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GARCÍA MARCOS AND ROCA. BRIEFLY SIDE BY SIDE IN THE DOCK. E. MIRANDA

Malaya judge brings accused face to face

Roca has admitted handing over 300,000 euros to ex councillor García Marcos, who denies taking them from him

Two of the main suspects in the Malaya case confronted each other in court this week on the orders of the Court President, José Godino, after Juan Antonio Roca, allegedly the head of the corruption ring, admitted that he had given Isabel García Marcos envelopes containing 300,000 euros in his efforts "to keep the (Marbella) government team united", whereas the former Deputy Mayor denied receiving any

money from him, although he had made a note of the amount in a list and marked it "I.G.M.". Asked where the 312,000 euros found in envelopes during a search of her house had come from, she refused to reply, as her defence team is contending the legality of the search. Roca replied, asking rhetorically why he would have made a note of giving her the amount if he hadn't actually done so.

News 2

Labour reforms make hiring and firing cheaper and easier

The Government has introduced major and aggressive reforms in Spain's labour market, making lay-offs cheaper and easier for employers and creating greater flexibility for firms when it comes to compliance with collective deals over wages and conditions. There are also measures to encourage firms to take on new employees, and tax breaks for employers taking on young people or the long term unemployed.

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Banks take over as developers to shift property

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Royal sister tells the media to keep quiet

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What do expats miss most about 'home'?

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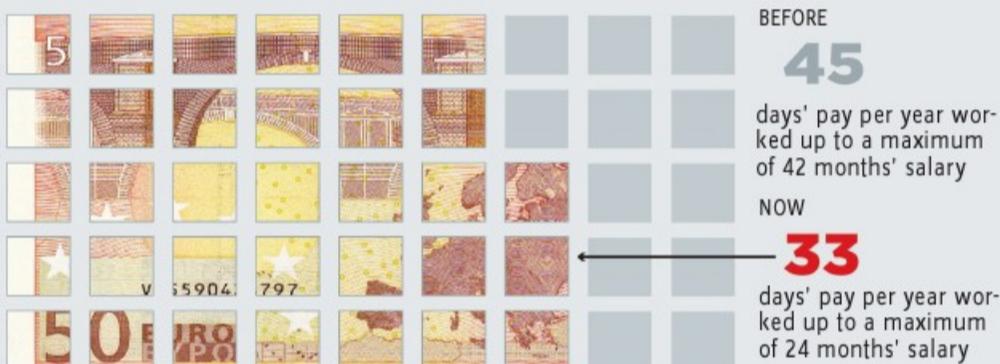
News

Hiring and firing much cheaper and easier with labour reform

The keys to the reform bill

REDUNDANCY

LESS SEVERANCE PAY FOR UNFAIR DISMISSAL



JUST CAUSE DISMISSAL

20
days per year worked

Easier

Applicable when a firm reports a fall in income for three consecutive quarters

maximum: 12 months

Also for public employees

Public firms and institutions can resort to just cause dismissal for financial and viability reasons

CONTRACTS



New indefinite contract for firms with fewer than 50 workers

Tax reduction of 3,000 euros for taking on a first worker under the age of 30; with this contract the salary is compatible with 25% of unemployment benefit for a year

Incentives for taking on workers

Up to 3,600 euros for workers under the age of 30 and 4,500 for long term unemployed

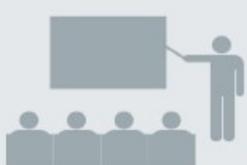
"Stable Employment" contracts

The "Fomento de Empleo Estable" contracts merge with the ordinary indefinite contracts with the "Fomento..." conditions

No more than 24 months on temporary contracts

From December 31st

TRAINING



Training contracts available up to the age of 30

While the unemployment rate is over 15 per cent, a second training contract can be obtained in a different sector

Workers have the right to 20 hours of training a year related to the position held and paid for by the employer

WAGE AGREEMENTS



Maximum extension of two years for expired deals

Company agreements take precedence over others

Firms with problems can opt out of collective deals

Last Friday the government announced its new decree that justifies job losses after nine months of falling income and encourages the employment of young people

JULIO DÍAZ DE ALDA

Last Friday the Spanish Government announced a major labour reform that is as "aggressive" as anticipated. Basically the new law makes it cheaper and easier for employers to lay off workers, creates greater flexibility of conditions that permit a firm to ignore collective deals over wages and conditions, and abolishes firms' obligation to seek permission before making mass redundancies. At the same time the Decree approved by the Cabinet of Ministers offers incentives for small and medium-sized firms that take on young people and the long term unemployed.

Speaking after last Friday's meeting Deputy Prime Minister, Soraya Sáenz de Santamaría, and Employment Minister, Fátima Báñez, described the reform as "historic". They did admit however that the decree alone would not create employment. Their aims, they explained, were to combat rigidity and the dual nature of the market, where a large gap separates workers with stable jobs from those on temporary contracts. The reform would, they maintain, pave the way for the creation of employment at a reasonable rate once the economy starts to pick up.

While everyone waits for that to happen the Spanish employment scene changes significantly. One of the biggest differences is a new indefinite contract with severance pay of 33 days per year worked with the total not exceeding 24 months' salary if the dismissal is considered unfair. This substitutes the existing contract which allows for a pay-off of 45 days up to a maximum of 42 months' salary.

More likely to have an impact on the thousands of workers with

growing fears of redundancy are the changes in the rules as to when it is considered that there is just cause for the termination of a contract. Until now the vast majority of dismissals were considered unfair (*despido improcedente*) due to the difficulties in proving a just cause. Now however a worker can be dismissed with severance pay of 20 days per year worked up to a maximum of 12 months' salary if the employer has recorded a "persistent" reduction in income or sales that puts the viability of the company at risk.

The Government considers this "persistent" fall in income to be three consecutive quarters. In other words, from now on if takings are down for nine months in a row then redundancies are justified.

The reform also does away with what was known as the "*despido exprés*", when the employer admitted the dismissal was unfair and paid up the 45 days without going through legal proceedings.

Mass redundancy packages

The third way in which laying staff off has been made easier is by abolishing the authorisation of mass redundancy packages, known in Spanish as EREs. Until now if the termination of contracts affected at least ten per cent of the workforce the authorities had to give their authorisation which normally came following an agreement with union representatives. Now the employer alone can decide whether the loss in sales puts their business in danger, justifying mass redundancies, although this decision can be overruled by a judge. This modification could foreseeably lead to a flood of dismissals at the reduced cost of 20 days.

It remains to be seen, therefore, whether these new rules and regulations will make "redundancy a last resort", a phrase Báñez and her ministry use as the 'leitmotif' of the reform.

The advantages for the employer don't stop there. The reform makes it easier for them to opt out of the

The Government admits that the labour reform will not create jobs in the short term

Severance pay in cases of unfair dismissal has been cut from 45 to 33 days per year worked

News Spain

collective bargaining agreements between unions and employers to establish wages and conditions. If the firm is proved to be struggling the employer can modify working hours, salaries and job descriptions without adhering to the deal negotiated.

Incentives

As well as making it easier to get rid of staff the reform does offer businesses incentives to take on new employees. Firms with no more than 50 employees are entitled to a 3,000 euro tax break for the first unemployed person under the age of 50 in the first year. That first year is considered the worker's trial period and the contract can be terminated after a year with no severance pay. These workers can supplement their salaries with 25 per cent of their unemployment benefit during this period. This type of contract is compatible with extra subsidies for taking on workers aged between 16 and 30 and the long term unemployed.

As from December 31st firms will not be able to string together temporary contracts for more than two years.



ANNOUNCEMENT. DEPUTY PM SORAYA SAENZ DE SANTA MARIA (LEFT) AND EMPLOYMENT MINISTER FATIMA BAÑEZ, AFTER LAST WEEK'S CABINET MEETING. REUTERS

Merkel praises "bravery" of the Spanish reform

M. J. A.

The German Government has given its approval to the Spanish plans for labour reform describing them as "exemplary and brave". These were the

words used by Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesperson, Steffan Seibert via Twitter. Seibert also stressed that the reforms passed in Italy, Spain and Portugal show that "Europe is learning from the crisis".

The secretary general of the OECD, Ángel Gurría, also stated that the Spanish Government's reform is "an important step".

Unions agree to dialogue as they plan protests for this Sunday

M. J. ALEGRE

On Monday leaders of Spain's two main trade unions, CCOO and UGT, as well as representatives of business associations CEOE and Cepyme, met with the Minister for Employment, Fátima Báñez, to discuss the reform in force since last weekend.

After the meeting the union representatives admitted that the government was open to talks but meanwhile they continue with their plans to call mass protests all over the country this Sunday February 19th. They showed little hope that talks would lead to any significant modifications to the new reform.

Fátima Báñez said that the text would be studied carefully to establish points of consensus in the objections opposition groups could bring up in Parliament. She also stressed that a "window is open for dialogue" in order to "bring in improvements" to the text that in any case the Government will have no problems passing through Parliament with their overall majority.

Representatives of businesses and self-employed workers spoke favourably of the reform, claiming that it would help small and medium-sized businesses generate employment.

Protests

"No to the unfair and useless labour reform" is the slogan for the protests organised for this Sunday. So far neither of the unions, at least not on a national level, has openly suggested that the protests could be the first step to-

wards a general strike.

Unions have objected fiercely to the new 'indefinite' conditions for young people which allows the contract to be terminated after a year's trial period without any severance pay. Unions believe that this could be a violation of the principles of the Spanish Constitution, as could the clause

that allows an employers to ignore wage agreements if the firm is struggling.

Malaga demonstration

In Malaga demonstrators will set off from the Alameda de Colón at 11 a.m., taking their march through the main roads in the city centre.

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News

Tarifa residents join forces to paint the town clean

Sick of looking at the dirty walls on the paseo and around the castle in Tarifa, resident Henk Post decided to do something about it

NATASHA SMITH

Locals in Tarifa have joined an initiative to clean up the town, after Tarifa resident Henk Post took matters into his own hands.

Using Facebook, he rallied together a group of friends and on Tuesday, 14th of February at eleven in the morning, they met at the castle wall with buckets of white paint, rollers and paintbrushes. Their aim was to repaint the wall by the end of the day.

"All of the materials have been supplied by local people," explains Henk. "This is a real local initiative. Too many people complain about their towns but it's too easy to complain. Now is the time to come with some solutions. That's what this initiative is about."



AT WORK. CARMEN IS HAPPY TO GIVE UP HER TIME TO PAINT CASTLE WALL. n.s.

Before embarking on the project, Henk secured the support of Tarifa's new mayor Juan Andrés Gil. Gil's new administration recognises that the future of Tarifa lies in the success of its tourism industry and that's why he is giving his full support to the project.

Love of the town

Another Tarifa resident, Carmen, has lived in the town for more than fifteen years and is originally from Algeciras. She is happy to give her

time to the project.

"I think today is the perfect day to start the clean up of Tarifa. Today is Valentine's Day and by painting this wall I am showing my love of Tarifa. It costs me nothing to do this except my time and it's worth it. Tarifa is beautiful and it's up to us, the people who live here, to keep it that way. It's time for us to give something back", she said.

Henk plans to extend the project to further parts of Tarifa.

'Correos' delivers a blow to box holders

Álora countryside residents without postal services face additional post box charges

RICKY LEACH

Residents in outlying areas of Álora with post boxes at the town's main Post Office are facing increased costs as the letter of the law is applied to the annual service charges.

One British resident contacted SUR in English after she and her husband were told that they could no longer have all their mail delivered to their P.O. Box within the Post Office, without paying to add a second name to the contract for the annual rental agreement for the box. According to the couple, they were advised that if they did not pay an additional fee to either add both names or to rent a second post box, then incoming post in the husband's name would not be sorted into the box and in theory, could be returned to the sender.

"It is ridiculous" said the woman, "We have had the box for years and been receiving post for the whole family but now they say if we don't pay more money some of our letters will not be put in our box." After trying to reason with staff at the Álora Post office, the couple say that the decision has apparently not been made locally but has instead been forced upon the Álora Post Office by national management.

SUR in English spoke to a member of the Álora Post Office staff who confirmed that the conditions for hiring a post box have always stated that a fee must be paid for the name of each person having post delivered to the box but he acknowledged that for years this rule has not been applied.

Since a recent internal quality review of the Álora Post Office, members of staff have now been asked to notify customers of the official rules, which are being applied nationally, not just to Álora. A retired British postman living nearby said "This is just a way of raising more money for the same work. It will take longer to sort letters by name than it does by box number."

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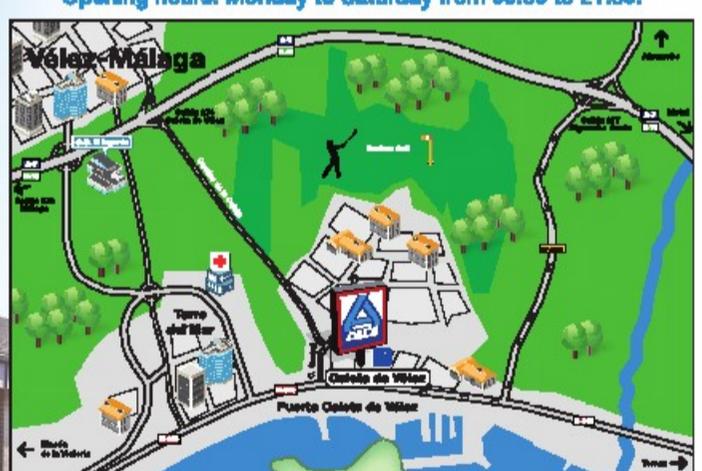
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News

Banks take on the role of developers to complete half built properties

The crisis and debts are leaving unfinished developments in the hands of the banks, who set about completing them

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

Traditionally estate agents, property developers and banks have worked together, but each on their own side of the table. The crisis has turned everything on its head; the banks have 'inherited' unsold properties from bankrupt developers and are taking on the role of real estate agents in order to sell them. But what happens when the banks find half finished developments among their growing stock of repossessions?

If selling properties ready to move into is difficult enough these days, getting rid of half finished homes is practically impossible. It is in everyone's interest to complete the project. In general creditors are allowing struggling developers to refinance their debt in order to finish construction. However more and more firms are throwing in the towel and the half built properties end up with the banks, who



BANKS. THE COMPLETION OF ABANDONED PROJECTS HAS CREATED SOME JOBS. SUR

in turn take over the role of the developer.

On one hand this has been interpreted as an added complication for existing developers who are still struggling to survive and cannot embark on any new projects until they have sold the stock they have. However the banks'

construction activity is providing some, albeit small, relief for the industry.

"Developers say that it is unfair competition, but we can't have all these properties that we are unable to put on the market", said an executive of one financial institution that has several construction projects on the go in the province and who stresses that this practice is a last resort because they would prefer "to help the firm to finish the properties in order to be able to sell them". His argument was clear: "We want to recover our money, not end up with the flats".

At the moment they are concentrating on developments where construction work was interrupted in its final stages, although they are also resuming work on some projects on which less progress has been made.

According statistics released by the Official School of Architects, the crisis has left more than 45,000 unfinished properties in the province of Malaga, although this includes the projects that were abandoned even before the machinery moved in.

sale on the banks' websites, at present a total of 2,400. It is clear, however that there are a lot more repossessed properties that do not appear on the web.

Nevertheless in recent years the banks' own property websites have become one of the best showcases for real estate. The majority of the properties on offer are new flats or houses but there are also commercial premises, storerooms, garages and properties repossessed from a previous owner.

Developers and property agents complain of unfair competition especially when the bank offers more favourable mortgage conditions for its own properties.

Figures

How many properties have the banks got to sell?

F.J.

Exactly how many unsold properties are currently in the hands of the banks? The figure is a mystery as none of the banks in question wants to reveal what proportion of its assets are tied up in real estate. The only figures available can be gleaned from the number of properties currently being advertised for



SEVILLE. PILAR DE BORBÓN WITH THE MAYOR AND ARCHBISHOP ASENJO. EFE

Royal aunt tells media to "shut up" about Urdangarin

"No one is guilty until the judges say so", said Pilar de Borbón this week

R. GORRIARÁN

Since the Royal Household announced that Iñaki Urdangarin had been removed from the official agenda due to his indictment for fraud and embezzlement, there have been no more statements on the subject from the royal family. That is until this week, when the King's sister, Pilar de Borbón attacked the media, accusing them of "organising" the case against the Infanta Cristina's husband. While opening a charity market in Seville

on Wednesday she said "no one is guilty until the judges say so, so until then, shut up". She had harsh words for the celebrity gossip TV shows, saying that, even though she didn't watch them, they were "absurd" and their content was "pornographic".

Meanwhile one of these shows, on the channel Telecinco, has released statements made by Cristina to a reporter who approached her in a supermarket in Washington. "We are trying to lead a normal life and you (the media) aren't letting us" she said.

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News

More than 3,300 local firms go under, owed millions by authorities that don't pay

The Chamber of Commerce offers advice to help businesses recover debts that amount to some 500 million euros in Malaga

M. ANGELES GONZÁLEZ

"These days providing services to the administration is a costly business. It is a high risk profession because we are permanently in temporary receivership". This illustrative reflection comes from the President of Malaga's Chamber of Commerce (CEM), Javier González de Lara, when considering the difficult situation thousands of small and medium-sized firms find themselves in as they are owed a total of 500 million euros by town halls or provincial, regional and state authorities.

Public debt to private firms has become a cancer working its way through the business fabric of the province of Malaga. Businesses are fighting to survive in a hostile financial environment that in just two years has led to the demise of

10,000 companies, according to the calculations of the Chamber of Commerce. They estimate that a third of these closures are directly related to bills left unpaid by different authorities. As far as employment is concerned this would mean that 8,700 people have lost their jobs for this reason.

Although he avoided naming any specific municipalities, González de Lara did point out that public debt to local firms was greater on the Western Costa del Sol. At the same time he highlighted the debt management at Malaga City Hall "who pay in reasonable time".

Advisory programme

Well aware of the great importance of the management of debt recovery in a socioeconomic climate where there are clear obstacles to obtaining credit, the CEM, in collaboration with the law firm Gómez-Acebo & Pombo Abogados, has set up an advisory programme to offer members information about legal action that can be taken to speed up the recovery of debts owed by the authorities.

If all the Malaga firms that work with the public administrations, somewhere between 10,00 and 15,000 in the province, were to receive the money owed to them in 24 hours, the provincial Gross Domestic

Product (GDP) would automatically grow between one and 1.5 per cent, calculates the CEM chief, who stressed the effect the payment of the debts would have on employment.

However this is no more than hypothesis as the vast majority of institutions fail to pay their suppliers' bills within the time limit established by law: 40 days this year, going down to 30 days in 2013.

Nevertheless bringing forward the deadlines is, according to González de Lara, a reflection of changing trends in the judicial system, "which is now showing greater collaboration" in this area, support that he claims "we must make the most of".

"All is not lost. Business owners do have ways of getting their money, they must not lose hope", said the president of the CEM.

As far as the labour reform is concerned, González de Lara said that it is a "step in the right direction" for a recovery in employment. "it is a wide-reaching decree, quite weighty, that lays down the guidelines for a more flexible employment market". He did add, however, that these changes would not "generate employment by themselves" and that "other fiscal, financial and administrative reforms" are necessary.

Here & There



NEW SYSTEM. THE DOOR-TO-DOOR COLLECTION WILL END. SUR

Mijas Refuse collection system to change in April

The nightly, property-to-property refuse collection in Mijas Pueblo is to come to an end at Easter, according to a statement this week by the Town Hall.

The service is to be replaced by communal street containers in which residents can deposit their household waste. However, due to the narrowness of

some roads in the historic centre, certain areas will have designated rubbish bag drop-off points instead.

"These will be situated in accessible and strategic locations, no more than 20 or 30 metres from most people's homes," explains Councillor for Public Areas, Juan Carlos González.

Fuengirola Drivers can now update licence details online

From this week Fuengirola residents who are registered on the municipal census ('padrón') are able to change the address on their driver's licence via the Town Hall's website, www.fuengirola.es, rather than having to go to the Traffic Department's headquarters in Malaga.

The new system came into effect on Monday (13th February) following an agreement between the local administration and 'Tráfico', meaning that those in Fuengirola no longer have to leave their homes to be able to update their licence details, something drivers are required to do by law if they change address.

"This is the first council to sign-up to the new measures being introduced by General Directorate of Traffic," confirms Mayor, Esperanza Oña.

Mijas Neighbouring fire crews could join forces

The Mayor of Mijas, Ángel Nozal, says he is open to the idea of possibly merging the Mijas and Fuengirola firefighting services "to increase efficiency and to offer a better service to the citizens of both municipalities." The plan was first mooted in 2008 although the agreement was never ratified by the then Mijas council.

Benalmádena A new 'Palacio de Congresos'?

Benalmádena Town Hall says that it is studying the possibilities of constructing a conference centre in Torrequebrada. It adds, however: "But given the current situation of municipal coffers, grants and/or private investments would also be necessary to realise this project."

Benalmádena Extra funds allocated to help the unemployed

Three million euros is to be invested in Town Hall-run training and employment programmes this year. The various initiatives will provide vocational training for 472 people in 13 different industries, and a further 562 will receive personalised job-seeking guidance, says the council.



MAYOR. ESPERANZA OÑA. SUR

How the labour reform affects existing workers

ANA BARANDIARAN

Reading the smallprint of the Government's new labour reform has revealed some unpleasant surprises that were not mentioned in last Friday's announcement. One of these is that severance pay entitlement in the case of unfair dismissal has been cut for anyone employed after 1984. The official statement last week gave the impression that the rights acquired by employees with the old 45 day contract would be respected. However the reform states that only those who have been working for 28 years are entitled to the maximum of 42 months' salary. From then on the maximum amount falls with a 24 month limit established for contracts signed in 1996. The table on the right shows the severance pay entitlement for workers with a 45 day contract signed before the labour reform.

Reduction in severance pay

YEAR OF DISMISSAL

YEAR OF CONTRACT	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Before 1984	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42
1984	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42
1985	40.5	40.5	40.5	40.5	40.5	40.5	40.5	40.5	40.5
1986	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39
1987	37.5	37.5	37.5	37.5	37.5	37.5	37.5	37.5	37.5
1988	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36
1989	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5
1990	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33
1991	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5
1992	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
1993	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5
1994	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
1995	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5
1996	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
1997	22.5	23.5	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
1998	21	22.1	23.2	24	24	24	24	24	24
1999	19.5	20.5	21.7	22.8	23.9	24	24	24	24
2000	18	19.1	20.2	21.3	22.4	23.5	24	24	24
2001	16.5	17.6	18.7	19.8	20.9	22	23.1	24	24
2002	15	16.1	17.2	18.3	19.4	20.5	21.6	22.7	23.8
2003	13.5	14.6	15.7	16.8	17.9	19	20.1	21.2	22.3
2004	12	13.1	14.2	15.3	16.4	17.5	18.6	19.7	20.8
2005	10.5	11.6	12.7	13.8	14.9	16	17.1	18.2	19.3
2006	9	10.1	11.2	12.3	13.4	14.5	15.6	16.7	17.8
2007	7.5	8.5	9.7	10.8	11.9	13	14.1	15.2	16.3
2008	6	7.1	8.2	9.3	10.4	11.5	12.6	13.7	14.8
2009	4.5	5.6	6.7	7.8	8.9	10	11.1	12.2	13.3
2010	3	4.1	5.2	6.3	7.4	8.5	9.6	10.7	11.8
2011	1.5	2.6	3.7	4.8	5.9	7	8.1	9.2	10.3
2012	0	1.1	2.2	3.3	4.4	5.5	6.6	7.7	8.8

GRÁFICO ISABEL TOLEDO

News

Inflation fell to two per cent in January

Consumer products used in inflation calculations are updated to incorporate changes in technology and lifestyle

CÉSAR CALVAR

Households' spending habits change as new technology replaces old and the methods used to calculate inflation have to adapt accordingly. Last week Spain's National Statistics Institute (INE) announced the details of the new guidelines upon which the Consumer Price Index is based. Certain products, now considered to be obsolete, have been removed from the equation, others have been added, and the weight carried by different groups of goods and services within the household expenses has been updated.

Among the changes is the addition of new technology. The most recent inflation figures published this week, have taken into account the variations in price of items such as portable hard drives, tablets and notebooks while recordable CDs and video rentals have been wiped off the list.

The standard shopping basket considered by the INE also no includes increasingly common beauty treatments such as photo

and laser depilation. Costs of other services such as speech therapists have been incorporated into the calculations.

Also new in the latest set of guidelines, which are updated every five years, is a table tracking changes in family expenditure. In the current recession, it seems, families are spending more on essentials such as transport, housing, food and drink and less on clothing and communications.

Inflation falls in 2012

The INE announced its latest monthly figures on Wednesday. In the dark days of a severe economic climate there is good news at last.

The overall rate of inflation in January 2012 has dropped to two per cent, the same level registered a year and a half ago. This is a decrease of one per cent from December's figures and is much lower than the highest rate recorded recently which was 3.8 per cent in April 2011.

According to the INE, January's dramatic drop in the Consumer Price Index is due, in large part, to the current stabilisation of rates for electricity which went up almost ten per cent a year ago. Additionally an aggressive price war between telecommunications companies has led to a sharp fall in the cost of phone rental and internet services. Long and continuing winter sales and the cutting of expenditure on non-essential goods mean that clothes and shoes have also decreased in price.

Organised crime on the Costa at its lowest level for a decade

The police and the economic situation have reduced the crime rate to 57 offences per 1,000 inhabitants

JUAN CANO

Shootings in the street. Unidentified bodies in suitcases. In the last decade, the Costa del Sol has had to get acquainted with the jargon of organised crime which has taken over the news fairly frequently.

Something has changed. Crimes linked to mafia groups have been in clear decline in recent years, but drug trafficking seems to remain deeply rooted on the coast, a strategic location for the drug routes into Europe.

Just five years ago, the crime rate was at its peak with 70 offences per 1,000 inhabitants, but last year that number had fallen to 57. Nonetheless, this is still higher than the national average, which currently sits at around 45



SURVEILLANCE. POLICE REINFORCEMENTS HAVE HELPED REDUCE CRIME. SUR

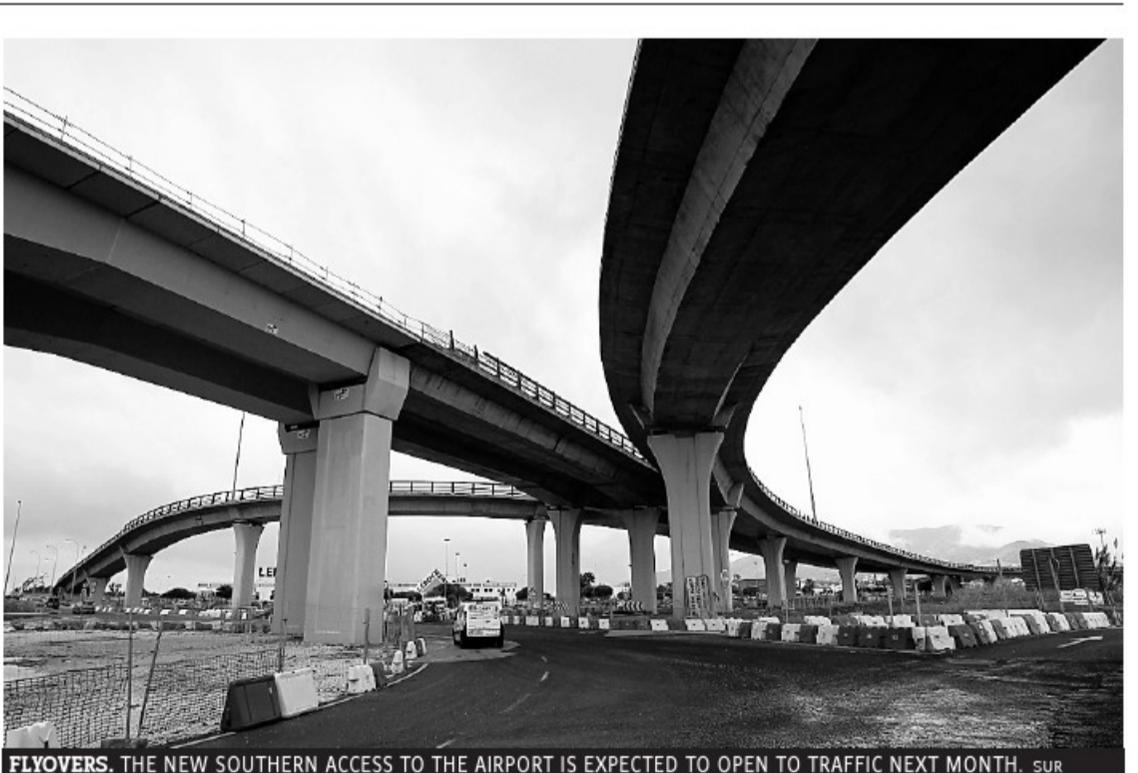
per thousand.

According to the police, there are various reasons for this decrease. Three years ago a campaign was put in motion which focused on finding foreign criminals hiding on the coast. Since then, many have been detained and some deported.

Other key factors are the quality of witness statements, which have contributed to putting crimi-

nals behind bars, and increased police numbers.

Against all predictions, the crisis has also played a decisive role in the statistical fall. The number of serious crimes has fallen, but there are more 'marginal' offences such as thefts and they are being carried out by Spaniards rather than the gangs from Eastern Europe which have been the biggest problem over the last decade.



FLYOVERS. THE NEW SOUTHERN ACCESS TO THE AIRPORT IS EXPECTED TO OPEN TO TRAFFIC NEXT MONTH. SUR

Airport connections take off

The new southern access road into Malaga airport from the Guadalmar junction is due to open next month, and as one scheme comes to a close, another gets off the ground. The Ministry of Development has included the future northern access road in its list of priorities, and some funding is expected to appear in the State Budget to be approved at the end of March. The north access will connect the airport with the outer ring road at the Alhaurín de la Torre roundabout, covering a distance of just 1.6 kilometres.

News Tourism

Luxury tourism plans will attract visitors from Russia, Persian Gulf and the U.S.A.

The Costa del Sol Elite Collection has been created to sell the most exclusive transport, hotels, leisure and excursions

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

The Costa del Sol is returning to its original roots, when it was a favourite tourist destination for high society and Royalty, and it is promoting its most luxurious attractions to markets with such great potential as Russia, the Persian Gulf countries and the U.S.A. The president of the Tourist Board, Elías Bendodo, recently presented details of the Costa del Sol Elite Collection, which is aimed at bringing together tour operators and travel clubs for those with high purchasing power, transport, accommodation, leisure and the most select excursions.

Marbella will be the standard bearer of this product which will include private aircraft companies, chauffeur-driven cars, luxury hotels and beach clubs and individually-designed trips to places of interest in Malaga province. This will be a new way of attracting magnates and high-ranking executives and will position the Costa del Sol as Spain's third luxury tourism destination. "We will be the third corner of the triangle of the Spanish luxury sector, with Madrid and Barcelona", explained Mr. Bendodo.

The Costa del Sol Elite Collection will be officially presented in March at the Arabian Travel Market tourism fair and then at events which feature the most exclusive tourist attractions, such as the fair in Las Vegas in August and the ILTM in the French resort of Cannes.

Planning

Mr. Bendodo says this new strategy will also include familiarisation trips for agents from Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and India; the latter, together with China, are the main markets to which this exclusive product will be marketed in the medium term.

The Tourist Board is working with operators who specialise in luxury tourism, such as Latitud4 and La Vida es Bella, groups whose clients tend to be professionals between the ages of 30 and 40, who demand a personalised service when they go abroad and who are prepared to pay an average of 3,000 euros for their holidays although some will spend as

much as 50,000. "It is an opportunity we cannot miss. Quality and safety are the two indispensable factors for these clients and the Costa has them both", explains the president of the Tourist Board. The destination will also be part of Virtuoso, the luxury tourism

network which is only available by invitation; it will cost about 40,000 euros for the Costa del Sol to benefit from the services of its 300 agencies, with six thousand agents in 22 different countries and about a thousand suppliers who specialise in these high level

travellers. "Being part of this network is fundamental to having your own stamp as a luxury destination, and at the moment that only applies to Madrid, Barcelona and the Basque Country", explained Elías Bendodo.

Challenges

The Tourist Board plans to create literature exclusively for this product and is contemplating 'door to door' activities via specialist agencies in different cities in Russia, the Persian Gulf and the U.S.A. Mr. Bendodo explained that the decision to redefine the luxury attractions of the Costa was not taken lightly but was in response to the recommendation of Spanish international tourism offices, who will now promote the new brand among worldwide travel agencies and international specialist media.

The president of the Tourist Board also said that Costa del Sol Elite Collection will cultivate a sector which has a great deal to offer and which has existed for some time, but it will reposition the area as a high quality destination, reinforcing its image and its prestige. It will also encourage tourism out of peak season. He explained that Russia, the Persian

Gulf countries and the U.S.A. were chosen because they are markets in which the Costa del Sol brand is well known and linked to exclusive attractions. Also, last year there was a growth in visitors from these countries: 50 per cent more Russians, 40 per cent more from Arab countries and almost 14 per cent more Americans. The luxury sector is not affected by fluctuations in the economic situation and in Spain it ended last year with sales of more than 4,500 million euros and the number of overnight stays in five-star hotels rose by 20 per cent. The Costa has the greatest number of luxury hotels in Spain. "This shows the potential of this sector and that is why the Costa del Sol, as a leading des-

The Costa del Sol originated as a luxury destination and is returning to its roots

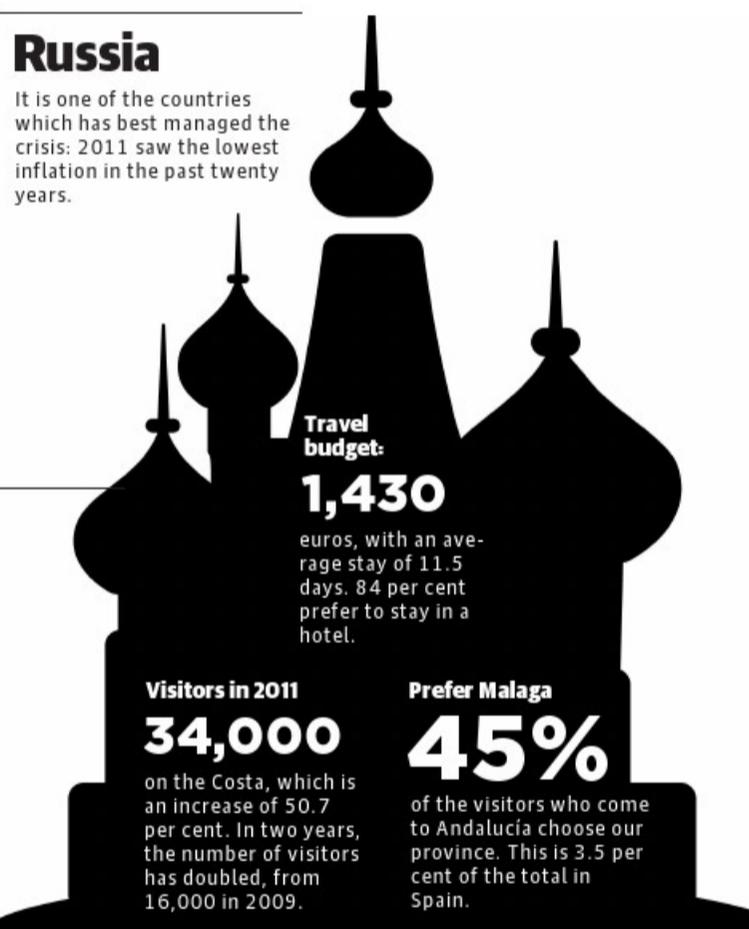
The luxury sector has shown itself to be less affected by the economic crisis

tinuation, has to conquer its share of that market", he said. Mr. Bendodo pointed out that luxury on the Costa del Sol began in Marbella, and thanks to visionaries such as Alfonso de Hohenlohe, it acquired worldwide fame. In the 1950s it was high society and European royalty who gave this sector the prestige which led to the Costa becoming what it is today. Other important factors were the presence of the Saudi Arabian royal family and the construction of Puerto Banús. After years of package holidays, the Costa is being polished up once again to shine on the map of the most exclusive tourism.

Potential luxury markets of the Costa

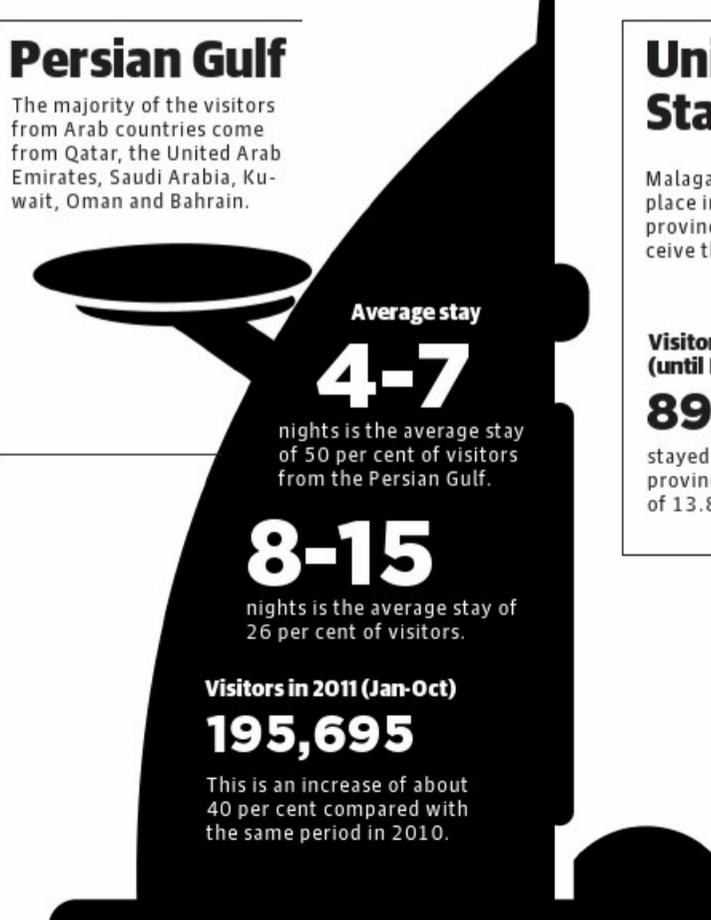
Russia

It is one of the countries which has best managed the crisis: 2011 saw the lowest inflation in the past twenty years.



Persian Gulf

The majority of the visitors from Arab countries come from Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain.



United States

Malaga occupies fifth place in the list of provinces which receive this market.

Visitors in 2011 (until November)
89,967

stayed in hotels in the province, an increase of 13.84 per cent.



Source: Costa del Sol Tourist Board

GRAPHICS: f.r.

January – An Encouraging Start To The Year



■ January was a very positive month for the major equity markets as they enjoyed a strong start to 2012. The FTSE 100 Index posted its best monthly performance since October. European shares had reached a 6-month high by 1st February. The US Dow Jones Industrial Average and S&P 500 indices recorded their best start to the year since 1997.

by Bill Blevins, Financial Correspondent Blevins Franks

The star performer was emerging markets. The MSCI Emerging Markets index posted a gain of 11% (in US Dollar terms), which was the best start to a year since 2001 for this region.

Change in sentiment?

An interesting indicator of investor sentiment is fund flow data, which shows the direction of investor money and the destination. BPF Global, which provides fund flows and asset allocation data to financial institutions around the world, reported that January 2012 saw inflows into emerging market funds reach levels not seen since the second quarter of 2011.

It was also reported that high yield bond funds recorded strong inflows.

Reflecting the general increase in risk appetite, financial sector funds recorded their biggest weekly inflow (for week ending 25th January 2012) since the fourth quarter of 2010 and redemptions by retail investors from equity funds fell to the lowest level in over six months.

Fears surrounding Italy or Spain being

dragged down by the Eurozone crisis also subsided. The difference – “spread” – between the yield on Italian and Spanish government bonds relative to stable German government bonds declined over recent months. The risk associated with holding them has decreased and this increase in sentiment has been reflected in the strong equity market performance in January.

What has driven this change in investor sentiment?

Decisive policy decisions by central banks around the globe definitely helped improve sentiment. The decision the European Central Bank took in December 2011 to make available ultra-cheap 3 year loans to European banks helped boost liquidity and remove some of the financial risks in the region.

The US Federal Reserve Bank has adopted a very transparent stance and recently announced an extension to their ‘lower for longer’ interest rate policy.

In emerging markets we saw a variety

of policy measures aimed at maintaining demand and growth over January, including interest rate cuts in a host of countries. India and China reduced their reserve ratio requirements – the amount of deposits that banks must set aside, so banks are able to lend more and therefore increase growth prospects within the economy.

There have been concerns that emerging markets might head for a ‘hard landing’, but this now does not seem to be the case. Their economies in general are slowing, but not as sharply as some had feared.

Further encouragement came from the increasingly better performance of the US economy in recent months; which reaffirmed the fact that the US is a long way from entering a recession. Here in Europe the economic data was less bad than feared, with better data from Germany in particular.

So while there has not been an abundance of good news, overall the bad news was not as bad as feared last autumn. Risks within Europe do of course still exist, as do challenges to

growth, but the positive news is that Europe is not falling apart at the seams as was predicted by some late last year.

Where next?

We don’t yet know whether markets have put all the fears of last year behind them. Until there is a more definite resolution to the Eurozone crisis we can expect some more volatility and sideways trading.

Having said this, let’s not forget that markets are forward looking and have the ability to rebound strongly. Major equity markets rallied over 40% in the 12 months following the post-Lehman’s low in 2009.

If the momentum we saw in January continues to drive shares higher, more and more investors will be encouraged to move back into equities. There is a lot of money sitting in cash waiting to be invested, especially with interest rates so low.

Is this a good time to invest? Yes, but then so is any other time. If your objective is to protect the long-term value of your capital, you need to invest

for the long-term. There is therefore no ‘perfect time’ to make the investment and short-term volatility should not have a significant impact on your long-term wealth. Jumping in and out of the markets can do more harm than good. Markets often provide their biggest returns when least expected, and missing the best days, even though it is just a few days, tends to result in considerably poorer returns.

These views are put forward for consideration purposes only as the suitability of any investment is dependent on the investment objectives, time horizon and attitude to risk of the investor. Past performance should not be seen as an indication of future performance. Seek personalised advice from a professional wealth manager like Blevins Franks.

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112Reports



GRIEF. EDUARDO'S WIDOW AND BROTHER WITH A PHOTO OF THE VICTIM. J. L.

Marbella

Three in custody for Cabopino murder

Earlier this week police arrested three men in connection with the murder of 25 year old Eduardo Ochoa who was stabbed to death outside a bar in Cabopino last week. Of Spanish nationality and Ecuadorian origin the victim was married with an eleven month old daughter. Witness reports and further investigation enabled the police to identify three suspects, the perpetrator

of the stabbing and two accomplices who have been remanded in custody accused of homicide and violent theft. The investigation has revealed that it was not a premeditated crime but an improvised robbery; they got away with the victim's wallet and mobile phone. All three suspects are Spanish, one 22 years old and the other two 34, and live in Mijas and Fuengirola.

Nerja

Guardia Civil catch up with drugs smugglers

The Guardia Civil have broken up an organisation that planned to smuggle more than 1,500 kilos of hashish into Spain via the Nerja coastline. The police operation 'Mar Negro' began in the summer with the arrest of four members of the gang. Last week the authorities caught up with a fifth suspect. Last July patrols watched as two boats anchored off the shores of Nerja were approached in turn by another vessel travelling from the Moroccan coastline and bundles of drugs were transferred. The two boats receiving the packages were intercepted before they reached the shore. Officers seized 1,557 kilos of hashish, several mobile telephones and documents. The four occupants of the vessels were remanded in custody. Investigations have since led to the arrest of a fifth member.

Malaga

Footballer gets two years for biting off an ear

An argument between two footballers over who was going to fetch the ball from outside the ground has led to a two year prison sentence and an order to pay 6,500 euros in compensation. The incident occurred in 2007 during a match on the city's Nueva Malaga-La Unidad ground. The argument between two players on opposing teams, aged 27 and 29, broke out after the ball had gone outside the ground and neither wanted to go and get it. The dispute turned into a fight during which one of the men bit the other on the ear ripping off his earlobe. He in turn was punched in the eye. Each reported the other for assault although the ear-biter later dropped charges. He has now been convicted but will not serve his two year sentence as he has no criminal record.

Torrox

Drunk driver ploughs into terrace

A group of British residents were enjoying lunch on the terrace of a bar in the Plaza de la Constitución on Saturday when they were run over by a vehicle that left the road out of control. The driver was breathalysed and found to be three times over the limit. Witness reports maintain that he was apparently talking on his mobile telephone at the time.

It appears that the driver, identified by the initials A. F., lost control of his vehicle after turning outside the Town Hall and drove into one of the large plant pots on the edge of the terrace. The pot in turn crashed into a tree and two of the tables outside the bar in the square.

Four British nationals, all resident in the area and aged between 62 and 70, were injured. Two women were taken to hospital by ambulance and the other two were treated by the emergency services on the scene.

One resident told SUR in English how his pet dog was also injured in the accident and later died on the operating table.



BEWARE. PHONEY GAS INSPECTORS.

Malaga

Four arrested for posing as gas inspectors

Four men have been arrested for coercion after the families of two people in the eighties reported that they had been the victims of phony gas inspectors. The group turned up at their victim's home telling them that they had "by law" to inspect their gas installation as it was faulty. They threatened them with cutting off the supply and a fine if they did not let them in. The individuals then gave the victims a bill for 399.98 euros. According to Spanish law, fraud is only considered a criminal offence if it is over 400 euros. The false inspectors, who claimed they worked for an officially approved firm, even tested for gas leaks with a lighter, something a professional would never do due to the risk of explosion, explained the Police.



EVIDENCE. GUARDIA CIVIL IMAGES SHOW THE DRUGS TRANSFER. G.C.



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News

Owners of illegal homes prepare to wage war on the Junta's decree and land law

The Provincial Association of Irregular Properties (APVI) is organising a protest rally in Seville on February 28th

AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ / GEMA MARTÍNEZ

The Junta de Andalucía's decree designed to 'regularise' the rural properties classed as illegal comes into force on March 1st. At a meeting in Malaga on Tuesday the Land Planning Secretary, Gloria Vega, announced that the situation of all the properties in question could be clarified within three months.

Vega stressed that the aim of the decree was by no means to create an amnesty and many properties in an illegal situation would only be able to be used under "restricted conditions".

"The decree cannot modify the legality of these properties, because it cannot modify the Ley de Ordenación Urbanística (LOUA)", she explained referring to the thousands of homes built on 'non-urbanizable' land but too long ago to be demolished. The decree refers to properties in this situation, the majority in the case of the province of Malaga, as '*asimilado fuera de ordenación*'.

It is precisely this category, which implies being illegal but tolerated, that most frustrates the associations of affected property owners. Now groups such as Save Our Homes Axarquía (SOHA) and the Provincial Association of Irregular Properties (APVI) have decided to join the initiative to set up an Andalusian Federation for those affected by the LOUA in order to demand that both the Ley de Ordenación Urbanística and the decree be abolished. "We be-



MALAGA. LAND PLANNING SECRETARY GLORIA VEGA, AT THIS WEEK'S MEETING. S. S.

lieve that neither of the regulations is able to provide a solution to the present situation", says the APVI president, María del Mar Vázquez.

This decision was agreed upon on Saturday in Cordoba at a meeting attended by several associations from all over Andalucía, representing some 40,000 illegal properties.

The new federation has announced protests, which for the time being start with an application made by APVI to hold a demonstration outside Junta de Andalucía offices in Seville on February 28th. It is hoped that associations from all over the region will join them.

Meanwhile APVI have announced their intentions to meet with a the different political parties to encourage them to commit to a plan that will resolve the issue for once and for all. "We are

preparing a people's legislative initiative to take to the Andalusian parliament and the town halls, which we hope will be supported by all the associations of affected owners in Andalucía", pointed out Vázquez.

Meanwhile the group are also meeting with home owners in Cártama, one of the few municipalities where demolition is taking place. "They are demolishing the properties of people who aren't from the area. In that way they avoid the locals rising up against the Town Hall", said the APVI president.

Another information day regarding the new decree was held by the Junta in Torrox on Thursday and more are planned for Malaga (21st) and Mijas (23rd).

MORE INFORMATION | British couple served with demolition order in Albox, Almería. Page 14

Government to seek funds for coastline train

IGNACIO LILLO

This week the central Government has decided to include the project for a coastal railway line between Almería and Algeciras in its list of schemes it wants Europe to give priority to funding. The project suffered a setback last October when the EU approved the previous government's proposal to take

the Mediterranean freight rail corridor via Granada and Antequera, bypassing the Costa del Sol.

Now the new Ministry of Development, headed by Ana Pastor, has extended the previous proposal for European funding to include the passenger link along the coastline, with a connection to Antequera.

The long-awaited project to connect the Costa del Sol towns by

train further than the existing Cercanías line to Fuengirola, dates back to 2000. Plans were drawn up and stations designed and in 2009 the Junta awarded the contract for the first stretch. The regional authority soon realised however that the financial commitment was too great (the line is expected to cost some five billion euros) and joined forces with the central government to form a consortium in which the construction firms would participate. This never happened and no further progress has been made. Now, at least, the scheme is back on the agenda.

News Inland



WASTE. COUNCIL CLAIMS MALAGA CANNOT MEET 2015 TARGET. SUR

The sewage reality is not what all politicians would have us believe, says mayor

RICKY LEACH

The Mayor of Coín, Fernando Fernández has criticised claims from the Junta de Andalucía that 90 per cent of the waste water produced by the population of

Malaga province is treated before being released into the environment. In a statement issued by Coín town hall this week, the Mayor of Coín says that this is not the reality in many areas of the province and he highlights

the fact that of all the towns in the Guadalorce Valley area, only Alhaurín de la Torre is currently able to treat its sewage. In his statement, Fernando Fernández says all the other towns in the inland area are still pouring untreated waste directly into local rivers and waterways, in direct contravention of the European law of 2001 that obliges local authorities to treat their sewage. Even though plans for a shared water treatment works were agreed between the towns of Coín, Pízarra and Álora in 2008, the funding for the project relied upon private investment, which, according to the Mayor, has been impossible to find given the current economic climate.

In addition to disagreeing with the claims made by representatives of Andalucía's Department for the Environment, the statement from Coín also criticises the system of fines that the Junta imposes on councils for failing to treat their waste water, fines that are still being applied to Coín by the Junta, despite agreements between the two authorities last summer that the local council would no longer have to pay the annual fines of 74,000 euros.

Target

Without investment by the Junta in water treatment plants, the Mayor of Coín says that Malaga will not achieve the Junta's own target of treating all waste water by 2015.

Here & There

Alhaurín de la Torre Call for aqueduct protection

Alhaurín de la Torre's town council is calling for the Puente del Rey aqueduct to be classified as a site of cultural interest. Following recent vandalism to the aqueduct at the point where it crosses the new A-7 Hiperonda motorway, the council is asking the Junta de Andalucía to officially classify the 18th century stone structure as 'culturally important' in order that funds can be found to help with its restoration and protection against future development.



IN NEED OF REPAIRS. SUR

Coín Old Town Hall to get facelift

The historic Casa Consistorial in the centre of Coín is undergoing repairs and renovations as part of a 76,000 euro project funded through a scheme to create employment for workers in agricultural areas. Over 50,000 euros of the funding is coming via INEM, the Spanish employment service, while the rest is being provided by the provincial government. The building was once the main offices of the town hall. Despite not having been modernised for over 30 years, the 'Casa Consistorial' was used as a day centre for senior citizens right up until work began in December 2011, even though the roof has been leaking for some time.

Álora Unemployed get new system

SAE (Servicio Andaluz de Empleo) has launched a new appointment system for those seeking help with finding a job in Álora as part of a project to "push forward the modernisation and improvement of public employment services." Appointments can now be booked online or over the telephone as part of a move to reduce long queues at the local job centre, especially during the early part of the morning.

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News Costa del Sol



BUSY. QUEUES IN MARBELLA TOWN HALL AT THE END OF LAST WEEK. JOSELE-LANZA

Home owners rush to Town Hall for IBI reduction

Marbella residents have two months to hand in their application, but the majority queued up in the first week

MÓNICA PÉREZ

"I've no idea when the deadline is but this morning I heard the Town Hall was going to subsidise the IBI bill and I came straight here". These words, spoken by Marbella property owner María Silveria, may well have come from any one of the hundreds of people who descended on the Town Hall last week to apply for a discount on their IBI (housing rates) bill this year.

"People have found out by word of mouth and that is why the majority don't know they have two months to apply", said one of the municipal workers striving to deal with the avalanche of applicants patiently queuing since first thing that morning.

Several months ago the local authority announced that it would subsidise between 1.5 and 10 per cent of the Impuesto de Bienes Inmuebles (IBI) to relieve the effects of the increase resulting from the central government's revision of the cadastral values. These values, used to calculate the IBI and the corresponding discount, had not been updated for more than two decades due to the town's lack of urban development plan (PGOU).

A house with a value of less than 100,000 euros will be eligible for a ten per cent discount while a property valued at over 300,000 will get a smaller reduction, 1.5

per cent.

The only requirement is for the property owner to be on the local population register (*padrón*), a clause that the Town Hall hopes will encourage more residents to register, in turn entitling the town to more funding from the central and regional governments.

Residents have until March 31st to apply for the reduction. In fact, the long queues that formed last week prompted the mayor, Ángeles Muñoz, to reassure people that they have plenty of time, adding that the offices in both Marbella and San Pedro are open in the morning and the afternoon.

One resident, Eduardo Mena, who had been queuing for over an hour was critical of the paperwork involved. "With today's technology it shouldn't be necessary to bring a piece of paper to the Town Hall to show that we are on the 'padrón'", he said.

Clean bill of health for Marbella beaches

CRISTINA GONZÁLEZ

The regional health authority has reconfirmed the quality of Marbella's beaches after certifying the bathing water as "excellent". The qualification is the result of regular analyses of sea water at ten points along the municipality's 27 kilometres of coastline between 2008 and 2011.

The samples of water to be tested were taken every two weeks

in the areas with larger numbers of bathers or a higher risk of occasional spills. Since last year the analysts have been applying the new European guidelines for sea water quality.

Sand

However while the water has been given a clean bill of health the town's beaches still suffer from storm erosion every time there is a spate of bad weather. Beaches as central as La Fontanilla, Hotel El

Fuerte and San Pedro Alcántara are getting several metres narrower every year. The large loads of sand brought in to build up the beaches for the peak tourist season normally disappear with the first rough seas and storms of the autumn.

The Town Hall has been calling for works to stabilise the beaches for years, and a study is under way to establish the best solution for the area between La Bajadilla and the Puente Romano: breakwaters or an alternative formula. Nevertheless local councillor Antonio Espada, pointed out that any works would not start at least within the next five years, once the planning stages and bureaucracy have been completed.

Here&There

Marbella

New leisure area allows Las Chapas market expansion

A new 2,000 square metre leisure space in Las Chapas will be ready for use within two weeks, the Town Hall has announced.

Once the last remaining surfacing works have been completed, the plot will be used for activities such as festivals, fairs and concerts.

In addition, on a recent visit to the site with the Mayor, Án-

geles Muñoz, the Councillor for Las Chapas, Ángel Mora, said that the space, located behind the existing fair ground site, would allow the Town Hall to grant extra market trading licences "for which there is a great demand." Subsequently, it is thought an additional 12 stalls will be incorporated into the weekly street market held on the plot each Friday.

Estepona

Town Hall urges Junta to pay what it owes

The Town Hall is demanding that the Junta de Andalucía pays the remaining 263,000 euros it owes in grants from the 2010 Transitional Program for Employment scheme.

Two years ago, the regional government advanced the council 677,134 euros so it could launch projects to employ local people. Now those works have been completed, the Councillor for the Economy, Manuel Aguilar, is urging that the balance is paid "as quickly as possible." He adds: "The lack of payment by the Junta is causing problems in the municipality's financial management and is enormously damaging for those firms who carried out the projects. Bosses from those companies are now demanding payment from us but the Andalusian administration has yet to deposit the money."

Estepona

Four years on and still no hospital

The much-demanded hospital in Estepona should have opened four years ago and still construction is not underway. The works remain on hold until the provincial government's Culture Department has published its findings as to whether there is a need to excavate the plot as it has been suggested it could be an important archaeological site.

Despite the Culture team finishing their research on 2nd November, there has been no official statement, meaning the project is still hanging in the balance as unless the provincial government gives it a 'green light' there is no chance the hospital will be built.

Earlier this week, the Mayor of Estepona, José María García Urbano, wrote to the researchers demanding to know the outcome.



BENJAMÍN. BACK IN HIS OFFICE.

Malaga

Out of date drug bust lands man in jail for 17 days

Malaga businessman Benjamín de la Mata has just been released from a prison in Algeciras where he had spent 17 days for a crime he didn't commit, and told his story to SUR. He described the experience as a nightmare, saying that when the police handcuffed him, his world fell in.

It all started with a business trip to Ceuta, where his company 'sushing' was doing the catering for a party. He decided to make the trip in the Seat Cordoba which his brother had bought more than ten years ago and which was usually driven by Benjamin's wife. So far, so good, but on the return trip Guardia Civil sniffer dogs alerted the Guardia Civil to the presence of packages of drugs inside the bodywork. Benjamín's trip to jail was inevitable but even at the time, the officers were puzzled at the dirt and cobwebs which had accumulated.

Further investigations showed that the drugs were so old - more than ten years old - that they no longer had any active ingredients.

News



ALBOX. THE BRITISH COUPLE'S HOME THAT FACES DEMOLITION WAS BUILT WITH A TOWN HALL LICENCE. EFE

A court serves a demolition order to British homeowners

The couple's home had planning permission from the Town Hall but that licence has now been revoked by a court

GEORGE PRIOR

A British couple living in Albox, Almería, have been told by a court that the home they built with their life savings is to be bulldozed as it has rescinded the property's original building licence.

The shocking news comes two years after the same retired couple, who do not want to be identified, managed to overturn a previous demolition order on their house on the basis that they had not been informed of the legal proceedings.

However, last Tuesday a judge who was reviewing the case ruled that the licence should indeed be revoked, meaning a fresh threat of the house being pulled-down.

"The court has again decided that the building licence is null, which under Spanish law implies demolition," Gerardo Vázquez, the couple's lawyer, tells SUR in

English.

"The three bedroom chalet was built with a building licence issued by the Town Hall of Albox on the 31st July 2002.

"The house has a first occupation licence also issued by the Town Hall, is registered at the Land Registry, and has electricity and water. So, in theory at least, it has the requisite paperwork, unlike hundreds or thousands of others in the area."

Vázquez says, unsurprisingly, his clients are "devastated" by last week's new ruling but that they plan to appeal against the court's decision: "They were sold the Spanish dream which has turned out to be a nightmare. I have asked for the judgment to be clarified, arguing that it makes no reference to their defence, nor the proof they called. Once this is done the idea is to appeal this judgment."

Junta lawyers argued that the property risked provoking an urban nucleus

The court reached its decision after lawyers for the Junta de Andalucía successfully argued that the couple's home risked provoking an urban nucleus - something fiercely denied by their supporters, friends and defence team.

A spokesperson for AUAN, a foreign resident-run, lobby group that campaigns for "illegal" homes bought in good faith to be legalised", responded to the news by saying: "The regional government claims that its much-publicised decree will grant recognition to illegal buildings in Andalucía but this couple, who have a building licence, face demolition.

"The regional government argues that the property runs the risk of creating an urban nucleus. Which urban nucleus are they referring to? Promoters swamped this area with urban settlements and sold houses to unsuspecting Brits whilst the administration fiddled about with its legislation and comprehensively failed to enforce it."

It is a view echoed by lawyer, Gerardo Vázquez, who adds: The bizarre thing is that the Junta has recently published the "regularisation decree" from which a lot of illegal houses without a building licence are likely to benefit. In this way the knowledge that people who obtained a building licence and have all the requisite paperwork are likely to be worse off than the very many other people who built without such a licence, makes a mockery of the whole planning system."

■ **MORE INFORMATION** | The latest on the "regularisation" decree **Page 11**

Here & There



GAS. NERJA WILL CALL FOR DRILLING AUTHORISATION TO BE WITHDRAWN. SUR

Nerja

Nerja to formally reject gas prospecting proposals

Nerja's Councillor for the Environment, Nieves Atencia, has announced that the Town Hall is to present a motion to the central Government regarding "the necessity of adopting an agreement to prevent the exploration for, and exploitation of, oil and gas reserves off the Malaga coastline."

The motion will also urge the

Government to "immediately suspend all the current authorisations granted by the previous administration." The Town Hall says gas prospecting would "seriously damage our natural environment causing devastating effects on the fauna and flora and would have a disastrous impact on the economic value of our coast."

Malaga

Plant pots stay, despite criticism

Malaga City Hall has rejected the opposition's proposal to move the row of square plant pots from the Plaza de la Merced. The Socialist spokesperson, Carlos Hernández

Pezzi, said that the row of pots separating traffic from pedestrians was a barrier that broke with the aesthetics of the new square. Planning spokesperson, Diego Maldonado, admitted that the pots were not on the plans but stated that there were fears that pedestrians might trip over the smaller stone bollards designed originally.



PLAZA. SOME SAY THE POTS ARE TOO HIGH AND TOO CLOSE TOGETHER. SUR

Archidona

Farmers report spate of massive olive thefts

Olive growers in the Archidona area have seen their harvests reduced by some 50,000 kilos after organised gangs have stolen their crops during the night on more than ten occasions. The worst in the spate of robberies took place on the night of Monday 13th when the fruit of some 180 trees, around 10,000 kilos, was collected by the gang. President of the local cooperative, Manuel Caro, said that there must have been 12 or 15 people involved with large vans in which to transport their loot. He has called for the Guardia Civil to set up controls on country roads after dark.

Rincón de la Victoria

Council restructures its departments

With municipal coffers running low, the Town Hall is being forced to make savings wherever possible. With this in mind, Rincón de la Victoria is reorganising staff and relocating several municipal departments in a bid to cut costs.

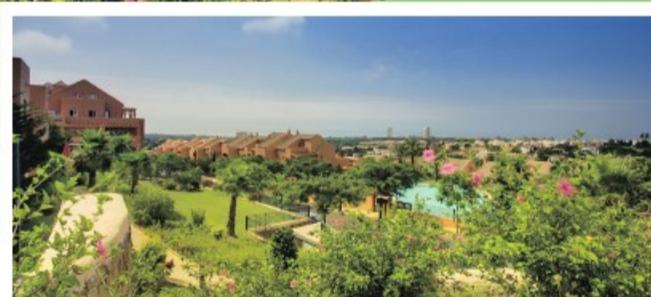
For instance, the council estimates it will save 49,000 euros a year by basing the Sports Department in the Torre de Benagalbón pavilion and by council staff covering various morning shifts.

Similarly, the Culture team has moved to offices in the town's public library and the court is to be situated in the Town Hall building.

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Antequera
Council calls on Junta to pay rates

The town council in Antequera has called on the Junta de Andalucía to hand over unpaid property rates for the town's hospital. According to the Mayor of Antequera, the unpaid Impuesto sobre Bienes Inmuebles (I.B.I.) property taxes total nearly 1.3 million euros for annual payments since 2001 and he adds that the Junta should pay property taxes to the local council for the buildings it owns, like the local hospital, in the same way as Malaga provincial government is paying property taxes on facilities that it operates in Antequera.

Guadalhorce
Inland bus services increased by nearly 50 per cent

An agreement between the council in Álora and the Traffic Department at the provincial government means that bus timetables for the Malaga city to Guadalhorce Valley route will be increased from nine services each way per day to 13 on weekdays and Saturdays. Sunday services are increasing from three to four buses in each direction.

Changes in some bus routes also mean quicker services from Álora and Pizarra to the capital by up to 15 minutes, while a new route will run from Malaga to Pizarra, passing through Aljaima y Nueva Aljaima.

The new routes will also allow passengers to travel by bus from the town centre to the railway station, overcoming a local traffic ban. The council says the increased timetable has been designed to provide public transport directly to the area's new hospital between Pizarra and Cártama when it opens, benefitting those working there as well as visitors and patients attending for treatment.

As well as improving the service for the 100,000 bus journeys taken each year between Álora and Malaga city, the agreement between the two authorities also promises new buses for the Guadalhorce routes which have been specially adapted for users with reduced mobility.



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News Tourism

Some 30,000 students visit the province to learn the language every year and spend an average of 400 euros a week

Spanish unaffected by crisis

AMANDA SALAZAR

International credit rating agencies are constantly scrutinising Spain. However, in spite of the economic ups and downs of recent times, there is a 100 per cent Spanish product about which there is no doubt. This increasingly important asset is the language. The learning of Spanish increases steadily year on year regardless of the crisis. In the province, where teaching of the language of Cervantes has been successfully turned into an enticement, linguistic tourism has become a sort of refuge where growth is still possible.

It's not only profitable for the specialised schools which offer these courses. Other businesses have flourished due to the influx of foreign students through the organisation of free time activities, accommodation, excursions and dance classes. Restaurants, cinemas, theatres, concert halls and bars have also profited from



EXCURSION. CARLOS FERNANDEZ (SECOND FROM RIGHT) ORGANISES TRIPS. SUR

the visits of these students.

Joaquín Chacón, president of the Association of Spanish Centres in Malaga (ACEM) and director of the Alhambra Instituto school, claims that the number of

pupils enrolled in the associated schools grew by eight per cent last year, a figure very similar to that experienced by the tourism sector in general in the province.

According to ACEM, which has

13 associated schools which are accredited by the Cervantes Institute, around 30,000 students visit the province each year to learn Spanish. 90 per cent of those opt for private schools, while Spanish

courses at the University of Malaga make up ten per cent of the demand, with some 2,300 students registered in 2011.

Data from the Cervantes Institute shows that 237,000 people travel to Spain annually to learn the language, 14 per cent of whom come to Malaga. 172,000 enlist on DELE courses (Diploma in Spanish as a Foreign Language) every year, and that figure is growing, which proves the international interest in learning the third most widely spoken language in the world.

Compared with a holiday tourist, a linguistic tourist who comes to Malaga stays longer (on average three weeks) and spends more. "Counting only the Spanish course, accommodation, living costs, excursions and programmed activities, a student could spend around 400 euros a week," said Chacón. That is without taking into account the buying of souvenirs, transportation and flights.

Average spending has also risen. According to the Spanish

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News Tourism



ESCUELA INTERNACIONAL CERVANTES. STUDENTS LEARN SPANISH IN SMALL GROUPS AT LEVELS DETERMINED BY THE EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK. JAIME GALLARDO

Federation of Associations of Spanish Centres for Foreigners, which is based in Benalmádena and includes 90 private organisations, in 2008 the average spending per student per day was 49 euros, and this generated 251 euros in profit for the province. Now that figure is nearer to 53 euros per day, which is an increase of eight per cent. Although there are no current figures relating to the economic impact of the Spanish language, Fundación Ideas estimates it to make up approximately 15 per cent of Spain's GDP. Ana Cózar, manager of the organisation, believes that a student who comes to learn the language comes with a predisposition to get involved in the city in order to understand the customs, food and way of life of the Malaga people.

Students not in crisis

The reason why this sector has avoided the crisis is the growing interest in Spanish all over the world and that the clients are therefore not Spanish. "We are benefiting because the economic situation of our pupils is much better than ours," said Javier García, director of the school Málaga Sí. Germany, Britain, the Scandinavian countries, China and Eastern Europe are some of the most common origins of the linguistic tourists who visit Spain.

However, Joaquín Chacón warns that the Costa del Sol should continue to fight to position itself as the top destination for this type of tourism. "Now, countries such as Argentina, Mexico and Costa Rica are entering the market for Spanish classes

thanks to the increase in interest in the language", and in Spain, Barcelona and Salamanca have become capitals of this new language culture.

Paola Moreno, director of Cervantes Escuela Internacional, claims that Malaga pioneered Spanish classes more than 40 years ago, and that experience has helped it to offer high quality now. Moreno gives us an example of what running a private Spanish centre involves. Just in terms of teachers, they employ a minimum of four and a maximum of 12 in the summer months. The permanent staff is made up of five people, and another seven are self-employed but linked with the com-

pany. On top of this, the school has connections with 25 families who offer student rooms in their houses in El Palo and Pedregalejo for just 120 euros per month. The school also provides its own accommodation in the form of a residence with 21 places, run by three employees.

Accommodation and leisure

A good example of the economic benefit that these students provide is found in Isabel Planes and her husband. For the last 20 years they have been housing foreigners at their home. They are currently hosting an American girl who is taking a course at the University of Malaga. She pays them 2.5 eu-

ros a day for a room with an ensuite, and her washing, cleaning and cooking is done for her. But what the couple most appreciates is the experience and company that they gain from young people. "They become another member of the family," they say. It becomes a second home to them, and they have the freedom to come and go as they please. "But I like them to call me and tell me where they're going; I think their family would also like that there is someone looking out for them," says Isabel.

For Carlos Henrández, showing the Malaga way of life to foreigners has become his trade. For the last five years, he has been organising leisure activities and ex-

cursions, and for the last two, he's had his own business, Speting Eventos. "We take them to see the main museums and monuments in the city, go on tapas routes through the centre and teach them to make dishes such as ajo blanco and gazpacho," he explains. He is sure that what foreigners like most about being here is the climate. "Here they can sunbathe on a January afternoon when in their country there would be sub-zero temperatures and it would be raining." The Spanish philosophy of life also attracts supporters in Europe. "They learn to see things differently because at home they have much stricter customs and traditions".

THE STUDENTS

Luca Vogel, Germany

"I like Malaga and its people; I've come to improve my Spanish"

Erika Dreus, Germany

"I came to Malaga to study Spanish 22 years ago and now I'm back"

Stori Nuri, USA

"I like reading books by Isabel Allende in their original version"

Luca Pfliffer, Italy

"I'm interested in learning the language because I like Spanish culture"

Johnny Gutmann, Germany

"I've come to Malaga because I heard great things about the nightlife"

Felix Rhfeldo, Germany

"We Germans feel that we have very close links with Spain"

Pedregalejo, the golden mile of language centres

A.S.

Pedregalejo in the city of Malaga has become the capital of Spanish schools for foreigners in the province. Just on the Avenida Juan Sebastián Elcano and surrounding streets you can find eight centres which specialise in Spanish language courses.

When the first language schools started to spring up, Pedregalejo emerged as the ideal location. It combines proximity to the sea, good public transport links with the centre of the city and houses with large gardens which were

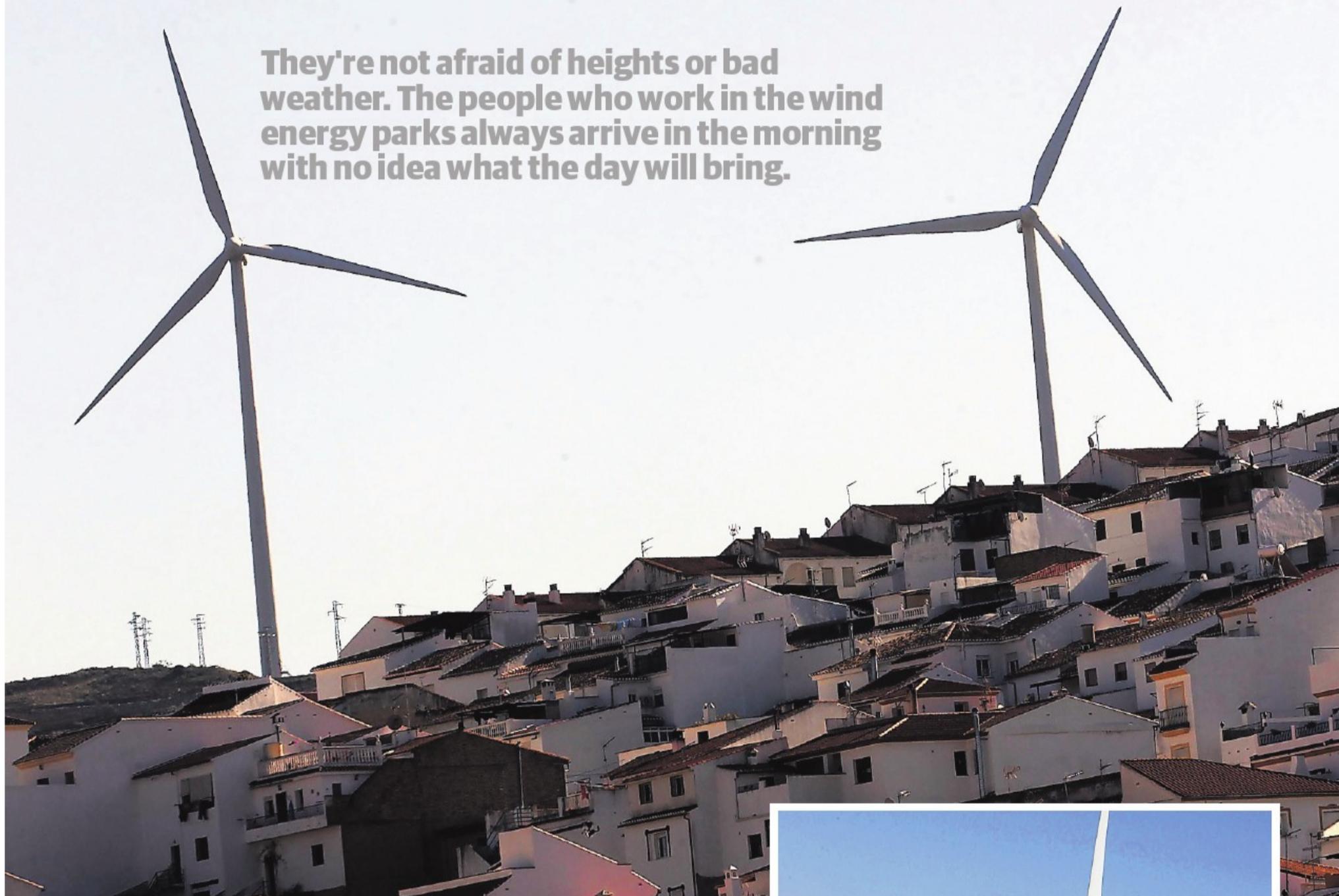
converted into open, airy school buildings.

"If Malaga is among the most in-demand destinations for learning Spanish it's because we have adapted ourselves and offer a plus; on top of good teachers and high quality education we can offer students a beautiful environment and a family atmosphere," claims Paola Moreno, director of Cervantes Internacional.

"Many (linguistic tourists) return with their family and are the best ambassadors of the Costa del Sol," Chacón adds.

The guardians of the wind

They're not afraid of heights or bad weather. The people who work in the wind energy parks always arrive in the morning with no idea what the day will bring.



The employees control the wind turbines and are available during the night in case any incidents should occur

CARMEN MARTÍN

Employees of wind parks know their working day will be unpredictable. It was still dark when Lucas González arrived at the control room of the Cerro de la Higuera park in Ardales at 7.30 on Friday morning, not knowing what he would find there.

His first task as operator of the Iberdrola wind energy park is to carefully observe the 'sgipe' screen which shows the wind speed, the temperature, the production and, most important of all, whether any of the generators suffered a fault or stopped during the night. Iberdrola has 22 wind energy generators at Cerro de la Higuera, al-

though the control centre there also supervises remotely the six in the Puerto de Malaga park which is also in Ardales, and its operators are available in case of any incident in the company's other parks in the Malaga area. All together, there are 73 wind energy generators, each with 2 MW of power.

Centre of Operations

In the control rooms, the first thing the employees do every morning is check why any of the generators stopped during the night. When this occurs, Iberdrola's Operational Centre for Renewables (Core) in Toledo, tries to reactivate the equipment by remote control or asks the duty operator to see whether it can be done from the base of the wind generator. For safety reasons, the workers cannot climb the 75 metres to the top at night, and they are also forbidden to do so alone. If the generator cannot be reactivated during the night, the maintenance workers do it the following morning.

At eight thirty in the morning

Iberdrola has 73 wind energy generators in the Malaga area

An alarm is raised if a generator stops working and the problem can often be resolved remotely

the maintenance staff arrive. They make sure that the equipment functions correctly and repair any faults. "Most of the time the alarms are unimportant, such as screws or contacts coming loose. It is very rare for there to be anything important, although sometimes a propellor can be damaged by lightning", says Lucas. The park operators, who are in the control room until seven thirty p.m. from Monday to Friday, also oversee the work of the maintenance staff and ensure that they comply with safety regulations. The head of Iberdrola's wind energy parks in Malaga, Julio Sedano, says safety is the company's first pri-



BOSS. JULIO SEDANO, AT THE CERRO DE LA HIGUERA PARK. CARLOS MORET

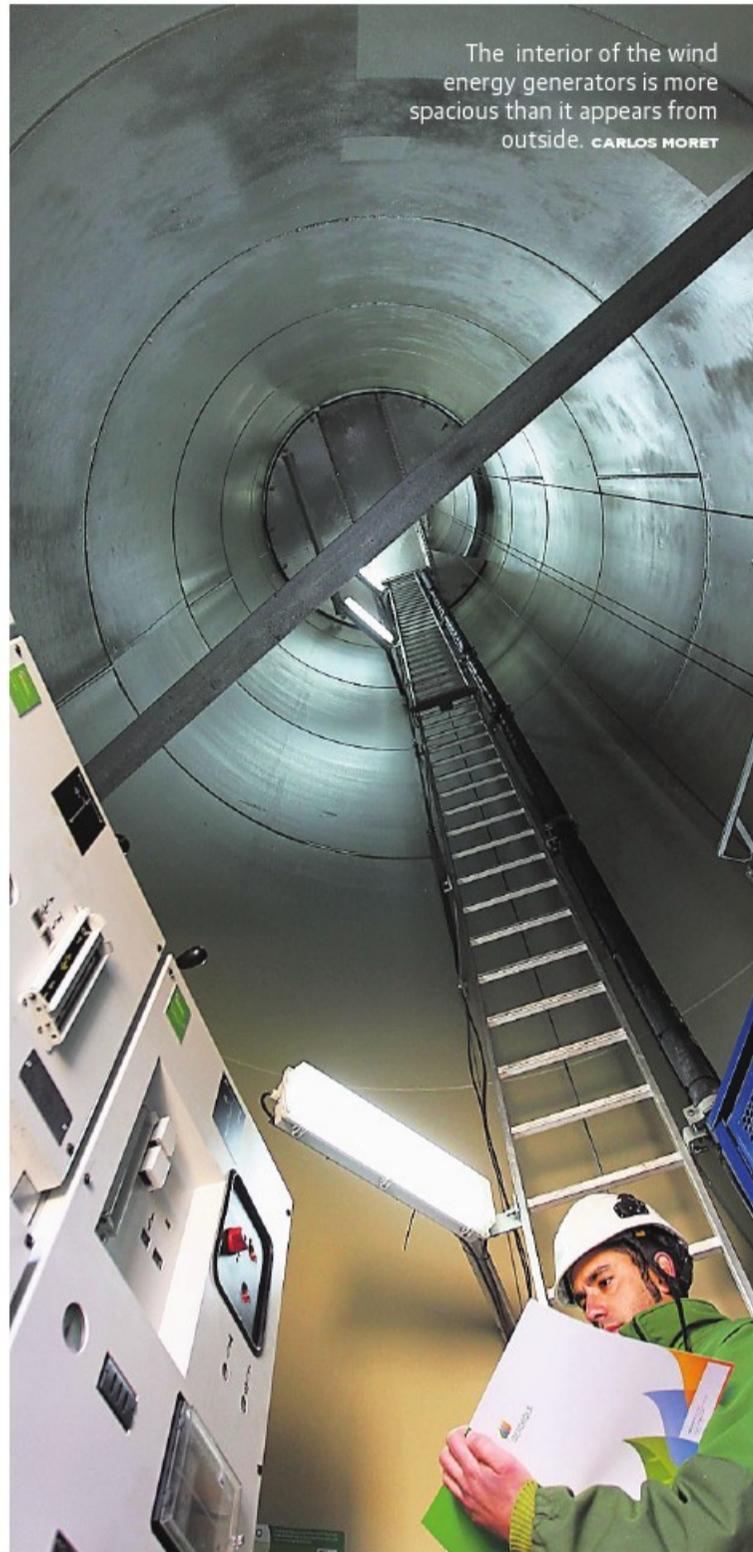
ority: "First of all, safety of the staff and then of the installations; we carry out an exhaustive control of insurance, documenta-

tion and compliance with safety regulations". So, when maintenance staff need to repair a generator or carry out preventive

News



The Puerto de Malaga wind energy park looms majestically over Ardales. **CARLOS MORET**



The interior of the wind energy generators is more spacious than it appears from outside. **CARLOS MORET**

THE WORKERS



Julio Sedano
Area manager
"Our first priority is safety, and we insist on rigorous controls"



Lucas González
Operator
"The alarms are normally for something unimportant, like screws coming loose".



David Toledo
Operator
"The work we do is not monotonous; we do everything from reports to inspections"

Iberdrola says the safety of its staff and its installations is top priority

tasks, an operator from the park goes with them to make sure everything is done correctly, for example that they are wearing a harness when necessary and that they use helmets and gloves. They also discharge the wind generator when the maintenance crew need

Maintenance staff cannot work if the wind speed is too strong

to work without any electrical power. David Toledo, the other operator, began his working day at 2 p.m. on Friday because he had been called out in the middle of the night. Lucas brought him up to date with everything that had

The workers are not allowed to climb the generators at night and must never go alone

been done during the morning and what remained to be done, in the office as well as in supervising the maintenance workers. The park operators have to write reports about the generators, check that workers' documentation is up to date and ensure that they have

undergone medical checks. They also check the documentation of all vehicles and people who visit the facilities, such as employees of the environmental and rubbish collection companies. "The work is not monotonous; we certainly don't get bored", says David, who also points out that a wind generator may cease to function during the day.

Preventive tasks

When there are no breakdowns

and if the wind permits it, the maintenance staff take the opportunity to carry out preventive tasks. If the wind blows at more than 12 metres a second they cannot carry out certain jobs and if it is stronger than 20 metres a second no maintenance tasks can be carried out at all. If there is an electric storm they all have to leave the park. Each of the wind generators is given a regular preventive check every six months and a major overhaul each year.

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Opinion

POINTS OF VIEW

Peter Edgerton

Office meetings are, almost without exception, a bit of a drag. This is largely because everyone involved in them would rather be somewhere else. So it was with a heavy heart that I trudged up some grim-looking stairs recently to meet a few blokes in suits regarding a business proposition. Walking into the office space, I was pleasantly surprised by the panoramic views across the nearby bay and settled into my chair, a little lighter of spirit. Frankly, the backdrop was much more interesting than the content of the ensuing conversation which involved lots of numbers and other equally tedious stuff.

I got so bored at one point that I rather rudely inter-

rupted the by-now unintelligible dronings of those present, turning to our host.

'Nice view you've got here.'

'Eh? Er, yes, it's ok, I suppose.'

His opinion was rendered somewhat redundant by the fact that he had his back to said vista but it was the next bit of the conversation which was the most startling. Leaning back in his chair and barely suppressing a manic grin, he continued on:

'Actually, we're going to put a massive LED screen up in that window to display advertising to passing motorists.'

'Not that window, surely,' I said, a tad aghast, 'It'll block the view.'

He answered silently with that rather ugly thumb-rubbing-index-and-middle-finger gesture which the person concerned thinks makes them look street-wise and on-the-ball but which in fact just makes them look like Uriah Heep at his most mean-spirited.

Everyone present agreed that this was a fantastic idea and that it would be a tremendous success and make lots of money for U. Heep and Co.

Unperturbed, I pressed my point.

'The thing is, gentlemen, the whole point of this office is its splendid panoramic view. If you stick a big black screen up there, you might as well hold meetings on an industrial estate.'

They gave each other knowing looks and smiled patronizingly in my direction. Then the conversation returned to the droning business and I made my excuses and shimied off.

On the way home, I was wondering what on earth these people could possibly purchase with the money they'd make from advertising revenue which could be half as glorious as the views they'd be sacrificing in order to produce it. I couldn't think of a single thing.

It's official then: we live in a world where even the priceless has a price.

Peter Edgerton is a music maker. www.e-peter.com

THE LABOUR REFORM

Rachel Haynes

I don't understand. I admit it. Everyone else seems to be completely convinced that the new labour reform is either the worst possible solution for this country or a necessary step towards the end of the tunnel. So far I have heard more criticism than praise and I agree, it doesn't seem logical that making it easier to destroy employment will help create it. But then I'm not an economist. We are told we have to consider short term, mid term and long term effects, credit, flexibility, and a long etcetera. So it'll all be alright in the long run, then.

After all the Government must know what they are doing, mustn't they? They must

be taking advice from the best experts and not simply following their ideological instinct, mustn't they? So then why are so many of the top economists in the country so sceptical?

How can so many experts have different ideas about the solution to a problem? Someone somewhere must have analysed the effects of different anti-crisis tactics in other countries. University professors and specialist journals churn out endless papers on the economy, but there is still no consensus on the best action to take.

Spain's economy is sick and the specialists cannot agree on the best remedy. So in the end we have to go with the hospital manager's proposal and accept being in a wheelchair for the time being in the hope that blood will start to flow again in the mid-term.

Banks and businesses seem quite happy with the arrangement, and so does Merkel, but it is the millions of unemployed workers who will sacrifice their legs so that the bosses can run faster, we are told, in order to make everything alright again.

Letters to the Editor

There is a PRIZE for the best contribution to this page, so please include your address. We accept letters by email, post or fax, but they must include identification and a telephone number, and be exclusive to SUR in English. We do not publish anonymous letters. Opinions expressed by contributors to this and other pages of SUR in English do not necessarily reflect those of the publishers. No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission from the publishers.

PARKING FINE

As a naturally sceptical person, I couldn't help but be intrigued by P. Power's letter regarding his parking fine in Benalmádena (February 10th to 16th). The series of events does not ring true. Although I can't be certain, I would wager that the only true part of that letter was that someone received a parking fine in Benalmádena. The rest seemed simply made up embellishment to evoke sympathy and support.

Of course, the guy happens to be in his 80s! He also happens to be a philanthropic millionaire! He was just about to bequeath the local economy 2.5 million euros! His descendants were ready to give a total of 10 million euros over their life-

times! Oh the shame, look what we all missed out on! "P. Power" lambastes Spain (and Europe - not sure why the whole of Europe is suddenly brought into this!) and says he refuses to live in a "police state". Oh please! You received a parking fine!

So fellow readers, please don't embellish your letters to make them more compelling. If you have a genuine grievance or a point to make, just present the facts and let us decide.

Tom Stephenson

PLASTIC BAGS

Can anyone tell me what is the law on plastic bags? Last year we were told by the largest

Pachi



Spanish chain of supermarkets. They would not be supplying us with plastic bags anymore - something to do with the Earth's atmosphere (I'm not very up on that kind of thing). But the point I'm trying to make is supermarkets are now making more money than they ever did by selling plastic bags. Why don't they just give their customers paper bags like they did years ago? What do other readers

think about this subject?

Helen Byrne

This week's winner

GAS BOTTLES

Has anyone else noticed that their orange gas bottles seem to be running out more quickly? We had, and so my husband weighed them. They

used to weigh 25 kilos full, and now they weigh 20 kilos. The empty bottles remain the same, at about 14 kilos. So not only has the full bottle cost gone up, but there is a nearly 50% price hike by reducing the gas weight from 11 kilos to six kilos. Repsol should enter the Olympics for sharp practice - they'd be a runaway winner.

Anne Hayes

SUR in English

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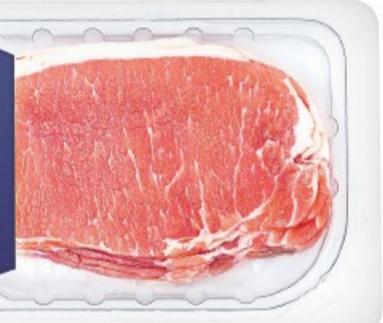
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ENJOYING THE FOOD. RECEPTION CLASS PARENTS ATTENDED THE EVENT AND WERE SERVED BY THEIR CHILDREN.

Marbella

Swapping the classroom for a café

Youngsters ran their own café at the British School of Marbella to raise money for charity last week. Around 50 children aged between two and five made a heal-

thy two-course meal for their parents before delivering it to their table as waiters. The event follows their recent classroom discoveries

about food and healthy eating. The children raised 20 euros in tips during the event, which will be donated to The Butterfly Children charity.

Benalmádena

Bring and Buy Sale raises cash for Poppy Appeal

The Benalmádena branch of the Royal British Legion recently held a Bring and Buy Sale at Blazing Saddles Bar on, raising 160.20 euros for the Poppy Appeal. The RBL would like to thank everyone who supported the event. A dinner dance will be held on 6th March at The Peacock. For further details contact Val Bales on 669 350 779. The RBL Benalmádena branch meets every Monday morning at 11 a.m. at Blazing Saddles on Avenida Bonanza. New members are always welcome, and you don't have to have been a member of the armed forces to join, so just go along if interested.



DAVE. RAISED €2,140 FOR CUDECA.

Torremolinos

Runners raise funds

Dave Harris raised 2,140 euros for Cudeca Cancer Care Hospice by running the Torremolinos half marathon recently. Susan Breakey also ran, raising 500 euros for the A.E.C.C. (Spanish Association against Cancer) in Carvajal.



SUSAN. GIVING MONEY TO A.E.C.C.

Marbella

Arboretum and school reach an agreement

Arboretum Marbella and Aloha College have signed a partnership agreement to combine resources in order to achieve their common objectives of inspiring respect and care for the environment in the next generation. The agreement means students will have practical tuition on all matters to do with sustainability and can apply what they learn at school.

Estepona

Donations aren't reaching Cudeca!

The Cudeca Estepona charity shop moved to a new location nearly a year ago, but many supporters are leaving donations at the old premises. These donations are not reaching Cudeca. The new shop is on Calle Ortega y Gasset, across from the Ramón García school and just off the roundabout near the Health Centre. For more information, call 952 564 910.

Marbella

Maths competition in Milan

Three Year 10 and 11 pupils from Aloha College attended the ISMTF International Junior Mathematics Competition in Milan recently, in which 270 students competed. They achieved a very respectable place in the team event, facing two days of challenging mathematical problems.



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Lifestyle



SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS. SUR

Torre del Mar
Lux Mundi trip to Malaga made a good day out

At the end of January, the 'Half Orange Group' (made up of widows, widowers and singles) from Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre in Torre del Mar took a trip to Malaga. The sights they visited include the Central Market, the Museum of Arts and Popular Culture, and the Picasso Museum.



FUN. AN ENJOYABLE EVENING FOR ALL.

Nerja
50th birthday celebrations

Ladies from the group Move it to Music recently celebrated the 50th birthday of their instructor, Naomi Diestro. They were helped along by musicians from Los Barriles bar.

The South African artist is showing a series of large tapestries at Malaga's Contemporary Art Centre

William Kentridge at the CAC

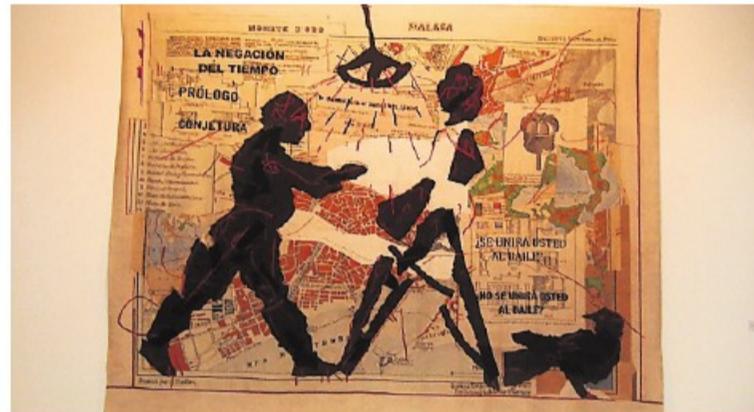
SUSIE JACKSON

South African William Kentridge is far more than just an artist or sculptor. Having started his career as an actor, producer and director, he is now one of the most prolific and influential contemporary artists in the world, and the CAC (Centro de Arte Contemporáneo) in Malaga is hosting his first major exhibition of tapestries in Spain until 13th May.

The collection, named after its centrepiece '¿No se unirá usted al baile?' ('Won't you join the dance?'), comprises drawings, sculptures, mosaics and more than 20 tapestries. The title piece is a tapestry based on a 19th century map of Malaga and is an homage to Picasso, created specifically for this exhibition.

The theme of the collection is migration. In literal terms, the materials used to make the tapestries have travelled from Lesotho, where the wool was produced, to Swaziland, where it was spun and dyed, and then to Johannesburg, where teams of women from all over southern Africa made the tapestries by hand. Kentridge spent two months creating a drawing for the women to work from, and then the process of weaving took two to three months, all per piece.

The subject matter of the works also follows the theme of migration, as there are "images of people walking through the world and carrying it on their shoulders", describes the artist. His work reflects the evolution of peoples, cities and countries as they move towards their present state of existence. In another sense, the subjects migrate through different forms, appearing on paper as drawings, sculpted from bronze, and finally superimposed on maps in tapestry form. The title of the collection is an invitation to the viewer to find the



MALAGA. '¿NO SE UNIRÁ USTED AL BAILE?', THE CENTREPIECE. SJ.



FIGURES. THE SCULPTURES MUST BE VIEWED FROM A PARTICULAR ANGLE. SJ.

connections between the pieces.

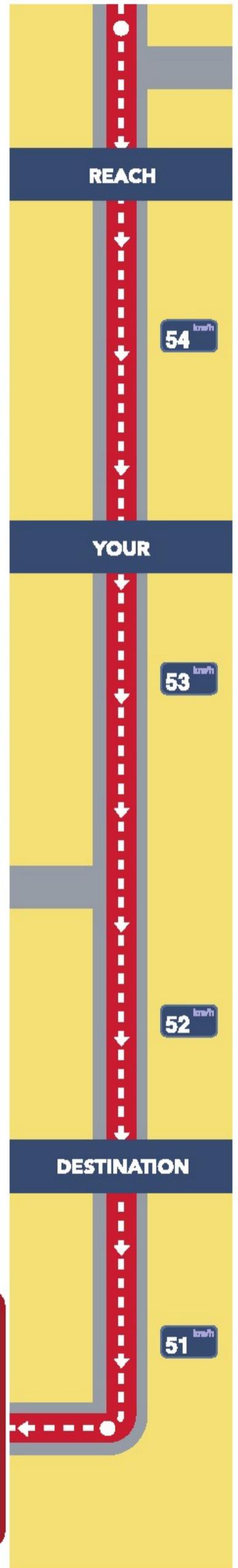
Descendants of Jewish immigrants, Kentridge's family was active in the struggle against apartheid and his work is based around political conflicts and events. Unlike traditional political art, his work describes the effects that political events have had on those that witness or remember them, regardless of whether they are perpetrators, victims or mere onlookers.

The South African Ambassador in Spain, Fikile Mugabane, believes that Kentridge's work shows "the passion that he has for huma-

nity", and has praised him for the jobs that he has created, empowering women in Africa over the 12 years that it has taken to put together this set of tapestries.

William Kentridge's collection, described as "moving and emotional" by museum director Fernando Francés, fits perfectly in the space provided by the CAC and offers a personal viewpoint on contemporary society.

MORE INFORMATION The centre is open Tuesday to Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. ☎ 951 120 055 www.cacmalaga.com



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Recreating the British street party atmosphere for a jubilee in Alhaurín



STREET PARTY IN THE UK

A day of fun for all the family also aims to help local charities

RICKY LEACH

While people across the world will be celebrating Queen Elizabeth's diamond Jubilee on Saturday 3rd June, the organisers of a family fun event in Alhaurín de la Torre hope that British residents on the Costa del Sol will come together for a day of fun and entertainment, while supporting local charities at the same time.

British resident Lisa Sadleir was inspired to organise an event for families after attending several charity functions last year. "I am hoping to create a really community feeling on the day, with lots of charities getting involved as well as entertainment and games for all the family. The Costa del Sol is an amazing place and there are some amazing people here. We should be celebrating that", says Lisa.

The event will take place at the Lauro Golf Academy, a venue that Lisa says will be big enough for everyone to enjoy the event but still personal enough to create a great atmosphere on the day.

As part of the line-up, a Family Sports Day will be organised by volunteers from Kidz Inland and will feature egg and spoon races and a Mums v Dads tug-of-war.

As well as offering free space for local charities to have stalls, Lisa is also tying the event to a U.K. based project called The Big Lunch which encourages communities to work together to hold street parties. Lisa says "I remember street parties in the U.K. years ago and when Brits pull together, they always put on a good party. That's exactly what I want to happen on the 3rd June and I hope that if this all goes well, this could turn in to a regular event."



IN ACTION. THE NEW CLUB ENCOURAGES PEOPLE TO HAVE A GO. R.L.

Crafty ladies share their skills at new club

RICKY LEACH

A group of women from Alhaurín el Grande and Coín have formed a new club to share their experiences and skills with handicrafts.

Organiser Jill Leonard from Coín set up the group to allow members to swap their different craft skills, while making time to have a coffee together and a chat. Although Jill has lots of experience in creating hand-made greetings cards, she says that oth-

Emma Webber: "You don't have to be experienced to join in and it isn't expensive"

ers in the group have also offered to share their skills at jam making, flower arranging and needlework. Also on hand says Jill, is a library of craft books and magazines that the club members will use to help create stencilled flower pots, flavoured oils and hand-made soap.

The club formed after Jill approached the owners of a local bar in Coín about hosting regu-

lar craft meetings before she then publicised the new club on printed posters and online. Ten women attended the first meeting but Jill says after just two meetings the club already has 15 members, ranging in age from their mid-twenties to mid-sixties. With group members paying a nominal cost towards the materials provided, the decision about what to create at the next session is decided each week by the members themselves. The club, says Jill, is completely non-profit making.

Emma Webber, also from Coín, joined the club in the first week and was inspired to start making things by television programmes like 'Kirsty's homemade Christmas'. She says the advantage of the craft club is that the other members encourage you to be creative, you don't need to be experienced to join and it is not expensive. She adds "I have really enjoyed going along and I did get to make a brilliant, original Valentine's card!"

DETAILS | The group meets on alternate Tuesday mornings at The Bistro Bar and Restaurant at Sierra Gorda in Coín. Call Jill ☎ 610 99 31 75 or look for Jill's Craft Club on Facebook

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Lifestyle



LIFE IN SPAIN. EXPATS ARE GENERALLY HAPPY BUT MISS CERTAIN THINGS ABOUT THEIR HOME COUNTRIES. JOSELE-LANZA

SUR in English asks foreign residents: Besides loved ones, what do you miss the most from the country you're originally from?

Expats 'miss customer service most'

GEORGE PRIOR

Good customer service is what foreign residents who live on the Costa del Sol most miss about their own countries, according to a poll conducted by SUR in English this week.

With the aim of discovering what they long for, besides family and friends, this newspaper asked a selection of expatriates to share their views.

More than half said they missed high levels of client care. One of those was Argentinean-born Elizabeth Gingele, who now lives and works in Mijas Costa. She comments: "I once spent nearly an hour waiting for the waiter to come to my table in a restaurant. When I asked if he could be kind enough to take my order because I've been waiting for an hour, he replied, 'You can leave if you want!' I could not believe what I heard, so I got up and left. Quite often customer satisfaction isn't priority number one."

It is a view shared by Tim Stroombergen from Haarlem, Holland, who has lived in Torremoli-

nos for six years. "What I miss most is the politeness. People in The Netherlands who serve or help you seem friendlier and appear to enjoy the work they are doing. They usually wish you a good day, smile, ask if they can do anything else to help and so forth. Every time we're back in Holland we're continually surprised about the friendliness of the people. I never realised that I was in such a friendly country until I moved to Andalucía."

American, Helen Cole, adds: "Admittedly, I come from a country where customer service is paramount, but it seems that over here they just don't care about it in many establishments on the Coast."

"When my friends and family from the States come and stay with me, I often find myself half-apologising on behalf of waiters, bartenders and shop workers. I feel compelled to say something because most of them are genuinely shocked about the sloppy attitudes."

"With so many people currently out of work, you'd think that those who do have a job would be going the extra mile to ensure that their customers are kept happy. No-

where is customer care better than California, I guess."

Also missed...

Besides customer service, which was mentioned by six out of 10 of all those who responded, others claimed to miss their own country's business opening hours.

British-born Nerja resident, Sue Peacock says: "I miss shops being open on a Sunday. In the UK, many out-of-town supermarkets, high-street stores and shopping centres are open seven days a week which is great as sometimes it's not convenient to go Monday to Saturday. Their being open every day gives you more options."

Ben Sullivan from Lancashire,

Despite the foreign residents who spoke to SUR in English missing areas of life in their own countries, almost all said they were happy with their lives on the Costa del Sol

England, opines that banks should stay open for business for longer. "Even after having lived here for years, I still find it frustrating that the banks close at 2 o'clock. I miss that you can't call into your local branch in the afternoon and it seems ridiculous that banks don't have the same timetable as those in most other European countries."

It was efficient bureaucratic systems that many participants said they craved. "Things like paying taxes, booking appointments with authorities, and registering complaints are all much easier in Denmark. Most things can be done online and it's all much quicker and you don't need to deal with so much paperwork."

"For example, it would be unheard of to have to take a morning off work to go and queue for hours at 'Tráfico' to sort an issue with your car, or at the police station to get your ID renewed," explains Line Thomsen.

For some, the things they missed were more to do with geography and climate.

"I really love the weather in

THE VIEWS

Tim, Holland

"What I miss most is the politeness. People in The Netherlands seem friendlier"

Helen Cole, USA

"Nowhere does customer care better than California, I guess"

Gabri Cournier, France

"I love the weather in Estepona but I miss the noticeable changing of the seasons in Paris"

Sue Peacock, UK

"I miss shops being open on a Sunday. Their being open every day gives you options"

Estepona but I do miss the very noticeable changing of the seasons that you have in Paris," says Gabri Cournier. "Autumn is probably my favourite time when the leaves in the parks start to turn, it's very beautiful."

"I also miss Christmas in France as it just seems more 'Christmassy', more festive, probably because it's normally colder."

The dramatic countryside and impressive wildlife of South Africa are what Mark Stroud misses. "It's a vast, stunning country. When I go back I remember just how big and beautiful everything is – the plains, the mountains, the trees, the animals, the birds. Going out on a safari in South Africa and seeing the big cats, elephants and rhino, for example, is unbeatable in my opinion. I miss having that on my doorstep," he affirms.

Living in Spain

Despite the foreign residents who spoke to SUR in English missing areas of life in their own countries, almost all said they were happy with their lives on the Costa del Sol.

"Like most expats, I miss certain things, in my case it's the dry Canadian sense of humour and the cleanliness of the towns and cities," says Andrew Seubert. "But, overall, I feel I'm probably happier living here. The high quality of life is what keeps me, and countless others, in Malaga. It kind of seduces you. When you live away from your country of birth, it's all too easy to view it through 'rose-tinted glasses'."

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

If you have an opinion about this or any other topic in SUR in English, we want to hear from you. We may publish your comments, and you could even win a prize for them!

Email: surinenglish.su@diariosur.es

Lifestyle

Lutz Schneider-Heimsoth Sculptor

“From the very first stone, I was immediately hooked”

He creates beautiful figures from soapstone then gives them German or Spanish names, and every stone is unique

MARLENE WÖRNER

We're talking about Lutz Schneider-Heimsoth, who was born in 1943 in Bad Salzdetfurth near Hanover. His creative career as a designer was extensive. He worked for various advertising agencies, was active in publishing, and eventually founded his own advertising agency. Since 1997, he and his wife Traudel have spent time in their romantic and typically Andalusian village house in Benajárfé every year. It is there that numerous soapstone sculptures have been made. Even before his retirement, Lutz Schneider-Heimsoth was clear that he would continue to

be creative in Spain. Before he began working with soapstone in 1998, he used to paint the expressive faces of the villagers. His workshops in the Residencia Tropical retirement home in Almuñécar are very well attended. Currently, sixteen of his sculptures can be seen at an exhibition in Mezquitilla (until March 4th). The exhibition in the former mayor's office in Algarrobo (urbanization Pueblo Bahía) is open every Thursday, Friday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Workshops will also be offered during this time.

Mr. Schneider Heimsoth, why soapstone?

I wanted to work in three dimensions and so arrived at soapstone. Actually, I should never have started because from the first stone I was literally “soapstone-addicted”. I was immediately hooked. I have worked on about 60 stones since then and can no longer exist without them.

What advantage does it offer over other types of stone?

With hard stones such as marble or granite, you need a big workshop, sophisticated tools, and a

“First I study the stone's shape, structure and special features”

“When you want to forget problems, painting and modelling help you to relax”

spacious studio. As I often commute between Spain and Germany that would be quite complicated. Among sculptors, soapstone is often frowned upon because it is such a soft material, but this isn't always the case - black soapstone is relatively hard and so is well suited to a hammer and chisel.

What kinds of soapstone are there and how do they differ?

There are hundreds of shades, from grey or green to yellowish-brown and pink, but I've never seen a blue stone. They differ according to their hardness and their state in the rock. Erosion creates seams, pockets, holes and

so on. The greatest diversity occurs in Africa, but there are also South American, Chinese, Indian, Norwegian and Austrian stones. **How long does one of your sculptures take to make?**

As a rule, I first work with what the stone offers. This means that I study its shape, structure, special features and what I can see in it. However there are exceptions. With some stones, I know exactly what I want to do beforehand. The time it takes depends on the degree of hardness. A soft stone can go quite quickly. Chinese black soapstone is very hard so a stone 40 cm high and 20 cm wide can take 60 to 70 hours. Generally speaking, you can't finish a stone in less than 10 hours.

Do you prefer to make abstract or realistic representations?

Preferably abstract, because they leave more freedom to decide what you see in the stone. Depending on your mood, you can give the sculpture different names as each side of it looks different. **You also give workshops - can anyone learn to work with stone?**

Yes, definitely everyone can learn. The belief that “I can't do this” is absolutely false. Making a sculpture with any material is 90 per cent craft. Only 10 per cent is the artistic element that is unique to each person. Whether you are young or old, everyone can have fun. Even when you are retired and want to forget problems, activities such as painting and modelling are good ways to relax and to become calmer and stress-free.



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Lifestyle



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EXPLAINING DOMAIN NAMES. SUR

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L.P.
Chris Chaplow, whose website andalucia.com is ranked in the top ten most visited geographical domain websites in the world, is also a member of the Commercial and Business Users Constituency of ICANN, and is currently the Constituency's community Vice-Chair. He explained the workings of ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers), which was set up in 1998 after the U.S. Department of Commerce carried out a global consultation process. It is now a not-for-profit organisation with participants from all over the world dedicated to keeping the Internet secure, stable and interoperable, with by-laws to ensure that policy making is via "multi stakeholder bottom up consensus". That means, said Chris, that anyone with a domain name is a potential stakeholder and can put forward ideas, which are then processed by ICANN and decided by consensus. It was a motion put forward "from the bottom" several years ago which will potentially lead now to major changes in the way we see Internet - get ready for dot anything!

Chris Chaplow tells the CPC to 'Get ready for dot anything'

Applications are now open for new domain names which may change the way we see Internet

LIZ PARRY

Internet luminary and andalucia.com director Chris Chaplow cast light last week on what to many might seem an inscrutable issue. What goes on behind the websites and who actually organises the Internet?

This is a vast subject to tackle in a short talk, and Chris narrowed it down for his address to the Costa Press Club to one facet: new proposals for domain names. Members learned that ICANN is a unique organisation which oversees the Domain Name System and that it is currently accepting applications for new "generic top level domains", of which there are currently only a few, the initial ones, dating back to 1984, being .gov .edu .com .mil and .org.

The advantages of increasing the number of top level domain names, said Chris, is that it will facilitate competition, offering alternatives to the .com names. It will also improve security if a name is under the exclusive control, for example, of a bank. In addition, he suggested, the increase in the number of top level domains will bring about uses and technology that have not yet been thought of.

So who is applying for the new names? The period for applications closes on April 12th, and ICANN estimates that there will be about 500, after which the list of names will be published and there will be a period for objections to be made. Until then the list is confidential, but Chris suggests that there might be generic names like .hotel, city names like



DINNER. AFTERWARDS, AT 'EL TRASMALLO'. M. CHAPLOW

.barcelona, or company names like .nike. Stringent regulations are in place to make sure that interested parties are in agreement with the application, and that a business plan is in place to exploit the name rather than just park it.

Finishing on an optimistic note, Chris spoke enthusiastically about the opportunities for emerging economies and for the international community generally, as Internationalized Domain Names are part of the deal as well as those in Latin script. No more need for mixed script names like 巴塞罗那的中国网 .com.

There was also a note of caution: these changes are not guaranteed to happen, due to the workings of ICANN, but if they do, he said, "It is a one way street". There will be no going back, so the system has to be made to work.

Dinner

The talk was followed by the Club's best attended dinner in its ten year history, at the 'Freiduría El Trasmallo' in Estepona.

MORE INFORMATION | The Costa Press Club is an international social forum for journalists, which holds monthly meetings. For membership details go to www.costapressclub.com

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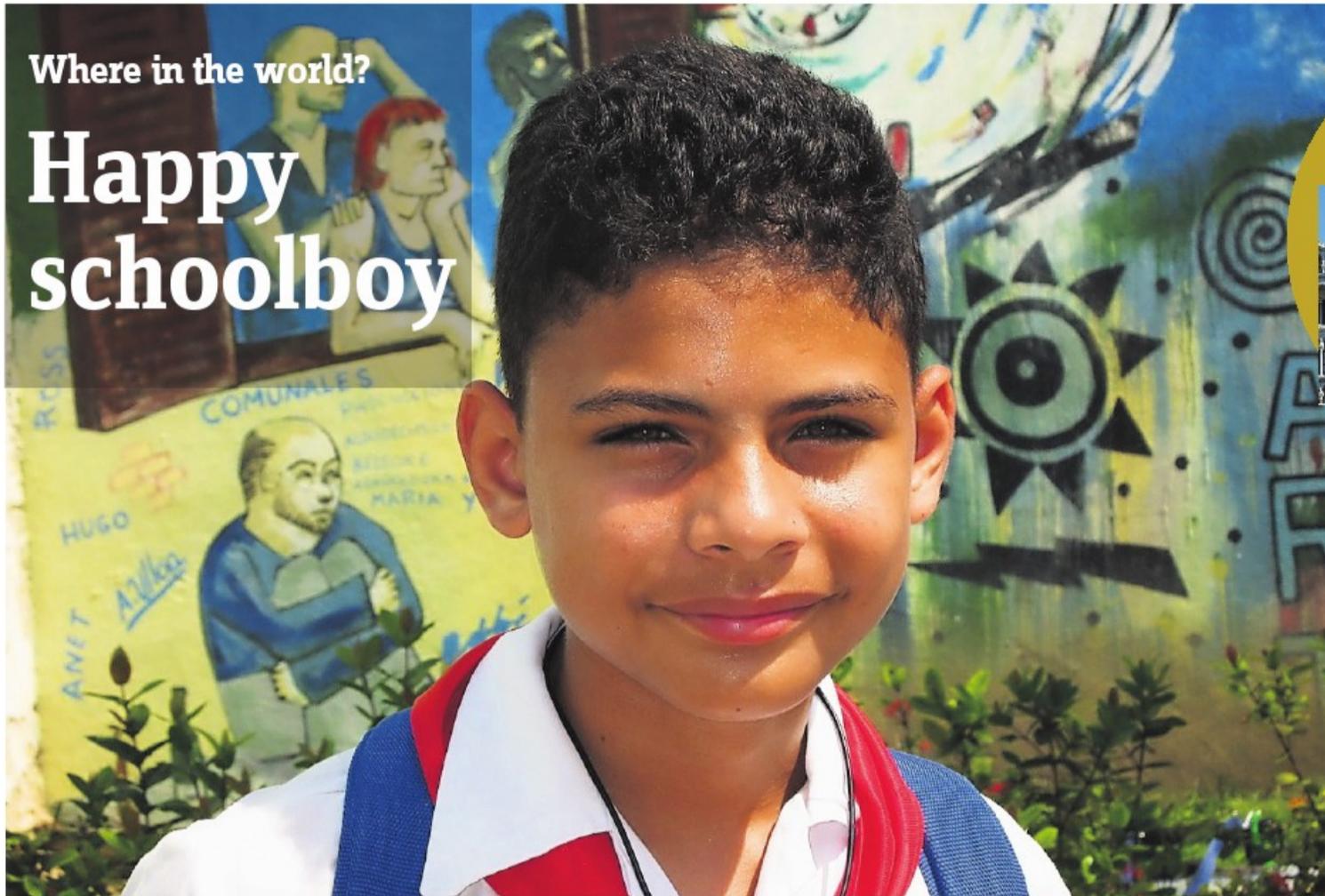
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LifeStyle Travel

Where in the world?

Happy schoolboy



January's photo



Winner

The answer to January's Where in the World? was the cathedral and bell-tower in Pisa, the famous leaning tower. The first correct answer we received was from Martin Huxley of Trapi-che in Malaga. We've already sent one of our rather splendid t-shirts to him.

Mentions in despatches this month go to Ursula Russell of Marbella who says 'she remembers Superman straightening it' and Scott Wood also of Marbella.

Thanks especially to 88-year old Inge Stone of El Coto, Mijas, who said 'I enjoy your news very much. Thank you for years of pleasure'.

Thanks to everyone who entered, we had another bumper postbag for both; try your luck with this month's competition.

Our travel correspondent, Mike Souter, has picked for this week's 'Where in the World' a photograph of a happy young schoolboy sent in by reader Francisco Becerro of Fuengirola. But in which country

in the world was he photographed? We'll give a prize to the first correct answer received.

Email your entries to english@diariosur.es and we'll name the winner in our next

travel feature.

We also love hearing your travel anecdotes about the places we feature, so let us know those too. And if you have a photograph you think we could feature in this se-

ries, send it to the same address.

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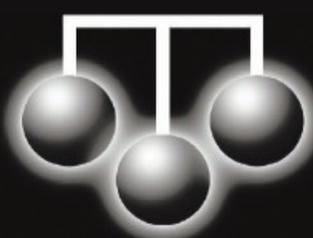
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Taking a lesson in geography



PRIAMAR FORTRESS. STANDING SENTRY OVER THE PORT AREA. MIKE SOUTER, SOUTERMEDIA.COM

When our travel correspondent needed to catch a ship, he was told to go to Savona, in Italy's Ligurian Province. The information set him into a spin. Where in the world?...

MIKE SOUTER

Forgive me my lack of geographical knowledge, but Savona and Liguria meant not a jot to me. Thankfully my long-standing friend Stefania at the Italian Tourist Board was able to point me in the right direction. Fly to Milan, said she, take the train to Genoa and then on to Savona.

Even more embarrassingly, it transpires that I have actually been to one of the area's jewels, San Remo, many years ago, but the fact it was in Liguria had obviously passed me by. (All I can really remember about that trip was that, as an 11-year old, I got bored with the adults dallying over lunch and set off to the nearby market where I bought my grandmother a little lace handkerchief).

So, for everyone's benefit, we are talking about the top left hand bit of Italy between the French border and Tuscany. It's got 340 kilometres of seaside, sheltered by the Apennines and the Maritime Alps.

TrenItalia

Unexpectedly stranded in Milan by a late aircraft arrival and the non-running of my train due to severe flooding in the Genoa area, I was pleasantly surprised to discover that I was able to change my train ticket without penalty at Milan's impressive Central Station. It's one of those architecturally awesome station buildings, the sort built when railways were keen to really show themselves off. Impressively, I put my ticket number into a machine; it gives me a choice of trains I can use, and spits out a new ticket. Well done TrenItalia!

The journey to Savona is two and a half hours, so I have splashed out €28 for a First Class seat, only to discover that second class is much less busy. It also has old-fashioned compartments which give a much better sense of privacy than the more common open-plan carriages.

At Genoa, I become completely confused. Once I learn that it's Ge-

nova in Italian and that the engine has to move from one end of the train to the other, all becomes clear. Genoa marks the boundary between the Riviera di Ponente, to which I am headed and the Riviera di Levante, which stretches south to Tuscany.

What seems odd is that I am not picking up my cruise in Genoa. Huge passenger ships are built here and it's a major port. It is also said to be the birthplace of Christopher Columbus, but I am increasingly confused by the claims of the Italians, Spanish and Portuguese over him, that I never say such things are facts.

Apparently the harbour in Genoa is rather prone to silting up and so Costa Cruises, part of the Carnival Group (owners of P&O and Cunard) opted to build their splendid new terminal at nearby Savona instead.

Ship watcher's hotel

My hotel is the modern NH Darsena, which is almost within touching distance of the giant cruise ships. It's a pretty featureless and overheated building, a bit like living in a greenhouse, but it's certainly the place to be if, like me, you love ship watching.

From my window, two enormous cruise ships can be seen, one of which, the Costa Concordia, was to become the best known ship in the world shortly thereafter.

It's Sunday morning and the perfect opportunity for a stroll around what turns out to be a pretty little town. Savona has only got a population of around sixty thousand, so having the cruise terminal is a real bonus to the local economy. As I potter along the main colonnaded street, the two giant Costa ships tower over the historic town clock at the bottom of the street.

I muse that there's a lot of history here. It's the sort of place where you can turn off the main street and find yourself in little cobbled alleyways, which I rather like. Being Sunday, it's all rather quiet, but it's nice to hear the my-

riad bells ringing.

An hour or two of pottering has given me an appetite and I fancy the look of the bustling little 'La Tabernetta'. It has a wide spread of clientele, from young families to elderly ladies lunching on their own. Now surely the latter signifies an eatery of excellence?

It doesn't disappoint. Gnocchi to die for, freshly baked bread and some splendid local red wine all slip down very nicely.

I spend a pleasant afternoon people watching on the prom and enjoying the hustle and bustle in and around the port area. You get the impression that Savona is quite a happening place in the summer months.

Fortress

In the morning, a visit to the Priamar Fortress, which has stood sentry over the port area since the 15th century, but much rebuilt over the ensuing 300 years. It offers a splendid view over the town with an attractive yacht marina close by the cruise terminal. The nearby market just underlines the wealth of food products produced in the local area, from wonderful olive oil and pesto sauce to splendid fish and a plethora of colourful fruit and vegetables. I am rather taken with a display of pumpkins, although, to be honest, I am not at all sure what I would do were I to purchase one!

At the Caffe Duo Merli in the centre of the historic town, I enjoy some lovely olive oil enriched bread, focaccia, bought fresh from the bakery next door. (So yummy, it necessitates a subsequent visit to buy some more!).

Opening my curtains at the hotel the next morning, two more enormous cruise ships have arrived, replacing the Costa Concordia and Costa Serena.

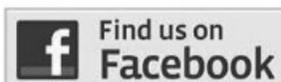
Even now, looking back at my photographs of her, I find her sudden and untimely demise hard to comprehend. Such vessels are so huge and yet, when human frailty intervenes, so vulnerable.

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LifeStyle Travel

A delightful, walkable choice of day trip

Albenga: the town of towers

MIKE SOUTER

I have decided to take the train from Savona a little way further west along the Ligurian coast. I take local advice and hit upon Albenga, just forty minutes journey time away. A ticket costs €4.50. It's a pleasant journey on a train that still goes 'diddleyda', with lovely views of the coast to one side and the mountains a short distance inland. There is only one other occupant of the carriage, an elderly nun, who is trying out all the ring tones on her mobile phone at full volume. She is clearly a very deaf elderly nun.

Unusually (and rather annoyingly) for me, I have been given no local tourist information or map, nor do I speak the local lingo, but my Spanish seems to be of some help and the man at Albenga ticket office helpfully points me towards the historic centre.

Within a few steps of the station, I am transfixed. The place just oozes history. A Roman coast

road went through here in the year 13BC.

Albenga turns out to be a delightful, walkable choice of day trip. As far as I can ascertain without a map, the historic area sits very neatly between the main road from the station into town and the river. As a photographer, I am in heaven. There's just so much to see, from ancient towers all around, to dark little streets curving around in a mysterious way. There are so many really well preserved buildings that I almost don't know where to point my camera lens.

Solitude

Bizarrely, I seem to be the only tourist in town. I realise that my visit is well out of season, but it's a delightfully warm and sunny day and even the locals seem to have cleared off. The place is, apart from the tolling of bells, almost completely silent.

There are plenty of restaurants touting for business, but almost nobody is inside. It's weird. It's as



PHOTOGRAPHER'S HEAVEN. FOOTBALL IN THE NARROW STREETS OF ALBENGA. M.S.

the plague has hit and I am one of the few survivors.

But maybe that's the joy of this part of the world. It is peaceful, atmospheric, just oozing with char-

acter.

Tuscany gets all the headlines, Florence and Pisa all the visitors. But, to my mind, I know where I feel more at home.

Albenga has cast a very special spell on me and is certainly a place to which I want to return.

But equipped with a map and guidebook.

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Not to visit the Andalusian capital is seen by some to be the equivalent of a mortal sin, so Lynsey Pilcher set off to redeem herself

Seville: the city that never leaves you

LYNSEY PILCHER

People used to ask me how it was possible that, having spent so long living in Spain, I had never got round to visiting Seville. "But you must go!" my Spanish friends would urge me almost on a weekly basis, faces all serious, as if not having visited their glorious Andalusian capital was some sort of mortal sin. So finally, one chilly morning in December, my friend and I packed our bags and caught the bus to the city that, according to its motto, will never leave you.

This, I thought, swallowing my travel sickness pills and cursing the fact we hadn't been able to afford to get the train, better be worth it. And of course, it was.

Seville is a city renowned for its beauty, and even our walk from the bus station to our hostel, past the glistening river Guadalquivir, was very picturesque. We'd booked into the hostel, the Triana Backpackers, as we didn't have any friends to stay with in the city and needed somewhere cheap and cheerful to stay for the weekend. I'll admit I'm always a bit sceptical about hostels (they can be a bit hit or miss in my experience), but when we arrived I was pleasantly surprised. Situated in one of the narrow, cobbled streets of the Triana area of the city just north of the river, the hostel is typically Andalusian, boasting patterned tiled floors, a beautiful courtyard and a white gated entrance. Our private two-bed room cost around 20 euros a night each including breakfast; and, at just a short ten minute walk over the river to the city's historical centre, it was an ideal base for a weekend's sightseeing. We had to share a bathroom, but hey, students can't be choosers.

Sights

Seville has an array of beautiful sights and attractions to choose from, and its grand Cathedral, which is arguably the most popular, certainly doesn't disappoint. Built after the Reconquista on the site of the city's old mosque, it incorporates some of the building's original Moorish features and, with its magnificent organs, rich decoration and spectacular stained glass windows, its gothic interior really is something else. Climbing the cathedral's Giralda (bell tower) is apparently a must if you want some of the best views of the city, although we wouldn't know, as the amount of fog on the day we went meant we couldn't see a thing. Typical. The tower itself is pretty cool though, so it is worth the climb even if the weather is somewhat less than desired.

After the cathedral, why not pop over to the city's Royal Alcazar (pal-



ALCAZAR GARDENS. NOT TO BE MISSED. LP

ace), which is directly opposite? Both do 2 euro entries if you have a student card, so it would be rude not to really. Originally a Moorish construction, the Alcazar also has gothic influences from after the reconquista and boasts some absolutely stunning gardens that were by far and away the highlight of my trip. Their long, tranquil pools,

Arabic-style arches and fountains, and large, leafy gardens make it a real peaceful hideaway from the hustle and bustle of the rest of the city, and its big maze and handful of peacocks, who pop out from time to time from behind the trees, give the gardens a somewhat surreal, Alice-in-Wonderland-esque feel.

After spending a while trying to

get a photo of the peacocks with their tails open (an attempt at which we failed miserably), we were ready for some lunch. Looking for somewhere close to hand where we could get a quick bite to eat, we spotted a nice little tapas bar, Milagritos, just across from the cathedral and decided to give it a go. It turned out to be an absolute gem, serving up a range of hot and cold tapas - including some of the best patatas bravas I've ever tasted - at a really reasonable price. If you want a bit more of an authentic dining experience though, head up to Calle Mateos Gago, just a short walk away from the cathedral. The whole street is abuzz with places to eat and drink, but the best place we found was Bodega Santa Cruz, known locally as "Las Columnas". An amazing old-school tapas bar, it does all the typical Spanish dishes you can think of - including a particularly good 'flamenquin' - for an average of just two euros per dish. This place was so authentic that the barman actually chalked the orders up onto the bar, and we could barely hear each other speak over the buzz of Spaniards ordering their food; in fact, it was so jam-packed with locals that people were having to stand and eat outside. How I managed to sit down next to the only other Scottish person in the bar I'll never know.

Party street

If you're looking to head out of an evening, one of your best bets is Calle Betis, one of Seville's most famous party streets - Bogart, a modern cocktail bar where we stopped for a cheeky mojito, is definitely worth a visit. However, if you want something a bit more typically

Sevillian, you could opt to go and see a traditional Flamenco show. There are many advertised around the city, but not wanting to pay the sometimes hefty entrance fees, we headed, on a friend's recommendation, to a free show at La Carboneria, an old coal depository-turned-tavern in the Santa Cruz area of the city. It was a bit off the beaten path (we became slightly worried at one point when we were given directions up a dodgy-looking backstreet) but absolutely worth the effort.

Recuperating

Feeling a bit worse for wear after the previous night's cocktail indulgence, we decided to get some fresh air before our journey home, and took a walk along to see the famous Plaza de Espana. Built in 1929 for the Ibero-American exhibition that was to take place in Seville, the Plaza de Espana is a semi-circular "square" with beautiful pillared buildings running around its exterior and intricately tiled alcoves carved into its walls. And the best bit about these alcoves? Each represents a different province of Spain, complete with its own picture - so of course we took the obligatory touristy photos beside the Malaga sign. You can't take us anywhere.

After a quick stroll through the Maria Luisa park (where I resisted my urge to go and play on the swings), it was time to head home. As I nodded off on the bus back to Malaga I realised that my Spanish friends had been right - it is a sin not to have visited a city as beautiful as Seville. And yes, the city has lived up to its motto and "stayed with me" - for the time being at least.



CATHEDRAL. ON EVERYBODY'S ITINERARY AND FOR GOOD REASON. ABIGAIL MOODY

The Barcelona weekend



BARCELONA BRUNCH. GEHRYS STUNNING WHALE IN HOTEL ARTS' GARDEN. A.F.

Since hosting the Olympic Games, the dynamic capital of Cataluña has continued to welcome change, maintaining its position as one of the world's top 'City Break' destinations

ANDREW FORBES

Athletic bullfighters, dressed to kill in their elaborate, flamboyant, and heavily embroidered 'suits of light' are no longer part of Barcelona's arts and entertainment; the six hundred year old tradition of fighting bulls is now banned here. Whether for animal welfare or simply as a rejection of Spanish culture is hard to decipher, but either way it is a powerful indication of how Barcelona has a clear sense of identity and is not afraid of change.

This vibrant Mediterranean city leapt onto the world's stage, full of youthful energy and hope in 1992 with the Olympics, and now twenty years later continues to reinvent itself as a flourishing capital of commerce, fashion and style.

Going Gothic

Start a weekend visit with a leisurely few hours exploring the shaded alleyways and streets of Barcelona's impressive 'Barri Gotic' or Gothic Quarter. Bicycles are a great way to get around this cultural and gastronomic hub of the city, as most of the labyrinthine thoroughfares are traffic free, and



GAUDÍ MASTERPIECE. CASA BATLLÓ TONI SÁNCHEZ POY

what's more one feels less like a tourist and more like a local.

Although a visit to Gaudí's extraordinary 'Basílica de la Sagrada Família' is a must for most visitors, it is the city's other cathedral 'Basílica de Santa María del Mar' here in the Gothic Quarter that is the local's favourite and well worth a visit. Avoid the temptation to eat on the overtly 'touristy' avenue of Las Ramblas and instead enjoy the authentic tastes and smells of the city in this ancient neighbourhood with its great choice of side-street eateries with

low cost 'menú del día', as well as of course Spanish tapas and Catalan pintxos.

In this Olympic year of 2012, Barcelona is often cited as the ultimate case study in how a city can maximise the potential benefits of hosting the Games. Before it was an industrial city that had long lost its nineteenth century art nouveau grace and elegance, but Barcelona has since reinvented itself into a self-confident capital, defined by design and cutting edge contemporary fashion and cuisine. Although the transi-

tion wasn't always easy, the past twenty years have been a testament of how a city can create a new positive reality when its people, public institutions, and private sector all pull together.

Gaudí Legend

The city's passion for creative design and invention is no better illustrated than by the work of Barcelona's most famous son, the Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí. His world-renowned art nouveau and modernist creations are found in many neighbourhoods and also at the exquisite Park Güell. Yet some of the best are in the elegant and fashionable district of 'Eixample'. Here amongst the luxury boutiques and swish hotels one finds 'Casa Milá'. Commonly known as 'La Pedrera', this up-scale apartment building, with its distinctive undulating façade is instantly recognisable as a Gaudí building. Not only can one view a fully restored apartment and the fascinating museum, but the highlight is the roof terrace, affording an up close view of the unique and inspirational detailing of this UNESCO property.

Close by, a little further down the elegant Passeig de Gràcia avenue is 'Casa Batlló', a breathtaking private home that is full of creativity and artistry. It's described as a Gaudí masterpiece and that's no cliché; it really is amazing. Once a classic urban property, Gaudí transformed it into a magical house full of surprises and beauty.

Hip hotels

Despite the city's architectural treasures, many people come to Barcelona simply for the luxury hotels and pulsating nightlife. The city is chock-full of 'Hip', 'Boutique' and 'Chic' hotels created for a discerning, design-conscious clientele.

So possibly it is no surprise that Barcelona was chosen for Europe's very first 'W' Hotel. The purpose built property, right on the now super fashionable Barceloneta beach and promenade, is a stunning glass tower, designed by architect Ricardo Bofill, in the shape of a huge sail.

The lofty 473 room hotel has become a tourist attraction in its own right, with the rooftop Eclipse bar attracting a fun loving, young-at-heart crowd. Yet it is the lobby bar and pool terrace which is the place to see and be seen, whilst

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LifeStyle Travel

The city's passion for creative design is illustrated by its famous son Gaudí

Many visitors to Barcelona are there just for the luxury hotels and nightlife

sipping the latest cocktail creations and chilling to a cool urban soundtrack, created by one of the visiting or resident DJs. For those lucky enough to stay, the luxury guest rooms, complete with all the legendary 'W' styling, boast seductive views across the city beaches and the Mediterranean.

As an alternative, for a genuine warm Barcelona welcome and flawless location, then think city centre. The Grand Hotel Central is in the heart of the city, close to the Gothic Quarter's cathedral and walking distance (or cycling distance if you choose to borrow the hotel's complimentary bikes) to much of what is great to see and enjoy in this dynamic city. Take the designer lift from the lobby and as if by magic, one is swept up to a little piece of urban heaven, the Grand Hotel's private rooftop terrace and pool. This is an über cool place to chill out and soak up the city vibe, with a view that takes in the entire city, from the soaring surrealists spires of Gaudí's 'Sagrada Família'; to Bar-



REINVENTION. BARCELONA HAS RESTORED ITS BEACHES . A.F.

celona's very own gherkin, the twenty first century glass tower, 'Torre Agbar'.

Taste for luxury

Even if your budget doesn't stretch to a suite at one of Barcelona's best hotels, that doesn't mean you can't enjoy the taste of

luxury. Sunday Brunch is an institution in most capital cities and Barcelona is no exception. So head to the Olympic Port, with its stunning Gehry Whale sculpture and enter the striking tower of the Hotel Arts. Built as the premier accommodation for the games, the hotel still retains its prestige and

exclusivity, and offers what many believe is the best brunch in town. The hot & cold, sweet & savoury buffet is full of Catalan and Spanish classics, Asian fusion dishes as well as mouth-watering specialities such as monk fish with carrot puree or black rice with seafood.

Retail therapy

If the designer stores of Passeig de Gracia are too pricey, then take the city metro to where the locals shop; the brand new 'Las Arenas' shopping centre. This new Barcelona retail, entertainment and leisure complex is housed in one of the city's former bull rings, recently transformed by Brit architect Richard Rogers, famous for London's Lloyd's Building and Paris' Pompidou Centre. Even if shopping is not on the to-do list, the architecture and the view from the 360 degree rooftop terrace certainly should be. Here, eat Japanese, or snack on Spanish tapas, and look out over the urban landscape.

Las Arenas is one of many examples of how Barcelona is a city that is always embracing change and reinventing itself.

WEBSITES

More information from

- www.sagradafamilia.cat/
- www.casabatillo.es
- www.cxlapedrera.com
- www.grandhotelcentral.com/
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Southern Spain has a multitude of hidden corners just waiting to be discovered: this week we suggest you take the road to...

Andalucía

Benalauría, in the Genal valley

The streets of Benalauría combine the typical Andalusian layout of the villages of the Serranía de Ronda and buildings from the eighteenth century

JAVIER ALMELLONES

To many people, Benalauría is a town which seems to hide away. The difficulty in picking it out from the Algeciras-Ronda road might lead us to think so. However, this originally Berber town not only doesn't hide its charms, it actually shows them off with confidence to the visitor.

You barely have to enter the Town Hall square to understand the important architectural heritage of this mountain town, as there you will find three well-preserved, eighteenth-century buildings next to each other.

From this point, the most emblematic in the municipality, the traveller can choose different options among the evocative streets. Some surprise with their narrowness and clearly Andalusian features, such as colourful flowerpots and whitewashed walls; others with their exteriors similar to that of the Town Hall.

Without any doubt, during the eighteenth century, the 'century of enlightenment', Benalauría was at its most splendid. During that era the parish church of Santo Domingo de Guzmán was restored and other noble buildings were constructed. It was all thanks to agricultural cultivation and, specifically, the importance of grapevines and olive groves.

Even today, vestiges of that era remain. In the heart of the town stand the old olive oil mills, one of which now houses the Benalauría Ethnographic Museum, where it is possible to see the internal structure of the building as well as numerous tools which would have been used for agricultural tasks.

The other remaining mill in the town now serves as a charming



ARCHITECTURE. THE URBAN CENTRE HAS EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY FAÇADES WHICH SHOW THE TOWN'S FORMER SPLENDOUR.

tavern named 'La Molienda'. The building has been carefully decorated in a rustic style and has many museum-worthy objects such as a striking collection of spoons carved out of wood.

At both of these establishments, handmade products by La Molienda Verde are sold: jams, preserves and liquors all made from products from the Serranía de Ronda area. It's also possible to acquire individual, decorative, handcrafted objects made using raw materials like roots, branches,

logs, cork, dried flowers and seeds collected in the region.

After all that, the visitor shouldn't forget to enjoy the panoramic views which this little town has over most of the Genal valley. While the chestnut woods are just recovering their leaves at this time of year, the greenness of the holm oaks and cork oaks stands out in the landscape.

Ecological wealth

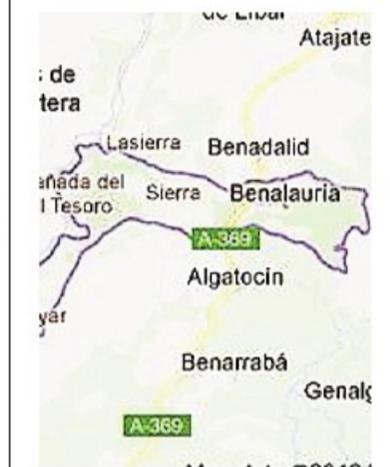
The territory of Benalauría not only spans the Genal valley but also

reaches the Guadiaro valley. The municipal district covers part of the impressive limestone gorge of Las Buitreras, which was declared an Andalusian natural monument due to its ecological and geological wealth and importance.

At the same time, from the town, situated at the foot of the 'Tajo de los Aviones', it is possible to gain access to some of the least frequented parts of the River Genal. However, other options exist if you're looking to do some hiking in the area, such as the routes to the neighbouring villages of Algotocín and Benadalid, or to Venta de San Juan.

Another reason to walk around the town is to pay a visit to the cemetery, where there is a vault with niches for urns holding the ashes of the dead. This columbar-

THE ROUTE



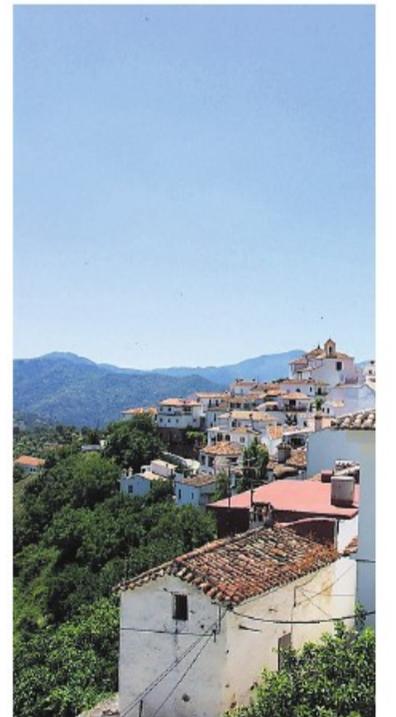
► **How to get there:** From Malaga, drive to Ronda but take the ring-road before entering the town. Then take the old Algeciras road and after Atajate, you'll reach first Benadalid and then Benalauría

► **Where to stay:** Casa El Viejo Obrador, Calle Cruz, 33 - Bajo. Tel: 952 152 585 / 696 458 898

► **Where to eat:** Mesón La Molienda, Calle Moraleda, 59. Tel: 952 152 548. www.molienda.com

► **What to eat:** At this time of year, we recommend the mountain stew ('olla serrana') and warm gazpacho

► **What to buy:** Cold meats, jams, preserves and homemade liquors



GREEN. PANORAMIC VIEWS. J.A.

ium, named the Columbario Romano del Cortijo del Moro, dates back to Roman times.

Of course, at this time of year a popular option is to stay in the town and try some local food in the bars, or enjoy the delicious smells which waft through the streets from the ovens of the two bakeries.

The Ethnographic Museum teaches us about the agricultural traditions of the last two centuries

The large network of paths and tracks allows the visitor to get to know the town and surrounding area

Petcare

Cutting numbers

PETER HARRISON

Whenever we go to the basuras I feel desperately sorry to witness the number of stray dogs and cats which hang around in the hope of finding food. I'd like to take them all home and offer food and care but that's not possible. The thought in my head is "Why on earth were they born at all"? Surely there must be a way of controlling the numbers apart from expensive de-sexing.

Well, there is some light at the end of the tunnel although it may come some time in the future.

It all started in 1876 in New Zealand when a large number of horses were imported from Wales and Exmoor and released onto the Kaimanawa ranges of North Island. These animals proved to be highly fecund and the land incapable of sustaining large herds, resulting in mass starvation and the horses trampling over crops and damaging grazing land. Culling occurred and 30 to 50 per cent of selected horses were sent to slaughter.

The Kaimanawa Heritage Horses, a group of volunteers dedicated to preserving the se-



TOO MANY ANIMALS. SUR

horses, is following research being carried out in the USA on contraception for feral horses. The drug used is based on creating a long term immunity to reproductive hormones which results in a temporary infertility on a reducing basis over a four year term.

Although the exact findings of the research will not be ready for several years it's looking promising already and might be applied to other animals too. Everything has to start somewhere and a big reduction in stray animals seeking substance would be a major step forward.

Legal Advice

Law firm Ilagoson answers readers' queries



We were not aware we'd signed a mortgage deed

Ref. L.E.P

My wife and I have been living on the Costa del Sol for almost 7 years. We came here from the UK, after we both retired.

A year ago, we read the newspaper advertisement of a company offering services for property owners over the age of 60. They offered the possibility of raising cash through our property. The amount that could be raised is calculated on the value of the property and the age of the owner. We would be receiving money every month, and the only requirements are a) that we own our own property, b) that we be over 60 years old and c) that we be registered as living in Spain. The advantages were attractive, so we signed a professional agreement with the company.

Later, we signed an investment agreement for five years with a finance company based in Alicante. In that same act, we signed a mortgage deed before the notary, although we were not aware of what we were signing at the time, since the translator, who worked for the company, did not mention anything

about that.

Afterwards, we discovered that the finance company had obtained funds without providing any security; they had encumbered our property by virtue of the mortgage deed and received all the money of the loan, and they simply committed to return to us some interests, and to pay the monthly instalments of the mortgage. We discovered all this after signing

The company have not paid the mortgage instalments and our house is the collateral

all the documents.

We received the money of the interest payments during the first months, as promised, so we thought that even if we had not been aware of what had really happened, the situation was not so bad after all, as they were honouring the agreement. However, we have not received anything now for two months. They tell us that the situation right now is very bad.

The problem is that they have not paid the mortgage instalments, and the bank is going to auction our property, since it

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 - Civil Law: divorce and legal separation proceedings, inheritance, Title Deeds, real state & conveyancing, purchase and rental contracts, judicial claims to recover debts, etc.
 - Tax and Commercial Law, Legal Liability and Traffic Accidents.

was the collateral of this deal. What can we do? We are absolutely desperate.

You have signed this investment agreement through deception, as you were not really aware that you were running the risk of losing your property. Therefore, you must immediately go to the court to report the case, as it is the only chance you have of not losing everything. Otherwise, if five instalments go unpaid, the bank or the investor will be able to start foreclosure proceedings.

If you have any questions to be answered, please contact:



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LifeStyle

Gardening

How does your garden grow?

The Blue Mist Spirea

DENISE BUSH

Caryopteris is one of a genus of 16 species in the family Lamiaceae / Verbenaceae. It is native to eastern and southern Asia and is commonly called 'Bluebeard', 'The Blue Mist Shrub' or 'The Blue Mist Spirea'.

The aromatic leaves are usually silvery grey but some varieties have variegated or golden leaves. The flowers form on long stems and are usually dark blue although the shades of blue vary with the variety and there is even a pink version. Caryopteris flowers best in an open sunny position in well drained soil. Once established it is drought and frost resistant and benefits from being cut back to about five centimetres above soil level in the spring.

The most common variety is Caryopteris clandonensis, a hybrid that grew naturally as a self sown seedling in a garden in Surrey in the UK. This variety is the hardiest of all the Caryopteris.

Generally speaking it will form a shrub up to 4 metres tall although pruning it hard in the spring will keep it more compact and less leggy. Like lavender, Caryopteris gets woody as it gets older but it is easy to propagate with non flowering cuttings taken in July and August. It can also be propagated from seed although it hybridises very easily and the resulting seedlings are unlikely to be the same as the parent plant.

The bees and butterflies love the abundance of flowers that appear in the late summer and the papery seed capsules look good in dried flower displays. Dead heading will prolong the flowering period.

Caryopteris can be grown as a specimen plant in a pot or grown to create a formal hedge or path edging.

Essential oil from the leaves



BLUE HEAVEN. CARYOPTERIS IS A STUNNING SHRUB WHEN IN FULL BLOOM. SUR

was traditionally used to make perfumes and in Chinese medicine it was used as an antioxidant.

The Caryopteris is slower to produce new spring growth than most other shrubs in the garden so don't be too hasty to pronounce it dead after a long, cold winter!

The varieties below are just a few of the many that are available:

Longwood Blue has sky blue flowers and soft grey foliage.

Sunshine Blue has golden leaves and deep blue flowers.

Summer Sorbet has green leaves edged with gold

Pink Chablis has pink flowers.

First Choice has deep blue flowers and a compact habit.



VARIEGATED. SUMMER SORBET. SUR

Readers' photos



BRIGHT. ORANGE LILIES. BRIAN LOMAX

Brightening up the winter days

This photo was posted on our web page <http://readersphotos.surinenglish.com> by Brian Lomax. It is of a pot of beautiful lilies in full bloom which he has on his terrace.



UNUSUAL. STRANGE FRUIT. ANON

Orange with a heart

We've had oranges crossed with lemons and now we have an orange that has developed in the shape of a heart, rather fitting for Valentines day earlier this week. The reader who posted this photo omitted to put a name but sent a comment in Spanish which translates as "In Andalucía even the oranges have a heart".

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, or upload them to <http://readersphotos.surinenglish.com>, and we'll do the rest!



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75 SYMBOLS OF MALAGA

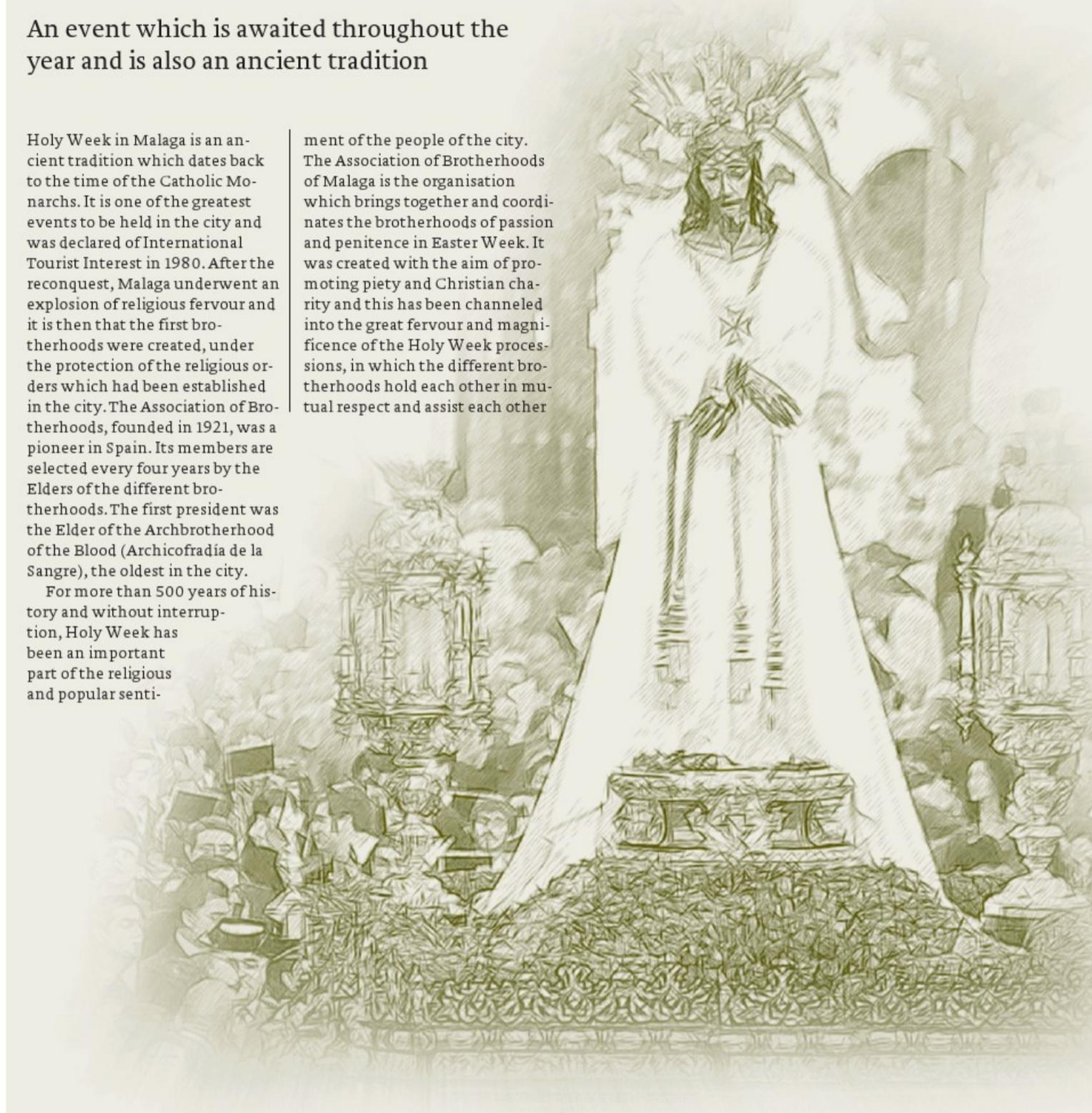
Holy Week

An event which is awaited throughout the year and is also an ancient tradition

Holy Week in Malaga is an ancient tradition which dates back to the time of the Catholic Monarchs. It is one of the greatest events to be held in the city and was declared of International Tourist Interest in 1980. After the reconquest, Malaga underwent an explosion of religious fervour and it is then that the first brotherhoods were created, under the protection of the religious orders which had been established in the city. The Association of Brotherhoods, founded in 1921, was a pioneer in Spain. Its members are selected every four years by the Elders of the different brotherhoods. The first president was the Elder of the Archbrotherhood of the Blood (Archicofradía de la Sangre), the oldest in the city.

For more than 500 years of history and without interruption, Holy Week has been an important part of the religious and popular senti-

ment of the people of the city. The Association of Brotherhoods of Malaga is the organisation which brings together and coordinates the brotherhoods of passion and penitence in Easter Week. It was created with the aim of promoting piety and Christian charity and this has been channeled into the great fervour and magnificence of the Holy Week processions, in which the different brotherhoods hold each other in mutual respect and assist each other



in the necessities and manifestations of worship. It also aims to pay tribute to the work carried out by the brotherhoods as well as responding to the wishes of the local council and commerce in general by achieving the support and economic assistance which are necessary to promote and highlight Holy Week in the city.

All through this important week there is an official route which the processions follow and along this route stands are built for spectators and more than 25,000 chairs are placed in rows. These chairs can be rented and their price depends on their location and row. Some locations are passed by the majority of the processions, such as Calle Carretería and the emblematic Tribuna de los Pobres.

Every year, the Week of the Passion converts Malaga's streets into an authentic show for the five senses. Its floats, bearing the statues which sway their way throughout the processions; thousands of penitents who bring light and colour with their candles and robes as they walk alongside the floats; processions which fill the streets with the special music of Holy Week; the fragrance of incense and flowers as the processions pass; and the thousands of people who come to see and applaud their favourite brotherhoods. In December, Manuel Mingorance was officially named as the painter of this year's poster and the Association of Brotherhoods has recovered a work he created 45 years ago.

ANTONIO GARRIDO



"Holy Week, with its air of mystery, is a legacy of Baroque beauty"



The Chinitas

The Pasaje Chinitas is a narrow pedestrian passageway in the centre of the city, that runs from the Plaza de la Constitución to Calle Fresca. Its name comes from an actor called Chinitas, who worked in a café in that passageway.

The café theatre which existed in the city at the beginning of the 19th century is famous and it was frequented by flamenco artists, bullfighters, writers and artists such as Juan Breva, Antonio Chacón, La Macarena, La Juana, La Trini, El Petrolito, El Porrilla, the Navarro sisters, Estrellita Castro, Lucrecia Torralba, Isabelita Ruiz, Luisa Albéniz, Manuel Torres, Pastora and Tomás Pavón, Vallejo, Manolo Caracol, Canalejas de Puerto Real,

Cojo de Málaga, Palanca, Marchena and Juanito Valderrama, among others.

The fame of this place was widespread thanks to the prose of Federico García Lorca: In the Café de Chinitas / said Paquiro to his brother: / "I am braver than you / a better bullfighter and more of a gypsy".

It is also the name of one of the city's most popular restaurants, which chose the name in tribute to that era. With a cuisine based on the most traditional flavours, those plates which were popular in generations past, and run by the Sánchez family, it is one of the establishments in the centre of Ma-

laga with the greatest popularity among tourists. Its menu features the gastronomy from the inland region of the province as well as the celebrated fish and seafood.

More than a few food critics have confirmed that El Chinitas has the best Iberian ham to be found in a wide area. Similar comments have been made about another of its specialities, the 'caña de lomo', which is selected with great care by the owners. The mixed fried fish is also highly rated.



FOSFORITO

"The quality of the artists who passed through that café is enormous. It is rare to see so much art at the same time"

What to do

Exhibitions

Didac Vilanova López

BENALMÁDENA. An exhibition of work by artist Didac Vilanova López is on display in the Castillo Bil-Bil until March 16th. Didac started his artistic career with sculpture in 1996 and went on to painting abstract, figurative and expressionist works in 1998.

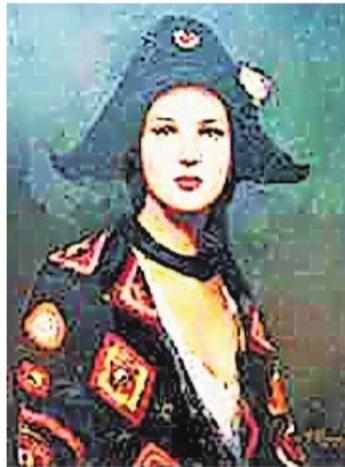
Wildlife paintings

ESTEPONA. From the 15th February to the 14th March Estepona Port Business and Internet Centre will be exhibiting a selection of works by an accomplished wildlife artist who wishes to remain anonymous. From the feral, cruel beauty of the Iberian lynx to the charming but deadly otter, this artist captures the essential nature of the subject on canvas. This artist has never exhibited before. The works display a rare talent that has previously only been appreciated by friends and family.

Venice carnival

MARBELLA. The exhibition 'El Carnaval de los Artistas' runs at the Red Penguin Art Gallery located in El Corte Inglés in Marbella until March

21st. This exhibition is a collection of works by international artists all inspired by the Carnival of Venice. Participating artists include Dutch duo Cats and Withoos, Alfredo Palmero and Fernando Bayona of Spain and Tos Kostermans of Holland among local artists.



VENICE. ALFREDO PALMERO.

Galea & Wood

FUENGIROLA. "New views - new year art" is the new AIA exhibition running until 5th March at the Galería Lucía, Calle Maestra Ángeles Aspiazú, Fuengirola (by the three horse roundabout). Two artists, the painter and sculptor Eleazar Galea from Malta, and Richard Wood from the UK, jointly exhibit

a selection of their new works. Open daily between 12 noon and 4 p.m. and 7 and 11 p.m., except Sundays.

Factoría Plástica

RONDA. An exhibition by the group Factoría Plástica, '10 besos de amor y una pildora desesperada' is showing at the Sala Fundación Unicaja in Ronda until 6th April. Open Monday to Friday 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Jacek Graczyk

FUENGIROLA. The photography exhibition 'Mundos Ocultos' (Hidden Worlds) by Jacek Gracyk can be viewed in the exhibition gallery in the Tenencia de Alcaldía in Los Boliches until February 24th.

José Miguel Pereguíñez

MALAGA. Charcoal drawings by this Seville artist are on display in the Sala Siglo (Plaza del Siglo) until February 25th.

Stone and Canvas

ALGARROBO. "Stone and Canvas" is an exhibition of Lutz Schneider-Heimsoth's soapstone sculptures and Inka Schorn's paintings. It is being held in the former municipi-



'MY CAREER'. INKA SCHORN.

pal building in Algarrobo-Costa (near the Urbanización Pueblo Bahía and the N-340a Mezquitilla bus stop). Open every Sunday, Thursday and Friday from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. until March 4th. Workshops will also be offered.

Cristino de Vera

MALAGA. Artwork by Cristino de Vera from the collections of the Valencian Institute of Modern Art will be on display at the Archivo Municipal on Alameda Principal until 22nd April. Open Monday to Friday 11a.m. to 2p.m. and 5p.m. to 8p.m., and Saturday, Sunday and holidays from 11a.m. to 2p.m. Tel:

952 926 051 or go to www.malaga.eu

Semana Santa

MALAGA. The temporary exhibition, Revello y las Cofradías, is open until the 8th of April at the Museo Revello de Toro, featuring a variety of paintings and posters on a Holy Week theme.

Photography

TORREMOLINOS. An exhibition of entries in the 19th 'Ciudad de Torremolinos' Photography Competition runs until 24th in the Pablo Ruiz Picasso cultural centre. Open 5.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Axarquía Art

FRIGILIANA. An exhibition of work by the Axarquía Art group is on show at the Casa del Apero until the 25th February.

Colectivo Moraga

MIJAS. The Colectivo Moraga is a group formed by inmates of Malaga's penitentiary centre. Some of their work will be on display at the Centro Cultural in La Cala until 1st March.

■ CONTINUES OVERLEAF



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J. Sheppard, Pro - J. Parry, A. S. Child

Over 100 players took part in the laCala&You St. Valentine's Open, one of a series held across the year for cardholders of the resort's affinity programme. The winners John Sheppard and Anthony Stanley Child (UK) with 43 points were delighted to be presented with their prize by none other than English professional golfer John Parry (Vivendi Cup Winner, European Tour 2010) who is currently practising at the resort.

With over 2500 cardholders representing 22 nationalities, the laCala&You scheme offers a wide range of discounts on the resort's facilities. More information at www.lacala.com. Photos also available at www.facebook.com/La.Cala.Resort

Lions International

Last week, La Cala welcomed next year's Lions World President, Wayne Madden, as part of his inspection visit to the Coast to review locations for The Lions International Convention which will be hosted in Spain for the first time since 1968. Wayne was accompanied by fellow Lion and La Cala member, Lee Dawson.

Football Update

The Russian Side, Krylia Sovetov departed earlier in the week to be replaced by Premier Swiss side and 2011 Swiss Cup holders, FC Sion.

Friendly games against FC Volga and FC Alania have been scheduled for their stay at La Cala combined with training sessions on the natural grass football pitch at the resort.

Club Update

Lady Captain, Jenny Chesterion led a strong English side to win the annual England v Rest of the World Club Team Competition.

More information on these & other stories at www.lacala.com

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Because you never know.

What to do

Exhibitions

Oswaldo Guayasamín

MALAGA. Espacio Tres presents a selection of graphic art by the Ecuadorian artist Oswaldo Guayasamín until 19th February. His work, described as expressionist, reflects the pain and misery of humanity and denounces the violence which was part of life in the 20th century with world wars, civil wars, genocide, concentration camps, dictatorships and torture. Open Tuesday to Friday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Din A4 - the other side

MIJAS. An exhibition organised by the Din A4 International Project is now open in the Casa Museo in Mijas Pueblo. Five Malaga and Mijas artists (Antonio Casares Palma, Ernst Kraft, Ramón Paredes, Javier Ponce and Verónica Romero) are joined by seven Dutch guests (Eugenie Dammer, Maria Kapteijns, Ben van Kollenburg, Hans Kuijs, Sjoerd van Lankveld, Paul Reker and Jeroen Vrijssen) to exhibit their A4 size works. The exhibition runs until March 5th

Serendipity

MIJAS. The Casa de la Cultura in Las Lagunas, Mijas Costa, is showing an exhibition of the photographic art of Antonio Martín until 22nd February.

Fran Santander

ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE. 'Cotidiano', a photographic exhibition by Fran Santander, is at the Centro Cultural Vicente Aleixandre until 24th February.

Diego Bonillo

FUENGIROLA. The artwork of painter Diego Bonillo uses unconventional materials, and some of this work will be on show at the Casa de la Cultura in Fuengirola until 23rd February.

Paso a paso

TORRE DEL MAR. An exhibition of the work of Mari Carmen López Ben Ali named 'Paso a Paso' will be on display at the Tenencia de Alcaldía in Torre del Mar until 10th March. Open Tuesday to Friday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Picasso posters

ESTEPONA. 'The Picasso Posters' is an exhibition of 59 posters created by Pablo Picasso to promote his exhibitions. The collection will be on show at the Casa de la Juventud in Estepona until 18th March. Entry is free.

Margaret Riordan

TORROX. Local Torrox artist Margaret Riordan has several new paintings on display at the Taberna del Choto in Torrox.

Costa del Sol

From Scotland to the Costa

SUR IN ENGLISH

The young Scottish band, the Erskine/Stewart's Melville Concert Band and Singers, return next week for their sixth tour of the Costa del Sol, visiting Torremolinos, Benalmádena and Mijas. The group travel to Spain complete with piper and clarsach player to bring audiences their own particular mixture of popular and traditional music and songs.

The group consists of boys from Stewart's Melville College and girls from The Mary Erskine School in Edinburgh.

Performing in traditional Scottish kilts and with both a bagpiper and clarsach (traditional Celtic harp) the programme of music for this year's tour will be both popular and traditional.

Alan Samson, the band conductor, said "This will be the

CONCERTS

► **Torremolinos:** Monday February 20th at the Casa de Cultura Pablo Picasso, Calle de la Cruz 40, at 8 p.m.

► **Arroyo de la Miel:** Tuesday February 21st at the Casa de Cultura, Plaza Juan de Austria, at 8 p.m.

► **Mijas Costa:** Wednesday February 22nd at the Teatro Las Lagunas, C/ Cno. El Albero, at 7 p.m.

► Entrance to all concerts is free

band's sixth tour to Andalucía following five very successful tours in 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2009. It was unusual for us to visit a country twice but six times is unheard of for our band. It's just that each time we come to the Costa del Sol the welcome we receive is so outstanding that we just cannot resist returning".



TOUR. THE BAND COME WITH A PIPER AND CLARSACH PLAYER.

Inspiration in spring time

MIJAS. Swedish artists Margit Björklund and Niki Marko and English artist Elaine Carlton have put together an exciting exhibition of their work at the Cultural Centre in La Cala which runs until 19th March.

Unpublished Lithuania

MARBELLA. A photographic exposition by Marius Jovaisa entitled 'Unpublished Lithuania' is on display at the Centro Cultural Cortijo de Miraflores until 24th February. Open Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Lucía Trabalón

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. An exhibition of the artwork of Lucía Trabalón will be on display at the Town Hall in Vélez-Málaga until 10th March. Open

Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Confidencias

ALMUÑÉCAR. La Italiana Café will host an exhibition of the work of Alin Kalinina and Andrea Auer, among others, named 'Confidencias'. The exhibition runs until the end of February.

Charity

TAPAS quiz night

COÍN. On Saturday 25th February TAPAS (The Andalucía Performing Arts Society) will be holding a Quiz Night at 7.30 p.m. at Los Arcos, Km6 A7059 Coín/Cártama road. All proceeds will be donated to CUDECA. Entry is €2 to pay on the door. More information on www.tapassociety.com or 635 293 714.

Race night

MOLLINA. The Mollina branch of the Royal British Legion is holding a race night with a 'differ ants' on Saturday 25th February to raise funds for the 2012 poppy appeal at the Saydo Hotel. The first race is in the race gates at 8 p.m.

Charity market

COÍN. There is a Charity Market every Saturday from 10 a.m. at Venta Miralmonte on the Alhaurín - Coín road, to raise funding a neutering programme for Alhaurín Street Animals. Stalls include home made produce, cakes, pies, jams, vegetables, bric-a-brac, toys, clothing, books, even a hairdresser! Contact Chris on 952 45 20 14.

Music from Peru

NERJA. A benefit concert for the 'Community of Children Sacred Family' in Peru will be held on the 21st February at 6 p.m. in the Villa de Nerja Cultural Centre. Children aged 12 to 16 will be performing a selection of Peruvian music. Organised by the ADAP, an organisation that gives homes to abandoned children. Entry is three euros.

Music & dance

José Luis Gualda "Jolis"

FUENGIROLA. José Luis Gualda "Jolis" performs the show 'El Tango y la Chanson' in the Casa de la Cultura on Friday February 17th at 8.30 p.m. The concert includes tangos from Gardel, Anibal Troilo, Piazzola, etc... and "chansons" by Brel, E. Piaf, Aznavour, Moustaki and Bécaud, among others. Admission 12 euros.

Nouvelle Vague

MALAGA. French indie-pop band Nouvelle Vague will be in concert in the Diputación auditorium on Calle Pacífico on Friday February 17th at 8.30 p.m.

Malaga Philharmonic

MALAGA. The Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra (OFM) perform Variations I Turandot at the Cervantes theatre on Friday 17th (8.30 p.m.) and Saturday 18th (8 p.m.) February. Under the baton of Theodoro Guschlbauer accompanied by pianist Javier Perianes, the orchestra will play music by M. von Weber, W.A. Mozart, J. Brahms and P. Hindemith. Tickets 7 to 21 euros. www.teatrocervantes.com

Trumpet and piano concert

BENALMÁDEN. The 'Kandinsky Duo', with José Luis Francés Pareja on the trumpet and Purificación Gómez Casares playing the piano, will be performing at the Royal Piano Shop on the La Leala industrial estate Calle Santo Tomás, 23, Benalmádena on the 25th February at 8 p.m. Tel: 952858777 Entry is free.

Choral society

TORREMOLINOS. The 'Rumores de Malaga' choir will be performing in the Casa de la Cultura on Friday February 17th at 8 p.m.



LA LUPI. IN MALAGA THIS WEEKEND.

Flamenco - 'La Lupi'

MALAGA. The La Lupi flamenco company, led by Susana Lupiáñez, perform the show 'Yo, conmigo misma' on Friday February 17th at 9 p.m. and Saturday February 18th at 8 p.m. at the Echegaray theatre. Tickets between 7 and 18 euros. www.teatroechegaray.com

Flamenco - 'De Pura Raza'

TORREMOLINOS. The flamenco show 'De Pura Raza' is at the Pablo Ruiz Picasso cultural centre on Saturday February 18th at 8 p.m.

Flamenco - 'Cayetana'

MALAGA. The Cecilia Gómez's flamenco dance company perform the show 'Cayetana, su pasión' in the Cervantes theatre on Sunday February 19th at 7 p.m. The show is inspired in the passion the Duchess of Alba has shown all her life for painting, poetry, horses, bulls and above all, flamenco. Tickets priced 10 to 27 euros. www.teatrocervantes.com

Argentinian tango

ATARFE (GRANADA). The string chamber orchestra Arcos de Buenos Aires bring their music and dance show 'La Porteña' to the Medina Elvira Cultural Centre in Atarfe on Saturday February 18th at 8 p.m. The company, with 17 artists on stage conducted by violinist and conductor Walter O Tejada Carranza, perform a unique combination of Argentinian Tango and Argentinian Folk Music and Dance.

Loquillo

MALAGA. Singer Loquillo can be seen in concert at the Cervantes theatre on Thursday February 23rd at 9 p.m. Tickets 12 to 36 euros. www.teatrocervantes.com

Rockabilly

MALAGA. The On Echegaray series of concerts continues on Thursday February 23rd with rockabilly, garage and rock'n'roll band Puño Americano & his Puñettes at 9 p.m. Ten euros. www.teatroechegaray.com

What to do

Single

MALAGA. Spanish pop band Single will be at the provincial cultural centre in Calle Ollerías, Malaga, on Tuesday February 21st at 8.30 p.m.

Piano recital

BENALMÁDENA. Piano soloist Nestor Silva will be giving a concert in the Castillo Bil-Bil on Friday February 24th at 8.30 p.m. Entrance five euros.

Great German composers

MARBELLA. The Música con Encanto concerts continue at the Vasari Center on Friday February 24th with a performance of works by Bach, Brahms, Beethoven and Mendelssohn by the Schostakovich Ensemble, formed by Filipe Pinto-Ribeiro, piano, Karen Gomyo, violin and Christian Poltera, cello. Tickets 20 euros. 689000944.

A Night of Tango

NERJA Johanna Debreczeni, ambassador of Finnish Tango and the Argentine singer, Martín Alvarado, accompanied by Finnish guitarist, Lauri Manninen are in concert together on the 20th February at 8 p.m. in the Villa de Nerja Cultural Centre. Tickets available on the door, 10€.



TANGO. JOHANNA DEBRECZENI.

Concha Velasco

MALAGA. Well known Spanish actress, singer, dancer and TV presenter Concha Velasco brings her show "Yo lo que quiero es bailar" (What I want to do is dance) to the Auditorium in the Diputación (Calle Pacifico) on February 24th and 25th at 8.30 p.m. The show includes music, song, dance, texts and drama.

Star Wars and ET

MALAGA. The Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra team up with members of the 501st Legion Spanish Garrison and the Malaga Opera Choir for a programme by John Williams: Adventures on Earth from E.T. and the Star Wars suite. Concerts at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday February 25th. www.teatrocervantes.com

Malaga

Classical music connects

SUR IN ENGLISH

Unconventional clarinetist Marion Harrington will be joined by pianist Heather Bellene for an informal concert at the Malaga Interactive Music Museum (MIMMA) on Saturday February 25th at 6 p.m.

Marion studied music at the Royal College of Music in London in the 1980's and returned after 20 years to find not much had changed. "If all you offer are serious faces dressed up in penguin suits playing stuff written by guys long since dead centuries ago in an ambiance that's more like a wake than a party, it's not surprising that the vast majority of people wouldn't dream of going to a classical concert", she says.

The evening in the MIMMA, promises to be more like a chat (in Spanish and English) than a concert and includes works by Brahms, Milhaud, Poulenc, Messager, Saint-Saëns and Liszt.

Parking is easy in the Plaza de la Marina on the doorstep of the



DIFFERENT. MARION HARRINGTON.

museum.

Entrance is ten euros. The evening will be live-streamed across the web (hosted by Rosebrook Classical). www.mimma.es

Lectures

U3A lecture

FUENGIROLA. The next U3A monthly lecture is "Murder, Mayhem and the English Language" to be held in the Hall of the Ark Christian Fellowship, Las Rampas, on Monday 27th February. The talk is to be given by Dee Beckett who will look at the extraordinary history of the Oxford English Dictionary, how it was first compiled and the mysterious character who gave it so many words. Before the lecture there will be a performance by the U3A drama group of a mystery crime story play written by Wendy Smith and entitled "Cat's Cradle". Doors open at 3.15 p.m., the play will start at 3.45 p.m. and the lecture will be at 4.30 p.m. For more information contact Roy Futcher on 952662511 or look at www.u3acostadelsol.org

Events

Triple A open day

MARBELLA. The Marbella Association for Abandoned Animals, Triple A, is holding its first Open Day on the year on Sunday February 19th from 12 noon until 6 p.m. Visi-

tors will be able to enjoy tapas, cakes and drinks, a flea market and music, as well as the company of the association's 500 animals. In the case of bad weather the event will be postponed until Sunday 26th. The open day takes place on the Triple A premises, off the Ojén road.

Conservatives Abroad

MIJAS. Andrew Griffiths MP is the after dinner speaker at the Conservatives Abroad meeting on Friday 17th February at Tamisa Golf. He is MP for Burton and Uttoxeter, the home of British beer, and some of

his roles include being Chairman of the all party Parliamentary Beer Group and Secretary of the panel dealing with the misuse of drink and drugs. For tickets contact Juliet on 952 565777 or 666 434839.

Lux Mundi events

TORRE DEL MAR. Lux Mundi in Torre del Mar will be celebrating Shrove Tuesday on February 21st with pancakes and drinks between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at the Ecumenical Centre, Avda. Moscatel 1"1", (Gardens of Viña Malaga/Antigua Casa de la Viña). Tickets 3 euros. There will be a Church service to mark Ash Wednesday at the centre on February 22nd at 12.45 p.m.

On Thursday 23rd February between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. members of the public are invited to Lux Mundi to paint a roof tile and help raise funds. These will be sold at the next craft fair. For more information telephone 952543334.

Floral art

ESTEPONA. The Estepona Floral Art Club will be holding its next flower arranging demonstration on Tuesday, 21st February from 2.45 p.m. until 5 p.m., at the International Club of Estepona (ICE), Urb. Bahia Dorada, A-7, Estepona. The demonstrator will be Angela Turner, who is a NAFAS National demonstrator. For more information call Barbara on 951 17 05 73 or email esteponafloralartclub@hotmail.com

Children's workshop

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE. An Anglican Chaplaincy Children's Workshop will take place in the Cemetery Chapel, Alhaurín el Grande on Saturday 18th Feb from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. For more information contact Marjorie Arthurs on 617 512 608.

Arts and crafts

MALAGA. The Contemporary Art Centre (CAC) in Malaga is the sce-

ne for an open air market taking place every third Sunday of the month from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. which will include stalls selling art, pottery and recycled furniture.

O. V. Film

SUR in English advises calling cinemas to check for any last minute time changes.

Cine Albéniz 3D

C/Alcazabilla 4, Malaga. Tel: 902 36 02 95 or visit www.cinealbeniz.com or www.unientradas.es
J. Edgar: 22:30
Albert Nobbs: 17:00
Shame: 20:00

Cines Gran Marbella 3D

Tel. 952 81 00 77 or 95 281 64 21
The Grey: 16.00, 18.10
War Horse: 16.15, 19.15.

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

Avda. Alfonso Ponce León, 1, Málaga. Tel. 902220922.
Underworld: 12:00, 14:00
Jack and Jill: 16:10
J. Edgar: 16:15
War Horse: 18:45, 22:45
Moneyball: 12:15
Sherlock Holmes: 12:00
Star Wars 3D: 20:35

Cinesur Miramar

Avda. de la Encarnación, Fuengirola. Tel. 952 19 86 00.
War Horse: 12.00, 16.15, 19.00, 21.40, 0.15
Star Wars 3D: 12.10, 16.30

Lux Mundi Film Night

Avda. Moscatel, 1, Torre del Mar. Tel. 952 543 334 / 952 540 432
Two Men Went to War (2002): 19:30 Monday 6th February. Tickets €5, supper included.

Nerja CineClub

Cultural Centre, C/Granada, 45, Nerja. Tel. 952 523 863
Jayne Eyre: 19:00 Wednesday 22nd

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The international **Flamenco Group AZABACHE**
An authentic, passionate energetic dance performance of traditional and modern dance

Fri 9th March at 8pm
The spectacular return of **THE RAT PACK** back by popular demand

and for all you budding thespians out there dont miss the auditions for Agatha Christie's SPIDERS WEB at 11am on Feb 26th. For details check the theatre notice board, the salon varietes facebook page or phone Peter on 952 887 372

RESERVATIONS BOX OFFICE: 952 47 45 42 (Open weekdays 10.30-13.30 & 19.00-20.00)

For more info on what is happening at the theatre see our Facebook page:
The Salon Varietes Theatre or website **www.salonvarietestheatre.com**

Have you seen the Mayan Monkey?

Health & Beauty



ESTRELLA. MELANIA GARCÍA WITH HER NEWBORN DAUGHTER IN HOSPITAL. JOSÉ MANUEL VIDAL

The second genetically-selected baby is born to save her dying brother

A bone marrow transplant will allow Antonio, who suffers from a serious blood disease, to be free of weekly transfusions

CECILIA CUERDO

"She's called Estrella ('Star') because she's going to be his guide, the one who's going to help him." She is a rosy child who was born without severe marrow aplasia, a serious genetic illness which is hereditary, thanks to the technique of Pre-implantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD). Her birth opens the door to hope for her big brother, Antonio, who suffers from the illness and whose only option for cure is a compatible bone marrow transplant.

She is the second baby to be born in Spain by means of embryonic selection in order to cure a family member. The conception, offered by the Andalusian public health

service following the Law of Assisted Human Reproduction of 2006, took place in the new Virgen del Rocío University Hospital in Seville and was led by Guillermo Antiñolo, director of the Genetics, Reproduction and Foetal Medicine Unit.

Melania García, a 27 year old from Granada, was in no doubt. "We were going to have another baby, so what better time was there, when she will also serve to save her brother's life", she admitted from her hospital bed. At barely five years old, Antonio's life has been spent almost entirely around white coats. They soon diagnosed severe marrow aplasia, a serious illness which causes the disappearance of cells which reduce blood in bone marrow, which has put his life in danger. Every week he has

to undergo a blood transfusion, and he needs constant care as any knock can cause a haematoma, which is why his mother gave up everything to focus on him.

"He knows everything about what his little sister is here for, and he loves her very much", says Melania. The doctors had recognised that his only hope was a transplant, but they couldn't find a donor. Two years ago, they were told that there was a possibility: to do a genetic embryonic analysis using IVF techniques, and transfer only the disease-free ones to the uterus.

The umbilical cord of Antonio's sister has already been stored in order to carry out a cell transplant within a month. If the operation goes well, Antonio's life will become more normal, according to the director of the haematology clinic at the hospital, José Antonio Pérez. "Without the transplant, his chances of survival were zero; with a bone marrow transplant he has a 70 per cent chance", clarified Antiñolo.

La Lobilla clinic welcomes women for cancer checks

A new X-ray machine makes breast cancer screening more convenient for women in the Estepona area

SELENE VEGA

A new machine used to help the prevention of breast cancer, the third of its kind on the Costa del Sol, is being installed in La Lobilla health centre in Estepona.

The machine has been provided by the health department of the Junta de Andalucía and means that women in Estepona, Manilva and Casares will no longer have to travel to Marbella for mammograms. The Junta is keen to get as many women as possible in the area to come along for the straightforward X-ray procedure which could detect breast cancer.

The director of La Lobilla health centre, Carlos Gutiérrez, says that the machine will be used for screening and is an es-

sential part of the early prevention of breast cancer. Every woman registered as living in the region and between the ages of 50 and 69 (the greatest incidence of breast cancer occurs in these years) will be contacted by the clinic, with an appointment for a breast examination using the new apparatus. The appointments, Gutiérrez points out, are a routine process and are not dependent on genetic factors or specific problems arising - these are dealt with separately. Those who, for whatever reason, are not contacted by the health centre can get in touch themselves to request an appointment.

The check-up takes the form of a highly detailed X-ray which is then examined by a radiologist for any unusual changes.

Gutiérrez stresses that "it is very important to detect breast cancer as soon as possible. This not only helps to save lives but, in the case of tumours detected very early on, may prevent the removal of the whole breast or at least mean a less invasive kind of surgery".

The new machine arrived two months ago at La Lobilla to be properly installed and should be ready for the first patients in two weeks' time.



NEW MACHINE. MORE BREAST CANCER SCREENING IN ESTEPONA. sv

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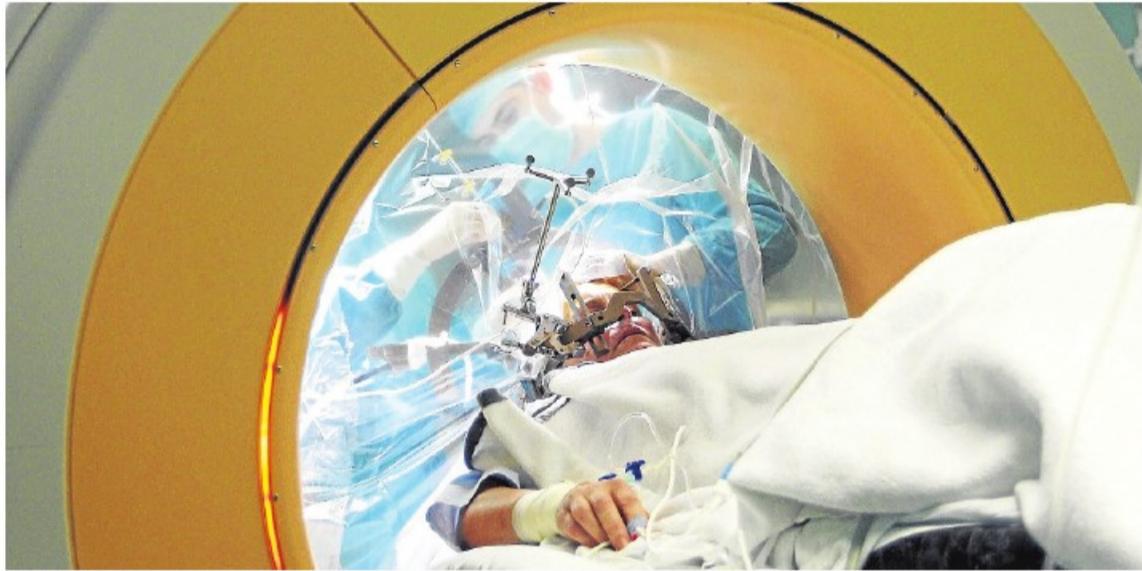
Parkinson's patient gains ten years with revolutionary surgery

A hospital in Valencia reactivates the affected part of the brain with an electrode

FERMÍN APEZTEGUIA

A new step forward has been made in the treatment of neurodegenerative illnesses. In Valencia a 65 year old woman suffering from Parkinson's disease in its advanced stages has recovered ten years of health thanks to pioneer surgery that has taken her back practically to the initial stages of her illness. The operation has given her back her autonomy "in the majority of her everyday activities" as well as considerably reducing the need for medication.

Emilia Llinares was diagnosed as having Parkinson's disease 22 years ago and since then has been on medication to combat the stiffness, slowness of movement and



NEW TECHNIQUE. A SCANNER WAS USED TO HELP THE SURGEONS IMPLANT THE ELECTRODE IN THE PRECISE POSITION. EFE

shaking caused by the illness. Earlier this month a team of surgeons at La Fe hospital in Valencia decided to carry out an operation using a technique that had been tried on three patients previously with satisfactory results. The Valencia hospital is the only one in Spain to offer this technique that involves implanting an eight millimetre electrode to stimulate the part of the brain damaged by the illness.

What was new this time was that the entire surgical procedure was controlled by a CAT scanner inside

de the operating theatre.

The CAT is a powerful scanner that provides images of sections of

different parts of the body. This provided the team, led by neurosurgeon Carlos Botella, with real images during the operation which enabled them to position the electrode in the precise area that required stimulation.

"This is a technique reserved for patients such as Emilia, who no longer respond to conventional treatment with drugs", explained the specialist. New medical techniques are always reserved at first for patients who do not respond to other treatment, but once their effectiveness has been demonstrated their use is gradually extended to other sufferers.

For the time being this technique is reserved for patients under the age 70 with advanced symptoms of Parkinson's but with no cognitive deterioration.

Neurologist Irene Martínez explained that the advanced stage of the illness suffered by this patient made her ideal to try this new technique, which requires total precision in order to implant the electrode in exactly the right place. The tiny device has to go in the part of the brain that controls movement. "A millimetre either way can be decisive", she explained.

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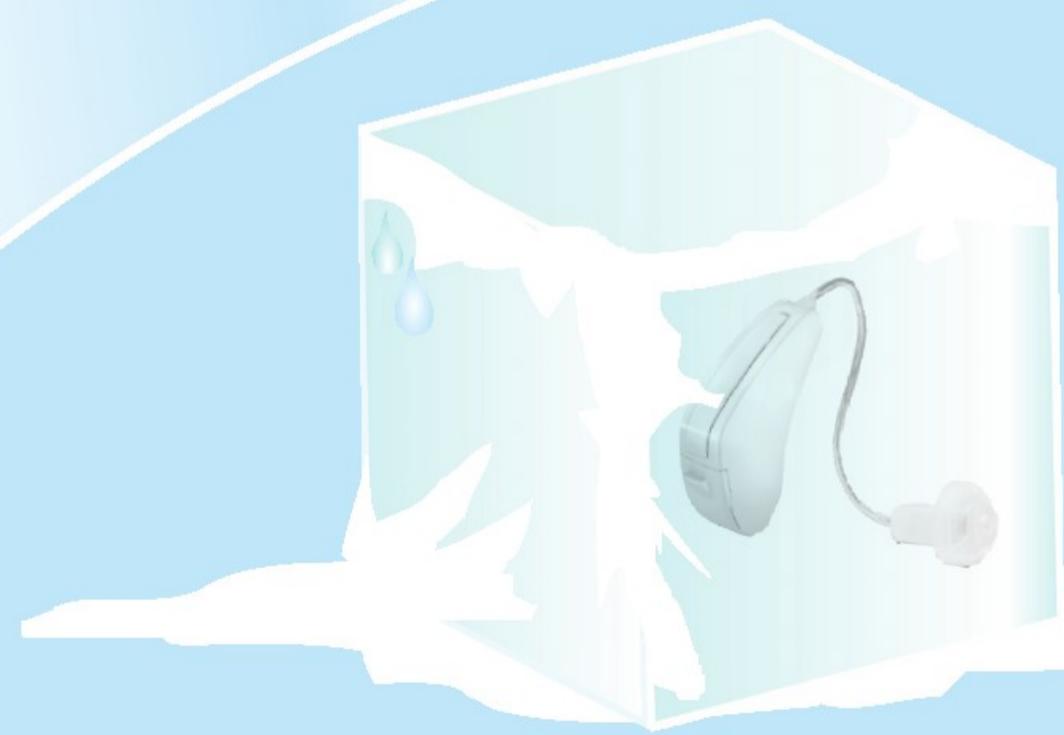
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Health&Beauty

Carnival fashion

The red carpet was out with a difference this week in Malaga: for a parade of carnival outfits

Sparkle and colour on the catwalks



◀ **Vibrant.** Carnival outfits are designed to be eye-catching, colourful and over the top

▶ **Sparkling.** Some outfits are particularly impressive for their intricacy



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Sport

“I want to be ready for Rio de Janeiro”

At just 21 years old, Thomas Snelson is the Spanish long-distance swimming champion

Thomas Snelson, a swimmer with the Real Club Mediterráneo, won the third Spanish long-distance swimming championships in Madrid last weekend. The Malaga swimmer became Spanish champion by beating his own personal best in the 5,000 metres.

“I went out right from the start to win. I felt comfortable and confident in my abilities, and this helped me to achieve gold”, said Snelson. This young malagueño has British parents and has swum with the Club Mediterráneo since he was ten years old.

This win has opened up a number of possibilities for Thomas, and he is able to dream of a suc-



GOLD MEDALIST. THOMAS SNELSON (C) WON THE 5,000M IN MADRID LAST WEEKEND.

cessful future. “If this year continues to go well, I want to prepare myself for the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro (in 2016)”, he admits. He prefers open water to swimming in pools, and the career of an open water swimmer can last longer.

At 21 years old, in spite of his surnames (Snelson Killbride), he considers himself to be Spanish.

His parents are English but moved to Spain two years before he was born, so he has lived here his whole life.

Despite training for more than six hours every day, starting at 6:15 a.m., he still manages to study and his exams are adapted to fit around his competition schedule.

Lawn bowls Mijas



FUN DAY. MIJAS BOWLS CLUB DRESSED UP FOR VALENTINE'S DAY.

Valentine's fun in Mijas

On 14th February, Mijas Bowls Club held a Fun Day. After bowls matches, won by Linda Hall and Des Huddleston, there was a

lunch. The club is open for bowling on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. To join in, call 952 466 038 or send an email to mijas-bowls@hotmail.com

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New chico on the block



Rafael Cabrera-Bello from the Canary Islands became the fifth Spaniard to have won in Dubai and completed a hat-trick of victories began by Miguel Angel Jimenez in 2010 and Alvaro Quiros last year. Although not strictly a new face on the tour - he won the Austrian Open in 2009 - it would be doing an injustice to call him a 'journeyman' pro after only his second European

Tour win in 151 starts; but, for many he has failed to live up to his innate natural talent until Sunday's victory in Dubai. Indeed, the twenty-seven year old seems to have been overshadowed by his sister, Emma Cabrera, in recent years.

However this win accompanied by a cheque for 315,532€ will start to open doors for him worldwide as it lifted him from 119th to 60th in the world rankings, 9th in the provisional Ryder Cup standings and 4th in the Race to Dubai. Being a prestigious title this carried a further two year European Tour playing exemption until 2014. Therefore, Cabrera will not have to face the added worry of returning to Tour School, only packing his bags to play in the Accenture Match Play Championship next week as he guaranteed his place amongst the elite top sixty players in the world. And desert golf clearly suits him. A further two invites to the Bridgestone Invitational and the HSBC Champions await him.

Speaking about his victory over a stellar field assembled in the desert - which included a handful of American Major winners - he described the pressure he had been under playing in the penultimate three-ball in front of favourite,

Lee Westwood and Scot, Stephen Gallacher. Having burst through the field with a final round of 60 to win the aforementioned Austrian Open this time around his low score of 62 came in the first round. Indeed only two thirds through he was nine under and, for a moment, thoughts turned to breaking sixty before concentrating on the task at hand: "I said to myself, 'Stop. Where are you going?' and managed to concentrate on my game and play every shot as it came." A final round of 68 was enough to win by a shot from the two players in the final grouping. Westwood, although virtually flawless from tee to green, will rue again his nemesis; namely a putter which, at times, must feel like a lump of concrete after failing to get down from the edge of the green on the 18th to force a play-off. I lost count of watching the number of makeable birdie putts slipping agonizingly past the hole; the difference between having his name finally engraved on a Major trophy or not? Scant consolation on a frustrating final day came the news that he had overtaken Rory McIlroy as world number two. Cabrera, meanwhile, was understandably full of beans: "Tonight I'll celebrate with the Spanish. It is my turn to pick up the tab!"

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Monty rallies troops

Ryder Cup hero Colin Montgomerie recently helped give British troops a boost with a



whistle stop tour of Afghanistan designed to show support for the efforts of soldiers in helping to establish a new future for the war-ravaged country. Bringing

the Ryder Cup along for a series of photo opportunities and a meeting with the Afghan Olympic Committee, (Golf goes 'Cool Runnings'?) the Scot engaged in a series of golf

clinics with hundreds of soldiers and schoolchildren alike on a make-shift driving range.

Meanwhile, Mohamed Afzal Abdul, the country's only professional at quite possibly the world's most dangerous golf course - Kabul Golf Club - hoped the visit would inspire a new generation of players.

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- Los Arqueros - 33€ Buggy 126pp
- Los Miranjos - Up to 15th - 2 inc buggy 114€
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Sport

Football Malaga



PRESENTATION. ORGANISERS OF THE MATCH, INCLUDING MANAGER VICENTE DEL BOSQUE, MET THIS WEEK IN MALAGA. C. MORET

Fans will be able to watch the world champions at La Rosaleda for 25 euros

Season ticket holders have first choice of tickets for Spain-Venezuela at 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday 29th February

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

The friendly, intended to raise funds for the Association of Span-

ish Footballers (AFE), will be the eighth time the national squad has played in Malaga, but the first time they've done so as international champions, and until now, all their rivals have been European.

This game, on 29th February, is also the fourteenth match that the squad will have played for the AFE, and part of the money raised will go to the players' union.

The Spanish Federation, which met this week, has set the ticket prices at between 25 and 80 euros. They can be bought online via www.ticketmaster.com or from the ticket office at La Rosaleda.

Tickets will be available to the general public from Saturday 25th February, while season ticket holders have the chance to buy tickets today, Friday 17th.

The arrival of the national squad in Malaga will be accompanied by a series of events beginning the day before the match, such as concerts, a lottery to win tickets for the game and the presence of Malaga players.

In the Venezuela squad there are currently six footballers who play for Spanish clubs, including Malaga's Salomón Rondón, who has been in excellent form.

Cycling Malaga

High calibre cyclists come to Malaga

Big names from all over the world, including Marbella's Luis Ángel Maté, are the stars of the 58th 'Vuelta', the cycling tour of Andalucía, which will take place between Sunday and Thursday next week.

Made up of five stages, covering a total of 641.4 kilometres, the tour will start in San Fernando and arrive in Benalmádena on the second day, Monday 20th. The cyclists will set off from Malaga the next day, and the tour will end near Jaén on Thursday 23rd February. In total, the competitors will have to cycle through 12 mountain passes.

The route on Monday will be



CYCLISTS. ANDALUSIAN RIDERS WITH LUCIANO ALONSO AND ANTONIO CABELLO.

along the N-340, going through Estepona, San Pedro, Marbella and Fuengirola before arriving in Benalmádena at the finishing line on the Avenida de Gandhi. It is

predicted that the cyclists will arrive between 4:12 p.m. and 4:42 p.m. Tuesday's stage will begin at 12:10 p.m. on the Paseo de Martiricos in Malaga.

Racing
Mijas racing gets back under way this weekend

The 2012 winter racing season will start at the Costa del Sol Racecourse in Mijas on Sunday 19th February. Gates open at 10:30 a.m., and as well as the races themselves, there will be a guided tour, a flamenco show and refreshment stands. Admission is 5 euros, but is free for under 18s and over 65s. Free parking is available.

Lawn bowls
Spanish national squad in Malaga

On Sunday 19th and Monday 20th February, Benalmádena bowls club will host a lawn bowls match between the Malaga provincial team and the Spanish national squad, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. All are welcome and refreshments will be available. There is no fee for admission. For more information, call 952 386 371 or email amber1dineen@yahoo.co.uk



NEW SEASON. THE RACING WILL BEGIN AT 11:30 A.M. ON SUNDAY. SUR

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Sport

Football First division

European dream still alive for the Blue and Whites

Despite going one down in the first five minutes, the final result was a good win for Pellegrini's men

3-1 MALAGA MALLORCA

SUSIE JACKSON

Sunday's match against Mallorca began in a sombre fashion with a well-respected minute's silence for the club's consultant advisor José Carlos Pérez, who died last week.

The start of the game itself wasn't much livelier for Malaga as they seemed to take a while to warm up, quite literally considering the cold weather of late. This sluggish start cost them, with Mallorca's Pereira netting the ball from distance in the fourth minute.

Fortunately this seemed to provide the wake-up call Malaga needed, and the 11th minute saw an equaliser. Rondón hit a powerful shot towards goal and Aouate saved, but he only managed to parry the ball and it was pounced on by a waiting Seba Fernández.

Malaga's next goal came on 55 minutes as Cazorla drifted the ball into the penalty area from a corner and no Mallorca players dealt with it. It fell to Toulalan, who took the opportunity to put the Blue and Whites ahead.



CELEBRATING. RONDÓN RECEIVES ADORATION FROM THE CROWD FOR THE GOAL WHICH PUT THE GAME TO BED. ALVARO CABRERA

The third and final goal came after 69 minutes from Malaga's top scorer in the league this season: Rondón. Isco played a perfectly-weighted pass out wide to Sergio Sánchez, who knocked it into the centre where Rondón was waiting on the edge of the six yard box to tap it in.

Isco, back in the team following his suspension after being sent off against Sevilla, was involved in both the first and third goals for Malaga, and was arguably the best player on the pitch.

Many fans were pleased to see

Recio in the starting line-up. The young midfielder has made substitute appearances in the last three games, but had not, before Sunday, had a starting place all season. It wasn't all good news though. He picked up an injury to his right calf, while Cazorla bruised a toe, meaning they both had to be substituted in the 72nd minute.

This win brings the number of points secured at home by the Blue and Whites to 23 of their 31 total for the season so far, and fans will be hoping that this two match home winning run will continue.

Following this weekend's matches, there are just three points separating the teams in fourth and ninth place in the league table, so the competition for European places next season is wide open. It is currently only goal difference separating Malaga from a Europa League place, and they are one point away from a Champions League position.

The Blue and Whites will travel to Bilbao to take on Athletic at 4 p.m. on Sunday 19th February, and the European dream is still a possibility.

Analysis
From the commentary box
A HUGE THREE POINTS

Paul Breen-Turner



The fans demanded a win and the team delivered. This was not the greatest display of the season but let's be fair to the visitors, Mallorca had a cracking opening 45 minutes. New coach Caparrós has his team playing with new belief and his side clearly showed they had come for three points.

The 2nd half was a different story; Malaga went up a couple of gears. Toulalan was once again immense, and the Frenchman is looking like La Liga's signing of the season at 10 million euros.

Is it just me or do Malaga look better without Gámez and Demichelis in the back four? Sánchez really impressed me at right back; coach Manuel Pellegrini is going to have some selection problems over the next weeks!

The good news is that Rondón looks to be heading in the right direction; his goal will have boosted the dip in confidence that has frustrated Malaga fans for weeks.

Let's talk about those fans. They were once again vital at La Rosaleda stadium last weekend. Let's not forget that Malaga have only lost twice at home all season against Barça and Madrid. It's the support of those fans that is so important to keep that fine record intact!

So, it's a trip north next to the fantastic San Mamés stadium in Bilbao. This is a really tough game against Athletic, one of Malaga's big rivals for a European place. It will not be easy and a draw would not be a disaster.

I know many of you expat Malaga fans are travelling up for the game on Sunday. Make sure you try the local cider available in all the wonderful tapas bars near the ground, and don't forget to take a scarf - it's going to be mighty cold!

Let's hope Malaga can put on a solid performance and get a positive result; the boys are still firmly in touch with a Europa League place and maybe even a champions league spot!

Join PBT and ex Man City youth team coach Chris Williams for live coverage of Athletic Bilbao v Malaga Sunday 19th February from 3.30pm on www.talkradioeurope.com and www.global.fm

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RESULTS

Real Madrid - Levante	4-2
Rayo Vallecano - Getafe	2-0
Espanyol - Zaragoza	0-2
Betis - Athletic	2-1
Málaga - Mallorca	3-1
Villarreal - Granada	3-1
R - Sociedad - Sevilla	2-1
Osasuna - Barcelona	3-2
Valencia - Sporting	4-0
Racing - At. Madrid	0-0

NEXT MATCH

Real Madrid - Racing
Levante - Rayo Vallecano
Getafe - Espanyol
Zaragoza - Betis
Athletic - Málaga
Mallorca - Villarreal
Granada - Real Sociedad
Sevilla - Osasuna
Barcelona - Valencia
Sporting - At. Madrid

TEAM	PT.	P	HOME			AWAY			TOTAL			GF	GA
			W	D	L	W	D	L	W	D	L		
★ 1. Real Madrid	58	22	10	0	1	9	1	1	19	1	2	75	21
★ 2. Barcelona	48	22	10	1	0	4	5	2	14	6	2	63	16
★ 3. Valencia	40	22	7	2	2	4	5	2	11	7	4	35	22
★ 4. Levante	32	22	6	3	2	3	2	6	9	5	8	29	29
■ 5. Espanyol	32	22	6	2	3	3	3	5	9	5	8	25	26
■ 6. At. Madrid	31	22	6	4	1	2	3	6	8	7	7	31	27
■ 7. Málaga	31	22	7	2	2	2	2	7	9	4	9	28	32
8. Osasuna	31	22	6	4	2	1	6	3	7	10	5	26	35
9. Athletic	30	22	4	5	2	3	4	4	7	9	6	34	30
10. Rayo Vallecano	28	22	4	1	6	4	3	4	8	4	10	27	32
11. Real Sociedad	24	22	4	4	3	3	2	6	7	6	9	25	30
12. Getafe	27	22	4	4	2	3	2	7	7	6	9	22	29
13. Sevilla	26	22	5	2	4	1	6	4	6	8	8	22	26
14. Betis	26	22	5	2	4	3	0	8	8	2	12	25	31
15. Villarreal	26	22	5	5	1	1	3	7	6	8	8	23	30
16. Mallorca	25	22	4	3	4	2	4	5	6	7	9	19	28
17. Granada	25	22	4	4	3	3	0	8	7	4	11	17	31
▼ 18. Racing	23	22	3	6	3	1	5	4	4	11	7	18	26
▼ 19. Sporting	19	22	3	3	5	2	1	8	5	4	13	20	43
▼ 20. Zaragoza	15	22	2	3	5	1	3	8	3	6	13	18	38

MATCH LOWDOWN

► **Malaga:** Caballero, Monreal, Mathijsen, Weligton, Sergio Sánchez, Cazorla (Eliseu 72 mins), Toulalan (pictured), Recio (Maresca 72 mins), Isco, Rondón (Van Nistelrooy 82 mins), Seba Fernández. Unused subs: Kameni, Jesús Gámez, Joaquín and Buonanotte.



► **Mallorca:** Aouate, Cáceres (Alfaro 75 mins), Nunes, Chico, Martí Crespí, Tissone, Pina, Chori Castro, Álvaro (Ogunjimi 60 mins), Pereira (Nsue 60 mins), Hemed. Unused subs: Calatayud, Zuiverloon, Joao Victor and Bigas.

► **Goals:** 0-1, Pereira 4 mins, 1-1 Seba Fernández 11 mins, 2-1 Toulalan 55 mins, 3-1 Rondón 69 mins

► **Referee:** In a game with few problems, Ayza Gámez booked Recio, Chico, Alfaro and Weligton.

► **Ground:** La Rosaleda, 26,000 spectators

► **Possession:** Malaga 54% Mallorca 46%

Sport

The Federation of Malaga Football declares a period of mourning following the death of Malaga CF's consultant advisor, José Carlos Pérez

Malaga CF in mourning

GEORGE PRIOR

More than 500 packed into the San Gabriel Chapel in Malaga's Parcesmasa Cemetery last Friday to pay their last respects to José Carlos Pérez, Malaga Club de Fútbol's much-loved consultant advisor, who died the previous day at the age of 63.

The man who said he had "Malaga in his veins" suffered a stroke on 28th January and since that day had been recuperating in the Hospital Clínico. It had been reported that his delicate condition had been improving but, sadly, he lost his battle at 4 p.m. last Thursday.

At the funeral mass amongst the family members and close friends was the entire first team, players from Atlético Malagueño, coaching staff, board of directors, ex Malaga presidents, fans, and well-known personalities from the worlds of sport, politics and the media.

Speaking to reporters as he left the cemetery, Malaga CF's General Manager, Fernando Hierro said: "It's been a very hard day for the Club and, of course, it's been a very hard day for me personally. I've lost a great friend, a travel companion and a work colleague."

He added: "He was a great 'Malaguista', someone who did a great job and who has been with the Club in each era, someone who has been alongside the Club's many different presidents, and someone who was living his dream by helping to develop his beloved Club."

José Carlos had been an avid supporter of his local team since he was a boy. When he was invited on to the organisation's board in 1986 he told friends that it was "a privilege and a dream come true." Since that day, except for a few years when he took leave of his duties, he consistently worked as advisor to the Club's presidents, including the current one, Sheikh Al-Thani.

"When the Sheikh became the owner and president in 2010, it was

José Carlos had been an avid supporter of his local team since he was a boy

A minute's silence was held at every game played in the province last weekend

clear that José Carlos's knowledge of the football world and his business acumen would be invaluable. He was always going to be part of the management team," confirmed a spokesman to SUR in English this week.

Indeed such was his influence on the current board, many attribute the arrival of Manuel Pellegrini, Fernando Hierro and Julio Baptista, amongst others, to José Carlos.

With the Federation of Malaga Football declaring a period of mourning, a minute's silence was held at every game played in the province last weekend and black armbands were worn by the first team players during Sunday's home game against RCD Mallorca.

Since the news of his death was announced on the front and back pages of most newspapers, thousands of people, including many players, have taken to social networking sites such as Twitter to express their grief.

Leading the tributes was the striker Baptista who, moments after the funeral, posted: "A very sad day. The death of José Carlos has left a hole in our hearts. José Carlos, we will never forget you."



MISSED. JOSÉ CARLOS PÉREZ, AT THE TRAINING CAMP IN ALICANTE LAST JULY. c.m.

Malaga 2 - Spartak Moscow 2



NEW SIGNING. GOALKEEPER KAMENI MADE HIS DEBUT ON WEDNESDAY. s.s.

Four goals in 45 minutes

More than 5,000 people turned up to watch a friendly between Malaga and Spartak Moscow at the Ciudad de Málaga Stadium on Wednesday evening. Entry to the game was free, and spectators saw new signing Kameni make his debut for the Blue and Whites. A busy first half saw four goals scored, two apiece. Portillo opened the scoring after 23 minutes, but Emenike managed to

net an equaliser for Spartak Moscow less than ten minutes later. Maresca then scored a controversial goal which was allowed by local referee Melero López. Another equaliser by Emenike meant the two teams were level at half time, and the second half saw far fewer chances. Pellegrini took the opportunity to give some youth players a run out, and the game ended 2-2.

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Malaga: St. George's church (Av. Pries). Sun 11 a.m. www.stgeorge-malaga.org Tel: 952 40 70 50.

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

Torre del Mar: Puente don Manuel congregation of St. George's Anglican Chaplaincy, Sanyol Retirement Home, Urb. Tomillar, C/ Ruta de las Pasas. Sun. 10.30 a.m. 952 219 396 / 638 339 691.

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

Salinas: 10.45 a.m. 2nd & 4th Saturdays. Catholic Church.

Anglican Chaplaincy of St. Andrew, Costa del Sol (East): Ven David Sutch, 952580600.

Los Boliches: St. Andrews Edif. Jupiter, Avda Padre Jesús Cautivo 74. Sun. 11.30, Wed. 9.30 a.m.

Benalmádena Costa: San José chapel, Carmen Church, Plaza Bonanza, Sun 9.30 a.m.

Calahonda: Ermita de San Miguel, 9.30 a.m. HC 2nd and 4th Sun; MP 1st, 3rd and 5th Sun; Sunday school every Sun

Coín: Iglesia Cristo, 2nd and 4th Thurs. at 10.30 a.m.

Alhaurín El Grande: Cemetery Chapel Sun. at 10.30 a.m.

Costa del Sol West: San Pedro, Sunday 10.15a.m. (Holy Communion) in hall of the Parroquial Virgen del Rocío; **Sotogrande,** Each Sunday 11.45 a.m. (Holy Communion 2nd & 4th Sundays) in La Iglesia de Nuestra Sra. de la Merced. Further information and directions from Rev. Alan Maude 952 808 605.

Alhama de Granada: St. Barnabas IERE (Anglican). 11 a.m. 1st & 3rd Sun, La Joya RC church Plaza Alfonso XII. Tel. 952030461.

Torre del Mar: St Barnabas IERE, Spanish Episcopal services in English 11am. Morning Prayer 1st and 3rd Sundays, Holy Communion 2nd and 4th Sundays. Tel. 952030461 (Priest). Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, Antigua Casa de la Viña. Tel. 952030461.

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

Benalmádena Costa: Songs of Praise, Interdenominational church service, Castillo Bil Bil. Sun. 5.30 p.m. Oct. - May. 648666152.

MUSLIM

Marbella: Mezquita del Rey Abdulaziz. Friday 2.30 p.m. 952774143.

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

Malaga: Mezquita, C/San Agustín 11. Friday 2.30 p.m. 952228595.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

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

Fuengirola: St. Joseph's Chapel, Las Rampas. Mass daily 11 a.m.; Benediction Thursday; Vigil Mass Saturday 7 p.m. Closed Sat. a.m.

Fuengirola: Lux Mundi, C/ Nueva. Sunday at 12 noon.

Arroyo de la Miel: Sat at 13.00. Parish Church near train station.

Calahonda: Ermita de San Miguel, 12 Sunday.

Los Boliches: St. Andrew's. Edif. Jupiter, Avda. Jesús Santos Rein. Mass 6.30 p.m. every Sat. Father Joe Crawford, 95315340, 608027688.

Benalmádena Costa: Parish Church of La Virgen del Carmen, Avda. Bonanza. Bilingual mass English/Spanish Sunday 10 a.m.

Torre del Mar: Lux Mundi 2nd Ecumenical Centre, C/Casa de la Viña 4. Sat winter 5 p.m., summer 6 p.m. Tel. 952543334.

Malaga: Sunday 6.30 p.m. Iglesia Sagrado Corazón, C/ Compañía.

Chiclana (Cádiz): Nuestra Señora de Europa church, Urb. Novo Sancti Petri, RC Mass in English and German, Sunday 10.30 a.m.

METHODIST CHURCH

Gibraltar: Methodist Church, 297, Main Street. Sunday 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. +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 SCOTLAND (PRESBYTERIAN)

Fuengirola: Sun 10.30 a.m. at Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, C/Nueva 3. Tel 654328016 or 951260982.

Gibraltar: St. Andrew's Church, Sun 10.30. Tel 20077040.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Torremolinos: Avda Sorolla, Edif. Apolo, planta baja, local 1. Sunday 12.30 a.m., Wed. 7.30 p.m. Tel. 952561170.

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

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

San Pedro: Fuente Nueva, Zona Norte. Sun. 11 a.m. Wed. 7.30 p.m. Tel 95 2818595. Meetings in Tagalog on Tues at 7.30 pm and Sun at 1.30 pm. Contact David Garrido: 637 51 61 87.

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

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

Coín: Calle Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente. Weds 7.30 p.m., Sun 11:30 a.m. Tel.952 499 239.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH / BAPTIST CHURCH

Los Boliches: Evangelical Church, at Paseo Marítimo 77. Sun: Breaking of Bread at 2.45 p.m./Worship and Bible teaching at 4 p.m. Weds: Bible study and prayer 7.30 p.m. Phone 952460728

Torremolinos: Evangelical Community Church. Sun service 11 a.m., various weekly meetings. C/Gregorio Marañón 4. Tel 952384706

Torremolinos: Gloryhouse International Christian Center, Gran Hotel Cervantes. African Pentecostal style service. Sun 11 a.m.

Nerja: Fellowship of the King, Pasaje San Miguel, Sun 10.30 a.m. 958658439.

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

Torre del Mar: Presbyterian. Picasso Room, Hotel Torremar, C/Saladero Viejo, 15. Sun 11.30. Minister J. Hartsmith Foy. 952532825.

Torrox Park: Informal Community Church meeting at 11 a.m. at Tapricho Tapas Bar, Thursdays. Contact Jackie on 952 532 825.

Calahonda: The Evangelical Christian Fellowship, Ermita San Miguel. Sun 4 .30 p.m. Rev. Peter Riggall, 952 588 160.

Arroyo de la Miel: Arroyo Baptist Church, Sun 4 p.m. Conjunto Zodiaco, Edif. Aries, C/ Sagitario. Tel. 952 447967/952 386716.

Calahonda: Baptist Church, Calle San Jeronimo 1, Worship Sunday 11 am with Sunday school. Rev. Jim McVicar Tel. 952 834213.

La Línea: Asambleas de Dios. C/San José, 41. Thurs 9 p.m. Sun 11 a.m. & 8 p.m.

Marbella: International Christian Fellowship. Sun 11.30 Ed. Aries 42, Urb. Carolina Park, Marbella, 29602. Tel. 952932216 .

Puerto Banús: Christian Church. Sun 11 a.m. Cristamar Centre. 637408194

Salobreña: F'ship of the King. Sun 5 p.m., Thurs 11 a.m. 958658439.

Almuñécar: Fellowship of the King. Sun 11 a.m. Hotel Helios, Weds 10.30 a.m. 958658439.

Almuñécar: Evangelical Reformed Church, C/ Torres Quevedo 5. T958 639 529, 677 699 490. Sunday 11 a.m.

La Viñuela: Fellowship of the King. Sun 11 a.m. Underneath Maroma Inmobiliaria, Cruce de Puente don Manuel. 952 518 185.

Gibraltar: Brethren Assembly, Queensway Quay. Sun 11 a.m., Minister Francis Baldachino.

Benalmádena Costa: Elim Family Fellowship. Sun 11 a.m. www.elimfamilyfellowship.com or call Pastor Dave on 695 115 496

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

Fuengirola: Ark Christian Fellowship Family Worship. Sun 11 a.m., Las Rampas. Tel.: 952 592 171.

Fuengirola: Costa del Sol Bible School, Healing Clinic and "The Beauty of Holiness". Rev. Joyce McNaughton 663 706 806.

DUTCH EVANGELICAL

Fuengirola: Skandinaviska Turistkyran. Ed. M del Carmen. Paseo Marítimo 77 Los Boliches, Sundays 9.30.

Torremolinos: Sun 11.30 in Holland Huis. Ed. Number One. Avda. de Montemar, 10-A.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

Mijas internacional: 10. a.m. Sun. Calle Rueda 7 , Los Boliches, 952469392 or 607521032

Motril: Sun. 10 a.m. C/ Jesús del Gran Poder 34. 958 825665

Malaga: Sun. 10.30 a.m., C/Babel 1.

Algeciras: Sun. 10.30 a.m. C/Sevilla 43. Tel. 956- 630894.

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

BAHAI

Bahai Information Office, C/Ricardo Soriano, 35, **Marbella.** Tel: 952 90 21 21 **Fuengirola:** 952 474 447. **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 8.30 p.m., winter 7 p.m. Sat & holidays 10 a.m. 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 p.m., Wed 6 p.m. 952 939 800.

Consulates

Great Britain	C/. Mauricio Moro Pareto 2- 2. Málaga	902109356
USA	Av. Juan Gómez 8. Ed. Lucía 1-C. Fuengirola	952474891
Holland	Avda Palma de Mallorca 57, Torremolinos	952380888
Belgium	Carretera de Cádiz, km 202, 29649 Mijas Costa	952599159
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	Duquesa de Parcent, 8. Malaga	952226590
Italy	Palestina, 3. Malaga	952306150
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

ESTEPONA

Bus Station	952800249
Municipal Police	952800243
Taxi Service	952802900
Tourist Office	952800913
Town Hall	952801100
Fire Brigade	952792121
Foreign Residents Dept.	952809031

FUENGIROLA

Bus Station	952475066
Fire Brig. (urgent 080)	952461046
First Aid/Emergency	952468835
(nighttime, holidays)	952468653
Police (urgent 092)	952589324
Taxi Service	952471000
Tourist Office	952467625
Town Hall	952589300
Foreign Res. dept.	952589440

MALAGA

Airport	952048804
Bus Station	952350061
Fire Brigade	952411890
Guardia Civil	952071520
RENFE (Railway Station)	902240202
Taxi Service	952327950
Tourist Office	952213445

MARBELLA

Bus Station	952764400
Fire Brigade	952774349
Municipal Police	952899500
Taxi Service	952774488
Tourist Office	952771442
Town Hall	952761100

MIJAS

Police Las Lagunas	952460909
Fire Brig Las Lagunas	952586382
Town Hall & Foreign Res.	952485900
Town Hall Las Lagunas	952473125
Taxi	952478288

Social Services	952486370
Consumers Office	952582911
Tourism Office	952589034

NERJA

Municipal Police	952521545
Taxi Service	952520537
Tourist Information	952521531
Town Hall	952548401

SAN PEDRO DE ALCANTARA

Fire Brigade	952774349
Town Hall	952789300

TORREMOLINOS

Bus Station	952382419
Fire Brigade	952381414
Taxi Service	952380600
Tourist Office	952379512
Town Hall	952379400

VELEZ MALAGA

Town Hall	952559100
Municipal Police	952549238

GIBRALTAR

Ambulance	199
Fire	190/72936
Police	199/72500
Tourist Office	74982

BENALMADENA

Municipal Police	952562142
Taxi Service	952441545
Tourist Office	952442494
Foreign Residents Dep.	952579802

EMERGENCIAS

Police	091
Medical	061
Sea Rescue	900202202
Emergency operator	112
Crime report	902 102 112

Malaga port information

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
MSC Fantasia	18/02	Madeira	Civitavecchia	07.00	14.00
Norwegian Jade	25/02	Arrecife	Barcelona	08.00	19.00



Restaurant Scene

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Marbella T: 952 864 478
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Recipe

Orange salad

Ingredients

- ▶ 500g onions
- ▶ 100cc white wine vinegar
- ▶ 3 large oranges
- ▶ 2tbsp sugar
- ▶ 50cc olive oil
- ▶ 100g olives
- ▶ A pinch of cinnamon, freshly ground black pepper

PEPE'S KITCHEN

Peel the onion and slice it thinly. Cover the onion slices with the vinegar and leave to marinate for about two hours. Peel the oranges and cut into slices, sprinkle with the sugar and leave to one side for the juices to run out. In a salad bowl, place the onion and orange slices in layers. Make a vinaigrette from the orange juice, the olive oil, a pinch of cinnamon, black pepper and a little vinegar. Whisk the mixture together and pour over the salad, garnish with olives.

The gold of the Guadalhorce

ESPERANZA PELÁEZ

Citrus fruits form an integral part of the Mediterranean diet. In Malaga, orange and lemon trees give a unique look to the countryside of the Guadalhorce valley, an area tied to the cultivation of citrus fruits since the arrival of the Moors.

In Malaga recipes, citrus fruits appear in savoury as well as sweet dishes and oranges are the most consumed fruit in the winter. The old 'cachorreña' soup was the mainstay winter food for the majority of people working on the land at the beginning of the twentieth century. There are various versions of this soup which is similar to a hot 'Gazpacho' (raw tomatoes, peppers, onions, cucumber and garlic with olive oil, water, vinegar and stale bread pounded into a thick soup).

The one thing the 'cachorreñas' have in common is the addition of oranges. The oldest recipes used dried orange peel, mixed with pepper, olive oil, bread crumbs and water. This was boiled and then salt, vinegar or lemon was added. Sometimes bits of fish, garlic, cumin or paprika were added.

In the Axarquía, people mixed the bitter oranges with grilled sardines, tomatoes, peppers, onions and occasionally, broad beans.

The bitter orange (called 'cachorreña' or 'amarga') was the first orange to arrive on the Iberian peninsula. The Arabs brought it from China or Indo China which is where the majority of citrus fruits originated.

The Arabs found in the Guadalhorce valley the perfect place to grow the fruit trees, with its mild climate, rich soil and abundant water. They built the first canals, water mills and irrigation systems.

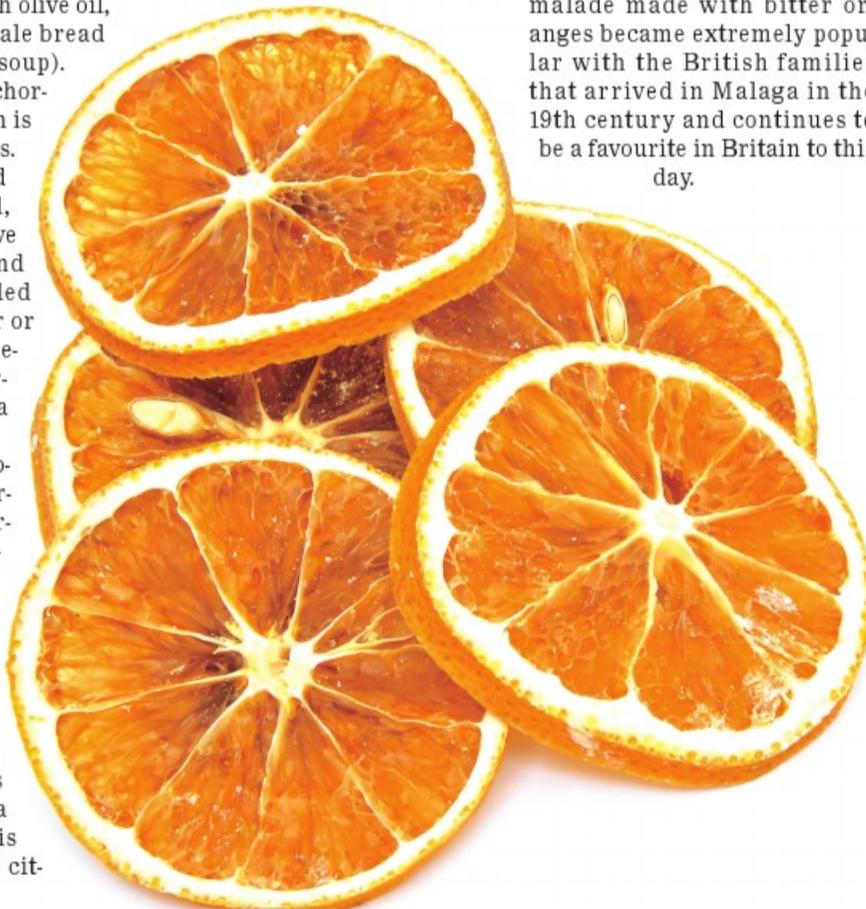
The bitter juice was used as a vinegar, as a marinade and in dressings. The dried peel is still used for the preparation of snail dishes, a traditional recipe in Ríogordo.

It wasn't until the beginning of the 20th century that the cultivation of citrus fruits became the main economy of the area. With the construction of the first dam in 1921 and the railway which linked the valley with Malaga port, the exportation of citrus fruits began as well as

the first perfume factories. The 'Fábrica de Esencias de Álora' produced perfumes made with the blossom of bitter oranges, lemons and citrus leaves for the French perfume industry.

In 1956 new reservoirs were built in the area and the industries developed rapidly. New varieties with better commercial value were introduced such as sweet oranges, mandarins, new varieties of lemons, limes and grapefruits.

Besides their use in savoury dishes, the most popular without doubt being the 'ensalada Malagueña' made with cod, potatoes, onions and orange, the fruit has become indispensable in the manufacture of marmalade, sweets and cakes. The marmalade made with bitter oranges became extremely popular with the British families that arrived in Malaga in the 19th century and continues to be a favourite in Britain to this day.



THE BULGARIAN WAY

Andrew J. Linn



Valentine's Day seems to get less important as you grow older. Anyone over 50 has to be very romantic to go for much more than a romantic dinner for two. In the fifth century the Pope abolished what was a pagan celebration and circulated the rumour that St. Valentine, imprisoned by the Romans for celebrating Christian weddings, wrote a love letter to his jailer's daughter, signed, 'From your Valentine'. True or not, he was executed on 14th February.

Valentine's Day is celebrated all over the world, but the Bulgarians have got the best deal, they have a choice of saints.

San Trifon is the patron saint of wine, wine makers and bar-men, and the 14th of February is also his day. So it is normal in Bulgaria on 'The Day' to see young men carrying flowers for their girlfriends and couples kissing, while on the other side of the street small groups of older men are drinking home-made wine from plastic bottles. Depending on how old you are, you can decide which group gets the most out of St. Valentine's / St. Trifon's Day.

The consumption of home-made wine in Bulgaria is dropping as the industry becomes more modernised.

When eating out in Bulgaria you order one course at a time, so after the first course the waiter takes the order for the main course - and so on. Perhaps the oddest thing is that Bulgaria must be the only country in the world where they ask you if you prefer your mineral water hot or cold when you order it.

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Marbella: C/ San Juan Bosco, 2, 2nd floor. Monday to Friday 9,15 a. m. to 14,00 p. m. Tel. 952776040
Nerja: C/ Chaparil, 4, bajo. Monday to Friday 9,30 a. m. to 14,30 p. m. Tel. 952521385
La Cala-Rincón: Avenida de Málaga, 72, Edif. Serrano, local 2 (La Cala del Moral). Monday to Friday 9,00 a. m. to 2,00 p. m. and from 5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. Monday

to Thursday. Tel. 952403611
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ESTACIÓN de Cartama, Bargain 2 houses plot 2,500 m2 150,000 euros 673459631

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FINCA Alhaurín El Grande, 7,000 m2, house, 1 bedroom, three stables, water, electricity, well. 185,000 Euro. 951773460. sales@costadelsol-estates.com

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MARBELLA. Very Nice studio penthouse, last floor, 35 m2 + 25 m2 terrace. Furnished, Views sea and community pool. Tennis court. 145,000 euros. 661309829

FOR SALE Puerto Banús. Spacious 4/8 townhouse in Condes de Iza. 255,000 euros. Teléfono + 447801427884 info@spanishpropertyrentals.com

FANTASTIC 3 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms penthouse! 142 m2, 88 m2 of terrace, 5 minutes to Puerto Banús and to the beach! In of the best Marbella's Urbanization! 550,000. 690026445

BARGAIN Nueva Andalucía, 160,000 euros 2 bedrooms garden apartment, parking, storage. fpmarbella.com 637433770

ONLY 188,000 euros Nueva Andalucía 3 bedroom apartment, parking, storage. fpmarbella.com 637433770

SIERRA Blanca Villa, 275,000 Euros. Bargain 627588588

GUADALMINA Duplex penthouse: 3 beds, 3 baths, large terrace, parking & storage room, community pool. Golf Share. Built 175m2 and terraces 157m2. Price reduced: 350,000 Euros. 674091354

MARINA Banús. Selection fantastic 2 bedroom apartment, garage. From 299,000. 620809999

VILLA for sale in Marbella centre. Close to amenities. Excellent condition. Sea & mountain view. 3 bed, land 600 m2 approx. 575,000 euros. Call 952774945/ 607511512

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HUGE 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 160 built, 85 terrace, great location. Was 380,000 now 199,000 651751920 www.solhomesekers.com

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MIJAS Costa. Villa reduced to sell 351,000 euros. 3 bedroom, open sea views, 700m to beach. 644507900

LEW HOADS beautiful, 3 bed, family villa, pool, 2,000m2 plot, 425,000. 647647657

BARGAIN. Urgent sale. 165,000 euros. La Cala Hills. 100 m2 apartment. 24 m2 terrace. 2 bedroom, 2 bathrooms. Furnished. Stunning views. 2 pools. Garage. Storeroom. Satellite TV. Internet. Southwest facing. 654501113, larnel@dandanell.es

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CALAHONDA Bargain distressed 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom fully furnished apartment, parking, storage, stunning sea views, west facing, must sell 109,000 Euros ONO 675970131

MIJAS Costa - 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom apartment, 105,000 euros. 626864683

SIERREZUELA 3 bedroom villa, pool, garage, 385,000 euros. 626864683

MIJAS Costa - 2 bedroom beachside apartment, sea views, pool, parking, 99,000 euros. 626864683

BARGAIN 275,000 Bungalow Villa, Mijas Golf. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, views, parking. 606526618

DIRECTLY from owner for sale or lease. Beautiful 2 bedroom apartment in Urb. La Cala Hills, near golf course and the college of Sant Anthony. 634457102

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FINCAS with house & stables, near La Cala de Mijas, from 875.000 Euro. 951773460. sales@costadelsol-estates.com

RIVIERA del Sol, apartment, almost new, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, first golfline, 119,000 Euro. 951773460. sales@costadelsol-estates.com

Torremolinos

APARTMENT, El Calvario, 2 bedrooms, almost new. 138,000 Euro. 951773460. sales@costadelsol-estates.com

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ARROYO long let large 1 bedroom furnished garden apartment in villa. Quiet road, convenient all services, 390 euros / month, 952446141

BENALMADENA Pueblo, 2 bed, 2 bath flat, pool, garden, garage, Sky. 450 Euros pcm. 952568612/ 637717579

WWW.SPMRENTALS.NET Arenal Golf, 2 bedroom furnished apartments from 475 euros monthly. Contact 952961047 / 635194857

WWW.SPMRENTALS.NET Luxury villa, Benalmádena Pueblo, beautifully furnished. Must see property. 1.800 euros monthly. Contact 952961047 / 635194857

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WWW.APART-SOL.COM Montemar Torremolinos three bedroom penthouse, good quality furniture with private roof top pool and sauna, off street parking. 800 euros pm. Call Ian 617498163

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OWNER, area Tivoli World, penthouse 2 bedroom, pool, parking. Very good price. 629591893

OWNER, groundfloor, 3 bedrooms, very independent. Area Tivoli World. Very good price. 629591893

BENALMADENA beach, nice 1 bedroom, sea views. 450 euros/month. 679111522

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BENALMADENA Near Lidl Supermarket, nice 4 bedrooms townhouse, 2 bathrooms, 2 lounges with fireplace, basement, big garden, bbq, parking, pool. 850. 692609395

BENALMADENA Pueblo beautiful penthouse, 2 bedrooms, 60 m2 terrace, wonderful sea views, garage. 600. 692609395

ARROYO new big 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 106 m2, private garden + 360 m2 terrace, pool. 550. 692609395

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BENALMADENA Close to Palm Tree Avenue, nice 2 bedrooms, big sunny terrace, panoramic sea views, nicely furnished, pool, garage. 550. 692609395

ARROYO furnished/ unfurnished townhouse, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 85 m2 basement, garage. 780. 692609395

BENALMADENA Costa big unfurnished corner townhouse, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, terraces, basement, lock up garage, parking, pool. 1,050. 692609395

BENALMADENA Pueblo big furnished/ unfurnished townhouse, 4 big bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 50 m2 lock up garage, garden. 700. 692609395

BENALMADENA Pueblo furnished/unfurnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, terrace, pool. 600. 692609395

ARROYO. Nice townhouse, 125 m2, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, garage, pool. Pets not allowed. 680. 692609395

BENALMADENA Costa unfurnished big townhouse, front sea views, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, terraces, big lock up garage x 2 cars, pool. 850. 692609395

ARROYO Near town center, brand new 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 40 m2 terrace, garage, storage. 550. 692609395

ARROYO de la Miel, apartment 120 m2, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge, utility room, terrace, large kitchen, completely furnished, central. 600 euros long term. 635666751

BENALMADENA 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom apartment. Sunny terrace. Pool. Garage. 600 euros. 678675071

BENALMADENA Penthouse, sea views, air conditioning, pool, garage, 500 euros. 678675071

BENALMADENA Pueblo prime location. 3 bedrooms apartment to let, two large balconies with sea view, storeroom, car space, all amenities, 675,00 euros month. Phone from Sunday 605576752

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BENALMADENA Penthouse, sea views, air conditioning, pool, garage, 500 euros. 678675071

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SELWO: Luxurious resort, bedroom, bathroom, chimney, A/C, garage, indoor/ outdoor pool, storage, 450E long term. 670932576 - www.marisaproperties.com

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DIANA 3 bedrooms townhouse, 2 bathrooms, private, garden, pool. 650E 661925090

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LOS BOLICHES. Beautiful Scandinavian style villa, 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom, open fire, air con, garden, garage. Long term 1,600 Euros. Private. 670066150

3 BEDROOMS, 2 bathrooms, furnished, patio, parking, 520 euros. 620127411

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LARGE Studio in Hotel Las Palmeras. Kitchen, bathroom, living / bedroom, enclosed terrace, refurbished. Good rental or permanent living. Direct owner. 630197435

PUEBLO Lopez. Fully equipped studio, terrace, separate kitchen. Long let 400 Euros all included, elderly. Direct 616564806

EL FARO 2x2, apartment, 690 month. Holiday villa 700 Week www.rental-sales-spain.com 655258381

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HOTEL El Puerto: Studio apartment 400 Euros monthly. 951311632

FUENGIROLA Central. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, large lounge, kitchen, terrace. Long let. 677786037

FUENGIROLA centre, beautiful 1 bedroom, sunny terrace. 450 euros/month. 679111522

FUENGIROLA beach, 2 bedrooms, big roof terrace. 500 euros/month. 679111522

FUENGIROLA, very spacious 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 550 euros/month. 679111522

FUENGIROLA Torrealblanca (lower) superior 2.5 bedroom flat, street level, 2 bathrooms, 1 en-suite, large lounge dining with fireplace, dining area, fitted kitchen, dish washer, washing machine, air conditioning, fully furnished, large terrace, sea view, barbecue pit, community large pool, long let, no pets. 750 euros pcm. Call: 661967037

FUENGIROLA. Mijas area, 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom modern unfurnished apartment, underground parking, storage, close to all amenities long let 600 Euros 649031716

UNFURNISHED apartment, 2 bedrooms, fitted kitchen, 86 M2, close to CARE clinic, Fuengirola. Long term 500 Euros. 646542795

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Inland

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COIN Country House, 2 bedrooms, terrace, views, garage 125 m2, land 6.000 m2. 650 euros. 618815291

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COIN, country house, 3 bedrooms, garden, storage. 500 euros/month. 679111522

COIN, beautiful villa, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, garden, garage. 690 euros/month. 679111522

ALHAURIN Torre, Grande, Cartama, coast urban, rural houses with pools from 800 euros, cottages from 500 euros, reasonably priced townhouses, apartments. Julia 629487762

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CABOPINO Independent villa, 3 bedrooms, underground garage. 1,100 euros. 666412208

VILLA 5 bed, private garden & pool. Views. 1,700 euros long term. No agents. 605064874

VILLA walking distance Puerto Banús. 3 bed, 2.5 bath, pool, garage, needs tlc. 980 euros pm. Tel: 669922368

PUERTO Banús, owner, lovely beachside apartment. Also long term. 620419770

MIJAS Golf: Beautiful duplex penthouse, 175m2, 4 terraces 100m2, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms ensuite, air condition, furnished/ unfurnished, parking, heated community pool, astonishing golf views. Long let. 607551115

LUXURY 106m2 one bedroom, parking, storage, short/ long let. Tel: 628619776

GUADALMINA Cottage 2 bedroom, garden, sky tv, pool, quiet and secure. Very private. 750 pcm. 952883833

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LUXURY corner townhouse, Nagüeles 200 m2, community pool, two covered car parks. The yearly rent value is 18,000 euros, for three years in advance 44,000 euros, it means 1,222.22 euros per month. If you buy later you get your rent money back. 696330543

MARBELLA villa 5 minutes walk to Old town. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, sea views, 2 car garage, pool, garden. Large covered terrace. All mod cons. Short/ long term 1,900 pcm - option to buy. 952770947, 660841584

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3 BEDROOM ground floor apartment, Nueva Andalucía. Fully furnished, parking. 950 euros. 692814314

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SAN PEDRO near, spacious 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 600 euros/month. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 650 euros/month. 679111522

MARBELLA. 2 & 3 bedrooms apartment, beachfront, garage, pool. 660354069

GUADALMINA long term, very well located apartment, 2 bed 2 bath ensuite, wooden floor. 550 / month (Incl. Air & heating) 600624744

LUXURY apartment Puerto Banus: 2 bed 700 Euros pm. 3 bed 850 Euros pm. 662647408

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SAN PEDRO large 3 bed apartment. Town centre. 550 euros. Susan, 673757789

ELVIRIA El Soto 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom furnished apartment, underground parking, storage, sky, stunning views, gym, golf, tennis, long let 600 Euros 649031716

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MARBELLA. Lovely central spacious 3 bedroom apartment, 1.150 euros. 620809999

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BANUS luxury villa 5 bed ensuite, close to all, large garage, large pool, jacuzzi, 530 m2 built, 1,500 plot, 3,950 pm. 651751920 www.solhomesekers.com

NAGUELES 3 bed, 3 bath newly decorated ground floor duplex. Gated urb. gardens, pool, 5 min. Golden Mile. 180 m2, secure parking. Furnished. 850 euros per month. 645370699

NUEVA Andalucía, Guadalmina Baja, Elviria, luxurious Villas from 4000 euros. 677515077

SAN PEDRO beach, townhouse, 3 bed furnished or unfurnished, 950 euros. 630488005

SAN PEDRO beach: Villa 4 bed, garden, pool, 1,500 euros. 630488005

GUADALMINA townhouse, 4 bed, garage, basement, 1,200 euros. 630488005

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MIJAS Golf. Large townhouse, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 230m2, unfurnished. 1,100 Euros. 607144333

MIJAS/ Fuengirola. 2 apartments in Pueblo Cielo Mijas (next to 'El Porton'), Ctra. de Mijas opposite Valparaiso. A) 95m2, unfurnished, 399 Euros. B) 130m2, partly furnished, 499 Euros (both incl. 14.44m2 terrace and good views) Contact: 952485225/ 639815585. Email info@mlp2.com

MIJAS Pueblo (Campo) 2 bed, 2 bath apartment, terrace. 450 Euros month. 627817311

CALAHONDA. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, sea views. 400,- Euros - 607192044

RIVIERA del Sol. 2 bed, 2 bath apartment, fully furnished, swimming pool. 500 Euros per month 647296323/ 646599275

MIJAS 1 bed, 1 bath apartment fully furnished, quiet location, swimming pool, gardens & parking. 350 Euros per month 647296323/ 646599275

CALAHONDA 1 bedroom ground floor apartment near El Zoco. 350 euros monthly. Joan 622200336

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Plus more from 480€ pm
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LA CALA: 1 bed g/f furnished apartment. 350 Euros month. Pool, parking, shops. 952494111/ 670732852

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RUSTIC House, long term, Rancho de la Luz area, 3 bedroom, fully equipped, 700 euros monthly. 689133163 / 952590136

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WWW.SPMRENTALS.NET Calanova Sea Golf, selection of apartments from 450 euros monthly. Contact 952961047 / 635194857

MIJAS Village. 3 bedroom townhouse, community pool. 500 euros. 952485791, 655577415

LA CALA Hills, luxury fully furnished 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom apartment, garage, Sky tv. 795 PCM. Lisa, 669069998

LA CALA 4 bedroom finca, 3 stables, pool, near beach. 1,900 euros monthly. 652938380

MIJAS Carretera. 8 bedroom villa, 360° views, pool. 800 euros Weekly. 652938380

RENTALS long term Riviera, La Cala. Furnished, long term. Call Abi 677259502

PROPERTIES for rent / sale in La Cala, Riviera, Miraflores, Calahonda. Call 637534902

MIRAFLORES 1 bedroom furnished apartment 5 minutes from the beach. Private terrace. 380 Euros per month. Call Brian 609058322

CALAHONDA 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom furnished / unfurnished apartments, modern, south facing, sky, views, under ground parking, storage, long let, 500 Euros 649031716

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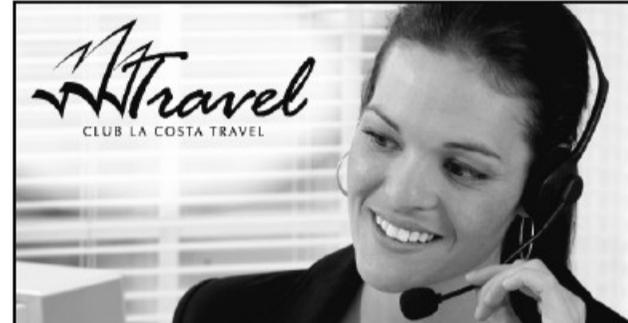
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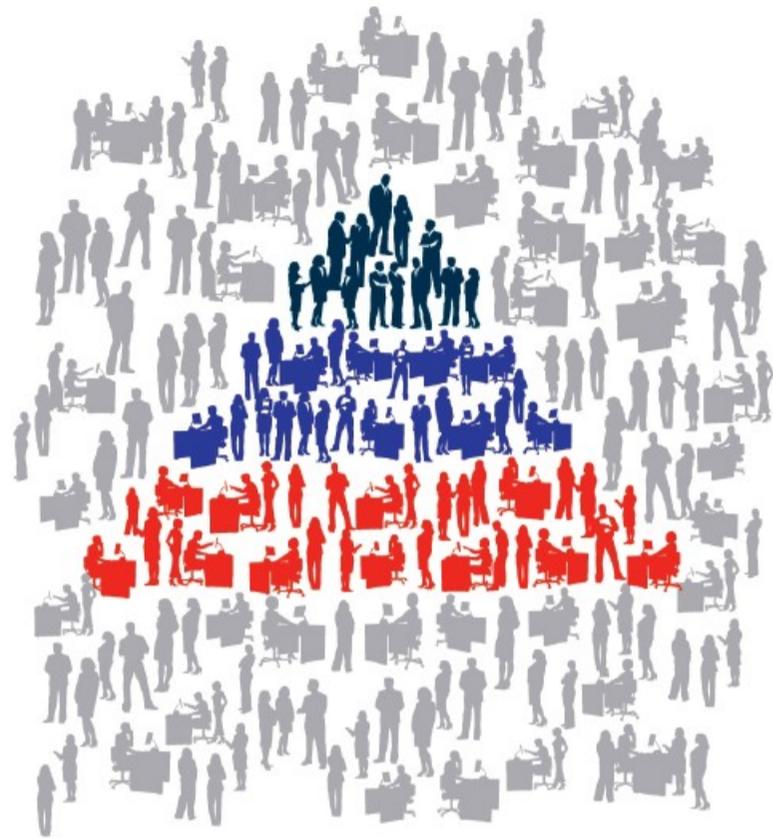
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AGENT Account Manager required for a leading, established international portal. You must be highly motivated with a confident, professional telephone manner and a positive attitude. Sales experience is essential and an understanding of the real estate industry and online marketing an advantage. In return we offer generous commissions paid on time, a fantastic product, a contract with salary and a professional working environment. Please forward your CV to: careers@propertyshowrooms.com

TRAINEE Recruitment Consultant. Recruiting in Mijas for Trainee Recruitment Consultants to work in niche markets. This role would suit UK expats or English speakers as the recruitment is conducted in the UK market. This is a commission only role where the successful candidates will receive 40% of any fees they bill. Realistic 1st year earnings 25,000 euros which will only increase after Year 1. No previous recruitment experience is required as full training will be given. Please send CV to: info@w5recruitment.co.uk or phone 00448459000585

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SAN PEDRO Estepona. New private club needs female staff. 633066786

TELEBOOKERS required. Consistent pay, nice work surroundings. Good hours. Call: 667615707

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GERMAN woman, 29, is looking for a fix job as a housekeeping / cleaner, kitchen help, garden work. Tel: 627768437

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VERY responsible, pretty, serious bilingual lady seeks job eg assistant, housekeeper, etc. for male. 617737659

EXPERIENCED all round IT guy. Web design: CSS, XHTML, Joomla. Graphic design: Photo shop, Coral, Publisher. VOIP Phone Systems: Broadcast System, Sip. CAT5 Networking: Networking & wiring. I have all my own equipment and consider myself a self motivated individual. 622501964

EXPERIENCED lady seeks office job, shop assistant, receptionist. English-French-Spanish. Marbella area. 666684911

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SOLICITOR- Francisco J. Zaragoza advice in property conveyance, Spanish Wills, inheritances, contracts. Benalmádena - Costa 952441279

ENGLISH lady lawyer offers legal advice in your language in all affairs: wills, conveyancing, company law, etc 666011653

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Torremolinos: 952112141. Welfare 654254799.
Coin: 663157776. www.coinrbl.info
Alhaurín el Grande: 952597120 / 952499238.
Marbella: 952774572. www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/marbella
Albox (Almería): etgoodey@yahoo.co.uk
Mojácar (Almería): 950 472 594
Benjafarfe: 603879308
Mollina: 654472922. Welfare 951060965.
Riders' branch: 9525142260/653108415.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Listing of English-speaking groups Nerja to Gibraltar. Tel: 600 379 110.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS

Hope for families/friends of problem drinkers. English meetings: 662180326

POSITIVELY PINK ASSOCIATION

Miraflores breast cancer charity 670004422.

DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP

Puerto Banús - Marbella: Sanyres, 1st Friday 10.30 am.
Alhaurín de la Torre: La Risa Restaurant@Lauro Golf, 2nd Friday, 11 am.
Fuengirola: Ark Fellowship, Las Ramblas, last Friday 10.30 am. Anne Bowles: 952464184.

MABS CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Fourth Tuesday, Miraflores Club, Marbella, 11.30 a.m. 952833568 / 647 054 945.

ME/CFS/FM SUPPORT GROUP

952 585 330/649 679 400. mespain6.blog-spot.com; mespain6@gmail.com

AGE CARE ASSOCIATION

Drop-in centres: Woodies Bar, Avenida de Bonanza, Benalmádena, Monday 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Pizzeria El Zoco, Calahonda, Tuesdays 11a.m. - 1 p.m. Manila Bar, Paseo, Los Boliches, Thursday 10 a.m. - 12-30 p.m. Helpline/info 691761088/655903182; www.agecarecosta.org.

AGE CONCERN

Estepona and Manilva. Lifeline 650163928. acesteponaymanilva@ageconcern-espana.org / www.acesteponaymanilva.org

LOS CLAVES CHARITY

Fund-raising for radiotherapy equipment at Costa del Sol Hospital, Marbella. President, Marion Winter, 952 863926.

LUX MUNDI ECUMENICAL CENTRE

Charity. **Torre del Mar:** luxmundi@luxmundi.org 952 543 334 or 952 540 432.
Fuengirola: 952474840.

ROYAL AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

Benalmádena 1357, Fred Briggs, 952119708.

CONSERVATIVES ABROAD

Costa del Sol: Juliet Butterworth 952565777 666434839 mijasconservatives@gmail.com

INTERNAT. LABOUR GROUP ANDALUCIA

Fuengirola: Tom Wright: 952 464 324.

NEDERLANSE CLUB COSTA DEL SOL

Tel: 952473 545 Meetings in Los Boliches, Marbella, Torremolinos and Torre del Mar.

AMERICAN CLUB OF COSTA DEL SOL

Chairperson: David Kyles, 653274392.
Fuengirola, Mijas, Benalmádena: David Kyles 653274392.
Malaga: Rosella Parmiter 952400006.
Marbella: Valerie Houben 952828774
Estepona /Sotogrande: J. Wynne-Hughes 952802946.

ACE AMERICAN CLUB OF ESTEPONA

Calle Hernán Cortez. Tel: 952793059.

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Almuñécar to Torrox. nerjadclub@yahoo.com or www.americaninternationalclub.com

ASSOC. FRANCÓFONOS

All French speakers welcome. 952815444

B.I.S.C. - BENAJARAFE

Benajafarfe International Social Club. Heather 634979565

ENGLISH-SPEAKING CLUB MALAGA

English/Spanish conversation. 952432235

WELSH ROOTS SOCIETY

Monthly lunches. Peter 687079383.

THE BRITISH SOCIETY

Alan Peel 952 590 795. Benalmádena Pueblo. britsocietyspain@hotmail.com

BRITISH ASSOCIATION MARBELLA

Meets weekly. Contact Pat 952830959.

C. INTERNACIONAL TORRE DEL MAR

President Frank Buck: 952541148.

INTERNAT. CLUB OF SALOBREÑA

Michael Warrington, 958610546, icsalobrena@ymail.es

IRISH ASSOCIATION OF SPAIN

Tony 952 375482 / 680104987.

IRISH CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Irish dancing and language classes. Enda 952374127.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Arroyo de la Miel. Tel: Martin 952 383 883, or 654 859 075.

FOREIGN & NEW RESIDENTS ASSOC.

Western Axarquía. Aprile Winterstein 630927226.

ARTE Y CULTURA MARBELLA

Culture. Nueva Andalucía 952777946. Marbella 952773188.

INTERNATIONAL CLUB ESTEPONA

www.siberme.com. Phone 952 802 549.

OUT OF AFRICA CLUB

Trish: 952668081 or Carmen 952440312

USA LEARNING FOR PLEASURE

Fuengirola: Ann Matthews 952 577 671 www.u3acostadelsol.org
Marbella-Inland: Allan 622670158 or Carmella 952596070. www.u3a.es

1ST FUENGIROLA SCOUT GROUP

British Scouting Movement. Robert Troost 610755995. www.fuengirolascouts.com

NADFAS

Costa del Sol: Fuengirola. Pauline: 952382713 www.nadfascostadelsol.org
Nerja: 952533373. www.nerjanadfas.org
De la Frontera: San Roque Club. www.nadfas-delafrontera.org
Gibraltar: http://gibdfas.webs.com/

NERJA HISTORY CLUB

Talks/trips. Jill Christian-Smith 952538526.

JAZZ APPRECIATION SOCIETY

Brian Parker 952 785 616.

COSTA CHORDBUSTERS

Anne Bowles. 952464184

THE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC SOCIETY

Mixed choir. Contact; Sylvia: 952 449 298.

COLLEGIUM MUSICUM COSTA DEL SOL

International choir/orchestra. 952775492.

THE PARASOL SINGERS

Amateur singers based in Manilva. New members welcome. Mike 692 558 041

SOUTHERN SOUND CHORUS

Barbershop singers. 952473051

R.T.'S LINE DANCE CLUB

Calahonda / Fuengirola / Benalmádena. Bob 952931754 or 697441313.

MISSISSIPPI COASTERS

Line dance. Fuengirola. Bob 697441313.

JIVE DANCE CLUB

Benalmádena, Cancelada, Torrox, Marbella and Duquesa. Call 635 71 72 11.

JJ'S COSTA DEL SOL DANCE CLUB

Ballroom, Sequence & Latin 627658925

FOTA, FRIENDS OF THE THEATRE

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

INTERNATIONAL THEATRE STUDIO

Founded in 1976, performs plays in San Pedro district. Tel 952884034

THESPA-THE ENGLISH SPEAKING PLAYERS

Dinner and Drama. Los Boliches. 952472985 www.theatrecoastadelsol.com.

ESTEPONA FLORAL ART CLUB

Urb. Benamara. 951 17 05 73. www.facebook.com/esteponafloralartclub

FLOWER ARRANGING CLUB

Venta Platero (Coin-Cardama road, 3.5 km to Coin); every 2nd Thurs, 14:00.

ESTUDIO 61 ART CLUB

Alex 952 773 299 pintura@estudio61.com

THE ANDALUCIAN GARDEN GROUP

Alhaurín el Grande. 952454092 /952455213.

ANDALUCIA BIRD SOCIETY

English speaking birders. 952817843, www.andaluciabirdsociety.org

COSTA PRESS CLUB

www.costapressclub.com

INTERNAT. ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Wildlife/natural history. 952711377 Dr V. Singh, www.zoologicalsociety.webs.com

COSTA WOMEN

http://costawomen.ning.com/ Ali: 677251058.

FUENGIROLA KNITTING CLUB

Tel. 687 29 22 20

THE FIELD CLUB

Long and short walks. Fuengirola. www.thefieldclub.es

ASTRONOMY COSTA DEL SOL

www.astronomycostadelsol.com or contact Lee on 616 679 453.

COSTA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Meets fortnightly. Beginners welcome. 952446893 www.photoclubspain.com

GLITTERATI BOOK CLUB

Centro Diana. Beverley 952 928 136.

COSTA BOOK CLUBS

Maggie Hetherington: 672392474.

THE CREATIVE CORNER

Benalmádena at My Pink Scrapbook: 951 251 168. www.mypinkscrapbook.com

LIONS CLUBS

Marbella: Dr. Javier Cabrera. 952823135
Benalmádena/Azroyo: Paul: 627440361.
Marbella Puerto Banús Cosmopolite: Michel Forgues Lacroix 620288500.
Marbella Francófono: Daniel Dans. Tel: 952815444
Mijas-La Cala: Roland Owens, 952494323.
Nerja: Martin Kopp: 952523051

TOASTMASTERS

Al-Andalus Toastmasters Club #1788: Donna 956 840 497. Rota, Cadiz.
 The Achievers Toastmasters Club #5183: Nueva Andalucía, Percy 646533112.
 Gibraltar: Luis 606460025.
 Malaga: PTA (Parque Tecnológico de Andalucía) English and Spanish 678649137.

FREEMASONRY IN FUENGIROLA

Los Boliches, Emulation L. of I. every Thursday at 4pm., Norman Hay 952479499.

ROTARY CLUB

Benalmádena: 952441440.
Benahavis: 670 604 392.
Estepona: Tel: 952 800 999.
Fuengirola - Mijas: Tel: 648292146.
Marbella: Tel: 952821121.
San Pedro: Tel: 951318381.

41 AND TANGENT CLUB

(Ex-Round Table and Ladies Circle members). Richard/Julie Wood: 639542387.
41 Club East: Alfie: 626998626. Nerja

ROYAL ANTIDILUVIAN ORDER OF BUFFALOES

Stan: 952563950.

ARROYO SOCIAL & WELFARE CLUB

Arroyo de la Miel. Dennis 952051610.

FRIENDSHIP & FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Torremolinos. Chat, coffee, help. Helpline Paul: 952389771/Tony: 625777070.

TORREMOLINOS & DISTRICT SOCIAL CLUB

Wed a.m. The Bailey. Yvonne 952386172.

ARROYO FRIENDLY CLUB

Benalmádena. 952446935.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Professional women, soroptimist.costadelsol@gmail.com 653 771 625 www.si-es.org

CLUB CHARITY AND PLEASURE

Estepona. President Denise 952810989.

AMIGAS DE CASA

Vva del Trabuco. Jean Preston 952 751 424 or Liz Marsh 952 031 478

COLMENAR DISTRICT SOCIAL CLUB

Marjorie 951 163 071.

OLA NETWORKING GROUP

608 840 692 lisa@olanetworking.com

THE EAGLE SOCIAL CLUB

Benalmádena Costa, Jean 952445779.

THE GOOD COMPANIONS CLUB

Los Boliches. Tel: Tony White 952494730

HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

Cross country runners & walkers, Mijas: 606761942. Malaga: 654 633430.

CLUB DE BÉISBOL COSTA DEL SOL B.B.C.

952202940 / 952464468.

AIKIDO TOMIKI SHODOKAN

Different levels. Tel: 952131670, Malaga

CALAHONDA BRIDGE CLUB

Club Naranja. Peter 95293 16 36.

ACE BRIDGE CLUB

Pueblo López, Fuengirola. Martin 952485678.

NERJA BRIDGE CLUB

Nan 952525425 or Colin 617534342.

MAJID JAMAL BRIDGE CLUB

Estepona. www.atalayabridgeclub.com 952880595/ 609548595.

LOS BOLICHES BRIDGE CLUB

Duplicate Bridge. Mon & Fri. 1.45 p.m. at Cafe Manilla (Paseo Marítimo) 951081984

CASARES BRIDGE CLUB

Tuesday at 6.15. Casares Rd. 655459576/ 622573993 www.bridgeweb/casares.com

ST ANDREW'S BRIDGE CLUB

Los Boliches. Tel. 625908687 / 952667861.

NEUVA ALCÁNTARA BRIDGE CLUB

San Pedro de Alcántara. Pierre 695 238 657 www.nuevalcantarabridgeclub.com

BENAMARA CHESS CLUB

952880733 or graham.speake@sky.com

COSTA DEL SOL CRICKET CLUB

League cricket. Pevin: 606526618.

MARBELLA SURF CLUB

Avda. Independencia, 17, Tel:952778617.

INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Benalmádena Costa. B. Meisel, 952373813.

SELF DEFENCE & KICK BOXING

Classes. Los Boliches. 670 898 599 www.selfdefencepro.com

MIJAS LAWN BOWLS CLUB

Tel: 952 466 038.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOC. OF LIFE GUARDS

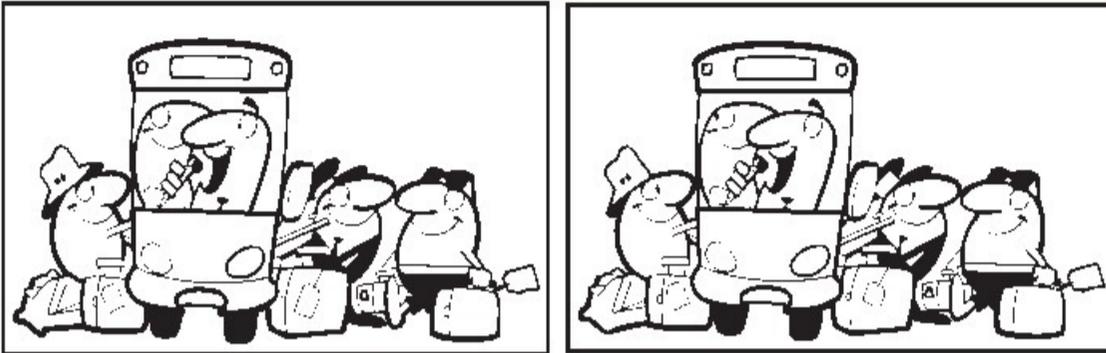
Fuengirola. aspcastadelsol@gmail.com Tel. 629541930.

CLUB ABADIA SKI

Contact Pedro: 952 353 417.

Pastimes

The seven differences



The Stars



Aquarius (January 21 - February 19)
We all feel put out when we can't get our own way. You are not being foolish, listen to your instincts.



Pisces (February 20 - March 20)
Your luck this week seems to good to be true, use it while you can! Be honest and direct with people.



Aries (March 21 - April 20)
You are attracted to someone from a different walk of life, the feeling may not last. Someone is not pulling their weight at work.



Taurus (April 21 - May 21)
A meeting with friends could throw up an old flame, don't mistake the sentimentality for something else.



Gemini (May 22 - June 21)
A social event will see someone new coming into your sphere. A practical matter needs your attention at the weekend.



Cancer (June 22 - July 23)
What you hoped would bring a quick pay back is delayed or cancelled. If there is no plan B then find one!



Leo (July 24 - August 23)
Cultural differences cause friction. Avoid discussing religion or politics to smooth troubled waters.



Virgo (August 24 - September 23)
Suddenly experiencing a situation you have yearned for comes as a shock. Stay calm and put the ball in someone else's court.



Libra (September 24 - October 23)
Look behind the smiling face of someone who may have an ulterior motive. Be with people you can trust at the weekend.



Scorpio (October 24 - November 22)
It is essential to question financial matters. A lighter week with some flirtation to make you smile.

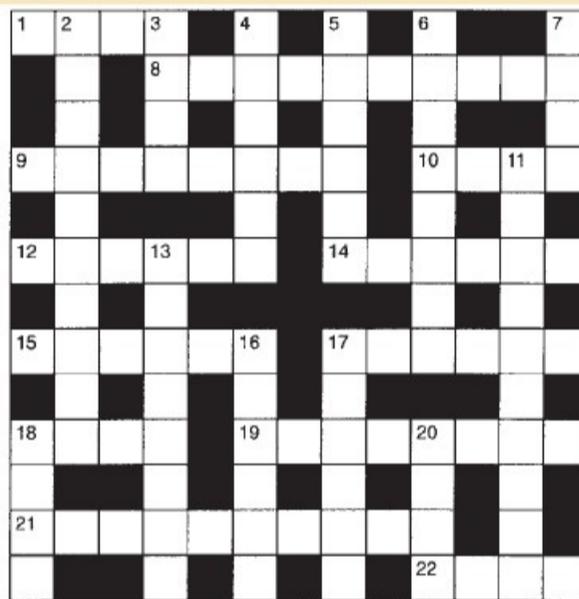


Sagittarius (November 23 - December 22)
Your lighthearted approach is at odds with your deeper feelings of need. The more flexible you are, the better.



Capricorn (December 23 - January 20)
You should choose your own direction in life if you really want satisfaction. Make a stand!

Cryptic Crossword No. 10,965



ACROSS

- Shortened opening for one who tops the bill (4)
- This is set to produce a stirring effect at certain times (5-5)
- Don't panic - take advantage of the air-conditioning (4,4)
- Stole - smartly chastise, we hear! (4)
- One direction should be looked for (6)
- He takes part in Conservative abstract idea (6)
- Gives a change of face (6)
- It's not often models get restyled (6)
- The man gets the editor to pay attention (4)
- Bridge walls to imitate in sections (8)
- This will install supports heaped by the water-course (4-6)
- What those who pay lip-service do? (4)

DOWN

- Be observant, but receive warning of dismissal (4,6)
- It's inclined to be a racket (4)
- Slept in the open air - ground plan required (3-3)
- A beast of burden near the end of the street is a charming thing (6)
- Could it be an aircraft rotor? (3-5)
- Make half the sea-captains jump! (4)
- One who looks after those who take flight (3,7)
- Sounds like splendid luxury for foreign nobility (8)
- No longer wine to sell overseas (6)
- Tried hard to sway the voters (6)
- Some of the shop employees show optimistic anticipation (4)
- Here's the recreation ground - leave the car (4)

Sudoku by Hanzo

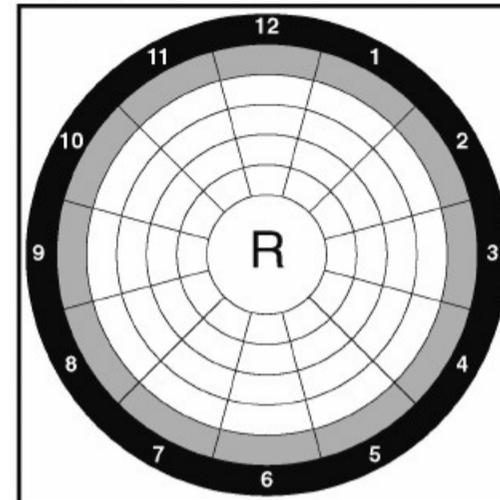
Instructions

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

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

Clockword

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter R in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a British comedian and actor.



- Protective covering
- Closer
- Aircraft
- Unjust
- Crockery item
- Consume
- Cream cake
- Writer
- Over there
- Wood
- Mollusc
- Digit

The Wordpuzzler

B	I	N	Z	A	P	H	I	L	O
S	L	E	M	N	T	I	K	U	R
H	E	R	C	U	L	E	K	L	C
E	Q	O	T	L	A	N	P	J	H
R	I	M	P	Y	L	X	E	E	A
L	T	A	H	Z	N	U	R	C	R
O	B	E	I	T	I	X	R	D	L
C	F	B	L	L	C	E	Y	I	I
K	C	D	I	C	K	F	O	X	E
P	E	J	P	C	D	S	A	M	U

CAN you find the first names of ten fictional characters from detective and crime stories? Their surnames are below.

- Vance
- Chan
- Spade
- Carter
- Mason
- Tracy
- Marlowe
- Poirot
- Holmes
- Wolfe

International Radio

Spectrum
(105.5 FM, Costa Almeria/Mojacar 92.6 FM)
24 hour music and entertainment

Talk Radio Europe S. L.
(88.9 FM Costa del Sol East.)
(91.9 FM Costa del Sol West)
Includes BBC World Service News, magazine, sports, and English news.

ACE FM (106.8 FM)
Inland radio, news and music

The Beat FM (106 FM)
24 hours, music and entertainment

Central FM (98.6 FM, 103.8)
All week, classic tracks and today's music, broadcasting to the Costa del Sol

Radio Mijas (107.7 FM)
3 p.m. News, views and music

Radio Estepona (107.2 FM)
Each Saturday from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. "Estepona Today" and "Viewpoint" presented by Róna Bourke

Global (96.5 FM)
All week round the clock music and entertainment

Coastline Radio (97.6 FM)
Music variety for the Axarquía, from Nerja. Music also through the night

Radio Sol Almirajara (99.1 FM)
Nerja radio in English and German and night time World Radio Network

HeartfmSpain (88.5 FM costa del Sol 96.1 FM inland)
Music, entertainment, chat and news

Lick FM (103.6 FM Marbella)
Urban music broadcast between Gibraltar and Calahonda

Quiz

Question 1: Hyraxes are small furry mammals of Africa and South Asia, whose diet consists of plants and fruit. Oddly enough, the nearest relatives of the hyrax among other mammals are the:
Bears Elephants Giraffes Lions and Tigers

Question 2: The month January is named for Janus, a Roman god who had two...
Centaur Faces Mothers Physical forms

Pastimes

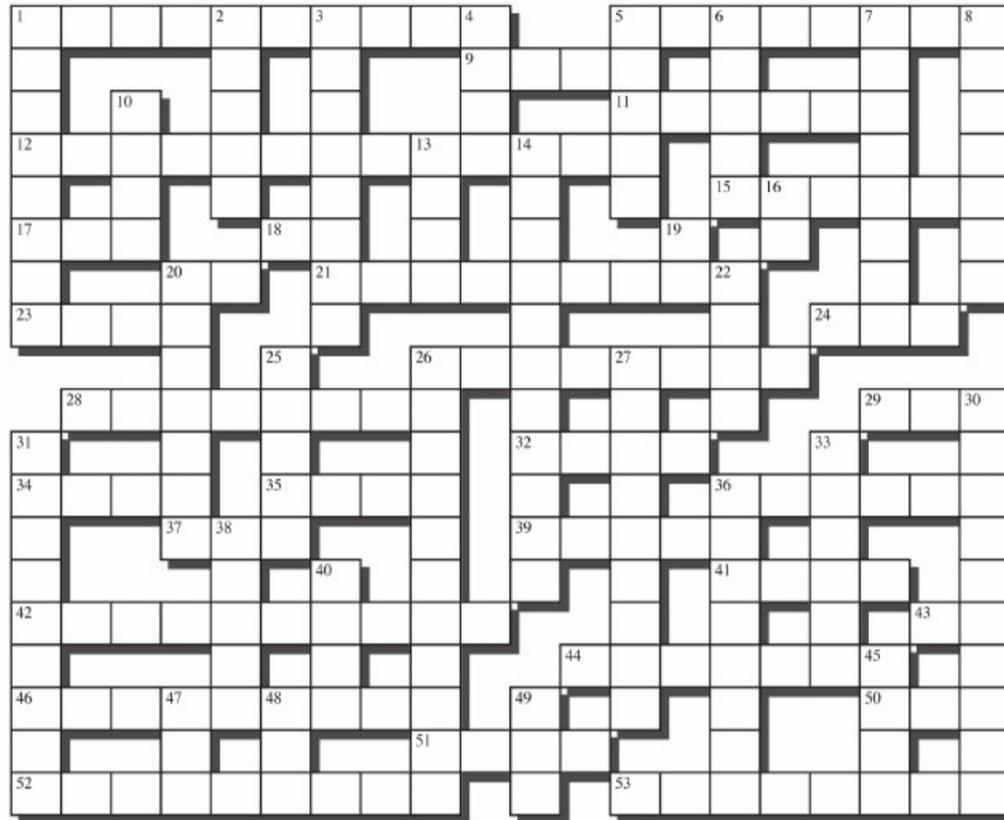
Language Crossword Fill in the Spanish words

Across

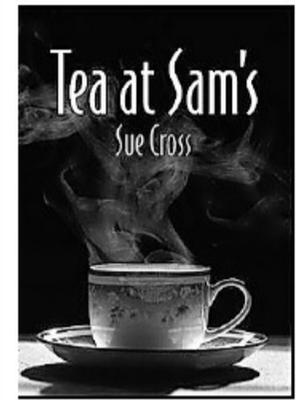
- 1. We maintain (10)
- 5. Legends (8)
- 9. Wave (4)
- 11. Germ (6)
- 12. Characterized (m) (13)
- 15. They smoke (6)
- 17. Even (3)
- 18. My (2)
- 20. Has (aux) (2)
- 21. Tradition (9)
- 23. Hate (4)
- 24. For (3)
- 26. Embroidered (m.pl.) (8)
- 28. Elegant (8)
- 29. Top (3)
- 32. Pot (4)
- 34. Eleven (4)
- 35. Art (4)
- 36. Jokes (6)
- 37. Her (pl) (3)
- 39. She enters (5)
- 41. Louis (4)
- 42. Inorganic (m) (10)
- 43. I gave (2)
- 44. Bullfighters (7)
- 46. Town planning (9)
- 50. Ion (3)
- 51. Dry (m) (4)
- 52. Routine (9)
- 53. Destinations (8)

Down

- 1. Mixed (m) (8)
- 2. Ethical (m) (5)
- 3. Expedite (8)
- 4. Coarse (4)
- 5. Lakes (5)
- 6. Yard (5)
- 7. Dynamic (m) (8)
- 8. Weeks (7)
- 10. Train (4)
- 13. Island (4)
- 14. Hosts (11)
- 16. Have (aux) (2)
- 19. It (2)
- 20. Hotels (7)
- 22. Neon (4)
- 25. Maps (5)
- 26. Beneficial (11)
- 27. Athletic (m.pl.) (9)
- 30. Positions (10)
- 31. To continue (9)
- 33. Gothic (m) (6)
- 36. Whales (8)
- 38. They urge (5)
- 40. Aniseed (4)
- 45. Temple (4)
- 47. Thus (3)
- 48. He was going (3)
- 49. Echo (3)



Book of the week



Sue Cross is a local author who only started writing six years ago when she joined a writing group near Fuengirola. She now attends the U3A Writers' workshop in Marbella. Tea at Sam's is her first novel and is about Celine whose dream of marital bliss is crushed when she finds out her husband has a dark secret. Nick, an old flame, returns to her life and she has to make some life changing decisions.

Answers

Language Crossword

ACROSS: 1. MANTENEMOS 5. LENDAS 9. OLA 11. GERMO 12. CARACTERIZADO 15. FUMAN 17. IGUAL 18. YO 20. HAY 21. TRADICION 23. ODIOS 24. POR 26. BORDADOS 28. ELEGANTE 29. CIMA 32. OLLA 34. ONCE 35. ARTE 36. BARROMAS 37. SUS 39. ENTRA 41. LUIS 42. INORGANICO 43. DI 44. TOREROS 46. URBANISMO 50. FON 51. SECO 52. RUTINARIO 53. DESTINOS

DOWN: 1. MEZCLADO 2. ETICO 3. EXPEDITO 4. SOEZ 5. LAGOS 6. YARDA 7. DINAMICO 8. SEMANAS 10. TREN 13. ISLA 14. ANFITRIONES 16. HE 19. LO 20. HOTELEROS 22. NEON 25. MAPAS 26. BENEFICIOSO 27. ATLETICO 30. POSICIONES 31. CONTINUAR 33. GOTICO 36. ALLENAS 38. URGEN 40. ANIS 45. SIEN 47. ASI 48. BIA 49. ECO

Solution to Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Star; 8 Alarm-clock; 9 Keep cool; 10 Wrap; 12 Sought; 14 Theory; 15 Visage; 17 Seldom; 18 Heed; 19 Parapets; 21 Pile-driver; 22 Kiss. Down: 2 Take notice; 3 Ramp; 4 Lay-out; 5 Amulet; 6 Fly-wheel; 7 Skip; 11 Air hostess; 13 Grantees; 16 Export; 17 Strove; 18 Hope; 20 Park.

Clockword solution

SOLUTION: 1 Armour, 2 Nearer, 3 Glider, 4 Unfair, 5 Saucer, 6 Devour, 7 Eclair, 8 Author, 9 Yonder, 10 Timber, 11 Oyster, 12 Number. CELEBRITY: Angus Deayton.

Wordpuzzler solution

1. Philo
2. Charlie
3. Sam
4. Nick
5. Perry
6. Dick
7. Philip
8. Hercules
9. Sherlock
10. Nero

Sudoku solution

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

Quiz answers

Answer 1: Elephant. The hyrax is a small mammal resembling a guinea pig. There are two species of rock hyrax and six of tree hyrax. The latter are also known as "dassies".
Answer 2: Faces. Of interest: Looking to the future and to the past. Janus is the god of gates and doorways, of beginnings and endings. Jupiter, ruler of the gods, made Janus two-faced as a punishment for treachery. Janus was originally shown with one face bearded and one smooth. His wife was Juturna, the goddess of springs.

The SUR in English corner

Sell your property in the UK

The "A Place in the Sun Live" exhibition takes place at Earls Court in London from March 30th to April 1st this year, and promises to be a busy event with guest appearances from the "Place in the Sun" TV star Amanda Lamb among others. There will also be seminars to help potential buyers, dealing with every possible aspect of buying in Spain, from planning the finances to actually making the move with goods and chattels.

SUR in English will also be there, with our own stand, and a property supplement which is already taking shape. The supplement will feature plenty of good reasons why UK exhibi-

tion-goers might choose to buy property in Andalucía, advice on how to go about it, and details of available properties, so if you want to sell yours, this is the place to do it. Or if you are looking for a property to buy and are going to be in the UK at the end of March, come along to the SUR in English stand (E1) for some impartial advice from our experienced staff, and a copy of the supplement.

The supplement will also be distributed inside SUR in English on March 30th, so buyers already in Spain should make sure they get a copy or download the pdf version from www.surinenglish.com. To advertise in the sup-



LAST YEAR'S SHOW. SUR

plement, get in touch with your advertising agent or agency, or ring 952649669.

Thought for the week

"A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark."

Chinese proverb

TOSHIBA
AIR CONDITIONING
• The most silent and economical on the market.
• **NOW** up to 5 rooms on 1 out-door unit.
• Cooling, heating & dehumidifying in the same system.
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M.M

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