

# BENALMADENA MONTHLY

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FIND OUT WHAT'S ON IN AND AROUND BENALMADENA



**DRAGON SLAYERS:** Mayor Garcia Galvez (centre) joins in the fun.

## Arroyo square turns red for St George's Day

BENALMADENA Mayor Paloma Garcia Galvez spent Saturday April 25 celebrating St George's Day with local British expatriates at the Plaza de la Mezquita in Arroyo de la Miel.

More than 1,000 people went along to celebrate the day's events, which were jointly organised by British associations from the area and Central FM Radio with collaboration from Benalmadena Council's Foreign Residents' department.

A variety of musical and children's

activities were held during the day, which was aimed at raising funds for two local charities: the association for sufferers and relatives of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, and the Adapted Swimming Association.

The traditional celebrations, held for the fifth year running, see more people taking part each year, both British residents and other citizens.

The mayor was accompanied by Foreign Residents' councillor Adolfo Fernandez and

other members of the local council who all praised the excellent organisation by Roger Davies and thanked him for the hard work and effort put in to help Benalmadena celebrate the day in style.

Garcia Galvez also praised the work of the Foreign Residents' department, "who offer support and help to ensure our foreign residents can celebrate their festivities and traditions even if they are far from home and allow everyone in Benalmadena to discover other cultures and customs."



**SAFETY FOR ALL:** Mayor at inauguration with representatives of government, police and Guardia Civil.

# Town launches new support service for foreign tourists

MAYOR Paloma Garcia Galvez and Secretary of State for Security Francisco Martinez launched a new Foreign Tourists' Attention Service (SATE) at the Benalmadena tourists' office last month.

The department aims to boost citizen safety and support for foreign tourists and help improve Benalmadena's image as a safe and attractive place to visit.

The SATE, created thanks to a

collaboration agreement between the council and the home office, will offer advice in a number of different languages for all sorts of situations including credit card cancellation, document requests and other security-related issues and will also be able to put visitors in touch with their consulate if needed.

The service can be found in the building that houses the tourist office in

Benalmadena Costa, close to the entrance to the marina.

The launch was attended by several officials, including government deputy Jorge Hernandez Mollar, Malaga Provincial Council vice-president Francisca Caracuel, head of Eastern Andalusia Police Jesus Redondo, Malaga provincial commissioner Pedro Garijo and Benalmadena commissioner Domingo Suarez.

# New equipment for fire brigade

BENALMADENA fire brigade has new equipment thanks to the council, which has provided portable rescue equipment and new helmets for the emergency team members.

Mayor Paloma Garcia Galvez explained that an investment of €26,000 had been made, showing the local authorities' commitment to

safety and welfare of all local citizens.

The new equipment has replaced that used in the past, which was more than 10 years old, and consists of an engine, metal cutters, a separator, double-effect, telescopic cylinder and adjustable support.

This equipment is the strongest currently available

and can be used to cut through highly resistant steel thanks to a 67 per cent higher cutting power.

The council also took another step to improve the fire brigade's equipment by buying 30 new, specialised firefighters' helmets.

The mayor said: "We want to provide our Fire Station with

the latest in equipment to help them in their rescue work and improve the service provided to citizens when accidents happen.

"The council will continue to work to guarantee our residents' safety with a quick, efficient service from the security and emergency teams by modernising and renewing their resources."

## Full house for British and Irish fair

BENALMADENA Marina's first Culture Fair was dedicated to English, Irish, Welsh and Scottish residents.

Almost 2,000 people turned up for the event, which was supported by an association of marina businesses in collaboration with the council, and was part of the Puerto Marina and the Legends of the Sea calendar. The series of events aims to boost visits to the marina area by offering entertainment and events.

The Culture Fair, which will be held again on the last weekend of this month, gives insight into the diverse cultures and traditions of expatriates on the Costa del Sol.

British and Irish musicians and dancers, including Chloe Carron, Mario, Celtic Dancers, Chris King and Silverbeats provided entertainment.

Foreign Residents' councillor Adolfo Fernandez said later that he was very happy with the excellent turnout and the number of expatriates who took part and thanked all involved for helping to make it a great event.

"This event put the final touch to an intense month of activities, including a Minichef competition at the Costa del Sol Olive Oil Fair and a traditional Seafood Fair, helping make Puerto Marina the most visited tourist marina on the Costa del Sol at weekends," he said.



**MARINE LIFE:** The Legends of the Sea Culture Fair showed off Irish and British traditions.



**INFORMED:** Almost 100 British expats attended a meeting with the local mayor.

# British residents meet the mayor

ALMOST 100 British expatriates who live in Benalmadena attended a meeting with Mayor Paloma Garcia Galvez at the Parque Innova in Arroyo de la Miel last month.

Hearing suggestions and finding out the needs of the expatriate community while keeping them informed of what the council has been up to is what these meetings are all about, and the mayor and Foreign Residents' councillor Adolfo Fernandez said they were very pleased with the attendance. Both expressed their intention to

continue to work hard for full integration of foreign residents, who make up 35 per cent of the local population.

"It's a pleasure to be able to meet the British community, which includes about 8,000 people, 12 per cent of the local population," the mayor declared, and thanked the group for getting involved in local affairs and events.

Topics discussed included the benefits of registering on the padron, renovation and road works, and activities being held at the marina



WELCOME: Mayor Paloma Garcia Galvez welcomed Belgian Ambassador Pierre Henri T Lavouerie to the Town Hall.

# Belgian Ambassador honours Benalmadena with a visit

MAYOR PALOMA GARCIA GALVEZ welcomed Pierre Henri T Lavouerie, Belgian Ambassador in Spain, to the town hall during his recent visit to the area.

The two attended a meeting with Tourism Councillor Adolfo Fernandez, General Consul Joris Salden and the Consul for Malaga Province, Claude de Hennin.

The mayor thanked the diplomat for visiting and later said he had had kind words on the opinion of the Belgian expatriate community in Benalmadena, the quality of life in the area and the council's work. "We at the town hall are really proud

that the ambassador came to visit as it allowed us to explain what we do for expatriates and also offer our collaboration," the mayor said, noting that the Belgian community is very important to Benalmadena and the expatriates are ideal residents who are well integrated into local society.

Meanwhile the ambassador praised Garcia Galvez's team's work and said he was impressed. The diplomat said that he was surprised by the quality of life his compatriots in the area enjoyed and stressed that the Belgian community was pleased

with the council's work.

Amongst the items on the agenda at the meeting were important points the council has pushed to aid integration of expatriates and collaboration between nationalities.

The ambassador was also shown a Mannekin-Pis statue (the emblem of Brussels) that the Belgian capital city's mayor had sent the town hall to replace one that went missing years ago from the seafront.

A sculpture of the Girl of Benalmadena can also be seen in the Spanish Square in Brussels.

## Off with graffiti to brighten up town

THE town council has launched a comprehensive programme to rid Benalmadena of graffiti eye-sores.

The Cleansing Department of the town has designed this project with the main goal of restoring, cleaning and maintaining façades and urban furniture to their best condition.

"A complete municipal team will take care of eliminating the graffiti, which we believe damages the tourist image of our town," said head of the department, Jose Miguel Muriel. The

official also asked for citizens' collaboration, urging them to alert Local Police if they witness anti-social behaviour in the streets.

"We have prioritised the main streets and squares of the town, as well as children's parks, schools and their surroundings," said Mr Muriel.

Finally, he has encouraged pet owners to be responsible and clean after their pets, to make Benalmadena a cleaner and better town.

## Bus line M-110 extended to reach Torrequebrada

THE bus line M-110 between Malaga and Benalmadena Costa extended its route last month to include the Nueva Torrequebrada Residential Complex.

The initiative was launched by the Metropolitan Transport Department of Malaga, as well as the town council's Transport Department and the company in charge of the buses, Portillo Avanza.

The new stop, called Torrequebrada, has been placed next to the Torrenueva Shopping Centre, which meant an extension of about 700 metres.

"With this extension, we want to prove our strong commitment with citizens who live in urbanisations, to improve their quality of life and wellbeing," said Mayor Paloma Garcia Galvez.



**INFORMATION:** Site in six languages will help everyone find what they're looking for.

## Multilingual website meets cutting edge of catering to tourists' needs

BENALMADENA has launched a new website in six languages, including Chinese and Russian, for tourists.

Mayor Paloma Garcia Galvez presented the new site, [www.disfrutabenalmadena.com](http://www.disfrutabenalmadena.com), created by the council's Tourism and New Technologies departments, which can be accessed from various types of electronic device.

The site, which aims mainly to promote Benalmadena's tourist image along with its top quality services and excellent attention to visitors, is available in

Spanish, English, French, German, Russian and Chinese, and can generate personalised information for visitors depending on their interests and the dates they plan to travel.

"With this website, Benalmadena has made another leap forward in quality and excellence as a top destination, offering tourists an essential informative tool to help them enjoy our area," the mayor said.

Garcia Galvez was accompanied at the launch by Tourism councillor Adolfo Fernandez, New Technologies councillor

Rafael Obrero, vice-president for Benalmadena of AEHCOS Costa del Sol Hoteliers' Association, Antonio Gonzalea, and Selwo Marina park representatives.

The mayor stressed the hard work put in by the council departments to create the website and thanked the New Technologies technicians for providing "a modern, attractive and easy to use site that will allow all internet users to gain access to tourist, gastronomical, cultural and leisure information."



**NEW LOOK:** Plaza Ole will be getting a much needed facelift.

# New look for Plaza Ole

## Tourist Office's excellent service rewarded

BENALMADENA Tourist Office has renewed its SICTED quality stamp.

The stamps are part of a project by the Spanish Tourism Institute and Spanish Municipalities and Provinces Federation to improve the quality of tourist destinations and are awarded to entities that offer excellent service for tourists.

The Costa del Sol is the top SICTED destination within Andalucia, with a total of 279 excellence stamps on the coast. Tourism councillor Adolfo Fernandez said he was very pleased, as the renewal proved that the office met requirements for quality and continual improvement.

MAYOR Paloma Garcia Galvez and Streets and Works councillor Concha Cifrian have presented a renovation Project for Plaza Ole to local residents and business-people.

A facelift for the square has been one of the most requested improvements in Benalmadena Costa, and the project has been drawn up by the council taking local residents' and businesspeople's opinions into account. Work will begin after

the summer to avoid inconvenience during the busy period.

The work, which will have a budget of €438,000, will cover an area of 3,000 square metres and aims to give the square a modern, nautical-themed look.

The area, which will be closed to traffic, will include trees, benches and pergolas to provide shade, allowing local residents to spend time relaxing and taking in views

of the sea.

Damp problems in nearby garages are also expected to be solved by the work.

Councillor Cifrian stressed that the work would not cost the council anything as the funding has come from the Plan Qualifica scheme.

Juan Carrillo, a Plaza Ole resident, thanked the council for "the effort put into this project, which will provide us with one of the most beautiful squares on the Costa."

## Tax reductions available for those in need

BENALMADENA Town Hall has announced that local residents in need can now apply for social aid with IBI property tax, water and rubbish charges.

Social Welfare councillor Ana Macias explained that help will be provided for those who really need it to cover their municipal taxes and fees, and until all applications have been considered charges will not be made.

The 50 per cent reductions can be applied for until June 5 by presenting forms and documentation at the Arroyo de la Miel Social

Welfare department from 10am to 1pm Mondays to Fridays.

Applicants must have been registered on the Benalmadena padron for at least two years, figure as the owner of the property concerned (which must be worth less than €275,000), own no other property and earn less than the minimum wage.

Macias declared: "This aid project is aimed to protect people having trouble meeting living costs, especially pensioners, disabled people, single-parent families and large families."

# WHAT'S ON IN MAY

## TUESDAY 5th

**Read On! Fluent, coordinated by Elise Freeman.** Arroyo de la Miel public library, 7pm. English Reading club. Howard's End by EM Forster will be discussed. Free entry, limited places available.

## WEDNESDAY 6th

**Book launch: Ilusion Blanca by Agustina Rios Avila**  
Arroyo de la Miel public library, 7pm. The library presents a book of poetry by Agustina Rios. Free entry, limited space available.

## THURSDAY 7th

**Library Afternoons.**  
**Arroyo de la Miel public library / Parque de la Paloma.** 7.30pm.  
Presentation of the new season of stories at the Poets' Monument in the Parque de la Paloma. With collaboration from the Parks and Gardens Department.

## FRIDAY 8th

**Friends of poetry, coordinated by Carmina Martinez.**  
Arroyo de la Miel public library, 7pm.  
Spanish poetry discussions.  
Free entry, limited space available.

## SATURDAY 9th

**Puerto Marina and the Legends of the Sea.** The Big Show. Free entry, from noon to 2pm and 5pm to 7pm

## TUESDAY 12th

**Zenobia Camprubi reading club,** coordinated by Olga Lopez de Lerma  
Arroyo de la Miel public library, 7pm.  
Expiacion by Ian McEwan will be

discussed. In collaboration with the Andalusian Literary Centre. Previous inscription required. Limited places.

## THURSDAY 14th

**Library Afternoons.** Arroyo de la Miel public library / Parque de la Paloma.  
7.30pm. Storytelling for all members of the public at the Poets' Monument at Parque de la Paloma.  
With collaboration from the Parks and Gardens Department.

## Art exhibition by Juan Pino

From May 14 to 29, Bil-Bil Castle. Juan Luis Pino Lozano 'PINO', a self-taught artist, has lived in Benalmadena since he was 11. He alternates his work as a designer and decorator at the Town Hall with painting, pottery and drawing. Since he was 18 he has held various exhibitions and taken part in competitions, the last of which was the Felipe Orlando national competition from which he brought home third prize and a special mention.

## FRIDAY 15th

**Concert by pianist Diego Rivera**  
Bil-Bil Castle, 8.30pm. Pieces by Bach, Mozart, Chopin, etc will be played. Tickets are available two hours before the concert for €5 to collaborate with the organisers, Malaga Youth Musicians.

## SATURDAY 16th

**Puerto Marina and the Legends of the Sea.** Festival of the 7 Seas. Free entry, from noon to 2pm and 5pm to 7pm

## Story marathon

Arroyo de la Miel, 11am start.

Aims: to encourage oral storytelling, citizen participation.

**Marathon:** Non-stop story-telling by volunteers for a 12 hour period.  
11am: Parade in the town centre  
Noon: Initial show

12.30pm Presentation and storytellers.  
Midnight: last story and marathon end. Those wishing to sign up to read a story can do so until May 16 at the Casa de la Cultura or public libraries.  
Organised by Benalmadena's Culture and Education departments.

## Choir Music Concert

**Museo de Arte Precolombino Felipe Orlando** // 12.30pm. Benalmadena city choir, conducted by Oscar Luis Sanchez

## TUESDAY 19th

**Cercle de Lecture et de L'Historie Reading club.** Museo de Arte Precolombino Felipe Orlando // 7pm  
Limited places available

## WEDNESDAY 20th

**Library Afternoons**  
Public Library Arroyo de la Miel // 6.15pm. Day for Multiculturalism

## THURSDAY 21st

**World poetry for Multiculturalism in Benalmadena.** Public Library Arroyo de la Miel // 10am

## Morning reading club

Public Library Benalmadena Pueblo // 11am. "Rojo y Negro" by Stendhal will be discussed

## Afternoon Reading club

Public Library Benalmadena Pueblo //

6pm. "El pais del miedo" by Isaac Rosa will be discussed

**Meetings with the classics, coordinated by Jesus Majada.** Public Library Benalmadena Pueblo // 7pm  
Reading Club in Spanish  
"El concierto de San Ovidio" by Antonio Buero Vallejo will be discussed

## THURSDAY 28th

**Reading Club in Finnish "Minnacanth" Coordinated by Markku Vento**  
Public Library Arroyo de la Miel // 7pm  
Limited places available

## FRIDAY 29th

**Concert: Caleidoscopio, Marta y Mico**  
Bil-Bil Castle // 8.30pm

## SATURDAY 30th

**Puerto Marina and the Legends of the Sea.** Culture Fair. Free entry, from noon to 8pm

## SATURDAY 30th-SUNDAY 31st

**Puerto Marina and the Legends of the Sea.** Artists from the Deep Sea. Free entry, from noon to 8pm.

**If you want to receive this Newsletter and other updates about cultural, sports and other events in Benalmadena please send an e-mail to [residentes@benalmadena.com](mailto:residentes@benalmadena.com) We will include you to our mailing list.**

# Useful telephone numbers

## Emergency numbers

All emergencies 112  
(This is a central call base for any emergency)  
Ambulance service 061  
Fire brigade 952 563 429  
Guardia Civil 062  
Local Police 092  
National Police 091  
902 102 112 - Reports in case of theft or robbery (English spoken)

## General telephone numbers

Endesa electricity company 900 248 248  
Hospital Carlos Haya, Malaga 952 390 400  
Hospital Clinico Universitario, Malaga 952 649 400  
Hospital Materno Infantil, Malaga 952 300 400  
Hospital Costa del Sol, Marbella 951 976 669/951 976 670  
GP appointments by phone to Salud Responde 902 505 060 or by internet [www.juntadeandalucia.es/servicioandaluzdesalud](http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/servicioandaluzdesalud)

Appointments for NIE applications at Torremolinos police station 952 378 437

## Local telephone numbers

Foreigners' Department, Town Hall 952 579 979  
Health Centre (Arroyo) 952 440 404/952 443 545  
Health Centre (Pueblo) 952 449 313  
Health Centre (Torrequebrada) 951 308 121  
Hospital Chare 951 976 070  
Hospital Xanit 952 443 119  
Local Police (Arroyo) 952 562 142  
Local Police (Pueblo) 952 579 853  
Sports Centre (Arroyo) 952 577 050  
Sports Centre (Pueblo) 952 568 085  
Taxis 952 441 545  
Tourist Office 952 442 494

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that much *stronger* than the competition, we  
knocked them out of  
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