

# SUR

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SPORT

## OUT ON THE GREENS AGAIN. THE COSTA DEL GOLF RETURNS

Phase One brought good news for golfers, athletes and tennis players as clubs slowly reopen **P32&33**



Coffee and churros on a terrace in Malaga on Monday. **NITO SALAS**

## Phase One brings back much-loved routines

Restaurants and bars were able to open their outdoor terraces at 50 per cent capacity this week

There have been further signs of a return to normality this week across Malaga province. Many towns and villages woke up to the smell of fresh coffee and churros on Monday morning as bars and restaurants were allowed to open their terraces to customers for the first time in two months, albeit with tables kept at least two metres apart. Shops too have been reopening, having made adjustments that allow customers to maintain a safe distance from one another. Museums and galleries are expected to follow next week. **P2,3&23**

# Regional government proposes replacing quarantine with tests for tourists at airports

A Spanish government minister suggests international travel could start to recover in July

Keen to get tourists back to Andalucía and save some of the peak holiday season, the Andalusian regional government has proposed that international visitors be tested

for coronavirus at airports, rather than forced into a two-week quarantine. The Junta's vice-president, Juan Marin, said on Thursday that a report had already been sent

to Madrid, suggesting body temperature checks and tests. Earlier, Spanish government minister Teresa Ribera, responsible for lockdown easing, said opening

up the country to international tourism prematurely would be "irresponsible" and they would be working more with July, rather than June, in mind. **P7**

## 'I never, ever thought I would end up asking for food'

Increasing poverty is one of the worst side effects of the Covid-19 crisis, as families are left with no income

Associations that work handing out free food packages to families in need on the Costa del Sol have never seen such long queues, and not just because people are social distancing. The coronavirus lockdown has left

numerous families without income, as furloughed workers wait for delayed unemployment payments and others missed out on benefits altogether. **P8&9**

## Face masks are now compulsory in Spain where social distancing is impossible

The government has this week made face masks compulsory in closed public spaces and outdoors where distancing isn't possible. This is in addition to existing rules for public transport. **P4&29**

## MORE INSIDE

**Mobile apps and drones** are among the tools local councils are considering using to control access to beaches when they reopen on the Costa del Sol **P6**

**Malaga CF set to lay off 50 members of staff** as part of the administrator's new measures to help plug the gap in the club's finances **P34**

**'People should not rush out into the street as if nothing had happened,'** warns hospital A&E chief on the easing of lockdown restrictions **P28**

**British man facing extradition** after being arrested for his involvement in a Mijas bar brawl which saw one man need surgery after being stabbed **P12**





A restaurant in Marbella with all its tables full on Monday. JOSELE



A customer is offered hand sanitiser at the entrance to a local shop. S. SALAS



Street markets were able to open this week. S. SALAS



Busy terraces in Malaga city centre. S. SALAS



Breakfasts with churros were back. S. SALAS

# Phase One gets going on the Costa del Sol

After more than 60 days with the shutters down, businesses around the province of Malaga welcomed back customers on Monday

**SUR**

**MALAGA.** The smell of fresh coffee and churros returned to pavements and squares around Malaga on Monday morning as the province moved in to Phase One of Spain's plan to ease coronavirus lockdown restrictions.

Numerous cafeterias began

serving coffee for the first time in 64 days, observing the regulations imposed by the authorities.

Breakfast merged into beer, wine and tapas as lunchtime approached while some customers headed straight for the beach bars to satisfy their craving for traditional fried fish and sardines by the sea.

In Phase One bars, restaurants and cafeterias are only able to serve customers at tables on terraces outside the premises, reducing previous capacity by 50 per cent. Tables must be arranged to allow a distance of two metres between them.

Customers from now on will also have to get used to new health and safety requirements. Staff waiting on tables are equipped with gloves, masks and in many cases face shields. Traditional elements previously shared by customers, such as paper napkin holders and olive oil bottles, can no longer be found on the tables. And after customers leave, the tables and chairs are thoroughly cleaned before the next customers can sit down.

Despite the easing of restrictions on Monday, many bars and shops decided to keep their shutters down, at least for the initial

few days of Phase One.

In Malaga city only around 20 per cent of establishments opened their terraces, but the one that did open were full by lunchtime.

The owner of Casa Lola in the city's Plaza Uncibay, Daniel Gumpert, said he was happy with the day's business despite having lost ten tables compared to the bar's previous capacity. "The important thing is that customers feel safe and want to come back," he said.

There was little activity on Monday morning in Marbella's normally bustling Plaza de los Nar-

ajos, as bars and shops remained closed with no tourists to serve. This was in contrast to other more residential neighbourhoods in the Costa town, where pavement terraces and restaurants were open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. This pattern was repeated in other tourist resorts.

Small shops and businesses were also been able to open this week without customers being obliged to make an appointment first. Large businesses, such as car showrooms and stores, have reopened but with just a section of their space open to the public.

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## Local authorities make concessions to help local businesses

Some local councils, such as Malaga, Marbella, Vélez-Málaga and Nerja, among others, have said that they will authorise bars to occupy more space than usual if possible. Coín and Antequera are among the local authorities that have said they will close central roads to traffic at busy times to allow bars to occupy more space with tables. This will also allow people out for a walk during the designated time slots to keep greater distance from others. Fuengirola council has said this week that its will waive the tax payable by business owners to occupy public spaces in 2020. This will benefit bars owners who put out their tables and chairs but also firms with information stands, kiosks and market stallholders, saving 1,297 local businesses a total of 1.4 million euros.

High street names such as Mango, Zara, Decathlon and Pull&Bear opened their doors, the larger premises cordoning off an area of 400 metres to comply with regulations.



ITV vehicle testing. P. J. QUERO

# Greater police presence required as crowds form in busy Malaga district

ÁLVARO FRÍAS / JUAN CANO

MALAGA. Police presence has been stepped up in the Malaga neighbourhood of Pedregalejo this week as many of its bars and restaurants reopened for the first time and complaints quickly started to pour in about overcrowding on the seafront.

This popular meeting spot sees terraces spill onto a thin strip of promenade which gets especially busy around meal times. Despite the lockdown, this week was no exception. With very limited space available, the only giveaway that the images of crowds seen this week weren't from a previous August day were the facemasks worn by waiters.

With people standing around, huddled together, waiting for a table narrowing the thoroughfare for cyclists and people on their daily permitted exercise, distancing has become particularly difficult and locals have become fearful for their safety. "We go out in fear because people don't respect the safety measures, don't wear gloves or masks," said one elderly

resident wearing a visor.

"This is becoming a huge source of contagion for the elderly, who are more vulnerable," said another.

As a result, the Local Police have had to intervene, increasing the number of officers (uniformed and plain-clothes) on patrol in the area to 30 on Wednesday.

By Thursday, after officers had

started to take a less lenient approach with those breaching rules and issued numerous fines for failure to comply, bicycles and electric scooters have now also been banned from the seafront between the Baños del Carmen and El Candado. This will particularly be enforced during the evening slot designated for exercise.



Police patrol the narrow promenade. NITO SALAS

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# Masks are now compulsory in Spain during the state of alarm

Offenders not following the rule could be fined but people won't be expected to use them while sitting down for a drink or a meal out

MELCHOR SÁIZ-PARDO

MADRID. The Spanish Health minister, Salvador Illa, this week announced new regulations over the use of masks in public areas, in force from Thursday (21 May).

The use of face masks is now compulsory in Spain in closed public spaces as well as in open areas where keeping a distance of two metres is not possible.

The new rule is in addition to the obligation to wear a mask on public transport already in force.

The ruling allows "any type of mask that covers mouth and nose, but preferably the hygiene [fabric] or surgical kind." Scarves will not be able to be worn as substitutes.

The measure will be in force throughout the state of alarm (currently to 7 June) and "its possible extensions". Offenders can be fined.

Children under the age of six



Illá wears his mask on Thursday. EFE

will not be obliged to wear a mask although the Health ministry "recommends" their use among three to five-year-olds.

Also exempt are people with "respiratory difficulties that could be aggravated by the use of a mask" as well as those with other health conditions that could be worsened or a "disability or dependence that causes behavioural alterations that make the use of a

mask inviable".

Masks do not have to be worn during "activities whose nature makes them incompatible" with their use.

The government's decree does not specify further details, although the ministry has endorsed the interpretation that this exemption can be applied to individuals practising sports such as runners and cyclists, even though they pass through areas where keeping a distance is impossible.

Neither are people expected to wear a mask if eating or drinking in a bar or restaurant. Use in a vehicle is only required if with people outside your household.

The minister said that the authorities would not be giving out free supplies of masks and it would be up to the general public to provide their own. This caused concern with some poverty action groups over the additional cost.

A price ceiling of 96 cents was fixed in April for basic surgical masks, sold in pharmacies.

**i All you need to know about masks** : See page 29

# Over 90% of Malaga Covid cases now cured

There were 56 patients in hospital in the province in the daily data published on Thursday

A. ESCALERA / M. SÁIZ-PARDO

MALAGA / MADRID. The latest data on Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol, shows that the first wave of Covid-19 infections is increasingly under control.

Figures released on Thursday said that 91.78% of those who have tested positive with a PCR test, seen as the more reliable test available, have now recovered. The total number of people now recovered was 2,537.

**There were 344 new cases nationally reported on Thursday, excluding Catalonia**

There were seven new cases and no new deaths reported locally in Thursday's figures. No patient had gone into intensive care locally.

In total, 281 people in the province have been recorded as dying from the disease and 1,375 across all of Andalucía. Regionally 92.64% of patients have now made a recovery.

In Malaga province, 56 patients are still in hospital with coronavirus, of whom six are in intensive care.

## National trends

The Malaga data was announced by the regional health ministry. National figures on Thursday were as usual in a slightly different format, as well as missing Catalonia because of a delay. Despite this, the picture across Spain was also encouraging.

The number of deaths in Spain in the previous 24 hours was 48, the lowest level since 12 March, two days ahead of the start of lockdown. There were 344 new cases nationally reported on Thursday, excluding Catalonia.

# Local politicians urge ministers to let the Costa del Sol go into Phase Two

The heads of the regional government and the provincial authority are worried that the Malaga area could be held back

M.D. TORTOSA / A. ROMERO

SEVILLE / MALAGA. The president of the Junta, Juanma Moreno, said in the regional parliament in Seville on Wednesday that he was worried that Malaga and Granada provinces wouldn't be allowed by central government to go into Phase Two on Monday (25 May).

His Andalusian government has asked for Malaga province (including Costa del Sol) and Granada (including Costa Tropical) to move



Juanma Moreno

provinces to spend at least two weeks in each phase, which means Malaga and Granada may be held back until 1 June.

"Malaga and Granada lost some of their good name when they couldn't move into the first phase... even though they had better [health] data than some regions... and without knowing what the criteria were that held them back," said Moreno.

His thoughts were echoed by Francisco Salado, head of Malaga's provincial authority and the Costa del Sol tourist board.

Salado explained it would be hard to explain any discrimination and it would be harmful for the tourism sector. He added, "We believe that this classification in the de-escalation doesn't match the reality of the epidemic [here] nor the capacity of the provincial health-care system."

The Government will announce the provinces moving into Phase Two later today (Friday) or on Saturday.

## THE PHASES STILL LEFT TO GO IN SPAIN'S ROUTE TO A 'NEW NORMAL'

### Phase One: Current in Malaga province\*

**Exercise:** Timetables to go outside for exercise continue for municipalities over 10,000 people (including staying in your own municipality) but regions can modify start/end times.

**Social contact:** Allowed in groups of up to ten for non-vulnerable people. You can travel within the province for this.

**Second homes:** Travel to second homes in same province.

**Car travel:** Two people per row of seats if not same household, with masks. If same household, up to vehicle capacity.

**Shops and businesses:** These can open to the public with reduced capacity up to 400 square metres if they have an entrance directly to the street.

**Cafes, bars & restaurants:**

Opening of outdoor terraces only, with 50% of capacity. Terrace areas can be increased if local town halls allow it.

**Hotels and self-catering:** These can open but communal areas, such as gardens or bars cannot. Strict disinfecting and social distancing rules.

**Cultural activities and leisure:** Events and shows for under 30 people, or 200 if the venue is outdoors. Museums can open but with reduced capacity.

**Sport: Professional or clubs -**

Opening of specialist spaces with protective hygiene measures and with a rota system.

**Non-professional sport / exercise:** Sports facilities in the open air and without spectators (athletics, tennis...). Individual sports with an appointment and without contact (including personal trainer). No dressing rooms allowed. Reduced capacity. No indoor gym classes.

**Places of worship:** Limited to a third of normal capacity.

**Public transport:** Face masks.

### Phase Two: Earliest 25 May for Malaga province but could be delayed at least a week more\*

In Phase Two, the restrictions will be relaxed even more, although activity can still only be within the province where you live, except for work. Details can change as the government announces the start of each phase.

**Exercise:** There will be no fixed timetables anymore for exercise in Phase Two, the government has announced.

**Social contact:** Groups of 15 (excl. the vulnerable still).

**Shops & businesses:** Shops can open with 40% capacity and time slots for vulnerable people. Shopping malls can open but with 30% capacity restrictions in communal areas.

**Bars and Restaurants:** Interiors

can now open with 40% capacity and no bar service.

**Hotels:** Communal areas too but with capacity restrictions.

**Non-professional sport:** Swimming pools can open at 30% capacity and gyms with limited capacity and by appointment. No contact sport.

**Professional or amateur league sport:** Basic training. Matches and competitions behind closed doors.

**Leisure:** Cinemas and theatres with reduced seating. Beaches are expected to open for bathing.

**Schools:** Up to 6 years. The rest in September.

**Care homes:** Visits by appointment only

### Phase Three: Earliest 8 June\*

Further measures towards the new normal, generally centering on more capacity in venues. Nightclubs can restart normal activity at reduced capacity.

\* Dates and rules dependent on approval of government ahead of each phase. Don't forget to wear a mask where two-metre social distancing is difficult or in an indoor space shared with others.

See [www.surinenglish.com](http://www.surinenglish.com) for updated information



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# Mobile apps, drones and controlled access to beaches, as the Costa prepares for summer

The regional government has approved a list of guidelines as local authorities are now faced with the challenge of how to guarantee distancing and hygiene on the beaches this summer

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ



MÁLAGA. Coastal towns are getting ready to ensure that the 161 kilometres of beaches in the province can open in Phase Two of the easing of restrictions under safe conditions and, as far as possible, without crowds. Málaga is expecting this to be from 1 June, although the regional government has asked

the government to bring it forward to 25 May. All the councils plan to carry out extra cleaning and disinfection, provide information via beach monitors, signs and megaphones and, which is most complicated, control overcrowding on the most popular beaches, which are normally those in the towns.

The Junta de Andalucía recommends setting a maximum number of users, based on the recommendation of at least a two-metre distance, but is leaving this to town halls to decide. In practice, it is not going to be easy, and the councils are looking for ways to control the numbers without having to create

MEASURES PROPOSED BY THE JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA FOR THE USE OF BEACHES IN PHASE TWO PHOTOS: SALVADOR SALAS

## Numbers

The maximum will vary and could be no more than 50 per cent

The contingency plan being drawn up by councils has to set a maximum number of users allowed on the beaches. How many should this be? The Junta doesn't specify this, just refers to Health authority guidelines. However, it has said that on some beaches the capacity might have to be reduced to 50 per cent. It also recommends a distance of at least two metres between users, marked by signs on the ground, and all personal items such as towels, bags and cool boxes will have to remain within that safety perimeter.

## Opening and closing times

Timetable to allow for daily cleaning

There will be opening and closing times for beaches so that they can be cleaned and disinfected at the start and end of each day. The councils will decide the times that the beaches can be used. In terms of sports activities, recreational or professional, these will only be allowed if they can be done individually and with no physical contact. In other words, there may be none of the usual football or bat and ball games on the beaches this summer.

## Access

Those who arrive and those who leave, separated

The accesses to the beaches will have to have information signs showing the new regulations. When entering and leaving the beach, people must maintain social distancing from those coming the other way. If this is not possible, a special entrance and separate exit will have to be provided. On beaches where

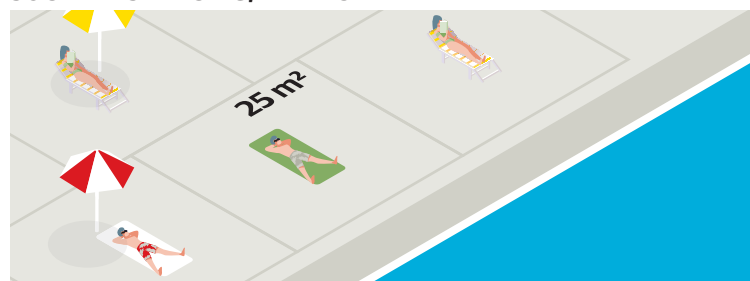
## Maintaining social distancing on the Costa del Sol's beaches

Málaga city hall established three possible levels of social distancing on beaches in its plans for the relaxation of restrictions

### NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, NO SOCIAL DISTANCING



### SOCIAL DISTANCING, LEVEL 3



- Normal circumstances, no social distancing (3-5m²)
- Social distancing Level 1 (10 m²)
- Social distancing Level 2 (15 m²)
- Social distancing Level 3 (25 m²)

Source: Ayuntamiento de Málaga

GRAPHIC ENCARNI HINOJOSA



Accesses.

there is enough space, special areas should be allocated for people with mobility difficulties and those over the age of 65. Also, if the beach becomes full and people are waiting for someone to leave, shaded areas should be provided for them, always enabling them to maintain social distancing. Equally, entry to and exit from nearby parking areas should be controlled and staggered.

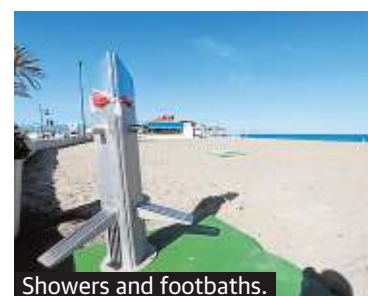
## Distancing on the beach and in the sea

Councils have the right to ban inflatables

Town halls are obliged to introduce preventive and general safety measures for people who use their beaches, regarding physical distancing and respiratory hygiene. They are also permitted to prohibit certain recreational activities until the pandemic situation allows them to resume. It will be obligatory for children under the age of 14 to be accompanied by an adult on the beach at all times. The Junta also stipulates that councils have the right to ban floating sunbeds and other inflatables if they wish to do so.

## Showers and footbaths

One person at a time and no manual controls



Showers and footbaths.

The Junta recommends that as far as possible showers and footbaths should have no manual controls, so people don't have to touch them. If this is not possible, then special attention must be paid to cleaning and disinfecting of any parts which could come into contact with people's skin. These facilities may only be used by one person at a time, unless accompanied by children or dependents.

## Sunbeds and sun umbrellas

Placed apart, no mattresses and cleaned after every use

Like the other recommendations, the first priority is to arrange them so a safe distance is guaranteed or, if this is not possible, to place physical barriers between users. Mattresses should not be provided: people must use their own towels, and will have to book sunbeds in advance and pay by virtual methods. For hygiene purposes, each sunbed must be cleaned and disinfected before being used again.



Sunbeds and umbrellas.

## Toilets and changing rooms

Changing rooms closed, and one person at a time in toilets

The use of changing rooms and showers is not recommended, but if changing facilities are provided people must not use their showers. With regard to toilets, people must be able to go in and come out without using their hands and councils are advised to install automatic sensors on the taps. Only one person at a time may enter, unless with a child or someone who is dependent, and footwear must be worn at all times. Hydroalcoholic gels must be available at the entrance.



Toilets and changing rooms.

## Special areas for jetskis, pedalos etc

Continual disinfection and reservations only

If water sports of this type are permitted, liquid soap or hydroalcoholic gel must be available at all times for clients, who must disinfect their hands before using the equipment. In the same way as sunbeds, the facilities must be disinfected every time they are used and again at the end of the day, and must be deep-cleaned. It is recommended that bookings should be made in advance and paid by virtual means. With regard to whether pedalos or other equipment for hire can be used by more than one person, the Junta suggests that councils should follow the Health authority recommendations regarding groups.



gateways, which would be extremely complicated. Many are looking at mobile apps and even drones so they can see in real time how busy each beach is, and whether it needs to be closed.

This technology will also be available for the public, so people can choose where to go before setting off. Some places, such as Benalmádena, are considering closing some accesses to make it easier to control numbers.

To lend the councils a hand, and depending on what the Junta ends up contributing after its president, Juanma Moreno, said this week that it would offer “human resources and materials” to town halls, the Diputación (provincial government) has begun its ‘Playas Covid-Free’ project, which consists of an app with continual information about the conditions everywhere on the coast. At the moment it is being tested in Torremolinos and Rincón de la Victoria.

### Sensors in Fuengirola

Fuengirola council has perhaps the most pioneering plan of all, with around 60 artificial intelligence sensors in street lights along its seven kilometres of coast to control crowding on beaches. Anyone would be able to access this information via a free mobile app. This tool, designed by local company Juma, creates virtual grids and establishes a maximum occupancy figure based on the recommended two-metre distancing. If the occupancy level on the beach is correct it will show up in green, if it reaches 75 per cent it will change to amber and if it goes up to 100 per cent then it will turn red.

Malaga city is also looking at different apps, but recognises the complexity of having to control access to its 13.5 kilometres of beaches. The council is calling on people to be responsible about complying with social distance and

### Fuengirola is a pioneer with artificial intelligence sensors in street lights along its seven kilometres of beaches

hygiene recommendations, in addition to monitoring by the Local Police, lifeguards and Civil Protection. It has announced that showers and footbaths cannot be used, to prevent contagion.

Marbella, which with 27 kilometres has the largest stretch of coast in the province, is working on different scenarios but always with flexibility in mind. There are more than 250 accesses to its beaches, so this will be difficult to control. However, it does have one advantage, which is that apart from some urban beaches, overcrowding is not normally a problem

The council is working on different aspects. First, an app to control numbers, which will also use information from Local Police drones. They are investing in more signs and megaphones and will work with beach businesses to reconfigure spaces for sunbeds.

In Benalmádena, the council is still drawing up the contingency plan demanded by the Junta, and this will include closing some accesses to beaches in order to focus on those which have been prepared. This will mean extra monitoring by lifeguards and Civil Protection, additional use of the Local Police information network, and there are also plans for an app to help measure numbers of people on the beaches.

Torremolinos has not yet announced any details, and in Estepona the local authority is not too worried about crowding because, apart from the Playa del Cristo, this is not normally a problem.

### Axarquía

In Vélez-Málaga, as well as introducing a 2.5-metre grid system on the sand, the council is applying for permission to use a drone to check the numbers of people on its 23 kilometres of coast. So far it doesn't know how it will control entry to and exits from beaches, nor the maximum numbers, although the idea is to use an app.

In Rincón de la Victoria the lifeguard service has been expanded to include a special monitoring team and there will be at least 18 lifeguards a day along the nine kilometres of coast.

So far, Nerja and Torrox councils have only said they will adapt in accordance with the Health authority guidelines and the recommendations from the Junta.

### Contributors to this report :

Héctor Barbotta, Agustín Peláez, Eugenio Cabezas and Charo Márquez.

## Junta proposes Covid-19 testing for foreign visitors in bid to get tourism restarted

JOSÉ LUIS PIEDRA /  
FERNANDO TORRES

SEVILLE. The Junta de Andalucía regional government has proposed to Madrid opening up international tourism by scrapping the 14-day quarantine announced last week and implementing temperature controls at airports and giving coronavirus tests to foreign visitors.

The regional minister for Health and Families, Jesús Aguirre, confirmed following a Cabinet meeting in Seville on Thursday that the proposal had already been submitted to central government and is not dissimilar to the strategy being imposed in other countries.

According to Aguirre, these controls could be implemented in Andalucía's main airports (Malaga-Costa del Sol and Seville) and would give the region's key sector a massive boost.

Juan Marin, regional minister for Tourism, for his part, stressed that it was time to end the “wrong” decision of the government to impose a quarantine on new arrivals. “[It] makes no sense if it is intended to revive the sector. There are other ways, such as the methods we are proposing in Andalucía.”

### First quarantined visitors

The first people to arrive in Malaga under the new restrictions touched down on Saturday (all flights on previous days were cancelled) on two flights from Oslo and Stockholm.

Arriving passengers, around 100 in total, were made to pass through two checkpoints. At the first, they were given a quick medical examination, including taking their temperature, and at the second they were asked about the purpose of their visit and reminded of their obligation to self-quarantine for 14 days.

“This quarantine is incompatible with any type of trip. No one from the EU is going to choose to come to Spain like this,” said tour operators Freddy and Mia, arriving from Sweden.



Arriving passengers. F. TORRES

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### First aid posts

#### One at a time and only the most urgent cases

The first aid posts must be disinfected with every change of shift. Their use is only recommended when strictly necessary, and only one person allowed in at a time, except with children or dependents.

### Advice for swimmers

#### Shower at home and don't stay on the beach more than four hours

If you have any symptoms, stay at home. Otherwise, shower before going to the beach and when you get home, use one towel per person, don't share objects with people outside the family group, try to stay no longer than four hours to avoid crowding and, above all, behave responsibly.

## Communal swimming pools unlikely to open this summer with controls “impossible”

MATÍAS STÜBER

MALAGA. Many communal swimming pools in residential developments are unlikely to open this summer, according to the president of the College of Property Administrators of Malaga, Alejandro Pestaña. This follows the Ministry of Health's announcement on Saturday of a new limit of 30 per cent capacity, as well as a shift system, that must be implemented if they are to be used.

Pestaña believes that for most residents associations, this will prove to be very difficult to put in place as “most of them do not have any system to control the capacity”.

Cost is another consideration as not only will an appointment



A group of bathers last summer. SUR

system have to be established (and potentially someone employed to enforce it), the facilities also have to be disinfected three times a day.

However, the final decision will be up to the individual resi-

dents associations which during the state of alarm haven't been able to meet. If, however, they are willing and able to meet the requirements, pools can reopen from Phase Two, expected in Malaga province on 1 June.



# The virus that spreads poverty



Cáritas offers assistance at churches, such as El Rocío in San Pedro. JOSELE

**"I never, ever thought I would end up asking for food"**

**Extreme situation.** The crisis is obliging more people to ask for help, including the newly unemployed, low-paid workers and those who have been laid off and are still awaiting payments

ALBERTO GÓMEZ



**S**ome keep their heads lowered. This is the first time they have asked for food. Others have been needing help for months, or even years. Just before midday, in Torremolinos, the queue of people, maintaining social distance, stretches for a kilometre, beyond the Plaza Costa del Sol. They are waiting to collect a bag containing two courses, a piece of fruit and a sandwich. Sometimes there are biscuits, milk or sweets, explains Daniela. She is from Ecuador, but has been in Spain for 13 years. She was working as a domestic cleaner, until the doors of the country closed to stop the coronavirus coming in. It is over two months since she has worked, 66 days with no income. She has applied for every type of benefit going. "All, all of them," she says. Now, she is waiting her turn, like a hundred other people, at the doors of the Emaús social kitchen, in Calle de la Cruz.

The Local Police control this area to ensure there are no problems. The number of users has shot up to 260 in recent weeks. Before the crisis, there were 150. The situation is the same in the organisation's kitchens in Estepona, where they attend to 220 people, 130

more than before the pandemic, and Vélez-Málaga, where they are providing 280 bags of food a day, 50 more than before. And the worst, they warn, is still to come.

At the same time as the requests for help have increased, says Charo Abril, the secretary of Emaús, so have donations from individuals, local businesses and major supermarket chains as well. "They are really getting involved," she explained. The councils have also expanded the agreements they have with the association.

What is most surprising is the number of people who are coming for food packs now, who have never been before. The crisis, following on from a major recession just over a decade later, has caught many families with no savings, unable to pay their bills. "Some people came after being laid off work, but when their payments started coming in they came back to thank us," says Charo.

Others, around 30,000 in Malaga province, have not received any payment yet. "We are also attend-

ing to people who were waiting for the peak season to begin because they were due to work in hotels and restaurants, but now they don't know what is going to happen," she says.

Many of the people who have found themselves forced to turn to social services in recent weeks had never imagined themselves in this situation. José Antonio normally lives on what he earns between Easter and November, when the beach restaurant in which he works is open. Or, rather, used to

work: "I have asked my parents for help, but there are three of us and two of us have no work or sign of getting any in the future," he says. He has learned not to feel ashamed, although he admits that the first few days he stood in the queue were difficult.

"I know we aren't stealing anything from anybody, but you do feel a failure. You can't even feed your family," he says. And, choking up, "Please don't use my real name. Make one up instead".

Manuel is also in the queue. He

**"There hasn't been a social uprising and that is due to the work of the associations"**

A. GÓMEZ

**MALAGA.** The Cáritas network, in over 150 churches in the province, helps people in every town and village. Its director, Francisco José Sánchez Heras, says the number of requests for help shot up immediately, and the association

is assisting three main groups: "Those we were already giving a hand to before the pandemic, others who have never come before and some who received help during the economic crisis, then stopped and have now had to come back," he says. The situation is causing "a great deal of suf-

fering", especially for workers who were already unable to make ends meet even though they had a job. "We have seen that many people were living in a subsistence economy, from domestic staff to professionals in the construction industry or tourism, workers who were paid cash in hand and people who were involved in marginal activities, such as collecting scrap metal".

Sánchez Heras says assistance from non-profit-making associations has saved many families so far: "There hasn't been a social uprising and that is because of the

work of the associations who have responded to an emergency, but people need to receive their assistance from the State and employment needs to be reactivated because we have fragile integration mechanisms and part of the population is living at risk of exclusion," he says.

Cáritas also highlights the role of many women who were working "cleaning houses and looking after children or elderly people because the husband was out of work, and now they have ended up with no income at all". Their lives have been put on hold.



works in hotel administration and says he will never forget the first time he came to the canteen, either. "I used to see it when I passed by here, but I never thought I would end up coming in," he says. He has still not received his payments for the ERTE that his firm applied for several weeks ago. He lives with his partner, who had a seasonal job in a restaurant. Sometimes they take it in turn to queue for the food. "We get here around 11.30 and get home about 1 o'clock, but we are very grateful". They have never had to ask for food before. Although they try to live one day at a time, concern about their mortgage is keeping them awake at night. "We still have a lot to pay off and we don't have any savings".

### Social assistance

The Spanish Red Cross, Cruz Roja, is now helping three times as many people as before in social assistance projects. So far they have provided 5,630 vouchers for shops selling basic products and over 5,000 bags of food. Samuel Linares, the provincial coordinator in Malaga, confirms that in recent weeks they have seen a "sudden increase in poverty", especially among people employed in the



Cruz Roja, during a delivery. GUILLAUME PINON



Donations of food have also increased. JOSELE

After the recession of 2008, this new crisis has caught many families with no savings and unable to pay their bills

"There is suddenly more poverty, especially among workers in the services sector," say sources at Cruz Roja

services sector. "We are experiencing a real situation of emergency", he says. In addition to the people who already needed help before the crisis, those who had been dragged into a chronic spiral of poverty, there are now applications from workers who have no way of saving money.

Aware that the solution lies in recovering employment, Cruz Roja has reinforced its work orientation initiatives. Marco learned about the programme for young people through his mother, who receives food packs "because we don't have enough to live on, otherwise". Now he is doing an English course and another in computer skills and this has also helped his self-esteem. "I didn't used to be very sociable and I was a bit isolated, but this wakes you up. You start to feel as if you are back in the circle, part of soci-

ety again," he says.

Linares says people need to abandon their prejudice about social services. "It is important that they stop seeing this assistance as something negative. These are resources which are available for anybody who needs them, just as if you are ill you go to the health centre," he insists. He hopes there will soon be a time when the economy starts to recover so these users will be able to benefit from their new-found skills to find a job.

More than a quarter of people in Malaga who had a job in February are now unemployed or their contract has been suspended, a figure which means that thousands of families do not know how they are going to pay their bills.

At the church of El Rocío in San Pedro Alcántara, Cáritas attends to dozens of people every day who have never requested assistance before, nearly all them employed in the tourist industry. Sources at Cruz Roja quote another startling statistic: thousands of elderly people have spent more than two months on their own. "We are very worried about them," they say. They know that poverty, like the virus, affects the most vulnerable the most.

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# One Briton seriously injured and six held in bar brawl in Mijas Costa

Police had to call for back up and one of those UK nationals arrested was already facing extradition in connection with drug trafficking

**FERNANDO TORRES /  
JUAN CANO**

MALAGA. Guardia Civil officers arrested six Britons who took part in a bar brawl in Mijas Costa on Monday night. According to sources, about a dozen people were involved, one of whom had to be taken to the Costa del Sol Hospital for emergency surgery after being stabbed several times, once in the abdomen.

All those involved were British nationals aged 25 to 40. Of the six detainees, five have already been released on charges, while the sixth was transferred to Madrid on Wednesday where he was due to respond to two extradition orders issued by the British authorities. He is reportedly linked to several drug trafficking cases.

The events took place on Monday shortly after 11pm. According



Blood and damaged furniture on the floor at the scene in Torrenueva. SUR

to sources, a Guardia Civil patrol approached the bar in Torrenueva because there were signs that there might be activity inside breaking lockdown rules. Shortly afterwards, the fight escalated and the noise of furniture and glass breaking could be heard from outside.

Once police back-up arrived, those in the brawl ran out of the bar, six of whom, who appeared to have been drinking and con-

suming other substances, were detained by officers despite allegedly violently resisting arrest.

According to SUR sources, the six detainees knew each other and the confrontation was reportedly the result of a mixture of alcohol and drugs, although the trigger of the dispute is not known.

The owner of the premises has filed a complaint about the damage caused.



The fire only affected part of the club's exterior. C. MÁRQUEZ

## Police believe Marbella beach club fire could have been started on purpose

Flames broke out in the early hours of Tuesday morning but the damage didn't stop the Naô Pool beach club opening the next day

**CHARO MÁRQUEZ**

MARBELLA. Police have launched an investigation into a potential arson attack after a fire broke out at the Naô Pool beach club in Nueva Andalucía, managed by the son of Marbella businesswoman Olivia Valère, in the early

hours of Tuesday morning.

The damage only affected part of the exterior of the club which was able to open the next day, albeit two hours later than planned, as its essential services were not affected.

At the same time as the fire broke out, firefighters in Marbella also had to respond to reports of three cars ablaze in the Bello Horizonte residential development.

Early signs suggest that the fire at the beach club could have been intentional and a link to the vehicles has not yet been ruled out.



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# Furloughed workers in Malaga province angered by fraudulent employers

Many full-time workers claim their social security payments were greatly reduced because they had been forced to work on part-time contracts

TONY BRYANT



MALAGA. Thousands of employees who were laid off from work because of restrictions enforced by the coronavirus pandemic have claimed that they have suffered financially because they had not been working on the correct employment contracts. Many full-time employees claim that their social security payments were greatly reduced because they had been forced to work on part-time contracts.

Staff that were furloughed because of the state of alarm could apply for the ERTE, which allowed them to claim unemployment benefit after their contracts were suspended. The amount received is calculated from an average of the previous 180 days employment and workers are entitled to 70 per cent of the base salary for the first six months. This is reduced to 50 per cent thereafter. However, many

people did not receive as much as they expected and most put the blame with their employers.

Sue (not her real name) has worked in restaurants on the Costa del Sol for many years and she claims that her current employer is one of many that does not comply with the Spanish work contract laws.

"My boss claims that a full contract would cost too much so he only pays the bare minimum. Because I work on a part-time contract, my social security payment was reduced because my nomina (payslip) shows less money than I actually earn," she explained to SUR in English.

Sue, a single parent, says she will most likely have to return to work on the 20-hour contract as she has no alternative.

"If I refuse to sign the contract then I won't have a job, it's a simple as that," she said.

Rob (not his real name) has worked as a full-time chef at a bar in Torremolinos for more than six years. He usually works in excess of 40 hours per week, but he claims that his contract shows that he only works 20 hours. However, he said that he was unaware of the complications this would cause with the benefit payment he received during the crisis and has hit out at his boss for "totally ignoring the wellbeing of his staff".

"You don't really think how the

social security contributions affect things like unemployment benefit until something like this happens. My boss has saved thousands over the years by not offering the proper contracts. He even forces me to sign fictitious time-sheets that show far less hours than I work. I have been struggling to make ends meet and this is solely because of my employer's failure to comply with the rules: it's disgraceful," he declared.

## Breaking the law

One employer, who has owned a restaurant on the coast for more than 20 years, claims that it would be impossible to put his staff on full-time contracts. The restaurateur, who wishes to remain anonymous, said he "knows he is breaking the law" but he has no option

**Although falsifying a work contract is illegal, many employers claim to have no option other than to break the law**

because he would simply "go out of business" if he paid the full amount for his staff.

"When I first bought the bar, we did everything by the book. It was a lot busier then and we made enough money, but over the last few years, trade has dropped off. To put all of my staff on the correct contracts would cost more than 3,000 euros a month. The law should be changed," he claimed.

Benalmádena based C & P Consultancy emphasised that, although

falsifying contracts is illegal, many employers claim to have no option other than to break the law, although they expressed that they always instruct clients of the consequences should they get caught.

Depending on the professional category, a full-time contract (40 hours) costs approximately 500 euros per month: a 20-hour contract is around 220 euros, so, as gestor Christopher Pigg points out, "it's easy to see why so many employers knowingly break the law."

"It is very difficult for employers to meet these payments. They must pay wages, plus social security and insurance for each member of staff. Obviously, the more staff you have the higher the social security and insurance payments, but this is the way the social security system works in Spain. It is very expensive to employ people correctly, so many are prepared to take the chance by only offering part time contracts, which is illegal. We always advise our clients of the dangers involved, but the majority are willing to take the chance," Christopher explained

## Free takeaway for the Torremolinos needy

A complimentary hot meal is available for Torremolinos residents every day between 6pm and 7.30pm

T. BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. A kind-hearted Torremolinos bar owner has started to offer free food to those who are struggling to survive during the coronavirus crisis.

Cafetería Princesas, in Plaza Andalucía, is offering a complimentary hot meal between 6pm and 7.30pm every day. The takeaway service is available to anyone from Torremolinos and the only stipulation is that they bring their own plastic container.

Xavier, who has owned the bar for the last ten years, explained that he felt it was necessary "to help those who need food during this difficult time".

"I decided to offer a free hot meal to anyone who needs it. There are




Bar owner Xavier (l) and Nico. T. B.

many people in Torremolinos who do not have sufficient food," he explained to SUR in English.



Xavier added that chef, Nico, is a former contestant of the Spanish Masterchef, so "the food will be of the highest standard".

In order to continue offering the service, which will be available until the lockdown is lifted, Xavier is appealing for donations of non-perishable food products.

"Anyone can leave supplies at the bar and this will help us to ensure that no one needs to be hungry," Xavier said.



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# Petition launched calling for new cycle lane network in Marbella

**Acción por el Clima Marbella wants the council to revisit its 2014 plan for sustainable urban mobility**

**HÉCTOR BARBOTA**

**MARBELLA.** A new petition has been launched by the Acción por el Clima Marbella association, asking Marbella town hall to create a new network of cycle lanes.

This comes as a direct result of the council's initiative to ban cy-

clists from the promenade and to facilitate makeshift cycle lanes, including on the main Avenida Ricardo Soriano, to ease congestion on the seafront and to help with social distancing. "How curious that we needed a pandemic to discover the joy of cycling through the centre of Marbella without the usual dangers," says the text that heads the petition which by Thursday had almost 500 signatures.

The association hopes to encourage the council to revisit a plan drawn up (and never implemented) for bicycle lanes in 2014 with the

aim of integrating this means of sustainable transport into Marbella's urban mobility.

According to the petitioners, resuming this project now would make sense, especially because temporary spaces have already now been created and are being widely used. "It shows once again that the people of Marbella want to walk and want to cycle, without causing a nuisance for anyone and without any risk, especially with regard to cars," they say.

[change.org/MarbellaPlanBici](https://www.change.org/MarbellaPlanBici)



## Russian artist wins Estepona mural prize

Russian artist Vyacheslav Gunin, known as 'Sav45', has been named winner of the second Estepona International Mural competition with the work 'La Caída' which "represents the mystical way a woman dreams of nature", according to judges. The mural can be seen in the Isabel Simón neighbourhood and Gunin will receive 10,000 euros in prize money.

## Torremolinos train station works force closure of platform

**TONY BRYANT**

**TORREMOLINOS.** After nine months of extensive infrastructure work, the Torremolinos Cercanías station has entered phase two of its renovation project. In order to progress with the work, platform two has now been closed, so passengers for Malaga and Fuengirola must both now use platform one.

One of the main priorities of the project is to install new elevators and escalators to allow easy access for travellers with

mobility problems and those with heavy luggage. Torremolinos town hall has emphasised that the work will not affect the train service which will maintain its usual schedules. The ticket machines will remain in their current location.

The renovation of the station, through which more than two million travellers pass annually, is expected to cost 7.5 million euros.

Torremolinos is one of the few stations on the Malaga-Fuengirola line that fails to comply with accessibility standards in Andalucía.



Torremolinos station. **T. BRYANT**

**MALAGA**

## Malaga company wins planetarium contract

**J. HINOJOSA.** A local Malaga investment company has won the contract for the construction of a planetarium on the outskirts of the city, next to the Campamento Benítez nature area, beside Plaza Mayor.

The winning bid was presented by engineering firm Gestomer, together with renowned local astronomer Alberto Castro-Tirado and the multinational Sky Skan, which specialises in the construction of planetariums.

Their project, which obtained a higher technical and viability score than that of Jaén firm AstroÁndalus, also offered a higher annual fee for the use of the land - 115,000 euros.

The team of businessmen who won the contract have assured SUR that the difficulties posed by the pandemic will have no bearing on their ability to carry out the project.

Once built, it will be the largest planetarium in the country, as the tender specifications required its dome to have an interior diameter of over 20 metres, which is the size of Pamplona's planetarium, the largest in Spain at present.

**TORREMOLINOS**

## Initiative to kickstart cultural agenda

**T. BRYANT.** Torremolinos town hall has announced a new initiative to reactivate the town's summer cultural calendar. The scheme is aimed at local artists that wish to promote their own events.

The council will support proposals by offering locations where cultural events can be held. These will include outdoor concerts staged in one of the town's many plazas, or exhibitions and shows held in one of cultural facilities.

The cultural department has also pledged to help with the promotion of all events selected for the programme. In addition, there are plans to develop a database for musicians, groups, actors, theatrical companies, magicians, comedians, painters and sculptors.

Councillor for Culture, David Tejeiro said "We want to mitigate the negative impact caused by the pandemic by providing as much support as possible to the local cultural sector, which is so essential for a municipality like ours."

To enroll, participants must send their proposals by email to [promocioncultural@ayto-torremolinos.es](mailto:promocioncultural@ayto-torremolinos.es).

**BENALMÁDENA**

## Cudeca charity shops in need of volunteers

**SUR.** Cudeca will reopen the majority of its shops across Malaga province on Monday but with many volunteers in the high-risk group, the charity is looking for between 20 and 30 people willing to lend a hand for three to four hours a week.

Volunteers can work morning or afternoon and will be required to receive donations, classify them, help customers, sell items, decorate the shop and spread awareness about the Cudeca hospice and the special care it provides.

Those interested should either send an email to [voluntariado@cudeca.org](mailto:voluntariado@cudeca.org) or call 671 048 304.

**BENALMÁDENA**

## 1m-euro resurfacing project set to start

**I. GELIBTER.** Benalmádena town hall has awarded a one-million-euro contract which will see 14.5 kilometres of the municipality's roads resurfaced.

This measure comes as part of the council's 50-million-euro investment in public infrastructure, announced last week, which it says will create more jobs and kickstart the local economy in light of the pandemic.

According to SUR sources, the contract was won by Maygar SL which will start work in the coming weeks. Once started, it is expected to be completed within 90 days.



Work under way. **SUR**

**TEBA**

## Endesa starts work on two solar farms

**A. JIMÉNEZ.** The renewable energy branch of Endesa, EGPE, has started work on two solar farms, La Vega I and La Vega II in Teba.

Forty-five people are working on the construction and that figure will rise to more than 200 with the help of the town hall.

Once completed, these photovoltaic power stations will provide enough energy for 30,000 homes.



# Police break up illegal campsites at popular Maro beauty spot

## MARO

A boat had to be used to remove the vast amounts of rubbish which had accumulated and a number of street dogs were rescued

### EUGENIO CABEZAS

MARO. More than 20 local police and Guardia Civil officers were involved in an operation to dismantle 15 illegal campsites on Monday in different locations along Maro's beach and three foreigners were denounced for camping illegally in the area, according to Nerja's councillor for security, Francisco Arce.

The municipal cleaning services removed a large amount of rubbish from the area and had to use a boat to clear some of it. A number of stray dogs that had 'adopted' the campers were also removed by animal control services.

The campsites were located



Local police and Guardia Civil officers on Maro beach. SUR

in the La Caleta, Barranco de Maro and Águila aqueduct caves, all of which are in the natural park area of the Maro cliffs.

Both Maro and Nerja have become popular places among illegal campers in recent years, with the spring months attract-

ing a particularly high number of people.

In Nerja last year illegal campsites were dismantled along the Paseo de los Carabineros, near the town centre and at Cueva del Lobo Marino near Burriana beach.

# Vélez-Málaga studies plans for live music events in bars

## A. PELÁEZ

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Vélez-Málaga town hall will take a proposal to its next council meeting to allow small live concerts on terraces and in premises such as beach bars and pubs.

Deputy mayor, Jesús Pérez Atencia, said that the plan was to

"revitalise" the local economy but that "residents and bar owners must know the limits".

He went on to say that premises would have to apply to the town hall for a licence along with an acoustic study and proof that the performances will not have a negative impact on residents who live nearby.

# Man questioned over stray dog

E. C. A 57-year-old man from Vélez-Málaga is being investigated by the Guardia Civil for cruelty to animals after a greyhound with a microchip linking it to him was found by in Salobreña. The animal was malnourished and had tumours, parasites and wounds. The man claimed he had given the dog to someone else six months ago.

## HERE AND THERE



Torrox's councillor for beaches and mayor Óscar Medina SUR

## TORROX

# Torrox town hall prepares dog beach

E. C. Torrox town hall has concluded phase one of its programme to remove parasites and insects from the town's beaches, including its dog beach, which is located by the mouth of the Torrox river.

Mayor of Torrox, Óscar Medina, said last week that pesticides had been used to kill

fleas, ticks and other insects, including the tiger mosquito, to give "peace of mind" to pet owners who will be "looking for outdoor spaces for dog walking to avoid crowded areas".

He added that a "protective barrier" had been created around the dog beach area which will help to protect people as well as their pets.

Medina added that phase two of the programme will be carried out in June.

## LA VIÑUELA

# Reduced sentence for La Viñuela murderer

E. P. Andalucía's Supreme Court has reduced the prison sentence of the man who murdered his partner in La Viñuela on 12 February 2018.

The sentence has been reduced from 23 to 21.5 years on the grounds that the couple were not in a serious relationship or living together. Defence lawyer, María del Mar Molina, argued that there was "no evidence" that the couple, who had only been in a relationship for four months, lived together and that the victim's son had said that they only had "sporadic meetings" and "spoke mainly by phone".

## SAYALONGA

# Manager arrested for robbery of own work

E. C. The Guardia Civil in Sayalonga announced on Tuesday that they have arrested a man in relation to the robbery of 116 metres of crash barriers just days after they had been installed in the small hamlet of Corumbela, which belongs to the Axarquía village, last year.

The suspect is the manager of the company that had installed the safety barriers just days before their disappearance. Officers said that the man already had a criminal record for committing the same type of offence. Three other workers from the company are also being investigated.

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# Protests grow in parliament and on the street over government's pandemic handling

The state of alarm has been extended for another fortnight but more opposition parties have withdrawn their support for it

## SUR

MADRID. PM Pedro Sánchez failed to get majority support to extend the state of alarm for at least a further month this week. Negotiations with other parties ahead of Wednesday's debate in Congreso didn't secure him enough MPs' votes. In the end, it was another two-week extension, until 7 June, that was presented to parliament for approval instead.

The prime minister said in the debate, as in previous ones, that the state of alarm is needed to keep restrictions of movement during the phased end of lockdown. However opposition parties believe it could be used as a cover for avoiding parliamentary scrutiny of other policies and they say other, less draconian, legislation would be just



A woman hits a saucepan in protest in the Madrid district of Salamanca. EP

as effective.

This time the conservative PP voted against, as did Catalan republicans ERC. It was only when centre-right Ciudadanos and the Basque PNV insisted on just two weeks to gain their support that the extension went ahead.

Meanwhile, street protests have grown over the Socialist PSOE and Unidas Podemos coalition's

handling of the crisis, amid fears over the economic outlook.

## Flags, pots and pans

The neighbourhood protests began in central Madrid. The capital, along with Barcelona and much of the Castilla y León region, is still in the more restrictive Phase Zero. Madrid's regional leaders are working on legal ac-

tion against the government, claiming holding their area back has been politically motivated.

The first spontaneous protests were on street corners in Madrid's middle-class district of Salamanca last week. This prompted commentators on the left to accuse the conservative opposition of fuelling the unrest.

Over the last week, the nightly action has spread to street corners in other parts of the country, starting at 8pm, until now the time to applaud healthcare workers.

Protesting local residents have also gathered outside the Socialist party head office and the homes of some government members.

In the Madrid village of Galapagar, several Guardia Civil vehicles have been guarding the gates to the villa of Unidas Podemos leaders Pablo Iglesias and Irene Montero. Right-wing commentators have pointed out the irony, as Iglesias has criticised excessive Guardia Civil protection of politicians in the past.

## Different paces and distinct responses as Spain's Costas ease back to normal

## SUR

MALAGA. This week was the first for more parts of Spain inside the looser Phase One conditions after lockdown, ahead of a hoped-for move to Phase Two on Monday (25 May). However regional governments and local town halls are taking slightly different approaches to upholding the rules on beach use, confusing many.

In Barcelona, which is still under the more restrictive Phase Zero, people flocked to the beaches with towels despite sunbathing and relaxing in the sea still being banned. People caught out blamed contradictory instructions from city hall.

Meanwhile in the Valencia Region (including the Costa Blanca), the tourism industry was upset as the regional government asked not to go up to Phase Two, although opening beaches for bathing was being considered for next week.

## Surprise all round as 2012 labour reform looks set to be axed in return for political support

## SUR

MADRID. There was surprise on Thursday from all sides of politics and among business and union leaders over the government's seemingly secret decision to fast-track the scrapping of controversial labour law reforms by a previous, conservative government.

In return for support in parliament from radical Basque nationalists, EH Bildu, ministers had agreed to end the 2012 reform which is disliked by the Left. EH Bildu's five MPs abstained in this week's state of the alarm vote.

The move was seemingly agreed behind the back of the Ciudadanos and PNV parties, who

## This announcement by EH Bildu was followed by confusion as the PSOE party appeared to backtrack

supported the government in that vote this week, but are against repealing the labour law.

The announcement came from EH Bildu, and was followed by confusion as the PSOE, the main governing party, appeared to backtrack and said only (less-sensitive) parts of the law were going to be culled up front. This statement was promptly contradicted by Unidas Podemos, the minority coalition party, who said the agreement had been reached to scrap all of it.

There was an immediate out-

cry from business leaders and conservative politicians, who view the more flexible labour laws as key to generating jobs.

Unusually, there was upset too in the trade unions, who, while in favour for a long time of ending the law, said that the move should have been discussed more openly.

The 2012 labour law reform makes it easier to change staff working conditions and redundancy cheaper for firms.

Parts of the EH Bildu party were once linked to the political wing of Basque terrorist movement, ETA.

## THE EURO ZONE MARK NAYLER

## What's the plan?



The Spanish government's ambitious and expensive welfare plans will have to be put on hold, possibly abandoned, in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. That was one of the underlying messages conveyed by Bank of Spain governor Pablo Hernández de Cos in his address to Congreso on Monday. De Cos also made a rare excursion into the political realm, calling for the country's opposing forces to unite over a

fiscal plan to minimise the damage caused by Covid-19.

According to the Bank of Spain's flexible predictions, public debt could rise from its current level of just under 100% of GDP to around 124% in 2021. Next year could also see the budgetary deficit, which Spain's current government finally brought beneath the EU-imposed ceiling of 3% in 2019, rise to around 11%. The only way to avoid hitting these dangerous

levels of debt, said Hernández de Cos, was to "eliminate superfluous spending" and "amend the tax system". In other words, the governor recommends a reduction in public expenditure and tax hikes, only one of which was on the Socialist government's agenda before Covid-19 came along.

The challenge issued by Hernández de Cos doesn't just extend to Pedro Sánchez's Socialists and their junior partner, leftist Unidas Podemos. He also claimed that the only way Spain could avoid a public debt crisis was by formulating a fiscal programme covering "several terms" (and therefore, potentially, several changes of government) and securing cross-party support for it as soon as

possible. But since the pandemic broke, Spain's leading parties haven't even been able to agree on the necessity of lockdown extensions lasting fifteen days, let alone discuss the possibility of a plan spanning years.

In fact, so deep is the animosity between the Spanish left and right over Covid-19 that Vox has promised to take legal action against the government for the way in which it has dealt with the pandemic. Even when faced with increasingly dire economic forecasts, it's highly unlikely that the opposition - represented by Vox as well as the conservative Popular Party - will suddenly drop its criticism of Sánchez and adopt a more conciliatory stance. And why

should it? Over the last couple of months, the Spanish government's decision-making has seemed hasty, ill-informed and opaque.

There was, incidentally, a bizarre discrepancy between two of the governor's predictions. Hernández de Cos warned that Spain's economic activity might not even have returned to pre-Covid-19 levels by the end of 2021, but nevertheless also forecast potential growth of 6.1%-8.5% for next year. Combined with a projected contraction of up to 13% this year, that would be a monumental turnaround. But then again, none of these figures is even remotely concrete and will probably be revised several times before this difficult year is finished.



# Gibraltar continues to ease the lockdown restrictions

The official advice from the government is that it is still best to stay at home but from today there is no legal obligation to do so

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. With the number of active Covid-19 cases down to low single figures for some time, Gibraltar is now taking further steps to 'Unlock The Rock' from the strict restrictions which have been in force for over two months.

Phase 2 of the plan began on Monday and from today, Friday 22 May, people are still advised to stay at home but are no longer obliged to do so other than for certain essential purposes.

All being well, Phase 3 is due to begin on 1 June, when Gibraltar will formally stand down from Major Incident status. Shops will be able to open for longer, restaurants and cafés will be able to welcome customers as long as they maintain social distancing and do not exceed 50 per cent of occupancy capacity. Some pupils will have re-



Main Street pre-lockdown . SUR

turned to school. Small events will be permitted, as long as social distancing is maintained.

The fourth phase of Unlock The Rock is scheduled to begin on 16 June, as long as the cases of Covid-19 have not increased to an extent to cause concern. This coincides with the start of the official bathing season, and despite earlier warnings from the government that conditions will be in force, it now hopes that things will be as close to normal as possible. Bars

will be able to reopen in this phase, but will be subject to strict controls and social distancing measures will be essential.

By Phase 5, which is due to begin on 29 June, it is hoped that levels of activity will be close to those before lockdown was imposed in March. More people may be allowed to attend events, but only to a level which allows organisers to properly apply social distancing protocols.

During Phase 6, which is expected to start on 15 July, the government and health authorities will review the restrictions still in force and release them when it is considered safe to do so. The plan - always depending on how the coronavirus evolves - is for the Rock to be unlocked on 1 August.

The government's daily press conferences ended on Monday, although information is still published. An emotional chief minister said he and his team had "stared into the abyss" at the start of the crisis, when they were told that ten per cent of the population could die. "You cannot imagine what it is like to look at losing 3,000 Gibraltarians," he said.

## IN BRIEF

### NEWS

#### New Governor of Gibraltar appointed

**D. BARTLETT.** It was announced this week that the new Governor of Gibraltar is to be Vice-Admiral Sir David Steel KBE, DL, who will be taking up his new post in June.

Sir David retired from a full career in the Royal Navy as a Vice Admiral and as Second Sea Lord, and like Gibraltar's chief minister Fabian Picardo, is also a Master of the Bench at the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple, one of four Inns of Court in England and Wales.

In response to the announcement, the Gibraltar govern-



Sir David Steel. SUR

ment issued a statement welcoming the news, and Mr Picardo said all in Gibraltar would be looking forward to welcoming Sir David to the Rock next month.

### CULTURE

#### Museum's virtual Open Day was a great success

**D. B.** The Gibraltar National Museum may have been closed, but nothing was going to stop it holding its annual Open Day and the virtual version proved a huge success. On the day its Facebook site had a reach of 15,745, which was 152 per cent up on the previous day and included 5,847

post-engagements, a rise of 463 per cent compared with the day before. The museum posted numerous videos and informative items between 10am and 6pm, and the virtual facility will continue even once the coronavirus restrictions are lifted.

There is also good news for those in Gibraltar who want to visit the museum in person: this will soon be possible but by appointment only.

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LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR

## Sting in the tail

The situation has just got a lot worse for businesses that rely upon tourism..

Whilst Malaga is celebrating that it's finally going to phase 1, there is another side to the story.

The government published a bulletin official de estado - BOE on 12 May which at first glance was good news - it enables businesses to keep their staff on an ERTE until the end of June.

However, it has a huge sting in the tail -

Businesses in theory could open on Monday. However, there are tens of thousands of businesses where it simply isn't financially viable to open due to an utter lack of tourism.

Up until now, the government has been paying 70% of the salary to the staff who have been forced to stay at home, and the companies have had zero social security to pay. Normally the company has to pay 30% of the workers' salary to social security. So if a company pays an employee a salary of 1,400 euros then the company has to pay an additional 420 euros a month to Seguridad Social.

However, in May, this changes. Companies which decide to keep their staff at home have to pay 40% of their normal employer contribution, and in June this rises to 55%.

I speculate in July this would rise to 100%.

If the company chooses to open, it has to pay the salary of its employees, but only has to pay 15% of its social security contribution in May.

So, to give you an example - my company Mayan Monkey Mijas Chocolate Factory will not reopen on Monday, because there is literally no tourism, and the business which happens in Mijas Pueblo I'd estimate to be 95% tourists.... Speaking with a few company directors of bars and restaurants - the owners are of a similar mindset.

We don't expect any tourism on the Costa del Sol this summer and were planning to reopen Easter 2021 until I became aware of this new law.

We'll now have to pay around 2,500 euros in May for social security contributions, about 2,750 in June, and approx 6,000 euros a month from July (if the quota resumes at 100%).

Having to pay this amount each month with zero income is unsustainable, and we'd go broke in a matter of a few months.

If we opened the Mayan Monkey with zero tourism, and have to resume paying our 19 members of staff (the BOE also forces companies to take all their staff back for a six-month period) then we'll go broke extremely quickly. **JASON GODWIN**

A summer like  
no other

While lockdown restrictions may have been eased everywhere, there will still be many other challenges that we all need to face sooner or later this summer. Fortunately, there are always steps that we can take to anticipate these issues, which will hopefully allow us to better manage the anxiety and fear we can experience, without feeling overwhelmed. They say that every cloud has a

silver lining, and even though it may not always be obvious, we are presented with a perfect opportunity to learn new skills. Though many people had a rough time when coping with confinement, many others adapted quite well to this new reality. We would do well to follow their example. Being sad or upset all the time is not going to accomplish anything, so if we want to resolve this situation, we need to take action this summer!

**ANDRÉS MORALES RUEDA**

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## Critical mass

**Y**ou're sitting in the centre circle of a football pitch in a stadium filled with 70,000 people. There are giant screens all around the ground. In front of you is a table with 25 Rubik cubes on it. To your right, a bumptious, bald little man with a coloured flag watches over proceedings and, to your left, sits a group of ten or twelve people wearing t-shirts reading 'EXPERT'. The man with the flag speaks.

"Right, you have twelve hours to resolve these Rubik cubes; for each one not completed, terrible things will happen."

It's then that you realise you've never seen this design of cube, before - more colours than normal, more little cubes.

"I - I've never see..."

"Sssh - don't interrupt." He raises his tiddly flag. "Ready, steady, g... oh, sorry, I forgot. We have to cover your hands in lard first." He applies the grease. "There we go, lovely. Sorry, about

that, sir - it's in the rules. Now, ready, st... oh, silly me, forgot to mention something else. Occasionally, you might be beaten about the head with a rolling pin."

"Please," you protest, "this is insane. I can't..."

"Shhh! Now then - ready, steady...go!" A giant clock on a screen begins the countdown.

"The people in the 'EXPERT' t-shirts pipe up.

"Wipe the lard off your hands on the grass!"

"No, no, don't be stupid! He needs to cover his hands with the cuffs of his jumper. I read jumper/cuff studies at the University Of Somewhere-Or-Other."

As they bicker amongst themselves and you strain to manoeuvre the cubes, you notice that a large section of the crowd has turned on you.

"You halfwit! That's not the way to do it - listen to the experts!"

"You fool! What are you listening to the experts for? My mate

Barry down the pub would do it much better."

Somehow you manage to resolve 14 of the 25 cubes in the allotted time. A decent effort; only some bad things will happen, then.

I'm afraid this scenario is, more or less, what world leaders have been faced with recently - an impossible, thankless task that not one of them has been able to do perfectly and some have done poorly. All have tried their best.

Meanwhile, the small of mind and smaller of heart have criticised relentlessly from their sofas, munching on packets of crisps, none with the wit or guile to be able to do any better themselves.

Now then, must dash - there's a chap painting his window frames next door and he hasn't got a clue. Suddenly, I feel a visceral need to let him know where he's going wrong.

Where did I put my crisps?

## IDÍGORAS



THE BOTTOM LINE  
**ANA BARREALES**

## Just the beginning



**A**fter weeks of confinement and endless discussions about which countries have done well, which have done badly and where we are amid all that, at last we can do something more than just wait at home, criticising what others are doing or criticising people who criticise what others are doing.

Now is the time to use the lessons we have learned. I don't believe irresponsibility is the principal risk in this phase. Most peop-

le realise how much is at stake and will bear that in mind. The danger is this tendency to think "just once won't matter" or "if everyone else is doing it, then I will as well".

What worries me most is self-justification, something that makes sensible and responsible people throw caution to the winds with a perfectly clear conscience in the conviction that they are complying with their obligations as citizens because, after all, we deserve a small indulgence from

time to time. The problem is that everyone thinks the same thing.

The other major risk is the tendency to confuse what is allowed with what is recommended. Some people's interpretation of gatherings of up to ten people scare me. In my house, where there are five of us, if we all separately met ten people every day and those people did the same, by the end of the week there would have been as many contacts as there would be at a major concert.

At last restrictions are being eased, but this is not the end; it is the beginning. Any step backwards would be far worse than an excess of caution now. We all want to be able to get on with our lives, recover the economy, hug our friends, even if they have feet of clay. The other-way isn't really living.

**SUR** **in English**

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# Time to overcome 'normal' habits

**Ramadan.** Muslims on the Costa del Sol will be celebrating the end of a month of fasting and prayer with the Eid al-Fitr festival

ALEKK M. SAANDERS



**R**amadan, which comes to an end this weekend, this year overlapped with the coronavirus lockdown. The confinement made a change in habits necessary, on top of the changes that Muslims make to their daily routines during this important month. The Covid-19 crisis has forced Muslims to re-think traditions and find new approaches to one of Islam's most important religious rituals.

## A unique experience

For Shamil, a student who lives in Mijas Costa, Ramadan is a true school of transformation in which he can change his actions, habits and manners. He fasted for the first time when he was seven years old. Since then he has observed Ramadan. This year Ramadan under lockdown has been a unique experience for him.

## Shamil, tell more about yourself?

- I am from the Russian Federation. I know Russia is usually associated with the Orthodox Church. However, this country is large and multicultural. There are regions in the Federation where Islam and Buddhism also are practised. My family is from Dagestan which is in the very

south of Russia on the border with Georgia and Azerbaijan, sharing the Caspian sea with Kazakhstan and Iran. My ancestors are from Kurush - the highest mountain settlement in Europe. Dagestan is also famed for its ethnic and linguistic diversity, being home to more than 30 languages. The whole of Dagestan is a religious area of Sunni Islam - the largest denomination of Islam.

## Why did your family buy a house on the Costa del Sol?

- My grandfather visited the Costa del Sol seven years ago and he fell in love with this region. Dagestan translates as "land of the mountains" and it is washed by the sea. Here it is almost the same. Moreover, everywhere in Andalusia there are lots of monuments, palaces, names and traditions remaining from the Muslim times on the peninsula. I read that there is much more connection between Spain and my native Caucasus. It turns out that the Iberian Peninsula somehow derives from the Caucasian Iberia. In addition, it is believed, that the Caucasians migrated westwards to the Pyrenean where today the Basques live. That's why they find some



Shamil, top, and Azzedine Bijjou. SUR

similarities between the Basque language and the Caucasian languages.

## Shamil, is it hard for you to fast?

- As a Muslim, I am obliged to fast during the Ramadan month which, as a rule, in Dagestan starts and ends one day later than here. From Fajr, which is before sunrise, until sunset each day, I cannot eat or drink and I have to control my emotions as well. Frankly, it is only the initial part that is hard. Within three or four days, my body adjusts to this eating habit. In general, fasting on the Costa del Sol is not easier than in my country. The case is that in Dagestan the great majority of people are fasting. That's

why, most restaurants cover their windows during the day and people do not eat in a public or common space. However, on the Costa del Sol, when lunch break comes, there are plenty of people around eating their sumptuous tapas. It intimidates a lot. As for the hours of fasting, the time varies a lot. For example, this year, as Ramadan falls between the months of April and May, some Muslims have fasted for as long as 20 hours, while others have not eaten for about 11.5. In Dagestan actually like in Spain - between 17 and 18 hours. It is worth it because Ramadan is about breaking bad habits. We make a lot of sacrifices to overcome our "normal" habits and to change ourselves.

## The most famous person from Dagestan is the UFC champion Khabib Nurmagomedov...

- Yes. Dagestan is a country of wrestlers. Khabib is a professional mixed martial artist from Dagestan. He got world's fame after beating Conor McGregor. By the way, Khabib Nurmagomedov is the first Muslim to win a UFC title. As a devout Muslim, he wears his religion on his sleeve during his public appearances. Moreover, he prefers not to fight during Ramadan because fasting makes training conditions more difficult for him, because of a state of weakness and dehydration. Khabib is currently observing the holy month of Ramadan in Dagestan. Recently, Khabib made impassioned coronavirus plea after his father was hospitalised being diagnosed with pneumonia and flu-like symptoms.

## A different celebration

The majority of Muslims on the Costa del Sol are originally from Morocco. The chief of the Malaga Department of Tourism of Morocco, Azzedine Bijjou, tells about how the local Muslims have found different ways to celebrate Ramadan during the pandemic.

## Bijjou, is this Ramadan really different?

- I have never experienced this way of spending our holy month. For example, families and friends didn't gather at sundown for iftar, the special meal that breaks the daily fast. We could not go to mosques. Like others here, we

had to stay at home. But it was not that bad, because our ninth month is a very spiritual time. Actually, Ramadan is about reflecting with profoundness on the blessings each person has been given. In self-isolation and this (not easy for everyone) situation some people could better understand the suffering of those who go without having their basic needs, such as food and water.

## They said, fasting is a kind of risk during the pandemic...

- I know. They always say, that prolonged periods of not eating or drinking can weaken the immune system. We are aware of this and we try to get enough calories during the hours you are permitted to eat. That's why, on the table there are lots of different fruits and vegetables, pulses and nuts. At the same time, I would stress, that scientists also say that intermittent fasting can speed up the body's process of regeneration, causing old cells to die and be replaced with new ones. And, of course, people who are ill, including those with Covid-19, are exempt from fasting.

## Fasting is one of the five pillars of Islam. What about maintaining the other pillars?

- Apart from fasting there is faith, prayer, charity and the pilgrimage to Hajj. This year's Hajj was suspended. By the way, the Covid-19 is not the first pandemic that disrupted the Hajj for Muslims. There are reports that the first time it was an outbreak of plague and cholera which caused frequent disruption to the annual Hajj. In 2012 and 2013 Saudi authorities also encouraged the ill and the elderly not to undertake the pilgrimage amid concerns over Middle East Respiratory Syndrome. As for charity, I think, the lockdown could let people give more to charity and help the poor.

## Ramadan is usually a high season for visiting Morocco, isn't it?

- Usually yes... though this year the country is affected with the coronavirus pandemic. Morocco has extended the public health emergency at least through May 20. As you know, all passenger services between the ports of Morocco and Spain are suspended as a measure to contain Covid-19.

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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

22 MAY 1940

Gibraltar is evacuated in the Second World War

The British government ordered practically the entire civilian population of Gibraltar to leave the Rock so troops could move in to protect it from Hitler and Franco

It is a largely unknown fact that during WW2 the British government decided to turn Gibraltar into a fortress to stop Hitler and Franco seizing it, and ordered all women, children, the elderly and infirm to be evacuated to make room for the troops. On 22 May 1940 the first group of evacuees were taken to French Morocco, the nearest Allied country, but soon afterwards France capitulated and instead of being safe, the Gibraltarians suddenly found themselves in enemy territory. They were given 24 hours to leave, and the French authorities ordered British ships which were just arriving in Casablanca to take them, threatening to impound the ships unless they did so. They refused the officer in charge, Commodore Creighton, time to clean and supply the ships with food and water, and the evacuees were physically forced on board.

The problem was that Britain didn't know what to do with them. Refused permission to disembark in Gibraltar, they were forced to travel across the Atlantic to avoid the German U-boats, on a 16-day journey from hell to the UK in unhygienic conditions in which several elderly people died.



Gibraltarian children after arriving in Morocco. J. GINGELL



Gibraltar evacuees in the London tube during bombing. JOE GINGELL

The Gibraltarians ended up in London during the blitz, and about 13,000 of them lived there for the remaining years of the war. When the war was over, due to lack of accommodation and medical facilities, the Gibraltar authorities had to stagger the repatriation of the people, and it

took until 1951 to bring them all home. Many Gibraltarians in London were moved to Northern Ireland to await repatriation, while others were sent to Madeira and Jamaica. In his autobiography Outside our Comfort Zone, former Housing Minister Charles Bruzon, who

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE	
Guerra	War
Tropas	Troops
Fortaleza	Fortress
Marruecos	Morocco
Población	Population
Evacuado	Evacuee
Hostilidades	Hostilities
Ataque aéreo	Air raid
Desembarque	Landing
Civil	Civilian
Territorio	Territory
Enemigo	Enemy
Autoridades	Authorities
Astillero	Shipyards
Alojamiento	Accommodation
Destino	Destination
Repatriar	To repatriate
Peligro	Danger
Buque	Ship

was a child at the time, describes how it felt to return: "Mixed emotions... incredible joy, fatigue, yearning for their space on the Rock, wondering how they would live and how they would adjust." Local author Joe Gingell has written two fascinating books about the evacuation, and has offered the texts to the Gibraltar government for its website. **Bilingual crossword inside back page**

PET CARE  
PETER HARRISON

Dogs come to the rescue again



Man's reliance on dogs has been long established. Prehistoric man found dogs kept predators at bay and early on shepherds found dogs able to round up sheep much more effectively than they could and further uses were soon discovered. It was not until the time of Charles II that the companionship of dogs was valued and dogs became household pets in Britain. Now a new use has been discovered. Early detection of diseases and viruses is an important factor in successfully treating illnesses. Now, in the present virus pandemic, dogs have been found that can detect the coronavirus at an amazing speed, potentially a valuable tool for the hard-pressed medical profession. This discovery joins a list of other illnesses that dogs can detect including certain cancers and malaria. Dogs have been of value in



A police dog at work. SUR

assisting man in drug detection, guiding blind people, alerting those who are hard of hearing, guarding property, apprehending criminals and many other useful tasks. I well recall being involved in the television coverage of the Aberfan disaster of October 1966, when a hill of muddy waste collapsed, burying a school in Wales and killing 116 children and 28 adults. A large number of volunteers

dug furiously to rescue those trapped, but it was the search and rescue dogs using their sensitive noses that were incredibly effective in locating victims. I had read that Hitler, having survived several assassination attempts, took great care to check his food was not poisoned and would offer a sample of his meal to his dog before he touched it. When researching a book on World War II, I asked a member of his household whether this was true, as I had believed he was very fond of dogs and this was in conflict with my information. She replied that it was not to risk the life of the dog but to discover whether the dog would reject the food as the dog would reject it if it was poisoned. Watch your dog. He or she will sniff before eating. The dog relies on his or her sense of smell. Dogs have a remarkable sense of detection. Our son Neil used to visit us weekly and our dog Digger could alert us when Neil's car was over a mile away. Now what made the car sound different to Digger than that of any other Peugeot? Dogs have detection powers which are amazing, especially if trained and they are very quick to learn.

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## ADVERTORIAL - LIBERTY SEGUROS

## LIBERTY SEGUROS TO DISINFECT CUSTOMERS' VEHICLES

The insurance firm will supply ozone disinfection equipment to more than 800 workshops in Spain, Portugal and Ireland

## MALAGA

In the new scenario generated by Covid-19 in Europe, Liberty aims to continue to protect clients against the unexpected and to make them feel safe. To that end the firm is offering clients completely free disinfection of their vehicles, after each repair, in its network of trusted workshops.

The goal is for Liberty customers to feel safe, knowing that they can take their vehicles to any workshop in Liberty's network with complete peace of mind, aware that they will be thoroughly disinfected before delivery. This ozone disinfection service will also be carried out on courtesy cars.

This initiative is launched in



Health and safety first.

the European countries where the company offers car insurance: Spain, Ireland and Portugal, under the Liberty, Genesis and Regal brands.

"At Liberty we want to preempt the needs that people may have. We now live in new circumstances that have transformed many of our habits and concerns, especially in terms of prevention and hygiene. In this way, we want to support our network of workshops, with these ozone disinfection ma-

chines, thus guaranteeing the continuity of their business, and putting people first, protecting the safety and health of our customers," explains María Eugenia Muguerza, Executive Director of Operations for Liberty.

The impact of this measure will be even greater, given that all the people who come to the Liberty Seguros workshop network, regardless of whether or not they are customers of the brand, will benefit from the ozone disinfection machines that Liberty will provide free of charge to more than 800 establishments.

In addition, with this initiative it is intended that all these workshops can continue their business in these difficult times, since they have always been strategic partners for the insurer.

Over 175,000 expat clients have already chosen Liberty Seguros, so why not join the leading expat company in Spain now? Visit [www.libertyexpatriates.es](http://www.libertyexpatriates.es)

## QUARANTINE STORIES

## The new normal

## SUR IN ENGLISH

**COSTA DEL SOL.** Week ten since coronavirus lockdown. Things are starting to look as they did before in the south of Spain - people are sitting outside their local cafeterias with their coffee, stroll-

ing along the seafront and even meeting friends for tapas, albeit with the ever-present face masks, hand sanitiser and distancing - where possible. With these new freedoms it's time to end our series of quarantine stories with two more experiences.

"I have spent valuable time with my six-year-old granddaughter"

**Su Derrick**  
**La Vaqueria**

## JENNIE RHODES

**BENAMARGOSA.** For Su Derrick, owner of La Vaqueria café and art studio in Benamargosa (Axarquía), the lockdown has provided her with "valuable time" with her six-year-old granddaughter. "Her mother is a care worker," explains Su, so together the pair have been "transforming the already beautiful Vaqueria". They've set up a dry-stone-walled vegetable garden and an outside sitting-cum-sewing room "out of a scruffy patio which had become a bit of a dumping ground".

Then Su says she sewed "kilometres" of bunting ready for when La Vaqueria reopens, although she says she "isn't sure when that'll be at the moment", and made face masks for the family. Along with pruning the avocado trees and building an extension to the café-cum-art studio's bar area, artist Su says she's only just got round to starting her first mosaic, which is what she hoped to start at the very beginning of the lockdown. "The whole La Vaqueria has now become my palette," she says.



"I have gone from utopia to dystopia"

**Lise-Lotte Hallman**  
**Estate Agent**

## J. RHODES

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** Having recently watched the series *The Handmaid's Tale*, estate agent Lise-Lotte Hallman says for her "the situation in the series resembles a lot of how it actually feels to be forced to stay indoors".

In order to manage, Lise-Lotte says that first and foremost her friends, family and dog have been extremely important. "To communicate with them and have digital Friday dinners has been the best recipe and my survival kit as well as being able to walk my dog."

Lise-Lotte has still been working from home and has continued to help clients and have meetings with colleagues at Fastighetsbyrå estate agent's: "With or without corona, life continues." A keen environmentalist, Lise-Lotte says, "I really believe this is a window of opportunity to improve the environment, our relations and our lives in general. Now we truly know what is important, to be precise, our health and our near and dear ones."

## LEGAL ADVICE



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## REF. O. R. A.

Due to my financial situation, I do not have enough money to pay this month's alimony and part of the rent where I live. My parents cannot lend me more money, as they are retired and only have their pensions. I was thinking

about asking for an advance payment from the company I work for, but I do not know if the company is obliged to accept. Am I entitled to an advance and is there a limit on the amount?

If due to your economic circumstances you need to ask the company for an advance on your salary, you have the right to one, even though the salary is paid for work already done. Nevertheless, the amount of the advance will not be higher than the salary that would correspond to days worked, so the amount will vary depending on when in the month you ask for the advance. It would be advisable to check the agreement corresponding to your job, just in case it establishes something specific in this situation.

## REF. N. G. E.

I am British, and I will shortly marry a Spanish woman who has two children from a previous marriage. The children are like my own, and I would like to know if, when I pass away, they will be entitled to receive my inheritance automatically, or if I have to do anything for them to be considered as my heirs.

If you want the children to receive anything when you pass away you will need to make a will, as they will not be automatically entitled as they are not your biological descendants. It would be different if their biological father had died, or if he had had his parental authority removed and you adopted them. But since this is not the case, you need to sign a will designating them as your heirs.

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DENISE BUSH

GARDENING

# Paeonia tenuifolia

If you have ever been lucky enough to visit, in May and June, one of the many beautiful gardens in Britain like Sissinghurst, Great Dixter or Hidcote, to name but a few, you will probably have seen stunning clumps of peonies dotted around the herbaceous borders.

However in Southern Spain it's unlikely that you'll come across any, apart from maybe earlier in the year, in perforated packets packed in sawdust in some supermarkets. This is because peonies need cool

roots to flower and in June in Southern Spain the weather is usually just too hot for these beauties to perform.

There is one peony however, *Paeonia tenuifolia*, commonly known as the fernleaf or fennel leaved peony, that flowers earlier than other members of the genus. It is a shrubby, herbaceous perennial up to 60cm tall, which bears a single, crimson, cupped-shaped bloom per stem.

The flower has yellow anthers and the attractive foliage is deeply divided and feathery.

*Paeonia tenuifolia* has been around in gardens for a very long time, it is native to the steppes of Russia and Kazakhstan and was in cultivation in Germany as early as 1594. It was introduced to the UK around 1765.

There are a few cultivars; the most common are *Ptenuifolia Rosea*, a pink variety and *Rosea plena*, a double pink cultivar.

Peonies are slow growing and will form large clumps over time. They do not like to be moved once established. Propagation is possible by seed and the seeds from *Ptenuifolia* are different from all other species of *Paeonia* as they germinate above soil in full light.



Paeonia tenuifolia and close up (insert). WIKIMEDIA/WIKIPEDIA

READERS' PHOTOS



VALERIE BALES

## A garden in miniature

Reader Valerie Bales sent in this photo and says, "I only have a small balcony but this trough has given me much pleasure during lockdown."



JAMES CHAPMAN

## Fairytale grotto


This enchanting fairytale grotto, festooned with the graceful trumpets of *Brugmansia*, is in a corner of James Chapman's garden in Riviera del Sol.

PHOTOS



### Calling all gardeners

We know many of our readers have lovely gardens, or enjoy growing plants on their terraces or balconies and some like to take photos of plants they see when out and about. Why not share them with others? Email

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



**The Professional Association of Real Estate Managers in Building Developments (GIPE)** is an association of professionals from the real estate sector who offer their services in intermediation and management of all types of real estate operations, with offices all over the country.



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## OPERA AND DANCE

## Nightly Opera Stream

**THE METROPOLITAN OPERA.** Every night, 7.30pm EDT (12.30am Spain). Free.

While the MET is closed due to the epidemic it will be screening presentations from the Live In HD series of cinema transmissions. Each transmission will remain available on [www.metopera.org](http://www.metopera.org) for 23 hours.

**22 May.** Mozart's Don Giovanni. An early entry in the Met's series of PBS telecasts, this 1978 performance captures a young James Morris in a smooth portrayal of the title role, with the legendary Joan Sutherland showing off her unsurpassed technique as Donna Anna and Gabriel Bacquier as a masterful Leporello.

**23 May.** Gounod's Faust. The legend of Faust, the aging philosopher who sells his soul for renewed youth and earthly delights, has inspired many operatic adaptations, but none has proved as popular as Gounod's rich, elegantly Gallic interpretation, which was the very first opera ever performed at the Met in 1883. Starring Marina Poplavskaya, Jonas Kaufmann, and René Pape, conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin. From December 10, 2011.

**24 May.** Massenet's Manon. Based on the same scandalous 18th-century novella that inspired Puccini's Manon Lescaut, Massenet's version features one of the all-time most challenging, and most beguiling, roles for soprano, as well as the composer's



Cendrillon. ROH

trademark combination of sophistication and sensuality. Starring Anna Netrebko, Piotr Beczala, and Paulo Szot, conducted by Fabio Luisi. From April 7, 2012.

## New ballet every week

**SAN FRANCISCO BALLET.** San Francisco Ballet stays on its toes by streaming a different complete ballet from its archives every week.

**Until 22 May, 11pm BST.** Justin Peck's acclaimed 2018 *Hurry Up, We're Dreaming*, performed in sneakers and street clothes and set to music from a 2011 double album by the L.A.-based French electronic band M83. The recording is from last year. <https://www.sfballet.org/sf-ballet-home/>

**Until 25 May, 10.30pm BST.** Romeo and Juliet with Maria Kochetkova and Davit Karapetyan in the title roles.

<http://lincolncenter.org/>

**From 22 until 27 May, 8pm BST.**

Christopher Wheeldon's *Bound To* Data sets splay across the stage and cell phones with illuminated screens feature prominently as dancers' props; music by singer-songwriter Keaton Henson sets the ballet. <https://www.sfballet.org/sf-ballet-home/>

## Full length productions

**THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.** The ROH have announced a programme of full-length productions which will be broadcast over Facebook and YouTube. 7pm BST (8pm Spain).

The programme includes both ballet and opera and the schedule can be found on [facebook.com/royalopera-house](https://facebook.com/royalopera-house) or <https://www.youtube.com/user/RoyalOperaHouse>

**Until 24 May.** *Gloriana*. Benjamin Britten's moving operatic portrayal of Elizabeth I caught between public duty and private passion.

**Until 1 June.** *A Winter's Tale*. Shakespeare's tale of love and loss becomes the most masterful of narrative ballets in Christopher Wheeldon's inspired adaptation with music by Jody Talbot.

**Until 8 June.** *La Traviata*. Richard Eyres production provides the perfect setting for Verdi's opera about a courtesan who sacrifices all for love.

**From 22 May until 4 June.** *Cendrillon*. Massenet's *Cendrillon* is a touching, romantic interpretation of the much-loved story of Cinderella. Sung in French with English subtitles.

## African dance

**BAM.** Weekly dance workshops and events.

The 43rd annual edition of the African-diaspora cultural festival has been canceled, but BAM is filling the gap with weeks of digital programming. Offerings include public conversations and video footage of past performances as well as dance classes, an online bazaar and more. <https://www.bam.org/danceafrica>

## Joyce Stream

**STEPHEN PETRONIO COMPANY.** Full length productions from the archives.

The Joyce Theatre hosts a continuous rotation of top dance companies from across the country and around the world. To help pass the time while it is closed, the Chelsea venue is sharing archival recordings of full-length productions from art-



African dance. BAM

ists who have appeared there.

**22 May, 3pm BST.** In this 2019 recording, which stays live for a week, Stephen Petronio continues his fifth *Bloodlines* season, devoted to the lineage of postmodern dance, with a new full-company work, *American Landscapes*, a collection of "kinetic canvases" that evoke the complex history of the United States. The piece features visual design by Robert Longo and is set to original music by Josef Van Wissem and Jim Jarmusch.

## MUSEUM TOURS

## The MET 360° Project

**THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM NY.** The museum has six award winning videos of its three installations.

Now you can virtually visit the Met's art and architecture without stepping foot inside the buildings. The six videos cover the Great Hall, the Met Cloisters, the Temple of Dendur, the Met Breuer, the Charles Engelhard Court, and the Arms and Armour Galleries. <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/online-features/met-360-project>

## Virtual museum tours

**THE BRITISH MUSEUM.** The world's largest indoor space on Google Street View is the British Museum in London. Visit over 60 galleries, see the Rosetta stone, Old Master paintings and amazing textiles from around the South Pacific as well going 'behind the scenes' at the museum to find

# Malaga's museums set for grand reopening on 26 May

The Thyssen and the Picasso museum are considering opening together after being closed for two months during the state of alarm

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

**MALAGA.** Representatives of the Carmen Thyssen Museum and the Picasso museum in Malaga have held several informal meetings online during the lockdown to discuss a coordinated reopening of their doors.

Phase One allows the possibility of reopening with restrictions such as limiting the capacity to 30 per cent, omitting cultural activities and avoiding crowding in rooms.

The reopening is planned for the 26 May and would include the Centre Pompidou, the Carmen Thyssen Málaga museum and the Picasso museum. The Centro de Arte Contemporáneo has already confirmed it will be opening its doors on 26 May with an exhibition by Girbent enti-

tled *Opus Nigrum*. The inauguration will be held today, 22 May, on social media. The arts centre will also be showing the video creation *The Walking Ceiling* by artist Alicia Framis from 26 May and then on Friday 29 May the exhibition *Aquíalejos* by Juan F Lecomba will be opened.

Work is also being carried out in the Museo del Patrimonio Municipal and the Museo Revellón de Toro to modify the premises for opening on the 26th.

The Russian Museum will also be opening, although the assembly of its three new exhibitions has been delayed as representatives of the Russian State Museum of Art in Saint Petersburg are usually present during the installation process but haven't been able to be due to the health alert.

The dimensions of the Picasso-Museo Casa Natal (Picasso's birthplace) have given the organisers a bit of a headache trying to guarantee the two-metre safety distance required by the Ministry of Health. It is possible that during the first phase, only the ex-



The Pompidou barely had its new collection on display for a day. S. SALAS

hibition room in the Plaza de la Merced will be open and the Casa Natal will have to remain closed until the end of the health security measures.

## Open days

Given that they cannot organise cultural activities at the moment, the museums are considering offering one or more open days with free entry as an incentive to attract visitors.

The director of the Automobile Museum, Joao Magalhaes, is considering reopening at the end of June with the showcasing of a new exhibit: a 1959 Chevrolet Impala.



The Carmen Thyssen Museum opens next Tuesday. S. SALAS

## Tickets go on sale today for Caminito del Rey visits from 12 June

## SUR

**MALAGA.** The biggest tourist attraction in inland Malaga province will open again on 12 June with adjustments for new health and safety rules.

Admission tickets for the Caminito del Rey gorge walkway will go on sale today (22 May) for weekend visits only (Friday to Sunday) and with reduced capacity of 550 people a day.

The president of the Diputación, Francisco Salado, said, "The provincial authority has been working for weeks with the company holding the operating licence and local town halls, as well as the University, so that the Caminito walk can be done with full guarantee for visitors and staff, including measures from the start to end of the route as well as the shuttle bus linking the entrances."

Salado encouraged locals to make the trip and added that weekdays would be opened up if there is demand. Reservations: <https://reservas.caminitodelrey.info>





Jim Caruso. PAJAMA PARTY

out about poison arrows and 'mummy goo'. Information on how to explore the museum online is at: <https://blog.britishmuseum.org/how-to-explore-the-british-museum-from-home/>

#### CONCERTS AND MUSIC

##### Take Me To The World

**A SONDHEIM 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.** A video of the concert tribute to Stephen Sondheim. Sondheim is famous for many works including the lyrics for West Side Story and Gypsy to his full scores of shows including Sweeney Todd, Follies, A Little Night Music, Into the Woods and Sunday in the Park with George. Find it on YouTube Take Me To The World Sondheim 90th Birthday Celebration

##### Virtual piano bar

**MARIE'S CRISIS GROUP.** The piano bar Facebook group is normally closed but is now accepting all applicants. The coronavirus crisis has forced the beloved West Village piano bar to close its doors for now. But in a typical display of communal spirit, the Marie's Crisis staff is soldiering on. Every night on the Facebook page Maries Group, the talented pianists who would normally be playing at the bar will be live-streaming their sets to audiences at home.

##### Part cabaret, part piano bar

**JIM CARUSO'S PAJAMA CAST PARTY.** Birdland's long-running Monday-night open mic fest Cast Party offers a chance to hear rising and established talents. Jim Caruso presides as host over the Monday night show which is part cabaret, part piano bar and part social set. The show is available to view on YouTube.

##### Show tunes during the crisis

**MARTY THOMAS PRESENTS DIVA.** A weekly showcase for big-voiced female singers of show tunes and pop gems. The weekly show can be viewed on YouTube Marty Thomas Presents Diva (it is broadcast live on Mondays at 1am BST).

##### Live music

**NTS.** Live shows as well as some archives to listen to. Bad Vibes, Eyedress, Access Denied, Creep Zone, themed radio streams, mixed tapes and guest shows and all genres of music. <https://www.nts.live/>

#### EXHIBITIONS

##### My Body, My Archive

**THE TATE MODERN.** Congolese choreographer and dance artist Faustin Linyekula's *My Body, My Archive* was due to perform at the Tate. Linyekula was due to perform in the Tanks at Tate Modern at the end of March, as part of 2020's BMW Tate Live Exhibition: Our Bodies, Our Archives when it was cancelled. Linyekula worked with the collaborators to create a site-specific piece performed to camera. <https://www.tate.org.uk/>

##### Virtual exhibition tours

##### THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF ART.

While the doors of the RA are temporarily closed the Academy's website offers virtual tours of its installations. Visit the exhibition Picasso and Paper from home or two of David Hockney's blockbuster shows, 2012's A Bigger Picture 82 Portraits and One Still-Life from 2016. There are also short videos of free public exhibitions such as Tracey Emin and displays such as Anthony Whishaw, With Spain In Mind and many more (find the above under 'Tours').

##### Johanna Unzueta - Tools For Life

**MODERN ART OXFORD.** A virtual tour of the exhibition with some short videos and other material. Enter Tools for Life online and discover new insights into Johanna Unzueta's works with short videos, behind-the-scenes moments, curator's notes, children's activities and more. <https://www.modernartoxford.org.uk/>

##### We Will Walk- Art and Resistance in the American South

**TURNER CONTEMPORARY.** The Turner Contemporary has created a virtual tour of its ground-breaking exhibition *We Will Walk - Art and Resistance in the American South*. Available on YouTube. The exhibition is the first of its kind in the UK to reveal the little-known art shaped by the American Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 60s. We Will Walk brings together sculptures, paintings, quilts and installations by more than 20 African American artists from Alabama and the Deep South. The exhibition addresses issues of race, class and resistance through a diverse range of works developed outside of the mainstream. YouTube Turner Contemporary We Will Walk

##### Forget-Me-Not

**NEW FOCUS AND BRADFORD COLLEGE.** Until 31 May, *Forget-me-not* shares intergenerational stories, with young people exploring how the lives of their ancestors have shaped who they are today. Working with photography students from Bradford College, New Focus have received mentoring to create studio portraits, as well as photographing heirloom objects central to their family histories. Featuring a wedding sari, a Yorkshire flat cap and a passport belonging to a Russian war veteran, the collected objects tell cross-cultural stories, shedding light on the diverse histories of young

people in Bradford today. <https://www.impressions-gallery.com/event/forget-me-not>

##### Dutch National Museum

**THE RIJKSMUSEUM.** The museum houses a famous collection of art by Dutch masters.

The museum has masterpieces by Rembrandt, Frans Hals and Johannes Vermeer as well as many other objects of art and history. Information can be found on their website below or search on YouTube for Rijksmuseumfromhome for various clips about individual paintings in English. <https://360stories.com/amsterdam/story/rijksmuseum>

#### TALKS / MONOLOGUES

##### Free streaming

**HAMPSTEAD THEATRE.** The theatre is releasing its collection of monologues to the public. Audio recordings of renowned artists performing their favourite theatrical speeches. Available on [www.themonobox.co.uk](http://www.themonobox.co.uk) the Library features over 100 speeches by artists such as Sir Derek Jacobi, Denise Gough, Sheila Atim, Gina McKee, Prasanna Puwanarajah and Sir Simon Russell Beale. Speech Share Live monologues hosted by Hampstead Theatre will also be available on the Hampstead Theatre website. [www.hampsteadtheatre.com](http://www.hampsteadtheatre.com)

##### Talks and discussions

**ICA TALKS.** Talks and discussions held at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London. Around 889 recordings in the collection made during the period 1982-1993, featuring leading writers, artists and filmmakers. <https://sounds.bl.uk/Arts-literature-and-performance/ICA-talks>



Fun dog photo contest . SUR

#### CHARITY

##### Fun Dog Photo Competition

**ACE DOG SHELTER.** Send as many photos as you like (5€ per photo) to enter.

There are six categories in the competition which closes on 28 May at 11am. Multiple photos can be submitted. To enter make a donation either via Paypal or by bank transfer to the ACE bank account. Full details on [www.ace-charity.org](http://www.ace-charity.org). Send the photos to [infor@costaconnection.online](mailto:infor@costaconnection.online) or by Whatsapp +34711099512

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## CHARITY

## Online fashion Show

**LA CALA DE MIJAS LIONS CLUB**

Raising funds during the pandemic. La Cala de Mijas Lions are inviting people to send in photos in two categories. Category 1: Wearing a favourite outfit, looking glamorous, for an evening out or special event (not a wedding dress) or category 2: a photo that reflects your sense of humour, for example a photo bomb, fancy dress party, beach, sport, funny accident ... No crowd scenes, just individuals. Each entry 10€. For how to enter or for more information call Sandie: 663529280 or email [smtpackhorse@gmail.com](mailto:smtpackhorse@gmail.com) Competition closes 22 May.

## THEATRE / DRAMA

## Online theatre productions

**NATIONAL THEATRE AT HOME.**

Watch the best of British theatre every Thursday. The National Theatre will be live streaming on YouTube every Thursday at 7pm British time (8pm Spain) Each performance will be available to view for the following seven days. <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/> **From 4 until 11 June, 7pm BST.** Coriolanus. Tom Hiddleston (Betrayal, The Avengers, The Night Manager) plays the title role in Shakespeare's searing tragedy of political manipulation and revenge. When an old adversary threatens Rome, the city calls once more on her



Shakespeare. THE GLOBE THEATRE

hero and defender: Coriolanus. But he has enemies at home too.

## Shakespeare online

**THE GLOBE THEATRE.** A series of Free-To-View archive performances are being released online by the theatre at <https://www.shakespeareglobe.com/watch#free-you-tube-premieres>. **Until 31 May.** The Winter's Tale.

## Theatre streaming

**CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE.**

The theatre will be streaming productions, each one available for a month. Productions will be captioned for deaf and hard of hearing audiences. Audio introductions will help set the scene for blind and partially sighted audiences. There is also an archive of talks and events and podcasts available on the following website: <https://www.cft.org.uk/> **Until 29 May.** David Walliams The Midnight Gang. **Until - 19 June.** Anna Ledwich's adaptation of Beauty and the Beast.

## Hallucinations

**DEAD CENTRE.** An experimental theatrical production.

Lippy is the name of this gripping experimental theatre piece which is available on Vimeo.com. Just type in Lippy on Vimeo. if asked for a password, use 'context'.

## MORE IDEAS

## Culture at Home

**TORREMOLINOS ES CULTURA.**

Every night a cultural agenda is broadcast live from 8pm. On 22 May from 8pm a special Gala night to mark the end of the Cultura en Casa programme. It will be streamed on the Cultura Torremolinos YouTube channel.

## Aquarium tour

**OCEANOGRÁFIC VALENCIA.** A virtual, 360° tour of the aquarium. The Oceanogràfic in Valencia is the biggest aquarium in Europe. You can now visit thirteen different rooms, each one centred on a species or climate at <https://www.oceanogràfic.com/>

[graphic.org/visita-virtual/](http://graphic.org/visita-virtual/)

## Space watching

**STARLINK.** Track satellites across the night sky with this online tool.

Starlink is a satellite constellation being constructed by American company SpaceX to provide satellite Internet access. The constellation will consist of thousands of mass-produced small satellites in low Earth orbit (LEO), working in combination with ground transceivers. The satellites can be seen crossing the sky at certain times using the tracker [www.findstarlink.com](http://www.findstarlink.com)

## Creative activities

**FAMILY HOW TO.** The Royal Academy of Arts suggest ways for the family to get creative.

Inspired by the RA's world class exhibitions, leading artists and architects and Collection, this site includes a range of creative activities such as how to make a recycled sculpture, making stencils and vegetable prints etc. <https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/articles/tag/family-how-to>

## Meet and Make

**LEEDS MUSEUMS AND ART GALLERY.**

The adult art and crafts sessions linked to artworks on display. Last year Leeds Art Gallery held three craft workshops supported by the Arts Council England which are now on YouTube Leeds Museums Meet and Make.

## Online choir

**FIND YOUR VOICE** One hour singing sessions every Wednesday at 5pm. Local opera singer Clarice Williams runs the Find Your Voice Vocal Studio which raises money for charities as



Space watching. STARLINK

well as allows people to get together for a chat and sing songs from a varied repertoire. Participants do not have to be competent singers. registration 5 euros. Facebook Find Your Voice Vocal Studio.

## Free comics

**MARVEL COMICS.** There is now an App available for free comics.

Marvel Unlimited have released an App for iOS or android to download. Click on Free Comics and select from a variety of titles including Avengers vs X-Men, Amazing Spider-Man, Dark Phoenix Saga and Kree/Skrull War etc. More info on <https://www.marvel.com/>

## Photography Competition

**MIJAS, CON OTRA MIRADA.** Take a photo from your balcony or terrace during quarantine.

Enter the competition with a picture that has inspired you taken from your balcony or terrace during quarantine and send it to [cultura@mijas.es](mailto:cultura@mijas.es) The rules, photo size, format and how to register can be found at:

<https://mijas.website/mijas-con-otra-mirada/>

## Marathon story telling

**TALES FROM HOME.** An online story telling marathon on 30 May from midday.

Participants who registered last week will be narrating a short story online via Benalmádena Town Hall's YouTube channel and Facebook page. More information on [www.benalmadena.es](http://www.benalmadena.es)

## Online story reading

**BEDTIME STORIES WITH DOLLY PARTON.**

A series of ten stories read by Dolly Parton.

Goodnight with Dolly features Dolly Parton reading a series of Imagination Library books for children. <https://imaginationlibrary.com/good-night-with-dolly/>

## Free Audio Books

**LITERARY CLASSICS.** A selection of classics and children's books.

Besides Wuthering Heights, Shakespeare and The Curious Case of Benjamin Button are Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone and The jungle Book among many others. <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

## Indoor learning activities

**U3A COSTA DEL SOL FUENGIROLA**

The association has turned to social media to continue offering a service to its members.

Art history, bridge, quiz nights and even a choral group are just some of the online activities being offered by the U3A. Anyone can become a member, contact [www.u3afuenigrola-costadelsol.com/](http://www.u3afuenigrola-costadelsol.com/) for more information.

## Online tribute to Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons

## TONY BRYANT

**COSTA DEL SOL.** Fans of the music of the 1960s and 70s will enjoy an online lockdown concert staged by one of the Costa del Sol's most popular vocal groups. A Tribute to The Jersey Boys is a show dedicated to the incredible story of the rise to fame of one of the most successful groups in popular music history, Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons.

The Jersey Boys Tribute band consists of three talented young singers who will perform some of The Four Seasons most celebrated hits, including Sherry, Big Girls Don't Cry and Working My Way Back to You. The trio has built up a large following after performing the show at venues all over the Costa del Sol and so they decided to arrange an online show to entertain fans



The Jersey Boys Tribute will perform Four Seasons' hits. SUR

during the lockdown.

The two-hour show, which will be hosted on Zoom, will be staged on Saturday 30 May at 8pm (Spanish time).

Tickets cost one pound sterling (approximately 1.12 euros) and are available from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/jer-](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/jer-)

seytickets

E-tickets will be issued by e-mail and will contain the password necessary to access the show. All tickets will be entered in a prize draw.

For more information see The Jersey Four Facebook page.

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# No-one left to rate

ANDREW J. LINN



While the thoughts of many readers will not be far from the suffering that the restaurant trade is going through, has anyone given a passing thought to restaurant inspectors? These peripatetic professionals are surely taking a well-earned rest these days, perhaps even dieting to get a trimmer

waistline. Never before have they been forced to take time off and live like normal people, ergo, not eating in restaurants twice a day. Fine dining restaurants are doing takeaways, neighbourhood restaurants have morphed into charities, and many favourites have gone forever. For the organisations whose purpose was to exalt these res-

## The near-collapse of the restaurant industry has led many to question the value of rankings

taurants with awards and rankings, carrying on as usual is no longer possible, especially as the near collapse of the restaurant industry has led many to question the value of such awards in the first place. Another factor is the revamping of many top eateries. Stockholm's Noma, for example, frequently nominated the world's best, will become more of a hamburger joint than a restaurant (maybe René Redzepi has been

talking to Marbella's Dani Garcia), and there are many similar examples. The James Beard Awards, World's 50 Best Restaurants, and Michelin have different philosophies about restaurant awards in a recovering restaurant industry. Michelin will not publish its hard-cover Guide for the time being, and a digital version takes its place; the annual awards ceremony is on hold. The other two market leaders are still testing the water, but there is a general feeling that any kind of media-attracting event will assist the industry out of the present doldrums. Since hundreds of thousands of jobs are in the balance, let's hope they are right.

## WINE OF THE WEEK

**Habla del Silencio**  
The Habla bodega was set up by a businessman who had just sold a national company and wanted to make wine in his native Extremadura. Sparing no expense, the brand was launched on the market about 20 years ago with mixed success, being on the heavy, alcoholic, side, but good value at around €8.50.



# Malaga varieties pick up awards in the World Olive Oil Competition

Finca La Torre, Hacienda de Colchado and the Mondrón and Periana co-operatives received awards in New York

AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Five Malaga olive oils have been awarded prizes in the World Olive Oil Competition in New York (NYIOOC) 2020, one of the most prestigious international AOVE competitions held worldwide. The award-winning oils were Mondrón Unique, El Milenario, One Bio, Finca La Torre selección and Legado. The first two correspond to two cooperatives, San José Artesano in Mondrón and San Isidro in Periana. Another two are made by Finca la Torre in Bobadilla and the fifth is made by Hacienda de Colchado, also in Antequera. In total Malaga came away

from the competition, which is said to be the largest international olive oil competition in the world, with four gold medals and one silver. The gold was awarded to Único de Mondrón, made from the verdial variety of olive - the third year that it has achieved the distinction in the same competition. This is a premium AOVE that the cooperative launched on the market for the first time in March 2018. Another gold was awarded to Legado, made from the hojiblanca variety. The olive is harvested early, in the middle of October when the olive is at the beginning of the veraison (starting to change colour). It is produced by the Hacienda de Colchado, located in Cartaojal in Antequera.

**Organic and centennial**  
Finca la Torre Selección Hojiblanca Bio was another gold medal winner at the World Ol-

ive Oil Competition in New York. It is an organic oil, the star of this olive mill and one of the most awarded in Spain. Another of its oils, One Bio, produced from the hojiblanca olive and packaged in a transparent bottle with ultraviolet protection, also achieved a gold award. The silver medal went to El Milenario de Periana, which is made from verdial olives from hundred-year-old olive trees harvested at the beginning of the season (mid-November). The harvest only lasted two days, as the olives are in veraison, changing from green to purple, so it is a very limited edition. The resulting extra virgin olive oil is an intense green colour and its name, El Milenario (The Millennial), is a tribute to the dozens of ancient olive trees (some of which are more than a thousand years old) that exist in and around the Axarquía area.



El Milenario olive oil, silver medal winner in New York. **sur**



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# "People need to be very cautious and not go out happily into the street as if nothing had happened"

**Eduardo Rosell** Head of the Emergency Department at Clínico Virgen de la Victoria hospital

"It is right that we should all wear a mask whenever we leave our home, because it protects us and other people"

ÁNGEL ESCALERA



MALAGA. As the head of the Emergency Department at the Clínico Virgen de la Victoria hospital in Malaga, Eduardo Rosell has seen the cruelest side of a new illness that can affect anybody. Now that Malaga is in Phase One of the easing of lockdown and the restrictions of the last two months are not as strict, Dr Rosell says people still need to be cautious in order to prevent further infections. "We need to be cautious and not go out happily into the street as if nothing had happened, thinking this is over," he warns in this interview.

**—Do you think people here are behaving well after more than two months of this health crisis, or is there a certain relaxation now?**

—Overall, people in general have been very aware of the fact that the number of infections has been dropping because of the confinement. Lockdown is a tool that shows us that people have done as they were told, stayed home and behaved themselves. They have also followed the hygiene advice. Having said that, there are always some who don't comply with rules.

**—There is a risk that the coronavirus will flare up again. What do you think needs to be done to reduce the chances of that?**

—In Malaga 4.4 per cent of people have had the illness and in Spain as a whole the average is five per cent. Those figures show that the percentage of the population with antibodies that offer immunity from coronavirus is very low. This means the way to prevent contagion is to follow the safety and hygiene measures, which are simple, and anyone can do that.

**—Everybody should know what those measures are, but it is always good to make sure. Could you remind us?**

—It is essential to keep washing your hands, use protective gloves, maintain social distancing and use masks when you go out. It's right that masks are being made



Dr Eduardo Rosell, in the emergency department at the Clínico Virgen de la Victoria hospital. **sur**

obligatory, because they are one way of preventing infection. The mask protects the person who is wearing it and also those nearby. They mean you can isolate yourself more from what is around you, and it is also necessary to keep two metres away from other people. This protection 'obliges' you to be more careful in your personal relations. There are many other basic measures that help to prevent contagion, including intensifying the cleaning of your homes, using a lot of bleach and detergent in kitchens and bathrooms, and also communal areas, and frequently cleaning the handles of doors and windows.

**—So you agree with the measure to make masks obligatory, not just on public transport but everywhere.**

—I believe people should wear a mask whenever they go out into the street. In the hospital, we are used to wearing a mask all day anyway, from the moment we arrive to the moment we leave. Also, when you go into your home you should wash your hands, and have a cloth with bleach by the front door to disinfect the soles of your shoes and avoid physical contact with the rest of the family. In our case, when we leave the hospital we are always a bit afraid of carrying the virus into our homes.

## QUOTES

COVID-19

**"This is a new virus and there is an awful lot we still don't know, or can't explain"**

PRECAUTIONS

**"Simple measures like frequent handwashing can help to prevent contagion"**

That's why it is important to avoid direct contact. It is preferable to be as least affectionate as possible with your loved ones.

**—We are allowed to go to the terraces of bars now. What do you think we should do if we choose to do that?**

—Be very, very careful and cautious about touching the table and the chair you are sitting on, and of course don't cough on anybody or over the beer or whatever they are having. There are numerous risk factors when you go outside. I'm

not saying don't go to bars, just be cautious and use common sense to prevent possible contagion.

**—In other words, use your head when you go out and don't put yourself or anybody else at risk, is that right?**

—Exactly. We have to go out sometimes, but it is essential to be really cautious and not act as if nothing has happened, when there have been so many deaths and so many people have been very seriously ill in the intensive care units.

**—The key, then, is that we should not drop our guard or feel overly confident because the number of infections of SARS-CoV-2 has dropped.**

—That's it exactly. Above all, we must not lose our fear of this virus, because it will be with us until we have sufficient immunisation to deal with it, as we do with flu, for example. This is a new virus. There is still a great deal that we don't know about it, and an awful lot that we can't explain. We don't know what its morphology is, nor how it behaves in humans. Several research studies are being carried out, but there is still so much we don't know about how coronavirus behaves. For example, we don't know why it affects some people more than others. There is still so much we need to find

out. That's why it is best to treat it with great caution and not trust it for a single moment.

**—So precaution is essential if we are to prevent a second wave which could end up with the intensive care units being full again...**

—Of course. I repeat: we really have to be on our guard with this virus, because we still don't have a specific treatment for it. We have to do everything we possibly can so that patients don't end up in the ICU. The patients who come out of intensive care are still suffering serious respiratory problems, which can affect other organs and cause loss of musculature. They are people who have overcome the most critical phase of the illness, but once they leave intensive care they still have to go through a process of rehabilitation and adaptation.

**—The population needs to be very aware that Covid-19 is an illness which is extremely serious if there are complications, and can mean a patient needs intensive care and may die.**

—Yes, that's correct. I'll say it yet again: we have to treat this virus with great caution, adopt all possible preventive measures and not go out happily into the street as if nothing had happened and thinking it's all over, because it did happen and it is far from over.



## How to wear your mask

JOSEMI BENÍTEZ

Before you put your mask on and before you remove it, wash your hands with soap and water or a sanitiser solution (60% alcohol).

### Surgical masks Protecting others.

These are designed to filter particles emitted by the wearer.

### FFP types Protecting the wearer.

These are designed to filter particles present in the air, preventing them from being inhaled.



Never touch the green outside part. Only the top and bottom strips

Stretch from top and bottom to cover nose and chin

Shape the top to fit around the nose



# Common sense, the key to having the right face protection

Face masks are now mandatory in closed public spaces and places where distancing is not possible; but which type of mask should you use? And how long for?

ANA PÉREZ-BRYAN

MALAGA. This week's order from the Health ministry, effective from Thursday 21 May, which makes the wearing of face masks compulsory in closed public spaces and open spaces where distancing isn't possible (see page 4), is just the latest development in the debate over face coverings.

From insisting that only those who have symptoms wear them to now anyone over six years old (plus other exceptions), the change in criteria throughout the pandemic has run in parallel to doubts over the suitability of different types of mask, how to wear them and where to buy them. Now, however, with face masks necessary for some 45 million people and recommended for more than a million (those aged between three and five), these

doubts need to be addressed: what are the differences between a fabric mask, a surgical mask and a FFP2 type one? Is there enough stock? To what extent are they reusable? And above all: how much is this going to cost each household?

### Types of mask

Diego Rodríguez Aylón, secretary of the Official College of Pharmacists of Malaga, is keen to quash the myth that a fabric mask "is worse" than a surgical one: "They are equal in terms of standards; the only difference between them is the categorisation." As a surgical one is a 'health product', they can more easily be imported, hence being more widely available.

Both types, he says, provide a protective barrier for the person in front of you, while FFP2-type filter masks guarantee protection in both directions (also for the wearer). Homemade ones, meanwhile, "are better than nothing".

With regards wearing time, the first two are effective for between four and six hours, while filter masks will last up to eight hours.

Depending on the label, most

fabric masks can be reused if washed following the instructions. Surgical and FFP2 masks are ordinarily single use but can be reused in certain circumstances: "If you just nip out for five minutes to get bread and there is no prolonged contact, you can air it at home and use it again the next day. On the other hand, if you go to a busy place such as a terrace or a hospital, even for five minutes, you have to throw it away," says Francisco Florido, president of the same association. In the case of children, who touch them more often, it is best to throw them away after each use, he says.

### Availability

"For the time being the supply is guaranteed," says Florido. Surgical masks have a fixed maximum price of 0.96 euros, but cloth and FFP2 filter masks can cost between 3.5 and seven euros. Large supermarkets are also selling packs of 10 or 50 units (between 60 and 89 cents a unit), but in most cases these are not reusable.

When totting up cost, a person who goes out every day (for example to work) will have to pay between 18 and 28.80 euros a month to comply with the new regulations.

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# Djokovic back in business in Marbella

**The world tennis number one took to the clay at Puente Romano two weeks after his controversial training session in breach of lockdown rules**

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

**T**wo weeks after an error in the interpretation of the lockdown rules saw Novak Djokovic and the Puente Romano Tennis Club in Marbella get in a spot of trouble, the world tennis number one returned on Monday, this time with the government's regulations on his side.

As he did on 4 May, the Serbian took part in a sparring session with local player Carlos Gómez Herrera (428th in the ranking) on the main Manolo Santana court.

Djokovic had to smooth out the clay surface with a brush on several occasions, as the health protocols are strict in this respect as no operators are allowed on the court at the same time.

It is not unusual to see Djokovic playing with Gómez Herrera, a close friend of his brother, Marko, who, like Novak, spends large portions of the year on the Costa del Sol.

Novak, who has spent lockdown with his partner and children in a mansion he owns in La Zagaleta (Benahavís), habitually comes to the area but most often in the break in the calendar before switching surface.

The calendar in the ATP tour is officially suspended until 31 July, though with players coming from different continents (and the logistical difficulties it entails), the entire year could be written off.



Novak Djokovic, in an unusual image for a player of his level, brushing the clay surface. PHOTOS: JOSELE



▲ Djokovic, beaten by the ball.

▼ The Serbian started the session with a rally one metre from the net Gómez Herrera and, bottom left, the players arriving (without wearing masks).



## IN BRIEF



Back in the pool. SUR

## SWIMMING

### Local swimmers get special dispensation

**M. RIVAS.** Local swimmers Paula Ruiz, María de Valdés and María Claro are taking part in a training camp in the Sierra Nevada (Granada) with coach Xavi Casademont after being given special dispensation to travel as it was the closest high-performance centre to them. The swimmers were admitted after undergoing thorough testing.

## FORMULA 1

### Sainz, third Spaniard to sign for Ferrari

**D. S. C.** After weeks of rumours it was confirmed this week that Carlos Sainz will be a Ferrari driver from 2021. The McLaren driver, 25, from Madrid, will take the seat of four-time-champion Sebastian Vettel. Sainz will be hoping to do better than compatriots Alfonso de Portago and Fernando Alonso, in whose footsteps he follows, who failed to win with the team.

## WALKING FOOTBALL

### Season declared over following vote

**SUR.** At a managers' meeting last week, after some debate it was agreed that this season's Blue Sky Marbella Walking Football League will be terminated with four votes in favour (one against and one abstention). It is hoped that by starting afresh, provisionally in September, it will avoid fixture congestion and allow for more teams to be incorporated.

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# Back on the court and track... 66 day later

**Standout local athletes** told SUR what it was like getting back into their usual environment and training rhythms after two months away



## ▲ Golf and padel.

Noemí Jimenez at Guadalmina (Marbella) on Monday and Alex Ruiz at Capellanía (Alhaurín de la Torre).

MARINA RIVAS



PEDRO LUIS ALONSO



◀ Tennis player Alejandro Davidovich with his coach Jorge Aguirre, on his return to the court.

▶ Athlete Alejandro Romero has his temperature taken at Carranque and, right, padel player Bea González at SportMiraflres with the owner of the complex, Mario Gutiérrez.



For more than two months (at least 66 days), athletes, tennis players, golfers, and padel players have been unable to take to the field or track due to the pandemic. For many of them, they would have to go back to their childhood or when they had a serious injury to remember the last time they spent that much time away. With the province now in Phase One of lockdown easing, the majority of the area's standout athletes permitted to do so made their return to the track or field with the notable exceptions of padel player Momo González, long-distance runner Ouassim Oumaiz and shot putter Borja Vivas who preferred to wait as a precaution.

"It has felt like starting to play

again from scratch. It's weird at first. It doesn't have the same feel as before all this started. I think it will be a matter of weeks before everything starts to feel normal again and I get my fitness back," said Alejandro Davidovich, the best tennis player in Malaga (97th in the ATP ranking), who returned to work on Monday at the Lew Hoad Club in Fuengirola because Hotel Don Carlos, his usual place of work, is still closed. Now he has to "take everyone slow, if not, I will get blisters on my hands". Davidovich could potentially return to action on 10 July on the national RFET tour.

In the world of padel, Alex Ruiz, as a diabetic, has not been able to leave his home in Al-

haurín de la Torre during this time. On Monday, he took his first steps (by car at least) outside and headed to the Club Capellanía. "I've never gone 68 days without touching a racquet, not even when I injured my hand. It has been horrible. I haven't stopped working, but it's not the same not being on the court," he told SUR. Nor is the format that he is forced to practice during Phase One. "I need more dynamism," he said referring to the singles-only rule.

Bea González concurs: "At the start it's a bit weird." Padel's rising star, paired this year with the World Padel Tour number one, Marta Ortega, said on her return to the facilities at SportMiraflres: "After so much time without

holding a racquet, it's about getting back to your normal level little by little. So far, I've felt good."

In the same vein, Mari Carmen Villalba from Estepona also returned to the court on Monday. First, she trained in the morning at Villa Padierna and then gave private lessons in the afternoon at the Estepona Tennis Club. "We had a kind of tube to collect the balls. My coach, Santi Moreno, was wearing gloves and everything was disinfected... And then with my students, the same, one by one and keeping their distance," she explained.

Probably the most active sports facility in the province on Monday was Carranque in Malaga city, which reopened its athletics track with restrictions

in place (entrance by appointment only and no more than 50 athletes at once). Sprinter and medallist at the Spanish Championships, Javier Troyano, was one of the first through the door. "I was looking forward to coming back. It's good to train on the street, but any athlete will miss the track. Pre-season starts now for me," he says, adding that he was lucky to find the facilities so empty.

However, that had changed by the afternoon, which was reserved for clubs from 5pm to 9.30pm in 1.5-hour slots for groups up to 50. In the second of these sessions, from 6.30pm to 8pm, other national medallists arrived to train. Present were hurdler Isa Velasco and sprinter





▲ **Athletics.** With no more than 50 athletes at a time and runners separated by a lane and 10 metres, the Carranque sports complex in Malaga was the busiest sports centre in the province on Monday.

ÑITO SALAS



ÑITO SALAS

Elena Paulano (both from Unicaja) and also hurdler Alejandro Romero (from Club Nerja), who commented: "It felt like we were flying after so long without running on the track. I felt very light and free."

Everyone arriving at Carranque had to follow the same protocols. On entering, temperatures are checked, a mask and gloves must be worn until the training itself begins and wipes are given out so that they can clean all equipment they use with disinfectant gel.

"Finally I can stop training on my own," explained Paulano, who hasn't found it easy to train in isolation during the lockdown. "It's been so exciting being able to run on the track again and not

on concrete and having to dodge people."

Similarly, Velasco commented: "After running on a treadmill for a month and a half, the difference has been very noticeable. Now we're starting the technical stuff and getting ready for whatever's left of the season."

The feeling was good too for Ladies European Tour golfer Noemí Jiménez, who returned to practice at the Guadalmina course on Monday morning: "It was an incredible feeling. I felt happy when I saw the ball fly. I think I've lost a little in the approach, but the rest went very well."

"I thought there would be more people, but maybe because it was the first day many were afraid," she added.

# Which sports am I allowed to do in Phase One?

Monday was a good day for golfers, track athletes and tennis and padel players but when can swimmers, footballers and basketballers start up again?

P. L. ALONSO

MALAGA. As Malaga province entered Phase One of the government's lockdown easing plan on Monday, new freedoms came into effect for athletes of all abilities.

In addition to the individual sports permitted in Phase Zero (running, cycling, surfing etc), Phase One allows sports centres to reopen provided that the activity takes place in the open air and that it doesn't involve physical contact between players. This came as particularly good news for tennis and padel players, golfers and track athletes but not everyone is able to return to fields or courts just yet.

## Tennis clubs reopen

Tennis clubs are now allowed to open, albeit by appointment only and just for singles matches (which is limiting for older players, though there is no age limit).

The rules to follow are clear. Those who come to play, whether federated or not, must be wearing a mask on arrival. Masks can be removed once on court but must be worn again as they leave.

Under no circumstances will the changing rooms and shower areas be opened to users. Outside of the reserved playing time, players will not be allowed to remain in the facility. There should be 15-minute slots between reservations to allow cleaning of certain surfaces to take place.

There is still a question mark, however, over what will happen to certain tennis facilities which form part of hotels (of which there are many on the western Costa del Sol) that will remain closed.

## Singles padel

The regulations surrounding padel are very similar to those of tennis. Nowadays this sport is hugely popular and therefore almost as many padel courts exists as tennis courts in the area.

Clubs can reopen under the same conditions though, in the case of padel, the inability to play in pairs goes against the

standard rules of the sport.

In both tennis and padel, the use of new balls is recommended, as is using as few as possible in order to reduce potential surface contamination.

What's more, players are warned not to touch their face after handling a ball, in addition to observing the now common hygiene practices after the session, as well as not rewearing their sports clothes without washing them first.

## Athletics

With regards to athletics, the picture is a little more varied. While athletics facilities are allowed to open, not all of them have (including the Ciudad de Málaga and UMA facilities) and some have chosen only to open for high-performance athletes (as is the case in Nerja). Various clubs are also choosing to wait another week to avoid the pent-up demand.

The Carranque sports complex in Malaga city, run by the Junta de Andalucía, as well as several private athletics clubs opened on Monday for individual training sessions (with corresponding trainer if necessary). At Carranque, time slots (1.5 hours) must be reserved (federated athletes in the afternoon and anyone else in the morning).

Once inside, the use of hydroalcoholic gel and wipes is strongly encouraged to clean any individual training equipment while run-

ning can only take place if a distance of ten metres is maintained between athletes.

## The Costa del Golf returns

Around 90 per cent of the province's golf clubs reopened on Monday. Those that didn't are those that rely most heavily on foreign visitors.

The guidelines in place are similar to those previously mentioned with play only allowed with a prior reservation. In the specific case of golf, up to four people can play but they must keep their distance, one person is allowed per buggy, trolleys must be disinfected and ball cleaners and even the flags cannot be touched. In addition, the club house and changing rooms are not allowed to open and the cleaning of clubs and shoes is not permitted.

## Later phases

When it comes to Phase Two, the regulations are less clear. It is expected that swimming and other yet-to-be-defined "low-risk" sports will be allowed but this is yet to be finalised and will depend a lot on individual town halls.

Gyms are set to reopen in Phase Three (with adaptations required) while contact sports such as football or basketball are unlikely to be allowed until Spain enters its "new normal" - at the end of June at the earliest.

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# Malaga to make 50 staff redundant in further bid to balance the books

The process of filing an ERE could take up to a month as the administrator looks to cut costs and restructure the club

ANTONIO GÓNGORA



MALAGA. As was expected, Malaga CF has announced that it will be starting a mass redundancy plan, in order to lay off around 50 workers as it attempts to balance the books with the added complications posed by the coronavirus pandemic. The official announcement came on Tuesday and the process is expected to take up to a month to finalise. This drastic reduction of workers will also lead to a restructuring of the club which will soon be divided into four major departments.

This collective dismissal, known as an ERE, will affect a large number of departments, al-



Judicial administrator José María Muñoz, left, at a recent game. **ÑITO SALAS**

though none of the club's players will be included. Negotiations will now begin with workers' representatives, with whom the club will have to hold several meetings to agree on the details of the process. There is a possibility that the figure of 50 redundancies could eventually be reduced.

This measure has been set in motion by the judicial adminis-

trator of the club, José María Muñoz, who is tasked with keeping the club solvent and avoiding La Liga sanctions which could include relegation. "Restructuring the club is part of a series of necessary measures to ensure the survival of Malaga CF," read the statement which announced the dismissals. "In recent months the club has been car-

rying out various measures to alleviate the difficult economic situation it is experiencing."

## Message to the fans

In the same statement, the club called for understanding on the part of its fans: "The entity thanks the fans and season ticket holders for their support in these difficult times and asks them to understand the complex process that begins today [Tuesday] and which the entity will carry out in the coming months, whose only purpose is to protect the future of our colors and badge."

In addition to the layoffs, SUR understands that the structure of the club's staff will be reorganised in order to speed up operations. The club will therefore be divided into just four main departments, whose heads are already in place. Administration and finance will be overseen by Alberto Martínez; General Services and Business will be controlled by Carlos Arias; Sport will be led by Manolo Gaspar, who will oversee all of the club's teams, including the women's team; and Institutional Relations, Communication and Marketing will be headed by Ana Vera.

Players move into next phase of preparations for season restart

**BORJA GUTIÉRREZ**

MALAGA. The Malaga squad moved into phase two of three of La Liga's plan to restart professional football in Spain as group training recommenced on Tuesday.

In this phase, players can train in groups of up to ten but cannot use the same equipment (except balls and goal-posts). This is a significant step up from last week, with ball and tactical work now possible and even mini matches.

Team talks can also take place with up to 15 people, including staff, at a time.

Right-back Cifu rejoined the group after being kept in isolation as a precaution last week.



Receiving instructions. **LALIGA**



A LOOK AT LA LIGA  
**ROB PALMER**  
Commentator, Sky Sports

## A whole new ball game

The 'new normal' for football is likely to see the end of inflated fees, massive wages and cuts for agents

Anyone who was the supremo of swapping football stickers (or cigarette cards for older readers) could soon be much sought after by the leading football clubs.

Directors of football could be replaced by savvy twelve-year-olds who understand the value of swapping and trading football faces in the sticker season.

"You want my Neymar? I'll swap you for your Griezmann and Rakitić!"

"I will give you Bale if you let me have Pogba."

The upside of the 'new normal' in football is the fact that crazy, inflated transfer fees

will be a thing of the past. As part of the revolution the transfer market is set to become a trading market, going back through the ages when merchants bartered and exchanged their goods. The whole football industry is about to undergo a complete transformation with an injection of austerity and accountability.

The European game may soon mirror the American sports where trading is prevalent (although I still can't work out their complicated system). No more ridiculous price tags, wages will reduce dramatically and hopefully the agents will no longer have such an influence. Basically, clubs will



James, an unaffordable luxury. **AFP**

have to offload surplus players, reduce wage bills and use their imagination in the recruitment market.

I'd welcome a summer when newspapers, television and radio stations aren't dominated by transfer gossip driven by 'sources' who are basically agents trying to manoeuvre the market for their own gain.

Instead, the whole industry could become like cash in the attic. There are hundreds of millions of pounds worth of players who are surplus to requirements and very few will be classed as indispensable.

It has been reported that Barcelona would consider selling all but three players, Lionel Messi, Frenkie de Jong

and Marc-Andre ter Stegen as they need to fill a big black hole in their budget. There's no chance of recouping the 160-million-euro transfer fee for the unwanted Philippe Coutinho; the 15 million they paid for Martin Braithwaite as a stop-gap striker just four months ago will have to be written off as the wage bill will have to be trimmed.

Neymar's agent, meanwhile, is unusually suggesting that his client is happy in Paris. This appears to be out of character until you realise there won't be a negotiable cut and deals like the record 222 million euros are unlikely to ever happen again.

It's a dilemma for some of the biggest names in world football who may find their maintenance is too much in the new climate. Who can afford the likes of Gareth Bale, Paul Pogba, James Rodríguez, Antoine Griezmann and Coutinho? It's like having a Bentley in the garage, nobody can afford to take it off your hands and as it rusts the price decreases.

It's a whole new ball game.





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THE STARS



**Aquarius**  
January 21st - February 19th  
Avoid the natural instinct to drop standards when no-one is visiting. You will feel so much brighter for a good hair day and a crisp white top.



**Pisces**  
February 20th - March 20th  
Although you may feel a bit anti-social this week, don't get snappy. There is plenty of incentive to upset those who you feel are coming up short.



**Aries**  
March 21st - April 20th  
There isn't much to complain about this week compared to the rest of the month. A definite turn for the better shows itself. You may even find fun and friends seem more light-hearted.



**Taurus**  
April 21st - May 21st  
Looking after your health and that of those around you is still important. Try not to run before you can walk as far as work is concerned.



**Gemini**  
May 22nd - June 21st  
Keep safety as a priority but it looks as though there is a light at the end of this social tunnel. Workwise a small change gives hope of something so much better to come.



**Cancer**  
June 22nd - July 23rd  
Energy is high overall and this does tend to make life more frustrating at the moment. Keeping a balance may be possible by changing routines at home.



**Leo**  
July 24th - August 23rd  
Getting more tired than usual reminds you that a break and some relaxation is essential, not a luxury. Long-term benefits come from confiding your feelings.



**Virgo**  
August 24th - September 23rd  
Brighter days and a change in circumstances are ahead. Continue to get those tedious jobs out of the way now. There is more than one way to move forward at the moment.



**Libra**  
September 24th - October 23rd  
A busy few days followed by a sense of quiet can be confusing. There seems, at times, to be no pattern to the future. Normally you could influence that but not right now.



**Scorpio**  
October 24th - November 22nd  
Plans made now could see you doing something really exciting nearer the end of the year. The message this week is to look to the future.

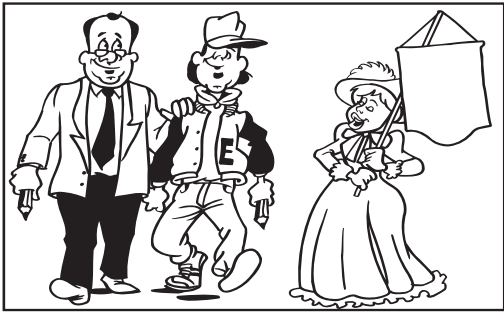
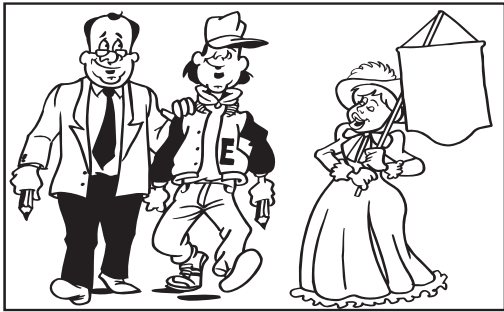


**Sagittarius**  
November 23rd - December 21st  
Put some extra energy into doing things that please loved ones. Something that may seem small and not worthwhile to you can be special to someone else. Be aware.

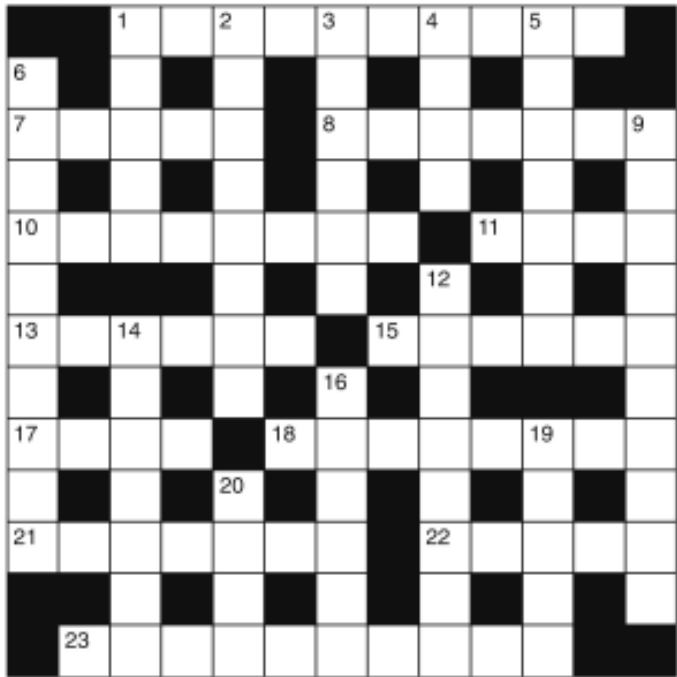


**Capricorn**  
December 22nd - January 20th  
It seems clear that those around you need pulling out of their doom and gloom. It is not easy to introduce humour into what can be a serious area. If anyone can do it you can!

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11410



Across

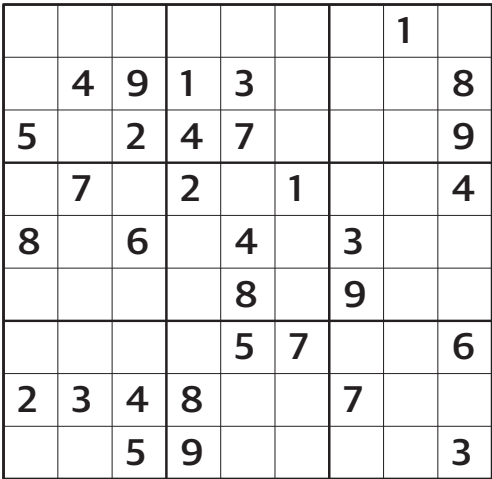
- 1 Mail the book of the play as an afterthought (10)
- 7 The leading characters of "Alceste" capably tackled Euripides's dialogue (5)
- 8 Sounds like a battle area to treat with contempt (7)
- 10 The solution when she goes astray in a low joint (8)
- 11 In the Dodecanese, a mine layer (4)
- 13 Being doomed, mother comes to a bad end (6)
- 15 Scared to redeploy regimental nuclei (6)
- 17 Skills that are linked to some degree (4)
- 18 Could be a water clock for a veteran (3-5)
- 21 They rope in the girls round the ring (7)
- 22 Chosen among the Israelites (5)
- 23 Comfortable berth, but prickly to lie on! (3,2,5)

Down

- 1 Put a black cover on the playing surface (5)
- 2 Members of the team who officiate in church! (8)
- 3 Suffer from the results of bad 'arvest! (6)
- 4 Neckwear for a thug, we hear (4)
- 5 Solid support around a single trail-blazer (7)
- 6 Basic equipment required by one in court (3,3,4)
- 9 Sycophantic convict? (4-6)
- 12 Arboreal features of the cove? (3,5)
- 14 It's involved with the same artist (7)
- 16 The precinct on the right is more stuffy (6)
- 19 Sounding like men of letters (5)
- 20 Toy that has its ups and downs (2-2)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

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



THE WORDPUZZLER

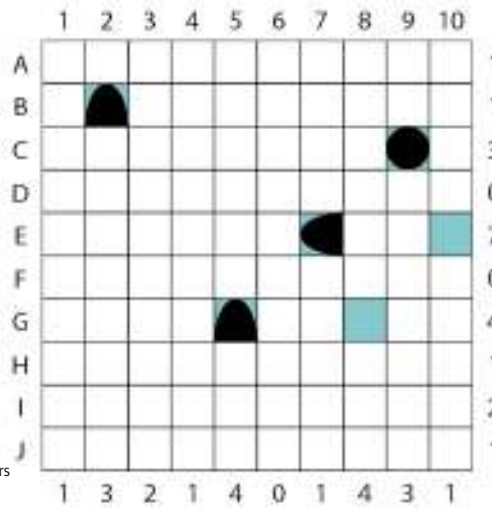
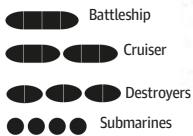


Can you find the missing words from the groups or solo artists whose album titles are listed below?

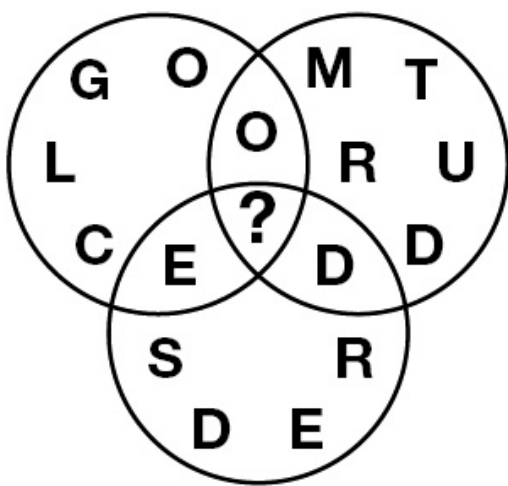
- 1. Paranoid: --- Sabbath
- 2. No Jacket Required: --- Collins
- 3. Brothers in Arms: --- Straits
- 4. Crossroad: --- Jovi
- 5. Blood on the Tracks: --- Dylan
- 6. Physical Graffiti: --- Zeppelin
- 7. Animals: --- Floyd
- 8. Heroes: --- Bowie
- 9. Bat Out of Hell: --- Loaf
- 10. Tubular Bells: ---Oldfield

BATTLESHIPS

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



CIRCLEGRAM



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



LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

Across

1) Population (9)

5) Concern (12)

10) Ace (2)

11) To repatriate (9)

12) Egalitarian (pl) (12)

13) Gas (3)

14) Colony (7)

16) Creed (5)

19) Orchestra (8)

22) He touches (4)

23) Unbearable (10)

24) Ethics (5)

26) Morocco (9)

27) Anger (3)

29) Ceiling (5)

30) You read (6)

33) Evacuees (9)

35) Trunk (4)

37) Bland (m) (4)

39) Such (3)

41) I existed (6)

43) Landing (11)

44) Drops (5)

45) War (6)

46) Air raid (6,5) (11)

47) Camp (10)

Down

1) Danger (7)

2) Ship (5)

3) Civilians (7)

4) To narrate (6)

6) Risks (7)

7) Others (f) (5)

8) Shipyard (9)

9) Normally (11)

15) Names (7)

16) Fourteen (7)

17) School (7)

18) Destination (7)

20) Fifteen (6)

21) In love (pl) (10)

24) Strategy (10)

25) Community (9)

28) To the (2)

31) She instructs (8)

32) You (2)

34) Dock (7)

36) Tongue (6)

37) Sheet (6)

38) Port (6)

40) Letter (5)

42) It serves (5)

ANSWERS

**Quiz answers**

her gaze.  
scream and Medusa could kill with a  
ferocious, Euryle could kill with a  
Medusa. Stheno was the most  
haired sisters: Stheno, Euryle and  
the gorgons were three snake-  
**Of interest:** In Greek mythology  
**Answer:** Three  
returned.  
his master and died knowing he had  
greet him nonetheless recognised  
usurpers. Argos, too old and frail to  
return to take back his home from  
away fighting, he had to secretly  
Argos from a puppy. After ten years  
**Of interest:** Odysseus had bred  
**Answer:** Argos

Language Crossword

Cryptic Crossword

**Solutions:** Across: 1 Postscript 7 Aced 8 Afloat 10 Adhesive; 11  
Bait 13 Darned 15 Cadres 17 Army 18 Old-timer 21 Lagoon 22  
Elite 23 Bed of roses; Down: 1 Pouch 2 Sidewind 3 Slave 4 Puff 5  
Plonk 6 Bat and ball 9 Time-server 12 Bay breeze 14 Maltreat 16  
Clever 19 Males 20 Yo-yo.

Wordpuzzler solution

1. Black 2. Phil 3. Dire 4. Bon 5. Bob 6. Led 7. Pink 8. David 9. Meat 10. Mike

Sudoku solution

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

Circlegram

The letter represented by the  
question mark is N. Cologne,  
Dortmund, Dresden, all  
German cities.

Battleships

WHERE IS THIS?

Last week:  
Manilva

This beautiful landscaped roundabout  
with lovely fountain in the middle is on  
the junction of Calle Dr Álvarez Leiva  
and Camino del Peñoncillo in Manilva.

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# Genalguacil won't let the virus get in the way of art

**J**ust over a month ago the cartoonist Albert Uderzo died, leaving orphaned the adventures of Asterix the Gaul and Obelix. However, the unyielding spirit of their French hamlet in its battle against the Roman empire lives on in places like Genalguacil, the tiny village in the Genal valley which has barely 400 inhabitants but whose Art Encounters have become famous in the Spanish contemporary art world and, at the same time, have proved to be an effective weapon against depopulation and oblivion.

Many places have cancelled cultural events this year because of the uncertainty caused by the coronavirus crisis, but Genalguacil stepped forward and decided to hold this year's encounter as scheduled. The organisers have included an 'anti-Covid' clause in the conditions, saying they are going ahead because they want to support artists in these difficult times, and that all necessary health and safety measures will be put into effect, even if the format ends up being different for legal reasons

**Initiative.** The tiny village in Malaga province is going ahead with its Art Encounters this summer even if the format has to be changed because of the Covid-19 crisis

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ



**25**

years, the Genalguacil Art Encounters have been taking place and this pioneering initiative is helping to prevent depopulation

and the participants are unable to come to the village to work.

To coincide with the announcement, perhaps as a way of demonstrating its commitment, Genalguacil council has also just installed the wrought-iron balustrades created by Tamara Arroyo as part of the 'Forging identities. Building scenarios' project.

## New pieces of urban art

The four new balustrades are at the entrance to the village, by the bus stop in Calle Real. Genalguacil is a continually evolving outdoor museum and art gallery, and some of the other most recent pieces now on display have been created by artists such as José Medina Galeote, Fernando Renes and Julio Anaya.

"The idea is for people to recognise and connect with these works of art with which they live every day, so we explore crafts and popular imagery (wrought iron, native species, the landscape etc) all of which are identifying features. We want to connect artists of all types, because that creates an enriching relationship,"

◀ Tamara Arroyo's latest works are now installed in the streets of the village

says Juan Francisco Rueda.

This connection between the resident artists and local people has been one of the project's signs of identity in the past 25 years, and in the intervening years between the Art Encounters there are other exhibitions and urban art projects take place.

During the Encounters, several artists move into the village for the first fortnight in August and carry out the projects for which they were selected. Afterwards, the works remain the property of the village. Genalguacil's population usually triples when these events take place.

In 2014 there was a major step forward when it was decided that the artists who participate should be paid 1,000 euros as well as being provided with accommodation and meals during their stay. This is still the case today and will apply to this year's event, for which applications are invited until 15 June. The successful applications will be decided in the second half of the month and, as usual, the event is scheduled for the first half of August.

Artists who have taken part in recent years and whose works are on display in the village include José Luis Serzo, Noelia García Bandera, Eugenio Merino, Moreno&Grau, Juan Francisco Casas, Paloma de la Cruz and Jesús Zurita. The initiative has become so popular that it has even been included in suggestions of places to go by the Observatory of the Contemporary Culture Foundation.

It is also extremely significant that such a tiny place has been able to use contemporary art as a crucial tool to prevent the depopulation which is affecting so many others. And now, facing up to the threat of the coronavirus, it is once again showing that same indomitable spirit of Asterix and company which Uderzo made immortal.

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