vida.

### Carols by Candlelight

**Salinas.** 13 December, 7.30pm. Salinas Church on A-333 Salinas to Villanueva del Tapia road.

Sing traditional English carols followed by a mince pie and glass of wine. A collection in aid of El Comedor de Santo Domingo (local children in need).

### International Christmas Festival

**Arroyo de la Miel.** 13, 14, 15 December, from 1pm. Plaza de la Mezquita.

Gastronomy, performances, typical products and crafts will be available at this international festival.

### TOPS panto and show

**Alhaurin el Grande.** 13 and 14 December. Food from 7pm, show starts 8.30pm. Venta La Recta. Show 10€.

Tickets on sale at Cristina's, UK food Stores and DEE DEE's hairdressers in Alhaurin El Grande. Contact Maggie ([topsforcharity@gmail.com](mailto:topsforcharity@gmail.com)) to reserve a table. This year TOPS is supporting the local charities AID and Caritas.

### Ecumenical Carol Service

**Torre del Mar.** 14 December, 6pm. Parish church of San Andrés.

Carols sung by the Spanish choir Amigos de Lux Mundi, the German choir Con Los Cantores director Lisa Kropp and the TIMS English choir director Margaret Williams.

### SEARCH Christmas Open Day

**Coín.** 14 December, from 12pm.

Hot turkey rolls, veggie burgers, mince pies and homemade cakes, relax by the log fire, make friends with like-minded animal lovers and wish all the horses a Happy Christmas! Mulled wine, coffee and brandy are also available – drinks cost 1 euro each. Limited places call: 660220700 or email [info@serch.es](mailto:info@serch.es). For more information, visit [www.serch.es](http://www.serch.es) or see the S.E.A.R.C.H Facebook page.

### Christmas concerts and choirs

**Almuñécar.**

**14 December.** The Banda de Música Almuñécar will be in concert at 7pm in the Casa de la Cultura while the Pedro Mena child choir will be performing in the La Encarnación church at 8pm.

**15 December, 7pm.** The Orquesta de Cámara Mediterránea will be playing a repertoire of Christmas music in the Casa de la Cultura.

**19 December, 10am.** The schools juvenile choir Spanish carol competition will take place in the Casa de la Cultura.

### Coral Ciudad de Benalmádena

**Arroyo de la Miel.** 14 December, 8.30pm. Inmaculada Concepción Church.

Coral Ciudad de Benalmádena, organiser of the event, together with Coral Polifónica Ciudad de

Marbella and Coral Municipal de Casabermeja will perform Christmas songs from all over the world. Conductor: Óscar Luis Sánchez.

### Traditional Villancicos

**Almayate.** 14 December, 6.30pm. Almayate Church.

Seven choirs unite to sing traditional Spanish carols (villancicos) in an event that is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

### Lions Christmas Party

**Mijas.** 14 December, 7pm. Treetops, El Chaparral Golf. 45€.

La Cala de Mijas Lions annual Christmas party with cava and canapes on arrival, a four-course meal with wine, beer or soft drinks. Entertainment with the Zing Duo. Tickets from the Lions shop in C/Torremolinos, La Cala de Mijas.



### Charity Christmas Concert

**Estepona.** 15 December, 5pm.

Louie Louie Rock Bar, Avda Luis Braille.

The students of Sotogrande International Music Academy will be in concert to raise funds for the Colegio Nuestra Señora del Carmen de Estepona. For all the family. Minimum donation 5€ of which 100% goes to the charity plus 20% of bar takings. Email: [rickylouielouie@gmail.com](mailto:rickylouielouie@gmail.com)

### Municipal Band Christmas Concert

**Torre del Mar.** 15 December, 12.30pm. Paseo Larios.

A special Christmas concert by Vélez-Málaga's Municipal Band.

### Christmas Market

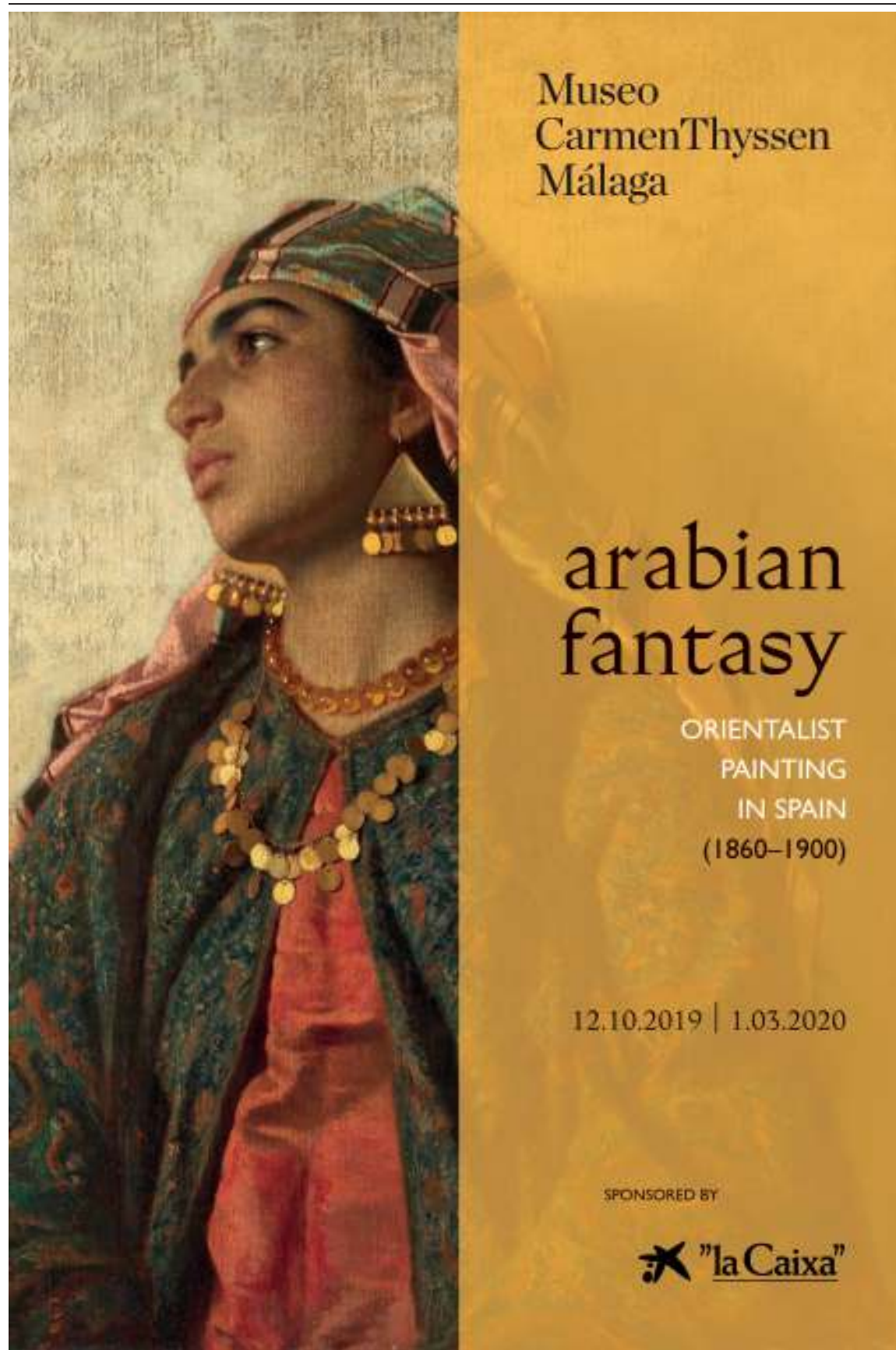
**Periana.** 15 December, 10.30am - 4.30pm. Salón María Zambrano.

Crafts, foodstuffs, jewellery, flowers and refreshments etc. Support Esperanza Association / Red Cross.


### Triple A Christmas fundraiser

**Marbella.** 15 December, 7pm.

Puente Romano restaurant. 100€ Cocktail and canapés on arrival, three course meal with drinks, raffle and live music. Email: [events@tripleamarbella.org](mailto:events@tripleamarbella.org) Tickets by Whatsapp: 0031683157025 or online from: [www.restaurante.covermanager.com/cena-tripple-a](http://www.restaurante.covermanager.com/cena-tripple-a)







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## CHRISTMAS EVENTS

### Collegium Musicum Costa del Sol Christmas concert

**Fuengirola. 15 December, 6pm. IPV Palace Hotel and Spa. 12€.**

The choir and orchestra will be presenting a variety of carols from around Europe, such as music from the Nutcracker Suite and from the film The Snowman, as well as festive music by Handel. Tickets from the hotel, Nicholson's Jewellers and choir members.

**Marbella. 17 December, 9pm. Iglesia de la Encarnación.**

More details on both concerts at [www.colmus.org](http://www.colmus.org) call: 952 775 492 / 696 620 872

### 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: 679757610.

### Christmas Choir Concert

**Villanueva del Trabuco. 16 December, 8pm. Edificio de Usos Múltiples Antiguo Granero.**

Students from the Escuela de Música will be performing traditional Christmas songs.

### Christmas Sing Song for Dementia sufferers

**Estepona. 17 December, 12pm.**

**11&11 Restaurante, Estepona port.** Singing stimulates the brain and improves wellbeing and mood. This



Collegium Musicum.

is a special Christmas event for dementia sufferers their carers, families and loved ones. Familiar Christmas songs with singer Helena Paul. Call: 606 849 692 or email: [JulieJanefundraising@gmail.com](mailto:JulieJanefundraising@gmail.com).

### Christmas Dance Show

**Mijas. 17 December, 6pm. Teatro de La Cala de Mijas**

Students from Pop Academia FAMA will be performing under the direction of Manuela Veronesse.

### Christmas Concerts in the City

**Málaga. 17-29 December, Plaza de la Constitución.**

A series of Christmas concerts will be held in the plaza including the Sierra Blanca El Romeral choir as well as performances by the Teatro Musical Victoria and Gym Victory.

### Age Concern Christmas Party

**Mijas. 17 December, 7pm. Restaurante Valparaíso. 35€.**

Welcoming drink and canape followed by three-course meal with wine and soft drinks. Raffle, live entertainment with the Quist duo and dancing. Tickets from Age Concern in Los Boliches, La Cala, Mijas

Pueblo or Arroyo de la Miel.  
952 476 210

### Snowy Malaga

**Malaga. 18, 19 December, 8.30pm.**

**Plaza de las Flores**

The square will be filled with artificial snow for the traditional 'nevada'.

### Choir concerts

**Malaga. 19, 20, 21 December, C/ Nueva, C/ San Juan and Plaza de Félix Sáenz.**

The CDR Renfe choir will be performing traditional Christmas songs.

### Traditional Carol Service

**Malaga. 19 December, 7.30pm. St George's Anglican Church, Avenida de Pries 1.**

The Nine Lessons and Carols will be celebrated followed by mince pies, mulled wine and raffle.

### Papa Noel and Living Nativity

**Almuñécar. 20 December. Plaza de la Constitución.**

Father Christmas will be visiting the plaza at 11am and at 5pm. There will be a performance of a living nativity scene.

## Light the light for Cudeca

The event is celebrated with the turning on of the Christmas lights at the hospice and the lighting of hundreds of candles

### :: SUR IN ENGLISH

**BENALMÁDENA.** Every year the Cudeca Foundation celebrates Christmas with 'Light a Light' in memory of loved ones.

During the event, the Christmas lights decorating the hospice will be turned on by the founder and honorary president of the association, Joan Hunt OBE, and the chief executive and medical director Marisa Martín. This, together with the candles carried by over 300 charity workers, volunteers, friends and employees, presents an amazing sight.

There will also be a visit from Father Christmas, face painting and other activities for children.

The pupils of Sunny View College choir will be entertaining everyone with traditional carols and there will be stalls selling Christmas and other homemade



The hospice lit up in a previous year. :: SUR

### INFORMATION

► **When.** 13 December, from 6pm.

► **Where.** Cudeca Cancer Hospice, Avda del Cosmos, Arroyo de la Miel.

► **More information.** [www.cudeca.org](http://www.cudeca.org)

cakes and sweets, savoury items and Cudeca's popular Christmas cards, hand crafted by patients and volunteers. There will also be calendars and lottery tickets as well as a raffle.

If you wish to light a light in memory of your loved one, you can do it at [www.light-tupcudeca.org](http://www.light-tupcudeca.org) for a minimum donation of 10 euros or at the Hospice Centre on the night of the event.



### ACE Christmas Dinner

**Calahonda.** 21 December, 7pm.  
*Los Olivos Restaurant.* 25€.  
The Animal Care España charity is holding its annual three-course Christmas dinner with live entertainment from Laura Elen. Also a charity raffle. Reservations: 647647671 / 606145359, or email: pr.spain@ace-charity.org

### Santa Claus Grotto

**Torremolinos.** 20 - 23 December, 11am-1pm, 5-8pm. *Avenida Palma de Mallorca.*  
Santa will be collecting children's letters in his grotto.

## CHARITY

### Animals In Distress auctions

**Alhaurín el Grande.** 13 December.  
*La Peña Asfahal.*  
Drinks and meals available. Sellers need to call 626 942 427. Auction starts at 7pm. Viewing between 6 and 7pm. [www.animals-in-distress.eu/events.html](http://www.animals-in-distress.eu/events.html)

## MUSIC & DANCE

### Louie Louie Rock Bar

**Estepona.** Avda Luis Braille.  
**13 December.** Midnight. Milky Bread.  
**14 December.** Midnight Delto tribute to Extremoduro. 10€ in advance, 13€ on door.  
**20 December.** 11.30pm. Dirty Army presents Living Death and Hollywood Arson Project. 7€ in advance,



Ernesto Aurignac, Torremolinos.

10€ on door.  
**21 December.** Sound Friction.

### Tribute to Charlie Parker

**Torremolinos.** 13, 14 December, 10.30pm. *Clarence Jazz Club.* 15-25€.  
Malaga saxophonist and composer Ernesto Aurignac, presents his show, Charlie Parker With Strings. He will be accompanied by a dozen musicians.

### The Wall Bar

**Malaga.** *Hotel Vincci Posada del Patio,* 10pm, entry free.  
**13 December.** Toni Caballero. Jazz R&B covers.  
**14 December.** Rosa Ruiz & Foky.  
**15 December.** Jesús Aranda.

### Guitar Night

**Marbella.** 14 December, 9pm. *Döss restaurant, Urb Artola Alta.* 10€.  
Amir John Haddad, Salvador Rinquín, José Luis Lastre, Sebastián Vega, Tomás García and Carlos Juan will be providing an evening of guitar for diners at the restaurant. Book a table: 952 000 772.

### Sociedad Filarmónica

**Malaga.** 18 December, 8pm. *Sala Unicaja de Conciertos María Cristina.*  
The Polifónica Corpus Christi choir will perform in the first half followed by the ICA José Luis Rueda choir in the second part. Money raised for the Yo soy Tú association.

### Juan Rossler Band

**Almuñécar.** 19 December, 7pm. *Casa de la Cultura.*  
Juan Rossler, Tony Romero, Manuel Olmo and Ramón Barranquero will be in concert.

### Janis Joplin Tribute

**Nerja.** 20 December, 8pm. *Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja.*  
Wasabe Cru perform a concert in tribute to the great Janis Joplin.

### Opera & ballet at the Cervantes

**Malaga.** *Teatro Cervantes.* [www.teatrocervantes.com](http://www.teatrocervantes.com)  
**26 December, 8pm.**  
Swan Lake performed by the Saint Petersburg Classical Ballet.

### Handel's Messiah

**Malaga.** 13 December, 7.30pm. *Teatro Cervantes.*  
Instruments of Time and Truth with the Oxford Singers conducted by Edward Higinbottom will be performing Handel's Messiah. Tickets: [www.unientradas.es](http://www.unientradas.es)

### Y Que Más Da, Todo Es Gracia

**Malaga.** 20 December, 8pm. *Museo Picasso Málaga.*  
Ballet dancer and choreographer Luz Arcas with her company La

Pharmáco presents this show which has been created especially for the Calder - Picasso exhibition currently held in the museum. [www.museopicassomalaga.org](http://www.museopicassomalaga.org)

### The Rob Sas band

**Estepona.** 21 December, 9pm. O'Callaghans, Sabinillas.  
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. [therobsasband.com](http://therobsasband.com)

### The Best of Blues

**Nerja.** 13 December, 8pm. *Centro Cultural Villa de Nerja.*  
The Lito Blue Band has a big following in Spain playing music made famous by Eric Clapton, Etta James, Jimi Hendrix, Robert Johnson and many other great names.

### Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

**Malaga.** *Teatro Cervantes.* 19, 20 December, 8.30pm.



Swan Lake, Malaga.

Conducted by Manuel Hernández Silva, the orchestra will perform Beethoven's New Symphony and Concerto N°2 for piano. With soprano Beatriz Díaz, mezzosoprano Anna Bonitatibus, tenor Johannes Chum and bass Werner Van Mechelen accompanied by the Ópera de Málaga choir.

**Malaga.** *Auditorio Edgar Neville* 13 December, 8.30pm, 14 December, 8pm.

The orchestra will play Bach's Christmas Oratory with soprano Alba Chantar, mezzosoprano Lidia Vinyes Curtis, tenor Juan de Dios Mateos and bass Joan Martín Royo accompanied by the Cármina Nova choir. Conductor Salvador Vázquez.

## THEATRE & COMEDY

### Thespa

**Los Boliches.** 18 December, 7.30pm. *Masonic Hall, Edf Bougainvillea.* Members 16€, guests 18€.  
Reservations (by 16 December): [thespabooking@gmail.com](mailto:thespabooking@gmail.com) or 652726624

### Alice's Trip

**Vélez-Málaga.** 14, 15, 21 December, Saturdays 9pm, Sundays 7pm. *Sala Gades, C/Calvo.* 8€ in advance, 16€ on door.  
An adaptation of the classic story of Alice in Wonderland (in Spanish) by the Fernando Hurtado Dance Company and Fundación Pasos. Tickets: [www.tickets.janto.es](http://www.tickets.janto.es).

  
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## FLAMENCO

**Juan Brea Flamenco Festival Vélez-Málaga.** 14 December, 9pm. Teatro del Carmen. 15 € Rancapino Chico, Fabiola Santiago (singers); Diego del Morao, Fran Vinuesa (guitar); Pastora Galván (dancer), Miguel Levi de Jerez, El Galli de Morón and Juan Requena will perform at the 43rd edition of this festival.

## La Zambomba

**Benahavis.** 14 December, 11am. Avda Andalucía. A Christmas market with traditional flamenco carols. There will be a raffle with proceeds going to the Cudeca Cancer Hospice, Proyecto Hombre and Mary's Meals.

## Zambomba Flamenca

**Malaga** 14 December, 12-1pm. Museo Picasso Málaga. The Zambomba Flamenca Alejandro Estrada will be giving two per-



Zambomba Flamenca, Malaga.

formances in the garden of the Picasso museum.

**Juan Brea Festival Vélez-Málaga.** 14 December, 9pm. Teatro del Carmen. 15 €. The Pastora Galván dance company with Miguel Levi, El Galli and Juan Requena accompanied by Rancapino Chico and Fabiola Santiago (vocals) and Diego del Morao, Fran Vinuesa (guitar).

## LECTURES &amp; TALKS

## U3A Lectures

**Fuengirola.** Lux Mundi. free to members, guests 5€. [www.u3a-fuengirolacostadelosol.com](http://www.u3a-fuengirolacostadelosol.com)  
**'Should Computers Run The World?'**  
18 December, 11am. A Royal Institution video lecture with additional material.

## U3A Art Appreciation

**Torre del Mar.** 16 December, 11am. Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, Avda Moscatel. 3€. Andrew Graham-Dixon examines the history of French art, revealing how it emerged from a struggle between tradition, revolution and rules of the citizens. He compresses centuries of culture into three thematically linked chapters. Video followed by a discussion. [www.lux-mundi.org](http://www.lux-mundi.org)

**The Arts Society de la Frontera San Roque.** 21 December, 11am. San Roque Golf and Country Club.

Visitors 12€  
**'A Tour of Big Ben'**  
Illustrated talk by Tim Redmond. Includes a complimentary glass of wine after the lecture. For information: 634287821 or [delafrontera@theartssociety.org](mailto:delafrontera@theartssociety.org)

## FESTIVALS

## Feria de Queso'Popi'

**Estepona.** Until 15 December. C/Terraza. Besides a huge variety of cheeses, there will be stalls selling other products such as dried fruit, wine, olive oil and paté all promoted by the Sabor a Málaga brand.

## Día de las Migas

**Benajárfate.** 15 December. Benajárfate celebrates the traditional winter dish, 'migas' with this festival. The activities start at around 12.30am with the opening of the square outside the church where the festival is held. Besides opportunities to sample the simple recipe of breadcrumbs, oil, water and garlic there will be live music and dance performances.

## EVENTS AND TRIPS

## Interreligious Meeting for Peace

**Marbella.** 16 December, 8pm. Mezquita del Rey Abdulasid Al Saud. The event will unite over 150 people of different creeds such as Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus and those of Bahá'í Faith. The event will also be attended by the Bishop of Malaga, Jesús Catalá.

## Trip to Gibraltar

**Torre del Mar.** 19 December. Various departure points. 13€. Coach trip to Gibraltar. Passports



Cheese fair, Estepona.

required. Lux Mundi Torre del Mar. 952 543 334 or [luxmundi@lux-mundi.org](mailto:luxmundi@lux-mundi.org)

## Malaga Christmas Lights

**Torre del Mar.** 20 December. Various departure points. 11€ The coach will visit the nativity scene at La Mosca on the way to see the Christmas lights in Malaga city centre.

## 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](http://www.cinealbeniz.com)  
**Young Ahmed:** 16.30.  
**The Two Popes:** 16.30.  
**Proxima:** 18.45, 22.30.  
**Les Misérables:** 20.40.  
**The Good Intentions:** 16.30, 18.25, 22.10.  
**The Traitor:** 17.00.  
**Curiosa:** 19.45, 21.45.

## Cinesur El Ingenio

Avda. Juan Carlos 1, Vélez-Málaga. Tel. 667 77 31 87.  
**Frozen II:** 12.30, 15.45.  
**Last Christmas:** 12.15, 15.45.

**Jumanji: The Next Level:** 12.15, 15.45 (every day); 16.30, 19.00, 21.30 (Mon, Thurs).  
**Knives Out:** 19.15, 21.55 (Tues).  
**Midway:** 19.00 (Tues).

## Cinesur Miramar

Avda. de la Encarnación, Fuengirola. Tel. 952 19 86 00.  
**Jumanji: The Next Level:** 12.00, 16.30, 19.00, 21.30, 0.00.  
**Charlie's Angels:** 12.00.  
**Last Christmas:** 12.00, 16.00.  
**Midway:** 12.00, 16.00 (Tues).  
**Frozen II:** 12.00, 15.45, 18.00, 20.10.  
**Knives Out:** 12.00, 16.00.  
**Nutcracker Ballet:** 20.15 (Tues).  
**Guardians of the Earth:** 20.00 (Mon).

## Cines Teatro Goya

For tickets and information call 951196665. [www.cinesteatrogoya.com](http://www.cinesteatrogoya.com)  
**Charlie's Angels:** 15.45, 18.00 (Fri, Sat, Sun); 17.00 (Mon, Tues, Wed).  
**Frozen II:** 12.00 (Sun); 15.30, 17.45 (Fri, Sat, Sun); 17.00 (Mon, Tues, Wed).  
**Last Christmas:** 22.30 (Fri, Sat, Sun); 17.30, 21.30 (Mon, Tues, Wed).  
**Midway:** 15.15, 17.45 (Fri, Sat, Sun); 17.00 (Mon, Tues, Wed).

## Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

Centro de Ocio Plaza Mayor, Avda. Alfonso Ponce de León. Tel: 902 902 103 or visit [www.yelmocines.es](http://www.yelmocines.es)  
**Bruce Springsteen, Western Stars:** 20.30 (Tues).  
**Frozen II:** 18.55 (Tues).  
**Jumanji: The Next Level:** 21.00 (Tues, ultra HD); 19.00, (Fri, Sat, Sun, Wed).  
**The Good Liar:** 12.20 (Sat, Sun).  
**Last Christmas:** 19.10 (Tues).  
**Charlie's Angels:** 21.35 (Tues).  
**Midway:** 19.20 (Tues).  
**Knives Out:** 12.40 (Sat, Sun).  
**Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker:** 20.15 (Thurs).

## Yelmo Cines, Rincón de la Victoria

Calle Arroyo Totalán. Tel: 902 220 922 or visit [www.yelmocines.es](http://www.yelmocines.es)  
**Bruce Springsteen, Western Stars:** 20.30 (Tues).  
**Joker:** 19.20 (Tues).  
**Jumanji: The Next Level:** 21.00 (Tues).  
**The Good Liar:** 17.35 (Tues).  
**Last Christmas:** 17.10 (Tues).  
**Knives Out:** 19.40 (Tues).  
**Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker:** 20.30 (Thurs).

## Yelmo Cines, Vialia

Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902 220 922 or visit [www.yelmocines.es](http://www.yelmocines.es)  
**Bruce Springsteen, Western Stars:** 20.30 (Tues).  
**The Traitor:** 12.35 (Sat, Sun).  
**GORILLAZ: Reject False Icons:** 20.30 (Mon).  
**Joker:** 21.45 (Tues).  
**The Good Liar:** 19.35 (Tues).  
**Last Christmas:** 17.55 (Tues).  
**Mardaani 2:** 22.30 (Fri); 12.50 (Sun).  
**Midway:** 21.20 (Tues).  
**Knives Out:** 13.15 (Sat, Sun); 18.40 (Tues).  
**Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker:** 19.30 (Thurs).



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## The art of the 'matanza': keeping rural traditions alive

Whether because of tradition, local pride or identity, or because bought chorizo doesn't taste the same, the annual killing of a pig is still carried out in many villages

by **ANA VEGA PÉREZ DE ARLUCEA**

**MALAGA.** With the arrival of the cold, dry weather I start to think of 'morcillas' (black pudding). I think about eating them and especially making them as this is the time of year when they can be cured. I used to go to my village to chop onions and clean innards; I was an expert in tying off blood sausages and chorizos, as well as in the art of preparing marinades in which to cover the pork loin.

Perhaps if I had lived many years ago I would be proficient enough to be regarded as a 'mondonguera' like Juanita La Larga from Valera. She had an amazing ability to salt hams, render fats and prepare 'longanizas', 'morcillas', 'morcones' and 'embuchados' that would be the envy of the best.

A mondonguera was a woman whose job was the art of slaughtering the pig. She received a fixed amount for travelling to homes and farms where she worked her magic. She was responsible for collecting

and stirring the blood so that it did not coagulate, preparing the intestines to fill them, seasoning the meat, tasting, stuffing, cooking, smoking, preserving the excess in lard and, in many cases, giving evidence of her mastery of cooking by preparing the feast of the 'matanza'.

Depending on the area, the star dish would be the stewed liver, the pork rinds, the matanza gazpacho or the special stew with all the spare bits (ears, head etc) thrown into a large pot. The 'matachín' were the men of the house who sacrificed the animal and carved it up but it was the women folk who did all the mixing and seasoning.

To some of you all this will sound like Chinese, but to many Spanish people who lived in small villages, the 'guaro' will bring back memories of a festive atmosphere, of work shared between the family and done with joy, of the smell of smoke, freezing icicles and the distant squeals of a pig in the early morning.

In the houses where it is still carried out, it is by tradition, by pride, by identity; because the bought chorizos never taste like their own. Not so many years have passed (five or six decades at most) since the annual slaughter of the family pig was the basic subsistence technique of the Spanish. In a time when there were no refrigerators, killing the pig was the difference between going hungry or not hungry, so you had to use your



Women filling the sausage skins with freshly minced pork. **by SUR**

imagination to try to use everything, from the tail to the snout.

Like many other typical rural tasks born out of necessity (harvesting, threshing...), slaughtering needed many hands and was the perfect excuse for socialising and bonding.

The Terrae event, which is centred on rural gastronomy, was held in Zafra (Badajoz). Cooks from Spain and Portugal signed a manifesto in defence of village cuisine there. The document emphasises the role of gastronomy as an economic and cultural engine of the more unpopulated areas. It demands institutional

measures that favour the rural environment and underlines the importance of the primary sector, local products and culinary tradition.

One gastronomic author made the killing of the pig an art form. Isabel Gallardo Gómez was born in Orellana de la Sierra in 1879. She published a recipe book entitled 'La cocina, tratado completísimo del arte culinario' (1922) which was almost an encyclopaedic manual in two volumes containing over 3,000 recipes.

The second volume starts with an extensive chapter dedicated to home slaughtering and with various recipes. Sausages, hams, six

kinds of morcillas, seven types of chorizos, eleven different ways to prepare pork loin, tongue etc.

A whole universe of pork and centuries of knowledge compressed into thirty pages that, in the words of its author, were of exceptional importance for those "accustomed to buying all the pork preparations ready made and who have never seen a slaughter, either because they live in the capital and live in flats and it is not easy to make them, or for other reasons". That's us.

Hopefully we will always preserve this rural knowledge and the flavour of the chorizos.

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Seats are limited, so make a reservation by calling: 952 885 765. Brigitte Pigani looks forward to welcoming you at La Fiorentina.

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From 15 December, La Fiorentina by De' Medici are extending their repertoire; every day from 9am to 1pm guests can enjoy a tasty but healthy breakfast, prepared by Bernard Biscontini. Born in Düsseldorf, Biscontini has worked in New York, Puerto Rico, Moscow, Mykonos and Miami and also runs the shop marbellawave.com, with exotic wines, glamorous Champagne, fragrant teas, rich coffees and other lines such



Brigitte Pigani and Bernard Biscontini.

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Starting this month, three-course menus are also available at dinner time: guests can choose different menu variants between 15.95 euros and 24.95 euros. The restaurant is open 1 - 11.30pm every day. Last but not least we recommend to our guests to try our brand-new Sunday Roast with three different meats, Prosecco, Champagne and live music. It starts every Sunday at 1pm. Please reserve your table in advance.

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ANDREW J. LINN

## WHO'S WHO?



**W**hich restaurant guide do you trust? Surely not the Michelin, unless your taste is for expensive and minority gastronomic experiences.

The Spanish Campsa Guide? Very reliable but in no way user-friendly. TripAdvisor? Perhaps the best option if you are in a hurry and are content to base your personal leanings on a star system, while running the risk of being conned by false reviews published by professional phoneyes.

Well, if you live on the Costa del Sol you are in luck. SUR has just published its annual 'Who's Who in Málaga Gastronomy' for 2020.

The Guide is sort of clubby, and if you read between the lines it is easy to understand the relationships involved.

The chefs mentioned have not just made their name in one restaurant, rather in several, and taking as an example Juan Luis Fernández, who runs Marbella's new Maison Lu, had worked previously in what is the most notable fish restaurant in Spain, Aponiente, in El Puerto de Santa María (Cadiz province).

The editor/creator of the Guide is Enrique Bellver, Diario SUR's long-serving food and wine expert, who makes the earth shake when he enters a restaurant. He is also a

very nice guy, whose main fault is to take his job too seriously and to cut short what could be a delightful three-hour lunch by protestations that he has to start writing up the meal he has just consumed.

What is truly notable is that there is nothing like this Guide published anywhere else in Spain. It is unique to Malaga province and even though the Vocento Group that publishes Diario SUR and SUR in English is based in the Basque country, it has 14 other daily newspapers including the long-established and emblematic ABC.

If you have difficulty finding the Guide, ask your local kiosk or supermarket to order it for you.



### WINE OF THE WEEK

#### Enate Cabernet Sauvignon

This very good red wine from the north of Spain is a blend of mainly Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. The region in question, Somontano, is acknowledged as producing red, white and rosado wine of exceptional

value for money. This 2016 vintage is currently on offer at OpenCor outlets for a laughable 5.99 euros. Not to be missed.



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# Facing life with motor neuron disease

**British expat Della Hall, 45, was diagnosed with the disorder in 2017 and she is now confined to a wheelchair**



**TONY BRYANT**  
✉ tonysureng@gmail.com

**BENALMÁDENA.** A 45-year-old British expat who once enjoyed an active life on the Costa del Sol has had her life shattered by the devastating muscle disorder motor neuron disease (MND). Prior to 2014, Della Hall, who has lived in Benalmádena for 25 years, had run her own business and brought up two daughters with her husband Simon, but the last few years have seen them struggle to cope with a disease that currently has no cure.

MND is an umbrella term for a number of conditions caused by the degeneration of motor neurons, the nerve cells responsible for carrying electrical instructions from the brain through the spinal cord to the muscles. When this happens, the muscles become weak and waste away, affecting movement, speech and breathing.

Della, who is now confined to a wheelchair and relies on the constant support of her husband, was diagnosed in 2017, but she had been suffering with the symptoms for more than two years.

## Uncommon condition

MND is an uncommon condition and no two cases are the same. Symptoms - which may include weakness in the ankles or legs, muscle cramps, trouble swallowing and slurred speech - come on gradually and may not be obvious at first. It



Della and devoted husband Simon (1st left) with members of the Welsh Society's fundraisers . ✉ T. BRYANT

is nearly always fatal and will significantly shorten life expectancy, but some people live with the condition for many years.

"There are four types of MND. They all end the same way but all start differently. I have limb-onset, which affects my lower legs. The problem is that we don't know when or why it started and, because it is a relatively unknown disease, it took the doctors more than two years to diagnose the problem," Della explains to SUR in English.

Della first realised that something was wrong in 2014, when she went on a girls' weekend to Mallorca in order to celebrate her 40th birthday. She was queuing to get into a nightclub when her ankle suddenly gave way and she collapsed. She sought medical help on returning

## Friends join forces to raise money for a better quality of life

Some of Della's friends and associates, both here on the coast and also in the UK, have been busy raising money to help pay for expensive medicines and the equipment she needs to carry out simple daily tasks. The couple have had to buy a specially adapted vehicle, an electric wheelchair and various other equipment to make life more comfortable.

Della pays around six hundred

euros per month for medicines, and her friends are busy campaigning to raise money for a possible new treatment that should be available in the USA next year.

The Welsh Society has also shown its support and its members will be active during this weekend's Christmas Traditions Festival in Benalmádena in order to raise funds to help Della have a better quality of life.

However, it has been Della's devoted husband Simon - "my angel" - that has been a constant pillar of strength, and the person who has given her the will to survive.

to Malaga and doctors soon discovered that she had a B12 deficiency, so they started her on a course of injections.

"It was really strange, because I was on a girlie weekend away and suddenly collapsed for no reason. I didn't trip; I wasn't drunk; I just fell over. After that, I just kept falling over all the time and so we just assumed it was the B12 deficiency," she says.

Della was having the B12 injections every two weeks and this gave her energy, but it did not solve the problem with her ankle, which had started to become extremely painful. She saw 11 doctors and specialists before eventually being sent to see a neurologist, who diagnosed her condition after administering an electromyography (EMG), a test that measures muscle response or electrical activity in response to a nerve's stimulation of the muscle.

Della is now taking IBILF, a drug that is generally used to treat asthma patients. She needed the aid of a Bi-Pap ventilator to help her sleep because she had high CO2 levels and her breathing was deteriorating.

"Three months after taking IBILF my CO2 levels were back to normal and it is definitely because of this drug. I still use the machine to help me sleep, but I am not as dependent on it as I was before," she points out.

There is no cure for MND and the medicines that Della uses simply slow down progression and help to prolong her life. The family home has been adapted with ramps and widened doorways to allow easy access, but the couple's main concern is that Della's condition does not have an effect on their two teenage daughters.

"We act normally at home and we don't really let the children see any different. I would say they are quite at ease with the situation," she says.

Della visits Cudeca twice a week for physiotherapy sessions and these have had a positive effect. After just



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## Marbella resident walks to Monaco to raise funds for mental health charity

one week of therapy, Della's pain had stopped, and she has nothing but praise for the "compassionate, friendly staff" who are "just amazing".

She is now in contact with others who suffer from MND and uses several social media platforms to keep up with the latest medicines and treatments.

"I have friends all over the world. I have an amazing group of people who research every new drug that becomes available. If something new comes along, they source it and we guinea pig it," Della says smiling.

Della is hopeful that a new treatment currently being tested in the USA will become available soon. Tests have proved positive and have reversed the symptoms in several cases. The trials for the drug end in July 2020, but she is keeping an open mind for now. She is a fighter and believes that a positive mind is paramount.

"I always tell my neurologist not to doom and gloom me. I am positive so they need to be positive with me. If they haven't got anything positive to say, I don't want to listen. I have difficult periods, but when that happens, we just find a way around the problem and continue," Della concludes.

**ASH BOLTON**

✉ ashbolton@hotmail.com

**British expat Mick Slater put his best foot forward to walk an incredible 1,000 miles in aid of charity last month**

**MARBELLA.** A Marbella resident is celebrating after completing a gruelling 1,000-mile walk in aid of charity.

Mick Slater spent one month walking from Marbella to Monaco in a bid to raise £30,000 for the UK mental health charity Mind.

Walking approximately 33 miles a day, the dad of three had to contend with blisters, guard dogs and a few near misses with vehicles along the route.

The 55-year-old set off on 1 November and finished his challenge on 30 November, walking up to 13 hours a day.

Mick, who is originally from Derby and moved to Marbella just



Mick Slater during his solo walk to Monaco. :: SUR

over a year ago, told SUR in English: "I had originally wanted to walk a distance of 30 miles as I really enjoy walking.

"I started researching routes on Google and this idea of walking to Monaco started creeping in. I

thought is it possible to walk 1,000 miles? It was a crazy idea, but it worked out in the end."

Mick, who runs the family business Cheeky Nutrition, said he wanted to raise money for Mind as it was "dear to my heart".

He explained: "Everybody I know knows someone who has been affected by mental health in some way, so it seemed like a great cause to raise money for."

During the challenge, Mike was accompanied in the evenings by his wife Karen and his daughter Claire, who drove ahead each day to find accommodation.

He added: "The worst parts were the guard dogs and the traffic, as I had a few near misses, it was terrifying and quite hazardous in that respect. Walking in the dark, you didn't know who was around."

Mick spent several months training for the challenge and said that it wasn't his legs that hurt, but the multiple blisters he developed along the way.

After driving 16 hours back from Monaco after the event he added: "If I had driven the route before the event, I wouldn't have walked it, as the distance looked too overwhelming.

"But I've achieved something that I thought was impossible to do. I'm really pleased to have raised awareness of mental health."

Mick has so far raised £4,145. To donate to Mick's fundraising visit [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mickslater](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mickslater)

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The interior of the 'Casa del Médico'. :: SUR

# The Doctor's House: the story of Malaga's first modern health centre

## ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE

Professor and historian Carlos San Millán describes in a book the process of creating a pioneering medical facility in the 1950s

**■ FERNANDO TORRES.** In the 1950s, Alhaurín de la Torre became the first place in Malaga province to have a Rural Hygiene Centre and Doctor's House. This was a new concept in health care, and a type of medical facility which until then had not existed, combining the doctor's home and a medical centre in the same building. There were two beds, a clinical room and a consulting room.

"This was an important step forward for the time, because until then the doctors had nowhere to see patients or attend to someone who was injured and needed to be monitored," says Carlos San Millán, associate professor of History at Malaga university and the head of studies at El Atabal school, who considers himself an 'alhaurino' by adoption.

San Millán has published a book called 'La sanidad en Alhaurín de la Torre en la segunda mitad del Siglo XX' (Health care in Alhaurín de la Torre in the second half of the 20th century) which details the construction of the 'Centro Rural de Higiene y Casa Rural del Médico'.

"Before they built that centre, the doctors used to rent somewhere to live and see patients in one of the rooms there," he explains. These fa-

cilities were constructed in the early 1950s and inaugurated in 1952.

After carrying out long and complicated research, San Millán has compiled the principal information about the project, which was considered a pioneer not just in Malaga but in Andalucía as well.

The plans were drawn up by architects José Pulido and Santiago Sanguinetti Lobato and the official opening was attended by top local and provincial officials, including the then civil governor of Malaga, Manuel García del Olmo. Diario SUR carried the news of the opening on its front pages.

In the book, the author also describes Alhaurín de la Torre in the early 1950s, when it had a population of just over 5,000. That figure entitled it to have an APD (Atención Pública Domiciliaria) doctor, a nursing assistant, a midwife and a pharmacist. "In other words, a team of four people to attend to more than 5,000 inhabitants, many of whom lived in outlying areas some distance away, like El Romeral, Santa Amalia and Zapata. The doctor often had to walk or cycle out there to see them," he says.

Until 1970 Alhaurín de la Torre only had one doctor. "Once the population reached 6,000 it was able to have another doctor as well. That was very

different to the present ratio of one doctor with 1,200 patients on his or her list," stresses San Millán.

His book includes the original plans, of which he gives a comparative analysis "through the perspective of time". He also describes the human resources in health care, the building plans and regulations, the architectural perspective and construction and budgetary aspects. "It cost the equivalent of around 1,000 euros to build, whereas nowadays something like that would cost 180,000 euros," he says.

## Lack of resources

San Millán also managed to find someone who had worked on the construction project, who provided him with information about wages and working hours. The works on the Rural Hygiene Centre and Doctor's House began in the summer of 1951 and were completed in March 1952. Thanks to labourer Cristóbal Vega Benítez, the author learned that five bricklayers and five labourers worked on the project. The former earned 30 pesetas a day, and the latter 15 or 18 pesetas.

"From my research, I have learned about the lack of resources in those days and the medical staff had to work all hours. On the other hand they were treated as part of the village community, almost like family," says San Millán.

The book was launched at the library in Alhaurín de la Torre, and the event was attended by the mayor, Joaquín Villanova, and relatives of some of the first medical staff who worked in what at that time was a state-of-the-art health care centre.

**Until the centre was built, the doctor had to rent somewhere to live and see patients in a room there**



The Rural Hygiene Centre and Doctor's House, in the centre of Alhaurín de la Torre in 1952. :: SUR

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## 'LAS GUERRERAS' THROUGH TO THE WORLD CUP SEMIS

Spain's women's team made it through to the Handball World Cup semi-finals after finishing second in group II despite a 36-26 loss to leaders Russia on Tuesday. Spain will take on Norway in Kumamoto (Japan) later today for a spot in the final against the winner of the clash between Russia and the Netherlands.

@@RFEBALONMANO

## Aston Viñuela the early leaders in Blue Sky Marbella Walking Football League

### @@ SUR IN ENGLISH

**LA VIÑUELA.** The Blue Sky Marbella Walking Football League recently made its way to the Campo Viñuela for the first time this season.

It was a close game which ended with Aston Viñuela maintaining their unbeaten record by beating Smiles 50s A team 5-4. An Ian Salt hatrick couldn't save Smiles whose normally reliable goalkeeper had an off day. Viñuela remain top of the League.

After the match Viñuela manager Steve George said: "We have exceeded all expectations so far. We work hard in training and it is

beginning to pay off. We have a great bunch of people."

For his part, Smiles manager Gray Salt said: "Of course we are disappointed losing our first two matches. We are regrouping and we are still in the Cup and will aim for as high a finish in the league as possible."

The other two December fixtures have been affected by the festive season with many players returning to their countries for Christmas and New Year. The Walking Dead, who have yet to play for logistical reasons, have also had to postpone their match

against Smiles until the New Year.

### Controversial guest speaker

In other news, Walking Football Spain have announced that their annual Sports Lunch will take place at Bar TuTa in Las Lagunas de Mijas on Sunday 19 January from 1pm.

The guest speaker will be controversial former Premier League referee Mark Clattenburg who refereed both the 2016 Champions League Final and the Euro 2016 Final.

Tickets are priced at 30 euros, including lunch, but are limited in number. Reservations can be made the Walking Football Spain Facebook Page or call Robin Beith (673 304 643) or Ronnie Waugh (660 899 635). All proceeds will go to prostate cancer research.

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

## Double success for Brit in regional endurance riding championship

Caroline Grahm and her horse Bambina are regional champions in the 80-kilometre category

### @@ SUR IN ENGLISH

**ESTEPONA.** Caroline Grahm and her Anglo-Arabian horse Bambina RC followed up last year's success by becoming double Andalusian endurance riding champions over 80 kilometres.

This came after this weekend's final race of the year in Sanlúcar.

Caroline won best rider and Bambina best horse in their first year competing together at this distance.

This success comes after they

completed the same double last year, albeit in the lower 60-kilometre category.

Caroline, who is from Lancashire (UK), has lived in Estepona for over 20 years and runs Ranch Siesta Los Rubios riding stables which looks after in excess of 25 horses.

She only started competing in the sport five years ago when she was introduced to it by friend and fellow competitor Tracy Lewis from Manila.

Another competitor from Estepona, vet Lucía Vázquez, came second in the Andalusian league at 60 kilometres with her horse Gloria in their first year competing. Both women train every day in the Sierra Bermeja mountains.



Grahm (right) poses with her medals with Vázquez (left). @@ SUR



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# Sadiku at the double to lift Malaga out of the drop zone



**FRANK GAVURIN**  
✉ english@diariosur.es

Víctor Sánchez's side leapfrogged their opponents Tenerife into 17th place with their victory last Friday

## 2-0

### MALAGA-TENERIFE

**Malaga:** Munir; Cifu, Luis Hernández, Diego González, Mikel; Keidi, Adrián (Benkhemassa, 72'); Antoñín, Dani Pacheco (Renato, 72'), Juankar; Sadiku (Lorenzo, 88'). Unused substitutes: Gonzalo, Ismael, Luis Muñoz, Juanpi.

**Tenerife:** Ortolá; Luis Pérez, Carlos Ruiz, Alberto, Mazán; Suso (Naranjo, 71'), Aitor Sanz, Javi Alonso (Jorge, 86'), Borja Lasso; Dani Gómez, Malbasic (Elliot Gómez, 84'). Unused substitutes: Dani Hernández, Shaq, Dos Santos, Undabarrena.

**Goals:** 1-0 Sadiku (27'), 2-0 Sadiku (86', pen).

**Referee:** Ais Reig. Yellow cards for Javi Alonso, Malbasic, Aitor Sanz and Antoñín.

**Ground:** La Rosaleda (14,027 spectators).



Malaga's players celebrate one of Sadiku's goals on Friday evening. :: SALVADOR SALAS

**MALAGA.** Malaga moved out of the relegation zone after picking up a vital three points in their relegation battle by beating Tenerife 2-0 at La Rosaleda last Friday evening. They were boosted pre-match by the return of captain and second-top scorer Adrián, who started in a double-pivot alongside Keidi Bare, behind the attacking quartet of Juankar, Dani Pacheco, Antoñín and Armando Sadiku. With the exception of one early half-chance for the visitors from a free-kick, the Blue and Whites controlled the first half, but real goalscoring opportunities were at

a premium. The first opportunity of note came when Malaga right-back Cifu found himself drifting into the box almost unopposed, but his shot, on his weaker left foot, was unconvincing. The home side's patience was rewarded on 26 minutes, however, when a corner drifted in from the right, panicked efforts were made to clear, and the ball fell to Sadiku, who had the calmness to control and fire into the roof of the net from close range. Malaga had keeper Munir to thank that they carried a lead into

## The edge in the battle against the drop?

Next up for Malaga is a trip to Almedralejo where they will take on fellow strugglers Extremadura (Sunday, 12pm). Last season, Extremadura did the double over Malaga, with the latter defeat at La Rosaleda (2-1) proving to be the final nail in the coffin for coach Juan Ramón Muñiz.

This weekend's match could be even more crucial, however, as Malaga look to battle against relegation to Segunda B. So far, three of the side's four victories have come against sides currently occupying the relegation places (the other was against Oviedo who are just a point above them). These so-called 'six-pointers' could be the difference between the second and the third tier come June.

SEGUNDA DIVISIÓN									
Results					Match day 19				
Albacete - Extremadura	1-1	Numancia - Girona							
Racing - Fuenlabrada	2-2	Mirandés - Huesca							
Alcorcón - Oviedo	1-3	Ponferradina - Deportivo							
Malaga - Tenerife	2-0	Tenerife - Alcorcón							
Huesca - Rayo	0-2	Zaragoza - Racing							
Sporting - Ponferradina	1-0	Extremadura - Malaga							
Almería - Mirandés	3-1	Oviedo - Cadiz							
Girona - Lugo	3-1	Elche - Las Palmas							
Deportivo - Zaragoza	1-3	Lugo - Sporting							
Las Palmas - Numancia	3-1	Fuenlabrada - Almería							
Cadiz - Elche	0-0	Rayo - Albacete							
League table									
TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT		
1. Cadiz	19	12	4	3	27	15	40		
2. Almería	19	9	8	2	31	17	35		
3. Huesca	19	10	2	7	23	15	32		
4. CF Fuenlabrada	19	9	5	5	25	20	32		
5. Girona	19	9	4	6	28	22	31		
6. Zaragoza	19	8	6	5	28	22	30		
7. Elche	19	7	7	5	24	20	28		
8. Las Palmas	19	8	4	7	24	23	28		
9. Albacete	19	8	3	8	14	20	27		
10. Numancia	19	6	8	5	20	19	26		
11. Alcorcón	19	6	7	6	22	23	25		
12. Mirandés	19	6	7	6	23	29	25		
13. Rayo	19	5	9	5	27	24	24		
14. Ponferradina	19	5	9	5	24	22	24		
15. Sporting	19	5	7	7	18	19	22		
16. Oviedo	19	5	6	8	25	29	21		
17. Lugo	19	4	9	6	19	26	21		
18. Malaga	19	4	8	7	16	18	20		
19. Tenerife	19	4	6	9	21	26	18		
20. Racing	19	2	11	6	22	25	17		
21. Extremadura	19	4	5	10	17	27	17		
22. Deportivo	19	1	9	9	15	32	12		

the dressing room at half time, after he smothered the ball at Dani Gómez's feet when the Tenerife number nine was sent racing through on goal. Tenerife were far more involved after the break and with Malaga lacking a real outlet to counter, the visitors ramped up the pressure. However, Malaga's new-found solidity in defence (this was their second clean sheet on the bounce) was once more in evidence and they were given the chance to double their lead with around 15 minutes to go after a lengthy VAR check revealed a handball in the area. Sadiku stepped up and passed the ball into the net for his sixth league goal of the season. Tenerife's recent managerial appointment, Rubén Baraja, felt his side had been hard done by, insisting that the VAR had been on Malaga's side, a suggestion refuted by his Malaga counterpart Víctor Sánchez del Amo: "To the best of my knowledge, VAR isn't there to benefit any team. It's there to correct errors. Our victory shouldn't be reduced to that one [penalty] decision." Víctor described Friday's display as his side's "most professional" so far this season. "We always looked assured."



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Carol challenges for a header. :: MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

## Femenino left frustrated by home stalemate after dominant showing

Malaga were the better team against the Canarian side on Sunday but failed to finish their chances

MÁLAGA O JUAN GRANDE O

:: MARINA RIVAS

**VALENCIA.** Malaga Femenino were left frustrated on Sunday as they dropped two points against 10th-placed Juan Grande.

The hosts completely controlled possession in the first half, with the visitors hoping to get chances to counter, without much luck. Juan Grande only had one shot at goal in the first half, an effort from Carla which came just before the whistle.

Malaga, however, had several, with Maria Ruiz the standout player. She created two chances and had one herself, a shot from outside the area which deflected off an opponent and grazed the post. Another

effort, Carol's shot from inside the six-yard box, was only kept out by a last-ditch challenge.

The Andalusians continued to press for a goal after the break, but real chances were few and far between. Arantxa had the best chance, hitting a well-struck effort towards the far post which flew narrowly wide.

The home side became increasingly desperate, with Adriana and Arantxa often opting to shoot from distance, and their play became forced.

The introduction of Edna and Lorena shook things up somewhat, but ultimately neither came up with the goods either.

The result means Malaga finish the calendar year in fifth place, 11 points behind leaders Santa Teresa.

Manager José Herrera insisted that "if our ambitions are just to stay in the top five, then we're fine. But if we want to battle it out with the top two or three, we're going to need to sign another striker".

## José Rodríguez attracts interest from Real Oviedo

The Asturian side have this week appointed Francesc Arnau as their new sporting director, a post he occupied at Malaga

:: S. CORTÉS / B. GUTIÉRREZ

**MÁLAGA.** As a result of Malaga's disastrous summer transfer window, one of the club's star signings of that period, José Rodríguez, has not been able to feature for the first team this season.

With little sign of an imminent reduction in the wage bill, it looks highly unlikely that he will be able to be registered in January either - especially given that he is among the highest earners at the club. There could now be an escape route for him, however.

Former Malaga captain and sporting director Francesc Arnau has this week been appointed to the latter role at direct league rivals Real Oviedo. It is believed that he would be interested in bringing the midfielder to the Asturian club as Arnau in fact signed José Rodríguez the first time the 24-year-old joined the club in 2017 and has a good working relationship with his agent, Alberto Toldrá - the same man who represented Pablo Fornals during his



José Rodríguez during a training session. :: GERMÁN POZO

controversial departure from the club.

**Mula and Rolón**

Malaga urgently need to move players on in January to help balance the books and another player who finds himself in the same situation as José Rodríguez is academy product Álex Mula.

Arнау always rated the youngster highly and could look to capitalise on his former club's financial situation with a move for the attacker.

Malaga, however, would be loath to lose the pair and interim sporting director Manolo Gaspar is looking at other ways to generate revenue.

One is to offload midfielder Esteban Rolón who is most certainly surplus to requirements. There is some interest from the MLS, US-based journalist Niko Moreno told SUR. It would be a similar deal to that which took Emanuel Cecchini to the Seattle Sounders - a loan deal until at least the end of the current season in Europe.

## Minority shareholders to meet with judge in the coming days in bid to oust Sheikh Al-Thani

A judge must decide if the lawsuit against the Malaga CF president, with the backing of local administrations, can go ahead

:: ANTONIO GÓNGORA

**MÁLAGA.** With talk of a takeover of the club now over, the latest attempt to remove Sheikh Al-Thani as Malaga club president is gaining

momentum.

In the coming days, the Association of Minority Shareholders will meet with a judge in Malaga to discuss a criminal lawsuit against the majority owner for improper management of the club and misappropriation of funds. It will be the judge who decides whether the association has a case and if the lawsuit can continue.

At this meeting, the judge, the

association's lawyer, Francisco Valverde, and another representative are expected to attend and discuss the complicated situation the club currently finds itself in and the need to take urgent action to prevent a points deduction and, worse still, the club going under.

Should the lawsuit go ahead, the minority shareholders can expect to count on the support of Malaga city hall and the provincial and regional governments.

Information and evidence is currently being compiled in the hope that the process can be speedy and instigate a change of ownership in time for the January transfer window so that the current campaign can be brought back on track.

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## A LOOK AT LA LIGA

**ROB PALMER**

 Commentator, Sky Sports  
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# A force of nature

**Joaquín is far from a conventional footballer. At 38, he scored his first hatrick and has recently extended his contract past his 40th birthday**

Some footballers invest millions in experts to cultivate their brand and personality, Joaquín Sánchez needs none of that.

You could make this fellow up. He's the most loveable player, at one of the most likeable clubs – Real Betis. Last weekend he went into the record books as the oldest player to ever to score a La Liga hatrick – aged 38. He beat the great Alfredo Di Stéfano's record.

Quite deservedly he claimed the Marca front-page and headline 'Joatrick' (I hope our sub-editor doesn't steal it!).

This is a man who has been entertaining us on and off the pitch since his debut in the year 2000. I remember the Liverpool manager Gérard Houllier comparing him to Luis Figo as one of the best wingers in the world.

Many major clubs were inter-

ested in signing him but the Betis owner Manuel Ruiz de Lopera stubbornly stood in the way of any move and threatened to loan him out to lowly Albacete as a punishment for showing ambition. Joaquín called his bluff and drove for five hours across Spain to pose for a picture at his proposed new club. The deal was halted.

He did thrill fans of Valencia, Fiorentina and Malaga where he was a star of the team that was so close to a Champions League semi-final. But he will always be associated with Real Betis and has just signed a new contract beyond his 40th birthday. In fact, he now also owns two per cent of the club who signed him as a promising teenager from an underprivileged background.

One of nine children, he

dreamed of being a bullfighter. His upbringing wasn't conventional. It's folklore that he was breastfed until the age of seven. Maybe when he finally retires, he could launch his own energy drink?

There must be some secret to his longevity? It took him just 18 minutes to score three goals against Athletic Bilbao. "It's the first hatrick of my life and I don't think I will get another one," he said humbly, before adding: "I will never forget this day, but I'll stay at home. I'm tired. But no one believes that, I'm going to have a drink." You don't doubt that he did and it wasn't milk!

These days, leading footballers employ professionals to run their social media accounts and invent things to make them sound interesting. Joaquín is just



Joaquín receives the adulation of the Betis fans. :: EFE

a natural. A bit like Gazza but not as daft. When he signed for Malaga he was requested to perform the obligatory keepee-uppies. He opted to grab the microphone and perform an impro-

vised stand-up routine.

This is the man who once accepted the challenge to hypnotise a hen on Spanish television and is still hypnotising defenders at the age of thirty-eight.

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## Disciplined performance puts Marbella within touching distance of the league leaders

**CADIZ B 0 MARBELLA 1**

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**MARBELLA.** Marbella picked up another three points with a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Cadiz B at the Estadio Ramón Blanco on Sunday.

The Costa del Sol outfit hit the post in the opening minutes of the game, before Cadiz went up the other end of the field, where Manuel Nieto hit a close-range shot which Marbella keeper Wilfred managed to keep out.



Goalscorer Manel shields the ball from his opponent. :: ADG

Marbella put themselves in front with just over 20 minutes gone, Manel getting on the end of a good ball in from Samu Delgado from the right to head home.

After this point, Cadiz largely dominated the ball, while Marbella were happy to allow their defence to soak up the pressure. Manel, a constant thorn in the hosts' side, could have got his second from one such breakaway move, but the counter-attack ultimately broke down.

Cadiz began to create more chances after manager Juanma Pavón decided to shuffle the pack with around an hour gone, with Iván Chapela and Mbaye both seeing decent chances.

In the last few minutes, the pressure mounted on the visitors, and both Carlos Cobo and Saturday Erimuya missed opportunities to level matters.

Ultimately, though, Marbella were solid enough in defence for one goal to be enough, and Sunday's victory leaves them three points off leaders Cartagena.

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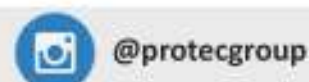
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**KENNELS** and Cattery Estepona. Tel: 609128147 [www.stefanieskennels.com](http://www.stefanieskennels.com)

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THE STARS




**Aquarius**  
January 21 - February 19  
You come up with a bit of an outrageous thought this week. Is it practical? No. Is it fun? Definitely! Run this by a couple of friends and see their reaction.




**Pisces**  
February 20th - March 20th  
Whatever you believe, there is certainly a buzz in the air. Feel it? Too busy to meet up with old mates? Make the time my friend. Changes coming next year may rule out the possibility. .




**Aries**  
March 21st - April 20th  
Something planned for the festive season seems to be moving very slowly. Is this because it is hard to pin others down? Give them a deadline to decide or things will go ahead without them.




**Taurus**  
April 21st - May 21st  
Someone who is normally helpful seems to be behaving more like a thorn in your side? Look for the reason before reacting. Themay need your help.




**Gemini**  
May 22nd - June 21st  
Cash may be thin on the ground so plan carefully. Lucky enough to have young children in the family? Borrowing one for a trip to Santa really lightens the mood.




**Cancer**  
June 22nd - July 23rd  
That thing sadly lacking recently in your life could be just around the corner. Though you have to be out and about in order to spot it.



**Leo**  
July 24th - August 23rd  
As you have this need to make others happy, your talents as an entertainer will be in demand. Looking at someone who is sad reminds you that laughter is the best medicine.




**Virgo**  
August 24th - September 23rd  
With fun in mind you may not want to deal with any new responsibilities. Even so, let your feelings be known before others decide for you! Silence can sometimes be mistaken for agreement.




**Libra**  
September 24th - October 23rd  
Be honest with others and it really sets your future free. Stay lively by not being affected by negative people. Even someone who thinks they know you can be wrong.



**Scorpio**  
October 24th - November 22nd  
Meetings with both younger and older people spark ideas for the festivities. You may have to be the inspiration and instigator of everything fun! .

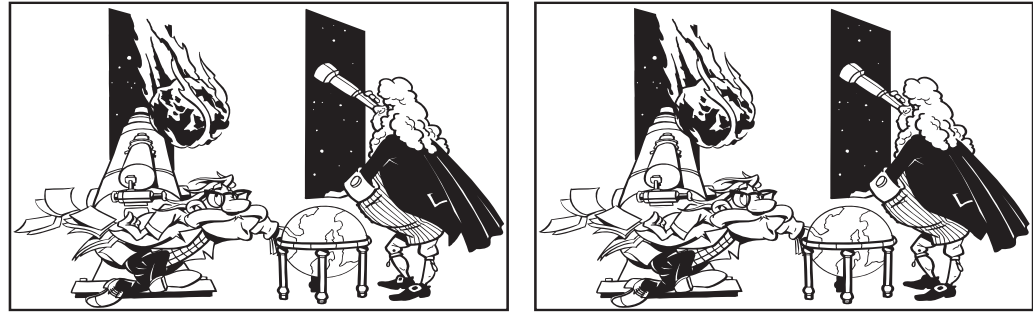


**Sagittarius**  
November 23rd - December 21st  
Use your energy and goodwill to make others smile. Putting yourself in someone else's shoes may have brought your mood down. There is no point in brooding over what you cannot change.

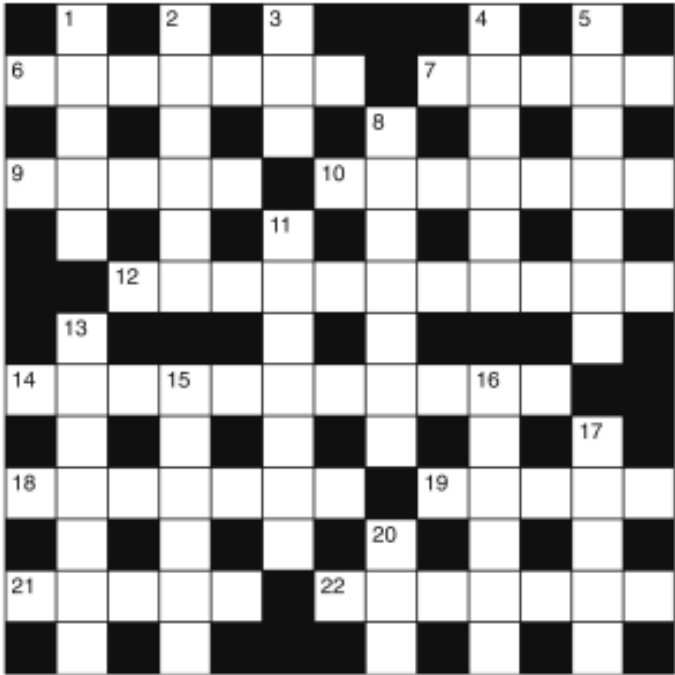


**Capricorn**  
December 22nd - January 20th  
Living in the present is so much easier than worrying about the past or future. At some time you are forced to have fun, so why not just give in now?

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11387



Across

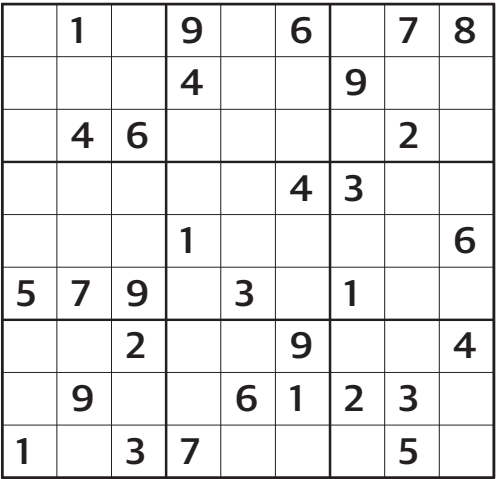
- 6 Imagined what the favourite is (7)
- 7 Allows access to the ring enclosures (5)
- 9 Declares a piece of poetry remains unfinished (5)
- 10 They brawl, but the noise fades away (7)
- 12 Communication to the newspapers becomes printed matter (11)
- 14 The essential attribute of the Beatitudes (11)
- 18 Unpleasant expression of a stern-faced expert (7)
- 19 See 15 Down
- 21 Indicate willingness to remove the top from the money box (5)
- 22 Metal worker to come to grief (7)

Down

- 1 Deal with the joint, as woodworkers do (5)
- 2 A hundred in a panic - that's not often found (6)
- 3 Margaret turned over this stone (3)
- 4 Webster the snooker player uses it (6)
- 5 Where rhymes are found upside down (7)
- 8 She has the highest score (7)
- 11 Extend custodial sentence (7)
- 13 Explain that the conifer must be put back in heavy soil (7)
- 15 & 19AcNo place for hibernation (6,5)
- 16 They're found in canteens or clubs (6)
- 17 A southern bird, grey in colour (5)
- 20 Cabin where the captain keeps his diary? (3)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

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



THE WORDPUZZLER



Can you identify the words that contain 'OK' from the clues listed below?

1. Throttle

2. Accepted

3. Cloud

4. Vegetable

5. Castle

6. Man, commonly

7. Agent

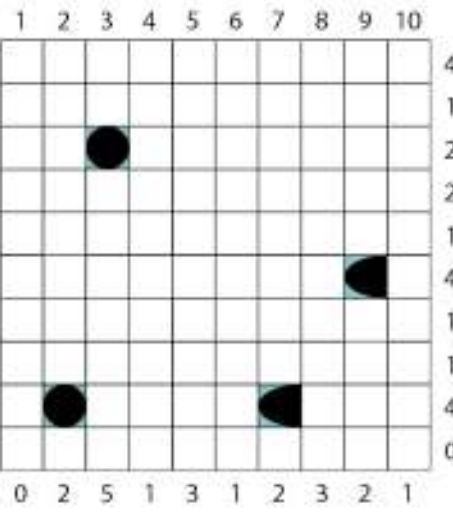
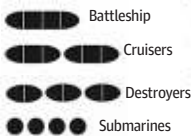
8. Cooking vessel

9. Tend a furnace

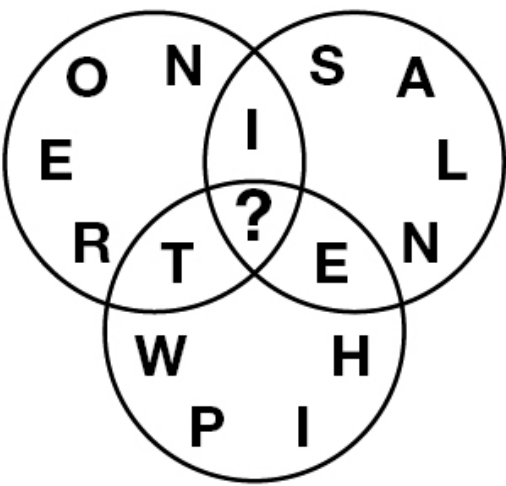
10. Volume

BATTLESHIPS

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



CIRCLEGRAM



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



LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

Across

1) Disability (12)

6) Members (9)

12) Semesters (9)

13) Coupon / Ticket (5)

14) To give (3)

15) Abbey (6)

17) Philosophy (9)

18) Without (3)

19) I heard (2)

20) Employment (6)

22) Lottery (7)

23) Belief (8)

25) To take (6)

28) The (f) (2)

30) Dressmaker (f) (9)

32) Prizes (7)

33) Poor (5)

34) I use (3)

35) Emu (3)

36) They trap (7)

40) Injured (m) (9)

41) Organisation (12)

44) Divine (f) (6)

46) Blindness (7)

48) Slow motion (7)

49) Impairment (11)

50) Sellers (10)

Down

1) Designs (7)

2) Growth (11)

3) To sponsor (10)

4) Blind people (6)

5) Elderly people (8)

7) Funding (12)

8) I'll wash (6)

9) Doubt (4)

10) Draw (6)

11) I bet (6)

16) Taxes (9)

21) That one (f) (3)

24) Wing (3)

25) The (m, pl) (3)

26) References (11)

27) Current affairs (10)

29) To take off (8)

31) To educate (6)

32) Guide dog (5,4) (9)

36) Scourge (5)

37) I'll judge (7)

38) I resigned (6)

39) My (2)

42) Neither (2)

43) Blind (m) (5)

45) Like that (3)

46) With (3)

47) Bird (3)

ANSWERS

Quiz answers

second followed closely by Liberia.

combined. The Marshall Islands are than those of the US and China shipping fleet in the world, greater of just three million, has the largest

**Of interest:** Panama, a small nation

**Answer:** Panama.

usually less than 5 metres in size.

Even smaller is a bergy bit, which is makes as it scrapes against the hull.

ships' crews because of the sound it above water is called a growling

with less than 1 metre showing

than 2 metres across that floats

**Of interest:** A small iceberg less

**Answer:** Growlers

Language Crossword

ACROSS

1. OSCARIDAD 6. AFLANOS

12. SINDISTRES 13. CUNON 14. DAR

15. ABADIA 17. FILOSOFIA 18. SIN 19. OI

20. EMPLEO 22. LOTERIA 23. CRENCIA

25. LLENAR 28. LA 30. OCULTURERA

32. PRENOS 33. PORRE 34. RO 35. MU

36. AYRAVIN 40. LESONADO

41. ORGANIZACION 44. DIVINA 46. CEGUEIRA

48. VALENTI 49. DEBENCIA

50. VENDEDORES

DOWN

1. DISEÑOS 2. CRECIMIENTO 3. MARGOCINAR

4. CEGOS 5. ANCIANOS 7. PANACIACION

8. LUMARE 9. DUDA 10. SORTED 11. AVOSTE

16. INFIESTOS 21. ESA 24. ALA 25. LOS

26. REFERENCIAS 27. ACTUALIDAD

29. DESPESAR 31. EDUCAR 32. PERKOGUA

36. AZOTE 37. JUZGARE 38. MENTI 39. ME

42. NI 43. CEGO 45. ASH 46. CON 47. ME

Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 6 Fancied; 7 Opens; 9 Avers; 10 Rowdies; 12 Founder, Down: 1 Carve; 2 Scarce; 3 Gern; 4 Spider; 5 Inverse; 8 Letterpress; 14 Blessedness; 18 Grimace; 19 House; 21 Offer; 22

Sopranos; 11 Stretch; 13 Clarity; 15 Summer; 16 Spoons; 17 Ashen; 20 Log.

Wordpuzzler solution

1. Choke

2. Took

3. Smoke

4. Okra

5. Hook

6. Bloke

7. Broker

8. Wok

9. Stoke

10. Book

P	E	A	C	O	K	E	T	U	I
O	R	B	O	K	A	B	O	O	K
O	O	K	M	E	V	O	O	K	T
K	O	R	O	B	L	O	K	E	N
I	K	O	K	R	E	M	O	K	E
L	E	S	T	O	K	E	R	O	K
A	L	M	O	K	I	N	O	K	T
C	H	O	K	E	O	W	S	O	K
Z	O	K	E	R	K	O	K	R	A
O	K	E	S	T <td>O</td> <td>K</td> <td>P</td> <td>Y</td> <td></td>	O	K	P	Y	

Sudoku solution

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

Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is P. Pointer, spaniel, whippet, all breeds of dog.

Battleships

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN THIS?

Birds in flight

Last week:  
Rincón de la Victoria

The photo last week was of the Fuente de los Delfines in Carretera de Bengalbón. It was constructed from concrete and large stones by Obrasca in 2008.

THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

What do you think?

How often does the news make you react in one way or another? How often do you make a comment to whoever happens to be in the same room?

And what is the most common reaction? That something is silly, ridiculous, typical, boring or annoying? Or you might read something and think: that's nice, that's clever, that's interesting, that's a good idea or that's great news...

Whatever your thoughts, they are probably worth sharing with the rest of

our readers.


We know that nowadays there's an emoji for all of those aforementioned reactions and we can indicate how we feel without having to type a single word.

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# Ambassador's search ends with a sad discovery

Britain's top diplomat in Spain, Hugh Elliott, hopes to raise awareness for multiple sclerosis after a search launched on Twitter came up against the illness

by PATRICIA CARRO

**MADRID.** British ambassador to Spain Hugh Elliott could not have predicted the outcome of his search for a woman who helped him 35 years ago in Burgos.

Last week, coinciding with his visit to northern Spain, the ambassador posted a video on social media explaining how he wanted to find a woman from Burgos, Lourdes Arnaiz, who took him into her home 35 years ago when he had nowhere to stay en route to Santiago de Compostela.

Now, as British ambassador in her country, he wanted to thank her again for her kindness. His appeal was successful; Hugh found news

of Lourdes but was unable to deliver his thanks. She had died when she was just 35 years old, after suffering from multiple sclerosis.

The ambassador posted a second video last Saturday explaining his sad discovery.

He learned of Lourdes' illness and death from her brother Alfonso, whom Hugh also met in Burgos during that first visit to Spain of which he holds such fond memories.

Despite the sad outcome, Hugh and Alfonso agreed to share the story to help raise awareness of multiple sclerosis, an illness that is "devastating" for both sufferers and their families, the ambassador explains. Now he calls for all those who helped his search when his first message received an "overwhelming, unexpected and kind" response, to also do their bit for the battle against the disease.

In Burgos, and all over Spain, there are associations for multiple sclerosis patients and their relatives, and the British ambassador has encouraged everyone who can to con-



Hugh Elliott during an interview in Bilbao last week. **EL CORREO**



The second Tweet, posted on Saturday.

contact with Alfonso (who lives with his family in Burgos) had been friendly, and they agreed to make the most of the opportunity to raise awareness for multiple sclerosis.

"Many of us know someone who is affected," said the ambassador, who also shared links for associations in Burgos, Santiago de Compostela, Salamanca (where he worked as a young man) and the national organisation. "It's the least we can do for Lourdes," he said.

## No bike and no money

The story of how Hugh and Lourdes' paths crossed was revealed in his Tweet last week. In a video the ambassador explained how he arrived in Burgos in 1984 by train from Carcassonne in France. He had been following the Camino de Santiago but decided to go by train to Burgos and continue from there.

His bike, however, did not arrive on the same train; he had little money and no means to get to the nearest campsite where he could put up his tent. His luck changed however when he met a Canadian who had gone to Burgos to visit his girlfriend, Lourdes. She and her brother did not hesitate to take the young British man into their home for the five days it took him to recover his bike. He never forgot her kindness.

tribute, either as a volunteer or with a donation, to help them provide their services to users.

The ambassador admits in his post that he cried "more than a little" when he learned of Lourdes' death, as he supposed the many others who helped him with his search would do when they saw his message.

He said that his



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