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CULTURE

THE BEAUTY OF DOÑANA MOVES INTO THE CAC

Lacomba's fascination
with landscapes is
reflected in the gallery's
latest exhibition **P24**



Staff check the distance between sun beds on a beach in Torremolinos. **SALVADOR SALAS**

Costa del Sol comes to terms with the new normal

Tape measures have become part of the daily routine in bars and on beaches as lockdown restrictions are relaxed

Malaga and Granada provinces caught up with the rest of Andalucía this week and moved into Phase Two of Spain's lockdown easing plan. Beaches could open but with new social distancing rules which so far have not been difficult to keep due to the absence of tourists. Shopping centres also reopened and larger social gatherings are permitted. At the time of going to press, Andalucía was waiting to hear the Health ministry's report on which areas move up a phase next week. The regional government had asked for all eight provinces to move into Phase Three together, despite Malaga and Granada being a week behind. **P2&3**

Data suggests Spain's real Covid-19 death figure could be around 15,000 higher

As official figures drop and hospitals empty, statistics show increases in deaths not put down to the virus

Data released this week by Spain's National Statistics Institute, has revealed a significant increase in deaths not officially related to Covid-19 since the start of the health crisis. In Malaga, where 287 people

have died with the virus according to official figures, the total number of deaths during the crisis period was 630 higher than last year. The unexplained increase for Spain as a whole amounts to

more than 15,000. Meanwhile the daily figures reported by the government have been optimistic this week, with no new deaths in Malaga province, where only 17 people are still in hospital. **P4**

Malaga Feria is cancelled as Junta advises all fairs be called off this summer

Concerts and bullfighting can still take place with restrictions but mass events, including the San Juan and Virgen del Carmen festivities, are set to be cancelled

There was widespread disappointment this week when Malaga city hall announced it would follow recommendations from the regional government to cancel the popular Malaga fair in August. Ultimately, however, the final decision over cancellations rests with individual town halls. **P11**

INSIDE

Man gunned down in broad daylight in Marbella.

A 40-year-old Bosnian man was killed by a hail of bullets on a town-centre street **P7**

Malaga CF will return to league action on 12 June

when they face Huesca at La Rosaleda **P30**

UK police investigate case of expat, missing for 27 years.

Bernadette Cooper owned a bar in Benalmádena **P12**



Beaches and businesses come back to life with Phase Two

More lockdown restrictions have been lifted this week as beaches, shopping centres and bar interiors have reopened

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MALAGA. The province of Malaga woke up on Monday to a new month and a new phase in the Spanish government's plan to ease coronavirus restrictions.

Malaga and Granada have now caught up with the other six Andalusian provinces in terms of lockdown easing, which had already been in Phase Two for a week.

Restrictions have been relaxed in a number of areas. Beaches on the Costa del Sol and Costa Tropical have reopened to bathers - until now it was only permitted to use beaches for individual sports and walks - and

the first sun umbrellas and towels appeared on the sand.

There has been plenty of room so far this week to allow the required distance of two-metres between users in most areas.

The busiest beaches have been in urban areas with larger resident populations, such as Malaga city and Fuengirola. The absence of tourists was evident, however, in resorts with more tourist accommodation and second homes, such as Benalmádena Costa and La Cala de Mijas.

Neither has distancing been a problem this week in Marbella, where the families and groups of friends who did spend time on the sand noticed the new hygiene and safety precautions to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Sun beds rented alongside beach bars were being disinfected before use and rearranged to allow the correct spacing, according to the new regu-



Groups keep their distance in Marbella. JOSELE



The absence of tourists was evident in Benalmádena Costa. I. GELIBTER



The first shoppers in the Miramar centre on Monday. I. GELIBTER



A Malaga café served its first customers inside. MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

lations.

Similarly, on beaches all along the Costa, bathers were aware of council workers cleaning facilities such as showers and litter bins. More Local Police patrols have also been evident to enforce Covid-19 regulations.

Early bird

Bulgarian-born Isa Taseva was the first person to arrive on Malaga's Malagueta beach on Monday morning with the intention of sunbathing, rather than walking or running, putting her sunshade up at 8am.

"We've been stuck indoors for a long time, my flat is quite dark and I needed some sunshine; I was longing to come to the beach," said Taseva, who has been in Malaga for around 20 years and works at the popular Cortijo de Pepe restaurant in the Plaza de la Merced.

Bar interiors

Other restrictions relaxed in Phase Two involve the use of the interiors of bars and restaurants. Until now only establishments with terraces had been allowed to open, but from this week bars can serve tables inside, with a reduced, 50 per cent capacity to allow social distancing.

This meant that many businesses had preferred to wait until Phase Two to open for the first time since the start of the Covid-19 crisis. Others along the Costa del Sol prefer to wait for the arrival of tourists before opening their doors.

Shopping

Shopping centres have also been allowed to reopen this week, although common seating areas and children's play facilities are still out of use.

In Marbella's La Cañada centre shoppers got used to new rules on Monday morning, with capacity limitations and markers on the floor to ensure distancing in queues.

"I made a list of all the things I had to buy once the shops opened again," said Veronica, one of the first customers. Not all shops had reopened.

In the Miramar centre in Fuengirola, practically all the shops opened on Monday, all with distancing regulations. The

PHASE 2

► **Personal.** No time slots for exercise, except 10am to 12pm and 7pm to 8pm reserved for the over-70s. Movement within province. Gatherings up to 15 people. Beaches open.

► **Bars, cafeterias and restaurants.** Interiors to 50% capacity, terraces open to 50%. No bar service.

► **Shops and services.** Shopping centres open. Shops to 40% capacity

► **Culture.** Museums, theatres, cinemas, etc to 30%.

PHASE 3

► **Personal.** All time slots removed. Gatherings up to 20 people. Movement within province (unless announced).

► **Bars, cafeterias and restaurants.** Interiors to 50% capacity. Bar service at two-metre intervals. Terraces to 75%.

► **Shops and services.** To 50% capacity. Probably gyms as well.

► **Culture.** Museums, libraries, theatre, cinemas to 50%

► **Home working.** Still encouraged where possible

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clothes store Guess controlled its numbers of customers by giving out security tags.

Relatives were also able to visit the graves of their loved-ones this week, as cemeteries opened to the public for the first time since lockdown. Driving schools started operating again with new disinfecting procedures in place in the vehicles between classes.

Phase Two saw some tourist accommodation welcoming guests as 14 establishments opened their doors this week, according to the Malaga hoteliers



Isa Taseva. I. L.

association Aehcos. While the only tourists could be residents of the province of Malaga as inter-provincial travel is still not permitted, the general feeling was that the return to business had been better than expected.

i Ignacio Lillo, Iván Gelibter, Charo Márquez, Juan Soto and Pilar Martínez contributed to this article.

For updated information visit www.surinenglish.com

Junta wants all Andalucía to move phase before allowing travel between provinces

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MALAGA. While the provinces of Malaga and Granada were only promoted to Phase Two of lockdown easing this week, the regional government has called for Madrid to allow all eight Andalusian provinces to progress to Phase Three this coming Monday 8 June.

Permission to travel between provinces will only be sought from Madrid when the entire region is in the next phase, regional vice-president Elías Bendodo said this week.

At the time of going to press the Health ministry still had not announced which provinces will change lockdown easing phase on Monday.

Government rectifies over June border opening announcement

Easyjet has announced that flights to Malaga will resume in July although quarantine and Covid-19 figures leave arrival of British tourists in doubt

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MALAGA. The date for the arrival of the first international tourists in Spain after the coronavirus crisis is still unclear after mixed messages from the government on Thursday. Minister for Tourism Reyes Maroto's announcement that land borders with France and Portugal would open on 22 June was later rectified in a statement issued by the government headquarters, Moncloa, which confirmed that the date for the start of "safe international movement" was still 1 July.

The rollercoaster ride for the Spanish tourism industry took a dive earlier this week when Germany, the country's second biggest source market for foreign visitors after the UK, said that its citizens could travel around Europe from 15 June, except to Spain and Norway. The reason



Image used by Easyjet to launch its new schedule. SUR

given, however, was reciprocity and the Spanish foreign minister, Arancha González Laya, said that Germany would lift its veto "as soon as Spain allows the arrival of tourists".

The Balearic and Canary islands remained hopeful this week that the government would allow international tourists to their destinations before the rest of Spain, after the state of alarm is lifted on 21 June.

The government said earlier this week that it was working on

establishing safe air bridges, initially between the Spanish islands and Germany and Scandinavian countries.

The situation with UK visitors is more complicated, however, due to the still high rate of Covid-19 infection in the country and the quarantine regulations due to come into force this coming Monday. Pandemic figures there still "need to improve" said Maroto on Wednesday.

New flights scheduled

Meanwhile airlines continue to announce plans and this week Easyjet has said that it will resume operations on the Costa del Sol this summer. It will be operating 50 per cent of its flights in July, it said, and 75 per cent in August. On its new schedule are flights between the Costa del Sol and 17 European destinations, including Amsterdam, Belfast, Bristol, Basel, Paris, Glasgow, Geneva, London (Gatwick, Southend, Luton and Stansted), Liverpool, Manchester, Milan, Newcastle, Berlin and Toulouse. Air Europe has said it will start routes up again between Malaga and Madrid and Paris from 15 July.

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MARBELLA - FUENGIROLA - MANILVA

Data analysis suggests Spain has had 15,000 more deaths through Covid-19 than officially stated

The number of deceased in Malaga province whose cause of death has been linked to the virus is 287 but deaths locally have increased by 630 this year

NURIA TRIGUERO



MALAGA. The official number of deaths because of coronavirus in Malaga province was 287 on Thursday this week. Despite this, it is clear both locally and nationally that the death rate linked to the pandemic is higher than what the Ministry of Health figures say it is.

The government's National Statistics Institute (INE) has launched a trial of a new statistical tool that could help clarify the true extent of the tragedy based on weekly data received from death registrars. This has then been combined with previous years' data of the cause of death with the aim of "estimating deaths due to the Covid-19 outbreak", according to the INE.

At a national level, the INE data has shown a year-on-year increase of 43,945 deaths comparing the first 21 weeks of 2019 with those in 2020. In percentage terms, the increase is 24.1%. The data measures up to 24 May and, up to that date, the government had said 28,752 deaths were be-

Death rate during the coronavirus crisis

Excess deaths during the Covid-19 outbreak

Percentage year-on-year changes in recorded deaths, comparing 2020 with 2019 (up to 24 May)



287, which suggests that the virus has been doubly lethal locally than officially recorded.

This increase in year-on-year mortality in proportional terms is 11.4%, which makes Malaga the Andalusian province with the second biggest year-on-year increase, just behind Granada province on 13.84%.

In the rest of the Andalusian provinces, coronavirus has hit less hard, and there are much smaller increases: Cadiz has a 6.24% increase, Huelva 2.27%, Seville 1.8% and Almeria 0.46%. There are even regional provinces with less deaths than last year: deaths in Cordoba have fallen 16.9% and in Jaén, 2.4%.

The increase during the pandemic in Malaga is a long way off the worst-hit Spanish provinces: Madrid and Guadalajara have close to a 73% excess mortality each and Segovia almost double the normal amount.

2020 figures similar to 2018

There is one further interesting local conclusion reached by the INE analysis of deaths up to 24 May. The mortality in Malaga province, while up this year during coronavirus, is virtually the same as 2018 (6,158 versus 6,150). The INE data shows that in 2018 there was an increase in most categories of death including a particularly large outbreak of flu. The worst week for deaths in the first part of 2018 in Malaga province was actually higher than the worst week in 2020 during the Covid-19 crisis.

No coronavirus fatalities reported in Malaga province so far this week

There are 97% fewer people in regional hospitals with the illness than at the peak of the crisis on 30 March

ÁNGEL ESCALERA / SUR

MALAGA. Up to Thursday, no new fatality through Covid-19 had been reported this week in Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol, and five new cases had been reported in the previous 24 hours.

There were only 94 coronavirus patients still in hospital on Thurs-

day in the whole Andalusian region, of whom 30 were in intensive care.

The data was published as usual by the regional Health ministry amid hopes that all the region can move into Phase Three in the coming days.

Those 94 people in hospital is equivalent to 97 per cent fewer than 30 March, the peak of the pandemic in southern Spain, when there were 2,708 in hospital.

In hospitals in Malaga province there were 17 still inside, with four in intensive care, this week.

Nationally, there were 195 posi-

When analysed locally, in Malaga province there has been a clear rise in the mortality rate compared to last year. However it is not as great as the national picture and well below the provinces hardest hit by the virus, such as Madrid, Guadalajara or Segovia, which are at almost dou-

ble the normal number of deaths.

According to INE information, in the first 21 weeks of this year, 6,158 deaths were certified in Malaga province. This was 630 more than the 5,528 recorded in the same period in 2019.

The number of deaths officially down to coronavirus are so far



There are now much fewer cases locally. MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

tive tests for Covid-19 in the previous 24 hours on Thursday, compared to 219 on Wednesday. In the last week nationally 166 have still needed inpatient hospital treatment, of whom 11 were in intensive care.

Amid ongoing confusion over the number of deaths reported nationally compared to each region, the national ministry of Health said it was counting 56 deaths across Spain in the last week, bringing its current total to 27,133.

5.2% of people in Spain have had virus, fuller test results reveal

SUR

MADRID. Government scientists announced on Thursday afternoon that 5.2 per cent of people in Spain have had coronavirus, after analysing over 60,000 survey samples. The figure was in line with preliminary results last month, based on fewer tests, and confirms that the country is a long way off the so-called herd immunity.

Leading scientist Marina Pollán said a third of people who had had Covid-19 had not shown symptoms and of those, only 2.8 percent now probably had antibodies.

Time to get back on track.

Life has been very unusual over the last few months but, as restrictions are lifted, we can hopefully start to settle into this 'new normal' and enjoy more freedoms. And if you have put your financial planning to one side for a while, it is now time to refocus on your long-term financial security and preparing for Brexit.

Our offices are open again, with safety measures in place to protect clients and staff, but we continue to offer contactless advice through telephone or video meetings if you prefer. Either way, we are available and ready to help with your tax and estate planning, pensions, investments and Brexit related concerns.

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UAE delivers 18 tonnes of medical supplies to Marbella

MARBELLA

The town hall will give the materials to the hospital and distribute masks and hand gel among local residents

HÉCTOR BARBOTA

The government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has donated 18 tonnes of medical supplies to help Marbella in the coronavirus crisis. In a move that confirms the strength of the town's links with the Arab world, the UAE has sent a shipment containing protective materials such as surgical face masks and hand sanitiser as well as items specific for hospital use. The donation was collected from Seville airport by two lorries and arrived in the town last Friday.

The 1,500 boxes of materials have been taken to the congress centre where they will be sorted before distribution. Equipment for hospital use will be given to the regional health authority for the Costa del Sol hospital. The rest will be distributed among residents in



Ángeles Muñoz and Osman Musa Al-Hassan. JOSELE

Marbella.

Marbella's mayor Ángeles Muñoz explained that the donation was organised through the UAE embassy in Madrid. "When the pandemic began we held a meeting with the ambassador and representatives in Marbella," said Muñoz. "They asked us what we needed," she said explaining that despite the fact that the government was keen to make the dona-

tion, it still took several weeks to get through red tape before the goods could be sent.

Osman Musa Al-Hassan, a member of the Emirates diplomatic corps in Spain who manages the Abu Dhabi royal family's palace on the El Batatal estate in Marbella, was present to receive the shipment of material. Al-Hassan said that the donation is an example of his country's affection for Spain.

HERE AND THERE

CASARES

New stretch of the coastal path completed

CHARO MÁRQUEZ. A new stretch of the coastal pathway project, known as the Senda Litoral, is now open in Casares.

The wooden path and bridge over the La Jordana stream is 30 metres long and 2.4 metres wide and will improve the town's links to Estepona for those travelling on foot or by bicycle.

The latest part of the project, which came at a cost of 170,000 euros, was financed by the Diputación provincial authority. It connects the existing part of the path to the



The new bridge. SUR

Torre de la Sal with the path built last year in Casares del Mar. A link to the La Perla de la Bahía development has also been created.

MIJAS

Land designated for a school in Riviera

IVÁN GELIBTER. In response to growing demand from residents, Mijas mayor, Josele González, and councillor for Town Planning, Andrés Ruiz, announced on Wednesday that an 8,100-square-metre plot of land in Riviera del Sol had been designated for the construction of a

school.

The land, in the area known as Cortijo Colorado, will be handed over to the regional government for a nursery and primary school.

According to González, the aim is to reduce the number of children (currently almost 700) who have to travel from Calahonda or Riviera to La Cala to go to school.

"We'll continue working to designate other plots to address the issue," added Ruiz.



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Man gunned down in central Marbella in broad daylight

A 40-year-old Bosnian man with a criminal background was shot six times on a street close to the main Avenida Ricardo Soriano

JUAN CANO
CHARO MÁRQUEZ

MARBELLA. The National Police are investigating after a 40-year-old Bosnian man was shot dead in broad daylight in central Marbella on Tuesday afternoon.

The incident occurred just before two o'clock on Calle Arturo Rubinstein, a road off the main Avenida Ricardo Soriano, just outside a building known as 'la lavadora' (the washing machine), 100 metres from the victim's home.

Despite initial reports that suggested he was fired at by a man on a motorcycle, the victim (named as Slavisa Z.) was killed by a man who approached him on foot with a sub-machine gun before firing a hail of bullets into his body.

According to preliminary inspections of the scene, a dozen bullets were fired, six of which struck his body, killing him instantly. The assailant, who was wearing a helmet according to witnesses, then fled the scene on foot before getting on a motorcycle.

After the alarm was raised, numerous units of the National and Local Police went to the scene and sealed off the perimeter to preserve possible evidence. A search

was then coordinated across the whole town and on the main exits to try and locate the perpetrator.

During the first hours following the attack, speculation quickly spread around the town that the perpetrator had been arrested and footage of the supposed arrest was spread on social media. However, the reality is that officers identified several possible suspects in the area, but none were arrested.

Investigators are now examining the victim's past in order to try to ascertain what enemies he had and what their motive might be.



Police at the scene of the crime on Tuesday. JOSELE

It would appear that Slavisa Z. first came to Spain in 2013 before being arrested in Ceuta after police intercepted a boat on which he and two Spanish men were transporting 31 kilos of cocaine. He was sentenced to 13 years in prison (reduced to six) and he was released from Algeciras prison ap-

proximately eight months ago to serve the rest of his sentence under a restricted-release regime in his new home in Marbella.

Slavisa Z. had just a few months left to serve but without family connections in the country and his paperwork not in order, he was facing deportation.

Six men dressed as police tie up family and rob luxury mansion in Mijas Costa

F. TORRES / J. CANO

MALAGA. The Guardia Civil are investigating a violent robbery at a luxury mansion in Mijas Costa. According to sources, the incident happened during the early hours of Thursday last week. Six individuals dressed as police officers tied up the property's two occupants and gagged them for a long period of time in order to search the house for valuables without interruption.

The victims appear to have been a father and his son, whose hands were tied behind their backs using cable ties.

The assailants reportedly spoke Spanish, worked in an organised manner and left with several pieces of jewellery and other objects worth 300,000 euros. Once the thieves had gone the older of the two men managed to free himself and notify the Guardia Civil.

The house where the assault took place is located just off the A-7 as it passes through Mijas Costa, so the attackers had an easy escape route.

A similar incident, a few days earlier, is being investigated by the National Police in Marbella. In this case, the assailants didn't dress as police officers but did tie the occupant's hands while they searched the property. They made off with several items of value, including two high-end watches.



British drugs trafficking war was behind Mijas Costa murder

The arrest of two Britons in the UK and Murcia has cleared up the inquiry into the shooting of a 39-year-old man in Riviera del Sol last November

JUAN CANO
ÁLVARO FRÍAS

MALAGA. Two arrests last month, one in the UK and the other in Murcia, have wound up the inquiry into the murder of a British man in Mijas on 21 November last year.

The 39-year-old, who had a criminal record in the UK, was

shot five times while he was inside his car outside his house in Calle Orfebre, Riviera del Sol.

A joint investigation between the British and Spanish authorities identified the two suspects, both UK nationals who, the Guardia Civil believe, were sent to the Costa del Sol by a drug trafficking organisation to kill the victim.

Detectives believe that the murder was part of an ongoing battle between two rival gangs over control of marijuana trafficking between Spain and the UK.

The careful choice of the time and place of the shooting showed,



One of the suspects was arrested in Murcia. EFE

according to the Guardia Civil, the "criminal experience and sang-froid" of the two suspects.

Officers believe that the pair

travelled from the UK to Barcelona from where they drove to the Costa del Sol in a rental vehicle. They followed their vic-

tim for days, studying his movements and routines, before shooting him as he arrived home.

The first suspect was arrested in the UK and jailed for previous offences. A European arrest warrant is being processed so that he can be tried by Spanish courts for the murder committed in Spain.

The second suspect had been travelling over the last few months, visiting different European and South American countries. When the state of alarm was declared he returned to Spain, living in a village near Murcia.

He was arrested in a property used for the preparation of marijuana shipments. At the time of his arrest, officers found 20 kilos of the drug in vacuum packs. Another member of the trafficking organisation was also arrested.

The arrests were the result of a joint operation between the Guardia Civil in Malaga and Murcia and Manchester police.



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Nerja cave and museum reopen with restrictions and temperature checks

June marks the 60th anniversary of the opening of the tourist attraction and a new walking route will be inaugurated to celebrate the occasion

EUGENIO CABEZAS

NERJA. The Nerja cave reopened to the public on Monday, with re-

strictions including a 70 per cent reduction in ticket sales and temperature controls for visitors.

Hand sanitizer and gloves have been placed around the site and a distance of five metres must be kept between groups of visitors.

The reopening coincides with the 60th anniversary of the first visits to the caves on 12 June 1960 and as such the Nerja Cave Foundation has marked the date by cre-

ating a walk which takes visitors through the grounds, above the caves. The botanic gardens, home to 1000-year-old pine trees, will also be open from 9 June from 9am until 3pm.

The cave ticket includes access to the Nerja museum, with the former open from 9.30am to 4.30pm with the museum open from 10am to 4pm. The opening times will be extended from 23 June.



Two visitors to the Nerja cave with Nerja Cave foundation manager Chema Domínguez on Monday. **SUR**

HERE AND THERE



A screenshot of Paola Moreno during the Zoom meeting. **FSUR**

TORROX

Sun lounge councillor to return meeting fee

E. C. Torrox councillor Paola Moreno has said she will return the 85 euros she was paid for attending a council meeting via Zoom while on a sun lounge on the beach last Monday.

Moreno also apologised and said that it "wouldn't happen again" after screenshots from the meeting were shared on social media, causing local and national controversy.

The councillor had originally defended her actions saying that other politicians attend Zoom meetings from their cars and other outdoor places.

NERJA

Town hall bans access to Chillar river

E. C. After advice not to visit the popular Chillar river nature hot-spot went unheeded, Nerja town hall has now banned access altogether due to the risk of coronavirus contagion.

The council has banned bathing in the area popular with young people and families because "large numbers had been coming in the past few days and safety precautions were not being taken", read a statement.

TORRE DEL MAR

Beach safety leaflets distributed in Axarquía

A. P. The Mancomunidad de Municipios which oversees the Axarquía's town halls has printed 50,000 leaflets with measures and recommendations for beach-goers in the east of Malaga area. The leaflets can be found in the Mancomunidad de Municipios headquarters on Avenida Andalucía in Torre del Mar as well as tourist information offices from Rincón de la Victoria along the coast to Nerja.

PERIANA

Periana foreigners office reopens

J. R. Periana's foreigners office has reopened following months of closure after the original contract expired. Chloe Gavin, who ran the office before it closed, has taken up the post again and is available to help foreign residents with queries and translations. She is mainly working from home but will be at the town hall on Friday mornings. Appointments must be made in advance.

MARO

Opportunity to comment on golf plan

E. C. The public has until 26 June to submit comments and opposition to plans to build a golf course, luxury hotel and 680 homes on land around the old sugar cane factory near Maro. Opposition political parties along with a residents' association who are against the project have collected over 9,000 signatures from people who believe the project would be an environmental risk.

ALMUÑÉCAR

Popular annual Jazz festival to go ahead

J. R. Almuñécar town hall announced this week that the annual Jazz en la Costa festival will be able to go ahead this year, having initially said that it would be cancelled due to the lockdown. As in previous years the event, which is in its 33rd year, will take place in the town's El Majuelo park and will be held from 22 to 25 July. Tickets have not gone on sale yet and the programme has not been confirmed.



Jazz en la Costa festival. **SUR**



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Malaga Feria among many summer events cancelled

MALAGA

The regional government has recommended that all fairs and street parties be cancelled this summer to avoid a new Covid-19 outbreak

MARIA DOLORES TORTOSA /
PILAR R. QUIRÓS

The Junta de Andalucía regional government has recommended that no fairs or street parties be celebrated this summer as part of a new health protocol announced on Tuesday in a bid to avoid a new outbreak of coronavirus in the region.

While the final decision rests with the individual municipalities, Malaga city hall wasted no

time in declaring that its summer fair, planned for 15 to 22 August, would be cancelled.

Malaga councillor for Festivities Teresa Porras insisted that the council would always follow health guidelines but at the same time said that her department was working on organising other musical and cultural events in accordance with guidelines (everyone seated, with two-metre distancing).

The protocol announced affects 37 Andalusian towns and cities which had summer festivities planned, including the massive Malaga and Almeria fairs. The San Juan (24 June) and Virgen del Carmen (16 July) celebrations will also be affected but concerts and bullfights can still go ahead as venue capacities can be controlled.

Essential works under way at the English Cemetery as normality slowly returns

MALAGA

SUR. Restoration work at the English Cemetery in Malaga, which had been put on hold because of the coronavirus pandemic, is now under way as normality slowly returns.

Essential repairs are being made to the side wall adjoining Calle Ibarra - the second phase of work started under the aegis of Malaga city hall, which provided 90 per cent of the necessary funds.

The first phase was the construction, in 2017, of a retaining wall with a vertical garden inside the cemetery, with spaces available for the insertion of ash niches for cremated remains.

With the lifting of some of



The English cemetery. **SUR**

the lockdown restrictions, the English cemetery has been able to open its gates to the public again.

The attraction is open from 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday, and 10.30am to 3pm on Saturday, Sunday and public holidays.

TORREMOLINOS

Intu pushes ahead with leisure complex plans

A. GÓMEZ. British company Intu presented detailed plans to Torremolinos town hall as it pushes ahead with its project to build a large-scale shopping and leisure complex on the outskirts of the town, close to the Palacio de Congresos.

The plans presented by Intu include the creation of two new access roads: one from the west, next to the botanical gardens, and another from Calle Rocío Jurado. Both roads, totalling more than six kilometres, will have two lanes to enter and one to exit. The company will also finance a roundabout for access from the AP-7 and A-7.

These projects have been given a budget of 47 million euros and will take three years to complete. The park itself will cost 800 million euros, employing 2,500 people during the construction and 4,500 after.

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UK police investigate case of Irish expat missing for 27 years

Members of Bernadette Cooper's family have never stopped searching, although they feel people are not being honest about her whereabouts

TONY BRYANT



MALAGA. Officers from the Surrey Constabulary have begun investigating a 27-year-old missing persons case involving a Benalmádena-based British bar owner. After the missing woman's nephew produced what he believes might be fresh evidence, the police decided to start an inquiry. Strangely enough, this will be the very first police investigation into the disappearance of Irish national Bernadette Cooper, who vanished on her way to Malaga in January 1993. Mistakes were made in the initial private investigations carried out, as Bernadette's 61-year-old nephew Leon Moore told SUR in English.

"No police force originally investigated the case. The initial investigation was done solely through word of mouth among the Irish community in Spain, the Salvation Army and a private investigation made by a lawyer. Her

real name was Susan, but she always used her second name, Bernadette. Back then, they were searching for Susan, which was an error that I have only recently discovered."

Bernadette, who will be 77 later this month, had arrived on the coast in the late 1980s to enjoy a new life in the sun. Along with her then husband Brian, she brought a bar called Molley Malones, (now the Wheel Tapas and Punters Bar) in Benalmádena Costa, but their dream life soon began to run into problems. The couple struggled to make the bar financially viable and their marriage eventually broke down.

Brian returned to the UK in 1991 and the couple began divorce proceedings. Desperately in need of funds to keep the business afloat, Bernadette temporarily shut the bar in late 1992, and returned to London. She headed to the family home in Surrey with the hope of a divorce settlement. Her next movements are confusing and her family feel certain that she never arrived back in Malaga, but proving this has been difficult.

"She didn't arrive back in Spain as far as we know. She never collected her belongings and it seems that no one has seen her since she left for the airport in London. The police are taking this seriously and are now at-



Irish national Bernadette Cooper was last seen in January 1993. SUR

tempting to find her passport movements," Leon said.

In January 1993, Bernadette had contacted a friend on the Costa del Sol to inform him she was on her way back to Benalmádena with sufficient funds to save the bar. The call was the last contact anyone has had with her.

A resistance to come forward

However, members of her family have never stopped searching for the truth. Leon, who describes his aunt as someone who was "feisty and vivacious" feels that people are not being honest about his aunt.

"I find it difficult to believe that so many people I have spoken to in Benalmádena are clamming up and not giving me any information. There seems to be a resistance to come forward," he said.

There were several aspects of

the disappearance that prompted Leon to contact the police, but he cannot reveal details because the investigation is ongoing. His determination to find out what really happened is fuelled by a promise he made to his father, who died last year.

"It was part of my dad's life work to try and find his sister. Shortly before he died, I made a promise that I would carry on," he said emotionally.

Leon claims he is receiving new information daily, although most is just "a lot of chasing shadows", but he is keeping optimistic.

"We are looking at a jigsaw puzzle and there is a gigantic piece missing. There is a small possibility that she just decided to take off and start afresh. It's the kind of narrative that people are trying to keep hold of, the Shirley Valentine kind of thing," he concluded.

Torremolinos bar staff participate in initiative to offer life-saving service

Some of the bars in the area joined forces to help raise money to purchase a defibrillator, a device designed to save lives of those in cardiac arrest

T. BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. While many bars on the Costa del Sol are employing various initiatives to entice patrons following the easing of the restrictions of the lockdown, one pub is now offering a service that could help save customers' lives.

After holding a series of fundraising events last year, staff at the Rose and Crown pub in Montemar, Torremolinos, raised enough money to buy a defibrillator, a device developed to save the lives of people experiencing



Members of staff participated in a defibrillation course last week. T.B.

sudden cardiac arrest.

Last week, the team participated in a course designed to teach them how to use the device. The course, which was subsidised

by Torremolinos town hall, was run by Meduba, a Malaga-based defibrillator specialist.

Many of the bars in the area joined forces to help the team

raise money, while customers also gave generously to help purchase the device, which cost 1,650 euros.

Unfortunate incidents

Sue, who has worked as a waitress at the pub for almost 25 years, explained to SUR in English that the idea was prompted by two unfortunate incidents.

"Two of our customers died of heart attacks: one in the street and another in the hotel. Both incidents happened close to the bar, so it might well have made a difference if there was a defibrillator nearby."

The Rose and Crown, which was established in 1987, will be the first bar in the area to install a defibrillator. Although Sue claimed that it was something she hoped they would not need to use too often, she said she feels safe knowing that it will be available should a situation arise.

"Montemar is a very busy place during high season and we thought this would be an asset to the area. We are really grateful to everyone who helped," she added.

HERE AND THERE

FUENGIROLA

Rotary Club helps local soup kitchen

T. BRYANT. The International Rotary Club in Mijas has stepped up its campaign to assist the homeless during the Covid-19 pandemic. The association has been working closely with charities in the Fuengirola and Mijas area throughout the state of alarm and last week its members made deliveries of food parcels and essential supplies to the Adintre soup kitchen in Fuengirola. Since the lockdown, Adintre has assisted more than 1,100 people.

The Rotary Club also delivered emergency supplies to the Costa del Sol food bank in Fuengirola, which was set up in 2009 to cater for the needs of the increasing homeless population. The food parcels were delivered by Rotary Club member Suvi Kauranen and councillor for Social Services Rozita Iles.

"We would prefer this was not necessary, but we are here to help and will continue to do so while the need is still there," Suvi explained.



Supplies for Adintre. SUR

CÁRTAMA

Free masks for recycled tin cans

T. B. Cártama town hall has launched a new project called Recycle for Your Health, which is aimed at promoting the recycling of tin cans. Organised with the collaboration of Ahysa Waste Management, the campaign, part of Cártama's World Environment Day celebrations, will take place in the Parque Santo Cristo in Cártama Pueblo, and at the Parque Los Naranjos in Estación de Cártama, on Saturday (tomorrow) from 10am to 2pm. In its continued campaign to combat the coronavirus, the town hall will exchange a free face mask for every five cans donated.

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Government wins final two-week state of alarm extension

Wednesday's debate between MPs was dominated by speeches criticising the handling of the removal of top Guardia Civil officers

SUR

MADRID. Congreso approved a sixth and final two-week extension of the Spain's state of alarm, first declared in the middle of March at the start of the coronavirus crisis, on Wednesday.

Prime minister Pedro Sánchez gained a new period, from 8 to 21 June, in which central government retains powers to restrict movements within its phased lockdown easing programme.

This extension was achieved on Wednesday evening with less difficulty than the last one, as Sánchez had previously secured the support of centre-right party Ciudadanos as well as the Basque nationalist party PNV. The Catalan republican party ERC agreed to abstain to allow the motion to go through.

This time the government has promised that the regional authorities will be able to control the lifting of restrictions once re-



Sánchez in Congreso this week. EFE

gions enter Phase Three of the lockdown easing plan. The only control central government will

The government has promised that the regional authorities will be able to control the lifting of restrictions once regions enter Phase Three

necessarily retain once areas have moved into Phase Three is over movement between regions.

Each regional authority will be able to decide whether or not to allow travel between provinces within that region in Phase Three. In addition, whole regions could come out of the state of alarm before 21 June, said the government.

Women's Day controversy

The prime minister was visibly more relaxed in Wednesday's parliamentary debate, knowing beforehand that he had enough support.

However the day's proceedings were dominated by ongoing criticism of the Interior minister's handling of the recent removal of senior Guardia Civil officers.

This week it emerged that the formal reason given to Colonel Diego Pérez de los Cobos for his dismissal was failure to share with the ministry the existence of the investigation into the government's handling of the 8 March Women's Day marches. Last week Interior minister, Fernando Grande-Marlaska strongly denied that was the reason.

On Wednesday in Congreso, Pedro Sánchez defended Grande-Marlaska's actions.

UK Embassy eases concerns over residency appointments

British Ambassador Hugh Elliott has said people should continue trying online or keep evidence of their residency entitlement

SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. The British Embassy in Madrid has sought to reassure UK residents who have been trying to register as residents but

have been unable to make appointments to apply for the green registered-resident card.

All Britons resident in Spain by 31 December this year will have their existing residency, healthcare and pension rights recognised as if the UK was still in the EU.

The Embassy said that provinces in Phases Two or Three of lockdown easing are starting to make appointments available and advised people to keep checking the online appointment link.

UK Ambassador Hugh Elliott said, "If you don't yet have your green residency certificate there is no need for alarm. We continue to advise people to get an appointment as soon as you can. However, as long as you are living in Spain and can prove that you satisfy the legal conditions of residence (i.e. sufficient income and access to healthcare), your rights are assured even if you are not able to get the physical document before the end of the year."

He added that for those already with the green certificate or card, this is valid after December and no details on any replacement TIE residency card have been given as yet by the Spanish authorities.

Belgian prince issues apology for breaking lockdown rules

Prince Joachim developed Covid-19 symptoms shortly after arriving in Cordoba to meet with his Spanish girlfriend's family

PILAR VIDAL

MADRID. The Belgian prince who caused a scandal last weekend after it emerged that lockdown rules were broken when he travelled to Spain issued an apology through a lawyer in Cordoba this week.

The lapse emerged after 28-year-old Prince Joachim developed symptoms of Covid-19 while in Cordoba, forcing at least 27 people he had come into contact with since arriving a few

days earlier to be traced and tested. In his statement the prince admitted "not respecting the quarantine" and that he "deeply regretted" his actions.

The son of Princess Astrid and nephew of the Belgian king apparently made serious mistakes in not self-isolating for 14 days after arrival from abroad and meeting with over the 15 people limit. There was confusion as to whether he had met with all 27 at once in a party or not.

The reason he could enter Spain was also questioned. The Belgian Royal Household said it was a business journey to start a work placement.

Prince Joachim's girlfriend, Victoria Ortiz, is from Cordoba and it was her family that was said to be hosting him.



Prince Joachim



File image of the 2019 ceremony with the Royal Family arriving. EFE

Healthcare workers honoured with 2020 Princesa de Asturias prize

DOMÉNICO CHIAPPE

MADRID. The healthcare workers of Spain have been honoured with a prestigious Princesa de Asturias prize,

The prizes, named after the heir to the throne, are given annually in categories covering different aspects of society. The judging panel highlighted the "heroic spirit of sacrifice", adding that the healthcare workers "have become a symbol in the fight against the biggest pandemic of the last century".

The award ceremony is normally held in Oviedo, Asturias, in October.

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Gibraltar government recommends masks as restrictions are eased

Face masks or coverings are not compulsory in Gibraltar except in certain situations, but the authorities are recommending that people wear them

DEBBIE BARTLETT



GIBRALTAR. As the plan to Unlock the Rock from the coronavirus restrictions progresses, the government has asked people to consider wearing masks or face coverings in enclosed public places where it may be difficult to guarantee two-metre social distancing.

These protective measures are



Masks are said to protect the wearer and others nearby. **SUR**

already obligatory on public transport but are voluntary elsewhere in Gibraltar. According to recent scientific evidence, wearing a mask helps to protect the wearer and

those around him or her, especially in situations where somebody could be infected with the Covid-19 virus, and therefore contagious, but does not yet have any

symptoms. This is a major concern for the authorities as restrictions are eased and people are able to go out and about and mix with others more.

Also of concern is the fact that there has been a small but steady rise in the number of people testing positive with coronavirus recently, since the Unlock the Rock programme came into force. This may be due to increased testing and the identification of people who are asymptomatic, and several confirmed cases are cross-border workers who are included in Gibraltar's statistics despite self-isolating at home in Spain.

In general, people in Gibraltar appear to be exercising caution but there have been incidents where large numbers of people have gathered for night-time parties on the beach without social distancing or facial protection.

The latest statistics for Gibraltar, on Thursday 4 June, show 20 active cases (seven cross-border workers) and 80 people self-isolating for different reasons.

There have been no deaths from the virus.

Popular online culture programme to continue on Thursdays

D. BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. The online cultural programme which has been entertaining people during lockdown on the Rock for ten weeks has proven so popular that it is to continue throughout June.

It will run on Thursdays from 10am to 1pm and will be streamed on the GCS Cultural websites and social media platforms and GAMPA's website and social media platforms.

The content will include stories for children, a GAMPA performance, speakers from Gib Talks 2018 and 2019, a virtual tour of the Mario Finlayson Gallery and footage from the cultural archives, and much more.

IN BRIEF

NATURE

Permits now required to touch the apes

D. B. When life becomes more normal again and visitors are welcome to the Rock, they should bear in mind that it is now a legal offence to touch any of the famous Barbary macaques without an official permit.

The Gibraltar authorities have always tried to discourage people from touching or otherwise interfering with the apes' natural behaviour, but now there is an added factor: the primates can catch some human diseases and also pass them on and there are concerns about the potential for coronavirus infection.

The authorities say it is virtually definite that the macaques have not contracted Co-



Apes can catch viruses. **SUR**

vid-19 so far, thanks to the early lockdown and lack of visitors, and they want to ensure that this continues to be the case.

The law has already come into force, applies to visitors and residents alike and will be strictly enforced.

NEWS

Masks obligatory as bus services return to normal

D. B. Buses in Gibraltar resumed their normal services on Monday 1 June, although there are now special conditions with which passengers have to comply because of the coronavirus crisis.

All passengers must wear masks or other face coverings, and use hand sanitiser when boarding the bus.

The number of people travelling on any bus may be restricted, and this will be monitored and managed by the bus company officials.

HEALTH

Schools closed due to legionella bacteria

D. B. Four schools in Gibraltar had to be closed as a precautionary measure at the beginning of this week after legionella bacteria was detected in some of their water outlets during an inspection.

The entire water systems at Bernard's Lower Primary, St Bernard's Upper Primary, St Joseph's Lower Primary and St Joseph's Upper Primary schools are being subjected to a hypochlorination treatment during the closure.

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Small drop in registered jobless total on Costa in May after the large rise in March and April

As people slowly start to get back to work, the government is considering extending emergency furloughing for worst-hit sectors

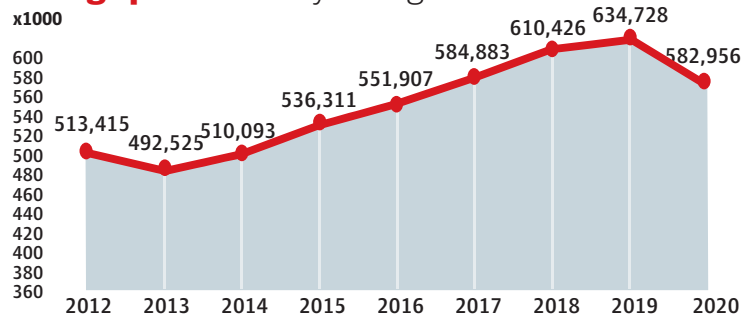
NURIA TRIGUERO

MALAGA. After the unprecedented hit on the labour market in March and April, the winding down of restrictions from May has meant some of the lost jobs have been recovered.

In Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol, May closed with a fall of 1,659 people who were registered as looking for work and an increase of 5,702 people in work and paying Social Security. There were also 115,785 workers furloughed locally on the ERTE scheme, a drop of 14,328 on April. The gradual opening of shops, restaurants and other businesses has seen the labour market start to wake up.

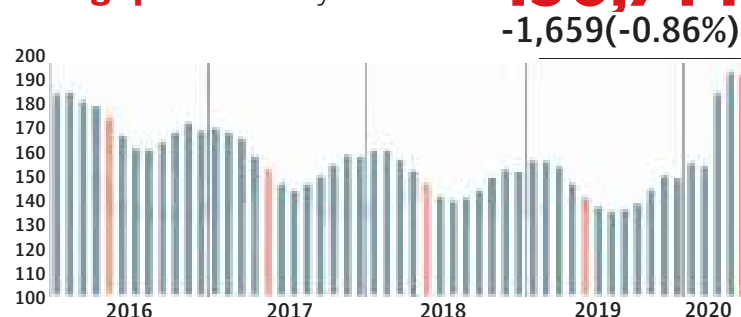
In work and paying into Social Security

Malaga province May average



Registered jobless

Malaga province May 2020



UNEMPLOYED

190,744
-1,659(-0.86%)

Despite the small increase in those in work, there are still 51,773 fewer workers paying into Social Security than the same month last year. The year-on-year fall in affiliation locally is 8.16%.

Some 190,744 people in Malaga province were registered in the regional employment offices on 31 May, 49,739 more than in May 2019. This excludes workers with ERTes and also 62,071 self-employed who have claimed temporary relief. The total registered as inactive was therefore 368,000 at the end of May, which means for every ten working there are six who are not and want to work.

Extending ERTes?

The May official data has shown that the ERTE mechanism has so far been effective in stopping the long-term destruction of jobs. However government, unions and bosses are concerned that once the ERTes expire, real job losses will increase.

The government suggested this week that it is considering extending the legal limit for people to stay on crisis ERTes until the end of September, instead of the current expiry date on 30 June. This would apply in the worst-affected sectors.

Business leaders have asked the government to go beyond this date to the end of the year to give some stability to firms that will see their income take longer to recover.

A million people check Minimum Living Income simulator to see if they qualify

SUR

MADRID. The government has approved the Minimum Living Income (Ingreso Mínimo Vital). The new income support benefit brings Spain in line with other European countries and is a flagship policy of the PSOE- Unidas Podemos coalition.

Almost a million people tried to check their eligibility on a simulation website (<https://ingreso-minimo-vital.seg-social-innova.es/simulador>) in the first few days of the scheme's launch.

The benefit for ages 23-65 will range from up to 462 euros a month for single people to 1,015 for a family. Strict conditions apply, including at least one year in total paid in Social Security contributions and three years living independently outside a parental home.

Foreign residents who have lived in Spain for a year can also apply. The benefit can be applied for via the Social Security service's website from 15 June.

THE EURO ZONE
MARK NAYLER

No business as normal



This week saw the release of a statistic that dramatically reveals how the Covid-19 pandemic has already left an indelible mark on this year, as well as hinting at its possible medium-term economic effects. According to the National Statistics Institute (INE), during April - for the entirety of which Spain was under one of the world's most severe lockdowns - precisely zero international tourists visited the coun-

try. Consequently, tourist spending was also zero.

As normality slowly starts to unfurl after a weird couple of months, the latest INE statistics are a brutal reminder that Spain was closed for any kind of business during April. The effects of that closure, on everything from employment to the population's mental and physical well being, are likely to rumble on for the rest of this year, even if lockdown is now over.

And with the baffling announcement this week that Malaga's administration has cancelled the city's riotous feria in mid-August, it seems that the Andalusian summer will feel far from normal, even though the worst of the Covid-19 health crisis has passed. An Andalusian summer without ferias will be like a British summer without rained-off Wimbledon matches: surreal, missing a vital, iconic element. Such cancellations also risk prolonging the economic stagnation that has already resulted from two months of total lockdown.

Cancelling a giant street party in Malaga in August appears excessively cautious, especially given the relaxation of confinement measures already taking

place. It seems strange that outside terraces and streets will still be packed during the summer months - at least with Spaniards, if not with international visitors - but that feria is deemed a contagion risk. How many people in one place at a time is unacceptable, and why? Ten, fifty, two hundred, five hundred? Where and why do we cross a line? There seems to be no real logic, no rational principles underlying the cancellation of such events months in advance, yet allowing typical Spanish street life to resume anyway.

But perhaps impromptu summer celebrations will still be held throughout Andalucía. If bars, squares and streets are not officially off-limits, you won't be able to keep Spaniards off them,

especially during August. As the owner of a bar in a Malaga village said to me this week, "If our feria is cancelled, I'll just put extra tables out and turn up the music. We'll still have a feria."

Spain's politicians, meanwhile, continue to bicker with astonishing energy and creativity. Wednesday's congressional session was pure theatre, with Vox leader Pablo Abascal shouting at deputy prime minister Pablo Iglesias as he left the chamber that there would be plenty of time to watch his speech later - on a TV in prison. Is this the "new normal" of Spanish politics, a post-truth political arena in which insults and putdowns are more important than rational, considered debate?

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Similarities

During lockdown I have been following the news even more than usual - probably like everyone else - and because I have a particular interest in two different countries, I keep up with the Spanish news and the UK news. In recent weeks I have noticed so many similarities that I sometimes end up afterwards wondering which country a particular headline referred to.... Where did I read that? I think the government buying shiploads of faulty PPE was in both, wasn't it? And the not counting the deaths in care homes among the statistics? Then there was the weekend with fine weather, when people flocked to the beach to sunbathe or eat sardines, and forgot about social distancing. Politicians refusing to answer questions, or banning the media they don't like from press conferences. I could go on.

And then we had the "one rule for them, one rule for us" scandals, as a top government adviser in one country and a prince in the other decided they were above the common herd and could risk spreading the virus by travelling around while the rest of us behaved like responsible, caring citizens. The difference was that in the former case, the Prime Minister and his cabinet lined up to defend the adviser, totally missing the point that this undermined the government's own message.

Anyway, thank you SUR in English for keeping us up to date on the Spanish news. I still know where I prefer to live! Stay safe everyone. **GLORIA JAMES**

No one cares about plastic anymore

It's true that with the coronavirus crisis pollution in major cities has gone right down, which can only be a good thing for the environment. But with all these new rules

about hygiene, suddenly all our efforts to do away with single-use plastic seem to have gone to waste, if you pardon the pun. For the sake of hygiene now everything comes individually wrapped, and people seem to want it that way. **M. JONES**

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THE MUSIC MAKER
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No particular place to go

One of the many joys that phase two of the confinement deescalation process has brought is the permission to potter aimlessly about once again. I'm sure it's not expressed in precisely those terms in the official government guidelines but, nonetheless, it's surely what they mean: "Go forth now and potter, my friends, and let thy souls be nourished."

Many is the comment I've been privy to lately, both personally and via the media, expressing a new found wonder in life's most humble experiences. It's a pity that it's taken a global health scare to rip the scales from the eyes of so many and, rather selfishly, I do hope it doesn't mean that millions of people who hitherto took their dubious pleasure in consuming stuff, will now begin to join the Association Of Lifelong Potters. Arrivistes are categorically not welcome - there

simply isn't room for too many of us. No, I'm hoping the current fad for life's simple pleasures will pass as swiftly as it arrived and the misguided masses will return to their shopping centres and video games forthwith.

Anyway, you can't consider yourself a genuine potterer if you have your mobile phone on you - it's a surefire giveaway where amateurs are concerned and I've seen far too many examples of this outrageous faux pas lately to be worried that the craze will last too long. Quite clearly, wandering around with no discernible objective loses all its charm if the spell can be broken at any given moment by a bleep or a ring or that really grating whistling noise which I think corresponds to Whatsapp but might be Twitter or InstaSnaps or any other one of the devil's inventions. No, the whole point is not to be disturbed in your tootling un-

less it's by a giggling child, a pretty young woman or a random bloke offering to buy you a pint for no reason in particular. Ideally, of course, it should be a young, pretty, giggling woman offering to buy you a pint but life can be cruel.

My mobile phone has all but given up the ghost, probably in protest at having spent the last ten years being not very mobile at all, rather left lying on the kitchen table while I've tallied forth, closing the door behind me daily in search of fresh pastures for general mooching.

A friend of mine has just offered to replace it with a fancy phone that he doesn't use any more but, without wishing to sound ungrateful, I'm thinking of just getting one of those 1980's answerphones if they still make them.

"Hello, this is Harry Potterer, out doing what my name would suggest. Please leave your message after the tone..."

SANSÓN



SUR in English

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THE BOTTOM LINE
RACHEL HAYNES

The big stats race



Throughout the coronavirus crisis, we have spent days checking on numbers: how many new cases have been diagnosed in Spain, in Andalucía, Málaga; how many people have died; and how many people have recovered.

Then we've turned our eyes to what's been going on in other countries, even using vocabulary that you might normally find at a racecourse or an athletics stadium. Spain is two weeks behind Italy, but then the UK sets off three weeks behind

Spain. As the figures progress, the UK gains some ground and even overtakes Spain at a point that varies depending on which way the judges are looking.

Everyone has known that the figures have never been exact. We all know of people who have had symptoms identical to those of Covid-19 but never had the test. And then only patients given the PCR type of test are included in the figures, with thousands more testing positive with the faster antibody kits who don't help in-

crease the score at all.

We've all heard how some regions have counted deaths differently from others. That care homes have been an issue where elderly people have died without having been tested and therefore not included. That some figures have taken days to reach the Health ministry and the papers in front of the official with the job of updating followers of the scores at daily briefings.

Now more figures from the Spanish National Statistics Institute (INE) have shed some light on the real situation. The significant increase in deaths during the coronavirus crisis compared to other years is no coincidence. This new, unknown and unpredictable virus has been responsible for a lot more grief than it has been credited for.

Grief... Keeping up with the figures, studying the cold graphs, interactive maps

and tables produced by the Johns Hopkins University, among others, has kept us so busy we've put up a barrier to protect us from the drama behind each and every one of those numbers.

Thousands of families have been grieving without being able to gather together to bid their last farewell to a loved one, and to the rest of the world their case has just been the difference between a six and a seven or a two and a three on the "scoreboard" of fatalities.

Looking at the figures, though, however inaccurate they may turn out to be, has been the only way of gauging the evolution of the pandemic.

Comparisons have to be made, and hopefully putting figures alongside different government decisions will show us how best to deal with a crisis such as this when it happens again. Or maybe not.

INTERNATIONAL FAMILY LAW

New Family Proceeding post Covid-19

MÁLAGA & MARBELLA

SUR. Since 14 March 2020, Spanish society has been immersed in the lockdown brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic that led to the declaration of the State of Emergency.

The “Stay at home” mandate translated into a sudden pause of the judicial system, among others, and created a situation of uncertainty affecting all fields. All hearings, except for those of urgent need (and with the due urgent measures for the protection of minors), were suspended with no immediate rescheduling and the active personnel serving the justice administration was notably reduced to avoid the propagation of the virus.

With the possibility of restarting all the proceedings from the first week of June, the judicial and legal activity is returning step by step to regular operations. We are certain that the Spanish judicial system is working to its highest levels, as usual, but inevitably, deceleration is going to happen. As stated, Courts are expected to resume their normal activity and will begin to summon



Freepik

hearings as of 4 June when the procedural timelines are restarted, according to the “de-escalation” plan set by the Ministry of Justice.

One of the consequences that prompted many questions was the different opinions from the Spanish Courts regarding the fact that children were not allowed to leave their homes under any circumstance, excepting force majeure situations. Thus, the visit regime or the shared guardianship agreed after divorce proceedings

was systematically violated by some parents who took advantage of the confusion created in violation of the rules set out in the divorce judgments regarding child visitation rights when it is clear that the judicial resolutions must be respected and binding for both parties.

In all those unfair cases in which the company of the children could not be enjoyed in accordance with the rules established for visitation rights, this time must be compensated to

the non-custodial parent.

Moreover, families are struggling financially due to the economic crisis and the difficulty to fulfil their economic needs will certainly lead to an increase of petitions regarding alimony. In prevision of this and considering the principle of the best interest of the minors, a new Royal Decree (Real Decreto Ley) has been published establishing new and special proceedings to review these claims. In particular, the new proceedings “aim to conduct rapidly the petitions that are a clear and direct consequence of the state of health emergency”. This new law was published on 28 April and came into force the following day.

In the same way, the Family Judges of Malaga and other towns in the province reached an agreement declaring that, having attained the Phase 1 statute of the de-escalation program, breaches of legal or judicial measures regarding minors are no longer justified as from 18 May. This agreement appeals to all “divorced parents” to reach an agreement regarding this matter.

Conflicts affecting visitation

MAYTE GARCIA
INTERNATIONAL FAMILY
LAW, S.L.P

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Mayte García, Partner
Andrea Fernández, Trainee

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rights, alimony and maintenance allowance are always complex, and even more so in an uncertain scenario as the one that has been created by the Covid-19 crisis. But the situation can get even more complicated when you deal with international couples with residency in Spain or other countries, as the laws and potential jurisdictional conflicts need also to be addressed. We strongly recommend you to request the advice of international family law experts in order to evaluate these matters adequately, considering all implications of your case, not only in Spain, but also in the relevant jurisdictions involved.



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IN THE FRAME

Gibraltar author turns her memories into a children's book

Showbusiness. Hetty Backstage is the first in a series about growing up as part of a theatrical family

DEBBIE BARTLETT

This is an exciting time for Lowri Madoc, who lives in Gibraltar, as her first children's book Hetty Backstage has just been published. Interestingly this book, which has been written with six and seven-year-olds in mind, is semi-autobiographical because it is based on Lowri's own years as a 'backstage child'.

You may have guessed from the surname that Lowri is the daughter of two very well-known actors, Philip and Ruth Madoc, and although her childhood was exciting in very many ways, she says that to her it just seemed normal. "I was at boarding school during the week," she explains, "and at weekends I would join my parents, wherever they were working".

This sort of lifestyle seemed so normal to Lowri that she didn't think to mention it to her school friends. "We didn't really talk much about our parents at school. In fact long afterwards, friends I had been at school with commented that they had had no idea who my Mum and Dad were, and were amazed when they realised."

For many children it sounds like a dream, being an insider in theatres and TV studios,

soaking up the atmosphere, meeting famous people, and Lowri says it was, but that there was another side to it and that is reflected in Hetty Backstage.

"I adored the life; it was very special, but I preferred to be inconspicuous. I didn't want the focus to be on me, or to be the centre of attention. I liked being in the background. I used to love watching my parents prepare for roles and doing their lines with them, and watching them work. I loved watching Mum in Hi de Hi, for instance, but at school I walked through a room where some people were watching it and I just kept on walking. I felt that I didn't want to sit with anyone else seeing me watch it," she says. Lowri never wanted to be an actor, despite appearing - reluctantly - in some TV shows as a child; instead, she went into stage management and then theatre management. Her final venue was The Lyceum, Covent Garden, where she was part of the theatre management team for three years, playing host to two Royal Variety Performances, among other prestigious productions and occasions.

Writing the book has brought back many precious



Lowri Madoc, children's author. SUR

memories and her experience is reflected in the story where Hetty, too, loves her life but also wants to stay out of the limelight herself. "For Hetty - and for me - childhood is like a series of little adventures, with lots of different scenarios," she explains. "I always thought writing a book would be a nice thing to do, especially when I had children, and I believe the fact that it is based on my own life and experiences gives it authenticity and depth. There is also a glossary to explain the theatrical terms that the children reading it might not have

"Long afterwards, friends I had been at school with commented that they had had no idea who my Mum and Dad were, and were amazed"

heard before."

Her own three children have acted as critics for Hetty Backstage, and she describes their reaction when they actually saw it as a book and not just a typed manuscript. "It made it seem real for them, somehow," she laughs.

Her eight-year-old son is already considering following in his mother's footsteps, saying not just that he is going to write a book but asking how people get books published, and thinking about what sort of front cover he should choose.

Have the children shown any interest in becoming actors like their grandparents, and would she encourage them if so?

"I would encourage them, if that's what they wanted to do. I think I would. They're alert to the business, and they like going to watch Mum performing," she says.

What brought her to Gibraltar? "I used to come to the area on holidays and with friends, and sometimes life just takes an unexpected path. I was offered a job as an office manager, and later became a director of the firm. I met my husband here; he's a partner in a law firm, and our children were born here," she says.

Lockdown proved very useful for Lowri because she was able to get the book finished. "It was all done by zoom, so the publisher and I didn't meet in person at all. I did some of the illustrations, but a young girl did the cover. Mum is working on an audio version of the book now. She's used to being busy and is pretty fit and active so she found lockdown very hard. It is a nice distraction for her".

Hetty Backstage is available from Amazon and the sequel, for children the same age, is due to be published around Christmas.

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SOCIETY SCENE

COSTA WOMEN

An eco-friendly dress agency in the Axarquía

J. R. Two members of Costa Women Axarquía are appealing for unwanted “designer and high-end high street” fashion items and accessories to sell on behalf of the original owner and donate part of the proceeds to charity.

Ashlyn Watts and Anncastrin Leveland, who came up with the idea, explained that they will give 50 per cent of the balance back to the original seller after donating 10 per cent to charity, with the remaining 40 per cent to cover the costs of hosting events

and for their “time and effort”.

Ashlyn said that the idea was “to turn pre-loved clothes into money while helping the environment and raising money for charity”.

The initiative goes by the name Vintage Vogue Dress Agency and the women are currently asking for clothes, shoes and accessories for spring and summer. The dress agency is open by appointment only every Tuesday in Almayate, near Vélez-Málaga.

For further information on how to get in touch with the organisers and where to take items, visit the Costa Women Axarquía page on Facebook.

LA CALA LIONS

Knit ‘n’ Natter makes a donation to Lions

SUR IN ENGLISH. Knit ‘n’ Natter is a group of ladies who, over the last few years, have been knitting garments for the premature baby unit in Malaga.

By selling some items and through fundraising they raise money to donate to charities. Recently they donated 250 euros to the president of La Cala de Mijas Lions, Anita Humphries.



The Knit ‘n’ Natter group. **SUR**

LEGAL ADVICE



International Lawyers answers readers’ queries

Please send your questions or contact us directly to arrange a personal appointment on:

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REF. B. O. B.

I am buying an apartment in Marbella. Within two weeks, we have to sign the title deed with the notary, but the owner and I do not agree which notary to use, as he wants to sign with a notary who is a friend of his with an office in Estepona. I want to

sign with an impartial notary in Marbella. Who is entitled to choose the notary when there is no agreement?

You must take into account that any notary is impartial even if he is signing with a friend of his, as he has the obligation to make sure that all legal requirements and obligations are met. However, if there is no agreement between the parties as to which notary signs the title deed, the decision will lie with whoever has to pay the notary fees, or the most part of it, in this case, you.

REF. C. L. I.

I intend to sell one of my properties in Spain. However the buyer’s lawyer has said that they will have to deduct the amount that they will have to pay to the bank in or-

der to cancel the mortgage from the asking price, because my property appears to have an encumbrance according to the nota simple in the Land Registry. This is not possible, as I paid the total amount to cancel the mortgage more than a year ago. How can there be a debt in the Land Registry, if I already settled my dues with the bank?

The most likely reason is that, even if you paid the outstanding amount to the bank, they have not signed the mortgage cancellation deed, and that is why the debt is still appearing on the Land Registry records. In order to solve this, the bank’s legal representative will need to sign the cancellation deed before a notary and take it to the Land registry, for them to remove the debt from their records.

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DENISE BUSH

GARDENING

Colvillea racemosa

This spectacular flowering tree is native to Madagascar and is therefore classed as tropical. It is a member of one of the largest plant families, Fabaceae, the legumes. Common names include Colville's Glory (after Sir Charles Colville, ex-Governor of Mauritius) and the whip tree. Colville racemosa grows to

between 15 and 18 metres tall in ideal conditions and its delicate, fern-like leaves, similar in appearance to Delonix regia (royal poinciana), give lots of welcome shade during the summer. It needs a position in full

sun and will form an upright tree with a compact canopy. After a period of dry weather it will produce large cones or cylinder-shaped racemes of reddish buds that open into bright orange flowers with long, yellow or orange stamens. The tree is very showy when in full bloom and attracts lots of butterflies and bees.

After flowering, the trees produce long, flat, woody seed pods. The seeds can be used to propagate the tree and remain viable for three to four years. They germinate best after being submerged in boiling water before sowing. Colvillea can also be propagated by cuttings.

It is not drought-tolerant and will need watering during the hottest months of the year. Although said to tolerate some frost, it is probably best to grow it in a situation where it will be protected from the cold or in a large container that can be moved indoors. Young trees grow fast but slow down as they mature, developing an attractive grey bark that peels back in thin strips.

The timber is a yellowish white colour and has a straight and coarse grain, suitable for light joinery. It is used for making posts and fencing, carpentry and veneers. The trunks are used for making dugout canoes.



Colvillea racemosa and close up (insert). WIKIMEDIA

READERS' PHOTOS

Showing for one night only

This photo of a night-blooming cereus cactus was sent in by Mabel Irene Garateguy Ayres who says, "This beauty lasts only one day, but it is worth it! And the perfume!" The term cereus or ceroid is used to describe any of the species of cacti with long, upright or elongated bodies and includes columnar growth cacti as shown in the photo. Night blooming cacti flowers are short-lived and may only bloom once a year for just one night.



MABEL IRENE GARATEGUY AYRES



BRIAN HARRISON

Hidden grotto

Not everyone can boast a secret grotto in their garden but Brian Harrison uncovered this little cave behind a brick wall in his back yard in Villanueva del Trabuco. He has added plants and lighting to make it a feature of his patio.

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 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) or Twitter (@SUR_English).

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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

5 JUNE 1599

Birth of influential artist Diego Velázquez

The artist established his reputation in Seville in the early 1620s, and by the age of 23, he became the preferred artist of the royal court

Baroque artist Diego Rodríguez de Silva y Velázquez is considered the most influential figure in the history of Spanish portraiture. Although some confusion surrounds the date of his birth, it is of common belief that he was born in Seville on 5 June 1599, the day before his baptism.

Diego Velázquez, also known as the 'painter of painters', inspired countless 19th century impressionist artists.

Velázquez's first paintings used strong contrasts and were gloomy and mysterious, but he would later develop a style that was more colourful and char-

acterised by bold brushwork. His earliest works are traditional still-life pantry and kitchen scenes. The artist demonstrated an unusual skill in realistic depiction, as the Old Woman Frying Eggs, which he painted at the age of 19, demonstrates. Some of the most celebrated works of this period include The Waterseller of Seville, which is considered the peak of this period in his career. It was during this time that Velázquez also painted some of his most famous religious-theme works, especially The Immaculate Conception.

Velázquez had established his reputation in Seville by the early 1620s and by the age of 23 he had arrived in Madrid, which became his home for the remainder of his life.

In 1622, following the death of the king's favourite court painter, Velázquez was summoned to the royal palace and commissioned to paint a por-



Self-portrait of Diego Velázquez painted circa 1640. AP

trait of King Philip IV. The portrait made such an impression on the king, the artist was promised that no one else would ever paint the king's portrait.

In 1629, the king financed a trip to Italy, although few details are known of the visit. He returned to Madrid in 1631, where

he continued to paint royals. Aside from the king, who is said to have sat for the artist more than 30 times, Velázquez painted other members of the royal household, along with cavaliers, soldiers and important ecclesiastical figures. He was also renowned for painting

court buffoons and midgets, although he always showed respect for their individuality.

One of his last works was The Spinners, a painting that is said to demonstrate all of the artistic knowledge Velázquez had gathered throughout his 40-year career.

He died in Madrid in 1660.

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Artista	Artist
Pintor	Painter
Influyente	Influential
Barroco	Baroque
Retrato	Portrait
Autorretrato	Self-portrait
Nacimiento	Birth
Sombrío	Gloomy
Colorido	Colourful
Bodegón	Still-life
Cocina	Kitchen
Pinceladas	Brushwork
Realeza	Royalty
Estilo	Style
Bufón	Buffoon
Enano	Midget
Innumerables	Countless
Encargado	Commissioned
Historia	History

1 **Bilingual crossword inside back page**



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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 for 23 hours.

5 June. Thomas Adès's *The Exterminating Angel*.

6 June. Verdi's *Othello*.

7 June. Massenet's *Thaïs*.

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.*

5 June, 10.30pm BST. A selection of three ballets: Tomasson's *Soirées*

Musicales and Concerto Grosso, and Christopher Wheeldon's *After the Rain pas de deux*.

12 June, 10.30pm BST. Commissioned for the Unbound festival, Arthur Pita's Björk Ballet celebrates the theatricality of Björk and her music, setting songs spanning her discography from 1993's *Debut* to *Utopia* from 2017.

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/royaloperahouse](https://www.facebook.com/royaloperahouse) or <https://www.youtube.com/user/RoyalOperaHouse>

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

Until 11 June. *The Cellist.* A lyrical memoir of the momentous life of cellist Jacqueline du Pré.

Until 19 June. *Il trittico.* Puccini's trio of operas tell contrasting stories of jealousy and murder, loss and suicide, romance and cheerful trickery.

From 12 until 26 June. *La fille Mal Gardée.*

MUSEUMS

Museo del Patrimonio Municipal

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Museo Interactivo de la Música

MALAGA. Tuesdays to Sundays, 10.30am - 2.30pm. C/Beatas, 15. The museum holds workshops and has a varied display of instruments which recently included an exhibition of Aztec death whistles. <https://www.musicaenaccion.com/>

CONCERTS AND MUSIC

Take Me To The World

A SONDHEIM 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION. A video of the con-

cert 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.

Ourhouse digital concert

GIG IT BACK. 5. 6 June. Celebrating 1,500 hours of streaming music during the lockdown. Members of Black Lips, the Germs, Parquet Courts and many other bands play this virtual fest. <https://ourhouse.studio/GIG-IT-BACK>

EXHIBITIONS



Francisco Martín, Nerja.

Gallery Art Club

FUENGIROLA. Until June 19. Calle Quemada. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 11am - 2pm.

Finnish artist and former gallerist Tehri Pesonen is exhibiting about 40



Il trittico, ROH.



Juan F. Lacomba poses in front of his paintings in the CAC Málaga. SALVADOR SALAS

The beauty of Doñana captured

The CAC's latest exhibition reflects Lacomba's fascination with the natural landscape and marshes of the national park in Huelva province

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

MALAGA. "I've never had the urge to show my work, I've stayed hidden... it's my quiet way of being." Juan F. Lacomba speaks as he stands among the large-format paintings at the Centro de Arte Contemporáneo de Málaga (CAC Málaga) which represent the extensive career over the last three decades of this leading figure in contemporary Andalusian art.

Lacomba's works are included

in the collections of institutions such as the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, the National Library, the Museo Patio Herreriano and the Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo.

Of the 175 pieces on display, all have the same theme: Lacomba's fascination for the landscape of Doñana National Park and its marshes. Ninety have never been shown to the public.

Like Lacomba himself, animals appear concealed by the changing beauty of the natural landscape, the mutations of the landscape in form and background, the chromatic richness of a changing and elusive place like Lacomba's own painting. "I always start from feeling. If I don't find any feeling, I wouldn't paint", the artist explained.

The exhibition marks the return to the CAC Málaga of the

former director of the centre, Fernando Francés, the curator of the exhibition. Francés was the head of the CAC Málaga from its origins until February last year, when he moved into regional politics as Secretary General of Cultural Innovation and Museums of the Regional Ministry of Culture, a position in which he remained for five months until his resignation at the beginning of August.

Francés is now the curator of this exhibition which is entitled 'Aquí a lo lejos' in which Lacomba focuses on Doñana's physical space to project a "universal landscape".

The exhibition is open until 30 August, from Tuesday to Sunday, 9am until 9.30pm.

Entry is free and the gallery of open on every third Monday of the month.



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Irene Grant

EL MORCHE. From 11 June until 8 July. Bio Beach Club, Paseo Marítimo El Morche.

An exhibition of paintings by Irene Grant, a British artist resident in the Axarquía.

Francisco Martín Molina

NERJA. Monday to Saturday 10.30am - 2.30pm. C/Pintada 27. The exhibition of art by Francisco Martín Molina has reopened to the public. More information on Facebook: Exposición Francisco Martín Calle Pintada.

Diálogos con Picasso

MÁLAGA. Museo Picasso Málaga. The exhibition Diálogos con Picasso. Colección 2020-2023 includes 120 works by the artist among which is the cubism sculpture Copa de absenta (1914) and the painting Susana y Los Ancianos (1955). www.museopicassomalaga.org.

The Russian Museum

MÁLAGA. Edificio Tabacalera, Avda Sor Teresa Prat. The two temporary exhibitions currently held at the museum are Rompiendo el silencio. El cine mudo en Rusia and Andréi Tarkovsky. Maestro del Espacio. The cinema has for decades been a way for attracting audiences, either indoctrination or for recreational purposes. Russian silent films have become universal icons over time. The second exhibition is about Andréi Tarkovsky, one of the most influential Russian artists of the 20th century. He was the forerunner of innovative techniques in the cinema of the time, refining editing to make films more dynamic.

Centro Pompidou

MÁLAGA. Muelle Uno. The semi-permanent exhibition is entitled De Miró a Barceló. Un siglo de arte español. Pablo Picasso, Joan Miró, Salvador Dalí and Luis Buñuel were precursors of new ways of seeing and creating and their legacy still lives on.

Centro de Arte Contemporáneo

MÁLAGA. Until 23 August. C/Alemania. The CAC Málaga reopened with a new exhibition called Opus Nigrum by the Mallorca artist Pep Girbent. The display includes drawings and paintings inspired by film clips.



Picasso. © MUSEO PICASSO MÁLAGA

Thyssen Museum

MÁLAGA. Until 7 June, 9.30 - 2.30pm. 7 - 9pm Tuesday to Friday. 9.30am - 9pm Saturday and Sunday. During a brief stay in a sanatorium, Henri Toulouse - Lautrec created 39 drawings in crayon about the circus. Thirty-nine prints of these drawings are on display in the museum until 7 June. The museum also has a permanent exhibition of paintings by famous artists.

TALKS / LECTURES

Art courses and lectures

ART HISTORY IN FOCUS. Online live lectures and courses throughout the year. Founded by art historian and lecturer Siân Walters, Art History in Focus arranges regular courses, study days and visits in the UK as well as cultural holidays throughout Europe. Siân is a highly qualified and experienced tutor and events organiser, and lectures regularly for the National Gallery, NADFAS (The Arts Society). <https://www.arthistoryinfo-cus.com/courses/>

CHARITY

ARCH

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE. Open every Sunday 9am - 2pm. The ARCH team at the Rescue Centre for Horses and Donkeys will be resuming their popular Sunday open mornings on 7 June, when visitors can come and meet the volunteers and the current residents. More information on Facebook: Centro Andalusi de Rescate de Caballos or www.horserescuespain.org

The Lions Club

LA CALA DE MIJAS. 15 June, 7pm. Miraflores Golf Club Terrace, C/Severiano Ballesteros. John Sharples will be presenting a series of videos 'What you did in lockdown' and there will also be a quiz. Tickets (10€) include glass of wine and tapas available from Lions shop Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri). Call 663529280.

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 seven days. <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/>
Until 11 June, 7pm BST. Coriolanus. Tom Hiddleston plays the title role in Shakespeare's searing tragedy of political manipulation and revenge.

Shakespeare online

THE GLOBE THEATRE. A series of Free-To-View archive performances are being released online by the theatre at <https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/watch#free-youtube-premieres>.
Until 14 June. The Merry Wives of Windsor.
Until 28 June. A Midsummer's Night's Dream.

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 - 19 June. Anna Ledwich's adaptation of Beauty and the Beast.

MORE IDEAS

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 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.

Indoor learning activities

U3A COSTA DEL SOL FUENGIRO-LA 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, visit www.u3afuengirolacostadelsol.com for more information.



The Gibralfaro, Málaga.

VISITS / ATTRACTIONS

El Caminito Del Rey

ARDALES. Opening 12 June. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only. Tickets are available now for June and July. <https://reservas.caminitodelrey.info/>

Centro de la Prehistoria de Guadalteba

ARDALES Open from 10am - 2pm More information call: 952458046 or email: turismo@ardales.es

Iglesia Rupestre Mozárabe Bobastro

ARDALES Open from 10am - 2pm More information call: 952458046 or email: urismo@ardales.es

Alcazaba and Gibralfaro

MÁLAGA Open from 9am - 8pm. Last admittance at 7.15pm. Entry to both monuments is free until 1 June.

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Back to business with **SUR in English**

The apricot, the first fruit of the summer

An Eastern jewel. The stone fruit that fascinated the ancient world is perfect for baking and jams

ESPERANZA PELÁEZ



It is curious how different cultures profess different degrees of appreciation for the same fruits. The apricot, for example, of which Spain is the seventh largest producer in the world (although with barely a third of Turkey's harvest, which is the first) is celebrated as a miracle of nature in the Middle East and is the crown jewel of any fruit shop as well as the protagonist of many sweet, canned and savoury dishes at this time of year.

Its name in Latin 'praecocum' alludes to its precocity; it's one of the first stone fruits to arrive at the end of the spring.

The apricot is part of the stone fruits of the subgenus *Prunus* (such as cherries, plums or peaches or almonds), which in turn are related to the rosaceae plant family. Its white or pink flowers, as delicate and beautiful as those of its cousins, appear at the end of February. It is a tree which is more resistant to cold winters and is native to north-west China and Central Asia. Its cultivation in China dates back to 4,000 years ago.

Gastronomic historian Joel Denker tells us in his book *The Carrot Purple and Other Curious Stories of the Food We Eat* that



Apricots ripen quickly and travel badly. **DANIEL MALDONADO**

the apricot travelled along the Silk Road along with other prized spices and goods to settle in Iran and the Middle East.

The Greeks heard about it and thought it came from Armenia, hence its botanical name *Prunus armeniaca*. Although the Romans also knew about it, those responsible for its expansion to the West

and who planted the first apricots in the Kingdom of Granada from the eighth century onwards were the Arabs.

The reason why apricots have become less popular in the western Mediterranean is mainly because they have to be harvested before optimum ripening point and the apricot's rapid metabo-

The Greeks and Romans knew about the apricot but it was the Moors that brought it to Granada in the eighth century

lism causes it to spoil quickly. It's lower sugar content (eight per cent compared to 12 per cent in cherries and 10 per cent in peaches) means that harvested green, it tends to develop into a bland, floury mouthful instead of an explosion of juicy sweetness. That's why it's important to buy fruit that has been harvested locally while at its best.

A common technique for preserving ripe apricots is drying them. Dried apricots, of which Turkey dominates world trade, are a fairly ancient resource and a good way to take advantage of the healthy carotenoids, iron and vitamin C that they contain.

In countries like Syria it is so popular that in some countries the fruit is called 'damasco' in reference to Syria's capital. Syria is also where it is used to make sweets.

Amardine, for example, is a paste of dried apricots similar to Spain's 'carne de membrillo' (quince jelly), but sold in thin slices and with no added sugar. It's a delicacy eaten especially during Ramadan, either on its own or used as an ingredient in desserts.

Also famous are the dried apricots which, unlike Turkish ones, are dried with the stone left in and without the addition of sulphur dioxide used in industrial



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production to prevent browning. The beautiful amber colour is lost but in exchange the flavour and juiciness is unsurpassed.

In Syrian confectionery it is very common to combine apricots with pistachios and dried apricots are also used in the Middle East, Turkey and the Maghreb in lamb stews that originate from a mythical and ancient dish, the 'mishmishiya'.

In the western Mediterranean and all over the world, apricots are highly prized for jam making which is often used warmed and sieved to glaze cakes and pies as its high pectin content makes it a good alternative to gelatine.

Harold Mc Gee points out in *On Food and Cooking* that the high pectin and hemicellulose content means that a little bit of apricot puree allows us to reduce the amount of fat used in cake making while preserving its moistness.

Another byproduct of gastronomic interest is the apricot stone, which is used to make the famous Amaretto Disaronno liqueur, and is in the recipe for the Italian 'amaretti', biscuits, from which (yes, from the biscuits) another curious liqueur is made, Amaretto Lazzaroni (www.lazzaroni.it).

But care must be taken with the use of apricot stones, because the amygdalin that gives both them and the bitter almond their intense and complex aromas is a precursor to cyanide. In any case, the apricot is a jewel that marks the beginning of summer, an ancient fruit that deserves to be enjoyed by consuming it at its best - which is right now.

RECIPE 1

Mishmishiya

An ancient recipe for a Persian lamb stew with apricots.

Ingredients

1kg stewing lamb in chunks, 2 tbsps oil, 200g finely chopped onion, 1/2 tsp ground cumin, 200g dried apricots, 70g almonds, 1 tbsps brown sugar, salt, pepper, pinch ground cardamon, 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon, pinch ground ginger, 1/2 tsp ground coriander, 2 tbsps lemon juice and 1 tbsps orange juice, 50g dried peas

Method

Seal the meat in hot oil in a heat proof casserole, add the al-



monds, the onions, the cumin, salt and pepper and fry until golden. Lower the heat and when the onion is soft add the rest of the ingredients and cover with water. Bring to the boil. Lower the heat and cook with the lid off until the meat is tender and the sauce has reduced. Serve with rice and a green salad.

RECIPE 2

Apricot jam with Amaretto

Ideal for glazing cakes and pies, in recipes or on toast.

Ingredients

1kg washed and stoned apricots, 750g sugar, 50ml Amaretto Disaronno.

Method

Finely chop the apricots. Put the apricots in a saucepan with sugar and cook over a medium heat stirring frequently (no liquid is required). The fruit will



start to break down and bubbles will start to explode on the surface. When the mixture starts to get thick (the bubbles will explode in slow-motion after about 40 minutes), carefully add the liqueur (it may spit) and cook for a further five minutes. Remove from heat and pour into warm, sterile jam jars. Seal and leave to cool.

Swim or sink

ANDREW J. LINN



When a restaurant's business is hit by something as devastating as Covid-19, the losses can be terminal. A revolutionary approach is required and the ability to think outside the box may be the difference between life and death.

Copenhagen's Noma, regularly nominated as the world's best restaurant, did not hesitate to turn itself into an outdoor burger and wine bar. On opening night everything sold out in an hour. The famous Claridge's hotel in London is now in the takeaway business, offering fried chicken, three side dishes and a dessert for 40 euros.

In some northern European countries employees are being given the opportunity to run bars and restaurants on their own account during what would normally be closing hours, paying a nominal 'rental' for the privilege.

In the USA restaurants that would only function for lunch and dinner are opening for breakfast, tea, even late-night drinking. It is likely that once these practices become established, they will continue, as social distancing vastly reduces income and profits.

So what about those estab-

lishments that invested heavily in Plexiglas screens to separate customers now that social distancing regulations make such divisions unnecessary?

Everyone agrees on one thing though, menus will be shorter generally, and four-hour lunches will remain little more than pleasant memories. Much to the regret of those of us who have spent some of our happiest hours ensconced in good restaurants enjoying the company of friends and the products of a good chef, current advice is that the less time we spend in such places the better for our health.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Inurrieta Norte

Many supermarket wines are poor value, but there are some real value lines if we look. Stay away from well-known regions and dig into Navarra, Somontano, Toro, Calatayud, etc. Today's pick is from Navarra and is a three-grape red blend at a satisfying 6.50 euros.





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Peak allergy season causes confusion with Covid-19

Malaga university says there are very high levels of olive, plantain and grass pollens at present and warns that this will continue for some time

IGNACIO LILLO



MALAGA. Itchy eyes and throat, frequent sneezing, runny nose... these are the symptoms of spring hay fever, but they can easily be confused with the early phases of coronavirus. Most people who suffer from allergies of this type already know from experience what the problem is, and are either prepared for it or ask their doctors for antihistamines, cortisone and inhalers. For others, however, this may be the first time it has happened or perhaps their reaction is particularly severe this year, and they put this down to a possible case of Covid-19.

The aerobiology group at Malaga University is detecting very high levels of pollen at present, especially from olive trees, and doctors say they are seeing more patients with these symptoms, especially as the pandemic is causing people to be more aware of their breathing.

María José Torres Jaén, the head of the Allergology Service at the Regional Hospital and a board member of the Malaga College of Physicians, says an increasing number of patients have expressed concern.

Spring is always the season most associated with hay fever although, as she points out, some people who are allergic to dust mites are affected all year round. So many people with symptoms are consulting their GPs these days that the College recently organised an online conference called 'Symptoms of spring allergy and Covid-19. They seem the same, but are not'.

Thirty per cent of the population suffers from allergies, which in Malaga province is nearly half a million people.

"The symptoms can easily be confused with something else, and people worry that they may have Covid-19," said Dr Torres. There are similarities in the sneezing, difficulty breathing, cough, runny nose and sore throat, "But there are clear symptoms which help us to tell the difference," she explained.

For example, someone with an allergy does not have a fever, nor



Medications commonly used by people with allergies. SALVADOR SALAS

diarrhoea, joint or muscle pain, and does not suddenly lose their sense of smell (this may happen in people with allergies, but it is gradual). Those four clues mark the difference between a case of allergy and something else, although if in doubt she recommends consulting your GP.

Not everything is negative in the current circumstances for those who suffer from allergies. The measures to protect from coronavirus, such as masks and glasses, also help to avoid contact with pollen.

On the other hand, though, those allergic to dust are suffering by being confined to their homes.

Anyone with an allergy also needs to be especially careful on

Are people with allergies less likely to get Covid-19?

It looks as if people with allergies have a lower risk of becoming infected by coronavirus, according to early studies which have been carried out, said María José Torres Jaén, the head of the Allergology Department at the Regional Hospital.

There are two main reasons for this: allergic inflammation, which may protect sufferers from the respiratory infection, and the habitual use of inhaled cortisones, which also reduce the possibilities of the virus infecting the cells of the respiratory system.

The doctor does, however, stress that these are still preliminary studies and are not conclusive.

windy days and should try to avoid going outside if possible, because the wind blows the pollens about and they impact on the eyes and hands.

Very high levels

The aerobiology group updates the pollen forecasts every week, in order to help people manage their allergies. At the moment the information, which is collected by biologists Marta Recio and María del Mar Trigo, indicates that the levels in the atmosphere are rising significantly.

Recently the level has been "extreme" in the case of olive pollen (which is particularly affecting people in Malaga city at present), and "high" or "moderate" from oaks, urticaceae and plantains. The concentration of these types of pollen in the atmosphere is expected to continue to rise in the forthcoming days, and grass pollen will also increase.

"People who are sensitive to these pollens should take precautions. We recommend that they don't go outside and if they do, they should wear masks and protective glasses," said Dr Torres.

Another member of the group, botanist Antonio Picornell, says the warm weather causes the substance to be released into the air, because "the anthers of the flowers dry out and open up". That's why pollen levels are higher on days with clear skies and high temperatures, although he says that they not abnormally high at present.

On the other hand, on rainy days and those with relatively high humidity the pollen is no longer suspended and drops to the ground. This situation is likely to last until at least the middle of June.

"The Spanish transplant model has been adopted by other countries"

Dr Javier Estebaranz Health inspector and Bioethics specialist

World Transplant Day, marked on 6 June, serves as a reminder that there are thousands of people around the world who live with a transplanted organ

ALEKK
M. SAANDERS



MALAGA. While England just last month moved to a new system of deemed consent, Spain for the past four decades has beaten records for donations and transplants. In Andalucía, there were 430 organ donors last year, and more than 950 transplants are performed every year. The inspector of the Ministry of Health of Andalucía and Bioethics specialist Dr Javier Estebaranz clarifies the transplant situation with facts and figures.

Javier, how would you introduce the subject of transplants?

- Let's start with definitions. By 'transplantation' we understand the transfer of human cells, tissues or organs from a donor to a recipient with the aim of restoring function in the body. Transplant itself is the substitution of a diseased organ or tissue for a healthy one. In general it comes from a deceased donor. Then, I would name the organs which can be transplanted. They are kidneys, liver, heart, lungs, pancreas, intestine. As for tissues, they are bones, cornea, hematopoietic progenitors (bone marrow), vascular

segments, amniotic membrane and others.

What is the "soft opt-out" that has been talked about in the UK over recent years?

- It relates to the organ donation system. Actually, there are two opt-out systems. If someone unexpectedly dies, their family can veto the donation of their relative's organs. The reasons can be different. This system is called a "soft opt-out" system. However, in a hard opt-out system the family of the deceased does not have this power. This system is practised, for example, in Austria. Spain moved to a "soft opt-out" organ donor register in 1979. I know that the UK has always tried to arrange an Organ Donor Register similar to the Spanish model, though each country in the UK takes its own decision on this issue. If I am not mistaken, this system was first introduced in Wales in 2015. A couple of weeks ago, the system, more commonly known as Max and Keira's Law, has passed its final round of parliamentary approval in England. And it will come into effect in Scotland in autumn.

The Spanish model of transplanting is considered as the most efficient. Is it really so?

- It is true. And it is not only my opinion as a Spanish doctor. For example, according to a paper published in American Journal of Transplantation, Spain is a model from which other countries have a lot to learn. So it's unsurprising that the Spanish model was examined and adopted by countries such as France, Italy, Portugal and Croatia. It proves that almost 30 years ago Spain indeed took the



Javier Estebaranz. SUR

right path. In 1989 the Ministry of Health established ONT - the National Transplant Organisation. At that moment there were just 25 hospitals in the whole of Spain that could perform organ extractions. Nowadays the staff of the ONT communicate with 189 hospitals, of which 44 are able to carry out transplant surgery.

When were the first organ and tissue transplants performed in Spain?

- I guess now I will astonish many people with the fact that the first transplant operation in Spain was done almost hundred years ago. The first tissue transplantation - cornea - was done in Barcelona at Clínica Barraquer/Arruga in 1926. As for organs, the kidney was the first human organ to be transplanted successfully. The American plastic surgeon Dr Joseph Murray achieved it in 1954 in Boston. In 1965, the doctors from the Barcelona Hospital Barnaclinic per-

formed the first kidney transplantation in the country.

How is the transplant situation in Andalucía?

- It is one of the leading regions as well, with great development of techniques and procedures of the speciality. In Andalucía there are five clinics where they perform transplantation. Each has its specialisation. For example, the Reina Sofia Hospital in Cordoba since 1976 has been known for its heart transplantation and one of the only six centres that can transplant lungs in Spain.

What about Malaga?

- Tissues or bones are transplanted in most public hospitals in Malaga province. The leader of extraction in Malaga remains the Clínico Virgen de la Victoria hospital. Three hospitals - Carlos Haya (Hospital Regional de Málaga), Virgen de la Victoria and Costa del Sol - perform transplantation of cornea. Carlos Haya and Virgen de la Victoria also transplant bone marrow. However, only the Carlos Haya performs organ transplantation - kidney, liver and pancreas. A couple of years ago, Carlos Haya hospital was in focus due to a unique kidney transplant with a live donor of an incompatible blood group.

What are you personally responsible for?

- I am part of the big team working in this field. As an inspector of the Health Ministry of Andalucía, I dedicate part of my time to supervising the tissue bank, as well as overseeing the hospitals dealing with extractions and transplantation. Everything in this complex transplant process should be

under control, including maintaining and keeping tissues, bones and organs. Like any other product, an organ also has its expiry date.

In Andalucía you are known for your research in Bioethics. Are there any ethical problems that trouble transplanting?

- There are ethical concerns about organ transplantation procedures including, among others, the equity of access to transplantation, criteria for assigning deceased-donor organs, risk of commercial trade, living-donor safety, organ transplant legislation. For example, Dr Murray himself once said that he had given a "great deal of soul searching to these problems". He reflected on the ethical problem of taking an organ from a healthy person. Indeed, he transplanted a kidney, and removal of a kidney from a living donor was partially justified due to the fact that kidneys are paired organs and a human being can live with only one. However, heart transplantation is not possible in this way. You know, Japan, an advanced country in transplant technology, for a long time considered heart and lung transplantation as unethical, regardless of medical knowledge. In Spain the transplantation of organs (kidney or a part of liver) where the donor can be a living person has to be authorised by a local ethics committee. In general, the debate over the definition of death and the optimum transplantation conditions occur permanently.

Do you know cases of residents on the Costa del Sol refusing transplants because of ethical principles?

- Actually yes. We have plenty of people who are on the waiting lists, and at the same time there are people who refuse transplantation. The Costa del Sol is multicultural and we are aware of this. Plenty of residents moved here from their home countries with their legal, political, religious and social conventions.



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Football will return to La Rosaleda on 12 June

The Malaga squad have returned to full training ahead of their first match after the restart against Huesca, followed three days later by a trip to Tenerife

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO / BORJA GUTIÉRREZ

MALAGA. Little by little, normality is returning to the world of football. LaLiga chief Javier Tebas this week announced the dates and times for the opening rounds of fixtures following the restart.

In the case of Malaga, their first match will be at home to Huesca on Friday 12 June at 7.30pm, which will be broadcast live on #Vamos, part of Movistar.

Just three days later (Monday 15 June, 9.30pm), the Blue and Whites will travel to the Canaries to take on Tenerife.

Details beyond that are not yet known but with two games played every week, the season is set to be completed by 19 July, with the 2020-21 campaign getting under way from 12 September.

Malaga haven't played a competitive match since losing 1-0 at home to Real Zaragoza on 8 March. It will have been more than three months (88 days) by the time the players return to the field of play.

Segunda will resume a day earlier, Thursday 11 June at 10.30pm,



The Malaga squad takes part in a joint jogging session at the Annex this week. **SUR**

with the Rayo Vallecano-Albacete, abandoned at half time in December following chanting from the home fans directed against rival player Román Zozulya.

Granada-Getafe will get Primera up and running on Friday 12 (7.30pm), with the match day completed by Valencia-Levante (Friday, 10pm); on Saturday 13 by Espanyol-Alavés (1pm), Celta-Villarreal (5pm), Leganés-Valladolid (7.30pm) and Mallorca-Barcelona (8pm); and on Sunday 14 by Athletic-Atlético (1pm), Real

Madrid-Eibar (7.30pm) and Real Sociedad-Osasuna (10pm).

Full training

With the restart now firmly on the horizon, players across the country have now begun full group training.

For Malaga, this was the first time that many players saw each other in the flesh since the start of the lockdown. Another novelty was that the squad is now permitted to make use of the changing rooms and the show-

ers which serve La Rosaleda and the Annex, where training now takes place since the club cut its ties with the Ciudad de Málaga athletics stadium as a cost-cutting measure. The latter will be used more now that everyone can train together in order to prevent excessive damage to the playing surface.

Training now will focus on trying to simulate the rhythm for the remainder of the season, with quick recovery crucial with games every couple of days.

Malaga given a reprieve as LaLiga temporarily relaxes financial regulations

ANTONIO GÓNGORA

MALAGA. Malaga CF received a major boost at the end of last week when LaLiga confirmed that it would be relaxing some of its rules governing clubs' finances in light of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The standout measure, sources understand, is that clubs will still be able to register a team even if their wage bill at the start of the season is more than 30 per cent higher than that permitted by the salary cap.

Judicial administrator José María Muñoz, who announced that the club had to make up a shortfall of 15 million euros in order to stay in the league next season, will now have a longer timeframe to be able to carry out his cost-saving plans, with the club's viability at its current level seemingly secured until economic conditions return to something close to normality.

Luis Muñoz, Aarón, Lombán, Buenacasa and Sadiku, tied down for the season

B. GUTIÉRREZ

MALAGA. One of the biggest dilemmas facing Malaga, on the field at least, has been that of players whose contracts or loans have been set to expire. Significant progress has been made this week in that regard with defender Luis Muñoz, winger Aarón Níguez and defender David Lombán extending their contracts until the end of the season.

On-loan forwards Armando Sadiku and Sergio Buenacasa have also extended their loans from Levante and Mallorca, respectively, primarily because they would have been ineligible for their parent clubs this season anyway.

Doubts still persist, however, over the future of defender Mikel - a free agent from 30 June.



Pellicer signs on the dotted line

Two weeks before the start of the season, Sergio Pellicer's position was strengthened as he was officially named Malaga head coach, signing a contract until the end of the season, with an option for a further year.

MALAGA CF

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Nayef, Rakan and Nasser Al-Thani, in a file photo. **ÑITO SALAS**

The Al-Thani family's debt to the club totals five million euros

Judicial administrator José María Muñoz insists that the return of this money is key to the survival of the club

A. GÓNGORA

MALAGA. The money owed by the Al-Thani family to Malaga football club totals more than five million euros, SUR understands. These loans taken out, over the course of several years, have become a major issue for both the court investigating the family's management of the club, but also the club's immediate future.

The judge in charge of the case, María de los Ángeles Ruiz, has already asked the sheikh and his children to produce a repayment schedule for this significant debt.

José María Muñoz, the judicial administrator in charge of operations in the absence of ousted president Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani, has stated that the repayment of these loans is key for the club to remain solvent

in the coming months.

Expenses

Following the resignation of Moayad Shatat as vice-president in 2015, the children of the sheikh took on a more pronounced role in the club's hierarchy with Nayef, Rakan and Nasser all gaining roles on the board.

From that moment, certain expenses were paid in the form of loans from the club. When they started to receive a salary for their contribution to the board of directors, some of that money was set aside to pay off the loans. In fact, more than 750,000 euros was paid back using this system. However, this soon disappeared and repayments on their debts ceased, leaving a significant sum unpaid.

According to the report published by Muñoz, up until June last year, the debt accumulated by the family totalled more than five million euros. The majority of that is owed by the sheikh's company, NAS Football (3.7 million euros); the sheikh himself directly owes one million and the rest is made up of interest.



A LOOK AT LA LIGA
ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports

Silly season has started

For the first time in a long time, agents are having to work for their multi-million-euro cut



The silly season has started before the soccer season has reconvened and if you believe all you read, Newcastle United could have the most star-studded forward line-up in European football next season.

It's easy and lazy journalism: use the name of the soon-to-be eligible divorcee from their footballing marriage and link them to a club that's about to be taken over by billionaires.

So, according to "sources", Philippe Coutinho, Gareth Bale and James Rodríguez could be numbers eight, nine and ten at St James' next season. If not Geordieland, then Merseyside – where Everton have cash to splash and a high-profile manager.

I'll let you in on a trade secret here: the "sources" are usually the players' agency who befriends a story-hungry journalist to get his name linked with major clubs by headline association.

For once, the representatives are having to work for their cut of the cash. Previously, they just negotiated their percentage of the millions of euros involved in the mega deals. It should be easy to find a suitor for talents like Coutinho, Bale and James yet it's proving almost impossible. Now they're having to work hard for their clients.

Bale looks at ease as he mimics the critics who claim he's more dedicated to golf than Real Madrid. He still has two years left on his contract with the Spanish giants on a reported 600,000



Gareth Bale arrives at training in Madrid. **EFE**

euros per week. He's in no great hurry to pack his cases so club and agent have some work to do if he's to move mansions.

Two years ago, Coutinho was the most sought-after footballer in the world. After a long chase, Barcelona wooed him to the Camp Nou and initially all went swimmingly after his 160-million-euro deal. Now, after a mixed season on-loan at Bayern Munich, his parent club is facing writing off more than 100 million euros.

At the 2014 World Cup, Diego Maradona claimed that James Rodríguez deserved the Golden Ball ahead of Lionel Messi. The Colombian claimed the Golden Boot and that was enough to convince Real Madrid to invest heavily in the next Galáctico on a generous long-term deal. He still has a year to serve, but the signs aren't good after a two-

year loan spell at Bayern Munich and just four league starts on his return to La Liga this season.

So, three of the biggest names in football will be hyped up by their "people" over the next few weeks in hope that lots of media exposure will lead to a summer transfer. The more the name appears in the newspapers, the greater the chance of a deal.

Of course, there is an alternative way for the player to win back his reputation. They could play their way back into vogue. The biggest obstacle has been winning over the fans - with no home fans, that's one less opponent to win over.

Who knows, maybe the Brazilian, Welshman and Colombian could use the remaining games of the season to restore their stature? Stranger things have happened.

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Parents and staff have joined EIC students in getting active. **SUR**

Lockdown can't stop school pupils from touring Spain

Students, parents and staff from the EIC are joining forces to complete a collective lap of Spain in aid of the Andalusian Health Service

DARYL FINCH

MALAGA. Lockdown brought many things crashing to a halt, physical exercise among them. But now that an end is on the horizon, the PE department at the English Inter-

national College (EIC) has been keen to turn this period of lockdown easing into an opportunity to motivate the school to get moving again.

The Movement Challenge Fund-raiser was launched in a bid to inspire and motivate students to shake off the cobwebs and channel their pent-up energy.

A change of plans

In order to take part, participants in the challenge have been asked to record their walking, running,

cycling or swimming movements on the Strava app.

The original aim when the challenge started in early May was to 'take' the school to the Nou Camp stadium in Barcelona, some 1,009 kilometres away, with a GoFundMe page set up with all sponsorship going to the Andalusian Health Service (SAS).

However, it soon became apparent that this was not going to be far enough and the plan was changed to include the return leg to EIC too.

An overwhelming surge in commitment over the following week from students, parents and staff then necessitated a third amendment and now one full lap of Spain (4,040 kilometres) is the objective.

"A special commendation [must go] to Mario in Year 10 who ran 17 kilometres in one attempt for the cause on Saturday. A phenomenal achievement," said teacher Mr Gibson.

At the time of going to press, the EIC team find themselves on the outskirts of Seville, some 3,100 kilometres into the challenge, with sponsorship just shy of 1,000 euros.

Donations are welcome at
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/Eic-covid-19-movementchallenge-fundraiser>

Local swimmers dismayed as the majority of pools in the province remain closed

MARINA RIVAS

MALAGA. Phase Two of lockdown easing is under way in Malaga province, bringing good news for many local athletes albeit with one notable exception - swimmers.

Though they are allowed to open to the public for both sports and recreational use, the majority of swimming pools in the province remain closed with management still studying the feasibility of reopening, to the indignation of the many clubs affected.

So far, in fact, only seven local swimmers have been able to return to the water. On the one hand, Spanish representatives in open water swimming, Paula Ruiz, María de Valdés and María Claro, have been able to attend a training camp in the High Performance Centre of Sierra Nevada (now over), while up-and-coming talents Ángel de Oña, Carlota Torrontegui, Laura Rodríguez and Jacques Anaya have been able to train at Inacua in Malaga, as scholarship holders. The rest, however, must wait.

The high-level facilities in Fuengirola, Torremolinos, Torre del Mar and Marbella remain closed, forcing many to train in the sea at their local beaches instead. Mijas seems to be an exception; its public facilities reopened this week, with one swimmer per lane and a reserved area for local club, Kronos Natación Mijas.

For its part, the Andalusian Federation expects that all swimming pools in Malaga will be open within two weeks.

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IN BRIEF

TENNIS

Davidovich to make comeback on 1 July

P. L. ALONSO. Having not competed since February, local tennis star Alejandro Davidovich plans to make his comeback on 1 July in the the 25th anniversary tournament of the Academia Equelite de Villena in Alicante, sponsored by Juan Carlos Ferrero.

The competition will take place from 1 to 5 July and it will be the first in Spain, with six players divided in two groups of three to play a round robin. Pablo Carreño (25th in the rankings), Álex de Miñaur (26th), the



Davidovich in a file photo. **EFE**

Portuguese Joao Sousa (66th), young Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz (318th) and veteran Feliciano López (56th) will be present.

WALKING FOOTBALL

Winning number announced for Programme Prize Draw

SUR. The postponed Walking Football Programme Prize Draw was finally made, live on the walking-footy.com Facebook page on Sunday. Smiles manager Gray Salt, using an electronic random number generator, drew number 130 from the 250 programmes sold.

The winner has seven days to claim the 200-euro prize (by contacting Gray on 604174980). If the prize is not claimed a new number will be drawn on Sunday at 7.30pm.

The programme is part of a fundraising initiative by Benalmádena resident Michelle Farretti for her friend Della Arden who has motor neuron disease.

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THE STARS




Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
A web of opportunities surrounds you. Some of these have already got off the ground. People may come and go but your core backers are still there.




Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
After having made some real efforts it now seems that you are going to receive some thanks. This should boost confidence to go ahead with a plan.




Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Life is simpler if you can accept what is going on around you this week. This you know. However, those close may not be as accepting as you.




Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
There is a need to get out and about at the moment that may be at odds with those around you. Some quiet time alone or with a good book may be enough to take the edge off this desire.




Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Restlessness could see you at odds with those around you this week. When patience runs thin it is good to add a big dose of determination.




Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Try as you may to avoid it this week there are certain facts to be faced. This is not a time to push others away because you need to show your strength.



Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Although your social life may have been a little truncated, you seem to be communicating with more people than usual. Knowing who you want in your life going forward is a real gift.




Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
The emphasis this week is on getting things done. Some of those may have been waiting for your attention for some time. Could the reason be that you have seen them as unimportant?




Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
A certain amount of frustration at not being able to go ahead with a plan is setting in. Don't think that the world is against you. We are all having to adapt in different ways.



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
There is a lot to think about this week. A birthday or anniversary brings an emotional feeling. It seems, at the moment, that the past and present are merging.

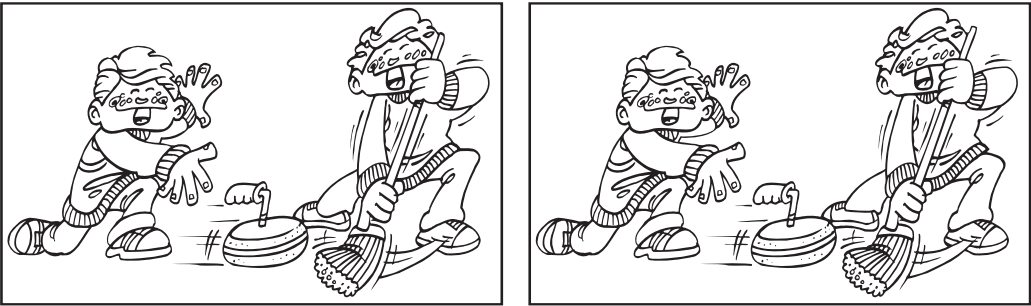


Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
The chance to grow your network of friends and colleagues is high at the moment. To make the most of this look ahead and make those contacts that could be of use in the future.

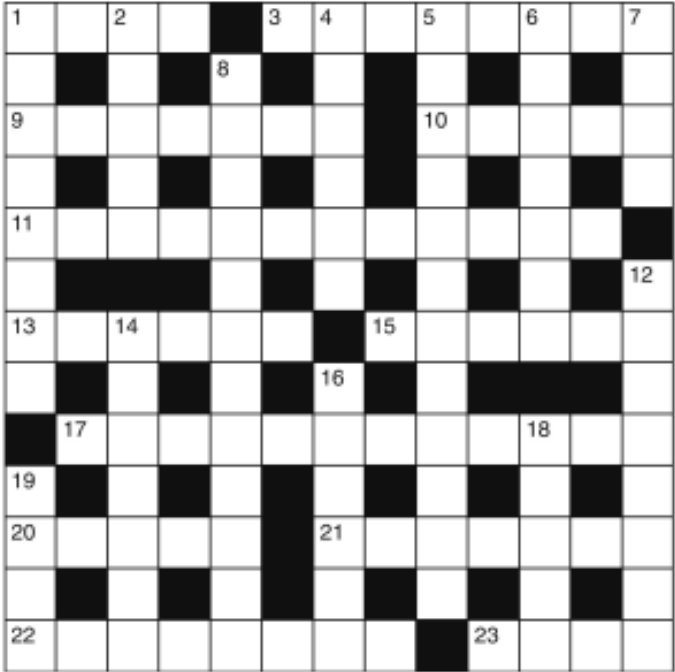


Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
If things don't go according to plan this week just assuming that it is bad luck could be a mistake. A business approach could show you the answer.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11412



Across

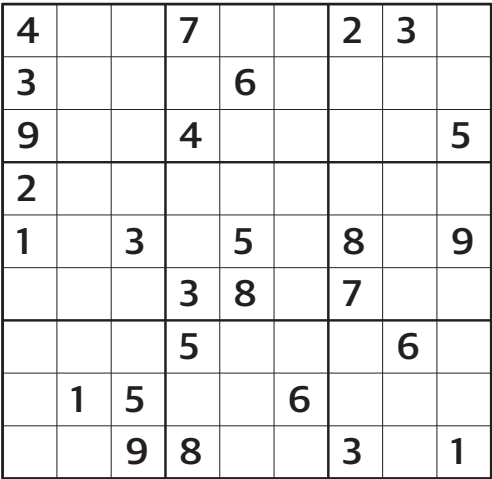
- 1 She's badly hurt (4)
- 3 There's a poor turnout for such a race (8)
- 9 Unfortunate pals he's taking out (7)
- 10 Do well to get 40 in Rome, say (5)
- 11 You have to put your foot down to achieve it (12)
- 13 Vehicle back on the road or under it, possibly (6)
- 15 A leading man employed and entertained (6)
- 17 Seemingly endless mile in Barnet, perhaps (12)
- 20 Clothing item for one animal (5)
- 21 Yes Alan, get out and examine in detail (7)
- 22 Cricketers in a folk group (8)
- 23 Item you make with wool, say (4)

Down

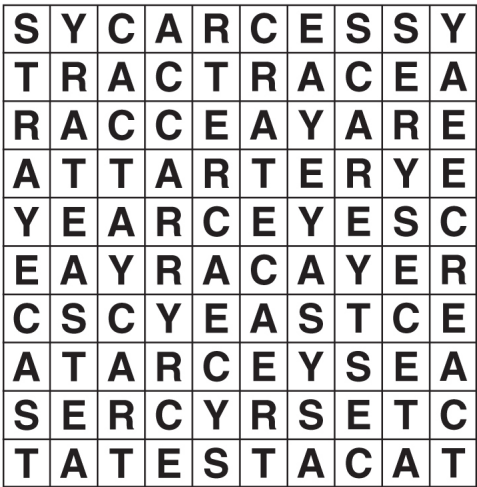
- 1 Practise again on a funeral car (8)
- 2 Subject of some Canaletto pictures (5)
- 4 Convince an animal on the river (6)
- 5 He has to help himself (12)
- 6 Savage man taking credit notes (7)
- 7 Carole's part (4)
- 8 It shows how little angels will turn out (8,4)
- 12 And there used to be a supporter (8)
- 14 He upsets a Belgian (7)
- 16 Weaken a politician with a tune (6)
- 18 Barry Ryan's other name (5)
- 19 Performs part of the Bible (4)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

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



THE WORDPUZZLER

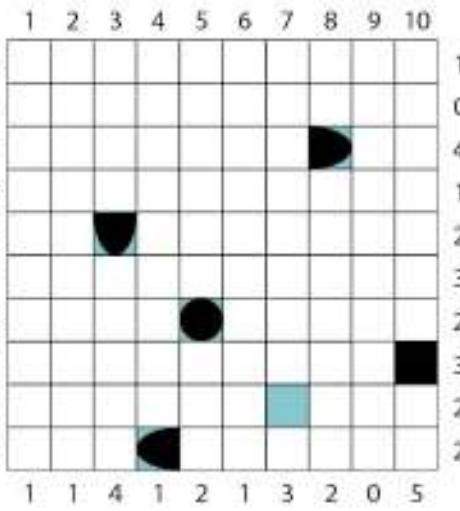
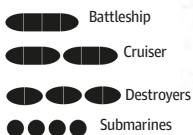


Can you identify the words that may be made from the letters of SECRETARY from the clues listed below?

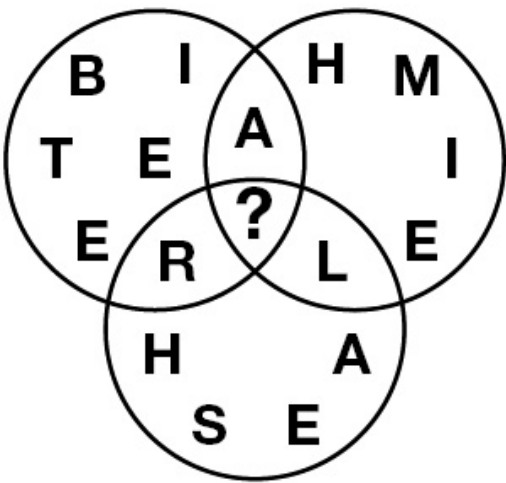
1. Bear
2. Frighten
3. Unit of time
4. Box
5. Respond
6. Wander
7. Vestige
8. Rising agent
9. Blood vessel
10. Compass point

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

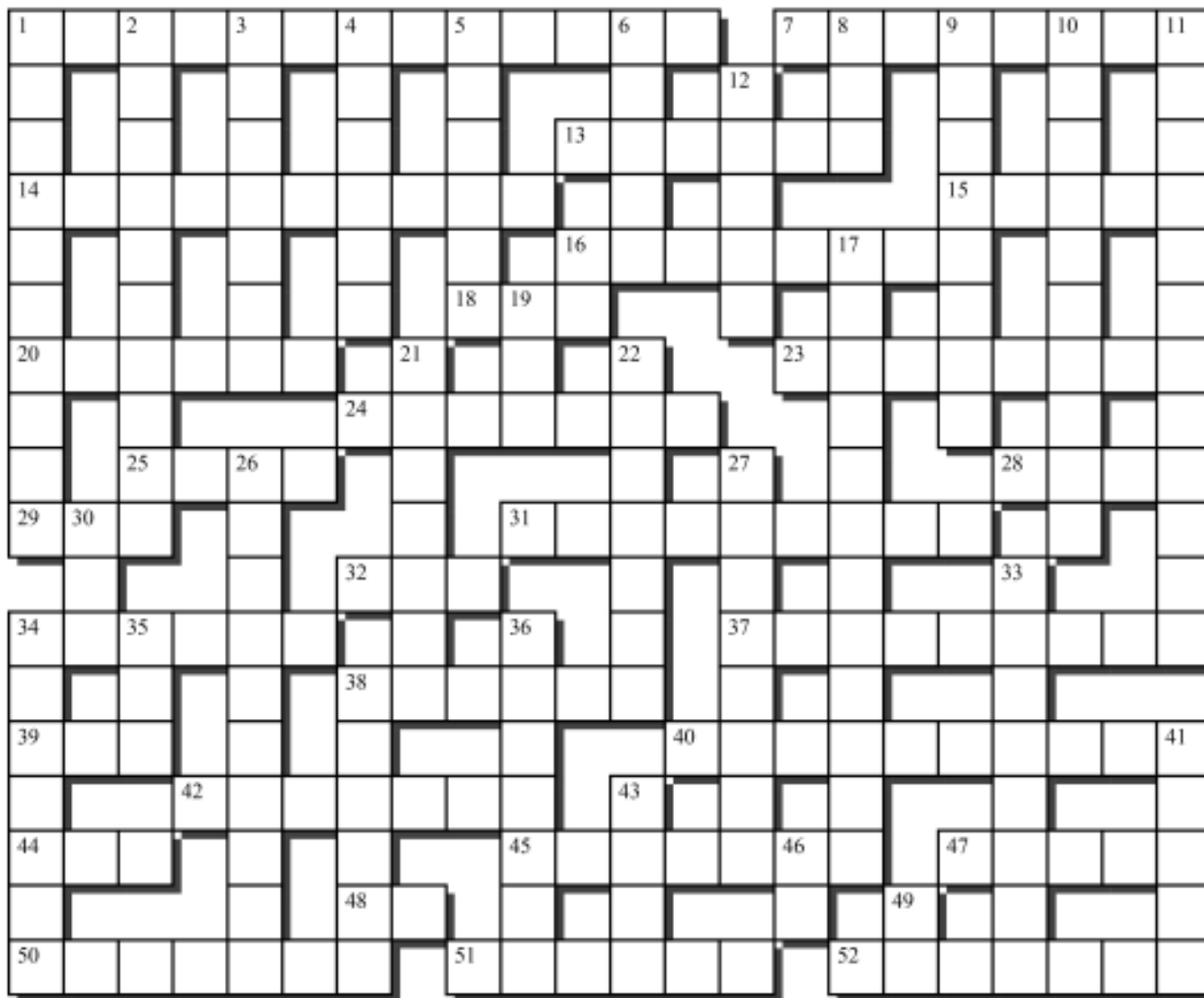


Instructions
Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters in each circle can be arranged to form words, names or terms on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

Across

Down

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1) Contemporary (13) | 1) Conception (10) |
| 7) History (8) | 2) Birth (10) |
| 13) He draws (6) | 3) To anger (7) |
| 14) Carers (10) | 4) Dove (6) |
| 15) Wizard (5) | 5) Rosemary (6) |
| 16) Colourful (m) (8) | 6) Success (5) |
| 18) Bravo! (3) | 8) One way (3) |
| 20) I dose (6) | 9) Sun beds (8) |
| 23) Hook (8) | 10) Reputation (10) |
| 24) Still-life (7) | 11) Self-portrait (12) |
| 25) Type (4) | 12) Buffoon (5) |
| 28) To gnaw (4) | 16) Letter C (2) |
| 29) Ship (3) | 17) Countless (12) |
| 31) Cavalier (9) | 19) She reads (3) |
| 32) One (m) (3) | 21) Kitchens (7) |
| 34) Hangover (6) | 22) Gloomy (m) (7) |
| 37) Disorder (9) | 26) Brushwork (10) |
| 38) I stretch (6) | 27) Bananas (8) |
| 39) Even (3) | 30) Bird (3) |
| 40) Influential (10) | 33) To disturb (8) |
| 42) Baptism (7) | 34) Royalty (7) |
| 44) It was (3) | 35) They are (3) |
| 45) You think (7) | 36) Compliments (7) |
| 47) Tied (f) (5) | 38) Scam (6) |
| 48) Faith (2) | 41) Midget (5) |
| 50) Artist (7) | 43) I drank (4) |
| 51) Style (6) | 46) Ace (2) |
| 52) Baroque (7) | 49) The (f) (2) |



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

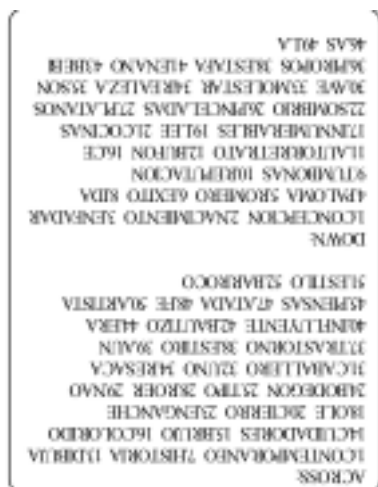
Answer: Rice

Of interest: Together, rice, maize, and wheat comprise 2/3 of human food consumption with rice on its own feeding almost half of humanity.

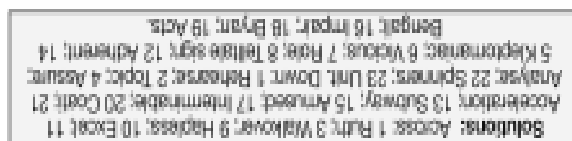
Answer: Norway

Of interest: Gjestost (pronounced 'yed-oost') is made with cream, milk, and whey. The cream, milk and whey is slowly heated until the sugars caramelize giving the cheese its brown colour. It has a sweet flavour and a fudge-like consistency.

Language Crossword



Cryptic Crossword



Wordpuzzler solution

10. East	T	A	T	E	S	T	A	C	A	T
9. Artery	T	S	E	R	C	Y	R	S	E	T
8. Yeast	A	T	A	R	C	E	Y	S	E	A
7. Trace	C	S	C	Y	E	A	S	T	C	E
6. Stray	E	A	Y	A	C	A	V	E	R	
5. React	Y	E	A	R	C	E	Y	E	S	C
4. Crate	A	T	A	R	T	E	R	Y	E	
3. Year	R	A	C	C	E	A	Y	A	R	E
2. Scare	T	R	A	C	T	R	A	C	E	A
1. Carry	S	Y	C	A	H	C	E	S	S	Y

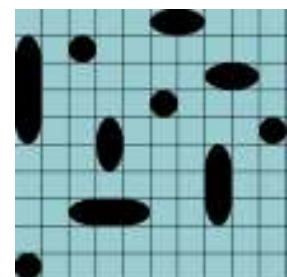
Sudoku solution

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

Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is C. Beatrice, Michael, Charles, all members of the British Royal Family.

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



Commanding bronze statue

Last week:
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This giant terracotta amphora is the centre piece of a roundabout in the town of Cártama.



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Over 20 years ago Eugenio Carmona, a lecturer in The History of Art at Malaga university, wrote an article titled 'Picasso after Picasso', reflecting upon the artist's ability to mutate, his capacity to always be present and up to date in the fiercest debates about art, despite the years that have passed since his death. Carmona attributes this to Picasso's diversity and multiplicity, which the artist saw "not as something chaotic but as an intimate truth in the fact of creation and his own existence". He believes that was Picasso's secret: "He defined for art how to be modern and, at the same time, he laid down the basis for transformation to something else, something completely up to date. That's why Picasso lives on. He is a mirror in which contemporary art looks at itself as it searches for its own image," he says.

Visitors to the Picasso Museum in Malaga (MPM) now have the chance to discover this for themselves at the new exhibition which was due to open at the end of March but had to be postponed due to the coronavirus crisis. 'Diálogos con Picasso. Colección 2020-2023', a collection of paintings, sculptures, drawings and prints, sheds new light on the work of this Malaga-born artist.

The first room gives an introduction to the exhibition, with explanatory texts and several portraits by Picasso, and then comes the first of several surprises: a tapestry created in 1958 of 'Las señoritas de Avignon' which he had painted in 1907. The artistic director of the MPM, José Lebrero, says Picasso kept it all his life and sometimes expressed his fascination for the way in which the artisans had modified the colours and



Final years. The exhibition includes works from the 1970s, when the artist was about to turn 90. **SALVADOR SALAS**

Dialogues with Picasso at the MPM

Exhibition. The new display includes works produced by the artist throughout his life and shows why there is always 'Picasso after Picasso'

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ



▼ **Sculpture.** Ceramics and bronze also feature in the new exhibition at the Picasso Museum. **SALVADOR SALAS**



even the composition of the original canvas.

The exhibition is displayed chronologically, providing an excellent illustration of Picasso's ability to change styles and set trends throughout his life. Many of his favourite themes which often featured in his works are here, including women and the minotaur. One of the rooms covers the period from 1936 to 1948, from the start of the Spanish Civil War to after WW2 and including works associated with his famous painting 'Guernica'.

The display ends with family portraits and some of Picasso's seminal works from the 1970s, showing the creative vigour he maintained all his life, even in his eighties. An artist "in permanent mutation," as Carmona described him. "He made it clear to his friends and admirers that his talent came from his mood and his mood was indelibly indebted to his origin". That origin was Malaga. Picasso has come home.

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