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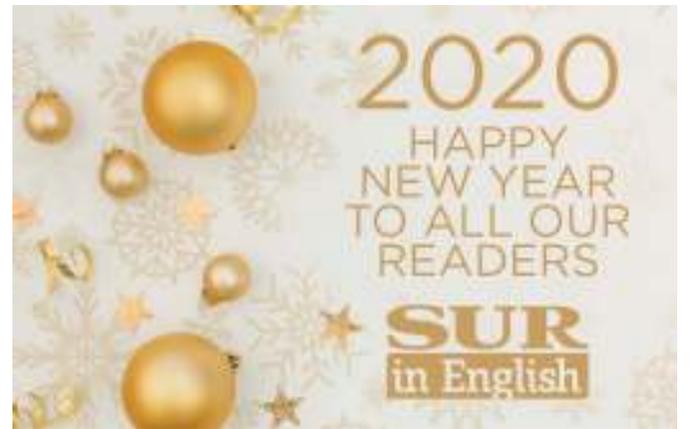
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December 27th 2019 to January
2nd 2020

News	2	Health & Beauty	38
Comment	20	Sport	42
Lifestyle	22	My Home	45
What To Do	32	Classified	48
Food & Drink	37	Time Out	54



A CHRISTMAS EVE TRAGEDY

Investigations continue after three members of the same family drowned at Club La Costa World resort in Mijas on Tuesday **P2&3**



Guardia Civil officers inspect the pool where the accident took place. **:: FERNANDO TORRES**

Drought threat lifted from the Costa after Elsa brings heavy rain

The weather front brought enough rain to fill La Concepción reservoir to 40 per cent capacity

Marbella was the worst hit by storm Elsa with heavy rain and high winds bringing down trees, branches and causing power outages. Waves up to four metres high carried away six metres of sand from the beach. **P8**



:: JOSELE

From Julen to Franco. We round up some of the biggest news stories to hit the headlines during the past year **P18&19**

Travel inspiration for 2020. Andrew Forbes has some suggestions to make your travels in the new year special **P22-24**

Malaga misses out on El Gordo in disappointing lottery draw

There was just a 2.42-million-euro return on 83 million euros' worth of tickets sold for the traditional Christmas lottery in Malaga province this year

Following several years of good fortune, Sunday's draw for the Christmas lottery was a disappointment for Malaga province as winnings fell to their lowest level since 2013.

Eight of the thirteen major prizes in the draw, sung out by children from the San Ildefonso school in Madrid, left their mark in the province, but

the grand total was underwhelming.

Just 2.42 million euros was dished out across the province, despite ticket sales being up by 4.67 per cent on last year.

El Gordo, the biggest prize, missed the area completely, spreading joy principally in Salou and Salamanca. **P3**

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SPORT

Marbella FC finish the year strongly and an exciting Copa del Rey opponent awaits **P44**



:: ADG

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Tragedy strikes on Christmas Eve as two children and their father drown at Club La Costa

The investigation continues into finding the cause of the events involving a family from London visiting Mijas for their Christmas holidays

:: **ÁLVARO FRÍAS / JUAN CANO / FERNANDO TORRES**

MALAGA. A Guardia Civil taskforce continues to investigate the cause of the death of a man and two of his children in a swimming pool at the Club La Costa resort in Mijas on Tuesday, Christmas Eve.

The autopsy, which was carried out on Wednesday, showed that the three victims all died from drowning and that there were no signs of either intoxication or injury which could have led to their deaths.

According to various sources, the events took place at around 1.30pm on Tuesday. The victims are three members of the same family, British and American nationals, who had come to the area from London for their Christmas holidays. They had arrived in the province last Saturday, 21 December, and were planning on staying in one of the resort's apartments until Saturday.

Sources explain that the nine-year-old girl was playing in the water when she got into difficulties. Her older brother, 16, then jumped into the water to try and rescue her, an action repeated by their father, 52. None of them could swim, the family later confirmed; all three lost their lives.

The man's wife (and mother of their children) and their older daughter (who had just been playing in the water), were the ones who raised the alarm. The emergency services immediately at-



A view over the swimming pool in complex two at Club La Costa World. :: **FERNANDO TORRES**



Guardia Civil experts attended the scene. :: **F. TORRES**

were transferred to the Institute of Legal Medicine (IML) in Malaga, where an autopsy took place on Wednesday.

Victims named

The three victims were named in the UK press on Thursday afternoon: the father, Gabriel Diya, belonged to the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) and was an area pastor at a church in Charlton in south-east London. The group paid tribute to him in a Facebook post: "With heavy hearts, we extend our condolences to the family, parish, friends and associates of Area Pastor Gabriel Diya who sadly passed away, along with two of his children... in a tragic incident while on a family holiday in Spain."

His children have also been named as Comfort, 9, and Praise-Emmanuel Diya, 16.

Possible causes

The Guardia Civil have taken charge of the investigation to clarify what happened. The main theory was that the girl initially began to struggle because of a problem in the pool's suction system. This theory was supported by the fact that the person who first went in to help the family also apparently struggled to get out of the water. The family's other daughter, who had been in the water just before the incident, didn't have any irritation of the eyes or lungs, ruling out chlorine poisoning.

The pool has since been examined by expert technicians; they searched in the pool for the presence of items of clothing belonging to the deceased and found a swimming cap belonging to the girl in the suction system. They also took water samples.

Following the inspections, how-

None of the victims knew how to swim, the older sister who witnessed the events confirmed

tended the scene.

Club La Costa World management has said that the workers closest to the pool came to the site as soon as they began to hear the distress calls. Several employees, as well as a guest, carried out CPR manoeuvres; the complex's doctor also arrived within minutes and carried out first aid until the emergency services arrived.

However, nothing could be done to save their lives. After their deaths were certified, their bodies

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A technically improbable accident but "not impossible"

∴ **Á. F. / J. C. / F. T.**

MIJAS. Though there is still no official explanation for the events which took place on Tuesday, pool installation and maintenance experts consulted by SUR believe that the tragedy could have been a result of a series of factors coinciding which, while they are technically improbable, are "not impossible".

As Roberto Jiménez of Pool & Garden explained, there are drains located at the top of the sides, some midway down and others at the bottom. He said that in the unlikely event that the highest two

stop working or became blocked, the one on the bottom of the pool would create a whirlpool with a disproportionate amount of suction, making it difficult for even strong swimmers to escape.

This sentiment was echoed by Mario Martín, manager of Servihogar Málaga, who also pointed out that if the youngest girl had got a limb trapped in the rail covering the bottom drain, it would be very difficult for an adult to set her free.

In these situations, the protocol is to switch off the motors before attempting to enter the pool.

ever, Club La Costa World management said that the pool was given the all-clear by the Guardia Civil to reopen on Wednesday after finding no faults.

No lifeguard

A spokesman for the resort said that at the time of the incident there was no company personnel at the scene because, due to its size, the pool did not require a lifeguard.

The company has also conveyed its condolences to the family and has assured that it is working with the Guardia Civil to clarify what

happened.

For those staying at Club La Costa this Christmas the news came as a shock. Several witnesses have explained to SUR that there was a lot of panic at the time.

"It was horrible," said one of the residents who witnessed the events and tried to revive one of the victims.

A team of psychologists was dispatched to the scene to offer round-the-clock comfort and assistance to the family of the deceased and some of the witnesses affected by the incident.

A disappointing result for the province as El Gordo steers clear

The annual Christmas lottery deposited just 2.42 million euros across Malaga, the lowest figure since 2013

∴ **ANTONIO M. ROMERO**

MALAGA. After several years in which fortune heavily favoured Malaga in the annual Christmas lottery, on this occasion Lady Luck was mostly missing as just 2.42 million euros was shared out in the province.

The draw, which took place on Sunday, was sung as usual by children from the San Ildefonso school in Madrid and although eight of the thirteen major prizes left their mark in the area, the total figure was the lowest since 2013 when just 800,000 euros were won.

To make matters worse, nearly 83 million euros worth of tickets were sold in the area, an increase of 4.67 per cent on last year.

The excitement at the chance of winning El Gordo on Sunday was shortlived. The first prize was drawn early, less than 20 minutes after the traditional morning-long draw began at 9am, the winning number being 26590.



Celebrations at a sales point in Malaga. ∴ **SALVADOR SALAS**

The second prize, 10989, brought 1,250,000 euros to Malaga as ten 'décimo' tickets were sold by an office in Puerta Blanca on the west side of the city. Two third prize tickets were sold in Malaga province, one in Ronda and the other in Arroyo de la Miel, while offices in Malaga and Torremolinos sold tickets to some of the fourth prize winners.

There were also celebrations in an office in Torrox, where several customers bought tickets that won

one of the fifth prizes in this annual lottery, famous for how widely the prize money is shared among hundreds of winners around the country.

Bigger celebrations took place in Madrid where the office known as Doña Manolita, which sees huge queues in December due to its lucky reputation, sold tickets that won El Gordo, as well as numbers that won the second, third, one fourth and two fifth prizes.

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How a drug theft involving fake police uncovered a major Costa smuggling gang

With 15 arrests and 1,200 kilos of hashish seized, Operation Caravan provided an insight into trafficker and police tactics

:: **ÁLVARO FRÍAS / JUAN CANO**

MALAGA. Drug barons impersonating police, a man walking along the road carrying guns, a shootout and a bullet-ridden van loaded with 870 kilos of hashish abandoned after a chase and an accident... It could have been a scene from any action film, but this was real life and happened in the Malaga suburb of Puerto de la Torre.

Operation Caravan was a joint investigation between National Police and customs officers which broke up one of the major criminal gangs trafficking hashish in the Costa area. It is a story that gives an insight into the current workings of both the smugglers and the police.

The theft of hashish from one gang by another, what the police

term as a 'vuelco' (turnover), took place on 29 May.

The Malaga-based gang was apparently transporting the drug in a van to the inland village of Almogía to hide it when it was approached by other dealers, using cars with police lights to try to stop them.

After the chase, the shootout and the accident, everybody fled the scene, abandoning the loaded van.

Internal dispute in the gang

Inquiries by the real police soon led to the arrest of several people and the discovery that the 'turnover' was down to one of the gang members who had fallen out with the rest.

The investigation took them to the Guadalhorce industrial estate, near the airport, where two members of the organisation, responsible for moving and storing the drug in the Malaga area, were identified.

In October, a van was spotted being driven towards La Línea with two cars escorting it. There it was loaded with 330 kilos of hashish and, on the return leg to Malaga, of-



The powerboat loaded up in a lorry when seized in Seville province in November. :: SUR

A support car managed to escape and was chased from the AP-7 near Estepona to Malaga

ficers intercepted it and arrested several people.

One of the arrests wasn't that straightforward, as a support car managed to escape and was chased from the AP-7 motorway near Estepona as far as the centre of Malaga. Three patrol cars were damaged be-

fore the vehicle was finally stopped.

At the end of November, detectives found out that some of the gang were going to move by road one of the speedboats used to smuggle drugs by sea. According to police sources, it was spotted near Malaga inside a lorry owned by one of the men that the drug gang leaders were using as cover and who had various properties registered in his name.

The trailer was stopped later, close to the Guadalquivir river in Seville province. Investigators waited for the moment when the criminals were handing over the boat, which was 12 metres long and had three high-pow-

ered engines, to make their move. Three people were arrested at the scene.

Finally, at the start of this month, five more of the gang were arrested, including its leaders. During this part of the operation, three house searches were carried out and 44,000 euros in cash was seized along with sea navigation equipment and eight wetsuits. There was even fresh food packed ready to be eaten at sea.

In total on this operation, 1,200 kilos of hashish were seized and 15 people were arrested of Spanish and North African origin for their alleged involvement.



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You can legally drive in Spain with your existing driving license for the first 2 years of residence, but after 6 months you must register your details with the provincial traffic authorities. After 2 years, you must obtain a Spanish driving license or face a €200 fine. At the time of publishing this article, UK nationals can exchange their UK driving license for a Spanish driving license. However with the Brexit process, we recommend you stay up to date via the gov.uk website. Driving licenses need to be renewed every 10 years up to the age of 65, and then every 5 years.

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112 REPORTS

Taxi driver goes after attacker as police arrive

MALAGA

:: **F.T.** A brave taxi driver tailed a passenger who had just stolen his day's takings at knife point. Calling to his taxi supervisor, he kept the robber in his sights until police arrived around 10 minutes later. “I thought that I might never see my family again,” said the driver.

A Christmas family dinner ends in a fight

MALAGA

:: **A.F. / J.C.** A group of cousins in the Barsovia pub in Malaga, last Saturday were badly beaten up by doormen after an altercation with a man who was trying to molest some of the women. The group are looking for the witness who recorded a video of the incident.

Seven held for conning 210k out of 95-year-old

MALAGA

:: **J.C. / A.F.** A carer, her partner, three family members and two financial advisers have been arrested in connection with the alleged conning of a 95-year-old man. Some 210,000 euros is said to have been

taken in an investigation covering organised crime, money laundering, blackmail and mistreatment of the victim. The alarm was raised after a loud argument was overheard by staff in a public health centre. The crime was said to have started in 2017 after the death of the man's wife. The accused are said to have set up powers of attorney to allow them to siphon off funds.

Cash and gold and silver ingots stolen in Malaga

MALAGA

:: **A.F. / J.C.** A gang of four hooded thieves broke into a business last Sunday and dragged out the safe which contained cash and gold and silver ingots worth around 100,000 euros. The safe, which weighed 200kgs, was inside an office on the first floor of an apartment block in the city centre. The four men

broke into the apartment at around 10pm last Sunday evening, dragged the safe into the lift, damaging the door in the process, and down some stairs which were also damaged. They then loaded it into the back of an Audi in which three of the men drove off while the fourth calmly walked away.

The company that owns the safe said that normally the safe would have contained more but they had already moved some of the items to a safe storage area on Friday.

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HERE AND THERE

Sixty new defibrillators to be installed in Vélez

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

∴ **E. C.** Vélez-Málaga town hall approved a plan to install 60 new defibrillators in public buildings in the area last week. An investment of 170,755 euros will include training courses and awareness events. The machines will be fitted in public buildings including schools, sports and cultural spaces and the local police station. Some police and town hall vehicles will also carry defibrillators.

Dispute over car park may end in its closure

TORROX

∴ **E. C.** Mayor of Torrox Óscar Medina is hoping to persuade the company UTE, which manages the town's La Almedina car park, to keep it open, despite the company threatening to close it "definitively and irrevocably" on 31 December. The company wrote a letter to Torrox town hall in September announcing its decision. Medina is hoping to get support from councillors to ask the company to keep the space open until a "definitive solution" can be found.

Plans for new library near Balcón de Europa

NERJA

∴ **E. C.** Mayor of Nerja José Alberto Armijo announced plans to build a new library near the town's iconic Balcón de Europa last week.

Armijo went on to say that the new building would be located at number 1, Calle de la Iglesia, on land which currently belongs to the José del Peso Blanco foundation.

The Nerja cave foundation will also be providing financial support for the project.



Fishermen sort the rubbish they have collected on their boat. ∴ **M. C.**

Local fishing boats collected 19 tonnes of rubbish from the sea in 2019

A project cofinanced by The Coca Cola Foundation is working with the industry in Spain and Portugal to carry out vital environmental research

∴ **AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ**

CALETA DE VÉLEZ. Fishermen, sailors and staff who work at Caleta de Vélez port have collected a total of 19 tonnes of rubbish from the sea bed this year, through a project cofinanced through the Coca Cola Foundation.

The project is being run thanks to collaboration with a number of environmental organisations and first started at Caleta port in 2018. Marbella joined the project in 2019.

In total there are 15 ports and 83 fishing boats across Spain and Portu-

gal involved in the project.

The Vertideros Cero association is working closely with the fishing industry and a spokesperson from the environmental group said last week, "We believe it is fundamental to be able to work with the sector to achieve one of the most ambitious objectives of the project - to obtain data to investigate what type of rubbish is on the seabed and therefore be able to look for solutions to a big global problem."

Majority of rubbish is plastic

So far more than 5,000 volunteers across 170 organisations have participated in the project and a total of 584 tonnes of rubbish have been removed from the Mediterranean and Atlantic since it started in 2018.

Periodic analysis of the rubbish is carried out using an application designed by Marnoba. The informa-

tion is sent to Spain's Ministry for the Environment as well as being uploaded onto the Marnoba and Mares Circulares websites - two of the participating environmental organisations.

Their research has revealed that 84 per cent of the rubbish collected by the fishing industry is plastic and five per cent is metal. Eighty per cent of the total comes from land.

"With this initiative we can show that the majority of the rubbish doesn't come from the fishing industry, but from land sources," said Mari Carmen Navas, who is in charge of the Caleta de Vélez fishing fleet.

"If we don't do it who is going to? Each boat brings back what it can," said José Muñoz, sailor of El Campanero - the boat which brought back the largest amount of rubbish to Caleta de Vélez port; 11 tonnes, in 2018.

Town hall looks into possibility of opening up Torrox lighthouse to the general public

∴ **EUGENIO CABEZAS**

TORROX. Mayor of Torrox Óscar Medina and councillor for culture and heritage María de los Ángeles Ruiz met last week with the president and director of Malaga's port authority to request permission to allow visitors into the town's 19th-century lighthouse.

According to Medina, visitors frequently ask about access to the tower. However, it is currently closed for safety reasons.

The old lighthouse keeper's house beneath is open and used as a visitors' centre for the Roman settlement which is on the same site. The mayor has said that the town hall is awaiting a technical report which will evaluate the possibility of opening up the lighthouse to the public.

Torrox lighthouse has been in operation since 1864. In 1905, the then lighthouse keeper, Tomás García Ruiz, started to excavate the land around it and discovered a Roman settlement.



Torrox lighthouse. ∴ **AYTO TORROX**

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Storm brings down trees and damages the Marbella coast

The weather front Elsa caused the most damage to the east of Marbella and the Casablanca beach which lost a six metre strip of sand

:: I. LILLO / N. CASTRO / C. MÁRQUEZ

MÁLAGA. Strong winds and abundant rain marked the arrival of the storm front Elsa on the Costa del Sol, Serranía de Ronda and, to a lesser extent, the Axarquía and Malaga city last week.

The worst area affected by the storm, according to 112 emergency services, was Marbella where some beaches lost a large proportion of their sand in the high waves that

lashed the coast. The Aemet met office released a warning for westerly and southwesterly winds of between 50 and 74 km/h, causing waves up to four metres high.

The beaches to suffer the most were Rosario -Artola and Casablanca where the waves removed a six-metre-wide strip of sand. A beach bar was also badly damaged when waves broke over its patio; the town hall has asked that the Marbella Club hotel remove the terrace which was practically under water. The Marbella fishing fleet was unable to go out due to the huge waves.

Trees and large branches were brought down by the strong winds across the town including a huge tree in the playground of the Fuente Nueva school in San Pedro de Alcántara which luckily fell across the



The damage to the beach bar at Marbella Club. :: JOSELE

boundary fence before the students started school.

There were numerous incidents due to the wind and rain in Casares where the Christmas decorations were destroyed. Trees were blown over on the road to La Acedía and there were a few street lamps and branches down as well as the odd rock fall in various streets.

In Estepona the gusts removed part of the roof of the El Nido nursery and caused power outages to the Juan Benítez, La Lobilla, El Cristo and El Padrón Alto areas of the industrial estate. Refuse bins and even traffic lights were damaged but there were no reported cases of personal injury.

The Costa del Sol no longer under threat of drought

:: NIEVES CASTRO / IGNACIO LILLO

MARBELLA. The wet weather front that rolled over the province before Christmas has increased the reserves in the La Concepción res-

ervoir to 24.4 cubic hectometres, meaning that it is now at 40 per cent capacity according to Red Hidrosur of the Environmental Department.

The reservoir serves 11 municipal areas on the western Costa del

Sol, from Torremolinos to Manilva.

This increase in water caused by the storm front Elsa has removed the threat of drought for the time being and especially as the reservoir is not only receiving water from the Río Verde (its main source) but from the Guadalmanza, Guadaiza and Guadalmina rivers as well.

Not all reservoirs are doing so well, though. La Viñuela, the biggest in the province, is still not even a third full.



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Marbella council starts work on 84 parking spaces next to congress centre

The work is part of the town's wider plan to improve parking in the resort and includes the first electric-car charging stations

:: ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

MARBELLA. Parking near to Marbella's Palacio de Congresos looks certain to get a little easier as the town hall works on adding 84 spaces in a 2,300 square-metre plot next door to the building, on the western edge of the centre of the resort.

Work is expected to be completed by the middle of January and cost 197,000 euros. The investment is part of the municipal-wide parking improvement plan.

On a visit to the site, councillor for Works, Diego López, explained



The construction work will finish in the middle of January. :: JOSELE

that the new car park will be free to the public and be available for nearby businesses and a neighbouring hotel to use. The work includes asphaltting and a surrounding wall, and some existing trees and bushes

on the site have been removed. New energy-saving LED lighting will also be installed to "save money".

The council's parking improvement plan, which is being rolled

out at different points in the municipal area, will include 1,200 new spaces in its first phase.

Christmas event suffered

However, while the new car park at the congress centre is being laid out, ironically parking has got worse, as the site, previously wasteland, was used as a temporary parking space before. This has affected some events at the centre including the recent Caritas charity Christmas market. Organisers of the event said it had been harder to sell tickets this year and 12 per cent fewer people came than last year.

The new car park, once finished, will be the first to have charging stations for electric and hybrid cars. Marbella is aiming to be the Spanish municipality with most charging points per inhabitant as part of its parking master plan.

Regional planning boss quits and returns to Marbella to lead new PGOU plan process

:: SUR

MARBELLA. The man responsible for town and country planning at the Junta de Andalucía is to return to Marbella after just eight months in the top regional job. José María Morente will lead Marbella's preparation of its new and long-awaited master town plan, the PGOU.

Marbella council has a multidisciplinary team ready to go to draw up its plan which is expected to take four years. The PGOU is the key planning strategy document for a municipality on which most other planning decisions are based. The town currently uses an outdated revised 1986 version after a later one was overturned by a court in 2015.

Morente's experience regionally is expected to assist in some areas of the complicated process.

Gibraltar prepares for Brexit with meetings in Madrid

Technical talks will take place in January with officials from UK and Spain, about implementing the MoU and Withdrawal Protocol

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. With the United Kingdom and Gibraltar preparing to leave the European Union on 31 January, technical talks have been scheduled in Madrid on the 14th and 15th between officials from Gibraltar, the UK and Spain.

These preparatory talks will be with regard to implementing the Gibraltar Protocol which forms part of the Withdrawal Agreement and was drawn up by the Gibraltar government with the UK and Spain, and the four Memoranda of Understanding which flow from it. A number of Committees involving the



Gibraltar will no longer be part of the EU. :: SUR

EU, the UK, Gibraltar and Spain will come into being as a result of the MoUs and will run for the lifetime of the transition period, which is until 31 December 2020.

As Gibraltar is Britain's only Overseas Territory with an EU border, there are unique issues arising as a result of Brexit and all the

governments involved are keen to ensure that disruption is kept to a minimum.

Contrary to reports carried in some of the media in recent days, the meetings in Madrid will not be bilateral between UK and Spain and the sovereignty of Gibraltar is not on the table for discussion.

IN BRIEF

Gibraltar represented at COP25 in Madrid

GIBRALTAR

Environment minister John Cortes attended the 25th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties in Madrid recently, not only to represent the Rock but as Political Lead of the UK Overseas Territories, representing their governments in the UK delegation. With housing minister Steven Linares, he gave a presentation on the Territories and held several meetings. Gibraltar is particularly keen to progress a climate change trading initiative.

GibSams, there to help in the festive season

GIBRALTAR

Many people struggle with loneliness and different problems at Christmas and New Year, but Gibraltar has its own branch of the Samaritans, GibSams, who are there to help. The hotline number is 116 123 (the same number as UK) and it offers a completely confidential listening service to anyone experiencing distress, despair or suicidal feelings. Callers are completely anonymous and GibSams cannot tell where they are calling from.

Women in Business amalgamates with GFSB

GIBRALTAR

The members of the Gibraltar Federation of Small Businesses have voted unanimously at a recent EGM to unite with the Women in Business Gibraltar association, which was founded in

the 1990s as The Gibraltar Business Network. Following approval of the decision, the GFSB WIB will continue to focus on providing networking opportunities and support for professional women and the move will enable the GFSB to implement diversity and inclusion policies impacting its membership and Gibraltar businesses.

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Estepona's council chamber last week in the budget vote. :: c.m.

Marbella and Estepona town halls approve budgets in final council sessions of the year

A. JIMÉNEZ / C. MÁRQUEZ

MARBELLA / ESTEPONA. Two Costa town halls approved their 2020 budgets in the final council sessions of the year over the last week.

In Estepona, spending for next year was set at 105.8 million euros, with a predicted income

of 103.9 million.

Twenty-six million euros will go to pay off the debt and there will be 7.5 million for a new town hall.

Marbella finally approved its budget on Monday with a 295-million-euro planned expenditure, up 4.33 per cent on this year.



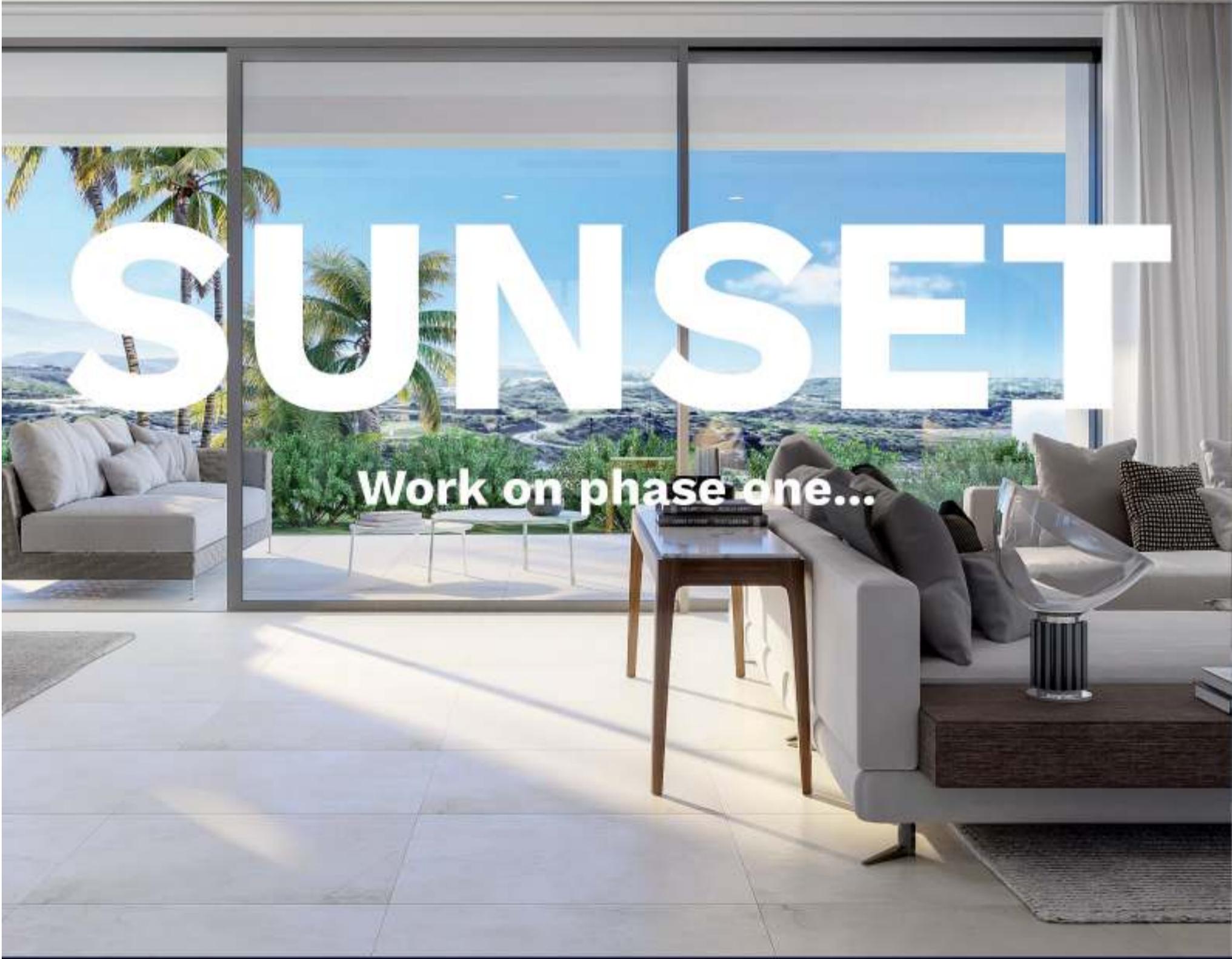
FÉLIX PALACIOS

SHOPS CLOSE IN PROTEST OVER CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Last-minute Christmas shoppers were met with 'closed' signs in Malaga last Friday when around 30 shops in streets adjoining Calle Larios joined a protest against the festive light show. These businesses are calling for the 6.30pm show to be cancelled as it was hampering business by attracting vast crowds to the area.

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Animal Care España finds new homes in Belgium for 42 rescued dogs

The dogs left the refuge centre in La Cala de Mijas last Friday and were delivered by a German company that specialises in the transportation of animals

TONY BRYANT

MIJAS. Animal Care España (ACE) has given the perfect Christmas present to more than 40 rescued dogs. As part of the charity's ongoing rehoming programme, which organises forever homes in various parts of Europe, the dogs have been found new families in Belgium.

The dogs, which included greyhounds, labradors, podencos, mastiffs and several mixed breeds, left the refuge centre in La Cala de Mijas last Friday and were transported by a German company that specialises in the transportation of animals.

This is the third time this year that ACE has arranged for newly adopted dogs to be transported this way. Since its inception in 1999, the charity has rescued and rehomed more than 23,000 dogs and cats.

ACE President Fabienne Paques



President of ACE Fabienne Paques with one of the dogs. :: W.COWHAM

and several volunteers were on hand to over see the operation. The dogs reached their destination on Saturday morning, where they were met by their new owners.

Before travelling overseas, the dogs were wormed, bathed and given a flea treatment. They also needed an official document from the OCCA

(Spanish Ministry of Agriculture) confirming that they are in a healthy condition and fit to travel.

"Getting together all the paperwork, health checks and passports in advance is quite a major operation, but then, when the transport team arrive, it takes less than an hour to get all the dogs loaded and

ACE birthday celebration dinner

Founded in December 1999, ACE celebrated its 20th anniversary with a charity Christmas dinner held at Los Olivos Restaurant in Calahonda on Saturday.

The event was attended by around 120 people (including people from Belgium, the Netherlands, the UK, Russia, the USA and Spain), all united by their love of dogs.

The event included a three-course dinner and musical entertainment was supplied by Laura Elen, a classically trained singer.

There was also a charity raffle with prizes donated by businesses all along the coast.

ready for the off. With two drivers on board, the journey only takes about 20 hours and the new, adoptive families, who of course have already been vetted, will be waiting to take the dogs to their new, forever homes," ACE spokesperson Carolyn Melian explained to SUR in English.



Mula (left) last week with a plan of the existing port. :: SUR

Fuengirola puts contract to design new-look marina out to tender after "20-year wait"

IVÁN GELIBTER

FUENGIROLA. After two decades with the idea on hold, Fuengirola has at last taken the first step towards a key new piece of infrastructure in a town which can't grow in size but can get better in terms of available services.

Last week Fuengirola council announced that it was putting out to tender the contract to draw up the plan for an expansion and redevelopment of the Puerto Deportivo in the resort, the initial phase before building work is later put out to contract.

The budget to draw up the design is 229,000 euros, and the project aims to increase the attractiveness of the marina to local residents and visitors, better connecting it with the town. The expansion and redesign of the Puerto Deportivo is a key aspiration of Fuengirola's mayor, Ana Mula.

Speaking after the announcement was made about the tender process for the design, Mula explained that the council, which has the concession to run the existing port, had been trying to get the previous regional government to approve the idea for twenty years. She said that "with the new Andalusian government" the project can be started.



A FESTIVE SOLIDARITY GESTURE

The Social Services department of Torremolinos town hall helped more than 200 local underprivileged families enjoy Christmas this year. As part of the town hall's festive solidarity campaign, vouchers totalling 21,500 euros were distributed among several NGO organisations. The 100 euro vouchers enabled families to purchase food from participating supermarkets.



Councillor for Equality and Diversity with the defaced mural. :: SUR

Torremolinos town hall blasts the defacing of street art as homophobic

Black paint was daubed on a mural in support of the LGBT community that shows two women kissing

T. BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. Torremolinos town hall has condemned the defacing of one of the town's murals which shows two women kissing. The incident is the latest in a series of homophobic attacks on street art that reflects the town's support of

the LGBT community.

Earlier this year, homophobic graffiti was daubed in the elevator that gives access to Bajondillo beach, and also on the paseo near Bar Eden, one of the town's top gay-friendly beach bars.

Councillor for Equality and Diversity Nicolás de Miguel blasted the act, which he said is "becoming an ugly custom". "We want to demonstrate our absolute condemnation of these homophobic actions that undermine some of the hallmarks of our locality, which are tolerance respect and love."

IN BRIEF

Etihad Airways to touch down in Malaga

MALAGA

P. MARTÍNEZ. This summer, airline Etihad Airways will touch down in Malaga for the first time after announcing a new service this week that will connect the capital of the Costa del Sol with the UAE.

In order to "satisfy the enormous demand from the Gulf States", the airline will run three services a week (on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays) from 26 June until 13 September.

The Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner will boast three classes (including eight private suites) and will make a stopover in Rabat (Morocco).

AC ADVISORS

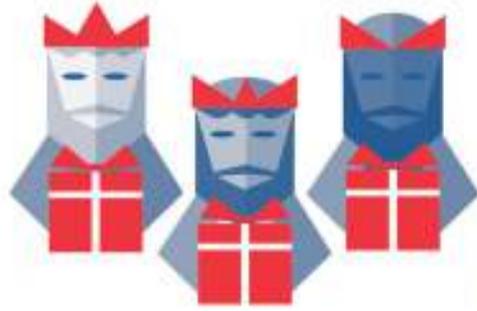
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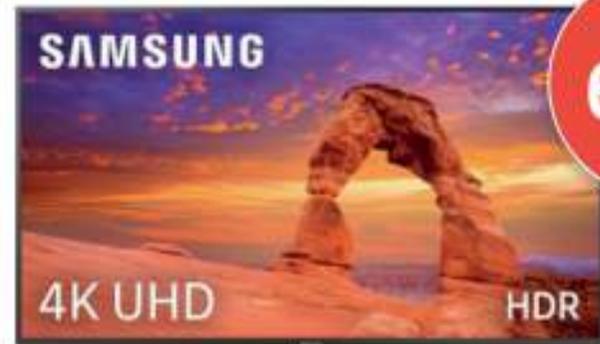
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In this, the last column of 2019, I thought it would be appropriate to look back at the last twelve months as well as looking forward to 2020. What have we learnt about Spanish politics this year and what should we expect to happen (or not to happen) in the one that's just around the corner?

First off, 2019 has shown that Spain isn't immune to the far-right ideology that's seeped into the politics of Italy and Germany, where Lega Nord and AfD, respectively, have made recent and substantial gains. Many commentators believed that the memories of Francisco Franco's forty-year dictatorship were still too raw, and that Spaniards wouldn't vote for a force any further right of centre than the

THE EURO ZONE
MARK NAYLER

BACK AND FORWARD



corruption-riddled Popular Party (the PP, itself founded by a former minister in Franco's regime).

But in the 10 November election, right-wing Vox upped its share of seats in congress from 24 to 52 - a rise that can be attributed largely to its tough stance on Catalan separatists and immigration. The surge of Vox has also caused

the PP to reassert its rightist credentials in an attempt to retain voters who might be tempted towards the newcomer - something that its leader, Pablo Casado, will have to do throughout next year to avoid haemorrhaging support. Vox is now the third most powerful force in Spanish politics and cannot be ignored.

Secondly, another general election early next year - which would be the fifth in just over four years - is distinctly possible. Just as in 2015 and 2016, the two national votes held in 2019 (the first was on 28 April) resulted in political fragmentation, with no single party possessing anywhere near a parliamentary majority. But this, in itself, is not what's denying Spain a stable government: the real problem is that Spanish politicians are unaccustomed to the power-sharing arrangements that have become necessary. Socialist leader Pedro Sánchez will try and be sworn in as prime minister again early next year, but his chances of success are only slightly better than they were back in the summer, when his failure to secure suffi-

cient support triggered the November election.

Thirdly and finally, the battle between Madrid and Catalan separatists will rumble on into 2020. Last week, the Catalan Regional High Court banned Quim Torra, the region's separatist president, from public office for eighteen months and fined him 30,000 euros. His alleged offence? Failing to remove street banners calling for the release of imprisoned secessionists during an election campaign in March. Clearly, the Spanish judiciary is in no mood to relax its draconian stance on Catalan secessionists, which will only spur them on. We can be sure, then, that the year to come will be just as fascinating, complex and shocking as the one now ending.



King Felipe recorded his Christmas from the Zarzuela Palace. :: AFP

King Felipe calls for parties to reach an "understanding" but respecting the constitution

In his Christmas Eve message to the nation the monarch said that "solidarity, equality and freedom" were the "backbone of society"

:: MARÍA EUGENIA ALONSO

MADRID. In his speech to the people of Spain on Christmas Eve, King Felipe, expressed his concern at the country's current political situation, and called for "understanding" that was respectful of the constitution.

The monarch was scrupulously respectful of his role as arbiter by saying that, in the midst of a panorama of uncertainty, and with the formation of the next government dependent on the vote of Catalan

left-wing republican party ERC (Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya), Spain's congress (parliament's lower house) has the last word.

Since King Felipe commissioned Pedro Sánchez to form a government on 11 December, the ball has been in the socialist leader's court. "We are immersed in the constitutional procedure for Congress to grant or deny its confidence in the candidate proposed for the presidency," the monarch remarked.

This is not the first time that monarch's Christmas speech has coincided with an acting government, as it also happened in 2015. On that occasion Felipe called for

"dialogue" to solve the problems. Four years on and in view of the complex political situation, he is now calling for "understanding" but always "within the framework of respect for the Constitution".

The king also called for harmony and the strengthening of solidarity, equality and freedom "as the backbone of society".

These values, which constitute the "identity" of today's Spain, cannot be taken for granted "nor can their fragility be forgotten", and therefore "everything possible" must be done to strengthen them and prevent them from deteriorating.



:: JESÚS ANDRADE

URDANGARIN OUT FOR CHRISTMAS

Lluis Urdangarin, the former Duke of Palma, enjoyed his first prison leave in Vitoria, where he was seen walking on Wednesday hand-in-hand with his wife Cristina and accompanied by the rest of his family. The brother-in-law of Felipe VI arrived in the city on Tuesday afternoon to celebrate Christmas in his family home.

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J R Toynton, Joint Administrator



A shop assistant preparing a traditional Christmas box. :: R. C.

When Christmas boxes become compulsory

Fujitsu's 1,600 employees have won the right for the practice to be reinstated, and will receive compensation

:: EDURNE MARTÍNEZ

MADRID. The practice of employers giving Christmas boxes to their staff began many years ago in Spain, at a time when there was no Social Security system and most of the population was so poor that company owners used to give a small box containing turrón to their workers so they could enjoy Christmas. The tradition has continued in many firms, although nowadays “some people consider it outdated and paternalist and would prefer a salary increase instead”, says Esther González, of the EAE Business School.

Esther says Spain is the only country in Europe where the tradition of a Christmas box has not been considered a type of payment but a “detail” provided by companies to their employees, but after recent sentences from the Supreme Court “employers will think twice”.

For some workers, their Christmas boxes have become a battle which they have taken to the courts. The Supreme Court considers them to be a right which is acquired by the workers over time and says companies cannot discontinue them if they have been providing them for many years. Since the unions first started to demand their reinstatement when the country came out of the economic crisis, the court has nearly always found in favour of the employees.

The most recent case is that of the workers at Fujitsu. The Supreme Court has just confirmed the right of the company's 1,600 workers in Spain to receive the Christmas box from 2016 onwards, in other words this year they were each due to receive three boxes or one to the same value. The staff were told they were also entitled to an additional sum to compensate for the delays.

In this particular case, the court told Fujitsu that by providing the boxes for so many years, they had become a “beneficial condition” of the employment contract.

The company said that in 2013 the unions had agreed to the practice being discontinued as part of a plan to

reduce costs, but then in 2014 they demanded the Christmas boxes again.

It was proven to the court's satisfaction that Fujitsu had provided such boxes to all its employees from the time the firm started up in Spain nearly 50 years ago until 2012, apart from 1997 when the workers received a gift voucher instead. This, said the Supreme Court, made it one of the terms and conditions of the employment contract.

This does not mean the same criteria will apply in all cases, because sometimes it is not deemed to be a right acquired by workers but a gesture by a company, so every case has to be considered individually and the decision could be different. This year there have been five cases of this type and four of them found in favour of the workers.

There is also controversy over whether these Christmas boxes should be declared as additional income for tax purposes, as the Hacienda tax agency insists. Experts say the matter is complicated and it may depend on whether the boxes are considered a gesture by the company or part and parcel of the employment, but Hacienda disagrees.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

JEREMY BLATCH

✉ jb@ehh.gi

THE IMPORTANCE OF LIQUIDITY WHEN INVESTING IN CAPITAL MARKETS



Hard on the heels of the ill-fated UK equity mutual fund managed by Neil Woodford, a real estate fund from the giant UK fund group MG has also faced problems as investors rushed for the exit fearing to redeem shares. Last week, fund managers at Standard Life Aberdeen were also under pressure to provide cash when investors withdrew 1.3 billion from the fund, an amount equivalent to six months of redemptions.

Neil Woodford was once a celebrity star investment fund manager, but his flagship UK equity fund was suspended when he was unable to sell underlying securities to raise cash to meet investors' requests to redeem shares. Woodford's fund had a large exposure to small private companies, and these companies proved difficult to liquidate.

The MG investment group's real estate fund also recently had difficulty selling underlying assets in order to realise cash to cover investor redemptions, because investors holding UK real estate investments were nervous in the run-up to the UK general election.

When managing money, the ability to generate cash with readily saleable assets is important, especially if the fund or construction allows for daily redemptions.

All these funds were open-ended, meaning that investors are able to receive a share price and redeem shares.

However, the manager can only return cash to meet redemptions of shares if there is a market to sell underlying assets. Real estate is notoriously

illiquid, which is why banks are reluctant to hold real estate on their balance sheets for very long.

Investors wishing to invest in real estate in the capital markets should consider investing in a closed end fund. Whilst the investor is unable to redeem shares, he avoids the risk of the manager mismanaging liquidity and the fund being suspended.

Because the capital markets are a reflection of human behaviour and endeavour, the two most important subjects to be considered in investing are market cycles and risk.

As Mark Twain is thought to have said, “History doesn't repeat itself, but it often rhymes.”

Market history is replete with examples of investments that failed investors when they were unable to withdraw capital. When liquidity is mismanaged and investors are unable to redeem shares, the least able to lose capital usually end up the most disadvantaged.

When investing in capital markets, investors should think very carefully and be wary of open-ended funds that invest in illiquid assets like real estate and small private companies.

The author is a member of the Society of Trustees and Estate Practitioners and an investment counsellor.

The comments and observations by the author are a reflection of his opinion and do not constitute an offer to buy and hold securities, nor does he receive any remuneration of any kind from names referred to.

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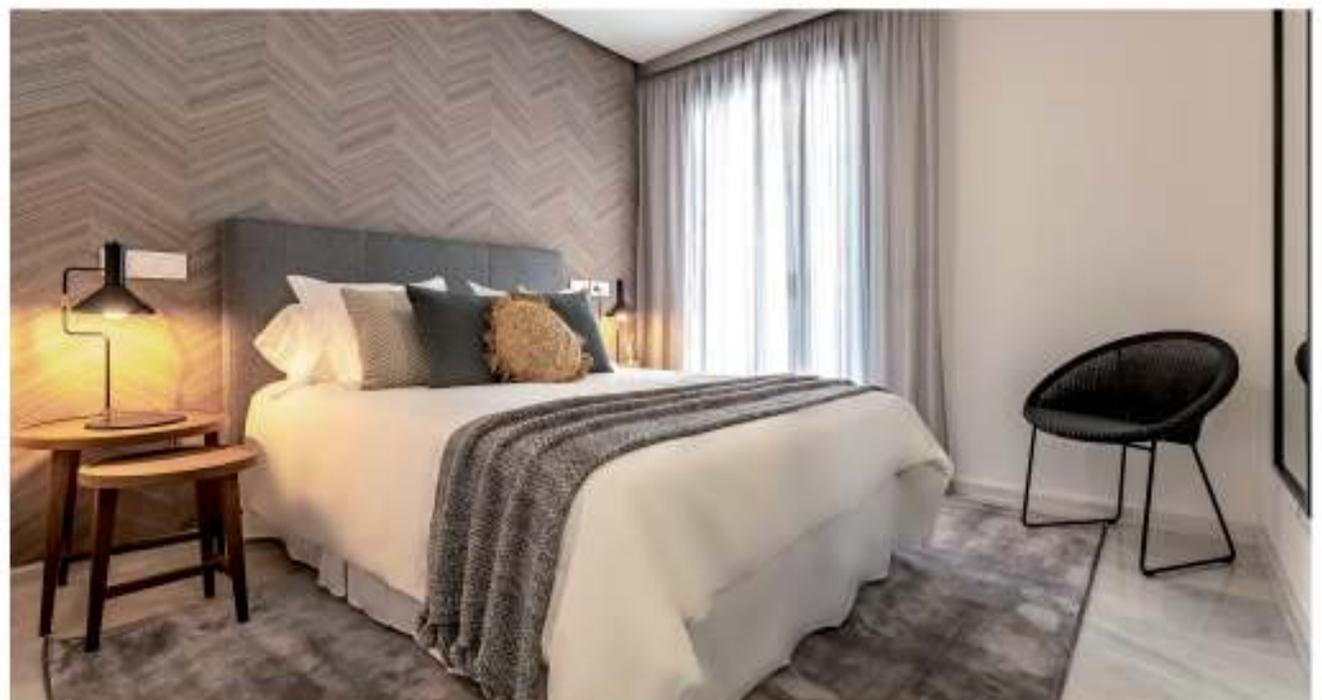
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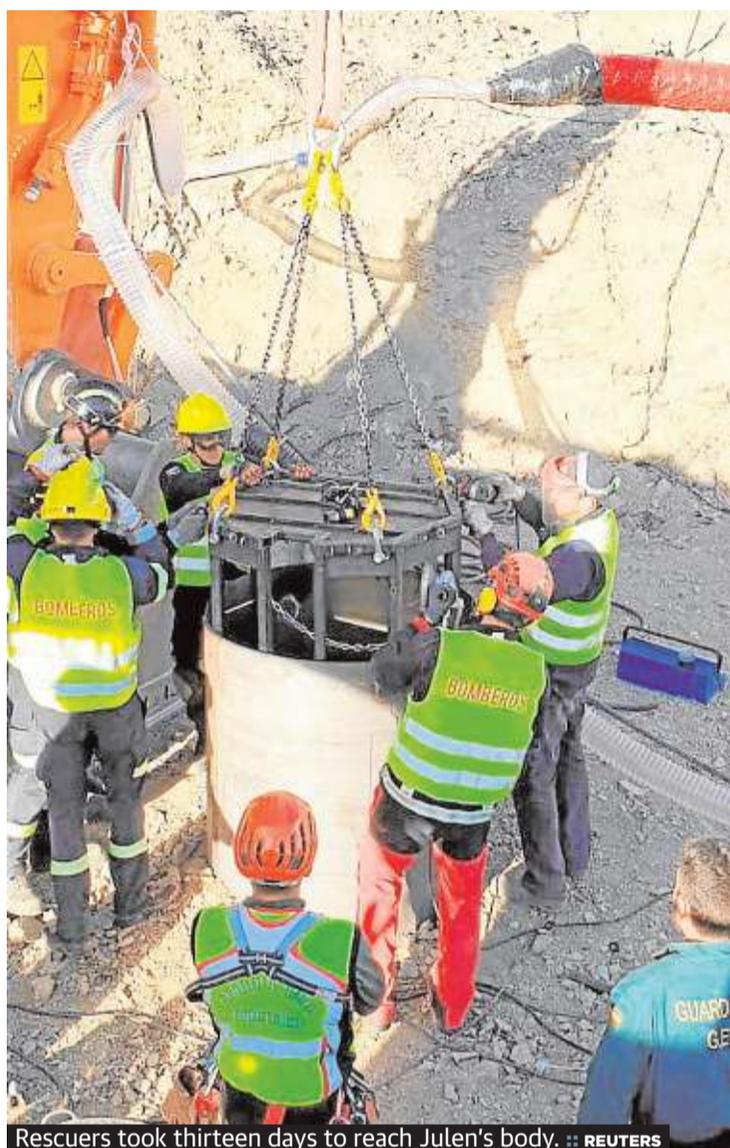
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Rescuers took thirteen days to reach Julen's body. :: REUTERS



Bob Dylan performed at Mareostrum in Fuengirola. :: AFP



Hospital Costa del Sol. :: SUR



Franco's remains are removed from the Valle de los Caídos. :: EFE



Ambassador Hugh Elliott. :: SUR

From Julen to Franco, a review of some of the year's news stories

2019 could be described as a markedly political year in Spain, with two general elections, the Andalusian government election and the ongoing saga of Brexit

As every year, there has been good news and bad, happiness and sorrow, paralysis and progress in our part of the world

:: DEBBIE BARTLETT

MALAGA. As 2019 comes to an end, we thought we would take a look back at some of the stories that made the headlines in SUR in English during the year.

January

Tragedy strikes as little boy disappears down a bore hole

The tragic story that gripped an entire nation and has featured in the news all year began on 13 January when two-year-old Julen Roselló fell down a bore hole and disappeared while on a family day out in the countryside near Totalán. The gap was only 25cms wide and at first it was thought that it was too narrow for him to be

down there. Rescue attempts were complicated by the fact that compacted soil appeared to have formed a type of plug between Julen and the surface. The shaft was 110 metres deep. Despite using high-tech equipment and specialist mining teams it took 13 days to find the child, and an autopsy later said that he had died instantly from a head injury. Julen's devastated parents blamed the owner of the land for the accident, but accusations flew far and fast on both sides and the legal proceedings are ongoing.

On the political stage, following regional elections the Junta de Andalucía government changed hands after being governed by PSOE for 36 years, and is being run by a coalition between Partido Popular and Ciudadanos with the support of the far-right Vox party.

Meanwhile, Spain and Britain signed an agreement under which British residents of Spain are able to continue to vote in council elections,

and vice versa, after Brexit, whether or not the UK and EU reach a deal.

February

Spain prepares for another election

Spain was confronted with the prospect of an early general election after the PSOE government failed to win approval from MPs for its delayed 2019 budget. Defeat for prime minister Pedro Sánchez had looked increasingly likely as relations with Catalan separatist MPs, whose support was need in the vote, had soured.

Locally, it was revealed that Juan Antonio Roca, the 'strong man' at Marbella town hall during the ransacking of municipal coffers, was now a free man after serving 13 years. Legal sources said that never before had a person found guilty of financial crimes been held permanently in jail for such a long period. Roca received jail sentences for different cases including 'Malaya' (17 years), 'Saqueo

II' (6 years and 10 months), 'Saqueo II' (three years) and 'Minutas' (three years), and although there are still dozens of other cases pending, he will not have to go back to prison. In May 2016 the provincial court in Malaga, the court which judged the 'Malaya case', agreed to aggregate all the cases and allow the sentences to run concurrently, applying a maximum period of 20 years.

March

Phone tapping shock at Mijas town hall

Mijas council was rocked by a potential spying scandal after an independent audit on a blocked management email account at the municipal TV and radio station appeared to reveal that someone had been eavesdropping on phone calls by members of the board of directors. The board was made up of the mayor, Juan Carlos Maldonado of Ciudadanos (Cs) and eight other councillors from all parties. Nobody knew who was behind

the alleged phone tapping.

And from one type of 'dirt' to another: the investigation into the dumping of sewage and polluted water by Coin and Nerja councils threw up some eye-watering data, showing just how much untreated waste is allowed to flow into the Guadalhorce basin or the Mediterranean. Guardia Civil investigators estimated that there is a nine-tonne "mountain" of used wet wipes on the seabed near Nerja, and that Coin council had allowed enough polluted water to flow into its local rivers to fill the equivalent capacity of Malaga city's El Limonero reservoir. Councils are responsible for correctly managing sewage, but in this case officials blamed the regional and central governments for not providing the promised waste treatment works.

April

Progress on Marbella hospital expansion

It was announced that completing the expansion of the Costa del Sol hospital will require an investment of approximately 30 million euros, and that a new plan will be needed because the project has been at a standstill for ten years and the origi-



nal one, from 2007, no longer meets the needs of the town and its surrounding areas. It is hoped that the works will begin in 2020.

The regional government also announced a 50 million euro road plan to improve communications with rural villages and boost their populations.

May **Bob Dylan rocked the Marenostrum**

Nobel prizewinning singer-songwriter Bob Dylan proved on the Marenostrum stage in Fuengirola that his art is alive and kicking, performing his classics with fresh and modern arrangements to the delight of his ecstatic fans.

On a more negative note, unfortunately, the authorities expressed their "serious concern" at a rise in violent crime on the Costa del Sol in previous months, including revenge killings, the use of explosives and so-called 'narcoterrorism'.

June **Fire at San Roque petrochemical plant**

There was concern over the possibility of toxic smoke in the Campo de Gibraltar area when fire broke out at the Indorama petrochemical plant in San Roque. The huge column of smoke could be seen from miles away, people in Spain were advised to keep away from the area and the Gibraltar government asked its population to stay indoors and keep all windows and doors closed until an analysis had been carried



Fire at Indorama San Roque. :: EFE

out into the content of the smoke. The official conclusion from the regional government was that there was no toxicity, but that was greeted with scepticism by many local residents.

And we discovered this month that Malaga is a hotspot for badly-behaved air passengers. Figures from the air safety agency AENA showed that in 2018 more than 100 flights to and from the Costa del Sol were disrupted and unruly British passengers were among the biggest culprits.

July **Gib detains supertanker heading for Syria**

The eyes of the world were on Gibraltar this month after its government detained a supertanker, the Grace 1, and its captain and crew for allegedly contravening EU sanctions and transporting crude oil from Iran to the Bannas refinery in Syria. An investigation confirmed that suspicions about the cargo and destination were correct. The ship was eventually released by the court six weeks later, despite a last-minute attempt by the USA to seize the vessel under a new legal procedure. She left after being renamed the Adrian Darya and re-registered, and assurances from Iran that she would not travel to an EU-sanctioned destination.

August **Residents use new law to stop holiday lets**

Some communities of owners have successfully begun to use a new law to control how many apartments in

their blocks or residential estates are rented out for tourism, and they have the right to vote on whether to increase the community fees of owners who are using their properties for holiday lets. However, experts warned that there is still some confusion over the details of the new regulation.

Drivers began to feel that big brother was watching them this month, as the DGT traffic agency and Guardia Civil began to use drones to spot drivers using their mobile phones or recklessly overtaking. The drone flights, which last for 25 minutes, cannot identify drivers who are speeding.

September **New UK ambassador to Spain**

Hugh Elliott took over from Simon Manley as the UK's man in Spain, and presented his credentials to King Felipe at the Palacio Real in Madrid. The new ambassador was previously Director of Communication and Stakeholders at the Department for Exiting the European Union.

October **Franco's remains are moved out of the Valley of the Fallen**

The remains of the late dictator General Franco were removed from the Valle de Los Caídos (Valley of the Fallen) mausoleum and memorial to the Spanish Civil War and placed in a simpler, family tomb in a small public cemetery outside Madrid. In a highly symbolic moment for many Spaniards, the acting government,

controlled by the PSOE Socialist party, carried out its promise to have the coffin removed from where it was placed on Francisco Franco's death in 1975 ahead of the eventual restoration of democracy. Despite efforts by Franco's family and supporters to block the reburial, the Supreme Court found in favour of the government and allowed it to go ahead.

November **Intu prepares to start work on mega shopping complex**

After years of administrative delays, plans for the new 850 million euro shopping and leisure centre in Torremolinos are finally starting to take shape. It will be 235,000 square metres in size and is designed to resemble a small town with eight different districts. The works are due to begin next year and the complex should open in 2023.

There was a disappointing announcement for passengers who fly between Malaga and New York, as Delta Air Lines has axed its direct daily high season service, at a time when it had been expected to run it all through the year instead.

December **Year ends in tragedy for a British family in Mijas Costa**

Sadly, the year ended the same way it began, with the tragic news that a man and his children aged nine and 16 were found dead in a swimming pool at Club La Costa World on Christmas Eve. An investigation is being carried out.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The true meaning of caring for our planet at Christmas

I sincerely hope you publish this letter to counteract all the criticism of today's youth.

I often hear people saying how selfish and self-absorbed the youth of today are, and I have been guilty of that at times.

But I have a truly amazing, and heartwarming event to tell you and your readers about.

Yesterday, 23 December, I was walking across one of the river bridges in Fuengirola, the one near the car showrooms near St Andrew's Church.

I glanced down into the dry and mud/weed/grass-strewn riverbed and was intrigued to see two young men, probably in their late teens/early twenties pulling at the grass areas and extracting something from the mud, then putting it into a plastic basket.

Curious, I walked nearer and asked them what they were doing. I cannot tell you how amazed and humbled I was by their reply.

They said they were doing what they could to help the planet and were pulling used toilet paper and sanitary items from the river bed to stop it washing into the sea when the next rains came.

These two young men weren't out with their friends or using the last couple of days before Christmas to go shopping; they were total volunteers, not employed by an organisation, or more importantly Fuengirola town hall, and were clearing up the selfish actions of people who constantly flush inappropriate items down the toilet, businesses who manufacture these things and authorities who don't take responsibility for this major problem.

I sincerely hope that this letter acts as huge thank you for their selfless actions.

Their names were Álvaro and Darío.

ROBERT HUDSON
BY EMAIL

Reducing numbers

I reply to the parakeets letter of December 13th 2019. I think the writer was barking, or "squawking" up the wrong tree when he said, "...parakeets need to get rid of us for shamelessly taking their territory."

Parakeets, rather like most of us, are immigrants. They are

not native to Spain, having been introduced by man. They have no natural predators to keep their numbers in balance, so town halls need to take action. Regarding UK immigrants: Brexit may reduce their numbers. (That's a joke of course.)

JULIAN WARD
BY EMAIL

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Some say, and quite rightly so, that the false debate over political correctness and incorrectness is an argument between two sides that refuse to think for themselves.

In the case of political correctness, everything appears to have been preconceived: what to say and how to say it. It might have been born as an expression of consensus reached over certain democratic values that were considered to be well established, but by favouring form over content and abandoning the battle of ideas it has become a useless shell.

That's possibly why recently there has been a surge in commentators who act as if being politically incorrect were a form of transgression, of autonomous thought,

of rebellion in the face of a thought dictatorship. And so, to be original, transgressive, and intellectually independent all you need is to define yourself as politically incorrect.

If there is consensus over the reality of abused and murdered women, all you have to do is deny

the existence of violence against women. If there is a general rejection of machismo, you only have to point a finger at the feminists. If a majority has established that all citizens have the same rights irrespective of their sexual orientation, you just go back to the most repressive traditional values. If

2020 vision

PETER EDGERTON
MUSIC MAKER WWW.E-PETER.COM

2020. Whodathunkit? It doesn't seem that long ago that the year 2000 was a wildly futuristic concept and now, here we are, on the threshold of the third decade of the twenty-first century. It's utterly mind-boggling. What delights, then, will the coming twelve months bring?

A new SpongeBob film apparently, plus a Daniel Craig as James Bond offering to boot. It's difficult to predict which of the two will have the more outlandish storyline but, safe to say, at least one of the main characters involved will, at some point, find himself at the bottom of the ocean in dubious circumstances.

We've also got that European Cup thingy (not sure of its official title) in July with England remarkably being touted as favourites by many bookmakers despite facing the Czech Republic and Croatia in

the group stages and er, well, being England. Belgium are probably worth a flutter if you're that way inclined.

We've also got the Tokyo Summer Olympics to look forward to - well, unless you're Russian - and then a tournament of that risible version of cricket that looks more like rounders, the TediousTwenty or whatever it's called will take place in Australia. Or South Africa. Or somewhere else. I can't remember.

Away from sport, we have the unfettered joy of the United States elections to look forward to, pitting the presumably recently impeached, yet markedly unscathed, Donald Trump against one of the very, very old candidates the Democrats seem hell bent on pushing forward. The three months prior to election night will largely consist of Fox News and CNN offering completely conflicting narratives of the exact same

events to lots of people in their own echo chambers all munching on hot dogs and pizzas the size of Texas until somebody eventually wins and the losers are left to look on aghast, scratching their heads incredulously because they've never met anyone who votes differently from them except for that weirdo who lives at number eighty-three with his mother and too many cats.

In music, Ozzy Osbourne is set to release a new album called Ordinary Man, presumably ironically. The Boomtown Rats and the Pet Shop Boys will also put records out and although nobody under the age of 103 buys them anymore, that fact shouldn't trouble the sales figures of either group.

In other news, we pause to give thanks for our health and good fortune to live in times of such relative peace and abundance.

Happy New Year to one and all.

IDÍGORAS



Incorrect

HÉCTOR BARBOTTA

there is concern at the growth of inequality, you simply maintain that inequality is not a problem and neither does it create poverty. If society has become aware that we are facing an environmental emergency, you just have to deny that evidence of climate change exists.

These opinions that aim to be transgressive in their political incorrectness have proliferated as if they were an expression of independent thought, when really they are only doing what they themselves criticise. It is political correctness but the other way round. The same intellectual laziness, but taking the side of the most powerful in each game.

With this false patina of transgression and rebellion, opinions

that have been hidden away for some time have come out of the closet of shame.

Therefore it should come as no surprise that a teacher who showed his students a video about violence against women recently has been interrogated by a judge on suspicion of committing a criminal offence; that a girl campaigning against climate change receives more abuse than the governments that do nothing to fight it; that the public prosecutor's office considers that criticising Nazism could be a hate crime; or that we witness a wave of solidarity with three men convicted of raping a 15-year-old girl.

It's a serious mistake to ignore the fact that some battles are never won completely, and that they have to be fought over and over again.

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Destination 2020

Travel inspiration for the coming year



Samarkand, Uzbekistan. :: MAXIMUM EXPOSURE LTD

The New Year is almost upon us - a nostalgic time when we are also full of ideas, hopes and wishes for what's ahead. Probably you've decided you want to travel more in 2020; so here's a little inspiration for planning that trip you've always promised yourself.

JANUARY Antarctica

No doubt you're thinking, "Antarctica; really?!" Admittedly it's ambitious to make a journey to the planet's southernmost continent. Also, if you really are up for such an adventure to the icy south pole then the truth is that you need to start planning for 2021 as January is high season, and many expeditions and cruises will already be booked with travellers wishing to follow, metaphorically speaking, in the footsteps of famous naval explorers, Scott and Shackleton.

January is 'summer' across the Great White Continent, when waterways open up to specialist cruises (typically departing from Argentina). Temperatures can average around 15 degrees centigrade at this time of year, and it's one of the best months to see the wildlife of the peninsula, and surrounding islands.

During days of 20 plus hours of sunlight you're promised to see not only dramatic scenes of icebergs but also penguins and their fluffy chicks, humpback whales as well as seabirds.

FEBRUARY Maldives

Over recent years these idyllic 'desert islands' in the Indian ocean have become more accessible than ever, as the government has opened more of the once uninhabited islands to upscale spa resort tourism. Said to be the flattest country on earth, rising sea levels threaten many of the 1,192 coral islands that make up the 26 atolls of the Republic.

**ANDREW
FORBES**

✉ Twitter: @andrewforbes



So now is the time for that Maldives holiday. Expect exceptional beaches and clear waters with abundant sea life. It's the place for snorkelling, scuba diving, windsurfing or even taking a seaplane tour. The Maldives make for a unique holiday experience that can be easily combined with a trip to Dubai or Singapore.

MARCH Mexico

Mexico has been one of my favourite destinations of 2019, when I

stayed in the Spanish colonial city of San Miguel de Allende. This North American country is far larger than many expect, with such remarkable diversity.

Despite concerns about security, much of Mexico is safe for international travellers. If you like the idea of romantic colonial cities, also consider Puebla and Oaxaca, both with postcard perfect architecture and fascinating culture. They are close to the Unesco biosphere of Tehuacán-Cuicatlán, which, with its forests of cacti, is considered the most biodiverse area in North America.

APRIL Japan

With the 2020 Summer Olympic Games coming to Tokyo, the world's attention will be focused on this

remarkable island nation.

Japan has never been easier to explore. English is widely spoken in the hospitality sector and also used across public transport signage and information screens. Although Tokyo and Kyoto are the tourist hotspots in April with the Sakura cherry blossom season, also try to head north or south to get really immersed in the culture.

The northern part of Honshū, Japan's main island, is eager to welcome back visitors, following the earthquake and tsunami of 2011. It's a land of forests and volcanos.

Or travel to Kyushu, the southernmost of the main islands, with stunning volcanic scenery, hot springs spa hotels and the chance to travel on the Seven Stars Cruising Train, one of the most luxurious in the world.

MAY

Bosnia and Herzegovina

This former Yugoslavian nation is finally getting its moment in the spotlight. While neighbouring Croatia is heading for over-tourism, Bosnia and Herzegovina has until recently been largely ignored. Mostar's rebuilt bridge is a recognisable icon, but go beyond, to discover the wine country and architectural charm of Sarajevo.

JUNE

United Kingdom

June is my favourite month in the UK; the countryside is so verdant, the weather is usually good and it's still not overly busy with international visitors. A favourite itinerary is a road-trip through Scotland, staying at B&Bs. Or, as Lonely Planet recently recommended, discover part of England's Coast Path. Building on the success of the Wales Coast Path, this trail is set for completion in 2020, making it the longest trail in Europe.

JULY

Asturias

The north west of Spain is probably not blessed with the peninsula's best climate, but it remains one of my all-time favourite parts of the country. Asturias has an outstanding greenway route evocatively called the 'Senda del Oso' or Bear Trail. This greenway runs the course of a former mining railway, making it an ideal hiking or cycling holiday through some of Spain's most spectacular scenery. The route also passes some of the Cercados Oseros, (secured, natural reserves for bears) where Cantabrian brown bears are being reintroduced and nurtured in the wild.

AUGUST

Guyana

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was said to



Kaieteur Falls. :: GUYANA TOURISM AUTHORITY



Lifeguard station, Tel Aviv. :: TOURISTISRAEL.COM



Bento tray, Japan. :: FORBES



Red-billed toucan. :: GUAYANA

Towards sustainable travel

Travel and tourism is undoubtedly one of the world's important drivers of wealth and job creation. Yet the continual growth in travel means we all need to think about our impact on the environment. "Take only pictures, leave only footprints" is an ethos that is more relevant than ever. While taking a

flight for holidays is controversial these days, there are still ways we can minimise our impact and make travel more sustainable.

Reduce waste and avoid plastics - I recall when I first visited the Maldives almost 20 years ago, we were asked to take plastic and non-organic waste that we had created back home with us in our suitcases - that meant plastic water bottles, shampoo bottles, exhausted batteries etc. That's not the case now, and the Maldives are

truly struggling with waste management as landfill is impossible.

Spend locally - as global corporations control more of the travel infrastructure, from airlines, to hotels, look to spend locally, like buying produce or foods at markets, or choosing handicrafts that are genuinely made locally.

Protect the oceans - sunscreen is very damaging to the oceans and coral reefs, so next time you purchase sun protection, look for products that are 'reef-safe'.

With the 2020 Summer Olympics coming to Tokyo, the world's attention will be focused on Japan

have been inspired by Guyana's rainforests, waterfalls and savannahs for his science fiction novel, *The Lost World*. Although you won't find any dinosaurs here, you might well see some of South America's giants including giant river otters, giant anteaters, as well as jaguars.

Talking of impressive, Guyana is also home to the mighty Kaieteur Falls - the world's largest single-drop waterfall.

SEPTEMBER Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan, at the heart of the Silk Road, is a central Asian nation with a captivating, storied history. Bukhara, Khiva and Samarkand are iconic cities of the ancient Silk Road trade route, and thanks to the country now being visa-free for European visitors, they are much easier to visit.

See first-hand Samarkand's breathtaking old-world Islamic architecture and the ornate soviet-style metro stations of Tashkent; and tuck into the delicious Uzbek cuisine that reflects centuries of cultures colliding.

OCTOBER Israel

The Eurovision Song Contest 2019 was hosted in Tel Aviv - just in case you missed that! Statistics suggested that 182 million people didn't miss the televised concerts and the media attention certainly put Israel back on the tourist map.

Tel Aviv, probably the most progressive and open city in the Middle East, is known for its International Style/Bauhaus period architecture in the Unesco World Heritage White City area, as well as museums, galleries and sophisticated nightlife. The city also boasts Mediterranean beaches - a great place to enjoy some autumn sunshine. A Tel Aviv city break can also be combined with trips to the port of Jaffa and beyond to Jerusalem, the city considered holy by Jews, Christians and Muslims.

NOVEMBER Morocco

North Africa is so close to Europe yet retains its unique, exotic appeal. Marrakech is set to be African City of Culture 2020; Fes, the former Imperial Capital, is the city to visit for the most remarkable ancient medina; and Tangier has emerged as the must-visit city in Morocco.

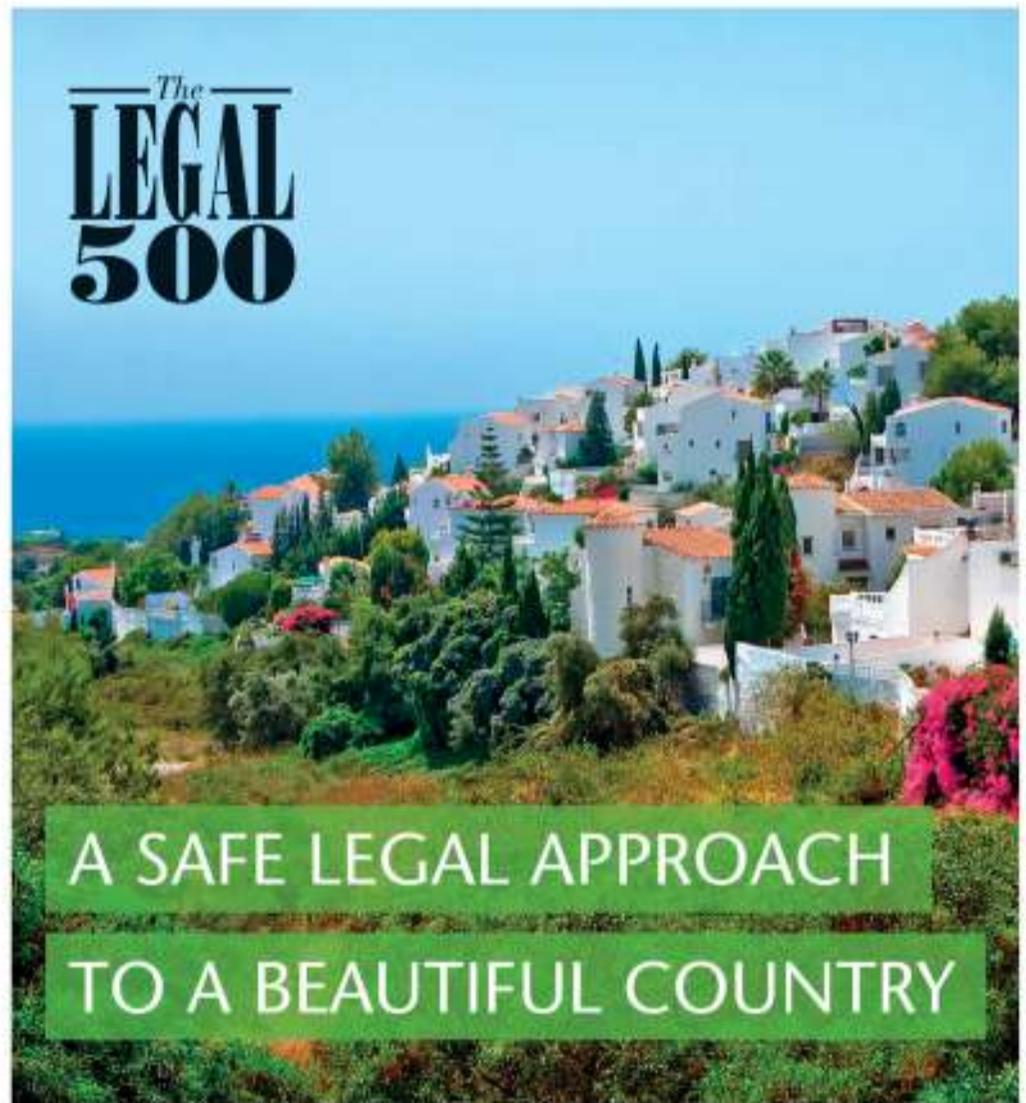
Tangier has undergone an outstanding renaissance with new hotels and improved infrastructure including a new port and the high-speed train service to Casablanca.

DECEMBER Canary Islands

The islands of eternal spring are a pleasure to visit throughout the year, although Tenerife and Gran Canaria remain firm favourites for winter sun, with a choice of short-haul flights and accommodation to match various budgets.

If you're looking to travel a little off the beaten trail, then from Tenerife or Gran Canaria it is possible to take a short flight to the lesser known islands such as El Hierro, for memorable volcanic scenery and wild nature; and La Gomera for the Unesco biosphere nature of laurel forests and unusual geology.

Wishing you all safe and happy travels in 2020!



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THE DIRECTORY

Hot hotels for 2020

Top places to stay in Spain, the UK and beyond

BY ANDREW FORBES

Ikos Andalusia - SPAIN

Opening in May 2020 on Playa de Guadalmanza, west of Marbella, Ikos Andalusia is a new, luxury all-inclusive resort, and the first Ikos property outside of Greece.

Built across 21 acres with views of the Med, the hotel has 411 guest rooms, including one- and two-bedroom suites for couples and families, with a choice of private balconies, gardens, and individual pools.

Guests are promised signature à la carte menus curated by Michelin-starred chefs, beauty products from Anne Sémonin Paris, a choice of 300 wine labels, beach waiter service, complimentary kids' clubs, and 24-hour room service.

IkosResorts.com/Ikos-Andalusia

Kimpton Blythswood Square Hotel - SCOTLAND

It's hard to believe, but the Kimpton Blythswood Square Hotel is Glasgow's first five-star hotel. Celebrating beautiful Georgian architecture, the hotel brings Kimpton's stylish interpretation of boutique luxury to Scotland's biggest city.

Expect a spa, 113 guest rooms, and upscale dining offering classic Scottish dishes and indulgent afternoon teas.

KimptonBlythswoodSquare.com

Riad Hotel La Maison Blanche - Morocco

Tangier is the hip city-break destination in Morocco for 2020, and La Maison Blanche, an exquisite Riad in the city's ancient Kasbah, is the place to stay.

Lovingly restored by owner Aziz Begdouri, each guest room is uniquely decorated with hand-painted walls and an-



Finca Serena.



Anantara Villa Padierna.

tique furniture, reflecting the international history of Tangier.

LaMaisonBlancheTanger.com

Hotel Palacio Solecio - SPAIN

Malaga city finally gets a luxury boutique hotel in the heart of the old town. Retaining the façade of an 18th-century former palace, this upscale property combines local old-world charm with sparkling new guest rooms and suites, some with views over the rooftops of the old Jewish quarter to the cathedral and the Alcazaba.

PalacioSolecio.com

Tokyo Edition Hotels - JAPAN

Opening in time for the 2020 Summer Olympics, Edition Hotels is opening two new properties in the Japanese capital. The 80-room Tokyo Edition Ginza opens in the popular shopping district, while the 200-room Tokyo Edition Toranomon will breathe new life into the former Pastoral Building in the city's

business district.

Both properties promise Edition Hotels' unique glamour and style. EditionHotels.com

Finca Serena - SPAIN

Re-opening on 31 January 2020, this peaceful, rural property is the place to discover the hidden, authentic Mallorca. Finca Serena is an exclusive country resort, where luxury has been pared back to its purest form: exclusivity, authenticity and privacy.

This charming property, evocative of a welcoming farmstead, is a refreshing mix of understated cool, contemporary finesse and a relaxed, vibe. Away from the coastal crowds and the bustle of the city, it's easily reached from Palma's airport in less than half an hour's drive. FincaSerenaMallorca.com

Hotel Brooklyn - ENGLAND

Manchester's Portland Street is set to get a flavour of one of New York's most dynamic boroughs. The design-led, 189-room Hotel Brooklyn not only promises style and attitude when it opens next spring, but also beautiful, inclusive design making the hotel also accessible to anyone living with a disability.

HotelBrooklyn.co.uk

Palladium Hotel Menorca - SPAIN

Menorca, probably the most unspoilt and charming of the Balearics, will have a new four-star hotel this summer, perfect for travellers wanting to discover more of this foodie island.

Opening on the Menorca's north-east coast, on a hilltop overlooking countryside and the Arenal d'en Castell bay, the Palladium Hotel Menorca will feature two large pools, one especially for children, a variety of activities, entertainment and Zensations by Zentropia Palladium Spa & Wellness. PalladiumHotelGroup.com

Telegraph Hotel - ENGLAND

Coventry has been awarded UK City of Culture for 2021, and the city is busy preparing itself to host international visitors.

2020 will see the opening of the Telegraph Hotel, in the historic former premises of the Coventry Evening Telegraph. The new 88-room property will transform the iconic city-centre building and promises to invoke the famed mid-century 1950s architecture of Coventry and reflect its former life as a thriving newspaper and print works. Telegraph-Hotel.com

Anantara Villa Padierna Palace Hotel - SPAIN

The Anantara Villa Padierna Palace Benahavis Marbella Resort is to get a new lease of life with some genuine world-class hospitality sparkle. The hotel, made famous when Michelle Obama was a guest, is now under the care of Anantara Hotels, Spas and Resorts, the Asia-based experts in 'elevated luxury'. The list of new additions for 2020 includes a bespoke cocktail menu at Eddy's

Bar designed by Diego Cabrera, the mixologist that revolutionised the Madrid cocktail scene. Dining options embrace 99 Sushi Bar & Restaurant, the award-winning international restaurant renowned for contemporary Japanese gastronomy, as well as 'O' by Paco Roncero, the Michelin star Spanish chef who has designed dishes for the hotel which are inspired by Andalusian flavours.

Anantara.com/en/villa-padierna-marbella/



Palacio Solecio.



Blythswood Square.



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WHERE IN THE WORLD?



A politically incorrect festival



NOVEMBER'S PHOTO

Although considered totally unacceptable nowadays to paint your face to appear to be of another race, this is exactly

what goes on every 2 to 7 January in this city.

The centuries old tradition has been honoured with World Heritage status and goes back to a

time of slaves and slave masters. Nowadays the festival is celebrated with a colourful procession up to seven kilometres long of people in fancy dress and

elaborately decorated floats.

The boisterous events include dancers and musicians, and foam and talcum powder are liberally showered over the revellers.

If you know the name of the festival and where it is held you could win a prize.

Please send the name of the city, the country and that of the event taking place, to english@diariosur.es.

Only entries with your full name, address and telephone number will be considered.

Last month's photo showed The Kensington Oval, Bridgetown in Barbados where the National Independence Day Parade takes place every 30 November.

Congratulations to Barry Bentley who answered last month's Where In The World? correctly. Your prize will be on its way to you soon.

Send your answer to english@diariosur.es

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IN THE FRAME

Sharing a lifelong passion for opera

As in most parts of the world, the University of the Third Age (U3A) in Fuengirola is run by group leaders who offer their services free in order to share their knowledge and skills in an activity of their choice. No qualifications are required but groups are usually formed based on the experience or knowledge of a group leader in a particular field.

Sixty-eight-year-old Patrick Shaw discovered the U3A in Fuengirola in 2009, after a friend he was visiting in Fuengirola introduced him to the group. Patrick is now the U3A's Opera group leader and he uses his vast knowledge as a performer and aficionado of the subject to deepen participants' knowledge of significant works and icons in the world of opera and ballet.

Patrick retired from active performing several years ago with a season at the Arena di Verona, where he performed on the same stage as Andrea Bocelli and Cécilia Gasdia. During his performing years Patrick appeared with The Metropolitan Opera, Houston Grand Opera and the Opera National de Paris, and he now uses his experiences to enhance his forthrightly classes at the Lux Mundi Ecumenical centre in Fuengirola.

Fascination with Spain

Patrick became fascinated with Spain after a holiday in Madrid and has since come to love the country he calls home for six months of the year.

"I fell in love with Spain in the mid-80s when I stayed with a friend in Madrid. I first came to Fuengirola about ten years ago because a fellow teacher from Tokyo had bought a flat here and I came to visit. He had been a member of the U3A and it was knowing this that led to me joining," Patrick explains to SUR in English.

Patrick was born into a musical Scottish family in 1951. His mother was a professional pianist, while his father was a member of Glasgow's renowned Orpheus Choir. Patrick attended The Glasgow Academy and quickly showed an interest in sport and music. He captained the school swimming team and enjoyed rugby, but he got great pleasure from singing in the school choir and Madrigal Group.

In 1969, Patrick enrolled at St An-

draws University, the oldest university in Scotland, and it was here that he had the privilege to sing in the University Chapel Choir under the British musician and composer Cedric Thorpe Davie.

On Graduation, Patrick gained employment with the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC). After passing his Association of the Institute of Bankers Exams, he was posted to Hamburg.

"Somewhat amazingly, I successfully passed the bankers exams and was posted to the bank's Hamburg office. It was a ridiculously culturally rich year for me, especially as the Hamburg Opera House was lit-

erally around the corner," he recalls with affection.

In 1976, Patrick was transferred to what was then HSBC's head office in Hong Kong. In 1979, he left the world of finance and joined the British Council, where he was employed to design, write and teach courses to Chinese bankers. He next moved to Tokyo to work at an English language school, where one of his pupils was the celebrated Japanese conductor, Tadaaki Otaaka.

Patrick took up a full-time teaching position which allowed him to work at a number of universities, teaching a variety of subjects ranging from Elementary to Advanced Phonetics, the History of the English Language and Business English. It was around this time that he began working with foreign opera companies that were touring Japan and this gave him the opportunity to mix with some of the genre's most revered performers.

"I began working at La Scala in

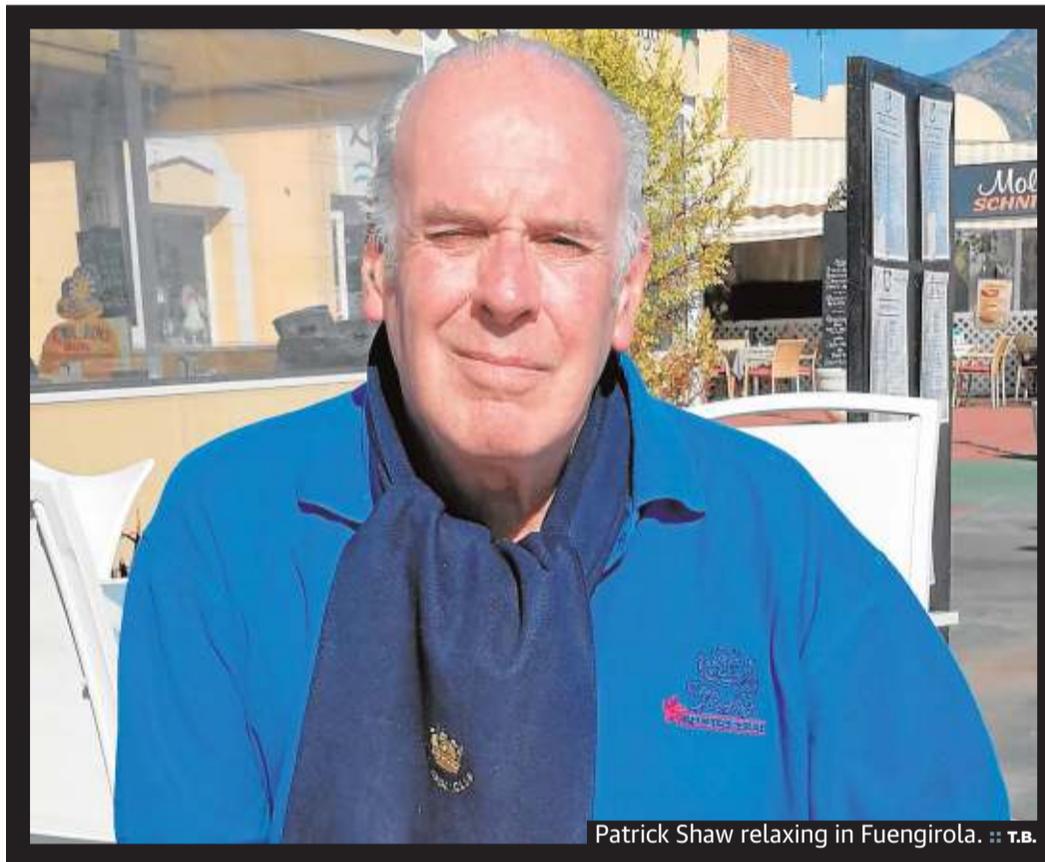
"All of the U3A members are stellar in one way or another"

Tokyo in the late 1980s. Their principal sponsor advertised in the Japan Times for foreigners wanting to perform in Wagner's Ring Cycle. I somehow got the job. I met all of the singers at various parties, and once met the new Japanese Emperor when he came backstage after one show," he says.

Today, his time is largely divided between the UK, the Far East and Fuengirola. His opera classes are informative and fun and have become popular with U3A members.

Patrick has dedicated much of his life to music and the arts and he obviously gains great pleasure from helping other people understand and appreciate opera. He believes passionately in the maxim that 'Art should flow through the blood of all young people'.

"All of the U3A members are stellar in one way or another. It is a colossal privilege to have been given the opportunity to introduce them to the opera that I have found uplifting and spiritually nourishing," Patrick concludes.



Patrick Shaw relaxing in Fuengirola. :: T.B.

The 68-year-old language teacher's fascination with opera began while singing in St Andrews University Choir. He went on to perform at several world-class opera houses and now shares his knowledge of the genre with the U3A in Fuengirola

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DENISE BUSH

GARDENING

The screw pine

This is a dramatic tropical plant with multiple trunks, bearing spirals of long strap-like leaves

Pandanus is a genus of around 750 accepted species native to the tropical and sub-tropical Old World. Common names for this unusual plant include screw palm and screw pine although it is not related to pines at all and only distantly re-

lated to palms.

The strap-like leaves of between eighty centimetres to two metres in length, depending on the species, arch out in a spiral from the stems. They are edged with vicious

hooked spines.

Pandanus are dioecious; the male and female flowers appear on separate plants. The male flowers are creamy-white, two to three centimetres long and fragrant. The flowers on the female plant are not so fragrant but are followed by tight clusters of bright-green drupes which resemble a pineapple. As the fruit ripens it turns orange and red.

Although not poisonous the fruit of Pandanus is bitter and astringent.

Propagation is by removing new shoots with a sharp knife and placing them in a mixture of potting compost and sharp sand. They can also be grown by seed.

The leaves of Pandanus are used to make baskets, mats, hats etc. and *P. amaryllifolius* is used as a vanilla-like spice in cakes and puddings in south-east Asia.

Although moderately drought resistant, Pandanus grows faster if watered regularly and given fortnightly feeds during the growing season (summer). It will withstand salty sea air and is adaptable to most soils but will not survive a frost. A good position would be sheltered by strong winds but in bright sunlight or partial shade. In ideal conditions it will live for around fifteen years.

Species in the Pandanus genus were originally collected in the mid-1860s by John G Veitch. He is also responsible for introducing some of the old varieties of Cordyline and Codiaeum to Europe and the US.



A variegated Pandanus species and fruit (inset). :: WIKIMEDIA

READERS' PHOTOS



:: MARIA HILLEN

A BEAUTIFUL BIG SUNFLOWER

Winter is not all doom and gloom, especially not in Maria Hillen's garden where this sunflower is in bloom.



:: CAROLINE SELLERS

STRANGE FLOWERS

Caroline Sellers spotted several *Fatsia japonica* growing in her local park and sent SUR in English a photo. It is also called the False Castor Oil plant as its leaves are a similar shape to the true Castor Oil plant (*Ricinus communis*).

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

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

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



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Apartado de correos 14.044 (29080 - Málaga)

2,600 fascinating facts about Periana

José Manuel Frías Raya has written a book detailing the village's most important dates

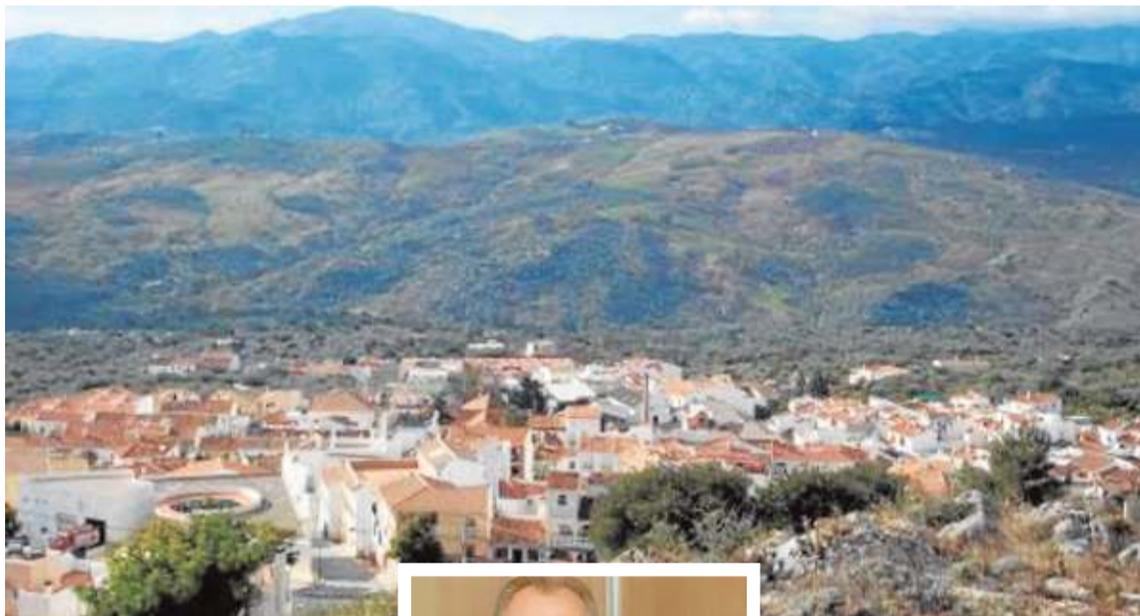
AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

PERIANA. Teresa Benítez García, 'La Paulilla', the last Mass caller in Periana, died on 18 May 2016 at the age of 80. A week after a Periana resident passed away, Benítez García would call at each house in the village to advise people that Mass was going to be given the following day for them. Sometimes it was more than a week, depending on the availability of the priest. A year after the death, Mass was given again and she would call on people to remind them to be at the church the following day.

This is just one of the curious facts about Periana that José Manuel Frías Raya, who was born in the village in 1955, has written about in his new book, 2,600 Periana Efemérides (anniversaries). The book, which is written in Spanish, was officially launched at an event in Periana last month.

The last barber-dentist

On 22 January 1990 Carlos Arrebola Larrubia, known as Carlos Marchamona, died. He was the village's last barber-dentist. On 17 May 1951 Luis Melchor Santiago was born in the Cueva de la Curra. He went on to become a flamenco singer, better known



A view over Periana. :: SUR

as Gitanillo de Vélez.

Frías Raya, the author of this new book, was given a bursary to study at an Escuela Franco school in Malaga in 1969 when he was 14 and two years later his mother, María Dolores Raya Mata, moved to the city where she worked as a caretaker. One of the residents of the building she looked after, a



José Manuel Frías Raya. :: SUR

headmistress from a local school, used to leave newspapers with them and the young Frías Raya would read them.

One day he came across a news item about Periana and from that day on, he collected and archived every story about the village that appeared in the paper. He went on to research events that happened there as far back as 1516 and 50 years of research and collecting

snippets has culminated in the 550-page book.

Grief over a mother-in-law

The book documents the day that Periana officially became an independent village on 4 June 1761, when it had just 60 residents and when in the morning of 7 March 1937, one month after the village was taken by Franco's troops, 19 children born during the republican era were baptised in the church. On the same afternoon 19 couples who had previously had civil weddings were married in the church, which was obligatory under Franco's rule.

There is even the story, which made national newspapers on 8 September 1883, of a man who returned to Periana from his job as a foreman in a cortijo, only to hear that his mother-in-law had died the night before. He took the news so badly that he died from grief two days later. The headline in a newspaper in Seville read, 'To change the image that mother-in-laws deserve.'

On 5 July 2000, Periana heralded the return of Manuel Fernández Gallego, known as 'Manolo el Mellillero', after 25 years as an emigrant in Barcelona and then Switzerland. He returned to the village to become a farmer.

And of course, the book includes José Antonio Frías Ruiz, who was born in Periana and became director of SUR newspapers on 1 February 1995. It also reports his death on 11 October 2018.

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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

27 DECEMBER 1703

England and Portugal sign a Port Wine Treaty

When Portugal changed sides and joined forces with the English in the Spanish War of Succession, it had a negative effect on the thriving sherry industry in Jerez

The Methuen Treaty, or Port Wine Treaty, as it became known, was signed between Portugal and England in 1703, during the early years of the Spanish War of Succession, to establish trading relationships between the two countries.

At the beginning of that war Portugal had been aligned with France, who had promised to provide naval protection. However, when the English navy sailed dangerously close to Lisbon as it travelled to and from Cadiz, the Portuguese decided France wasn't keeping its side of the deal and it



John Methuen. :: SUR

would be better to change sides.

The Methuen treaties, one military and the other commercial, were the result of that decision and were named in honour of lead negotiator John Methuen, an MP who was also England's Ambassador to Portugal at the time.

The Port Wine Treaty stipulated that English textiles, mainly woolen cloth, was to be admitted into Portugal free of tax and in return, Portuguese wines imported into England would be subject to a third less tax than wines imported from France.

This was particularly important in helping the port industry to develop. As England was at



Barrels of port in a bodega. :: SUR

war with France, it became increasingly difficult to acquire wine, and so people started buying port instead.

This had a knock-on effect on the Spanish sherry industry in Jerez, in Cadiz province. The War of Succession and later Napoleonic

was resulted in sales to England and the Netherlands dropping considerably as the hostilities increased, and there was also a change in European tastes due to port becoming more accessible thanks to the Methuen Treaty.

Many of the sherry producers

found themselves left with unsold stock ageing in oak barrels in their bodegas, but as a result the taste of this wine became more concentrated and nutty.

The producers would only bottle enough sherry as they needed according to demand, and then top up the barrel with some of their younger wine. This practice, which is now known as the famous 'solera', introduced new flavours and aromas and the wines developed new characters as they aged and became increasingly popular.

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Tratado	Treaty
Guerra	War
Francia	France
Inglaterra	England
Relación	Relationship
Embajador	Ambassador
Oporto	Port wine
Vinos	Wines
Textil	Fabric
Lana	Wool
Impuestos	Taxes
Industria	Industry
Ventas	Sales
Barriles	Barrels
Bodega	Winery
Envejecimiento	Ageing
Sabores	Flavours
Carácter	Character

LEGAL ADVICE



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REF. E. N. I.

I work in a restaurant as a waiter and some time ago, when we were serving diners, I went into the kitchen and I slipped in a puddle, as the kitchen helper was scrubbing the floor. As a consequence, I broke my arm, and am on sick leave. The point is that my work contract expires within a few days, and I would like to

know if I will continue receiving the allowance that I am receiving now or if the payments will stop when the contract expires.

In this sense, law establishes that when an employee is on sick leave and during that time the contract expires, he will continue receiving the allowance until the leave concludes.

REF. D. R. A.

Last week I went out with some friends to dinner to celebrate my birthday. After some drinks we decided to go to the casino to play poker, but when we got there, a member of the staff asked for our identifications, and told me that I could not go in. I did not understand what he meant, and maybe due to the drinks that I had had, I asked him quite rudely the reason why I could not come in. The caretaker moved me away

from my friends and whispered that I could not go in because my name appeared in a list of gambling addicts. After that, one of the security guards invited me to leave the casino. What does that mean? This was the first time that I had visited the casino, and I am certainly no gambler. I am not interested in going to the casino but I don't like the fact that my name appears in a list of gambling addicts, when I am not. How can I rectify this?

Casinos and the rest of gaming establishments, such as bingo halls, video arcades and gamerooms, are the ones that elaborate these lists, and anyone, usually gamblers, can register on them voluntarily, in order to be banned from entering, thus avoiding the temptation. No one can register someone on those lists without their consent, so you should speak with the manager of the casino to remove your name from the list.



:: SUR

GIFTS FOR DEPRIVED YOUNGSTERS

More than 300 toys and gifts were collected for children in danger of social exclusion during the fifth edition of the Toy Run in Torremolinos last weekend. Organised by the Komando Amimoto motorcycle club and Torremolinos town hall, 200 bikers dressed as Santa Claus participated in collection of toys from participating shops and commercial outlets in Torremolinos.

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DISCOVER ANDALUCÍA



Plaza de las Tendillas New Year's Eve. :: VOCENTO



Panoramic view of Cordoba. :: TURISMO ANDALUZ



QUICK GUIDE

What to see in Cordoba

◀ The Mosque-Cathedral.

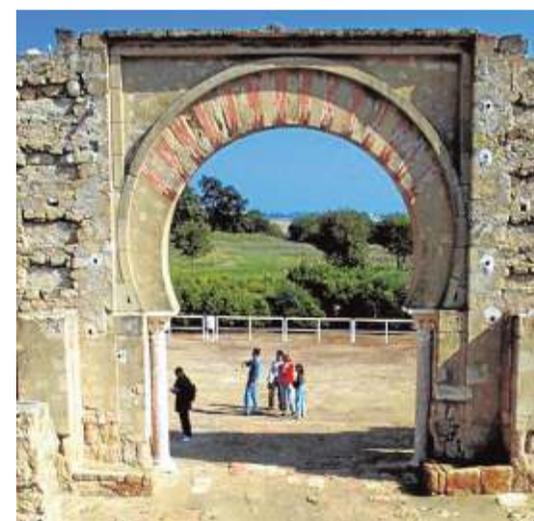
This is the city's most emblematic monument, housing both a Muslim and a Christian temple. Calle Torrijos, 10. 14003 Cordoba.

◀ Real Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos.

Old Arabian fortress, located today in the historical centre of the town. Campo Santo de los Mártires, s/n. 14004 Cordoba.

◀ Medina Azahara.

Remains of an Arab palace built in the 10th century. Carretera Palma del Río, km. 5,5. 14071 Cordoba.



Synagogue. The Jewish temple in the centre of Cordoba. Calle de los Judíos, s/n. 14001 Cordoba.

◀ Plaza de las Tendillas.

Emblematic pedestrianised space which connects the historic part of Cordoba city with the commercial area. Plaza de las Tendillas, s/n. 14001 Cordoba.

Ending the year in Las Tendillas

JAVIER
ALMELLONES

2 days in Cordoba

Car and walking.

Duration of journey: 1 and a half hours from Malaga.

New Year's Eve celebrations: 4 hours.

Visits to monuments and museums: 7 hours.



Cordoba is preparing to bid farewell to 2019 in one of the most emblematic places in Andalucía, its famous Plaza de las Tendillas.

This celebration of the precise moment when one year ends and another begins has become a must for many Cordoba residents, but also for many visitors too.

A good excuse to take

part in this New Year's celebration is to see the famous clock of Las Tendillas, one of the most exemplary in all Andalucía.

For several years the Las Tendillas plaza in Cordoba has hosted a great party for the end of the year, including a multimedia show.

From an hour and a half before midnight until after two in the morning, those who come to Plaza de las Tendillas will find a unique

atmosphere, already well known across Cordoba.

Fireworks, sound and light shows, a release of balloons, confetti cannons and artificial snow will be just some of the attractions for this special New Year's Eve staging in what was once the capital of the Caliphate.

After swallowing the traditional grapes, locals and visitors can enjoy a toast in which, in addition to the typical cava, the local wine a Pedro Ximénez Denomination of Origin will be available.

Well before this party, children will also be able to enjoy the occasion. On 31 December between 10am and 1pm there will be a park with attractions, musical performances, parades and even some bell ringing.

Another way to say goodbye to the year, but in a different way, will be after 3pm in the traditional Carrera de San Silvestre race.

The New Year's Concert, which will take place on the night of 1 January, and the rest of Cordoba's Christmas programme make this Andalusian city an ideal destination to enjoy the festivities, either with family or friends.

And while there, appreciate the monumental legacy of this ancient city.



Calleja de las Flores. :: TURISMO ANDALUZ



▲► **Black and white.** Much of Alechinsky's work is in monochrome due to his passion for Chinese ink and the use of antique paper. :: NITO SALAS

►▼ **Opening.** Noelia Losada, Francisco de la Torre, Serge Lasvignes, José María Luna and José Medina Galeote, at the presentation. On the right, one of the mosaics. :: SUR



THE EXHIBITION

► **Title:** 'Alechinsky en el país de la tinta'.

► **Organised by:** Centre Pompidou Malaga, in collaboration with the Graphic Arts Department of the head office in Paris, and the support of Fundación Unicaja.

► **Content:** 75 works covering nearly 70 years of Alechinsky's artistic career.

► **Dates:** Open now and until 12 April.

► **Opening hours:** 9.30am to 8pm. Closed Tuesdays.

Alechinsky was one of the Cobra group, which influenced the rest of his artistic career

In the 1960s he started using acrylic paint, with which he could draw more freely

The group lasted for less than five years; its members separated because of differences that arose between them, but it had a major influence on Alechinsky.

Geometric rigidity

There is an avant-garde aspect hidden in the electric shadows of this artist, something which also characterised the Cobra group, against the geometric rigidity of the 1940s, which can be seen from the use of materials which are less rigid than oil paint in the works.

From the 1960s Alechinsky started to be attracted by the fluidity of acrylics and Chinese ink (the latter practically became his trade mark) until he created 'Central Park' in 1965, one of his greatest works and the first in which he added notes to the margin, another classic sign of identity for him.

During the presentation, it was clear to see that the mayor and the president of the Centre Pompidou have a good relationship, the result of five years of working together during which the art centre had become "much more than a gallery", a place "where decisions and risks are taken," as Lasvignes described it.

De la Torre explained that in Malaga there are still "many opportunities ahead", while the director of the public agency, José María Luna, admitted that "five years have flown past without us really noticing".

Losada described this exhibition as "the perfect end" to 2019, and also reminded those present that the temporary exhibition of works by Henri Matisse had been visited by 60,000 people.

Electric shadows at the Pompidou

'Alechinsky en el país de la tinta' consists of 75 works by the Belgian artist and printer, who is known for breaking through the rigours of expressionism



FERNANDO TORRES

✉ Twitter: @fernandotorresu

The exhibition, which is being seen outside France for the first time, brings the year to an end at the Pompidou and will continue until 12 April

MALAGA. In the brushstrokes you can perceive perfectly the emotion felt by Pierre Alechinsky when he did them, barefoot, intently focused, attacking a blank piece of

paper. The Belgian painter and printer is known for his ability to play with humour, poetry and the aesthetic in works charged with electricity, which range from Asiatic typographies to comics, often marked by the support upon which he creates his work and sometimes experiments.

At the Pompidou Centre in Malaga, until 12 April, there is the chance to see 'Alechinsky en el país de la tinta', an exhibition which is being shown outside France for the first time, and experience the electrical charge of 75 of his works.

The exhibition, which has been organised with the support of Fundación Unicaja, covers a long period of time, from 1950 to the present day. Moving between these works is like a journey to the per-

fect fusion of surrealism and expressionism which Alechinsky has portrayed all his life.

Each picture, no matter what its size, holds a sentiment which is trying to escape from the paper. In many cases, this Belgian artist draws on antique parchments and manuscripts from the 17th, 18th and 19th century, as well as maritime, aerial and military maps.

The exhibition was officially presented to the press last week. The mayor of Malaga, Francisco de la Torre; the president of the Centre Pompidou, Serge Lasvignes; the Councillor for Culture, Noelia Losada; the director of the public agency which runs the museum, José María Luna; the curator of the exhibition and head of the 'Cabinet d'art graphique' of the Pompi-

dou – the department responsible for preserving the works by Alechinsky - Jonas Storsve; and José Medina Galeote, representing Fundación Unicaja, were at the gallery to provide the details of this journey into the country of ink.

The curator of the exhibition explained the importance of the artist's membership of the Cobra group, a triad of artists whose name comes from the cities in which they were born (Copenhagen, Brussels and Amsterdam).

"Cobra was a completely informal group which came about through their rejection of the Second World War. They wanted not only to end the horror of conflict but also the cultural misery which resulted from that disaster," explained Storsve.

EXHIBITIONS



Madueño siblings, Mijás.

Andalusian and Arabian women

La Línea. Permanent exhibition. Museo José Cruz Herrera. Tues to Fri, 10am to 2pm and 5 to 8pm. Open Sat and Sun mornings only. Free.

201 pieces by José Cruz Herrera, principally portraits of Andalusian and Arabian women.

Journey

Alozaina. Until 11 January. Casa del Río.

Journey is the title of the exhibition which includes oils, acrylics and mixed media produced between 2013 until the present. The artist is dmcq.

Madueños Art

Mijás. Until 7 January. Casa Museo de Mijás.

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).

Coleccionismo Institucional Ronda.

Until 29 December. Museo Unicaja Joaquín Peinado, Plaza del Gigante.

An exhibition that unites works of different styles and formats found in the collections of various institutions.

International art

Marbella. Until 31 December. Kempinski Hotel Bahía. Free.

A trio of international artists present paintings, sculptures and crystallised works within the hotel Art Foyer and Art Gallery. One of the artists, San B, from London, works with Swarovski crystals and recently rose to fame by creating clothing for Bruno Mars and hip-hop act Wu Tang Clan.

www.kempinski.com/marbella

Seoane. Retratos.

Marbella. Until 22 May 2021.

Museo Ralli Marbella. The temporary exhibition is by



Luis Seoane, Marbella

Galician-Argentinian artist Luis Seoane.

Emmanuel Lafont

Marbella. Until 29 February. Galería Yusto /Giner, C/Madera.

La Gran Luz is the title of this exhibition of recent photographs in large format by Argentinian artist Emmanuel Lafont at the Yusto/Giner gallery.

Pictures for pets

Mijas Pueblo. Until 6 January. Clínica Veterinaria, Av México 21. Temporary exhibiton by Artistas Eclécticos, a group of professional international artists who have exhibited extensively across much of the world before joining together in Andalucía.

Picasso ceramics

Mijas. Permanent exhibition. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo. An exhibition of 44 ceramics created by famous Malaga artist, Pablo Ruiz Picasso.

Reyna Manescau

Coin. Permanent exhibition. Centro Cultural Reyna Manescau. The new cultural centre is dedicated to Coin born artist Reyna Manescau, commonly known as the Painter of Venice. The permanent exhibition of this famous painter's work is entitled Intimo y Universal.

Territorio Axarco

Benalmádena. Until 12 January. Centro de Exposiciones.

Commissioned by Antonio Sánchez Marín, the exhibition consists of 80 works in different formats using different techniques by a total of thirteen international and Malaga artists. Eight are painters and five of them sculptors, all living in the Axarquía.

The use of space, Calder-Picasso

Malaga. Until 2 February. Museo Picasso Málaga.

A joint exhibition explores the use of space by two famous artists, the American sculptor Alexander Calder and Malaga's Pablo Ruiz Picasso.

Exile and Nostalgia

Malaga. Until 2 February. Museo Casa Natal Picasso.

'Exilo y nostalgia. Dibujos inéditos y libros ilustrados de Picasso en la Colección de la familia Arias' consists of a collection of writings, paintings and drawings, many of them on newspaper pages, that form part of the legacy left by Eugenio Arias. Arias and Picasso met and became friends while both were in exile in France and shared a common interest, bullfighting.

Torremolinos Chic

Torremolinos. Permanent exhibition, Casa de los Navajas.

An exhibition of photographs taken in the 60s and 70s entitled Torremolinos Chic. It features around twenty photographs including one of the legendary Brigitte Bardot posing on Carihuela beach in a Cordobés hat.



Reyna Manescau, Coin.

Ernst Kraft

Malaga. La Concepción botanical gardens.

A sculpture 'The Tree of Life' by Ernst Kraft is on permanent display in the gardens on the lawns next to the pond. The minimalist structure of iron rods is five metres tall and is based on the pre-pharaonic pictogram representing the union of heaven and the underworld.

The Russian museum

Malaga. Edificio Tabacalera, Avda Sor Teresa Prat.

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

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EXHIBITIONS

Modern Utopias

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

Smile

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

**Malaga Glass Museum**

Malaga. Permanent exhibition. *Plazuela Santísimo Cristo de la Sangre.*
The glass museum has an extensive collection of glass including two glass panels that have been painstakingly restored, made by the Spanish company Mauméjean.

Imagination Museum

Malaga. Permanent exhibition. *Calle Martínez Campos 13, Soho.*
Toys, drawings, contraptions and sets which explore science, the senses and how we perceive things.

Sorolla Tierra Adentro

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

Fortuny

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

catalogued before.

Arabian Fantasy

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

Sean Scully

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

The Butterfly Effect

Malaga. Until 31 January 2020. *Museum Jorge Rando, C/Cruz del Molinillo.*
'Mariposas' is the title of this exhibition of works by Malaga artist Jorge Rando. The majority of the the around 100 works are in small format and were created after a visit to the mountains around the Qi Baishi Memorial Museum in China.

Drácula X Drácula

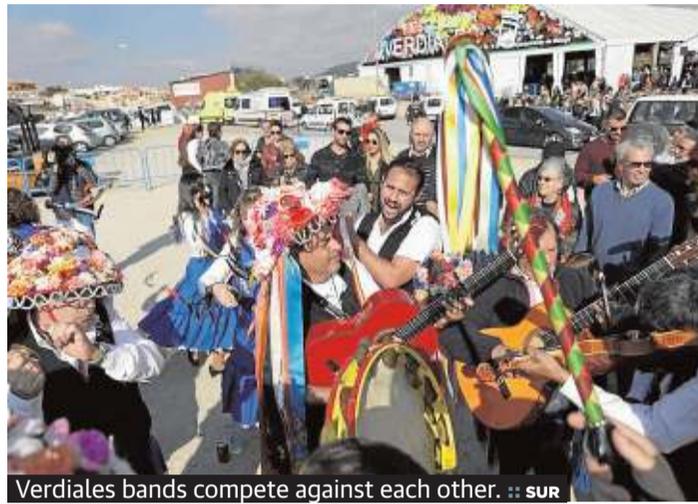
Malaga. Until 2 February 2020. *Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.*
Open Tues-Sun 9am-9pm and third Monday of each month.
This exhibition consists of 61 works by 56 artists around the theme of the legendary ice-lolly.

Berrocal

Malaga. Until June. *Museo de Málaga.*
An exhibition of sculptures entitled *Almogávares* and inspired by warriors sent to Constantinople by the King of Aragon between the 13th and 14th centuries is on display for six months at the museum. The artist, Miguel Ortiz Berrocal, is internationally famous for his sculptures which can be dismantled.

José Hernández

Villanueva del Rosario. Permanent exhibition. *Casa de la Cultura.*
An exhibition of art work and letters belonging to artist José Hernández. The artist gifted around 20 works to the town



A Christmas folk tradition: the Fiesta Mayor de Verdiales

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. One of the most popular Christmas traditions in Malaga city is the Fiesta Mayor de Verdiales which has taken place on 28 December every year for decades. It is the biggest folk music event in the province and celebrates this type of music that is not found anywhere else in Spain. Every year, this popular festival continues to attract more and more bands from across Malaga province.

According to research, verdiales were the forerunners of the fandango, a widespread

form of flamenco.

The bands (known as *bandas*) play one of three styles of music: *Montes*, *Comares* and *Almogía*, and compete against each other with frenetic and loud playing to drown out opponents. The band members traditionally wear hats covered in bright flowers.

Throughout the day the crowds of visitors keep themselves warm by sipping sweet Malaga wine and eating 'migas', a traditional winter dish of fried bread crumbs and 'callos', which is a stew made with offal.

shortly before his death in 2013. He spent long periods at Molino El Tejar while creating his pieces.

Matices de Invierno

Almuñécar. Until 3 January, 5-9pm. *Casa de la Cultura, Sala de Exposiciones Rowland Fade.*
A collection of paintings by Arte Sur is on display.

Ni Pies, Ni Cabeza

Nerja. Until 12 January. *Museo de Nerja.*
These square pictures can be hung in any position, squares within squares exists in all cultures throughout time and across the world.

María Zambrano

Vélez-Málaga. Permanent exhibition. *Palacio de Beniel de Vélez-Málaga.*
An exploration into the life and

works of Malaga-born philosopher and writer María Zambrano. For further information, call 952500244.

Japanese culture and traditions

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

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Love To Sing Carol Concerts

Sotogrande. 29 December, 12pm. *Iglesia Ntra Sra de la Merced.*

Christmas Concerts in the City

Malaga. Until 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.

Royal Postman

Torremolinos. 2, 3, 4 January, 5-8pm. *Cantarranas, Goya and El Pozuelo centres.*
The Royal Postman for the three kings will be collecting letters from children.

Christmas Quiz

Marbella. 27 December, 8pm. *Rose & Thistle Bar, Duquesa Port.*
Members of the Royal British Legion, Gatos de Manilva, SOS Los Barrios (dog pound), the Samaritans, ADANA, ACORN, Heart Rescue, Spanish Stray Dogs and The Duquesa Charitable Society of St George will take part in the quiz with the winner taking all the funds raised for their chosen charity. More information on the bar's Facebook page.

Christmas Concert

Marbella. 29 December, 12am. *Teatro de Marbella.*
The Academia Orquestal de Málaga are holding a Christmas concert performing pieces by Mozart and Schubert.

Mercado Navideño

Puerto Banús. Until 5 January, 10am-8pm. *Muelle de Ribera.*
Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
Twenty seven stalls offering crafts, gifts, gastronomy etc. Activities for children.




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Coque Malla, Sala Paris 15

MUSIC & DANCE

Louie Louie Rock Bar

Estepona. Avda Luis Braille.

27 December. 11.30pm.

O'Funk'illo. 12€ in advance, 15€ on door.

28 December. 1am. We Are Not DJs. 5€.

31 December. From 9pm. The KP Band with DJ Freak Lips. !0€ includes two drinks.

3 January. 11.30pm. Art Club band presents Twenty.

4 January. Midnight. Break The Senses and Snake Sister.

The Wall Bar

Malaga. Hotel Vincci Posada del Patio, 10pm, entry free.

28 December. Hermanas Sister. Vocals and guitar, international funk-jazz.

Jammin' Dose

Malaga. 27 December, 10pm. La Cochera Caberet. 10€.

The Malaga group Jammin' Dose will be in concert to present their latest release. The band combines funk, reggae and soul.

Coque Malla

Malaga. 27 December, 9.30pm. Sala Paris 15. 25€.

Coque Malla presents his new album ¿Revolución? and will play his most popular songs dating back to the 80s when he was a member of Los Ronaldos. Tickets www.eventbrite.es

Dry Martina and Mo'Horizons

Malaga. 27 December, 9.30pm. Sala La Trinchera.

Dry Martina (Laura Insausti) joins with German band Mo'Horizons to present 'Tú Quieres Mambo', a fusion of styles including electronic, Rock'n'Roll, reggae and Latin jazz.

Cármina Nova Youth Choir

Malaga. 5 January, 12pm. Museo de Málaga.

The choir will sing A Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten in the first half of the concert and after the break will sing pieces by Francisco Guerrero, Tomás Luis de Victoria, Paul Hindemith and Francis Poulenc.

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

Malaga. Teatro Cervantes.

3 January, 8pm.

Conducted by Manuel Hernández Silva, the orchestra will be performing a special New Year's concert with pieces by composers such as Piazzola, Flores Strauss and Ginastera.

forming a special New Year's concert with pieces by composers such as Piazzola, Flores Strauss and Ginastera.

Estepona. Auditorio Felipe VI **4 January, 8pm.**

The orchestra will be repeating the New Year's concert (see above).

Tickets: www.unientradas.es

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

The orchestra will play Bach's Christmas Oratorio conducted by Salvador Vázquez with Alba Chantar (soprano), Lidia Vinyes Curtis (mezzosoprano), Juan de Dios Mateos (tenor) and Joan Martín-Royo (bass). The Cármina Nova choir will also be performing.

FESTIVALS

Aguadiante competition

Jubrique. 28 December. Plaza de Andalucía from midday.

The village of Jubrique in the Serranía de Ronda has a competition for the best agudiante, a potent liqueur. With tastings and a small market.

Fiesta de Disfraces

Coín. 31 December. Plaza Bermúdez.

Locals and hundreds of visitors dress-up for the annual fancy-dress on New Year's Eve. The party continues until midnight with the traditional grape swallowing.



Audience dancing at a 'silent party'. :: SUR

Torremolinos gets ready for its first Silent Party

TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. As part of the town's festive programme of events, Torremolinos will host its first Silent Party on Saturday 28 December. The event is based on a format that allows the audience to listen to three DJs, who will play different types of music through wireless headphone-sets that emit a coloured light (red, green and blue) depending on the track being listened to. In preference to using a speaker system, the format allows people dance to music that is broadcast via a radio transmit-

ter. The signal is picked up by wireless headphone receivers worn by the participants, who can continue dancing past noise curfews.

The party, which will be held in Plaza Blas Infante from 9.30pm, is organised by Happy2gether, an Italian organisation currently touring Andalucía.

Tickets cost 9€ in advance, or 12€ on the night of the party.

Headsets can be reserved by sending a WhatsApp message to 665 403 802, stating name, plus Silent Torremolinos.



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FLAMENCO

Zambomba

Malaga. 30 December, 9pm. Peña Juan Brea, Museo de Flamenco. A Spanish Christmas tradition, the zambomba (a type of drum).

THEATRE & BALLET

The Nutcracker Suite

Estepona. 28 December, 8pm. Auditorio Felipe VI. The Moscow Ballet will be performing the classical story directed by Timur Faysiev with soloists



The Nutcracker Suite, Estepona

Elena Antsupova and Aleksandr Petrichencko.

Alice's Trip

Vélez-Málaga. 28, 29 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/

EVENTS AND TRIPS

Outdoor market

Benalmádena. Second Saturday of each month 11am-6pm. Parque de la Paloma, Plaza de la Fuente. Monthly market selling clothes, accessories, artisan goods and more. Free to enter. In case of rain, event will be postponed to following Saturday.

Monthly market

Periana. Last Sunday of every month. 10am - 2pm. Organised by Periana town hall, the market will have stalls for all types of goods including artisan products, fresh produce, clothing

etc. Sellers needed: 630 594 961

Weekend market

Coín. Behind Bar Los Arcos. Goods including artisan products, fresh vegetables, British food products, craft beer, wine, cheese, baker and general bric-a-brac. Food and drinks available from the venta. Stalls have to be booked in advance on the Facebook page Los Mercado.

Cáceres, Trujillo, Mérida

Fuengirola. 17-23 February. Various departure points. Full details, contact Fundación Lux Mundi Fuengirola, C/Nueva 3. 952474840. www.lux-mundi.org

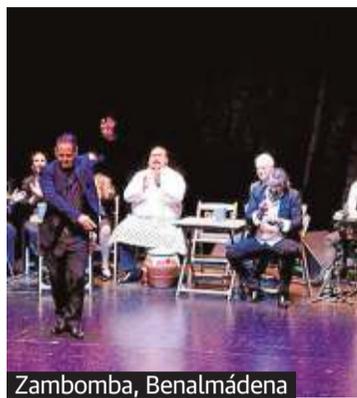
O. V. FILM

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

Cine Albéniz

C/Alcazabilla 4, Malaga. Tel: 902 36 02 95 www.cinealbeniz.com
Little Women: 16.45, 19.15, 21.45.

Cinesur El Ingenio



Zambomba, Benalmádena

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

Last Christmas: 12.15.
Star Wars The Rise Of Skywalker: 12.15, 16.20, 22.15.
Frozen II: 12.25.

Cinesur Miramar

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

Little Women: 12.00, 15.45, 18.30.
Jumajii: 20.30, 23.00.
Cats: 12.00, 16.30, 19.00.
Frozen II: 15.45.
Star Wars: 12.15, 16.30, 19.15, 22.15.

Cines Teatro Goya

For tickets and information call

951196665.
www.cinesteatrogoya.com
Frozen II: 12.30 (Sun).

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

Centro de Ocio Plaza Mayor, Avda. Alfonso Ponce de León. Tel: 902 902 103 or visit www.yelmocines.es Until 27 December.

Little Women: 13.15 (Sat, Sun); 16.30 (Fri-Mon).
Cats: 12.50 (Sat, Sun); 23.55 (Fri, Sat).
Star Wars The Rise Of Skywalker: 17.30 (every day); 20.20 (Fri-Mon); 23.30 (Fri, Sat).

Yelmo Cines, Rincón de la Victoria

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

Star Wars: The Rise Of Skywalker: 12.45 (Sat, Sun); .
Knives Out : 15.45 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Vialia

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

Cats: 12.50 (Sat, Sun).
Little Women: 12.40 (Sat, Sun); 16.15 (Tues).
Star Wars: The Rise Of Skywalker: 12.45 (Sat, Sun); 19.30 (Fri-Mon).

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Gibraltar celebrates the New Year with a concert by the European Sinfonietta

SUR IN ENGLISH

GIBRALTAR. The Gibraltar Philharmonic Society will present the New Year's Concerts featuring The European Sinfonietta Orchestra conducted by James Ham.

The concerts are organised on behalf of the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Education and will take place at the John Mackintosh Hall theatre on 7 January.

The first one will be an orchestral concert for children at 5.30pm, followed by an adult concert at 8.30pm.

The orchestral fun-filled concert for children and the whole family will give younger members of the audience the chance to conduct the orchestra and to play instruments

with the orchestra.

Tickets for the Orchestral Concert for children are free of charge for families. These free tickets can be collected at the City Hall, Mario Finlayson National Art Gallery reception. Tickets are limited to six per family group. Children's ID cards must be shown.

Tickets for the evening's performance, priced at £20, will be available from Sacarello's Coffee Shop, the Silver Shop or from the Society on 00350 200 72134 or online (www.buytickets.gi).

A limited number of tickets priced at £10 are available for senior citizens and students.

They can be collected from the City Hall, Mario Finlayson National Art Gallery reception.



Conductor James Ham :: SUR

During the holidays until 2 January, the tickets for the children's concert and senior citizen's tickets can be reserved by calling 00350 56011000.

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ANDREW J. LINN

MICHELIN MUDDLE



People have still not got the hang of this Michelin nonsense, so, once and for all, repeat in unison: there is no such thing as a 'Michelin chef'. The Michelin Guide, love it or hate it, awards its prized stars to restaurants, never to chefs or cooks or whatever. However, the chefs themselves understandably prefer to be called 'Michelin chefs', rather than be referred to as 'chefs of Michelin-starred restaurants'. But of course, while the owner/manager may be happy with the Michelin-star-restaurant term, the chef wants to be the one that gets customers through the door. My boss at Diario SUR's gastronomy supplement was taken to task recently when she ignored this golden rule and wrote that a certain number of 'Michelin chefs' were visiting Malaga. A reader quite sensibly made it clear that this would be impossible, and pointed out the above facts.

The reply went something like this: "I am aware that Michelin stars are granted to restaurants and not to people. But the guidelines for the awarding of stars are described by the Michelin organisation as follows: Three stars – Cooking of an exceptional level where one always eats well and occasionally exceptionally well. The journey is always worth the trouble. Two stars – Excellent cuisine, worth a detour. One star – Very comfortable." (Has something been

lost in the translation?) The writer points out that all but the one star rating appears heavily dependent on the quality of the food, justifying the importance of the chef, and backs this up by mentioning that at the annual awards ceremony, the legendary Michelin chefs' jackets that the winning chefs wear are an integral part of the ritual.

Furthermore, the Guide specifies where the culinary merits of a restaurant lie, pointing out that the selection of the raw materials, decisions about cooking time, and the personality of the chef as transposed onto dishes - as well as value-for-money - must all be within the chef's control. It therefore becomes apparent, not for the first time, that Michelin itself is muddying the waters, and while holding to one lifelong principle, is actually prepared to accept another.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Via De La Plata Cava

This wine shows good cava can be made anywhere. Almendralejo is an Extremaduran town famous for not much, although this excellent, traditionally made wine using Chardonnay grapes, is worth trying. Around eight euros from OpenCor/El Corte Inglés.



MIGAS, A TRADITIONAL WINTER DISH

Around 40,000 people attended the 38th edition of the Día de las Migas in Torrox last Sunday. It was an event which saw 1,500 kilos of semolina and 200 kilos of wheat flour turned into the traditional winter dish of migas which is flavoured with garlic, olive oil and salt. A gluten-free version was also available.

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Audrey, in a striped sweater, listens as doctors at Vall d'Hebron hospital explain how she was kept alive. :: EFE

A miracle in the mountains

Doctors at the Vall d'Hebron hospital resuscitated a woman who had spent six hours in cardiac arrest

:: CRISTIAN REINO

BARCELONA. Audrey has been born again. Or, rather, she was resuscitated thanks to a pioneering revival technique. "It's a miracle," was all she could say at a press conference held recently with her doctors, to explain her experience.

On 3 November, the fire brigade announced that two hikers had been rescued from the Valle de Nuria (in Girona, in the Catalan Pyrenees). They were named as Audrey, who is

British, and Rohan, from South Africa, who live in Barcelona.

The couple had been surprised by a sudden worsening of the weather, and had got lost. The cold, the snow and the wind almost caused the death of Audrey, because when the rescue team arrived on the scene she was suffering from severe hypothermia and her body temperature was just 18 degrees. The hypothermia had caused her to lose consciousness, and her heart had stopped.

Incredibly, after six hours with no heartbeat, doctors at the Vall d'Hebron hospital in Barcelona managed to save her life. Not only that, but she has now recovered, is living almost a normal life and will be going back to work in the near future. She only needs to recover full sensitiv-

ity and movement in her hands, which were affected by the freezing cold.

Audrey doesn't remember anything about that day, but Rohan will never forget it. He said that first of all his wife began to talk incoherently as a result of the storm and the cold weather, and then she stopped moving and became unconscious. He managed to make contact with friends who lived in the area by phone, and they rang the fire brigade. A helicopter and two vehicles went to look for the couple.

Rohan had been advised by the emergency service to try to keep Audrey as warm as possible, but it was two hours after the phone call requesting assistance that the helicopter found the couple. "At first it

looked as if the situation was extremely serious. They couldn't find any vital signs at all," explained Pedro Collado, a member of the fire brigade's GRAE special operations unit. They attended to her as best they could, and four hours after the phone call had been made Audrey was in a medical emergency ambulance. She was suffering from severe hypothermia and the doctors had to carry out cardio-pulmonary resuscitation techniques during the journey.

Nearly five hours after her husband thought he had lost her, Audrey arrived at the Vall d'Hebron hospital, about 140 kilometres from where the couple had been found on the mountain.

"Her heart had no electrical ac-

tivity, there were no vital signs, her skin was cold. She appeared to be dead, but we knew that in the context of a hypothermia, there were possibilities of survival," explained Dr Eduard Argudo, of the Intensive Medicine service. After examining her as soon as she was brought into Emergencies, he decided the ECMO technique needed to be applied immediately. The risk was high. This was the longest case of resuscitated cardiac arrest ever registered in Spain and one of the longest in the world.

"The more I learn about this and the more I read about it, the more miraculous it seems that I survived," said Audrey at the press conference.

The technique is used on critical patients with very serious respiratory or cardiac illnesses. A machine temporarily replaces the lung or heart function. In Audrey's case, her heart had stopped. The machine removed her blood through a tube, moved it in a centrifugal pump to pass through the oxygenator, where oxygen was incorporated and carbon dioxide removed. Then the blood was put back into her body through an artery.

"This technique enabled oxygen to reach the tissues and warm up the body," said Dr Argudo. "The hypothermia was about to cause her death but at the same time, it saved her because her body, and especially her brain, did not deteriorate."

The medical experts believe that if Audrey's body temperature had been normal and she had been in cardiac arrest for so long, she would not have survived. "But we knew that as she had such severe hypothermia, there was a chance of survival with the ECMO technique," Dr Argudo explained.

When her body temperature reached 30 degrees they applied an electrical charge to try to wake her heart up and get it to beat again. They succeeded.



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NERJA

My relationship with coffee is complicated. I feel it is a type of toxic partnership which should be avoided, but during the week it becomes a necessary evil if I am to manage the stresses of early mornings with any dignity.

This is all due to a sentimental memory which puts me into conflict with the coffee container. In my childhood and teen years, coffee-drinking was considered an unhealthy habit of adults who didn't care a jot about their lifestyle, in the same way as smoking. For me, coffee and tobacco were an inseparable pair that demonstrated the toxic way of life of grown-ups.

That's why I have always been sceptical about studies which said that drinking coffee is actually good for you. I recognise that my scientific neutrality was somewhat upset when face to face with the show of muscle of our protagonist; nor did it help that most of the studies were observational. What is true, though, is that the accumulation of evidence is proving overwhelming, so I have no choice but to relate some facts about this dark potion.

Bad reputation

The association of coffee with an unhealthy lifestyle began a long time ago but, perhaps unsurprisingly, it is the most-consumed

ANALYSIS
JAVIER MORALLÓN

COFFEE AND HEALTH

The accumulation of evidence is overwhelming, so let's look at some of the facts about this dark potion

psychoactive drug on the planet. However, it seems that the real problem was that people didn't know what caused what.

On many occasions coffee consumption is linked with habits such as smoking, stress and long hours. In addition, its greater consumption is also related, in many cases, with a greater incidence of such pernicious habits. That's why when it comes to study the consequences of coffee consumption, it was very difficult to separate it from its travelling companions.

The population studies appeared to be in no doubt: drinking coffee was indisputably connected with an increase in cancer and cerebrovascular accidents. However, as on other occasions, a lack of proper discernment was giving exactly the

opposite message to the real one.

We know more about it

The roots of this shrub-like plant of Ethiopian origin have been lost in stories which are surely apocryphal from the tenth century. The way we roast and consume coffee now did not start until the 15th century on the Arabian peninsula, from where it spread rapidly.

Its invigorating properties were always highlighted until in 1905 a German businessman discovered that if you wet the coffee grains they lose their caffeine but the flavour is hardly affected. Decaffeinated coffee became the German superseller that was even promoted by Hitler himself.

It seemed that with this 'poison' removed, coffee became a nu-

tritionally impeccable product. It was a shame that at that time nobody knew about some of the properties which are associated with caffeine nowadays: anti-inflammatory and diuretic actions, as well as effects which are beneficial at an endothelial level, in other words the internal wall of the blood vessels.

Roasted coffee has more than 1,000 bioactive components, but if anything is outstanding in it it has to be the caffeine. Caffeine is a crystalline alkaloid, white, with no smell and a bitter flavour. It forms part of the group of xanthines and those all have similar actions: they activate the nervous system, have diuretic effects, relax the smooth muscles, increase the basal mechanism. Caffeine is the most potent of them all, acting at the level of the cerebral cortex, reducing fatigue and increasing motor capacity.

Latest studies

One of the most recent studies has used the UK Biobank, a centre which monitors the health of nearly half a million anonymous volunteers and provides the information to accredited scientific researchers in the UK and abroad. The study on coffee consumption which was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) was developed by the NCI (National Cancer Institute of the United States of Amer-

ica). The conclusions were that consumption reduced in an inversely proportional way (in other words more consumption, less incidence) the mortality rate of cardiovascular illnesses, the appearance of cancer and strokes.

Just a few weeks earlier the British Medical Journal (BMJ) showed that roasted coffee is an amalgamation of substances with antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antifibrotic and anti-carcinogenic effects.

These studies are from 2018 but it seems that in 2019 the data has continued to show coffee as being a real compendium of virtues. One of the most recent was from the University of Catania and CIBEROBN (Centro de Investigación Biomédica en Red. Fisiopatología de la Obesidad y Nutrición) and is a meta-analysis which links moderate coffee consumption with a reduction in the incidence of metabolic syndrome. That could be the result of the enormous variety of substances contained in a cup of fragrant coffee: polyphenols, trigonelline, caffeine and melanoidins, among others.

It is true that the studies are above all observational, but the accumulation of indications is proving incontestable, such as those directly relating longevity with coffee consumption. And after all, if something looks like a duck, walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it is very probably a duck.

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What do people in Malaga die of?



NURIA TRIGUERO

✉ ntriguero@diariosur.es

Cancer and Alzheimer's have moved up the list of natural causes and suicide is still the main cause of unnatural death, but the number of fatalities in traffic accidents fell by half

MALAGA. Last year there were more deaths in Malaga province than ever before: 13,323, which was 4.8 per cent more than in 2017. It wasn't that there were more murders or that people's health has got worse. On the contrary, life expectancy has increased by more than two years in the past decade

and is now more than 82 years. There are two causes for the increase in the number of deaths: more people now live in the province and the population is getting older.

So what do people in Malaga die of? Most of them, from old age. Two age-related health factors, cir-

culatory and respiratory problems, are behind four out of every ten deaths, according to official figures. Tumours are also related to age, and last year they were the cause of 3,499 deaths in the province, which was 7.3 per cent more than the previous year. One in every four deaths are due to some

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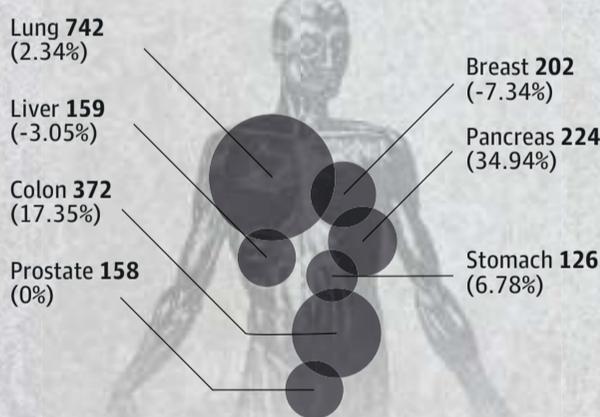
Causes of death in the province

Main natural causes of death

		Yearly variation	
1st	Circulatory system	4,184	1.87%
2nd	Tumours	3,499	7.27%
3rd	Respiratory system	1,423	5.56%
4th	Nervous system	832	8.47%
5th	Digestive system	652	-3.98%
6th	Unknown causes	542	22.07%
7th	Mental disorders	513	15.02%
8th	Genitourinary system	378	2.72%
9th	Endocrine disorders	354	7.6%
10th	Infectious diseases	224	4.19%

Most deadly types of tumour

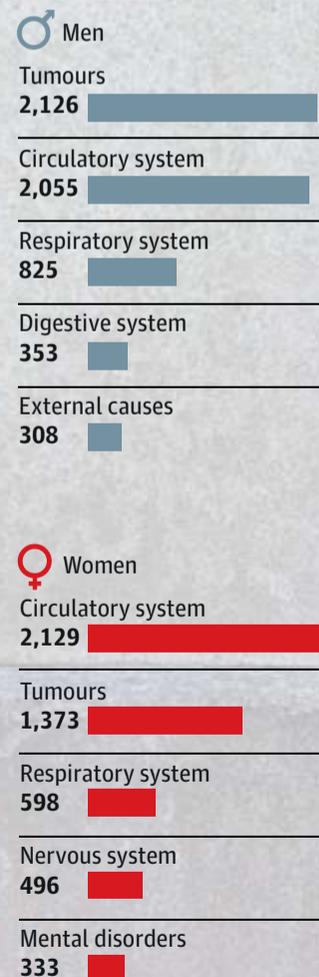
Year-on-year variation in brackets



Main non-natural causes of death

		Yearly variation	
1st	Suicide	134	3.08%
2nd	Drowning	84	10.53%
3rd	Other accidents	65	20.37%
4th	Accidental falls	64	-1.54%
5th	Car accidents	29	-52.46%
6th	Accidental drug poisoning (psychotropic or other)	21	-32.26%
7th	Homicide	15	0%
8th	Other road accidents	13	160%
9th	Other accidental poisoning	11	10%
10th	Health care complications	10	-9.09%

Main causes of death, by sex



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type of oncological illness, and the most lethal were lung cancer (742 people), colon (372) and pancreas (224). Pancreatic cancer caused 35 per cent more deaths last year than in 2017, while the number of people who died from breast cancer (202) and liver cancer (159) dropped.

Another group of illnesses which are clearly age-related are those of the nervous system, which caused 832 deaths in the province last year, of whom more than 500 were due to Alzheimer's. In this condition, as in others, the incidence differs according to gender: more than twice as many women die as men. Tumours are the main cause of death in men (over 30 per cent), while for women it is problems with the circulatory system (33.4 per cent).

Leaving gender differences aside, looking at problems associated with the heart and circulatory system, those which caused the most deaths last year were cerebrovascular: 936 out of a total of 4,184. With regard to respiratory illnesses, flu increased the death rate considerably in 2018: 46 people died from complications of flu, which was three times more than the previous year.

Not everybody died from illness.



Traffic accident fatalities have fallen. :: FOTOLIA

Last year the number of unnatural deaths dropped by five per cent to 454, but suicide is still the main cause. Last year 134 people in Malaga took their own lives, four more than in 2017. This is mainly a male problem: it caused the death of 108 men compared to 26 women. There were also marked differences in violent deaths: 12 men were murdered in the province in 2018, and three women.

The best news regarding the figures for unnatural deaths is the drop in fatalities as a result of traffic accidents: 29 people died on the

roads of Malaga province last year, which was less than half the figure for the previous year. Whereas in 2004 these accidents were the main cause of death by external causes, they are now much further down the list.

There were some other pieces of good news in last year's figures: no women died giving birth and there was only one case of sudden death of a child (there were two the year before). The number of people who died from Aids remained at the same level as in recent years, around 20.

Resist the temptation of a massage after a fun run, says expert

It is better to do some gentle exercise to make a slow physical recovery, says the head of Physiotherapy at the Quirónsalud Marbella

:: SUR IN ENGLISH

MARBELLA. Anyone who is taking part in one of the Christmas or New Year runs should heed the advice of the head of Rehabilitation and Physiotherapy at the Hospital Quirónsalud Marbella, Marcos González Sedano. There is no solid proof that a massage immediately after a run or serious physical exercise is beneficial, he says.

"We are tired of seeing big competitions where a special space is

set aside for post-run massages. This is a mistake," González says.

In his view, it is best to leave a massage until some time after the race and in the meantime to do some gentle exercise to make a slow physical recovery. He also recommends, if possible, to "have hydrotherapy or cryotherapy, and then move on to massage which can be complemented by radiofrequency or electrical stimulation (TENS)".

"It should be a drainage massage that helps with the elimination of the metabolites produced during exercise," he says.

Planning is fundamental

In González's opinion, planning the after-sports recovery is fundamental and establishing guidelines that lead to the regeneration of the body is more influential than any technique that is incorporated in the field of physiotherapy.

"The best regenerator of the body is rest. All the relaxation provided by massage, compressive and drainage measures, must lead to sleep which is the best biological recovery," he says.

"Leave a massage until some time after the race and do some gentle exercise instead"

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Carlos Pita's inch-perfect free-kick nestled into the top corner of Munir's goal. :: SALVADOR SALAS

Last-gasp equaliser robs Malaga of their festive cheer



FRANK GAVURIN

✉ english@diariosur.es

With the last kick of the game, Carlos Pita earned an unlikely point for Lugo as Segunda takes its winter break

MALAGA. The whistles disappeared and the only sound was the elated cries of the away team. Carlos Pita had just curled an impeccable free kick into Munir's net after 12 minutes of injury time, earning Lugo a point and depriving Malaga of two.

The visitors didn't even bring any fans to the Costa del Sol; there were no red and white shirts bouncing up and down in the corner of the stadium, just a stunned silence that had descended over La Rosaleda on Saturday evening.

While Malaga's performance was far from vintage, they certainly could have ended an uninspired Lugo's hopes of a draw well before the equaliser finally came with the last kick of the game.

It was a match in which they

went ahead early, with the in-form Armando Sadiku improvising an excellent finish to fire Renato Santos' near-post cross into the net.

Sadiku thought he had a second after he had thumped the ball into the roof of the net following impressive play by Luis Muñoz; the linesman, however, raised his flag.

The Albanian was involved again minutes later, as he ran onto a ball bouncing up and down in the corner of the stadium, just a stunned silence that had descended over La Rosaleda on Saturday evening.

This was just one of a host of opportunities that the home side created but were unable to take in the first half. The game stagnated in the second, with one of the most notable incidents being the injury

of the linesman, who was stretched off after a bizarre collision with Lugo's Marcelo Djaló. One young fan made use of stoppage to get onto the pitch and take a picture with Munir; the security guards waited patiently before escorting him off the pitch, with the fan blowing kisses to the crowd.

Malaga had further chances to kill the game off in the last 10 minutes, but the likes of Antoñín and Juankar failed to take them.

The fans groaned when the board went up to indicate 10 minutes of added time, but as the clock ticked, they must have begun to think that Lugo's chance would never come. With the last kick of the game, it did.

Malaga coach Víctor Sánchez del Amo was again left to lament his

1-1

MALAGA-LUGO

Malaga: Munir; Cifu, Luis Muñoz, Diego González, Mikel; Renato, Adrián (Boulahroud, 88'), Keidi, Antoñín; Dani Pacheco (Benkhemassa, 69'), Sadiku (Juankar, 79'). Unused substitutes: Kellyan, Ismael, Hicham, Juanpi.

Lugo: Cantero; Leuko (Carrillo, 85'), Peybernes, Djaló, Canella; Cristian, Seoane, Pita, Borja Domínguez (Campabadal, 78'), Tete (Castellano, 78'); Manu Barreiro. Unused substitutes: Fraga, José Carlos, Jaume Grau, Alex López.

Goals: 1-0 Sadiku ; 1-1 Pita (102').

Referee: De la Fuente Ramos. Yellow for Mikel, Tete, Leuko, Sadiku, Djaló, Luis, Benkhemassa, Peybernes and Juankar.

Venue: La Rosaleda (14,700 spectators).

side's lack of ruthlessness. "We're annoyed that we finished a really good first half with only one goal, especially as we had such a good chance on the break. We let them off the hook."

Nevertheless, he insisted that his side wouldn't be missing these two points dropped come the end of the season.

Víctor also claimed to be optimistic about the club's prospects going into the January transfer window: "We're working on it. The idea is not only to strengthen our attacking options, but also to strengthen another position."

"The players are making a great effort to compete with what we have, you can't fault them, but we need reinforcements if we want to improve."

Saturday's draw leaves Malaga in 16th place and only one point off the relegation zone going into the winter break. The same day, Extremadura beat Sporting Gijón to put themselves within a point of Víctor's side. Luckily for Malaga, most of their other relegation rivals lost or drew this weekend, meaning the two points they dropped are not as consequential as they might have been.

Their next game is a trip to 17th-placed Oviedo on 5 January in a game which will have serious consequences in the relegation battle.

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Preparations intensify ahead of critical January transfer window

Malaga are in the market for a new centre forward but must first offload players outside the wage cap restrictions

:: ANTONIO GÓNGORA / BORJA GUTIÉRREZ

MALAGA. Despite more pressing concerns regarding the direction of the club, interim sporting director Manolo Gaspar is hard at work preparing for the opening of the January transfer window next Wednesday.

With a shortage of goals (17 from 21 games), it is no secret that Malaga are in the market for a new centre forward. But with severe financial restraints in place, options are scarce, with scouts looking as low down as Segunda B and the youth teams of La Liga sides for potential loan recruits.

Iván Barbero, 21, of Osasuna Promesas, is one such player. Having scored eight goals in 16 matches so far this season, he is firmly on Malaga's radar. However, for any signing to take place, Malaga must first offload players to comply with wage cap restrictions.



Álex Mula in training. :: SUR

Midfielder Álex Mula, defender Iván Rodríguez and midfielder José Rodríguez remain on the books but couldn't be registered at the end of the summer and an exit for the former could be close to being sealed with Real Oviedo interested in his services. Malaga, however, are not keen to strengthen a direct rival and are looking for a fee, either for a loan deal or to release him from his contract.

Similarly, midfielder Keko is on the exit ramp but with his contract expiring in the summer, Malaga are unlikely to receive a substantial sum of money but would at least free up a squad space.

New promotion aims to woo fans to La Rosaleda for the second half of the season

:: B. GUTIÉRREZ

MALAGA. Malaga CF last week launched a new campaign in a bid to woo fans to buy a season ticket for the second half of the season.

The promotion sees a first-team shirt from this season (any of the three) included in the price, as well as entrance to all of the remaining 11 home league games to play.

The tickets have gone on sale at 149,95 euros for adults and 79.95 euros for children, with the offer expiring on 13 January.

The offer has not gone down well with some fans, especially those who bought season tickets at the start of the season and who now believe their tickets were overpriced.



A LOOK AT LA LIGA

ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports
@robopalmer



A club that's going places

Europe may well be on the cards for Real Sociedad, who are assembling an exciting young team

As La Liga rests for the mid-season break, it's pretty much all as expected for all but one team. Real Sociedad are rebuilding in more ways than one and are exceeding expectations while having an absolute ball.

This is the club that used to have a running track around the stadium, leaving the players detached from the fans and, in turn, the big clubs in Spanish football. The decision was taken to ditch the track, bring the fans closer to the players and create a more hostile environment for visiting teams.

Now the clinical atmosphere has gone, the fans are buying into the directors' vision and the team seem to be going places, maybe Europe. They head into the new year in fifth place with a bright outlook for a developing team of young footballers.

The 78.6-million-euro stadium investment is now paying dividends, as is the recruitment drive and promotion of home-grown players.

For the game with Barcelona an attendance record was set, 36,639 saw them hold the champions to a 2-2 draw. When the stadium is completed, the capacity will increase even further.

With the players they've assembled the future looks rosy. The star is undoubtedly Mikel Oyarzabal who is on the radar of



Oyarzabal celebrates his penalty against Barça. :: DIARIO VASCO

many leading clubs. As he's Basque born, Athletic Bilbao were the most interested, but he put them off by signing a new deal until 2024. I wouldn't be surprised if he ended up as a Pep Guardiola recruit at Manchester City - he fits the bill.

Alongside him is a young player who has already performed in the Premier League. Mikel Merino made just one start in his last five months at Newcastle United and there wasn't a fight when La Real offered to pay his buy-out clause. The Pamplona-born midfielder, who was likened to Xabi Alonso when he starred for Spain's under-21s, is now playing like the one-time Real Sociedad star.

Another who has rediscovered himself in San Sebastián is Martin Ødegaard, the teenage wonder-kid who left many wondering what had happened to him. Still only 21, he seems to be real-

ising the potential that took him to his parent club, Real Madrid, in the first instance. On this form, they will be demanding he returns to the Bernabéu.

One of the great strokes was bringing Nacho Monreal back to northern Spain after six years at Arsenal. The former international brings leadership to a young team. One of the youngest is 20-year-old Swedish international Alexander Isak who is developing at his own pace, and he's one of the paciest around.

To top things off, the club has a big heart. After beating village team Becerril 8-0 in the Copa del Rey, club president Jokin Aperribay has invited all the inhabitants to a future match at the newly named Real Arena.

It's only a population of 754, but given the current form of Real Sociedad, it may be difficult to find spare seats in a regularly-packed stadium.

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Marbella bring the year to a close with a big win in Cordoba

The club sealed their place in the play-off spots going into the new year with a victory at one of the league's most daunting grounds

:: RAFA FERNÁNDEZ, ADG

CORDOBA. 2019 has been a year of many changes around Marbella FC, but they go into 2020 in good stead after an impressive 2-1 victory away to Cordoba on Sunday.

David Cubillo's team travelled to El Nuevo Arcángel hoping to become the first visiting team to win there and did just that with an accomplished performance on the road.

After surviving a strong start from the hosts, Marbella gave a good account of themselves in the first half, showing greater tactical nous and purpose in their play and creating the better chances.

Saúl had the first in the 22nd minute when he rattled the crossbar with his header (later ruled offside), before Manel fluffed his lines with a header of his own when it looked easier to score.

Just a minute later was a rare occasion when Cordoba were able to breach the visitors' rearguard: Owusu forced Wilfred into a good reaction save with a header from Fernández's cross.

The breakthrough goal came just after the break when Manel, with yet enough header, left Becerra with no chance between the sticks.

Cordoba coach Raúl Agné reacted by bringing on another striker in the form of Juanto and this paid almost immediate dividends when Owusu connected with De las Cuevas' free-kick to level the scores.

Marbella, however, were not discouraged and retook the lead just six minutes later when Mustafá



Manel Martínez celebrates giving his side the lead. :: ADG

Valladolid in the Copa second round draw

Marbella's reward for their 2-1 win over Guijuelo in the Copa del Rey first round last week is a draw against top-flight side Real Valladolid.

The club, owned by legendary Brazilian striker Ronaldo Nazário, will visit the Costa town on 11 January (9pm kick-off).

Malaga, meanwhile, have further reason to rue their embarrassing defeat to Escobedo (2-0). The minnows from Cantabria will host Malaga's great Andalusian rivals Sevilla the following day.

placed the ball well out of Becerra's reach following Óscar García's flick.

With just a quarter of an hour left to play, Cordoba went for it. Fortunately for Marbella though, their hosts lacked precision in the final third on the day to make their possession pay. That said, Wilfred had to be called upon twice; first to push away a free-kick from De la Cuevas, then to deal with an easy header from Sebas Moyano.

"It was like a final for both teams," said Cubillos following the game. "We wanted to go into the holidays in the promotion places."

The Marbella players therefore were able to enjoy their Christmas break on their return to the Costa as they sit in third place, three points off leaders Cartagena.

Next up is a home clash against San Fernando on Sunday 5 January.



:: GERMÁN POZO

DEFEAT COMPLICATES COPA QUEST

Unicaja's penultimate game of the year ended in disappointment with a limp 81-75 home defeat to Zaragoza last Saturday. Alberto Díaz (pictured) was among the side's better performers but after missing 24 of the 27 three-pointers they attempted, the defeat means that qualification for the Copa del Rey (by being in the top eight) is looking increasingly out of reach. The Malaga side's next game comes on Sunday, away to Montakit Fuenlabrada.

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The under-12 team which took part in the tournament held in Madrid. :: SUR

Marbella Rugby Club's academy sides come out on top in prestigious youth tournament

:: FERNANDO MORGADO

MALAGA. Not for the first time, Marbella Rugby Club showed off the enormous potential of its academy. The club was invited to participate in the prestigious Torneo Melé in Madrid earlier this month and travelled with 120 players, 40 coaches and four buses.

As a reward for their efforts, they came away with two first-place finishes (in the under eights and under 12s) and two second-place finishes (under sixes and under 10s).

Success in this tournament, known globally for the level of its invited participants, rounds off a brilliant year for the club.

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Mijas Costa: 615758959. **Fuengirola:** 952468106. **Costa del Sol-Torre del Mar:** 628343198. **Los Romanes:** 618293749.
Torremolinos: 952370907 Welfare 951309610. **Coín:** 663157776 www.coinrbl.info **Marbella:** 952774572 www.britishlegion.org.uk/
 branches/marbella **Alhaurín el Grande:** 952112118/637134616. **Benjarafe:** 685413642. **Nerja:** 952526423. **Albox:** albox.chairman@rbl.community **Mollina:** 957535211. **Riders' branch:** 952514226 /653108415

BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

andalucia@britchamber.com 951203094

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

English-speaking groups. 600379110.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS

English meetings: www.alanonspain.org

POSITIVELY PINK ASSOCIATION

Breast cancer. www.positively-pink.com info@positively-pink.com

AEEC PINK LADIES

Cancer Support Group: 658 946 903

DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP

Fuengirola. Anne Bowles: 607879450 annediabetics@gmail.com

MY WEIGH, WEIGHT LOSS

www.facebook.com/myweighspain 952583907 / 663674804

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

Estepona: Janet 69445754/Ben 7557048 006. Bar Cristobel, Thurs 6pm.

CUDECA SUPPORT GROUPS

952 564 910 or susanhannam@cudeca.org
Estepona: ACE Club 11.30am 1st Thurs.
Nerja: Cáritas 11.30am 2nd Thurs.
Cómpeta: 11.30am 3rd Thurs Axareducación.

MABS CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Fourth Tuesday, Miraflores Club, Marbella, 11.30 a.m. 952833568 / 647054945

CANCER SUCKS SPAIN

Cancer support group. 662446388 Facebook & cancersucksspain@outlook.com

AGE CARE ASSOCIATION

Coffee mornings: from 11am-12.30 pm.
Benalmádena: Mon, Bar Pitanza;
Calahonda: Tues, Thurs, Calahonda Int. Baptist Church; **Fuengirola:** Wed, Bar Salon Varietés; **Coín:** Thurs, Pépe's Bar; **Los Boliches:** Frid, Hogar de Jubilados. Advice: 635407255 info@agecarecosta.org

AGE CONCERN

Estepona and Manilva: Lifeline 608458555 acesteponaymanilva@ageconcernespana.org / www.acesteponaymanilva.org. **Fuengirola:** Los Boliches, Thurs 11am-1pm. Pensionista building near station. **Mijas:** Mijas Pueblo, Thurs 11am-1pm. Gastrobar Julios Bartolo. **La Cala,** Fri 11.30am-1pm Bar Peña Flamenca del Sur. **Benalmádena:** Mon 10.30-12.30 Pensionista building, Arroyo de la Miel. www.ageconcernfym.com Helpline (10am-5pm weekdays) 652537615. **Marbella, San Pedro:** Lifeline: 689355198. 1st Thurs, 11am. Real Club Padel, Marbella. www.ageconcernmarbella.com

ANREM - RESIDENTS & FOREIGNERS

info@anrem.org 630927226 anrem.org

FOREIGN RESIDENTS' ASS. ANDALUCIA

thefraa@hotmail.com 658426227

LUX MUNDI ECUMENICAL CENTRE

Torre del Mar: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org 952543334. **Fuengirola:** 952474840

ROYAL AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

Costa del Sol, www.rafacostadelsol.co.uk

CONSERVATIVES ABROAD

conservatives.costadelsol@gmail.com

INTERNAT. LABOUR GROUP

Fuengirola: Alf Brewer 952449408

ASSOC. FRANCÓFONOS

All French speakers welcome. 951087994

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Almuñécar-Torrox nerjaclub@yahoo.com www.americaninternationalclub.com

NEDERLANSE CLUB COSTA DEL SOL

Tel: 952473545. Various Costa locations

AMERICAN CLUB COSTA DEL SOL

Bill Oliver 607629435

ACE AMERICAN CLUB OF ESTEPONA

Calle San Roque. Tel: 952793059.

ENGLISH-SPEAKING CLUB MALAGA

English/Spanish conversation. englishspeakingclubofmalaga.blogspot.com.es

WELSH SOCIETY

Arroyo de la Miel. Debbie 626292707

THE BRITISH SOCIETY

John Kelly 603223163 **Benalmádena Pueblo.** britsocietyspain@hotmail.com

BRITISH ASSOCIATION MARBELLA

Meets weekly. Jan/Joan 952835947

ENGLISH PHOENIX CLUB

Torre del Mar: Gael: 951067723

INTERNAT. CLUB OF SALOBREÑA

icsalobrena@hotmail.com

ASOCIACIÓN IRLANDESA

President Finola Sloyan: 607340523

IRISH ASSOCIATION OF SPAIN

618680148. Facebook.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Arroyo. Terry 952468498/666622204

INTERNATIONAL CLUB ESTEPONA

www.theiceclub.es 952802549.

OUT OF AFRICA CLUB

Trish: 952668081

USA LEARNING FOR PLEASURE

Axarquía: www.u3aaxarquia.com
Fuengirola: www.u3afuengirolacostadelsol.com
Marbella & Inland: www.u3a.international

BRITISH SCOUTING MOVEMENT

1st Fuengirola Scout Group. Robert Troost 610755995 www.fuengirolascouts.com

THE ARTS SOCIETY

Costa del Sol: www.theartssociety-costadelsol.org/ **Nerja:** 952533373. theartssocietynerja.com
De la Frontera: San Roque Club. nadfascadelafrontera.org **Gibraltar:** theartssociety.org/gibraltar **Benahavis:** 663459103. theartssocietybenahavis.com

MARBELLA BUSINESS NETWORK

Joe 694442331 wednesdayjoe@gmail.com

THE SENDERISTAS

Multi national walking group.

www.senderistas.eu

THE FIELD CLUB

Walks. **Fuengirola.** www.thefieldclub.org

COSTA CHORDBUSTERS

Anne Bowles. 952464184

THE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC SOCIETY

www.timschoir.org. Gilly: 952573983.

COLLEGIUM MUSICUM COSTA DEL SOL

International choir/orchestra. 952775492.

CANTOLIBRE CHOIR

Amateur singers **Estepona.** 692558 041

NEW SAYDO SINGERS

Every Tuesday: Lynn: lynnshurmur@gmail.com

R.T.'S LINE DANCE CLUB

Calahonda / Fuengirola / Benalmádena. Bob 952931754 or 697441313.

BOOGIE SHOES LINE DANCE CLUB

Estepona, The Roadhouse Bar. Thurs 19.45

MISSISSIPPI COASTERS

Line dance. **Fuengirola.** Bob 697441313.

JIVE DANCE CLUB

jivespain.com 635717211.

JJ'S COSTA DEL SOL DANCE CLUB

Ballroom, Sequence & Latin 627658925

FOTA, FRIENDS OF THE THEATRE

Desk open Mon/Wed/Fri 11.30am-1.15pm. Salon Varietés, **Fuengirola.** 952584268.

INTERNATIONAL THEATRE STUDIO

San Pedro district. Tel 952884034

THESPA-ENGLISH SPEAKING PLAYERS

Dinner and Drama. **Los Boliches.** 622454422. www.theatrecostadelsol.com.

NERJA HISTORY GROUP

Talks/trips. Christina Sinclair 687602057 email: nerjahistorygroup@yahoo.com

ESTEPONA FLORAL ART CLUB

esteponafloralartclub@hotmail.com www.facebook.com/esteponafloralartclub

FLOWER ARRANGING CLUB

Venta Platero (Coín-Cartama road)

THE ANDALUCIAN GARDEN GROUP

Alh. el Grande. 952119767/952455213

THE AXARQUÍA GARDEN CLUB

www.axarquiajardencolub.blogspot.com

ANDALUCIA BIRD SOCIETY

952817843 www.andaluciabirdsociety.org

COSTA PRESS CLUB

www.costapressclub.com

COSTA WOMEN

www.costawomen.com/ 677251058

TANGENT CLUB & EX-LADIES CIRCLERS

952886772 mbl63@hotmail.co.uk

41 CLUBS & EX-ROUND TABLERS

Costa del Sol: 952818772 / 627462410
Nerja: Alfie 626998626 41clubnerja.org

PATCHWORK AND QUILTING

www.quiltersdelsol.org

COSTA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

www.photoclubspain.com

ASTRONOMY COSTA DEL SOL

astronomycostadelsol.com 616679453.

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Malaga Ilusion: May Ramirez 616613705; **Leos:** Gonzalo 627712351; **University:** Sara 626835485 **Marbella Costa del Sol:** Jacqueline Dueñas 619755031; **Marbella Francófono:** Rosalyn Bakker; 952884340; **Marbella German:** T. Heyden 667760230; **Marbella Decano:** M. Álvarez 619414119; **Mijas:** Jose Guasp Borreda 639 080 569; **La Cala:** Anita Humphreys 610868505; **Nerja:** Elke Lange 693706900; **Puerto Banús Cosmopolitan:** Egidia Ingels 68032009; **Rincón de la Victoria:** Doris: 952407824

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

The Achievers Toastmasters Club #5183: Nueva Andalucía, Percy 646533112. **Malaga:** PTA English / Spanish, Claudia 685965867. www.toastmastersiberia.org

FREEMASONS

Fuengirola: Norman Hay 674755024. **Calahonda:** Mike Williams 644133186. **Los Boliches:** Paul Clueit 667156806. **Mijas Costa:** David Mantle 952934193. **Coín:** Ian Bushnell 611020641. **Alhaurín:** Vic Dean 952450678.

LODGE EUROPEAN FRATERNITY 52

Tel:658655511 or 646436967

ROTARY CLUB

Benalmádena: 952441440 **Benahavis:** 695542881 **Estepona:** 952800999. **Fuengirola/Mijas:** 696494492. **Marbella:** 952821121 **San Pedro:** 951318381 **Marbella - Guadalmina:** 952888077, **Mijas International:** 644242365

OVER 40S SINGLES CLUB

Estepona: El Limonero Tel: 952806759

ARROYO SOCIAL & WELFARE CLUB

Arroyo de la Miel. Jean 952563580.

TORREMOLINOS & DIST. SOCIAL CLUB

Wed am. Rosaleda Bar. Mike 626880722.

ARROYO FRIENDLY CLUB

Benalmádena. 952446935.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

653771625 www.soroptimist.es

HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

Mijas: 695660450. **Malaga:** 654633430.

AMIGAS DE CASA

Vva del Trabuco. 952751424/952751304 www.trabucotimes.com/amigasdecasa.htm

CLUB CHARITY AND PLEASURE

Estepona. President Terry 952813336 clubcharityandpleasure.wordpress.com

COLMENAR DISTRICT SOCIAL CLUB

Marjorie 951163071.

TENNIS CLUB 'EL CAPITAN INT'

Torre del Mar. Patrick 675391967.

THE GOOD COMPANIONS CLUB

Los Boliches. Tel: Tony White 951661201.

AIKIDO TOMIKI SHODOKAN

Different levels. Tel: 952131670, **Malaga**

TAEKWONDO CLUB

Fighting Dragons Club **Benalmádena.** Mike 618149373 www.vipfitness.tv

ALHAURÍN BRIDGE CLUB

Jeremy Rittener 629138606 or rittener@gmail.com

CALAHONDA BRIDGE CLUB

Club Naranja. 952198789 / 670593 232.

ACE BRIDGE CLUB

Fuengirola. Deanne Mutter: 747771404.

NERJA BRIDGE CLUB

Joan 952520579 or Trevor on 952524743

LOS BOLICHES BRIDGE CLUB

Dominiques. Mon & Fri. 645684756

C C MARBELLA BRIDGE

Wed, Thurs, Sat, Sun. With Bridgemate. Tel: 636 673 372 or www.mx77.com

CASTILLO BRIDGE CLUB

Tel: 655459576 www.bridgewebs.com

ST ANDREW'S BRIDGE CLUB

Los Boliches. 697769170 / 952667861.

COSTA DEL SOL CRICKET CLUB

League cricket. Previn: 606526618.

INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Benalmádena Costa. 952373813.

MIJAS LAWN BOWLS CLUB

Tel: 952 466 038.

MARBELLA SINGLES SOCIAL GROUP

Over 45s. marycormack1@aol.com

COSTA DISCUSSION GROUP

CostaDiscussionGroup@yahoo.com, David 672 356 829, monthly

PAINTING GROUP

Fueng.-Marbella. cicelycarroll@yahoo.com

THE ART CLUB

San Pedro www.theartclub.es

YORUBA ASSOCIATION OF MALAGA

Aluko 691314576 yorubassmlg@hotmail.com

SOTOGRADE WRITERS CLUB

http://www.sotogradewriters.com

COMMUNITY PRESIDENTS CLUB

Marbella:645784718/**Fuengirola:** 952591071 www.urbytus.es/pc/

BENALMÁDENA HEALING GROUP

Spiritual Group Tel Liz 951947480

CLASSIC CARS CLUB

Mijas. 3rd Sat each month. 607690057

CHURCH SERVICES INTERNATIONAL

CHURCH OF ENGLAND/ EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St George's Anglican Chaplaincy

www.stgeorgemalaga.org
 email: chaplain@stgeorgemalaga.org or wardens@stgeorgemalaga.org
Malaga, St George's Church (in the English Cemetery, Av. de Pries) Sunday Holy Communion 11am. Contact: 951 287 382
Velez-Málaga, La Antigua Capilla de S. José, C/. Linares 7. Sundays 10.30am
Anglican Chaplaincy of St. Andrew, Costa del Sol (East)
 Chaplaincy Office 952580600.
Los Boliches, St. Andrew's Holy

Communion 1st, 3rd Sun. Morning Worship 2nd, 4th Sun. Morning Prayer Mon, Tues, Thurs 9.30am. Holy Communion (BCP) Wed. 9.30am.

Benalmádena Costa, San José chapel, 9.30am; Morning Worship 2nd, 4th Sun; Holy Communion 1st, 3rd Sun.

Calahonda, Ermita de San Miguel, 9.30am. Morning Worship 1st, 3rd Sun; Holy Communion 2nd, 4th Sun.

Alhaurín el Grande: Cemetery Chapel Sun. at 11.30am. All age service 1st Sun; Morning Worship 3rd Sun; Holy Communion 2nd, 4th Sun.

Costa del Sol (West)
San Pedro, Sunday 10a.m. (Holy Communion) Parroquia Virgen del Rocío.

Sotogrande, Sunday 12 noon. (Holy Communion 2nd & 4th Sundays) La Iglesia de Nuestra Sra. de la Merced. Chaplaincy House. www.costachurch.com

Nerja: Sun 12 noon, San Miguel church, Wed. 9.30am. (Church shop, C/Malaga 952 522 460.) Rev. Geoffrey Johnston, 952521339.

Almuñécar: Capilla de Nuestra Señora del Carmen, (Fishermen's chapel) Chinasol. Sun. 9.30am. (not August) Priest as Nerja.

Torre del Mar: St Barnabas IERE, 11am. Morning Prayer 1st and 3rd Sunday, H.C. 2nd and 4th. Lux Mundi centre. 952030461.

Gibraltar: Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Sun 10.30. Tel. 78377.

MUSLIM

Marbella: Mezquita del Rey Abdulaziz. Friday 2.30pm. 952774143.

Fuengirola: Mezquita del Centro Cultural Suhail, Parque Doña Sofía. Friday worship 2.30pm. Tel 952473916.

Malaga: Mezquita, C/San Agustín 11. Friday 2.30pm. 95228595.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Marbella: Santo Cristo del Calvario Church, Avda. del Calvario: Holy Mass in English, 11am. every Sunday. Tel: 952774 899.

Fuengirola: Capilla San José, Las Rampas (Upper Level), Daily Mass (in English): Mon-Fri 11am. Sat 7pm. Sun 11am.

Fuengirola: Lux Mundi, C/ Nueva, 12 Sun. **Arroyo de la Miel**: Mass in English Parroquia de la Inmaculada, Sunday 1.30pm.

Calahonda: Ermita de San Miguel, 12 Sun. **Benalmádena Costa**: Parish Church of La Virgen del Carmen, Avda. Bonanza. Bilingual mass English/Spanish Sundays 10.30am.

Torre del Mar: Lux Mundi, Avda. Moscatel, 1- "1". Saturday. Winter 5pm, summer 6 pm. 952543334.

Chiclana (Cadiz): Nstra Señora de Europa church, Urb. Novo Sancti Petri, RC Mass in English and German, Sunday 10.30am

Pueblo Nuevo de Guadiaro - Sotogrande (Cadiz): Mass in English, Saturday 7pm and Sunday 10.30am at Santuario de la Divina Misericordia
Malaga: Catholic mass in English, Avenida Santiago Ramón y Cajal, Ciudad Jardín. 11.30am Sunday. 952260760.

METHODIST CHURCH

Gibraltar: Methodist Church, 297 Main Street. Sun 11am and 8pm. +350 200 77491/+350 200 40870. Rev. Fidel Patron.

Sotogrande: La Iglesia de Nuestra Sra. de la Merced 1st and 3rd Sundays 11.45a.m. For more info. call 952 895 102.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

Mijas international: 10 am Sun Calle Rueda 7 , Los Boliches, 952469392 / 607521032.

Motril: Sun10 am. C/ Jesús del Gran Poder 34. 958 825665.

Malaga: Sun 10.30 am, C/Babel 1. **Algeciras**: Sun 10.30 am. C/Sevilla 43. Tel. 956630894.

Nerja: Sun. 10.30 a.m. C/Granada,83. Tel. 607 522 671

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Arroyo de la Miel: Avda Del Cerro de Viento, s/n . Tues. 7.30pm. Sat. 4.30pm. Tel. 952561170.

Fuengirola: Kingdom Hall, Plaza Hispanidad, Service Meeting, Fri 7.30pm. 952469082.

Malaga: C/José Palanca, 20. Service Fri 8pm. Tues 7.15pm.

San Pedro: C/ Amor 6, Fuente Nueva. English: Sun 11am & Wed 7.30pm. Tagalog: Sun 1.30pm & Tues 7.30pm. Kingdom Hall 952788855.

Torrox Costa: Local 17, Urb Costa de Oro. Sun 11 a.m., Weds 7pm. Tel. 952526740.

Torre del Mar: Calle Infantes, Conjuntos Islas del Sol. Scandinavian Sun 6pm, Thurs 7pm. German Sun 11am and Fri 7pm.

Coín: Calle Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente. Weds 7.30pm, Sun 11.30am. 952499239.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH / BAPTIST CHURCH

Los Boliches: Evangelical Church, Paseo Marítimo 77. Sun:Worship and Bible teaching, 4pm. Weds: Bible study and prayer 7.30pm. Tel 952460728

Torremolinos: Evangelical Community Church. Sun service 11am. C/Gregorio Marañón 4. 952384706

Torremolinos: Gloryhouse International Christian Center. African Pentecostal style. Sun 11am C/ Danza Invisible, 7/8, Bloque D, Nogalera. Pastor Moses. 679740825, 951210300

Nerja: Fellowship of the King, Pasaje San Miguel, Sundays at 10.30am. 952 969 058 / 958 658 439.

Nerja: Community Bible Fellowship, C/ Pintada 35, 2nd floor. English/ Spanish Worship, Sunday 10am. 952521776.

Torre del Mar: Cornerstone International Church. C/Solera 2. Sunday 11.30am. Wednesday 6.30pm Bible study.

Calahonda: The Evangelical Christian Fellowship, Ermita San Miguel. Sun 4.30pm. Rev. Peter Riggall, 952 588 160.

Arroyo de la Miel: Arroyo Baptist Church, Sun 4pm. Conjunto Zodiaco, Edif. Aries, C/ Sagitario. Tel. 95244796/952386716.

Calahonda: Baptist Church, Calle San Jeronimo 1, Worship Sunday 11 am with Sunday School. 952832533.

La Línea: Asambleas de Dios. C/San José, 41. Thurs 9pm. Sun 11am & 8 pm.

Marbella: Int. Christian F'ship. Sun 11am Upper room, Congress Centre. 952810391.

Mijas Costa: Iglesias International Costa del Sol, C/José de Orbaneja 10. Sun 11am and 7pm; Thur 7pm Tel:636 422 7

Puerto Banús: Christian Church (The Wave) Worship Service: Sun 11am. The Wave Café: Wed 11am. Prayer: Fri 12pm. 637408194/5 puertobanuschurch.com

Salobreña: Fellowship of the King. Various locations. Sundays at 10am Tel.635 358 808 / 958 645 027

La Viñuela: El Puente Christian Fellowship. Sundays 11am. Under Maroma Inmobiliaria. 952117145 / 952518185

Fuengirola: Living Waters Community Fellowship. C/Pintor Nogales, Las Rampas. Sundays 11am.

Torremolinos: Christian ministry. Healing of traumatic memories. Tel.604199751

Gibraltar: Brethren Assembly, Queensway Quay. Sun 11am, Minister F. Baldachino.

Benalmádena Costa: Elim Family F'ship. Sun 11am. Pastor Howard 647379564 www.elimfamilyfellowship.com

San Pedro: Elim Family Fellowship. Sun 3.30pm. 695 115 496

San Pedro: Faith Baptist Church. Sun 6.30pm, Edif Manantial. Tel: 911820806.

Fuengirola: Ark Christian Fellowship Family Worship. Sun 11am, C/Rio Darro 2, Plaza Juncal. Tel.: 952 592 171.

Fuengirola: Costa del Sol Bible School, Healing Clinic and "The Beauty of Holiness". Rev. Joyce McNaughton 663706806.

Fuengirola: The Way, Christian Counselling Ministry. Tel. 634369414/ 951135441.

Malaga: Believers Loveworld Inc.(Christ Embassy) Sunday11am, Wed 7pm, Sat 5pm. C/Cantimpla 11, Av. de Europa 951955354/672805789.

Marbella: House of Judah (Jewish & Gentile Believers) Bilingual Fri. Worship 7.30pm - NH Marbella Hotel Tel: 605924555.

Mijas Costa: Baptist, Bi-Lingual services Sun 11.30am and 7pm; Thur 7pm Tel:636 422 717 www.libertadmijascosta.com

Heaven's Gate Pentecostal Church Int: Benalmádena: Carril de Sirocco 1, Worship- Sun 11am- 6pm, F'ship- Friday 7.30pm, 602392139

Fuengirola: Christian Family Centre Int. Worship Sun 1pm, Fellowship Tue 7pm Church auditorium, C/Jacinto Benavente, 10. Tel: 605329074

Granada: Avda Andalucía, 53, La Chana, Worship- Sun 6pm, 605329074

Malaga: Avda de Europa, 69, Worship- Sunday 9am, Fellowship- Wednesday 7.30pm, 605329074

DUTCH EVANGELICAL

Fuengirola: Skandinaviska Turistkyran. Ed. M del Carmen. Paseo Marítimo 77 Los Boliches, Sundays 9.30.

Torremolinos: Sun 11.30 in Holland Huis. Avenida Carlota Alessandri 12.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (PRESBYTERIAN)

Fuengirola: Sun 10.30am at Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, C/Nueva 3. Tel 952638245 or 952475474.

Gibraltar: St. Andrew's Church, Sun 10.30am. Tel 20077040.

Torre del Mar: Sun 11am, Legend's Bar, C/Don Cipriano Maldonado Jiménez.

BAHAI

Bahai Information Office, C/Ricardo Soriano, 35, Marbella.

Marbella: 952 90 21 21

Fuengirola: 951 259 742.

Malaga: 952 214 052.

Benalmádena: 952 442 424.

Alhaurín de la Torre: 952411496.

Rincón de la Victoria: 952 402 870.

Gibraltar: +350 200 73287.

SYNAGOGUES

Torremolinos: Beth Minzi, Av. Palma de Mallorca 55; Castillo San Luis, Local 14. Daily services. 952052550.

Marbella: Beth El, Urb. El Real, Km 184. Services, Fri in summer 8.30pm winter 7pm Sat & holidays 10am 952859395

QUAKERS

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

NORWEGIAN SEAMEN'S CHURCH

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

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Fuengirola: Sat 10am. Bible study, worship Calle Palangreros, 60. 952456672 / 633716651 ww.adventistasfuengirola.es.

CONSULATES

Great Britain	C/. Mauricio Moro Pareto 2- 2. Málaga	952352300
USA	Av. Juan Gómez 8. Ed. Lucía 1-C. Fuengirola	952474891
Belgium	Avda Ricardo Soriano 20-3C, Marbella	951516019
Denmark	Calle Córdoba 6 404, Malaga	952211797
Norway	Avda Los Boliches, 60, Edf Rosenkranz, Fuengirola	952667955
Canada	C/Cervantes, Edif. Horizonte, Malaga	952223346
Germany	Mauricio Moro Pareto 2, Malaga	952363591
Sweden	Calle Córdoba 6, 5th floor, Malaga	952604383
Ireland	Avda. Los Boliches, Fuengirola	952475108
France	1, Plaza de Santa Cruz, Seville	954293200
Italy	Calle Lagasca, 98, Madrid	912106910
Austria	Alameda de Colón 26, Malaga	952600267
Finland	Calle Blasco de Garay, 7, Malaga	952212435
Saudi Arabia	Mauricio M. Pareto 2 bloque Sur 2º, Malaga	952310358
Greece	Salitre, 16, Malaga	952311847
Iceland	Paseo Marítimo 91, 29640 Fuengirola	952661200
Philippines	C/Marqués de Larios 4, 2º, Malaga	952222757
Hungary	Av. de Andalucía 26 29007 Malaga	952308393

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCIES		
Emergency operator	112	
National Police	091	
Local (municipal) Police	092	
Medical	061	
Fire	080	
Guardia Civil	062	
Sea Rescue	900202202	
Crime report	902102112	

ENGLISH-SPEAKING HELP		
Samaritans in Spain	900525100	
Alcoholics Anonymous	600379110	
Age Care	952933409	
Age Concern (Estepona)	608458555	

ANDALUSIAN HEALTH SERVICE		
Salud Responde (doctors' appointments & advice)	955545060	

ESTEPONA		
Bus Station	955038665	
Taxi Service	952802900	
Tourist Office	952802002	
Town Hall	952801100	
Foreign Residents Dept.	952809031	

FUENGIROLA		
Bus Station	952475066	
Taxi Service	952471000	
Tourist Office	952467625	
Town Hall	952589300	
Foreign Residents Dept.	952589440	

MALAGA		
Bus Station	952350061	
Railway Station	902240202	
Taxi Service	952345693	
Tourist Office	951926020	

MARBELLA		
Bus Station	955038665	
Taxi Service	952774488	

MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Wind Star	08-09/11	Cartagena	Tangier	07.00	21.00
Azamara Pursuit	08/11	Motril	Cadiz	08.00	20.00
Sirena	08/11	Cartagena	Seville	09.00	18.00
MSC Preziosa	09/11	Genoa	Casablanca	10.30	17.30
Marella Discovery 2	10/11	Cartagena	-	06.00	16.00
Marella Celebration	10/11	-	Funchal	06.00	21.00
Horizon	10/11	-	-	07.00	13.00
Crystal Serenity	10/11	Valencia	Gibraltar	08.00	23.59
MSC Opera	11/11	Genoa	Funchal	13.00	18.00
Costa Pacifica	13/11	Funchal	Civitavecchia	08.00	13.00
Costa Favolosa	13/11	Marseille	Lisbon	09.00	19.00
Viking Jupiter	16/11	-	-	08.00	18.00
Black Watch	16/11	-	Barcelona	08.00	18.00
Costa Luminosa	17/11	Marseille	Funchal	08.00	18.00
Amadea	19/11	Agadir	Cartagena	08.00	17.00
Sky Princess	19/11	-	-	10.00	20.00
Horizon	21/11	-	Cartagena	09.00	17.00

Tourist Office	952768760
Town Hall	952761100
Foreign Residents Dept.	952768766

MIJAS	
Town Hall	952485900
Town Hall Las Lagunas	952473125
Taxi	952478288
Tourism Office	952589034
Foreign Resident Dept.	952589010

NERJA	
Bus Station	902422242
Taxi Service	952520537
Tourist Information	952521531
Town Hall	952548400
Foreign Resident Dept.	952548401

TORREMOLINOS	
Bus Station	902143144
Taxi Service	952380600
Tourist Office	952371909
Town Hall	952379400
Foreign Residents Dept.	952374231

THE STARS

- 

Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
Recent social events may have made you decide to change your everyday routines. Certainly making healthier choices in food are great.
- 

Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Romance and a fresh personal start are threads running through your life right now. The more willing you are to get out and try new things, the swifter progress will be.
- 

Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Be inquisitive and it will show others that you are really engaging with them. If you want to impress someone then gain knowledge of their passions. .
- 

Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
In this New Year it could be your aim to open up to loved ones. This often means that they will also open up to you. At work you will need to be discreet about a bit of information.
- 

Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Closer and happier relationships are the aim now. Take nothing for granted. Be willing to make a special effort when it comes to romance.
- 

Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Embrace life and new friends as the new year begins. Don't let the social whirl of the festive season run down. Show enthusiasm and a sharing nature to move things forward.
- 

Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Show loved ones that you are serious about those New Year resolutions, especially if they affect your health. Having enthusiasm over a personal matter brings loved ones closer to you.
- 

Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Are you seeing the chance of a break or change from your current situation? What better time could there be than the start of a new year?
- 

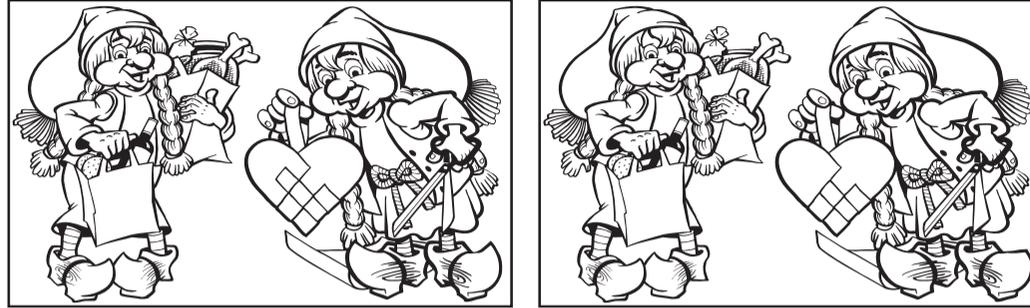
Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Have patience in the short term as opportunities may be slow to show themselves. Bring the extra time that you have to build a healthier life and gain physical energy.
- 

Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Keep the pace going by shooting through any ambitions and plans. Enthusiasm is what is needed now and you should have oodles of it.
- 

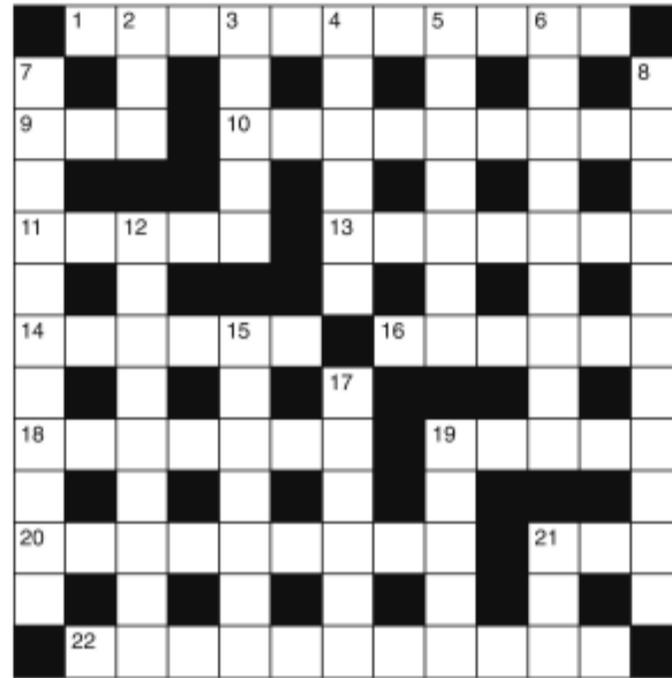
Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
We all learn not to take others for granted and this is probably something that has come home to you also. Gain enthusiasm for life through the company of younger friends.
- 

Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Keeping an open mind does not have to mean filling it with the ideas of others. Just be willing to listen and maybe see things from the other side. Aim to stay sharp mentally.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11389



Across

- 1 Do her charges flock to her? (11)
- 9 Cut a hole in a record (3)
- 10 Rolls provided for VIPs? (3,6)
- 11 Class or a sect, perhaps (5)
- 13 Book a player not in the first team (7)
- 14 Toured around and got utterly defeated (6)
- 16 Removes a coat or more? (6)
- 18 Man taking each pip out (7)
- 19 Live at Land's End in good health (5)
- 20 Dislike of the main toys I bring out (9)
- 21 Some Hispanic health resort (3)
- 22 Gloss or matt? It's a close-run thing (5,6)

Down

- 2 Fashionable joint (3)
- 3 Quiet desire to purify (5)
- 4 Presbyters' shrubs (6)
- 5 Immovably sedated, perhaps (4,3)
- 6 Watch over a girl hiding wriggling vipers (9)
- 7 Current specialist? (11)
- 8 Avoids Lester's race somehow (6,5)
- 12 Maquis he's turning over, being easily frightened (9)
- 15 Take advantage of a noble deed (7)
- 17 Replacement's feeling of cheerfulness (6)
- 19 Senior member to trick with Japanese money (5)
- 21 Distress signal when there's a hole in a ship (3)

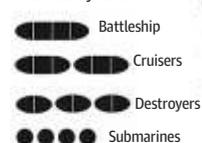
SUDOKU BY HANZO

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

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

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.



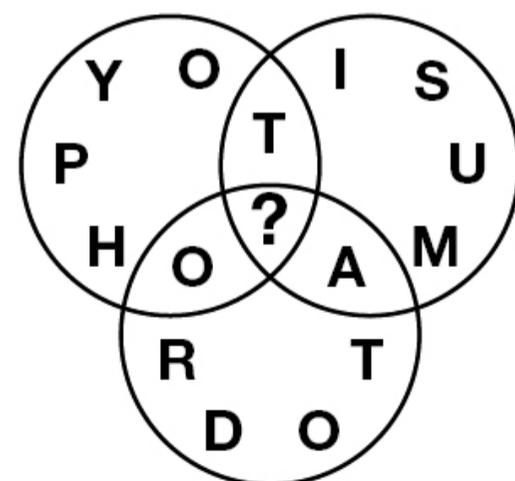
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A								■		2
B										1
C			■							3
D										1
E			■							3
F										2
G										3
H										1
I	■							●		3
J										1
	4	0	2	1	4	0	3	2	4	0

THE WORDPUZZLER

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

- Can you identify the words missing from the famous mottoes listed below?
- 1. Honi soit qui mal y ...
 - 2. Che sera ...
 - 3. Who dares ...
 - 4. Heaven's light our ...
 - 5. Nation shall speak ... unto nation
 - 6. Power in ...
 - 7. Dieu et mon ...
 - 8. In action faithful and in honour ...
 - 9. Per ardua ad ...
 - 10. For country not for ...

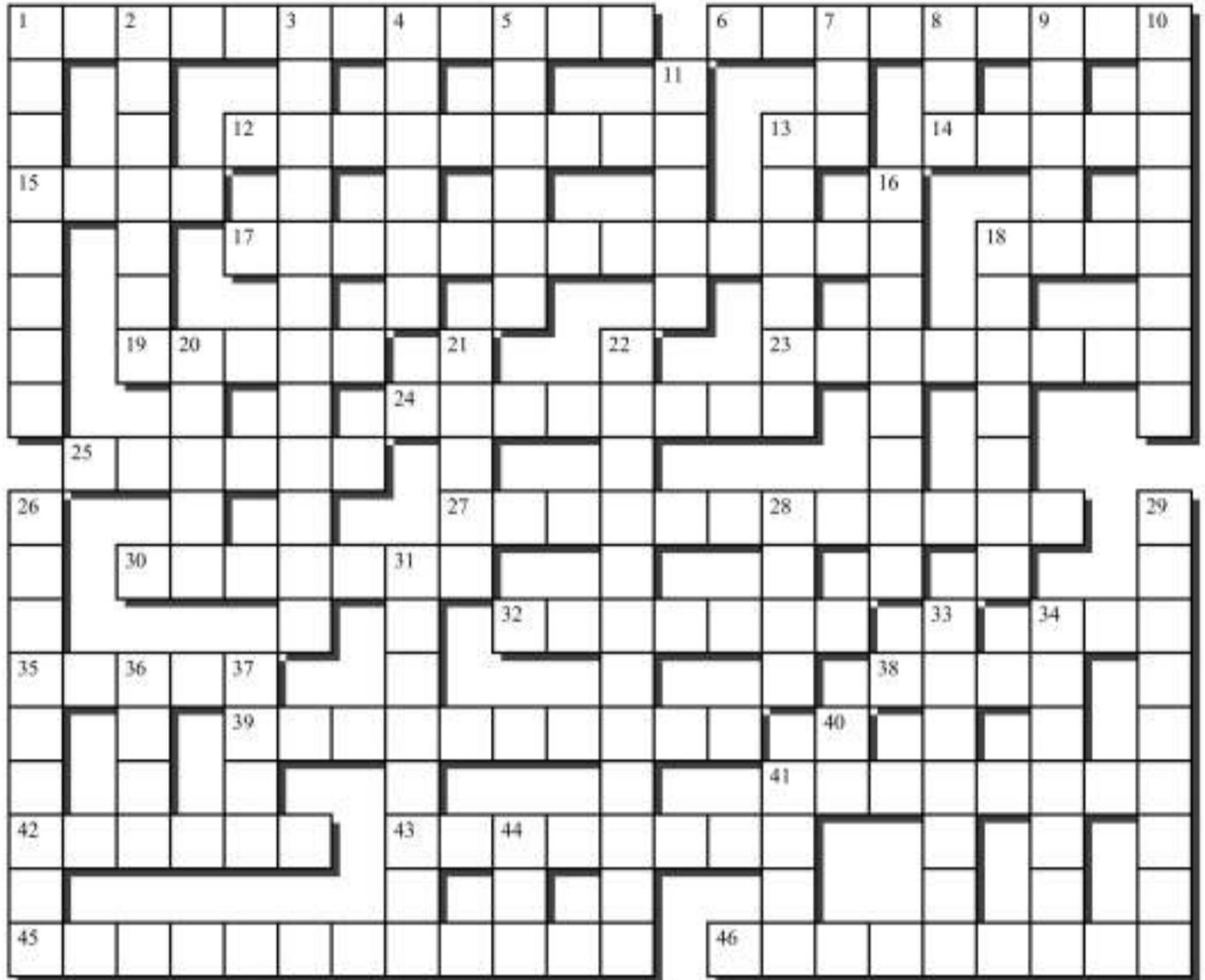
CIRCLEGRAM



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) Deliberate (12)
 - 6) Burn (9)
 - 12) To incinerate (9)
 - 13) The (f) (2)
 - 14) Before (5)
 - 15) Age (4)
 - 17) Hospitalised (13)
 - 18) Art (4)
 - 19) To burn (5)
 - 23) Opening (8)
 - 24) Firefighters (8)
 - 25) Panic (6)
 - 27) Inauguration (12)
 - 30) Orange tree (7)
 - 32) Guest (7)
 - 34) Cabbage (3)
 - 35) Unhurt (5)
 - 38) Cold (4)
 - 39) Destroyed (10)
 - 41) Tragedy (8)
 - 42) Grandchildren (6)
 - 43) To scorch (8)
 - 45) Speculation (12)
 - 46) Stars (9)
- Down**
- 1) Fire (8)
 - 2) Therapy (7)
 - 3) Condolences (12)
 - 4) Bishop (6)
 - 5) Oil (6)
 - 7) That (f) (3)
 - 8) Wing (3)
 - 9) To spread (5)
 - 10) Anxiety (8)
 - 11) To fry (5)
 - 13) Flames (6)
 - 16) Controversy (8)
 - 18) Loudspeaker (7)
 - 20) Round (5)
 - 21) Boyfriend (5)
 - 22) Recovery (12)
 - 26) Incident (9)
 - 28) Rail (4)
 - 29) Soldiers (9)
 - 31) Justice (8)
 - 33) I will scrub (7)
 - 34) Friendly (7)
 - 36) East (4)
 - 37) Hate (4)
 - 40) To go (2)
 - 41) Behind (4)
 - 44) I read (3)



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

Answer: Toy Story
Of interest: Toy Story was the 1st computer-animated feature film released, 22 November, 1995. On this day in tech history, it was released in theatres becoming the first entirely computer-animated feature-length film. It was the first film produced by Pixar with Steve Jobs as an executive producer.
Answer: Cheeses.
Of interest: They are all British cheeses made in (in same order) Dymock (England), Wales, Scotland, Northumberland (England), Somerset (England).

Language Crossword



Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 1 Shepherdes; 9 Lop; 10 Red carpet; 11 Castles; 13 Reserve; 14 Route; 16 Strips; 18 Chapelle; 19 Dwell; 20 Amistasy; 21 Spa; 22 Photo finish; Down: 2 Hip; 3 Fudge; 4 Elders; 5 Dead set; 6 Supervise; 7 Electrician; 8 Steers clear; 12 Squaamish; 15 Exploit; 17 Relief; 19 Doyen; 21 SOS.

Wordpuzler solution



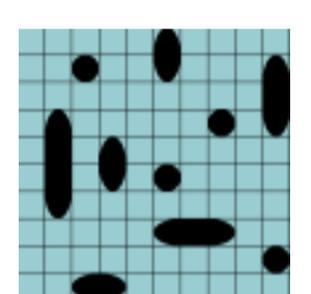
Sudoku solution



Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is N.
 Typhoon, tsunami, tornado, all extreme forms of weather.

Battleships



WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN THIS?



The patio at the centre of culture

Last week: Almuñécar

The bronze monument to the Phoenicians is situated near to another famous monument, that of Laurie Lee, on the Pasillo Altillo in Almuñécar.



THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

Good wishes for 2020

Another year has come to an end but the Christmas celebrations in Spain are still in full swing and excitement is mounting with the pending visit of the Reyes Magos on the night of the 5 January.

This year has been the usual mix of good and bad news, liberally sprinkled with a fair share of Brexit agonising. On the whole things are looking good for Spain (despite the uncertainty over the formation of its new government) and we hope this continues next year.

We wish all our readers a happy and prosperous new year and we look forward to bringing you the news that matters to your local area in 2020.

We can't do that without your help, though. Make sure you get in touch, whether to inform us about the clubs and societies you belong to, or exciting events planned near you.

Email: surinenglish.su@diario-sur.es or get in contact via Twitter (@SUR_English) or Facebook (@surenglish).



The man 'stamped' on the river bed

LUIS MORET



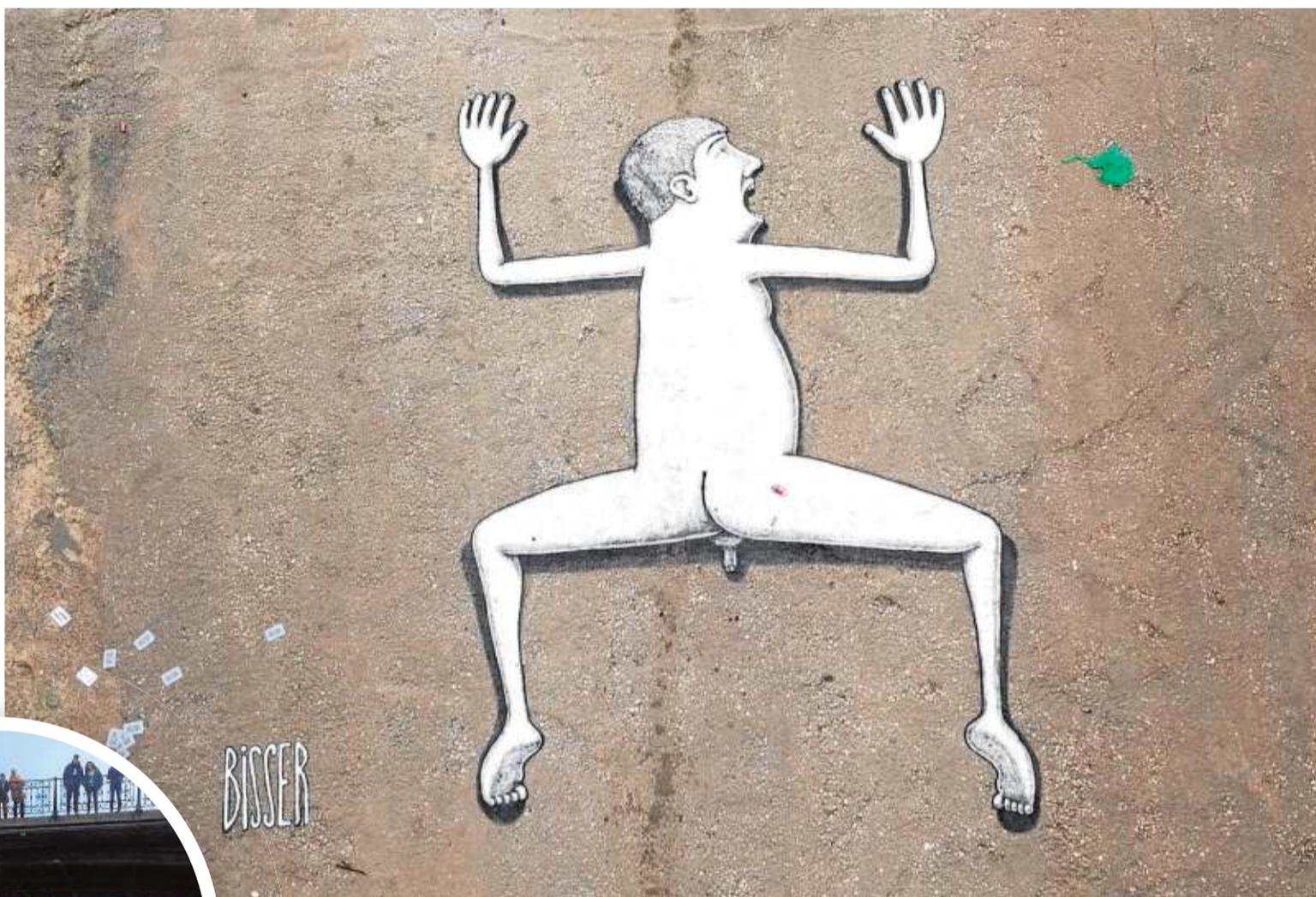
✉ lmoret@diariosur.es

The graffiti artist Bisser has left his mark in Malaga with an image that is taking passersby by surprise

Street art has no boundaries. Some new graffiti, curious to say the least, has been added to the long list of works scattered around Malaga city. This time it's not on one of the walls of the streets. It's a naked man 'stamped' on the bed of the Guadalmedina river and signed by the Belgian artist Bisser, which has already aroused the interest of passersby. The image can be seen under the Puente de la Aurora close to the city centre.

According to the artist the work is called 'Don't jump' and he has chosen this title because there's no water in the river. It also carries an implicit message about climate

A picture posted by the artist on social media of people looking at his work. :: SUR



The artwork on the bed of the Guadalmedina river as seen from the La Aurora bridge. :: ESTER REQUENA

change. "The character has jumped off the bridge and hit the ground. If there had been water, he would have been swimming. Somehow the fact that the river

act against climate change," explains Bisser.

The artist is on tour (he has been cycling around Europe for two and a half months) and on his social media sites he shows works he created in Granada and before that in Valencia.

In the city of the Alhambra he has painted animals, but in the graffiti that he has spread throughout Europe you can see characters and faces.

"My work is figurative; I try to investigate different styles, media, messages and feelings. Sometimes, what I paint can be fun like the one I have completed in the river. But they can also express emotions. I find it a good way to explore different themes and that is a challenge for me," he explains.

Bisser has now returned home and hopes to return and paint somewhere else. Maybe he'll surprise us again.

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